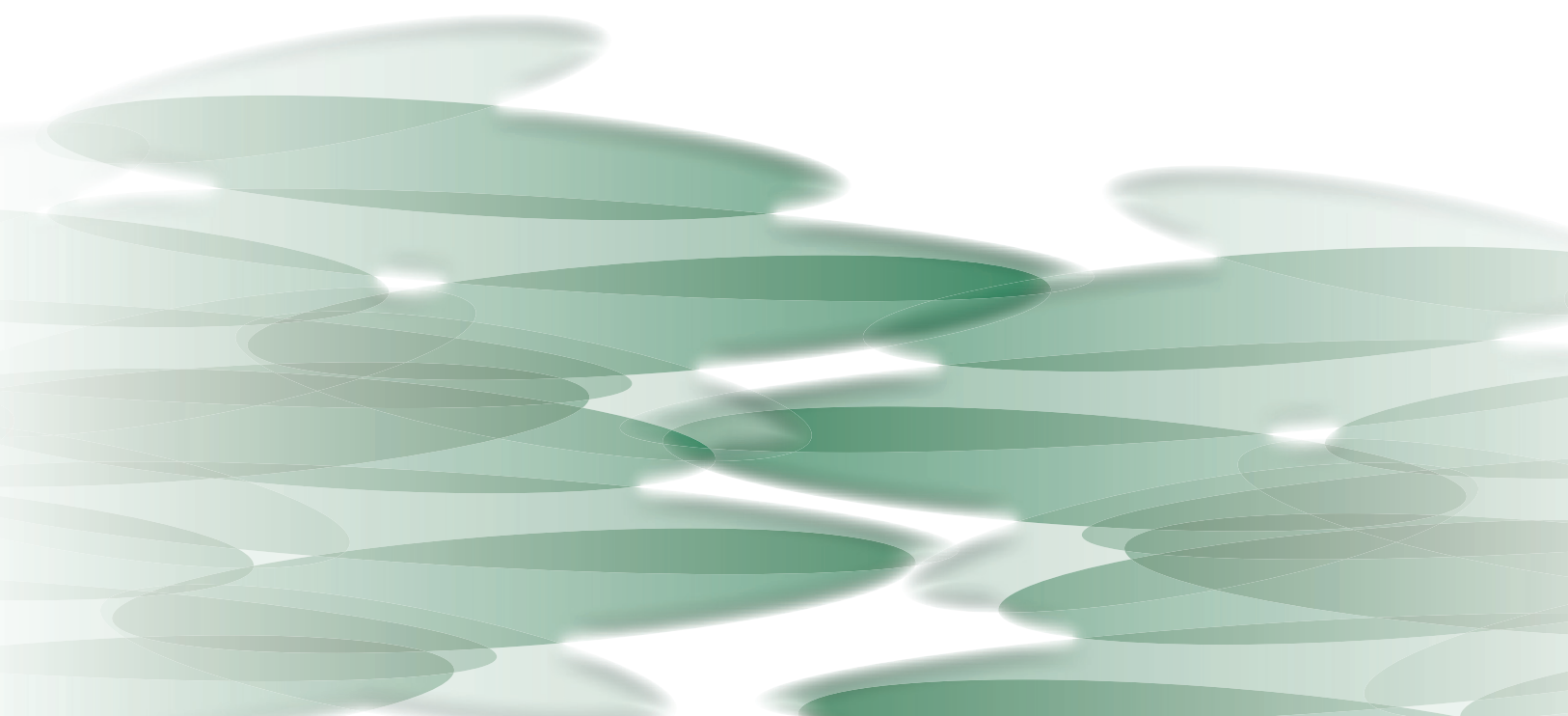




TRIBUNAL ELECTORAL
del Poder Judicial de la Federación

General Law on **Electoral** **Institutions** **AND PROCEDURES OF MEXICO**

Law published on May 23, 2014



General Law on Electoral Institutions and Procedures of Mexico

Law published on May 23, 2014

Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary

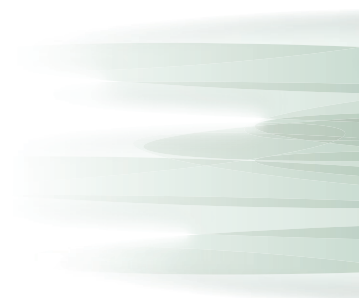
Translation by:

Mikaela Christiansson, Research Assistant, Electoral Judicial Training
Center of the Electoral Tribunal

Revision by:

Karolina Monika Gilas, Research Professor, Electoral Judicial Training
Center of the Electoral Tribunal

Carlos Alberto Soriano Cienfuegos, Head of Unit, Electoral Judicial
Training Center of the Electoral Tribunal



CONTENTS

FIRST BOOK

• ONLY TITLE

General Provisions (Articles 1 – 6)

SECOND BOOK

On the Integration of the Federal and State Legislative and Executive Branches of Government, as well as of the City Councils

• FIRST TITLE

On the Citizen Participation in the Elections

CHAPTER I

On the Rights and Responsibilities (Articles 7 – 9)

CHAPTER II

On the Eligibility Requirements (Articles 10 – 11)

• SECOND TITLE

On the Election of the President of the United Mexican States and of the Members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives

CHAPTER I

On the Electoral Systems (Articles 12 – 14)

CHAPTER II

On the Proportional Representation for the Integration of the House of Representatives and the Senate and on the Seat Allocation Formulas (Articles 15 – 21)

CHAPTER III

Complementary Provisions (Articles 22 – 24)

• THIRD TITLE

On the Election of Governors, Local Legislatures and City Councils, as well as of Chief of Government, Representatives to the Legislative Assembly and the Heads of the Political-Administrative Bodies of the Boroughs of the Federal District

• ONLY CHAPTER

General Provisions (Articles 25 – 28)

THIRD BOOK

On the Electoral Bodies

• **FIRST TITLE**

On the National Electoral Institute

CHAPTER I

Preliminary Provisions (Articles 29 – 33)

CHAPTER II

On the Central Bodies (Article 34)

First Section

On the General Council and on its Presidency (Articles 35 – 43)

Second Section

On the Responsibilities of the General Council (Article 44)

Third Section

On the Responsibilities of the Presidency and of the Secretary of the General Council (Articles 45 – 46)

Fourth Section

On the General Executive Board (Articles 47 – 48)

Fifth Section

On the Executive Secretary of the Institute (Articles 49 – 51)

Sixth Section

On the Executive Directorates and Technical Units (Articles 52 – 60)

CHAPTER III

On the Local Bodies of the Institute (Article 61)

First Section

On the Local Executive Boards (Articles 62 – 63)

Second Section

On the Executive Members of the Local Boards (Article 64)

Third Section

On the Local Councils (Articles 65 – 69)

Fourth Section

On the Responsibilities of the Presidents of the Local Councils (Article 70)

CHAPTER IV

On the Bodies of the Institute in the Single-Member Electoral Districts (Article 71)

First Section

On the District Executive Boards (Articles 72 – 73)

Second Section

On the Executive Members of the District Boards (Articles 74 – 75)

Third Section

On the District Councils (Articles 76 – 79)

Fourth Section

On the Responsibilities of the Presidents of the District Councils
(Article 80)

CHAPTER V

On the Directive Boards of the Polling Stations (Articles 81 – 83)

First Section

On their Responsibilities (Articles 84 – 87)

CHAPTER VI

Common Provisions (Articles 88 – 97)

• SECOND TITLE

On the Local Public Bodies

CHAPTER I

On the Integration (Articles 98 – 99)

CHAPTER II

On the Eligibility Requirements (Article 100)

CHAPTER III

On the Election Process of the Councilors (Article 101)

CHAPTER IV

On the Removal of the Councilors (Articles 102 – 103)

CHAPTER V

On the Responsibilities of the Local Public Bodies (Article 104)

• THIRD TITLE

On the Local Electoral Jurisdictional Authorities

CHAPTER I

On the General Provisions (Article 105)

CHAPTER II

On the Integration (Articles 106 – 107)

CHAPTER III

On the Election Process of the Justices (Articles 108 – 109)

CHAPTER IV

On the Responsibilities (Articles 110 – 111)

CHAPTER V

On the Impediments and Excuses (Articles 112 – 114)

CHAPTER VI

Requirements to be Justice of the Local Jurisdictional Bodies (Article 115)

CHAPTER VII

On the Remuneration (Article 116)

CHAPTER VIII

On the Removal of the Justices (Articles 117 – 118)

• **FOURTH TITLE**

On the Coordination between the Electoral Authorities

• **ONLY CHAPTER (ARTICLE 119)**

• **FIFTH TITLE**

On the Special Responsibilities of the National Electoral Institute

CHAPTER I

On the Power of Attraction (Articles 120 – 124)

CHAPTER II

On the Power of Delegation (Article 125)

FOURTH BOOK

On the Special Procedures in the Executive Directorates

• **FIRST TITLE**

On the Procedures of the Federal Register of Voters

Preliminary Provisions (Articles 126 – 131)

CHAPTER I

On the Compilation of the Registry of Voters (Articles 132 – 133)

CHAPTER II

On the Updating of the Registry of Voters (Articles 134 – 146)

CHAPTER III

On the Nominal Lists of Voters and on their Review (Articles 147 – 155)

CHAPTER IV

On the Voter Card (Article 156)

CHAPTER V

On the Monitoring Commissions (Articles 157 – 158)

• **SECOND TITLE**

On the Prerogatives of the Political Parties

CHAPTER I

On the Access to Radio and Television (Articles 159 – 186)

CHAPTER II

On the Postal and Telegraphic Exemptions (Articles 187 – 189)

CHAPTER III

On the Auditing of Political Parties (Articles 190 – 191)

CHAPTER IV

On the Auditing Commission (Articles 192 – 195)

CHAPTER V

On the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission (Articles 196 – 200)

• **THIRD TITLE**

On the Bases for the Organization of the National Professional Electoral Service

CHAPTER I

Preliminary Provision (Article 201)

CHAPTER II

On the National Professional Electoral Service (Article 202)

CHAPTER III

On the Statute of the National Professional Electoral Service (Article 203)

CHAPTER IV

On the Complementary Provisions (Articles 204 – 206)

FIFTH BOOK

On the Electoral Processes

• **FIRST TITLE**

On the General Rules for the Federal and Local Electoral Processes

CHAPTER I

On the Preliminary Provisions (Articles 207 – 208)

CHAPTER II

On the Electoral Propaganda (Articles 209 – 212)

CHAPTER III

On the Surveys and Opinion Polls (Article 213)

CHAPTER IV

On the Electoral Districting (Article 214)

CHAPTER V

On the Electoral Training (Article 215)

CHAPTER VI

On the Printing of Documents and Production of Materials (Article 216)

CHAPTER VII

On the Electoral Observation (Article 217)

CHAPTER VIII

On the Debates (Article 218)

CHAPTER IX

On the Program of Preliminary Electoral Results (Article 219)

CHAPTER X

On the Quick Count (Article 220)

CHAPTER XI

On the Coordination regarding Financial Intelligence (Articles 221 – 223)

• **SECOND TITLE**

On the Preparatory Acts of the Federal Election

CHAPTER I

On the Preliminary Provisions (Articles 224 – 225)

CHAPTER II

On the Selection Processes of Candidates for Elective Offices and the Electoral
Pre-campaigns (Articles 226 – 231)

CHAPTER III

On the Procedure for Candidate Registration (Articles 232 – 241)

CHAPTER IV

On the Electoral Campaigns (Articles 242 – 252)

CHAPTER V

On the Procedures for the Integration and Location of the Directive Boards of the
Polling Stations (Articles 253 – 258)

CHAPTER VI

On the Registration of Representatives (Articles 259 – 265)

CHAPTER VII

On the Electoral Documents and Materials (Articles 266 – 272)

• **THIRD TITLE**

On the Election Day

CHAPTER I

On the Set-Up and Opening of the Polling Stations (Articles 273 – 276)

CHAPTER II

On the Voting (Articles 277 – 286)

CHAPTER III

On the Scrutiny and Count in the Polling Stations (Articles 287 – 297)

CHAPTER IV

On the Closing of the Polling Station and on the Delivery of the File
(Articles 298 – 299)

CHAPTER V

Complementary Provisions (Articles 300 – 303)

• **FOURTH TITLE**

On the Acts Subsequent to the Election and the Electoral Results

CHAPTER I

On the Preliminary Provision (Article 304)

CHAPTER II

On the Preliminary Information about the Results (Articles 305 – 308)

CHAPTER III

On the District Counts and on the Declaration of Validity of the Election
of Representatives by Plurality (Articles 309 – 318)

CHAPTER IV

On the State Counts of the Election of Senators by Both Principles and on the
Declaration of Validity of the Election of Senators by the Principle of Plurality
(Articles 319 – 321)

CHAPTER V

On the Counts of Proportional Representation in each District (Articles 322 –
326)

CHAPTER VI

On the Proportional Seat Allocation Certificates (Articles 327 – 328)

SIXTH BOOK

On the Vote of the Mexicans Residing Abroad

ONLY CHAPTER (ARTICLES 329 – 356)

SEVENTH BOOK

On the Independent Candidatures

• **FIRST TITLE**

On the Preliminary Provisions (Articles 357 – 365)

• **SECOND TITLE**

On the Selection Process of Independent Candidates (Article 366)

CHAPTER I

On the Call (Article 367)

CHAPTER II

On the Acts Prior to the Registration of Independent Candidates
(Article 368)

CHAPTER III

On Obtaining Citizen Support (Articles 369 – 378)

CHAPTER IV

On the Rights and Obligations of the Applicants (Articles 379 – 380)

CHAPTER V

On the Registration of Independent Candidates

First Section

On the Eligibility Requirements (Article 381)

Second Section

On the Request for Registration (Articles 382 – 387)

Third Section

On the Registration (Articles 388 – 389)

Fourth Section

On the Substitution and Cancellation of the Registration (Articles 390 – 392)

• THIRD TITLE

On the Prerogatives, Rights and Obligations

CHAPTER I

On the Rights and Obligations (Articles 393 – 395)

First Section

On the Representatives before the Bodies of the Institute (Article 396)

Second Section

On the Representatives before the Directive Boards of the Polling Stations (Article 397)

CHAPTER II

On the Prerogatives

First Section

On the Financing (Articles 398 – 410)

Second Section

On the Access to Radio and Television (Articles 411 – 419)

Third Section

On the Postal Exemptions (Articles 420 – 422)

• FOURTH TITLE

On the Electoral Propaganda of the Independent Candidates (Articles 423 – 424)

- **FIFTH TITLE**

On the Auditing (Articles 425 – 431)

- **SIXTH TITLE**

On the Activities of the Election Day

CHAPTER I

On the Electoral Documents and Materials (Articles 432 – 435)

CHAPTER II

On the Count of the Votes (Articles 436 – 437)

- **SEVENTH TITLE**

On the Complementary Provisions

ONLY CHAPTER (Articles 438 – 439)

EIGHTH BOOK

On the Electoral Sanctioning and Internal Discipline Regimes

- **FIRST TITLE**

On Electoral Misconduct and its Sanction (Article 440)

CHAPTER I

On the Subjects, Punishable Conducts and Sanctions (Articles 441 – 458)

CHAPTER II

On the Sanctioning Procedure (Articles 459 – 463)

CHAPTER III

On the Ordinary Sanctioning Procedure (Articles 464 – 469)

CHAPTER IV

On the Special Sanctioning Procedure (Articles 470 – 477)

- **SECOND TITLE**

On the Responsibilities of the Public Servants of the National Electoral Institute

CHAPTER I

On the Administrative Responsibilities (Articles 478 – 479)

CHAPTER II

On the Procedure for the Determination of Administrative Responsibilities
(Articles 480 – 486)

CHAPTER III

On the Comptroller General's Office (Articles 487 – 493)

TRANSITORY ARTICLES

GENERAL LAW ON ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCEDURES

CURRENT TEXT

**New Law published in the Official Gazette
of the Federation on May 23, 2014.**

In the margin there is a seal with the National Shield, which says:
United Mexican States.- Presidency of the Republic.

ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO, President of the United Mexican States,
informs its inhabitants:
That the Honorable Congress of the Union has sent the following

DECREE

“THE GENERAL CONGRESS OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATE DECREES:

**THE GENERAL LAW ON ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCEDURES IS ISSUED;
AND VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF THE GENERAL LAW ON THE SYSTEM OF APPEALS
ON ELECTORAL MATTERS, OF THE ORGANIC LAW OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY
AND OF THE FEDERAL LAW ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE
PUBLIC SERVANTS ARE AMENDED AND ADDED.**

FIRST ARTICLE. The General Law on Electoral Institutions and Procedures is
issued.

GENERAL LAW ON ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCEDURES

FIRST BOOK

ONLY TITLE General Provisions

Article 1.

1. This is a public order Law of general observance in the national territory and for the Citizens that exercise their right to vote abroad. The purpose of the Law is to establish the applicable provisions regarding the electoral institutions and procedures, to distribute responsibilities between the Federation and the states¹ in these matters, as well as to establish the relationship between the National Electoral Institute and the Local Public Bodies.

2. The provisions of this Law apply to the elections at the federal level and the local level regarding the matters determined by the Constitution.

3. The local Constitutions and laws will be adjusted in accordance with the provisions of the Constitutions and of this Law.

4. The renewal of the Executive and Legislative branches of the Federation, as well as those corresponding to the Executive branches, the Legislative branches and the City Councils in the Federal states, and of the Chief of Government, representatives to the Legislative Assembly and the borough heads of the Federal District, will be carried out through free, authentic and periodic elections held with universal, free, secret and direct suffrage.

Article 2.

1. This Law regulates the constitutional provisions relating to:

- a) The political-electoral rights and responsibilities of the citizens;
- b) The state function to organize the elections of the members of the Legislative and Executive Branches of Government;
- c) The common rules for the federal and local electoral processes, and
- d) The integration of the electoral bodies.

¹ Translator's note: Instead of "federative entities" (*entidades federativas*) used in the original Spanish version of this law, the word "states" is used here and in the rest of the text. It refers to the 31 Mexican states and the Federal District.

Article 3.

1. For the purposes of this Law, the following concepts are defined as:
 - a) Early Campaign Activities: The activities of expression carried out in any form and at any time outside of the campaign stage that contain express appeals for votes against or in favor of a candidate or a party, or expressions seeking any type of support for any candidate or for a party to run in the electoral process;
 - b) Early Pre-campaign Activities: The expressions made in any form and at any time during the interval between the start of the electoral process until before the legal timeframe for the start of the pre-campaigns that contain clear calls for votes against or in favor of a pre-candidature;
 - c) Independent Candidate: The citizen that through the electoral authority obtains the registration certificate, having met the requirements that this Law establishes for this purpose;
 - d) Citizens: The persons that are Mexican and meet the requirements set out in article 34 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States;
 - e) General Council: The General Council of the Institute;
 - f) Constitution: The Political Constitution of the United Mexican States;
 - g) Institute: The National Electoral Institute;
 - h) Local Public Bodies: The public electoral bodies of the states, and
 - i) Electoral Tribunal: The Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary.

Article 4.

1. The Institute and the Local Public Bodies, within the area of their competence, will dispose of the means necessary to ensure the compliance with this Law.
2. The federal, state and municipal authorities must offer the necessary assistance for the adequate discharge of the duties of the electoral authorities established in the Constitution and this Law.

Article 5.

1. The application of this Law corresponds, in their respective areas of competence, to the Institute, to the Electoral Tribunal, to the Local Public Bodies and to the local jurisdictional authorities on the matter, to the House of Representatives and to the Senate of the Congress of the Union.
2. The interpretation of this Law will be made according to the grammatical, systematic and functional criteria, in accordance with the provisions of the last paragraph of article 14 of the Constitution.

Article 6.

1. The promotion of citizen participation for the exercise of the right to vote corresponds to the Institute, to the Local Public Bodies, to the political parties and to their candidates. The Institute will issue the rules that the campaigns for the promotion of the vote realized by other organizations must follow.

2. The Institute, in the areas of its powers, will by whatever means necessary ensure the compliance the rules established above and the others established in this Law.

SECOND BOOK

On the Integration of the Federal and State Legislative and Executive Branches of Government, as well as of the City Councils

FIRST TITLE

On the Citizen Participation in the Elections

CHAPTER I

On the Rights and Responsibilities

Article 7.

1. To vote in the elections constitutes a right and a responsibility that is exercised to integrate the popularly elected State bodies. Equal opportunities and gender parity for access to elective offices is also a right of the Citizens and a responsibility of the political parties.

2. The vote is universal, free, secret, direct, personal and non-transferable. Actions that cause pressure or coercion on the voters are prohibited.

3. The citizens have the right to be elected for all elective offices, provided that they have the qualities established by the law on the matter, and to request their independent registration when they meet the requirements, conditions and terms established by this Law.

4. The citizens have the right and responsibility to vote in referendums on issues of national importance, in the terms set out by the law on the issue and in the citizen participation processes established in the corresponding legislation.

Article 8.

1. It is the duty of the citizens to be part of the directive boards of the polling stations according to the terms of this Law.

2. It is an exclusive right of the citizens to participate as observers of the acts of preparation and development of the federal and local electoral processes,

as well as in the referendums and other forms of citizen participation that are held in accordance with the corresponding legislation, in the manner and terms determined by the General Council, and in the terms established in this Law.

Article 9.

1. To exercise the right to vote, the citizens should meet, in addition to the ones mentioned in article 34 of the Constitution, the following requirements:

- a) To be registered in the Federal Register of Voters in the terms established by this Law, and
- b) To have the corresponding voter card.

2. In each electoral district, the vote will be cast in the electoral section corresponding to the citizen's home address, except in the cases explicitly set out in this Law.

CHAPTER II

On the Eligibility Requirements

Article 10.

1. To be Federal Representative or Senator, apart from the ones set out in articles 55 and 58 of the Constitution, respectively, the following are requirements:

- a) To be registered in the Federal Register of Voters and to have the corresponding voter card;
- b) To not be an electoral justice or electoral clerk of the Electoral Tribunal, unless leaving the position three years before the date of the start of the electoral process in question;
- c) To not be Executive Secretary or Executive Director of the Institute, unless leaving the position three years before the date of the start of the electoral process in question;
- d) To not be President Councilor or Electoral Councilor in the General, local or district councils of the Institute, unless leaving the position three years before the date of the start of the electoral process in question;
- e) To not be part of the National Professional Electoral Service, unless leaving the position three years before the date of the start of the electoral process in question, and
- f) To not be Municipal President, or head of any political-administrative body in the case of the Federal District, nor to exercise any of these functions under any circumstances, unless leaving the position three years before the date of the start of the electoral process in question.

Article 11.

1. No person can be registered as a candidate for different elective offices in the same electoral process. Nor can one person be a candidate for a federal elective position and at the same time for another position in the states or in the municipalities. In this case, if the registration for the federal elective office already is done, the respective registration will be automatically cancelled.

2. The political parties cannot simultaneously register, in the same electoral process, more than sixty candidates for federal representatives by plurality and by proportional representation distributed in their five regional lists. In the case of local legislatures, the regulations specified by the respective legislation apply.

3. The political parties cannot simultaneously register, in a same electoral process, more than six candidates for Senator by plurality and by proportional representation.

SECOND TITLE**On the Election of the President of the United Mexican States and of the Members of the Senate and of the House of Representatives****CHAPTER I****On the Electoral Systems****Article 12.**

1. The exercise of the Executive Power is placed in one single individual, who is called the President of the United Mexican States, elected every six years by plurality and direct vote of the Mexican citizens.

2. The right to association of the political parties in the electoral processes for federal and local elective offices will be regulated by the General Law on Political Parties. Independently of the type of election, coalition agreement and the terms specified in it, each of the political parties will appear with their own symbol in the ballot, according to the election in questions; the votes will be added up for the candidate of the coalition and will count for each of the political parties for all effects established in this Law. It is not under any circumstances possible to transfer or distribute votes through a coalition agreement.

Article 13.

1. The Legislative Power of the United Mexican States is placed in a General Congress, which will be divided in two Chambers, one of representatives and another of senators.

Article 14.

1. The House of Representatives is composed of 300 representatives elected according to the principle of plurality, through the system of single-member electoral districts, and 200 representatives that will be elected according to the principle of proportional representation, through the system of regional list voted on in multi-member regional districts. The House of Representatives will be completely renewed every three years.

2. The Senate will be composed of 128 senators, out of which each State will elect three: two will be elected according to the principle of plurality and one will be assigned to the largest minority. The remaining 32 senators will be elected by the principle of proportional representation, voted in one single national multi-member district. The Senate will be completely renewed every six years.

3. For each state, the political parties should register one list with two formulas of senatorial candidates. The senate seat of largest minority will be assigned to the formula of candidates that head the list of the political party that, on its own, has received the second highest number of votes in the entity in question. Also, the parties should register a national list of 32 formulas of candidates to be elected by the principle of proportional representation.

4. In the lists mentioned in the previous paragraphs, the political parties will assign the order in which the formulas of candidates should appear. In the formulas for senators and representatives, both in the case of plurality as in the case of proportional representation, the political parties must make up the formulas by persons of the same gender.

5. In the case of independent candidatures, the formulas must be made up by persons of the same gender.

CHAPTER II**On the Proportional Representation for the Integration of the House of Representatives and the Senate and on the Seat Allocation Formulas****Article 15.**

1. The total number of votes cast is understood as the sum of all votes placed in the ballot boxes. For the implementation of section II of article 54 of the Constitution, the total number of validly cast votes is understood as the votes that remain after deducting all invalid votes and votes cast for unregistered candidates from the total number of votes placed in the ballot boxes.

2. In the implementation of section III of article 54 of the Constitution, for the allocation of representatives through proportional representation, the

national cast votes is understood as the votes that remain after deducting all votes in favor of the political parties that failed to receive three percent of the vote, votes for Independent Candidates, and the invalid votes from the total number of votes cast.

3. No political party can have more than 300 representatives through both voting principles. A political party cannot under any circumstances have a number of representatives through both principles which represents a percentage of the total of the Chamber which exceeds by eight points its percentage of the national cast votes. This does not apply to the political parties that because of their success in single-member districts obtain a percentage of seats of the total of the Chamber that is higher than the sum of its percentage of the national cast votes plus eight percent.

Article 16.

1. For the allocation of representatives by proportional representation according to the provisions of section III of article 54 of the Constitution, a pure proportionality formula integrated by the following elements will be applied:

- a) Natural Quotient, and
- b) Largest Remainder.

2. Natural Quotient: is the result of dividing the national cast votes by the 200 representatives by proportional representation.

3. Largest Remainder: is the highest remainder between the remaining votes cast for each political party, once the allocation of seats is done by the natural quotient. The largest remainder is used when there are still seats left to distribute.

Article 17.

1. Once the formula mentioned in the previous article has been developed, the following procedure will be observed:

- a) It will be decided which representatives will be allocated to each political party, according to the number of times that its votes contain the natural quotient, and
- b) The representatives that will be distributed by largest remainder, if there are remaining seats to assign after applying the natural quotient, follow the descending order of the votes not used for each of the political parties in the distribution of seats.

2. It will be decided whether it is necessary to apply the limits established in sections IV and V of article 54 of the Constitution to a political party, according to which the political party which exceeds 300 representatives elected through

both principles or receives a percentage of seats in the House of Representatives that exceeds by eight points its percentage of the national votes, will have the number of representatives by proportional representation required to meet the established limits deducted from it. The excess positions will be allocated to the other political parties that are not affected by these conditions.

3. Once the excess number of representatives by proportional representation has been determined, the political party affected by the terms of the previous paragraph will be allocated its corresponding seats for each district, according to the following terms:

- a) The distribution ratio will be obtained by dividing the total number of votes of the political party which finds itself in this situation by the seats to be allocated to the same political party;
- b) The votes obtained by the political party in each electoral district will be divided by the distribution ratio, allocating in whole numbers the seats for each of the districts, and
- c) If there are still representatives left to be allocated, the largest remainder method will be used, as stated in the previous article.

Article 18.

1. For the allocation of representatives by proportional representation, in the event that the situation foreseen in section VI of article 54 of the Constitution occurs, the following will be done:

- a) Once the distribution mentioned in the previous article has been carried out, the rest of the seats in parliament will be allocated to the other political parties with the right to them, according to the following terms:
 - I. The effective national votes will be obtained by deducting the votes cast for the political party or parties to which any of the limits established in sections IV or V of article 54 of the Constitution have been applied from the national cast votes;
 - II. The effective national votes will be divided by the number of seats of parliament to be allocated, to obtain a new natural quotient;
 - III. The effective national votes obtained by each political party will be divided by the new natural quotient. The result in whole numbers will be the total number of representatives to be allocated to each political party, and
 - IV. If there would still be seats left to be distributed, these would be allocated according to the largest remainders of the political parties.

2. To allocate the representatives corresponding to each political party by multi-member regional electoral district, the procedure is as follows:

- a) The effective vote by electoral district will be obtained. This is the result after deducting the votes cast for the political party or parties to which any of the limits established in sections IV or V of article 54 of the Constitution have been applied, in each one of the electoral districts;
- b) The effective vote by electoral districts will be divided by the number of seats to be allocated in each multi-member regional electoral district in order to obtain the distribution ratio in each district;
- c) The effective vote for each political party in each of the multi-member regional electoral district will be divided by the distribution ratio, and the result in whole numbers is the total number of representatives to be allocated in each multi-member regional electoral district, and
- d) If some seats are left to be distributed to the political parties after applying the distribution ratio, the largest remainder of votes that each political party received in the electoral districts will be used, in descending order, until they are exhausted, so that each multi-member regional electoral district has forty representatives.

Article 19.

1. Once the allocation of representatives to the political parties referred in subparagraphs a) and b) of paragraph 1 of article 17 of this Law has been determined, and in case that the conditions of sections IV and V of article 54 of the Constitution do not apply to any of the political parties, the procedure is as follows:

- a) The total votes of each electoral district will be divided by forty, to obtain the distribution ratio;
- b) The votes obtained by political party in each of the multi-member regional electoral districts will be divided by the distribution ratio. The result in whole numbers will be the total number of representatives that will be allocated to the political party in each multi-member regional electoral district, and
- c) If some seats remain to be distributed to the political parties after the distribution ratio has been applied, the largest remainder of votes that each political party received in the electoral districts will be used, in descending order, until they are exhausted, so that each multi-member regional electoral district has forty representatives.

Article 20.

1. In all cases, for the allocation of representatives by the principle of

proportional representation, the order that the candidates had in the respective regional lists will be followed.

Article 21.

1. For the allocation of senators by the principle of proportional representation referred to in the second paragraph of article 56 of the Constitution, the pure proportionality formula will be used in accordance with the following rules:

- a) The total cast votes for the election of senators by the principle of proportional representation is understood as the sum of all votes placed in the ballot boxes for the national multi-member regional electoral district list, and
- b) The allocation of senators by the principle of proportional representation will be done considering as the national cast votes that which remains after deducting all votes in favor of the political parties that failed to receive three percent of the vote for the corresponding list, the invalid votes, the votes for unregistered candidates and the votes for Independent Candidates from the total votes cast.

2. The pure proportionality formula has the following elements:

- a) Natural Quotient, and
- b) Largest remainder.

3. Natural Quotient: is the result of dividing the national cast votes by the number of seats to be distributed for senators elected by the principle of proportional representation.

4. Largest Remainder: is the highest remainder between the remaining votes cast for each political party, once the allocation of seats is done by the natural quotient. The largest remainder is used when there are still seats left to distribute.

5. For the application of the formula, the following procedure will be observed:

- a) By the natural quotient, each political party will be allocated as many senators as the number of times that its votes contain the natural quotient, and
- b) After applying the natural quotient, if there are still seats to be divided, these will be allocated using the largest remainder method, following the descending order of the remaining not used votes for each of the political parties.

6. In any case, in the allocation of senators by the principle of proportional representation, the order that the candidates had in the national list will be followed.

CHAPTER III

Complementary Provisions

Article 22.

1. The ordinary elections should be held on the first Sunday of June of the corresponding year, to elect:

- a) Federal Representatives, every three years;
- b) Senators, every six years, and
- c) The President of the United Mexican States, every six years.

2. The day on which the ordinary federal elections should be held will be considered as a non-working day in the entire national territory.

Article 23.

1. When an election is declared void or the members of the winning formula turn out to be ineligible, the call for an extraordinary election should be issued within forty-five days following the end of the last stage of the electoral process.

2. In the case of vacancies of members of the Congress of the Union elected by the principle of plurality, the Chamber in question will call for extraordinary elections.

3. The vacancy of members of the House of Representatives elected by the principle of proportional representation should be filled by the substitutes of the respective elected formula. If the vacancy is presented regarding the entire formula, it will be filled by the formula of candidates of the same party that follows in the order of its respective regional list, after the corresponding representatives were assigned.

4. The vacancy of members of the Senate elected by the principle of proportional representation should be filled by the substitutes of the respective elected formula. If the vacancy is presented regarding the entire formula, it will be filled by the formula of candidates of the same party that follows in the order of its respective regional list, after the corresponding senators were assigned.

Article 24.

1. The call to hold extraordinary elections cannot limit the rights that this Law recognizes to the citizens and to the national political parties, nor alter the procedures and formalities that the Law establishes.

2. The General Council can adjust the deadlines established in this Law according to the date set by the call in question.

3. The political party that lost its registration prior to the date of any given ordinary or extraordinary elections cannot under any circumstances participate

in those elections. However, a party that has lost its registration could participate in an extraordinary election, provided that it did participate with a candidate in the ordinary election that was annulled.

THIRD TITLE

On the Election of Governors, Local Legislatures and City Councils, as well as of Chief of Government,² Representatives to the Legislative Assembly and the Heads of the Political-Administrative Bodies of the Boroughs of the Federal District

ONLY CHAPTER General Provisions

Article 25.

1. The ordinary local elections in which governors, members of local legislatures, members of the city councils in the states of the Republic, as well as Chief of Government, representatives of the Local Assembly and heads of the political-administrative bodies of the boroughs of the Federal District are chosen, will be held on the first Sunday in June of the corresponding year.

2. The day on which the ordinary local elections should be held will be considered as a non-working day in the entire territory of the state.

3. The local legislation will define, in accordance with the Constitution, the regularity of each election, the deadlines for calling extraordinary elections in case of the annulment of an election, and the mechanisms to fill the vacancies that occur in the local legislature.

Article 26.

1. The Executive and Legislative branches of the states of the Republic and of the Federal District will be integrated and organized in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the constitutions of each state, as well as in the Government Statute of the Federal District and the respective laws.

2. The municipalities will be governed by a City Council elected by direct popular vote, made up of one Municipal President and the number of members established by the Constitution and the law of each entity, just as the political-administrative bodies, according to the applicable legislation in the Federal District.

² Translator's note: The head of the executive branch in the states is the Governor (*Gubernante*) and in the Federal District it is the Chief of Government (*Jefe de Gobierno*). These offices have the same rank but the Mexican legislation differentiates between them.

3. The indigenous peoples and communities have the right to elect representatives to the City Councils in the municipalities with an indigenous population. The constitutions and laws in the states will recognize and regulate these rights in the municipalities in order to strengthen the political participation and representation in accordance with their internal traditions and rules.

4. The indigenous peoples and communities in the states will be elected, in accordance with their own traditional principles, rules, procedures and practices, the authorities or representatives to exercise their own forms of internal government, guaranteeing the participation of men and women on equal terms and upholding the rules established in the Constitution, the local constitutions and the applicable laws.

Article 27.

1. The Legislatures of the states and the Legislative Assembly of the Federal District will be integrated by representatives elected according to the principles of plurality and of proportional representation, in the terms set out in this Law, the local constitutions, the Government Statute of the Federal District and the respective local laws.

2. The Institute and the Local Public Bodies, in their respective areas of competence, will guarantee the correct application of the rules corresponding to each state.

Article 28.

1. The number of representatives in the legislatures of the States will be proportional to the inhabitants in each; but, in any event, there cannot be less than seven representatives in states with a population of less than 400 thousand inhabitants; less than nine in those with a population higher than this number but less than 800 thousand inhabitants, and eleven in the States with a population higher than the last number.

2. A political party cannot under any circumstances have a number of representatives through both principles which represents a percentage of the total of the legislature which exceeds by eight points the percentage of the cast votes it received. This base does not apply to the political parties that because of their success in single-member districts obtain a percentage of seats of the total of the legislature that is higher than the sum of its percentage of the cast votes plus eight percent. In order to recognize and guarantee the representation and plurality of the political forces that compete in the state, the allocation of local representatives by proportional representation will be done in accordance with the following:

- d) *[The political party that obtains three percent of the validly cast votes in the respective elections will be allocated one seat by the principle of proportional representation, independently of the single-member districts it may have won, and]*

This portion has been declared unconstitutional by ruling 22/2014 of the Supreme Court.

- e) *[Once the previous distribution has been done, the remaining seats by proportional representation will be allocated in accordance with the formula established in the local laws.]*

This portion has been declared unconstitutional by ruling 22/2014 of the Supreme Court.

- f) In the integration of the legislature, the percentage of representation of a political party cannot be less than the percentage of the votes that it received minus eight percentage points. In any case, the formula will establish the rules for the deduction of the number of representatives by proportional representation necessary to allocate representatives to the political parties that find themselves in this situation of greater or smaller underrepresentation. *[This formula will be applied once one representative by proportional representation has been allocated to all political parties that obtained the minimum percentage of votes to preserve their registration in accordance with the electoral regulations.]*

This portion has been declared unconstitutional by ruling 22/2014 of the Supreme Court.

THIRD BOOK

On the Electoral Bodies

FIRST TITLE

On the National Electoral Institute

CHAPTER I

Preliminary Provisions

Article 29.

1. The Institute is an autonomous public body with legal personality and its own assets. The Legislative Branch of the Union, the national political parties and the citizens participate in its integration, in the terms ordered by this Law. The Institute has the budgetary, technical, human and material resources that it needs to directly exercise its powers and responsibilities.

Article 30.

1. The purposes of the Institute are:

- a) To contribute to the development of the democratic life;
- b) To maintain the strengthening of the regime of political parties;
- c) To integrate the Federal Register of Voters;
- d) To ensure that the citizens can exercise their political-electoral rights and to monitor the compliance with their obligations;
- e) To guarantee that the elections to renew the members of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Union are held regularly and peacefully, as well as to exercise the functions entrusted to it by the Constitution in the local electoral processes;
- f) To ensure the authenticity and effectiveness of the vote;
- g) To promote the vote and contribute to the dissemination of civic education and democratic culture, and
- h) To act as the only authority for the administration of the State airtime in radio and television earmarked for the purposes of the Institute, for those of the other electoral authorities and for guaranteeing the exercise of the rights given by the Constitution to the political parties in this matter.

2. All the activities of the Institute will be governed by the principles of certainty, legality, independence, impartiality, maximum publicity and objectivity.

3. For the performance of their activities, the Institute and the Local Public Bodies will have a group of public servants in their executive and technical bodies, integrated in a National Professional Electoral Service governed by the Statute approved by the General Council for this purpose. The National Professional Electoral Service will have two systems, one for the Institute and another for the Local Public Bodies, which will contain the respective mechanism for selection, entry, training, professionalization, promotion, evaluation, rotation, permanence and discipline, as well as the general catalogue of the offices and positions of the executive and technical staff. The Institute will regulate the organization and functioning of this Service, and will exercise control over it. The Institute will exercise control over the System and regulate its organization, functioning and the application of the mechanisms referred to in this article.

4. In addition, the Institute will have staff assigned to an administrative branch for the optimal performance of the institutional activities, which will be governed by the statute referred to in the previous paragraph.

Article 31.

1. The Institute is an authority on electoral matters, independent in its decisions and functioning and professional in its performance.

2. The assets of the Institute are made up of the movable assets and real estate assigned to it for the compliance with its objective and the funds appropriated to it in the Expenditure Budget of the Federation, as well as the revenue it receives for any reasons deriving from the application of the provisions of this Law.

3. The budgetary resources for the public financing of the political parties are not part of the assets of the Institute, and therefore the Institute cannot change the calculation for its determination nor the amounts resulting from this calculation, in accordance with the present Law.

4. The Institute will be governed by the relevant constitutional provisions and the other applicable provisions for its organization, functioning and control. Also, it will be organized according to the principle of administrative decentralization.

Article 32.

1. The Institute will have the following responsibilities:

- a) For the federal and local electoral processes:
 - I. The electoral training;
 - II. The electoral geography, which includes the determination of the electoral districts and their division into electoral sections, as well as the boundaries of the multi-member regional districts and the establishment of their capitals;
 - III. The registry of voters and the list of voters;
 - IV. The location of the polling stations and the appointment of the officials for their directive boards;
 - V. The rules, guidelines, criteria and forms regarding preliminary results; opinion polls and surveys; electoral observation; quick counts; printing of documents and production of electoral materials, and
 - VI. The audit of the income and expenditure of the political parties and candidates.
- b) For the federal electoral processes:
 - I. The registration of the national political parties;
 - II. The recognition of the rights and the access to the prerogatives of the national political parties and the candidates for federal elective offices;
 - III. The preparation for the Election Day;
 - IV. The printing of documents and the production of electoral materials;
 - V. The scrutiny and counts in the terms established by this Law;
 - VI. The count of the election of the President of the United Mexican State in each of the single-member electoral districts;

- VII. The declaration of validity and delivery of the certificates in the election of representatives and senators;
- VIII. The civic education in the federal electoral processes, and
- IX. The other responsibilities set out in this Law and other applicable provisions.

2. In addition to the aforementioned, the Institute, in the terms established by this Law, will have the following responsibilities:

- a) The organization of the election of the leaders of the political parties, at the request of the political parties and discounting the cost from their public financing, in the terms established by the Law;
- b) The election and removal of the President Councilor and the Electoral Councilors of the Local Public Bodies;
- c) To sign agreements with bodies of the Federal Executive Branch that establish the coordination mechanisms and ensure cooperation regarding financial intelligence;
- d) The verification of the requirements, as well as the organization, development, count and declaration of results of the referendums referred to in section VIII of article 35 of the Constitution;
- e) To verify the percentage required by section IV of article 71 of the Constitution for the presentation of popular initiatives by the citizens;
- f) To directly take over the realization of the activities belonging to the electoral function corresponding to the Local Public Bodies, in the terms of this Law;
- g) To delegate responsibilities to the Local Public Bodies, maintaining the right to resume the direct exercise of the same at any moment;
- h) To draw to its knowledge any issue corresponding to the Local Public Bodies, when its transcendence merits it or in order to establish an interpretative criterion;
- i) To issue general criteria to guarantee the development of the mechanisms of citizen participation provided for in the federal laws issued for this purpose, so that the citizens participate, individually or collectively, in the public decisions, and
- j) The other responsibilities set out in this Law and other applicable provisions.

Article 33.

1. The Institute is located in the Federal District and exercises its functions in the entire national territory according to the following structure:

- a) 32 delegations, one in each state;³
- b) 300 sub-delegations, one in each single-member electoral district.⁴

2. The Institute can also have municipal offices in the places where the General Council decides on their installation.

CHAPTER II On the Central Bodies

Article 34.

1. The central bodies of the Institute are:

- a) The General Council;
- b) The Presidency of the General Council;
- c) The General Executive Board, and
- d) The Executive Secretariat.

First Section On the General Council and on its Presidency

Article 35.

1. The General Council is the highest management body, responsible for monitoring the compliance with the constitutional and legal provisions on electoral matters, as well as to ensure that the principles of certainty, legality, independence, impartiality, maximum publicity and objectivity guide all the activities of the Institute.

Article 36.

1. The General Council is integrated by a President Councilor, ten Electoral Councilors, Councilors from the Legislative Branch, political party representatives and the Executive Secretary.

2. The President Councilor of the General Council will be elected by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the House of Representatives that are present, according to the procedure established in Section A of Basis V of article 41 of the Constitution.

3. The President Councilor of the General Council should meet the same requirements established in article 38 of this Law to be an Electoral Councilor. The President Councilor will remain in office for nine years and cannot be reelected.

³ Translator's note: This refers to the Local Executive Boards of the Institute.

⁴ Translator's note: This refers to the District Executive Boards of the Institute.

4. The Councilors from the Legislative Branch will be suggested in the House of Representatives by the parliamentary groups with party affiliation in any of the Chambers. There will only be one Councilor for each parliamentary group, despite it being recognized in both Chambers of the Congress of the Union. The Councilors from the Legislative Branch will attend the sessions of the General Council with the right to speak but not to vote. Up to two substitutes can be appointed for each Councilor. During the recesses of the House of Representatives, the appointment will be made by the Permanent Commission of the Congress of the Union.

5. The Electoral Councilors will be elected in accordance with the procedure established in Section A of Basis V of article 41 of the Constitution.

6. The Electoral Councilors will remain in office for nine years, will be renewed in a phased manner and cannot be reelected.

7. The President Councilor and the Electoral Councilors will swear in during the session held by the General Council in the twenty-four hours following the election; the President Councilor will do it by himself and afterwards he will take the oath of the elected Councilors.

8. The Executive Secretary is appointed and removed by a two-thirds vote of the General Council on the proposal of the President Councilor.

9. Each national political party will appoint one representative and one substitute with the right to speak but not to vote.

10. The parties could at any time substitute their representatives, informing the President Councilor in advance.

Article 37.

1. In the event of a vacancy of the Councilors from the Legislative Branch, the President Councilor will inform the House of Representatives, or, where appropriate, the Permanent Commission of the Congress of the Union, in order for them to make the corresponding appointment.

2. In case of the definitive absence of the President Councilor or of any of the Electoral Councilors, the House of Representatives will as quickly as possible proceed to elect a substitute in the terms of the procedure established in Section A of Basis V of article 41 of the Constitution.

Article 38.

1. The Electoral Councilors should meet the following requirements:

- a) To be Mexican citizens by birth and to not have obtained any other nationality, in addition to being in full possession and exercise of their civil and political rights;

- b) To be registered in the Federal Register of Voters and to have a voter card;
- c) To be over thirty years old on the day of the appointment;
- d) To have held a bachelor's degree for a minimum of five years on the day of the appointment and to have the knowledge and experience to carry out their functions;
- e) To have a good reputation and never to have been sentenced for any crime, except if it was unintentional;
- f) To have lived in the country during the last two years, except in the case of absence in the service of the Republic for a period of less than six months;
- g) To not have been registered as a candidate, nor to have served in an elective office, in the last four years before the appointment;
- h) To not hold nor to have held a national or state management position in any political party in the last four years before the appointment;
- i) To not be Secretary of State, nor Attorney General of the Republic or Public District Attorney of any state, deputy secretary or senior official in the Federal or state Public Administration, Chief of Government of the Federal District, nor Governor or government secretary, unless they are removed from office four years before the day of the appointment, and
- j) To not be nor to have been a member of the Professional Electoral Service, nor to be or to have been a member of the National Professional Electoral Service, during the last ordinary federal electoral process.

2. The Executive Secretary of the General Council should meet the same requirements that are established to become an Electoral Councilor, with the exception of the provisions of subparagraph j) of the previous paragraph.

3. The salary received by the President Councilor and the Electoral Councilors will comply with the provisions of Article 127 of the Constitution.

Article 39.

1. The President Councilor, the Electoral Councilors and the Executive Secretary of the General Council, during their time in office, cannot have any other job, position or commission, with the exception of those in which they represent the General Council and those carried out in teaching, scientific, cultural, research or charity associations that are unpaid.

2. The President Councilor, the Electoral Councilors and the Executive Secretary and the other public servants of the Institute will carry out their functions with autonomy and integrity. They cannot use the reserved or confidential information they have access to in office, except for in the strict exercise of their functions, nor can they disclose it in any way.

3. The President Councilor, the Electoral Councilors and the Executive Secretary of the General Council can be subject to a political trial. Likewise, they will be subject to the responsibilities regime of the public servants set out in the Fourth Title of the Constitution.

4. The Comptroller General's Office of the Institute will be the body in charge of investigating the administrative infractions committed by the President Councilor, the Electoral Councilors and the Executive Secretary of the General Council, and, if necessary, to impose the applicable sanctions in accordance with the provisions of the Eighth Book of this Law.

5. The Institute will have a Comptroller General that will be appointed by the House of Representatives by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present, on the proposal of the public institutions of higher education.

6. The Comptroller General will remain in office for six years and can only be reelected once. The position is administratively attached to the presidency of the General Council and will maintain the necessary technical coordination with the Supreme Audit Institution of the Federation.

7. For the election of the Comptroller General, in addition to the provisions of the Constitution, the procedure established in the Law will be observed.

Article 40.

1. The General Council will hold an ordinary session every three months. Its President Councilor could call for an extraordinary session when he considers it necessary or at the request of the majority of the Electoral Councilors or the political party representatives, jointly or separately.

2. For the preparation of the electoral process, the General Council will meet during the first week of September of the year prior to the one in which the ordinary federal elections will be held. As of that date and until the end of the process, the General Council will hold a session at least once a month.

Article 41.

1. For the General Council to be able to meet, it is necessary that the majority of its members is present; among those who should be present is the President Councilor, who will be substituted during his temporary absences by the councilor he appoints. In the event that the President Councilor does not participate or is permanently absent from the session, the General Council will appoint one of the present Electoral Councilors to preside.

2. The Executive Secretary of the Institute will participate in the sessions with the right to speak but not to vote. The Executive Secretary will be in charge of the Executive Secretariat of the General Council. In case of the absence of the Executive Secretary from the session, his functions will be performed by one of

the members of the General Executive Board appointed by the General Council for this session.

3. In case that the majority referred to in paragraph 1 does not participate, the session will be held during the following twenty-four hours, with the Councilors and representatives that participate.

4. The decisions will be taken by majority voting, except for those that in accordance with this Law require a qualified majority.

5. In case of the definitive absence of the President Councilor of the General Council, the Electoral Councilors will appoint from among themselves the person who should substitute him provisionally, immediately informing the House of Representatives so that a substitute can be appointed in the terms established by the Constitution.

Article 42.

1. The General Council will create the temporary commissions that it considers necessary to discharge its duties, and these will always be presided over by an Electoral Councilor.

2. Regardless of the provisions of the previous paragraph, the following commissions will be continuously operational and will be exclusively integrated by Electoral Councilors appointed by the General Council: the Electoral Training and Civic Education Commission; the Electoral Organization Commission; the Prerogatives and Political Parties Commission; the National Professional Electoral Service Commission; the Commission of the Federal Register of Voters; the Reports and Complaints Commission; the Auditing Commission, and the Commission on Liaising with the Local Public Bodies. The Electoral Councilors could participate in up to four of the previous mentioned commissions for a period of three years; the presidency of these commissions will rotate annually between its members.

3. For each electoral process, the Electoral Training and Civic Education Commission and the Electoral Organization Commission will be merged to integrate the Commission of Electoral Training and Organization; the General Council will, in September of the year prior to the election, appoint its members and the Electoral Councilor who will preside over it.

4. All the commissions will be integrated by no less than three and no more than five Electoral Councilors; the Councilors from the Legislative Branch, as well as the representatives of the political parties, can participate in them with the right to speak but not to vote, except for in the National Professional Electoral Service Commission, the Complaints and Reports Commission, and the Auditing Commission.

5. The General Council will create the Commission on Liaising with the Local Public Bodies, which will be continuously operational and will be integrated by four Electoral Councilors appointed by a majority of at least eight votes of the General Council for a period of three years and the presidency will rotate annually between its members.

6. The permanent commissions will have a technical secretary who will be the head of the corresponding Executive Directorate or Technical Unit.

7. The head of the Executive Directorate or of the technical unit can be substituted in his functions as technical secretary by the one level lower public servant of his choice.

8. In all the matters they are entrusted with, the commissions should present a report, opinion or draft resolution, depending on the case, in the timeframe established by this Law or the regulations and agreements by the General Council.

9. The Executive Secretary of the General Council will collaborate with the commissions for the fulfillment of the tasks they have been entrusted with.

10. The General Council, according to the available budget of the Institute, could create special technical committees for specific activities or programs, in which it requires the technical scientific support or advice of specialists on the matters it considers necessary.

Article 43.

1. The General Council will request the publication in the Official Gazette of the Federation of the general agreements and decisions that it issues, and also of those that it decides, as well as of the names of the appointed members of the local councils, of the Local Public Bodies and of the district councils in the terms of this Law.

2. The Executive Secretary of the General Council will establish the agreements to assure the timely publication referred to in the previous paragraph. The service provided by the Official Gazette of the Federation to the Institute will be free of charge.

Second Section On the Responsibilities of the General Council

Article 44.

1. The General Council has the following responsibilities:

- a) To approve and issue the necessary internal regulations for the correct exercise of the powers and responsibilities of the Institute;

- b) To oversee the timely integration and proper functioning of the Institute bodies, and to be informed of all their activities through its President, the Executive Secretary and its commissions, as well as through the specific reports that the General Council deems it necessary to request;
- c) To appoint the Executive Secretary by a two-thirds majority vote of its members, according to the proposal presented by its President;
- d) To appoint, in the event of the absence of the Executive Secretary of the General Council, from among the members of the General Executive Board, the person that will act as Secretary of the General Council during the session;
- e) To appoint the executive directors and directors of the technical units of the Institute, according to the proposal presented by the President Councilor. In the case of the executive directorates and technical units established by this Law, the appointment of their heads should be made by a majority of at least eight votes;
- f) To appoint the public officials who during the electoral process will act as the presidents of the local and district councils and who, at all times, will serve as executive members of the corresponding committees;
- g) To appoint and remove, where appropriate, the presidents and Electoral Councilors of the Local Public Bodies, in accordance with the procedures established by this Law;
- h) To appoint by absolute majority, no later than September 30 of the year prior to the election, from the proposals made by the President Councilor and the Electoral Councilors of the General Council for this effect, the Electoral Councilors of the Local Councils;
- i) To decide on the merger, alliance and coalition agreements signed by the national political parties, as well as the participation agreements made by the political associations with the political parties, in the terms of the General Law on Political Parties;
- j) To oversee that the activities of the national political parties and the political associations are developed in adherence to this Law and the General Law on Political Parties and meet the obligations they are subjected to;
- k) To oversee that regarding the prerogatives of the political parties they act in adherence to this Law and the General Law on Political Parties, as well as to the provisions of the regulations issued for this purpose by the General Council;
- l) To dictate the guidelines regarding the Federal Register of Voter and to order the General Executive Board to carry out the studies and to

- formulate the projects for the division of the territory of the Republic into 300 single-member electoral districts and their capitals, the division into electoral sections to establish the territorial area of the five multi-member regional electoral districts and the capital of the state that will be the capital of each one of them; as well as the territorial division of the districts on the local level and, if applicable, to approve them;
- m) To decide on, in the terms of this Law, granting registration to the national political parties and to the political associations, as well as on the loss of registration in the cases established in the General Law on Political Parties, to issue the corresponding declaration and to request its publication in the Official Gazette of the Federation;
 - n) To permanently oversee that the Institute exercises its powers as the only authority in the administration of the State airtime in radio and television earmarked for the purposes of the Institute, for those of the other electoral authorities and for guaranteeing the exercise of the rights of the national political parties, political associations and candidates in accordance with the provisions of this Law and other applicable laws;
 - ñ) To approve the complete calendar of the federal electoral process, on the proposal of the General Executive Board; the designs for the voter cards with photography issued in the national territory as well as abroad; the design for the electoral ballots, the design for the Election Day certificates and the forms for the other electoral documents;
 - o) To review and approve the reports submitted by the Auditing Commission;
 - p) To establish the expenditure ceilings for pre-campaign and campaign expenses that can be incurred in the elections for the President of the United Mexican States, senators and representatives;
 - q) To register the electoral platform that the national political parties and candidates should present for each electoral process in the terms of this Law;
 - r) To issue the Session Regulations of the local and district councils of the Institute;
 - s) To register the candidates for President of the United Mexican States and for senators by the principle of proportional representation; as well as the regional lists of candidates for representatives by proportional representation presented by the national political parties and candidates, as applies, informing the local councils of the corresponding Districts Capitals of this;

- t) To register the formulas of candidates for senators and representatives by the principle of plurality, in a supplementary manner;⁵
- u) To carry out the total count of the election of senators by the principle of proportional representation, as well as the total count of the election from all the lists of representatives elected by the principle of proportional representation, to make the declaration of validity of the election of senators and representatives by this principle, to determine the allocation of senators and representatives for each political party and give the corresponding certificates, in the terms of this Law, no later than August 23 of the election year; as well as to, before the Election Day, define the statistical method that the local councils will implement so that the respective district council will make the recount of the ballots of up to ten percent of the polling stations in respect to the election of senators when the difference between the winning formula and that in second place is equal to or less than one percentage point;
- v) To inform the Senate and House of Representatives about the granting of the certificates of allocation of elected senators and representatives by the principle of proportional representation, respectively, as well as about the filed complaints;
- w) To receive the quarterly and annual reports that the General Executive Board produces, through the Executive Secretary of Institute, as well as the ones that the Comptroller General's Office should produce;
- x) To request the General Executive Board to investigate, by the means within its reach, facts that significantly affect the rights of the political parties or the federal electoral process;
- y) To resolve the administrative appeals that fall within its competence, in terms of the law on the matter;
- z) To annually approve the preliminary draft budget of the Institute proposed by the President of the General Council and, once it is approved, to refer it to the head of the Federal Executive Branch for its inclusion in the draft Expenditure Budget of the Federation;
- aa) To hear the infractions and, where necessary, to impose the corresponding sanctions, in the terms established in this Law;
- bb) To establish the policies and the general programs of the Institute on the proposal of the General Executive Board;

⁵ Translator's note: The local councils are in charge of the registration of plurality formulas of senatorial candidates and the district councils are in charge of the registration of those of candidates for representatives (see articles 68.1 h and 79.1 e). However, the General Council takes over these tasks in case the local or district councils fail to carry out the respective registration.

- cc) To appoint, from among the Electoral Councilors of the General Council, the person who should provisionally substitute the President Councilor in the event of his definitive absence and to inform the House of Representatives of the decision for the consequent processes;
- dd) To decide on, by qualified majority, the creation of technical units and commissions, in the terms of this Law;
- ee) To exercise the powers of assumption, attraction and delegation, as well as, where appropriate, to approve the signing of agreements regarding local electoral processes, in accordance with the regulations of this Law;
- ff) To dictate the agreements necessary to organize the elections of the leaderships of the political parties that solicit this and to discount the cost from their public financing, in the terms established by this Law. The request should be presented to the Institute at least four months in advance. The Institute will, through agreement, establish the modalities that the political parties should comply with for the respective request, and one obligation will be to have the list of members updated in the register of political parties. Regarding the elections of the leaderships of the local political parties, the organization corresponds to the Local Public Bodies;
- gg) To approve and issue the regulations, guidelines and agreements to exercise the powers established in Section B of Basis V of article 41 of the Constitution;
- hh) To approve the federal and state electoral geography, in accordance with the results of the national population census;
- ii) To issue the regulations for complaints and for auditing, and
- jj) To establish the agreements necessary to carry out the previous responsibilities and the others mentioned in this Law and in any other applicable legislation.

2. The General Council, when holding the federal electoral processes, can establish the bases and criteria for inviting, attending to and informing the foreign visitors who come to learn about the modalities of the development of the electoral process during any of its stages.

3. Likewise, for the purposes of the organization of the local electoral processes, the mentioned regarding the powers of assumption, attraction and delegation of the Institute will apply, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Third Section
On the Responsibilities of the Presidency and of the Secretary
of the General Council

Article 45.

1. The following responsibilities correspond to the President of the General Council:

- a) To guarantee the unity and cohesion of the activities of the bodies of the Institute;
- b) To establish links between the Institute and the federal, state and local authorities in order for them to collaborate with the Institute, in their respective fields of competence, for the fulfillment of its purposes;
- c) To summon and organize the sessions of the General Council;
- d) To oversee the compliance with the agreements adopted by the General Council;
- e) To propose to the General Council the appointment of the Executive Secretary, the Executive Directors and other heads of the technical units of the Institute;
- f) To appoint, from among the members of the General Executive Board, the member who will try, in the terms of the law on the matter, the challenge filed against the acts or decisions of the Executive Secretary;
- g) To receive from the Comptroller General the reports of the reviews and audits performed to verify the correct and legal use of the resources and properties of the Institute, as well as to inform the General Council about them;
- h) To annually propose the preliminary draft budget of the Institute to the General Council for its approval;
- i) To send the draft budget of the Institute approved by the General Council to the head of the Executive Branch, in the terms of the law on the matter;
- j) To receive the application for registration of candidates for the Presidency of the Republic and of candidates for senators and representatives by the principle of proportional representation from the national political parties and to submit them to the General Council for their registration;
- k) To preside over the General Executive Board and to inform the General Council about the work of the Board;
- l) With the approval of the General Council, to order national surveys to be carried out based on the scrutiny and count certificates of the polling stations in order to have information about the tendencies of the results

- on the Election Day. The results of these studies should be distributed by the President Councilor, with the previous approval of the General Council, twenty-two hours after the Election Day;
- m) To make the electoral statistics public, by section, municipality, district, state and multi-member regional district, once the electoral process has been completed;
 - n) To agree with the responsible authorities on the information and documents that the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters should provide for the local electoral process;
 - ñ) To submit to the General Council the proposals for the creation of new directorates or technical units for the best possible functioning of the Institute;
 - o) To request, where necessary, the publication in the Official Gazette of the Federation of the agreements and decisions issued by the General Council, and
 - p) The other responsibilities given in this Law.

Article 46.

1. The following responsibilities correspond to the Secretary of the General Council.

- a) To assist the General Council and its president in the exercise of their responsibilities;
- b) To prepare the agenda of the sessions of the General Council, to declare the existence of a quorum, to attest to the proceedings that took place during the sessions, to prepare the corresponding minutes and to submit them for the approval of the attending councilors and representatives;
- c) To inform about the compliance with the General Council agreements;
- d) To inform about the draft opinions of the commissions;
- e) To receive and try the administrative appeals lodged against the acts or decisions of the local bodies of the Institute and to prepare the corresponding project;
- f) To receive and to process, according to the law on the matter, the challenges filed against the acts or decisions of the General Council, informing it about this in the next session;
- g) To inform the General Council about the rulings issued by the Electoral Tribunal concerning its field of responsibility;
- h) To be in charge of the archive of the General Council;
- i) To issue the documents which certify the legal capacity of the Councilors and representatives of the political parties;

- j) To sign, together with the President of the General Council, all the agreements and decisions issued by the General Council;
- k) To provide what is necessary to publish the agreements and decisions issued by the General Council;
- l) To integrate the files with the count certificates from the states in the election of senators by the principle of proportional representation and to present them to the General Council in a timely manner;
- m) To integrate the files with the count certificates from the multi-member regional districts in the election of representatives by the principle of proportional representation and to present them to the General Council in a timely manner;
- n) To inform the General Council about the reports about the elections it receives from the local and district councils and from the Local Public Bodies;
- ñ) To receive, for information and electoral statistics purposes, copies of the files from all elections;
- o) To comply with the instructions of the President of the General Council and to assist him in his duties, and
- p) The other responsibilities set out in this Law, by the General Council and by its president.

Fourth Section

On the General Executive Board

Article 47.

1. The General Executive Board will be presided over by the President of the General Council and will be integrated by the Executive Secretary and the executive directors of the Federal Register of Voters, of Prerogatives and Political Parties, of Electoral Organization, of the National Professional Electoral Service, of Electoral Training and Civic Education and of Administration, as well as the heads of the Technical Auditing Unit, of the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes and of the Technical Unit of Liaising with the Local Public Bodies.

2. The Comptroller General could participate in the sessions of the General Executive Board, if summoned by the President Councilor.

Article 48.

1. The General Executive Board will meet at least once a month and will have the following responsibilities:

- a) To propose to the General Council the policies and the general programs of the Institute;

- b) To establish the administrative procedures, in accordance with the policies and general programs of the Institute;
- c) To supervise the compliance with the programs related to the Federal Register of Voters;
- d) To supervise the compliance with the regulations applicable to the national political parties and to the political associations and the prerogatives of both;
- e) To evaluate the performance of the National Professional Electoral Service;
- f) To supervise the compliance with the electoral training and civic education programs of the Institute;
- g) To propose to the General Council the establishment of municipal offices in accordance with the studies carried out and the availability of funds;
- h) To develop the necessary actions to ensure that the national, local and district monitoring commissions will be integrated, meet and function in the terms established by this Law;
- i) To present the draft opinion on the loss of registration of a political party founded on the General Law on Political Parties to the General Council for its consideration, no later than the last day of the month following the month in which the electoral process is concluded;
- j) To present the draft opinion on the loss of registration of a political association founded on the provisions of the General Law on Political Parties to the General Council for its consideration;
- k) To resolve the challenges within its competence, against acts or decisions by the Executive Secretary and the local committees of the Institute, in the terms established by the law on the matter;
- l) To integrate the files relating to administrative misconduct in electoral matters and, where necessary, to propose the sanction, in the terms established by this Law;
- m) To receive reports from the Comptroller General regarding the files relating to administrative misconduct and, where appropriate, regarding the application of sanctions to the public servants of the Institute;
- n) To design the studies in which the conditions, costs and timelines for the Institute to assume the organization of local electoral processes are established, formulating the corresponding draft agreement that, where relevant, should be approved by the General Council before the local electoral process in question begins;
- ñ) To approve the calendar and the integral plan of the federal electoral process and of the extraordinary federal electoral processes that are

- convened, to be submitted for the consideration of the General Council, and
- o) The other responsibilities set out in this Law, by the General Council or by its president.

Fifth Section

On the Executive Secretary of the Institute

Article 49.

1. The Executive Secretary coordinates the General Board, runs the administration and supervises the adequate development of the activities of the executive and technical bodies of the Institute.

Article 50.

1. The Executive Secretary of the Institute remains in office for six years and can be reelected only once.

Article 51.

1. The following are responsibilities of the Executive Secretary:

- a) To legally represent the Institute;
- b) To act as Secretary of the General Council with the right to speak but not to vote;
- c) To fulfill the agreements of the General Council;
- d) To submit the matters within its competence to the knowledge and, where applicable, the approval of the General Council;
- e) To exercise and attend to in a timely manner the function of electoral clerk, personally or through the secretaries of the local and district executive boards, or through the other public servants of the Institute to which he delegates this function regarding acts and facts of an exclusively electoral nature. The Executive Secretary can delegate the responsibility to public servants that he is in charge of;
- f) To guide and coordinate the actions of the executive directorates and the local and district executive boards of the Institute, permanently keeping the President of the General Council informed;
- g) To participate in the agreements concluded with the authorities responsible for the information and documents that should be provided to the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters for the local electoral processes;
- h) To sign, together with the President Councilor, the agreements concluded

- by the Institute with the electoral authorities of the states to take on the responsibility for the organization of local electoral processes;
- i) To help the Comptroller General in the procedures established by him for the monitoring of the resources and properties of the Institute and, where appropriate, in the procedures for the determination of responsibilities and imposing of sanctions for the public servants of the Institute;
 - j) To approve the structure of the executive directorates, committees and other bodies of the Institute in accordance with the service requirements and the authorized budgetary resources;
 - k) To appoint the members of the local and district executive boards from among the members of the National Professional Electoral Service, in accordance with the applicable provisions;
 - l) To provide the bodies of the Institute with the necessary elements for the performance of their duties;
 - m) To establish a mechanism for the immediate dissemination in the General Council of the preliminary results of the elections of representatives, senators and President of the United Mexican States obtained by the political parties and candidates; for this purpose, a computer system will be available to collect the preliminary results. In this case, the results can be presented prior to the procedure established in subparagraphs a) and b) of paragraph 1 of article 307 of this Law. The councilors and representatives of the political parties accredited to the General Council will have permanent access to the established system;
 - n) To act as secretary of the General Executive Board and prepare the minutes of its sessions;
 - ñ) To receive the reports from the executive members of the local and district executive boards and to inform the President of the General Council about the reports;
 - o) To try the appeals that should be resolved by the General Executive Board, or to process the ones lodged against the acts or decisions of the Board, in the terms of the law on the matter;
 - p) To assist in the performance of the appropriate studies or procedures in order to know the electoral tendencies on the Election Day, when this is requested by the President Councilor;
 - q) To annually prepare, according to the applicable laws, the preliminary draft budget of the Institute to submit it for the consideration of the President of the General Council;
 - r) To release the approved budgetary items;
 - s) To grant powers on behalf of the Institute for acts of possession, of

administration and to be represented before any administrative or judicial authority, or before individuals. To implement acts of possession on real estate belonging to the Institute or to grant powers for this purpose, the Executive Secretary requires the prior authorization of the General Council.

- t) To prepare, for the approval of the General Council, the integral draft calendar of the ordinary electoral processes, as well as of the extraordinary elections, that will be subjected to the respective call;
- u) To inform the applicant Chamber of the Congress of the Union within a period not exceeding thirty calendar days, counted from the receipt of the file from the President of the Directive Board of this Chamber, about the result of the revision of the percentage set out in article 71, section IV, of the Constitution;
- v) To exercise the function of electoral clerk and to issue the required certifications, and
- w) The other responsibilities entrusted to it by the General Council, its president, the General Executive Board and this Law.

2. The Executive Secretariat will have a Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes attached to it that will be in charge of the processing of the sanctioning procedure and others established by this Law and the applicable provisions.

3. In the exercise of the function of electoral clerk, the Executive Secretary, the secretaries of the local and district executive boards, as well as the other officials to whom this function is delegated will have the following responsibilities, which should be fulfilled in a timely manner:

- a) At the request of the political parties, to attest to the performance of acts and facts on electoral matters that could influence or affect the equality of the electoral contests;
- b) At the request of the regional bodies of the Institute, to certify facts that influence or affect the organization of the electoral process;
- c) To request the collaboration of the public notaries for the assistance in the electoral function during the development of the Election Day in the local or federal processes, and
- d) The other responsibilities established by the law and other applicable provisions.

Sixth Section

On the Executive Directorates and Technical Units

Article 52.

1. Each of the directorates of the General Board will be led by an Executive

Director or the Director of a Technical Unit, depending on the case, who will be appointed by the General Council.

2. The General Council will make the appointments referred to in the previous paragraph in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph e) of paragraph 1 of article 44 of this Law.

Article 53.

1. The executive directors or directors of technical units should meet the same requirements as the ones set out in paragraph 1 of article 38 of this Law for the Electoral Councilors of the General Council, with the exception of the requirement listed in subparagraph j) of the mentioned paragraph.

2. The Executive Secretary will present the proposals for the creation of new technical units for the best possible functioning of the Institute for the consideration of the President of the General Council.

3. The creation of technical units other than those provided for in this Law should be approved by a qualified majority of the General Council, provided that their creation does not imply a duplication of functions with any other area of the Institute and that the Institute has the necessary budgetary availability for their functioning.

4. Depending on their functions, the technical units can be permanent or temporary.

Article 54.

1. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters has the following responsibilities:

- a) To partially apply the census technique in the territorial area determined by the General Executive Board;
- b) To create the Registry of Voters;
- c) To issue the voter card according the provisions of the First Title of the Fourth Book of this Law;
- d) To annually review and update the Registry of Voters in accordance with the procedure established in the Fourth Book of this Law;
- e) To establish the necessary coordination with the federal, state and local authorities in order to obtain the information about deceased citizens, or about the loss, suspension or acquisition of citizenship;
- f) To provide the responsible bodies of the Institute and the national political parties and candidates with the nominal lists of voters in the terms of this Law;
- g) To elaborate, based on the studies done, the project of dividing the

- national territory into 300 single-member electoral districts, as well as the project of the five multi-member regional districts;
- h) To keep the electoral cartography of the country updated, classified by state, federal electoral district, local electoral district, municipality and electoral section;
 - i) To ensure that the national, state and district monitoring commissions will be integrated, meet and function according to the terms established by this Law;
 - j) To be in charge of the register and attendance books of the political party representatives to the monitoring commissions;
 - k) To request from the monitoring commissions the studies and the carrying out of consultations on the issues it deems appropriate within the scope of its competence;
 - l) To agree with the Executive Secretary of the Institute on the matters of its competence;
 - m) To participate in the sessions of the Commission of the Federal Register of Voters only with the right to speak;
 - n) To carry out the verification of the percentage of citizens registered in the nominal list of voters required to request a referendum or a popular initiative before the Congress of the Union, in terms of the provisions of the laws, and
 - ñ) The other responsibilities set out in this Law.

2. The National Monitoring Commission will be created to assist in the work regarding the Registry of Voters, and this commission will be presided over by the Executive Director of the Registry of Voters, with the participation of the national political parties.

3. The signatures referred to in article 71, section IV of the Constitution are not counted for the purpose of the percentage required in the case of any of the following circumstances:

- a) Names with incomplete, false or misleading information, that do not allow the identification of the citizen;
- b) They are not complimented by the voter code or the identifying number located on the back of the voter card deriving from the optical recognition of characters of the valid voter card;
- c) A citizen has signed the same initiative two times or more; in this case, only one of the signatures will be counted, and
- d) When the citizens have been excluded from the nominal list for any of the reasons established in this Law.

4. Once the verification of the signatures has been completed, the Executive

General Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will forward to the Executive Secretary of the Institute a detailed and disaggregated report, which should contain:

- a) The total number of signatories;
- b) The number of signatories included in the nominal list of voters and the corresponding percentage;
- c) The number of signatories not included in the nominal list of voters and the corresponding percentage, and
- d) The citizens that have been excluded from the nominal list for any of the reasons established in this Law.

Article 55.

1. The Executive Directorate of Prerogatives and Political Parties has the following responsibilities:

- a) To receive the notifications made by the organizations that aim to become national political parties or political associations and to carry out the appropriate activities;
- b) To receive the registration applications from the citizen organizations that have fulfilled the requirements established in this Law to become a political party or political association, and to integrate the corresponding file so that the Executive Secretary can give it to the General Council for its review;
- c) To enter into the corresponding book the registration of political parties and associations, as well as the merger, alliance and coalition agreements and participation agreements;
- d) To provide the national political parties and the political associations with the public financing they are entitled to according to the provisions of this Law;
- e) To carry out the necessary procedures so that the political parties can have at their disposal the postal and telegraphic exemptions that they are entitled to;
- f) To support the efforts of the political parties and the political associations to effectively use their prerogatives in fiscal matters;
- g) To carry out what is necessary for the political parties to be able to use their prerogatives of access to airtime in radio and television, in the terms established by Basis III of article 41 of the Constitution and the provisions of this Law;
- h) To elaborate and present to the Radio and Television Committee the standards for the allocation of the airtime that corresponds to the

- political parties and the Independent Candidates in these media, in accordance with the provisions of this Law and the applicable Regulation approved by the General Council;
- i) To be in charge of the registry of the members of the management bodies of the political parties and of their certified representatives to the national, local and district Institute bodies, as well as the registry of the leaders of the political associations;
 - j) To be in charge of the registry of the candidates for elective office;
 - k) To organize the election of the leaders of the political parties, when the Institute is requested to do so. The corresponding costs will be discounted from the public financing of the applying political parties;
 - l) To agree with the Executive Secretary of the Institute on the matters of its responsibility;
 - m) To participate in the sessions of the Prerogatives and Political Parties Commission only with the right to speak and to act as Technical Secretary of the Radio and Television Committee;
 - n) To integrate the Registry of local political parties referred to in the General Law on Political Parties;
 - ñ) To integrate the reports on the registration of candidates that the Local Public Bodies carry out for each local election, and
 - o) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

Article 56.

1. The Executive Directorate of Electoral Organization has the following responsibilities:

- a) To support the integration, installation and functioning of the local and district executive boards;
- b) To prepare the forms for the electoral documents in order to submit them, through the Executive Secretary, for the approval of the General Council;
- c) To provide the necessary for the printing and distribution of the authorized electoral documents;
- d) To collect copies of the minutes of their sessions and other documents related to the electoral process from the local councils and from the district councils;
- e) To collect the necessary documents and integrate the files so that the General Council can make the counts which it should make according to this Law;
- f) To be in charge of the statistics of the federal elections;
- g) To participate in the sessions, only with the right to speak, of the

- Electoral Organization Commission and, during the electoral process, of the Commission of Training and Electoral Organization;
- h) To agree with the Executive Secretary on the matters of its responsibility, and
 - i) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

Article 57.

1. The Executive Directorate of the National Professional Electoral Service has the following responsibilities:

- a) To draw up the draft Statute that will govern the members of the National Professional Electoral Service;
- b) To comply with and enforce the regulations and procedures of the National Professional Electoral Service;
- c) To integrate and update the catalogue of offices and positions in the National Professional Electoral Service and submit it to the General Executive Board for approval;
- d) To carry out the programs of recruitment, selection, entry, training, professionalization, promotion, evaluation, rotation, permanence and discipline of the professional personnel;
- e) To agree with the Executive Secretary the matters of its responsibility;
- f) To participate in the sessions of the National Professional Electoral Service Commission only with the right to speak, and
- g) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

Article 58.

1. The Executive Directorate of Electoral Training and Civic Education has the following responsibilities:

- a) To elaborate, propose and coordinate the civic education programs developed by the local and district executive boards;
- b) To promote the signing of agreements related to civic education with the Local Public Bodies suggesting the development of national policies geared towards the promotion of the political-democratic culture and the construction of citizenship;
- c) To oversee the compliance with the programs and policies referred to in the two previous paragraphs;
- d) To design and propose strategies to promote voting among the citizens;
- e) To design and promote strategies for the integration of the directive boards of the polling stations and the electoral training;
- f) To prepare the training materials and the electoral instructions;

- g) To provide guidance for the citizens for the exercise of their rights and fulfillment of their political-electoral duties;
- h) To carry out the necessary actions to encourage that citizens register and update their registration in the Federal Register of Voters and to ensure that they vote;
- i) To participate in the sessions of the Electoral Training and Civic Education Commission only with the right to speak;
- j) To design and propose civic education campaigns in coordination with the Special Attorney General's Office for the prevention of electoral offenses;⁶
- k) To agree with the Executive Secretary on the matters of its responsibility, and
- l) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

Article 59.

1. The Executive Directorate of Administration has the following responsibilities:

- a) To apply the policies, regulations and procedures for the administration of the financial and material resources of the Institute;
- b) To organize, manage and control the administration of the material and financial resources, as well as the provision of general services in the Institute;
- c) To prepare the annual draft budget of the Institute;
- d) To establish and operate the administrative systems for the budgetary exercise and control;
- e) To prepare the draft of the organization manual and the catalogue of offices and positions in the Institute's administrative branch, and submit it to the General Executive Board for its approval;
- f) To supply the necessary for the appropriate functioning of the administrative branch of the personnel working for the Institute and to submit to the General Executive Board for its consideration the permanent or special training programs and the procedures for the promotion and encouragement of the administrative personnel;
- g) To present to the General Executive Board, following agreement with the Executive Director of the National Professional Electoral Service, the procedures for selection, training and promotion which allow the

⁶ Translator's note: This refers to the Special General Attorney's Office for Electoral Offenses (FEPADE, for its initials in Spanish). However, this translation maintains the typographical error of the original Spanish version of this law.

- administrative personnel to aspire to be incorporated into the National Professional Electoral Service;
- h) To attend to the administrative needs of the bodies of the Institute;
- i) To present to the General Council, through the Executive Secretary, an annual report regarding the budget year of the Institute;
- j) To agree with the Executive Secretary the matters of its responsibility, and
- k) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

Article 60.

1. The Technical Unit of Liaising with the Local Public Bodies will be attached to the Executive Secretariat and has the following responsibilities:

- a) To propose to the Liaising Commission the guidelines, criteria and regulations that the Institute issues for the fulfillment of the functions that, in the terms of the provisions of this Law, it delegates to the Local Public Bodies;
- b) To follow-up and inform the Liaising Commission regarding the functions delegated to the Local Public Bodies;
- c) To promote coordination between the Institute and the Local Public Bodies for the development of the electoral function;
- d) To prepare the studies and reports requested by the Commission of Liaising with the Local Public Bodies;
- e) To assist the Commission of Liaising with the Local Public Bodies with the integration of the proposal to form the Councils of the Local Public Bodies;
- f) To prepare, in the year prior to the corresponding election, the calendar and the integral plan of coordination with the Local Public Bodies for the electoral processes of the states that hold elections, and to coordinate their delivery for the information of the General Council;
- g) To make available to the Commission of Liaising with the Local Public Bodies the annual reports by the Local Public Bodies in respect to the exercise of the delegated faculties and other matters that the Institute should know of, for the information of the General Council;
- h) To prepare the draft agreements and regulations necessary to coordinate the organization of the electoral processes in the states, in terms of the provisions of subsection a) of Section A of Basis V of article 41 of the Constitution, this Law and other applicable legislation;
- i) To facilitate the coordination between different parts of the Institute and the Local Public Bodies, and
- j) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

CHAPTER III

On the Local Bodies of the Institute

Article 61.

1. In each of the States, the Institute will have a delegation integrated by:
 - a) The local executive board and district executive boards;
 - b) The executive member, and
 - c) The local council or the district council, as applies, on a temporary basis during the federal electoral process.
2. The bodies mentioned in the previous paragraphs will have their headquarters in the Federal District and in each of the capitals of the States.

First Section

On the Local Executive Boards

Article 62.

1. The local executive boards are permanent bodies integrated by: the Executive Member and the members of Electoral Organization, of the Federal Register of Voters, of Electoral Training and Civic Education and the secretary.
2. The Executive Member will preside over the Board and will be responsible for the coordination with the electoral authorities of the corresponding state for the access to radio and television of the political parties in the local campaigns, as well as of the Local Public Bodies, in the terms established by this Law.
3. The secretary will support the Executive Member in the administrative tasks, will try the administrative appeals which should be resolved by the Board and will exercise the functions of electoral clerk.
4. The local executive boards will invariably be integrated by public servants from the National Professional Electoral Service.

Article 63.

1. The local executive boards will meet at least once a month and will, within the scope of their territorial competence, have the following responsibilities.
 - a) To supervise and evaluate the compliance with the programs and actions of their committees and of the district bodies;
 - b) To supervise and evaluate the compliance with the programs relating to the Federal Register of Voters; Electoral Organization; National Professional Electoral Service, and Electoral Training and Civic Education;
 - c) To develop, in its territorial area, the coordination with the local electoral authorities to guarantee the access to radio and television of the political

- parties during the local pre-campaigns and campaigns and for the use of these media by the Local Public Bodies;
- d) To inform the Executive Secretary of the Institute about the development of their activities every month;
 - e) To receive, try and resolve the challenges presented during the time period between two electoral processes against the acts or decisions of the district bodies, in the terms established by the law on the matter;
 - f) To carry out the electoral functions that directly correspond to the Institute to exercise in the local electoral processes, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, and to supervise, on behalf of the Local Public Bodies, the exercise of the faculties delegated to them by the Institute in the terms of the Constitution and this Law, and
 - g) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

Second Section

On the Executive Members of the Local Boards

Article 64.

1. The executive members, within their scope of competence, have the following responsibilities:

- a) To preside over the local executive board and, during the electoral process, the local council;
- b) To coordinate the duties of the board members and to distribute between them the matters of their competence;
- c) To submit for the approval of the local council the matters of their competence;
- d) To fulfill the programs relating to the Federal Register of Voters;
- e) To request the secretary to issue the certifications requested by the political parties;
- f) To provide the district executive boards and the district councils with the elements necessary for the fulfillment of their functions;
- g) To undertake the statistics of the federal elections;
- h) To carry out the programs of electoral training and civic education, and
- i) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

2. To assist with the tasks related to the Registry of Voters, a Local Monitoring Commission will be integrated in each state.

Third Section On the Local Councils

Article 65.

1. The local councils will be functioning during the federal electoral process and will be integrated by a President Councilor appointed by the General Council in the terms of article 44, paragraph 1, subparagraph f) of this Law, who, at all times, will also act as Executive Member; six Electoral Councilors, and representatives of the national political parties. The members of Electoral Organization, of the Federal Register of Voters and of Electoral Training and Civic Education from the Local Board will participate in their sessions with the right to speak but not to vote.

2. The secretary of the Board will be the secretary of the local council and will have the right to speak but not to vote.

3. The Electoral Councilors will be appointed according to the provisions of subparagraph h) of paragraph 1 of article 44 of this Law. For each Electoral Councilors there will be a substitute. In the case of a definitive absence, or in the case that the ordinary Councilor incurs two consecutive absences without just cause, the substitute will be called to participate in the next session to swear in. The appointments could be challenged before the corresponding Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal, when any of the requirements listed in the following article are not met.

4. The representatives of the national political parties will have the right to speak but not to vote; they will be selected according to the rule set out in paragraph 9 of article 36 of this Law.

Article 66.

1. The Electoral Councilors of the local councils should meet the following requirements:

- a) To be Mexican citizens by birth and not have obtained any other nationality and to be in full possession and exercise of their civil and political rights, to be registered in the Federal Register of Voters and to have a voter card;
- b) To have lived for two years in the corresponding state;
- c) To have the knowledge to carry out their functions adequately;
- d) To not have been registered as a candidate for any elective office in the last three years before the appointment;
- e) To not hold or have held a national, state or municipal management position in any political party in the last three years before the appointment;

f) To have a good reputation and never have been sentenced for any crime, except if it was of an unintentional or reckless nature;

2. The Electoral Councilors will be appointed for two ordinary electoral processes and can be reelected for one additional process.

3. For the exercise of their functions, they will have the right to enjoy the necessary arrangements in their ordinary work or employment.

4. The Electoral Councilors will receive the compensation established for each electoral process. Where applicable, they will be subject to the system of administrative responsibilities established in the Eighth Book of this Law and could be punished by the General Council for the violation they incur to the guiding principles of the electoral functions established by the Constitution.

Article 67.

1. The local councils will begin their sessions no later than September 30 of the year prior to that of the ordinary election.

2. As of their installation and until the conclusion of the process, the local councils will hold sessions at least once a month.

3. In order for a session of the local councils to be valid the majority of their members need to participate. Among those that should be present is the president, who will be substituted during his temporary absence by the electoral councilor assigned by him.

4. In the event of the absence of the secretary from the session, his functions will be performed by a member of the corresponding system of the Institute of the National Professional Electoral Service appointed by the local council in question for that session.

5. In the event that the majority referred to in paragraph 3 do not participate, the session will be held within the next twenty-four hours with the councilors and representatives that participate, among which the president or the secretary should be present.

6. The local councils will make their decisions by majority vote.

Article 68.

1. The local councils, within the scope of their competence, will have the following responsibilities:

- a) To oversee the compliance with this Law, and with the agreements and decisions of the electoral authorities;
- b) To oversee that the district councils are set up in the state according to the terms of this Law;
- c) To appoint by absolute majority, in November of the year prior to the

- election, the Electoral Councilors who integrate the district councils referred to in paragraph 3 of article 76 of this Law, based on the proposals made for this purpose by the President Councilor and the ordinary local Electoral Councilors;
- d) To resolve the challenges they are responsible for in the terms of the law on the matter;
 - e) To accredit the Mexican citizens, or the association to which they belong, that have presented their application to the president of the local council to participate as observers during the electoral process, in accordance with subparagraph c) of paragraph 1 of article 217 of this Law;
 - f) To publish the integration of the district councils in at least one of the most widely circulated newspapers of the State;
 - g) To register the appointments of the general representatives or representatives to the directive boards of the polling stations in a supplementary manner in the case provided for in paragraph 3 of article 264 of this Law;
 - h) To register the formulas of senatorial candidates by the principle of plurality;
 - i) To carry out the total count and the declaration of validity of the election of senators by the principle of plurality, based on the results recorded in the district count certificates, to make the corresponding results known and to deliver the original and the certified copies of the file in the terms set out in the Fifth Book of this Law;
 - j) To carry out the state count of the election of senators by the principle of proportional representation based on the results recorded in the district count certificates, to make the corresponding results known and to deliver the original and the certified copies of the file in the terms set out in the Fifth Book of this Law;
 - k) To appoint, in the event of the absence of the secretary, to the Institute from among the members of the corresponding system of the National Professional Electoral Service, the person who will act as secretary in the session;
 - l) To supervise the activities carried out by the local executive boards during the electoral process;
 - m) To appoint the commissions of councilors necessary to monitor and organize the appropriate exercise of their responsibilities, with the number of members established for each case, and
 - n) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

Article 69.

1. The local councils located in the cities designated as capitals of a multi-member regional district will, in addition to those mentioned in the previous article, have the following responsibilities:

- a) To collect from the district councils included in their respective districts the voting count certificates of the election of representatives by the principle of proportional representation;
- b) To carry out the multi-member regional district count of this election, and
- c) To deliver the original and the copies of the file of the multi-member regional district count of the election of representatives by the principle of proportional representation, in the terms set out in the Fifth Chapter of the Fourth Title of the Fifth Book of this Law.

Fourth Section**On the Responsibilities of the Presidents of the Local Councils****Article 70.**

1. The presidents of the local councils have the following responsibilities:

- a) To call and to lead the sessions of the local council;
- b) To receive, personally or through the secretary, the applications for registration of senatorial candidates by the principle of plurality presented by the national political parties;
- c) To receive the requests for accreditation presented by the Mexican citizens, or the associations that they belong to, to participate as observers during the electoral process;
- d) To inform the Executive Secretary of the Institute of the counts of the election of senators by both principles and the declarations of validity referring to the election of senators by the principle of plurality, as well as of the challenges lodged within the five days following the respective session;
- e) To oversee the delivery to the district councils of the approved documents, necessary materials and elements for the discharge of their duties;
- f) To issue the Majority and Validity Certificate of the election of the formulas of senators that have obtained the majority of votes as well as the Seat Allocation Certificate to the formula of the largest minority in accordance with the count and declaration of validity of the local council, and to inform the General Council;

- g) To oversee the compliance with the rulings issued by the respective local council;
- h) To receive and dispatch the challenges lodged against the acts or decisions by the local council, in the terms of the applicable law, and
- i) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

2. The presidents will be assisted in their duties by the council secretaries. The secretaries will be in charge of the consideration of the challenges that the local council should resolve.

3. The president of the local council will call a session when he considers it necessary or when it is requested by the majority of the representatives of the national political parties. The call will be issued in writing.

CHAPTER IV

On the Bodies of the Institute in the Single-Member Electoral Districts

Article 71.

1. In each of the 300 electoral districts, the Institute will have the following bodies:

- a) The district executive board;
- b) The executive member, and
- c) The district council.

2. The district bodies will have their headquarters in the district capital of each of the electoral districts.

First Section

On the District Executive Boards

Article 72.

1. The district executive boards are permanent bodies integrated by: the executive member, the members of Electoral Organization, of the Federal Register of Voters, of Electoral Training and Civic Education and a secretary.

2. The executive member will preside over the board.

3. The secretary will support the executive member in the administrative tasks, and will exercise the functions of electoral clerk.

4. The district executive boards will invariably be integrated by public servants from the National Professional Electoral Service.

Article 73.

1. The district executive boards will meet at least once a month and will, within the scope of their territorial competence, have the following responsibilities.

- a) To evaluate the compliance with the programs relating to the Federal Register of Voters, Electoral Organization, and Electoral Training and Civic Education;
- b) To propose to the corresponding district council the number and location of the polling stations that should be installed in each of the sections from belonging to their districts in accordance with article 256 of this Law;
- c) To train the citizens who will integrate the directive boards of the polling stations, in the terms of this Book;
- d) To present the proposals of the persons who will act as electoral assistants on Election Day to the district council for its approval, and
- e) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

Second Section**On the Executive Members of the District Boards****Article 74.**

1. The executive members of the district boards, within their scope of competence, have the following responsibilities:

- a) To preside over the district executive board and, during the electoral process, the district council;
- b) To coordinate the dependent committees and to distribute between them the matters of their competence;
- c) To submit for the approval of the district council the matters of their competence;
- d) To fulfill the programs relating to the Federal Register of Voters;
- e) To issue the certifications requested by the political parties;
- f) To provide the members and, where applicable, the municipal offices with the elements necessary for the fulfillment of their functions;
- g) To carry out the programs of electoral training and civic education;
- h) To provide the necessary in order for the lists of the integration of the directive boards of the polling stations and their location to be published, in the terms of this Law;
- i) To inform the executive member of the corresponding Local Executive Board about the development of their activities, and
- j) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

2. To assist with the tasks related to the Registry of Voters in each electoral district, a District Monitoring Commission will be integrated.

Article 75.

1. The Institute could have municipal offices. In the agreements of creation of offices, the Executive General Board will determine their structure, functions and territorial area of competence.

Third Section On the District Councils

Article 76.

1. The district councils will be functioning during the federal electoral process and will be integrated by a President Councilor appointed by the General Council in the terms of article 44, paragraph 1, subparagraph f), who, at all times, will also act as district Executive Member; six Electoral Councilors, and representatives of the national political parties. The members of Electoral Organization, of the Federal Register of Voters and of Electoral Training and Civic Education from the district board will participate in their sessions with the right to speak but not to vote.

2. The secretary of the board will be the secretary of the district council and will have the right to speak but not to vote.

3. The six Electoral Councilors will be appointed by the corresponding local council according to the provisions of subparagraph c) of paragraph 1 of article 68 of this Law. For each electoral councilor there will be a substitute. In the case of a definitive absence, or in the event that the ordinary councilor incurs two consecutive absences without just cause, the substitute will be called to participate in the next session to swear in. The appointments could be challenged in the terms established by the law on the matter, when any of the requirements listed in the following article are not met.

4. The representatives of the national political parties will have the right to speak but not to vote; they will be selected according to the rule set out in paragraph 9 of article 36 of this Law.

Article 77.

1. The Electoral Councilors of the district councils should meet the same requirements established in article 66 of this Law for the local councilors.

2. The Electoral Councilors will be appointed for two ordinary electoral processes and can be reelected for one additional process.

3. For the exercise of their functions, they will have the right to enjoy the necessary arrangements in their ordinary work or employment.

4. The Electoral Councilors will receive the compensation established for each electoral process. Where applicable, they will be subject to the system of administrative responsibilities established in the Eighth Book of this Law and could be punished by the General Council for the violation they incur to the guiding principles of the electoral functions established by the Constitution.

Article 78.

1. The district councils will begin their sessions no later than November 30 of the year prior to that of the ordinary election.

2. As of their installation and until the conclusion of the process, the district councils will hold sessions at least once a month.

3. In order for a session of the district councils to be valid the majority of their members need to participate. Among those that should be present is the president, who will be substituted during his temporary absence by the electoral councilor assigned by him.

4. In the event of the absence of the secretary from the session, his functions will be performed by a member of the corresponding system of the Institute of the National Professional Electoral Service appointed by the district council in question for that session.

5. In the event that the majority referred to in paragraph 3 of this article do not participate, the session will be held within the next twenty-four hours with the councilors and representatives that participate, among which the president or the secretary should be present.

6. The district councils will make their decisions by majority vote.

Article 79.

1. The district councils, within the scope of their competence, will have the following responsibilities:

- a) To oversee the compliance with this Law and the agreements and decisions of the electoral authorities;
- b) To appoint, in the event of the absence of the secretary, from among the members of the National Professional Electoral Service, the person who will act as secretary in the session;
- c) To determine the number and location of the polling stations in accordance with the procedure set out in articles 256 and 258 of this Law;
- d) To randomly draw from a list the polling station officials according to the procedure established in article 254 of this Law and to oversee that

- the directive boards of the polling stations are set up in the terms of this Law;
- e) To register the formulas of candidates for representatives by the principle of plurality;
 - f) To register the appointments of the representatives that the political parties accredit for Election Day;
 - g) To accredit the Mexican citizens, or the organization to which they belong, that have presented their application to the president of the district council to participate as observers during the electoral process, in accordance with subparagraph c) of paragraph 1 of article 217 of this Law;
 - h) To issue, where applicable, the identification of the representatives of the parties within forty-eight hours after their registration and, in any case, ten days before Election Day;
 - i) To carry out the district counts and the declaration of validity of the elections of representatives by the principle of plurality and the district count of the election of representatives by proportional representation;
 - j) To carry out the district counts of the election of senators by the principles of plurality and proportional representation;
 - k) To carry out the district count of the vote for the President of the United Mexican States;
 - l) To supervise the activities carried out by the district executive boards during the electoral process, and
 - m) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

Fourth Section

On the Responsibilities of the Presidents of the District Councils

Article 80.

1. It corresponds to the presidents of the district councils:
 - a) To call and lead the sessions of the General Council;
 - b) To receive the applications for registration of candidates for representatives by the principle of plurality;
 - c) To inform the Executive Secretary of the Institute, within the six days following the count session, of the corresponding counts, of the development of the elections and of the lodged challenges;
 - d) To deliver the necessary documents and elements to the presidents of the directive boards of the polling stations, as well as assist them, for the proper discharge of their duties;

- e) To issue the Majority and Validity Certificate of the election of the formula of candidates for representatives that has obtained the majority of votes in accordance with the count and declaration of validity of the district council;
- f) To make the results of the district counts known through notices hung on the exteriors of their offices;
- g) To deliver the original and the certified copies of the file of the district counts regarding the elections of representatives, senators and President of the United Mexican States in the terms set out in the Third Chapter of the Fourth Title of the Fifth Book;
- h) To protect the documentation of the election of representatives by plurality and proportional representation, of senators by plurality and proportional representation and of the President of the United Mexican States, until the corresponding electoral process concludes;
- i) To receive and dispatch the challenges lodged against the acts or decisions by the General Council, in the terms established in the applicable law;
- j) To oversee the compliance with the decisions issued by the respective district council and other competent electoral authorities;
- k) To receive the requests for accreditation presented by the Mexican citizens, or the associations that they belong to, to participate as observers during the electoral process, and
- l) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

2. The presidents will be assisted in their duties by the secretaries of the district councils.

3. The president of the district council will call to sessions when he considers it necessary or when it is requested by the majority of the representatives of the national political parties. The call will be issued in writing.

CHAPTER V

On the Directive Boards of the Polling Stations

Article 81.

1. The directive boards of the polling stations are by constitutional mandate the electoral bodies comprised of citizens responsible for receiving the votes and for performing the scrutiny and the count in each of the electoral sections in which the 300 electoral districts and the states of the Republic are divided.

2. The directive boards of the polling stations as an electoral authority are, during the Election Day, responsible for respecting and enforcing free and effective suffrage, guaranteeing the secrecy of the vote and assuring the authenticity of the scrutiny and the count.

3. In each electoral section a polling station will be installed to receive the votes on Election Day, with the exception of the established in paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of article 256 of this Law.

Article 82.

1. The directive boards of the polling stations will be integrated by a president, a secretary, two scrutineers, and three general substitutes. In the electoral processes in which one or several referendums are held, an additional scrutineer is appointed who will be responsible for carrying out the scrutiny and count of the votes cast in these referendums.

2. In the processes in which both federal and local elections are held in an entity, the General Council of the Institute should install one single directive board of the polling station for both types of elections. To this end, the directive board, apart from the provisions of the previous paragraph, is integrated by an additional secretary and scrutineer, who will be in charge of the activities set out in paragraph 2 of the previous article at the local level.

3. The district executive boards will permanently carry out civic education and electoral training courses, aimed at the citizens residing in their districts.

4. The district executive boards will integrate the directive boards of the polling stations in accordance with the procedure set out in article 254 of this Law.

5. In the event that the Institute exclusively exercises the functions of the electoral training, as well as the location of the polling station and the appointment of the officials of the directive boards of the polling stations in the local electoral processes, the district executive boards of the Institute will carry these out in accordance with the guidelines issued for this effect by the General Council.

Article 83.

1. To be a member of the directive boards of the polling stations, it is required:

- a) To be a Mexican citizen by birth and to not have obtained any other nationality and to be a resident of the electoral section in which the polling station is located;
- b) To be registered in the Federal Register of Voters;
- c) To have a voter card;
- d) To enjoy the political rights;
- e) To have an honest way of living;
- f) To have participated in the electoral training course given by the corresponding district executive board;
- g) To not be a higher-level trusted public servant, nor to hold a party management position at any level, and

- h) To know how to read and write and to not be more than 70 years old on the Election Day.

First Section **On their Responsibilities**

Article 84.

1. The members of the directive boards of the polling stations have these responsibilities:

- a) To install and close the polling station in the terms of this Law;
- b) To receive the votes;
- c) To carry out the scrutiny and count of the votes;
- d) To remain in the polling station from its set-up until its closure, and
- e) The other responsibilities established by this Law and related regulations.

Article 85.

1. The presidents of the directive boards of the polling stations have these responsibilities:

- a) As electoral authority, to preside over the work of the directive board and to ensure the fulfillment of the provisions of this Law, during the course of the Election Day;
- b) To receive from the district councils the documents, materials and elements necessary for the operation of the polling stations, and to keep them under their responsibility until the set-up of the polling stations;
- c) To identify the voters in the case mentioned in paragraph 3 of article 278 of this Law;
- d) To maintain order in the polling station and in its vicinity, if necessary with the help of the security forces;
- e) To suspend, temporarily or definitely, the voting in the event of a disruption of the order or when there are circumstances or conditions that obstruct the freedom to vote, the secrecy of the vote, or that threaten the personal safety of the voters, the representatives of the parties or the members of the directive boards;
- f) To remove from the polling station any person that commits a grave disruption of the order, obstructs the freedom to vote, violates the secrecy of the vote, performs acts that affect the authenticity of the scrutiny or count, or that intimidates or behaves violently towards the voters, the representatives of the parties or the members of the directive boards;

- g) To carry out the scrutiny and count, with the assistance of the secretary and the scrutineers and before the present representatives of the political parties;
- h) When the work of the polling station is completed, to duly dispatch to the district council the respective documents and files in the terms of article 299 of this Law, and
- i) To post the results of the count for each of the elections in a visible place outside of the polling station.

Article 86.

1. The secretaries of the directive boards of the polling stations have these responsibilities:

- a) To take the minutes during the Election Day ordered by this Law and to distribute them in the terms established in this same Law;
- b) To count, immediately before the voting begins and in the presence of the representatives of the political parties, the received electoral ballots and write down their folio numbers in the installation minutes;
- c) To check that the name of the voter is included in the corresponding nominal list;
- d) To receive the written objections presented by the representatives of the political parties;
- e) To render unusable the remaining ballots according to the provisions of the subparagraph a) of paragraph 1 of article 290 of this Law, and
- f) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

Article 87.

1. The scrutineers of the directive boards of the polling stations have these responsibilities:

- a) To count the ballots deposited in each ballot box, and the number of voters who voted according to the marks made in the nominal list of voters, verifying that these numbers coincide and, in the event that they do not, to record this fact;
- b) To count the number of votes cast in favor of each candidate, formula, or regional list;
- c) To assist the president or the secretary in the activities they entrust to them, and
- d) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

CHAPTER VI

Common Provisions

Article 88.

1. The members of the General Council, of the local and district councils and the citizens that integrate the directive boards of the polling stations, should swear to protect and enforce the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States and the laws emanating from it, to comply with the regulations of this Law, and to carry out the task entrusted to them loyally and with patriotism.

Article 89.

1. The national political parties should accredit their representatives before the local and district councils no later than thirty days after the date of the installation session of the council in question.

2. Once this period expires, the parties that have not accredited their representatives will not be part of the respective council during the electoral process.

3. The political parties can at all times substitute their representatives to the councils of the Institute.

Article 90.

1. When the ordinary representative of a party, or the substitute representative, fails to participate without just cause in three consecutive sessions of the General Council of the Institute to which they are accredited, the political party will no longer be part of this council during the electoral process in question. On the first absence, the representative will be summoned to attend the session and the political party will be informed in order to compel its representative to participate.

2. The district councils will inform the local councils of each absence in writing, so that they in turn can inform the General Council of the Institute in order for it to inform the representatives of the political parties.

3. The decision of the corresponding Council will be notified to the respective political party.

Article 91.

1. The bodies of the Institute will, at the request of the representatives of the national political parties, issue certified copies of the minutes of the sessions held.

2. The secretary of the corresponding body will ask for the receipt of the issued certified copies according to this article.

Article 92.

1. The sessions of the councils of the Institute will be public.
2. The persons attending should keep due order in the place where the sessions are held.
3. To guarantee the order, the presidents could take the following measures:
 - a) Appeal to keep order;
 - b) To order to leave the place, and
 - c) To request the assistance of the security forces to re-establish the order and eject those who caused the disruption.

Article 93.

1. In the sessions of the councils, only the councilors and the representatives of the political parties will hold seats and partake in the deliberations.

Article 94.

1. The federal, state and municipal authorities are obligated to provide the bodies of the National Electoral Institute, on the request of the respective presidents, with the reports, the certificates and the assistance of the security forces necessary for the compliance with their functions and decisions.

Article 95.

1. The electoral officials and the representatives of the national political parties duly accredited before the bodies of the Institute will enjoy the postal and telegraphic exemptions and the discounts in the transport rates given to the official branches, as agreed by the Executive Secretary of the Institute.

Article 96.

1. The local and district councils, within the twenty-four hours following their installation, will send a copy of the respective minutes to the Executive Secretary of the Institute in order to inform the General Council.
2. The district councils will also send a copy of the minutes to the president of the local council of the corresponding state.
3. They will proceed in the same way regarding the subsequent sessions.
4. At the request of the representatives of the political parties to the General, local and district councils, certified copies of the minutes of their respective sessions will be issued no later than five days after their approval. The secretaries of the councils will be responsible for the non-observance.

Article 97.

1. During the federal electoral processes, all days and hours are working days.
2. The local and district councils will establish their working hours, keeping in mind the established in the previous paragraph. They will inform the Executive Secretary of the Institute of the established hours so that the General Council can be informed and, where applicable, also inform the president of the respective local council and the national political parties that have accredited representatives before the council in question.

SECOND TITLE **On the Local Public Bodies**

CHAPTER I **On the Integration**

Article 98.

1. The Local Public Bodies have their own legal personality and their own assets. They will enjoy autonomy in their functions and independence in their decisions, in the terms established by the Constitution, this Law and the local constitutions and laws. They will perform their duties professionally. They will be governed by the principles of certainty, impartiality, independence, legality, maximum publicity and objectivity.
2. The Local Public Bodies are electoral authorities, in the terms established by the Constitution, this Law and the corresponding local laws.
3. The local law will establish the public servants who will be vested with the authority for acts and facts of an electoral nature, as well as how they are delegated. These public servants should duly exercise this function and will have, among others, the following responsibilities:
 - a) At the request of the political parties, to attest to the performance of acts and facts on electoral matters that could influence or affect the equality of the local electoral contests;
 - b) To request the collaboration of the public notaries for the assistance in the electoral function during the development of the Election Day in the local processes, and
 - c) The other responsibilities established by the laws of the states.

Article 99.

1. The Local Public Bodies will have a higher management body integrated by a President Councilor and six Electoral Councilors, with the right to speak and

vote; the Executive Secretary, and representatives of the political parties with national or state registration, who will participate in the sessions only with the right to speak.

2. The assets of the Local Public Bodies are made up of the movable assets and real estate allocated to them for the fulfillment of their objective and the consignments given to them annually from the expenditure budgets of each state for the organization of the local electoral processes and for the financing of the political parties.

CHAPTER II On the Eligibility Requirements

Article 100.

1. The President Councilor and the Electoral Councilors of the Local Public Bodies will be appointed by the General Council of the Institute for a period of seven years, according to the procedure established by this Law.

2. The requirements to be a local electoral councilor are the following:

- a) To be a Mexican citizen by birth and to not to have obtained any other nationality, in addition to being in full possession and exercise of the civil and political rights;
- b) To be registered in the Federal Register of Voters and to have a valid voter card;
- c) To be more than thirty years old on the day of the appointment;
- d) To have held a bachelor's degree for a minimum of five years on the day of the appointment;
- e) To have a good reputation and to never have been sentenced for any crime, except if it was of an unintentional or reckless nature;
- f) To come from the corresponding state and to have had an actual residence there for at least the last five years before the appointment, except in the case of absence due to public, educational or research service for a period of less than six months;
- g) To not have been registered as a candidate, nor to have served in an elective office, in the last four years before the appointment;
- h) To not hold nor to have held a national, state or municipal management position in any political party in the last four years before the appointment;
- i) To not have been banned from holding public office in any federal or local public institution;
- j) To not have been head of a ministry or of a department of the legal

or extended cabinet⁷ of the federal or of a state government, nor sub-secretary or high official in the public administration at any level of government during the last four years before the appointment. To not be Chief of Government of the Federal District, or Governor, or Government Secretary or the equivalent at the local level. To not be Municipal President, administrator or councilor or head of department of the city councils, and

- k) To not be or to have been a member of the National Professional Electoral Service during the last federal electoral process in the entity.

3. In the event that there is a local electoral councilor vacancy, the General Council will make the corresponding appointment in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

4. After completing their office, they cannot assume public office in the bodies arising from the elections in the organization and development of which they participated, nor be nominated for an elective office or assume a position of party management, during the two years following the end of their office.

CHAPTER III

On the Election Process of the Councilors

Article 101.

1. For the election of the President Councilor and the Electoral Councilors of the Local Public Bodies, the following is observed:

- a) The General Council of the Institute will issue a public call for each corresponding state, which should expressly specify the offices and periods to be appointed, deadlines of the appointment process, the bodies before which the interested applicants should register, requirements, documentation and the procedure to be followed;
- b) The Commission of Liaising with the Local Public Bodies will be in charge of the development, monitoring and management of the appointment process;
- c) The registration and delivery of documents for the appointment process will be made in each state or before the Secretariat of the General Council. For the dissemination of the process and the reception of the documentation of the applicants, the Commission will be assisted by the decentralized bodies of the Institute in the thirty-two states;

⁷ Translator's note: The legal cabinet includes all Ministers of the State and the General Prosecutor of the Republic. The extended cabinet includes the heads of the parastatal bodies and decentralized entities that depend on the federal budget and whose general directors are chosen by the President of the Republic.

- d) The Commission can adopt complimentary information for the development of the appointment process from the integration proposals made by each of the local councils of the Local Public Bodies. In all cases, the persons included in the proposals should fulfill the requirements established by the Constitution and this Law;
- e) The Commission will present to the General Council of the Institute a list of up to five names for each vacancy in the state;
- f) When the same selection process aims to fill more than one vacancy, the Commission will present to the General Council of the Institute one list with the names of all candidates to occupy all of the vacancies;
- g) The lists that contain the proposals should be conveyed to the General Council of the Institute at least seventy-two hours before the corresponding session;
- h) The General Council of the Institute will appoint by majority of eight votes the President Councilor and the Electoral Councilors of the Local Public Bodies, specifying the period that they are appointed for, and
- i) The General Council of the Institute should publish the appointment in the Official Gazette of the Federation and the equivalent in the state, as well as convey the appointment to the local authorities.

2. In the event that from this election process the General Council of the Institute does not fill the total number of vacancies, a new process should be initiated regarding the not filled vacancies.

3. When there is a vacancy of the President Councilor or of an Electoral Councilor in any state, the General Council of the Institute will carry out the same procedure established in the present article to cover the respective vacancy.

4. If the vacancy occurs during the first four years of the office of the Electoral Councilor, a substitute will be chosen to conclude the period. If the vacancy occurs during the last three years, a Councilor will be chosen for a new period.

CHAPTER IV

On the Removal of the Councilors

Article 102.

1. The Electoral Councilors of the Local Public Bodies will be subjected to the system of responsibilities of the public servants established in the Fourth Title of the Constitution.

2. The Electoral Councilors of the Local Public Bodies can be removed by the General Council by committing any of the following serious conducts:

- a) To perform acts that threaten the independence and impartiality of the electoral function, or any action that generates or implies subordination in regards to third parties;
- b) To be evidently negligent, inept or careless in the discharge of the duties or tasks that should be performed;
- c) To know of any matter or participate in any act that they are impeded from;
- d) To carry out appointments, promotions or ratifications infringing on the corresponding general provisions;
- e) To issue a public opinion that implies prejudging a matter of their knowledge and to not have excused themselves from the same;
- f) To stop discharging the duties or tasks that they are in charge of without just cause, and
- g) To violate in a serious or repeated manner the rules, guidelines, criteria and forms issued by the Institute in terms of Basis V, Section B, subsection a), numeral 5 of article 41 of the Constitution. For the purposes of this subparagraph, a serious violation is considered as that which damages the guiding principles of the election in question.

Article 103.

1. When the Executive Secretary of the Institute knows of any facts that constitute causes for removal and considers that there is proof, he will, through the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes, notify the local electoral councilor in question.

2. The notification should include the location, day and time in which the hearing will take place; the acts or omissions that the councilor is accused of, the possible consequences and the right of this person to appear assisted by a defender. The notification referred to in this paragraph will be made in person. A period of no less than five and no more than fifteen days should elapse between the date of the citation and of the hearing.

3. After the hearing, the Electoral Councilor will be given a period of ten days to present the evidence that he considers relevant and that is related to the facts that he is accused of.

4. Once the admitted evidence has been examined, the Executive Secretary will submit the final statement with a draft resolution to the General Council of the Institute within the following twenty days.

5. The removal will require eight votes of the General Council of the Institute, which should notify the corresponding decision and execute the removal, without prejudice to any other sanction that may be imposed in accordance with the applicable juridical provisions.

CHAPTER V
On the Responsibilities of the Local Public Bodies

Article 104.

1. It corresponds to the Local Public Bodies to exercise functions in the following areas:

- a) To apply the general provisions, rules, guidelines, criteria and forms that the Institutes establishes in the exercise of the functions given to it by the Constitution and this Law;
- b) To guarantee the rights and the access to the prerogatives of the political parties and candidates;
- c) To guarantee the timely administration of the public financing that the national and local political parties and, where applicable, the Independent Candidates in the entity are entitled to;
- d) To develop and carry out the civic education programs in the corresponding entity;
- e) To provide guidance for citizens in the entity for the exercise of their rights and fulfillment of their political-electoral duties;
- f) To carry out the activities necessary for the preparation for the Election Day;
- g) To print the documents and produce the electoral materials in the terms of the guidelines issued by the Institute for this effect;
- h) To carry out the scrutiny and total count of the elections held in the corresponding state, based on the results recorded in the district and municipal count certificates;
- i) To issue the certificates of majority and to declare the validity of the election of the candidates that obtained the majority of votes as well as to issue the seat allocation certificates to the proportional representation formulas of the local legislatures, according to the count and declaration of validity issued by the same body;
- j) To carry out the count of the election of head of the Executive Branch of the entity in question;
- k) To implement and operate the Preliminary Electoral Results Program for the elections held in the entity, in accordance with the rules, guidelines, criteria and forms that the Institute issues for this purpose;
- l) To verify the compliance with the general criteria issued by the Institute regarding surveys or opinion polls on electoral preferences that the natural or legal persons that aim to carry out this type of studies in the entity in question should respect;
- m) To develop the activities required to guarantee the right of the citizens

- to engage in electoral observation in the entity in question, in accordance with the guidelines and criteria issued by the Institute;
- n) To order the performance of quick counts based on the scrutiny and count certificates of the polling stations in order to know the tendencies of the results on Election Day, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Institute;
 - ñ) To organize, develop and carry out the count of votes and to declare the results of the mechanisms of citizen participation set out in the legislation of the state in question;
 - o) To supervise the activities carried out by the district, local and municipal bodies in the corresponding entity during the electoral process;
 - p) To exercise the function of electoral clerk regarding the acts and facts of an exclusively electoral nature;
 - q) To inform the Technical Unit of Liaising with the Local Public Bodies about the exercise of the functions delegated to them by the Institute, in accordance with the provisions of this Law and other regulations issued by the General Council, and
 - r) The other functions established by this Law, and those not reserved to the Institute that are established in the corresponding local legislation.

THIRD TITLE

On the Local Electoral Jurisdictional Authorities

CHAPTER I

On the General Provisions

Article 105.

1. The local electoral jurisdictional authorities are specialized jurisdictional bodies on electoral matters in each state, which enjoy technical and management autonomy in their functioning and independence in their decisions. They should fulfill their functions under the principles of certainty, impartiality, objectivity, legality and integrity.

2. These jurisdictional bodies will not be attached to the judicial branches of the states.

CHAPTER II

On the Integration

Article 106.

1. The electoral jurisdictional authorities in the states will be composed of

three or five justices, who will act collegially and remain in office during seven years, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of each state or the Government Statute of the Federal District.

2. The electoral justices will be elected in a phased manner by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the Senate that are present.

3. The electoral justices will be responsible for resolving the challenges lodged against all local electoral acts and decisions, in the terms of the local laws.

Article 107.

1. During their time in office, the electoral justices cannot have another employment, office or commission with the exception of those in which they act in representation of the local electoral jurisdictional authority, and those carried out in teaching, scientific, cultural, research or charity associations that are unpaid.

2. After completing their office, they cannot assume public office in the bodies arising from the elections regarding which they pronounced a ruling, nor be nominated for an elective office or assume a position of party management, for a period equivalent to a fourth of the time in which they exercised their function.

CHAPTER III

On the Election Process of the Justices

Article 108.

1. For the election of the electoral justices that integrate the local jurisdictional bodies, the following will be observed:

- a) The Senate will, at the proposal of the Political Coordination Board, issue the public call that contains the deadlines and the description of the respective procedure, and
- b) The Regulations of the Senate of the Republic will define the procedure for issuing and carrying out the respective call.

2. The chief justice will be appointed by a majority vote of the justices of the corresponding jurisdictional body.

Article 109.

1. In the event of the temporary absence of any of the justices that form the local jurisdictional bodies, this is filled in accordance with the procedure set out in the local electoral laws.

2. Concerning the definitive absence of a justice, this will be communicated to

the Senate so that the substitution procedure is initiated. Temporary absences that exceed three months will be considered permanent.

3. The local laws will establish the appointment procedure of the chief justice, as well as the rules for filling the temporary absences that occur. The presidency should be rotating.

CHAPTER IV On the Responsibilities

Article 110.

1. All sessions of the local electoral jurisdictional authorities will be public.

Article 111.

1. The local laws should regulate the system of jurisdictional challenges through which the controversies that are filed regarding the local electoral processes should be resolved, as well as those derived from the acts or decisions issued by the local electoral authorities.

2. The aim of these jurisdictional procedures is to guarantee the principles of certainty and finality of the different stages of the electoral processes, as well as that of legality of the acts and decisions of the authorities in the field.

CHAPTER V On the Impediments and Excuses

Article 112.

1. The local electoral justices cannot abstain from voting, except when they have a legal impediment.

Article 113.

1. Any of the following causes are impediments from knowing the issues, independently of the contents in the local laws:

- a) To be related in a direct line without limitation as to the degree, to be related by cosanguinity up to the fourth degree and to be related by affinity up to the second degree, to any of the stakeholders, their representatives, employers or defenders.
- b) To have an intimate friendship or demonstrated enmity with any of the persons referred to in the previous subparagraph;
- c) To have a personal interest in the matter, or that his spouse or relatives, in the degrees expressed in subparagraph a) of this article, have an interest in it;

- d) That the public servant, his spouse or relatives, in the degrees expressed in subparagraph a) of this article, have presented a complaint or report against any of the stakeholders;
- e) That the public servant, his spouse or relatives, in the degrees expressed in subparagraph a) of this article, have a trial pending against any of the stakeholders or that less than a year had passed since the date of the end of the case on the date in which they were informed of the issue;
- f) That the public servant, his spouse or relatives, in the degrees expressed in the same subparagraph a), have been tried based on a complaint or report presented before the authorities by any of the stakeholders, their representatives, employers or defenders;
- g) To have the resolution of a case he filed as a private person pending, that is similar to that submitted for his knowledge, or that of his spouse or relatives in the degrees expressed in subparagraph a) have such a case pending;
- h) To have a personal interest in cases where any of the stakeholders are judges, arbiters or arbitrators;
- i) To attend, during the handling of the case, a banquet given or financed by any of the stakeholders, or to have great familiarity or to live as a family with any of them;
- j) To accept gifts or services from any of the stakeholders;
- k) To make promises which imply partiality in favor of or against any of the stakeholders, their representatives, employers or defenders, or to threaten any of them in any way;
- l) To be creditor, debtor, landlord or tenant, dependent or boss of any of the stakeholders;
- m) To be or to have been the guardian or curator of any of the stakeholders or administrator of their assets for any reason;
- n) To be heir, beneficiary, donee or guarantor or any of the stakeholders, if the public servant has accepted the inheritance or the bequest or has made any demonstration to this effect;
- ñ) That the spouse or child of the public servant is creditor, debtor or guarantor of any of the stakeholders;
- o) To have been judge or justice for the same case in another instance;
- p) To have been an agent of the Public Ministry, juror, expert, witness, representative, employer or defender in the case in question, or to have managed or recommended the case previously in favor of or against any of the stakeholders, and
- q) Any other akin to the previous.

Article 114.

1. The excuses or rejections presented as legal impediments will be certified and resolved immediately by the plenary of the electoral jurisdictional authority.

CHAPTER VI

Requirements to be Justice of the Local Jurisdictional Bodies

Article 115.

1. To be Electoral Justices the following requirements are demanded:

- a) To be Mexican citizens by birth, in full possession and exercise of their political and civil rights;
- b) To be at least thirty-five years old on the day of the appointment;
- c) To have held a bachelor's degree in law issued by an authority or institute legally entitled to do so for a minimum of ten years on the day of the appointment;
- d) To have a good reputation and never to have been sentenced for any crime that merits a sentence of over a year in prison; but if it concerns theft, fraud, falsification, breach of trust or another that seriously damages the reputation in public opinion, this disqualifies the perpetrator from holding the office, independently of the punishment;
- e) To have lived in the country and in the state in question during the last year before the day of the appointment;
- f) To not have been governor, secretary, attorney, senator, federal or local representative in the state in question during the last four years before the appointment;
- g) To have a voter card with photograph;
- h) To have knowledge of electoral law;
- i) To not hold or have held the office of president of the National Executive Committee or equivalent of a political party;
- j) To not have been registered as a candidate, with the exception of independent candidates, for any elective office in the last four years before the appointment, and
- k) To not hold or have held a national, state, district or municipal management position in any political party in the last six years before the appointment.

CHAPTER VII On the Remuneration

Article 116.

1. The local congresses should determine the remuneration of the electoral justices in the annual budget, in the terms of article 127 of the Constitution, and the remuneration cannot be lowered during the time that the justices remain in office.

CHAPTER VIII On the Removal of the Justices

Article 117.

1. Independently of the mandates given to them by the Constitution and local laws, the following will be causes of responsibility of the electoral justices of the states:

- a) To perform acts that threatens the independence of the juridical-electoral function, or any action that generates or implies subordination in regards to third parties;
- b) To be evidently negligent, inept or careless in the discharge of the duties or tasks that should be performed;
- c) To know of any matter or participate in any act that they are impeded from;
- d) To carry out appointments, promotions or ratifications infringing on the corresponding regulations;
- e) To issue a public opinion that implies prejudging a matter of their knowledge;
- f) To stop discharging the duties or tasks that they are in charge of without just cause;
- g) To use, for personal gain or for the benefit of third parties, the confidential documentation and information in the terms of the present Law and the other legislation on the matter;
- h) To illegally remove, destroy, hide or use the documents and information that they have under their care or custody as a result of their position due to the exercise of their responsibilities, and
- i) The others established by the Local Constitutions or the applicable laws.

2. The state electoral justices will enjoy all judicial guarantees set out in article 17 of the Constitution in order to guarantee their independence and autonomy, the minimum contents of which includes permanence, stability in the exercise of the office for the time of their duration and economic security.

Article 118.

1. The electoral justices can only be deprived of their office in terms of the Fourth Title of the Constitution and the applicable laws on the responsibilities of public servants.

FOURTH TITLE**On the Coordination between the Electoral Authorities****ONLY CHAPTER****Article 119.**

1. The coordination of activities between the Institute and the Local Public Bodies will be the responsibility of the Commission of Liaising with the Local Public Bodies and of the President Councilor of each Local Public Body, through the Technical Unit of Liaising with the Local Public Bodies, in the terms established in this Law.

2. For the fulfillment of the electoral functions that directly correspond to the Institute to exercise in the local electoral processes, in accordance with the provisions established in the Constitution and in this Law, and in line with the criteria, guidelines, agreements and rules issued by the General Council of the Institute, the Executive Secretariat of the Institute will present the draft Integral Plan that contains the coordination mechanisms for each local electoral process to the General Council for its consideration.

3. At the express request of a Local Public Body, the Institute will take over the integral organization of the corresponding electoral process, based on the agreement they sign in which the circumstances of time, means and place that justify the request will be conclusively established.

FIFTH TITLE**On the Special Responsibilities of the National Electoral Institute****CHAPTER I****On the Power of Attraction****Article 120.**

1. The assumption and the attraction will be resolved in the terms of this Chapter.

2. Assumption is understood as the power of the Institute to directly take over the fulfillment of all activities belonging to the electoral function corresponding

to the Local Public Bodies, in terms of subsection c) of Section C of Basis V of article 41 of the Constitution.

3. Attraction is understood as the power of the Institute to bring any matter under the competence of the Local Public Bodies to its knowledge, when its significance demands it or to set an interpretative standard, in terms of subsection c) of Section C of Basis V of article 41 of the Constitution.

4. In the event that the General Council of the Institute directly exercises the functions referred to in Article 41, Basis V, subsection a) of Section B of the Constitution, these will be exercised and developed in accordance with the rules, procedures and bodies set out in this Law for the Institute.

Article 121.

1. The cases of assumption of the election will be resolved through special procedures that should be established by the Executive Secretariat of the Institute.

2. The assumption of the responsibility for a local election will only be applicable when it is conclusively proven that any of the following situations occur in the respective proceedings:

- a) When there are diverse social factors that affect the public peace or that put the society in grave risk in the state that the petitioner claims affect the constitutional electoral principles of impartiality, certainty, legality, objectivity and equality in the electoral competition and that, therefore, impede the competent Local Public Body from carrying out the organization of the election peacefully, and
- b) That the appropriate political conditions do not exist for the Local Public Body to be able to execute all stages of the electoral process with impartiality, due to provable interference or meddling of any of the branches of government in the state that illegally affect the organization of the electoral process by the Local Public Body.

3. The procedures of assumptions begin with a justified and motivated petition before the Institute, of at least four of its councilors, or the majority of the council of the Local Public Body. The petition for total assumption can be presented until before the start of the electoral process.

4. The initial document should contain:

- a) The name and address of the actor;
- b) The accreditation of the identity of the applicants through the appropriate documentation;
- c) A narrative of the facts that motivate the petition for assumption, in which it should be specified which conditions impede that the election

should be organized by the Local Public Body and which electoral principles are considered to be violated;

- d) Evidence that confirm the narrative and the petition for attraction, and
- e) The date and signature.

5. Once the petition has been received, the Executive Secretary will register it and publish it on the Institute's website. In case the initial document lacks any of the elements listed in the previous paragraph or that there is a lack of clarity in the document, the Secretary will within two days notify the actor so that he can correct it within forty-eight hours.

6. The Executive Secretariat, within the four working days following the reception, or after the request has been completed, will issue an agreement to start the procedure in which it determines its admission or dismissal due to being obviously inappropriate and will summon the Local Public Body to appear in the procedure to present, where applicable, the evidence or defense statements that it considers appropriate, this without prejudice to ordering the investigation and gathering the evidence it considers relevant.

7. The Executive Secretary can dismiss the petition for assumption as inadmissible when:

- a) It was lodged by a person who lacks the legal capacity to do it;
- b) It is frivolous, that is, the facts and arguments turn out to be irrelevant, superficial or petty;
- c) A previous procedure for assumption has already been resolved on for the same local electoral process;
- d) Circumstantial evidence that confirm the claims of the actor were not presented, and
- e) The petition was lodged outside of the timeframe established in this Law.

8. The petition for assumption will be dismissed when the situation that caused it has disappeared.

9. For this procedure, the following are admitted as evidence:

- a) Public testimonies before the electoral clerk;
- b) Public and private documentary evidence;
- c) Technical evidence, and
- d) Legal and human presumptive evidence.

10. The General Council will decide on the draft resolution submitted by the Executive Secretariat before the corresponding local process starts, assessing the elements that have been reported that affect any or several of the constitutional electoral principles that motivated the request for assumption.

11. In the stage of investigation and presentation of evidence of the procedure, apart from the evidence presented in the procedure, the opinions

of all the political parties that participate in the process, of the branches of government of the State and of any other political actors who could influence the process will be taken into account.

12. In the investigation, the Executive Secretary could gather information and assistance from the competent authorities and from public opinion in order for them to be taken into account when making the decision.

13. The decision of the assumption of the local election will be approved, where applicable, by at least a majority of eight votes of the Electoral Councilors with the right to vote and can be appealed to the High Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal.

14. Once the local electoral process has begun, it is not possible to start the procedure for assumption of the election.

Article 122.

1. The rules regarding notifications, terms, evaluation of the evidence and the right of to a hearing in this procedure will be those established in general for the electoral procedures addressed in this Law, and the provisions set out in the General Law on the System of Appeals on Electoral Matters will be applied in a supplementary manner where they do not contradict the present legislation.

Article 123.

1. The Local Public Bodies could, with the approval of the majority of votes of its general council, request of the Institute the partial assumption of some activity belonging to the electoral function that correspond to them. The Institute will decide on the partial assumption by a majority of at least eight votes.

2. The request referred to in the previous paragraph can be presented at any moment of the electoral process in question and, where applicable, will only take effect during the same.

Article 124.

1. In the case of the power of attraction referred to in subsection c) of Section C of Basis V of article 41 of the Constitution, the petition can only be submitted by at least four of the Electoral Councilors of the Institute or the majority of the General Council of the Local Public Body. The General Council will exercise the power of attraction provided that it is approved by a majority of at least eight votes.

2. The petition should include the elements set out in paragraph 4 of article 121 and can be presented at any time.

3. A question is considered as important when the intrinsic nature of the

issue allows that this covers an extreme interest reflected in the seriousness of the matter, that is, in the possible affectation or alteration of the development of the electoral process or of the principles of the local electoral function.

4. For the attraction of a matter in order to set an interpretative standard, the Institute should assess its exceptional or novel character, as well as the significance that the decision could produce both for the society in general and for the local electoral function by the setting of a judicial standard for future cases or the systematic complexity of them.

5. The decisions corresponding to this power will be issued by the General Council with the assistance in the work of its commissions and of the General Council of the Local Public Body. These decisions could be appealed to the Electoral Tribunal.

CHAPTER II On the Power of Delegation

Article 125.

1. The delegation of the functions of the Institute to the Local Public Bodies established in subsection b) of Section C of Basis V of article 41 of the Constitution will be of an exceptional nature. The Executive Secretariat will submit to the General Council the Agreements in which the use of this power should be justified and motivated.

2. For the exercise of this power, the agreement of the General Council should assess a positive evaluation of the professional, technical, human and material capabilities of the electoral Local Public Body to efficiently fulfill the function.

3. The delegation will be done before the beginning of the corresponding local electoral process and will require the vote of at least eight Electoral Councilors. The effects of the delegation will cease when the electoral process in question ends. The Institute could reassume the function that was delegated before the end of the respective electoral process, provided that this is approved by the same majority of eight votes.

4. The delegation of powers will be done in a specific manner for each case for a given Local Public Body. The Local Public Bodies should exercise the delegated functions, subjecting themselves to the provisions of this Law, the General Law on Political Parties, and the guidelines, general agreements, technical rules and other regulations issued by the General Council.

FOURTH BOOK
On the Special Procedures in the Executive Directorates

FIRST TITLE
On the Procedures of the Federal Register of Voters
Preliminary Provisions

Article 126.

1. The Institute will provide, through the competent executive directorate and its committees in the local and district executive boards, the services inherent to the Federal Register of Voters.

2. The Federal Register of Voters is permanent and of public interest. Its purpose is to fulfill the established in constitutional article 41 regarding the Registry of Voters.

3. The documents, data and information that the citizens provide to the Federal Register of Voters, in compliance with the obligations imposed on them by the Constitution and this Law, will be strictly confidential and cannot be communicated or made known, except in the event of trials, resources or procedures that the Institute is part of in order to fulfill the obligations established by this Law on electoral matters and by the General Law on Population regarding the National Register of Citizens or at the order of a competent judge.

4. The members of the General, local and district Councils, as well as of the monitoring commissions, will have access to the information in the Registry of Voters exclusively for the fulfillment of their functions and they cannot give it or use it for a purpose or objective different from the review of the Registry of Voters and the nominal lists.

Article 127.

1. The Federal Register of Voters will be in charge of keeping the Registry of Voters updated.

Article 128.

1. The Registry of Voters will include the basic information of the Mexican men and women, older than 18 years old, who have presented the request referred to in paragraph 1 of article 135 of this Law, grouped into two sections, one for the citizens residing in Mexico and one for the citizens residing abroad.

Article 129.

1. The Registry of Voters of the Federal Register of Voters will be integrated through the following actions:

- a) The application of the total or partial census technique;
- b) The direct and personal registration of the citizens, and
- c) The incorporation of the information provided by the competent authorities regarding the decease, authorizations, disqualifications and rehabilitations of the political rights of the citizens.

Article 130.

1. The citizens are required to register themselves in the Federal Register of Voters and to inform about any change of address within the thirty days following the change.

2. Also, the citizens will participate in the compilation and updating of the Registry of Voters in the terms of the corresponding regulations.

Article 131.

1. The Institute should include the citizens in the sections of the Federal Register of Voters and issue them the voter card.

2. The voter card is an indispensable document for the citizens to be able to exercise their right to vote.

CHAPTER I**On the Compilation of the Registry of Voters****Article 132.**

1. The census technique is the procedure used by the Institute for the compilation of the Registry of Voters. This technique is carried out through house by house interviews to obtain the basic information of the Mexicans older than 18 years old, which consists of:

- a) The paternal surname, maternal surname and complete name;
- b) The place and date of birth;
- c) The age and gender;
- d) The current address and time of residence;
- e) The occupation, and
- f) Where applicable, the number and date of the naturalization certificate.

2. The basic information will include the state, the municipality, the town, the single-member electoral district and the electoral section corresponding to the address, as well as the date of the visit and the name and signature of the

interviewer. In all cases it will be attempted to obtain the greatest number of elements to locate the address geographically.

3. When the application of the total census technique is completed, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will verify that there are no duplications, in order to ensure that each voter only appears registered once.

4. When the Registry of Voters is compiled based on the collected basic information, the process outlined in the next Chapter will be followed.

Article 133.

1. The Institute will be in charge of creating and administering the registry of voters and the list of voters.

2. The Institute will issue the guidelines in which the time limits and terms for the use of the registry of voters and the lists of voters in the local electoral processes are established.

3. It is the duty of the Institute and of the Local Public Bodies to provide the necessary assistance to the Mexican citizens residing abroad to take the steps that allow them to be part of the Registry of Voters and of the list of voters for the corresponding elections from abroad.

4. The Institute, through the respective commission, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters and the national monitoring body, will verify the registration of the Mexican citizens residing abroad in the Registry of Voters to create the list of voters both on federal and local level.

5. The monitoring bodies of the Registry of Voters will mainly be integrated by representatives of the national political parties.

CHAPTER II

On the Updating of the Registry of Voters

Article 134.

1. Based on the Registry of Voters, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will, where appropriate, issue the voter cards.

Article 135.

1. For the incorporation into the Registry of Voters, an individual request with the signature, fingerprints and photography of the citizen will be required, in the terms of article 140 of this Law. In the case of the Mexican citizens residing abroad, the Institute and the Local Public Bodies will provide the assistance so that the reception of the signature and fingerprints can be made from abroad.

2. To request the voter card, the citizens must identify themselves with their birth certificate, in addition to the documents determined by the National Monitoring Commission of the Federal Register of Voters. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will keep digital copies of the presented documents.

Article 136.

1. The citizens will have the duty to go to the offices or modules determined by the Institute to request and obtain the voter card with photography.

2. To request the voter card, the citizens should identify themselves, preferably with an identity document issued by an authority, or through the means or procedures determined by the National Monitoring Commission of the Federal Register of Voters. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will keep digital copies of the presented documents.

3. In all cases, when requesting the registration procedure, the applicants should provide their signature and fingerprints in the respective form.

4. When receiving the voter card, the citizens should identify themselves, preferably with an identity document issued by an authority, or to the satisfaction of the electoral public servant who delivers the voter card, in accordance with the procedures agreed on by the National Monitoring Commission. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will keep a digital copy of the certificate of the delivery of the voter card.

5. In case that the citizens do not come to pick up their voter card during the corresponding period, the Institute, by the most efficient means available to it, will send up to three reminders for them to proceed to pick it up. If the failure to comply continues, the provisions of article 155 of this Law will be followed.

6. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Council for this effect, will take the measures to control, safeguard and, where necessary, destroy the voter card forms that were not used.

7. The offices of the Federal Register of Voters will verify that the names of the citizens that have not come to obtain their voter cards do not appear in the nominal lists of voters.

8. The citizens residing abroad will comply with the provisions of this article through the means determined by the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters with the approval of the National Monitoring Commission of the Federal Register of Voters.

Article 137.

1. Once the procedure referred on the previous article is done, the next step

is to integrate the nominal lists of voters of the Registry of Voters with the names of those who have obtained their voter cards.

2. The lists will be made by districts and by electoral sections. In the case of the Mexican citizens residing abroad, the list will be made up by country of residence and by state for reference if the voter card with photography was issued or renewed from abroad, or by the electoral districts which appears in their voter card with photography if it was issued in the national territory.

3. The previous lists will be made available to the political parties for their review and, where applicable, for them to make the observations they find appropriate.

4. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will provide the necessary for the nominal lists to be made known to the citizens of each district.

Article 138.

1. In order to update the Registry of Voters, the Institute, through the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters, will annually conduct, from September 1 to December 15, an intense campaign to call and guide the citizens to comply with the duties referred to in the two following paragraphs.

2. During the updating period the citizens should appear before the offices of the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters, in the places determined by it, in order to include in the Registry of Voters those citizens:

- a) Who have not been included during the application of the total censal technique, and
- b) Who were given their citizenship after the application of the total censal technique.

3. During the updating period they should also appear before the offices the citizens incorporated into the Registry of Voters that:

- a) Have not notified their change of address;
- b) Have lost their voter card, and
- c) Have had their suspended political rights restored.

4. When the citizens voluntarily come to register or to announce a change in address, or when they are required by the Institute personnel during the application of the census technique, they will be required to state the address where they were registered before and, where necessary, to sign and put their fingerprints on the documents for the respective update.

5. The national political parties and the media could assist the Institute in the tasks of citizen guidance.

Article 139.

1. The Citizens could request their incorporation into the Registry of Voters,

outside of the updating period referred to in the previous article, from the day after the election until November 30 of the year prior to the ordinary federal election.

2. The Mexicans that turn 18 years old in the election year between December 1 and the Election Day⁸ should request their registration no later than November 30 of the year prior to the election.

Article 140.

1. The request for incorporation into the Registry of Voters will be made individually and must include the following information:

- a) The paternal surname, maternal surname and complete name;
- b) The place and date of birth. In the case of the Mexican citizens residing abroad, they should certify the corresponding state as their place of birth. Those that were born abroad and never lived in the national territory should identify the state of birth of the Mexican parent. When both parents are Mexican, the citizen will choose which one to indicate;
- c) The age and gender;
- d) The current address and time of residence;
- e) The occupation;
- f) Where applicable, the number and date of the naturalization certificate, and
- g) The signature and, where necessary, fingerprints and photography of the applicant.

2. The personnel in charge of the registration will note down the following information in the way mentioned in the previous paragraph:

- a) The state, municipality and town where the registration is made;
- b) The federal electoral district and electoral section corresponding to the address, and
- c) The date of the registration application.

3. The citizen who requests the registration will be given a confirmation of the request, with its number, which should be returned when receiving or collecting the voter card.

Article 141.

1. The Mexican citizens residing in the national territory who are physically

⁸ Translator's note: This registration deadline should be frased to apply to Mexicans that turn 18 years old between December 1 of the year prior to the election and the Election Day. However, this translation maintains the typographical error of the original Spanish version of this law.

unable to go to register at the offices of the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters corresponding to their address should request their registration in writing, attaching the documents which certify their disability. In this case, the Executive Directorate will establish the appropriate measures to deliver the voter card of the physically disabled voter.

Article 142.

1. During the thirty days following their change of address, the citizens registered in the Registry of Voters should give the corresponding notice to the Institute office closest to the new address.

2. In the cases in which a citizen requests registration due to change of address, he should show and deliver the voter card corresponding to the previous address, or give the information of the same in case it has been lost, so that it this registration can be cancelled when registering the citizen in the list corresponding to the current address and that a new voter card can be issued. The cards substituted by the previous procedure will be destroyed immediately.

Article 143.

1. They can request the voter card with photography to be issued or the rectification before the Institute office responsible for the registration, or in the case of citizens residing abroad by the means determined by the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters with the approval of the National Monitoring Commission of the Federal Register of Voters for this to be done from abroad, those citizens who:

- a) Have fulfilled the corresponding requirements and procedures but that did who receive their voter card with photography in a timely manner;
- b) Have opportunely obtained the voter card with photography, but who do not appear in the nominal list of voters of the section corresponding to their address, or
- c) Consider that they have been unduly excluded from the nominal list of voters of the section corresponding to their address.

2. In the cases referred to in the previous paragraph, the request for the issuing or rectification will be presented at any time during the two years prior to the electoral process.

3. In the election year the citizens that find themselves in the situation referred to in subparagraph a) of paragraph 1 of this article could file the corresponding administrative request to obtain their voter card until the last day of January. In the cases referred to in subparagraphs b) and c) of the mentioned paragraph, the citizens could present the rectification request no later than March 14.

4. In the offices of the Federal Register of Voters, the forms necessary for the presentation of the respective request will be available to the citizens.

5. The office before which the request for the issuing of a voter card or the rectification has been made will resolve on the admissibility or inadmissibility of the same during a period of twenty calendar days.

6. The decision which declares the administrative request to obtain the voter card or of rectification or of lack of timely response inadmissible can be appealed before the Electoral Tribunal. For this purpose, the interested citizens will have access to the necessary forms to lodge the respective challenge in the offices of the Federal Register of Voters.

7. The decision reached regarding the administrative request to obtain the voter card or of rectification will be personally notified to the citizen if he appears before the office responsible for the register or, where applicable, by telegram or registered mail.

Article 144.

1. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters could use the partial census technique in districts or sections, or in parts of these, in the cases decided by the General Executive Board, in order to maintain the Registry of Voters updated.

2. The partial census technique will have the purpose of collecting the basic information of the citizens who are not included in the Registry of Voters or, were necessary, to verify the information included in it, through house by house visits.

Article 145.

1. The monitoring commissions could request the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters or the local and district executive boards, as appropriate, to submit the agreement for the partial census technique to be applied in an electoral section or district for the consideration of the General Executive Board.

Article 146.

1. The voter cards with photography issued according to the provisions of this Chapter will be available to the applicants in the offices or modules determined by the Institute until March 1 of the election year. In the case of those issued from abroad, they will be delivered in the same place where they were processed.

CHAPTER III

On the Nominal Lists of Voters and on their Review

Article 147.

1. The nominal lists of voters are the lists prepared by the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters which contain the names of the persons included in the Registry of Voters, grouped by district and section, to whom the voter card has been issued and delivered.

2. The electoral section is the territorial fraction of the single-member electoral districts for the registration of the citizens in the Registry of Voters and in the nominal lists of voters.

3. Each section will have at least 100 voters and no more than 3,000.

4. The division into electoral sections will be subject to the review of the division of the national territory into electoral districts, in the terms of article 53 of the Constitution.

Article 148.

1. In each district board, the Institute will permanently make the means to electronically consult their registration in the Registry of Voters and in the corresponding nominal lists available to the citizens, in accordance with the procedures established by the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters.

2. The political parties will permanently have access to the database of the Registry of Voters and the nominal lists, exclusively for their review, and they cannot use this information for other purposes.

Article 149.

1. The appropriate observations made by the citizens regarding the nominal lists of voters will be communicated by the district boards to the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters for the resulting effects.

2. The Institute will establish the means so that the Mexicans residing abroad can make observations to the nominal list that they are included in from abroad.

Article 150.

1. The political parties, in accordance with the established in paragraph 2 of the article 148 of this Law, could make their observations regarding the citizens unduly registered in or excluded from the nominal lists to the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters, during a period of twenty calendar days starting from February 25 of each of the two years prior to the election year.

2. The Executive Directorate will review the observations of the political parties, where necessary making the modifications that should be made in accordance with the law.

3. Of the previously mentioned, the National Monitoring Commission and the General Council of the Institute will be informed no later than April 15.

4. The political parties could challenge before the Electoral Tribunal the report referred to in the previous paragraph. In the lodged challenge it should be shown that the observations referred to in paragraph 1 of this article were made on time and in an appropriate manner, providing specific and individual facts and cases, which should also be mentioned in the original observations made. If these requirements are not fulfilled, regardless of the others stated in the Law on the matter, the challenge will be dismissed as inadmissible. The challenge will be lodged before the General Council during the three days after that when the report of political parties is made known.

Article 151.

1. On February 15 of the year in which the ordinary electoral process is held, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will deliver on magnetic storage media the nominal lists of voters divided in two parts, ordered alphabetically and by sections corresponding to each of the electoral districts to each of the political parties. The first part will include the names of the citizens who had obtained their voter card on December 15 and the second part will include the names of the citizens registered in the Registry of Voters who had not obtained the voter card before that date.

2. The political parties can make observations to the lists, providing specific and individual facts and cases, until and including March 14.

3. From the observations made by the political parties, the respective modifications will be done and this will be informed to the General Council and to the National Monitoring Commission no later than April 15.

4. The political parties could challenge before the Electoral Tribunal the report referred to in the previous paragraph. The challenge will be subject to the provisions of paragraph 4 of the previous article of this Law.

5. If the report is not challenged, or once the Electoral Tribunal has resolved the challenges, the General Council of the Institute will have a session to declare that the Registry of Voters and the nominal lists of voters are valid and final.

Article 152.

1. The political parties will have computer terminals in the Institute which will allow them to access the information included in the Registry of Voters and in the nominal lists of voters. Likewise and in accordance with the technical

possibilities, the political parties will have guaranteed permanent access to the contents of the database, image database, sources of and changes to the Registry of Voters, exclusively for their review and verification.

2. In the same way, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will install state centers for consulting the registry of voters for the use of the representatives of the political parties to the local monitoring commissions. It will also establish consulting mechanisms of the Register in the district offices, to which any citizen will have access to verify that they are registered in the Registry of Voters and duly included in the corresponding nominal list of voters.

Article 153.

1. Once the procedures referred to in the previous articles are completed, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will elaborate and print the final nominal lists of voters with photography which will include the names of the citizens that obtained their voter cards by the last day of February, ordered alphabetically by electoral district and section for their delivery, at least thirty days before the Election Day, to the local councils for their distribution to the district councils and through these to the directive boards of the polling stations, in the terms set out in this Law.

2. A copy of the nominal list of voters with photography will be delivered to the political parties no later than one month before the Election Day.

Article 154.

1. In order to keep the Registry of Voters permanently updated, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will collect the necessary information to register any change that affects it from the bodies of the federal and state public administrations.

2. The public servants of the Civil Registry should inform the Institute about the decease of citizens, within the ten days following the issuing date of the respective certificate.

3. The judge that renders decisions which order the suspension or loss of political rights or the statement of absence or presumption of death of a citizen, as well as the reinstatement of the political rights of the citizens in question, should be notified to the Institute within the ten days following the date when the respective decision was issued.

4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should inform the Institute, within the ten days following the date when:

- a) It issues or cancels naturalization letters;
- b) It issues nationality certificates, and
- c) It receives renunciations of citizenship.

5. The authorities mentioned in the previous paragraphs should send the respective information within the established days, in accordance with the procedures and in the forms provided by the Institute for this purpose.

6. The president of the General Council could conclude cooperation agreements intended to ensure that the information referred to in this article is delivered punctually.

Article 155.

1. The applications made by citizens in the national territory that fail to comply with the obligation to come to the Institute office or module corresponding to their address to obtain the voter card no later than the last day of February of the second year after the application was presented will be cancelled.

2. In the case referred to in the previous paragraph, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will make a list with the names of the citizens whose applications have been cancelled, ordering them by electoral section and alphabetically, in order for these to be given to the representatives of the political parties accredited before the district, local and National Monitoring Commissions, as applicable, no later than on March 30 each year, for their knowledge and observations.

3. Those lists will be displayed between May 1 and May 31 in the offices of the Institute, so that it will take the effect of a courtroom notification to the interested citizens and that these have the opportunity to request again their registration in the Registry of Voters during the period of the intensive campaign referred to in paragraph 1 of article 138 of this Law or, where applicable, to lodge the challenge established in paragraph 6 of the article 143 of this Law.

4. The voter card forms of the citizens whose applications have been cancelled in the terms of the previous paragraphs will be destroyed before the respective monitoring commissions in the terms established by the Regulations.

5. In any case, the citizen whose application for registration in the registry of voters was cancelled due to failing to obtain the voter card in the terms of the previous paragraphs could request his registration again in the terms and periods mentioned in articles 135, 138 and 139 of this Law.

6. The voter card forms of the citizens that requested their registration in the registry of voters or that made any updating request during the two years before the election, and that were not picked up by their owners during the period legally established for this, will be protected according to the provisions of paragraph 6 of article 136 of this Law.

7. Also, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will exclude from the registry of voters the citizens that have informed about their change of address through an application that includes their signature,

fingerprints, and photography. In this case, the exclusion only concerns that related to the registration of the previous address.

8. In the cases in which the citizens have been suspended from the exercise of their political rights by a judicial decision, they will be excluded from the Registry of Voters and the nominal list of voters during the period of the suspension. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will reinstate to the Registry of Voters the citizens who will have their political rights returned once it is notified by the competent authorities, or when the citizen certifies with the corresponding documents that the suspension has ceased or that the political rights have been reinstated.

9. The deceased citizens will be excluded from the Registry of Voters, provided that their decease is proven with the documents from the competent authorities or, failing this, through the procedures established by the National Monitoring Commission.

10. The documents relating to the changes made in the Registry of Voters will be under the custody and responsibility of the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters and its committees, for a period of ten years. Once this period has passed, the National Monitoring Commission will establish the destruction procedure for these documents.

11. The documents referred to in the previous paragraph will be kept on digital means by the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters and its committees.

CHAPTER IV On the Voter Card

Article 156.

1. The voter card should include at least the following information about the voter:

- a) The state, municipality and town that correspond to the address. In the case of the Mexican citizens residing abroad, the country that they live in and the state of their birth place. Those that were born abroad and never lived in the national territory should identify the state of birth of the Mexican parent. When both parents are Mexican, the citizen will choose which one to indicate;
- b) The electoral section where the citizen should vote. In the case of the citizens residing abroad, this requirement does not need to be included;
- c) The paternal surname, maternal surname and complete name;
- d) The address;
- e) The gender;

- f) The age and year of registration;
- g) The signature and, where necessary, the fingerprints and photography of the voter;
- h) The registration code, and
- i) The unique Population Registry Code.

2. In addition, it will have:

- a) The spaces needed to indicate the year and election in question;
- b) The printed signature of the Executive Secretary of the Institute;
- c) The year of Issue;
- d) The year of expiration, and
- e) In the case that it is issued to a citizen residing abroad, the inscription "To Vote from Abroad".

3. No later than the last day of January of the year in which the elections are held, the citizens who have lost their voter cards, or whose voter cards have been stolen or severely damaged, should request a replacement before the office of the Federal Register of Voters that corresponds to their address.

4. Regarding their address, the citizens can choose between it appearing visibly in the format of their voter card and it being hidden, in accordance with the mechanisms established by the General Council.

5. The voter card will be valid for 10 years, counted from the year of issue, at which time the citizen should request a new voter card.

CHAPTER V On the Monitoring Commissions

Article 157.

1. The monitoring commissions will be integrated by:

- a) The Executive Director of the Federal Register of Voters or the corresponding members of the local or district executive boards, who will act as presidents of the respective commissions. In case of temporary absence, these can be substituted by the executive members of these committees. The president of the National Monitoring Commission will, during temporary absences, be substituted by the secretary of the same.
- b) An ordinary representative and a substitute for each of the national political parties, and
- c) A secretary appointed by the respective president from among the members of the Professional Electoral Service with functions in the registration area.

2. A representative from the National Institute for Statistics and Geography will also participate in the National Monitoring Commission.

3. The political parties should accredit their representatives before the respective monitoring commissions in time, and these could be substituted at any time.

Article 158.

1. The monitoring commissions have the following responsibilities:

- a) To oversee that the registration of the Citizens in the Registry of Voters and in the nominal lists of voters, as well as their updating, are done according to the terms established in this Law;
- b) To oversee that the voter cards are delivered opportunistically to the citizens;
- c) To receive from the political parties the observations they make to the nominal lists of voters;
- d) To contribute to the annual updating campaign of the Registry of Voters;
- e) To be informed of and give their opinions on the location of the citizen service modules, and
- f) The other responsibilities established by this Law.

2. The National Monitoring Commission will be informed about the work that the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters carries out regarding the territorial demarcation, and can give opinions on it.

3. The National Monitoring Commission will hold sessions at least once a month; the local and district at least once every three months, except during the electoral process when this will be done at least once a month.

4. For each session, the minutes will be taken and they should be signed by everyone who participated. The disagreements that may exist will be recorded in the minutes, a copy of which will be given to the participants.

5. The General Council, on the proposal of the General Executive Board, will approve the Regulations of Sessions and Functioning of the monitoring commissions referred in this article.

SECOND TITLE

On the Prerogatives of the Political Parties

CHAPTER I

On the Access to Radio and Television

Article 159.

1. The political parties have the right to permanently use the media.

2. The political parties, pre-candidates and candidates of elective office will access radio and television during the airtime the Constitution gives as prerogative to the former, in the form and terms established in this chapter.

3. The independent candidates will have right to access the prerogatives for the electoral campaigns in the terms established by this Law.

4. The political parties, pre-candidates and candidates of elective offices cannot at any time contract or acquire, by themselves or through third parties, airtime in radio or television. The leaders or members of a political party or any citizen are equally prohibited from contracting airtime for their personal promotion for electoral purposes. The violation of this rule will be punished in the terms established in the Eighth Book of this Law.

5. No natural or legal person, by themselves or through third parties, could recruit propaganda in radio and television aimed to influence the electoral preferences of the citizens, nor in favor of or against any political parties or candidates for elective office. The transmission in the national territory of this type of propaganda contracted abroad is prohibited. The infringement of the provisions of this paragraph will be punished in the terms established in this Law.

Article 160.

1. The Institute is the only authority that administers the airtime corresponding to the State in radio and television used for the purposes of the Institute and of the other electoral authorities, as well as the exercise of the prerogatives and rights that the Constitution and this Law give to the political parties and independent candidates on this matter.

2. The Institute will guarantee the political parties the use of their constitutional prerogatives in radio and television; it will establish the standards for the allocation of the messages and programs that they are entitled to disseminate, both during the electoral processes and outside of them; it will attend to the complaints and reports on the violation of the applicable rules and, where necessary, will establish the penalties.

3. Following consultations with the organizations that make up the radio and television broadcasters and the communication professionals, the General Council will approve, no later than August 20 of the year before the election, the general guidelines that, without affecting the freedom of speech and the free manifestation of thought nor aiming to regulate these liberties, it recommends to the news agents regarding the information and dissemination of the pre-campaign and campaign activities of the political parties and of the independent candidates.

Article 161.

1. The Institute and the electoral authorities of the states, for the diffusion of their messages of social communication, will access radio and television during the time available to the Institute in these media.

Article 162.

1. The Institute will exercise their responsibilities regarding radio and television through the following bodies:

- a) The General Council;
- b) The General Executive Board;
- c) The Executive Directorate of Prerogatives and Political Parties;
- d) The Radio and Television Committee;
- e) The Complaints and Reports Commission; and
- f) The executive members and executive boards of the decentralized, local and district bodies that will have supporting roles on this matter.

Article 163.

1. The General Council, based on a motivated and justified proposal by the Complaints and Reports Commission, could order the immediate suspension of any political or electoral propaganda in radio or television which violates this Law; the above, without prejudice to the other penalties that should be applied to the offenders.

2. The General Executive Board will submit the radio and television regulations to the General Council for its approval. The federal laws of this matter will be an extension of this Law, as long as they do not contradict it.

Article 164.

1. The Local Public Bodies should request from the Institute the time in radio and television they need for the fulfillment of their purposes. The Institute will decide on the matter.

2. Regarding the Electoral Tribunal, during the federal pre-campaign and campaign periods, the provisions of the previous paragraph will be applicable. Outside of these periods, the Tribunal will process the access to radio and television according to its own regulations.

Article 165.

1. During the federal electoral processes, from the beginning of the pre-campaign and until the Election Day, the Institute will have access to forty-eight minutes per day in every radio station and television channel.

2. The transmissions of messages in each radio station and television channel will be distributed during the program schedule between six in the morning and midnight every day. In the event that a station or channel transmits less hours than those previous indicated, three minutes per transmission hour will be used.

Article 166.

1. The time referred in paragraph 1 of the previous article will be distributed in two to three minutes per transmission hour in each radio station and television channel. During the hours between six in the morning and noon and between six in the evening and midnight, three minutes per hour will be used; in the hours after noon and before six in the evening, two minutes per hour will be used.

Article 167.

1. During the federal electoral pre-campaigns and campaigns, the time in radio and television, converted to the number of messages assigned to the political parties, will be distributed between them according to the following criterion: thirty percent of the total will be distributed equally and the remaining seventy percent will be distributed in proportion to the percentage of the votes obtained by each political party in the previous election for federal representatives.

2. Regarding coalitions, the provisions of the previous paragraph will be applied in the following manner:

- a) The total coalition will be given the prerogative of access to time in radio and television established in this Law in the thirty percent that is to be distributed equally, just as if it was one single party. Of the seventy percent proportional to the votes, each of the coalition parties will participate in the terms and conditions established in paragraph two above. The coalition agreement will establish the distribution of time in each of these media for the coalition candidates, and
- b) Concerning partial or flexible coalitions, each coalition party will access its respective prerogative in radio and television, exercising its rights separately. The coalition agreement will establish the distribution of time in each of these media for the coalition candidates and for the candidates of each party.

3. The General Council will issue the regulations regarding the access to radio and television by the coalitions and the parties that are a part of them.

4. Regarding pre-campaigns and campaigns in local elections, the basis for the distribution of the seventy percent of the time assigned to the political parties will be the percentage of the votes obtained by each of them in the previous election for local representatives in the respective state.

5. The newly registered political parties, both national and local, depending on the case, will participate only in the distribution of the thirty percent of the time referred to in paragraph 1 of this article.

6. To establish the number of messages to be distributed among the political parties, the units of measure are: thirty seconds, one and two minutes, without fractions; the regulations will establish the appropriate.

7. The time that corresponds to each party will be used exclusively for the dissemination of the messages, the time of which will be established in this chapter. The standards will be set taking into consideration the total messages and their distribution among the political parties.

Article 168.

1. Starting from the day on which, according to this Law and the decision issued by the General Council, the federal pre-campaigns begin and until their conclusion, the Institute will make thirty minutes a day in each radio station and television channel available to the national political parties as a group.

2. For the purposes of the previous paragraph, the pre-campaign of a party concludes, at the latest, the day before it holds its internal election or that the national electoral assembly takes place, or equivalent, or the session of the management body that decides on the matter, according to each statutes of each party.

3. The pre-campaign messages of the political parties will be transmitted according to the standard approved by the Radio and Television Committee of the Institute.

4. Each party will freely decide the allocation, for the type of pre-campaign, of the messages that correspond to them, including their use for the local pre-campaigns in the states with electoral process that coincide with the federal one. The parties should duly inform the Institute about their decisions on this matter, so that it will decide on the appropriate.

5. The remaining time after deducting the one referred to in paragraph 1 of this article will be available to the Institute for its own purposes or those of other electoral authorities. In all cases, the concessionaires of radio and television will abstain from commercializing the time not assigned by the Institute.

Article 169.

1. From the total available time referred to in paragraph 1 of article 165 of this Law, during the federal electoral campaigns, the Institute will allocate forty-one minutes per day on each radio station and television channel to the political parties as a group.

2. The remaining seven minutes will be used for the purposes of the Institute and of other electoral authorities.

Article 170.

1. The time referred to in paragraph 1 of the previous article will be distributed between the political parties, depending on the case, according to the provisions of article 167 of this Law.

2. The campaign messages of the political parties will be transmitted according to the standard approved by the Radio and Television Committee of the Institute.

3. In the states with local election in which the Election Day coincides with the federal one, the Institute will make the necessary adjustments to the provisions of the previous paragraph, considering the available time once the times assigned for the local campaigns in those entities have been deducted.

Article 171.

1. Each party will freely decide, by the federal campaign type, the assignment of the electoral propaganda messages that it is entitled to, except for the following: in the electoral process in which the Executive Branch of the Union and the two Chambers of the Congress are renewed, each party should allocate at least thirty percent of the messages to the campaign of one of the branches, considering the senators and representatives as one.

Article 172.

1. Each political party will establish, for each state, the distribution of the messages that they are entitled to between the federal campaigns of representatives and senators.

Article 173.

1. In the states with local electoral processes in which the Election Day coincides with the federal one, from the total airtime established in paragraph 1 of article 169 of this Law, the Institute, through the Local Public Bodies, will allocate fifteen minutes per day in each radio station and television channel with coverage in the corresponding state for the local campaigns of the political parties.

2. The airtime referred to in the previous paragraph 1 will be used for the dissemination of messages according to the standards which the Radio and Television Committee of the Institute approves, based on the proposal by the corresponding Local Public Body.

3. For the allocation among the political parties of the airtime established in paragraph 1 of this article, converted to the number of messages, the local electoral authorities will apply the regulations established in article 167 of this Law, where applicable.

4. For the purposes of this chapter, the coverage of the television channels and radio stations is understood as all the geographic area where the signal of these media can be heard or seen.

5. The Radio and Television Committee will request the coverage maps of all the radio stations and television channels, as well as their effective range, from the Federal Institute of Telecommunications. The Institute will develop the catalogue of these stations and channels and should also include the information regarding the total population covered by the corresponding coverage in each entity.

6. Based on this catalogue, the General Council will make public the radio stations and television channels that will participate in the coverage of the local and federal elections referred to in article 175 of this Law.

Article 174.

1. Each party will decide the allocation, between the campaigns of each local electoral process, of the propaganda messages in radio and television that they are entitled to.

Article 175.

1. For electoral purposes in the states in which the Election Day takes place in a different month or year than the federal electoral process, the Institute will administrate the airtimes corresponding to the State on radio and television in the stations and channels with coverage in the specific entity. The forty-eight minutes that the Institute has will be used from the beginning of the local pre-campaign until the end of the respective Election Day.

Article 176.

1. For the allocation of the airtime referred to in the previous article between the political parties, during the local pre-campaign period, the Institute will put thirty minutes per day on each station radio and television channel at the disposal of the administrative electoral authority in the corresponding entity.

2. The above mentioned authorities will allocate the airtime referred to in the previous paragraph between the political parties, applying the regulations established in article 167 of this Law, according to the procedures established by the applicable local legislation.

3. The pre-campaign messages of the political parties will be transmitted according to the standards approved by the Radio and Television Committee at the proposal of the competent Local Public Body.

Article 177.

1. Regarding the local electoral campaigns in the states referred to in article 175, the Institute will allocate forty-one minutes per day on each radio station and television channel with coverage in the entity in question as prerogative to the political parties, through the Local Public Bodies; in case of deficiencies, the electoral authority could cover this with the available airtime corresponding to the State. The remaining airtime will be at the disposal of the Institute for its own purposes or for that of other electoral authorities. In all cases, the radio and television concessionaires will abstain from commercializing the time not allocated by the Institute.

2. The regulations established in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the article 173, article 174 and the other applicable articles of this Law are applicable in the states and local electoral processes referred to in the previous paragraph.

Article 178.

1. The parties with valid local registration will before the election in question participate in the distribution of the times allocated for the local campaigns of the corresponding state, in accordance with the percentage of votes they obtained in the previous local election for local representatives or, where applicable, in the most recent election in which they participated.

2. The national political parties that, in the entity in question, in the previous election for local representatives did not obtain the minimum percentage of votes to be entitled to the prerogatives, or the parties that obtained local registration for the present election, will only be entitled to the part of the prerogative of radio and television for local campaigns that should be distributed equally.

Article 179.

1. In the states referred to in article 175 of this Law, the Institute will allocate, for the fulfillment of the purposes of the Local Public Bodies, airtime in radio and television in accordance with the availability.

2. The time in radio and television that the Institute allocates to the Local Public Bodies will be determined by the General Council in accordance with the request they present to the Institute.

3. The not allocated time referred to in article 175 of this Law will be at the

disposal of the Institute in each of the corresponding states, until the end of the respective local electoral campaigns. In all cases, the radio and television concessionaires will abstain from commercializing the time not allocated by the Institute.

Article 180.

1. The Institute cannot under any circumstances authorize to the political parties airtime or messages in radio and television in violation of the rules established in this chapter.

2. The production costs of the messages for radio and television of the political parties will be paid for with their own resources.

Article 181.

1. Outside of the federal electoral pre-campaign and campaign periods, regarding the airtime referred to in subsection g) of Section A of Basis III of article 41 of the Constitution, the national political parties will be entitled to it being used for the transmission of messages of 30 seconds each, in all radio stations and television channels. The total of messages will be distributed equally between the national political parties.

2. The previously mentioned programs and messages will be transmitted between the six in the morning and midnight.

3. The Radio and Television Committee of the Institute will approve the respective standards on a semiannual basis.

4. In special situations and by separate requests the Institute could, when it is justified, agree that the messages corresponding to a party one month be transmitted in advance to that established in the original standards. The regulations will establish the terms and conditions in which these rules will be applied.

Article 182.

1. The Institute, and through it the Local Public Bodies and the other electoral authorities, will use the airtime on radio and television corresponding to them in accordance with the regulations approved by the General Council and to the following:

- a) The Institute will determine on a quarterly basis, considering the calendars of the local electoral processes, the allocation of the time in radio and television earmarked for its own purposes and those of other electoral authorities. The prerogatives for the political parties will under no circumstances be included as part of the previous;

- b) For the effects of this article, the Institute will have at its disposal messages of twenty and thirty seconds;
- c) The transmission hours will be between six in the morning and midnight;
- d) The time that the Institute has at its disposal during the electoral campaigns on prime time radio and television, will preferably be used to transmit the messages of the political parties;
- e) The Institute, through the competent administrative instance, will prepare the transmission standards of its own messages. The Local Public Bodies and other electoral authorities will propose to the Institute the standards which correspond to the times it allocates to them according to the provisions of this chapter;
- f) The electoral authorities of the states will deliver to the Institute the material with the messages that correspond to them in radio and television, for the dissemination of their activities during the local electoral processes.

Article 183.

1. In accordance with Basis III of article 41 of the Constitution, when the Institute considers that the total airtime in radio and television available to it is not enough for its purposes or those of other electoral authorities, it will establish the applicable to cover the missing time.

2. The airtime in radio and television established by the respective standards cannot be accumulated; nor is it possible to transfer time between radio stations or television channels, nor between states. The allocation of time between the electoral campaigns will be adjusted strictly to the provisions in this chapter, regarding what is established by the regulations on the matter and by the Radio and Television Committee of the Institute.

3. The standards determined by the Committee will establish the station or channel, as the day and hour, in which each message should be transmitted.

4. The radio and television broadcasters cannot change the standards nor demand additional technical requirements from the ones approved by the Committee; the violation to this regulation will be punished in the terms established by this Law.

5. In extraordinary elections, the General Council will establish the territorial coverage and the time allocated to the political parties in radio and television, attending to the criteria established in this chapter.

6. The broadcasting signals transmitted in pay television services, including those resulting from multiprogramming, should include the messages of the political parties and of the electoral authorities, without any changes, in accordance with the regulatory provisions on telecommunications.

7. The transmissions in the pay television services referred to in the previous paragraph should eliminate, during both the federal and local campaign periods, the messages of government propaganda.

8. The pay television broadcasters that distribute broadcasting signals resulting from the multiprogramming should include the messages of the political parties and of the electoral authorities referred to in this chapter, without any changes, in every program channel that they broadcast, in accordance with the regulatory provisions on telecommunications.

9. In each multiprogramming channel authorized to the broadcasters that provide broadcasting services, the airtimes of the state in the terms of this law and the provisions on telecommunications should be complied with.

Article 184.

1. To ensure the due participation of the political parties and independent candidates on the matter, the Radio and Television Committee of the Institute is formed, in accordance to the following:

- a) The Committee will be responsible for being informed of and approving the transmission standards regarding the programs and messages of the political parties, drawn up by the corresponding Executive Management, as well as the other issues in the matter that directly concern the parties. The General Council can take over the responsibility for the issues in this matter if this is required due to their importance, and
- b) The Committee will have an ordinary meeting once a month and an extraordinary meeting when it is called by the presiding electoral councilor, or when at least two political parties request this to the presiding electoral councilor.

2. The committee is integrated by:

- a) An ordinary representative and a substitute, appointed by each national political party;
- b) The three electoral councilors who make up the Prerogatives and Political Parties Commission referred to in this Law;
- c) The executive director of Prerogatives and Political Parties, who will act as the technical secretary; in his absences, he will be substituted by the person appointed by him, and
- d) The representatives of the Legislative Branch to the General Council, or those appointed by them, can be called and can participate in the Committee, only with the right to speak.

3. The Committee will be presided over by the electoral councilor that holds the same function in the Commission referred to in subparagraph b) of the previous paragraph.

4. The decisions of the Committee will be taken, preferably, by consensus of the members. In case of voting, only the three electoral councilors will have the right to vote.

5. The agreements adopted by the Committee can only be challenged by the representatives of the political parties before the General Council.

6. The Institute has the budgetary, technical, human and material resources that it needs to directly exercise its faculties and powers regarding radio and television.

7. The Institute will have the necessary resources to verify the fulfillment of the transmission standards that it approves, as well as the applicable regulations. Regarding the electoral propaganda transmitted, it should be monitored both in broadcasting and in pay television.

Article 185.

1. The General Council will order the monitoring of the transmissions of the electoral pre-campaigns and campaigns in the radio and television programs that broadcast the news. The results will be made public at least every fifteen day, during the time available for the social communication of the Institute and the other informative media determined by the Council.

Article 186.

1. The Regulations will establish the time limits for the delivery, substitution or making available, according to the case, of the transmission orders and the materials for the broadcasters during the ordinary periods. The time limit cannot under any circumstances exceed 5 working days.

2. The Regulations will establish the time limits for the delivery, substitution or making available, according to the case, of the transmission orders and the materials for the broadcasters from the beginning of the pre-campaign and until the Election Day. In no case can the time limit exceed 3 working days.

3. The Institute should reduce the mentioned time limits when this is viable from a technical standpoint in order to guarantee the efficiency of the operation of the Institute, as well as of the delivery or substitution notification of the transmission orders and the electoral propaganda material for its dissemination in the State airtimes in radio and television.

4. The Institute will have what is necessary in order to guarantee the receipt of the materials delivered to it by the parties and electoral authorities, twenty-four hours a day, every day of the year.

5. The delivery of the materials of the parties and electoral authorities for their dissemination in the State airtimes in radio and television, with their

corresponding transmission order and notification to each broadcaster, will be made electronically, personally or via satellite, in the terms and under the modalities set out in the corresponding Regulations.

CHAPTER II On the Postal and Telegraphic Exemptions⁹

Article 187.

1. The political parties will, in the national territory, enjoy of the postal and telegraphic exemptions that are necessary for the development of their activities, in the terms set out in the General Law on Political Parties.

Article 188.

1. The postal exemptions will be subjected to the following rules:

- a) The General Council will establish the amount intended to cover the cost for the postal exemptions of the national political parties in the Institute's annual budget of expenses. In non-electoral years, the total amount will be equivalent to two percent of the public financing for ordinary activities; in electoral years, it will be equivalent to four percent;
- b) The postal exemptions will be allocated equally to the national political parties;
- c) The Institute will inform the Mexican Postal Service of the budget which annually corresponds to each national political party through this prerogative and will every quarter cover the cost of the services given to each of the parties up to the corresponding limit. The Institute will not under any circumstances give the resources for this purpose directly to the parties. If there are still unused resources at the end of the corresponding fiscal year, these will be returned to the Treasury of the Federation as budgetary savings;
- d) Only the management committees of each national party can use the postal exemptions. The representative of the parties before the General Council will inform the Institute in a timely manner about the annual allocation between these committees of the prerogative corresponding to them;
- e) The political parties will certify two authorized representatives for each of their committees to invoice the shipment of their ordinary correspondence,

⁹ Translator's note: The postal and telegraphic exemptions accorded to the political parties enable them to send mail and telegrams for free, according to the established conditions and limitations.

their propaganda and their regular publications before the Executive Directorate of Prerogatives and Political Parties and before the local and district executive boards. The Executive Directorate will inform the Mexican Postal Service of the names of the certified representatives and will make the necessary arrangements for them to be accredited.

- f) The national committees could, besides their correspondence, send the propaganda and their regular publications to the entire Republic; the state, district and municipal committees could send them to their national committee and within their respectively territorial areas;
- g) The Mexican Postal Service will inform the Institute about the offices in which the political parties will deposit their correspondence, guaranteeing that they have the necessary elements for its handling. The representatives that have been authorized and registered by each committee before the Executive Directorate or the committees should invoice the shipments and sign the respective documents;
- h) The return address will be clearly stated on the correspondence of each national political party;
- i) The Institute will sign the necessary agreements with the Mexican Postal Service for the purposes established in this article; the Mexican Postal Service will inform the Institute of the use that each political party makes of their prerogative, as well as about any irregularity in the use of the prerogative that it knows of, in the established terms and periods, and
- j) The parties will, in a timely manner, inform the Executive Directorate of the replacement of their certified representatives, so that it can notify the Mexican Postal Service.

Article 189.

1. The telegraphic exemptions can exclusively be used in the national territory and will be subjected to the following rules:

- a) The telegraphic exemptions can only be used by the national committees of each national political party;
- b) The national committees can use the exemptions for their communications in the entire Republic;
- c) The exemptions will be used by two certified representatives for each of the national committees. The names and signatures of the certified representatives will be registered before the Executive Directorate of Prerogatives and Political Parties so that it will inform this to the corresponding public body;
- d) Telegrams will be only used in emergency cases, and the texts of the telegrams will be adjusted to the provisions on the matter, and

- e) The telegraphic exemptions may not be used for propaganda, personal matters, or for messages addressed to someone in the same city or urban zone.
- 2. The Institute will have the necessary in its annual budget to reimburse the cost incurred by the competent public body in complying with these regulations.

CHAPTER III

On the Auditing of Political Parties

Article 190.

- 1. The auditing of the political parties will be done in the terms of and according to the procedures established by this Law and in accordance with the obligations laid out in the General Law on Political Parties.
- 2. The auditing of the finances of the political parties and of the campaigns of the candidates will be the responsibility of the General Council through its auditing commission.
- 3. In the fulfillment of its responsibilities, the General Council will not be limited by banking, fiduciary or fiscal secrecy, and therefore it will have the technical auditing unit, which will be its channel to overcome the mentioned limitation, including in the case where the Institute delegates this function.

Article 191.

- 1. The following are powers of the General Council of the Institute:
 - a) To issue to specific guidelines on auditing, accounting and registry of operations of the political parties;
 - b) According to the technical and financial capacity of the Institute, to develop, implement and administer an online accounting system of the political parties, as well as to establish electronic mechanisms for the compliance with the obligations of the parties regarding auditing;
 - c) To take the final decision on the consolidated draft opinion, as well as the decision on each of the reports that the political parties are required to present;
 - d) To monitor that the source and use of the resources of the political parties comply with the legal provisions;
 - e) To appoint the Electoral Councilors that will make up the Auditing Commission;
 - f) To appoint the head of the Technical Auditing Unit;
 - g) In case of incompliance with the obligations on auditing and accounting, to impose the applicable sanctions in accordance with the applicable legislation, and

- h) To receive and require for monitoring purposes the procurement notices, prior to the delivery of goods or services procured during the campaigns or the electoral processes, in which the information established by the applicable general guidelines should be included.

2. In the case that the Institute delegates the function of the ordinary auditing of the local political parties to the Local Public Bodies, it should verify the technical and operative capacity of the same to carry out this power, in accordance with the provisions of the General Law on Political Parties.

CHAPTER IV On the Auditing Commission

Article 192.

1. The General Council of the Institute will exercise the powers of supervision, follow-up and technical control and, in general, all of the preparatory acts through the Auditing Commission, which will be integrated by five electoral councilors and will have the following powers:

- a) To review the draft regulations on auditing prepared by the Technical Auditing Unit and to submit them to the General Council for its approval, as well as the general agreements and the technical rules required to regulate the accounting record of the political parties;
- b) To review and to submit for the approval of the General Council the draft resolutions related to the procedures and complaints regarding auditing, in terms of the regulations issued by the General Council;
- c) To define the scope of revision of the reports that the political parties are required to present;
- d) To review the powers and actions carried out by the Technical Auditing Unit in order to guarantee the legality and certainty in the auditing processes;
- e) To permanently and continuously supervise the ordinary, pre-campaign and campaign auditing; as well as the *ex officio* procedures, complaints and verifications made by the Technical Auditing Unit;
- f) To order the performance of auditing of the finances of the political parties, directly or through third parties specialized on the matter;
- g) To order verification visits to the political parties in order to corroborate the compliance with their obligations and truthfulness of their reports;
- h) To modify, approve or reject the consolidated draft opinions and the decisions issued in regards to the reports that the political parties are required to present, in order to present them for the consideration of the General Council in the time limits established by Law;

- i) To prepare, based on the proposal of the Technical Auditing Unit, the general guidelines that will govern all auditing procedures at the national and local level;
- j) To resolve the inquiries made by the political parties;
- k) To approve the requests for information by the governmental, treasury, banking and fiscal bodies regarding the investigations made by the Technical Auditing Unit;
- l) To receive, through the Technical Secretariat, the reports that the political parties should present for the auditing of their revenue and expenditure;
- m) To approve the requests that are to be presented to the competent authorities and public and private institutions in order to overcome the banking, fiduciary or fiscal secrecy;
- n) To approve the agreements to be signed by the Institute with the instances of the Mexican State, necessary to accredit the legal source of the resources used by the political parties;
- ñ) With the assistance of the Technical Auditing Unit, to carry out the liquidation of the political parties that lose their registration and to inform the General Council regarding the parameters, actions and results of the efforts made for this reason, and
- o) To integrate the information regarding the pre-campaign and campaign expenditure ceilings set by the Local Public Bodies, which will be valid for the local elections, for the knowledge of the General Council.

2. For the fulfillment of its powers, the Auditing Commission will have a Technical Auditing Unit.

3. The powers of the Auditing Commission will be exercised in respect of the full technical independence of the Technical Auditing Unit.

4. In the performance of their duties, the Electoral Councilors that integrate this Commission cannot intervene in the independent work of the Technical Auditing Unit, guaranteeing at all times the fulfillment of the guiding principles in the field of auditing.

5. The provisions on the auditing of political parties will be applicable, when appropriate, to the national political associations.

Article 193.

1. The document that orders the verification visit set out in subparagraph g) of the previous article should include, as a minimum, the following requisites:

- a) To mention the authority that issues it;
- b) To mention the place and date of issuing;
- c) To justify and motivate the verification visit;

- d) To include the signature of the competent civil servant and, where applicable, the name or names of the persons that it is directed to;
- e) The place where the visit should take place, and
- f) The name of the person or persons that should carry out the visit.

Article 194.

1. For the functioning of the Auditing Commission, the following rules will apply:

- a) The Electoral Councilors that are members of the Commission remain in office for three years;
- b) The presidency of the Commission will rotate annually between the members of the Commission;
- c) The decisions issued by the Auditing Commission should be the result of a majority vote of its members, and
- d) The head of the Technical Auditing Unit will act as Technical Secretary of this commission and will agree with its president on which topics will be included in the agenda.

Article 195.

1. The Local Public Bodies that exercise powers of auditing by delegation from the Institute will be subjected to the guidelines, general agreement, technical rules and other regulations issued by the General Council.

2. In the exercise of these powers, the Local Public Bodies should coordinate with the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission.

3. In these cases, the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission will be the channel to overcome the limitations of the banking, fiduciary and fiscal secrecy.

CHAPTER V

On the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission

Article 196.

1. The Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission of the Institute is the body that is responsible for the integral reception and revision of the reports that the political parties present regarding the source, amount, use and application of the resources they receive through any type of financing, as well as for the investigations related to the *ex officio* complaints and procedures regarding the accountability of the political parties.

2. In the exercise of its responsibilities, the Technical Auditing Unit will have as its hierarchic level that of an executive directorate of the Institute.

3. The head of the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission will be the Technical Secretary of that Commission and could be substituted in these functions by the public servant of the immediately lower hierarchical level.

Article 197.

1. The head of the Technical Auditing Unit will be appointed by the General Council in accordance with the provisions of article 191, paragraph 1, subparagraph e), and should fulfill the same requirements that the General Law establishes for the executive directors of the Institute. Also, this person should prove a minimum of five years of experience in auditing at a management level.

Article 198.

1. The personnel of the Auditing Commission and the Technical Auditing Unit of the same are required to keep the course of the revisions or audits in which they take part or about which they have information secret. The Comptroller General's Office of the Institute will try the violations to this law and, where applicable, impose the corresponding sanctions according to this Law.

Article 199.

1. The Technical Auditing Unit will have the following responsibilities:
- a) To audit with complete technical independence the supporting documents, as well as the accounting presented by the political parties and, where applicable, independent candidates in each of the reports that they are required to present;
 - b) To prepare and submit for the consideration of the Auditing Commission the draft regulations concerning auditing and accounting, and the agreements necessary for the fulfillment of its functions;
 - c) To monitor that the recourses of the parties have a legal source and are used exclusively for the fulfillment of the objectives of the political parties;
 - d) To receive and review the quarterly, annual, pre-campaign and campaign reports of the political parties and their candidates;
 - e) To request complementary information regarding the various paragraphs of the income and expenditure reports or supporting documents of any other aspect connected to the same;
 - f) To propose to the Auditing Commission, directly or through third parties, the performance of audits of the finances of the political parties;
 - g) To present the reports on the results, consolidated rulings and draft resolutions about the audits and reviews undertaken on the political

- parties to the Auditing Commission. In the reports it will be specified, where applicable, the irregularities incurred by the political parties in the administration of their resources, the breach of the obligation to inform about their use and the resulting sanctions according to the applicable legislation will be proposed;
- h) To verify the operations of the political parties with the suppliers;
 - i) Jointly with the Auditing Commission, to be responsible for the liquidation procedures of the political parties that lose their registration;
 - j) In the campaign stage, in case this is chosen by the political party, to pay the obligations that the political parties contract, independently if it is all the expenses or only those resulting from advertising displayed in public thoroughfares, through one of the check books that will be opened for each type of campaign;
 - k) To present the draft resolutions regarding the complaints and procedures related to audits to the Auditing Commission;
 - l) To audit and monitor the income and expenditure of the citizen organizations that aim to obtain registration as political parties, as of the moment that they notify the Institute of this intent, in the terms established in this Law and the other applicable provisions;
 - m) To provide the political parties with the guidance, advice and training necessary for the fulfillment of the established obligations, complying with the technical criteria issued by the Auditing Commission;
 - n) To propose to the Auditing Commission the homogeneous accounting guidelines that guarantee the publicity and access by electronic media, in collaboration with the areas of the Institute necessary for the development of the system in question;
 - ñ) To propose to the Auditing Commission the guidelines that guarantee the maximum publicity of the accounting records and movements, pre-procurement notices and requirements of validation of procurements issued by the electoral authority, and
 - o) To propose to the Auditing Commission the sanctions to be imposed in accordance with the seriousness of the infractions committed.

Article 200.

1. The authorities and the public and private institutions are required to respond to the requests for information protected by the banking, fiduciary and fiscal secrecy made by the Technical Auditing Unit, within no more than five days after the request was made.

2. Likewise, the Technical Auditing Unit could require individuals, natural and

legal persons, to provide the information and documents necessary for the fulfillment of its responsibilities, and these individuals should respond to the requirement within the time limits set out in the previous paragraph.

THIRD TITLE

On the Bases for the Organization of the National Professional Electoral Service

CHAPTER I

Preliminary Provision

Article 201.

1. Based on article 41 of the Constitution, and to ensure the professional performance of the activities of the Institute and of the Local Public Bodies, through the competent Executive Directorate, the organization and functioning of the National Professional Electoral Service will be regulated.

2. The objectivity and the impartiality that in the terms of the Constitution guide the state responsibility of organizing the elections will be the principles for the training of the members of the service.

3. The organization of the service will be governed by the regulations established by this Law and by those of the Statute approved by the General Council.

4. The General Executive Board will prepare the draft Statute, which will be submitted to the General Council by the Executive Secretary for its approval.

5. The Statute will develop, specify and regulate the normative basis mentioned in this Title.

CHAPTER II

On the National Professional Electoral Service

Article 202.

1. The National Professional Electoral Service is integrated by public servants from the executive and technical bodies of the Institute and from the Local Public Bodies. It will have two systems, one for the Institute and another for the Local Public Bodies.

2. For its proper functioning, the Institute will regulate the organization and function and will apply the different mechanisms of this Service in accordance with the provisions of Section D of Basis V of constitutional article 41.

3. The bodies of the executive function will provide the personnel to cover the positions with management, authority and supervision responsibilities.

4. The bodies of the technical function will provide the personnel to cover the specialized positions and carry out the specialized activities.

5. The bodies will be structured by specific levels or ranks, differentiated from the offices and positions of the organic structure of the Institute and of the Local Public Bodies. The levels or ranks will allow the promotion of the ordinary members of the bodies. In the latter, the career of the permanent members of the service will develop in a way that allows them to collaborate in the Institute or in the local public bodies, as applies to the system in question, as a whole and not exclusively in one office or position.

6. The entry into the bodies and systems will proceed when the candidates certify the personal, academic and professional experience requirements required for each office or position in the Statute. Public competition, the temporary incorporation exam, and the courses and practices are entry routes, according to the provisions of the statutory regulations. The course and practices route is reserved for the incorporation of the Institute personnel that hold administrative positions.

7. The permanence of the public servants in the Institute and the Local Public Bodies will be subjected to the accreditation of the exams of the training and electoral professional development programs, as well as to the results of the annual evaluation carried out in the terms established by the Statute.

8. The bodies of the executive management will provide from its ranks or levels the public servants that will hold the offices established in this Law for the directorates and Executive Boards on the following terms:

- a) In the Executive General Board, the positions immediately below the Executive Director, as well as the positions of other areas determined by the Statute;
- b) In the local and district executive boards, the positions of executive members and members, as well as the other positions determined by the Statute, and
- c) In the Local Public Bodies, the positions expressly determined by the Statute, and
- d) The other positions determined by the Statute.

9. The members of the National Professional Electoral Service will be subjected to the administrative responsibilities regime of the public servants set out in the Fourth Title of the Constitution according to the provisions of the Eighth Book of this Law.

On the Statute of the National Professional Electoral Service

Article 203.

1. The Statute should establish the regulations:

- a) To define the levels or ranks of each body and the offices or positions they give access to;
- b) To create the general catalogue of offices and positions of the Institute and of the Local Public Bodies, as well as their requirements;
- c) For the recruitment and selection of those interested in joining a position in the Service, which will mainly be by the route of public competition;
- d) To award the appointment to a level or rank, depending on the case;
- e) For the education and professional training and the methods for the performance evaluation;
- f) For the promotion, movement and rotation systems for offices or positions, changes to appointments and schedules, as well as the application of administrative sanctions or dismissals. The promotions will be given based on merit and performance;
- g) For the hiring of professional service providers for specific programs and for carrying out occasional activities, and
- h) The others necessary for the organization and good functioning of the Institute.

2. Likewise, the Statute should include the following regulations:

- a) Duration of the work day;
- b) Holidays;
- c) Vacation periods, as well as the amount and method of the vacation bonus;
- d) Permits and leave;
- e) Contractual regime of the electoral servants;
- f) Assistance with expenses related to the decease of employees;
- g) Disciplinary actions, and
- h) Causes for dismissal.

3. The Executive Secretary of the Institute could conclude agreements with academic and higher education institutions to teach educational, training and updating courses for applicants and ordinary members of the National Professional the Electoral Service, and in general to the personnel of the Institute and of the Local Public Bodies.

CHAPTER IV

On the Complementary Provisions

Article 204.

1. In the Statute it will be established, besides the regulations for the organization of the National Professional Electoral Service, those relating to the administrative employees and auxiliary personnel of the Institute and of the Local Public Bodies.

2. The Statute will establish the regulations for their integration, promotions, movements, procedures for the determination of sanctions, ordinary means for defense and other work conditions.

Article 205.

1. Due to the nature of the state function entrusted to the Institute, all its personnel will ensure the respect for the Constitution, the laws and the loyalty to the Institution, above any other particular interest.

2. The Institute could establish the change of assignment or work hours of its personnel, when this is required by the needs of the service, in the form and terms established by this Law and the Statute.

3. The personnel belonging to the Service attached to the local public bodies can be reassigned and enjoy rotation in their functions according to the institutional requirements. The Statute will define the corresponding procedure for this, which should take into consideration the opinion of the corresponding public body.

4. The members of the National Professional Electoral Service, due to the workload during the election year, given that all days and hours are working days, will have the right to receive a compensation for the extraordinary work done, according to the authorized budget.

Article 206.

1. All the personnel of the Institute will have positions of trust and will be subject to the regime established in fraction XIV of paragraph “B” of article 123 from the Constitution.

2. The personnel of the Institute will be incorporated into the regime of the Institute of Security and Social Services of the Workers of the State.

3. The differences or conflicts between the Institute and its workers will be resolved by the Electoral Tribunal according to the procedure established in the law on the matter.

4. The work relations between the local public bodies and their workers will

be governed by the local laws, in accordance with the provisions of article 123 of the Constitution.

FIFTH BOOK

On the Electoral Processes

FIRST TITLE

On the General Rules for the Federal and Local Electoral Processes

CHAPTER I

On the Preliminary Provisions

Article 207.

1. The electoral process is the group of actions ordered by the Constitution and this Law, carried out by the electoral authorities, the political parties, as well as the citizens, with the purpose of the periodic renewal of the members of the Legislative and Executive Branches, both the federal and of the states, the members of the city councils in the states of the Republic and of the Heads of Delegation in the Federal District.

Article 208.

1. For the effects of this Law, the ordinary electoral process has the following stages:

- a) Election preparation;
- b) Election Day;
- c) Results and declarations of validity of the elections, and
- d) Ruling and declarations of validity of the election.

4. The stage of the Election Day begins at 8 a.m. on the first Sunday of June and concludes with the closing of the polling stations.

CHAPTER II

On the Electoral Propaganda

Article 209.

1. During the period that includes the federal and local electoral campaigns, and until the conclusion of the election days, the dissemination in media of all governmental propaganda, both of the federal and state branches of government, as that of the municipal powers, government bodies of the Federal District, its boroughs and any other public body, should be suspended.

The only exemptions to the previous will be the information campaigns of the electoral authorities, those relating to educational and health services, or those necessary for civil protection in the case of an emergency.

2. All printed electoral propaganda should be recyclable, made from biodegradable materials that do not contain substances that are toxic or harmful to the health or the environment. The political parties and independent candidates should present a recycling plan for the propaganda they will use during their campaigns.

3. For the purposes of this Law, promotional utilitarian items are understood as those that contain images, signs, emblems and expressions that aim to disseminate the image and proposals of the political party, coalition or candidate that distributes them.

4. The utilitarian promotional items can only be made using textiles.

5. The handout of any type of material [*that contains political or electoral propaganda of the parties, coalitions or candidates,*] in which any direct, indirect, mediate or immediate, is offered or given, in kind or in cash, through any systems that implies that handout of a good or service, either by itself or by a third party, is strictly forbidden for the parties, candidates, their campaign teams or any person. Said conducts will be sanctioned in accordance with this Law and is considered as evidence of pressuring the voters to obtain their votes.

This portion has been declared unconstitutional by ruling 22/2014 of the Supreme Court.

6. The political party, registered candidate or sympathizer that violates the provisions of this article will be sanctioned in the terms established by this Law.

Article 210.

1. The distribution or placing of the electoral propaganda should respect the legal timelines established for each case. Its removal or end of distribution should take place three days before the Election Day.

2. In the case of advertising displayed in public thoroughfares, this should be removed during the seven days following the end of the Election Day.

3. The failure to remove or discontinue the distribution of the propaganda will be sanctioned in accordance with this Law.

Article 211.

1. For the effects of this Chapter, pre-campaign propaganda is understood as the group of documents, publications, images, recordings, projections and expressions that the pre-candidates distribute during the pre-campaign period

with the aim to make their proposals known and to obtain the candidature for an elective office.

2. During the pre-campaigns, it is only allowed to use utilitarian articles made out of textiles.

3. The pre-campaign propaganda should expressly mention, through graphic and sound media, that the person being promoted is a pre-candidate.

Article 212.

1. The political parties, pre-candidates and sympathizers are required to remove their pre-campaign electoral propaganda for it to be recycled at least three days before the beginning of the stage of the registration of candidates for the election in question. If they do not remove it, the Institute or the Local Public Bodies will take the measures necessary for its removal, discounting the cost from the public financing that corresponds to the party, in addition to the imposition of the sanction established by this Law for this purpose.

CHAPTER III

On the Surveys and Opinion Polls

Article 213.

1. The General Council will issue the rules, guidelines and criteria that the natural or legal persons should adopt to carry out surveys or opinion polls during the federal and local electoral processes. The Local Public Bodies will perform the functions on this matter in accordance with the mentioned rules, guidelines and criteria.

2. During the three days prior to the election and until the hour of the closing of the polling stations, it is strictly prohibited to publish, disseminate or make known, by any media, the results of surveys or opinion polls that aim to make the electoral preferences known.

3. The natural or legal persons that disseminate surveys or opinion polls should present to the Institute or to the Local Public Bodies a report about the resources applied in their realization in the terms of the corresponding electoral authority.

4. The methodology, costs, persons responsible and the results of the surveys or opinion polls will be disseminated on their webpage by the Local Public Bodies in their area of competence.

CHAPTER IV On the Electoral Districting

Article 214.

1. The demarcation of the federal and local electoral districts will be done by the Institute based on the last general population census and the general criteria set by the General Council.

2. The General Council of the Institute will request the related studies from the General Executive Board and will approve the general criteria. The districting should, where applicable, be approved before the beginning of the electoral process in which it will be applied.

3. According to the provisions of article 53 of the Constitution, once the territorial demarcation of the 300 single-member electoral districts has been established, based on the last general population census, the General Council will, where applicable, approve the distribution of the electoral districts between the states, ensuring that the representation of a state will be at least two representatives elected by plurality.

4. For the election of the 200 representatives elected by the principle of proportional representation, the General Council will, where applicable, approve the configuration of the five multi-member regional electoral districts in the country before the start of the electoral process.

CHAPTER V On the Electoral Training

Article 215.

1. The General Council will be responsible for approving the training programs for officials of the directive boards of the polling stations.

2. The Institute, assisted by the Local Public Bodies, will be responsible for carrying out the training of the public servants that make up the directive boards of the polling stations in accordance with the mentioned programs.

CHAPTER VI On the Printing of Documents and Production of Materials

Article 216.

1. This Law and the local electoral laws will establish the characteristics of the electoral documents and materials, and they should establish that:

- a) The electoral documents and materials should be prepared using raw materials that can be recycled, once the time comes for their destruction;

- b) In the case of the electoral ballots, these should be prepared using the security mechanisms approved by the Institute;
- c) The destruction should be carried out using methods that protect the environment, as approved by the respective General or local Council, and
- d) The protection of and care for the electoral ballots is considered a matter of national security.

CHAPTER VII On the Electoral Observation

Article 217.

1. The citizens that wish to exercise their right as electoral observers should subject themselves to the following basis:

- a) They can participate only when they have obtained their accreditation before the electoral authority on time;
- b) The citizens that wish to act as observers should mention their personal identification information in the written request and attach a photocopy of their voter card, and should include the express statement that they will handle themselves according to the principles of impartiality, objectivity, certainty and legality without ties to any party or political organization;
- c) The request for registration to participate as an electoral observer can be presented personally or through the organization to which they belong before the local or district council corresponding to their address as of the beginning of the electoral process and until April 30 of the year of the election. The presidents of the local and district councils, depending on the case, will give an account of the requests to the councils for their approval in the next session held. The decision that is issued should be notified to the applicants. The General Council and the Local Public Bodies will guarantee this right and will resolve any proposal that is presented by the citizens or the interested organization;
- d) The accreditation is only awarded to the citizens that fulfill, apart from those set out by the electoral authority, the following requirements:
 - I. To be Mexican citizens in full possession and exercise of their civil and political rights;
 - II. To not hold nor having held a national, state or municipal management position in any political organization or party in the last three years before the election;

- III. To not be or to have been a candidate for an elective office in the last three years before the election, and
- IV. To participate in the training, preparation or information courses given by the Institute and the Local Public Bodies or by the organizations to which the electoral observers belong under the guidelines and contents dictated by the competent authorities of the Institutes, which can supervise said courses. The lack of supervision non-attributable to the respective organization will not be cause for denying accreditation;
- e) The observers will refrain from:
 - I. Substituting or obstructing the electoral authorities in the exercise of their functions, and interfering in the development of the same;
 - II. Making any type of proselytism or demonstrating in favor of any party of candidate;
 - III. Expressing any offensive remark, defamation or slander against the institutions, electoral authorities, political parties or candidates, and
 - IV. Declaring the victory of any political party or candidate;
- f) The observation can take place in any territorial area of the Mexican Republic;
- g) The citizens accredited as electoral observers can request, before the corresponding local board and Local Public Bodies, the electoral information that they need for the best development of their activities. Said information will be provided as long as it is not secret or confidential in the terms set out by the law and that the material and technical possibilities are in place for its delivery;
- h) In the contents of the training that the Institute provides to the officials of the directive boards of the polling stations, it should anticipate the explanation regarding the presence of the electoral observers, as well as the rights and obligations inherent to their roles;
- i) The electoral observers can present themselves on Election Day with their accreditation and identification in one or several polling stations, as well as in the office of the corresponding Councils, being allowed to observe the following actions:
 - I. The set-up of the polling station;
 - II. The development of the voting;
 - III. The scrutiny and count of the voting in the polling station;
 - IV. The posting of the results outside of the polling station;
 - V. The closing of the polling stations;
 - VI. The reading aloud of the results in the district council, and
 - VII. The reception of the incident statements and written objections;

j) The observers can present, before the electoral authority, a report on their activities in the terms and times determined by the General Council for this effect. The reports, judgments, opinions or conclusions of the observers will under no circumstances have a juridical effect on the electoral process and its results.

2. The organizations to which the electoral observers belong should, no later than thirty days after Election Day, declare the source, amount and use of the financing they obtain for the development of their activities directly related to the electoral observation that they carry out, through a report that they present to the General Council.

CHAPTER VIII On the Debates

Article 218.

1. The General Council will organize two mandatory debates between all candidates for the Presidency of the Republic and will promote, through the local and district councils, the organization of debates between candidates for senators and federal representatives.

2. For the development of the mandatory debates, the General Council will define the rules, dates and locations, respecting the principle of equality between the candidates.

3. The mandatory debates between the candidates for the office of the President of the United Mexican States will be transmitted by the radio stations and television channels of the public broadcasters. The commercial broadcasters should transmit said debates in at least one of their broadcasting signals when they have coverage in fifty percent or more of the national territory. The radio and television signals that the Institute generates for this purpose can be used, live and for free, by the other radio and television broadcasters, as well as by other telecommunication broadcasters. The Institute will take the necessary steps in order to promote the transmission of the debate in the largest possible number of stations and channels.

4. In the terms established by the laws of the states, the general councils of the Local Public Bodies will organize debates between all the candidates for Governor or Chief of Government of the Federal District. Also, they will promote the organization of debates between candidates for local representatives, municipal presidents, Borough Heads and other elective offices, and therefore the broadcasting signals that the Local Public Bodies generate can be used for this purpose, live and without cost, by the other radio and television broadcasters, as well as by the other telecommunication broadcasters.

5. In the assumption of the previous paragraph, the debates of the candidates Governor or Chief of Government of the Federal District should be transmitted by the radio stations and television channels of the local public broadcasters in the state in question. The Institute will promote the transmission of the debate by other broadcasting and telecommunications broadcasters with coverage in the corresponding state.

6. The national and local media can freely organize debates between candidates, provided that they comply with the following:

- a) It is communicated to the Institute or to the local institutes, as applies;
- b) At least two candidates from the same election participate, and
- c) Equal conditions are established in the format.

7. The transmission of the debates by the media will be free of cost and will be carried out in a comprehensive way and without changing the content. The failure to participate by one or more of the candidates invited to these debates is not cause for the cancellation of the same.

CHAPTER IX

On the Program of Preliminary Electoral Results

Article 219.

1. The Program of Preliminary Electoral Results is the electoral information mechanism in charge of providing the preliminary non-final results of a strictly informative character through the capture, digitalization and publication of the data included in Scrutiny and Count Certificates from the polling stations received in the Centers of the Gathering and Transmission of Data authorized by the Institute or by the Local Public Bodies.

2. The Institute will issue rules, guidelines and criteria regarding preliminary results, to which the Local Public Bodies will subject themselves in the elections of their competence.

3. Their purpose will be to in a timely manner inform about the results and the information on all its phases to the General Council, the Local Public Bodies, the political parties, coalitions, candidates, media and to the citizens, under the principles of security, transparency, reliability, credibility and integrity.

CHAPTER X

On the Quick Count

Article 220.

1. The Institute and the Local Public Bodies will determine the viability in carrying out the quick counts.

2. Likewise, the natural or legal persons carrying out these quick counts will submit, for the consideration of the Institute and the Local Public Bodies, the methodologies and financing for their development and the terms to make the results known in accordance with the criteria established for each case.

CHAPTER XI

On the Coordination regarding Financial Intelligence

Article 221.

1. The Institute will establish coordination agreements with the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, through the competent administrative unit on financial intelligence, to prevent, detect and sanction the use of public resources by the bodies and departments of the Federation, of the states or of the municipalities during any electoral process.

2. For such purposes, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit should inform the Institute of the financial operations that involve cash withdrawals and that are considered relevant and unusual in accordance with the laws and provisions of general character related to the prevention and detection of crimes in operations with illegally obtained funds and financing of terrorism.

Article 222.

1. The natural or legal persons that distribute surveys or opinion polls should present a report about the funds used in their realization to the Institute or the Local Public Body, in the terms set out by the corresponding electoral authority.

2. The requests for information made by the Institute will consist of the indications of the acts or operations of cash withdrawals that are considered relevant and unusual and that should contain at least the name of the alleged body or department responsible for the expenditure and the date.

3. The Institute could, based on the information provided by the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, require specific information, for which it should state the information required.

Article 223.

1. The Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, through the competent administrative unit on financial intelligence, could require of the bodies or departments of the Federation, of the states or of the municipalities the information, documents, opinions and evidence generally necessary for the fulfillment of its responsibilities, as well as coordinate with other supervisory authorities on the prevention and detection of crimes in operations with

illegally obtained funds and financing of terrorism. The bodies, departments and authorities should cooperate swiftly and effectively.

SECOND TITLE

On the Preparatory Acts of the Federal Election

CHAPTER I

On the Preliminary Provisions

Article 224.

1. The provisions of this Title will only apply to the federal electoral processes.
2. The electoral process is the group of actions ordered by the Constitution and this Law, fulfilled by the electoral authorities, the national political parties and the citizens, with the purpose of the periodic renewal of the members of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Union.
3. Before the electoral process begins, the General Council will determine the territorial area of each one of the five multi-member regional districts, as well as, where applicable, the territorial demarcation referred to in article 53 of the Constitution.

Article 225.

1. The ordinary electoral process begins in September of the year prior to the election and concludes with the ruling and declaration of validity of the election of the President of the United Mexican States. In any case, the conclusion will occur once the Electoral Tribunal has resolved the last of the lodged challenges or when it is demonstrated that none were lodged.
2. For the effects of this Law, the ordinary electoral process has the following stages:
 - a) Election preparation;
 - b) Election Day;
 - c) Results and declarations of validity of the elections, and
 - d) Ruling and declarations of validity of the election and of the elected President.
3. The stage of the election preparation begins with the first session held by the General Council during the first week of September of the year prior to the one in which the ordinary federal elections should be held and concludes when the Election Day begins.
4. The stage of the Election Day begins at 8 a.m. on the first Sunday of June and concludes with the closing of the polling stations.

5. The stage of results and of declarations of validity of the elections begins with the delivery of the electoral documents and files to the district councils and concludes with the counts and declarations made by the councils of the Institute or, where applicable, with the rulings issued by the Electoral Tribunal as the final instance.

6. The stage of ruling and declarations of validity of the election and of the elected President of the United Mexican States begins with the resolution of the last challenge lodged against this election or when it has been demonstrated that none were lodged and concludes when the High Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal approves the ruling that contains the final count and the declarations of validity of the election and of the elected President.

7. Attending to the principle of finality which governs the electoral processes, at the conclusion of any of their stages or any of the significant actions or activities of the electoral bodies, the Executive Secretary or the executive member of the local or district boards of the Institute, according to the case, could make their realization and conclusion known by the means they find appropriate.

CHAPTER II

On the Selection Processes of Candidates for Elective Offices and the Electoral Pre-campaigns

Article 226.

1. The internal processes for the selection of candidates for elective offices are the group of activities carried out by the political parties and the contenders for these offices, in accordance with the established in this Law and in the Statutes, regulations, agreements and other provisions of a general character approved by the management bodies of each political party.

2. At least thirty days before the formal start of the processes referred to in the previous paragraph, each party will decide, in accordance with its Statutes, the applicable procedure for the selection of its candidates for elective offices, according to the corresponding election. The decision should be communicated to the General Council within the seventy-two hours following its approval, specifying the date of the beginning of the internal process; the method or methods to be used; the date of issue of the corresponding call; the time periods of each phase of the internal process; the management bodies responsible for running and monitoring it; the date when the national, state or district electoral assembly will be held or, where applicable, when the internal election day will be held, according to the following:

- a) During the federal electoral processes in which the head of the Federal Executive Branch and the two Chambers of the Congress of the Union are renewed, the pre-campaigns will begin in the third week of November of the year prior to that of the election. They cannot last for more than sixty days;
- b) During the federal electoral processes in which only the House of Representatives is renewed, the pre-campaigns will begin in the first week of January of the election year. They cannot last for more than forty days, and
- c) Regarding pre-campaigns, they will begin the day after the approval of the internal registration of the pre-candidates. The pre-campaigns of all the parties should be held during the same periods.

3. The pre-candidates for candidacies for elective offices who participate in the internal selection process called by each party cannot carry out proselytizing activities or distribute propaganda by any means before the starting date of the pre-campaigns. The violation of this regulation will be sanctioned by denying the registration as pre-candidate.

4. The political parties will use the airtime in radio and television corresponding to them according to this Law for the dissemination of their internal selection process of candidates for elective offices, in accordance with the rules and standards established by the Institute. The properly registered pre-candidates can access radio and television exclusively through the airtime in these media that corresponds to the political party that they aim to be nominated by.

5. The pre-candidates for candidacies for elective offices are forbidden, at any time, from purchasing or procuring propaganda or any other form of personal promotion in radio or television. The violation of this rule will be sanctioned by denying the registration as pre-candidate or, where applicable, with the cancellation of this registration. If a violation of this rule is confirmed after the date of the nomination of the candidate by the corresponding party, the Institute will refuse the legal registration of the offender.

Article 227.

1. The electoral pre-campaign is understood as the group of actions carried out by the political parties, their members and the pre-candidates for candidacies for elective offices that are properly registered by each party.

2. The electoral pre-campaign activities are understood as the public meetings, assemblies, marches and in general those in which the pre-candidates speak to the members, sympathizers, or to the voters in general, with the purpose to obtain their support to be nominated as candidate for an elective office.

3. Pre-campaign propaganda is understood as the group of documents, publications, images, recordings, projections and expressions that, during the period established by this Law and the one set out in the respective call, are disseminated by the pre-candidates for candidacies for elective offices with the purpose of making their proposals known. The pre-campaign propaganda should expressly mention, through graphic and sound media, that the person being promoted is a pre-candidate.

4. The pre-candidate is the citizen that wants to be nominated by a political party as a candidate for an elective office in the internal selection process of candidates for elective offices, according to this Law and the Statutes of a political party.

5. No citizen could participate simultaneously in internal selection processes of candidates for elective offices by different political parties, except if they have signed an agreement to participate in a coalition. During the pre-campaigns it is forbidden to hand out utilitarian promotional articles.

Article 228.

1. The political parties, according to their Statutes, should establish the internal body responsible for the organization of the selection process of their candidates and, where applicable, of the pre-campaigns.

2. The pre-candidates could challenge, before the competent internal body, the regulations and the calls; the integration of the bodies responsible for managing the internal processes, the agreements and decisions adopted, and in general the actions of the management bodies, or their members, when any of these violate the rules that govern the selection processes for candidates of elective offices. Each party will issue internal regulations in which it regulates the procedures and periods for the resolution of these controversies.

3. The internal challenges lodged regarding the results of the internal selection processes of candidates for elective offices should be resolved no later than fourteen days after the date when the consultation was made by direct vote or by the assembly in which the decision regarding candidacies was made.

4. The challenges presented by the properly registered pre-candidates against the results of the internal elections, or against the assembly in which the decisions regarding candidacies were made, will be presented before the competent internal body no later than four days after the issuance of the result or the conclusion of the assembly.

5. Only the properly registered pre-candidates by the corresponding party can challenge the result of the selection process of candidates in which they participated.

6. Each political party, through the body established by their Statutes, or by the corresponding regulations or call, has the authority to deny or cancel the registration of the pre-candidates who engage in conduct contrary to this Law or the rules that govern the internal process, as well as to confirm or modify their results or to declare the entire internal selection process invalid, applying in all cases the legal principles and the rules established in their Statutes or in the respective regulations and calls. The decisions that the competent bodies of each party adopt could be appealed by the applicants or pre-candidates before the Electoral Tribunal once the internal procedures of party justice have been exhausted.

Article 229.

1. No later than in the month of October of the year prior to that of the election, the General Council will establish the expenditure ceilings by pre-candidate and the type of election that he aims to be nominated for. The ceiling will be equivalent to twenty percent of the one established for the previous campaigns, according to the election in question.

2. The General Council will, at the proposal of the Auditing Unit of the Resources of the Political Parties,¹⁰ establish the requirements that each pre-candidate should meet when presenting the pre-campaign income and expenditure report. In any case, the respective report should be delivered to the competent internal body of the party no later than seven days after the internal Election Day or the session of the respective assembly.

3. If a pre-candidate fails to comply with the obligation to deliver the pre-campaign income and expenditure report within the previously established period and has obtained the majority of the votes in the internal consultation or in the respective assembly, this person cannot be legally registered as a candidate. The pre-candidates that, without having obtained the nomination for the candidacy, do not deliver the previously mentioned report will be punished in the terms of the provisions of the Eighth Book of this Law.

4. The pre-candidates that exceed the pre-campaign expenditure ceilings established by the General Council will be punished with the cancellation of their registration or, where applicable, with the loss of the candidacy that they have obtained. In the last case, the parties maintain the right to make the corresponding substitutions.

¹⁰ Translator's note: This is the previous name of the body that after the 2014 reform is known as the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission of the Insitute. However, this translation maintains the typographical error of the original Spanish version of this law.

Article 230.

1. The concepts mentioned in subparagraphs a), b), c) and d) of paragraph 2 of the article 243 of this Law will be included in the pre-campaign expenditure ceilings.

Article 231.

1. The regulations set out in this Law regarding the campaign actions and electoral propaganda will be applied to the pre-campaigns and to the pre-candidates participating in them, as appropriate.

2. The General Council will issue the other regulations and agreements necessary for the appropriate regulation of the internal selection processes of candidates for elective offices and the pre-campaigns, in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

CHAPTER III**On the Procedure for Candidate Registration****Article 232.**

1. The right to request the registration of candidates for elective offices corresponds to the national political parties, without prejudice to the independent candidates in the terms of this Law.

2. The candidates for representatives and senators to be elected by the principle of plurality and by the principle of proportional representation, as well as the senators by the principle of plurality and by the principle of proportional representation, will be registered by formulas of candidates, each integrated by a regular and a substitute of the same gender, and formulas and candidates will be considered separately, except for voting purposes.

3. The political parties will promote and guarantee gender parity in the nomination of candidates for elective offices for the integration of the Congress of the Union, the Congresses of the States and the Legislative Assembly of the Federal District.

4. The Institute and the Local Public Bodies, in the sphere of their competencies, will have faculties to deny the registration of the number of candidates that exceed the parity, setting for the party a non-extendable time limit for their substitution. In the event that they are not substituted, said registrations will not be accepted.

5. In the event that different candidates are registered by the same political party for the same elective office, the Secretary of the General Council, once this situation has been detected, will require the political party to inform the General Council, within a period of forty-eight hours, which candidate or formula

prevails. If this is not done it will be understood that the political party chooses the last registration presented, rendering the others ineffective.

Article 233.

1. From all the registration requests presented by the political parties or the coalitions before the Institute, both from candidates for representatives and for senators, should be integrated safeguarding the gender parity ordered by the Constitution and this Law.

Article 234.

1. The proportional representation lists will be integrated by formulas of candidates each composed of one regular and one substitute of the same gender and the formulas of different genders will be alternated to guarantee the parity principle until the end of each list.

Article 235.

1. When the candidate registration has been closed, if a political party or a coalition does not comply with the established in the articles 233 and 234, the General Council will require in first instance that they correct the candidate registration request within a period of forty-eight hours, counted from the notification, and it will inform them that it will issue a public warning in the event that this is not done.

2. After the period referred to in the previous paragraph has passed, the political party or coalition that has not replaced the candidates will receive a public warning and the General Council will again require that it makes the correction within a period of twenty-four hours, counted from the notification. In case of reoccurrence, it will be sanctioned with the denial of the corresponding candidate registration.

Article 236.

1. For the registration of candidates for all elective offices, the nominating political party should present and obtain the registration of the electoral platform that their candidates will hold during the political campaigns.

2. The electoral platform should be presented for its registration before the General Council, during the first fifteen days of January of the election year. A certificate of the registration will be issued.

Article 237.

1. The periods and competent bodies for the registration of candidacies in the election year are the following:

- a) In the election year in which the President of the Federal Executive Branch and the two Chambers of the Congress of the Union are renewed, all the candidates will be registered between February 15 and 22 by the following bodies:
 - I. The candidates for representatives by plurality, by the district councils;
 - II. The candidates for representatives elected by the principle of proportional representation, by the General Council;
 - III. The candidates for senators elected by the principle of plurality, by the corresponding local councils;
 - IV. The candidates for senators elected by the principle of proportional representation, by the General Council, and
 - V. The candidates for President of the United Mexican States, by the General Council. This body could additionally register the candidates referred to in fractions I and III.
 - b) During the election year in which only the House of Representatives is renewed, the candidates by both principles will be registered between March 22 and 29, by the bodies mentioned in the fractions I and II of the previous subparagraph.
2. The General Council could make changes to the periods established in this article to guarantee that the registration periods and the length of the electoral campaigns agree with the provisions of article 251 of this Law.
3. The Institute will widely circulate the opening of the candidate registration and the periods referred to in this Chapter.
4. In the event that the political parties decide to register, in a supplementary manner, some or all of the candidates for Representatives or Senators by the principle of plurality before the General Council of the Institute, they should do so no later than three days before the periods referred to in this article expire.

Article 238.

1. The candidate registration request should indicate the political party or coalition which nominates the candidates and the following information about the candidates:
- a) The paternal surname, maternal surname and complete name;
 - b) The place and date of birth;
 - c) The address and time of residence there;
 - d) The occupation;
 - e) The code of the voter card;
 - f) The office that they are nominated for, and

g) The candidates for the Chambers of the Congress of the Union and of the Congresses of the States that seek reelection should add a letter specifying the period for which they have been elected for this office and the avowal of complying with the limits established by the Constitution regarding reelection.

2. The request must be accompanied by the declaration of acceptance of the candidacy, a copy of the birth certificate and of the front and back of the voter card.

3. Likewise, the nominating political party should express in writing that the candidates whose registration it is requesting were selected in accordance with the statutory rules of the political party.

4. The request of each political party for the registration of the complete lists of candidates for representatives by the principle of proportional representation for the five multi-member regional districts should also be accompanied, besides by the documents referred to in the previous paragraphs, by the registration certificate of at least 200 candidatures for representatives by the principle of plurality, which could be accredited with the ones registered by the own party and, where applicable, the ones which correspond to the partial or flexible coalition to which it belongs.

5. The request of each political party for the registration of the national list of candidates for senators by the principle of proportional representation for the national multi-member district should also be accompanied, besides by the documents referred to in the previous paragraphs, by the registration certificate of at least 21 lists with two formulas per state of the candidates for senators by the principle of plurality, which could be accredited with the ones registered by the own party and, where applicable, the ones which correspond to the partial or flexible coalition to which it belongs.

6. The request for registration of the lists of proportional representation referred to in the two previous paragraphs should specify which of the members of each list are aiming for reelection in their offices and the consecutive number of times they have held the same office.

7. For the registration of coalition candidates it should be certified that the provisions of the General Law on Political Parties and the provisions of this Law were complied with, in accordance with the election in question.

Article 239.

1. Once a request for the registration of candidacies has been received by the president or secretary of the corresponding council, it will be verified within the next three days that all the requirements mentioned in the previous article have been complied with.

2. If the verification process shows that the compliance with one or several requirements was omitted, this will be notified immediately to the corresponding political party, so that it corrects the omitted requirement(s) or substitutes the candidacy within the next forty-eight hours, as long as this can be done during the periods set out in article 237 of this Law.

3. In the case that the political parties exceed the number of simultaneous candidacies mentioned in article 11, paragraphs 2 and 3, of this Law, the Secretary of the General Council, once this has been detected, will require of the political party to inform the electoral authority, within the next forty-eight hours, which candidacies or formulas should be excluded from its lists. If this is not done, the Institute will proceed to cancel from the respective lists the formulas necessary until reaching the limit of candidacies allowed by the law, starting with the simultaneous registrations located in the last place of each one of the lists, one after another, in order, until the previously mentioned number is adjusted.

4. Any request or document presented after the periods referred to in article 237 will be dismissed directly and, where applicable, the candidacy or candidacies which do not meet the requirements will not be registered.

5. During the three days after the periods referred to in article 239 expire, the General, local and district Councils will hold a session solely to register the appropriate candidacies.

6. The local and district councils will immediately inform the General Council of the agreement related to the registration of the candidacies made during the session referred to in the previous paragraph.

7. Likewise, the General Council will immediately inform to the local and district councils of the decisions that it has taken regarding the registration of the lists of candidates by the principle of proportional representation.

8. At the conclusion of the session referred to in paragraph 5 of this article, the Executive Secretary of the Institute or the local or district executive members, according to the case, will take the necessary measures to make the conclusion of the candidate registration public, providing the names of the registered candidate or formulas and of those that did not meet the requirements.

Article 240.

1. The General Council will in a timely manner request the publication of the names of the candidates and the parties or coalitions which nominate them in the Official Gazette of the Federation.

2. The cancellation of registrations and substitutions of candidates will be published and disseminated in the same way.

Article 241.

1. For the substitution of candidates, the political parties and coalitions will request it in writing to the General Council, observing the following provisions:

- a) The candidates can be freely substituted during the period established for the registration of candidates, observing the rules and the gender parity principle established in paragraph 3 of article 232 of this Law;
- b) When the period referred to in the previous paragraph has expired, the candidates can only be substituted due to decease, disqualification, incapacity or resignation. In the last case, they cannot be substituted when the resignation is presented during the last thirty days before the election. For the correction or substitution, as applies, of the electoral ballots, this will be done according to the provisions of article 267 of this Law, and
- c) In the cases in which the resignation of the candidate is notified by the candidate to the General Council, it will inform the political party which registered the candidate for it to proceed with the substitution, where applicable.

CHAPTER IV On the Electoral Campaigns

Article 242.

1. The electoral campaign, for the purposes of this Title, is the group of activities carried out by the national political parties, the coalitions and the registered candidates to obtain votes.

2. Campaign activities are understood as the public meetings, assemblies, marches and in general all those activities in which the candidates or the spokespersons of the political parties address the electorate to promote their candidacies.

3. Electoral propaganda is understood as the group of documents, publications, images, recordings, projections and expressions that the political parties, the registered candidates and their sympathizers produce and spread during the electoral campaign with the purpose of presenting the registered candidates to the citizens.

4. Both the electoral propaganda and the campaign activities referred to in the present article should promote the exhibition, development and discussion before the electorate of the programs and actions established by the political parties in their basic documents and, particularly, on the electoral platform that they have registered for the election in question.

5. For the effects of the provisions of the eighth paragraph of article 134 of the Constitution, the annual work or governance report of the public servants, as well as the messages that the media disseminates to make them known, will not be considered as propaganda, as long as the dissemination is limited to once a year in the stations and channels with regional coverage corresponding to the geographical scope of responsibility of the public servant and do not exceed seven days before and five days after the date on which the report is submitted. The dissemination of these reports cannot under any circumstances have electoral purposes, nor can it be made during the electoral campaign period.

Article 243.

1. The expenses incurred by the political parties, the coalitions and their candidates in the electoral propaganda and the campaign activities cannot exceed the ceilings established by the General Council for each election.

2. For the purposes of this article, the following concepts will be included in the expenditure ceilings:

- a) Propaganda expenses:
 - I. Includes the ones incurred for fences, banners, leaflets, placards, sound systems, political events held in rented places, utilitarian propaganda and other similar;
- b) Operative expenses of the campaign:
 - I. Includes the wages and salaries of the temporary personnel, the occasional rental of movable assets and real estate, transportation expenses of material and personnel, travel allowances and other similar.
- c) Propaganda expenses in newspapers, magazines and other printed media:
 - I. Includes those made in any of these media, such as paid insertions, advertisements and similar, intended to obtain votes. In any case, both the contracting party and candidate and the printed media should clearly specify that it is paid propaganda or insertion.
- d) Production expenses of the messages for radio and television:
 - I. Includes those made for the payment of professional services; use of technical equipment, locations or recording and production studios, as well as the others related to the same objective.

3. The expenses incurred by the parties for their ordinary operation and for the maintenance of their management bodies and their organizations are not included in the campaign expenditure ceiling.

4. The General Council, in the establishment of the campaign expenditure ceiling, will apply the following rules:

- a) For the election of the President of the United Mexican States, no later than the last day of October of the year prior to that of the election, it will proceed in the following terms:
 - I. The maximum campaign expenditure ceiling will be equivalent to twenty percent of the public campaign financing established for all the parties in the year of the presidential election, and
- b) For the election of representatives and senators, no later than the last day of December of the year of the election,¹¹ it will proceed in the following terms:
 - I. The maximum campaign expenditure ceiling for the election of representatives by the principle of plurality will be the amount which results after dividing the campaign expenditure ceiling established for the presidential election by three hundred. For the year in which only the House of Representatives is renewed, the amount referred to in this faction will be updated with the index of the increase in the daily minimum wage in the Federal District, and
 - II. For each formula in the election of senators by the principle of plurality, the maximum campaign expenditure ceiling will be the amount which results from multiplying the sum of the campaign expenditure ceiling for the election of representatives by the number of districts that the corresponding entity has. The number of districts considered will under no circumstances be higher than twenty.

Article 244.

1. The public meetings held by the political parties and the registered candidates will be governed by the provisions of article 9 of the Constitution and will not have any other limit than the respect for the rights of third parties, particularly those of the other parties and candidates, as well as the regulations issued by the competent administrative authority for the exercise of the right to assembly and the preservation of the public order.

2. In those cases where the authorities allow the political parties or candidates to use enclosed public premises free of charge, it will be as follows:

- a) The federal, state and municipal authorities should ensure fair treatment in the use of the public premises to all political parties that participate in the election, and

¹¹ Translator's note: This deadline should be the last day of December of the year prior to the election. However, this translation maintains the typographical error of the original Spanish version of this law.

- b) The political parties should request the use of the premises with enough anticipation, stating the nature of the event, the estimated number citizens that will participate, the hours needed for the preparation and carrying out of the event, the requirements regarding light and sound, and the name of the citizen authorized by the political party or the candidate in question who is responsible for the good use of the premise and its installations.

3. The President of the General Council could request from the competent authorities the safety personnel for the candidates who need it, as well as for the candidates for the Presidency of the United Mexican States, from the moment in which, according to the internal mechanisms of their party, hold such role. The President Councilor will be informed of the measures adopted by the competent authority.

Article 245.

1. The political parties or candidates that decide to organize marches or meetings that imply a temporary interruption of the roads during the electoral campaign should inform the competent authority of their itinerary, so that it can provide the necessary to modify the vehicular circulation and guarantee the free course of the march or meeting.

Article 246.

1. The printed propaganda that the candidates use during the electoral campaign should, in all cases, include a clear identification of the political party or coalition that registered the candidate.

2. The propaganda that the political parties, coalitions and candidates disseminate by graphic means during a campaign will have no other limits than, in the terms of article 7 of the Constitution, the respect for the private life of the candidates, authorities, third parties and institutions and the democratic values.

Article 247.

1. The propaganda and messages that the political parties disseminate during the electoral pre-campaigns and campaigns will be adjusted to the provisions of the first paragraph of article 6 of the Constitution.

2. In the electoral or political propaganda made by the political parties, coalitions and candidates, they should refrain from expressions that slander persons. The General Council has the right to order the immediate suspension of the messages in radio or television that contradict this regulation, as well as

the removal of any other propaganda, once the procedures established in this Law have been complied with.

3. The political parties, the pre-candidates and candidates can exercise the right to response established in the first paragraph of article 6 of the Constitution regarding the information presented by the media, when they consider that these have distorted facts or situations regarding their activities. This right will be exercised without prejudice to the ones corresponding to the responsibilities or to the moral harm caused in terms of the law that governs matters of printing and of the applicable civil and criminal regulations.

4. The right referred to in the previous paragraph will be exercised in the form and terms established by the law on the matter.

Article 248.

1. The advertising that the political parties, the coalitions and the candidates display in public thoroughfares through recordings and, in general, in any other way, will be subjected to the provisions of the previous article as well as to the legal and administrative regulations issued for the protection of the environment and the prevention of the noise pollution.

Article 249.

1. In the offices, buildings and premises used by the administration and the public powers, it is forbidden to put up or distribute electoral propaganda of any kind, except when it concerns the premises referred to in paragraph 2 of article 244 of this Law and exclusively for the duration of the corresponding campaign event.

Article 250.

1. In the placing of electoral propaganda, the political parties and candidates should obey the following rules:

- a) It cannot be hung up on elements of the urban equipment, nor obstruct in any way the visibility of the signs that allow persons to move around and navigate in the population centers. The competent electoral authorities will order the removal of the electoral propaganda contrary to this rule;
- b) It can be hung up or placed in privately owned buildings, provided the written permission of the owner;
- c) It can be hung up or placed on the frames or screens for common use established by the local and district executive boards of the Institute, following agreement with the corresponding authorities;

- d) It cannot be placed or painted on elements of urban, highway or railway equipment, nor in geographic places independently of their legal regime, and
- e) It cannot be hung up, placed or painted on monuments or on public buildings.

2. The frames and screens of common use will be distributed by drawing lots in a fair way according to what corresponds to the registered political parties, according to the procedure established in session of the respective council held in December of the year prior to the election year.

3. The local and district councils, within their field of competence, will enforce these regulations and will adopt the measures necessary to ensure that the parties and candidates can fully exercise their rights and to guarantee the fulfillment of their obligations on the matter.

4. The complaints regarding the printed propaganda of the political parties and candidates will be presented to the secretary of the District Board that corresponds to the territorial area where the fact motivating the complaint occurs. The mentioned secretary will request the verification of the facts, prepare the file and submit the draft resolution to the district board for its approval. The appeal for review determined by the corresponding local council can be employed against the decision of the district council.

Article 251.

1. The electoral campaigns for President of the United Mexican States, senators and representatives, in the corresponding year, will last for ninety days.

2. The electoral campaigns for representatives, in years in which only the respective Chamber is renewed, will last for sixty days.

3. The electoral campaigns of the political parties will begin the day after the candidate registration session for the respective election, and they should conclude three days before the Election Day.

4. On the Election Day and during the three previous days, both the holding and the dissemination of campaign, propaganda or electoral proselytism meetings or public actions will not be allowed.

5. The individual who requests or orders the publication of any survey or opinion poll about electoral matters made since the begin of the electoral process until the official closure of the polling stations on the Election Day should deliver copy of the complete study to the Executive Secretary of the Institute, if the survey or opinion poll is distributed by any means. In any case, the distribution of the results of any survey or opinion poll will be subject to the provisions of the following paragraph.

6. During the three days prior to the election and until the official closure of the polling stations which are in the most western time zone of the national territory, it is prohibited to publish or distribute the results of surveys or opinion polls with the purpose to inform about the electoral preferences of the citizens by any means. Those who do so will be subject to the sentence applicable to those who incur any of the types set out and sanctioned in the General Law on Electoral Crimes.

7. The natural or legal persons that want to carry out sample surveys to inform about the electoral preferences of the citizens or the voting tendencies will adopt the general guidelines of scientific character issued by the General Council for this purpose, after consulting with the professionals in the field or their organizations.

Article 252.

1. Any violation of the provisions of this Chapter will be penalized in the terms of this Law.

CHAPTER V

On the Procedures for the Integration and Location of the Directive Boards of the Polling Stations

Article 253.

1. In federal elections or in the local elections coinciding with the federal election, the integration, location and appointment of members of the directive boards of the polling stations to be set up for the reception of votes, will be done based on the provisions of this Law. In the event that the local elections coincide with the Federal, one single polling station should be set up in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and the agreements issued by the General Council of the Institute.

2. In the terms of this Law, the sections in which the single-member districts are divided will include a maximum of 3,000 voters.

3. In every electoral section, for each 750 voters or fraction one polling station will be set up to receive the votes of the citizens residing of the same; if there are two or more they will be located adjacent to each other and the nominal list of voters will be divided in alphabetic order.

4. When the population increase of the sections demands it, the following will be done:

- a) In the event that the number of the citizens registered in the nominal list of voters corresponding to a section exceeds 3,000 voters, the number

of polling stations resulting from dividing alphabetically the number of citizens registered in the list by 750 will be set up in the same place or location, and

- b) If a location that allows the set-up in the same place of the required number of polling stations does not exist, these will be located in adjacent places, taking into consideration the concentration and distribution of the voters in the section.

5. When the infrastructure or sociocultural geographic conditions of a section makes it difficult for the voters residing there to access one single place, the set-up of several extraordinary polling stations can be agreed in places that are easily accessible to the voters. Therefore, if technically possible, the nominal list should be prepared only including the names of the citizens who live in the geographic zone where these polling stations are set up.

6. The special polling stations referred to in article 258 of this Law will be set up in the sections agreed upon by the corresponding district board.

7. In each polling station, the set-up of screens where the voters can decide their vote will be guaranteed. The design and location of these screens in the polling stations will be made to fully guarantee the secret of the vote. On the outside of the screens and for any type of election, the caption “The vote is free and secret” should be included with visibility.

Article 254.

1. The procedure to integrate the directive boards of the polling stations will be as follows:

- a) The General Council, in December of the year prior to the election, will raffle a month of the calendar that, together with the one after, will be used as the base of the random drawing of the citizens who will integrate the directive boards of the polling stations. This procedure will be carried out with the cutoff of the nominal list until December 15 of the year prior to the election;
- b) In accordance with the result obtained in the raffle referred to in the previous paragraph, between February 1 and 7 of the election year the executive district boards will proceed to randomly draw, from the nominal lists of voters integrated by the citizens that obtained their voter card before December 15 of the year prior to the election, 13% of the citizens of each electoral section, provided that the number of randomly drawn citizens cannot under any circumstances be lower than fifty. For this purpose, the boards could be supported by the computing centers of the Institute. In the latter case, the members of the local

- council and the local monitoring commission of the Federal Register of Voters of the entity in question could be present in the random drawing procedure, according to the previously established program;
- c) The selected citizens will be called to participate in a training course which will be given from February 9 to March 31 of the election year;
 - d) The boards will make an impartial and objective evaluation to select, under equal opportunities, based on the information given by the citizens during the training courses, the ones who are suitable in the terms of this Law, preferring those with higher education, and will inform the members of the district councils about this entire procedure, in writing and in a plenary session;
 - e) The General Council, in February of the election year, will raffle the 26 letters included in the alphabet, in order to obtain the letter from which, based on the paternal surname, the citizens who will integrate the directive boards of the will be selected;
 - f) In accordance to the results obtained from the raffle mentioned in the previous subparagraph, the district boards will between February 9 and April 4 make a list of the citizens that, having participated in the corresponding training, do not have any impediment from carrying out the role, in the terms of this Law. From this list, the district councils will randomly draw the citizens who will integrate the directive boards of the polling stations no later than April 6;
 - g) No later than April 8 the district boards will integrate the directive boards with the selected citizens, in accordance with the procedure described in the previous subparagraph, and will establish the functions to be carried out by each one of them in the polling station according to their education. Once the integration of the directive boards of the polling stations is made, the district boards will, no later than April 10 of the election year, request the publication of the lists of their members for all the electoral sections in each district, which will be communicated to the respective district councils, and
 - h) The district councils will personally notify the members of the directive boards of the polling stations of their appointment and will require them to swear in, as required by the Law.
- 2.** The representatives of the political parties in the district councils could oversee the development of the procedure established in this article.
- 3.** In the event of substitutions, the district boards should inform the representatives of the political parties of the same in a detailed and timely manner. The procedure to carry out said substitutions should follow the established for this effect in the regulations issued by the Institute.

Article 255.

1. The polling stations should be located in places that meet the following requirements:

- a) Easy and free access for the voters;
- b) That ensure the set-up of screens or modular elements which guarantee the secrecy in the casting of the vote;
- c) To not be houses inhabited by federal, state or municipal trusted public servants;
- d) To not be houses inhabited or owned by leaders of political parties or candidates registered in the election in question;
- e) To not be industrial establishments, churches or places of worship, or political party premises, and
- f) To not be premises used for bars, places of vice or similar.

2. For the location of the polling stations the premises used by schools and public offices will be preferred, provided that they meet the requirements set out in subparagraphs a) and b) of the previous paragraph.

3. For the location of the directive boards of the polling stations, the district councils should ensure that there are no offices of political party bodies, political associations or campaign houses of the candidates in a perimeter of fifty meters from the suggested location.

Article 256.

1. The procedure to establish the location of the polling stations will be the following:

- a) Between January 15 and February 15 of the election year, the executive district boards will visit the sections of the corresponding districts with the purpose of locating places which meet the requirements set out and which do not infringe the prohibitions established by the previous article;
- b) Between February 16 and 26, the executive district boards will present to the corresponding district councils a list suggesting the places in which the polling stations should be located;
- c) Once the lists are received, the councils will review that the suggested places meet the requirements established in the previous article and, where applicable, make the necessary changes;
- d) The district councils, in a session held no later than the second week of April, will approve the list which contains the location of the polling stations;
- e) The president of the district council will request the publication of the

list of the approved polling station locations, no later than April 15 of the election year, and

- f) Where applicable, the president of the district council will request a second publication of the list, with the corresponding adjustments, between May 15 and 25 of the year election.

Article 257.

1. The publications of the lists of the members of the directive boards of the polling stations and the location of the polling stations will be placed in the most visited buildings and public places of the district and published on the electronic media determined by the Institute.

2. The secretary of the district council will provide a printed copy and another on magnetic storage media of the list to each of the representatives of the political parties, confirming the delivery.

Article 258.

1. The district councils, on the proposal of the executive district boards, will determine the installation of special polling stations for the reception of the vote of the voters who are temporary outside of the section corresponding to their address.

2. For the integration of the directive boards of the polling stations and the location of the special polling stations, the rules established in the present Chapter will be applied.

3. Up to ten special polling stations could be installed in each electoral district. The number and location will be determined by the district council in attention to the number of municipalities included in the territorial area, to the population density, and the geographic and demographic characteristics. The integration of the directive boards of the special polling stations will preferably be made with citizens that live in the electoral section where they are installed. In the event that there it does not have sufficient citizens, they can be appointed from other electoral sections.

CHAPTER VI

On the Registration of Representatives

Article 259.

1. The political parties, once their candidates, formulas and lists are registered and up to thirteen days before the Election Day, will have the right to appoint two ordinary representatives and one substitute before each directive boards of polling stations, and general representative holders, considering the following:

- a) In the federal election each political party or Independent Candidate, depending on the case, can accredit one ordinary representative and one substitute, and
- b) In local elections each political party, coalition or Independent Candidate, depending on the case, can accredit one ordinary representative and one substitute.

2. In each of the single-member electoral districts, the political parties can accredit a general representative for every ten electoral polling stations located in urban areas and one for every five rural polling stations.

3. The representatives of the political parties and of Independent Candidates before the directive boards of the polling stations and their general representatives could sign their appointments until before they are accredited in the polling station. Also, they should carry a badge of up to 2.5 by 2.5 centimeters, with the emblem of the political party to which they belong or that they represent and with the visible caption of “representative”, in a visible place during the entire Election Day

4. The representatives of the political parties and of Independent Candidates will receive a legible copy of the minutes referred on article 261, paragraph 1, subparagraph b), of this Law. In the event that there is no representative in the directive boards of the polling stations, the copies will be given to the general representative who requests it.

5. The delivery of the legible copies referred to in the previous paragraph will be made in the order of seniority of the registration of the political parties.

Article 260.

1. The conduct of the general representatives of the parties and of Independent Candidates will be subject to the following rules:

- a) They will exclusively carry out their duties before the directive boards of the polling stations installed in the electoral districts where they were accredited;
- b) They should act individually, and more than one general representative of a same political party cannot under any circumstances be present at the same time in the polling stations;
- c) They can act in representation of the political party or, where applicable, of the independent candidate that accredited them for all the elections held on the date of the Election Day;
- d) They cannot substitute the representatives of the political parties and of the Independent Candidates before the directive boards of the polling stations in their functions, nevertheless, they can assist in their

- functions and in the exercise of their rights before the directive boards of the polling stations;
- e) They cannot under any circumstances exercise or take on the functions of the members of the directive boards of the polling stations;
 - f) They will not hinder the normal course of the voting in the polling stations where they present themselves;
 - g) They can at any time present incident statements provoked during the course of the Election Day, but they can only present written objections at the end of the scrutiny and count when the representative of their political party before the directive board of the polling station was not present, and
 - h) They could confirm the presence of the representatives of the political party in the directive boards of the polling stations and receive from them the reports relating to their performances.

Article 261.

1. The representatives of the political parties and of Independent Candidates duly accredited before the directive boards of the polling stations will have the following rights:

- a) To participate in the set-up of the polling station and contribute to the good development of their activities until its closure. They will have the right to observe and monitor the course of the election;
- b) To receive a legible copy of the installation minutes, the voting closure minutes and the final scrutiny minutes made in the polling station;
- c) To present statements related to incidents that occurred during the voting;
- d) To present written objections at the end of the scrutiny and count;
- e) To accompany the president of the directive board of the polling station to the corresponding district council to deliver the electoral documents and file, and
- f) The other rights established by this Law.

2. The representatives will monitor the fulfillment of the provisions of this Law and should sign all the minutes taken, which could be done under protest mentioning the reason.

Article 262.

1. The registration of the appointments of the representatives before the directive boards of the polling stations and of the general representatives will be made before the corresponding district council, and will be subject to the following rules:

- a) Since the day after the publication of the polling station lists and until thirteen days before the Election Day, the political parties and the Independent Candidates should register their general and polling station representatives in their own documents and before the corresponding district council. The documents in question should meet the requirements established by the General Council;
- b) The district councils will return the original document of the respective appointments to the political parties, duly sealed and signed by the president and the secretary of the district council, and will keep a copy, and
- c) The political parties and the Independent Candidates could substitute their representatives until ten days before the Election Day, returning with the new appointment the original document of the previous appointment.

Article 263.

1. The return referred to in subparagraph b) of the previous article will be subject to the following rules:

- a) It will be made by a report signed by the leader or representative of the political party which made the appointment;
- b) The official document should be accompanied by a list, in numerical order of polling stations, of the names of the representatives, ordinary and substitutes, including the code of the voter card of each of them;
- c) The registration requests which lack one or some of the information of the representative before the directive board of the polling station will be returned to the political party or Independent Candidate making the request, so that they remedy the omissions within the three following days, and
- d) If the period referred to in the previous paragraph expires without remedying the omissions, the appointment will not be registered.

Article 264.

1. The appointments of the representatives before the directive boards of the polling stations should include the following information:

- a) Name of the political party or full name of the Independent Candidate;
- b) Name of the representative;
- c) Indication of whether it is an ordinary or substitute representative;
- d) Number of the electoral district, section and polling station where they will act;

- e) Code of the voter card;
- f) Place and date of expedition, and
- g) Signature of the representative or the leader that makes the appointment.

2. In order to guarantee to the representatives before the directive boards of the polling stations the exercise of the rights given to them by this Law, the text of the corresponding articles will be printed on the back of the appointment.

3. In the event that the president of the district council does not grant the request within 48 hours or refuses the registration, the interested political party or Independent Candidate could request to the president of the corresponding local council to register the representatives in a supplementary manner.

4. In order to guarantee the representatives of political parties or of Independent Candidates their due accreditation before the directive boards of the polling stations, the president of the district council will deliver to the president of each directive board a list of the representatives who have the right to act in the respective polling station.

Article 265.

1. The appointments of the general representatives should contain the same information as the appointments of the representatives before the directive boards of the polling stations, with the exception of the polling station number.

2. From these appointments, a list will be prepared which should be delivered to the presidents of the directive boards of the polling stations.

3. In order to guarantee to the general representatives the exercise of the rights given to them by this Law, the text of the corresponding articles will be printed on the back of the appointment.

CHAPTER VII

On the Electoral Documents and Materials

Article 266.

1. The General Council, taking into account the measures of certainty that it considers appropriate, will approve the electoral ballot model to be used in the election for the issue of the vote.

2. The electoral ballots for the election of the President of the United Mexican States, senators and representatives will contain:

- a) The entity, district, number of the multimember district, municipality or borough;
- b) The position for which the candidate or candidates is nominated;
- c) The emblem in the color of each one of the national political parties

- that participate with their own candidates, or in a coalition, in the corresponding election;
- d) The ballots will be attached to a numbered booklet, from where they will be detachable. The information that this booklet contains will relate to the corresponding state, electoral district and election. The folio numbers will be progressive;
 - e) The paternal surname, maternal surname and complete name of the candidate or candidates;
 - f) In the case of representatives by plurality and proportional representation, one single space for each political party for the formula of candidates and the regional list;
 - g) In the case of the election of senators by plurality and proportional representation, one single space for the list of the two formulas of ordinary senators and substitutes nominated by each political party and the national list;
 - h) In the case of the election of the President of the United Mexican States, only one space for each party and candidate;
 - i) The printed signatures of the President of the General Council and of the Executive Secretary of the Institute;
 - j) Space for unregistered candidates or formulas, and
 - k) Space for Independent Candidates.

3. The ballots for the election of representatives will have the regional lists of the candidates, ordinary and substitutes, nominated by the political parties printed on it.

4. The ballots for the election of senators will have the national list of the candidates, ordinary and substitutes, nominated by the political parties printed on it.

5. The emblems in the colors of the political parties will appear in the ballot in the order corresponding to them according to the date of their registration. In case the registration of two or more political parties were given on the same date, the emblems of the political parties will appear in the ballot in the descending order corresponding to them according to the percentage of voted obtained in the last election of federal representatives.

6. In the event that there are coalitions, the emblems of the coalition parties and the names of the candidates will appear in the same size and in a space of the same dimensions as the ones given in the ballots to the parties which participate individually. Joint emblems of the coalition parties cannot under any circumstances appear in a same box, nor can they use different emblems for the coalition.

Article 267.

1. The ballots will not be modified in the event of the cancellation of registration or substitution of one or more candidates, if these have already been printed. In any case, the votes will count for the political parties and the candidates that were legally registered before the corresponding General, local or district councils.

Article 268.

1. The District Council must be in possession of the ballots fifteen days before the election.

2. For their control, the following measures will be taken:

- a) The district boards of the Institute should in due time appoint the location of the electoral storehouse for the protection of the electoral documents of the elections;
- b) The authorized personnel of the Institute will deliver the ballots on the pre-determined day, hour and place to the president of the district council, who will be accompanied by the other members of the council;
- c) The secretary of the district council will take the detailed minutes of the delivery and reception of the ballots, including the number of ballots, the characteristics of the packaging in which they are contained, and the names and positions from the public servants that are present;
- d) Subsequently, the members of the district council that are present will accompany the president to deliver the received documents in the previously assigned place on its premises, ensuring their safety by labels that are sealed and signed by the attendants. These details will be included in the respective minutes;
- e) The same day or at the latest the next day, the president of the district council, the secretary and the Electoral Councilors will proceed to count the ballots to specify the received number, recording the page number, stamp them on the back and group them together according to the number of voters that corresponds to each of the polling stations to be installed, including those of the special polling stations according to the number of these established by the General Council. The secretary will register the information of this distribution, and
- f) These operations will be done in the presence of the representatives of the political parties who decide to attend.

3. The representatives of the parties under their responsibility could, if they wish to, sign the ballots, taking minutes in which they list the number of ballots given to them to be signed, the number of ballots signed and, where applicable,

the number of ballots missing after the signature procedure is made. In this last case, the competent authority will be informed immediately.

4. The lack of the signature of the representatives in the ballots will not prevent their timely distribution.

Article 269.

1. The presidents of the district councils will deliver to each president of the directive boards of polling stations, during the five days prior to the election and in exchange for the corresponding detailed receipt:

- a) The nominal list of voters with photography of each section, as it corresponds, in the terms of articles 147 and 153 of this Law;
- b) The list of the representatives of the parties and of Independent Candidates registered for the polling station in the electoral district council;
- c) The list of the general representatives accredited by each political party in the district where the corresponding polling station is located;
- d) The ballots for each election, in the same number as the voters included in the nominal list of voters with photography for each polling station of the section;
- e) The ballot boxes to receive the votes, one for each election in question;
- f) The indelible ink;
- g) The documents, approved forms, desk materials and other necessary elements;
- h) The manuals indicating the powers and responsibilities of the polling station officials, and
- i) The screens or modular elements that guarantee that the voters can cast their vote in secret.

2. The documents and materials referred to in the previous paragraph will be delivered to the presidents of the directive boards of the special polling stations, with the exception of the nominal list of voters with photography. Instead of it, they will receive the computerized means necessary to verify that the voters that turn out to vote are registered in the nominal list of voters that corresponds to the address recorded on their voter cards. The number of ballots received should not exceed 1,500.

3. The selected indelible ink should completely guarantee its effectiveness. The containers that contain it should have the elements to identify the product.

4. The delivery and reception of the material referred to in the previous paragraphs 1 and 2 will be made with the participation of the members of the district councils who choose to attend.

Article 270.

1. The ballot boxes in which voters deposit the ballots after casting their votes should be constructed in a transparent material, and should be foldable or assemblable.

2. The ballot boxes will have the name of the election in question printed or attached in the same color of the corresponding ballot on the outside and in visible place.

Article 271.

1. The president and the secretary of each polling station will care for the material conditions of the local in which the polling station will be installed in order to facilitate the vote, guarantee the freedom and secrecy of the vote, and ensure the order of the election. In the local of the polling station and on its outside there must not be any party propaganda; if there is any, its removal will be ordered.

Article 272.

1. The district councils will disseminate the list of the places in which the polling stations will be installed and a manual for the voters.

THIRD TITLE **On the Election Day**

CHAPTER I

On the Set-Up and Opening of the Polling Stations

Article 273.

1. During the day of the election the minutes of the Election Day will be taken, which will contain the information common to all elections and the scrutiny and count certificates of each of the elections.

2. The first Sunday in June of the year of the ordinary election, at 7:30 a.m., the president, secretary and scrutineers of the directive boards of the polling stations appointed as ordinary members will present themselves to start the preparations for the set-up of the polling station in the presence of the attending representatives of the political parties and Independent Candidates.

3. At the request of a political party, the ballots may be signed or sealed by the randomly chosen representatives of a party or candidate before the polling station, who may do so by parts in order to not hinder the development of the vote. Under the assumption that the randomly chosen representative

refuses to sign or seal the ballot, the representative who originally submitted the request will have this right. The lack of initial or stamp on the ballot shall not be reason to nullify the votes received. Immediately after, the recording of the Election Day minutes will begin by filling in and signing the section related to the set-up of the polling station.

4. The minutes of the Election Day will include the following sections:

- a) That of the installation, and
- b) That of the closure of voting.

5. In the section corresponding to the installation, it will be declared:

- a) The place, date and time in which the act of set-up starts;
- b) The full name and original signature of the persons who act as polling station officials;
- c) The number of ballots received for each election in the corresponding polling station, including the folio numbers in the minute;
- d) The ballot boxes were set up or opened in the presence of attending officials and representatives to verify that they were empty and that they were placed on a table or appropriate place in view of the voters and the representatives of political parties and of Independent Candidates;
- e) A list of the incidents raised, if any, and
- f) Where applicable, the cause for changing the location of the polling station.

6. Votes may not, under any circumstances, be received before 8:00 a.m.

7. The members of the directive boards of the polling station cannot leave until it is closed.

Article 274.

1. If the polling station is not installed by 8:15 a.m. in accordance with the previous article, the following will occur:

- a) If the president is present, he will appoint the officials necessary for its integration, going over, in the first place and where applicable, the order to cover the posts of the absent members with the ordinary members present and enabling the substitutes present for the remaining offices, and, in the absence of appointed members, from among the voters who are in the polling station;
- b) If the president is not present but the secretary is, this person will assume the functions of president of the polling station and proceed to integrate it into the terms outlined in the previous subparagraph;
- c) If neither the president nor the secretary is present, but one of the scrutineers are, this person will assume the functions of president and

will proceed to integrate the polling station in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph a);

- d) If only the substitutes attend, one of them will assume the functions of president, the others will assume the functions of secretary and first scrutineer, and the former will proceed to install the polling station appointing the officials necessary from among the voters present, after verifying that they are registered in the nominal list of voters in the corresponding section and that they have voter cards;
- e) If none of the polling station officials are present, the district council will take the necessary measures for the set-up of the same and will appoint the staff responsible for executing and ensuring its set-up;
- f) When, the timely intervention of appointed Institute staff is not possible due to distance or difficulty of communications, at 10:00 a.m., the representatives of political parties and Independent Candidates before the directive boards of the polling station will appoint, by majority, the officials needed to integrate the polling stations from among the voters present, after verifying that they are registered in the nominal list of voters in the corresponding section and that they have voter cards, and
- g) In any case, once the directive board of the polling station is integrated according to the previous assumptions, it will begin its activities, will validly receive the vote and will function until its closure.

2. In the case referred to in subparagraph f) of the previous paragraph, the following will be required:

- a) The presence of a judge or a public notary, who is required to appear and testify to the facts, and
- b) In the absence of the judge or public notary, it will be enough that the representatives express their agreement to appoint, by mutual agreement, the members of the directive board.

3. The appointments made in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article should fall upon voters who are in the polling station to cast their votes; the appointments cannot under any case fall upon the representatives of the political parties or representatives of the Independent Candidates.

Article 275.

1. The public servants and representatives who acted in the polling station must, without exception, sign the minutes.

Article 276.

1. It is considered just cause for the installation of a polling station in a place different from the one established when:

- a) When the premise indicated in the respective publications does not exist;
- b) The premise is closed or closed down and the set-up cannot be performed;
- c) It is noticed, at the time of the set-up of the polling station, that this is to be done in a place prohibited by the law.
- d) The local conditions do not allow ensuring the freedom or secrecy of the vote or the easy and free access of the voters or do not ensure the normal implementation of electoral operations. In this case, it will be necessary that public servants and representatives present reach the decision through common agreement, and
- e) The district council decides so due to force majeure or fortuitous event and notifies the president of the polling station of this decision.

2. For the cases mentioned in the previous paragraph, the polling station must be installed in the same section and in the closest appropriate place, leaving notice of the new location on the outside of original place which did not meet the requirements.

CHAPTER II On the Voting

Article 277.

1. Once the Election Day minutes corresponding to the installation are completed and signed, the president of the directive board will announce the start of the voting.

2. Once the voting has begun it may not be suspended except due to force majeure. In this case, it corresponds to the president to immediately inform the district council through the communication means at his disposal in order to acquaint it of the cause of the suspension, the time when it happened and a list of the voters who had exercised their right to vote at the time, all of which will be entered in the minutes.

3. The notice of reference must be certified by two witnesses, which preferably will be the members of the directive board or the representatives.

4. After receiving the above communication, the district council will decide whether to resume the vote, for which it will take the measures it deems necessary.

Article 278.

1. The voters will vote in the order in which they present themselves to the directive board of the polling station, and must show their voter cards or, where

applicable, the ruling of the Electoral Tribunal that gives them the right to vote without appearing in the nominal list or without having their voter cards or both.

2. The presidents of the polling stations will allow those citizens whose voter cards contain sectioning errors¹² to cast their vote, provided that they appear in the nominal list of voters with photography corresponding to their addresses.

3. In the case referred to in the previous paragraph, the presidents of the polling station, in addition to identifying the voters in the terms of this Law, will verify their residence in the corresponding section by the means that he deems the most effective.

4. The president of the polling station will collect the voter cards that show proof of alteration or that do not belong to the citizen, putting those who submit them at the disposal of the authorities.

5. The secretary of the directive board will record the incident in the respective minutes, explicitly mentioning the name of the allegedly responsible citizen or citizens.

Article 279.

1. Once it is verified that the voter appears in the nominal lists and that he has shown his voter card, the president of the directive board of the polling station will give him the ballot of the elections so that he can freely and in secret mark on the ballot the only square corresponding to the political party he votes for, or write down the name of the unregistered candidate he wishes to vote for.

2. Those voters who cannot read or who are physically unable to mark their ballots to vote may be assisted by a person they trust that accompanies them.

3. Next, the voter will fold the ballot and proceed to deposit it in the corresponding ballot box.

4. The secretary of the polling station, assisted at all times by one of the scrutineers, should mark the word “voted” in the corresponding nominal list with the stamp that has been delivered for that reason and will proceed:

- a) To mark the voter cards of the voters that have exercised their right to vote;
- b) To cover the right thumb of the voter with indelible ink, and
- c) To return the voter card to the voter.

5. The representatives of the political parties and of Independent Candidates before the directive boards can exercise their right to vote in the polling station

¹² Translator's note: Sectioning errors refer to when the wrong polling station number has been included in the voter card by mistake.

in which are accredited, for which the procedure set out in this and the previous article will be used, noting down the name and the code of the voter card of the representatives at the end of the nominal list of voters.

Article 280.

1. It corresponds to the president of the directive board, in the place where the polling station has been installed, the exercise of the authority to preserve the order, ensure the free access of the voters, guarantee at all times the secrecy of the vote and maintain the strict observance of this Law.

2. The members of the directive boards must remain in the polling stations throughout the voting, but cannot under any circumstances interfere in the freedom and secrecy of the vote of the voters.

3. The following have the right to access the polling stations:

- a) The voters that have been admitted by the president of the directive board in the terms of article 279 of this Law;
- b) The representatives of the political parties and of Independent Candidates duly accredited in the terms of this Law;
- c) The public notaries and judges there to attest to any act related to the integration of the directive boards, the set-up of the polling station and, in general, to the development of the vote provided that they have identified themselves before the president of the directive board and specified the nature of the proceedings to be carried out, given that they cannot under any circumstances oppose the secrecy of the vote, and
- d) The public servants of the Institute sent by the General Council or the respective district committee, or called by the president of the directive board.

4. The general representatives will remain in the polling stations for the time necessary to comply with the duties given to them by article 260 of this Law; they cannot interfere in the free development of the voting or seek to assume the functions of the members of the directive board. The president of the directive board could order them to fulfill their obligations and, where applicable, could order them to leave when the representatives do not fulfill their obligations, coerce the voters or in any way affect the normal course of the voting.

5. Persons who are deprived of their mental faculties, intoxicated, under the influence of intoxicants, cloaked or armed will not under any circumstances be allowed to access the polling stations.

6. Members of public security corporations or forces, leaders of political

parties, candidates or popular representatives will neither have access to the polling stations, unless it is to exercise their right to vote.

Article 281.

1. The president of the directive board may, at any time, request the assistance of the public security forces in order to maintain the order in the polling station and the normality of the vote, ordering the removal of any person who unduly interferes or alters the order.

2. In these cases, the secretary of the polling station will certify the causes of the breach of the order and the measures agreed upon by the president of the directive board, in a special act that should be signed by the polling station officials and the representatives of the parties accredited to the same. If any official or representative refuses to sign, the secretary will attest to the refusal.

Article 282.

1. The representatives of the political parties and of Independent Candidates may submit to the secretary of the directive boards statements of any incident which in their opinion constitutes an infringement to the provisions of this Law.

2. The secretary will receive such reports and will incorporate them into the electoral file of the polling station without the possibility to mediate any discussion about their admission.

Article 283.

1. No authority may stop the members of the directive boards of polling stations or the representatives of the parties and Independent Candidates during the Election Day, except in the case of *in flagrante delicto*.

Article 284.

1. In the special polling stations to receive the votes of the voters temporarily outside of their section, the rules established in the previous articles and the following will apply, as appropriate:

- a) The voters, in addition to show their voter cards at the request of the president of the directive board, must show their right thumb to show that they have not voted in another polling station, and
- b) The secretary of the directive board will proceed to enter in the minutes of voters in transit the information of the voter cards of the voters.

2. Once the information referred to in the previous subparagraph has been entered, the following will be observed:

- a) If the voters are outside of their section, but within their district, they

may vote for representatives by the principles of plurality and of proportional representation, for senators by the principles of plurality and of proportional representation and for President of the United Mexican States. The president of the directive board will give them the single ballot for the election of representatives, noting down the caption “proportional representation” or the abbreviation “R.P.”¹³ and the ballots for the election of senators and of president;

- b) If the voters are outside of their districts, but within their state, they may vote for representatives by the principle of proportional representation, for senators by the principles of plurality and proportional representation and for President of the United Mexican States. The president of the directive board will give them the single ballot for the election of representatives, noting down the caption “proportional representation” or the abbreviation “R.P.” and the ballots for the senators and presidents election;
- c) If the voters are outside of their state, but within their constituency, they may vote for representatives by the principle of proportional representation, for senators by the principle of proportional representation and for President of the United Mexican States. The president of the directive board will give them the single ballots for the election of representatives and senators, noting down the caption “proportional representation” or the abbreviation “R.P.”, as well as the ballot for the election of president, and
- d) If the voters are outside their district, their state and their constituency, but within the national territory, they may only vote for senators by the principle of proportional representation and for President of the United Mexican States. The president of the polling station will give them the single ballot for the election of senators, noting down the caption “proportional representation” or the abbreviation “R.P.”, as well as the ballot for the election of president.

3. Once the requirements to verify the identity of the voter have been fulfilled and the information has been entered in the corresponding minutes, the president of the polling station will give them the ballots they are entitled to.

4. After the name of the citizen the secretary will enter the election or elections they voted in.

¹³ Translator’s note: The abbreviation R.P. comes from the initials in Spanish (*Representación Proporcional*).

Article 285.

1. The voting will close at 6:00 p.m.
2. It may only be closed before the time set out in the previous paragraph when the president and the secretary certify that all voters included in the corresponding nominal list have voted.
3. Only the polling stations in which voters are still waiting in line to vote will remain open after 6:00 p.m. In this case, the voting will close once those who were in line at 6:00 p.m. have voted.

Article 286.

1. The president will declare the voting closed when the cases mentioned in the previous article have been fulfilled.
2. Then, the secretary will complete the section corresponding to the closing of voting of the Election Day minutes, which must be signed by the officials and representatives.
3. In any case, the section corresponding to the closing of voting will contain:
 - a) The closing time of the voting, and
 - b) The reason for which it was closed before or after 6:00 p.m.

CHAPER III**On the Scrutiny and Count in the Polling Stations****Article 287.**

1. Once the voting is closed and the corresponding section of the Election Day minutes is completed and signed, the members of the directive board will proceed to the scrutiny and count of the votes cast in the polling station.

Article 288.

1. The scrutiny and count is the procedure by which the members of each of the directive boards of polling stations will determine:
 - a) The number of voters who voted in the polling station;
 - b) The number of votes cast in favor of each of the political parties or candidates;
 - c) The number of invalid votes, and
 - d) The number of leftover ballots from each election.
2. The following are invalid votes:
 - a) Those expressed by a voter in a ballot that is deposited in the ballot box, without having marked any square containing the emblem of a political party or of an independent candidate, and

- b) When the voter has marked two or more squares without there being a coalition between the parties whose emblems have been marked.

3. When the voter marked two or more squares on the ballot and there is a coalition between the parties whose emblems have been marked, the vote will count for the candidate of the coalition and will be recorded separately in the corresponding space of the scrutiny and count certificate of the polling station.

4. Leftover ballots are understood as those that were delivered to the directive board of the polling station and that were not used by voters.

Article 289.

1. The scrutiny and count will be carried out in the following order:

- a) Of the President of the United Mexican States;
- b) Of senators;
- c) Of representatives, and
- d) Of referendums.

2. In the case that a single polling station was set up for concurrent elections, the local count will be made simultaneously as the counts referred to in the previous paragraph in the following order:

- a) Of Governor or Chief of Government;
- b) Of local representatives or representatives to the Legislative Assembly, and
- c) Of city councils or of heads of the political administrative bodies of the Federal District.

Article 290.

1. The scrutiny and count of each federal election, and in the case of a single polling station in every federal and local election, will be made in accordance with the following rules:

- a) The secretary of the directive board of the polling station will count the leftover ballots and render them useless through two diagonal stripes in ink, will store them in a special envelope which will remain closed, and will note down on the outside of the same the number of ballots contained therein;
- b) The first scrutineer will count twice the number of citizens who appear to have voted according to the nominal list of voters in the section, adding, where applicable, the number of voters who voted by a ruling of the Electoral Tribunal without appearing in the nominal list;
- c) The president of the directive board will open the ballot box, will take out the ballots and will show to the attendees that the ballot box is empty;

- d) The second scrutineer will count the ballots taken out from the ballot box;
 - e) The two scrutineers, under the supervision of the president, will classify the ballots to determine:
 - I. The number of votes cast in favor of each of the political parties or candidates, and
 - II. The number of invalid votes, and
 - f) The secretary will record the results of each of the operations set out in the previous sections on sheets arranged for this purpose, which, once verified by the other members of the directive board, he will include in the respective scrutiny and count certificate of each election.
2. In the case of coalition parties, if more than one of their respective emblems are crossed, the vote will be assigned to the candidate of the coalition, which must be entered in the respective section of the corresponding scrutiny and count certificate.

Article 291.

1. To determine the validity or invalidity of the votes, the following rules will be observed:

- a) A valid vote is counted by the mark made by the voter in a single square that contains the emblem of a political party, according to the provisions of paragraph 2 of the immediately previous article;
- b) Any vote cast differently than as mentioned will be counted as invalid, and
- c) The votes cast in favor of unregistered candidates will be recorded separately in the minutes.

Article 292.

1. If there are ballots of an election in the ballot box corresponding to another, these will be separated and counted in the respective election.

Article 293.

1. A scrutiny and count certificate will be drawn up for each election. Each of the certificates will at least contain:

- a) The number of votes cast in favor of each political party or candidate;
- b) The total number of leftover ballots that were rendered useless;
- c) The number of invalid votes;
- d) The number of party representatives who voted in the polling station without being on the nominal list of voters;

- e) A list of the incidents raised, if any, and
- f) The list of written objections presented by representatives of the political parties and of Independent Candidates at the end of the count and scrutiny.

2. In all cases the previous information will be recorded in the ways approved by the General Council.

3. The leftover ballots that were rendered useless will not under any circumstances be added to the invalid votes.

4. The officials of the directive boards of the polling station, with the assistance of the representatives of the political parties and of Independent Candidates, will verify the accuracy of the information recorded in the scrutiny and count certificates.

Article 294.

1. Once the scrutiny and count of all votes have been concluded, the corresponding certificates of each election will be drawn up, which must without exception be signed by all the public servants and representatives who acted in the polling station.

2. The representatives of the political parties and of Independent Candidates before the polling stations will have the right to sign the minutes under protest, stating the reasons for the same. If they refuse to sign, this fact must be entered in the minutes.

Article 295.

1. At the end of the scrutiny and count of each of the elections, a polling station file will be prepared with the following documents:

- a) A copy of the Election Day minutes;
- b) A copy of the final scrutiny and count certificate, and
- c) The written objections that were received.

2. The leftover ballots rendered useless and those containing the valid votes and the invalid votes for each election will also be sent, in separate envelopes.

3. The nominal list of voters will be sent in a separate envelope.

4. To ensure the inviolability of the previous documents, with the file of each of the elections and the envelopes, a package will be prepared and its packaging will be signed by the members of the directive board of the polling station and the representatives who wish to do so.

5. The name polling station file corresponds to that prepared with the minutes and the written objections referred to in paragraph 1 of this article.

Article 296.

1. Of the certificates of the polling stations made in the way or ways approved by the General Council for this purpose, a legible copy will be delivered to the representatives of the political parties and of Independent Candidates, collecting the corresponding acknowledgment of receipt. The first copy of each of the scrutiny and count certificates will be sent to the program of preliminary electoral results.

2. On the outside of the package referred to in paragraph 4 of the previous article, an envelope containing a copy of the certificates that contain the results of the scrutiny and count of each of the elections will be attached, for its delivery to the president of the corresponding district council.

Article 297.

1. Once the actions referred to in the previous article have been fulfilled, the presidents of the directive boards of the polling stations will place the announcements of the results of each of the elections in a visible place outside of the polling stations, which will be signed by the president and the representatives who wish to do so.

CHAPTER IV**On the Closing of the Polling Station and on the Delivery of the File****Article 298.**

1. Once the operations established in the previous articles have been concluded by the officials of the directive boards of the polling stations, the secretary will record the closing time of the polling station and the name of officials and representatives who will make the delivery of the package containing the files. The record will be signed by the polling station officials and the representatives of the parties and of Independent Candidates that wish to do so.

Article 299.

1. Once the polling stations are closed, the presidents of the same, under their responsibility, will deliver the packages and the files of the polling stations to the corresponding district council within the following periods, counted from the time of closure:

- a) Immediately in case of polling stations located in the capital of the district;

b) Within 12 hours in the case of urban polling stations located outside of the district capital, and

c) Within 24 hours in the case of rural polling stations.

2. The district councils, prior to Election Day, may determine the extension of the previous periods for those polling stations that justify it.

3. The district councils will, prior to Election Day, adopt the measures necessary to ensure that the packages with the files of the elections will be delivered within the established time limits and that they can be received in a simultaneously way.

4. The district councils may agree to establish a mechanism for the collection of the documentation of the polling stations when necessary in the terms of this Law. The above shall be done under the supervision of the political parties that wish do so.

5. It will be considered that there is just cause for the packages with the files of the polling stations to be delivered to the district council after the established time limits when there is a fortuitous event or force majeure.

6. The district council will record in the minutes of receipt of the packages referred to in article 304 of this Law, the causes that are invoked for the delay in the delivery of the packages.

CHAPTER V Complementary Provisions

Article 300.

1. To ensure the order and guarantee the development of the Election Day, the public security forces of the Federation, of the states and of the municipalities or, where applicable, the armed forces, should provide the assistance that is required by the bodies of the Institute, the Local Public Bodies and the presidents of the directive bodies of the polling stations, in the field of their respective competencies, according to the provisions of this Law.

2. The day of the election and the previous day, the competent authorities, according to the legislation that exist in every state, may establish measures to limit the hours of service of the establishments that serve intoxicating drinks.

3. The day of the election only the uniformed members of the public forces in charge of the order can carry weapons.

Article 301.

1. The federal, state and municipal authorities, at the request of the competent electoral bodies, will provide the following:

- a) The information in their possession, related to the Election Day;
- b) The certifications of the facts that they record or of the documents that exist in the archives under their care, related to the electoral process;
- c) The necessary support for conducting the procedures they are requested to conduct for electoral purposes, and
- d) The information of the events that can influence or alter the outcome of the elections.

2. The district courts, and the state and local courts, will remain open during the Election Day. The same obligation applies to the agencies of the Public Ministry and the offices acting in their place.

Article 302.

1. The acting public notaries will keep their offices open on the day of the election and must respond to requests made to them by electoral authorities, the polling station officials, the citizens and the representatives of political parties and of Independent Candidates, to attest to facts or certify documents concerning the election.

2. For these purposes, the colleges of notaries in the states will publish, five days before the day of the election, the names of their members and the address of their offices.

Article 303.

1. The district councils, monitored by the representatives of the political parties, will in January of the year of the election appoint a sufficient number of electoral supervisors and training assistants from among the citizens who have responded to the public call issued for this purpose and who meet the requirements referred to in paragraph 3 of this article.

2. The electoral supervisors and training assistants will help the district boards and councils in the tasks of:

- a) The examination, notification and training the citizens to integrate the directive boards of polling stations;
- b) The identification of the premises for the location of the directive boards of polling stations;
- c) The reception and distribution of the electoral documents and materials in the days before the election;
- d) The verification of the set-up and closing of the directive boards of polling stations;
- e) The information about the incidents during the Election Day;
- f) The transfer of the electoral packages, assisting the officials of the directive boards of polling stations in the;

- g) The fulfillment of the district count, above all in the case of total or partial recounts, and
- h) The tasks expressly given to them by the district council, particularly the stated in paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 299 of this Law.

3. The electoral supervisors and training assistants should meet the following requirements:

- a) To be Mexican citizens in full possession and exercise of their civil and political rights, and have a voter card;
- b) To have a good reputation and never have been sentenced for any crime, except if it was unintentional;
- c) To be accredited at least medium basic level education;¹⁴
- d) To have the knowledge, experience and skills necessary to carry out the functions of the office;
- e) To live in the single-member electoral district in which they should provide their services;
- f) To not to be more than 60 years old on Election Day;
- g) To not be member of any political party, nor to have actively participated in any electoral campaign;
- h) To not have participated as representative of a political party or coalition in any election held in the last three years, and
- i) To file a request in accordance with the call issued, accompanied by the documents established in the call.

FOURTH TITLE

On the Acts Subsequent to the Election and the Electoral Results

CHAPTER I

On the Preliminary Provision

Article 304.

1. The reception, deposit and safeguard of the packages containing the files of the polling stations by the district councils will be made according to the following procedure:

- a) They will be received in the order they are delivered by the persons entitled to do so;
- b) The president or authorized public servant of the district council will issue the receipt mentioning the time when they were delivered;

¹⁴ Translator's note: The requirement of medium basic level education implies having completed six years of primary education and three years of secondary education.

- c) The president of the district council will deposit them, in the numerical order of the polling stations, placing the ones from the special polling stations separately, in a place within the premises of the council which meets the conditions of security from the time of the reception until the day in which the district count is carried out, and
 - d) The president of the district council, under his responsibility, will safeguard them and will for this purpose arrange to seal the doors providing access to the place where they were deposited in the presence of the representatives of the parties.
2. Of the receipt of the packages containing the files of the polling stations, detailed minutes will be taken in which it is recorded those that were received without fulfilling the requirements set out in this Law.

CHAPTER II

On the Preliminary Information about the Results

Article 305.

1. The Program of Preliminary Electoral Results is a mechanism of electoral information established in the law in charge of providing the preliminary and not final results, of a strictly informative character through the capture, digitalization and publication of the information included in the scrutiny and count certificates of the polling stations received in the centers of the gathering and transmission of data authorized by the Institute.
2. Its objective will be to inform the General Council, the political parties, coalitions, candidates, media and the citizens in a timely manner, guaranteeing the security, transparency, reliability, credibility and integrity of the results and the information in all stages.
3. The timely, verified and public information of the preliminary results is a function of national character that the Institute will have under its responsibility regarding its regulation, design, operation and publicity governed by the principles of legality, certainty, objectivity, independence and maximum publicity.
4. The Program of Preliminary Electoral Results will be a unique program and its operational rules will be issued by the Institute with an obligatory nature for its bodies and those of the Local Public Bodies.

Article 306.

1. The Institute will, no later than in the month of April of the year of the election, with the assistance of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Program of Preliminary Electoral Results, define the guidelines that the local

and district councils will subject themselves to for the drills and the execution of the program in the federal elections.

Article 307.

1. As the electoral packages are delivered to the district council, the results found in the minutes approved for this effect and placed on the top of the electoral package should be registered in the order that the electoral packages are delivered, until the expiry of the legal time limit, according to the following rules:

- a) The district council will authorize the personnel needed for the continuous and simultaneous receipt of the electoral packages. The political parties may accredit their substitute representatives for them to be present during the reception;
- b) The appointed electoral officials will receive the scrutiny and count certificates and will immediately read aloud of the outcome of the votes that appear in them, proceeding to make the corresponding addition in order to immediately inform the Executive Secretariat of the Institute;
- c) The secretary, or the public servant authorized for this, will record these results in the corresponding place and in the determined way, according to the numerical order of the polling stations, and
- d) The representatives of political parties accredited before the General Council will have the appropriate forms to record in them the results of the vote in the polling stations.

Article 308.

1. To ensure the best knowledge of citizens, after the end the time limit referred to in article 299 of this Law, the president must place on the outside of the premises of the district council the preliminary results of the elections in the district.

CHAPTER III

**On the District Counts and on the Declaration of Validity
of the Election of Representatives by Plurality**

Article 309.

1. The district count of an election is the addition of the results recorded in the scrutiny and count certificates of the polling stations in an electoral district performed by the district council.

2. The General Council of the Institute will decide for each electoral process

the personnel that can assist the district councilors in the re-count of votes in the cases established in this Law.

Article 310.

1. The district councils will hold a session from 8:00 a.m. on the Wednesday following the day of the Election Day, to make the count of each of the elections, in the following order:

- a) That of the vote for President of the United Mexican States;
- b) That of the vote for the representatives, and
- c) That of the vote for the senators.

2. Each of the counts referred to in the previous paragraph will be made successively and continuously until their conclusion.

3. The district councils, in a session prior to the Election Day, may agree that the members of the National Professional Electoral Service belonging to the system of the Institute can be substituted or alternated between themselves in the session or that they can be substituted by other members of the system of those that support the respective district board and, also, that the Electoral Councilors and representatives of political party accredit their substitutes to participate in them in their absences, so that they can permanently hold sessions.

4. The District Councils should have the human, material, technical and financial elements necessary for the realization of the counts in permanently way.

Article 311.

1. The district count of the votes for representatives will be subject to the following procedure:

- a) The packages containing the files of the election that do not show proof of alteration will be opened following the numerical order of the polling stations; the result of the scrutiny and count certificate included in the file of the polling station will be compared with the certificate received by the president of the district council. If the results of the two certificates match, they will be entered in the forms established for this purpose;
- b) If the results of the certificates do not coincide, or evidence of alterations are found in the certificates that generate reasonable doubt regarding the outcome of the election in the polling station, or the scrutiny and count certificate is not included in the file of the polling station or is not in the possession of the president of the council, the scrutiny and the count of the polling station will be carried out again, issuing the

corresponding certificate. To carry out the above, the secretary of the council will open the package in question and, after verifying its content, will count aloud the ballots not used, the invalid votes and the valid votes, noting down the quantity resulting in the space of the corresponding certificate. At the moment of counting the invalid and valid voters, the representatives of the political parties that wish to and an electoral councilor will verify that the validity or invalidity of the votes cast have been correctly determined, in accordance with the provisions of article 291 of this Law. The results will be recorded in the form established for this purpose, leaving it recorded in the corresponding detailed minutes; likewise, it will be recorded in the minutes the objections expressed by any of the representatives before the council, without prejudice to their rights to challenge before the Electoral Tribunal the count in question. The realization of the counts cannot be interrupted or hindered under any circumstances;

- c) In this case, the votes cast in favor of two or more coalition parties and that for this reason have been entered separately in the corresponding section of the scrutiny and count certificate of the polling station will be added up. The district sum of such votes will be evenly distributed among the parties that integrate the coalition; in the case of fractions, the corresponding votes will be allocated to parties with the highest vote;
- d) The District Council should carry out the scrutiny and count again when:
 - I. There are evident errors or inconsistencies in the various elements of the certificates, except when they can be rectified or clarified with other elements to the full satisfaction of those who requested it;
 - II. The number of invalid votes is greater than the difference between the candidates in first and second place in the vote, and
 - III. All the votes have been deposited in favor of the same party.
- e) Next, the packages that show proof of alteration will be opened and the operations mentioned in the previous subparagraphs will be carried out, as applies to the case, recording the results in the respective detailed minutes;
- f) The sum of the results, after carrying out the operations set out in the previous subparagraphs, will make up the district count of the election of representatives by majority that will be registered in the corresponding certificate;
- g) Next, the packages that contain the files of the special polling

stations will be opened, in order to extract the file from the election of representatives and they will proceed according to the established in subparagraphs a) to e) of this paragraph;

- h) During the opening of electoral packages according to the provisions of the previous subparagraphs, the president or the secretary of district council will extract: the written objections, if any; the corresponding nominal list; the list of citizens who voted and do not appear on the nominal list, as well as the incident statements and the other documents determined by the General Council in agreement prior to the Election Day. The district council will be informed of the documentation thus obtained, in the order of the numbering of the polling stations. The folders with this documentation will remain under the safeguard of the president of the council to meet the requirements that may be submitted by the Electoral Tribunal or other bodies of the Institute;
- i) The district count of the election of representatives by the principle of proportional representation will be the result of adding the obtained numbers according to the two previous subparagraphs, and it will be recorded in the certificate corresponding to the election by proportional representation;
- j) The district council will verify the compliance with the formal requirements of the election and, also, that candidates of the formula that have won the majority of votes fulfill the eligibility requirements established in article 10 of this Law, and
- k) The results of the counts, the incidents that occurred during the same, the declaration of the validity of the elections and of the eligibility of the candidates of the formula that obtained the majority of the votes will be registered in the minutes of the session.

2. When there is an indication that the difference between the presumed winning candidate in the election in the district and the one that has obtained the second place in voting is equal to or less than one percentage point, and at the start of the session there is an expressed request by the representative of the party that nominated the second of the previously mentioned candidates, the district council should perform a recount of votes in all of the polling stations. To this end, the presentation before the Council of the summation of the result by party included in the copies of all scrutiny and count certificates of the polling stations of the district will be considered sufficient indication.

3. If, at the end of the count, it is established that the difference between the presumed winning candidate and the one in second place is equal to or less than one percentage point, and there is a specific request as referred to in the

previous paragraph, the district council must proceed to carry out the recount of the votes from all polling stations. In any case, the polling stations that have already been subject to a recount will be excluded from the previous procedure.

4. According to the provisions of the two previous paragraphs, to carry out the total recount of votes regarding a given election, the district council will make the necessary arrangements for it to be carried out without impeding the scrutiny and count of the other elections and for it to conclude before the Sunday following the Election Day. For this purpose, the president of the district council will immediately notify the Executive Secretary of the Institute; will request the creation of working groups composed of the electoral councilors, the representatives of parties and the members, who will preside the groups. The groups will carry out their task simultaneously dividing proportionally between them the packages that each one will be responsible for. The political parties will have the right to appoint a representative in each group, with their respective substitute.

5. If during the recount of votes, votes of a different election are found in the package, these will be counted for the corresponding election.

6. The executive member presiding over each group will take the minutes, which includes the result of the recount of each polling station and the final result produced from the addition of the votes for each party and candidate.

7. The president of the council will, in a plenary meeting, add up the results recorded in the minutes of each working group and will include the result in the final scrutiny and count certificate of the election in question.

8. The mistakes included in the original scrutiny and count certificates of the polling stations that are corrected by the district councils following the procedure established in this article cannot be invoked as a cause for annulment before the Electoral Tribunal.

9. The Electoral Tribunal cannot under any circumstances be requested to carry out a recount of votes regarding the polling stations that have been subject to this procedure in the district councils.

Article 312.

1. Once the count is completed and the declaration of the validity for the election of representatives has been issued, the president of district council will issue the majority and validity certificate to those who were successful, except in the case that members of the formula are ineligible.

Article 313.

1. The district count of the votes for senator will be subject to the following procedure:

- a) The operations set out in subparagraphs a) to e) and h) of paragraph 1 of article 311 of this Law will be carried out;
- b) Next, the files of the special polling stations relating to the election of senators will be extracted and the operations referred to in the previous subparagraph will be carried out;
- c) The district count of the election of senator by the principle of plurality will be the result of adding the numbers obtained according to the two previous subparagraphs, and it will be recorded in the certificate corresponding to this election;
- d) The provisions of paragraphs 2 to 9 of article 311 of this Law are applicable to the district count of the election of senators by the principle of plurality;
- e) The district count of the election of senators by the principle of proportional representation will be the result of adding the numbers obtained according to subparagraphs a) and b), and it will be recorded in the certificate corresponding to the election by proportional representation, and
- f) The minutes of the session will include the results of the counts and the incidents that occurred during the same.

Article 314.

1. The district count of the vote for President of the United Mexican States will be subject to the following procedure:

- a) The operations set out in subparagraphs a) to e) and h) of paragraph 1 of article 311 of this Law will be carried out;
- b) Next, the files of the special polling stations relating to the election of the president will be extracted and the operations referred to in the previous subparagraph will be carried out;
- c) The results obtained according to the two previous subparagraphs will be added up;
- d) The district count of the election of President of the United Mexican States will be the result of adding to the numbers obtained according to the previous subparagraph, those included in the district count certificate of the votes cast abroad, as referred to in articles 351 and 352 of this Law. The result obtained this way will be recorded in the certificate corresponding to this election;
- e) The provisions of paragraphs 2 to 9 of article 311 of this Law are applicable to the district count of the election of President of the United Mexican States, and

- f) The minutes of the session will include the results of the count and the incidents that occurred during the same.

Article 315.

1. The presidents of the district councils will, at the end of the district count session, display the results of each of the elections on the outside of their premises.

Article 316.

1. The president of the district council should:

- a) Integrate the file on the district count of the election of representatives by plurality with the minutes of the polling stations, the original district count certificate, the minutes of the count session and the report of the president on the development of the electoral process;
- b) Integrate the file on the district count of the election of representatives by the principle of proportional representation with a certified copy of the minutes of the polling stations, the original district count certificate on proportional representation, a certified copy of the minutes of the count session and a copy of the report of the president on the development of the electoral process;
- c) Integrate the file on the district count of the election of senators by the principle of plurality with the corresponding minutes of the polling stations, the original district count certificate, a certified copy of the minutes of the count session and a copy of the report of the president on the development of the electoral process;
- d) Integrate the file on the district count of the election of senators by the principle of proportional representation with a certified copy of the minutes of the polling stations, the original district count certificate, a certified copy of the minutes of the count session and a copy of the report of the president on the development of the electoral process, and
- e) Integrate the file on the district count of the election of President of the United Mexican States with the corresponding minutes of the polling stations, the original district count certificate, a certified copy of the minutes of the count session and a copy of the report of the president on the development of the electoral process.

Article 317.

1. The president of the district councils, once the files have been integrated, will proceed to:

- a) When a corresponding appeal has been lodged, send it to the competent Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal, together with the written objections and the respective report, as well as a certified copy of the file of the district count and, where applicable, the declaration of validity of the election of representatives by plurality;
- b) Once the deadline for lodging the respective appeal has expired, send to the Electoral Tribunal the file of the district count containing the original records and any other documentation of the election of President of the United Mexican States. A certified copy of the documentation contained in the file on the district count will be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Institute. When the corresponding appeal is lodged, a copy of it will be sent;
- c) Once the deadline for lodging appeals has expired, send to the General Secretariat of the House of Representatives, a certified copy of the majority and validity certificate of the formula of candidates for representatives by plurality that obtained it; as well as a report of the lodged appeals. A certified copy of the documentation contained in the file of the district count will be sent to the Executive Secretary of the Institute. When an appeal is lodged, a copy of it will be sent to these authorities;
- d) Send to the local council of the state, the file of the district count that contains the original minutes and documentation of the election of senator by both principles. A certified copy of the minutes and documentation contained in the file will be sent to the Executive Secretary of Institute, and
- e) Send to the corresponding local council located in the district capital, the file of the district count that contains the original minutes, certified copies, and other documents on the election of representatives by the principle of proportional representation. A certified copy of the minutes and documentation contained in this file will be sent to the Executive Secretary of Institute.

Article 318.

1. The presidents of the district councils will keep in their possession a certified copy of all the minutes and documentation of each of the files of the district counts.

2. Also, the presidents will take the measures necessary for the deposit of the envelopes containing the documentation in the place set out for this purpose referred to in article 295 of this Law until the conclusion of the electoral

process. Once the electoral process has been concluded, the envelopes should be destroyed.

CHAPTER IV

On the State Counts of the Election of Senators by Both Principles and on the Declaration of Validity of the Election of Senators by the Principle of Plurality

Article 319.

1. The local councils will hold a session on the Sunday following the Election Day, to carry out the state count corresponding to the election of senators by the principle of plurality and the declaration of validity of the same election.

2. In addition, they will carry out the state count corresponding to the election of senators by the principle of proportional representation, including the results in the corresponding certificate.

Article 320.

1. The state count is the procedure by which each of the local councils determines, through the addition of the results recorded in the district count certificates on the election of senators by the principle of plurality, the vote obtained in this election in the state. This calculation is subject to the following rules:

- a) The results listed in each of the district count certificates will be added up;
- b) The sum of these results will constitute the state count for the election of senators;
- c) If as a result of the addition of the certificates of the district councils, it is established that there is a difference equal to or less than one percentage point between the winning formula and that in second place, the president of the local council will immediately inform the Executive Secretary of the Institute of this, who in turn will inform the General Council;
- d) In the notice, the local council will inform the Executive Secretary that it will proceed to carry out a random vote recount of the electoral packages of up to ten percent of the polling station, as determined by the application of the statistical method, exclusively for the ballots for the election of senators in the terms of the provisions of the agreement of the General Council;
- e) The President of the Local Council will immediately inform the Presidents

of the district councils so that they can proceed to carry out the recount of the packages of the polling stations in accordance with the results of the random method approved by the General Council, after ordering a recess for the recount to be carried out;

- f) The district councils, in the terms of the provisions of this Law, will proceed to carry out the recount ordered by the President of the Local Council;
- g) After finalizing the recount, the presidents of the district councils will immediately inform the President of the Local Council of the results, through electronic or even telegraphic means, without prejudice to the provisions in the following subparagraph;
- h) The district councils will, where applicable, proceed to carry out the rectification of the district count certificates on the election of senators and send them to the respective Local Council;
- i) The president of the corresponding local council will inform the General Council through the Executive Secretary of the development of the recount and of the results;
- j) The local council will verify the compliance with the formal requirements of the election and, also that candidates of the formulas for senators who have been successful by the principle of plurality and of the formula registered in the first place by the party which on its own has succeeded in obtaining the second place in the vote, comply with the eligibility requirements set out in article 10 of this Law;
- k) The results of the count, the incidents that occurred during the same and the declaration of validity of the election and of the eligibility of the candidates of the formulas for senators that won and the formula registered in the first place by the party that by itself obtained the second place in the vote will be recorded in the minutes of the session, and
- l) The electoral package or packages that were subjected to a vote recount in district councils regarding the election of senators cannot be part of the random recount referred to in this article, and the results should be included in the corresponding certificate.

2. The state count for the election of senators by the principle of proportional representation is determined by the sum of the results recorded in the district count certificates of this election, subjecting itself, where applicable, to the rules set out in subparagraphs a), b) and d) of the previous paragraph.

Article 321.

1. The president of the local council should:

- a) Issue, after concluding the session of the state count and of the declaration of validity of the election of senators by plurality, the majority and validity certificates of the winning formula of senators, and the seat allocation certificate to the formula registered in the first place by the party that succeeded in obtaining the second place in the voting of the state. In the event that the members of any of the winning formulas are ineligible, the certificate in question will not be issued, without prejudice to issuing it to the other formula registered in the list by the party that obtained the majority of the vote. If the members of the formula registered in first place by the party that on its own received second place in the voting are ineligible, the certificate is issued to the formula registered in second place in the respective list;
- b) Place the results of the state count in this election by both principles on the outside of the premises of the council;
- c) Send to the General Secretariat of Parliamentary Services of the Senate a certified copy of the certificates issued to the formulas for senators that won by plurality; the allocation issued to the formula registered in the first place by the party which succeed in obtaining the second place in the vote of the state; as well as a report on the lodged complaints;
- d) When a corresponding appeal has been lodged, send it to the Electoral Tribunal together with the written objections and the respective report, as well as a certified copy of the files regarding which the results were challenged and the state count certificates, in the terms established in the law on the matter, and
- e) Once the deadline for lodging the respective appeal has expired, send a certified copy of the state count certificates by both principles, a copy of the lodged complaints, copy of the minutes of the session and the report of the president on the development of the electoral process to the Executive Secretary of the Institute.

CHAPTER V

On the Counts of Proportional Representation in each District

Article 322.

1. The count of the multimember constituencies is the sum added up by each of the local councils located in the capital designated as constituency capital of the results recorded in the respective district count certificates, in order to determine the vote obtained in the election of representatives by the principle of proportional representation in the constituency in question.

Article 323.

1. The local council located in the constituency capital of each multimember constituency will, on the Sunday following the Election Day and once the counts referred to in article 319 of this Law have been carried out, proceed to carry out the count of the vote for the regional lists of representatives elected by the principle of proportional representation.

Article 324.

1. The multimember constituency count will be subject to the following procedure:

- a) The results included in the district count certificates of the constituency will be noted down;
- b) The sum of these results will constitute the count of the total votes cast in the multimember constituency, and
- c) The results of the count and the incidents that occurred will be recorded in the minutes of the session.

Article 325.

1. The president of the local council located in the constituency capital of the multimember constituency should:

- a) Publish the results obtained in the constituency counts outside of the offices;
- b) Integrate the file on the constituency count with the files of the district counts that contain the original and certified certificates, the original constituency minutes, the minutes of the session of this count and the report of the president on the development of the electoral process, and
- c) Send to the Executive Secretary of Institute a certified copy of the constituency count certificate and the minutes of the session of the same, for them to be presented to the General Council together with the certified copies regarding the district counts.

Article 326.

1. On the Sunday following the Election Day, the Executive Secretary of the General Council, based on the certified copy of the district count certificates of the election of the President of the United Mexican States, will inform the General Council, in a public session, of the sum of the results entered in those minutes, by party and candidate. The above without prejudice to the constitutional and legal powers of the Electoral Tribunal.

CHAPTER VI
On the Proportional Seat Allocation Certificates

Article 327.

1. In the terms of articles 54 and 56 of the Constitution, the General Council will proceed to the allocation of representatives and senators elected by the principle of proportional representation in accordance with articles 15 to 21 of this Law.

2. The General Council will make the allocation referred in the previous paragraph, once the challenges that have been lodged have been settled by the Electoral Tribunal in the terms set out in the law on the matter and no later than July 23 of the year of the election.

Article 328.

1. The President of the General Council will issue to each political party the proportional seat allocation certificates, of which he will inform the General Secretariat of the House of Representatives and the General Secretariat of Parliamentary Services of the Senate, respectively.

SIXTH BOOK
On the Vote of the Mexicans Residing Abroad

ONLY CHAPTER

Article 329.

1. The citizens residing abroad may exercise their right to vote in the election of the President of the United Mexican States and senators, as well as of the Governors of the states and of the Chief of Government of the Federal District, whenever this is established in the Constitutions of the States or the Government Statute of the Federal District.

2. The exercise of the vote of the Mexicans residing abroad can be carried out by mail, through personal deposit of the ballot in the modules set up in the embassies or consulates or, where applicable, electronically, in accordance with this Law and in the terms set out by the Institute.

3. The electronic vote can only be carried out in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Institute in the terms of this Law, and this voting method should ensure the total certainty and proven safety of the Mexicans residing abroad, for the effective exercise of their right to vote in the popular elections.

Article 330.

1. For the exercise of the vote, citizens residing abroad, in addition to those established in article 34 of the Constitution and those outlined in paragraph 1 of article 9 of this Law, should comply with the following requirements:

- a) To request from the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters their registration in the registry of voters and the nominal list of citizens residing abroad, complying with the requirements and through the means approved by the General Council;
- b) To express, under their strict responsibility and under oath, the address abroad where the ballot or ballots or, where applicable, the electronic means determined by the Institute in which they can receive information regarding the electoral process should arrive, and
- c) The other requirements set out in this Book.

Article 331.

1. The Mexican citizens who meet the stated requirements will send the request referred to in subparagraph a) of paragraph 1 of the previous article between September 1 and December 15 of the year prior to the election in question.

2. The request will be sent to the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters by mail, electronically or personally in the modules installed for this purpose in the embassies or consulates and within the timeframe established by the Institute.

3. The request will be sent to the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters, by registered mail, accompanied by the following documents:

- a) Legible photocopy of the front and back of the voter card; the voter should sign the photocopy or, where applicable, put their fingerprint, and
- b) Document proving the address abroad.

4. For the purpose of the verification of the compliance with the submission deadline set out in paragraph 1 of this article, the date of issue of the registration application that the postal service in question stamps on the envelope will be taken as evidence. In the case of an electronic request, the notification to which the corresponding documents are attached will be considered as the date of receipt.

5. Any request sent by a citizen after December 15 of the year prior to the election, or received by the Institute after January 15 of the year of the election, will not be processed. In these cases, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will send the applicant, by registered mail, a notice of non-registration due to lateness.

6. The interested citizen may consult the Institute about their registration by telephone or electronically.

Article 332.

1. The application for registration in the section of the registry of voters containing the citizens residing abroad will have legal effects of notification to the Institute of the decision of the citizen to vote abroad in the election for the President of the United Mexican States, for senators, and for the Governors of the states and for the Chief of Government of the Federal District, whenever this is established in the Constitutions of the States or the Government Statute of the Federal District. For this purpose, the respective form will contain the following caption: "I declare, under oath, that due to residing abroad:

- a) I express my decision to vote in the country in which I live and not in the Mexican territory;
- b) I ask to vote by any of the following means: i) mail, ii) through personal deposit of the ballot in the modules installed in the embassies or consulates, or iii) electronically, in the next election for President of the United Mexican States, Senator, Governor or Chief of Government, depending on the case;
- c) I authorize the Institute to verify the compliance with the legal requirements to be inscribed in the registry of voters residing abroad, and to temporarily remove me from the registry of voters residing in Mexico, and
- d) I request to have the corresponding electoral instructions, forms, documents and materials for the exercise of my right to vote abroad sent to me."

Article 333.

1. The nominal lists of voters residing abroad are the lists developed by the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters that contain the names of the persons included in the electoral registry of voters that have their voter card, who reside abroad and who apply for registration in these lists.

2. The nominal lists of voters residing abroad have a temporary nature and will exclusively be used for the purposes set out in this Book.

3. The nominal lists of voters residing abroad will not have the picture of the included citizens printed in them.

4. The General Council can order verification measures additional to the ones established in this Book in order to ensure the truthfulness of the nominal lists of voters residing abroad.

5. Where appropriate, the rules contained in the First Title of the Fourth Book of this Law will be applicable.

Article 334.

1. From September 1 to December 15 of the year prior to the presidential election, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will make the forms to request registration in the registry of voters and in the nominal list of voters residing abroad available to the interested parties in the places agreed upon by the General Executive Board, electronically and through the means decided on by the Board.

2. The Institute will, where applicable, agree with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the mechanisms for the registration in the nominal list of citizens residing abroad through the diplomatic offices, in the terms of the collaboration agreements established between both Institutions.

3. The Institute will sign the necessary agreements with the corresponding levels of the federal and local public administration, in order to promote the vote of the Mexicans that reside abroad.

4. The Mexicans residing abroad can process their voter card, having to comply with the requirements set out in article 136 of this Law.

5. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will establish the necessary mechanisms for the credentialing procedure in the embassies or in the consulates of Mexico abroad. The Institute will sign the relevant agreements with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

6. For the purposes of the provision of the previous paragraph, a period of ninety days is opened for the credentialing procedure that the Institute will decide on for each electoral process before the period of incorporation into the nominal list of voters of the Mexicans residing abroad referred to in paragraph 1 of this article begins.

Article 335.

1. The applications for registration in the federal registry of the citizens residing abroad will be attended to in the chronological order of their reception, and a record of the date of the same should be kept.

2. Once the compliance with the requirements established by the General Council has been verified, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will proceed to the registration of the applicant in the Nominal List of Voters Residing Abroad. If the applicant has a previous registration in the registry of voters, this registration will be cancelled in the corresponding section of the citizens residing in Mexico.

3. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will keep the documents sent and, where applicable, the envelope that contains them until the conclusion of the electoral process.

4. Once the electoral process has concluded, the validity of the nominal lists of voters residing abroad will cease. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will proceed to re-inscribe the citizens registered in them in the nominal list of voters in the electoral section which corresponds to them because of their address in Mexico.

5. For statistical and filing purposes, the Institute will preserve a copy, in digital format, of the nominal lists of voters residing abroad, for a period of seven years.

Article 336.

1. Once the deadline for the receipt of applications for registration has passed, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will draw up the nominal lists of voters residing abroad with the received and processed applications and the registrations included in the section of the registry of voters of citizens residing abroad.

2. The lists are drawn up in two ways:

- a) In the case of the Mexican citizens residing abroad, the list is arranged by country of residence and by state of reference, if the voter card with photography was issued or renewed from abroad, or by the electoral district that appears on their voter card with photography, if it was issued in the national territory, and
- b) According to the criterion of address in Mexico of the citizens residing abroad, by state and electoral district, arranged alphabetically. These lists will be used by the Institute for purposes of scrutiny and count of the vote.

3. In any case, the personnel of the Institute and the political parties, and the Independent Candidates, are required to protect the confidentiality of the personal data contained in the nominal lists of voters residing abroad. The General Executive Board will establish the agreements and will implement the necessary measures to that effect.

4. The General Executive Board will present to the General Council a report on the number of voters abroad, grouped by country, state or equivalent, and municipality or equivalent.

Article 337.

1. The political parties, through their representatives in the National

Monitoring Commission, have the right to verify the nominal lists of voters residing abroad, referred to in subparagraph b) of paragraph 2 of the previous article, through the electronic means of the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters.

2. The nominal lists of voters residing abroad will not be exhibited outside of the national territory.

Article 338.

1. No later than February 15 of the year of the corresponding election, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will make the nominal lists of voters residing abroad available to the political parties, safeguarding the protection of the personal data included in them.

2. The political parties may make observations to these lists, noting specific and individualized facts and cases, until February 28.

3. From the comments made by the political parties and the independent candidates, the corresponding modifications will be made and these will be reported to the General Council and to the National Monitoring Commission no later than April 15.

4. The political parties and the Independent Candidates may challenge the report referred in the previous paragraph before the Electoral Tribunal. The challenge is subject to the provisions of this Law and of the law on the matter.

5. If the report is not challenged or, where applicable, once the Electoral Tribunal has resolved the challenges, the General Council will hold a session to declare that the nominal lists of voters residing abroad are valid.

Article 339.

1. No later than December 31 of the year prior to the election, the General Council of the Institute or, where applicable, the General Council in coordination with the corresponding Local Public Body, will approve the format of the printed electoral ballot and of the electronic electoral ballot that will be used by the citizens residing abroad for the election in question, the instructions for their use, the tools and materials required for the exercise of the electronic vote, the forms for the scrutiny and count certificates and the other electoral documents and materials.

2. Once the mentioned in the previous paragraph has been approved, the General Executive Board will order the printing of the electoral postal ballots and the other electoral materials for the vote of Mexicans residing abroad.

3. With regards to the electoral ballots, the provisions of Article 266 of this Law will be applicable. The electoral ballots that will be used abroad will contain the caption "Mexican resident abroad".

4. The number of electoral ballots to be printed for the voting abroad will be equal to the number of registered voters in the corresponding nominal lists. The General Council will determine an additional number of electoral ballots. The unused additional ballots will be destroyed before the Election Day, in the presence of representatives of the political parties and the independent candidates.

5. The General Executive Board will present the mechanisms and procedures of the electronic vote to the General Council for its approval before the start of the electoral process.

Article 340.

1. The documentation and the electoral material referred to in the previous article will be available to the General Executive Board or, where applicable, to the corresponding body in the states, no later than March 15 of the year of the election.

2. The Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters will make available to the General Executive Board the envelopes with the name and address of each of the citizens that have chosen the postal voting modality, who are registered in the corresponding nominal lists, which were ordered according to the modality set out in subparagraph a) of paragraph 2 of article 336 of the Law.

3. The General Executive Board or the corresponding body in the states will carry out the necessary actions to send the electoral ballot, the documentation and the other material necessary for the exercise of the vote to each citizen by mail, with acknowledgment of receipt. The citizens that have chosen the electronic voting modality will be sent the precise instructions of the steps to follow so that they can cast their vote.

4. The dispatch of the electoral ballot, the number of identification, security mechanisms, instructions and other electoral documents should be completed no later than April 20 of the year of the election.

Article 341.

1. Once the electoral ballots by the citizens that chose to vote by mail, or personally in the modules set up in the embassies or consulates have been received, or once the identification numbers and other security mechanisms to vote electronically have been received, the citizens should exercise their right to vote freely, directly and secretly, marking the candidate of their preference.

2. Each voting modality should have instructions approved by the General Council of the Institute.

3. The Institute should ensure that the electronic vote has security elements that, at least, guarantee:

- a) That the person casting the vote is the Mexican citizen residing abroad who has the right to do so;
- b) That the Mexican citizen residing abroad cannot cast more than one vote, electronically or by the other means set out in this Law;
- c) That the vote is free and secret, and
- d) The effective casting, transmission, reception and count of the cast vote.

Article 342.

1. Once the citizens have voted, they should fold and place the electoral ballot in the envelope that they have received, closing it in a way that ensures the secrecy of the vote.

2. As soon as possible, the citizens should send the envelope containing the electoral ballot, by registered mail, to the Institute.

3. For the purposes of the previous paragraph, the envelopes for shipment to Mexico of the electoral ballot will have the voter code of the citizen sending it printed on it, as well as the address of the Institute determined by the General Executive Board.

4. The citizens can send the envelope referred to in paragraph 1 of this article through the modules installed for this purpose in the embassies or consulates of Mexico abroad. The Institute will sign the corresponding agreements with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5. For the purposes of the previous paragraph, the envelopes to be sent to Mexico with the electoral ballot should be delivered in the modules installed in the embassies or consulates of Mexico abroad no later than the Sunday prior to Election Day and will also meet the requirements set out in paragraph 3 of this article.

6. Once the citizen has delivered the envelope in the modules installed in the embassies or consulates of Mexico abroad, in accordance with the procedure established by the General Council for this effect, the measures for the control and safeguard of the envelopes will be taken so that they are sent by registered mail to the Institute.

Article 343.

1. The General Council will determine the manner by which the citizens abroad will send their vote to the Institute or, where applicable, to the Local Public Bodies.

2. The electronic voting system approved by the General Council of the Institute should comply with the following:

- a) To be auditable in each of the stages of its development and implementation;
- b) To give the voter the opportunity to corroborate how he votes before casting the vote;
- c) To avoid coercion of the vote, guaranteeing that the vote is free and secret;
- d) To guarantee that the person casting the vote is the Mexican citizen residing abroad entitled to do so;
- e) To guarantee that the Mexican citizen residing abroad cannot cast more than one vote, electronically or by the other means set out in this Law, and
- f) To have a program of electoral results in real time that is public and reliable.

3. The Institute will issue the guidelines aimed at protecting the security of the vote.

Article 344.

1. The General Executive Board or, where applicable, the Local Public Bodies will arrange the necessary regarding the postal vote:

- a) To receive and register, indicating the day, the envelopes containing the electoral ballot, classifying them according to the nominal lists of voters that will be used for purposes of the scrutiny and count;
- b) To place the word “voted” next to the name of the voter in the corresponding nominal list; the above can be done electronically, and
- c) To protect the received envelopes and safeguard the secrecy of the vote.

Article 345.

1. The votes received by the Institute until twenty-four hours before the start of the Election Day will be considered votes cast abroad, if they were sent by mail or deposited personally in the modules installed in the embassies or consulates; or until 6:00 p.m. of the Election Day, Mexico Central Time, if they are sent electronically.

2. Regarding the envelopes and electronic votes received after the mentioned deadlines, a list of their senders will be made and then, without opening the electoral ballots, they will be destroyed or eliminated in the presence of the representatives of the political parties, without revealing their contents.

3. The day of the Election Day, the Executive Secretary will give to the General Council of the Institute a report on the number of votes cast by citizens residing abroad, sorted by country of residence of the voters, type of office to be elected, the modality of vote used, as well as the envelopes received after the deadline referred in the previous paragraph. The electronic votes should be obtained from the system implemented for this purpose, and this system should be auditable.

Article 346.

1. Based on the lists of voters residing abroad, according to the criterion of the address in national territory, the General Council:

- a) Will determine the number of scrutiny and counting committees that corresponds to each single-member electoral district. The maximum number of votes per committee will be 1,500, and
- b) Will approve the method and the deadlines for selecting and training the citizens who will act as members of the scrutiny and counting committees, applying the provisions of article 254 of the Law, where applicable.

2. The scrutiny and counting committees of the vote of the voters residing abroad are made up by a president, a secretary and two scrutineers; there will be two substitutes per committee.

3. The previously mentioned committees will be located in one single office, in the Federal District, chosen by the General Executive Board.

4. The political parties and independent candidates will appoint two representatives for each committee and a general representative for every 20 committees, as well as a general representative for the district count of the votes cast abroad.

5. In the event of the absence of the ordinary members and substitutes of the committee, the General Executive Board will determine the procedure for the appointment of staff of the Institute who will substitute them.

6. The General Executive Board will adopt the necessary measures to ensure the integration and functioning of the scrutiny and counting committees.

Article 347.

1. The scrutiny and counting committees should be installed at 5:00 p.m. of the day of the Election Day. At 6:00 p.m. the scrutiny and count of the vote cast abroad will begin.

2. For the scrutiny and count of Governor and Chief of Government, the Local Public Bodies will use the electronic system set up by the Institute,

recording the results in the certificates and implementing, where applicable, the provisions of this Law:

- a) A committee will be set up, integrated by three randomly drawn citizens, as well as by the Councilors and the representatives of the political parties;
- b) Then, the citizens of each committee will request the Electoral Councilors to enter their passwords or keys that give them access to the electronic system to carry out the count of the votes;
- c) The electronic system will make the count, organizing it by the state given by the citizens residing abroad for reference;
- d) The results should be presented during a session of the General Council. Afterwards it should be printed in the certificate that contains the collected results;
- e) The certificate with the results of the vote should be signed by the members of the committee and will be delivered to the secretary of the General Council, which should occur after closing the committee, and
- f) Once the previous has been done, the results should be published in the system of partial electoral results.

3. The General Council will determine the measure it considers appropriate for the preparation of the certificates and reports regarding the vote of voters residing abroad. In all cases, the documents prepared thus must be signed.

Article 348.

1. The scrutiny and count of the votes cast abroad in the election of President of the United Mexican States will be subject to the following:

- a) The president of the committee will verify that he has the nominal list of voters residing abroad that corresponds to it, and will he add the voters whose names in that list are marked with the word “voted”;
- b) Then, the scrutineers will count the envelopes containing the electoral ballots and will verify that the result is equal to the sum of voters marked with the word “voted” mentioned in the previous subparagraph;
- c) Once the above has been verified, the president of the committee will open the envelopes and will take out the electoral ballots in order to, without further processing, deposit then in the ballot box; if, once opened, it is noticed that an envelope does not contain the electoral ballot, or contains more than one electoral ballot, the vote or votes will be considered invalid and the fact will be entered in the minutes;
- d) The envelopes containing the ballots will be deposited in a separate container for their subsequent destruction;

- e) Once the above has been done, the scrutiny and count will begin, applying the rules established in subparagraphs c) to f) of paragraph 1 of article 290 and 294 of this Law, where applicable, and
- f) To determine the validity or invalidity of the vote, the provisions of article 291 of this Law and of subparagraph c) of this paragraph will be applied.

Article 349.

1. The scrutiny and count certificate of each committee will be organized according to the corresponding electoral district.

2. The staff of the Institute previously appointed by the General Executive Board will, in the presence of the general representatives of political parties, carry out the addition of the results recorded in the scrutiny and count certificate of the respective committees in order to obtain the result of the votes cast abroad for the election of the President of the United Mexican States and senators, by state, which will be recorded in the corresponding count certificate.

3. The district count certificates will be signed by the responsible official and by the general representative of each political party appointed for this purpose.

4. The certificates of the count of the votes cast abroad mentioned in the previous paragraphs of this article will be made in the presence of the general representatives of the political parties and the independent candidates.

Article 350.

1. Once the scrutiny and count of the votes cast abroad has been fully concluded, and after the president of the General Council has made the results of the studies referred in subparagraph l) of paragraph 1 of article 45 of this Law public, the Executive Secretary will report the results, by party, of the vote cast abroad for President of the United Mexican States and senators to the General Council.

2. The Executive Secretary will submit the report containing the results, by single-member electoral district, of the votes received from abroad for the members of the General Council and will order its inclusion in the system of preliminary electoral results.

Article 351.

1. The General Executive Board will, through the appropriate media, deliver to each of the district councils a copy of the district count certificate referred to in article 349 of this Law before the Wednesday following the Election Day.

2. The political parties and the independent candidates will receive a legible copy of all the certificates.

3. The electoral ballots, the originals of the scrutiny and count certificates of the committees and of the count by single-member electoral district, as well as the detailed report prepared by the General Executive Board regarding the vote cast abroad for the election of President of the United Mexican States, will be integrated into an electoral package that will be sent, before the Sunday following the Election Day, to the High Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal, for the resulting legal purposes. For the election of senators, said information should be sent to the competent Regional Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal.

Article 352.

1. The result of the votes cast abroad will be recorded in the certificates.
2. The result of the summation specified in the preceding paragraph will be recorded in the certificate referred to in subparagraph d) of paragraph 1 of article 314 of this Law.
3. The certified copy of the district count certificate of the votes cast abroad for President of the United Mexican States in the respective electoral district will be included in the file referred to in subparagraph e) of paragraph 1 of article 316 of this Law.
4. The Local Public Bodies will carry out the activities set out in the previous paragraphs of this article for the corresponding local election.

Article 353.

1. The national and local political parties, as well as their candidates for elective office, may not carry out electoral campaign activities abroad; accordingly, the electoral activities, acts and propaganda referred to in article 242 of this Law are forbidden abroad.
2. During the electoral process, the political parties and the independent candidates cannot in any case or under any circumstances use resources from public or private financing, in any of its forms, to finance ordinary or campaign activities abroad.
3. They cannot, under any circumstances, buy or acquire airtime in radio and television, nor rent spaces for propaganda or publicity abroad.

Article 354.

1. For the implementation of the powers and duties given by this Book to the Institute, the General Executive Board will propose to the General Council, in the year prior to the presidential election, the creation of the administrative units that are required, indicating the resources necessary to cover their tasks during the electoral process.

2. The Institute will establish the guidelines that the Local Public Bodies should follow to guarantee the vote of the Mexicans residing abroad in the corresponding states.

Article 355.

1. The cost of the postal service deriving from the shipments by mail made by the Institute and the Local Public Bodies in the states to the citizens residing abroad, as well as the costs deriving from the digital, technological, operational and proportional services, will be provided for in the budget of each institution.

2. The Institute, in coordination with other public bodies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, should promote and organize the installation of devices with electronic access in the diplomatic offices of the Mexican State located in places where there is a great concentration of Mexican citizens abroad.

Article 356.

1. The General Council and the Councils of the Local Public Bodies in each state will provide what is needed for the proper implementation of the regulations included in this Book.

2. The other applicable provisions of this Law, the General Law of the System of Appeals on Electoral Matters and the other applicable laws apply, as long as they do not contradict the rules of this Book.

3. In the case where the electoral processes only take place in the states, the rules of this book apply where applicable.

SEVENTH BOOK

On the Independent Candidatures

FIRST TITLE

On the Preliminary Provisions

Article 357.

1. The provisions included in this Book aim to regulate the independent candidatures for President of the United Mexican States, representatives and senators of the Congress of the Union by the principles of plurality, in terms of the provisions of section II of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States.

2. The legislatures of the states will issue the corresponding regulations, in the terms of the provisions of subsection p) of section IV of article 116 of the Constitution.

Article 358.

1. The General Council will provide the necessary for the adequate application of the rules included in this book on the federal level.

Article 359.

1. The applicable provisions of this Law, the General Law of the System of Appeals on Electoral Matters, the Federal Law for the Prevention and Identification of Operations with Illegally Obtained Resources, and the other applicable laws apply, as long as they do not contradict the provisions of this Book.

Article 360.

1. The organization and development of the election of independent candidates will be the responsibility of the executive directorates and technical units of the Institute on the central level; regarding the decentralized bodies, the corresponding local and district councils and executive boards will be competent.

2. The General Council will issue the respective rules of operation, using rationally its administrative units in according with the definition of their powers, and observing the provisions of this Law and the other applicable regulations.

Article 361.

1. The right of the citizens to request their registration independently of the political parties is subject to the requirements, conditions and terms established in the Constitution and in this Law.

Article 362.

1. The citizens that comply with the requirements, conditions and terms will have the right to participate and, where applicable, to be registered as Independent Candidates to occupy the following elective offices:

- a) President of the United Mexican States, and
- b) Representatives and Senators of the Congress of the Union by the principle of plurality. The registration of applicants for Independent Candidates by the principle of proportional representation will not take place under any circumstances.

Article 363.

1. For the purposes of the integration of the Congress of the Union in the terms of articles 52 and 56 of the Constitution, the Independent Candidates for the office of representative should register the corresponding formula of ordinary member and substitute. In the case of the integration of the Senate,

they should register a list for the corresponding state with two formulas of Independent Candidates, ordinary members and substitute in order of preference.

Article 364.

1. The formulas of candidates for the office of senator should be integrated in alternation by persons of different genders.

Article 365.

1. The Independent Candidates that have participated in an ordinary election that was nullified will have the right to participate in the corresponding extraordinary elections.

SECOND TITLE

On the Selection Process of Independent Candidates

Article 366.

1. For the purposes of this Law, the selection process of Independent Candidates includes the following stages:

- a) That of the Call;
- b) That of the acts prior to the registration of Independent Candidates;
- c) That of obtaining citizen support, and
- d) That of the registration of Independent Candidates.

CHAPTER I

On the Call

Article 367.

1. The General Council will issue the Call directed towards the citizens interested in running as Independent Candidates, mentioning the elective offices they can run for, the requirements they should comply with, the required supporting documents, the deadlines for collecting the corresponding citizen support, the expenditure ceilings they can reach and the forms for this.

2. The Institute will disseminate the Call widely.

CHAPTER II

On the Acts Prior to the Registration of Independent Candidates

Article 368.

1. The citizens that wish to run as independent candidates for an elective

office should inform the Institute in writing using the form determined by the Institute.

2. During the federal electoral processes in which the head of the Federal Executive Branch and the two Chambers of the Congress of the Union are renewed, or when only the Chamber of Representatives is renewed, the declaration of intent should be made from the day after that in which the Call was issued and until the period for collecting the corresponding citizen support begins, in accordance with the following rules:

- a) The applicants for the office of President of the United Mexican States, before the Executive Secretary of the Institute;
- b) The applicants for the office of Senator by the principle of plurality, before the Executive Member of the corresponding Local Board, and
- c) The applicants for the office of Representative by the principle of plurality, before the executive member of the corresponding district board.

3. Once the communication referred to in paragraph 1 of this article has been made and the respective certificate has been received, the citizens acquire the status of applicants.

4. With the declaration of intent, the independent candidate should present the documentation that accredits the creation of a legal person in the form of a Civil Association, which should receive the same treatment as a political party in the fiscal regime. The Institute will establish the only model for the statutes of the civil association. In the same way, they should accredit their inscription before the Tax Administration System and attach the dates of the bank account opened in the name of the legal person to receive the corresponding public and private financing.

5. The legal person referred to in the previous paragraph should be constituted by at least the applicant for independent candidates, the legal representative and the person in charge of the administration of the resources of the independent candidate.

CHAPTER III

On Obtaining Citizen Support

Article 369.

1. As of the day after the date in which they obtain the status of applicants, they can carry out activities aiming to collect the percentage of citizen support required by means other than the radio and the television, as long as these do not constitute early campaign activities.

2. The activities aiming to collect citizen support in the processes in which the two Branches of Government or in which only the Chamber of Representatives are elected are subject to the following deadlines, as corresponds:

- a) The applicants for Independent Candidates for the office of President of the Republic will have one hundred and twenty days;
- b) The applicants for Independent Candidates for the office of Senator of the Republic will have ninety days, and
- c) The applicants for Independent Candidates for the office of Representative will have sixty days.

3. The General Council can make adjustments to the deadlines established in this article in order to guarantee the deadlines of the registration and that the duration of the actions aiming to collect citizen support adhere to the provisions in the previous subparagraph. Any adjustment made by the General Council should be disseminated widely.

Article 370.

1. Actions aiming to collect citizen support are understood as all of the public meetings, assemblies, protests and all those activities aiming at the citizens in general that the applicants carry out in order to obtain the citizen support to satisfy the requirement in the terms of this Law.

Article 371.

1. For the candidature for President of the United Mexican States, the document of support should contain at least the signatures of a number of citizens equivalent to 1% of the nominal list of voters from August 31 of the year prior to the election and should include voters from at least seventeen states, that amount to at least 1% of the citizens included in the nominal list of voters in each of them.

2. For the formulas for senators by plurality, the document of support should contain at least the signatures of a number of citizens equivalent to 2% of the nominal list of voters corresponding to the state in question from August 31 of the year prior to the election, and should include voters from at least half of the electoral districts that amount to at least 1% of the citizens included in the nominal list of voters in each of them.

3. For the formula for representatives by plurality, the document of support should contain at least the signatures of a number of citizens equivalent to 2% of the nominal list of voters corresponding to the electoral district in question from August 31 of the year prior to the election, and should include voters from at least half of the electoral sections that amount to at least 1% of the citizens included in the nominal list of voters in each of them.

Article 372.

1. The applicants cannot carry out early campaign activities using any means. The violation of this provision will be sanctioned with the denial of registration as Independent Candidate.

2. The applicants are forbidden to, at any time, contract propaganda or any other type of personal promotion in radio and television. The violation of this rule will be sanctioned with the denial of registration as Independent Candidate or, where applicable, with the cancellation of this registration.

Article 373.

1. The account referred to in article 368, paragraph 5, of this law will be used for the management of the resources to obtain citizen support and, where applicable, of the electoral campaign.

2. The account will be used from the start of the activities aiming to obtain citizen support and until the conclusion of the electoral campaign and afterwards exclusively to cover the contracted debts and other expenditures. Its cancellation should be carried out once the procedures corresponding to the auditing unit of the Institute have been concluded.

Article 374.

1. The activities aiming to collect citizen support will be financed by private resources of legal origin, in the terms of the applicable legislation, and will be subject to the expenditure ceiling determined by the General Council for the type of election they aim to run in.

2. The General Council will determine the expenditure ceiling equivalent to ten percent of the established for the immediately prior campaigns, according to the election in question.

Article 375.

1. The applicants that exceed the expenditure ceiling set out in the previous article will lose the right to be registered as Independent Candidate or, where applicable, if the registration has already been carried out, it will be cancelled.

Article 376.

1. All expenditures should be covered with personal checks¹⁵ or electronic transfers and the receipts that support them should be issued in the name of

¹⁵ Translator's note: A personal check (*cheque nominativo*) is a check that can only be cashed in by the legal or natural person named on the payment order of the check.

the applicant and the person in charge of the management of the financial resources in the joint accounts, and should show the original as support of the financial reports of the activities aiming at obtaining citizen support.

2. The provisions related to the private financing of the Independent Candidates of this Law will apply to the applicants.

3. The applicants should appoint a person in charge of the management of the financial resources and the administration of the resources related to citizen support, as well as of the presentation of the reports in the terms of this Law.

Article 377.

1. The General Council, on the proposal of the auditing unit of the Institute, will determine the requirements that the applicants have to fulfill when presenting the income and expenditure reports of the activities aiming at collecting citizen support.

Article 378.

1. The applicant that does not hand in the income and expenditure report in the thirty days following the conclusion of the period to collect citizen support will be denied registration as an Independent Candidate.

2. The applicants that, without having obtained the registration as independent candidate, do not hand in the previously mentioned reports will be sanctioned in the terms of this Law.

CHAPTER IV

On the Rights and Obligations of the Applicants

Article 379.

1. The applicants have the following rights:

- a) To request from the electoral bodies, depending on the type of election, their registration as applicants;
- b) To carry out activities to promote their ideas and proposals in order to obtain the citizen support for the office they wish to run for;
- c) To use private financing for the development of their activities, in the terms of this Law;
- d) To appoint a representative to participate in the sessions of the General, local and district councils, without the right to speak or to vote;
- e) To include in their propaganda the caption “applicant for Independent Candidate”, and
- f) The others set out in this Law.

Article 380.

1. The applicants have the following obligations:

- a) To act with unconditional respect for the provisions of the Constitution and of the present Law;
- b) Not to accept nor use illegally obtained resources to carry out activities aiming to obtain citizen support;
- c) To abstain from receiving contributions and donations in cash, as well as metals and precious stones, from any natural or legal person;
- d) To reject any type of economic, political or propaganda assistance coming from foreigners and ministers of any religion, as well as from religious associations and organizations and churches. Neither can they accept contributions or donations, in cash or in kind, personally or through a third party, under any circumstances, from:
 - I. The Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches of the Federation and of the states, and the city council, except in the case of the public financing established in the Constitution and this Law;
 - II. The departments, entities or bodies of the Federal, state or municipal public administration, centralized or parastatal, and the government bodies of the Federal District;
 - III. The federal or state autonomous bodies or those of the Federal District;
 - IV. Foreign political parties, natural persons or legal persons;
 - V. International bodies of any kind;
 - VI. Legal persons, and
 - VII. Persons that live or work abroad.
- e) To abstain from carrying out, personally or through third parties, acts of pressure or coercion to obtain citizen support;
- f) To abstain from uttering offences, defamation, slander or any expression that defame other applicants or pre-candidates, political parties, persons, or private or public institutions;
- g) To deliver the income and expenditure report;
- h) To respect the expenditure ceilings set for obtaining citizen support, in the terms established by this Law, and
- i) The other obligations established by this Law.

CHAPTER V
On the Registration of Independent Candidates

First Section
On the Eligibility Requirements

Article 381.

1. The citizens that aspire to participate as Independent Candidates in the federal elections in question should, apart from those set out in the Constitution, satisfy the requirements set out in article 10 of this Law.

Second Section
On the Request for Registration

Article 382.

1. The deadlines and the competent bodies for the registration of the independent candidates in the year of the election will be the same as those set out in the present Law for the President of the Republic, representatives and senators of the Congress of the Union.

2. The Institute will disseminate widely the opening of the registration of independent candidatures and the deadlines referred to in this article.

Article 383.

1. The citizens aiming to participate as Independent Candidates for elective office should:

- a) Present their request in writing;
- b) The registration request should contain:
 - I. The paternal surname, maternal surname, complete name and signature or, where applicable, fingerprint of the applicant;
 - II. The place and date of birth of the applicant;
 - III. The current address of the applicant and time of residence at this address;
 - IV. The occupation of the applicant;
 - V. The code of the voter card of the applicant;
 - VI. The office that the applicant wishes to run for;
 - VII. The appointment of the legal representative and address to hear and receive notifications, and
 - VIII. The appointment of the person in charge of the management of the financial resources and of delivering the corresponding reports.

c) The request should be accompanied by the following documents:

- I. The form in which the applicant demonstrates the desire to be an Independent Candidate, as referred to in this Law;
- II. A copy of the birth certificate and of the front and back of the valid voter card;
- III. The electoral platform containing the main proposals that the Independent Candidate will promote in the electoral campaign;
- IV. The identification information of the bank account opened for the management of the resources of the independent candidate, in the terms of this Law;
- V. The income and expenditure reports of the activities aiming at obtaining citizen support;
- VI. The document of support that contains the name, signature and voter code or the identification number on the back of the voter card deriving from the optical character recognition (OCR) of the valid voter card with photography of each of the citizens that show their support in the percentage required in the terms of this Law;
- VII. A declaration in writing, under oath:
 1. To not accept resources from illicit sources for campaigns or acts to obtain citizen support;
 2. To not be president of the national, state or municipal executive committee of a political party or leader, member, affiliate or equivalent of a political party, in accordance with the established in this Law, and
 3. To not have any other legal impediment to running as Independent Candidate.
- VIII. A document in which they give their approval for all the income and expenditure of the opened bank account to be audited by the Institute at any time.

2. Once a registration request as independent candidate has been received by the president or secretary of the corresponding council, the council must in the three following days verify that all requirement set out in the previous paragraph, with the exception of that related to citizen support, have been complied with.

Article 384.

1. If the verification process shows that the compliance with one or several requirements was omitted, the applicant and the representative will immediately be notified so that they correct the omitted requirement or requirements within the next 48 hours, provided that this can be done within the deadlines set out by this Law.

2. If the omitted requirements are not corrected, or if the request was submitted too late, it will be considered as not having been filed.

Article 385.

1. Once the other requirements established in this Law are complied with, the Executive Directorate of the Federal Register of Voters of the Institute will proceed to verify that the percentage of citizen support that corresponds according to the election in question has been collected, ensuring that all citizens appear in the nominal list of voters.

2. The signatures will not count for the purposes of the required percentage in any of the following circumstances:

- a) Names with false or erroneous information;
- b) They are not accompanied by the copies of the valid voter cards;
- c) In the case of candidates for senator, the addresses of the citizens are not in the entity in which they are running;
- d) In the case of candidates for Federal Representative, the addresses of the citizens are not in the district in which they are running;
- e) The citizens have been excluded from the nominal list;
- f) In the case when one person has presented more than one demonstration in favor of one applicant, only one will be counted, and
- g) In the case when one person has presented demonstrations in favor of more than one applicant, only the first presented demonstration will be counted.

Article 386.

1. If the request does not meet the required percentage, it will be considered as not having been filed.

Article 387.

1. No person can register themselves as candidates for different elective offices in the same electoral process; neither is it possible to be candidate for a federal elective office and simultaneously for another office in the states, municipalities or in the Federal District. In this case, if the registration for the federal elective office has already been carried out, it will be automatically cancelled.

2. The Independent Candidates that have been registered cannot be nominated as candidates by a political party or coalition in the same federal electoral process.

Third Section On the Registration

Article 388.

1. Within the three days following the deadline, the General, local and district councils should hold the candidate registration session, in the terms of this Law.

Article 389.

1. The Secretary of the General Council and the presidents of the local or district councils, as applies, will take the necessary measures to make the conclusion of the registration of independent candidates public, making the names of the registered candidates or formulas and of those that did not comply with the requirements known.

Fourth Section On the Substitution and Cancellation of the Registration

Article 390.

1. The Independent Candidates that obtain their registration cannot be substituted in any of the stages of the electoral process.

Article 391.

1. As regards the formula of representatives, the registration of the entire formula will be cancelled in the event of the absence of the ordinary candidate. The absence of the substitute will not invalidate the formula.

Article 392.

1. In the case of the lists of formulas of Independent Candidates for the office of Senator, if for any reason any of the ordinary candidates of one of the formulas is absent, the registration of both will be cancelled. The absence of the substitute will not invalidate the formulas.

THIRD TITLE On the Prerogatives, Rights and Obligations

CHAPTER I On the Rights and Obligations

Article 393.

1. The registered Independent Candidates have the following prerogatives and rights:

- a) To participate in the corresponding electoral campaign and in the election to the office for which they have been registered;
- b) To have access to the airtimes in radio and television, as if they were a newly registered political party, but proportionally to the type of election in question and only in the stage of the electoral campaigns;
- c) To obtain public and private financing, in the terms of this Law;
- d) To carry out campaign activities and disseminate electoral propaganda in the terms of this Law;
- e) To reply to and clarify the information generated by the media, when it is found that this distorts their image or that false or completely unsupported facts are disseminated;
- f) To appoint representatives before the bodies of the Institute, in the terms established by this Law;
- g) To request copies of the electoral documents from the electoral bodies, through their authorized representatives, and
- h) The others given to them by this Law and the other applicable legislation.

Article 394.

1. The registered Independent Candidates have the following obligations:
 - a) To conduct themselves with unconditional respect for the provisions of the Constitution and of this Law;
 - b) To respect and comply with the Agreements issued by the General Council;
 - c) To respect and comply with the campaign expenditure ceilings in the terms of this Law;
 - d) To provide the Institute with the information and documents it requests, in the terms of this Law;
 - e) To exercise the prerogatives and to use the financing exclusively for campaign expenditure;
 - f) To reject any type of economic, political or propaganda assistance from foreigners and ministers of any religion, as well as from religious associations and organizations and churches. Neither can they accept contributions or donations, in cash or in kind, personally or through a third party, under any circumstances, from:
 - I. The Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches of the Federation and of the states, and the city councils, except in the case of the public financing established in the Constitution and this Law;
 - II. The departments, entities or bodies of the Federal, state or municipal public administration, centralized or parastatal, and the government bodies of the Federal District;

- III. The federal and state autonomous bodies, or those of the Federal District;
 - IV. Foreign political parties, natural persons or legal persons;
 - V. International bodies of any kind;
 - VI. Legal persons, and
 - VII. Persons that live or work abroad.
- g) To deposit all contributions only in the opened bank account and to carry out all expenditure of the campaign activities with this account;
 - h) To abstain from using religious symbols, as well as expressions, allusions or beliefs of a religious character in their propaganda;
 - i) To abstain from uttering offences, defamation, slander or any expression that defame other candidates, political parties, persons, or public or private institutions;
 - j) To insert in a visible way in their propaganda the caption: "Independent Candidate";
 - k) To abstain from using emblems and colors used by national political parties in their political or electoral propaganda;
 - l) To abstain from carrying out actions that generate pressure or coercion on the voters;
 - m) To abstain from receiving contributions and donations in cash, as well as metals and precious stones, from any natural or legal person;
 - n) To present, in the same terms as apply to the political parties, the campaign reports on the source and amount of all their incomes, as well as their application and use;
 - ñ) To be jointly responsible, together with the person in charge of the administration of their financial resources, within the auditing procedures of the corresponding resources, and
 - o) The other obligations established by this Law and the other regulations.

Article 395.

1. The Independent Candidates that fail to comply with the applicable electoral legislation will be sanctioned in the terms of this Law.

First Section

On the Representatives before the Bodies of the Institute

Article 396.

1. The Independent Candidates, in accordance with the provisions of the regulations of the sessions of the general, local and district councils approved

by the General Council, can appoint representatives before the bodies of the Institute, in the following terms:

- a) The Independent Candidates for President of the United Mexican States, before the General Council and all of the local and district councils;
- b) The Independent Candidates for senators, before the local and district councils of the entity for which they run, appointing only one representative for both formulas, and
- c) The Independent Candidates for federal representatives before the district council of the demarcation for which they run.

2. The accreditation of representatives before the central, local and district bodies is made in the thirty days following the approval of their registration as Independent Candidate applicants.

3. If the appointment is not done in the timeframe set out in the previous paragraph, they will lose this right.

Second Section On the Representatives before the Directive Boards of the Polling Stations

Article 397.

1. The registration of the appointments of the representatives before the directive boards of the polling stations and the general representatives will be made in the terms set out in this Law.

CHAPTER II On the Prerogatives

First Section On the Financing

Article 398.

1. The financing system of the Independent Candidates will have the following modalities:

- a) Private financing, and
- b) Public financing.

Article 399.

1. The private financing consists of the contributions made by the Independent Candidates and their supporters, and cannot under any circumstances exceed 10% of the expenditure ceiling for the election in question.

Article 400.

1. The Independent Candidates are forbidden from receiving contributions and donations in cash, as well as metals and precious stones, from any natural or legal person.

Article 401.

1. The following cannot make contributions or donations in cash, precious metals or stones, or in kind to the applicants of Independent Candidates for elective offices, personally or through a third party, under any circumstances:

- a) The Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches of the Federation and of the states, as well as the city councils;
- b) The departments, entities or bodies of the Federal, state or municipal public administration, as well as those of the Federal District;
- c) The federal and state autonomous bodies, or those of the Federal District;
- d) Foreign political parties, natural persons or legal persons;
- e) Trade union and corporative organizations;
- f) International bodies of any kind;
- g) Ministers, associations, churches or groups of any religion;
- h) Persons that live or work abroad, and
- i) Mexican companies of a commercial character.

Article 402.

1. The Independent Candidates cannot request credits from development banks for the financing of their activities. Neither can they receive contributions from unidentified persons.

Article 403.

1. For the management of the electoral campaign resources, the opened bank account referred to in this Law should be used. All contributions should exclusively be made to this account, through checks or bank transfers.

Article 404.

1. All expenses should be covered by personal checks or electronic transfer. In the case of payments for the provision of goods or services, the check should also include the caption “to be accredited to the account of the beneficiary”. The voucher checks should be preserved attached to the supporting documents together with the copy of the corresponding check.

2. The supporting documents that prove the expenses incurred by the

Independent Candidates should be issued in their name and original copies should support the financial reports of the electoral campaigns, which will be at the disposal of the auditing unit of the Institute for their revision in accordance with the provisions of this Law. These documents should comply with the requirements demanded by the applicable fiscal provisions, as well as those set out by the Regulations on Auditing of the mentioned Unit.

Article 405.

1. The contributions of property, services or of any other kind should be exclusively used towards the activities of the independent candidate.

Article 406.

1. The Independent Candidates cannot under any circumstances receive real estate as property for the activities of their candidacies, nor acquire real estate with the public or private financing that they receive.

Article 407.

1. The Independent Candidates are entitled to receive public financing for their campaign expenses. For the purposes of the distribution of public financing and prerogatives that the Independent Candidates are entitled to, they will, as a group, be considered as a newly registered political party.

Article 408.

1. The amount corresponding to a newly registered political party will be distributed between all Independent Candidates in the following manner:

- a) 33.3% will be distributed equally between all Independent Candidates running for President of the United Mexican States;
- b) 33.3% will be distributed equally between all formulas of Independent Candidates for the office of Senator, and
- c) 33.3% will be distributed equally between all formulas of Independent Candidates for the office of Representative.

2. In the event that only one candidate obtains registration for any of the previously mentioned offices, this candidate cannot receive financing that exceeds 50% of the amounts referred to in the previous subparagraphs.

Article 409.

1. The candidates should appoint a person in charge of the management of the financial resources and the administration of the general and campaign resources, as well as of the presentation of the reports referred to in this Law.

Article 410.

1. The Independent Candidates should return the amount of the public financing not spent to the Institute.

Second Section

On the Access to Radio and Television

Article 411.

1. The Institute, as the only authority for the administration of the airtime that corresponds to the State in radio and television, will guarantee the Independent Candidates the use of their prerogatives in radio and television; it will establish the rules for the allocation of the messages and programs that they have the right to disseminate during the electoral campaign; it will attend to the complaints and allegations of violations of the applicable regulations and, where applicable, will determine the sanctions.

Article 412.

1. The set of Independent Candidates, according to the type of election, will access radio and television as a newly registered political party, only in the percentage that is distributed equally among the political parties, in terms of the provisions of the Constitution.

2. The Independent Candidates will only have access to radio and television during the electoral campaign.

Article 413.

1. The Independent Candidates should hand in their materials to the Institute for technical evaluation in order to issue the corresponding opinion in the time and terms determined by the Institute.

Article 414.

1. No natural or legal person, personally or through a third party, may acquire propaganda in radio or television to promote an Independent Candidate or to influence the electoral preferences of the citizens in favor of or against the same or the political parties. The transmission in the national territory of this type of propaganda acquired abroad is forbidden.

Article 415.

1. The Institute can order the immediate suspension of any political or electoral propaganda in radio or on television that violates this Law; the

previous without prejudice to the other sanctions that should be applied to the offenders.

Article 416.

1. The transmission of messages of the Independent Candidates in every radio station and television channel will be according to the established in this Law and the other applicable legislation, as well as the agreements of the Radio and Television Committee of the Institute.

Article 417.

1. The time corresponding to each Independent Candidate will exclusively be used for the dissemination of their messages.

Article 418.

1. The Radio and Television Committee of the Institute will be responsible for ensuring the due participation of the Independent Candidates in the matter.

Article 419.

1. The infractions of the established in this Section will be sanctioned in the terms set out in this Law.

**Third Section
On the Postal Exemptions**

Article 420.

1. The Independent Candidates will enjoy the postal exemptions within the national territory necessary for the development of their activities.

Article 421.

1. The postal exemptions of the Independent Candidates are subject to the following rules:

- a) Each of the Independent Candidates will be considered as a newly registered party for the distribution of four percent for the postal exemptions referred to in this Law, that will be distributed equally;
- b) The Independent Candidates will only have access to the postal exemptions during the electoral campaign and in the territorial area of the office for which they are running;
- c) The names and signatures of the representatives authorized to carry out the administrative tasks for the use of the postal exemptions will be registered before the Executive Directorate of Prerogatives and

- Political Parties so that this directorate communicates them to the corresponding public body, and
- d) The sending of political propaganda will be done in accordance with the following:
- I. An Independent Candidate for the office of President of the United Mexican States can send propaganda to the entire Republic;
 - II. The Independent Candidates for the office of Senator can only send propaganda in the entity in which they are running, and
 - III. The Independent Candidates for the office of Representative can only send propaganda in the district in which they are running.

Article 422.

1. The Independent Candidates will not have the right to use the telegraphic exemption.

FOURTH TITLE

On the Electoral Propaganda of the Independent Candidates

Article 423.

1. The norms on electoral propaganda included in this law are applicable to the Independent Candidates.

Article 424.

1. The electoral propaganda of the Independent Candidates should include the emblem and color or colors that characterize them and that differentiate them from the political parties and from other Independent Candidates, as well as to include visibly the caption: "Independent Candidate".

FIFTH TITLE

On the Auditing

Article 425.

1. The revision of the reports that the applicants present about the source and application of their resources and of the activities for the citizen support, as applies, as well as the auditing practices on the management of their resources and their accounting and financial situation, will be the responsibility of the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission of the Institute.

Article 426.

1. The Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission of the Institute

is in charge of the reception and comprehensive review of the income and expenditure reports presented by the Independent Candidates in regards to the source and amount of the resources by any financing modality, as well as to their destination and application.

2. The competent authorities are obligated to attend to and resolve, within a maximum of five working days, the information requirements formulated by the technical auditing unit of the Institute regarding banking, fiduciary and auditing matters.

Article 427.

1. The Auditing Commission of the General Council of the Institute will, apart from those set out in the General Law on Political Parties, have the following functions:

- a) To review and to submit for the approval of the General Council the reports on results and draft resolutions on the audits and verifications performed on the applicants and the Independent Candidates. The reports will specify any irregularities that they have incurred in the management of their resources; the in compliance with their obligation to inform about the use of their resources and, where applicable, will suggest the appropriate sanctions in according to the applicable legislation;
- b) To order the performance of audits, directly or through third parties, of the finances of the applicants and Independent Candidates;
- c) To order verification visits to the applicants and Independent Candidates in order to corroborate the compliance with their obligations and the truthfulness of their reports, and
- d) The other functions granted by this Law or the General Council.

Article 428.

1. The Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission of the Institute will, apart from those set out in the General Law on Political Parties, have the following functions:

- a) To regulate the accounting record of the income and expenditure of the applicants and the Independent Candidates, the characteristics of the supporting documents on the management of their resources, and to establish the requirements that the income and expenditure reports that they present should meet, in accordance with the provisions of this Law;
- b) To propose to the Auditing Commission the issuing of the general

- rules on accountability and registration of operations applicable to the applicants and Independent Candidates;
- c) To monitor that the resources of the applicants and Independent Candidates are of licit origin and are strictly and invariably applied to the activities set out in this Law;
 - d) To receive and review the income and expenditure reports, as well as the costs of the activities aimed at obtaining citizen support of the applicants and the campaign activities of the Independent Candidates, as well as the other income and expenditure reports established by this Law;
 - e) To require additional information regarding the different sections of the income and expenditure reports and supporting documents of any aspect related to the reports;
 - f) To provide the applicants and Independent Candidates with the guidance, assistance and training necessary for the compliance with the obligations contained in this Book;
 - g) To institute the applicable administrative procedures regarding the lodged complaints and to suggest the imposition of the applicable sanctions for the consideration of the Auditing Commission;
 - h) To require of the natural or legal persons, public or private, that are connected with the operations made by the applicants and Independent Candidates, the information necessary for the compliance with its tasks, respecting at all times the guarantees of the summoned person. Those who refuse to provide the information requested of them or who do not provide it, without just cause, within the timeframe set out, will receive the corresponding sanctions, and
 - i) The other functions granted by this Law, the Auditing Commission or the General Council.

Article 429.

1. In the exercise of its functions, the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission of the Institute should guarantee the right to be heard of the applicants and the Independent Candidates on the occasion of the auditing processes referred to in this Title.

2. The applicants and the Independent Candidates will be entitled to compare the supporting documents of their income and expenditures, or of their accounting statements, with those obtained or prepared by the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission of the Institute on the same operations, in order to clarify the discrepancies between the two.

Article 430.

1. The applicants should present the reports on the source and amount of the income and expenditure of the expenses of the activities aiming to obtain citizen support from private financing, as well as their use and application, to the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission of the Institute, in accordance with the following rules:

- a) The source and amount of the income, as well as the expenditure made from the opened bank account;
- b) To attach the bank statements, and
- c) To deliver these together with the registration request referred to in this Law.

Article 431.

1. The candidates should present the campaign reports regarding the source and amount of the income and expenditure by any financing modality as well as their use and application to the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission of the Institute, in accordance with the rules established in the General Law on Political Parties.

2. Every report will include the source of the resources that have been used to finance the costs corresponding to the topics set out in this Law and the other applicable legislation, as well as the amount and use of this expenditure.

3. The procedure for the presentation and revision of the reports will be subject to the rules established in the General Law on Political Parties.

SIXTH TITLE**On the Activities of the Election Day****CHAPTER I****On the Electoral Documents and Materials****Article 432.**

1. The Independent Candidates will appear on the same ballot that the General Council approves for the candidates of the political parties or coalitions, according to the election in which they participate, in accordance with this Law.

2. One box will be used for each Independent Candidate or formula of Independent Candidates of the same size and in a space of the same dimensions as those used in the ballot for the participating parties or coalitions. These boxes will be placed after those allocated to the political parties, and if there are many candidates or formulas they will appear in the order in which they requested the corresponding registration.

Article 433.

1. On the ballot, in accordance with the election in question, the full name of the Independent Candidate or of the members of the formula of Independent Candidates will appear.

Article 434.

1. Neither a photograph nor the silhouette of the candidate will be included in the ballot.

Article 435.

1. The electoral documents will be prepared by the Institute, applying where appropriate the provisions of this Law for the preparation of the documents and the electoral material.

CHAPTER II On the Count of the Votes

Article 436.

1. The mark made by a voter in one single box containing the emblem or name of an Independent Candidate will be counted as a valid vote, in the terms of the provisions of this Law.

Article 437,

1. To determine the national cast votes that will serve as a base for the allocation of representatives and senators by the principle of proportional representation, in the terms of the provisions of the Constitution and this Law, the votes cast for Independent Candidates will not be taken into account.

SEVENTH TITLE On the Complementary Provisions

ONLY CHAPTER

Article 438.

1. The organization, development, granting and monitoring of the prerogatives of the Independent Candidates correspond to the Institute, in accordance with the established for the political parties in this Law.

Article 439.

1. Regarding the auditing of resources, the Institute could agree on

collaboration mechanisms with the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and the Attorney General of the Republic to detect activities or operations involving resources from illicit sources.

EIGHTH BOOK

On the Electoral Sanctioning and Internal Discipline Regimes

FIRST TITLE

On Electoral Misconduct and its Sanction

Article 440.

1. The local electoral laws should consider the rules for the sanctioning procedures, taking into account the following bases:

- a) The classification of sanctioning procedures into ordinary procedures that initiated due to misconduct committed within and outside of the electoral processes, and special sanctioning procedures initiated due to misconduct committed within the electoral processes;
- b) The persons and conducts that can be sanctioned;
- c) The rules for the opening, processing, competent bodies and investigation of both procedures;
- d) The procedure to rule on the remission of files to the Electoral Tribunal for their resolution, both on federal and local level, and
- e) The rules for the ordinary sanctioning procedure by the Local Public Bodies on frivolous complaints, applicable both on the federal and local level, understood as:
 - I. The claims and promotions that include statements which cannot be legally supported, due to it being obvious and evident that they are not protected by the law;
 - II. Those that refer to facts that turn out to be false or inexistent simply based on carefully reading the writing and that do not present the minimum of evidence to prove their truthfulness;
 - III. Those that refer to facts that do not constitute an electoral misconduct or violation, and
 - IV. Those that are only based on journalistic opinion pieces or news articles that generalize a situation and without being able to accredit their truthfulness by other means.

2. The sanction imposed, where applicable, should assess the degree of frivolity of the complaint and the damage that it could generate with the attention of this types of complaints to the electoral bodies.

On the Subjects, Punishable Conducts and Sanctions

Article 441.

1. When trying the cases in the sanctioning procedures, the General Law on the System of Appeals on Electoral Matters will be applied to anything not covered by this Law in a supplementary manner.

Article 442.

1. The following are liable subjects for infractions committed to the electoral provisions contained in this Law:

- a) The political parties;
- b) The political associations;
- c) The applicants, pre-candidates, candidates and Independent Candidates for elective offices;
- d) The citizens, or any natural or legal person;
- e) The election observers or organizations of election observers;
- f) The authorities or the public servants of any of the Branches of Government; of the local authorities; municipal government bodies; government bodies of the Federal District; autonomous bodies, and any other public entity;
- g) The public notaries;
- h) Foreigners;
- i) The radio or television broadcasters;
- j) The citizens' organizations aiming to form a political party;
- k) The trade unions, labor organizations or employer organizations, or any other association with a social purpose other than the creation of political parties, as well as their members or leaders, with regard to the creation and registration of political parties;
- l) Ministers, associations, churches or groups of any religion, and
- m) The other obligated subjects in the terms of this Law.

Article 443.

1. The following constitute violations by the political parties to this Law:

- a) The incomppliance with the obligations set out in the General Law on Political Parties and the other applicable provisions of this Law;
- b) The incomppliance with the decisions or agreements of the Institute or of the Local Public Bodies;
- c) The incomppliance with the obligations or violation of the prohibitions and

- expenditure ceilings regarding funding and auditing that are imposed on them by this Law;
- d) To not submit the quarterly, annual, pre-campaign and campaign reports, or to not meet the requirements of information of the auditing unit of the Institute, in the terms and periods established in this Law and its regulations;
 - e) To carry out early pre-campaign or campaign activities attributable to the parties;
 - f) To exceed the campaign expenditure ceilings;
 - g) To carry out pre-campaign or campaign activities abroad when it is demonstrated that it was done with the consent of the parties, without prejudice to determining the responsibility of who committed the offense;
 - h) The in compliance with the other provisions established in this Law regarding the electoral pre-campaigns and campaigns;
 - i) To contract, directly or through third parties, airtime in any form in radio or television;
 - j) The dissemination of political or electoral propaganda containing expressions that defame the institutions and the parties, or that slander any person;
 - k) The in compliance with the obligations established by this Law regarding transparency and access to information;
 - l) The in compliance with the rules established for the management and verification of their resources or for the delivery of the information on the source, amount and destination of the resources;
 - m) The omission of or the in compliance with the obligation to provide the information requested by the bodies of Institute in due time and form, and
 - n) Any other misconduct than those set out in this Law.

Article 444.

1. The following constitute violations by the political associations to this Law:

- a) The in compliance with their obligations set out in the General Law on Political Parties, and
- b) The in compliance with any of the provisions of this Law, where applicable.

Article 445.

1. The following constitute violations by the applicants, pre-candidates and candidates for elective offices to this Law:

- a) To carry out early pre-campaign or campaign activities, according to the case;
- b) In the case of applicants or pre-candidates, to request or receive resources, in cash or in kind, from persons who are not authorized by this Law;
- c) To omit the resources received, in cash or in kind, used for their pre-campaign or campaign, from the respective reports;
- d) To not present the pre-campaign or campaign expenditure reports established in this Law;
- e) To exceed the established pre-campaign or campaign expenditure ceilings, and
- f) The incompliance with any of the provisions contained in this Law.

Article 446.

1. The following constitute violations by the applicants and Independent Candidates for elective offices to this Law:

- a) The incompliance with the obligations set out in this Law;
- b) To carry out early campaign activities;
- c) To request or receive resources, in cash or in kind, from persons who are not authorized by this Law;
- d) To liquidate or make payments, as well as to accept the liquidation or the payment of acts or operations, in cash or using precious metals and stones;
- e) To use resources for illicit sources to finance any of their activities;
- f) To receive contributions and donations in cash, as well as precious metals and/or stones, from any natural or legal person;
- g) To not present the reports corresponding to obtaining citizen support and the campaign report set out in this Law;
- h) To exceed the expenditure ceiling for obtaining citizen support and for the campaign established by the General Council;
- i) To not return the resources from public financing that were not used during the campaign activities;
- j) The incompliance with the decisions or agreements of the Institute;
- k) To contract, personally or through third parties, airtime in any form in radio or television;
- l) To obtain real estate with the resources from public or private financing;
- m) The dissemination of political or electoral propaganda containing expressions that defame persons, the institutions or the political parties;
- n) The omission of or the incompliance with the obligation to provide the

information requested by the bodies of Institute in due time and form, and

- ñ) The in compliance with any of the provisions of this Law and other applicable provisions.

Article 447.

1. The following constitute violations by the citizens, by the leaders and members of political parties, or, where applicable, by any natural or legal person, to this Law:

- a) The refusal to deliver the information required by the Institute or the Local Public Bodies, to deliver incomplete information or with false information, or after the deadline set out in the requirement, regarding the business transactions, the agreements signed, the donations or contributions made, or any other activity connecting them with the political parties, the applicants, pre-candidates or candidates for elective offices;
- b) To contract propaganda in radio and television, both in the national territory and abroad, intended to the personal promotion for political or electoral purposes, to influence the electoral preferences of the citizens, or in favor of or against political parties or candidates for elective offices;
- c) To provide false documents or information to the Federal Register of Voters;
- d) The promotion of frivolous claim. For this purpose, frivolous claims will be understood as those that are promoted regarding facts that are not found to be supported by any form of proof or that cannot cite the specific legal assumption in which the complaint or claim is based, and
- e) The in compliance with any of the provisions contained in this Law.

Article 448.

1. The following constitute violations by the election observers, or by the organizations with the same purpose, to this Law:

- a) The in compliance with the obligations established in paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 8 of this Law, depending on the case, and
- b) The in compliance with any of the provisions contained in this Law.

Article 449.

1. The following constitute violations to this Law by the authorities or public servants, according to the case, by any of the Branches of Government; by the local authorities; municipal government bodies; government bodies of the Federal District; autonomous bodies, or any other public entity:

- a) The omission of or the incompletion with the obligation to collaborate and assist or to provide, in due time and form, the information requested from them by the bodies of Institute or of the Local Public Bodies;
- b) The dissemination, by any means, of government propaganda within the period beginning at the start of the electoral campaigns and ending after the Election Day, with the exception of the information relating to educational and health services, or the necessary information for civil protection in cases of emergency;
- c) The incompletion with the principle of impartiality established by article 134 of the Constitution, when such conduct affects the fairness of the competition between the political parties, or between the applicants, pre-candidates and candidates during the electoral processes;
- d) During the electoral processes, the dissemination of propaganda in any media which contravenes the provisions of the eighth paragraph of article 134 of the Constitution;
- e) The use of social programs and of their resources of the federal, state, or local level or of the Federal District, in order to induce or coerce the Citizens to vote for or against any political party or candidate, and
- f) The incompletion with any of the provisions contained in this Law.

Article 450.

1. The incompletion with the obligation to keep their offices open on Election Day and to address the request made to them by the electoral authorities, the polling station officials, the citizens and the representatives of political parties to attest to facts or to certify documents related to the election constitute violations to this Law by the public notaries.

Article 451.

1. The conducts that violate the provisions of article 33 of the Constitution and the applicable laws constitute violations to this Law by foreigners.

Article 452.

1. The following constitute violations to this Law by the radio and television broadcasters:

- a) The sale of broadcasting time, in any form of programming, to political parties, applicants, pre-candidates or candidates for elective offices;
- b) The dissemination of political or electoral propaganda, paid or free of charge, ordered by persons other than the Institute;
- c) The incompletion, without just cause, with their obligation to transmit

- the messages and programs of the political parties and of the electoral authorities, according to the guidelines approved by the Institute;
- d) The handling or superimposition of the electoral propaganda or the programs of the political parties in order to alter or distort their original meaning or to defame persons, institutions or the political parties, and
 - e) The in compliance with any of the provisions contained in this Law.

Article 453.

1. The following constitute violations to this Law by the citizens' organizations aiming to form political parties:

- a) To not report monthly to the Institute or to the Local Public Bodies the source and use of the resources that they obtain for the development of the activities aimed to obtain the registration;
- b) To allow the involvement of trade unions or other organizations with a social purpose different than to create a political party, except in the case of national political associations, and
- c) To perform or promote the collective affiliation of citizens to the organization or to the party for which registration is sought.

Article 454.

1. The following constitute violations to this Law by the trade union, labor organizations or employer organizations, or by any other association with a social purpose other than the creation of political parties, as well as their members or leaders, when they act or hold such a role, or when they have the assets of their organizations at their disposal:

- a) To intervene in the creation and registration of a political party or in its collective affiliation activities, and
- b) The in compliance with any of the provisions contained in this Law, where applicable.

Article 455.

1. The following constitute violations to this Law by the ministers, associations, churches or groups of any religion:

- a) The incitement to abstention, to vote for a candidate or political party, or to not vote for any candidate or political party, in places intended for worship, in public venues or in the media;
- b) To perform or promote economic contributions to a political party, applicant or candidate for elective offices, and
- c) The in compliance with any of the provisions contained in this Law, where applicable.

Article 456.

1. The violations set out in the previous articles will be sanctioned according to the following:

- a) With respect to the political parties:
 - I. With a public reprimand;
 - II. With a fine of up to ten thousand days of the minimum wage in force in the Federal District, depending on the gravity of the violation. In the cases of violations to the campaign expenditure ceilings, or the applicable limits on donations or contributions of supporters or of the candidates for their own campaigns, with the same amount as the excess. In case of reoccurrence, the punishment will be up to the double of the previous;
 - III. Depending on the gravity of the violation, with the reduction of up to fifty percent of the public financing corresponding to them, for the period mentioned in the decision;
 - IV. With the interruption of the transmission of the political or electoral propaganda that they transmit within the time allocated by the Institute, in violation of the provisions of this Law, and
 - V. In the case of serious and repeated conducts in violation of the Constitution and of this Law, especially as regards their obligations related to the origin and use of their resources, with the cancellation of their registration as a political party.
- b) With respect to the political associations:
 - I. With a public reprimand;
 - II. With a fine of up to ten thousand days of the minimum wage in force in the Federal District, depending on the gravity of the violation, and
 - III. With the suspension or cancellation of their registration, which in the former case cannot be less than six months.
- c) With respect to the applicants, pre-candidates or candidates for elective office:
 - I. With a public reprimand;
 - II. With a fine of up to five thousand days of the minimum wage in force in the Federal District, and
 - III. With the loss of the right of the offending pre-candidate to be registered as a candidate or, where applicable, if the registration is already done, with the cancellation of the same. When the violations committed by applicants or pre-candidates for elective offices are exclusively attributable to them, the political party in question will not be sanctioned. When the pre-candidate is elected

in the internal process, the political party cannot register this individual as a candidate.

d) With respect to the Independent Candidates:

- I. With a public reprimand;
- II. With a fine of up to five thousand days of the minimum wage in force in the Federal District;
- III. With the loss of the right of the offending applicant to be registered as an Independent Candidate or, where applicable, if the registration is already done, with the cancellation of the same;
- IV. In the case that the applicants fail to inform and confirm the costs related to collecting citizen support to the auditing unit of the Institute, they cannot be registered in the two subsequent elections, independently of the responsibilities they incur in terms of the applicable legislation, where applicable, and
- V. In the case that the Independent Candidates fail to inform and confirm the campaign costs to the auditing unit of the Institute and to refund them, they cannot be registered as a candidate in the two subsequent elections, independently of the responsibilities they incur in terms of the applicable legislation, where applicable.

e) With respect to the citizens, the leaders and members of the political parties, or any natural or legal person:

- I. With a public reprimand;
- II. With respect to the citizens or the leaders and members of the political parties: with a fine of up to five hundred days of the minimum wage in force in the Federal District; in the case of contributions that violate the provisions of this law, or concerning the purchase of airtime in radio or television for the dissemination of political or electoral propaganda, with a fine of up to double the commercial price of this airtime;
- III. With respect to legal persons realizing the conducts set out in the previous section: with a fine of up to a hundred thousand days of the minimum wage in force in the Federal District, in the case of contributions that violate the provisions of this law, or concerning the purchase of airtime in radio or television for the dissemination of political or electoral propaganda, with a fine of up to double the commercial price of this airtime, and
- IV. With respect to the citizens, the leaders and members of the political parties, or any natural or legal person, with a public reprimand and, in the case of reoccurrence, with a fine of up to two thousand days

of the minimum wage in force for the Federal District, in the case that they promote a frivolous claim. For the individualization of the sanctions referred to in this section, the electoral authority should take into account the gravity of the responsibility incurred and the benefit of suppressing the practice in reference to the legally protected rights, or those pronounced based on them; the circumstances of method, time and place of the violation, the socioeconomic conditions of the offender; the external conditions and the means of execution; the reoccurrence in the incompliance with obligations and, where applicable, the amount of benefit, profit, damage or loss arising from the incompliance with the obligations.

- f) With respect to election observers or organizations of election observers:
 - I. With a public reprimand;
 - II. With the immediate cancellation of the accreditation as election observers and the disqualification for receiving accreditation as such in at least two federal or local electoral processes, depending on the case, and
 - III. With a fine of up to two hundred days of the minimum wage in force in the Federal District, in the case of the organizations to which the election observers belong;
- g) With respect to the radio and television broadcasters:
 - I. With a public reprimand;
 - II. With a fine of up to one hundred thousand days of the minimum wage in force in the Federal District, which in the case of radio broadcasters will be up to fifty thousand days of the minimum wage; in case of reoccurrence with up to twice the amounts mentioned above, as appropriate;
 - III. When they do not transmit the messages referred to in this Chapter according to the guidelines adopted by the Institute, in addition to the fine imposed as applicable, they must immediately remedy the omission, using to that effect the commercial airtime or airtime for their own purposes that the law authorizes them;
 - IV. In the case of serious violations, such as those established in article 452, paragraph 1, subparagraphs a) and b), and when they are also repeated, with the suspension by the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes, upon approval by the General Council, of the transmission of the commercial airtime for one hour or for a maximum of up to thirty-six hours. In any case, when this sanction is imposed, the time of the suspended publicity will be occupied by the transmission of

a message of the authority in which the audience will be informed of this. In the case of public and private broadcasters, the sanction will be applicable to the time allotted for sponsorships;

- V. When the previous sanction has been applied and the offender systematically repeats the violation, the General Council will notify the competent authority in order for it to implement the applicable sanction according to the law of the matter, and it should inform the General Council;
- h) With regard to citizens' organizations aiming to form political parties:
 - I. With a public reprimand;
 - II. With a fine of up to five thousand days of the minimum wage in force in the Federal District, depending on the gravity of the violation, and
 - III. With the cancellation of the procedure designed to obtain the registration as a national political party, and
- i) With regard to the trade union, labor organizations or employer organizations, or to any other association with a social purpose other than the creation of political parties, as well as their members or leaders, as relates to the creation and registration of political parties:
 - I. With a public reprimand, and
 - II. With a fine of up to five thousand days of the minimum wage in force in the Federal District, depending on the gravity of the violation.

Article 457.

1. When the federal, state or municipal authorities commit any infractions established in this Law, fail to comply with the mandates of the electoral authority, do not provide in due time and form the information requested of them, or do not provide the assistance and cooperation required of them by the bodies of the Institute, the hierarchically superior authority will be notified and, where applicable, a complaint will be presented before the competent authority for facts that might constitute administrative responsibilities or the report or lawsuit before the agent of the Public Ministry that should know them, in order for the process to proceed in the terms of the applicable laws.

Article 458.

1. When the federal, state or municipal authorities fail to comply with the mandates of the electoral authority, they do not provide the information requested of them in due time and form, or they do not provide the assistance and cooperation required of them by the bodies of the Institute, the following will occur:

- a) Once the violation is known, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will integrate a file that will be given to the hierarchical superior of the infringing authority, so that this authority proceeds according to the law;
- b) The hierarchically superior authority referred to in the previous subparagraph will communicate to the Institute the measures it has taken in the case, and
- c) If the offending authority does not have hierarchically superior authority, the requirement will be handed over to the Supreme Audit Office of the Federation, or its equivalent in the state in question, so that this body proceeds according in the terms of the applicable laws.

2. When the Institute knows of the incompliance by the public notaries with the obligations imposed on them by this Law, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will integrate a file that will be given to the competent authority, so that this authority proceeds in the terms of the applicable legislation; this authority should communicate to the Institute, within a month, the measures it has taken and the sanctions it has imposed. In any case, the competent authority will order the precautionary measures to ensure that the infringing conduct ceases immediately.

3. When the Institute or the Local Public Bodies are aware that a foreigner, by any form, intends to interfere or is interfering in political affairs, they will take the appropriate measures and will immediately proceed to inform to the Ministry of the Interior, for the purposes established by law. If the offender is outside the national territory, the Institute or the Local Public Bodies will inform the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the appropriate action.

4. When the Institute or the Local Public Bodies are aware of the commission of an infringement by ministers, associations, churches or groups of any religion, they will inform the Ministry of the Interior for the appropriate legal effects.

5. For the individualization of the sanctions referred to in this Book, once the existence of an violation and its accusation have been confirmed, the electoral authority should take into account the circumstances surrounding the violation of the administrative rule, among others the following:

- a) The seriousness of the responsibility incurred and the benefit of suppressing practices that violate, in any form, the provisions of this Law, in reference to the legally protected rights, or those pronounced based on them;
- b) The circumstances of method, time and place of the violation;
- c) The socioeconomic conditions of the offender;
- d) The external conditions and the means of execution;

- e) The reoccurrence in the in compliance with obligations, and
- f) Where applicable, the amount of benefit, profit, damage or loss arising from the in compliance with the obligations.

6. The offender who having been declared responsible for the in compliance with any of the obligations referred in this Law again commits the same violation to this legislation will be considered as a repeat offender.

7. The fines should be paid to the Executive Directorate of Administration of the Institute; if the offender does not comply with the obligation, the Institute will inform the tax authorities so that they proceed to collect it in accordance with the applicable legislation. In the case of the political parties, the amount will be discounted from the financing for their ordinary expenses according to the established in the decision.

8. The resources obtained by the application of economic sanctions stemming from violations committed by the subjects of the electoral sanctioning regime considered in this Eighth Book will be allocated to the National Council on Science and Technology in the terms of the applicable provisions when they are imposed by the federal authorities, and to the state bodies in charge of the promotion, encouragement and development of science, technology and innovation when they are imposed by the local authorities.

CHAPTER II On the Sanctioning Procedure

Article 459.

1. The following are competent bodies for the processing and resolution of the sanctioning procedure:

- a) The General Council;
- b) The Reports and Complaints Commission,¹⁶ and
- c) The Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat of the General Council.

2. The councils and the executive, local and district boards, in their respective areas of competence, will act as auxiliary bodies for the processing of the sanctioning procedures, except as stipulated in article 474 of this Law.

3. The Commission mentioned in subparagraph b) of the paragraph 1 above will be integrated by three Electoral Councilors, who will be appointed for a

¹⁶ Translator's note: This refers to the Complaints and Reports Commission of the National Electoral Institute. However, this translation maintains the typographical error of the original Spanish version of this law.

period of three years by the General Council. Their sessions and proceedings will be determined in the regulations approved by the General Council.

Article 460.

1. The notifications will be made no later than three working days after the decisions that motivate them were issued and will take effect on the same day as the notification is made.

2. When the decision entails a citation or a deadline for a transaction, it will be personally notified at least three working days before the day and time when the procedure or hearing will take place. The other notifications will be made in documents which will be fixed in the offices of the Institute or of the body which issued the decision in question. In any case, the notifications directed to an authority or party body will be made by official notification.

3. The personal notifications are made during weekdays and working hours to the interested party or through the person authorized by the interested party for this purpose.

4. The notifications are personal when this is determined, but in any case the first notification to any of the parties will be made personally.

5. When a personal notification should be made, the person giving the notification must verify, by any means, that the person to be notified has his permanent address in the given building and, after that, the person carrying out the notification will deliver an authorized copy of the corresponding decision, which will include the reasons for it.

6. If the interested party is not found at his permanent address, a citation will be left with any of the persons found at this address, which will contain:

- a) The name of the body that issued the decision to be notified;
- b) The information of the file it was based;
- c) An extract from the decision that is notified;
- d) The day and time when the citation is left and the name of the person that it should be delivered to, and
- e) An indication of the time during the following day when the person should expect the notification.

7. The following day, at the time specified in the citation, the person giving the notification will again visit the address and if the interested party is not found, the notification will be made by publication at the Court's office, of which the corresponding reason will be included in the file.

8. If the person who is sought refuses to receive the notification, or if the persons found at the address refuse to receive the citation, or if nobody is found at this place, the notification will be fixed to the entrance door, and a

notification will also be made by publication at the Court's office, including the reason for this in the file.

9. The personal notifications can be carried out by the appearance of the interested party, of his representative, or of a person authorized to receive notifications before the corresponding body.

10. The notification of the decisions that end the investigation procedure will be personal, will be made no later than three working days after they are issued, and a certified copy of the decision will be delivered to the complainant and the respondent.

11. The deadlines are counted moment by moment¹⁷ and if they are set out in days, these will be considered as twenty-four hours. During the electoral processes, all days and hours are working days. In the case of the complaints filed before the electoral process the deadlines are counted by working days, and in the case of the complaints presented once the electoral process has started the deadlines are counted by calendar days.

Article 461.

1. The disputed facts are evidence. The law, well-known or impossible facts, and facts that have been recognized will not be accepted evidence. Both the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat and the General Council may invoke the well-known facts although they have not been presented by the respondent or by the complainant. In any case, once the respondent has appeared in person in the investigation procedure, the contradictory principle of evidence will be respected in the presentation of the proof, whenever this does not result in the possibility of delaying the process, or in the risk that the evidentiary material is hidden or destroyed.

2. The evidence should be provided in the first document presented by the parties in the procedure, expressing with clarity the fact or facts that the evidence aim to accredit, as well as the reasons why they consider that they prove the assertions made.

3. Only the following evidence will be accepted:

- a) Public documentary evidence;
- b) Private documentary evidence;
- c) Technical evidence;
- d) Testimony of accounting experts;

¹⁷ Translator's note: Moment by moment deadlines are given in hours and a complaint must be lodged within the given number of hours after the exact time of the notification. Deadlines set out in days, however, apply to a number of full days starting at midnight on the day after the notification and ending at midnight a given number of days later.

- e) Legal and human presumptive evidence, and
- f) Tangible evidence of the acts of authorities.

4. Confessions and testimonies may be admitted when they are presented in statements drawn up before a public notary who has received them directly from the persons making the statements and provided that these persons are properly identified and express the reason for their statements.

5. The authority which try the procedure may order the examination of acknowledgements or judicial inspections, as well as of the testimony of experts, when the challenged violation warrants it, the deadlines allow it and they are deemed crucial for the clarification of the denounced facts.

6. The complainant and the respondent may provide supervening evidence before the closure of the proceedings.

7. Once supervening evidence have been admitted, the complainant or the respondent, as appropriate, will be informed so that in a period of five days this person indicates what is in his best interest.

8. The Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat or the General Council may admit evidence that, having been offered in the document in which they were brought before the procedure and having been requested from the corresponding authorities, have not been provided before the approval of the draft resolutions but are provided at least twenty-four hours before the start of the respective session. The General Council will warn the authorities in the event that they do not meet, in due time and form, the requirement of the evidence.

9. Also, the General Council may admit evidence which, having been requested by the bodies of the Institute within the corresponding investigation, have not been received until twenty-four hours before the respective session. In these cases, the General Council will order the return of the file to the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat for the purposes of paragraph 1 of article 468 of this Law.

10. The bodies that try the procedure may use coercive proceedings to enforce their decisions.

Article 462.

1. The evidence admitted and presented will be judged as a whole, in accordance with the rules of logic, experience and exercise of judgment, as well as the guiding principles of the electoral function, with the aim to produce conviction about the denounced facts.

2. The public documents will have full evidentiary value, unless there is contradictory evidence regarding its authenticity or the truthfulness of the facts to which they refer.

3. The private and technical documentary evidence, testimony of experts, and the tangible evidence of the acts of authorities, as well as those documents in which a public notary attests the statements of a properly identified person, will only have full evidentiary value when the competent body to resolve judges that they generate conviction about the truthfulness of the denounced facts, by linking with the other elements included in the file, the assertions of the parties, the known truth and straight reasoning of the relationship between them.

4. In the case of material impossibility to create certified copies of the uncertified copies included in the files, these will only have indicative value.

Article 463.

1. For the expeditious resolution of the complaints or reports and in order to determine in a single decision on two or more of them, the accumulation due to *lis alibi pendens*, connection, or where there is a link between two or more procedure files for which there are several complaints or reports against the same respondent regarding the same conduct and coming from a single cause is allowed.

CHAPTER III

On the Ordinary Sanctioning Procedure

Article 464.

1. The procedure for the knowledge of the offences and application of administrative sanctions may start at the request of a party or *ex officio* when a body of the Institute is aware of the commission of the offending conduct.

2. The faculty of the electoral authority to establish individual responsibilities for administrative offenses is prescribed after three years, counted from the commission of the acts or from knowing of the same.

Article 465.

1. Any person can present complaints or reports about assumed violations to the electoral legislation before the centralized or decentralized bodies of the Institute or before the Local Public Bodies; the legal persons will do so through their legitimate representatives in terms of the applicable legislation and the natural persons will so do in their own right.

2. The complaint or report could be submitted in writing, orally or through electronic means and should comply with the following requirements:

- a) The name of the complainant or accuser with signature or fingerprint;

- b) The address to hear and receive notifications;
- c) The documents necessary to prove the legal capacity;
- d) An express and clear account of the facts on which the complaint or report is based and, if possible, the provisions alleged to be violated;
- e) To offer and provide the evidence that the complainant or accuser has or, if necessary, to mention the evidence that should be required, when the complainant accredits that he requested this evidence on time and in writing to the competent body and that it has not been delivered. The complainant should link the evidence with each of the facts, and
- f) The political parties should submit the complaints or reports in writing. In the event that the complainants do not prove their legal capacity, the complaint or report will be considered as not having been submitted.

3. Except for the assumption included in the last part of the following paragraph, in the case of the omission of any of the requirements listed above, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will alert the complainant to enable him to correct it within three days. In the same way, the complainant will be alerted when the complaint is imprecise, vague or generic in order to clarify it. In the event that this omission is not corrected, the complaint will be considered as not having been submitted.

4. The authority that receives the oral submission of a complaint or report, or the submission through electronic means, should make a record of it, requiring the ratification by the complainant. In the event that the complainant does not come to ratify the report or complaint within three days after he is notified of the citation, the complaint will be considered as not having been submitted.

5. The complaint or report could be made before any Institute body, and must be sent to the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat within forty-eight hours to be processed, except in the event that the complaint or report requires the ratification of the complainant, in which case it will be forwarded once ratified or, where applicable, when the deadline for this has expired.

6. The decentralized bodies which receive a complaint or report on any issue will send it to the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat within the timeframe specified in the previous paragraph, once they have carried out the necessary actions to prevent the concealment, damage or destruction of evidence, as well as once they have obtain additional evidence that could contribute elements to the investigation, without such measures implying the early beginning of the investigation.

7. The Institute body that submits a complaint will forward it immediately to the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat so that it examines it along with the provided evidence.

8. Once the complaint or report has been received, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will proceed:

- a) To register it, informing the General Council that it was submitted;
- b) To review it to determine whether additional statements or information should be required of the complainant;
- c) To analyze it to determine if it should be accepted or rejected, and
- d) Where applicable, to identify and request the necessary procedures for the development of the investigation.

9. The Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will have five days to issue the admission agreement or rejection proposal, counted from the day in which receives the complaint or report. In the event that additional statements or information was required of the complainant, these days will be counted from the receipt of submission of the required information or from the date on which the deadline expired without the required information having been submitted.

Article 466.

1. The complaint will be inadmissible when:

- a) In the case of complaints or reports relating to alleged violations of the internal regulations of a political party, the complainant or accuser does not prove their membership of the party in question or their legal interest;
- b) The complainant or accuser did not previously exhaust the internal instances of the denounced party if the complaint relates to alleged violations of their internal regulations;
- c) By acts or facts ascribed to the same person that have been the subject of another complaint or report that the General Council has already resolved in dept, provided that this decision has not been challenged before the Electoral Tribunal or, having been challenged, that it has been confirmed by the same Electoral Tribunal, and
- d) The Institute is incompetent to hear the challenged acts; or when the challenged acts, facts and omissions do not constitute violations of this Law.

2. The dismissal of the complaint or report will proceed when:

- a) Any of the inadmissibility causes occur after it was admitted;
- b) The respondent is a political party that, after the admission of the complaint or report, has lost its registration, and
- c) The complainant presents a written withdrawal, provided that this is done before the approval of the draft resolution by the Secretariat

and that in the view of the same, or considering the progress of the investigation, it does not concern the accusation of serious facts, nor does it violate the guiding principles of the electoral function.

3. The study of the causes of inadmissibility or dismissal of the complaint or report will be done *ex officio*. In the event of advising that one of them applies, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will prepare a draft resolution by which the inadmissibility or dismissal, as appropriate, will be proposed.

4. When, during the process of trying a case, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat observes facts that differ from the purpose of that specific procedure and that may constitute different electoral violations, or the responsibility of actors different from the respondents, it may order the opening of a new investigation procedure *ex officio*.

5. The Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will keep a record of the inadmissible complaints and inform the General Council of this.

Article 467.

1. Once the complaint or report has been admitted, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will summon the respondent, without prejudice to ordering the investigative steps it considers necessary. With the first notification, the respondent it will be given a copy of the complaint as well as of the evidence that have been presented by the complainant or have been preemptively obtained by the authority that received the complaint, as applies. The respondent is given five days to answer the charges against him. The failure to reply to these charges only results in the preclusion of his right to provide evidence, without generating a presumption regarding the truthfulness of the denounced facts.

2. The written reply must comply with the following requirements:

- a) The name of the respondent or of his representative, with signature or fingerprint;
- b) It should refer to the facts that he is accused of, confirming them, denying them or declaring that they are unknown to him;
- c) The address to hear and receive notifications;
- d) The documents necessary to prove the legal capacity, and
- e) To offer and provide the evidence that he has, connecting them to the facts or, where applicable, mentioning those that should be required given that they are in the possession of an authority and that he has not been able to obtain them. In this last case, the respondent must identify such evidence with precision.

Article 468.

1. The investigation for the certain knowledge of the facts will be carried out by the Institute in a serious, coherent, suitable, effective, prompt, complete and exhaustive manner.

2. Once the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat has information about the denounced facts of the case, it will, where relevant, immediately dictate the measures necessary to attest to the same in order to prevent that the traces or remains are lost, destroyed or altered, and in general in order to avoid the hindrance of the investigation.

3. Once the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat has admitted the complaint or report, it will gather the evidence that it deems appropriate to integrate the respective file. For this purpose, it will, through official document, request the central or decentralized bodies of the Institute to carry out the necessary investigations or to collect the necessary evidence. The timeframe for carrying out the investigation cannot exceed forty days, counted from the receipt of the written complaint or report in the Secretariat or from the *ex officio* start of the procedure by the Secretariat. This period may be expanded only once as an exceptional measure for up to a period equal to the one mentioned above through a properly motivated agreement issued by the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat.

4. If the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat, within the deadline set for the admission of the complaint or report, assesses that precautionary measures should be issued, it will suggest this to the Complaints and Reports Commission so that it resolves on the matter within twenty-four hours, in order to achieve the suspension of the acts or facts that constitute the infringement and to avoid the production of irreparable damage, that the principles that govern the electoral processes are affected, or the infringement on the legal rights protected by the provisions contained in this Law.

5. The Secretary of the General Council can request from the federal, state or municipal authorities, as appropriate, the reports, certifications or the support necessary for the realization of proceedings that contribute to investigate and verify the certainty of the denounced facts. With the same purpose, the Secretary can require of natural and legal persons the delivery of the information and evidence that are necessary.

6. The proceedings carried out in the course of the investigation should be executed by the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat, by the public servant or by the legal representative that the public servant appoints at the written request of any of the above, or by the

executive members of the decentralized bodies of the Institute. Exceptionally, the previously mentioned members may appoint any of the members of the boards so that they carry out these proceedings. In any case, the executive members will be responsible for the proper exercise of the investigative role.

Article 469.

1. Once the presentation of evidence has concluded and, where applicable, the investigation has ended, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will share the file with the complainant and respondent so that they, within five days, express what is in their best interest. After this deadline, the Secretariat will develop the corresponding draft resolution, within no more than ten days from the end of the last viewing of the file. Once the previously mentioned deadline has expired, the Secretariat could extend it through an agreement in which it sets out the causes motivating this; the extension cannot exceed ten days.

2. The draft resolution issued by the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will, within five days, be sent to the Complaints and Reports Commission for its knowledge and study.

3. The president of this Commission will, no later than the day after the receipt of the opinion, invite the other members of the Commission to a session, which should take place no earlier than twenty-four hours after the date of the call, in order for this body to analyze and evaluate the draft resolution, taking into account the following:

- a) If the first draft of the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat suggests the inadmissibility or dismissal of the investigation, or the imposition of a sanction, and the Complaints and Reports Commission agrees with the meaning of the draft, it will be forwarded to the General Council for its study and vote;
- b) In the event of not adopting the inadmissibility or dismissal, or the imposition of a sanction, the Complaints and Reports Commission will return the draft resolution to the Secretary, stating the reasons for its return, or suggesting, where applicable, the proceedings it deems relevant to the improvement of the investigation, and
- c) Within no more than fifteen days after the return of the draft and the corresponding comments, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will issue a new draft resolution, taking into consideration the reasoning and arguments made by the Complaints and Reports Commission.

4. Once the president of the General Council receives the corresponding

draft resolution, he will convene a session, sending copies of the draft to the members of this body at least three days before the date of the session.

5. In the session in which the draft resolution is discussed, the General Council will decide:

- a) To approve it in the terms it is presented;
- b) To approve it, ordering the Secretary of the General Council to extend the draft resolution in the sense of the arguments, considerations and reasoning expressed by the majority;
- c) To modify it, proceeding to approve it in the same session, provided that it is considered that this can be done and that it does not contradict what is established in the body of draft;
- d) To reject it and request the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat to prepare a new draft in the sense of the arguments, considerations and reasoning expressed by the majority, and
- e) The rejection of a draft resolution is understood as the approval of an agreement for its return.

6. In the event of a tie caused by the absence of any of the Electoral Councilors, a second vote will be carried out. In the event that the tie continues, the President Councilor will decide to present the draft at a later meeting in which all the Electoral Councilors are present.

7. The electoral councilor who disagrees with the majority may draw up a dissenting vote, which will be included in the corresponding draft if it is sent to the secretary within two days of the date of the approval of the draft.

8. In the settlement of the points of the agenda on a day in which the General Council should decide on the draft resolutions regarding complaints and reports, these will be grouped and vote on in a single act, except if any of its members proposes that they be discussed separately.

CHAPTER IV

On the Special Sanctioning Procedure

Article 470.

1. Within the electoral processes, the Executive Secretariat of the Institute, through the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes, will instruct the special procedure established by this Chapter, in the case of allegations of acts that:

- a) Violate the provisions of Basis III of article 41 or of the eighth paragraph of article 134 of the Constitution;
- b) Contravene the rules on political or electoral propaganda, or
- c) Constitute early pre-campaign or campaign activities.

Article 471.

1. When the violation is related to the political or electoral propaganda in radio and television in the states, the competent administrative electoral authority will submit the complaint to the Institute.

2. The procedures related to the dissemination of propaganda that is considered libelous can only be initiated at the request of the affected party. Libel is understood as the accusation of false facts or crimes with an impact on an electoral process.

3. The complaint must meet the following requirements:

- a) The name of the complainant or accuser with signature or fingerprint;
- b) The address to hear and receive notifications;
- c) The documents necessary to prove the legal capacity;
- d) An express and clear account of the facts on which the complaint or report is based;
- e) To offer and provide the evidence that the complainant or accuser has or, if necessary, to mention the proof that should be required, because the complainant is not able to collect them, and
- f) Where applicable, the precautionary measures that are requested.

4. The Institute body that receives or promotes the complaint will immediately forward it to the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat, so that this body will review it together with the submitted evidence.

5. The complaint will be directly dismissed, without any precaution, by the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat when:

- a) It does not meet the requirements set out in paragraph 3 of this article;
- b) The allegations do not constitute a violation regarding political-electoral propaganda;
- c) The complainant does not provide or offer any evidence of his statements, or
- d) The complaint is obviously frivolous.

6. The Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat should admit or dismiss the complaint during the 24 hours following its reception. In the case of dismissal, the Secretariat will notify the complainant of its resolution, by the most expeditious means available to it, within twelve hours; such a decision must be confirmed in writing and the Specialized Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal will be informed of it, for its knowledge.

7. When the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat admits the complaint, it will summon the complainant and the respondent to appear at a hearing of evidence and allegations, which will take place during the forty-eight hours following its admission. In the respective writing, it will inform

the respondent of the infringement that he is accused of and he will be given a copy of the complaint with the annexes.

8. If the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat considers it necessary to adopt precautionary measures, it will propose them to the Complaints and Reports Commission within forty-eight hours, in the terms established in article 467 of the Law. This decision could be appealed to the High Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal.

Article 472.

1. The hearing of the evidence and allegations will be carried out orally in a continuous way and will be conducted by the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat, and a record should be taken of its development.

2. In the special procedure, only documentary and technical evidence will be admitted. The technical evidence will be presented provided that the party offering the evidence provides the means for that effect in the course of the hearing.

3. The absence of the participation of the parties does not prevent the holding of the hearing on the day and time indicated. The hearing will develop in the following terms:

- a) Once the hearing has started, the complainant will be given the word in order to, in a statement no longer than thirty minutes, summarize the fact that motivated the complaint and to give an account of the evidence that in his view corroborates the complaint. In the event that the procedure has been started *ex officio*, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will act as the complainant;
- b) Then, the respondent will be given the word for a period no longer than thirty minutes, in order to respond to the complaint, offering the evidence that in his view refute the accusation;
- c) The Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will decide on the admission of evidence and will then proceed to present them, and
- d) Once the presentation of the evidence has been completed, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat will grant the word in succession to the complainant and the respondent, or to their representatives, who may, only once and for no longer than fifteen minutes each, present their arguments in writing or orally.

Article 473.

1. After the hearing has been held, the Technical Unit of Electoral Disputes of the Executive Secretariat should immediately forward the complete file to

the Specialized Regional Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal, setting out the precautionary measures and other procedures carried out as well as a detailed report. The detailed report should at least contain the following:

- a) The narrative of the facts that motivated the complaint or report;
- b) The procedures that have been carried out by the authority;
- c) The evidence provided by the parties;
- d) The other actions that have been carried out, and
- e) The conclusions regarding the complaint or report. A copy of the detailed report will be sent to the Complaints and Reports Commission of the Institute for its knowledge.

2. Once it has received the file, the Specialized Regional Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal will act in accordance with the provisions of the applicable legislation.

Article 474.

1. When the complaints referred to in this Chapter are motivated by the commission of conducts related to the physical location or the content of printed political or electoral propaganda, the propaganda painted on walls, or any propaganda other than that transmitted by radio or television, as well as when they refer to early pre-campaign or campaign activities in which the offending behaviour is related to that type of propaganda, it will be subjected to the following:

- a) The complaint will be submitted to the executive member of the district or local board of the Institute that corresponds to the territorial demarcation where the challenged conduct occurred or that corresponds to the position that is elected;
- b) The executive member will, in the consequent process, exercise the powers outlined in the previous article for the Executive Secretariat of the Institute, according to the procedure and within the time limits specified by the same article, and
- c) Once the hearing has been held, the executive member of the corresponding board should immediately forward the complete file to the Specialized Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal, setting out the procedures carried out as well as a detailed report in terms of the provisions of this Law.

2. The district councils or boards will hear and resolve on the issues that are different from those outlined in the previous paragraph and their decisions can be appealed to the local councils or boards or, where applicable, to the General Council of the Institute, as appropriate, and their decisions will be final.

3. In the cases established in paragraph 1 of this article, if the challenged conduct constitutes a generalized violation or is considered serious, the Executive Secretariat of the Institute may attract the matter to its knowledge.

Article 475.

1. The Specialized Regional Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal will be competent to resolve on the special sanctioning procedure referred to in the previous article.

Article 476.

1. The Specialized Regional Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal will receive the original file created regarding the complaint and the respective detailed report from the Institute.

2. Once the file has been received by the Specialized Regional Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal, the President of this Chamber will hand over the file to the corresponding Reporting Justice, who should:

- a) File the complaint, proceeding to verify the compliance by the Institute with the requirements established by this Law;
- b) When observing omissions or deficiencies in the integration of the file or in its processing, as well as violations of the rules established in this Law, carry out or order the Institute to carry out the procedures to furnish additional evidence, determining those that should be carried out and within what timeframe, which should be done as expeditiously as possible;
- c) If the procedural violation persists, the Reporting Justice will impose the coercive proceedings necessary to guarantee the principles of immediacy and completeness in the processing of the procedure. This independently of the administrative responsibility that could be demanded of the electoral public servants, where applicable;
- d) Once the file is properly integrated, the Reporting Justice should, within the forty-eight hours following its receipt, put the draft ruling that resolves the sanctioning procedure to the consideration of the plenary of the Specialized Regional Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal, and
- e) The Plenary of this Chamber will resolve on the issue in a public session, in the twenty-four hours following the distribution of the draft ruling.

Article 477.

1. The rulings that resolve the special sanctioning procedure could have the following effects:

- a) To declare the inexistence of the violation that motivated the complaint or report and, where applicable, to revoke the precautionary measures that were imposed, or
- b) To impose the applicable sanctions in terms of the provisions of this Law.

SECOND TITLE

On the Responsibilities of the Public Servants of the National Electoral Institute

CHAPTER I

On the Administrative Responsibilities

Article 478.

1. For the purposes of this Chapter, the following will be considered as public servants of the Institute: the President Councilor, the Electoral Councilors of the General Council and of the local and district councils, the Executive Secretary, the Comptroller General, the Executive Directors, the head of the Technical Auditing Unit of the Auditing Commission, the heads of the administrative units, the executives members of the decentralized bodies, the officials and employees, and, in general, any person who has a job, position or commission of any nature in the Institute. These will be responsible for the actions or omissions which they commit in the performance of their respective functions.

2. The Comptroller General's Office of the Institute, its head and its staff, independently of their level, are prevented from intervening or interfering in any way in the performance of the powers and exercise of the attributions of an electoral nature that the Constitution and this Law bestows on the officials of the Institute.

Article 479.

1. The following will be causes of accountability for the public servants of the Institute:

- a) To perform acts that go against the independence of the electoral function, or any action that generates or implies subordination to a third party;
- b) To unduly interfere in issues which fall to other bodies of the Institute;
- c) To be notoriously negligent, incompetent or careless in the performance of the functions or task that they should carry out;
- d) To know of any matter or participate in any act for which they are estopped;

- e) To make appointments, promotions or ratifications infringing on the corresponding general provisions;
- f) To fail to notify the General Council of any act designed to violate the independence of the electoral function;
- g) To fail to preserve the principles governing the functioning of the Institute in the performance of their duties;
- h) To issue a public opinion that implies prejudging a matter of their knowledge;
- i) To fail to perform the functions or the task that they are in charge of;
- j) Where applicable, those set out in article 8 of the Federal Law on the Administrative Responsibilities of the Public Servants, and
- k) The others established by this Law or the other applicable laws.

CHAPTER II

On the Procedure for the Determination of Administrative Responsibilities

Article 480.

1. The procedure for determining the responsibilities of the public servants of the Institute referred to in this Title will begin *ex officio* or at the request of a party, by a complaint or report lodged by any person, by a public servant who knows of the facts or, where applicable, by the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office. Anonymous complaints will not be admitted. The administrative responsibilities referred to in this article will be prescribed in three years.

Article 481.

1. The complaints or reports which are submitted, *ex officio* or at the request of a party, must be supported by sufficient evidence to establish the existence of the infringement and to presume the responsibility of the reported public servant.

2. The complaints or reports will be inadmissible:

- a) When they concern actions or omissions attributed to a person who has already been the subject of another complaint or report before the Comptroller General's Office and regarding which a final decision has been reached;
- b) When they report actions or omissions that the Comptroller General's Office is incompetent to hear, and
- c) When the reported actions or omissions do not constitute causes of responsibility in the terms of this legislation.

3. The dismissal of the sanctioning procedure will proceed:
 - a) When an inadmissibility cause occurs after the complaint or report was admitted, and
 - b) When the complainant presents a written withdrawal, provided that this is done before the decision is issued. In the case of serious infringements, the dismissal cannot occur under any circumstances.
4. The study of the causes for inadmissibility or dismissal of the complaint or report will be *ex officio*.

Article 482.

1. For the determination of the responsibilities referred to in this chapter, the following procedure should be followed:

- a) Once the complaint or report has been received, and given that no cause for inadmissibility or dismissal has been found, a copy of the complaint or report will be sent with its annexes to the public servant presumed responsible, so that he within five working days prepares a report on the facts, offers the corresponding evidence and explains what is in his best interest. The report must refer to each of the facts included in the complaint, confirming them, denying them or declaring that they are unknown to him, due to not being his, or referring them as he thinks they occurred. The facts of the complaint that the respondent does not respond to will be assumed to be true unless proven otherwise. The acceptance of the facts does not imply the acceptance of the administrative responsibility that he is accused of;
- b) Once the report has been received and the evidence have been examined, the absence of responsibility or application of the corresponding administrative sanctions will be determined within the following thirty working days. The public servant and, where applicable, the complainant will be notified of the decision within seventy-two hours in the event of the cases of responsibility set out in subparagraphs b), d) to f), and h) to k) of article 479 of this Law;
- c) When it concerns the cases covered by subparagraphs a), c) and g) of article 479 of this Law, the comptroller general will summon the presumed responsible to a hearing, informing him of the responsibility or responsibilities that he is charged with, the place, date and time that the hearing will take place, and of his right to provide evidence and plead what is in his best interest in the hearing, by himself or through a defender. There must be a period of no less than five and no more than fifteen working days between the date of the summons and the hearing;

- d) If sufficient elements to resolve the complaint do not emerge from the report or from the results of the hearing, or if other elements are noticed that imply new administrative responsibilities of the presumed responsible or of another persons, it is possible to carry out more research and to agree, where applicable, to hold one or several more hearings;
- e) With the exception of the President Councilor, the Electoral Councilors and the Secretary of the General Council, the Comptroller General can decide on the temporary suspension of the presumed responsible from his position, employment or commission, provided that this is appropriate for the conduction and continuation of the investigations; the suspension will cease when this is decided by the Comptroller General's Office. The temporary suspension does not imply a prejudgment about the responsibility that the public servant is accused of, which will be expressly stated in the respective decision;
- f) If the temporarily suspended public servant is found not to be responsible for the violations that he was accused of, he will be restored to his full rights and he will be given the payments that he should have received during the time he was suspended, and
- g) When the existence of the violation motivating the complaint is proven, the head of the Comptroller General's Office will impose the appropriate sanction and will dictate the measures for its immediate correction or remedy.

Article 483.

1. The sanctions applicable to the violations referred to in this Chapter and to those committed in violation of article 8 of the Federal Law on the Administrative Responsibilities of the Public Servants will consist of:

- a) Private or public warning;
- b) Private or public reprimand;
- c) Economic sanction;
- d) Suspension;
- e) Dismissal from the position, and
- f) Temporary disqualification, for up to five years, from having jobs, positions or commissions in the public service.

2. In the case of the President Councilor and the Electoral Councilors of the General Council, and only in the event of administrative violations that constitute serious and systematic conducts, the comptroller general will notify the president of the Directive Board of the House of Representatives,

also sending the file on the well-founded and motivated issue in order for this Chamber to decide, by the agreement of two-thirds of the members present, on the responsibility.

3. Regarding the Executive Secretary and executive directors of the Institute, for the implementation of sanctions for the violations referred to in the previous paragraph, the comptroller general will submit the respective file to the General Council in order to decide if a sanction should be imposed.

Article 484.

1. The offences will be judged and, where applicable, penalized in accordance with the criteria established in articles 13, 14, 15 and 16 of the Federal Law on the Administrative Responsibilities of the Public Servants, as applicable.

2. In any case, the failure to comply with the obligations set out in sections X to XIV, XX, XXII and XXIII of article 8 of the Federal Law on the Administrative Responsibilities of the Public Servants, as well as in subparagraphs a) to e) and g) of article 479 of this Law, will be regarded as serious offences.

Article 485.

1. Regardless of the meaning of the decision to be issued at the end of the procedure, the Comptroller will dictate the necessary measures for the correction of the administrative irregularities that are detected during the processing of the complaint, and if the realization of a conduct that could lead to responsibility is deduced from the contents of the complaint, the Comptroller will proceed in the terms provided in this Chapter.

Article 486.

1. The decisions that cause the imposition of administrative sanctions can be challenged by means of the defense established in the Statute and the other orders of a regulatory nature; the interested parties may opt for the direct challenge of the sanctions before the Federal Tribunal of Fiscal and Administrative Justice in the terms established by the corresponding law.

CHAPTER III

On the Comptroller General's Office

Article 487.

1. The Comptroller General's Office is the internal control body of the Institute that will be in charge of the control of the income and expenditure of the Institute; in the exercise of its powers, it will have technical and management autonomy to decide over its operation and decisions.

2. The hierarchical level of the head of the Comptroller General's Office will be equivalent to that of an Executive Director.

3. The head of the Comptroller General's Office will be appointed by the House of Representatives, with the vote of two-thirds of the members present, at the proposal of the public institutions of higher education, through the procedures and in the deadlines established by the Organic Law of the General Congress.

4. The elected Comptroller will swear in before the General Council.

5. The Comptroller General's Office will have the organizational structure, staff and resources approved by the General Council at the proposal of the Comptroller, in accordance with the rules established in this Chapter.

6. In its performance, the Comptroller General's Office will be subject to the principles of certainty, legality, independence, impartiality, maximum publicity and objectivity.

Article 488.

1. The comptroller general must meet the same requirements that this Law establishes for the executive directors of the Institute, and the following:

- a) To not be electoral councilor of any of the councils of the Institute, unless leaving the position three years before the date of the day of the appointment;
- b) To have a good reputation and never to have been sentenced for any intentional crime that merits a sentence of over a year in prison; but if it concerns theft, fraud, falsification, breach of trust or another that seriously damages the reputation in public opinion, this disqualifies the perpetrator from holding the office, independently of the punishment;
- c) To have, at the time of his appointment, at least five years of professional experience in the control, management or auditing of resources;
- d) To have held, for a minimum of five years on the day of the appointment, a bachelor's degree in public accounting or in another field directly related to auditing activities, issued by an authority or institution legally authorized to do so, and
- e) To not belong to or have belonged to, in the four years prior to the appointment, to a consultancy or audit offices that have lent their services to the Institute or to any political party.

Article 489.

1. The comptroller may be sanctioned in accordance with articles 480 to 484 of this Law for the following serious causes of administrative responsibility:

- a) To use confidential documents and information for his own benefit or for the benefit of third parties, in the terms of this Law and of the legislation on the matter;
- b) To fail to establish responsibilities or implement financial sanctions, in the field of his competence, without just cause, when the responsibility is duly confirmed and the responsible identified as a result of the revisions and investigations that he carries out in the exercise of his powers;
- c) To unduly remove, destroy, conceal or use the documents and information under his care or custody due to his position or that exist in the Comptroller General's Office because of the exercise of its powers;
- d) To conduct himself with bias in the monitoring procedures and in the application of sanctions referred to in this Law, and
- e) To commit any of the violations referred to in article 8 of the Federal Law on the Administrative Responsibilities of the Public Servants.

2. At the request of the General Council, the House of Representatives will decide on the application of sanctions to the comptroller general, including among these the dismissal due to serious causes of administrative responsibility, having to guarantee the right to a hearing of the affected. The dismissal will require the vote of two-thirds of the members present in the session.

Article 490.

1. The Comptroller General's Office will have the following powers:

- a) To set the criteria for carrying out the hearings, procedures, methods and systems necessary for the revision and auditing of the resources of the areas and bodies of the Institute;
- b) To establish the rules, procedures, methods and systems for the accounting and the archiving, of the justifying and supporting books and documents of the income and expenditure, as well as those elements that allow the best practice of the audits and reviews, which it carries out in the fulfillment of its functions;
- c) To assess the progress reports of the financial management regarding the authorized programs and the programs relating to concluded processes;
- d) To assess the compliance with the objectives and targets established in the programs of an administrative nature included in the expenditure budget of the Institute;
- e) To verify that the various administrative areas of the Institute which receive, handle, administer or apply resources do so in accordance with the applicable regulations, the approved programs and authorized

amounts, as well as, in the case of the expenditure, discount them from the corresponding budget item in accordance with the applicable legal, regulatory and administrative provisions;

- f) To review that the budgetary operations made by the Institute are done in accordance with the legal and administrative regulations applicable to these issues;
- g) To check the works, purchased or leased goods and contracted services to confirm that the authorized investments and expenditures have been implemented legally and efficiently for the achievement of the objectives and goals of the approved programs;
- h) To require the information related to the respectively justifying and supporting documents from third parties who have contracted goods or services from the Institute, in order to prepare the corresponding attested copies;
- i) To request and obtain the information necessary for the fulfillment of its functions. As regards the information relating to any type of operation provided by the credit institutions, the obligation to keep the confidentiality referred to in the regulatory provisions on transparency and access to public information will be applicable to all public servants of the Comptroller General's Office of the Institute, as well as to the professionals recruited for the audit practices;
- j) To issue the guidelines, to instruct, examine and resolve the administrative procedures regarding the complaints that are lodged against the public servants of the Institute, and to keep a register of the sanctioned public servants;
- k) To investigate, in its area of competence, the actions or omissions that imply an irregularity or unlawful conduct in the income, expenditure, handling, custody and use of funds and resources of the Institute;
- l) To directly receive complaints and reports related to the use and disposal of the income and resources of the Institute by its public servants and to settle the appropriate procedures;
- m) To make visits to the physical headquarters of the areas and bodies of the Institute to request the display of the books and papers that are indispensable for the realization of its investigations, subjecting itself to the respective formalities;
- n) To establish the orientation mechanisms and training courses which are necessary so that the public servants of the Institute adequately comply with their administrative responsibilities;
- ñ) To make observation statements in administrative matters;

- o) To determine the damages and losses that affect the Institute in its assets and to establish the compensations and financial sanctions directly to those responsible;
- p) To establish the responsibilities and to impose sanctions in terms of the respective guidelines;
- q) To submit its annual work programs for the approval of the General Council;
- r) To present the preliminary and annual reports of the results of its management to the General Council, and to appear before the same Council when this is required by the President Councilor;
- s) To participate, through its head, with the right to speak but not to vote, in the meetings of the General Executive Board when the President Councilor deems it necessary for the exercise of its powers;
- t) To receive and safeguard the declarations of assets that public servants of the Institute must present, from the level of department head, in accordance with the formats and procedures established by the Comptroller General's Office itself. The rules established in the Law on the matter will apply where appropriate;
- u) To intervene in the corresponding processes of delivery-reception due to the start or conclusion of office of the public servants, and
- v) The other powers given to it by this Law or the applicable laws on this matter.

Article 491.

1. The public servants assigned to the Comptroller General's Office and, where applicable, the professionals recruited for the performance of audits, must keep strict confidentiality regarding the information and documents that they come in contact with in the exercise of their powers as well as in their actions and observations.

Article 492.

1. The bodies, executive areas and public servants of the Institute will be obliged to provide the information, allow the revision and meet the requirements presented to them by the Comptroller General's Office, without this revision interfering in or obstructing the exercise of the functions or powers that this Law or applicable laws give them.

Article 493.

1. If the deadline set by the Comptroller General's Office expires without the

audited body or area presenting the requested report or documents, without just cause, the Comptroller General's Office will proceed to establish the responsibilities that correspond according to law.

2. The establishment of responsibilities and the imposition of sanctions will not release the offender from fulfilling the obligations or regularizing the situations that motivated the fines.

3. The Comptroller General's Office, in addition to imposing the respective sanction, will require the offender to, within a specified timeframe that cannot exceed forty-five days, comply with the omitted obligation that motivated the sanction; and if he fails to comply, he will be sanctioned.

4. During the examination of administrative procedures aimed, where applicable, at the establishment of responsibilities, the public servants will be ensured the exercise of the constitutional guarantees.

TRANSITORY ARTICLES

First. This Law will enter into force the day after its publication in the Official Gazette of the Federation.

Second. The Federal Code on Electoral Institutions and Procedures published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on January 14, 2008, as well as its reforms and additions, are repealed.

Third. The issues being processed when this Decree enters into force will be resolved in accordance with the rules in force when they began. The previous without prejudice to the application, where appropriate, of the deadlines set out in the transitory articles of this Decree.

Fourth. The personnel of the National Electoral Institute that because of this Decree should be subject to changes in their work affiliation will keep their labor rights.

Fifth. When a body of the Institute, central or decentralized, changes adscription due to this Decree, the transfer will be made including the personnel at its service, the authorized budget allocations, furniture, vehicles, instruments, equipment, machinery, archives and other goods that it has used for the attention of the matters with which it is entrusted.

Sixth. The General Council of the National Electoral Institute will issue the necessary agreements to implement the provisions of this Law and should issue the regulations deriving from this Law no later than 180 days after it enters into force.

The general provisions issued by the Federal Electoral Institute or by the National Electoral Institute before this Decree enters into force will remain in force, provided that they do not oppose the Constitution and this Law, until the

General Council of the National Electoral Institute issues the provisions that should substitute them.

Seventh. The political parties should adjust their basic documents and other internal regulations to the provisions of this Law and of the other applicable legislation.

Eighth. The valid voter cards with photography issued by the IFE¹⁸ will remain valid until their date of expiry. This without prejudice to that these could be renewed due to loss, change in address or other circumstances, as well as substituted by the citizens in the terms established by the Institute.

Ninth. On only this occasion, the federal and local electoral processes corresponding to the respective elections to be held on the first Sunday of June, 2015, will begin in the first week of October of 2014. To that end, the General Council of the National Electoral Institute will approve the necessary adjustments to the deadlines established in this Law.

Tenth. For the local electoral processes holding their election days in 2015, the General Council of the Institute should develop the appointment process of the members of the General Councils of the local bodies, in the terms of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of subsections c) of section IV of article 116 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, no later than September 30, 2014. Regarding the other states, the election should be made before the start of their next electoral process.

The General Council of the Institute should make the appointments in a phased manner in the following terms:

- a) Three councilors that will remain in office for three years;
- b) Three councilors that will remain in office for six years, and
- c) One councilors that will remain in office for seven years.

Eleventh. The federal and local ordinary elections that will be held in 2018 will be held on the first Sunday of July.

Twelfth. The functions corresponding to the electoral training, as well as the location of the polling stations and the appointment of the officials of the directive boards, in the local electoral processes that are delegated to the Local Public Bodies by virtue of the publication of the Decree that reforms, adds and repeals various provisions of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States on political-electoral matters will remain delegated unless they are reassumed by a majority vote of the General Council of the National Electoral Institute in terms of the Eighth Transitory Article of this Decree.¹⁹

¹⁸ Translator's note: IFE is the abbreviation of the Federal Electoral Institute (*Instituto Federal Electoral*), which was replaced by the National Electoral Institute in the 2014 electoral reform.

¹⁹ Translator's note: On July 14, 2014, the General Council of the Institute approved

Thirteenth. The electronic vote of the Mexicans abroad can be made as soon as the National Electoral Institute makes the verification of the system to be used to cast votes by this modality public. For this effect, the verification should include the statement of at least two internationally renowned companies. This system should ensure absolute certainty and proven security in order to guarantee the effective exercise of the right to vote of the Mexican citizens residing abroad. To that end, the system established by the Institute should, among other aspects, guarantee:

- a) That the person casting the vote is the Mexican citizen residing abroad who has the right to do so;
- b) That the Mexican citizen residing abroad cannot cast more than one vote, electronically or by the other means set out in this Law;
- c) That the vote is free and secret, and
- d) The effective casting, transmission, reception and count of the cast vote.

In the event that the Institute decides on the adoption of a system for the casting of votes of the Mexican citizens residing abroad, it should carry out the verification that this transitory article refers to before the 2018 electoral process starts. If this verification has not been carried out for the mentioned electoral process, the provisions of this transitory article will be applied to the subsequent electoral processes until the respective verification has been carried out.

Fourteenth. The organization of the National Professional Electoral Service will be made in accordance with the characteristics and deadlines established by the Institute after this Law enters into force, and the Statutes of the National Professional Electoral Service should be issued no later than October 31, 2015.

The processes related to the National Professional Electoral Service that started before this Decree enters into force will continue their processing until their conclusion in accordance with the rules in force when they started.

Fifteenth. The General Council of the National Electoral Institute can make adjustments to the deadlines set out in this Law in order to guarantee the correct execution of the electoral activities and procedures set out in this Law.

Sixteenth. The Federal Executive Branch, through the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit, will allocate the budget resources to the National Electoral Institute for the correct compliance with its powers, in accordance with the applicable legislation and subject to the sufficient budget.

Seventeenth. The references that this Law makes to the Attorney General's Office of the Republic will be understood as being made to the General

agreement INE/CG100/2014 by which it reassumed these functions.

Prosecutor's Office of the Republic, until the constitutional autonomy of the Attorney General's Office enters into force.

Eighteenth. The administrative, jurisdictional and auditing procedures related to the political associations and political parties of the states, as well as to their members and supporters, that the local electoral bodies have started or that are being processed when this Law enters into force will remain under the responsibility of these local bodies, in accordance with the juridical and administrative provisions that were in force when they started. The expenditure incurred by the political parties of the states until this Decree enters into force will be audited by the local electoral bodies, based on the juridical and administrative provisions that were in force when the expenditure was made, and these should be decided on and resolved no later than the last day of December, 2014.

Nineteenth. Until the Law regarding response is issued, the political parties, the pre-candidates and candidates can exercise the right to response established in the first paragraph of the 6th article of the Constitution and in the respective laws, in regards to the information presented by the media when they consider that this is a distortion of the facts or situations referring to their activities. This right is exercised without prejudice to the rights corresponding to the responsibilities or moral damage caused in the terms of the law that regulates printing and of the applicable civil and penal provisions. For the purposes of this Law, the person with the right to response should first exhaust the instance before the respective media, or demonstrate that he requested this and was denied. The electoral authorities should, in a timely manner, safeguard the effectiveness of the right to response during the electoral processes and, if necessary, they should begin the special sanctioning procedure established by this Law.

Twentieth. In reference to the established by the Decree that reforms and adds various provisions of articles 6, 7, 27, 28, 73, 78, 94 and 105 of the Constitution in regards to telecommunications, published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on June 11, 2013, the obligations set out in this Decree for the broadcasters will be applicable, where appropriate, to those who according to the current legislation on the matter are still considered official agents.

Twenty-first. In accordance with the established in the Tenth Transitory Article of the Decree that reforms, adds and repeals various provisions of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States on political-electoral matters, published in the Official Gazette of the Federation on February 10, 2014, the Senate of the Republic should appoint the justices of the local jurisdictional bodies on electoral matters before the start of the next local electoral process, accordingly.

Twenty-second. The requests of the political parties for the Institute to organize their internal elections that were presented before this Decree enters into force will not be subject to the deadline established in subparagraph ff) of paragraph 1 of article 44 of this Law. The requests presented in 2014 should be submitted to the Institute for its consideration one month in advance.

Twenty-third. The provisions of paragraph 5 of article 242 of this Law, in regards to the work or governance reports of the public servants, should be regulated in the law established by the eighth paragraph of article 134 of the Constitution. The provisions of the aforementioned paragraph 5 of article 242 will remain in force until the previous regulation is issued and in force in said law.

Twenty-fourth. All provisions that contradict this Decree are repealed.

Mexico City, May 15, 2014.- Senator Raúl Cervantes Andrade, President.- Representative José González Morfín, President.- Senator Lilia Guadalupe Merodio Reza, Secretary.- Representative Javier Orozco Gómez, Secretary.- Signatures.”

In compliance with the established by section I of Article 89 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, and for its due publication and observance, I issue this Decree in the Residency of the Federal Executive Branch, in Mexico City, Federal District, on the twenty-second of May of 2014.- Enrique Peña Nieto.- Signature.- Minister of the Interior, Miguel Ángel Osorio Chong.- Signature.

General Law on Electoral Institutions and Procedures of Mexico

Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judiciary

MÉXICO 2015

