

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

FEDERAL LAW

**“ON BASIC GUARANTEES OF ELECTORAL RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A REFERENDUM”**

Adopted
by the State Duma
on May 22, 2002

Approved
by the Federation Council
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(in the version of Federal Laws

Of September 27, 2002, # 119-FZ, of June 23, 2003, # 83-FZ
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Of December 30, 2008, # 322-FZ, of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ,
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Of October 4, 2010, # 263-FZ, of December 28, 2010, # 404-FZ,
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Of June 14, 2011, # 143-FZ, of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ,
of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ, of July 25, 2011, # 262-FZ,
of July 25, 2011, # 263-FZ)

Democratic free and periodical elections of bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, as well as referendums shall be the supreme direct expression of power that belongs to the people. The state shall guarantee the free expression of citizens' will at elections and referendums, the protection of democratic principles and norms of the electoral rights and the right to participate in a referendum.

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(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)**

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V. PUTIN
The President of
The Russian Federation

Moscow, Kremlin
June 12, 2002
67-FZ

Chapter I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1. Scope of This Federal Law

1. This Federal Law defines basic guarantees for implementation by the citizens of the Russian Federation of their constitutional right to participate in elections and referendums held on the territory of the Russian Federation as provided for by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, constitutions (charters), and laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, and charters of municipalities.
2. This Federal Law shall be of direct action and shall apply on the entire territory of the Russian Federation.
3. The federal constitutional laws, other federal laws, laws of subjects of the Russian Federation may set forth guarantees of electoral rights of citizens and the right to participate in a referendum supplementing the guarantees set forth in this Federal Law.
4. The issues related to announcing, preparing and conducting a referendum of the Russian Federation shall be regulated by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Federal Constitutional Law "On the Referendum of the Russian Federation," and this Federal Law.
5. The basic guarantees of electoral rights and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum set forth by this Federal Law as well as additional guarantees set forth by other federal laws shall not be amended otherwise than by making amendments and changes to the relevant laws.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. Federal laws, constitutions (charters), laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, other regulatory acts on elections and referendums adopted in the Russian Federation shall not conflict with this Federal Law. Should a federal law, a constitution (charter), a law of a subject of the Russian Federation, a regulatory act on elections and/or referendums adopted in the Russian Federation conflict with this Federal Law, the provisions of this Federal Law shall apply.

Article 2. Main Terms and Concepts

For the purposes of this Federal Law, the terms and concepts used herein shall be construed as follows:

- 1) propaganda materials means printed, audio, video and other materials meeting the criteria of election propaganda, propaganda on referendum questions designed for public dissemination during an election campaign or during a referendum campaign;
- 2) propaganda period means a period during which election propaganda or propaganda on referendum questions is allowed;
- 3) propaganda on referendum questions means activities during a referendum campaign that are aimed at encouraging or are encouraging prospective voters in a referendum to support the initiative of holding a

referendum or withhold such support; to vote or refrain from voting at a referendum; to support or reject the question proposed for the referendum;

4) election propaganda (election campaign) means activities during an election campaign that are aimed at encouraging or are encouraging voters to vote for or against a candidate, certain candidates, a list of candidates;

(paragraph 4 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5) address of place of residence means an address (name of the subject of the Russian Federation; name of the district, city, or other locality; name of the street; number of the building; and number of the apartment) at which a citizen is registered with the registration authorities at his temporary or permanent place of residence within the boundaries of the Russian Federation;

6) ballot means a ballot at an election or a ballot used for voting at a referendum;

7) referendum question (questions) means a question (questions), a draft law or other draft regulation in relation to which a referendum is contemplated or conducted;

8) elective official means the President of the Russian Federation, or the head of a municipality directly elected by citizens of the Russian Federation who reside on the territory of this municipality;

(in the version of Federal Law of December 11, 2004, # 159-FZ)

9) election means a form of direct expression of will by citizens that is effected in conformance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, constitutions (charters) and laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, charters of municipalities for the purposes of forming a body of state power, a body of local self-government, or vesting an official with powers.

10) nomination of a candidate means self-nomination by a candidate, or an initiative of an electoral association nominating a candidate for election to an elective body, or a candidate for an elective governmental or municipal office.

(in the version of the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

11) guarantees of the electoral rights and the right to participate in a referendum means conditions, rules, and procedures established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, a law or other regulatory acts and intended to assure implementation of electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation, and their right to participate in a referendum;

12) GAZ Vybory means the State Automated Information System of the Russian Federation “Vybory” (“Elections”);

(paragraph 12 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

121) State System for Registration (Recording) of Electorate and Referendum Participants means a complex of efforts, which ensure guarantees and exercise of elective rights and the right to participate in the referendum to the nationals of the Russian Federation, involving compilation, systematization and use of information on electors and referendum participants

(paragraph 121 is introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

13) deputy means a person elected by voters of the corresponding electoral district to a representative body of state power or to a body of municipal government on the basis of a universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

14) voluntary donation of a citizen means gratuitous contribution, by a Russian Federation citizen, of his own funds to a special electoral account of a candidate, electoral association, and a special referendum account;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

15)voluntary donation of a legal entity means gratuitous remittance by a legal entity of monetary funds from its settlement account to a special electoral account of a candidate, electoral association, and a special referendum account;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

16)document equivalent to the passport of a citizen means a document certifying the identity of a citizen, issued by an authorized body of the government. In the territory of the Russian Federation such documents are:

a serviceman's card, a temporary card issued in place of a serviceman's card, an identity card (for persons who are on military service);

a temporary identity card of a Russian Federation citizen issued in the procedure approved by the competent federal executive authority while the formalities for receipt of a passport are being completed

(in the version of Federal Law of July 23, 2008, # 160-FZ)

a document certifying the identity of a Russian Federation citizen, on the basis of which a Russian Federation citizen enters the Russian Federation in accordance with the federal law which regulates the procedure for exiting from and entering the Russian Federation (for persons who permanently reside outside the Russian Federation);

the paragraph became invalid – Federal Law of December 30, 2008, # 322-FZ

a certificate of an established form, issued to citizens of the Russian Federation who are held in places where suspects and defendants are held in custody, in the procedure established by the competent federal executive authority.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 23, 2008, # 160-FZ)

For foreign nationals indicated in Section 10, Article 4 of this Federal Law – a document certifying the right of a foreign national to permanent residence in the Russian Federation in accordance with the federal law which regulates the legal position of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation.

Outside the Russian Federation the documents which substitute for the passport of a Russian Federation citizen are documents certifying the identity of a Russian Federation citizen, on the basis of which a Russian Federation citizen enters the Russian Federation, as well as other documents, on the basis of which citizens of the Russian Federation may stay on the territory of a foreign state in accordance with international treaties of the Russian Federation.

17)law means a federal constitutional law, a federal law, a law of a Russian Federation subject;

18)voter means a Russian Federation citizen who is entitled to an active electoral right;

19)election campaign means the activity aimed at the preparation and conduct of an election, which is carried out in the period from the day of official publication of the decision of an official, state body, body of local self-government authorized to do so to call an election of the day when the election commission which organizes the election presents a report on the expenditure of funds allocated from the appropriate budget for the preparation and conduct of the election;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

20)election campaign of a candidate, electoral association, means the activity aimed at the achievement of a definite result at an election, which is carried out from the day of the nomination of a candidate, list of candidates to the day when the candidate, electoral association, or their authorized persons submit the final financial report;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

21)election commission means a collective body formed in the procedure and within the time limits established by the law to organize and carry out the preparation and conduct of an election;

22) higher election commission means an election commission organizing and carrying out the preparation and conduct of an election, which is designated by the law as a higher election commission in respect of other election commissions carrying out the preparation and conduct of the same election;

23) lower election commission means an election commission organizing and carrying out the preparation and conduct of an election, which is designated by the law as a lower election commission in respect of other election commissions organizing and carrying out the preparation and conduct of the same election;

24) election commission organizing an election means an election commission charged by the law with directing the activity of all election commissions for the preparation and conduct of an election;

25) electoral association means a political party which has the right to participate in an election under the federal law as well as a regional branch or some other structural division of a political party which has the right to participate in an election of the appropriate level under the federal law. At an election of deputies to representative bodies of municipal entities in one-mandate and/or multi-mandate elective districts, heads of municipal entities, other public associations are also electoral associations, if their statute provides for participation in elections and if such public association is established in the form of a public organization or a public movement and is registered in accordance with the law at a level corresponding to the level of the election or at a higher level or the appropriate business unit of the said public entity. Such public association or modifications or amendments to its statute providing for participation in an election must be registered not later than one year before voting day or, when an election of a body of local self-government is called because of early termination of its powers, not later than six months before voting day. These time requirements do not apply to other modifications and amendments to the statute of a public association;

(paragraph 25 in the version of Federal Law of April 5, 2009, # 42-FZ)

26) active electoral right ("active suffrage") means the right of a Russian Federation citizen to elect bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government;

27) passive electoral right ("passive suffrage") means the right of a Russian Federation citizen to be elected to bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government;

28) electoral rights of citizens means the constitutional right of citizens of the Russian Federation to elect and be elected to bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government and the right to participate in nomination of candidates, lists of candidates, in election campaigning, in monitoring of the conduct of elections, the work of election commissions, including determination of vote returns and election results, in other electoral actions, in the procedure laid down by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, constitutions (charters) of Russian Federation subjects;

29) became invalid – Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ;

30) electoral district means a territory formed (determined) in accordance with the law, from which citizens of the Russian Federation directly elect a deputy (deputies), an elective official (elective officials);

31) single electoral district means an electoral district which includes the entire territory on which the election is held;

32) multi-seat electoral district means an electoral district in which several deputies are to be elected and in which voters vote for each of the deputies personally;

33) single-seat electoral district means an electoral district in which one deputy is to be elected;

34) referendum campaign means the activity aimed at the preparation and conduct of a referendum, which is conducted in the period from the day when the referendum initiative group is registered to the day when the referendum commission, which organizes the referendum, presents a report on the expenditure of funds allocated from the appropriate budget for the preparation and conduct of the referendum or to the day when the conduct of the referendum is refused;

35) candidate means a person nominated in the procedure laid down by this Federal Law, other laws as a seeker of an office, filled by means of direct elections, or membership in a body (chamber of a body) of state power or body of local self-government or a person registered by the relevant election commission as a candidate;

36) registered candidate means a person registered as a candidate by the relevant election commission;

37) commission means an election commission, referendum commission;

38) referendum commission means a collective body formed in the procedure and at the time laid down by law, which organizes and prepares a referendum;

39) higher referendum commission means a referendum commission organizing and carrying out the preparation and conduct of a referendum, which is designated by the law, charter of a municipality as a higher election commission in respect of other referendum commissions carrying out the preparation and conduct of the same election;

40) lower referendum commission means a referendum commission organizing and carrying out the preparation and conduct of a referendum which is designated by the law as a lower referendum commission in respect of other referendum commissions organizing and carrying out the preparation and conduct of the same referendum;

41) referendum commission organizing a referendum means a referendum commission charged by the law, charter of a municipality with directing the activity of all referendum commissions for the preparation and conduct of the referendum;

41) Electronic voting complex means a complex of GAS Vybovy automation means intended for electronic voting, automatic counting of votes of electors and referendum participants, establishing the voting results and drafting the minutes by the District Commission on the voting results

(paragraph 41 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

42) observer means a Russian Federation citizen authorized to monitor the conduct of voting, vote counting and other activities of the commission during the conduct of voting, determination of vote returns and the results of an election, referendum, including the commission's actions in checking the correctness of determination of vote returns and the results of an election, referendum;

43) foreign (international) observer means a person representing a foreign or international organization that is entitled to monitor the preparation and conduct of elections and referendums in the Russian Federation in the procedure laid down by law;

44)- became invalid – Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ

45) became invalid – Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ

46) mass media organizations – TV and/or radio broadcasting companies and editorial offices of print media;

47) bodies of state power of Russian Federation subjects means legislative (representative) bodies of state power of Russian Federation subjects, which are directly elected by the Russian Federation nationals in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, constitutions/ articles of association, laws of the Russian Federation constituents, top executives of Russian Federation subjects (heads of the highest executive bodies of state power of Russian Federation subjects), as well as other bodies of state power of Russian Federation subjects provided for by the constitutions (charters) of Russian Federation subjects

(paragraph 47 was introduced by Federal Law of December 11, 2004, # 159-FZ)

48) federal bodies of state power means President of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, other federal bodies of state power provided for by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and elected directly by citizens of the Russian Federation in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws;

49) bodies of local self-government means the bodies having their own powers to resolve issues of local significance and directly elected by the population of the municipal entity and/or established by a representative body of the municipal entity in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, charters of municipalities;

(paragraph 49 in the version of Federal Law of August 22, 2004, # 122-FZ)

50) absentee certificate means an absentee certificate for voting at an election, referendum;

51) right to participate in a referendum means a constitutional right of citizens of the Russian Federation to vote on referendum questions and take part in other actions connected with the preparation and conduct of a referendum;

52) member of the press means a person carrying an editorial ID card or some other document certifying his powers as a representative of a media outlet;

521) register of electors and referendum participants means the information resource of GAS Vybory containing the aggregate of personal data on electors and referendum participants.

(paragraph 521 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

53) referendum means a form of direct will expression of citizens of the Russian Federation on major questions of the national and local significance for adoption of a decision thereon, effected by means of voting of Russian Federation citizens entitled to participate in a referendum;

54) local referendum means a referendum conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitution (charter), law of a Russian Federation subject, the charter of a municipality among citizens of the Russian Federation entitled to participate in a referendum, whose place of residence is within the boundaries of a municipality;

55) Russian Federation referendum means a referendum conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Federal Constitutional Law "On the Russian Federation Referendum," this Federal Law among citizens of the Russian Federation entitled to participate in a referendum, whose place of residence is within the Russian Federation and citizens of the Russian Federation residing outside the Russian Federation;

56) referendum of a Russian Federation subject means a referendum conducted in accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitution (charter), law of a Russian Federation subject among citizens of the Russian Federation entitled to participate in a referendum, whose place of residence is within the Russian Federation subject;

57) occupation means an income earning activity of a candidate confirmed by documents as well as the status of a non-working candidate: a pensioner, unemployed person, student (with the indication of the name of the educational establishment), housewife, temporarily non-working person;

58) information about convictions of a candidate means information about the convictions that have not been cancelled and annulled, with the indication of the number (numbers) and the name (names) of the article (articles) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation on the basis of which a candidate was convicted and the article (articles) of the criminal code adopted in pursuance of the Fundamental Criminal Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics, the article (articles) of the law of a foreign state if the candidate was convicted under these legislative acts for actions qualified as crimes by the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation currently in force;

59) list of candidates means a common list of candidates nominated by an electoral association, at elections of a legislative (representative) body of state power, representative or some other elective body of local self-government as well as the said list certified or registered by the election commission organizing the election;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

60) referendum participant means a Russian Federation citizen entitled to participate in a referendum;

61) federal law means a federal constitutional law, federal law.

62) Electronic voting means voting without a ballot in a hard copy, with the use of GAZ Vybovy automation complex.

(paragraph 62 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

63) Electronic ballot means a ballot drafted by computer equipment in the electronic form and used in electronic voting.

(paragraph 63 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Article 3. Principles of Conducting Elections and Referendums in the Russian Federation

1. A citizen of the Russian Federation shall participate in elections on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage with secret ballot.
2. A citizen of the Russian Federation shall participate in a referendum on the basis of universal, equal and direct expression of will by secret ballot.
3. Participation of a citizen of the Russian Federation in elections and referendums shall be free and voluntary. No one shall compel a citizen of the Russian Federation to participate or not to participate in elections and referendums or shall prevent free expression of his will.
4. A citizen of the Russian Federation residing abroad shall have all electoral rights at elections of federal bodies of state power and the full right to participate in a referendum. Diplomatic and consular missions of the Russian Federation shall render assistance to citizens of the Russian Federation in the implementation of their electoral rights at elections of federal bodies of state power and the right to participate in a referendum of the Russian Federation established by this Federal Law or other federal laws.
5. When preparing and holding elections, a referendum, counting votes and determining vote returns, establishing election results, referendum results election commissions, referendum commissions shall act openly and publicly.
6. Foreign citizens, except as otherwise provided in Section 10, Article 4 of this Federal Law, stateless persons, foreign companies shall not engage in activities which help or impede the nomination of candidates (lists of candidates), election of registered candidates, an initiative of holding a referendum, conduct of a referendum, and achievement of a certain result at an election or a referendum.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

7. Elections and referendums shall be organized and conducted by commissions. Interference in the operation of such commissions by legislative (representative) or executive bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, any organizations, officials, or any other persons shall not be allowed.

Article 4. Universal Suffrage and Right to Participate in Referendum

1. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained to the age of 18 years shall be entitled to elect, be elected as deputy to a representative body of a municipality, vote at a referendum; and upon reaching the age established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, constitutions (charters) and laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, he shall be entitled to be elected as deputy to a legislative/representative body of state power, as an elected official to bodies of local self-government. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained to the age of 18 years on voting day, shall be entitled to participate in any other electoral activities and other activities related to the preparation and conduct of a referendum that are established by law and implemented by legal methods.

(in the version of Federal Law of November 9, 2009, # 250-FZ)

2. A citizen of the Russian Federation may elect, be elected, or participate in a referendum regardless of the sex, race, ethnicity, language, origin, property and official status, place of residence, religion, beliefs, affiliation to public associations and other factors.
3. Citizens declared incapable by a court or held in custody under a court sentence shall not be entitled to elect and be elected or to participate in a referendum.
31. Citizens of the Russian Federation, being at the same time citizens of a foreign state or having a residential permit or another document evidencing the right of a citizen of the Russian Federation to permanently reside in a foreign state shall not be entitled to election. The said citizens are only entitled to be elected to bodies of self-government if it is envisaged in an international treaty of the Russian Federation.

(Section 31 was introduced by Federal Law of July 25, 2006, # 128-FZ).

32. The following citizens of the Russian Federation shall not be entitled to be elected:

- a) citizens convicted to imprisonment for severe and/or very severe crime and having, as of the voting date, non-cancelled conviction for the said crime
- b) citizens convicted for extremist crimes as envisaged in the Russian Criminal Code and having as of the voting date at the elections the uncancelled conviction for the said crimes
- c) citizens subjected to administrative penalty for administrative crime envisaged in Articles 20.3 and 20.9 of the Russian Federation Code of Administrative Offence, if voting at the elections will take place before expiry of the period of time, during which the person is regarded as subjected to administrative offence;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 24, 2007, # 211-FZ)

d) citizens with respect to those the effective court judgment established actual violation of the limitations imposed by Article 56.1 of this Federal Law or actual taking of actions envisaged in paragraph 'zh' sub-section 7, and paragraph 'zh' sub-section 8 Article 76 of this Federal Law, if these actions are taken before the date of voting at the elections during the period of authority, as established by the law, of a body of state power or a body of local self-government, for which the elections were appointed, or the period of authority of the official, for whose election the elections were appointed.

(Section 32 was introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

4. A citizen residing within the boundaries of the relevant electoral district shall be entitled to the active electoral right. The absence of a citizen of the Russian Federation from his place of residence in the period of elections in the electoral district containing such place of residence shall not constitute grounds for depriving the citizen of the right to participate in the elections of bodies of state power of the relevant subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government. The law may grant the active electoral right to a citizen residing outside the relevant electoral district.

5. Any limitation of the passive electoral right due to the location of the place of residence of a citizen of the Russian Federation in a certain area of the Russian Federation, including qualifications related to the duration of the period of residence in such area, shall be established by the Constitution of the Russian Federation only.

6. Additional conditions for the exercise by a citizen of the Russian Federation of his passive electoral right, preventing one and the same person from occupying one and the same elective offices for more than a certain number of consecutive terms may be established by a federal law, the constitution (charter), or a law of a subject of the Russian Federation.

7. If there exists an effective court decision in relation to a citizen of the Russian Federation disfranchising such citizen from the right to occupy state and/or municipal offices for a certain period, such citizen shall not be registered as a candidate if voting at elections of bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government is held before the expiration of the said period.

8. Additional age-related qualifications for Russian Federation citizens to exercise their passive electoral rights may be established by the constitutions (charters) or laws of subjects of the Russian Federation. The minimum age established for a candidate shall not exceed 21 years for elections of deputies to a legislative/ representative body of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation and elections of an elected official of local self-government. No maximum age limit shall be established.

(in the version of Federal Law of December 11, 2004, # 159-FZ, of November 9, 2009, # 250-FZ).

9. Deputies and elective officials working on a permanent basis shall not be entitled to be engaged in business operations as well as other paid activities, with the exception of teaching, scientific, or other creative activities. In this case, teaching, scientific and other creative activities shall not be exclusively funded out of funds of foreign states, international and foreign companies, foreign nationals and stateless persons, unless otherwise envisaged in the international treaty of the Russian Federation or Russian law. Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, deputies to legislative/ representative bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation shall not occupy other state offices in the Russian Federation, state offices in subjects of the Russian Federation, offices in state civil service and offices of municipal service, be deputies to other legislative/ representative bodies of state power and representative bodies of municipalities, elected officials of local self-government. Elected officials of local self-government shall not be deputies to the State

Duma and members to the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, deputies to legislative/ representative bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, occupy state offices of the Russian Federation, state offices in subjects of the Russian Federation (hereinafter state offices), offices of state civil services and offices of municipal service. Deputies to representative bodies of municipalities may not occupy offices of municipal service, be deputies to legislative/ representative bodies of state power. Other restrictions related to the status of a deputy or an elective official may be established by a federal law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of March 2, 2007, # 24-FZ, of December 25, 2008, # 281-FZ).

10. Under international treaties of the Russian Federation and in accordance with due legal procedure, foreign citizens who permanently reside on the territory of a relevant municipality shall have the right to elect and be elected to bodies of local self-government, be involved in other electoral activities at such elections, and participate in a local referendum on the same conditions as citizens of the Russian Federation.

Article 5. Equal Electoral Rights and Right to Participate in Referendum

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation shall participate in elections and referendums in the Russian Federation on an equal basis.

2. If, at an election of a legislative (representative) body of state power or to a representative body of a municipality electoral districts are established with different number of seats, each voter shall have the number of votes that is equal to the number of seats to be allocated in the electoral district with the least number of seats, or one vote.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Article 6. Direct Electoral Rights, the Right to Direct Expression of Will at Referendum

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

At elections or referendums citizens of the Russian Federation shall directly vote for candidates or lists of candidates, respectively, and in cases envisaged in law, for or against a candidate, for or against the issues put forward to the referendums.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

Article 7. Secret Ballot

Voting at elections and referendums shall be by secret ballot, which shall exclude any control over expression of a citizen's will.

Article 8. Term of Powers of Bodies of State Power and Local Self-Government

1. The term for which federal bodies of state power shall be established in the Constitution of the Russian Federation. The term for which bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, and their respective deputies are elected, and the term of powers of such bodies and deputies shall be established, respectively, in the constitutions/charters, laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, charters of municipalities; provided that the established term shall not be less than two and more than five years. The expiry date of the term, for which the bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, deputies to the said bodies are elected, shall be the second Sunday of March of the year, in which the term of powers of the said bodies or deputies expires, and in the case envisaged in Article 81.8, of this Federal Law, the second Sunday of October of the year, in which the term of powers of the said bodies or deputies expires (in the year of holding of the elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (of the regular convocation), the date of voting at the said elections). If the second Sunday of March or the second Sunday of October of the year, in which the term of powers of the said bodies or deputies expires, falls on a day-off or a holiday or the day preceding to a day off or a holiday, or the day immediately following the day off or the holiday, or the second Sunday of March or the second Sunday of October was announced a business day in the established manner, then the expiry date of the term, for which the

said bodies or deputies are elected shall be the first Sunday of March and the first Sunday of October, respectively. Combination of days of voting at elections of different level, as a result of which an elector would be able to simultaneously vote with more than four election ballots (except for the ballots issued in connection with early, repeated or additional elections) shall not be allowed.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 19, 2009, # 196-FZ).

2. Any change (prolongation or reduction) of the term of powers of operating elective bodies or deputies referred to in Section 1 of this article shall be prohibited, except for the case established in Article 811.6, 811.9 and 811.10, and Article 82.4 and 82.6 of this Federal Law. A regulation that changes (prolongs or reduces) the term for which bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, deputies are elected, and/or the term of powers of a body of state power, a body of local self-government, or a deputy as established by a federal law, the constitution (charter), a law of a subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of a municipality shall apply only to the bodies or deputies that are elected at elections called after taking effect of such regulation.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 22, 2008, # 149-FZ, of March 8, 2011, # 34-FZ).

3. In the event the term of powers of operating bodies or deputies referred to in Section 1 of this article expires within a period during which a state of emergency or martial law is in effect, such bodies or deputies shall exercise their powers until such state of emergency or martial law ceases to be effective and new bodies or deputies are elected.

Article 9. Obligatory Nature of Elections

Elections of the bodies or deputies specified in Section 1, Article 8 of this Federal Law shall be obligatory, periodic and conducted at intervals that ensure compliance with terms of powers of these bodies and deputies.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Article 10. Calling of Elections

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

1. Elections of bodies or deputies referred to in Section 1, Article 8 of this Federal Law shall be called by a body or official authorized to do so. 2. The voting date at the elections to federal governmental authorities shall be determined in accordance with federal law.

3. Voting dates at the elections to bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government shall be the second Sunday of March, or, in cases envisaged in this Federal Law, the second Sunday of the year, in which the terms of powers of the said bodies or deputies to the said bodies expire; except for cases envisaged in Sections 4-6 of this Article, Sections 8 and 10 of Article 811, Section 6 of Article 82 of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Law of March 8, 2011, # 34-FZ).

4. In case of early termination of powers of bodies or deputies indicated in Section 3 of this Article, which entail lack of competence of the body, the early elections must be held within six month from such early termination of powers.

5. Elections to bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, which are newly formed in accordance with the federal constitutional law, federal law, constitution/charter of a subject of the Russian Federation, shall be appointed to the second Sunday of March or the second Sunday of October, and in the year of elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of a regular convocation, on the date of voting at the said elections or another day, in accordance with the federal constitutional law, federal law, the decree of the Russian Federation President.

51. Elections to bodies of local self-government of a newly established municipality must be held within six months from the date of its establishment.

(paragraph 51 is introduced by Federal Law of November 25, 2008, # 222-FZ).

6. Voting at an election shall be set on a Sunday only. Voting shall not be set on, or on a day preceding to, an official holiday, or on a day following an official holiday that is a day-off, or on a Sunday that has been officially declared a working day. If the second Sunday of March, for which elections should be appointed, falls on an official holiday that is a day-off, or the day preceding an official holiday that is a day off, or a day immediately following the official holiday that is a day-off, or the second Sunday of March is announced a business day in the established manner, the elections shall be appointed for the first Sunday of March. If the second Sunday of October, for which elections should be appointed, falls on an official holiday that is a day-off, or the day preceding an official holiday that is a day off, or a day immediately following the official holiday that is a day-off, or the second Sunday of October is announced a business day in the established manner, the elections shall be appointed for the first Sunday of October.

7. The resolution as to appointment of elections to the federal body of state power should be made not earlier than 110 days and not later than 90 days prior to the date of voting. The resolution as to appointment of elections to the body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation should be made not earlier than 100 days and not later than 90 days prior to the date of voting. The resolution as to appointment of elections to the body of local self-government should be made not earlier than 90 days and not later than 80 days prior to the date of voting. The resolution as to appointment of elections should be officially published in mass media within five days from the date of its making. When early elections are appointed, the timing indicated herein as well as the timing of taking any other electoral actions may be reduced but by not more than one third.

8. If a body or an official authorized to do so fails to call elections within the period of envisaged in Section 7 hereof and also if the authorized body or official is missing, the elections shall be appointed as follows: to the federal bodies of state power – by the Central Election commission of the Russian Federation, in such manner as established in federal law; to the bodies of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation – by the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, at least 80 days prior to the date of voting, and to the bodies of local self-government – by the appropriate election commission, at least 70 days prior to the voting date. The decision of the election commission to hold the elections shall be published not later than seven days after the expiry date of the period established in Section 7 of this article for the publication of a decision to call the elections.

9 If the corresponding election commission fails to set, within the period of time envisaged in Section 8 of this Article, the date for the election of the bodies or deputies indicated in Section 1, Article 8 of this Federal Law or if such election commission is not available and cannot be formed in the procedure established by this Federal Law, the appropriate court of law, on the basis of applications from voters, electoral associations, , bodies of state power and local self-government or a prosecutor may determine the term, by which the duly authorized body or official, and in their absence, the appropriate election commission, should appoint the elections. In this case, the court of law shall also be entitled to vest the Central Election commission of the Russian Federation or an election commission of a subject of the Russian federation (depending on the level of the elections) the duty to create, within ten days from the date when such decision took effect, a temporary election commission comprising not more than 15 members, in compliance with the requirements to the composition of the electrical commission envisaged in Articles 22 to 24 and 29 of this Federal Law, and in the absence of the person authorized to appoint elections to the body or of the official, also to stipulate the period of time, during which the temporary election commission should appoint elections. The term of powers and the number of members of the temporary election commission, with the right of casting vote, shall be determined by the election commission that established the former.

Article 11. Legislation of the Russian Federation on Elections and Referendums

1. The legislation of the Russian Federation on elections is formed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitutions (charters), laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, other regulatory legal acts on elections adopted in the Russian Federation.

2. The legislation of the Russian Federation on referendums is formed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the Federal Constitutional Law on Referendum in the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws, constitutions (charters), laws of the subjects of the Russian Federation, other regulatory legal acts on referendums adopted in the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

3. If, in the period of an election campaign or the period of a campaign related to a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation or a local referendum, a law is adopted that contains provisions governing the procedure of the preparation and conduct of a relevant election or referendum, or if, during such period, a law is modified in a way that affects the procedure of the preparation and conduct of the relevant election or referendum, such law and modifications shall only apply to elections appointed after their taking effect and to the referendum called after the date of taking effect by this law and modifications .

(Section 3 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

4. If the term of a body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation or a body of local self-government expired, or its powers were terminated, and a relevant law of the subject of the Russian Federation on elections does not exist or a provision (provisions) of such law of the subject of the Russian Federation cannot be applied due to a court decision rendering it (them) ineffective or inapplicable, the election of such body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, or to the body of local self-government, with respect of the provision (provisions) that was declared ineffective or inapplicable by court, shall be conducted, by a relevant election commission on the basis of this Federal Law, other federal laws ensuring the exercise of the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to elect and be elected to bodies of state power or to bodies of local self-government, and, if the existing legal basis is insufficient, also on the basis of decrees of the President of the Russian Federation, to the extent such elections are not covered by the laws.

5. If the law of a subject of the Russian Federation on referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation or on local referendum does not exist, or a provision (provisions) of the law of the subject of the Russian Federation cannot be applied due to a court decision rendering it (them) ineffective or inapplicable, the referendum of the respective level, with respect of the provision (provisions) of the law of the subject of the Russian Federation that was declared ineffective or inapplicable by court, shall be conducted by a relevant referendum commission on the basis of this Federal Law, other federal laws ensuring the exercise of the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum; as well as on the basis of decrees of the President of the Russian Federation, if the existing legal basis is insufficient, to the extent such referendum is not covered by the laws.

Article 111. Procedure for Calculation of Terms Established by Russian Law on Elections and Referendums

(introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

1. If any action may/must be taken from the date of occurrence of any event, then the first date, on which this action may/must be taken, shall be the calendar date of occurrence of the appropriate event but not earlier than the time of occurrence of that event.

2. If any action may/must be taken during any particular number of days or any particular number of days prior to occurrence of any event, the last day or the day, on which this action may/must be taken shall be the date, after this the number of days prior to occurrence of the appropriate event, as indicated in this Federal Law, remains.

3. If any action may/must be taken not earlier than any particular number of days prior to occurrence of any event, then the first day, when such action may/must be taken, shall be the date after which the number days, indicated in this Federal, before occurrence of the appropriate event remains.

4. If any action may/must be taken within any particular number of days after the date of occurrence of any event, then such action may/must be taken within the number of days indicated in this Federal Law. In this case, the first day shall be the day immediately following the calendar date of occurrence of this event, and the last day, the day immediately following the day, when the said number of days elapses.

Chapter III. GUARANTEES OF RIGHTS OF CITIZENS
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION DURING REGISTRATION OF VOTERS,
REFERENDUM PARTICIPANTS, COMPILATION OF VOTERS LISTS,
LISTS OF REFERENDUM PARTICIPANTS, FORMATION OF ELECTORAL DISTRICTS,
ELECTORAL PRECINCTS AND REFERENDUM PRECINCTS

Article 16. Registration of Voters, Referendum Participants

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

1. Voters and referendum participants shall also be subject to registration/recording
2. Registration/ recording of voters and referendum participants residing in the territory of the appropriate municipality shall be carried out by the Head of municipal administration of the municipal district, city district, intra-city territory of a federal-significance city and in cases envisaged in the law of the subject of the Russian Federation and the federal-significance city, by the Head of the territory executive body of the federal-significance city. The Reason for registration/accounting of voters and referendum participants on the territory of the municipality shall be actual location of the place of residence (with respect to forced migrants – actual temporary stay) of voters and referendum participants on the appropriate territory. This fact is established based on information provided by the bodies in charge of state registration of the Russian citizens at the place of stay and at the place of residence in the Russian Federation.
3. Registration/ recording of voters and referendum participants who are military men, their families and other voters, referendum participants residing outside the location of the military unit shall be carried out by the commander of the military unit. The reason for registration/ recording of this category of voters / referendum participants shall be actual location of their place of residence within the location of the military unit, as established on the basis of information provided by the appropriate service to the military unit.
4. Registration/recording of voters, referendum participants residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation or staying abroad on long business trips shall be carried out by the head of the appropriate diplomatic representative office or a consular department of the Russian Federation. The reason for registration/recording of this category of voters/ referendum participants shall be their permanent residence on the territory of a foreign state or stay in a long-term foreign business trip on the territory of the appropriate foreign state, that shall be set by the diplomatic and consular missions of the Russian Federation.
5. The authorities in charge of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation at the place of stay and at the place of residence within the Russian Federation, issue and replacement of documents identifying citizens of the Russian Federation in the Russian Federation shall, at least once a month, provide information on actual issue and replacement of a passport of a citizen of the Russian Federation, registration and de-registration at the place of residence (with respect to forced migrants – at the place of stay) of citizens of the Russian Federation, issue of a passport of the citizen of the Russian Federation, in violation of the established procedure, with indication of the following personal data of the citizen: surname, name and patronymic, date of birth, place of birth, sex, nationality, address of the place of residence (with respect to forced migrants – place of stay), type of ID document, series and number of this document, name or code of the issuing authority, issue date of the document – to the Head of the local administration of the municipal district, city district, intra-city territory of the federal-significance city; and in cases envisaged in the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal-significance city, - to the Head of the territorial executive body of the federal-significance city at his/her location.
6. Civil registry offices shall, at least once a month, submit information on actual deaths of citizens of the Russian Federation to the Head of local administration of the municipal district, city district, intra-city territory of a federal-significance city, and in cases envisaged in the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – a federal-significance city- to the head of the territorial office of executive power of the federal-significance-city at his/her location.
7. At least once in three months, the bodies in charge of military registration shall inform of citizens of the Russian Federation drafted/ arrived under a contract to military service (dismissed from military service), and bodies/institutions of the military execution system – on the citizens imprisoned under a court judgment, to the head of the local administration of the municipal district, city district, intra-city territory of the federal-significance city, and in cases envisaged by law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal-significance city, to the head of the territorial executive body of the federal-significance city at the place of residence of the citizen.
8. A court of law, having resolved to recognize the citizen as incompetent, as well as to recognize a citizen, who had been earlier recognized by the court as incompetent, as competent, shall communicate the decision made to the head of the local administration of the municipal district, the city district, the intra-city territory of a federal-significance city, and in cases envisaged in the law of the subject of the subject of the Russian Federation – the

federal-significance city, to the head of the territory office of the executive power of the federal-significance city at the place of residence of the national.

9. The information indicated in Sections 5-8 of this Article shall, at least once a month, be communicated by the head of the local administration of the municipal district, the city district, the intra-city territory of the federal-significance city, and in cases envisaged in law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal-significance city, by the head of the territorial office of executive power of the federal-significance city, to election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation for establishment and maintenance of the register of voters and referendum participants.

10. Registration of voters/referendum participants and establishment of the number of persons registered on the territory of the municipal entity of a subject of the Russian Federation, in the Russian Federation and abroad as voters/referendum participants shall be carried out as of January 1 and July 1 of each year, using GAS Vyborgy.

11. Registration of voters, referendum participants, establishment of the number of registered voters/ referendum participants, establishment and maintenance of the register of voters/ referendum participants shall be effected in such manner as established in the regulations on the state system for registration/recording of voters/referendum participants, as approved of by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

12. A voter, referendum participant shall be entitled to free access to documented information (personal file) regarding him including data on machine-readable media, to correct inaccurate data in order to ensure its completeness and validity and shall be entitled to know who uses or used such data and for what purposes, and to whom and by whom such information was provided.

Article 17. Compilation of Lists of Voters, Referendum Participants

1. In order to ensure the rights of voters, referendum participants, relevant election commissions shall compile lists of voters, referendum participants on the basis of the data obtained through the utilization of the state system of voter and referendum participant registration and provided in compliance with the requirements of Section 6 of this article.

2. Citizens of the Russian Federation who as of voting day are entitled to an active electoral right, the right to participate in a referendum shall be included in the lists of voters, referendum participants in the electoral precincts, referendum precincts.

3. If, under an international treaty of the Russian Federation, foreign nationals are entitled to participate in elections of bodies of local self-government or in a local referendum, the lists of voters, referendum participants for elections of bodies of local self-government, local referendums shall, in accordance with the law, include foreign nationals that have attained to the age of 18 years as of voting day, do not fall within Section 3, Article 4 of this Federal Law and permanently reside on the territory of the municipality in which the said election or referendum is held.

4. The grounds for including a citizen of the Russian Federation on the list of voters, referendum participants in a concrete electoral precinct, referendum precinct shall be constituted by the fact that his permanent place of residence is located on the territory of this electoral precinct; and in cases specified by this Federal Law, other federal laws; also by the fact of temporary stay of a citizen on the territory of this precinct (if the citizen has an active election right, the right to participate in the referendum) or possession by the citizen of an absentee certificate. The fact that a citizen's place of permanent residence or temporary stay is located on the territory of any particular electoral district or a referendum district shall be established by the bodies in charge of registration of citizens of the Russian Federation in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, and in cases envisaged in this Federal Law and another law, by other duly competent bodies, agencies and officials.

(Section 4 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

5. Servicemen in active military service in military units, military organizations and institutions, that are located on the territory of the relevant municipality shall not be included in the lists of voters, referendum participants at elections of the bodies of local self-government, a local referendum and shall not be counted when the number

of voters, referendum participants is determined, unless their place of residence prior to the drafting was located within the said municipalities.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

6. Information about voters, referendum participants shall be submitted and updated by the head of the local administration of the municipal district, the city district, the intra-city territory of a federal-significance city, and in cases envisaged in the law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal-significance city, the head of the territorial office of executive power of the federal-significance city. Information about voters, referendum participants who are servicemen staying in military units, their families and other voters, referendum participants if they live on the territory where the military unit is located or are registered in the established procedure in the military unit as the place of their service is compiled and updated by the commander of the military unit. Information about voters, referendum participants who live outside the territory of the Russian Federation or are on long business trips abroad shall be compiled and updated by the head of the diplomatic mission, consular mission of the Russian Federation. Such information shall be delivered to territorial commissions (election commissions of municipalities) by the body or official authorized to do so, and if territorial commissions do not exist - to district election commissions, and in the cases provided for by law - to precinct commissions immediately after voting day is set or after the commissions are formed.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

7. The list of voters, referendum participants shall be compiled by the appropriate commission, with the use of GAS Vybory, for each electoral precinct, referendum precinct on the basis of the information submitted in the established form by the body authorized to do so or authorized officials.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

71. Persons providing information on voters/ referendum participants shall be liable for reliability and completeness of this information as well as for their timely provision.

(Section 71 is introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

8. At elections of federal bodies of state power or a referendum of the Russian Federation, precinct commissions formed in electoral precincts or referendum precincts, established outside the territory of the Russian Federation, shall be entitled to compile a list of voters, referendum participants before voting day on the basis of written applications, and on voting day, on the basis of oral applications of citizens of the Russian Federation who come to the precinct commission and who permanently reside outside the territory of the Russian Federation or are on long business trips abroad.

9. A citizen of the Russian Federation entitled to an active electoral right, a right to participate in a referendum who, on voting day at elections of the federal bodies of state power, referendum of the Russian Federation, is staying outside the territory of the Russian Federation and who had no opportunity to obtain absentee voting certificate or vote earlier shall be included in the list of voters, referendum participants by the appropriate election commission, referendum commission when he comes for voting to the premises of the precinct commission on voting day.

10. A citizen of the Russian Federation shall be included in the list of voters, referendum participants only in one electoral precinct, referendum precinct. If the territorial commission (district election commission, election commission of a municipality) detects actual inclusion of a citizen of the Russian Federation into the lists of voters/referendum participants at different election precincts, referendum precincts during one and the same elections, one and the same referendum, the appropriate commission shall, before transfer of lists of voters/referendum participants to the precinct commissions shall eliminate defects or inaccuracies in the said lists.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

11. Lists of voters, referendum participants shall be compiled in two copies. The data regarding voters, referendum participants included in the list of voters, referendum participants shall be arranged in an alphabetical or other order (by populated areas, streets, apartments). The lists of voters, referendum participants shall contain the surname, first name, patronymic, year of birth (for voters aged 18, also the day and month of birth), address of the place of residence of the voter, referendum participant. A list of voters, referendum participants shall provide blank spaces for a voter, referendum participant to sign for each ballot received by the

voter, series and number of his/her passport or the document replacing the passport of the citizen, referendum participant, and blank spaces for entering summary data for each type of election, referendum, and for the signature of the member of the precinct commission issuing the ballot (ballots) to the voter, referendum participant.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

12. The first copy of the list of voters, referendum participants shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the commission that compiled the list. In electoral precincts, referendum precincts that are established on the territory of a military unit, in a remote or a hard-to-reach area, the list of voters, referendum participants shall be signed by the chairman and the secretary of the precinct commission. The list of voters, referendum participants shall be certified by the seals of the territorial commission (the district election commission, the municipality election commission) and/or the precinct commission, respectively. The procedure and time of the preparation and use of the second copy of the list of voters, referendum participants, and its submission to the relevant precinct commission, and of its certification and updating shall be determined by the commission organizing the election or the referendum.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

13. The relevant territorial commission (the district election commission, the municipality election commission) shall transfer the first copy of the list of voters, referendum participants of a specific electoral precinct, referendum precinct to the precinct commissions in accordance with a transfer certificate not later than 20 days prior to election day or referendum day. A precinct commission shall be entitled to divide the first copy of the list of voters, referendum participants into separate books. Each such book shall be sewn (stitched) together not later than on the day preceding voting day, and certified by the seal of the corresponding precinct commission and the signature of its chairman.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

14. The precinct commission shall update the list of voters, referendum participants in compliance with the procedure established for organization of interaction and cooperation of election commissions and referendum commissions with the bodies of local self-government, institutions and organizations in charge of the registration of voters, referendum participants. A verified and updated list of voters, referendum participants shall be signed by the precinct commission's chairman and secretary and certified by the seal of the precinct commission.

15. The list of voters, referendum participants shall be made available by the precinct commission to voters, referendum participants for inspection and further verification 20 days prior to voting day.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

16. A citizen of the Russian Federation who is entitled to an active electoral right, the right to participate in a referendum shall be entitled to apply to a precinct commission about his inclusion on the list of voters, referendum participants or regarding any mistake or inaccuracy of his data on the list of voters, referendum participants. Within 24 hours, and on the voting day, within two hours from the application time, but in any event till the end of voting, the precinct commission shall verify the information communicated by the applicant and documents submitted by the applicant or to eliminate the error or inaccuracy, or to make a decision as to rejection of the application, indicating reasons for such rejection, by handing in the certified copy of this decision to the applicant. The resolution of the precinct commission as to rejection of the application for inclusion of the citizen of the Russian Federation into the list of voters/referendum participants may be appealed to a higher commission or a court of law (at the location of the precinct commission), which shall be obliged to consider the appeal/application within three days, and three and less days prior to the voting date and on the voting day, immediately. If the decision is made to satisfy the appeal/application, the list of voters/referendum participants shall be rectified by the precinct commission immediately. A citizen may be removed from the list of voters, referendum participants signed by the chairman and the secretary of the relevant commission and certified by the commission's seal in accordance with the procedure provided for by Section 12 of this article only on the basis of official documents, in particular, communication from the higher commission as to inclusion of the voter/ referendum participant into the list of voters/ referendum participants in another election precinct or referendum precinct, as well as if an absentee certificate was issued to the voter, referendum participant. In such case, the date on which the citizen of the Russian Federation was removed from the list and the reasons for removal shall be indicated in the list of voters, referendum participants and in the database GAS

Vybory. This entry on the list of voters, referendum participants shall be certified by the signature of the chairman of the precinct commission, and in case of issue of the absentee certificate, by the signature of the member of the commission who issued the absentee certificate, indicating the date of making such entry. Each citizen of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to notify the precinct commission that the data, specified by Section 5, Article 16 of this Federal Law, of voters, referendum participants included in the list of voters, referendum participants in the respective precinct has been changed.

(Section 16 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

17. Voters, referendum participants who are at places of their temporary stay and are working at enterprises with continuous work cycle and engaged in individual types of work, where it is impossible to reduce the duration of work (working shift), and voters/referendum participants out of military personnel being outside their garrisons may, by resolution of the precinct commission, be included into the list of voters/ referendum participants in the election precinct, referendum precinct at the location of their temporary stay, as well as by their personal application submitted to the election commission at least three days prior to the voting day. The information to this effect shall be submitted to the precinct commission where this voter/ referendum participant is included into the list of voters/ referendum participants at the place of residence, via the appropriate territorial commission (if the place of residence of the voter/ referendum participant is located on the territory of another subject of the Russian Federation) or the election at the commission of the subject of the Russian Federation (if the place of residence of the voter/ referendum participant is located on the territory of another subject of the Russian Federation). The precinct commission shall, in the Special Marks column of the list of voters/ referendum participants make a mark: "Included into the list of voters/ referendum participants on the election precinct/ referendum precinct #", indicating the number of the election precinct, the referendum precinct and, if necessary, the name of the subject of the Russian Federation. The law may envisage that voters/ referendum participants having no registration at the place of residence within the Russian Federation shall, by resolution of the precinct commission, be included into the list of voters/ referendum participants on the election precinct/ referendum precinct created or determined by resolution of the higher commission, for voting of these voters/ referendum participants, by a personal written application submitted to the precinct commission not later than on the voting day/

(Section 17 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

171. In the election precincts/referendum precincts created in accordance with Section 5, Article 19, of this Federal Law, in railway stations and in airports, lists of voters/ referendum participants shall be drafted on the voting date. Voters/ referendum participants staying on the voting day in these places shall be included into the list of voters/ referendum participants upon presentation of the absentee certificate.

(Section 171 was introduced by Federal Law of October 4, 2010, # 263-FZ).

18. Modifications of the list of voters, referendum participants shall not be allowed after the end of voting and the beginning of the vote count.

19. After official publication of the results of elections/ referendum, the information on voters/ referendum participants, as contained in the lists of voters/ referendum participants, may be used to specify information on voters/ referendum participants in the register of voters/ referendum participants.

(Section 19 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Article 18. Formation (Establishment) of Electoral Districts, Referendum Districts

1. In order to conduct elections, single-seat and/or multi-seat electoral districts shall be established or a single electoral district shall be formed; in order to conduct a referendum, a referendum district shall be established.

2. Single-seat and/or multi-seat electoral districts shall be formed on the basis of the data on the number of voters registered on the relevant territory in accordance with Section 10, Article 16 of this Federal Law. An election commission that arranges for elections shall, not later than 80 days prior to the expiration of the period within which the election must be called, establish the scheme of single-seat and/or multi-seat districts specifying their boundaries, listing the administrative/territorial units, or municipalities, or populated areas

falling into each electoral district (if an electoral district includes a part of the territory of an administrative/territorial unit, or a municipality, or a populated area, the scheme shall indicate the boundaries of such part of the territory of the administrative/territorial unit, or the municipality, or the populated area), specifying the number of each electoral district, the location of each district election commission or an election commission authorized to exercise the powers of a district election commission, and the number of voters in each electoral district. The appropriate legislative (representative) body of state power, representative body of municipality shall approve the scheme of electoral districts not later than 20 days prior to the expiration of the period within which the election must be called, and this body shall be entitled to amend the proposed scheme before the electoral district scheme is approved.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

3. If legislative (representative) bodies of state power, representative bodies of municipality are not available on the territory where elections are to be held or a new scheme of single-seat and/or multi-seat electoral districts has not been approved by the time specified in Section 2 of this article, the election commission organizing the election shall take one of the following decisions:

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

a) if the scheme of electoral districts approved for the purposes of the elections of bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government of the previous convocation (hereinafter, the “previous scheme of the districts”) complies with the requirements set forth in this Federal Law, a decision to hold the election using the previous scheme of districts;

b) if the previous scheme of districts does not satisfy the requirements set forth in this Federal Law and/or has been declared invalid and inapplicable by a court in accordance with the procedure established by the federal law, a decision to hold the election in electoral districts the scheme of which is to be established in accordance with law the by the election commission organizing the election and approved by this commission not later than five days from the date on which the decision to call the election is officially published. In such case, if the number of deputies elected with the use of the new scheme of districts remains unchanged, the election commission, in determining such scheme, shall only be entitled, apart from updating the number of voters, to introduce alterations in the previous scheme of the districts, with such alterations to be made only in those districts that fail to meet the requirements of Section 4 of this article, and/or to supplement the previous scheme of districts to the extent it was declared invalid and inapplicable. If the said alterations and supplements resulted in modification of the boundaries of other districts in the previous scheme of the districts, the commission may change the boundaries of such districts in accordance with the requirements of Section 4 of this article.

31. When elections to a legislative/ representative body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation of the first convocation or to the representative body of the municipality of the first convocation are carried out, the pattern for election precincts, as determined by the election commission that arranges for the elections, shall be approved of by the body indicated in law or in another regulation, based on which the appropriate elections are carried out. If the said body does not approve of the pattern of election districts within the established period of time, such pattern shall be approved of by the election commission that arranged for the elections within five days from the date of official publication of the resolution as to appointment of the appropriate elections.

(Section 31 is introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

4. Single-seat and/or multi-seat electoral districts shall be formed to meet the following requirements:

a) approximately equal numbers of voters in single-seat electoral districts, with a permissible deviation from the average voters’ representation quota not exceeding 10 percent, and for remote areas and hard-to-reach areas not exceeding 30 percent. In forming multi-seat electoral districts, approximate equality of the numbers of voters per deputy seat shall be observed. In a multi-seat electoral district, the deviation from the average voters’ representation quota multiplied by the number of deputy seats in this district shall not exceed ten percent of the average voters’ representation quota, and 15 percent in hard-to-reach or remote areas. These requirements need not be observed at elections of federal bodies of state power, other federal state bodies if according to the federal laws at least one electoral district shall be established on the territory of each subject of the Russian Federation. The requirements contained in the first sentence of this sub-section shall not apply if on the territory of an autonomous region comprised in another subject of the Russian Federation a one single-seat electoral district covering the entire territory of such autonomous region is established for elections of deputies to the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation. If the application of provisions

contained in the first sentence of this sub-section entails the formation of an electoral district containing parts of the territories of more than one municipality, or formation of an electoral district containing the territories of one or more municipalities and a part of the territory of another municipality, separate single-seat electoral districts at an election of deputies of the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipality may be established with a maximum acceptable deviation from the average voters' representation quota not exceeding 20 percent. A list of remote and hard-to-reach areas shall be established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation that became effective before the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election;

(paragraph a in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

b) when establishing electoral districts in the areas populated by indigenous small peoples as defined by the law of a subject of the Russian Federation, the permissible deviation from the average voters' representation quota in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation may exceed the above limit, but shall not be more than 40 percent;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 4, 2003, # 102-FZ)

c) an electoral district shall constitute a single territory; creation of an electoral district consisting of non-adjacent territories shall not be allowed, with the exception of enclave territories.

5. The requirements to the formation of single-seat and/or multi-seat electoral districts set forth in Section 4 of this article shall be met with due consideration for the administrative-territorial structure (division) of a subject of the Russian Federation, territory of municipalities.

6. If, in accordance with the constitution (charter), or a law of a subject of the Russian Federation, either of the chambers of its two-chamber legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation is formed with representatives of administrative-territorial units or municipalities, Sub-sections "a" and "b" of Section 4 of this article shall not apply to the formation of such chamber.

7. The scheme of single-seat and/or multi-seat electoral districts, including its graphical representation, shall be published (made public) by the appropriate representative body of state power, representative body of municipality, or the election commission organizing the election not later than five days upon its approval.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

8. If a multi-seat electoral district is established, the number of seats to be distributed in the district shall not exceed five. This restriction shall not apply to an election of a bodies of local self-government of a rural settlement as well as during elections to bodies of local self-government of another municipality in an electoral district that is formed within the boundaries of a municipality.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Article 19. Formation of Electoral Precincts, Referendum Precincts

1. Electoral precincts, referendum precincts shall be formed to conduct voting and count votes.

2. Electoral precincts, referendum precincts shall be formed by the head of a local administration of a municipality, district, city district, intra-city territory of a federal-significance city, in cases envisaged in the law of the subject of the Russian Federation- a federal-significance city, by the head of the territorial office of executive power of the federal-significance city, and during elections to a body of local self-government of an urban settlement (except for a city district) or a rural settlement (hereinafter the urban settlement, except for the city district, or a rural settlement shall be referred to as settlements), by the head of local administration of the settlement, or by the persons indicated in Sections 3 and 6 of this article, by the relevant commissions in accordance with the procedure provided for in Section 5 of this article, on the basis of the data on the number of voters, referendum participants registered on the territory of the electoral precinct, referendum precinct in accordance with Section 10, Article 16 of this Federal Law, with not more than 3 thousand voters, referendum

participants per precinct. Electoral precincts, referendum precincts shall be formed not later than 45 days prior to voting day.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

3. For citizens of the Russian Federation staying outside the territory of the Russian Federation, electoral precincts, referendum precincts shall be formed by the heads of diplomatic or consular missions of the Russian Federation on the territory of the country where they stay. The provisions regarding the number of voters, referendum participants set forth in Section 2 of this article shall not apply if electoral precincts, referendum precincts are formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

4. The boundaries of electoral precincts shall not cross the boundaries of electoral districts. The procedures for assigning electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation to electoral districts formed for elections of federal bodies of state power shall be set by a federal law.

5. In places where voters, referendum participants temporarily stay (hospitals, sanatoriums, holiday hotels, in railway stations, airports, detention centers for suspected or accused persons, and other places of temporary stay of voters), in remote areas and hard-to-reach areas, on ships at sea on voting day and at polar stations, electoral precincts, referendum precincts may be formed within the periods indicated in Section 2 of this article, and in exceptional cases and upon approval by the higher commission, not later than 3 days before voting day. Such electoral precincts shall be included in electoral districts/ referendum districts where the electoral precincts are located or where the ships are registered. At elections of bodies of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, to bodies of local self-government, at a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum, the law of the subject of the Russian Federation may prescribe a different procedure for assignment of such precincts to electoral districts, referendum districts. In hard-to-reach or remote areas, electoral precincts, referendum precincts may be established by a higher commission with the concurrence of the captain of the ship or the ship owner, the head of the polar station, heads of organizations located in hard-to-reach or remote areas.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of October 4, 2010, # 263-FZ).

6. Servicemen shall vote in regular electoral precincts, referendum precincts. In military units, electoral precincts, referendum precincts may be formed by commanders of such military units in the cases, in the procedure and at the time established by law.

7. Lists of electoral precincts, referendum precincts indicating their boundaries and numbers, location of precinct commissions and voting premises shall be published by the head of a local administration of a municipality, city district, intra-city territory of a federal-significance city, and in cases envisaged in law of the subject of the Russian Federation – federal-significance city, by the head of the territorial office of executive power of a federal-significance city, and in case of holding of elections to a body of local self-government of the settlement, by the head of local administration of the settlement, not later than 40 days before voting day. The procedure for providing the said information to voters, referendum participants in the circumstances described in Sections 3 and 5 of this article shall be established by law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Chapter IV. ELECTION COMMISSIONS, REFERENDUM COMMISSIONS

Article 20. System and Status of Election Commissions, Referendum Commissions

1. The following election commissions, referendum commissions shall function in the Russian Federation:

the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;

election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation;

election commissions of municipalities;

district election commissions;

territorial (district, city, and other) election commissions;

precinct commissions.

2. When relevant referendums are held, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, election commissions of municipalities, territorial election commissions shall act in the capacity of referendum commissions. Other election commissions may act as referendum commissions on the basis of the decision of the relevant higher election commissions in charge of the formation of election commissions that shall be taken in the procedure provided for by Section 9 of this article.

3. Commissions shall ensure the implementation and protection of electoral rights and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum, prepare and conduct elections and referendums in the Russian Federation.

4. Commissions shall, within the scope of their competence, consider grievances about violations of law that they receive in the course of an election campaign or a referendum campaign, check these grievances and give written answers to the persons who submitted such grievances within five days but not later than the day preceding voting day or immediately if such grievances are received on voting day or on the day following voting day. If the facts stated in such grievances require additional verification, decisions thereon shall be taken within ten days. If a grievance states that a candidate, an electoral association, an, a referendum initiative group violated a law, such candidate, electoral association, , referendum initiative group or authorized representatives thereof shall be immediately notified of receipt of such grievance and may provide explanations on the substance of the statement.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5. Commissions shall be entitled to submit applications to law enforcement authorities, bodies of executive power to carry out required investigations and check violations of law, the grounds of such applications may include grievances described in Section 4 of this article. The law enforcement authorities, bodies of executive power shall take measures to check the violations within five days, and if an application was received five days or less before voting day - not later than the day preceding voting day, and immediately if an application is received on voting day and the day following voting day and without delay inform the applying commission about the results of the measures. If the facts stated in the application require additional verification the said measures shall be taken within ten days.

51. In case of violation by a candidate/ elective association/ initiative group for holding of the referendum of this Federal Law, the appropriate commission shall be free to make a warning to this candidate, elective association or the initiative group for holding of the referendum, which is communicated to voters/ referendum participants via mass media or otherwise.

(paragraph 51 is introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

6. Commissions shall inform voters, referendum participants about the time and the procedure for performance of electoral actions, actions connected with the preparation and conduct of a referendum, about the progress of the election campaign, the referendum campaign, and about candidates, electoral associations, which nominated candidates, lists of candidates.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

7. Competence, powers and procedures for activities of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be set by this Federal Law, other federal laws. Competence, powers and procedures for activities of other commissions in the preparation and conduct of elections of federal bodies of state power and a referendum of the Russian Federation shall be set by this Federal Law, other federal laws.

8. Competence, powers and procedures for activities of election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, election commissions of municipalities, district election commissions, territorial and precinct commissions during the preparation and conduct of elections of bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation and bodies of local self-government, and referendums in subjects of the Russian Federation and local

referendums shall be set by this Federal Law, the constitutions (charters), laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, and the charters of municipalities.

9. Combination by commissions of powers to prepare and conduct elections, referendums of various levels shall be possible only on the basis of the decision of the commission organizing the election, the referendum on a certain territory, that is taken on the basis of an application of a commission organizing the election, the referendum in a part of this territory. Combination by commissions of powers to prepare and conduct elections, referendums of the same level shall be possible on the basis of a decision of the commission organizing the elections, referendums.

10. Decisions of a higher commission taken within its competence shall be binding upon lower commissions.

11. Decisions of a commission which conflicts with a law or which was taken by a commission in excess of its established competence shall be cancelled by a higher commission or by a court. In this case, the higher commission shall be entitled to make a decision on the substance of the matter or forward the relevant documents to the lower commission, the decision of which was cancelled, for reconsideration. If the lower commission repeatedly fails to consider the issue, the higher commission shall be free to make a decision on the merits of this issue.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

12. Within the limits of their competence, commissions shall be independent of bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government.

13. Decisions and other acts of commissions adopted within their competence shall be binding upon federal executive bodies of state power, executive bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, state institutions, bodies of local self-government, candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, public associations, organizations, officials, voters and referendum participants. Decisions and other acts of commissions shall not be subject to state registration.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

14. Financial support of activities of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be effected from the funds allocated for this purpose by the federal law on the federal budget for the relevant fiscal year. Financial support of activities of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be effected from the funds allocated for this purpose by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation on the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation for the relevant fiscal year and from the funds of the federal budget in accordance with the procedure and in the amount set by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation within the limits of funds allocated for such purposes by the federal law on the federal budget for the relevant fiscal year. Financial support of activities of a municipality election commission, a territorial commission functioning on a permanent basis and constituting a legal entity shall be effected from funds of the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation and/or the local budget within the limits of funds allocated for such purposes by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation on the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation, and/or the regulatory act of the body of local self-government on the local budget for the relevant fiscal year.

15. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, municipality election commissions, and territorial commissions shall submit reports on the expenditure of the funds allocated from the relevant budgets to support their activities, the conduct of elections and referendums in accordance with the procedure established by the legislation of the Russian Federation.

16. State bodies, bodies of local self-government, state and municipal institutions and their officials shall render assistance to commissions in the exercise of their powers; in particular, by providing them, free of charge, with necessary premises, including premises for safekeeping of electoral documents and referendum-related documents before such documents are handed over to archives or destroyed upon expiry of safekeeping periods established by law, make arrangements for guarding the provided premises and the said documents, and provide, free of charge, vehicles, telecommunication means and technical equipment.

161. The information on the number of voters/referendum participants, who are disabled persons, on the appropriate territory, with indication of disability groups shall be submitted as of January 1 and July 1 of each year by the Pension Fund of the Russian Federation:

a) by subjects of the Russian Federation, to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

b) by municipalities, to the election commission of subjects of the Russian Federation.

(paragraph 161 was introduced by Federal Law of June 14, 2011, # 143-FZ).

17. Organizations, the share/contribution of the Russian federation, subjects of the Russian Federation and/or municipalities of in the share capital of which exceeds 30 percent as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call an election, or the official publication of the decision to call a referendum, officials of such organization shall assist commissions in the exercise of their powers, in particular, by providing them vehicles, telecommunication means and technical equipment, premises.

(Section 17 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

18. The state and municipal television and/or radio broadcasters, and editorial offices of state and municipal print media shall freely provide commissions with air time for information of voters, referendum participants, in accordance with the procedure established by this Federal Law, other laws, as well as space in print media for publication of the commissions' decisions and placement of other information. The expenditures of television and radio broadcasters and editorial offices of print media shall be effected in accordance with the procedure established by Section 10, Article 50 of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ).

19. State bodies, bodies of local self-government, public associations, organizations of all forms of ownership, including television and/or radio broadcasters (hereinafter the "TV and radio broadcasting organizations"), editorial offices of print media, and officials of these bodies and organizations shall provide commissions with necessary information and materials, respond to applications made by commissions within five days, if the application was received five and less days prior to the voting date, not later than the day preceding voting day, and if it was received on the voting day or the day immediately following the voting day, immediately. The said information and materials shall be provided to commissions free of charge.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ).

Article 21. Procedure for Formation and Status of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

1. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be a federal state body organizing the preparation and conduct of elections, referendums in the Russian Federation in accordance with its powers established by this Federal Law, other federal laws.

2. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall operate on a permanent basis and shall be a legal entity.

3. The term of powers of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be five years. If the term of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation expires in the period of an election campaign, in the period between the announcement of a referendum of the Russian Federation and the end of the referendum campaign organized by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the term of powers of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be extended until the end of the election campaign, referendum campaign.

(in the version of Federal Law of June 4, 2010, # 117-FZ).

4. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall consist of fifteen members. Five members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation from among the candidates proposed by the factions, other associations of deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, or by individual deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation. Each association of deputies in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation may appoint not more than one representative. Five members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be appointed

by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation from among the candidates nominated by the legislative (representative) bodies of state power of subjects of Russian Federation and top executives of subjects of the Russian Federation (the heads of the highest executive bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation). Five members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the President of the Russian Federation.

5. Members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation must have a professional education.

(Section 5 in the version of Federal Law of January 30, 2007, # 6-FZ).

6. Members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall organize work in specific areas of activity of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation defined by the Rules of Procedure of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, and shall bear responsibility for the results of work in the said areas.

7. Members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall elect from among their members and by secret ballot the Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the Deputy Chairman of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and the Secretary of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

8. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall act as an election commission organizing elections of federal bodies of state power, and as a referendum commission organizing referendums of the Russian Federation.

9. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall:

a) exercise control over the observance of the electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum;

b) develop standard quotas for technological equipment (voting booths, voting boxes) for precinct commissions, approve these standard quotas, and exercise control over observance thereof, and arrange for the placement of orders for manufacturing of such technological equipment during elections to the federal bodies of state power / referendum of the Russian Federation

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

c) ensure the implementation of measures related to the preparation and conduct of elections, referendums, improvement of the electoral system in the Russian Federation; introduction, operation, and improvement of means of automation, legal education of voters, professional training of commission members, and other individuals involved in organization of elections, referendums, publication of required printed materials;

d) implement measures aimed at ensuring a uniform procedure for allocation of air time and space in print media to registered candidates, electoral associations, for the purposes of election campaigning, to the referendum initiative group and other groups of referendum participants for the purposes of campaigning on questions of the referendum, determination of the vote returns, establishment of the results of elections, referendums, as well as ensuring the procedure for publication (release) of the vote returns, the results of elections, referendums, including the Internet information and telecommunications network;

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ).

e) implement measures aimed at arranging for the funding of the preparation and conduct of elections, referendums; distribute the funds allocated from the federal budget as financial support to the preparation and conduct of elections, referendums; control the proper use of the above funds;

f) render legal, methodological, organizational, and technical support to commissions;

g) implement international cooperation in the field of electoral systems;

h) hear the information of federal bodies of executive power, executive bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation and bodies of local self-government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of elections of federal bodies of state power and referendums of the Russian Federation;

i) set standards by which lists of voters, referendum participants and other electoral documents and documents related to the preparation and conduct of referendums are to be produced;

j) consider appeals (grievances) against decisions and actions (omissions) of lower commissions, and take reasoned decisions on such appeals (grievances);

k) exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law, other federal laws.

10. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall consider appeals against decisions and actions (omissions) of the election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation and officials thereof violating the electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in referendums at elections of bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, referendums of subjects of the Russian Federation, elections of bodies of local self-government, local referendums in accordance with Section 7, Article 75 of this Federal Law.

11. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall, within the limits of the funds allocated to it under the federal law on the federal budget for the relevant fiscal year in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation, determine the amount of and set the procedure for compensation of workers of institutions and organizations established to support its operation.

12. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, together with election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, together with the federal bodies of executive power and bodies of executive power of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government and officials of bodies of local self-government shall organize a state system of registration of voters, referendum participants and take part in the implementation of registration of voters/ referendum participants, in particular, establishes and maintains the register of voters/ referendum participants.

(Section 12 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

121. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall, together with election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, verify consolidated financial reports and information on receipt and spending of funds of political parties, supervise the sources of and amount of the property received by political parties in the form of entrance fees and memberships, donations of individuals and legal entities, and notify citizens of results of these audits.

(Section 121 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

13. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, within the scope of its competence, shall be entitled to issue binding instructions related to the uniform application of this Federal Law.

14. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to issue conclusions on compliance of laws and other regulations of subjects of the Russian Federation with this Federal Law and other federal laws that govern the electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation and their right to participate in a referendum.

15. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall have its official printed bulletin.

Article 22. General Terms and Conditions of Formation of Election Commissions of Subjects of the Russian Federation, Election Commissions of Municipalities, District Election Commissions, Territorial, Precinct Commissions

1. Election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, municipality election commissions, district election commissions, territorial, precinct commissions shall be formed on the basis of proposals made by political parties, that nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the legislative (representative) body of state power of the relevant subject of the Russian Federation. The said election commissions shall also be established on the basis of proposals of political parties that put forward the federal lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with Article 821 of Federal Law of May 18, 2005, # 51-FZ, On Elections of Deputies

to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (hereinafter the Federal Law on election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation), political parties that put forward lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law, proposals of other political parties and other public associations.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ, of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ).

2. Election commissions of municipalities, district election commissions for elections of bodies of local self-government, territorial, precinct commissions shall be formed on the basis of proposals specified in Section 1 of this article, and proposals made by electoral associations, that nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the representative body of municipality.

(Section 2 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

3. In the event of early termination of powers of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the legislative (representative) body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, or representative body of municipality, the right to make proposals concerning candidatures for members of election commissions shall be retained by electoral associations, that nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the legislative (representative) body of municipality of a subject of the Russian Federation, the representative body of local self-government of the last convocation, and such proposals shall be subject to consideration in accordance with the procedure provided for by Section 7, Article 23, Section 8, Article 24, Sections 7 and 71, Article 25, Section 7, Article 26, Section 5, Article 27 of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

31. In case of early termination of powers of a member of the commission, who was appointed at the recommendation of a political party, the list of candidates of which is admitted to allocation of deputy mandates in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, or in a legislative/ representative body of state power of a subject of the Russian federation, or in a representative body of a municipality of the convocation acting at the time of early termination of powers, according to Section 7, Article 23, Section 8, Article 24, Sections 7 and 71, Article 25, Section 7, Article 26, Section 5, Article 27, of this Federal Law, the vacancy shall be replaced at the recommendation of the same political party (if the appropriate candidate was submitted by it at least 3 days prior to expiry of the deadlines indicated in Section 11, Article 29, of this Federal Law).

(Section 31 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

32. The rights envisaged in Sections 3 and 31 of this Article shall belong to the political parties that put forward the federal lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with Article 821 of Federal Law on Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and to the political parties that put forward the lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 17, Article 35, this Federal Law.

(Section 32 was introduced by Federal Law of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ, in the version of Federal Law of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ).

4. Not more than one representative of each political party, electoral or other public association, may be appointed member of an election commission. A political party, an electoral association, another public association, shall not be entitled to nominate simultaneously more than one candidatures for appointment as member of a commission.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

5. State and municipal officials shall not constitute more than 1/2 of the total number of members of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, a municipality election commission, district election commission, territorial or precinct commission. This provision may be inapplicable to the formation of precinct commissions in electoral precincts established on the territories of military units located in isolated remote areas or outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

6. The body appointing a citizen of the Russian Federation nominated as a commission member in accordance with the requirements established by this Federal Law shall obtain a written consent of this citizen of the Russian Federation to become a member of the relevant commission.

7. If bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, commissions authorized to do so by this Federal Law fail to appoint all or some members of a commission within the period established by law, or if such body of state power, body of local self-government is not available on the relevant territory, or if the relevant commission has not been formed, all or some members of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation; of the election commission of a municipality, city district, intra-city territory of a federal-significance city - by the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, of the election commission of a settlement – by the election commission of the municipality; of another commission - by a higher commission in compliance with the requirements of this Federal Law and other laws.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

8. The period within which commissions must be formed, and the period for acceptance of nominations for membership in commissions shall be set by law. For commissions operating on a permanent basis, the period, within which the bodies forming such commissions shall accept nominations, shall not be shorter than one month, and not shorter than ten days for the other commissions.

Article 23. Procedure of Formation and Powers of Election Commissions of Subjects of the Russian Federation

1. Election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation shall be state bodies of subjects of the Russian Federation that organize the preparation and conduct of elections, referendums of the Russian Federation within the scope of their competence established by this Federal Law, other federal laws, and laws of subjects of the Russian Federation.

2. The election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation shall operate on a permanent basis and shall be legal entities.

3. The term of powers of election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation shall be five years. If the term of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation expires in the period of an election campaign, in the period between announcement of a referendum and the end of the referendum campaign where this commission takes part, the term of its powers shall be extended until the end of the election campaign, referendum campaign. This provision shall not apply to repeat elections or by-elections of deputies of the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation*.

(in the version of Federal Law of June 4, 2010, # 117-FZ).

4. The number of voting members of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be set by the constitution (charter), the law of the subject of the Russian Federation and shall not be smaller than 10 and greater than 14.

5. The election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be formed by the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation and the top executive of the subject of the Russian Federation (the head of the highest executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation) on the basis of proposals referred to in Section 1, Article 22 of this Federal Law and proposals made by representative bodies of municipalities, the previous election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, and the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. One half of the members of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the other half, by

the top executive of the subject of the Russian Federation (the head of the highest executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation).

7. Both the legislative (representative) body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation and the top executive of the subject of the Russian Federation (the head of the highest executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation) shall appoint at least a half of the total number of members of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, appointed by them, on the basis of proposals made by:

a) political parties, that have nominated federal lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation as well as political parties that put forward federal lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with Article 821, Federal Law On Election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ)

b) political parties, that have nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation as well as political parties that put forward the lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 17, Article 35 of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ).

8. Became invalid – Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ.

9. Both the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation and the top executive of the subject of the Russian Federation (the head of the highest executive body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation) shall appoint at least one member of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation on the basis of proposals received from the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

10. The election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall:

a) on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation exercise control over the observance of the electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum;

b) arranges for placement of the order for manufacturing of the technological equipment (voting booths, voting boxes) for precinct commissions, in particular, on instructions of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, during elections to federal bodies of state power, referendum of the Russian Federation; exercise control over the observance of the standards of technological equipment to support the operation of commissions;

(paragraph b in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

c) on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation ensure the implementation of measures related to the preparation and conduct of elections, referendums, improvement of the electoral system in the Russian Federation; introduction, operation, and improvement of means of automation, legal education of voters, professional training of commission members, and other individuals involved in organization of elections, referendums, publication of required printed materials;

d) on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation implement measures aimed at ensuring a uniform procedure for allocation of air time and space in print media to registered candidates, electoral associations, for purposes of election campaigning, to the referendum initiative group and other groups of referendum participants for the purposes of campaigning on questions of the referendum, determination of the vote returns, establishment of the results of elections, referendums, as well as the procedure for publication of the vote returns, the results of elections, referendums;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

e) on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation implement measures aimed at arranging for allocation of funds for the preparation and conduct of elections of bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, referendums of the subject of the Russian Federation; distribute the funds allocated from the federal

budget, the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation as financial support to the preparation and conduct of elections, referendums; exercise control over the proper use of the above funds;

f) approve the list of territorial commissions;

g) render legal, methodological, organizational, and technical support to lower commissions;

h) hear reports of bodies of executive power of the subject of the Russian Federation and bodies of local self-government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of elections of bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, and referendums of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendums;

i) on instructions of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation set standards according to which lists of voters, referendum participants and other electoral documents and documents related to the preparation and conduct of referendums shall be printed;

j) consider appeals (grievances) against decisions and actions (omissions) of lower commissions, and adopt reasoned decisions on such appeals (grievances);

k) participate in organization of a state system of registration of voters, referendum participants, and in implementation of such registration, in establishment and maintenance of the register of voters/ referendum participants;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

k1) participate in the audit of consolidated financial reports and information on receipt and spending of funds of political parties, control over sources and amounts of property received by political parties in the form of entrance fees and membership fees, donations of individuals and legal entities, notification of residents of the results of these audits;

(Section k1 is introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

K2) submit, at the request of the election commission of a municipality, information on the number of voters/referendum participants, who are the disabled persons, on the appropriate territory, with indication of disability groups;

(Section K2 was introduced by Federal Law of June 14, 2011, # 143-FZ).

l) exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitution (charter) of the subject of the Russian Federation.

11. The election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall consider appeals against decisions and actions (omissions) of election commissions and officials of municipalities, city districts, intra-city territories of a federal-significance city, violating the electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in referendums at elections of bodies of local self-government, local referendums in accordance with Section 7, Article 75 of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

12. The election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation may have its official printed bulletin.

Article 24. Procedure of Formation and Powers of Municipality Election Commissions

1. An election commission organizing, under the law of a subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of a municipality, the preparation and conduct of elections of bodies of local self-government/ local referendum shall be the municipality election commission.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

2. The municipality election commission is a municipal body and is not included into the structure of local self-government.

(Section 2 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

3. The charter of the municipality, a regulatory act of the body of local self-government may assign the status of a legal entity to a municipality election commission.

(in the version of Federal Law of August 22, 2004, # 122-FZ).

4. Powers of the election commission of a municipal entity shall, by resolution of the appropriate election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, which was made on the basis of the application of the representative body of this municipality, may be vested with the territorial commission. In case of establishment of a newly established municipality, powers of the election commission of this municipality may, by resolution of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, be vested with the territorial commission. The procedure for vesting powers of the election commission of the municipality with the territorial commission in other cases of absence of the representative body of the municipality shall be established by law of the subject of the Russian Federation. If powers of the election commission of a municipality are vested with the territorial commission, the number of members of the territorial commission shall not be modified. If several territorial commissions are established on the territory of the municipality, powers of the election commission of the municipality may be vested with one of them.

(in the version of Federal Laws of December 25, 2008, # 281-FZ, of December 27, 2009, # 357-FZ).

5. The term of powers of a municipality election commission shall be five years. In the event the term of powers of the municipality election commission expires in the period of an election campaign, in the period between the announcement of a referendum and the end of the referendum campaign in which this commission takes part, the term of its powers shall be extended until the end of the election campaign, referendum campaign. This provision shall not apply to repeat elections or by-elections of deputies of the representative body of municipality. Powers of the election commission of the municipality may be early terminated by a law of the subject of the Russian Federation in case of transformation of the municipality. The date of early termination of powers of such election commission of the municipality shall be the date when the law of the subject of the Russian Federation for transformation of the municipality takes effect.*

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of June 4, 2010, # 117-FZ).

6. The elective commission of the municipal district, city district, intra-city territory of the federal-significance city shall be formed out of eight, ten or twelve members with the casting vote. The election commission of the settlement shall be formed out of six, eight or ten members with the casting vote. The number of voting members of a municipality election commission shall be set by the charter of the municipality.

(Section 6 in the version of Federal Law of December 27, 2009, # 357-FZ).

7. The municipality election commission shall be formed by the representative body of municipality on the basis of proposals referred to in Section 2, Article 22 of this Federal Law and proposals made at meetings of voters at places of their residence, work, service, study, proposals made by the previous municipality election commission, the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, and the election commission of a settlements, on the basis of proposals of the election commission of the municipality and the territorial commission.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of December 27, 2009, # 357-FZ).

8. The representative body of municipality shall appoint a half of the total number of members of a municipality election commission on the basis of proposals made by*:

(in the version of Federal Law of December 27, 2009, # 357-FZ)

a) political parties, that nominated federal lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation as well as political parties that put forward federal lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were provided, in accordance with Article 821 of Federal Law on Election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation;

(in the version of Federal Law of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ).

b) political parties, that nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation as well as political parties that put forward the lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 17, Article 35, of this Federal Law;

(in the version of Federal Law of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ).

c) political parties, that nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the representative body of municipality

(Section 8 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

9. The representative body of municipality, city district, intra-city territory of the federal-significance city shall appoint a half of the total number of members of the election commission of the municipality, district, city district, intra-city territory of the federal-significance city on the basis of proposals received from the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(Section 9 in the version of Federal Law of December 27, 2009, # 357-FZ).

91. The representative body of the settlement shall be obliged to appoint a half of the total number of members of the election commission of the settlement on the basis of the received proposals of the election commission of municipality, the territorial commission as follows:

a) if powers of the election commission of the municipality are not vested with the territorial commission, two members of the election commission of the settlement shall be appointed on the basis of proposals of the election commission of the municipality; the remaining members of the election commission of the settlement shall be appointed on the basis of proposals of the territorial commission

b) if powers of the election commission of the municipality are vested with the territorial commission, members of the election commission of the settlement shall be appointed on the basis of proposals of the territorial commission

c) if powers of the territorial commission are vested with the election commission of municipality, members of the election commission of the settlement shall be appointed on the basis of proposals of the election commission of the municipality.

(Section 91 is introduced by Federal Law of December 27, 2009, # 357-FZ).

92. Powers of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, the election commission of the municipality, the territorial commission as stipulated in sections 9 and 91 hereof, shall be prepared taking into account the proposals of public associations, except for public associations indicated in Section 8 of this Article, taking into account the proposals of the voters' meetings at the place of residence, place of work, service, studies, as well as proposals of the election commission of the appropriate municipal entity of previous convocation.

(Section 92 was introduced by Federal Law of December 27, 2009, # 357-FZ).

93. If the received proposals as indicated in Sections 8, 9 and 91 of this Article are insufficient for implementation of Sections 8, 9 and 91 of this Article, respectively, the other members of the commission shall be appointed on the basis of the proposals envisaged in Section 7 hereof.

(Section 93 was introduced by Federal Law of December 27, 2009, # 357-FZ).

10. A municipality election commission shall:

a) on the territory of the municipality, exercise control over the observance of the electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum;

b) on the territory of the municipality, ensure the implementation of measures related to the preparation and conduct of elections of bodies of local self-government, local referendums, publication of required printed materials;

c) on the territory of the municipality, implement measures aimed at ensuring, at elections of elections of bodies of local self-government, local referendums, a uniform procedure for allocation of air time and space in print media to registered candidates, electoral associations, for the purposes of election campaigning, to the referendum initiative group and other groups of referendum participants for the purposes of campaigning on questions of the referendum;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

d) on the territory of the municipality, implement measures aimed at ensuring, at elections of bodies of local self-government, local referendums, a uniform procedure for determination of the vote returns, establishment of the results of elections, referendums;

e) on the territory of the municipality, implement measures aimed at ensuring, at elections of bodies of local self-government, local referendums, a uniform procedure for publication of the voting results, the results of elections, referendums;

f) on the territory of the municipality, implement measures aimed at arranging for the funding of the preparation and conduct of elections of bodies of local self-government, local referendums; distribute the funds allocated from the local budget and/or the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation for financial support of the preparation and conduct of elections of bodies of local self-government, local referendums; exercise control over the proper use of the above funds;

g) provide legal, methodological, organizational, and technical support to lower commissions;

h) hear reports of bodies of local self-government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of elections of bodies of local self-government, and local referendums;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

i) consider appeals (grievances) against decisions and actions (omissions) of lower commissions, and the election commission of municipality – also appeals (grievances) to resolutions and actions/omissions of the election commission of the settlement, and take reasoned decisions on such appeals (grievances);

(paragraph 'i' in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

j) exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitution (charter), laws of the subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of the municipality.

(in the version of Federal Law of December 27, 2009, # 357-FZ).

Article 25. Procedure of Formation and Powers of District Election Commissions

1. District election commissions shall be formed in the cases provided for by law when elections are held in single-seat and/or multi-seat electoral districts. The powers of district election commissions may be vested in other election commissions.

2. The term of powers of district election commissions shall expire two months after the date of official publication of election results. , if the appeals/grievances to actions/omissions of the election commission, which resulted in violation of the vote counting procedure, were not submitted to the higher commission, and if legal proceedings with respect to these facts are not underway. In case of appeal to the voting results on the territory of the election precinct or the results of elections, the powers of the district election commission shall terminate from the date of making by the higher commission of the decision or from the date when the court judgment on the appeal/grievance took effect.

(paragraph 2 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

3. The number of voting members of district election commissions for elections of federal bodies of state power shall be established by the federal law. The number of voting members of district commissions for elections of

bodies of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government shall be established by a law of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

4-5. Became invalid. – Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ.

6. A district election commission for elections of bodies of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government shall be formed by the higher commission on the basis of proposals referred to in Sections 1 and 2, Article 22 of this Federal Law and proposals made by representative bodies of municipality, and proposals made at meetings of voters at places of their residence, work, service, study.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

7. The higher election commission shall appoint at least one half of the total number of members of a district election commission for elections of bodies of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of municipality of a municipality on the basis of proposals made by:

a) political parties, that nominated federal lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation as well as political parties that put forward federal lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with Article 821 of Federal Law on election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation;

(in the version of Federal Law of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ).

b) political parties, that nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation;

(in the version of Federal Law of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ)

(Section 7 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

71. The higher election commission is obliged to appoint at least ½ of total number of members of the district election commission for elections to bodies of local self-government on the basis of submitted proposals of

a) political parties that submitted federal lists of candidates admitted for allocation of deputy mandates in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, as well as political parties that submitted federal lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred, in accordance with Article 821, Federal Law on Elections of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ).

b) political parties that submitted lists of candidates admitted to allocation of deputy mandates in a legislative/representative body of state authority of the subject of the Russian Federation, as well as political parties that submitted lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were provided in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation envisaged in Section 17, Article 35, of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Law of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ).

c) election associations that put forward candidates admitted to allocation of deputy mandates in the representative authority of the appropriate municipal entity.

(Section 71 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

8. A district election commission shall:

a) exercise control over the observance of the electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation on the territory of the electoral district;

b) work in conjunction with bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of elections in the electoral district;

c) register candidates;

- d) approve the text of the ballot in the electoral district;
- e) exercise control over compliance with the uniform procedure for vote-counting, determination of vote returns and establishment of election results on the territory of the electoral district;
- f) determine the election results for the electoral district;
- g) publish (make public) the results of an election for the electoral district in the relevant mass media;
- h) provide legal and administrative/technical assistance to lower commissions;
- i) consider appeals (grievances) related to decisions and actions (omissions) of lower commissions, and take reasoned decisions on such appeals (grievances);
- j) exercise other powers in accordance with the law.

Article 26. Procedure of Formation and the Powers of Territorial Commissions

1. The position of territorial election commissions in the system of state bodies in subjects of the Russian Federation shall be determined by laws of a subject of the Russian Federation.

2. Territorial commissions shall operate on a permanent basis.

3. The term of powers of territorial commissions shall be five years. If the term of powers of a territorial commission expires in the period of an election campaign, in the period between announcement of a referendum and the end of the referendum campaign in which this commission takes part, the term of its powers shall be extended until the end of the election campaign, referendum campaign*

(in the version of Federal Law of June 4, 2010, # 117-FZ).

4. The law of a subject of the Russian Federation may confer the status of a legal entity on a territorial commission. By a decision of the appropriate election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation adopted with the concurrence of the representative body of municipality, the relevant municipality election commission may be vested with the powers of a territorial commission.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

5. Territorial commissions shall consist of five to fourteen voting members.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

6. A territorial commission shall be formed by the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation on the basis of proposals referred to in Section 2, Article 22 of this Federal Law and proposals made by representative bodies of municipalities, meetings of voters at places of their residence, work, service, study, proposals made by the previous territorial commissions.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

7. The election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall appoint at least one half of the total number of members of a territorial commission on the basis of proposals made by:

- a) political parties, that nominated federal lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation as well as political parties that submitted federal lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with Article 821, Federal Law on Elections of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

(in the version of Federal Law of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ)

b) political parties that nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation as well as political parties that nominated lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 17, Article 35, of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Law of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ).

c) political parties, that nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the representative body of municipality.

(Section 7 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

8. Within the boundaries of one administrative-territorial unit with a large number of voters, several territorial commissions may be formed, the decision on their formation shall be taken by the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation with the concurrence of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. The election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to form one or more territorial commissions to direct the operation of precinct commissions formed in electoral precincts, referendum precincts established on ships, at polar stations. In cases specified by the federal law, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to form one or more territorial commissions to direct the operation of precinct commissions formed in electoral precincts, referendum precincts established outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

9. A territorial commission shall:

a) on the relevant territory, exercise control over the observance of the electoral rights and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum;

b) on the relevant territory, ensure compliance with the standard quotas of the technological equipment (voting booths, voting boxes) for precinct commissions;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

c) on the relevant territory, ensure the implementation of measures related to the preparation and conduct of elections, referendums, improvement of the electoral system in the Russian Federation; introduction, operation, and improvement of means of automation, legal education of voters, professional training of commission members, and other individuals involved in organization of elections, referendums;

d) on the relevant territory, implement measures aimed at ensuring a uniform procedure for determination of the vote returns;

e) distribute the funds allocated to it from the federal budget, the budget of the subject of the Russian Federation for financial support of the preparation and conduct of an election, a referendum; exercise control over the proper use of such funds;

f) provide legal, methodological, organizational, and technical support to lower commissions;

g) hear reports of bodies of executive power of the subject of the Russian Federation and bodies of local self-government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of an election, a referendum;

h) consider appeals (grievances) against decisions and actions (omissions) of lower commissions, and take reasoned decisions on such appeals (grievances);

i) exercise other powers in accordance with this Federal Law, other federal laws, the constitution (charter), laws of the subject of the Russian Federation.

Article 27. Procedure of Formation and the Powers of Precinct Commissions

1. Precinct commissions shall be formed in the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign at the time established by law in order to ensure the process of voting by voters, referendum participants, and counting

of votes cast by voters, referendum participants. At the elections to bodies of local self-government, during local referendum, powers of the precinct commission may be vested with another commission acting within the boundaries of the election precinct, the referendum precinct.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

2. The term of powers of a precinct commission shall expire ten days after the day of official publication of the results of an election, a referendum, if no complaints/grievances have been received by the higher election commission against actions (omissions) of the given election commission, which resulted in the violation of the voting and the vote-counting procedure and also if these facts are not being investigated by a court. If the vote returns have been contested in the appropriate election precinct or referendum precinct the powers of a precinct election commission shall expire after the higher election commission hands down a final decision or from the date when the court judgment on the complaint/grievance takes effect .

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

3. The number of voting members of precinct commissions shall be set by law.

4. A precinct commission shall be formed by the higher commission on the basis of proposals referred to in Section 2, Article 22 of this Federal Law and proposals made by the representative body of municipality, meetings of voters at places of their residence, work, service, study. The Law may envisage creation of the precinct commission in the election precinct, the referendum precinct created on a ship in a voyage or in a polar station as well as outside the Russian Federation by the appropriate officials.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

5. The higher commission shall appoint at least one half of the total number of members of a precinct commission on the basis of nominations proposed by:

a) political parties, that nominated federal lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation as well as political parties that nominated lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with Article 821, Federal Law on Election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

(in the version of Federal Law of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ)

b) political parties, that nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation as well as political parties that nominates lists of candidates, to whom deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 117, Article 35, of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Law of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ).

c) political parties, that nominated lists of candidates included in the distribution of deputy seats in the representative body of municipality.

(Section 5 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

6. A precinct commission shall:

a) inform the population about the address and telephone number of the precinct commission, its working hours, and about the day, time, and place of voting;

b) update the list of voters, referendum participants, arrange for voters, referendum participants to inspect this list; consider statements about mistakes and inaccuracies in this list and make required correction therein;

c) prepare the voting premises, ballot boxes, and other equipment;

d) inform voters about registered candidates, electoral associations, that have registered their lists of candidates, inform referendum participants about the referendum questions on the basis of the information received from the higher commission;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

- e) exercise control over compliance with the rules for election campaigning, campaigning on the referendum questions on the territory of the electoral precinct, the referendum precinct;
 - f) issue absentee certificates;
 - g) at the polling station, the referendum polling station, organize voting on voting day, and early voting;
 - h) count votes, determine vote returns for the electoral precinct, the referendum precinct, complete the protocol of vote returns, and deliver it to the territorial commission;
 - i) announce the vote returns for the electoral precinct, the referendum precinct, and issue certified copies of the protocol of vote returns for persons who observed the progress of the voting;
- (in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)
- j) within the scope of its competence, consider appeals (grievances) about violations of this Federal Law, other laws, and take reasoned decisions on such appeals (grievances);
 - k) became invalid – Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ.
 - l) ensure the safekeeping and transfer to higher commissions of documents relating to the preparation and conduct of an election, a referendum;
 - m) exercise other powers in accordance with the law.

Article 28. Organization of Operation of Commissions

1. Commissions shall operate on a collective basis.
2. A commission shall be qualified to start functioning if at least two thirds of the total established number of its members have been appointed.
3. A commission operating on a permanent basis shall convene its first meeting not later than on the fifteenth day after the decision on the appointment of its voting members is adopted, but not earlier than the date of expiry of the term of powers of the previous commission. In this case, at least two-thirds of the total number of its members shall be appointed. The powers of the previous commission shall cease as of the date of the first meeting of the new commission. The term of powers of a commission shall commence from the date of its first meeting.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

4. The chairman of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be elected by secret ballot at the commission's first meeting from among voting members of the election commission on the basis of the proposal made by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.
5. The chairman of an election commission of municipality, city district, intra-city territory of a federal-significance city shall be elected by secret ballot at its first meeting from among voting members of the election commission in accordance with the following procedure:

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

- a) if the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation has made the nomination, according to the nomination of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation;
- b) if the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation has not made the nomination, according to the nomination made by voting members of the election commission of municipality, city district, intra-city territory of a federal-significance city, with the casting vote.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

51. The Chairman of the election commission of the settlement shall be elected by secret voting at its first meeting, out of members of this commission, with the casting vote, on the basis of the proposal of the election commission of municipality, and if the election commission of municipality is not formed, on the basis of the proposal of the territorial commission. In the absence of such proposal, the Chairman of the election commission of the settlement shall be elected on the basis of the proposals of members of the election commission of the settlement with the casting vote.

(Section 51 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

6. If a candidature for the chairman of a commission nominated by the commission is rejected, the election commission that made the nomination in accordance with Sections 4, 5 and 51 of this article shall nominate another candidature from among the voting members of the commission.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

7. Chairmen of district, territorial, and precinct commissions shall be appointed from among voting members of such commissions and may be removed by the commissions of the next higher level.

8. The deputy chairman and the secretary of a commission shall be elected by secret ballot at the commission's first meeting from among voting members of the commission.

9. Meetings of a commission shall be convened by its chairman as frequently as required. A meeting shall also be held if requested by at least one-third of the established number of voting members of the commission.

10. A voting member of a commission shall attend at all meetings of the commission.

11. A meeting of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be competent if attended by at least ten voting members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. A meeting of another commission shall be competent if attended by a majority of the established number of voting members of this commission.

12. Upon request of any member of a commission or any member of a higher commission present at the meeting, the commission shall take a vote on any matter within its competence that is considered by the commission at the meeting in accordance with the approved agenda.

13. Decisions of a commission regarding nomination, election or removal of its chairman, deputy chairman and secretary, regarding issues of financial support of the preparation and conduct of elections and referendums, registration of candidates, lists of candidates, bringing legal actions for cancellation of the registration of candidates, vote returns or election results, referendum results, declaring an election or referendum as not having taken place or invalid, as well as decisions regarding repeat voting or repeat election, cancellation of a decision of a commission in the procedure provided for by Section 11, Article 20 and Sections 6 and 7, Article 75 of this Federal Law shall be taken at its meeting by a majority of the established number of voting members of the commission. Decisions on removal of the chairman, the deputy chairman, or the secretary who were elected to these offices shall be taken by secret ballot (except when these officials are removed at their personal request), and election of a new chairman, deputy chairman, or secretary of the commission shall take place in accordance with the procedure established by Sections 4, 5, 51, 6, and 8 of this article.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

14. A commission shall take decisions on other issues by a majority of the votes of the present voting members of the commission.

15. In the event of a tie vote, the chairman (the person chairing the meeting) of the commission shall have a casting vote.

16. Decisions of a commission shall be signed by its chairman and secretary (the person chairing the meeting and the meeting's secretary).

17. Voting members of a commission who dissent from a decision of the commission, shall be entitled to express in writing their dissenting opinion, which is reflected in the minutes of the commission and is attached to its resolution, in connection with which this opinion was voiced. If, in accordance with the law, this

resolution of the commission is to be published /released, the dissenting opinion should be published/ released in the same manner, as the commission resolution.

(Section 17 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

18. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, municipality election commissions, territorial commissions that operate on a permanent basis and are legal entities shall have their staff, the structure and staffing plan of which shall be set by such commissions independently. Staff employees of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall have the status of federal state employees. Occupying, by staff employees of the election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, territorial commissions, municipality election commissions that operate on a permanent basis and are legal entities, of, respectively, offices of state service of subjects of the Russian Federation, offices of municipal service shall be governed by laws and other regulatory acts of subjects of the Russian Federation, the charters of municipalities, and other regulatory acts of bodies of local self-government. Levels of financial support (including the size and nature of monetary compensations, other benefits) and social support of commission staff employees filling offices of state service or municipal service shall be established, respectively, by the federal laws and other regulatory acts of the Russian Federation, laws and other regulatory acts of subjects of the Russian Federation, regulatory acts of bodies of local self-government. Federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government shall take necessary measures to provide financial and social support (including medical, recreational, housing, pension support, and other types of support) of commission staff employees.

19. Commissions may involve citizens in order to perform work related to the preparation and conduct of elections, referendums as well as ensuring powers of the commissions on civil law contracts.

(Section 19 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Article 29. Status of Commission Members

1. Persons falling into any of the following categories shall not be voting members of commissions:

a) persons that are not citizens of the Russian Federation as well as citizens of the Russian Federation having citizenship of a foreign state or residential permit or another documents, which certifies the right to permanent residence of the citizen of the Russian Federation on the territory of the foreign state;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 25, 2006, # 128-FZ).

b) citizens of the Russian Federation who have been declared, by a court decision that has come into legal force, incapable or having limited capability;

c) citizens of the Russian Federation under the age of 18 years;

d) deputies of legislative (representative) bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government;

e) elective officials as well as supreme officials of subjects of the Russian Federation (top managers of supreme executive bodies of the state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation), heads of local administrations;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

f) judges, prosecutors;

g) at relevant elections, candidates, their authorized representatives and agents, authorized representatives and agents of electoral associations, that have nominated candidates;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

h) at relevant referendums, members and authorized representatives of referendum initiative groups;

i) at relevant elections, referendums, non-voting members of commissions;

j) at relevant elections, spouses and close relatives of candidates, close relatives of candidates' spouses;

k) persons directly subordinated to candidates;

l) persons removed from commissions by a court decision as well as persons who lost their powers of members of the commissions with the casting vote as a result of disassembly of the commission (except for the persons, whom the court recognized as not guilty of the violations committed by the commission) – within five years from the date when the appropriate court judgment takes effect;

(paragraph “m” in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

m) persons who have previous convictions that have not been cancelled and annulled, and persons who have been subjected by court to an administrative penalty for a violation of regulations governing elections and referendums, within one year of the effective date of the court decision (ruling) on the administrative penalty.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. Provisions of Sub-sections g), j), and k) of Section 1 of this article shall not apply to members of precinct, territorial or district election commissions if the candidate is nominated or registered in another electoral district.

3. Under this Federal Law, direct subordination is construed as service-related or work-related relationship between a superior and a subordinate, whereby the superior has, in relation to the subordinate, powers or managerial authorities, i.e. has the right to employ or dismiss the subordinate or, within his position-related authority, issue to the subordinate binding orders, instructions, or directions, reward the subordinate or subject him to disciplinary penalties.

4. A voting member of a commission shall not, at one election, referendum, be a voting member of another commission.

5. The term of powers of voting members of a commission shall expire at the same time with the expiration of the powers of the commission of which they are members.

6. A voting member of a commission shall be relieved from the duties of a commission member by a decision of the body that appointed him if:

a) the commission member files a written resignation. The said application cannot be submitted within the period of time starting ten days prior to the voting date and ending on the date when the voting results are established, the election/referendum results are determined, except for the case when it is submitted in connection with compelling circumstances, such as severe disease, constant health disorder of a member of the commission or his/her close relatives ;

(paragraph “a” in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

b) grounds referred to in Sections 1 and 4 of this article, except suspension of a commission member under Section 7 of this article and instances referred to in Sub-sections a), b), and m), Section 1 of this article have arisen.

7. If the grounds referred to in Sub-section j) of Section 1 of this article have arisen, powers of a voting member of a commission who works on a permanent (staff) basis shall be suspended by a decision of the relevant commission, provided such suspension does not make the composition of the commission such that it is not competent to exercise its powers. If such suspension of powers makes the composition of the commission such that it is not competent to exercise its powers, powers of such member of the commission shall be terminated by a decision of the body that appointed him.

8. Powers of a voting member of a commission shall be terminated immediately if:

a) the commission member ceases to be a citizen of the Russian Federation or acquires citizenship of a foreign state or receives a residential permit or another document that evidences the right to permanent residence of the citizen of the Russian Federation on the territory of a foreign state;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 25, 2006, # 128-FZ)

b) a guilty verdict of a court against the commission member, or a court ruling subjecting the commission member to an administrative penalty for a violation of the legislation governing elections and referendums has come into legal force;

c) the commission member is declared by a court decision that has come into legal force incapable, having limited capability, missing, or dead;

d) the commission member dies;

e) the commission member is declared by a court decision that has come into legal force on the basis of an application of the relevant commission as systematically ignoring his duties.

f) taking effect of the resolution as to the commission's dissolution under Article 31 of this Federal Law.

(paragraph "f" was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

9. became invalid – Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ

10. If the body that appointed a commission member fails to take a decision on early termination of powers of this commission member within one month, and in the period of an election campaign, within ten days from the date on which this body received a written resignation of the commission member or other grounds preventing him from performing his duties have arisen, the decision to terminate powers of such commission member shall be taken by the commission of which he is a member within three days of the expiration date of the above periods.

11. The body that appointed a commission member shall appoint a new commission member in place of the member withdrawn on the grounds referred to in Sections 6 and 8 of this article not later than in a month, and in the period of an election campaign, the period from calling a referendum until the end of the referendum campaign, not later than ten days of the date of withdrawal in accordance with the provisions of Section 4, Article 21, Articles 22-27 of this Federal Law. If this requirement fails to be fulfilled, a new member of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be appointed by the Central election commission of the Russian Federation, and a new member of the election commissions of the municipality, city district, intra-city territory of a federal-significance city – by the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, a new member of the election commission of the settlement – by the election commission of the municipality (if such commission is not elected, by the territorial commission), and a member of another election commission – by a higher commission in accordance with provisions of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

12. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and Secretary of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the chairman, deputy chairman, and secretary of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, the chairman or a secretary of another commission that operates on a permanent basis and is a legal entity shall work for the relevant commission on a permanent (staff) basis. The chairman of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation must have a professional education.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of April 20, 2007, # 62-FZ)

13. Besides the members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation referred to in Section 12 of this article, voting members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation may work for the commission on a permanent (staff) basis.

14. Besides the commission members referred to in Section 12 of this article, the possibility of working on a permanent (staff) basis for voting members of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, voting members of a municipality election commission, a territorial commission that operate on a permanent basis and are legal entities, and the size and nature of monetary compensation of voting members of the said commissions that work on a permanent (staff) basis, other benefits to these commission members shall be established by laws, other regulatory acts of subjects of the Russian Federation, the charters of municipalities, regulatory acts of bodies of local self-government.

15. A voting member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation who works for the commission on a permanent (staff) basis, shall occupy a state office of the Russian Federation. A voting member of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation who works for the commission on a

permanent (staff) basis, a voting member of another election commission that operates on a permanent basis and is a legal entity shall occupy, in accordance with a law, another regulatory act of the subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of a municipality, another regulatory act of the body of local self-government, respectively, a state office of the subject of the Russian Federation, a municipal office. Such persons shall not hold other offices in bodies of state power, state bodies, bodies of local self-government, be involved in business or another paid activity, with the exceptions of teaching, scientific, or other creative activities. In this case, teaching, scientific and creative activity cannot be exclusively funded from funds of foreign states, international and foreign organizations, foreign nationals and stateless persons, unless otherwise envisaged in an international treaty of the Russian Federation or Russian law.

(in the version of Federal Law of March 2, 2007, # 24-FZ, of December 25, 2008, # 274-FZ).

151. It is prohibited to a member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation as well as to a member of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation who works in the commission on a permanent/staff basis, to member of another election commission, who acts on a permanent basis and is a legal entity, who works in the commission on a permanent/staff basis:

a) to make part of management bodies, guardianship or supervisory councils, other offices acting in the Russian Federation of foreign non-for-profit entities and their business units, unless otherwise envisaged in the international treaty of the Russian Federation or Russian law.

b) receive in connection with performance of his/her duties any remuneration (loans, monetary or other remuneration, services, payment for entertainment, recreation, transportation costs), which are not envisaged in Russian law from individuals and legal entities. Gifts received by a member of the election commission in connection with protocol events, with business traveling and other official events, shall be recognized federal property, property of the subject of the Russian Federation, municipal property, respectively, and shall be transferred by a member of the election commission under a certificate to the appropriate election commission; except for cases envisaged in Russian law. A member of the election commission who transferred a gift received by him/her in connection with the protocol event, business traveling and another official event may repurchase the same in the manner established in Russian laws and regulations

c) travel, in connection with performance of his/her duties outside the Russian Federation at the expense of funds of individuals and legal entities, except for business traveling in accordance with Russian law, international treaties of the Russian Federation or mutual arrangement of governmental authorities, local authorities with governmental authorities/local authorities of foreign states, international and foreign agencies

d) use materials, equipment, funds and information intended for office use other than for performance of duties vested with him/her

e) disclose or use for the purposes not related with performance of duties vested with him/her the information referred, in accordance with the federal law, to information of restricted access, or service information, which became known to him/her in connection with performance of duties vested with him/her.

(Section 151 was introduced by Federal Law of December 25, 2008, # 274-FZ)

152. If possession by a member of the election commission indicated in Section 151 of this Article of income-bearing securities, shares (stakes in share capitals of companies) may lead to a conflict of interests, the member shall be obliged to transfer the securities, shares (stakes in the share capitals of companies), which belong to him/her, to trust management in accordance with Russian law.

(Section 152 was introduced by Federal Law of December 25, 2008, # 274-FZ).

16. Federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government shall take necessary measures to provide financial and social support (including medical, recreational, housing, pension support, and other types of support) of persons listed in Sections 12-14 of this article. The level of financial support (including the size and nature of monetary compensation, other benefits) and social support of a member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation who is employed in the said commission on a permanent/staff basis, shall not be lower than the level of financial and social support established for persons filling state offices of the Russian Federation in a federal executive body: a member of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation who is employed in the said commission on a permanent/staff basis – not lower than the level of material and social support established for persons who occupy state offices of the subject of the Russian Federation in a legislative/ representative of

executive governmental body of the subject of the Russian Federation; that of a member of the territorial commission who is employed in the said commission on a permanent/staff basis – not lower than the level of material and social support established for persons who occupy supreme offices of state civil service of the subject of the Russian Federation in the executive body of the state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or its territorial office; a member of the election commission of municipality who is employed in the said commission on a permanent/staff basis – not lower than the level of material and social support established for persons occupying municipal offices in the representative body of the municipality. The amount and types of monetary remuneration to the said persons as well as the amount and types of other benefits provided to the said persons shall be established, respectively, by the federal laws and other regulatory acts of the Russian Federation, laws and other regulatory acts of subjects of the Russian Federation, charters of municipalities, and other regulatory acts of bodies of local self-government.

(Section 16 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

161. To persons who occupied governmental offices of the Chairman, deputy Chairman, secretary or member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with the right of casting vote, who is employed in the said commission on a permanent/staff basis, the term of powers of which has expired in connection with termination of powers of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, within which they were included, and not appointed members of the said commission in its new composition for the employment period or formalization of pension benefits (but not more than three months from the date of expiry of the term of powers), the remuneration established in accordance with the occupied positions shall be paid, and the medical, resort, residential support conditions will remain the same (including those for the family members). To the said persons who occupied state positions of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, secretary or member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with the right of casting vote, who is employed in the state commission on the permanent/staff basis, the continuous employment time shall be retained, provided that the interval between the expiry date of their powers and the date of employment at new job or registration of pension does not exceed 3 months. Guarantees for members of other election commissions acting on a permanent basis and not being legal entities, with the right of casting vote, who are employed in these commissions on a permanent basis shall be established in laws of subjects of the Russian Federation.

(Section 161 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

17. A voting member of a commission may be entitled to extra compensation (remuneration) for his work for the commission in the preparation and conduct of an election, a referendum. A voting member of a commission who has been relieved, at the request of the commission, from his main job for the period of the preparation and conduct of an election, a referendum, shall retain his main job (office) and be compensated for the period during which he was relieved from his main job. The size of and the procedure for payment of such compensation and extra compensation (remuneration) shall be established by the commission organizing the respective election, referendum from and within the limits of the funds allocated from budgets for the conduct of such election, referendum.

18. Resolutions as to instigation of a criminal case with respect to a member of the commission with the right of casting vote, his/her engagement as an accused person into a criminal case shall be taken by a head of the investigation body of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation for the subject of the Russian Federation. The petition to the court as to selection of imprisonment as a penalty against a member of the commission with the casting vote may be instigated with consent of the head of the investigation body of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation for the subject of the Russian Federation. A member of the commission with the casting vote may not be subjected to administrative penalties imported judicially without consent of the prosecutor of a subject of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 24, 2007, # 214-FZ, of December 28, 2010, # 404-FZ).

181. Resolutions as to instigation of a criminal case with respect to a member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with casting vote, the chairman of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, their engagement as accused persons shall be taken by the Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation. The petition to the court as to selection of imprisonment as a penalty against a member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with the casting vote may be instigated with consent of the Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation. A member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with the casting vote, the Chairman of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation cannot be subjected to administrative penalty, imposed juridically, without consent of the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation.

(Section 181 was introduced by Federal Law of July 24, 2007, # 214-FZ, in the version of Federal Law of December 28, 2010, # 404-FZ).

19. A voting member of a commission, a non-voting member of a commission shall not be dismissed from his job on the initiative of his employer or transferred to a different job without his consent respectively before the expiration of his powers and in the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign.

20. The candidate, the election association that nominated a list of candidates, from the date of submission to the election commission of documents for registration of the candidate/ the list of candidates, shall be entitled to appoint one member of this election commission with the right of consultative vote, and in case of registration of the candidate/ the list of candidates – one member of the election commission with the right of consultative vote to each lower election commission. The election association that submitted the registered candidate(s) for one-seat/multi-seat election district, shall be entitled to appoint one member of the higher commission with respect to the election commission that registered the candidate(s), with the consultative vote. Each election association may appoint to the election commission more than one member of the election commission with the consultative vote.

(Section 20 in the version Of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

21. The initiative group for holding a referendum and election associations, the list of candidates of which were admitted included in the distribution of deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power, the representative body of municipality in accordance with the level of the referendum, as well as political parties, to federal lists of candidates to which deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with Article 821 of Federal Law, On election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and the political parties, to list of candidates of which deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 17, Article 35, of this Federal Law, after official publication of the resolution on appointment of the referendum, shall be free to appoint one member of the referendum commission with the consultative vote to lower commission of the referendum

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ, of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ).

211. Members of the commissions with consultative vote may not be the persons indicated in paragraphs a, c, f of Section 1 of this Article, Russian citizens recognized by a court judgment that took legal effect as incompetent, members of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, members of apparatuses of the commissions, trustees of candidates, election associations as well as persons that occupy command positions in military units, military organizations and institutions.

(Section 211 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

212. Members of commissions with the casting vote, duly authorized by the appropriate commissions, shall draft minutes of administrative offence in accordance with the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offence. (Section 212 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

22. A non-voting member of a commission shall have the same rights as a voting member of a commission, with the exception to the rights to:

- a) issue and sign ballots, absentee certificates;
- b) participate in sorting out, counting, and canceling of ballots;
- c) compile the protocol of vote returns, the election results, referendum election;
- d) participate in the voting on the matters which are within the scope of competence of the relevant commission, and sign the commission's decisions
- e) draft minutes on administrative offence

(Section 'e' was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

The provisions contained in this section shall not serve a reason for refusing a non-voting member of a commission the right to be present at the performance of any actions mentioned in this section.

23. A voting member of a commission and a non-voting member of a commission shall:

- a) receive timely notices about meetings of the relevant commission;
- b) speak at the commission's meetings, make proposals on issues falling within the scope of competence of the relevant commission, and request that these matters be put to the vote;
- c) put questions to other participants in the commission's meeting in accordance with the agenda, and receive meaningful answers to these questions;
- d) inspect documents and materials (including lists of voters, referendum participants, signature sheets, financial statements of candidates, electoral associations, , ballots) that are directly connected to the election, the referendum, including documents and materials on a machine-readable media, of the relevant commission or lower commissions, and receive copies of such documents and materials (with the exception of ballots, absentee certificates, lists of voters, referendum participants, signature sheets, other documents and materials containing confidential information classified as such in accordance with the procedure established by the federal law), and have such copies certified;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

- e) make sure that the number of voters who took part in the voting has been calculated correctly according to the voters list and that the ballots have been correctly sorted out in accordance with candidates, political parties,, options of replying to the question of the referendum;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

- f) appeal actions (omissions) of the commission in the relevant higher commission or a court.

24. The powers of non-voting members of an election commission operating on a permanent basis, who have been appointed by candidates who have been elected by electoral associations, the lists of whose candidates were included in the distribution of deputy seats, political parties, to federal lists of candidates of which deputy seats were transferred in accordance with Article 821, Federal Law on Election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and political parties, to the lists of candidates of which deputy seats were transferred in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 17, Article 35, of this Federal Law, shall continue until the end of registration of candidates, lists of candidates at the next election of the same body or of the same office. The powers of other non-voting members of a commission operating on a permanent basis shall expire on the day of the end of the appropriate electoral campaign. Powers of other members of other election commissions, referendum commissions shall expire at the same time as the powers of such commissions. If the registration of a candidate, an electoral association, an electoral bloc (registration of a list of candidates) is refused, or registration of a candidate, a list of candidates is annulled or cancelled, , the powers of non-voting members of the election commission, which were elected by such candidate, election association, which put forward such candidate, such list of candidates, shall cease, accordingly, as of the day of such cancellation or annulment, and if the decision about the refusal of registration is appealed in a court, from the day on which the court decision regarding the lawfulness of the refusal of registration came into legal force.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ, of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ).

25. A non-voting commission member shall, within the period of his powers, have the rights conferred by this article in relation to the preparation and conduct of all elections and referendums in which this commission is involved.

26. The powers of a non-voting commission member may be terminated by a decision of the person or body that appointed such commission member, and transferred to another person.

27. Elected candidates and electoral associations, whose lists of candidates have been included in the distribution of deputy seats, political parties, to federal lists of candidates of which deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with Article 821, Federal Law on Elections of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and political parties, to list of candidates of which deputy mandates were transferred in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 17, Article 35, this Federal Law, shall, for the period of powers of the deputy, the official, retain the

right to appoint non-voting members of election commissions operating on a permanent basis, including the right to appoint replacements to withdrawn members.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, No 94-FZ, of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ).

Article 30. Openness in Activities of Commissions

1. Members of higher commissions and members of their administrations, a candidate registered by the given or a higher commission or his agent, an authorized representative or an agent of the electoral association, whose list of candidates has been registered by this or a higher commission or a candidate from the said list, a member or an authorized representative of the referendum initiative group may attend all meetings of the commission as well as counting of votes of voters/referendum participants, and when the appropriate precinct, territorial commissions are working on lists of voters, referendum participants, ballots, absentee certificates, protocols on vote returns. The aforementioned persons shall not need any additional permission to attend the meetings and be present when the election commission is working with the said electoral documents, documents related to the preparation and conduct of a referendum. The commission shall inform the aforementioned persons and provide free access for them to its meetings and to the premises where the votes of voters/ referendum participants are counted and where work is performed with the aforementioned electoral documents, documents related to the preparation and conduct of a referendum. Members of the press may also be present at all meetings of the commissions, when it is working with the said documents and counting votes cast by voters, referendum participants.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

2. Decisions of commissions that are directly related to the preparation and conduct of an election, a referendum shall be published in state or municipal print media or otherwise communicated to voters, referendum participants, and provided to other mass media in the scope and within the periods established by law. In case of publication/ communication of resolutions of election commissions, which contain information on candidates, the series and number of passport of the candidate or the document that replaces a passport of the citizen, its issue date, the name or code of the body that issued the passport or the document that replaces the passport of the citizen should not be indicated, and the name of the subject of the Russian Federation, a district, city or another population center where his/her residential address is located are indicated instead of the residential address.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ).

3. On voting day from the time the precinct commission begins its work and until it is notified by the higher commission about acceptance of the protocol of vote returns and also when votes cast by voters, referendum participants are recounted, the persons referred to in Section 1 of this article as well as observers, foreign (international) observers may be present at the polling stations.

4. At an election, an observer may be appointed by a registered candidate, electoral association, electoral bloc, public association that put forward the registered candidate, registered candidates, by the election association that registered the list of candidates. The law may envisage a possibility to appoint observers by other public associations. In a referendum, an observer may be appointed by the referendum initiative group, a public association that must be established and registered at a level corresponding with the level of the referendum or on a higher level. Elective officials, deputies, higher officials of subjects of the Russian Federation (heads of supreme executive bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation), heads of local administration, their direct subordinates, judges, prosecutors, members of commissions with casting vote shall not be appointed observers.

(Section 4 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

5. Access to the premises of the precinct commission in any election precinct, referendum precinct formed on the territory of a military unit, closed administrative-territorial unit, at a hospital, sanatorium, holiday hotel, places of imprisonment for suspects and accused persons and to the polling station in this election precinct,

referendum precinct shall be provided to all members of the precinct commission, persons indicated in Section 1 of this article, observers.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

6. Observers, foreign (international) observers may be present at other commissions when they are conducting early voting, determining vote returns, results of elections, compiling relevant protocols on vote returns, election results or when votes are being recounted.

7. The powers of an observer shall be certified by written credentials issued by a registered candidate or his agent, an electoral association, a public association, the referendum initiative group represented by the observer. The credentials must indicate the surname, first name and patronymic of the observer; address of his place of residence; number of the electoral precinct; name of the election commission (district, territorial, precinct election commission) to which the observer is sent, and also a record is made as to the absence of restrictions as envisaged in Section 4 of this Article. Provision of any additional information about the observer shall not be required and the credentials need not be certified by a seal if the observer is appointed by a candidate or his agent. These credentials shall be valid if produced together with a passport or its substitute. An advance notification about sending of an observer shall not be required.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

8. The document indicated in Section 7 of this article may be presented to a precinct commission in the period indicated in Section 3 of this article, to a territorial or another commission, at early voting or in the period from the commencement of voting in electoral precincts, referendum precincts to the completion of the final protocol for the relevant territory. Two or more observers representing the same registered candidate, electoral association, public association, referendum initiative group shall not simultaneously exercise their powers on the premises of the commission, at the polling station. No restrictions other than those imposed by this Federal Law shall be established on the presence of observers on the premises of an election commission or at the polling station; on monitoring of voting and vote counting, preparation of the protocols of vote returns; on the issuance of copies of the protocols of vote returns.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

9. Observers shall be entitled to

a) inspect voters lists, lists of referendum participants, the register of issue of absentee ballots, the absentee ballots kept in the commission, the register of applications on voting outside polling stations

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

b) be present at polling stations of the relevant electoral precinct, referendum precinct on voting day at any time during the period specified in Section 3 of this article;

b1) oversee the issue of ballots to voters and referendum participants

(section b1) in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

c) attend the voting procedure at an election, a referendum outside the polling station;

d) watch the number of citizens being entered in the lists of voters, referendum participants, ballots being issued to voters, referendum participants, canceled ballots being counted; watch votes cast by voters, referendum participants being counted at the polling station at elections, a referendum from a distance and under conditions which allow them to see the marks made by voters, referendum participants on the ballots; inspect any marked and unmarked ballot when votes cast by voters, referendum participants are being counted; watch the commission preparing the protocol of vote returns and other documents during the period indicated in Section 3 of this article;

e) apply to the chairman of the precinct commission, and in the event of the Chairman's absence, to the person acting in the chairman's capacity, and make proposals and comments regarding the organization of the voting procedure;

f) inspect the protocols of the relevant commission, lower commissions of vote returns, results of the election, the referendum and documents attached thereto, receive from the relevant commission certified copies of such protocols and documents or make copies of such protocols

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

g) wear a badge indicating the observer's status, surname, first name, patronymic, and also the surname, first name, patronymic of the registered candidate or the name of the electoral association, , public association, that have sent the observer to the commission; The Law may envisage that the form of the badge is established by the commission that arranges for elections/ referendum

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

h) appeal, in the procedure established by Article 75 of this Federal Law, actions (omissions) of a commission to the higher commission, the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or a court;

i) be present when the appropriate commissions are recounting votes cast by voters, referendum participants.

10. An observer shall not:

a) issue ballots to voters or referendum participants;

b) sign for a voter, referendum participant for receipt of ballots even when asked to do so by the voter, referendum participant;

c) mark ballots for a voter, referendum participant even upon his request;

d) do anything violating the secrecy of voting;

e) directly participate in ballot counting conducted by voting members of the commission;

f) do anything interfering with the work of the commission;

g) conduct campaigning among voters, referendum participants;

h) participate in the adoption of decisions by the relevant commission.

11. Members of the press, while participating in coverage of preparation for and holding of elections and referendums, shall be free to:

a) attend the meetings of the commissions

b) examine the protocol of vote returns of the precinct commission and the protocols of vote returns, results of the elections, referendum, receive from the appropriate commission copies of the said protocols and documents attached thereto.

c) attend the propaganda events and cover them

d) be in the polling station on the voting date, on early voting date, take pictures and camera shooting

(Section 11 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

12. Copies of protocols and other documents of commissions shall be certified by the chairman, or the deputy chairman, or the secretary of the relevant commission. In this case, the person who certifies the copy of the document, writes "This is a true copy" on the copy being certified, signs off, indicates his/her surname and initials, the date and time of certification of the copy and sets the seal of the appropriate commission

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

13. Foreign (international) observers shall receive the permit to enter the Russian Federation in the procedures provided for by the federal law and, if invited by the bodies of state power, commissions organizing the election,

the referendum, they shall be accredited by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. Foreign (international) observers shall conduct their activities in compliance with the federal laws.

Article 31. Dissolution of Commission

1. A commission may be dissolved by a court of appropriate jurisdiction established by Section 2, Article 75 of this Federal Law if:

a) a violation of the electoral rights of citizens, the right of citizens to participate in a referendum committed by the commission resulted in the fact that the vote returns in the corresponding territory or the results of the elections, referendum were declared invalid by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation in accordance with the procedure established by this Federal Law, another law (among other things, on the basis of a court decision);

b) the commission fails to abide by a decision of a court or a higher commission, decisions of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, the election commission of the municipality, adopted in accordance with Section 7, Article 75 of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

c) non-fulfillment by the commission of its duty to appoint elections, which entailed appointment of elections by a provisional election commission in such manner as established in Section 9, Article 10, of this Federal Law.

(Section 'c' was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

2. An application asking for dissolution of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation may be submitted to a court by a group numbering not less than one-third of the total number of members of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation or deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

3. An application asking for dissolution of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, may be submitted to a court by a group numbering not less than one-third of the total number of members of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation or deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation or not less than one-third of the total number of deputies of the legislative (representative) body of the relevant subject of the Russian Federation, or by a group of deputies of any elective chamber of the aforementioned body numbering not less than one-third of the total number of deputies of this chamber, and also by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

4. An application asking for dissolution of a district election commission at elections of the legislative (representative) body of a subject of the Russian Federation, may be submitted to a court by a group of deputies numbering not less than one-third of the total number of deputies of the legislative (representative) body of the given subject of the Russian Federation, or by a group of deputies of any elective chamber of the aforementioned body numbering not less than one-third of the total number of deputies of such chamber, as well as the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation. The application to the court as to disassembly of the election commission of a municipality, district election commission for elections to a representative body of the municipality, territorial precinct commission may be submitted by a group of deputies who account for at least 1/3 of the total number of deputies of the appropriate legislative/ representative body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or a group of deputies of any of the elected chambers of the said body who account for at least 1/3 of the total number of deputies of this authority, or the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, and the application for disassembly of the election commission of the settlement, also the appropriate election commission by the municipality.

(Section 4 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

5. An application asking for dissolution of a commission organizing an election, a referendum may be submitted to a court after the end of the election campaign, the referendum campaign but not later than three months after the day on which the election campaign, the referendum campaign ends. An application to a court about dissolution of another commission may be submitted not later than 30 days before voting day or after the end of the election campaign, the referendum campaign but not later than three months after the grounds for dissolution of the commission emerge. In the event of a repeat voting, an application to a court about dissolution of a precinct commission may also be submitted in the period after the vote returns in this precinct have been determined but not later than seven days before the day of the repeat voting.

6. An application asking for dissolution of a commission shall be accepted for consideration immediately and a decision shall be taken thereon not later than 14 days after its acceptance, and in the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign, not later than three days after the day on which the application is submitted. A case of dissolution of a commission shall be examined by a court in a full session.

7. If a court rules that the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation be dissolved, the said commission shall be formed in accordance with Article 21 of this Federal Law.

8. If, in the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign, a court rules that the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation be dissolved, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall form, in compliance with the provisions of Section 1, Article 29 of this Federal Law, a provisional election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation composed of new members. After the end of the period of the election campaign, the referendum campaign, the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be formed by bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation in compliance with provisions of Sections 22 and 23 of this Federal Law.

9. If, in the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign, a court rules that a municipality election commission be dissolved, the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, shall form, in compliance with Section 1, Article 29 of this Federal Law, the appropriate provisional commission comprised of new members. After the end of the election campaign, the referendum campaign, the municipality commission shall be formed by the representative body of the municipality in compliance with the provisions of Sections 22 and 24 of this Federal Law.

(Section 9 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

10. If court rules that any commissions other than those referred to in Sections 8 and 9 of this article be dissolved, such commissions composed of new members shall be formed by higher commissions in the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign in compliance with provisions of Section 1, Article 29 of this Federal Law, and after the end of the period of the election campaign, the referendum campaign, in compliance with provisions, Articles 22, 25, and 26 of this Federal Law

11. A provisional commission shall be formed not later than three days of the date when the court ruling on dissolution of a commission came into legal force. Beyond the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign, a new commission shall be formed not later than one month of the day when the court ruling on dissolution of a commission came into legal force (after the last day of the election campaign, the referendum campaign). In this case, the first meetings of such commissions shall be convened by the body that formed them. Powers of provisional commission shall inure from the date of its first meeting and shall terminate on the date established by the commission that established the provisional commission.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

12. Dissolution of a commission shall not entail termination of powers of non-voting members of such commission.

In accordance with Article 2, Federal Law of June 4, 2010, # 117-FZ, On Making Amendments to Federal Law on the Basic Guarantees of Election rights and Rights to Participation in the Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation, in connection with change in the term of powers of election commissions, provisions of Section 3, Article 21, Federal Law of June 12, 2002, # 67-FZ, On the Basic Guarantees of Election Rights and the Right to Participate in Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation (in the version of this Federal Law), which pertain to the term of powers of election commission shall apply with respect to the appropriate election commissions, established after the date when this Federal Law took effect.

*** In accordance with Article 2, Federal Law of June 4, 2011, # 117-FZ, On Making Amendments to the Federal Law on the Basic Guarantees of Election Rights and the Right to Participate in the Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation, in connection with change in the term of powers of election commissions, provisions of Section 3, Article 23, Federal Law of June 12, 2002, # 67-FZ, On the Basic Guarantees of Elective Rights and the Right to Participate in the Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation (in the version of this Federal Law), which pertain to the term of powers of election commissions shall apply with respect to the appropriate election commissions established after the effective date hereof.*

*** In accordance with Article 2, Federal Law of June 4, 2011, # 117-FZ, On Making Amendments to the Federal Law on the Basic Guarantees of Election Rights and the Right to Participate in the Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation, in connection with change in the term of powers of election commissions, provisions of Section 5, Article 24, Federal Law of June 12, 2002, # 67-FZ, On the Basic Guarantees of Elective Rights and the Right to Participate in the Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation (in the version of this Federal Law), which pertain to the term of powers of election commissions shall apply with respect to the appropriate election commissions established after the effective date hereof.*

***** In accordance with Article 2, Federal Law of December 27, 2009, # 357-FZ, On Making Amendments to Article 24 of Federal Law On the Basic Guarantees of the Election Rights and the Right to Participate in the Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation, the election commissions of municipal entities established before the effective date hereof shall preserve their powers before expiry of the term, for which they were established. In case of early termination of powers of a member of the election commission of municipality, established before the effective date hereof, the new member of the elective commission shall be elected as follows:*

1) if a member of the election commission was appointed at the proposal of a political party or another election association, specified in Section 8, Article 24, Federal Law of June 12, 2002, # 67-FZ, On the Basic Guarantees of Election Rights and the right to Participation in the Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation (hereinafter Federal Law on the Basic Guarantees of Election rights and Rights to Participate in the Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation), a new member of the election commission shall be appointed at the proposal of the same political party and the same election association;

2) if a member of the election commission is appointed other than at the proposal of the political party or another election association, as indicated in Section 8, Article 24, Federal Law, On the Basic Guarantees of Election rights and the Right to Participate in the Referendum of the Citizens of the Russian Federation, a new member of the election commission shall be appointed at the proposal of a political party or another election association indicated in Section 8, Article 24, Federal Law on the Basic Guarantees of Elective Rights and the Right to Participate in the Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation, and if all of the political parties and other election associations indicated in Section 8, Article 24, of this Federal Law, have already appointed members of the election committee of a municipality, or at the proposal of these political parties or other election associations a half of the total number of members of the election commission of the municipality were appointed, the new member of the election commission shall be appointed in accordance with Sections 9 to 93, Article 24, Federal Law on the Basic Guarantees of Election Rights and the Right to Participate in Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation.

** In accordance with Article 2, Federal Law of June 4, 2010, # 117-FZ, On Making Amendments to Federal Law on the Basic Guarantees of Election Rights and the Right to Participate in a Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation, in connection with change in the term of powers of election commissions, provisions of Section 3, Article 26, Federal Law of June 12, 2002, # 67-FZ, On the Basic Guarantees of Election Rights and the Right to Participation in a Referendum of Citizens of the Russian Federation (in the version of this Federal Law), which pertain to the term of powers of election commissions shall apply to the appropriate election commissions, which were established after the effective date hereof.*

Chapter V. GUARANTEES OF CITIZENS' RIGHTS IN NOMINATION
AND REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES, REALIZATION OF INITIATIVE
TO HOLD REFERENDUM

Article 32. Right to Nominate Candidates

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation who are entitled to a passive electoral right may be nominated candidates directly or on a list of candidates in accordance with this Federal Law, another law.

2. Direct nomination of candidates may be carried out by way of self-nomination, nomination by an electoral association.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. Nomination of candidates on a list of candidates may be carried out by political party entitled, in accordance with federal law, to participate in elections, or its regional office, or another unit having, according to federal law, the right to participate in elections of the appropriate level.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of April 5, 2009, # 42-FZ)

31. If a constitution, a charter, a law of the subject of the Russian Federation envisages that all deputy seats in the legislative/representative body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the representative body of the municipality are allocated between lists of candidates, pro rata the number of votes of the voters received by each of the lists of candidates, the law of the subject of the Russian Federation should envisage guarantees of exercise of the right of citizens of the Russian Federation, who are not members of the election associations, to be elected as deputies of this legislative/representative body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, of the representative body of the municipality, accordingly.

(Section 31 is introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. A citizen of the Russian Federation who occupied the office of President of the Russian Federation and is removed from the office of President of the Russian Federation as a result of impeachment, persistent inability to exercise presidential powers for health reasons, or resignation shall not be nominated as a candidate for the election called in connection to such circumstances.

5. Became invalid – Federal Law of December 11, 2004, # 159-FZ.

6. A citizen of the Russian Federation who occupied the office of the head of a municipality and is retired from the said office of his free will, in particular, due to his/her election deputy or to another elected position, holding of which is incompatible with the status of the head of the municipal entity or dismissed from the office of the head of the municipality by the top executive of the subject of the Russian Federation (the head of the highest executive body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation) shall not be nominated as a candidate at the election called because of such circumstances.

(Section 6 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

7. In a repeat election or a by-election held to fill a vacancy of a deputy in an operating legislative (representative) body of state power, a representative body of municipality, a person who is a deputy (member) of such body shall not be nominated as a candidate.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

8. A citizen of the Russian Federation who is not entitled to a passive electoral right at the relevant election shall not be nominated as a candidate.

9. A candidate shall not be nominated, at one and the same election, in more than one electoral district. This rule shall not apply when a candidate is nominated by one and the same electoral association, at one and the same election in a single-seat (or a multi-seat) electoral district and on a list of candidates.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

10. A candidate shall not, at one and the same election, give consent to nomination by more than one nomination initiator.

Article 33. Conditions of Candidate Nomination

1. The election commission shall be notified of nomination of a candidate/candidates, in particular within a list of candidates, in the manner envisaged in law.

(Section 1 in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ).

2. The appropriate election commission shall be deemed to have been notified of nomination of the candidate, and the candidate, nominated and shall acquire the rights and responsibilities of a candidate provided for by this Federal Law, another law upon receipt of a written application of the nominated person as to his/her consent to ballot in the appropriate election district, with the obligations, in case of his/her election, to terminate any activities incompatible with the status of a deputy or with occupation of another elected position. The application shall state the surname, name, patronymic, date and place of birth, residential address, series, number and date of issue of the passport or its substitute, name or code of the issuing authority of the passport or its substitute, nationality, education, principal place of employment or service, occupied position (in the absence of a principal place of employment or service – type of occupation). If the candidate is a deputy and exercises his/her powers other than on a permanent basis, the application should indicate information to this effect and the name of the appropriate representative body. The candidate shall be free to indicate in the application his/her affiliation with a political party or not more than one other public association registered at least one year prior to the voting date in the legally established manner, and his/her status in this political party/ public association; subject to presentation, together with the application of a document that supports the said information and is officially certified by the standing management body of the political party or another public association or another standing management body of a unit of the political party or another public association, which is duly authorized in the charter of the political party or another public association. Together with the application, the candidate shall produce a copy of his/her passport or the substitute of the passport, copies of documents supporting the said applications, information on education, the principal place of employment or service, of the occupied position (kind of occupation) as well as that the candidate is a deputy

(in the version of Federal Laws of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ, of April 5, 2009, # 42-FZ)

21. If the candidate has non-cancelled conviction, the information on the conviction are indicated in the application envisaged in Section 2 of this Article.

(Section 21 in the version of Federal Law of July 25, 2006, # 128-FZ).

3. Together with the application indicated in Section 2 of this Article, the information on the amount and sources of income of the candidate (each candidate from the list of candidates) as well as on property owned by the candidate (each candidate from the list of candidates) (including joint ownership), on bank accounts and securities should be submitted to the appropriate election commission. The said information is provided in the form of Appendix 1 hereto, which may include additional information, if this is envisaged in the Federal Law. The Federal Law may envisage the need in provision of information on the amount and sources of income and the property of the candidate's spouse.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ, of October 4, 2010, # 263-FZ).

4. At elections of deputies of representative bodies of municipalities where electoral districts are formed in accordance with the average quota of voters' representation that does not exceed five thousand voters, candidates do not need to submit to the relevant election commission the information specified in Section 3 of this article unless otherwise provided by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

5. A candidate (except candidates nominated on a list of candidates) shall personally submit the documents specified in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this article. The documents specified in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of this article may be submitted, at the request of the candidate, by other persons. If the candidate is ill, held in custody in places where suspects and defendants are held (in this case the candidate's signature on the statement shall be notarized or certified in writing by the administration of the hospital in which the candidate is being treated or the

administration of the place of detention where he is held in custody as a suspect or defendant), in other cases specified by a federal law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

51. In case of nomination as a candidate (in particular, within the list of candidates), a person who is the disabled person and, in this connection, is unable to write the application for consent to ballot in the appropriate election district, to certify the subscription sheet, to fill in or to certify other documents envisaged in law on his/her own, such person shall be free to use the assistance of another person. In this case, the powers of the person who assists in population or certification of documents indicated in Sections 2 and 3 of this Article, should be notarized.

(Section 51 was introduced by Federal Law of June 14, 2011, # 143-FZ).

6. The election commission shall apply to relevant bodies with a request to verify the information on candidates as provided under Sections 2, 21 and 3 of this article to the relevant bodies that shall be obliged to notify of the results of verification of the information provided in accordance with Sections 2 and 21 of this Articles within 10 days, and information provided in accordance with Section 3 of this Article, within 20 days. If the said presentation was received ten and less days prior to the voting date, the appropriate bodies should notify of the verification results within the period of time established by the election commission.

(Section 6 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

7. The election commission shall communicate to voters the information about candidates that they provided at the time of their nomination within the scope established by the election commission organizing the election.

8. The election commission shall communicate to the mass media information about discovered inaccuracy of the data submitted by candidates.

9. The period that is established by law for nomination of candidates, lists of candidates, and collection of voter signatures in support of nominated candidates, lists of candidates or otherwise support of nomination shall be at least 40 days (in the event of an early election, at least 30 days) at elections of federal bodies of state power, at least 30 days at elections of bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, and at least 20 days at elections of bodies of local self-government.

Article 34. Nomination of Candidates by Way of Self-Nomination of Candidates

1. Self-nomination of candidates shall be carried out by way of notification thereof of the election commissions where the candidates are to be registered, followed by the collection of signatures in support of such self-nominated candidates, except for the case envisaged in Section 17, Article 38, of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Laws of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ, of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ).

2. The federal law may require that a group of a certain number of voters be assembled to support a self-nominating candidate.

Article 35. Nomination of Candidates, Lists of Candidates by Electoral Associations,

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

1. Electoral associations shall be free to nominate candidates, lists of candidates. In a single-seat election district, an election association shall be free to nominate one candidate. In a multi-seat election district, an election association shall be free to elect a candidate for each deputy seat in this electoral district. In a single election district, the election association shall be free to nominate one list of candidates, and in holding of elections of an elected official, one candidate.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ, of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ).

11. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may envisage nomination by the election association of candidates under single-seat (multi-seat) election districts in a list that determines, for which single-seat (multi-seat) election district the candidate is nominated (hereinafter – the list of candidates for the single-seat (multi-seat) election districts). In this case, the law of the Russian Federation constituent may also envisage certification of the list of candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) election districts by the commission that arranges for the elections.

(Section 11 was introduced by Federal Law of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ).

2. Nomination of candidates, lists of candidates by political parties shall be regulated by the Federal Law “On Political Parties.” Nomination of candidates by other public associations shall be carried out at congresses (conferences, meetings) of such public associations, their regional or local branches, by secret ballot, and in compliance with other requirements of the federal law regarding nomination of candidates by political parties.

(in the version of Federal Law of April 5, 2009, # 42-FZ)

21. At the elections of deputies to representative bodies of municipalities, the public associations registered in accordance with law, which are not political parties, their units shall be free to nominate candidates for inclusion into the lists of candidates nominated by election associations. Inclusion of such candidates into the lists of candidates shall be carried out in such manner as established in the Federal Law on Political Parties.

(Section 21 was introduced by the Federal Law of April 5, 2009, # 42-FZ).

Sections 3 to 8 became invalid – Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ.

9. The Federal executive authority in charge of registration of public associations and political parties, its territorial offices shall draft a list of political parties, other public associations entitled, in accordance with Federal Law on Political Parties and this Federal Law to participate in elections as election associations, as of the date of official publication of the resolution as to appointment of elections shall, within three days from the date of official publication of the resolution of the appointment of the elections, publish the said list in the federal or municipal periodical printed editions and post the same in the Internet. Also, within the same period of time, they send the said list the election commission that arranges for the elections. At the elections to the federal governmental authorities, the political parties that are entitled, in accordance with the Federal Law on Political Parties, to take part in the elections, are included into this list. At the elections to the bodies of state power of subject of the Russian Federation, the political parties and their respective regional divisions that are entitled, in accordance with the Federal Law on Political Parties to take part in the elections are included into the said list. At the elections to bodies of local self-government, the political parties, their respective regional offices and other units entitled, in accordance with the Federal Law on Political Parties to take part in the elections as well as other public associations that meet the requirements envisaged in Section 25, Article 2, of this Federal Law and their respective units, are included into that list.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of April 5, 2009, # 42-FZ, of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ).

10. The name of the election association shall be the name indicated in the document of state registration of the election association issued by the federal executive body authorized to act in the field of registration of public associations. The name of the election association, which is not a legal entity, shall be the name indicated in the resolution as to its establishment.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ, of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

11. Became invalid. – Federal law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

12. In such cases and such manner as envisaged in the law, the election association shall be free to submit to the appropriate election commission its emblem, the description of which is available in its charter.

(Section 12 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

13. Change in the names and emblems of the election associations after presentation of such names and emblems to the appropriate election commission shall not be allowed.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

14. The list of candidates nominated by the election association shall be submitted to the election commission that arranges elections, together with documents listed in Sections 2 and 3, Article 33, of this Federal Law.

Simultaneously with the list of candidates, the list of persons included into the appropriate list of candidates and being members of this political party, which was officially certified by the standing management body of the political party, its regional department or another unit, is submitted to the said election commission. If, according to Federal Law on Political Parties, the candidates proposed by the public association, which is not a political party, or its unit are included into the list of candidates, the notarized copy of the agreement envisaged in Section 11, Article 26, Federal Law on Political Parties, and the list of persons included on the basis of this agreement into the list of candidates, should be submitted to the said election commission. The Law may envisage that, together with the list of candidates, the election association should provide other documents related to nomination of the list of candidates. In this case, the law may not envisage the duty to submit a copy of a charter of the political party. The election commission shall, within three days from receipt of the documents, certify the list of candidates nominated by the election association. The federal law may establish another period of time for certification of the list of candidates. The reasons for refusal to certify the list of candidates shall be the lack of documents indicated in the law, non-compliance with the requirements to the nomination of the list of candidates envisaged in the Federal Law on Political Parties, this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 12, 2006, # 106-FZ, of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ, of April 5, 2009, # 42-FZ, of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ, of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

141. In case of nomination by the election association of candidates to single-seat (multi-seat) districts in a list and if there is a need, in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, to have it certified by the election commission that arranges for the elections, the authorized representative of the election association shall submit the following documents to the election commission that arranges for the elections:

a) the list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) election districts, which indicates the surname, the name and the patronymic of each candidate included into it, the date and place of his/her birth, the residential address, the series, number and issue date of the passport or the substitute of the passport, the name and code of the issuing authority for the passport and the substitute of the passport, as well as the number and/or name of the single-seat (multi-seat) election district, in which the candidate is elected.

b) a copy of passport of each candidate or the substitute of passport, certified by the competent representative of the election association

c) resolution as to appointment of the authorized representative of the election association, which indicates the surname, first name and patronymic, date of birth, residential address, series, number and date of issue of the passport or its substitute, the principal place of employment or service, the occupied position (in the absence of the principal place of employment – the kind of occupation)

d) notarized copy of the document of state registration of the election association issued by the federal executive authority in charge of registration of public associations, and if a public association is not a legal entity, also a resolution as to its establishment. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may envisage any other method of certification of such document.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

e) for public associations (except for political parties, their regional offices and other units), a copy of the articles of association of the public association, certified by the standing management body of the public association

(Section 'e' in the version of Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ)

f) a resolution of the congress of the political party (conference or general meeting of its regional office, general meeting of other unit of the political party, and in cases envisaged in the Federal Law on Political Parties, the appropriate body of the political party, its regional office or another unit), the congress (conference, meeting) of

another public association, its regional office or local department for nomination of candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) election districts in the list

g) document evidencing agreement with the appropriate body of the political party or another public association of candidatures nominated as candidates, if such agreement is envisaged in the charter of the political party or another public association.

(Section 141 was introduced by Federal Law of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ)

142. The election commission that arranges for the elections shall, within three days from receipt of documents indicated in Section 141 of this Article, make a decision as to certification of the list of candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) election districts or as to refusal to certify the same, which refusal should be motivated. The reasons for refusal in certification of the list shall be the absence of documents envisaged in paragraphs a, c to g of Section 141 of this Article, non-compliance with the requirements to nomination of candidates as envisaged in Federal Law on Political Parties, this Federal Law. The absence of a copy of the passport of the candidate or the substitute of the passport, as envisaged in paragraph b of Section 141 of this Article and certified by the authorized representative of the election association, shall serve as reason for deletion of the appropriate candidate from the list of candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) election districts by the election commission that arranges for the elections, before its certification.

(Section 142 is introduced by Federal Law of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ).

143. The resolution of the election commission that arranges for the elections as to certification of the list of candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) election districts, with a copy of the certified list or the refusal to certify the same, shall be provided to the authorized representative of the election association within one day from making of the appropriate resolution. Within the same period of time, the resolution as to certification of the list, with copies of the certified list (certified extracts from the list) shall be sent by the election commission that arranges for the elections to the appropriate district election commissions. The candidates included into the certified list of candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) election districts shall submit documents indicated in Sections 2 and 3 of Article 33 of this Federal Law to the district election commissions, in accordance with Section 5, Article 33, of this Federal Law.

(Section 143 was introduced by Federal Law of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ).

144. List of candidates, list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) election districts shall be submitted to the election commission that arranges for the elections in hard copy, in the form approved by the commission. The list of candidates, the list of candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) election districts should be sewn, numbered (except for the list drafted on one page), certified with a signature of the authorized representative of the election association as well as the seal of the election association (if the election association is a legal entity).

(Section 144 was introduced by Federal Law of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ).

145. If elections are held in single-seat (multi-seat) election districts, when the law of the subject of the Russian Federation does not envisage certification of the list of candidates for single-seat (multi-seat) election districts, in addition to the documents listed in Sections 2 and 3 of Article 33 of this Federal Law, the candidates shall provide, in accordance with Section 5, Article 33, of this Federal Law, the following documents to the district election commission:

a) notarized copy of the document of state registration of the election association issued by the federal executive authority in charge of registration of public associations, and if the election association is not a legal entity, also a resolution as to its establishment. The Law of the subject of the Russian Federation may envisage another method of certification of the said document.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ)

b) for public associations (except for political parties, their regional offices and other units) – a copy of the charter of the public association certified by the standing management body of the public association. (paragraph 'b' in the version of the Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ)

c) resolution of the congress of a political party (conference or general meeting of its regional department, general meeting of another unit of the political party, and in cases envisaged in Federal Law on Political Parties, the appropriate body of the political party, its regional office or another unit), the congress (conference,

meeting) of another public association, its regional office or local office, for nomination of the candidate for the appropriate single-seat (multi-seat) election district

d) the document that evidences agreement by the appropriate body of the political party, another public association of the candidature nominated as the candidate if such agreement is envisaged in the charter of the political party, another public association.

(Section 145 is introduced by Federal Law of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ)

146. If the election association nominated candidates for several single-seat (multi-seat) election districts to the election commission that registers candidates, the documents envisaged in paragraphs a and b of Section 145 of this Article may be submitted by the authorized representative of the election association or the first candidate nominated by this election association, which submitted these documents. In this case, any other candidates nominated by this election association may not submit documents envisaged in paragraphs a and b of Section 145 of this Article to the same election commission.

(Section 146 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ)

15. After the list of candidates has been submitted to the election commission, the candidates on the list and the order in which they are arranged thereon shall not be changed otherwise than due to withdrawal (removal) of the candidates. The Law may envisage that an election association, with consent of the candidate nominated by this election association in the single-seat (multi-seat) election district, is entitled to change the election district, in which this candidate was initially nominated.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

16. At least a half of the deputy seats in the legislative (representative) body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation or in either of its chambers shall be distributed between the lists of candidates nominated by electoral associations, in proportion to the number of votes received by each list of candidates. The law of a subject of the Russian Federation may establish a minimum percentage of votes to be received by a list of candidates, which cannot be more than 7% of the number of votes of the voters who took part in the voting. In this case, the minimum percentage of votes of voters should be established so that not less than two lists of candidates, who received in the aggregate more than 50 percent of votes of the voters who took part in the voting be admitted to allocation of votes.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

17. If the minimum percentage of votes, as established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation and required for admission to allocation of deputy seats in the legislative/ representative body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, exceeds 5 percent of the votes of the voters who took part in the voting, this law should envisage the transfer of deputy seats to the lists of candidates who received less than the established minimum percentage but not less than 5 percent of votes of the voters who took part in the voting and are not admitted to allocation of deputy seats. According to the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, one deputy seat shall be transferred to each such list of candidates. This provision shall not apply if the said minimum percentage, as established in the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, is equal to 5 and less percent of total votes of the voters who took part in the voting.

(Section 17 is introduced by Federal Law of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ)

18. Less than a half of deputy seats in the representative body of the municipality, city district, as elected at municipal elections, as equal to 20 and more deputies, shall be allocated between lists of candidates nominated by the election associations, pro rata the number of votes of the voters received by each of the lists of candidates. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may envisage the minimum percentage of votes of the voters, as received by the list of candidates, as required for admission to such allocation of deputy seats and which cannot exceed 5 percent of the total votes of the voters who took part in the voting. Such minimum percentage of votes shall be established so that at least two lists of candidates that have jointly received more than 50 percent of votes cast by the voters who participated in the voting be included in the distribution of the deputy seats.

(Section 18 is introduced by Federal Law of March 30, 2011, # 38-FZ)

Article 36. Procedure for Realization of Initiative to Hold Referendum of Subject of the Russian Federation, Local Referendum

1. Each citizen of the Russian Federation or group of citizens entitled to participate in a relevant referendum shall be entitled to form a referendum initiative group, the number of members in the group being not less than 20 persons entitled to participate in a referendum, for putting forward an initiative to hold a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, and not less than 10 for putting forward an initiative to hold a local referendum.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. A referendum initiative group shall submit an application for registration of the group to the election commission of the relevant level that shall, as of the day of such submission, act as a referendum commission.

3. The application of a referendum initiative group shall contain the question (questions) proposed by the referendum initiative group, and indicate the surname, first name and patronymic, date and place of birth, series, number and the date of issue of the passport or an equivalent identity document of a citizen, name or code of the issuing body, and the residential address of each member of the initiative group and each person authorized to act on its behalf on the territory in which the referendum is to be held. The application of the initiative group shall be signed by all members of the said group.

4. Attached to the application shall be the minutes of the meeting of the referendum initiative group at which a decision was taken to put forward an initiative to hold a referendum.

5. Within 15 days after receipt of the application of the referendum initiative group, the commission referred to in Section 2 of this article shall consider this application and the attached documents and decide as follows:

if the application and the documents meet the requirements of this Federal Law, the constitution (charter), the law of a subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of the municipality, to forward thereof to the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or to the representative body of municipality authorized by the constitution (charter), the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of a municipality to make a decision to call a referendum;

otherwise, to refuse to register the initiative group.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. The legislative (representative) body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation or the representative body of the municipality shall make sure that the question proposed for a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum meets the requirements of Article 12 of this Federal Law in accordance with a procedure and within the period established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of the municipality. This period shall not exceed 20 days from the day on which the application for a referendum and the attached documents were submitted to the relevant body by the referendum initiative group.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

7. Within 5 days after an application of an initiative group to hold a referendum in a subject of the Russian Federation and attached documents are received, the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation referred to in Section 5 of this article shall notify the President of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation and the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation of this initiative.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

8. If the legislative (representative) body of state power or the representative body of the municipality establishes that the question to be put to a referendum meets the requirements of Article 12 of this Federal Law, the commission indicated in Section 2 of this article shall register the referendum initiative group, issue a registration certificate to the group and inform the mass media about this. A decision to register a referendum

initiative group shall be taken within 15 days of the date when the legislative (representative) body of state power or the representative body of municipality indicated in Section 5 of this article establishes that the question to be put to a referendum meets the requirements of Article 12 of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

9. A registration certificate the form of which shall be approved by the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation and which is issued to the referendum initiative group, shall be valid for the period established by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of the municipality.

10. If a dispute arises over the competence in connection with the initiative to hold a referendum in a subject of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Government of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to suggest that the body which established that the question to be put to a referendum meets the requirements of Article 12 of this Federal Law form a conciliatory commission. Representatives of the referendum initiative group in a subject of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to participate in the work of the conciliatory commission. The period indicated in Section 8 of this article shall be extended for as long as the conciliatory commission is working.

11. If the legislative/representative body of governmental authority of the subject of the Russian Federation or the representative body of the municipal entity establishes that the question to be put to a referendum does not meet the requirements of Article 12 of this Federal Law, the commission indicated in Section 2 of this article shall refuse to register the referendum initiative group.

(Section 11 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

12. If the registration of a referendum initiative group is refused, a decision of the relevant body indicating the reasons for the refusal shall be issued to it.

13. The reason for the refusal to register a referendum initiative group may only be a violation by the initiative group of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, federal laws, the constitution (charter), the laws of a subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of a municipality. The refusal of registration may be appealed in a court in the manner established in Article 75 of this Federal law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Article 37. Collection of Signatures in Support of Nomination of Candidates, Lists of Candidates, Referendum Initiative

1. In accordance with the procedure established by law, signatures of voters, referendum participants may be collected in support of nomination of candidates, lists of candidates, a referendum initiative. The number of signatures required for registration of candidates, lists of candidates shall be established by law and shall not exceed two percent of the number of voters registered on the territory of the electoral district in accordance with Section 10, Article 16 of this Federal Law, but shall not be less than 10 signatures. The number of signatures required to be collected in support of an initiative to hold a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be established by law and shall not exceed two percent of the number of referendum participants registered on the territory of the referendum in accordance with Section 10, Article 16 of this Federal Law, the number of signatures, which should be collected in support of an initiative to hold a local referendum, shall be established by the law and shall not exceed five percent of the number of referendum participants registered on the territory of the referendum in accordance with Section 10, Article 16 of this Federal Law, but shall not be less than 25 signatures.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

2. The number of signatures required by law for registration of candidates in a multi-seat electoral district shall not exceed two percent of the number of voters registered on the territory of the relevant electoral district divided by the number of deputy seats, but shall not be less than 10 signatures..

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

3. The quotas for collection of voter signatures on the territory of one subject of the Russian Federation at elections of federal bodies of state power may be established by the federal laws.

4. No quotas shall be established for the collection of signatures of voters, referendum participants at an election of bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum for a part of the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, a part of the territory of the municipality.

5. The signature sheets shall be printed for the account of the relevant electoral funds, referendum funds. At the elections to federal governmental authorities, governmental authorities of the subjects of the Russian Federation, when initiating the referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, signatures may be collected from the date of payment for manufacturing of signature sheets. At the elections to local authorities, when initiating a local referendum, signatures may be collected from the day immediately following the day of notification of the commission as to nomination of the candidate, certification of the list of candidates, registration of the initiative group for holding of the referendum. The period established by the law of a subject of the Russian Federation, in which the signatures may be collected, in support of an initiative to hold a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be at least 30 days, in support of an initiative to hold a local referendum, at least 20 days.

(Section 5 in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

6. Signatures may be collected only among voters who are entitled to an active electoral right in the electoral district in which a candidate/ a list of candidates was nominated, or among referendum participants who are entitled to participate in a relevant referendum. Bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, governing bodies of organizations, irrespective of form of ownership, institutions, voting members of election commission shall not participate in signature collection. In the course of signature collection it shall be prohibited to compel voters to put their signatures or to remunerate them in any form for doing so and collect signatures at work places, places of study, when and where wages, pensions, allowances, scholarships, other social benefits are paid as well as when charity contributions are made. Signatures collected in violation of provisions of this Section shall be invalid.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ).

7. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained to the age of 18 years by the time of signature collection and not recognized by a court as legally incapable shall be entitled to collect signatures of voters, referendum participants. A candidate, an electoral association, an authorized representative of the referendum initiative group may enter a contract for signature collection with a person collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants. Remuneration for such work shall be paid only through the electoral funds of the candidate, electoral association, through the referendum funds established by the referendum initiative group.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

8. The form of the signature sheet for collection of signatures in support of nomination of federal lists of candidates for deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, nomination/ self-nomination of candidates for the position of the President of the Russian Federation, the procedure for its population and certification, the procedure for verification of signatures of the voters and the reason for recognition of signatures of the voters as unreliable and/or invalid shall be established in the federal law. The signature sheets for collection of signatures of the voters in support of nomination of lists of candidates, nomination/ self-nomination of candidates for deputies of a legislative/ representative body of the state power of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be made and formalized in accordance with Appendices 4 and 5 to this Federal Law, in support of nomination/ self-nomination of a candidate for a position of the head of the municipal entity, according to Appendix 6 to this Federal Law, in support of nomination of lists of candidates, nomination/ self-nomination of candidates for deputies of the representative body of the municipal entity – according to Appendices 7 and 8 to this Federal Law. The signature sheets for collection of signatures of the referendum participants in support of the initiative of holding the referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum shall be made and formalized in accordance with Appendix 9 to this Federal Law. The Format of the signature page with the voters' signatures in support of nomination of members of the elective local authority, the procedure for verification of signatures of voters and the reason for recognition of

signatures of the voters as untrue and/or invalid shall be established by law of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(Section 8 in the version of federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

9. If a candidate for deputies of legislative/representative governmental authority of the subject of the Russian Federation, the candidate for the position of the head of the municipality, the candidate for deputies of the representative body of the municipality, whose data are indicated in the signature sheet, has uncanceled and unlifted conviction shall indicate data on the conviction of the candidate in addition, in the signature sheet. If the candidate for deputies of the legislative/ representative body of the state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the candidate for the position of the head of the municipality, the candidate for deputies of the representative authority of the municipality, information on which is contained in the signature sheet, in the application for consent to ballot to the body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the body of local self-government, in accordance with Section 2, Article 33, of this Federal Law, indicated his/her belonging to a political party or another public association and his/her status in that political party or this public association, information to this effect is provided in the signature sheet.

(Section 9 in the version of Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

10. At the elections to the bodies of state power of the subjects of the Russian Federation, if holding of the referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation is initiated, the number of the special election account, special account of the referendum fund, from which the payment for manufacturing of signature sheets was effectuated, are indicated.

(Section 10 is introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

11. A voter, referendum participant shall put on the signature sheet his signature and the date of signing, and indicate his surname, first name and patronymic, year of birth (at the age of 18, also the day and month of birth), address of place of residence, series and number of the passport or equivalent identity paper, and the address of the place of residence as stated in the passport or equivalent identity document. The data on voters, referendum participants who put their signatures and write the dates of signing on the signature sheet may be entered in the signature sheet, at the request of a voter, referendum participant, by the person collecting signatures in support of the candidate, list of candidates. All such data shall be written by hand, pencils cannot be used. A voter, referendum participant shall put his signature and write the date of signing with his own hand.

A voter shall be free to place his/her signature in support of nomination of different candidates, lists of candidates, for only once in support of one and the same candidate / list of candidates. A referendum participant shall be free to place his/her signature in support of one and the same initiative only once.

(Section 11 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

12. Each signature sheet should be certified with a signature of the person in charge of collection of signatures of voters/ referendum participants. In certification of the signature sheet, the person who collected signatures of voters/ referendum participants shall indicate his/her surname, name and patronymic, date of birth, residential address, series, number and date of issue of the passport or its substitute, the name or code of the authority that issued the same, and also places his/her signature and the date of its entry.

(Section 12 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

13. Each signature sheet with signatures of voters in support of nomination of the list of candidates should be certified by the authorized representative of the election association. Each signature sheet with signatures of voters in support of nomination/ self-nomination of the candidate should be certified by the candidate. Each signature sheet with signatures of voters in support of the initiative to hold the referendum shall be certified by the authorized representative of the initiative group in charge of the referendum. When the signature sheet is certified, the authorized representative of the election association, the candidate, the authorized representative of the initiative group for holding the referendum shall place their signatures and the date of its placement near their surname, name and patronymic.

(Section 13 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

14. In case of collection of signatures in support of nomination of the candidate, the list of candidates, the initiative to hold the referendum, it is allowed to populate the signature sheet on the face and the reverse. In this

case, the reverse is the continuation of the face, with the uniform numbering of signatures, and the certification signatures shall be placed on the reverse of the signature sheet, immediately after the last signature of the voter.

(Section 14 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

15. After the end of collection of signatures, the candidate, authorized representatives of the election association, authorized representatives of the initiative group for holding the referendum shall count the total number of collected signatures of the voters, the referendum participants and shall draft the minutes of the results of collection of signatures in two copies, in the form established by the commission that arranges for the elections and the referendum. Each copy of the protocol shall be signed by the candidate, the authorized representative of the election association, the authorized representative of the initiative group for holding the referendum, respectively.

(Section 15 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ)

16. Signature pages shall be transferred to the commission in the sewn and numbered form. Together with the signature sheets, the protocol of collection of signatures in hard copy, in counterpart, and in machine readable form, shall be submitted to the commission. The law may envisage that, in elections of deputies to the legislative/ representative body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, in initiating holding of the referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, the candidate, the election association, the initiative group of the referendum shall draft and submit to the commission the list of persons who collect signatures of voters, referendum participants, to notarize the information on the persons who collected signatures and the signatures of those persons and also submit to the commission the list of the said persons in the machine readable form, in the format established by the commission that arranges for the elections and the referendum. The law cannot envisage presentation of the list of persons who collected signatures of the voters, if all signatures were collected by the candidate nominated directly, in support of his/her candidature.

(Section 16 is introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

Article 38. Registration of Candidates, Lists of Candidates, Procedure for Calling of Referendum

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

1. A candidate, a list of candidates shall be registered by the relevant election commission, provided that the documents indicated in Sections 2 and 3 of Article 33 of this Federal Law, other documents envisaged in law and provided to the appropriate election commission for notification of nomination of a candidate/ list of candidates as well as if the necessary quantity of signatures of voters is available, which were collected in support of nomination of the candidate/ list of candidates (unless otherwise envisaged in the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, in accordance with Section 17 of this Article), or if there is a resolution of the political party indicated in Section 16, 162 and 164 of this Article. Availability of the necessary number of signatures of the referendum participants collected in support of the initiative to hold the referendum, proposed by the initiative group to hold the referendum, shall serve as reason for appointment of the referendum in such manner as envisaged in law.

(in the version of Federal Laws of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ, of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ, of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ, of March 20, 2011, # 38-FZ).

11. If the information on candidates is found to be incomplete, and the requirements of law to drafting of documents are detected, the appropriate election commission shall, at least three days prior to the date of the meeting of the election commission as to registration of the candidate / list of candidates, should be reviewed, notifies the candidate and the election association thereof. At least one day prior to the date of the meeting of the election commission where the issue as to registration of the candidate / list of candidates should be reviewed, the candidate shall be free to make amendments and supplements to the documents containing information on it, and the election association, to the documents containing information on the candidate nominated by it

(candidates nominated by them), in particular, within the list of candidates, and those submitted in accordance with Sections 2 and 3 of Article 33 of this Federal Law, as well as other documents (except for signature sheets, with signatures of voters and the list of persons who collected signatures of the voters/ the referendum participants), which were submitted to the election commission for notification of nomination of the candidate(s)/ the list of candidates and their registration for the purpose of bringing of the said documents in conformity with the legal requirements, in particular, to their formalization. The candidate, the election association shall be free to replace the submitted document if it is issued in violation of the legal requirements.

(Section 11 was introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ, in the version of Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

2. The number of signatures of voters, referendum participants collected in support of a candidate, a list of candidates, a referendum initiative and submitted for the purposes of registration of a candidate, a list of candidates, for calling a referendum may exceed the number of signatures required for registration of the candidate, list of candidates, appointment of the referendum, but not more than by 10 percent, unless otherwise established in federal law. If for registration of a candidate, a list of candidates, appointment of the referendum it is necessary to submit less than 40 signatures, the number of provided signatures of the voters/ the referendum participants may exceed the number of signatures required for registration of the candidate/ the list of candidates, for appointment of the referendum, by not more than four signatures.

3. Law shall provide for a procedure to check compliance with the rules for collection of signatures of voters / referendum participants, issue of signature sheets, reliability of information on voters and referendum participants and their signatures as well as the reason for recognition of the signatures as invalid. All submitted signatures or their part, but not less than 20% of the number of signatures of voters, referendum participants as selected for verification by sampling/ casting of lot and established by law for registration of a candidate/ list of candidates may be subject to verification. Members of the lower commissions, experts out of the specialists of interior authorities, justice institutions, military commissariats, bodies in charge of registration of Russian citizens at the place of stay and the place of residence within the Russian Federation as well as other governmental agencies may be engaged in the verification. Opinions of the experts may serve as reason for recognition of the information contained in the signature sheets on voters and referendum participants and their signatures as untrue and/or invalid. Experts' opinions shall be set forth in writing in the sheets of verification of signature sheets or in another document.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ)

31. To establish reliability of information on voters and referendum participants as contained in signature sheets at the elections of deputies to the legislative/ representative authority of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, heads and deputies to the representative body of the city district, having no territorial division, the municipal district, the intra-city territory of the federal-significance city, in initiating the referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, referendum of the municipal district without territorial division, the municipal district, the intra-city territory of the federal-significance city, GAZ Vybory is used, including the register of voters and referendum participants. To establish reliability of data contained in signature sheets on voters and referendum participants at the elections of the head and deputies to the representative body of the city district with territorial division, a settlement, in initiating the referendum of the district of the city having the territorial division, the settlement, by resolution of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, GAS Vybory may be used, including the register of voters and referendum participants.

(Section 31 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ.)

4. Signatures of voters and referendum participants contained in the signature sheets but deleted by the initiators of nomination of the candidate/ the list of candidates, the referendum shall not be subject to verification, if it is specifically stipulated by them in the signature sheet or in the protocol of the results of collection of signatures, before submission of the signature sheets to the commission.

5. Acronyms and abbreviations of words and dates, as available in information on the voter/ the referendum participant, which do not prevent from uniform perception of this information, shall not serve as reason for recognition of the signature of the voter/ referendum participant as invalid.

(in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ).

6. Any candidate who provided the number of signatures of voters as required for registration, his/her attorneys, authorized representatives of attorneys of any election association that nominated candidates / lists of candidates and provided the number of signatures of voters as necessary for registration, authorized representatives of the initiative group for the referendum, which submitted the number of signatures of referendum participants as required for appointment of the referendum, shall be entitled to attend at the verification of signatures of voters and referendum participants, in particular, during sampling of signatures for verification. The candidate, the authorized representative of the election association, the initiative group for the referendum that submitted the established quantity of signatures of voters/ referendum participants shall be notified of the appropriate verification.

61. Based on the results of verification of signatures of voters/referendum participants and the information on voters/ referendum participants on them, as contained in signature sheets, the signature of a voter/ referendum participant may be recognized as true or untrue and/or invalid.

(Section 61 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

62. If, during verification of signatures of voters/ referendum participants, several signatures of one and the same voter/ referendum participant are found in support of nomination of one and the same candidate/list of candidates, one and the same initiative of holding the referendum, one signature only shall be regarded as reliable, and the rest of signatures shall be deemed invalid.

(Section 62 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ)

63. A signature made in the name of one person by another person shall be recognized as unreliable based on resolution of an expert engaged to verify signatures of voters/ referendum participants in accordance with Section 3 of this Article.

(Section 63 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

64. The following shall be recognized as invalid:

a) signatures of voters, referendum participants collected till the date of payment for making of signature sheets, and at the elections to local authorities, in initiating holding a local referendum – till the day immediately following the date of notification of the commission of nomination of the candidate, certification of the list of candidates, registration of the initiative group to hold the local referendum

b) signatures of the persons not having an active elective right, the right to participate in the referendum

c) signatures of the voters, referendum participants who indicated in the signature sheet the information that is untrue. In this case, the signature may be recognized as invalid subject to availability of an official certificate of the authority in charge of state registration of Russian residents at the place of stay and the place of residence in the Russian Federation, or the opinion of the expert engaged in work on verification of signatures of the voters, the referendum participants, in accordance with Section 3 of this Article

d) signatures of voters/ referendum participants, without provision of any information required in accordance with this Federal law and/or without indication of the date of making by the voter/ referendum participant of his/her own signature into the signature sheet

e) signatures of voters/ referendum participants, information on which is included into the signature sheet other than in writing or in pencil

f) signatures of voters/ referendum participants, with corrections in dates of their inclusion into the signature sheet, if these corrections are not specifically stipulated by voters/ referendum participants, as well as signatures of voters/ referendum participants, dates of inclusion of which are inserted by voters/ referendum participants other than by their own hand – on the basis of the opinion of the expert engaged in work to verify signatures of the voters, the referendum participants, in accordance with Section 3 of this Article

g) signatures of voters/ referendum participants with corrections in the information on voters/ referendum participants corresponding to them, if these corrections are not specifically stipulated by the voters/ referendum participants or persons who collected signatures of voters/ referendum participants

h) all signatures of voters/ referendum participants in the signature sheet, if the signature sheet is not certified by signatures of the person who collected signatures of voters/ referendum participants, and/or the authorized representative of the election association who nominated the list of candidates, the candidate, the authorized representative of the initiative group for holding of the referendum or if at least one of these signatures is untrue or if the signature sheet was certified by the person who collected signatures of voters/ referendum participants who, by the time of signature collection, did not reach the age of 18 and/or the said person is recognized as not legally capable or if at least one of the dates of certification of the signature sheet has not been indicated or inserted in own hand; or if the information on the person who collected signatures of voters/ referendum participants and/or the date of inclusion of the signature of the said person and/or authorized representative of the election association that nominated the list of candidates/candidate, authorized representative of the initiative group for the referendum, contain corrections not specifically stipulated by the person who collected the signatures of voters/ referendum participants/ or by the authorized representative of the election association that nominated the list of candidates, by the candidate, authorized representative of the initiative group for referendum; or if the information on the person who collected signatures of voters, referendum participants and/or on the authorized representative of the election association that nominated the list of candidates, on the candidate, on the authorized representative of the initiative group for the referendum are indicated in the signature sheet other than in full or are untrue, or if the information on the person who collected signatures of voters/ referendum participants has not been included by him/her on his/her own.

i) all signatures of voters/ referendum participants in the signature sheet, the format of which does not conform to the requirements of Appendices 4 to 9 to this Federal Law and/or into which the information envisaged in Sections 9 and 10, Article 37, of this Federal Law was not included, and/or which is made in violation of the requirements envisaged in Section 5, Article 37 of this Federal Law

j) signature of voters/ referendum participants collected in violation of the requirements envisaged in Section 6, Article 37, of this Federal Law.

k) signatures of the voters, referendum participants, if the information on them is not included into the signature sheet by the voters/referendum participants who place their signatures themselves and not by the person who collected signatures of voters/ referendum participants included into that signature sheet – on the basis of the resolution of the expert engaged in verification of signatures of voters, referendum participants in accordance with Section 3 hereof.

l) all signatures of voters/ referendum participants in the signature sheet, which was certified by the person who collected signatures but who is not included into the list drafted in accordance with Section 16, Article 37, of this Federal Law (if drafting of the list of persons who collected signatures of voters/referendum participants) is envisaged in law).

m) signatures of voters/ referendum participants who are included into the signature sheet after verification of the signature sheet by the person who collected signatures of voters/ referendum participants and/authorized representative of the election association that nominated the list of candidates/ by the candidate/ the authorized representative of the initiative group for the referendum

n) all signatures of voters/ referendum participants in the signature sheet, if the certification entry of the person who collected signatures of voters/ referendum participants was included after inclusion of the certification signature of the authorized representative of the election association that nominated the list of candidates/ the candidate/ authorized representative of the initiative group for the referendum.

(Section 64 is included by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ)

65. If a populated line/populated lines that does/do not meet the requirements of this Federal law are detected in the signature sheet, the signature in this line(s) only is not taken into account, except for cases envisaged in paragraphs g, h, l and n of Section 64 of this Article.

(Section 65 was introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

66. Corrections specifically stipulated by the voter/ referendum participant or the person who certifies the signature sheet in drafting the signature sheet shall not serve as reason for recognizing the signature of the voter/ referendum participant as invalid, unless its untruthfulness and invalidity are established in accordance with sections g, h, l and n of Section 64 of this Article.

(Section 66 is introduced by Federal Law of July 23, 2011, # 259-FZ).

7. As soon as verification of signature sheets is finalized, the final protocol is drafted. It indicates the number of stated signatures, the number of presented signatures and the number of verified signatures of the voters/ referendum participants as well as the number of signatures recognized as untrue and/or invalid, with indication of reasons for their recognition as such. A copy of the protocol shall be transferred to the candidate/authorized representative of the election association, the initiative group for the referendum at least two days prior to the meeting of the commission, where the issue as to registration of this candidate/ list of candidates/ holding of referendum should be reviewed. If the verification of signature sheets held by the commission entails the consequences envisaged in paragraph e of Section 24 or paragraph d of Section 25 of this Article, the candidate, the authorized representative of the election association, the initiative group for the referendum shall be free to receive in the commission, together with the copy of the final protocol, the certified copies of lists of verification of signature sheets, which indicate reasons for recognition of signatures of the voters/ referendum participants as untrue and/or invalid, with indication of the numbers of the folder, the signature sheet and the line in the signature sheet, which contain each of such signatures, and also to receive copies of official documents, based on which the appropriate signatures were recognized as untrue and/or invalid. The final protocol shall be attached to the resolution of the commission on registration of the candidate/ the list of candidates or the refusal to register the candidate/ the list of candidates/ on the results of initiation of the referendum. The repeated verification of signature sheets after the commission made the appropriate resolution may be carried out by a court of law or by the commission, in accordance with Section 6, Article 76, of this Federal Law and to the extent of signatures to be verified only.

(in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

8-15. Became invalid – Federal Law of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ.

16. Registration of a candidate, a list of candidates nominated by the political party, the federal list of candidates of which, on the basis of officially published results of the next forthcoming elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, was admitted to allocation of deputy seats (the federal list of candidates of which received the deputy seat, in accordance with Article 821, Federal Law on Election of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation) as well as registration of candidates, lists of candidates nominated by regional offices and other units of such political party (if it is envisaged in the charter of the political party) shall be carried out without collection of signatures of voters; provided that the said official publication took place before submission to the election commission of documents required for registration of the candidate/ list of candidates. Registration of such candidate / list of candidates shall be carried out based on the resolution of nomination of such candidate/ list of candidates, as made by the political party, regional office or another unit in such manner as established in federal law. Based on the said resolution, without collection of signatures of voters, the registration of candidate, list of candidates nominated by the political party, lists of candidates of which were admitted for allocation of deputy seats (lists of candidates of which received deputy seats in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 17, Article 35, of this Federal Law) is also permitted in the legislative/representative bodies of state power of at least 1/3 of subjects of the Russian Federation, as operating on the date of official publication of the resolution as to appointment of elections, and registration of candidates, lists of candidates nominated by regional offices or other units of such political party (if it is envisaged in the charter of the political party)

(in the version of Federal Laws of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ, of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ, of June 3, 2009, # 108-FZ, of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ)

161. The list of political parties to which Section 16 of this Article apply shall be drafted by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, shall be placed on its website in the Internet and updated as a result of elections of deputies to legislative/ representative governmental authorities.

(Section 161 was introduced by Federal Law of June 3, 2009, # 108-FZ, in the version of Federal Law of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ).

162. At the elections to the legislative/representative body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation as well as at the elections to bodies of local self-government, located on the territory of this subject of the Russian Federation, registration of a candidate, a list of candidates nominated by the political party, the list of candidates of which, on the basis of officially published results of the next forthcoming elections of

deputies to the legislative/ representative body of state power of that subject of the Russian Federation, was admitted to allocation of deputy seats (the list of candidates of which received the deputy seat in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, as envisaged in Section 17, Article 35, of this Federal Law), as well as registration of candidates, lists of candidates nominated by regional offices or other units of such political party (if it is envisaged in the charter of the political party) shall be carried out without collection of signatures of voters; provided that the said official publication took place before presentation to the election commission of documents required for registration of the candidate/list of candidates. Registration of such candidate/ list of candidates shall be carried out based on the resolution for nomination of such candidate/list of candidates as taken by the political party, its regional office or other unit, in such manner as established in federal law.

(Section 162 was introduced by Federal Law of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ)

163. List of political parties, to which Section 162 of this Article apply, shall be drafted by the election commission of the appropriate subject of the Russian Federation, shall be placed on its website in the Internet and be updated based on the results of elections of deputies to the legislative/representative body of state power of this subject of the Russian Federation.

(Section 163 was introduced by Federal Law of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ, in the version of Federal Law of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ).

164. At the elections to bodies of local self-government of the municipality, registration of a candidate/ list of candidates nominated by the political party, list of candidates of which, on the basis of officially published results of the next forthcoming elections of deputies to the representative body of that municipality (in case of elections to the bodies of local self-government of the settlement –also on the basis of the officially published results of the immediately preceding elections of deputies to the representative body of the appropriate municipality) is admitted to allocation of deputy seats, as well as registration of candidates/ lists of candidates nominated by the regional office or other units of such political party (if it is envisaged in the charter of the political party) shall be carried out without collection of signatures of voters; provided that the said official publication took place before submission to the appropriate election commission of documents as required for registration of the candidate, list of candidates. Registration of such candidate, list of candidates shall be carried out on the basis of the resolution for nomination of such candidate/ list of candidates, as adopted by the political party, its regional office or other unit in such manner as established in federal law.

(section 164 is introduced by Federal Law of March 20, 2011, # 38-FZ)

165. The list of political parties, to which action of Section 164 of this Article applies, shall be drafted by the election commission that arranges for election of deputies to the representative body of the appropriate municipality, be placed on its website and/or, at its application, on the website of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, in the Internet, and shall be updated as a result of elections of deputies to the representative body if that municipality.

(Section 165 was introduced by Federal Law of March 20, 2011, # 38-FZ, in the version of Federal Law of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ).

17. At elections of representative bodies of municipalities with the average voters' representation quota established in law but not more than 10,000, the collection of voter signatures in support of nomination of candidates need not be carried out if a declarative procedure for registration of candidates is provided for by the law of the subject of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ)

18. The election commission shall check the compliance of the procedure of nomination of a candidate, a list of candidates with the requirements of the law and shall decide to register or not to register the candidate, list of candidates.

(in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

19. At one and the same election, a candidate may only be registered in one electoral district. This rule shall not apply to registration of a candidate when the candidate is nominated at the same election, by one electoral association, simultaneously in a single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district and on a list of candidates.

20. In registration of a candidate nominated by an electoral association, , the relevant decision of the election commission shall indicate the fact of his nomination by this electoral association and the name of that electoral association. If a candidate is registered both in a single-seat (multi-seat) electoral district and on a list of candidates, the decision of the election commission shall indicate the fact that the candidate is also registered on the list of candidates.

21. The referendum commission indicated in Section 2, Article 36, of this Federal Law, which established conformity of the procedure of putting forward the initiative to hold a referendum with the requirements of the law, the charter of a municipality, shall, within 15 days of the date when the referendum initiative group submits signature sheets and a protocol of signature collection, forward these signature sheets, a copy of the signature collection protocol and a copy of its decision to the legislative (representative) body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or to the representative body of the municipality that are authorized by the constitution (charter), the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of the municipality to take a decision to call a referendum. A copy of the commission's decision shall also be sent to the referendum initiative group.

22. If a dispute about the competence arises between governmental authorities of the Russian Federation and governmental authorities of the subject of the Russian Federation in connection with the calling of a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, preparation of the referendum shall be suspended pending the decision of the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation.

23. In the event of a refusal to register a candidate, a list of candidates, deletion of a candidate from the list of candidates, refusal to call a referendum, the relevant commission shall, within one day of the date of its decision on refusal of registration, deletion from the list, refusal to call the referendum, issue to an authorized representative of the electoral association that nominated the candidate, the list of candidates, an authorized representative of the referendum initiative group a copy of the appropriate decision stating the grounds for the refusal, deletion of the candidate from the list of candidates

24. The following may constitute grounds for refusal of registration:

a) the candidate is not entitled to a passive electoral right;

b) for candidates, nominated by a political party the requirements to nomination of a candidate, specified in the Federal Law "On Political Parties," are not complied with, for candidates nominated by other public associations, the requirements of Section 2, Article 35 of this Federal Law are not complied with;

c) absence, among the documents submitted for notification of nomination and registration of the candidate, of documents required in accordance with this Federal Law, other law, for notification of the nomination and/or registration of the candidate

(Section c in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

c1) availability on the day immediately preceding the day of meeting of the election commission where the issue of registration of the candidate should be heard, among documents submitted for notification of nomination and registration of the candidate, of documents issued in violation of the requirements of this Federal Law and other law

(Section c1 was introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

c2) absence on the day preceding the day of meeting of the election commission where the issue of registration of the candidate should be reviewed in the documents submitted for notification of nomination and registration of the candidate, of any information envisaged in Sections 2 and 3 of Article 33 of this Federal law or other law

(Section c2 is introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

d) availability among signatures of voters submitted for registration of the candidate of more than 10% of signatures collected in places where, in accordance with the law, collection of signatures is prohibited, unless otherwise envisaged in federal law

e) insufficiency of reliable signatures of voters submitted for registration of the candidate or detection of 10 and more percent of untrue and/or invalid signatures out of total signatures selected for verification, unless otherwise envisaged in federal law. Detection of 100 and more percent of untrue and/or invalid signatures of the total

quantity of signatures selected for verification shall not serve as reason for refusal to register the candidate, if less than 200 signatures should be submitted for his/her registration, if true signatures are sufficient for registration of the candidate

f) concealment by the candidate of information on non-cancelled and non-lifted conviction, which should be provided in accordance with Section 21, Article 33, of this Federal Law

(in the version of Federal Law of July 25, 2006, # 128-FZ)

g) non-creation by the candidate of the election fund (except for cases when, according to article 58 of this Federal Law, creation of the election fund is not necessary). Absence of funds in the election fund shall not serve as reason for refusal to register the candidate

h) use by the candidate in funding of his/her electoral campaign, in addition to the funds of his/her own election fund, of other funds that account for more than 55 of the legally established maximum amount of spending of funds of the election fund.

i) exceeding by the candidate, in funding of his/her election campaign, of the amount of spending of funds of election fund by more than 5%

j) the fact established in a court judgment of non-compliance by the candidate, within the propaganda period, of limitations envisaged in Section 1 or Section 11 of Article 56 of this Federal Law

(in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

k) repeated use by the candidate of advantages of his/her office or service

l) registration of the candidate in another election district at these elections, except for the case of nomination of the candidate by the election association simultaneously in the single-seat (multi-seat) election district and within the list of candidates

m) became invalid – Federal Law of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ

n) the fact established in a court judgment of bribing by the candidate, his/her attorney, authorized representative in finance as well as other persons who acted at their assignment, another person or organization, of voters

(Section n is introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

25. Reasons for refusal to register the list of candidates, refusal to hold the referendum shall be:

a) non-compliance with the requirements to nomination of the list of candidates envisaged in Federal Law on Political Parties, except for the requirements envisaged in Section 11, Article 36, of that Federal Law

(Section a in the version of Federal Law of April 5, 2009, # 42-FZ)

b) absence among the documents submitted for notification of nomination and registration of the list of candidates, of documents required in accordance with this Federal Law, other law for notification of nomination and/or registration of the list of candidates (except for cases of the absence of the said documents with respect to any particular candidates included into the list of candidates)

(Section b in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

b1) availability on the day preceding the day of the meeting of the election commission where the issue of registration of the list of candidates should be resolved, among documents submitted for notification of nomination and registration of the list of candidates, of the documents issued in violation of the requirements of this Federal Law, other law (except for cases of improper issue of documents with respect to individual candidates included into the list of candidates)

(Section b1 is introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

b2) absence on the day immediately preceding the date of the meeting of the election commission where the issue of registration of the list of candidates should be reviewed, in the documents submitted for notification of

nomination and registration of the list of candidates, of any information envisaged in this Federal Law, another law (except for cases of the absence of information with respect to any particular candidates included into the list of candidates)

(Section b2 is introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

b3) absence among documents submitted for appointment of the referendum, of documents required in accordance with this Federal Law, another law for appointment of the referendum

(Section b3 was introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

c) availability among signatures of voters, referendum participants submitted for registration of the list of candidates, appointment of the referendum, of more than 10% of signatures collected in places where, according to law, collection of signatures is prohibited, unless otherwise established in federal law.

d) insufficiency of true signatures of voters/ referendum participants submitted for registration of the list of candidates, appointment of the referendum, or detection of 10 and more percent of untrue and/or invalid information of the total number of signatures selected for verification, unless otherwise established in federal law. Detection of 10 and more percent of untrue and/or invalid information of the total number of signatures selected for verification shall not serve as reason for refusal to register the list of candidates, appointment of the referendum, if, for registration of the list of candidates, appointment of the referendum, less than 200 signatures is required, if the true signatures are sufficient to register the list of candidates and appointment of the referendum.

e) non-creation by the election association, the referendum initiative group, of the referendum fund (except for cases when, according to Article 58 of this Federal Law, creation of the referendum funds is not necessary). Absence of funds in the election fund or the referendum fund serves as reason for refusal to register the list of candidates or to hold the referendum.

h) the use by an electoral association in funding their election campaigns, by a referendum initiative group in funding their activities related to furthering its initiative to hold a referendum, in arranging signature collection of the referendum participants, and in activities aimed at obtaining a certain result at the referendum, of the funds other than their electoral fund, referendum fund that amount to more than 5 percent of the maximum limit of expenditures of the electoral fund, referendum fund established by law;

i) exceeding by an electoral association, in funding their election campaigns, by the referendum initiative group in funding its activities related to furthering its initiative to hold a referendum, in arranging signature collection of the referendum participants, and in activities aimed at obtaining a certain result at the referendum, of the maximum limit of expenditure of the electoral fund, referendum fund established by law by more than five percent;

j) the number of candidates removed from the list of candidates on the basis of their applications, by a decision of the electoral association, (with the exception of candidates who were removed due to compelling circumstances) and by a decision of an election commission for the reasons set forth in Section 26 of this Article exceeds 25 percent of the total number of candidates on a certified list of candidates at the elections to federal governmental authorities and by more than 50 percent of total candidates in the certified list of candidates at the elections to governmental authorities of subjects of the Russian Federation and to local authorities;

k) the fact established in a court judgment of non-compliance by the election association or the referendum initiative group of limitations envisaged in Section 1 or 11, Article 56, of this Federal Law

(section 'k' in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

l) repeated use by the authorized representative or the attorney of the election association, member and the authorized representative of the referendum initiative group of advantages of his office or official position ;

m) removal of candidates, as a result of which the number of regional groups of candidates in the list of candidates proved to be less than the one established in law

n) became invalid – Federal Law of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ

o) the fact established by the court judgment of bribing of voters by the election association, its attorney, authorized representative as well as another person or company that acted on their instructions

(section o was introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

26. The reasons for deletion of a candidate from the certified list of candidates shall be as follows:

a) the candidate does not have a passive electoral right

b) the candidate concealed information on non-cancelled and unlifted conviction, which should be presented in accordance with Section 21, Article 33, of this Federal Law

(in the version of Federal Law of July 25, 2006, # 128-FZ)

c) the fact established by a court judgment of non-compliance by the candidate, within the propaganda period, of limitations envisaged in Section 1 or Section 11 of Article 56 of this Federal Law

(in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

d) repeated use by the candidate of advantages of his/her office or position

e) registration of the candidate in another list of candidates at these elections

g) availability in the certified list of candidates nominated by the political party as well as the certified list of candidates nominated by the regional office or another unit of the political party (if it is envisaged in the charter of the political party), of the candidate who is a member of another political party

(section 'g' was introduced in Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 106-FZ)

h) absence among the documents submitted for notification of nomination and registration of the list of candidates, of documents required in accordance with this Federal Law, other law for notification of nomination and/or registration of the list of candidates

(Section h was introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

i) availability on the day preceding the day of the meeting of the election commission where the issue of registration of the list of candidates should be resolved, among documents submitted for notification of nomination and registration of the list of candidates, of the documents issued in violation of the requirements of this Federal Law, other law

(Section i is introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

j) absence on the day immediately preceding the date of the meeting of the election commission where the issue of registration of the list of candidates should be reviewed, in the documents submitted for notification of nomination and registration of the list of candidates, of any information envisaged in Sections 2 and 3 of Article 33 this Federal Law, another law

(Section j is introduced by Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

27. The lists of reasons for refusal to register a candidate, a list of candidates, for removal of a candidate from a list of candidates by a decision of the commission, refusal to call a referendum established by Sections 24 to 26 of this article shall be exhaustive.

28. If the commission makes a decision to refuse to call a referendum on the proposed question members of the respective initiative group shall not, for two years after the day of adoption of this decision, repeat the initiative of holding a referendum on a question with the same sense or content.

29. If the registration of a candidate, a list of candidates is refused, re-nomination of the candidate, list of candidates at the same elections shall be possible in compliance with the procedure and within the time limits established by law.

30. A candidate nominated Within the list of candidates shall, at least 15 days prior to the voting date, and if the compelling circumstances exist, at least one day prior to the voting date (including repeated voting), the

candidate nominated directly, at least 5 days prior to voting, and if compelling circumstances exist, at least 1 day prior to the voting date (including repeated voting) shall be free to submit a written application for removal of his/her candidature to the election commission. If the candidate nominated within a list of candidates submits the said application before certification of the list of candidates, the election commission shall delete this candidate from the list of candidates before such certification. If the candidate who applied for deletion of his/her candidature is nominated within the list of candidates, the election commission that certified or registered the list of candidates shall eliminate the candidate from the list of candidates. If the candidate nominated directly and submitted the application for deletion of his/her candidature was registered, the election commission that registered the candidate shall resolve to cancel his/her registration.

31. The body of an electoral association, that took the decision to nominate a candidate in a single electoral district, a list of candidates shall be entitled recall this candidate, list of candidates. The decision to recall the candidate, the list of candidates shall be submitted to the appropriate election commission not later than five days before voting day. If the candidate, the list of candidates was registered, the election commission that registered the candidate, the list of candidates, shall resolve to cancel the registration of the candidate, the list of candidates.

32. An electoral association shall, in such manner and for such reasons as envisaged in federal law and/or the charter of the election association, be entitled to revoke a candidate nominated by it under a single-seat/ multi-seat election district, as well as in the procedure envisaged in its charter, to delete certain candidates from the list of candidates nominated by it. The candidate nominated in the single-seat/ multi-seat election district, may be revoked at least 5 days prior to the voting date, and the candidate included into the list of candidates may be delete from that list at least 15 days prior to the voting date, except as envisaged in Section 11, Article 76, Federal Law. It is not allowed to include into the list of candidates the person who were not earlier included into it, just as to transfer candidates in the list; except for cases when such transfer is related to change in the succession due to removal or deletion of certain candidates.

(in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, #225-FZ)

33. If, by voting day, in the single-seat/ multi-seat election district, the number of registered candidates is smaller than the established number of deputy seats or is equal to this number, or if only one candidate or list of candidates is registered in the uniform election district or no candidates or lists of candidates are registered, the voting in such district shall be postponed to allow additional nomination of candidates, lists of candidates and performance of the further electoral actions, with the exception of cases specified in Section 35 of this article.

In this case, voting shall be held on the next day established in Article 10 of this Federal Law, on which elections may be appointed.

34. If there is a need in additional nomination of candidates/ list of candidates due to the fact that the registered candidate, without compelling circumstances, removed his candidature, or the election association, without compelling circumstances, removed the registered candidate, the registered list of candidates either in connection with the fact that registration of the candidate, list of candidates was cancelled by a court of law or cancelled by the election commission on the basis of Section 3 or 4 of Article 76 of this Federal Law (except for cancellation of the registration due to removal of the candidate from the list of candidates for compelling circumstances), all costs incurred by the election commission that arranges for the elections, in preparation for and holding of elections, shall be indemnified against by such candidate, election association.

35. If, in connection with the circumstances envisaged in Section 33 of this Article, in the single-seat or uniform election district, one candidate proved to be registered, voting on one candidature is allowed in holding of a repeated voting as well as (if it is envisaged in the law of the subject of the Russian Federation) at the elections of deputies to representative bodies of municipalities. In this case, the candidate shall be deemed to have been elected if at least 50 % of total voters who took part in the voting voted for him/her

36. By circumstances that compel a registered candidate to remove his/her candidature, and the election association, to recall the registered candidate nominated by it, shall be meant the limitation of the registered candidate by the court in his/her legal capacity, severe disease, steady health disorder in the registered candidate or his/her family. The said circumstances may include, as per the law, the election/ nomination of the registered candidate to a governmental or municipal office (according to the level of elections) as envisaged in the Constitution of the Russian Federation, constitution/ charter of the municipal entity. By circumstances that compel the election association to recall the list of candidates shall be meant removal due to compelling circumstances (including due to death) of candidates who occupied the first three places in the list of candidates

or more than 25% of candidates from the list of candidates at the elections to federal governmental authorities or more than 50% of candidates from the list of candidates at the elections to governmental authorities of subjects of the Russian Federation and local authorities.

Chapter VI. STATUS OF CANDIDATES,
REFERENDUM INITIATIVE GROUPS

Article 39. Equality of Candidates

1. All candidates shall have equal rights and bear equal obligations, save as otherwise provided by this Federal Law.

2. Only authorized representatives for financial matters and agents of candidates may act on behalf of such candidates or, if a candidate is nominated on a list of candidates – also authorized representatives and agents of the electoral association, which nominated this list.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Article 40. Restrictions Connected with Office or Official Position

1. Candidates who occupy state or elective municipal offices or are in state or municipal service or who are members of the management bodies of the legal entity, irrespective of the forms of ownership (in the legal entities where the supreme management body is a meeting – by members of the bodies in charge of management of operations of these legal entities), except for political parties, as well as candidates who are officials, journalists, other creative workers of mass media organizations shall not take advantage of their office or official position when conducting their election campaigns.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ.)

2. Registered candidates who are in state and municipal service or work in mass media organizations shall, for the period of their participation in the election, be relieved from their official duties and shall submit certified copies of relevant orders to the election commission which registered them, within five days of the day of registration,. It may be established by the law of a subject of the Russian Federation that at elections of representative bodies of municipalities, if there is a certain number of voters in an electoral district (which shall not exceed five thousand voters), registered candidates who are in state service shall not be relieved from their official duties.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ.)

3. Became invalid – Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ.

4. In the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign, persons who are not candidates and occupy state or elective municipal offices or are in state or municipal service or members of the management bodies of the legal entities, irrespective of the form of ownership (in the legal entities where the supreme management body is the meeting – by members of the bodies in charge of management of operations of these entities), except for political parties, shall not take advantage of their offices or official position to promote nomination of a candidate, list of candidates and/or election of candidates, advancement or furthering of a referendum initiative, to obtain a certain answer to the referendum question.

(Section 4 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

5. Under this Federal Law, taking advantage of an office or official position means:

a) involvement of persons who are subordinate to or otherwise dependent on a candidate in the line of duty, state and municipal employees in activities carried out during the working/service hours to promote nomination and/or election of a candidates/ lists of candidates, advancement or furthering of a referendum initiative, to obtain a certain answer to the referendum question;

b) use of premises occupied by state bodies or bodies of local self-government or legal entities, irrespective of forms of ownership, except for the premises occupied by political parties, for activities promoting nomination and/or election of candidates/ lists of candidates, advancement or furthering of a referendum initiative, obtaining a certain answer to the referendum question, if the provision of the same premises is not guaranteed to other candidates and election associations on the same terms and conditions;

c) use of telephone, fax and other means of telecommunication, office equipment and information services, that ensure operation of state bodies, local authorities, state and municipal institutions, legal entities irrespective of forms of ownership, except for the said types of communications, office equipment and information services that ensure operation of the political parties, for election campaigning, campaigning on the referendum questions;

d) use of state- or municipality-owned transport facilities, property of legal entities, except for vehicles in ownership of political parties, at no charge or reduced charges for activities promoting nomination of candidates/ lists of candidates and/or election of candidates, advancement or furthering of a referendum initiative, obtaining a certain answer to the referendum question. This provision shall not apply to persons using the said transport facilities in accordance with the Russian Federation laws on the security services provided by the state;

e) collection of signatures of voters, referendum participants, election campaigning, campaigning on the referendum questions carried out by persons who occupy state and elective municipal offices or are in state or municipal service or who are heads of local administrations or members of management bodies of legal entities, irrespective of the form of ownership (in the legal entities where the supreme management body is the meeting – by members of the bodies in charge of management of operations of these entities), except for the political parties, during business trips paid for from the appropriate budget, funds of the appropriate legal entity;

f) access/ ensuring access to governmental and municipal mass media for collection of signatures of the voters, the referendum participants, election campaigning, or campaigning on the referendum questions, if other candidates, election associations, groups of referendum participants are not guaranteed with the same access, in accordance with this Federal Law or other law for these purposes

g) propaganda speeches in the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign, during a public event arranged by a state and/or municipal body, organization, , irrespective of the form of property, other than political parties.

h) publication in the period of election campaign and referendum campaign in mass media, in printed propaganda materials of work progress reports, distribution, on behalf of a citizen who is a candidate, of congratulations or other materials not paid for from the funds of the appropriate election fund.

(Section 5 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. Compliance with the restrictions listed in Section 5 of this article must not prevent deputies, the President of the Russian Federation from exercising their powers and performing their obligations to voters.

7. Officials, journalists and other persons holding creative jobs in mass media organizations, if the said persons are candidates or their trustees or authorized representatives for financial issues, or authorized representatives of election associations, shall be prohibited to participate in the coverage of the election campaign via the mass media.

(Section 7 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Article 41. Guarantees for Activity of Registered Candidates

1. At a written request or report of a registered candidate, the administration of the organization, the commanding officer of the military unit, the head of the body of internal affairs where the candidate works, serves, undergoes alternative civil service or military training, studies shall relieve the candidate from work, service, training sessions on any day and for any time in the period from the day of the candidate's registration to the day of the official publication of the election results.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. During the election period, a registered candidate shall not, at the initiative of the administration (employer), be dismissed from his job, service, expelled from an educational establishment, transferred to another job without his consent, sent on business trips, called up for military service or military training or ordered to do an alternative civilian service.

3. The time of participation of a registered candidate in the election shall be included in his overall service time in accordance with his specialty before the registration as a candidate.

4. Resolutions as to instigation of a criminal case with respect to registered candidate, his/her engagement as an accused person under a criminal case may be made with consent of the Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation, head of the investigation body of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation (according to the level of elections). The petition to a court as to selection of imprisonment as a penalty with respect to a registered candidate may be instigated with consent of the Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation, the head of the investigation body of the Investigation committee of the Russian Federation (according to the level of elections). The registered candidate cannot be subjected to administrative penalty imposed juridically without consent of a prosecutor (according to the level of elections). If the appropriate consent is provided, the Chairman of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation, the head of the investigation body of the Investigation Committee of the Russian Federation, the prosecutor shall be obliged to notify the election commission that registered the candidate.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 24, 2007, # 214-FZ, of December 28, 2010, # 404-FZ).

5. A candidate shall forfeit the rights and be relieved of the responsibilities associated with the status of a candidate, with the exception of responsibilities referred to in Section 9, Article 59 of this Federal Law, from the time of the official publication of the general data on the election results, or, in the event of an early withdrawal from the elections, on the date of such withdrawal. If the relevant election commission sets, in accordance with the law, a repeat voting, the candidates who are not included in the repeat voting shall forfeit their status on the day for which the election commission sets the repeat voting.

6. In the cease referred to in Section 3, Article 71 of this Federal Law, the candidate who takes the place of a removed candidate, shall acquire the rights and responsibilities associated with the status of a candidate.

Article 42. Status of Members of Referendum Initiative Group and Other Groups of Referendum Participants

1. Members and authorized representatives of a referendum initiative group shall not take advantage of their office or official position in order to advance and further the referendum initiative, obtain a certain answer to the referendum question.

2. It may be provided for by law that after a referendum initiative group is registered, other groups of referendum participants may be established and registered by referendum commissions, and that the leading bodies of public associations, leading bodies of regional branches or other structural divisions of public associations the charters of which allow participation in elections and/or referendums and which have been registered in accordance with the procedure established by the federal law at a level corresponding to the level of the referendum or a higher level not later than six months before the day when the referendum initiative was put forward may operate in the capacity of such groups. It shall be provided by law that the leading bodies of political parties, regional branches and other structural divisions of political parties may act in the capacity of such groups, in accordance with the level of a referendum. Provisions of this Federal Law governing the activities of a referendum initiative group after its registration, its members and authorized representatives shall also apply to other groups of referendum participants, their members and authorized representatives unless otherwise provided by this Federal Law.

Article 43. Status of Agents

1. A candidate, an electoral association that put forward candidates, a list of candidates shall be entitled to appoint their agents. Registration of agents shall be carried out by the election commission within three days from receipt of a written application of a candidate (an electoral association) for appointment of the trustees, together with the applications of the individuals themselves as to their consent to be trustees.

(Section 1 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

2. Persons occupying state or elective municipal offices, heads of local administrations, employees of administrations of election commissions shall not be agents of candidates, political parties. State or municipal officials may be appointed agents provided that they are relieved from their official duties for the period of the exercise of the powers of agents. Registration of an agent who is a state or municipal official shall be effected provided that an order relieving such official from his official duties (including the period of his leave, vacation) is submitted to the relevant election commission.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

3. Agents shall receive their ID cards in the election commission. They shall carry out propaganda activities for the benefit of the candidate or the election association who/that appointed them. The agents shall not have powers of an observer. For the period of a person's activity as an agent, the employer shall grant such person, at his request, an unpaid leave. Candidates, electoral associations that appointed agents shall be entitled to recall such appointments at any time by serving a notice to this effect on the election commission that shall annul the ID cards issued to such agents. The number of agents of a candidate, an electoral association shall be established by law.

(Section 3 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. The powers of agents shall be terminated by the decision of the candidate, the electoral association, or at the time when the candidates included on a list of candidates nominated by the electoral association, that appointed these agents forfeit their status as candidates.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Chapter VII. GUARANTEES OF THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENS TO RECEIVE AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS

Article 44. Informational Support of Elections and Referendums

Informational support of elections and referendums shall include informing of voters, referendum participants, election campaigning, referendum campaigning, and shall be conducive to conscious expression of citizens' will and to openness of elections, referendums.

Article 45. Informing of Voters and Referendum Participants

1. Voters and referendum participants shall be informed by bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government, election commissions, mass media organizations, legal entities and individuals in accordance with this Federal Law. Bodies of state power, bodies of local self-government shall not be entitled to inform voters about candidates or electoral associations.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. The informational materials published in the mass media or otherwise disseminated shall be objective and accurate and shall not violate the equality of candidates, electoral associations.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. The informing of voters, referendum participants, including through the mass media, about the preparation and conduct of elections, referendums, the terms and procedures for the performance of electoral actions, actions relating to participation in a referendum, about electoral and referendum laws of the Russian Federation, about candidates, electoral associations, shall be carried out by commissions. The commissions shall also take necessary measures in order to inform the voters and referendum participants who are disabled individuals.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of June 14, 2011, # 143-FZ)

4. Mass media organizations shall be free in their activity aimed at informing voters, referendum participants.

5. In television and radio programs and in the publications appearing in the printed media, reports concerning election events, events related to a referendum shall be presented in exclusivity in the form of separate news items, without any comments. Such news items shall not give preference to any candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group, another group of referendum participants, including with regard to the time dedicated to cover their election activities, and the amount of space allocated in the printed media for such reports.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. Journalists, other creative workers and officials of a mass media organization who have been engaged in an activity related to informational support of an election, a referendum in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation governing elections and referendums shall not be dismissed from their offices at the initiative of the administration (employer) and shall not be transferred to other offices without their consent in the period of the relevant election campaign, referendum campaign, and during one year thereafter, save the case where a disciplinary action was taken against them in accordance with the labor legislation where this action has not been appealed in court or has been declared lawful and appropriate by a court.

7. On voting day, before the end of the voting in an electoral district, referendum district, no information shall be published (disclosed) about the results of the election, referendum, including the publication of such data in informational telecommunication networks with unrestricted access save as to a certain circle of persons (including the Internet).

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Article 46. Opinion Polls

1. Publication (disclosure) of the results of opinion polls related to elections or referendums shall be a form of information of voters, referendum participants.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. When publishing (disclosing) the results of opinion polls related to elections or referendums, the editorial boards of mass media, citizens and organizations that publish (disclose) these results shall indicate the organization which conducted the poll, the time when it was conducted, the number of respondents (sample selection), the method of information collection, the region where the poll was conducted, the precise wording of the question, statistical assessment of possible error, the person (persons) who ordered the poll and paid for the said publication (disclosure).

(Section 2 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. Within five days before voting day and on voting day, it shall be prohibited to publish (disclose) the results of opinion polls, forecasts of the results of the election, the referendum, other studies relating to the current

election or referendum, in particular in public information-telecommunications networks with unrestricted access save as to a certain circle of persons (including the Internet).

(in the version of Federal Law of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ)

Article 47. Television and Radio Broadcasting Organizations and Printed media Used for Informational Support of Elections and Referendums

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

1. The informational support of elections and referendums of respective level shall be provided by means of state, municipal and non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations, by editorial boards of state, municipal and non-state printed media.

2. In this Federal Law, state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and state printed media publications shall mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and printed media publications which are founded (co-founded) or the editorial boards of which are founded (co-founded) as of the day of the official divulgation (publication) of the decision to call election, as of the official publication of the decision to call a referendum, by state bodies and organizations and/or which, a year before the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election, the referendum, received state support in the form of subsidies and/or subventions for their current functioning from the federal budget, budget of a federal subject of the Russian Federation and/or which have an authorized capital where the Russian Federation and/or a federal subject/subjects of the Russian Federation have a stake as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election, the referendum.

3. In this Federal Law, municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and municipal printed media publications shall mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and printed media publications which are founded (co-founded) or the editorial boards of which are founded (co-founded) as of the day of the official divulgation (publication) of the decision to call election, as of the official publication of the decision to call a referendum, by self-government bodies and municipal organizations and/or which, a year before the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election, the referendum, received municipal support in the form of subsidies and/or subventions for their current functioning from the local budget, and/or which have an authorized capital where a municipality/municipalities have a stake as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election, the referendum.

4. In this Federal Law, non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and printed media shall mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and printed media publications which do not fall within Sections 2 and 3 of this article.

5. In this Federal Law, function on their information distribution area, TV and radio broadcasting organizations and printed media publications are divided into:

a) national TV and radio broadcasting organizations, i.e. TV and radio organizations which have a broadcasting license covering the territory of a half or more than a half of Russian Federation subjects, as well as TV and radio broadcasting organizations that issue the media (TV and radio programs) broadcasted on the basis of agreement by other TV and radio broadcasting companies in the territory of a half or more than a half of Russian Federation subjects;

b) regional TV and radio broadcasting organizations, i.e. TV and radio broadcasting organizations which have a broadcasting license covering less than a half of Russian Federation subjects, as well as relevant divisions of the TV and radio broadcasting organizations referred to in sub-Section a) of this Section;

c) national printed media publications i.e. publications registered for distribution in a half or more than a half of Russian Federation subjects;

d) regional printed media publications i.e. publications registered for distribution in less than a half of Russian Federation subjects.

6. Printed media publications founded by state bodies, bodies of local self-government exclusively for the publishing of their official documents and reports, regulations and other acts shall not publish any propaganda materials and materials highlighting the activity of candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative groups.

7. A list of state and/or municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and state and/or municipal printed media publications that must provide their air time, space in printed media for election campaigning materials, referendum campaigning materials shall be published by the commission organizing the election, referendum, or a subordinated commission specified by law at the request of the relevant executive bodies of state power authorized to carry out mass media registration functions.

8. The list as stipulated in Section 7 of this Article shall be submitted to the respective commission no later than on the fifth day after the day of the official divulgation (publication) of the decision to call elections, of the official divulgation of the decision to call a referendum. The aforesaid list shall include the following information about each TV and radio broadcasting organization, each periodical printed media publication:

a) the name of the TV or radio broadcasting organization and of the respective mass media or periodical printed media publication;

b) the legal address of the TV or radio broadcasting organization or of the editorial board of the periodical printed media publication;

c) the founder/ founders of the TV or radio broadcasting organization or the founder/founders of the editorial board of the periodical printed media publication and of the periodical printed media publication;

d) the type and extent of the state (municipal) support (if any was provided in the year preceding the day of the official divulgation (publication) of the decision to call elections, the day of the official publication of the decision to call a referendum);

e) the share (contribution) of the Russian Federation, of the Russian Federation federal subjects, municipal formations in the authorized (share) capital (if any as of the day of the official divulgation (publication) of the decision to call elections, the day of the official publication of the decision to call a referendum);

f) the periodicity of the periodical printed media publication issuing;

g) an indication of the fact that the TV or radio broadcasting organization or the periodical printed media publication are specialized (for specialized TV or radio broadcasting organizations or periodical printed media publications).

Article 48. Election Campaigning, Referendum Campaigning

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation, public associations shall be entitled to conduct election campaigning, referendum campaigning in the forms permitted by law and by legal methods.

2. The following shall be deemed as election campaigning in the period of an election campaign:

a) calls to vote for or against a candidate, a list or lists of candidates;

b) expression of preference for any of the candidates, an electoral association, in particular, statements indicating the candidate, list of candidates, electoral association, for which a voter will vote (save as for cases of publication (disclosure) of poll results as per Section 2 of Article 46 of this Federal Law);

c) description of possible consequences of the election or non-election of a some or other candidate or list of candidates, or of some or other list of candidates being admitted or non-admitted to allocation of deputy seats;

d) dissemination of materials with a marked predominance of information about a candidate or some candidates, electoral association, in combination with positive or negative comments;

e) dissemination of information about the activities of a candidate unrelated to his professional activity or performance of his official (job) duties;

f) activity promoting generation of positive or negative attitude of voters to a candidate, an electoral association of which the candidate is a member, toward an electoral association, which nominated a candidate or a list of candidates;

(Section 2 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

21. The actions carried out in the performance by the representatives of organizations ensuring the issuing of mass media of professional activity as stipulated in sub-Section “a” of Section 2 of this Article, shall be deemed as election campaigning in the case when such actions are carried out for purposes to motivate the voters to vote for a candidate, candidates, list or lists of candidates or against them, while the actions stipulated in sub-Sections “b” to “f” of section 2 of this Articles shall be deemed as such in the case if such actions are carried out for such purposes in repeated instances.

(Section 21 is introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. Election campaigning, referendum campaigning may be conducted:

a) on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and in the periodical printed media;

b) by means of public campaign events;

(Sub-section “b” in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

c) by producing and distributing printed, audio-visual and other campaign materials;

d) by other methods not prohibited by law.

4. A candidate, an electoral association, a referendum initiative group may select the contents, form and methods of their election campaigning at their own discretion, conduct election campaigning, and shall as well be entitled to involve other persons therein in manner as established by law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5. Election campaigning, referendum campaigning expenses shall be paid exclusively from relevant electoral funds, referendum funds in accordance with the procedure established by law. Campaigning in favor of a candidate, an electoral association, that is paid for out of electoral funds of other candidates, electoral associations, shall be prohibited.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. Persons under the age of 18 years as of voting day shall be prohibited to be involved in election campaigning, referendum campaigning, including the use of images and statements of such persons in campaign materials, save as in the case provided for by sub-Section “e” of Section 9 of this Article.

(Section in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

7. Election campaigning, referendum campaigning shall not be conducted and any kind of propaganda materials shall not be produced and distributed by:

a) federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of Russian Federation subjects, other state bodies, bodies of local self-government;

b) persons who act in loco of state or electoral municipal officers, state and municipal officers, persons who are members of governing bodies of organizations regardless of the ownership form of the latter (in case of organizations having meetings as supreme governing bodies – by members of bodies in charge of management of such organization’s activity), save as for political parties, in the performance of their official or job duties, save as in the case provided for by Section 81 of this Article, and (or) by using the advantages provided by their official or professional position;

(Sub-section “b” in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

c) military units, military institutions and organizations;

d) charity and religious organizations and organizations founded by them as well as members and representatives of religious associations when they are performing rites and ceremonies;

(Sub-section “d” in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

e) commissions, voting members of commissions;

f) foreign nationals, save as in the case provided for by Section 10 of Article 4 of this Federal Law, stateless persons, foreign legal entities;

e1) international organizations and international civic movements;

(Sub-section “e1” introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

g) representatives of organizations ensuring the issuing of mass media when they are engaged in performance of their professional activities;

h) persons who have been ruled as violators of restrictions provided for by section 1 of article 56 of this Federal Law by a ruling of court in the period of the election campaign, referendum campaign;

(Sub-section “h” introduced by Federal Law of December 05, 2006, # 225-FZ)

8. Persons acting in loco of state or elective municipal officers shall be prohibited to conduct election campaigning on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and in the periodical printed media, unless these persons have been registered as candidates for deputies or elective offices.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

81. Persons acting in loco of state or elective municipal officers shall be entitled to conduct referendum campaigning, including on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and in the periodical printed media, to produce and distribute propaganda materials, but shall not be entitled to use advantages provided by their office or professional position.

(Section 81 introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

9. Pictures of individual or positive statements of an individual about a candidate, an electoral association, may be used in propaganda materials of candidates, electoral associations, only with the written consent of such individual. A document confirming such consent shall be submitted to the commission together with copies of propaganda materials to be submitted in accordance with Section 3, Article 54 of this Federal Law. In case if propaganda materials appear on a TV or radio broadcasting channel or in a periodical printed media, the said document shall be submitted to the commission at the latter’s request. This restriction shall not apply to:

a) use by an electoral association of opinions of candidates nominated by such electoral association on the said electoral association, as well as on candidates nominated by the said electoral association in the same elections;

b) use of disclosed opinions on candidates, on electoral association with indication of date (period of time) of disclosure of such opinions and the name of mass media where such opinions were disclosed. The reference in propaganda materials to such opinions of individuals not entitled as per this Federal Law to carry out election campaigning shall be permitted only in the case if such opinion was disclosed before the official divulgation (publication) of the decision to call elections. Thereat, the reference must contain the date (period of time) of disclosure of such opinion and the name of mass media where such opinion was disclosed;

c) to quote opinions on an electoral association, a candidate, disclosed by other electoral associations as well as by candidates in their propaganda materials produced and distributed in compliance with the law;

d) became invalid – Federal Law of April 26, 2007, # 64-FZ;

e) the use by a candidate of his images, the use by an electoral association of images of candidates nominated by them, including with their spouses, children (including children under the age of 18), parents and other near relatives, as well as with an unidentified circle of persons.

(Sub-section "e" in the version of Federal Law April 26, 2007, # 64-FZ)

(Section 9 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

10. A political party, if such party nominated a candidate (a list of candidates) registered by an electoral commission, no later than 10 days before the voting day, shall publish its election program (in accordance with the relevant level of elections) at least in one state printed media publication, and shall as well publish the same on the Internet. Such publication shall be carried out with the use of either free space provided to electoral associations, candidates by the printed media publication under this Federal Law or any other law, or space paid for out of the electoral fund of the political party or of the candidate nominated by such political party.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of December 05, 2006, # 225-FZ, of July 11, 2011, # No.200-FZ)

Article 49. Campaigning Period

1. A campaigning period shall commence on the day of nomination of a candidate, list of candidates, registration of a referendum initiative group. A campaigning period shall end at 00:00 hours local time one day before voting day.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. Election campaigning, referendum campaigning on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and in the printed media shall be held in a period starting 28 days before voting day, and shall end at 00:00 hours local time one day before voting day.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. No election campaigning or referendum campaigning shall be conducted on the voting day and on the day before.

4. Printed propaganda materials (leaflets, posters, and other materials), which were earlier displayed in manner as established by the federal law on buildings and facilities, except of buildings where commissions and voting premises are stationed, and at a minimum distance of 50 meters from the entrance thereto, shall remain in place on the voting day.

(Section 4 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5. In the event of a repeat voting, the campaigning period shall be resumed on the day on which the relevant commission sets the date of the repeat voting and shall end at 00:00 hours local time one day before the repeat voting day.

Article 50. General Conditions of Election, Referendum Campaigning on the Channels of TV and Radio Broadcasting Organizations and in Printed Media

1. State and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of state and municipal printed media publications shall be obliged to ensure equal conditions for election campaigning for registered candidates, electoral associations registering lists of candidates, including presentation of their election programs to voters, and for the referendum initiative group, equal conditions for referendum campaigning in accordance with the procedure established by this Federal Law or any other law. Air time on channels of the said TV and radio broadcasting organizations and space in printed media shall be provided to registered candidates, electoral associations registering lists of candidates, referendum initiative group and other referendum participant groups against payment, in cases and in accordance with the procedure established by this Federal Law, any other law, free of charge as well (free air time, free space in printed media).

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

11. The law may provide for the electoral association nominating a list of candidates for the nearest previous relevant elections obtaining an amount of votes by participating voters under the number established by this law and not admitted to the allocation of deputy seats, or a candidate who was not elected and obtained an amount of votes by participating voters under the number established by this law, shall not be entitled to use free air time, free space in printed media. The number of votes as established by the law may not exceed 3 per cent of the votes cast by the voters participating at the voting. In such case the law must stipulate that such electoral association shall be entitled, based on respective agreement, obtain the due share or a part thereof of free air time or free space in the printed media out of the total amount against payment, which may not exceed the amount of payment for air time or space in the printed media reserved by state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations, editorial boards of state and municipal periodical printed media, as per Section 6 of Article 51 and Section 2 of Article 52 of this Federal Law, for purposes of conducting electoral campaigning. The distribution of air time and space in printed media shall be conducted in manner as provided for by this Federal Law for distribution of free air time and free space in printed media.

(Section 11 introduced by Federal Law of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

12. The Federal Law may provide for the free air time and free space in printed media not to be offered to a candidate nominated by an electoral association if in the nearest previous relevant elections the candidate nominated by such electoral association obtained an amount of votes by participating voters under the number established by the federal law.

(Section 11 introduced by Federal Law of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

13. In the elections to a legislative (representative) state body of a Russian Federation subject, to a representative body of a municipality, the electoral association nominating candidates and/or a list of candidates may not be refused free air time, free space in printed media, if in the nearest previous relevant elections:

- a) the list of candidates nominated by such electoral association obtained an amount of votes by participating voters no less than the number established by the law, to be determined as per Section 11 of this Article;
- b) the electoral association nominated candidates only for single-mandate/multi-mandate electoral districts.

(Section 19 introduced by Federal Law of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

2. Registered candidates, electoral associations, shall not be entitled to use free air time, free space in printed media provided to them for campaigning in favor of other registered candidates, other electoral associations. A registered candidate nominated by an electoral association shall be entitled to use the air time or space in printed media provided to them for conducting electoral campaigning in the same elections in favor of the electoral association nominating him, as well as in favor of the other candidates nominated by such electoral association. The electoral association nominating candidates or a list of candidate shall be entitled to use the air time or space in printed media provided to them for conducting electoral campaigning in the same elections in favor of any candidate nominated by them.

(Section 2 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. If more than one election campaign, referendum campaign is conducted simultaneously on the same territory, and the periods of campaigning on TV and radio channels and in printed media of such campaigns coincide, the total amount of free air time and free space in printed media shall not be increased without consent of the TV and radio broadcasting organization, the editorial board of the printed media publication.

4. Non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of non-state printed media publications that were founded no later than a year before the commencement of the election campaign, referendum campaign, and editorial boards of non-state printed media that were founded by electoral associations (including their structural subdivisions) later than a year before the commencement of the election campaign, shall be entitled to provide their air time, space in the respective mass media to registered candidates, electoral associations, the referendum initiative group, other groups of referendum participants. Other non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of non-state printed media publications shall not be entitled to provide their air time, space in printed media to registered candidates, electoral associations, the referendum initiative group, other groups referendum participant.

(Section 4 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5. The terms of payment for the air time, space in printed media provided by non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of non-state printed media publications shall be the same for all registered candidates, electoral associations, the referendum initiative groups, other referendum participant groups. This requirement shall not apply to the editorial boards of non-state printed media founded by candidates, electoral associations, citizens who are members of the referendum initiative group.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. At an election, information about the rates charged (in the Russian Federation currency) for air time, space in printed media and other terms of payment shall be published by the relevant TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial board of a printed media publication no later than 30 days after the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election, and submitted, within the same period, to the election commission organizing the election or a lower commission specified by law together with a notice of willingness to provide air time, space in printed media for election campaigning. At a referendum, such information shall be published and provided to the relevant referendum commission by the TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial board of a printed media publication not later than one day before the first campaigning material is published thereby.

(Section 6 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

7. Non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations, editorial boards of non-state printed media publications, editorial boards of state printed media publications that publish new issues less frequently than once a week, specialized TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of specialized printed media publications (cultural, educational, children-oriented, technical, scientific, etc.), and at an election of federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, at a referendum of the Russian Federation, a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, as well as municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of municipal printed media shall be entitled to refuse to provide air time, space in printed media for election campaigning, referendum campaigning. The failure to provide to the relevant commission a notice referred to in Section 6 of this article by the time specified in the said Section shall be regarded as such refusal.

8. Mass media organizations shall keep separate records of the amount and cost of the air time and space in printed media provided for election campaigning, referendum campaigning in the format and in accordance with the procedure established by the relevant commission, and submit such record data to such commission no later than ten days after the voting day.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

9. Mass media organizations shall keep the records of free and paid provision of air time and space in printed media referred to in Section 8 of this article for at least three years after voting day.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

10. Costs of state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial boards of state and municipal printed media incurred in the provision of free air time and free space in printed media for election campaigning, referendum campaigning shall be accounted for in the operational results of these organizations and editorial boards.

11. Free and paid air time on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations and space in printed media shall be provided for election campaigning, referendum campaigning under written contracts between a TV and radio broadcasting organization, the editorial board of a printed media publication and candidates, electoral associations, representatives of the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups entered into before such air time, space in printed media are provided.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

12. If more than one election campaign is conducted in the same territory at the same time, and the periods of campaigning on TV and radio channels and in printed media of such campaigns are the same, a registered candidate nominated in more than one election district for different elections shall be entitled to receive free air time in state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and free space in state and municipal

printed media in the amount that does not exceed the amount to which he is entitled at the election of a higher level.

Article 51. Election Campaigning, Referendum Campaigning on Television and Radio

1. Free air time, as well as paid air time – in the case stipulated in section 11 of article 50 of this Federal Law – on the channels of state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall be provided respectively to registered candidates, electoral associations registering lists of candidates, on equal terms and conditions (the amount of the provided air time, the time of airing, and other conditions). Free air time on the channels of state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall be provided on equal terms and conditions after the official publication of the decision to call a referendum only to the referendum initiative group and other group of referendum participants that shall be formed by the leading bodies of public associations (their structural subdivisions) referred to in Section 2 of Article 42 of this Federal Law, provided that the lists of candidates nominated by them were included in the distribution of deputy seats in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and/or, in accordance with the level of the referendum, in the legislative (representative) body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, representative body of municipality, or provided that the candidates in federal lists nominated by them were allocated deputy mandates as per the Article 821 of the Federal Law on Elections of Deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and/or, respectively to the level of the referendum, the lists of candidates nominated by them were allocated deputy mandates as per the law of the Russian Federation subject as provided for by Section 17 of Article 35 of this Federal Law.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of May 12, 2009, # 94-FZ, of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ, of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ)

2. National and regional state TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall be obliged to provide free air time as per Section 1 of this Article, to registered candidates, electoral associations, for election campaigning at elections of federal bodies of state power, and to the initiative group for holding a referendum of the Russian Federation and other groups of referendum participants referred to in Section 1 of this Article for campaigning on the questions of the referendum of the Russian Federation. Regional state TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall be obliged to provide free air time as per Section 1 of this Article to registered candidates, electoral associations, for election campaigning at elections of bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, and to the initiative group for holding a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation and other referendum participant groups referred to in Section 1 of this Article for campaigning on the questions of the referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation. Municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall be obliged to provide free air time as per Section 1 of this Article to registered candidates, electoral associations, for election campaigning at elections of bodies of local self-government, and to the initiative group for holding a local referendum and other referendum participant groups referred to in Section 1 of this article for campaigning on the questions of the local referendum. Free air time so provided must be provided in prime time when the television and radio audiences are the biggest, as determined by the relevant TV and radio broadcasting organization.

(Section 2 in the version of Federal Law of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

3. The total amount of free air time as per Section 1 of this Article to be provided for election campaigning, referendum campaigning by each national state TV and radio broadcasting organization on each of its channels shall be not less than 60 minutes on working days. The total amount of free air time as per Section 1 of this Article to be provided for election campaigning, referendum campaigning by each regional state TV and radio broadcasting organization on each of its channels shall be not less than 30 minutes on working days and, if the total broadcasting time of a TV and radio broadcasting organization is less than two hours a day, not less than one-fourth of the total broadcasting time. The amount of air time provided by regional state or municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations for electoral campaigning for additional or repeat elections of deputy (deputies) of the legislative (representative) body of state power of a Russian Federation subject, a representative body of municipality for single-mandate/multi-mandate election district shall be determined by the law of the Russian Federation subject. If, as a result of providing free air time as per Section 1 of this Article, each registered candidate, each electoral association nominating a registered list of candidates, each referendum initiative group or each other group of referendum participants referred to in Section 1 of this article

gets more than 60 minutes of free air time, the aggregate amount of free air time that each of the TV and radio broadcasting organizations provides for campaigning shall be reduced to total 60 minutes multiplied, respectively, by the number of registered candidates, electoral associations, nominating registered lists of candidates, by the number of groups that have been granted the right to campaign on the referendum questions.

(Section 3 in the version of Federal Law of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

4. No less than a half of the total amount of free air time as per Section 1 of this Article shall be provided to registered candidates, electoral associations, for joint debates, "roundtables" and other joint campaigning events. This rule shall not apply if each candidate registered for single-mandate/multi-mandate electoral district receives less than five minutes of the total amount of free air time as per Section 1 of this Article. The law may stipulate that the registered candidates (including those on the lists of candidates) may participate in joint campaigning events only in person. At a referendum, not less than a half of the total amount of free air time shall be provided to the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups (subject to the provisions of Section 1 of this article) for joint debates, "roundtables" and such other joint campaigning events.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

5. A candidate, an electoral association, a referendum initiative group may refuse to participate in a joint campaigning. In this case, the air time allocated for this joint campaigning event shall not be reduced, including in the case where only one participant is able to participate in this campaigning event, save as in cases provided for by the law. Refusal by a registered candidate, an electoral association, referendum initiative group to participate in a joint campaigning event shall not increase the amount of free air as per Section 1 of this Article time to which they are entitled, save as in cases provided for by the law.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

51. The remaining part of the total amount of air time (if any) as per Section 1 of this Article shall be provided by state and municipal TV and radio broadcasting associations to registered candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative groups or other referendum participant groups as indicated in section 1 of this Article for placement of campaign materials.

(Section 51 introduced by Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

6. State and municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall reserve air time to be acquired on a paid basis for election campaigning, referendum campaigning. The rates and the terms of payment shall be the same for all registered candidates, electoral associations nominating registered lists of candidates, the referendum initiative group and other groups of referendum participants. The total amount of air time to be reserved shall be equal to the established total amount of free air time as per Section 1 of this Article or exceed it but no more than by a factor of two. A registered candidate, the said electoral association, the referendum initiative group, other groups of referendum participants shall be entitled, for a charge, to a part of the total amount of reserved air time, calculated by dividing such total amount by the total number of registered candidates, the said electoral associations, the number of groups entitled to conduct referendum campaigning, respectively.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

7. The provision of extra free and paid air time on equal conditions to electoral associations that nominated registered candidates may be stipulated by law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

8. Non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations that have satisfied the provisions of Section 6 of Article 50 of this Federal Law, shall provide air time to registered candidates, electoral associations that nominated registered lists of candidates, to the referendum initiative group, and other referendum participant groups on equal conditions (in particular, in terms of the time of airing).

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

9. Transmission of propaganda materials on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall not be interrupted by transmission of other TV and radio programs, other propaganda materials.

10. Any other terms and conditions of election campaigning, referendum campaigning on television and radio shall be regulated by law.

Article 52. Terms and Conditions of Election Campaigning, Referendum Campaigning Through Periodical Printed Media

1. Editorial boards of state and municipal printed media circulated on the territory on which an election, a referendum is conducted and published at least once a week shall provide space for propaganda materials provided by registered candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups. The minimum aggregate amount of such space, the availability of free space in printed media, the ratio between print space provided by editorial boards free of charge and print space provided on a paid basis shall be stipulated by law.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

2. The editorial boards of state and municipal printed media publications published not less than once a week shall reserve space to be acquired on a paid basis for election campaigning, referendum campaigning. The rates and terms of payment shall be the same for all registered candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups. The total amount of space thus reserved shall be established by law. A registered candidate, electoral association that nominated registered lists of candidates, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant group shall be entitled to paid space from the total amount of the reserved space within a part thereof calculated by dividing the total amount by the total number of registered candidates, the said electoral associations, or by dividing the total amount by the number of groups entitled to referendum campaigning.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. The provision of paid and free space in printed media to electoral associations that nominated registered candidates may be stipulated by law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. Editorial boards of non-state printed media that satisfied the requirements of Section 6, Article 50 of this Federal Law, shall be entitled to refuse to provide space in printed media for election campaigning, referendum campaigning.

5. Propaganda materials published in accordance with this article shall not be accompanied by any forms of editorial comment or by headlines and illustrations that are not agreed upon with the relevant candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group, another referendum participant group.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. All propaganda materials placed in printed media shall carry information about the candidate, electoral association, group entitled to referendum campaigning from whose electoral or referendum fund the given publication was paid for. If propaganda materials were published free of charge, the publication shall indicate this fact and name of the entity that placed such material. The editorial board of a printed media publication shall bear responsibility for the fulfillment of this requirement.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ)

7. The editorial boards of printed media which publish election propaganda materials, save the printed media founded by candidates, electoral associations, shall not be entitled to give preference to any candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group, another referendum participant group by changing the print run and publication periodicity of the printed media.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

8. Any other terms and conditions of election campaigning, referendum campaigning in printed media shall be regulated by law.

Article 53. Conditions of Election Campaigning, Referendum Campaigning by Means of Mass Events

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

1. State bodies and bodies of local self-government shall assist registered candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups in organizing and holding public campaigning events.

2. Notices by organizers of meetings demonstrations, rallies, and marches shall be submitted and examined in manner as established by the legislation of the Russian Federation.

3. On the basis of an application made by a registered candidate, electoral association registering a list of candidates, initiative group of voters, referendum initiative group, premises which are suitable for holding mass events and are state- or municipality-owned shall be made available by the owner, proprietor, free of charge and for a time to be established by the commission that is vested with such responsibility by law, to registered candidates, their agents, representatives of electoral associations in charge of meetings with voters, representatives of the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups with referendum participants. Thereat, the commission shall ensure equal conditions in holding mass events for registered candidates, electoral associations registering lists of candidates, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups.

4. If the premises indicated in Section 3 of this article or the premises owned by an organization with a charter capital in which the state and/or municipality holds a stake exceeding 30 percent as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election or the referendum, were provided for holding an election-relation mass event to one registered candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group (other referendum participant groups) the owner, proprietor of the premises shall not refuse to provide the premises to other registered candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group (other referendum participant groups) on the same terms and conditions at any other time within the campaigning period. In case of provision of premises to a registered candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group (other referendum participant groups), the owner or proprietor of the premises shall, no later than on the day following after the day of premises provision, be obliged to notify in written form the commission stipulated by law on the fact of premises provision, on the terms and conditions of such provision, as well as on the time when such premises may be provided, within the campaigning period, to other registered candidates, electoral association, other referendum participant groups (referendum initiative group).

(in the version of Federal Law of July 27, 2010, # 222-FZ)

41. The commission, receiving the notice on the fact of provision of premises to a registered candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group (other referendum participant group), shall, within two days from the time of notice receipt, be obliged to publish the information contained therein on the Internet or otherwise to make the same available to the other registered candidates, electoral association, other referendum participant groups (referendum initiative group).

(section 41 introduced by the Federal Laws of July 27, 2010, # 222-FZ, in the version of Federal Law of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ)

5. Applications for the provision of premises as per Sections 3 and 4 of this Article, for holding meetings of registered candidates and their agents, representatives of electoral associations, with voters, representatives of referendum initiative group and other referendum participant groups with referendum participants shall be considered by state bodies and bodies of local self-government within three days of the day of submission thereof.

6. Candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative group, and other referendum participant groups may rent, on a contractual basis, buildings and premises belonging to citizens and organizations regardless of ownership form, to hold campaigning public events.

7. No election campaigning, referendum campaigning shall be allowed on the territory of military units, in military organizations and institutions, save the case where the only building, premises suitable for meetings with voters is/are located within the territory of a military unit. Such building, premises shall be provided for campaigning events by the commander of the military unit at the request of a relevant commission for the meetings of registered candidates, their agents, representatives of electoral associations registering candidate lists, with voters serving in the military forces, as well as for the meetings of representatives of the referendum initiative group, and other referendum participant groups with referendum participants serving in the military forces. The aforesaid meetings shall be ensured by the commander of the military unit together with the relevant commission, subject to a mandatory requirement that all registered candidates or their agents, representatives of the referendum initiative group and other referendum participant groups be notified of the time and the place of such meeting no later than three days before the day of the meeting.

8. Security at campaigning public events shall be ensured in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

Article 54. Conditions for Production and Distribution of Printed, Audio-Visual and Other Propaganda Materials

1. Candidates, electoral associations, the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups shall be free to produce and distribute printed, audio-visual and other propaganda materials in manner as established by the legislation of the Russian Federation. All propaganda materials must be produced in the territory of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

11. Organizations, individual entrepreneurs executing works or providing services for production of printed propaganda materials shall be obliged to ensure equal payment terms for the production of such materials to registered candidates, electoral association registering lists of candidates, the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups. Information about the rates charged (in the Russian Federation currency) and other terms of payment for the works or services of the aforesaid organizations or individual entrepreneurs in respect of production of printed propaganda materials shall be published by the relevant organization or relevant individual entrepreneur no later than 30 days after the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election, or of registration of referendum initiative group, and submitted, within the same period, to the election commission. Organizations or individual entrepreneurs failing to fulfill the said requirements shall not be entitled to execute works or provide services for printed propaganda materials production.

(section 11 introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. All printed, audio-visual and other propaganda materials must contain the name, legal address, and taxpayer identification number of the organization (the surname, first name and patronymic of the person and the name of the Russian Federation subject, district, city, other settlement where the person's place of residence is located) that produced the material, the name of the organization (the surname, first name and patronymic of the person) that placed an order for the material, information about the print run and the date of publication of such material, and a note on the production of the materials being paid for out of the respective election fund, referendum fund.

(section 2 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. Prior to their distribution, printed, audio-visual and other propaganda materials or their copies, photos of other propaganda materials shall be submitted to a relevant election commission, referendum commission by the candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group or another referendum participant group. Along with the aforementioned materials the relevant commission shall be furnished information concerning the location (place of residence) of the organization (person) that produced and ordered such materials.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. Null and void. - Federal Law of December 05, 2006, # 225-FZ.

5. Propaganda materials shall not be produced without prepayment made out of a relevant electoral fund, referendum fund or in violation of the requirements set forth in Sections 2 and 4 of this article.

6. Distribution of propaganda materials in violation of the requirements set forth in Section 3 of this article and Section 9, Article 48 of this Federal Law shall be prohibited.

7. By the recommendation of the relevant commission, bodies of local self-government shall designate special places for displaying printed propaganda materials on the territory of each electoral precinct, referendum precinct, no later than 30 days prior to the voting day. Such places shall be convenient for voters, referendum participants to visit and shall be arranged so that voters, referendum participants could examine the displayed information. The area of such designated places must be sufficient to display the information materials of commissions and propaganda materials of registered candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups. Registered candidates, electoral associations, the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups shall be allocated equal areas for displaying their printed propaganda materials. A list of such places shall be communicated by commissions that proposed these places to candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

8. Printed propaganda materials may be displayed (posted, placed) inside premises, on buildings, structures, and other objects (with the exception of places specified in Section 7 of this article) only with the consent of and on conditions set by the owners, proprietors of such objects. Placement of propaganda materials on an object that is state or municipal property or property of an organization that holds a share (contribution) of more than 30 percent in its authorized (share) capital owned by the Russian Federation, Russian Federation subjects, and/or municipalities, on the day of official publication of the decision to call the election, register a referendum initiative group shall be governed by a set of conditions equally applicable to all candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative group and other referendum participant groups. No fee shall be charged for placement of propaganda materials on an object that is state- or municipally owned property.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

9. Organizations providing advertising services shall ensure that candidates, electoral associations, the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups are offered the same conditions for placement of propaganda materials.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

10. Propaganda materials shall not be placed (posted, displayed) on monuments, obelisks, buildings, structures and premises which have a historical, cultural or architectural value, inside the buildings and premises of commissions and at polling stations or at a distance less than 50 meters from the entrance thereto.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

11. The provisions of this Article shall not apply to propaganda materials distributed in compliance with Articles 51 and 52 of this Federal Law.

(Section 11 introduced by the Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Article 55. Guarantees of the Right of Referendum Participants to Timely Inspection of Text of Draft Law, other Regulatory Act Submitted to Referendum

If a draft law, another regulatory act is submitted to a referendum, each referendum participant shall be entitled to receive, not later than 30 days before voting day, the text of such draft law at the territorial commission (municipality election commission). The responsibility for printing and distribution of copies of such text shall be borne by the referendum initiative group, unless otherwise provided by law. Payment for the printing of the said text shall be made out of the relevant referendum fund, unless otherwise provided by law.

Article 56. Restrictions to Election Campaigning, Referendum Campaigning

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

1. The election programs of candidates, election associations, other propaganda materials (including those published in information telecommunication networks with unrestricted access save as for a certain circle of persons, including the Internet), speeches of candidates and their agents, representatives and agents of electoral associations, representatives of referendum initiative group and other referendum participation groups, of citizens in public events, in mass media (including those published in information telecommunication networks with unrestricted access save as for a certain circle of persons, including the Internet), must not contain calls to do acts and things as stipulated in article 1 of Federal Law # 114-FZ on Counteraction of Extremist Activity of July 25, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the Federal Law on Counteraction of Extremist Activity) as extremist activity, or otherwise compel for such acts, as well as to substantiate or justify extremism. The propaganda inciting social, racial, ethnic or religious discord, degrading national dignity, promoting exclusivity, superiority or inferiority of citizens according to their attitude to religion, social, racial, national, religious, or linguistic appurtenance, as well as campaigning containing propaganda and public demonstration of Nazi attributes or symbols, or attributes or symbols similar to Nazi attributes or symbols to the degree of confusion, shall be prohibited. Campaigning oriented to protection of social equity ideas may not be regarded as incitation of social discord.

(in the version of Federal Laws of December 05, 2006, # 225-FZ, of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ)

11. In electoral campaigning and referendum campaigning, the misuse of freedom of mass information in forms other than stipulated in Section 1 of this Article shall also be prohibited. Campaigning in violation of the intellectual property legislation of the Russian Federation shall also be prohibited.

(section 11 introduced by the Federal Law of December 05, 2006, # 225-FZ)

2. Candidates, electoral associations, their agents and authorized representatives, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups and their authorized representatives as well as other persons and organizations involved in election campaigning, referendum campaigning shall not bribe voters, referendum participants: they shall not give them money, gifts and other things of value otherwise than for the performance of organizational work (collection of signatures of voters, referendum participants, campaigning activities); remunerate voters, who perform the said organizational work, depending on the vote returns or promise such remuneration; sell goods at reduced prices; distribute free of charge any goods other than printed materials (including illustrated booklets) and badges specially produced for the election campaign, referendum campaign; render services free of charge or at reduced rates, or influence voters by promises of money, securities, other things of value (in particular, depending on the vote results) or by rendering services other than on the basis of decisions of bodies of state power or local self-government taken in accordance with the law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. In the period of an election campaign, referendum campaign, the election, the holding of lotteries and other games of chance where the prize-winning or participation at prize draws depends on voting results, election or referendum results, or of those otherwise related to the elections or referendum shall be prohibited.

(Section 3 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. In the course of an election campaign, a referendum campaign, any commercial advertising or advertising of any activity of candidates, electoral associations, their agents and authorized representatives, of the referendum initiative group or other referendum participant groups that is not related to the election, referendum, or any advertising involving the use of names, logotypes, other symbols of the electoral associations nominating a candidate or list of candidates within the elections campaign, referendum campaign, shall be paid for only out of the relevant electoral fund, referendum fund. Publication of such advertisements, including those paid out of the funds of the respective elections fund or referendum fund shall not be allowed on voting day and on the day before.

(Section 4 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5. Candidates, electoral associations that nominated candidates, their authorized representatives and agents, that carried out relevant nominations or registrations, members or authorized representatives of a referendum initiative group or other referendum participant groups, as well as organizations registered after the

commencement of an election campaign, which have been founded, are owned or held by such individuals and organizations and/or in which such individuals or organizations are members of their governing bodies shall not engage in any charity activities in the course of the election campaign, the referendum campaign. In the course of an election campaign, a referendum campaign, other individuals and legal entities shall not engage in any charity activities at the request, on the instructions or on behalf of candidates, electoral associations, their agents or authorized representatives, members or authorized representatives of a referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups, and shall not conduct election campaigning, referendum campaigning simultaneously with the pursuance of charity activities. Such candidates, electoral associations, their agents or authorized representatives, members or authorized representatives of a referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups shall be prohibited from asking other individuals or legal entities to render material or financial assistance or services to voters, referendum participants.

(Section 5 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

51. Propaganda materials may not contain commercial advertisements.

(Section 51 introduced by the Federal Law of December 05, 2006, # 225-FZ)

52. A registered candidate or an electoral association shall not be entitled to use air time on channels of TV broadcasting organizations that was provided to them for purposes of airing campaigning materials, for purposes of:

- a) calling to vote against any candidate, candidates, list of candidates, lists of candidates;
- b) describing possible negative consequences in the case if some or other candidate would be elected or some or other list of candidates would be admitted for allocation of deputy seats;
- c) distributing information with clearly predominant information about any candidate/candidates or electoral association in association with negative comments;
- d) distributing information conducive to the generation of negative attitude of the voters to a candidate, electoral association nominating a candidate, a list of candidates;

(Section 52 introduced by the Federal Law of December 05, 2006, # 225-FZ)

6. Mass media organizations shall not disclose (publish) propaganda and informational materials (including such materials that contain true information) which may damage the honor, dignity or business reputation of a candidate, if these organizations cannot provide a possibility to the candidate to disclose (publish) a denial or some other explanation in defense of his honor, dignity or business reputation before the end of the campaigning period. When a possibility is provided to the candidate to publish (disclose) free of charge a denial or some other explanation in defense of his honor, dignity or business reputation, the air time shall be provided at the same time of the day at which the original information was made public, and the amount of this air time shall not be less than the amount of air time provided for presentation of the original information and, in any case, not less than two minutes, and if space in printed media is provided, such denial shall be printed in the same type, in the same place on the page and shall be allocated space not less than the space taken up by the original compromising text. The failure to provide such possibility to a candidate before the end of the campaigning period shall constitute grounds for bringing such mass media organizations and their officials to responsibility under the legislation of the Russian Federation. The rules established by this section shall not apply to the cases of placement of propaganda materials provided by registered candidates, electoral associations in the framework of their use, as per this Federal Law or any other law, of free and paid air time, of free and paid print space.

(Section 6 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

7. Commissions shall oversee compliance with the established procedure for conducting election campaigning, referendum campaigning, and shall take action to liquidate the violations committed.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

8. In case of distribution of false printed, audio-visual or other propaganda materials, or distribution of printed, audio-visual or other propaganda materials in violation of sections 2-6, 8 and 10 of Article 54 of this Federal Law, as well as in case of violation by an TV and radio broadcasting organization or editorial board of a periodical printed media of the procedure, as stipulated by this Federal Law, for the election campaigning,

referendum campaigning procedure, the respective commission shall be obliged to apply to law enforcement authorities, courts, bodies of executive power which implement the state policy vis-à-vis the mass media for stopping the unlawful propaganda activities and bringing the TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial board of the printed media publication, their officials to responsibility under the legislation of the Russian Federation.

(Section 8 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

9. Law enforcement and other authorities shall take measures to stop unlawful propaganda activities, prevent production of and seize false and unlawful printed, audio-visual and other propaganda materials, identify the producers of such materials and the source from which they are paid for and promptly inform a relevant election commission, referendum commission about the facts established and measures taken.

Chapter VIII. FUNDING OF ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS

Article 57. Funding of the Preparation and Conduct of Election or Referendum

1. Costs related to the preparation and conduct of an election of a relevant level in the Russian Federation, operation and improvement of means of automation, training of election officials and voter education shall be paid by election commissions from the funds allocated for these purposes from an appropriate budget (the federal budget, the budget of a subject of the Russian Federation and/or the local budget). Funding of the said costs shall be carried out in accordance with the approved of budget estimate for allocation of costs of the appropriate budget, but in any event within 10 days from the date of official publication of the resolution as to appointment of the elections.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. Costs related to the conduct of a referendum of the Russian Federation shall be paid out of the funds allocated from the federal budget for such purpose, in such manner and within such period of time as determined in the Federal Constitutional Law on Referendum in the Russian Federation. Costs related to the conduct of other referendums shall be paid out of the funds allocated, respectively, from the budget of a subject of the Russian Federation, the local budget for such purpose. Before the decision to call a referendum is officially published, the funds allocated to commissions from the federal budget, the budget of a subject of the Russian Federation, the local budget respectively may only be used to cover the commissions' expenditures related to the verification of signatures collected in support of the referendum initiative.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. The main budget administrators envisaged in the appropriate budgets (federal budget, budget of the subject of the Russian Federation, local budget) for holding of elections and referendums shall be the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, the election commission of the municipality.

(Section 3 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4-5. Became invalid – Federal Law of August 22, 2004, # 122-FZ.

6. Reports of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, municipality election commissions on spending the budgetary funds on an election, a referendum shall be submitted, respectively, to the houses of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, legislative (representative) bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, representative bodies of municipalities. Chairmen of commissions shall manage the funds allocated for the preparation and conduct of an election, referendum and be responsible, in accordance with the law, for compliance of financial documents with financial decisions of the commissions and for filing statements on expenditure of such funds in accordance with the procedure and by the time established by law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

7. The procedure for establishment and maintenance of accounts, records, reports, and the procedure for transfer of funds allocated from the federal budget of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation to other commissions for the preparation and conduct of elections of federal bodies of state power, referendums of the Russian Federation, operation and improvement of means of automation, training of election officials and education of voters, and supporting the operation of election commissions shall be established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with the concurrence of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. The procedure for establishment and maintenance of accounts, records, reports, and the procedure for transferring funds allocated from the budget of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local budget to the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, other commissions for the preparation and conduct of elections of bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, to bodies of local self-government, referendums of the subject of the Russian Federation, local referendums, operation and improvement of means of automation, training of election officials and education of voters, and supporting the work of election commissions shall be established by the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation with concurrence of the main office (the national bank) of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation in the subject of the Russian Federation. Cash shall be remitted to the accounts opened to commissions with offices of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, and in their absence, with branches of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

8. Banks shall charge no fee for opening accounts of election commissions, referendum commissions and for transactions on these accounts and no interest shall accrue on the funds kept in the said bank accounts.

9. Commissions that receive funds from budgets of different levels shall maintain separate cash accounting records and reports for funds received from the said budgets.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Article 58. Procedure for Establishment of Electoral Funds, Referendum Funds

1. Candidates shall establish their own electoral funds for funding their election campaigns in the period between service of written notice of their nomination (self-nomination) on the relevant election commission and submission of documents for their registration by this election commission. During elections to bodies of local self-government, a candidate need not establish an electoral fund provided that the number of voters in the election district does not exceed 5,000 and that the candidate does not fund his election campaign. In this case, the candidate shall notify the relevant election commission of the said circumstances. Electoral associations that nominated lists of candidates shall, for the purpose of funding their election campaigns, establish electoral funds after their authorized representatives, authorized representatives for financial matters, are registered by relevant election commissions. The election association that nominated candidates in single-seat (multi-seat) election districts shall not create the election fund.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ).

2. A referendum initiative group shall establish its own fund for funding its activities related to advancement of the referendum initiative, organization of the collection of signatures in support of such initiative, and activities aimed at obtaining a certain result at the referendum. The law of a subject of the Russian Federation may establish that, when an initiative to hold a local referendum with a certain number of referendum participants on the territory of the relevant municipality (that shall not exceed five thousand), the referendum initiative group need not establish a referendum fund, provided that the group does not fund the preparation and conduct of the referendum. The maximum limit of expenditures from a referendum fund, sources of its formation, and the maximum limit of donations and contributions to the referendum fund shall be established by law. The law of a subject of the Russian Federation that regulates the preparation and conduct of referendums shall provide for the possibility of establishing referendum funds by other referendum participant groups, including funds for propaganda against holding a referendum, participation in a referendum, against questions submitted for a referendum. The said funds shall be governed by the rules established by this Federal Law for a referendum fund established by the referendum initiative group.

3. Candidates shall be entitled, and in cases established by law, obliged, and electoral associations, and referendum initiative group must appoint authorized representatives for financial matters. Registration of authorized representatives for financial matters shall be effected by commissions in the procedure established by law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. Candidates standing for election only on a list of candidates nominated by an electoral association, shall not be entitled to establish their own electoral funds.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

5. Electoral funds of candidates, electoral associations, may be formed only from the following sources:

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

a) the own money of a candidate, electoral association;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

b) sums allocated to a candidate by the electoral association that nominated him ;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

c) voluntary donations of citizens;

d) voluntary donations of legal entities;

e) funds allocated to a candidate, electoral association by the relevant election commission in cases established by law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. No donations to electoral funds of candidates, registered candidates, electoral associations, to referendum funds shall be allowed from:

a) foreign states and foreign legal entities;

b) foreign nationals, save the case referred to in Section 10, Article 4 of this Federal Law;

c) stateless persons;

d) citizens of the Russian Federation who have not attained to the age of 18 years on voting day (in case of a referendum – on the donation date);

e) Russian legal entities with foreign participation if the foreign stake/contribution in their charter capital exceeds 30 percent as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election, as of the date of start of the referendum campaign (for open joint-stock companies - as of the date of drafting the list of persons entitled to participate in the annual general meeting of shareholders for the previous financial year);

(in the version of Federal Law of December 30, 2006, # 274-FZ)

f) international organizations and international public movements;

g) bodies of state power, other governmental bodies and local self-government;

h) state and municipal institutions, federal and municipal unitary enterprises

i) legal entities with a charter capital where the state or a municipality has a stake/contribution of the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation and/or municipal entities exceeds 30 per cent as of the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election, as of the date of start of the referendum campaign (for open joint-stock companies – as of the date of drafting the list of persons entitled to attend the annual general meeting of shareholders for the previous financial year)

(in the version of Federal Law of December 30, 2006, # 274-FZ)

j) organizations established by federal and/or local authorities (except for joint-stock companies established by way of privatization), legal entities having in their share capital the stake/contribution of legal entities indicated in paragraphs e and h of this Section, which exceeds 30% as of the date of official publication of the resolution for appointment of the elections as of the date of start of the referendum campaign (for open joint-stock companies – as of the date of drafting the list of persons entitled to attend the annual general meeting of shareholders for the previous fiscal year)

(in the version of Federal Law of December 30, 2006, # 274-FZ)

k) military units, military institutions and organizations and law enforcement authorities;

l) charity and religious organizations as well as organizations established by them;

m) anonymous donors – by ‘anonymous donor’ shall be meant a citizen who has not indicated any of the following details in the payment document for making the contribution: surname, name and patronymic, address of place of residence, or who provided untrue information, or a legal entities, of which any of the following details is not indicated in the payment document for making the contribution: taxpayer’s ID, name, bank details, or incorrect information is provided;

n) legal entities registered less than a year before voting day of the election, the commencement date of the referendum campaign.

o) non-for-profit companies that received, during a year immediately preceding the date of making contribution to the election fund, the referendum fund, any money or any property from:

foreign states as well as agencies, organizations or individuals specified in paragraphs a to d, f to h, k to o of this Section

Russian legal entities with foreign participation, if the stake/contribution of the foreign participant in their share capital exceeds/exceeded 30 percent on the date of remittance of this money or transfer of other property (for open joint-stock companies – as of the date of drafting the list of persons entitled to attend the annual general meeting of shareholders for the previous fiscal year)

Legal entities with the share capital where the Russian Federation, subjects of the Russian Federation and/or municipal entities had a stake/contribution exceeding 30% as of the date of remittance of this money or transfer of other property (for open joint-stock companies – as of the date of drafting the list of persons entitled to attend the annual general meeting of shareholders for the previous fiscal year)

Organizations established by federal authorities and/or local authorities (except for joint stock companies established by way of privatization)

Organizations established by legal entities listed in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this section

Organizations with share capital where the stake/contribution of legal entities indicated in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Section exceeded 30% as of the day of remittance of these funds or transfer of other assets (for open joint stock companies – as of the date of drafting the list of persons entitled to attend the annual general meeting of shareholders for the previous fiscal year)

(paragraph “o” is introduced by Federal Law of December 30, 2006, # 274-FZ)

(Section 6 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

61. The non-for-profit companies indicated in paragraph o of Section of this Article shall not be entitled to make donations to the election fund of the candidate, the registered candidate of the election association, the referendum fund, unless the money or other assets received by these non-for-profit entities have been returned/repaid by them to the foreign states, authorities, agencies, bodies, legal entities or individuals indicated in paragraphs 2 to 7, sub-section o, Section 6 of this Article, which had remitted this money or had provided those assets (if such return is impossible, such money and assets has/have been remitted/transferred to the income of the Russian Federation), till the date of making donations to the election fund, the referendum fund.

(Section 61 was introduced by Federal Law of December 30, 2006, # 274-FZ)

7. When making a donation, a citizen shall indicate in the payment document the following personal data: surname, first name, patronymic, date of birth, address of his place of residence, series and number of passport or equivalent identity document, citizenship.

8. When making a donation, a legal entity shall indicate in the payment document the following data on it: the taxpayer's identification number, the name, date of registration, the bank details, mark of absence of limitations envisaged in Section 6 of this Article.

(Section 8 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

9. The candidate, the election association, the referendum initiative group shall be free to return to the donor any donation to the election fund, the referendum fund, except for the donation contributed by the anonymous donor. If the donation was contributed by an individual or a legal entity that is not entitled to perform such donation, or if the donation was made in violation of the requirements of Section 7 and 8 of this Article, or if the donation was contributed in the amount exceeding the legally established maximum amount of such donation, it is subject to return to the donor in full or the portion exceeding the legally established maximum amount shall be returned, with indication of the reason for return. The donation contributed by an anonymous donor shall be transferred to the income of the appropriate budget. The terms for return of donations as well as the terms for transfer of donations to the income of the appropriate budget shall be established in law. The candidate, the election association, the referendum initiative group shall not be liable for acceptance of donations, in contributing of which donors indicated information envisaged in Sections 7 and 8 of this Article, which proved to be untrue, if the candidate and the election association did not timely receive information on the illegality of these donations.

(Section 9 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

10. Maximum limits for sums that may be transferred to electoral funds, including own money of a candidate, an electoral association, money allocated to a candidate by the electoral association, that nominated him, voluntary donations by citizens and legal entities, as well as the maximum limits for expenditures out of electoral funds shall be established by law. Such maximum limits for expenditures out of electoral funds may be increased by up to 20 percent for electoral funds of registered candidates included in the ballot for a repeat voting. A candidate who is simultaneously nominated in more than one electoral district at different elections, if such elections are conducted on the same territory or on territories one of which is located within the other, shall establish electoral funds in accordance with Section 1 of this article, however, the maximum aggregate limit of expenditure from the funds shall be calculated by the greatest of the above limits.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

11. All sums of an electoral fund, a referendum fund shall be transferred to a specialized electoral account, referendum account fund that is established, with the consent of the relevant commission, by the candidate or his authorized representative for financial matters, authorized representative for financial matters of an electoral association, referendum initiative group at a branch of the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation, and, in the absence of such branches, at other credit institutions located on the territory of the electoral district, referendum territory. In the absence of any credit institutions on the territory of the electoral district, referendum territory a candidate, an electoral association, referendum initiative group shall, with the concurrence of the relevant commission, choose a credit institution at which a special electoral account, a special referendum account fund is to be established. The law of the subject of the Russian Federation may envisage that, at the elections of bodies of local self-government, rural settlements, transfer of money of the election fund to the special election account is not statutory if the costs of funding of the election campaign of the candidate do not exceed RUR 3,000.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

12. At elections of federal bodies of state power, referendums of the Russian Federation, the procedure for establishment, maintenance and closure of the accounts indicated in Section 11 of this Article shall be established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with the concurrence of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. At elections of bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, and to bodies of local self-government, a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum, the procedure for establishment, maintenance and closure of the said accounts shall be established by the relevant election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation with the concurrence of the main office (the national bank) of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation in the appropriate subject of the Russian

Federation. The procedure for and forms of accounting and reporting on receipt of money of election funds, referendum funds and spending of this money shall be established by the appropriate election commission.

(Section 12 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Article 59. Procedure for Spending Electoral Funds, Referendum Funds

1. The authority to manage electoral funds, referendum funds shall be vested in the candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative groups, other referendum participant group that established these funds.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. Electoral funds, referendum funds shall be intended for particular purposes. Electoral funds may be used by candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs only to cover expenses related to their election campaigns. Referendum funds may be used by the referendum initiative group only for activities aimed at advancing a referendum initiative, collection of signatures in support of this initiative, and obtaining a certain result at the referendum, other referendum participant groups may use the funds only for activities aimed at obtaining a certain result at the referendum.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. Electoral funds, referendum funds may be used for:

a) financial support to organizational-technical measures aimed at collecting signatures of voters, referendum participants in support of the nomination of a candidate, list of candidates, referendum initiative, to include compensation of persons engaged to collect signatures of voters, referendum participants;

b) election campaigning, referendum campaigning, and payment for information and consultancy work (services);

c) payment for other work (services) performed by citizens or legal entities, and payment of other expenses directly related to the conduct of their election campaigns by candidates, electoral associations, to the activity of the referendum initiative group aimed at advancing a referendum initiative, collecting signatures in support of this initiative, and obtaining a certain result at the referendum, to the activity of other referendum initiative groups aimed at obtaining a certain result at the referendum;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

d) Became invalid– Federal Law of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ.

31. The Federal Law may envisage establishment of election funds, the money from which may only be used towards coverage of costs envisaged in paragraphs b and c, Section 3 of this Article.

(Section 31 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. Contracts (agreements) with citizens and legal entities for performance of certain work (services) related to the election campaign of a candidate, electoral association, , to a referendum campaign, shall be entered into personally by the candidate or his authorized representative for financial matters, an authorized representative for financial matters of an electoral association, , the referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups. Settlements for performance of such work (services) between a candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group, another referendum participant group and legal entities shall be effected only on a non-cash basis.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5. Citizens and legal entities shall be entitled to provide financial support to a candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group only through electoral funds, referendum funds. Spending of funds not remitted to election funds and referendum funds for the purpose of achieving any particular result at the elections / referendum shall be prohibited. It is also prohibited, without a documented consent of a candidate or his authorized representative for financial matters, an authorized representative for financial matters of an electoral association, , referendum initiative group, and without payment out of the relevant electoral fund, referendum fund, to perform paid work, sell goods, render paid services that are directly or indirectly related to an election, a

referendum or aimed at obtaining certain results at an election, at advancing a referendum initiative, obtaining a certain result at a referendum. Legal entities, their subsidiaries, branches, representation offices, and other divisions shall be prohibited from performing work, provision of services, and sales of goods free of charge, or at unreasonably low/high rates, which are directly or indirectly related to the election, referendum or are aimed at obtaining a certain result at the election, at advancing a referendum initiative, obtaining a certain result at the referendum. Monetary support of a candidate, election association, referendum initiative group aimed at achieving any particular result at elections, referendum, may only be provided if it is reimbursed for from funds of the appropriate election fund, the referendum fund. A citizen may voluntarily and personally perform work, services in relation to the preparation and conduct of an election, referendum without engaging any third parties.

(Section 5 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. Candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative groups shall only be entitled to use money (including their own money of the election association) received into their election funds, referendum funds, in the legally established manner, towards payment for organizational and technical efforts for collection of signatures of voters, referendum participants as well as for carrying out any other operations aimed at achievement of any particular result at the election, referendum.

The election association that nominated the list of candidates shall be free, for the purposes of its election campaign, to use, without payment from funds of its election fund, any real estate and movable property (except for securities, printed products and consumables) in their use (in particular, in lease) on the day of official publication of the resolution of appointment of the elections.

(Section 6 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

7. The credit institution where a special election account, a special referendum fund account is opened, shall, at the request of the relevant commission, candidate, electoral association, , referendum initiative group, periodically provide them with information about receipt of funds on and withdrawal of funds from the electoral account of this candidate, electoral association, , the special referendum fund account of this referendum initiative group. At the request of the relevant commission and in relation to the relevant electoral fund, referendum fund and at the request of the candidate, electoral association, , referendum initiative group the credit institution where a special election account, a special referendum fund account is opened, shall, within three days or if the request is submitted three days prior to voting day - immediately, issue certified copies of initial financial documents evidencing receipt and spending of electoral funds, referendum funds.

(Section 7 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

8. Before voting day at an election, referendum, the relevant election commission shall periodically send the information about receipt and spending of electoral funds, referendum funds to mass media for publication. Editorial offices of state and municipal print media outlets, in accordance with the level of the election, referendum shall publish the said information provided to them by commissions for publication within three days of receipt of such information. The scope of information that is required to be published shall be established by law.

9. A candidate, an electoral association shall, within 30 days from the date of official publication of the results of elections, be obliged to submit to the appropriate election commission the final financial report on the amount of its election fund, of all sources of its generation as well as of all costs incurred at the expense of its election fund. The deadline for submission of the final financial report by the referendum initiative group shall be established in law. The final financial report shall be accompanied with the initial financial documents that evidence receipt of funds to the election fund, the referendum fund and spending of these funds. The list of documents attached to the final financial report shall be determined by the commission that arranges for the elections /the referendum. The law may envisage that the candidate/ the election association, simultaneously with provision of documents for registration, and the referendum initiative group, simultaneously with submission of signature sheets, shall submit the first financial report.

(Section 9 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

91. Copies of financial reports indicated in Section 9 of this Article shall, within five days from their receipt, be transferred by commissions to editorial offices of mass media for publication. The Law may envisage that the editorial offices of federal and municipal periodical printed media (according to the level of elections, referendum) shall be obliged to publish the financial reports transferred to them by the commissions (information from the reports) within the period of time prescribed by law.

(Section 91 is introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

10. Invalid since August 1, 2009 – Federal Law of July 19, 2009, # 203-FZ

11. From the voting date, the candidates, election associations, the referendum initiative group shall be obliged to remit the unspent cash kept on the special election account, the special referendum fund account, to individuals and legal entities who made donations or remitted funds to their election funds, referendum funds, pro rata the investments. The credit institution shall be obliged, upon expiry of 30 days from the voting day, at the written instructions of the appropriate commission, to directly credit to its account the funds payable to it, and the unspent cash remaining on the special election account/ special referendum fund account, upon expiry of 60 days from the voting date, to the income of the appropriate budget.

(Section 11 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

12. The procedure for taxation of electoral funds, referendum funds, voluntary donations and transfers to the said funds, and spending of the said funds shall be established by the federal laws.

13. Commissions shall exercise control over formation and spending of electoral funds, referendum funds. Bodies of registration of Russian citizens at their place of stay or the place of residence within the Russian Federation, executive bodies in charge of state registration of legal entities or authorized to register non-for-profit entities, shall, within 5 days from the date of receipt of the presentation from the appropriate commission to them, verify the information indicated by individuals and legal entities in making or remitting donations to election funds, referendums funds, free of charge and notify the commission of the verification results.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of December 30, 2006, # 274-FZ).

Article 60. Supervisory and Auditing Services

1. For the purposes of supervision over proper spending of funds allocated to commissions for the preparation and conduct of an election, a referendum, and over sources, proper accounting, and use of electoral funds, referendum funds, for auditing of financial documents of candidates, electoral associations, , referendum initiative groups, for verification of information provided by candidates under Section 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law about their property, income and sources thereof, for supervision over the return of budgetary funds allocated by relevant election commissions to electoral funds of candidates, electoral associations, , supervisory and auditing services shall be established.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. Supervisory and auditing services shall be established under the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, and in cases established by law, and under other commissions managers and experts from state and other bodies and institutions, including the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, the Savings Bank of the Russian Federation, main offices (national banks) of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation in subjects of the Russian Federation may be retained. The said bodies and institutions, at the request of the relevant election commission and not later than one month after the publication of the decision on calling an election, a referendum, shall send their specialists to and put them at the disposal of the commissions. In this case, specialists shall be assigned to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation for periods of at least five months, and to another election commissions, for periods of at least two months.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. For the periods of their work in supervisory and auditing services, specialists referred to in Section 2 of this article shall be relieved from their main work and retain their jobs, salaries, and other benefits at their main place of work, and they may receive additional compensations out of the funds allocated for the preparation and conduct of elections and referendums.

Chapter IX. GUARANTEES OF CITIZENS' RIGHTS IN ORGANIZATION AND CONDUCT OF VOTING, COUNTING OF VOTES AT ELECTIONS

AND REFERENDUMS, ESTABLISHMENT OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS,

REFERENDUMS AND THEIR PUBLICATION

Article 61. Polling Station

1. A polling station shall be made available to a precinct commission free of charge by the head of the relevant municipality in cases established by this Federal Law, another federal law, by the commanding officer of a military unit, the captain of a ship, the head of a polar station, the head of a diplomatic or consular mission of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. A polling station shall have a hall with booths or other special places for secret voting, provided with a lighting system and writing utensils other than pencils.

3. Inside or directly in front of the polling station a precinct election commission shall set up a notice-board for displaying the following information about all candidates, lists of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs included in the ballot:

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

a) biographical information about the candidates in the scope established by the commission organizing the election but not less than the scope of biographical information indicated in the ballot;

b) if a candidate, a list of candidates were nominated by an electoral association, the words "Nominated by the electoral association" specifying the name of such electoral association;

(Sub-section "b" in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

c) if the candidate is self-nominated, the words "Independent candidate";

(Sub-section "c" in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

d) Became invalid. - Federal Law of February 09, 2009, # 3-FZ;

e) information about personal income and properties of candidates in the scope established by the election commission organizing the election;

f) information about the inaccuracy of the data submitted by candidates referred to in Section 2 and 3, Article 33 of this Federal Law (if such information is available).

4. If a registered candidate, including candidates on the lists of candidates, has a conviction that has not been cancelled or annulled, the notice-board shall display information about the candidate's convictions.

5. Became invalid. - Federal Law of July 25, 2005, # 128-FZ.

6. At a referendum, the notice-board shall carry informational materials on referendum questions, including the text of the regulatory act submitted to the referendum.

7. Materials placed on the notice-board shall not contain elements of election propaganda, referendum propaganda.

71. In order to inform the voters and referendum participants being visually disabled persons, the materials stipulated in sections 3, 4 and 6 of this Article shall be placed on the notice-board in large type and/or in Braille type. The electoral districts, the referendum precincts with such materials placed on their notice-boards shall be determined by decision of the commission organizing the election or the referendum, or by decision of the electoral commission of the Russian Federation subject – in case of elections to the federal bodies of state power.

(Section 71 introduced by Federal Law of June 14, 2011, # 143-FZ)

8. The notice-board shall carry samples of marked ballots that must not contain the names of candidates registered in this electoral district, names of electoral associations participating in this election, samples of ballots for voting at the referendum that must show all options for marking the ballot (ballots).

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

9. At the polling station, there shall be an enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns where vote returns shall be entered as they are established. Such enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns shall be posted before the commencement of voting so that it is within the field of vision of members of a precinct election commission, observers, at a distance at which they can read the information contained therein.

10. Inside the polling station there shall be stationary ballot boxes. The functions of stationary ballot boxes may be performed by vote-counting machines, including programmed technical complexes for processing of ballots. In case of electronic voting, electronic voting complexes shall be used.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

11. The polling station shall be fitted out so that the places where ballots are issued, places for secret voting, and ballot boxes, technical equipment for vote counting remains in the field of vision of members of the precinct commission and the observers.

Article 62. Absentee Certificate

(in the version of Federal Law of October 04, 2010, # 263-FZ)

1. As may be stipulated by law, a voter, a referendum participant who is unable, on voting day, to attend the polling station of an electoral precinct, referendum precinct where he is included in the voters list, referendum participants list may receive an absentee certificate from a relevant commission and take part in the voting in that electoral precinct, referendum precinct where he will be on voting day and participate at the voting (within the boundaries of the electoral district, referendum territory where the given voter, referendum participant is entitled to an active electoral right, the right to participate in a referendum) in the electoral district, referendum precinct where such voter would be on the voting day. The period of issue of absentee certificates as established by the law may not be less than 30 days and must end on the day before the voting day.

(in the version of Federal Law No.262-FZ of July 27, 2011)

2. In case if elections and/or referenda of different levels take place on the same day, with the law providing for voting thereat under absentee certificates, the absentee certificates shall be issued within the periods as determined by law governing the procedure of holding of election (referendum) of higher level.

3. The absentee certificates shall be documents subject to strict accountability and shall have unified numbering all over the territory of the election, referendum. The absentee certificate used in the elections where the law provides for repeat voting, must have a detachable coupon. The absentee certificate shall be produced in the form as per addendum 2 or 3 to this Federal Law. The text of the absentee certificate, the number of absentee certificates, the form of absentee certificates issue registry shall be approved by the commission organizing the election, referendum, within terms as established by law. The said commission shall also determine methods to protect absentee certificates from forgery at production thereof.

4. In order to protect the absentee certificates from forgery at production thereof, watermarked paper and/or paper with inscriptions printed thereon by typographic method in micro-type and/or with security thread and/or other special protective elements shall be used.

5. The placement of order to produce absentee certificates shall be conducted by the commission organizing the election, referendum, in centralized manner, based on decision of such commission.

6. The absentee certificate shall be issued by the commission on the basis of voter or referendum participant written application with indication of reason for which he requires an absentee certificate. An absentee certificate shall be issued to the voter, referendum participant in person or to their proxy on the basis of notarized power of attorney. The power of attorney may be also certified by the administration of an inpatient medical institution (if the voter, referendum participant is being treated in such institution), by the administration of institution where suspected or convicted citizens are detained (if the voter, referendum participant is detained in such institution as suspect or convict).

7. The chairman, deputy chairman, secretary or other commission voting member, that issues the absentee certificate, shall enter therein the last name, first name, and patronymic of the voter, referendum participant, the series and number of his passport or document standing in lieu of passport of citizen, the number of electoral district, referendum precinct where the voter, referendum participant is included in the voter or referendum participant list, the address of the district commission, the name of the municipality and subject of the Russian Federation, the number and/or the name of single-mandate and/or multi-mandate electoral district (if the election is being held by single-mandate and/or multi-mandate electoral districts), in the territory of which an electoral district or a referendum precinct is formed; the name of the commission issuing the absentee certificate. If the law provides for repeat voting at the elections, then the aforesaid information about the voter, the electoral district, and the respective commission shall also be entered into the detachable coupon of the absentee certificate. The chairman, deputy chairman, secretary or other commission voting member, that issues the absentee certificate, shall indicate his name and initials, the date of absentee certificate issue in the absentee certificate (and in the detachable coupon should the law provide for repeat voting at elections), shall sign and seal the absentee certificate with the seal of the respective commission.

8. In case of receipt of absentee certificate (absentee certificate without detachable coupon in case of repeated vote at election), the voter, referendum participant shall indicate in the respective columns of the absentee certificates issue registry or voter, referendum participant list, the series and number of their passport or document replacing the passport of citizen, and shall sign. The absentee certificates issue registry must contain the residence address of the voter, referendum participant. In case of receipt of an absentee certificate on the basis of power of attorney by the voter, referendum participant representative, the respective columns of the absentee certificates issue registry, certificate or voter, referendum participant list, must be completed with the series and number of voter, referendum participant passport or their documents replacing the passport of citizen, thereat, the representative of the voter, referendum participant shall indicate their last name, first name and patronymic, series and number of passport or their documents replacing the passport of citizen, and shall sign. The power of attorney shall thereupon be withdrawn from the representative of the voter, referendum participant and shall be annexed respectively to the absentee certificates issue registry, certificate or voter, referendum participant list.

9. The chairman, deputy chairman, secretary or other member of territorial commission (electoral commission of municipality, district electoral commission) with casting vote that issues the absentee certificate to the voter, referendum participant, shall indicate the number of the issued absentee certificate and shall sign in the respective columns of the absentee certificates issue registry. The territorial commission (electoral commission of municipality, district electoral commission) shall, 20 days prior to voting day, submit to the district commission, together with the first copy of voter list, referendum participant list, the certified extract from the absentee certificates issue registry containing information about the voters, referendum participants receiving absentee certificates, registered in the territories of the respective electoral districts, referendum precincts. Based on the respective extract, the district commission member shall make the following note in the "Special remarks" column of the voter list, referendum participant list: "Absentee certificate No. received in the territorial commission (electoral commission of municipality, district electoral commission)" with indication of the number of the absentee certificate, and shall sign.

10. When an absentee certificate is issued to a voter, referendum participant, by a district commission, the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary or other member of district commission with casting vote, who issued the absentee certificate to the voter, referendum participant, shall make the following note in the "Special remarks" column of the voter list, referendum participant list: "Absentee certificate No. received" with indication of the number of the absentee certificate, and shall sign.

11. The voter, referendum participant receiving an absentee certificate (including by representative based on power of attorney) shall be excluded by the district commission out of the voter list, referendum participant list in the respective electoral district or referendum precinct in the specific election, referendum, and shall not be accounted for in the number of registered voters, referendum participants in the compilation of the vote returns protocol by the district commission.

12. The repeated issue of absentee certificate shall not be permitted. In case of loss of absentee certificate no duplicate shall be issued.

13. On the voting day, prior to the voting time, the unused absentee certificate shall be annulled. If the law provides for repeat voting at elections, the terms and procedure of absentee certificate and detachable coupon annulment shall be established by such law. The commission shall record information about the annulment of unused absentee certificates and detachable coupons with indication of their quantity and numbers of the

absentee certificates in a certificate made in the form approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

14. As the absentee certificate is produced on the voting day, the voter, referendum participant shall be additionally included in the voter list, referendum participant list in the electoral district or referendum precinct where he or she will be situated on the voting day. The district commission shall enter the following remark into the "Special remarks" column in the voter list, referendum participant list: "Voted under absentee certificate No." with indication of number of the absentee certificate produced by the voter, referendum participant. The absentee certificate shall thereupon be withdrawn from the voter, referendum participant, save as in the case when the law provides for repeat voting at election. In such case, when general election is held, the detachable coupon shall be withdrawn from the voter, with the absentee certificate being withdrawn at holding of repeat vote. The absentee certificates (detachable coupons) serving as grounds for the inclusion of voters, referendum participants in the voter list, referendum participant list, shall be kept with the said list.

15. In case of loss of absentee certificate blank form, the commission establishing a fact of such loss, shall immediately make the respective act and shall draft a decision containing the number of lost absentee certificate blank form, the fact of blank form loss, and the cause of such loss. Such decision shall be notified on the same day directly to the higher commission and to the commission organizing the election, referendum. Based on such decision, the commission organizing the election, referendum shall recognize the respective absentee certificate as invalid, whereupon all the lower commissions shall be informed. The invalid absentee certificate shall not be grounds for the inclusion of a voter, referendum participant, in the voter list, referendum participant list. In case is a voter, referendum participant submits such absentee certificate, the latter shall be subject to withdrawal.

16. The procedure of absentee certificate transmission to commission and absentee certificate accounting, including by means of State Automated System "Vybory", shall be approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

Article 63. Ballots

1. In order to participate in an election, a referendum, a voter, referendum participant shall be issued a ballot.

(Section 1 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. Ballots shall be produced on the instruction of the relevant commission. Numbering of ballots shall not be allowed. The quantity of produced ballots shall not exceed the number of registered voters, referendum participants by more than 1.5 percent.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

21. In order to help the voters, referendum participants being visually disabled persons, upon decision of the respective commission, special stencils shall be made in order to fill in the ballots on their own, including by means of Braille type. The electoral districts and referendum precincts for which such stencils are made, shall be determined by decision of the commission organizing the elections, the referendum, and by decision of the electoral commission of Russian Federation subject in case of elections to the federal bodies of state power.

(Section 21 introduced by Federal Law of June 14, 2011, # 143-FZ)

3. At elections to federal bodies of state power, the state bodies of a Russian Federation subject shall, in order to protect the ballots from forgery at production thereof, use watermarked paper and/or paper with inscriptions printed thereon by typographic method in micro-type and/or with security thread and/or other special protective elements, or special signs (stamps) for such purposes. The procedure of manufacturing and use of special signs (stamps), their quantity, as well as the requirements made to the transmission of special signs (stamps) by the higher commissions to the lower commissions, shall be approved by the commission organizing the election no later than 60 days prior to the voting day.

(Section 3 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

31. At elections to local self-governing bodies (save as for elections to the representative authority of municipalities held in electoral districts with numbers of voters therein not exceeding five thousand), watermarked paper and/or paper with color background or inscriptions printed thereon by typographic method in micro-type and/or with security thread shall be used in the production of ballots.

(Section 31 introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. The form and the text of the ballot, the quantity of ballots, and the procedure for supervision over their production shall be approved by the relevant commissions not later than 20 days prior to the voting day. The text shall be printed only on one side of the ballot. In the event of a repeat voting, the text of the ballot, the quantity of ballots shall be approved by the relevant commission at the time it takes the decision to hold the repeat voting.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5. For voting on candidates, surnames of registered candidates shall be arranged in the ballot in the alphabetical order, and the ballot shall contain the following information about each registered candidate:

a) surname, first name, patronymic;

b) year of birth;

c) name of a Russian Federation subject, district, city, other settlement where the candidate resides;

(Sub-section "c" in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

d) main place of work or service, official position (occupation, if there is no main place of work or service);

e) if a candidate is a deputy and exercises his powers on a non-permanent basis, this fact and the name of the representative body;

f) if a candidate was nominated by an electoral association, the words "Nominated by electoral association" and the abbreviated name of the electoral association;

(Sub-section "f" in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

g) if a candidate is a self-nominated candidate, the words "Independent candidate";

(Sub-section "g" in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

h) became invalid. - Federal Law of February 09, 2009, # 3-FZ

Paragraphs ten-eleven became invalid. - Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ.

51. If a registered candidate nominated directly as per section 2 of article 33 of this Federal Law, has indicated in their application on consent to nomination their appurtenance to a political party, other social association, the ballot shall contain the brief name of the respective political party, other social association, and the status of the registered candidate in such political party or other social association.

(Section 51 introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, in the version of Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

52. If a registered candidate nominated by an electoral association for a single-mandate/ multi-mandate electoral district, is also included in the registered candidate list, such information shall be indicated in the ballot.

(Section 52 introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. For voting on lists of candidates, the ballot shall contain abbreviated names of electoral associations arranged in an order determined as a result of lot-drawing, and also surnames, first names, patronymics of at least first three candidates from the list and/or its respective regional part, and black-and-white emblems of electoral association.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

7. If a registered candidate indicated in the ballot has a conviction that has not been cancelled and annulled, the ballot shall contain information about the candidate's convictions.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 27, 2006, # 128-FZ)

8. A blank box shall be placed to the right of the data of each registered candidate indicated under Sections 5, 51, 52 and 6 of this article, to the right of the name of each electoral association.

(Section 8 in the version of Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

81. If, as per section 35 of article 38 of this Federal Law, the voting is held for one candidature, below the information about the registered candidate as provided for by Sections 5, 51, 52 and 6 of this article, the options of the expression of voters' will shall be indicated by words "Pro" and "Contra", with blank boxes placed to the right of the said words.

(Section 81 introduced by Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

9. For voting at a referendum, the ballot shall contain the text of the question submitted to the referendum and indicate the options for expression of the voter's will with the words "Yes" or "No" or "Pro" and "Contra", on the right of which blank boxes are placed. If a draft law is submitted to a referendum, the ballot shall either reproduce its text or contain the name of such draft law.

(Section 9 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

10. Ballots shall be printed in the Russian language. Subject to a decision of the commission specified by law, ballots shall be printed in the Russian language and in the official language of the given republic within the Russian Federation and, in the necessary cases, in the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation in the territories where they are concentrated. If ballots for an electoral precinct are printed in two or more languages, the Russian text shall be printed on each ballot.

11. The ballots produced by a printing organization shall be transmitted to voting commission members placing the order for ballots production under certificate containing the date and time of compilation thereof, as well as the number of ballots transmitted. After the ballots packed in bundles are handed over in the quantity corresponding to the order, the personnel of the print shop shall destroy rejected and surplus ballots (if any) and shall draw up a certificate to this effect. The commission that placed the order for the ballots shall be obliged, no later than two days prior to receiving the ballots from the respective printing organization, decide on the time when and the place where ballots are to be handed over to the appropriate commission or destroyed. Any member of any commission, any candidate whose name is entered in the ballot (except of the candidates whose names are indicated in the candidate list) or the representative of such candidate, electoral association, referendum initiative group, another referendum participant group may put his signature on the certificates mentioned in this Section.

(Section 11 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

12. After receiving ballots from the print shop, the commission placing the order for ballots production shall deliver the ballots, of the basis of an acceptance certificate, to directly lower commissions within the terms as established by the commission organizing the election, referendum, based on its decision to distribute ballots. The directly lower commissions transmit ballots in the same manner to lower commission including district commissions. The submission of ballots by a higher commission to a lower commission shall be stipulated in a certificate made in two counterparts containing the date and time of compilation thereof, as well as the number of the ballots subject to delivery.

(Section 12 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

13. The ballots shall be delivered to the district commissions no later than one day before the voting day (including early voting). The quantity of ballots for each electoral district, referendum precinct shall not exceed by more than 0.5 percent (but no less than by two ballots) or be less than 70 percent of the number of voters, referendum participants that have been included in the list of voters, referendum participants in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct as of the day of the ballot delivery. At delivery of ballots to the district commissions, the ballots shall be counted and selected manually, thereat, the rejected ballots (if any) shall be destroyed by the members of the commission in charge of the ballots delivery, and a certificate shall be made to that effect.

(Section 13 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

14. As ballots are delivered by a higher commission to a lower commission, the members of such commissions, the candidates stipulated in Section 11 of this Article, or their representatives, as well as representatives of

electoral associations stipulated in Section 11 of this Article, referendum initiative group, other referendum participant groups shall be entitled at the selection and destruction thereof. The notification of the aforesaid persons about the place and time of ballot delivery shall be ensured by the respective commission, which shall also be obliged to allow to each candidate stipulated in Section 11 of this Article or to no less than one of their representative, no less than one representative of each electoral association stipulated in section 11 of this article, no less than one representative of referendum initiative group, other referendum participant group, to be present at the ballot delivery, with any of the aforesaid persons being entitled to sign the certificates made at ballot delivery as well as at ballot selection and destruction (if any).

(Section 14 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

15. The chairmen of the commissions that deliver, accept, and keep the ballots shall bear responsibility for correct delivery of ballots.

(Section 15 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

16. Signatures of two voting members of the precinct election commission certified by the commission's seal shall be put in the upper right corner on the face of all ballots received by the precinct election commission.

17. If a registered candidate, list of candidates withdraw after ballots have been produced, territorial, district, and precinct election commissions shall, on the instruction of the commission which registered this candidate, list of candidates, cross out the data of this candidate, list of candidates on ballots. In case of necessity to alter the produced ballot in respect of information about the candidate or electoral association, such alteration may be, upon decision of the which registered this candidate, list of candidates, entered by the members of territorial, district, or section commission manually or by using technical equipment.

(Section 17 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

18. If in accordance with the law a decision is taken to register candidates, federal list of candidates to transfer a place on the list to the next registered candidate in replacement of a candidate who withdrew after the ballots had been produced less than ten days before voting day, the commission that registered a candidate, list of candidates shall be entitled to make a decision to put the data of the said registered candidate, list of candidates into the printed ballots by hand or by using technical equipment.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

19. In exceptional cases, in electoral precincts, referendum precincts formed in remote and hard-to-reach areas, on ships at sea on voting day, at polar stations, outside the territory of the Russian Federation electoral documents, including ballots, may be produced by a precinct commission itself. A decision to produce electoral documents, indicating the required number of ballots and the deadline for their production, shall be taken by this precinct commission with the concurrence of the higher commission.

20. On voting day, after the voting time ends, commissions shall count and cancel unused ballots. In precinct commissions, this procedure is carried out in accordance with Section 3, Article 68 of this Federal Law. In other commissions, statements of ballot cancellation specifying the number of cancelled ballots shall be drawn up. Persons indicated in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law may be present when ballots are being cancelled. Cancelled ballots shall be kept with the other documentation of the commission to the secretary of the commission.

21. In case of holding election, referendum by means of electronic voting complex, an electronic ballot shall be used. The form and text of the electronic ballot shall be approved by the respective commission no later than 20 days prior to voting day and must comply with the requirements stipulated by Sections 5-10 of this Article. In case of repeat voting the electronic ballot text shall be approved by the respective commission at the same time with the decision on the repeated voting.

(Section 21 introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Article 64. Voting Procedure

1. The time of the commencement and the end of voting at an election, referendum shall be established by law, and the duration of voting shall not be less than ten hours. The law may provide for the case that if at elections of bodies of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, at a referendum

of a subject of the Russian Federation in the territory of an election district, referendum precinct where working hours coincide with voting time (in case of work at full-cycle enterprises or shift-operation enterprises), by decision of the electoral commission of the Russian Federation subject the time of voting commencement in such electoral district, referendum district, may be transferred to an earlier time but by no more than two hours. If voting day at an election of bodies of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, at a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum is the same as voting day at an election of federal bodies of state power, the House of Representatives of the Union State, at a referendum of the Russian Federation, the provisions of federal law that set the time of commencement and end of voting shall apply.

(Section 1 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. The time and place of voting shall be communicated to voters, referendum participants by territorial and precinct commissions not later than 20 days before voting day through mass media or otherwise, and if early or repeat voting is conducted the time and place of voting shall be communicated in the procedure and at the time established by law but not later than five days before voting day.

3. On voting day and before the beginning of voting, the chairman of a precinct commission shall present for inspection by members of the precinct commission, by voters, referendum participants who are present, by persons specified in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law empty ballot boxes (relevant compartments of the technical vote counting equipment, if any) that are then sealed with the precinct commission's seal.

4. Each voter, referendum participant shall vote in person, voting on behalf of other voters, referendum participants shall be prohibited.

5. Ballots shall be issued to voters, referendum participants who are included in a list of voters, referendum participants against presentation of their passports or equivalent identity documents, and if a voter, referendum participant votes on the basis of an absentee certificate, against presentation of such absentee certificate.

6. When receiving a ballot, a voter, referendum participant shall write the series and number of his passport or equivalent identity document in the list of voters, referendum participants. With the consent of a voter, referendum participant or at his request, the series and number of the passport or equivalent identity document presented by him may be written in the list of voters, referendum participants by a voting member of the precinct commission. The voter, referendum participant shall verify the correctness of the entry and sign in the respective box of the list of voters, referendum participants for receipt of a ballot. In the event of voting on the basis of an absentee certificate, additional notes shall be made in the list of voters, referendum participants. In the event of voting with more than one ballot at a time, a voter, referendum participant shall sign for receipt of each ballot. The member of the precinct commission who issued a ballot (ballots) to a voter, referendum participant shall also sign in the relevant box of the list of voters, referendum participants.

7. A voter, referendum participant shall vote by putting any mark in the box (boxes) corresponding to the candidate (candidates) or a list of candidates chosen by the voter, and in a referendum ballot, by putting any mark in the box corresponding to the option chosen.

(Section 7 in the version of Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

8. A ballot shall be marked by a voter, referendum participant in a specially equipped booth or another specially equipped place where the presence of other persons shall not be allowed, save as otherwise provided by Section 10 of this article.

9. If a voter, referendum participant believes that he has made a mistake when marking a ballot, he may ask the commission member who had issued the ballot to give him a new ballot in place of the spoiled one. The commission member shall issue a new ballot to the voter, note this fact in the list of voters, referendum participants against the name of this voter. The spoiled ballot where the voting commission member makes the respective entry certifying the same by its signature, shall also be countersigned by the secretary of the precinct commission, whereupon such ballot shall be immediately cancelled.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

10. A voter, referendum participant who is not able to sign for receipt of a ballot or mark a ballot by himself, or participate at electronic voting, may be assisted by another voter, referendum participant who is not a member of the commission, or a registered candidate, or an authorized representative or agent of an electoral association,

registered candidate, a referendum initiative group, or an observer. In this case, a voter shall orally inform the election commission of his intention to ask for assistance in marking the ballot or participating at electronic voting. The surname, first name and patronymic, series and number of the passport or an equivalent identity document of the person assisting such voter, referendum participant shall be indicated in the appropriate box (boxes) of the list of voters, referendum participants.

(Section 10 in the version of Federal Law of June 14, 2011, # 143-FZ)

11. Voters, referendum participants shall drop marked ballots into sealed (tamper-proof) ballot boxes or into the technical vote counting equipment, if such equipment is used.

12. A member of a precinct commission shall be immediately barred from participation in its work and an observer and other persons shall be expelled from the polling station if they commit a violation of a law governing the election, the referendum. In this case, a reasoned written decision to this effect shall be taken by the precinct or higher commission. The decision shall be taken in writing. The law enforcement authorities shall enforce the decision and take steps to bring the barred member of the precinct commission, expelled observer and other offenders to responsibility under the federal laws.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

13. Registered candidates, electoral associations, members of referendum initiative groups and their agents or authorized representatives as well as the organizations, which are founded, owned, held by the said persons and organizations and/or which have leading bodies where the said persons and organizations are represented, other individuals and legal entities acting at the request or on the instructions of the said persons and organizations shall not take any actions to arrange for transportation of voters, referendum participants for participation in voting.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

14. The law of a subject of the Russian Federation may provide for the possibility of voting by post for voters, referendum participants. In this case, these votes shall be deemed received by the relevant commission if delivered not later than the end of voting on voting day. The procedure for voting by post at elections of bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, referendums of a subject of the Russian Federation, locals referendums shall, until this issue is regulated by a federal law, be established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

15. In case of elections, referendum, instead of voting by means of ballots made in hardcopy, electronic voting may be held. The total number of electoral districts, referendum precincts where electronic voting is held, must not exceed 1 per cent of the number of electoral districts, referendum precincts formed in the territory where election, referendum is held, and if 1 per cent of the number of electoral districts, referendum precincts formed in the territory where election, referendum is held is less than five electoral district, referendum precinct, the said total number may not be less than five electoral district, referendum precincts. The decision to hold electronic voting shall be made by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or upon the instruction thereof by the respective electoral commission of a Russian Federation subject. The procedure of electronic voting, counting of votes cast by voters, referendum participants, and the determination of vote returns in electoral districts, referendum precincts, the form of the precinct commission protocol on the vote returns as well as the specificities of the vote returns determination by the higher commissions and elections, referendum results determination subject to the electronic vote returns shall be established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

(Section 15 introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Article 65. Early Voting

(in the version of Federal Law of May 31, 2010, # 112-FZ)

1. In cases and in manner as provided by the law, the respective commission shall be entitled to allow the holding of early (but no earlier than 15 days prior to the voting day) voting of all voters, referendum participants in one or more electoral districts, referendum precincts formed in hard-to-reach or remote places, on ships at sea on the voting day, at polar stations. In cases and in manner as provided by the law, the respective commission shall be entitled to allow the holding, within several days, of early (but no earlier than 15 days prior to the voting day) voting of groups of voters, referendum participants in places located at significant distance from the polling

premises, with absent or difficult transport communication (in hard-to-reach or remote places, on ships at sea on the voting day, at polar stations), where it is not possible therefore to hold early voting in general by electoral district, referendum precinct. In cases and in manner as provided by the law, when electing federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, in a referendum of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to allow the holding of early (but no earlier than 15 days prior to the voting day) voting of all voters, referendum participants in one or more electoral districts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation, and/or the voting of groups of voters, referendum participants residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation. An early voting at elections of federal bodies of state power, bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, in a referendum of the Russian Federation, a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation shall not be conducted for other reasons than those provided for hereby, as well as in manner similar to the procedure established by Sections 2-9 of this article.

2. In a Russian Federation subject referendum, a local referendum, if there is no absentee voting provided for, a voter, referendum participant who on voting day is absent from his place of residence and cannot come to the polling station in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct in which he was included in the list of voters, referendum participants for a valid reason (leave or vacation, business trip, hours of work or study, state or public duties, state of health) shall, if law does not allow voting by absentee certificates, be granted a possibility to vote early by marking a ballot at the premises of the relevant territorial commission, district election commission, municipality election commission (15 to 4 days before voting day), or the precinct commission (not earlier than three days before voting day). In case if the referendum vote day of a Russian Federation subject referendum, a local referendum coincides with the election voting day or Russian Federation referendum where the law provides for voting under absentee certificates, a referendum participant may vote early (but no earlier than 15 days prior to the voting day) at the premises of the commission issuing absentee certificates. A voter, referendum participant who votes early shall submit to the relevant commission an application stating the reasons for early voting. This application shall be attached to the list of voters, referendum participants who voted early. The commission shall ensure the secrecy of voting, prevent any possibility of the will of a voter, referendum participant being distorted, arrange for the safekeeping of the ballot and ensure that the vote cast by the voter, referendum participant will be counted when vote returns are determined. The commission shall be entitled to verify the cause indicated in the referendum participant's application and in case of non-confirmation shall be obliged to refuse the issue of ballot.

3. If a voter, referendum participant votes at the premises of the territorial commission, district election commission, municipality election commission, signatures of two members of the commission certified by the commission's seal shall be put in the upper right corner on the face of the ballot issued to him. The territorial commission, district election commission, municipality election commission shall compile a list of voters, referendum participants who voted early. The said list, together with the ballots of early voting referendum participants shall be delivered to the precinct electoral commission that shall continue compiling such list in the respective precinct. If the early voting is only held in the precinct commission premises, the precinct commission shall compile the list of early voting referendum participants. The list of early voting referendum participants shall be annexed to the referendum participant list.

4. The ballot marked by a voter, referendum participant voting early shall be put by the voter, referendum participant into an envelope and the envelope shall then be sealed. Two voting members of, respectively, territorial commission, district election commission, municipality election commission or the precinct commission and non-voting members of the commission, observes (if they so desire) shall put their signatures on the envelope seam. The said signatures shall be certified by the seal of the respective commission and a signature of the voter, referendum participant who voted early.

5. The sealed envelope with ballots shall be kept by the secretary of the relevant commission in the office of the territorial commission, district election commission, election commission of the municipality until the time when all ballots are transferred to precinct commissions, and in the office of the precinct commission, until voting day.

6. Directly after the receipt of the ballots by the precinct commission, on the list of voters, referendum participants the surnames of voters, referendum participants who voted early in the premises of the territorial commission, election commission of municipality shall be marked with the words "Voted early" by the precinct commission. If a referendum participant votes early in the precinct commission premises, the said note shall be made in the referendum participant list at ballot issue.

7. On voting day, the chairman of a precinct commission, shall get ready the technological vote counting equipment, if such equipment is used, switch this equipment to the voting mode and officially open the polling station in the presence of members of the precinct commission, observers, other persons referred to in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. Before the commencement of voting, he shall announce the total number of voters, referendum participants who cast their votes early, including those who voted early at the premises of the territorial commission, district election commission, municipality election commission and shall produce for visual inspection the sealed envelopes with ballots and a list of voters, referendum participants who voted early. After this, the chairman of the precinct commission shall open each envelope in turn.

8. If the number of voters, referendum participants who voted early is more than one percent of the number of voters, referendum participants included in the list of voters, referendum participants in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct (but not less than ten voters, referendum participants), the ballots of voters, referendum participants who voted early shall be stamped on the back with the seal of the precinct commission immediately after the ballots are taken out of the envelopes.

9. After the performance of the actions described in Sections 6 and 7 of this article, the chairman of the precinct commission shall, while observing the secrecy of the expression of the voters', referendum participants' will, drop the ballots into a stationary ballot box or a technological vote counting equipment, if such equipment is used. If an envelope does not bear the required marks provided for by Section 4 of this article, or more than one ballot of the standard form established for the relevant district is taken out of the envelope, all ballots taken out from this envelope shall be declared invalid and a written statement shall be drawn up to this effect. An inscription stating the reasons for declaring a ballot invalid, certified by signatures of two voting members of the precinct commission and a seal of the precinct commission, shall be made on the face of each ballot in the boxes located to the right the option "Yes" and "No" ("Pro" and "Contra").

Article 66. Arrangements for Voters, Referendum Participants to Vote Outside Polling Station

1. A precinct commission shall make voting arrangements for voters, referendum participants who are included in the list of voters, referendum participants in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct but cannot come to the polling station on their own, due to valid reasons (poor health, physical disability). The precinct commission shall also ensure the possibility of voting participation for the voters, referendum participants who are included in the voter list, referendum participant list in the given precinct, referendum precinct, and are detained in custody as suspects and convicts.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. Save the cases referred to in Section 1, Article 65 of this Federal Law, voting outside a polling station shall be conducted only on voting day and only on the basis of a written or oral application (including such written or oral application relayed by other persons) of a voter, referendum participant for an opportunity to vote outside a polling station. A precinct commission shall register all such written (oral) applications in a special register and, after the end of voting, shall keep this register together with the lists of voters, referendum participants.

(in the version of Federal Law of May 31, 2010, # 112-FZ)

3. An entry in the register mentioned in Section 2 of this article, registering an oral application shall indicate the time when the application was received, the surname, first name, patronymic of the voter, referendum participant who stated his intention to vote outside the polling station, his place of residence, and shall be signed by the member of the commission who received this application. If such application was relayed by another person, the register shall also indicate the surname, first name and patronymic and place of residence of such person. Upon the arrival of members of a precinct election commission to the voter, the voter shall confirm his oral application by a written application.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. A written (oral) application for voting outside the polling station must state the reason why the voter, referendum participant is unable to come to the polling station and must indicate the surname, first name, patronymic, residence address of voters, referendum participants.

(section 4 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5. Written (oral) applications referred to in Section 4 of this article may be submitted to the precinct commission at any time after the precinct commission forming but not later than six hours before the end of voting time.

Written (oral) application submitted later than the indicated deadline shall be disregarded, whereon the voter, referendum participant or the person assisting in the transmission of application, shall be informed verbally at the time of acceptance of written (oral application).

(in the version of Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 262-FZ)

6. At least 30 minutes before the presumed departure of members of a precinct election commission, the chairman of the precinct election commission shall announce that commission members are going to conduct voting outside the polling station, and shall as well suggest the non-voting precinct commission members and the observers to assist at the holding thereof.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 262-FZ)

7. A precinct election commission may determine that the reason for which a voter, referendum participant cannot come to the polling station on his own is untenable and refuse to conduct voting outside the polling station for the voter, referendum participant. The commission shall immediately notify the voter, referendum participant on the made decision to refuse such voting.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

8. Precinct commission shall have the necessary number of mobile ballot boxes, that shall be determined by the commission's decision. The number of such boxes shall be determined by the decision of the direct higher commission, and if in the elections for local self-governing bodies, local referendum the territory of unified electoral district, referendum district coincides with the territory of election precinct, referendum precinct – by decision of the precinct commission. In case if the voting days for elections and/or referenda of various levels coincide, the decision shall be made by the commission participating at the preparation and holding of election/referendum of higher level. Thereat, the maximum number of mobile boxes used on the voting day outside the voting premises in one electoral district, referendum district function of the numbers of voters, referendum participants registered in the territory of an election district, referendum district, shall amount to:

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 25, 2011, # 262-FZ)

a) up to 501 voters, referendum members – 1 mobile voting box;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 262-FZ)

b) 501 to 1001 voters, referendum members – 2 mobile voting boxes;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 262-FZ)

c) over 1001 voters, referendum members – 3 mobile voting boxes;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 262-FZ)

81. By decision of the respective commission as indicated in Section 8 of this Article, the number of mobile voting boxes used outside the voting premises as indicated in sub-sections "a" and "b" of section 8 of this article, may be increased but by no more than 1 mobile box if at least one of the following conditions is met:

a) the election precinct, referendum precinct includes territories of several settlements, and the settlement where the voting premises are located is outside the reach of pedestrian access to other settlements within the voting time;

b) the territory of the election district, referendum district holds the place of temporary residence of voters, referendum participants, where no election precinct, referendum precinct is formed;

c) in the territory of the election district, referendum district as per Section 19 of Article 16 of this Federal Law, over 50 voters, referendum participants over 80 years and/or disabled persons data on which persons are submitted as per section 161 of article 20 of this Federal Law;

d) In case if the voting days for several elections coincide, the voter may vote simultaneously with more than two voting ballots.

(section 81 introduced by the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 262-FZ)

9. Members of a precinct commission who are to conduct voting outside the polling station on the basis of such written (oral) applications shall receive ballots and sign for their receipt. The total number of ballots received may not exceed by more than 5 per cent the number of written (oral) applications received by the time of departure (but by no less than two ballots). Voting outside the polling station shall be conducted by at least two voting members of the precinct commission who shall have a sealed (tamper proof) mobile ballot box that was sealed or tamper proof at the precinct commission, the required number of ballots of the established form, the register described in Section 2 of this article or a certified excerpt from the register containing the necessary data of the voter, referendum participant and the information about the received written (oral) application for voting outside the polling station, applications for voting outside the polling station received from voters, referendum participants, and required writing utensils (other than pencils) needed for a voter, referendum participant to mark the ballot. Voting outside the polling station may be conducted by one voting member of a precinct election commission, provided that not less than two persons indicated in Section 14 of this article are present at the voting.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 25, 2011, # 262-FZ)

10. Voting outside the polling station shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article 64 of this Federal Law.

11. In the written application for voting outside the polling station, the voter, referendum participant shall indicate the series and number of his passport or an equivalent identity document and shall sign for receipt of each ballot. With the consent or at the request of the voter, referendum participant the series and number of his passport or an equivalent identify document may be entered in the application by a voting member of a precinct election commission. Voting members of a precinct election commission shall confirm the issuance of ballots by putting their signatures on the written application. A corresponding note shall be made on the application when a new ballot is issued in place of a spoilt one, and a note indicating the total number of received ballots shall be made, if a voter, referendum participant receives more than one ballot (depending on the type of the election and on the combination of elections, referendums).

111. In case if a voter, referendum participant is unable to sign on their own for ballot receipt or to mark the ballot because of disability or poor health, they can use for that purpose the assistance of another voter, referendum participant in manner as established by Section 10 of Article 64 of this Federal Law.

(Section 111 introduced by Federal Law of June 14, 2011, # 143-FZ)

12. Members of a precinct commissions who arrive to the voter's, referendum participant's place in response to their written (oral) applications may issue ballots only to those voters, referendum participants whose written (oral) applications were recorded in the register under Section 2 of this article.

13. The series and number of the passport or an equivalent identity document of a voter, referendum participant who voted outside the polling station shall be written in the list of voters, referendum participants by voting members of the precinct commission who went to the voter's, referendum participant's place in response to their written (oral) applications. At the same time, the words "Voted outside the polling station," signed by the commission members indicated above, shall be written in the appropriate column (columns) of the list of voters, referendum participants.

14. When voting is carried out outside the polling station, non-voting members of an election commission, observers may be present at the voting. In this case, a precinct election commission shall provide the same possibilities to come to the place of voting both for voting members of the precinct election commission who conduct voting outside the polling station and for not less than two non-voting members of the election commission, observers appointed by different candidates, electoral associations, referendum initiative groups, other referendum participant groups, social associations. At that, the non-voting members of an election commission, observers appointed by a candidate nominated by an electoral association, and the non-voting commission members, observers appointed by such electoral associations shall not be deemed as persons appointed by different candidates, electoral associations.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

15. Voting outside the polling station shall be organized so as to prevent any violations of electoral rights of a voter, referendum participant and distortion of the expression of their will.

16. If a voter, referendum participant who made a written or oral application for voting outside the polling station comes to the polling station to vote after members of the precinct election commission were sent to him to conduct voting outside the polling station, a relevant member of the precinct election commission shall not issue a ballot to this voter, referendum participant at the polling station until the commission members who organize voting outside the polling station in response to the written or oral application of this voter, referendum participant return and it has been established that the voter, referendum participant has not voted outside the polling station.

17. As the voting by means of each mobile ballot box is completed, a separate certificate shall be drawn up by the precinct commission to record the number of ballots issued to the precinct commission voting members holding the voting outside the polling station, the number written applications of voters, referendum participants for voting outside the polling station and the number of returned (unused, spoiled by the voters, referendum participants) ballots, and such certificate shall also contain information about the precinct commission voting members holding the voting outside the polling station, the non-voting members of a precinct election commission and observers who were present when voting outside the polling station was conducted.

(Section 17 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Article 67. Protocol of Vote Returns of Precinct Commission

1. A precinct commission shall compile a protocol of vote returns for the relevant election precinct, referendum precinct.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. A protocol of vote returns shall consist of a single sheet of paper. In exceptional cases, such protocol may consist of more than one sheet, and each sheet shall be signed by all present voting members of the precinct commission and sealed with the seal of the precinct commission. A protocol of vote returns shall contain:

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

- a) the number of the copy;
- b) the name of the election, referendum, the date of voting;
- c) the word "Protocol;"
- d) the polling station address with the number of the electoral precinct, referendum precinct;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

e) protocol lines in the following succession:

line 1: the number of voters, referendum participants who were included in the list as of the end of voting time;

line 2: the number of ballots received by the precinct commission;

line 3: the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants who voted early, and in case of early voting at Russian Federation subject referendum a separate line 4 shall also state the number of voters who voted early at the premises of the territorial commission;

line 5: the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants at the polling station on voting day;

line 6: the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants who voted outside of the polling station on voting day;

line 7: the number of cancelled ballots;

line 8: the number of ballots contained in mobile ballot boxes;

line 9: the number of ballots contained in stationary ballot boxes;

line 10: the number of invalid ballots;

line 11: the number of valid ballots;

line 12 and the following lines: the number of votes for each of the options contained in all ballots, the number of votes for the options “Yes” and “No” (“Pro” and “Contra”) contained in referendum voting ballots.

If a law provides for voting by absentee certificates, the protocol of vote returns shall also contain the lines:

line 11a: the number of absentee certificates received by the precinct commission;

line 11b: the number of absentee certificates issued by the precinct commission to voters, referendum participants in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct before voting day;

line 11c: the number of voters, referendum participants who voted by absentee certificates in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct;

line 11d: the number of absentee certificates cancelled in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct;

line 11e: the number of absentee certificates issued by the territorial commission (electoral commission of municipality, district electoral commissions) to voters, referendum participants;

line 11f: number of lost absentee certificates.

In order to record information obtained in the case provided by section 22 of article 68 of this Federal Law, the vote returns protocol must also contain the following lines:

line 11g: number of lost ballots;

line 11h: number of ballots not accounted for at receipt;

(sub-section “e” in the version of Federal Law of October 04, 2010, # 263-FZ)

f) information about the number of complaints (applications), statements and other documents that are appended to the protocol, which were received by the precinct commission on voting day before the end of counting of votes cast by voters, referendum participants;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

g) surnames and the initials of the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary and the other voting members of the precinct commission, and their signatures;

h) the date and time when the protocol was signed;

i) the seal of the precinct commission.

3. The numbers specified in Section 2 of this article shall be entered into the protocol of vote returns both in figures and in words. The numbering of the lines of the protocol shall be established by law.

Article 68. Procedure of Counting Votes Cast by Voters, Referendum Participants and Compilation of Protocol of Vote Returns by Precinct Commission

1. Votes cast by voters, referendum participants shall be counted openly and publicly, with the number of ballots and number of votes cast by voters, referendum participants, as counted by the voting members of a precinct election commission, being consecutively announced and entered in the enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns.

2. Counting of votes cast by voters, referendum participants shall begin immediately after the voting time expires and shall be continued without interruption until the vote returns are determined. These vote returns shall be made known to all members of the precinct commission and observers. If elections of different levels are combined, votes cast at the election of federal bodies of state power shall be counted first, to bodies of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation shall be counted second, after which votes cast at the election of bodies of local self-government shall be counted.

3. After the end of voting, voting members of a precinct election commission in the presence of persons indicated in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law shall count unused ballots, cancel them by cutting off the lower left corner, announce the number of cancelled ballots obtained by summing up the number of unused ballots and the number of ballots spoiled by voters, referendum participants in the course of voting and enter the number of cancelled ballots in line 7 of the protocols of vote returns and enlarged forms of these protocols. If a technological vote counting equipment is used, this information after its announcement shall be entered in line 7 of the enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. The chairman, deputy chairman, or secretary of a precinct commission shall ascertain, announce and enter in line 2 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged form the number of ballots received by the precinct commission (the ballots of voters, referendum participants who voted early at the premises of territorial commission, district election commission, municipality commission, which were taken out of the envelopes, shall not be included in this number). If the technological vote counting equipment is used, this information, after its announcement, shall be entered in line 2 of the enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns.

(in the version of Federal Law of May 31, 2010, # 112-FZ)

5. Before starting to count votes cast by voters, referendum participants voting members of a precinct election commission shall enter the following aggregate data in each page of the list of voters, referendum participants:

a) the number of voters, referendum participants included in the list of voters, referendum participants as of the end of voting time (minus the number of voters, referendum participants to whom absentee certificates were issued by the territorial commission and the district commission, and those who were withdrawn for other reasons);

(in the version of Federal Law of October 04, 2010, # 263-FZ)

b) the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants at the polling station on voting day (to be established from the number of signatures of voters, referendum participants in the list of voters, referendum participants);

c) the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants who voted outside the polling station on voting day (to be established from the number of relevant notes in the list of voters, referendum participants);

d) the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants who voted early (to be established from the number of relevant notes in the list of voters, referendum participants and verified against the list of voters, referendum participants who voted early);

e) the number of absentee certificates issued by the precinct commission to voters, referendum participants in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct;

d1) the number of absentee certificates issued by the territorial commission (election commission of municipality, district election commission) to voters, referendum participants;

(sub-section "d1" introduced by the Federal Law of October 04, 2010, # 263-FZ)

f) the number of voters, referendum participants who voted on the basis of absentee certificates in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct.

6. After entering the data specified in Section 5 of this Article, each page of the list of voters, referendum participants shall be signed by the member of the commission who entered this data, and the same member shall then sum up the data, announce it, and communicate it to the chairman, deputy chairman, or secretary and to the persons present at the vote counting. The totals that are determined as the sum of the numbers established in accordance with Section 5 of this article shall be announced, entered in the last page of the list of voters, referendum participants by the chairman, deputy chairman, or secretary of the precinct commission and certified by his signature and the seal of the precinct commission. The announced data shall be entered in the relevant lines of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged form, and if the technological vote counting equipment is used, only in the relevant lines of the enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns:

- a) line 1: the number of voters, referendum participants included in the list of voters, referendum participants as of the end of voting time;
- b) lines 3 and 4: the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants who voted early;
- c) line 5: the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants who voted at the polling station on voting day;
- d) line 6: the number of ballots issued to voters, referendum participants who voted outside the polling station on voting day;
- e) line 11a: the number of absentee certificates received by the precinct commission;
- f) line 11b: the number of absentee certificates issued by the precinct commission to voters, referendum participants in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct;
- g) line 11c: the number of voters, referendum participants who voted on the basis of absentee certificates in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct;
- h) line 11d: the number of absentee certificates cancelled in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct;
- i) line 11e: the number of absentee certificates issued by the territorial commission (election commission of municipality, district election commission) to voters, referendum participants

After the said actions are completed, the following control correlation shall be verified: the number of absentee certificates received by the precinct commission must be equal to the sum of number of absentee certificates issued by the precinct commission to the voters, referendum participants in the election precinct, referendum precinct prior to the voting day, and the number of absentee certificates cancelled in the election precinct, referendum precinct. If the said control correlation is not met, the precinct commission shall decide on additional counting of data entered into the voters list, referendum participants list, and cancelled absentee certificates. If as a result of additional counting the said control correlation is not met yet again, the precinct commission shall make the relevant decision to be annexed to the vote returns protocol, and shall enter the data on the deviation in the line 11e of the vote returns protocol and in its enlarged form. If the said control correlation is met, the digit "0" shall be indicated in the line 11e.

Data is entered into lines 11a, 11b, 11c, and 11d of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged form if voting on the basis of absentee certificates is provided for by law.

If a repeat voting is provided for by law, the procedure for counting of absentee certificates shall be established by such law.

After that the list of voters, referendum participants shall be made available for examination to persons indicated in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law, and non-voting members of a precinct election commission may make sure that the counting was carried out correctly.

(Section 6 in the version of Federal Law of October 04, 2010, # 263-FZ)

7. No further work shall be carried out on the list of voters, referendum participants until the control relationships of the data entered in the protocols of vote returns are checked as provided for by Section 22 of this Article. In the meantime, the list of voters, referendum participants shall be kept in a safe or at a place specially equipped for safekeeping of documents. The chairman or the secretary of a precinct election commission shall make arrangements for the safekeeping of the voters list so as to make it inaccessible to persons present at the polling station.

8. Votes cast by voters, referendum participants shall be counted by voting members of a precinct election commission from ballots in the ballot boxes.

9. Non-voting members of a precinct election commission, observers, other persons stipulated in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law may be present when votes cast by voters, referendum participants are being counted.

10. Votes cast by voters, referendum participants shall be counted at special places fitted out so as to allow access to them for voting and non-voting members of a commission. Voting members of the commission, with the exception of the chairman (deputy chairman) and the secretary of the commission, shall not use any writing utensils during vote counting, save as otherwise provided for by Sections 12, 16 and 17 of this article. The actions of members of the commission shall be clearly visible to all persons present at the vote counting.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

11. When sorting out the ballots a precinct commission shall separate ballots which do not conform to a standard format. Such ballots shall be packed separately and sealed.

12. First, ballots shall be counted in the mobile ballot boxes. Before mobile ballot boxes are opened, the integrity of the seals on the boxes shall be checked. Votes shall be counted so as to avoid violating the secrecy of voting. The number of ballots taken out shall be announced and entered into line 8 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged form. If the number of ballots of the established form found in the mobile ballot box is greater than the number of applications of voters, referendum participants containing the note about the number of received ballots, all ballots contained in this mobile ballot box shall be invalidated by the decision of the commission and this fact shall be recorded in a separate certificate which shall be appended to the corresponding protocol of vote returns. This certificate shall indicate the surnames and the initials of the members of the precinct commission who ensured the voting outside the polling station using this mobile ballot box. The number of ballots thus invalidated shall be announced, entered in the said certificate, and then summed up with the number of invalid ballots identified during sorting out of the ballots. On the face of each of these ballots in the boxes located to the right of the data about the candidates who stand for election, lists of candidates, in the boxes against the options "Yes" and "No" ("Pro" and "Contra"), a note shall be made about the reason for invalidating the ballot, that shall be endorsed by signatures of two voting members of the precinct commission and certified by the precinct commission's seal, and when votes are to be counted, such ballots shall be packed separately, sealed and disregarded in vote counting.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

13. Stationary ballot boxes shall be opened after the integrity of their seals is verified.

14. Members of a precinct commission shall sort out ballots taken out of mobile and stationary ballot boxes according to the votes cast in favor of each candidate (each list of candidates), and according to the votes cast against all candidates (all lists of candidates), according to the votes cast for options "Yes" and "No" ("Pro" and "Contra") contained in a referendum ballot, putting apart non-standard and invalid ballots. While sorting out the ballots, voting members of the precinct commission shall read out the words written by the voter, referendum participant thereon and show ballots for examination to all persons present at the vote counting. The words written on two and more ballots shall not be read out simultaneously.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

15. At an election in a multi-mandate electoral district and when a voter has more than one vote, ballots cast for each of the candidates shall not be sorted out. The words written by a voter on each ballot shall be read out and the ballot shall be shown for examination to all persons present at the vote counting. The words written on two and more ballots shall not be read out simultaneously. After it is announced, the data contained in the ballot shall be entered in a special table indicating the surnames of all the candidates included into the ballot, and shall be summed up.

16. If the number of voters, referendum participants who voted early at the premises of a territorial commission, district election commission, municipality election commission, and a precinct commission exceeds one percent of the number of voters, referendum participants included in the list of voters, referendum participants in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct (but is not less than ten voters, referendum participants), the precinct commission, at the request of any member of the commission, any observer shall perform a separate vote counting by ballots the reverse sides of which are marked with a seal of the precinct commission in accordance with Section 8, Article 65 of this Federal Law. The results of such counting shall be indicated in a certificate that shall be appended to the protocol of vote returns. In these cases, such ballots shall be packed separately and sealed.

(Section 16 in the version of Federal Law of May 31, 2010, # 112-FZ)

17. Invalid ballots shall be counted and summed up separately. Ballots shall be invalid if they do not contain any marks in the boxes to the right of the corresponding registered candidates, names of electoral associations, in the boxes opposite to the options "Yes" and "No" ("Pro" and "Contra"), or if the number of marks made on the ballot exceeds the number of marks established by law. If any doubts arise with regard to the expression of the will of a voter, referendum participant, the ballot shall be put apart in a separate bundle. After the ballots are sorted out, the commission shall decide the question of the validity of each doubtful ballot by voting and a note explaining the reasons why the ballot was pronounced valid or invalid shall be made on the back of the ballot. This note shall be certified by signatures of not less than two voting members of the commission and endorsed with the commission's seal. The ballot pronounced valid or invalid shall be put in the corresponding bundle of ballots. The total number of invalid ballots (including the ballots declared invalid in accordance with Section 12 of this article and Section 9, Article 65 of this Federal Law) shall be entered in line 10 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged form.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ, of May 31, 2010, # 112-FZ)

18. After that the sorted out standard ballots shall be counted separately in each bundle, by each candidate, list of candidates, the options "Yes" and "No" ("Pro" and "Contra"). Ballots shall be counted by moving them from one part of the bundle to the other part so that the persons present at the vote counting could see the mark made by the voter on each ballot. Ballots from different bundles shall not be counted simultaneously. The information so obtained shall be entered in line 12 and the following lines of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged form.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

19. Voting members of the precinct commission shall count the number of valid ballots and enter it in line 11 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged form.

20. Voting members of the precinct commission shall count the number of standard ballots contained in the stationary ballot boxes announce and enter it in line 9 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged form.

21. After that observers, may examine the sorted out ballots under the supervision of voting members of a precinct election commission, and non-voting members of the commission may make sure that the counting was carried out correctly.

22. After precinct commission voting members and observers examine the sorted ballots, the control correlations for data entered in the vote returns protocol shall be verified: If the said control correlation is not met, the precinct commission shall decide on additional counting of data entered into all or separate lines of the vote returns protocol. If as a result of additional counting the said control correlation is not met yet again, the precinct commission shall draw up the respective certificate to be annexed to the vote return protocol, and shall enter the data on the deviation in the lines 11g and 11h of the vote returns protocol. If the additional counting implies alterations to the vote return protocol, a new protocol blank form shall be filled in, and respective alterations shall be entered into its enlarged form. If the said control correlation is met, the digit "0" shall be indicated in the line 11g and h.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of October 10, 2010, # 263-FZ)

23. After the counting has been completed the ballots shall be packed in separate bundles. The ballots thus bundled shall be packed in bags or boxes, on which the number of the electoral precinct, referendum precinct and the number of ballots shall be marked. The bags or boxes shall be sealed and may be opened only by a decision of the higher election commission or a court. Both voting members and non-voting members of the precinct commission shall be entitled to put their signatures on the said bags or boxes. The packaging shall be performed in the presence of persons specified in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law who shall be enabled to put their signatures on these bags or boxes.

24. If technological equipment is used for vote counting, the following shall be done in the presence of voting members of a precinct commission, observers, other persons specified in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law after the work with the list of voters, referendum participants is completed:

a) if for any reason the voting at the polling station was temporarily conducted without the use of the technological vote counting equipment, the precinct commission shall verify the integrity of the seals on the special compartment of this technological vote counting equipment or on a backup stationary ballot box, open

this box, and drop all the ballots contained therein into the technological vote counting equipment so as to avoid violation of the secrecy of voting;

b) the precinct commission shall count the ballots contained in mobile ballot boxes in accordance with the procedure specified in Section 12 of this article, all the ballots shall be taken out of the mobile ballot boxes to be dropped into the technological vote counting equipment switched to the vote counting mode, the ballots shall be dropped so as to avoid violation of the secrecy of voting;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

c) the precinct commission shall enter into the technological vote counting equipment the data obtained at the stage of working with the list of voters, i.e. the data entered in lines 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11a, 11b, 11c, 11d of the enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns;

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of October 10, 2010, # 263-FZ)

d) the precinct commission shall print out the protocol of vote returns from the technological vote counting equipment, announce and enter the respective data in lines 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and the following lines of the enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns;

e) the precinct commission shall check the control relationships of the data entered in the protocol of vote returns. If these control relationships are not complied with, the precinct commission shall make a decision on additional counting with respect to all or some lines of the protocol of vote returns, including a decision on additional manual counting of the ballots. If as a result of such additional counting the control relationships are still not complied with, the precinct commission shall take a decision to this effect, which shall be appended to the protocol of vote returns, and enter the information about the discrepancy into the lines 11g and 11h of the protocol of vote returns;

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of October 10, 2010, # 263-FZ)

f) in the circumstances referred to in Section 16 of this article, the precinct commission shall sort out the ballots by separating the ballots of early voters that were taken out of envelopes that bear the seal of the precinct commission on their back. A separate vote counting by the said ballots shall be performed manually or by means of the technological vote counting equipment. The results of this counting shall be indicated by the precinct commission in a certificate that shall be appended to the protocol of vote returns.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of May 31, 2010, # 112-FZ)

25. A precinct commission shall consider complaints (statements), received on voting day before the end of counting of votes cast by voters, referendum participants from persons who were present at vote counting, and take appropriate decisions that shall be appended to the first copy of the precinct commission's protocol of vote returns. If there are justified complaints (statements) submitted by persons who were present at vote counting, the precinct commission that used the technological vote counting equipment shall be entitled to make a decision to immediately recount the votes without the use of such equipment (about manual counting). If the difference between the two counts is more than one percent (obtained by dividing the greater number by the smaller) but not less than three units in at least one of the following lines: 10, 11, 12 and the subsequent lines of the precinct commission's protocol of vote returns, the protocol of vote returns shall be compiled on the basis of the results of the manual counting. If no such difference is found, the protocol compiled on the basis of results obtained with the use of the technological vote counting equipment shall be signed, and a certificate confirming the compliance of the recount results with the initial results shall be drawn up and forwarded to the higher commission together with the protocol of vote returns of the precinct commission.

26. After all required actions and counts have been accomplished, a precinct commission shall hold a mandatory final meeting to consider any complaints (statements) about violations during the voting and counting of votes cast by voters, referendum participants, after which the precinct commission's protocol of vote returns shall be signed, copies of which shall be issued to the persons indicated in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. The protocol of vote returns shall be completed in two original copies and signed by all present voting members of the precinct commission, and shall indicate the date and time (the hour and the minute) when it was signed. The protocol of vote returns compiled on the basis of the results obtained with the use of the technological vote counting equipment shall come into legal force after the said signing. The protocols of vote returns shall not be completed in pencil and no alterations shall be made therein. Signing of such protocol in violation of these rules may constitute a reason for invalidation of such protocol and for a vote recount.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

27. If some voting members of a precinct commission are absent when a protocol of vote returns is being prepared, a note to this effect shall be made in the protocol indicating the reason for their absence. The protocol shall be valid if it is signed by the majority of the established number of voting members of the given precinct commission. If, when the protocol of vote returns is being signed, any commission member or any other person put his signature for at least one voting member of the precinct commission this shall constitute a reason for invalidation of such protocol and for a vote recount.

28. When a protocol of vote returns is being signed voting members of a precinct election commission who dissent from the contents of the protocols may attach their dissenting opinion to the protocol and this fact shall be noted in the protocols.

29. At the request of any member of a precinct commission, an observer, other persons indicated in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law, immediately after signing the protocols of vote returns (including the re-drafted protocol) the precinct commission shall issue a copy of the protocol of vote returns to these persons. The issuance of such copy shall be recorded by the precinct commission in a special register. The person who receives a copy shall sign for its receipt in the register. The responsibility for completeness and accuracy of the data contained in a copy of the protocol of vote returns shall be borne by the person who certified such copy.

(Section 29 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

30. The first original copy of the protocol of vote returns of a precinct commission, after it was signed by all present voting members of the precinct commission and their copies were issued to or certified for all persons entitled to receive them, shall be, without delay, forwarded to the higher commission and shall not be returned to the precinct election commission. Attached to the first original copy of the protocol shall be dissenting opinions of voting members of the precinct commission; the complaints (statements) about violations of the law governing the election, the referendum, received by the election commission on voting day and before the end of vote counting; the decisions taken by the precinct election commission in connection with these complaints (statements); certificates and registries drawn up by the precinct commission. Certified copies of the said documents and decisions shall be attached to the second copy of the vote return protocol. The first original copy of the protocol of vote returns with the attached documents shall be delivered to the higher commission by the chairman or the secretary of the precinct election commission or some other voting member of the precinct election commission upon instruction of its chairman. Such delivery of the protocol may be witnessed by other members of the precinct election commission and by observers sent to the given precinct election commission.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

31. The second original copy of the protocol of vote returns shall be provided for inspection to observers, other persons specified in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law, and a certified copy thereof shall be displayed to the general public at a place designated by the precinct commission, after which the second original copy of the protocol of vote returns, together with the electoral documentation, referendum documentation required by law, including the ballots and the seal of the precinct commission, shall be submitted to the higher commission for safekeeping.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

32. Precinct commissions shall, by the decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or on its instruction on the basis of the decision of the relevant election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation at elections, referendums, use technological vote counting equipment instead of stationary ballot boxes, and if several elections of different levels are combined, the use of such technological vote counting equipment for vote counting at all elections of all levels shall be mandatory. A list of electoral precincts, referendum precincts in which technological vote counting equipment is to be used shall be made up by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or, on its instruction, by the relevant election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

If a precinct commission uses the technological vote counting equipment, votes shall be counted in accordance with the provisions of Section 24 of this article. It may be established by law or by a decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, if such law does not exist, that at not less than 5 percent of electoral precincts, referendum precincts (but at least three electoral precincts, referendum precincts) to be

determined by lot drawing within the territory of operation of one territorial commission the votes cast by voters, referendum participants shall be subject to control recount to be carried out by voting members of precinct commissions (manual vote counting). Such lot drawing shall be performed by the higher commission within half an hour after the end of the voting time, and the results of the lot drawing shall be immediately communicated to each relevant precinct commission. At combined elections and/or referenda of different levels, the control vote recount procedure shall be determined by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or by the relevant election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, depending on the level of the election, referendum.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

All persons present at a polling station in the electoral precinct, referendum precinct where the technological vote counting equipment was used shall be informed about the possibility of a control (manual) vote recount. Manual vote counting shall be carried out in the presence of observers, other persons listed in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. In electoral precincts, referendum precincts determined by lot drawing, the manual vote counting shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure established by Sections 8-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23 of this article. As a result of such manual vote counting, either a new protocol of vote returns shall be compiled (if a difference of more than one percent (obtained by dividing the manual counting data and the data obtained by technological vote counting equipment, by the larger number of votes), but not less than three units, is found between the results of the manual vote counting and the results of the counting with the use of the technological vote counting equipment), in relation to even one of the following lines: 10, 11, 12 and the consequent numbers of the protocol of vote returns of the precinct commission, on which a mark "Recount" shall be made and which, together with the initial protocol of vote returns of the precinct commission shall be sent to the higher commission, or a certificate shall be compiled to indicate the fact of no difference between the data obtained as a result of the vote re-count with the initial data, and such certificate shall, together with the protocol of vote returns of the precinct commission, be sent to the higher commission. The chairman of the precinct commission of an electoral precinct, referendum precinct that was determined by lot-drawing for control (manual) vote recount shall, immediately after the results of such control (manual) vote recount are determined, inform the higher commission of the obtained results.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

The higher commission that determined by lot-drawing the electoral precincts, referendum precincts subject to the control (manual) vote recount shall, without delay after the information about the results of the control (manual) vote recount is received from the chairmen of precinct commissions of the said electoral precincts, referendum precincts, make a relevant decision and a decision about conducting the control (manual) vote recount in all electoral precincts, referendum precincts where a manual vote count was not conducted and which are located on the relevant territory, if as a result of control (manual) vote recount a new protocol of vote returns was compiled due to a difference, in lines 10, 11, 12 and the consequent lines of the protocol, between the data obtained with the use of the technological vote counting equipment and the data of the manual vote count in at least one electoral precinct, referendum precinct determined by the lot-drawing.

Precinct commissions of electoral precincts, referendum precincts at which the technological vote counting equipment was used shall, after the vote returns are determined through the manual vote count and a new protocol of vote returns or certificates stating coincidence of the data is signed in the procedure set forth in Section 30 of this article, send the protocols to the higher commission.

33. If the technological vote counting equipment is used, data of vote counting shall not be disclosed before the end of voting at the electoral precinct, referendum precinct, save the data on the total number of votes cast by voters, referendum participants.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

34. The data of the protocol of vote returns, including the data obtained with the use of the technological vote counting equipment, shall be transmitted to the higher commission through telecommunication lines (with the exception of voice telecommunication lines) of the state automated information system "Vybery" or another telecommunication information system, and the first original copy of the protocol of vote returns and all electoral documentation, referendum documentation, including the ballots, shall, at first opportunity, be submitted to the higher commission either directly or through diplomatic or consular missions of the Russian Federation or in any other way that ensures safekeeping of electoral documentation, referendum documentation and its delivery to the destination. It may be established by the federal law that, with the exception of the first

original copy of the protocol of vote returns that must be submitted to the higher commission, all electoral documentation, referendum documentation of electoral precincts, referendum precincts established outside the territory of the Russian Federation, including the ballots, be kept at the premises of diplomatic and consular missions of the Russian Federation upon coordination with their heads.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

35. The procedure for using the technological vote counting equipment, telecommunication information systems, the procedure and time of transmission, processing and use of information related to an election, referendum, including the data from protocols of vote returns transmitted in electronic form over telecommunication channels, shall be regulated by the federal law, and by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation to the extent such procedure is not covered by the federal law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

36. At elections for state bodies and local self-governing bodies of municipal and urban districts, as well as at referendum in Russian Federation subject, local referendum in municipal or urban district, the data of vote return protocols of precinct commissions shall be placed on the Internet in manner as established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

(Section 36 introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, in the version of Federal Law of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ)

Article 69. Processing of Vote Returns by Territorial Commissions, District Election Commissions, Election Commissions of Municipalities, Election Commissions of Subjects of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

1. First original copies of protocol of vote returns of precinct commissions, territorial commissions, district election commissions, municipality election commissions, election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation shall, immediately after they are signed by voting members of the commission and their certified copies and certified copies of the summary tables are issued to persons entitled to receive such copies or have such copies certified, be submitted to the higher commission for summing up of the data contained in the said protocols and consequent transfer of this data to the commission that determines the vote returns for the entire territory in which the election, the referendum was held and that establishes the results of the relevant election, referendum, including the commission organizing this election, referendum.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. On the basis of the data of the protocol of vote returns, and after a preliminary verification of their correct execution, the higher commission shall determine the vote returns for the relevant territory, district, subject of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation by summing up the data contained therein. The decision of the commission on the vote returns shall be formalized by a vote return protocol.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

The receipt of protocols from lower commissions, summing up of the data from these protocols, and compilation of a protocol of vote returns for the relevant territory shall be performed at the same premises, and all actions by the commission related to the receipt of protocols from lower commissions, summing up of the data from these protocols, and compilation of the protocol of vote returns shall be within the fields of vision of the commission's members and observers, other persons indicated in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. At the said premises there shall be an enlarged form of the summary table for the relevant territory into which the data from this protocol shall be entered and the time of the entering be indicated, immediately after the arrival of the chairman, secretary or another voting member of a lower commission with the first original copy of the protocol of vote returns.

The chairman, secretary or another voting member of a lower commission shall submit the first original copy of the protocol of vote returns and the documents appended thereto to a voting member of the higher commission who shall check the correctness of the protocol's execution, the completeness of the appended documents and the matching of the control correlations.

If a protocol and/or summary table of a lower commission were compiled in violation of the requirements established by law for the compilation of a protocol and a summary table, the said commission shall compile a

new protocol and/or summary table in accordance with the requirements of Section 8 of this article, and the initially submitted protocol and/or summary table shall be retained by the higher commission.

If a protocol and/or summary table of a lower commission were compiled in compliance with the requirements established by law for the compilation of a protocol and a summary table, a voting member of the higher commission shall enter the data from this protocol into the summary table of the higher commission. The chairman, secretary or another voting member of a lower commission that submitted the protocol of vote returns to the member of the higher commission shall put his signature in the enlarged form of the summary table under the data of the protocol of vote returns of the relevant commission.

The summing up of the data contained in protocols of vote returns of lower commissions shall be carried out by voting members of the higher commission in person.

3. On the basis of the data of the protocols of lower commissions, the higher commission shall compile a summary table and a protocol of vote returns (on the results of the election, referendum), whereinto data shall be entered about the number of lower commissions in the respective territory, in the district, the subject of the Russian Federation, in the Russian Federation, the number of received protocols of lower commissions on the basis of which the said protocol was compiled, and the data summarized by lines of the protocol of vote returns of the precinct commission set forth by Section 2, Article 67 of this Federal Law. The vote return protocol (on election, referendum vote returns) shall also be completed with data on the number of absentee certificates issued to lower commissions, the number of unused absentee certificates cancelled by the respective commission, and the number of absentee certificates lost by the respective commission. The summary tables on vote returns (results of elections, referendum) as compiled by the commission (except for the commission directly higher to the precinct commission) shall also be completed with the data from the lower commission's protocol on the number of absentee certificates issued to lower commissions, the number of unused absentee certificates cancelled by the respective commission, and the number of absentee certificates lost by the respective commission. To sign its protocol, the commission shall hold a mandatory final meeting at which any complaints (statements) received by the commission and related to the conduct of voting, vote counting, and execution of lower commissions' protocols shall be considered. After this, the commission shall sign a protocol of vote returns (of the results of the election, referendum) and issue copies of this protocol to persons referred to in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. The protocol of vote returns (of the results of the election, referendum) shall be compiled in two original copies and signed by all present voting members of the commission, and indicate the date and time (hour, minute) of its signing. Signing of a protocol in violation of this procedure shall constitute grounds for invalidating this protocol.

(in the version of Federal Laws of October 04, 2010, # 263-FZ, of July 25, 2011, # 262-FZ)

4. The protocols of vote returns of the commissions referred to in Section 1 of this article shall be appended with a summary table of vote returns, compiled in two original copies, for the relevant territory, district, subject of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation, which shall include full data from all protocols of vote returns received by the relevant commission. A voting member of the commission who dissents from a whole protocol or any part thereof may attach his dissenting opinion to the protocol and this fact shall be noted in the protocol.

5. The first original copy of the protocol shall be appended with dissenting opinions of members of the commission that compiled the protocol and any complaints (statements) against violations of this Federal Law, another law received by the commission in the period beginning on voting day and ending on the day of compilation of the relevant protocol of vote returns, as well as decisions made with regard to such complaints (statements).

6. The second original copy of the protocol of vote returns, together with the second original copy of the summary table of vote returns, lists of non-voting members of the commission that compiled the protocol, observers, other persons referred to in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law who were present at the determination of vote returns and at the preparation of the relevant protocols, as well as the other documents provided for by this Federal Law shall be kept by the secretary of the said commission and stored in a guarded room.

7. The second original copy of the protocol of vote returns together with the second original copy of the summary table of vote returns shall be provided for inspection and copying by members of the commission that compiled the protocol, observers, other persons referred to in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law, and a certified copy of the protocol shall be displayed to the general public.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

8. If after the protocol of vote returns and/or summary table of vote returns were signed and their first original copies were sent to the higher commission, the commission that sent the protocol and the summary table, or a higher commission discover, in the course of a preliminary inspection finds an inaccuracy (including a slip of the pen, misprint, error in the summation of the data of protocols of territorial election commissions), the commission that sent the protocol and the summary table shall be entitled to consider, at its meeting, the question of making corrections in the lines 1-11 (if the law provides for absentee voting – in the lines 11a-11e), 11g and 11h of the protocol and/or in the summary table. The commission's decision shall be made known to its non-voting members, observers and other persons who were present at the preparation of the previously approved protocol, and representatives of the mass media. In such case, the commission shall compile a protocol of vote returns and/or a vote returns summary table marked with the word "Repeat." The said protocol and/or summary table shall be promptly sent to the higher commission. The violation of the above procedure of preparation of a repeat protocol and repeat summary table shall constitute grounds for invalidating this protocol. In case if alterations are required to the line 12 and subsequent lines of the vote returns protocol, the votes shall be recounted in manner as established by Section 9 of this Article.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of October 10, 2010, # 263-FZ)

9. If any mistakes, discrepancies are discovered in protocols of vote returns and/or summary tables of vote returns, if any doubts arise about the correctness of the compilation of the protocols and/or summary tables received from a lower commission, the higher commission shall be entitled, not later than one day before the expiration of the period for determining the results of the election, referendum established by law, to take a decision to conduct a recount the votes cast by voters, referendum participants by the lower commission or a recount of the votes cast by voters, referendum participants by this higher commission itself for the relevant electoral precinct, referendum precinct, the relevant territory. A recount of votes cast by voters, referendum participants shall be conducted in the presence of voting member (members) of the higher commission by the commission that compiled and approved the protocol that is subject to the verification or the commission that made the decision to recount the votes cast by voters, referendum participants, and non-voting members of the relevant commission, observers, candidates, other persons indicated in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law who are entitled to attend a recount of votes cast by voters, referendum participants shall receive mandatory notification of such recount. On the basis of the results of the recount of votes cast by voters, referendum participants, the commission that conducted such recount shall compile a protocol of vote returns marked with the words "Vote recount." Its certified copies shall be issued to observers, other persons indicated in Section 3, Article 30 of this Federal Law. The protocol shall be sent to the higher commission forthwith. The said recount may be carried out until the higher commission determines the vote returns, election results in election, referendum, and compiles a protocol of vote returns, election results, referendum.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Article 70. Procedure for Determination of the Results of Elections, Referendums

1. On the basis of the first original copies of the protocol of vote returns received from lower commissions, a commission duly authorized by law shall establish the results of the election, referendum by summing the data contained in such protocols. Voting members of such commission shall establish the results of the election, referendum in person. The results of the election, referendum shall be indicated in a protocol and a summary table that shall be compiled in two original copies each and signed by all present voting members of this commission. Based on the protocol of vote returns, referendum returns, the commission shall decide on the results of election, referendum.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. An election shall be declared by the relevant election commission not to have taken place if:

- a) became invalid. – Federal Law No.225-FZ dated December 05, 2006;
- b) as per Section 35 of Article 38 of this Federal Law, the voting was held with one candidacy and less than 50 per cent of the voters participating at the election have voted for the respective candidate;

(sub-section "b" as worded by Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

c) less than two lists of candidates, in voting for lists of candidates, received in accordance with law the right to be included in the distribution of deputy seats;

d) in the voting for lists of candidates the lists of candidates who received in accordance with the law the right to be included in the distribution of deputy seats, gained together 50 percent or less than 50 percent of the votes cast by the voters participating at the election in a single electoral district. The said percentage may be increased by virtue of law;

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

e) all candidates were removed as a result of a repeat voting;

f) as well as in the case referred to in the third paragraph, Section 1, Article 71 of this Federal Law.

No any additional grounds for declaring an election not to have taken place shall be established by law.

21. The number of voters, referendum participants taking part at the voting shall be determined by the number of ballots of established form found in the ballot boxes. The number of referendum participants taking part at a referendum shall be determined by the number of signatures of referendum participants in the list of referendum participants who voted in the polling station on the voting day, and by the number of remarks in the list of referendum participants on the fact that a referendum participant has voted outside the polling station or has voted early.

(Section 21 introduced by Federal Law No.225-FZ of December 05, 2006)

3. Became invalid. - Federal Law No.225-FZ of December 05, 2006

4. A law, save the case stated in Section 5 of this article and Section 1, Article 71 of this Federal Law, shall not contain any provisions that allow a possibility to declare a candidate who gained the largest number of votes as not elected if the election was declared as valid and having taken place.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

41. Each list of candidates admitted as per the law to allocation of deputy seats must receive no less than one deputy seat.

(Section 41 introduced by Federal Law of April 22, 2010, # 63-FZ)

5. In case if after the vote returns are counted for multi-mandate electoral districts, all mandates are taken, reelections shall be called for non-taken mandates.

(Section 5 in the version of Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

6. The relevant election commission shall, upon vote returns counting, notify the registered candidate elected as deputy thereon, after which the latter shall be obliged, within five days, to submit to the relevant election commission a copy of the order (instruction) relieving him from the duties incompatible with the status of a deputy, elective official, or copies of documents certifying that, within three days, he filed an application to be relieved from such duties.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 25, 2011, # 263-FZ)

61. In case if the registered candidate elected as deputy for single-mandate (multi-mandate) electoral district either as elective officer fails to meet the requirement provided by Section 6 of this Article, the respective election commission shall cancel its decision to recognize such candidate as elected

(Section 61 introduced by Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 263-FZ)

62. In case if the registered candidate elected as deputy within a list of candidates fails to meet the requirement provided by Section 6 of this Article, his deputy seat shall be transmitted to another registered candidate in manner as provided by law.

(Section 62 introduced by Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 263-FZ)

7. It may be provided for by law that, if a candidate without compelling circumstances did not resign any powers that are incompatible with the status of a deputy, elective official, as a result of which a repeat election was called, this deputy must reimburse, in full or in part, the relevant election commission for its costs related to the conduct of the repeat election. Such law shall also contain a list of circumstances under which such reimbursement shall not be made.

8. A referendum shall be declared not to have taken place by the relevant referendum commission if no more than half of the referendum participants included in referendum participant lists took part in it in the territory where the referendum is conducted. The relevant referendum commission shall declare that a decision has not been adopted at a referendum if no more than half of the referendum participants who took part in voting at the referendum voted for this decision. No other grounds for declaring a referendum not to have taken place shall be established by the law of a subject of the Russian Federation.

9. The relevant commission shall declare vote returns, results of an election, a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum invalid:

a) if violations committed when voting was conducted or vote returns were determined do not make it possible to determine reliably the results of the expression of the will of the voters, referendum participants;

b) if they were declared invalid in some electoral precincts, referendum precincts where at the time of the end of voting the lists of voters, referendum participants aggregately contain not less than one fourth of the total number of voters, referendum participants included in the lists of voters, referendum participants at the time of the end of voting in the relevant electoral district, referendum district;

c) in accordance with a court decision.

10. Documentation of commissions of all levels, including signature sheets with signatures of voters, referendum participants, ballots, absentee certificates and lists of voters, referendum participants shall be stored for the periods established by law. Such periods established for safekeeping of signature sheets with signatures of voters, referendum participants, ballots, absentee certificates and lists of voters, referendum participants shall not be shorter than one year from the day of the publication of vote returns and the results of an election, referendum. The period for safekeeping of protocol of vote returns may not be shorter than the period for safekeeping of lists of voters, referendum participants. Established periods for safekeeping of protocols of vote returns and summary tables of vote returns of election commissions may not be shorter than one year from the day on which the next election of the same level is announced, and those of referendum commissions, shorter than five years from the day of publication of the vote returns. If any appeals against a commission's decision on vote returns, the results of an election, a referendum are considered by a court, or any criminal action is initiated in relation to violation of electoral rights, the right to participate in a referendum enjoyed by citizens of the Russian Federation, the periods for safekeeping of the relevant electoral documentation, referendum documentation shall be extended until the court decision becomes effective (the case is dropped in accordance with the law). The responsibility for safekeeping of electoral documentation, referendum documentation shall be vested on the chairman (deputy chairman) and the secretary of the relevant commission until the documents are submitted to the higher commission or transferred to an archive.

(in the version of the Federal Law of October 04, 2010, # 263-FZ)

11. The procedure for safekeeping, transfer to an archive, and destruction of electoral documentation, referendum documentation shall be approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation with the concurrence of the relevant state archive authorities.

Article 71. Repeat Voting and Repeat Elections. By-Elections. Taking of Vacant Deputy Seats, Exclusion of Registered Candidates in Lists of Candidates Admitted to Deputy Seats Allocation out of Lists of Candidates Allocated Deputy Seats in Compliance with the Legislation of the Russian Federation

(in the version of the Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 263-FZ)

1. It may be established by law that if more than two candidates were included in the ballot and none of them received the number of votes required to be elected, the election commission organizing the election shall call a repeat voting of two or more candidates who received the largest number of votes. The organization and conduct of a repeat voting, including the order in which information about the candidates on whom repeat voting is to be conducted is arranged on the ballot shall be carried in accordance with law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Paragraph became invalid - Federal Law of December 11, 2004, # 159-FZ

If a repeat voting is provided for by law, and the ballot of the main election contained two candidates and neither of them has received the number of votes required to be elected, the relevant election commission shall declare the election not to have taken place.

2. The candidate who received in the repeat voting the greater number of votes shall be considered elected in the repeat voting, as compared to the number of voters' votes obtained by another candidate.

(Section 2 in the version of Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

3. If a candidate on whom the repeat voting is to be conducted has withdrawn his candidature or otherwise has ceased to be a candidate before voting day, on the basis of a decision taken by the election commission that determines the results of the election his place shall be passed on to the next, by the number of received votes, candidate who previously took part in the said election. If all other candidates have ceased to be candidates, the repeat voting shall be conducted on the one remaining candidate. In this case, the candidate shall be considered elected if he received at least 50 percent of the votes cast. In case of withdrawal of all candidates, reelections shall be held.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. Became invalid. - Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ.

5. If an election was declared not to have taken place, invalid or if a candidate elected in a single-mandate or multi-mandate electoral district failed to resign his duties incompatible with the status of a deputy, and the candidate elected as elective official failed to resign his duties incompatible with the status of an elective official, as well as in the case provided by Section 5 of Article 70 of this Federal Law, then reelections shall be called by the body authorized to do so.

(Section 5 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

6. By-elections to the federal body of state power shall be held within the terms established by the federal law. If the regular elections to the legislative (representative) body of state power of a Russian Federation subject, the representative authority of municipality, or principal elections of elective official of local self-government were held on the second Sunday of March and based on the results thereof the legislative (representative) body of state power of a Russian Federation subject or the representative authority of municipality was not formed in lawful composition or if the elective official of local self-government was not elected, the by-elections shall be held on the second Sunday of October in the year when the principal elections were respectively held to the said bodies, the principal elections of elective official of local self-government, and in the year of election of deputies to the State Duma of Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of regular session – on the day of voting in such election. If the principal elections were appointed in connection with early termination of the powers of the said body, or of the deputies of the said body, or of the elective official of local self-government, the by-elections shall be held no later than in four months from the day when justification for the by-election is found. In the other cases the by-elections shall be held on the second Sunday of March or on the second Sunday of October, and in the year of election of deputies to the State Duma of Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of regular session – on the day of voting in such election, but no later than in one year from the day when justification for the by-election is found. As by-elections are held, the terms of election actions may be reduced by a third by decision of the body authorized by law to do so. The decision on the calling of by-elections shall be officially published no later than three days from the day when such decision was taken.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, No.225-FZ dated December 05, 2006)

7. If a repeat election is called, the election commission organizing the election shall issue orders to either extend the term of powers of the precinct election commissions or form precinct election commissions with new members.

(Section 7 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

8. If powers of a deputy elected in a single-mandate electoral district are terminated earlier, a by-election shall be called in the electoral district by the body authorized to do so by law. The by-elections shall be held on the

second Sunday of March. If the said elections (including subject to the terms as provided for by Section 7 of Article 10 of this Federal Law) may not be appointed for the second Sunday of March, they shall be appointed for the second Sunday of October, and in the year of election of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of regular session, they shall be appointed for the day of voting in such election. If powers of deputies causes the composition of the legislative (representative) body of state power of a Russian Federation subject, body of local self-government is such that it is not competent to exercise its powers, by-elections shall be held no later than in four months from the day of such early termination of powers, with the terms of election activities may be reduced by a third by decision of the body authorized by law to appoint by-elections.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of December 05, 2006, # 225-FZ)

9. If powers of a deputy elected in a multi-seat electoral district are terminated earlier, a by-election shall be called and conducted in the procedure specified in Section 8 of this article, if less than two thirds of deputy seats in the district are occupied. Other reasons for holding a by-election in a multi-seat electoral district to replace a deputy whose powers have been terminated may be established by law.

10. A repeat and/or by-election shall be called or conducted if, as a result of this election, a deputy cannot be elected for a term exceeding one year.

11. Became invalid. - Federal Law of December 05, 2006, # 225-FZ.

12. If as a result of early termination of deputy powers the composition of the legislative (representative) body of state power of Russian Federation subject or the representative body of municipality becomes such that it is not competent to exercise its powers, while as per Section 10 of this Article no by-elections are provided for, a new regular election shall be called to be held within the terms established by Section 4 of Article 10 of this Federal Law.

(Section 12 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

13. No procedure may be established by law providing for that, if a decision to register a deputy elected in a single-seat or multi-seat electoral district, an elective official is cancelled, or if powers of such deputy or elective official are terminated before the expiration of his term, the election commission shall take a decision to register the candidate who received the next greatest number of votes as such deputy, elective official.

14. In case of early termination of powers of deputy elected within a candidate list, the transmission of vacant deputy seat shall be carried out by the election commission organizing the elections in manner as provided for by law. The deputy seat may not be transmitted to a registered candidate who has formerly received a deputy seat and whose powers were also terminated early, if his vacant deputy seat is not replaced.

(Section 14 implemented by Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 263-FZ)

15. The law may stipulate that in case of early termination of powers of a deputy elected within a candidate list, the corporate permanent governing body of a political party in whose list of candidates such deputy was elected or (in accordance with the elections level) the corporate permanent governing body of its regional division or any other structural subdivision (if provided by the statute of the political party) in whose list of candidates such deputy was elected, is entitled to nominate for replacement of vacant deputy seat the candidacy of a registered candidate from the same list of candidates. If, pursuant to the law, the list of candidates is separated into regional groups of candidates, a candidacy may be offered only from the number of candidates included in such regional group of candidates (in the part of list of candidates not pertaining to any regional group of candidates) that the deputy with early termination powers belongs to. In case if the respective regional group of candidates (in the part of list of candidates not pertaining to any regional group of candidates) contains only registered candidates replacing deputy seats and/or registered candidates not replacing deputy seats and having notified in written form respectively to the corporate permanent governing body of political party, its regional division or any other subdivision about his refusal to replace such vacant deputy mandate, the said body of political party, its regional division or any other subdivision shall be entitled to nominate the candidacy of other regional group of candidates (from the part of candidates list not pertaining to any regional group of candidates).

(Section 15 implemented by Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 263-FZ)

16. The candidacy of candidate registered for replacement, as per Section 15 of this Article, of a vacant deputy seat, may be nominated within 14 days from the time of making the decision on early termination of deputy

powers by the respective legislative (representative) body of state power (the respective chamber of this body), the representative authority of municipality. The nomination of candidacy shall be carried out in manner as provided for by the statute of political party. The respective election commission shall transmit the vacant deputy seat to the registered candidate nominated by the corporate permanent governing body of political party, its regional division or other subdivision.

(Section 16 implemented by Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 263-FZ)

17. The law may provide for the registered candidate included in the list of candidates being entitled to participate at the replacement (receipt) of deputy seats for no more than two times.

(Section 17 implemented by Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 263-FZ)

18. A registered candidate included in the list of candidates and admitted for deputy seat allocation or in the list of candidates to which deputy seats were allocated as per the legislation of the Russian Federation, shall be excluded from the said list in the following cases:

- a) submission by the registered candidate of written application requesting his exclusion from list of candidates;
- b) loss of passive voting right by the registered candidate;
- c) the registered candidate joining a political party other than the political party whose list of candidates he is included in;
- d) failure of the registered candidate to fulfill the requirement as provided by Section 6 of Article 70 of this Federal Law (unless the law provides for the registered candidate being entitled to participate at the replacement (receipt) of deputy seats for no more than two times);
- e) exercise by the registered candidate of the right to participate at the replacement (receipt) of deputy seats, including two times as per Section 17 of this Article (if the law provides for the registered candidate being entitled to participate at the replacement (receipt) of deputy seats for no more than two times);
- f) the registered candidate being declared missing or deceased on the basis of enforced decision of the court;
- g) demise of the registered candidate.

(Section 18 implemented by Federal Law of July 25, 2011, # 263-FZ)

Article 72. Publication of Vote Returns and Results of Election, Referendum

1. The vote returns for each electoral district, referendum district, the territory within the area of responsibility of the commission, referendum results within the scope of the data contained in its protocol of vote returns and protocol of vote returns of the commissions of the next lower level shall be made available by the commission for inspection to voters, referendum participants, candidates, authorized persons of candidates, electoral associations, electoral blocs, authorized representatives of the referendum initiative group, observers, foreign (international) observers, members of the press at their request.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. Election commissions that registered candidates (lists of candidates), referendum commissions that determine referendum results shall send the general data on the election results, referendum results to mass media within one day after the election results, referendum results are determined.

3. The general results of an election, a referendum, and information about the number of votes received by each candidate (list of candidates), votes cast against all candidates (lists of candidates), votes of referendum participants cast for the options "Yes" and "No" ("Pro" and "Contra") shall be officially published by the relevant commission in the procedure and at the time provided for by law but not later than one month after voting day.

(Section 3 in the version of Federal Law of July 12, 2006, # 107-FZ)

4. Commissions of all levels, with the exception of precinct commissions, shall publish (disclose) the data contained in the protocols of vote returns and protocols of the results of an election, a referendum of

commissions of the relevant levels and the data contained in the protocols of vote returns and protocols of the results of an election, a referendum of commissions of the next lower level on the basis of which the vote returns, the results of the election, the referendum were determined by the relevant commissions. The publication of the data listed above and contained in the protocols of election commissions that operated within the territory of the electoral district may be assigned by law to the relevant district election commission or to the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation. The complete data on the results of an election of federal bodies of state power, a referendum of the Russian Federation shall be officially published within three months after voting day. The complete data on the results of an election of bodies of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum shall be officially published within two months after voting day. Within three months after the day of the official publication of the complete data on the results of an election of bodies of state power, a referendum of the Russian Federation, a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, the data contained in the protocols of vote returns of all commissions and in protocols of election results, referendum results of all commissions shall be displayed in the public information/telecommunication network "Internet."

(in the version of Federal Law of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ)

Article 73. Legal Effect of Decision Adopted at Referendum

1. A decision adopted at a referendum shall be binding and shall not need any additional approval.
2. A decision adopted at a referendum of the Russian Federation shall have effect in the entire territory of the Russian Federation.
3. A decision adopted at a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation shall have effect on the territory of this subject of the Russian Federation.
4. A decision adopted at a local referendum shall have effect on the territory of the relevant municipality.
5. A decision adopted at a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum shall be registered, respectively, with the body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the body of local self-government in the procedure established for registration of regulatory legal acts of the respective level.
6. A decision adopted at a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum may be cancelled or changed by adopting a different decision at a referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum, respectively, but not earlier than two years after the initial decision was adopted, or if the initial decision was declared invalid (having no effect) by a court. If a regulatory act was adopted at a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum, such act may be modified in the procedure established by the said act. If such procedure is not established, modifications may be also introduced in the procedure provided for the introduction of modifications to a relevant regulatory act, but not earlier than five years after the relevant decision was adopted at the referendum.
7. A decision made at a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum may be cancelled by a court on the following grounds:

the procedure for conducting a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum established by this Federal Law, the law of a subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of a municipality has been violated, that made it impossible to establish the real will of referendum participants;

the law of a subject of the Russian Federation on the basis of which the referendum of the subject of the Russian Federation was conducted failed to comply with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the federal law effective at the time when the referendum was conducted, the law of a subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of a municipality on the basis of which the local referendum was conducted failed to comply with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the federal law, the law of a subject of the Russian Federation effective at the time when the referendum was conducted, that made it impossible to establish the real will of referendum participants;

the decision made at a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum fails to comply with the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the federal law, and for a local referendum with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation.

8. If the results of a referendum have been declared invalid, the commission organizing voting at a referendum shall call a repeat voting.

9. If to implement the decision made at a referendum an additional law, regulatory act is required, the federal body of state power, the body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, the body of local self-government within the competence of which such issue falls, shall determine the time term for the preparation and/or adoption of this law, regulatory act within 15 days from the day when the decision adopted at the referendum came into effect. The said time term shall not exceed three months.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

10. If after conducting a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation on a question that falls within joint competence of the Russian Federation and the subject of the Russian Federation, the federal law that governs this issue has become effective, the decision made at the referendum and not complying with this Federal Law shall not be applicable.

Article 74. Use of State Automated Information System “Vybory” at Election, Referendum

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

1. In the course of preparation and conduct of an election, referendum, and in order to exercise other powers of commissions in support of the electoral rights and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum, use shall be made only of the state automated information system “Vybory” in the procedure established by this Federal Law, other federal laws. The requirements to the state automated information system “Vybory” and to its operation and upgrading shall be established by the federal law, and to the extent such requirements are not covered by the federal law - by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. The input into the state automated information system “Vybory” of data contained in the protocols on vote returns, on election, referendum results as drafted by commissions shall be mandatory, save as for data on vote returns, on results of elections to the local self-government bodies of settlements, as well as of data on the vote returns and local referenda results in the said municipalities. The input into the state automated information system “Vybory” of data on vote returns, results of elections to the local self-government bodies of settlements, results of local referenda in the said municipalities may be carried out in the cases and in manner as determined by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

2. The staff composition of each election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall include, as its structural element, the information center of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, the functions of which shall include technical and information support of the activities of the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, automation of information processes implemented in the course of preparation and conduct of elections, referendums on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, operation and upgrading of that part of the state automated information system “Vybory” operating on the territory of this subject of the Russian Federation. Employees of the said information center shall arrange and perform work related to the operation and upgrading of the state automated information system “Vybory” within the entire territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, including territorial commissions, as well as (based on civil law agreements) in elective commissions of municipalities where more than one territorial commission was formed.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. When at an election, referendum of the relevant level the state automated information system “Vybory” (individual components thereof) is used in accordance with the law for, among other things, registration (accounting) of voters, referendum participants, preparation of lists of voters, referendum participants, counting of votes cast by voters, referendum participants, determination of vote returns and results of the election, referendum, the relevant commission shall established a group consisting of voting and non-voting members to exercise control over the use of the state automated information system “Vybory”(individual components thereof). All members of the commission, observers shall be entitled to get any information contained in the state automated information system “Vybory” for examination.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

4. From the commencement of voting and till the time when the protocol of vote returns (the protocol of results of the election, the referendum) is signed by the relevant commission, the state automated information system “Vybory” shall be used to watch the progress of voting and determination of the vote returns through transmitting the data from lower commissions to higher commissions, and individual technical components of the system shall be used to count votes cast by voters, referendum participants. The data on the progress of voting and determination of vote returns that is obtained through the state automated information system “Vybory” (individual components thereof) shall be regarded as preliminary and legally ineffective information unless otherwise provided by this Federal Law, another law.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

41. If after the input of precinct commission protocol data on the vote returns into the state automated information system “Vybory”, any inputted technical errors requiring adjustment, the data shall be entered to the state automated information system “Vybory” exclusively by motivated decision of the direct higher commission.

(section 41 implemented by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5. When the state automated information system “Vybory” (individual components thereof) is used at an election, a referendum, the data about participation of voters, referendum participants in the election, referendum, about interim and final vote returns shall be accessible in real time (in the read-only mode) to users of the public information/telecommunication network “Internet.” The procedure and the time of the provision of such data shall not contravene the requirements of the legislation governing elections and referendums.

(in the version of Federal Laws of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ, of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ)

Chapter X. ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO VIOLATIONS OF ELECTORAL RIGHTS
AND THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO PARTICIPATE IN A REFERENDUM AND THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATION
OF THE LEGISLATION GOVERNING ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS

Article 75. Appealing against decisions and actions (omissions) that violate electoral rights and the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum

1. Appeals against decisions and actions (omissions) of bodies of state power, of bodies of local self-government, public associations and officials, as well as against decisions and actions (omissions) of commissions and their officials that violate electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may be submitted to a court.

2. Appeals against decisions and actions (omissions) of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be submitted to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, appeals against decisions and actions (omissions) of the election commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation, district election commissions at elections of legislative (representative) bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation shall be submitted to the supreme courts of the republics, regional courts, courts of cities of federal significance, courts of autonomous regions and districts, appeals against actions or omissions of the other commissions shall be submitted to district courts.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. Court decisions shall be binding on the relevant commissions.

4. Appeals against decisions of commissions about vote returns, results of an election, referendum shall be submitted to courts of the relevant level in accordance with the jurisdictions set forth in Section 2 of this article. A court of the appropriate level shall consider resolution of the election commission organizing the election, the referendum as well as resolutions of lower commissions that participated in the conduct of the election,

referendum in accordance with the law, if violations committed by such commissions could affect the results of the election, referendum.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

5. In the circumstances established by this Federal Law, another law, a court may annul the decision of a relevant commission on registration of a candidate/ list of candidates, on the refusal to register the candidate/ list of candidates, on vote returns, results of an election, referendum or another decision of the commission.

(in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

6. Appeals against decisions and actions (omissions) of commissions and their officials that violated electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may be submitted to the commission of the next higher level which shall, without forwarding the appeal to the lower commission, with the exception of the case when the circumstances stated in the appeal were not considered by the lower commission, consider the appeal and make one of the following decisions:

a) leave the appeal without remedy;

b) cancel the disputed decision in full or in part (declare an action (omission) illegal) and make a decision on the substance;

c) cancel the disputed decision in full or in part (declare an action (omission) illegal) and demand the lower commission to reconsider the issue and make a decision on the substance (perform a certain action).

7. Appeals against decisions or actions (omissions) of the settlement election commission or an official thereof that violate electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may be submitted to the election commission of the municipality. Appeals against decisions or actions (omissions) of the election commission of the municipality, city district, intra-city territory of federal-significance city or the officials thereof that violate electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may be submitted to the election commission of the subject of the Russian Federation, and appeals against decisions or actions (omissions) of the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation or an official thereof that violate electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. The election commissions that review the appeals shall take a decision in accordance with Section 6 of this article.

(Section 7 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

8. A prior application to a higher commission, the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall not be a prerequisite for submitting an appeal in court.

9. If an appeal is accepted for consideration by a court, and the same person applies to the relevant commission with a similar appeal, this commission shall suspend consideration of the appeal until the court decision becomes effective. If the court makes a decision on the substance of the appeal, the commission shall terminate the consideration of the appeal.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

91. At the requests of the commissions, the court notifies of the complaints/grievances as to violation of election rights of citizens and rights of citizens to participate in the referendum, which were accepted for consideration, as well as of the resolutions taken on these complaints/ grievances.

(Section 91 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

10. Appeals against decisions and actions (omissions) that violate electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum may be submitted by voters, referendum participants, candidates, their agents, electoral associations, and their agents, other public associations, a referendum initiative group, its authorized representatives, observers, and commissions

(in the version of Federal Laws of June 7, 2004, # 46-FZ, of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

11. Courts and bodies of prosecution shall organize their work (including on days-off) so as to ensure timely consideration of appeals and grievances.

12. When the commission considers complaints/grievances and also in other cases when the commission considers the issue as to violation of election rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in the referendum, applicants and the persons whose actions/omissions are appealed to or are a subject of consideration are invited to the meeting of the commission.

(Section 12 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Article 76. Grounds for Annulment, of Registration of Candidates (List of Candidates), Cancellation of the Resolution of the Commission as to Registration of a Candidate (List of Candidates), Deletion of a Candidate from the List of Candidates, Cancellation of Registration of a Candidate (List of Candidates), Referendum Initiative Group

(in the version of Federal Law of December 5, 2006, # 225-FZ)

1. The decision of an election commission to register a candidate shall be annulled by the higher commission if the requirement of Section 19, Article 38 of this Federal Law is not complied with. In this case, all decisions to register a candidate shall be annulled with the exception of the first one.

2. Registration of a candidate (list of candidates) shall be annulled by a decision of the election commission which registered the candidate (list of candidates) on the basis of a statement of the candidate that he withdraws his candidature, decision of an electoral association, to recall a candidate (list of candidates), to be submitted to this election commission in accordance with Section 30, 31 and 32, Article 38 of this Federal Law, as well as in connection with the death of a candidate.

3. Registration of a candidate shall be annulled by the election commission that registered the candidate if the candidate is disfranchised of a passive electoral right.

4. Registration of a candidate (list of candidates) nominated by a political party, its regional office or another unit, shall be cancelled by the election commission that registered the candidate (the list of candidates) on the basis of the court judgment, which took legal effect, for suspension of operations or liquidation of the political party, its regional office, other unit, respectively. Registration of a candidate nominated by another public association shall be cancelled by the election commission that registered the candidate, on the basis of the resolution of the appropriate official or body as to suspension of operations of the public association (if this resolution was not appealed to or not recognized by the court as illegal) or in case of liquidation of the public association.

(in the version of Federal Law of April 5, 2009, # 42-FZ).

5. Registration of a list of candidates shall be annulled if the number of candidates, who were removed from the list of candidates on the basis of the statements of candidates about withdrawal of their candidatures, by a decision of an electoral association, to remove candidates from the list of candidates (save for the cases where candidates were removed owing to compelling circumstances) and on the grounds indicated in Section 26, Article 38 of this Federal Law, and Section 9 of this Article, exceeds 25 percent of the number of candidates in a certified list of candidates at the elections to federal bodies of state power or 50% from the candidates in the certified list of candidates at the elections to bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government.

6. Resolution of the election commission as to registration of a candidate (list of candidates), as to refusal to register a candidate (list of candidates) may be cancelled by a court, and a resolution of the election commission as to refusal to register the candidate (a list of candidates), also by the election commission in the manner envisaged in Article 75 of this Federal Law, at the application of the election commission that registered the candidate (list of candidates), of the candidate registered in the same election district, of the election association, the list of candidates of which is registered in the same election district, if it is established that the resolution was taken by the election commission in violation of the requirements envisaged in Sections 24 to 26, Article 38, of this Federal Law, other requirements envisaged in this Federal Law, other law.

7. Registration of a candidate may be cancelled by a court of law at the application of t registered candidate of the election commission, the candidate registered in t same election district, in the following cases:

a) new circumstances have come to light, which constitute a ground for refusal of registration in accordance with paragraphs a, b, f, h, j, l, m, and p, Section 24, Article 38 of this Federal Law. In this case, the new circumstances shall be the circumstances that existed at the time of making the decision as to registration of the candidate, but were not and could have not been known to the election commission that registered the candidate.

(in the version of Federal Law of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ)

b) in order to achieve a definite result at the election, a candidate have used financial resources other than those of their own electoral fund in an amount exceeding by more than 5 percent the maximum limit of all expenditures from an electoral fund established by law or in the event of exceeding by more than 5 percent of the maximum limit of all expenditures from an electoral fund established by law;

c) a candidate has repeatedly taken advantage of his/her office or official position;

d) actual bribing of voters by the candidate, his/her attorney, authorized representative on financial issues as well as another person or legal entity that act on their assignment was established

e) the candidate did not comply with the limitations envisaged in Section 1 or 11, Article 56, of this Federal Law

f) it was for many times that the candidate did not comply with the limitations envisaged in Section 52, Article 56, of this Federal Law.

g) establishment, with respect to the candidate, of the fact suggesting that, during the period of time indicated in paragraph 'd', Section 32, Article 4, of this Federal Law (but before acquiring of the status of candidate), this citizen, in his/her speeches at public events, in mass media or in materials distributed by him/her (including those posted information and telecommunications networks, access to which is not limited to a certain circle of persons, including the Internet), called to taking actions determined in Article 1 of Federal Law on Combatting Extremism as extremism, or otherwise instigated the audience to such actions, substantiated or justified extremism, or took steps aimed at exciting social, race, national or religions dissent, derogation of national dignity, propaganda of exclusivity, prevalence or inferiority of citizens by their attitude to religion, social, racial, national, religious or linguistic affiliation, or promoted and publicly displayed the Nazi attributes or symbols or attributes or symbols confusingly similar thereto and also establishment of such fact with respect to a candidate included into the registered list of candidates, during the said period of time (but before acquiring by the citizen of the candidate status), if the election association that nominated this list does not delete such candidate from the list in accordance with Section 11 of this Article.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ).

h) actual concealment by the candidate of information as to his/her conviction has been established.

8. Registration of the list of candidates may be cancelled by a court of law, at the request of the election commission that registered the list of candidates, the election association, the list of candidates of which was registered in the same election district, in the following cases:

a) new circumstances, which serve as reason for refusal to register the list of candidates, as envisaged in paragraph 'a', 'e', 'f', 'g', 'j' or 'l' of Section 25, Article 38, of this Federal Law. In this case, the new circumstances shall be the circumstances that existed at the time when the decision was made to register the list of candidates, but which were not and could have not been known to the election commission that registered the list of candidates;

(in the version of Federal Law of February 9, 2009, # 3-FZ)

b) use by the election association, to achieve any particular result at the elections, of money, in addition to its own election fund, if the sum of money exceeded 5% on the maximum spending of money from the election fund established by law, or the maximum spending of money of the election fund, as established by law, was exceeded by more than 5%;

c) the head of the election association has repeatedly taken advantage of his or her position;

d) establishment of actual bribing of voters by the election association, its attorney, authorized representative as well as any person or organization that acted on their behalf ;

e) the election association did not comply with the limitations envisaged in Section 1 or 11, Article 56, of this Federal Law, and the candidate included into the registered list of candidates did not comply with the limitations envisaged in Section 1, Article 56, of this Federal Law, if the election association that nominated this list does not delete such candidate from the list, as per Section 11 of this Article;

f) the election association has repeatedly failed to comply with the limitations envisaged in Section 52, Article 56, of this Federal Law;

g) it was established with respect to the election association that, during the period of time indicated in paragraph 'd', Section 32, Article 4, of this Federal Law (but before nomination of the list of candidates), this election association, at public events, in mass media or in the materials distributed by it (in particular, posted in the information and telecommunications networks, access to which is not limited to any particular circle of persons, including the Internet), called for taking actions determined in Article 1 of Federal Law, On Combating Extremism, as extremism, otherwise called for such actions, substantiated or justified extremism, or took steps aimed at exciting social, racial, national or religious dissent, derogation of national dignity, promotion of exclusivity, prevalence or inferiority of citizens by their attitude to religion, social, racial, national, religious or linguistic affiliation, or promoted and publicly displayed Nazi attributes or symbols, or attributes and symbols confusingly similar thereto, and this fact was established with respect to a candidate included into the registered list of candidates during the said period of time (but before the candidate acquired the status of candidate), if the election association that nominated that list does not delete this candidate from the list, in accordance with Section 11 of this Article.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 11, 2011, # 200-FZ).

9. Registration of a candidate included into the registered list of candidates may be cancelled by a court of law at the application of the election commission that registered the list of candidates, the election association, the list of candidates of which was registered in the same election district, in the case envisaged in paragraph c, e or h of Section 7 of this Article, or in case of establishment of actual bribing of voters by the candidates as well as by another person who acted upon his/her assignment or the organization or, in case of new circumstances that serve as reason for deletion of the candidate from the list of candidates envisaged in paragraph a, b, c, d, and f of Section 26 of Article 38 hereof. In this case, the new circumstances shall be the circumstances that existed at the time when the decision was made to register the list of candidates but were not and could not have been known to the election commission that registered the list of candidates.

(in the version of Federal Law of April 26, 2007, # 64-FZ)

10. Registration of a referendum initiative group, another referendum participant group may be cancelled by a court on the basis of an application of a commission organizing the referendum not later than three days before voting day in the following cases:

a) the procedures for advancing of a referendum initiative were violated;

b) members and/or authorized representatives of the referendum initiative group, another referendum participant group violated the procedures of referendum campaigning or the rules of funding a referendum campaign;

c) members and/or authorized representatives of the referendum initiative group, another referendum participant group have taken advantage of their office or official position;

d) it has been established that referendum participants were bribed by members and/or authorized representatives of the referendum initiative group, another referendum participant group;

e) there are other grounds established by this Federal Law, other law.

11. The election association, with respect to which the case as to protection of election rights and the right to participate in the referendum of citizens was instigated on the grounds envisaged in paragraph 'e' or 'f' of Section 8 of this Article, shall be free to delete the candidate whose actions served as reason for approaching the court from the list of candidates nominated by it. The deletion by the election association of such candidate from the list of candidates before the court made any judgment shall serve as reason for termination of the case proceedings.

12. In case of non-compliance by the candidate, election association, of limitations envisaged in Section 1, Article 56, of this Federal Law, or taking by the citizen, before his/her acquisition of the status of candidate, and

by the election association, before its nomination of the list of candidates, as envisaged in paragraph 'I' Section 7, paragraph 'I' Section 8 of this Article, and in cases envisaged in paragraphs 'b', 'c', 'd' and 'h' of Section 7, paragraphs 'b', 'c' and 'h' of Section 8 of this Article, registration of the candidate (the list of candidates) may be cancelled by a court of law at the application of the prosecutor.

Article 77. Annulment of Decision on Vote Returns, Election Results, Referendum Results

1. In the event any violations of this Federal Law, another law governing the conduct of the relevant election, referendum have been committed when voting was conducted or vote returns were determined, the higher commission, before it determines the vote returns, election results, referendum results, may annul the decision of a lower commission on the vote returns, election results, and order a vote recount or, if the violations do not make it possible to determine reliably the results of the expression of the will of voters, referendum participants, declare the vote returns, election results, invalid.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

11. After establishment of the voting results, determination of the election results, the referendum results by the higher commission, a resolution by a lower commission as to voting results and election results may only be cancelled by a court of law or a court of law may make a decision to amend the minutes of the commission on the voting results, on the election results and/or the consolidated table. This commission shall notify the commission that arranges for the elections and referendum of the decision taken by the commission as to approaching the court with the application for cancellation of voting results, election results, for making amendments to the protocol of the commission on the voting results, election results and/or consolidated table. If a court makes a judgment to amend the protocol of the commission as to the voting results, of election results and/or the consolidated table, then the commission that drafted this protocol and/or the consolidated commission shall draft a new protocol as to voting results, the election results, with the mark; "Repeated" and /or a new consolidated table with the mark of "Repeated".

(Section 11 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

12. A court of the appropriate level, having cancelled the resolution of the commission on voting results, election results, may make a decision as to holding repeated count of votes of voters/ referendum participants, if violations of this Federal Law were committed in the voting procedure or establishing voting results or determination of election results. If the violations do not allow to reliably determine the will of the voters, referendum participants, the court may recognize voting results/ election results as invalid.

(Section 12 was introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

2. A court may annul the decision of an election commission on the results of the relevant election after these results were established, on the basis of the following facts as established by the court:

a) a candidate declared elected, an electoral association that nominated the list of candidate admitted to allocation of deputy seats, spent, in addition to their own funds, the funds exceeding 10% of the maximum amount of spending of funds of the election fund established by law, for holding of their election campaign

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

b) a candidate declared elected, an electoral association that nominated the list of candidates admitted to allocation of deputy seats, bribed voters, and this violation does not allow to identify the actual will of voters

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

c) a candidate declared elected, an electoral association that nominated a list of candidates admitted to allocation of deputy seats, during propaganda period overcame the limitations imposed in Section 1, Article 56, this Federal Law, which does not allow to detect the actual will of voters

(paragraph 'c' in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

d) a candidate declared elected, a leader of an electoral association, whose lists of candidates were included in the distribution of deputy seats took advantage of their office or official position and this infraction does not make it possible to establish the real will of voters.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

3. A court of an appropriate level may also annul a decision of an election commission on the vote returns and election results in an electoral precinct, territory, electoral district, a municipality, in a subject of the Russian Federation, in the whole of the Russian Federation if infractions were committed in respect of the rules for the preparation of voters lists, procedures for the formation of election commissions, voting and vote counting procedures (including interference with their monitoring), establishment of election results, if a candidate, federal list of candidates were unlawfully refused registration and this fact was admitted after voting day, and in the event of other violations of electoral laws, provided such infractions and violations do not make it possible to establish the real will of the voters.

4. A court of an appropriate level may annul a decision of the referendum commission of a subject of the Russian Federation, a local referendum commission on the vote returns and the referendum results if infractions were committed in respect of the rules for the preparation of referendum participant lists, procedures for the formation of referendum commissions, rules of campaigning and funding a referendum campaign, if members and authorized representatives of the referendum initiative group, leaders of public associations took advantage of their official position in order to obtain a desired answer to the question put for the referendum, if facts of bribing referendum participants by these persons and public association for the same purpose have been established, if infractions were committed in respect of voting and vote counting procedures (including interference with their monitoring), and in the event of other violations of referendum laws and regulations, provided such infractions and violations do not make it possible to establish the real will of the referendum participants.

5. A decision on vote returns, election results shall not be annulled because of violations of this Federal Law which were conducive to the election of, or which aimed at encouraging or encouraged voters to vote for, candidates who have not been elected according to the vote returns or for lists of candidates which have not been included in the distribution of deputy seats.

6. Annulment of a decision on election results by an election commission or a court in the cases where infractions committed do not make it possible to determine reliably the voters' will shall cause the election results in this electoral district to be declared invalid.

7. At an election in a multi-seat electoral district, violations referred to in Section 2 of this article if committed by individual candidates may cause the annulment of the decision on the results of the election only in relation to these candidates.

8. When voting were conducted on lists of candidates, violations committed by individual electoral associations, referred to in Section 2 of this article may cause that the decision to include these electoral associations, in distribution of deputy seats and to re-distribute deputy seats be annulled by the court.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

9. Annulment of a decision on the results of a referendum by a court, in the cases when infractions committed do not make it possible to determine reliably the referendum participants' will shall cause the referendum results be declared invalid.

10. If vote returns in some electoral precinct, referendum precinct, territory, in the subject of the Russian Federation are recognized invalid after drafting by the appropriate higher commission of the protocol of the voting results, the election results, the referendum results, this commission shall draft a new protocol on the voting results, election results, referendum results, with the mark: "Repeated".

(Section 10 in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

11. Based on the protocols of the commissions on voting results with the mark of 'Repeated, or 'Repeated vote count', as drafted after the higher commission drafted the protocol on the voting results, election results, referendum and the consolidated table, the appropriate amendments shall be made to the protocol and the consolidated table drafted by the higher commission.,

(Section 11 is introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

Article 78. Time of Submission and Consideration of Grievances and Statements

1. A court of the appropriate level shall not deny acceptance of a grievance against a violation of electoral rights, the right of citizens of the Russian Federation to participate in a referendum.

2. An appeal against a decision of a commission about registration, refusal to register a candidate (list of candidates), a referendum initiative group, another referendum participant group, on certification, on refusal to certify the list of candidates, the list of candidates in the single-seat/ multi-seat election districts, may be submitted within ten days after the decision that is appealed against was made. This period shall not be restored (extended).

(in the version of Federal Law of July 1, 2010, # 133-FZ)

3. After the official publication of the results of an election, a referendum, a grievance against a violation of the electoral rights of citizens and the right of citizens to participate in a referendum that occurred in the period of the election campaign, a referendum campaign may be submitted to a court within one year after the day of publication of the results of the relevant election, referendum.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ).

4. A decision on grievances received before the voting date, in the period of an election campaign, a referendum campaign shall be adopted within five days but not later than the day preceding voting day, and immediately if received on voting day or the day following voting day. If the facts stated in the grievances require additional verification, decisions on them shall be taken within ten days. A court shall make a decision with regard to an appeal against a commission's decision on vote returns, the results of an election, referendum within two months after the day on which the appeal was submitted.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

5. An application for annulment of registration of a candidate, a list of candidates may be submitted to a court not later than eight days before voting day (including repeat voting day). The court shall take a decision not later than five days before voting day.

Article 79. Responsibility for the Violation of Russian Federation Laws on Elections, Referendums

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

The liability for violation of Russian law on elections and referendums is established in federal laws.

Chapter XI. CONCLUDING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 80. Entry into Force of this Federal Law

1. This Federal Law shall enter into force nine days after its official publication and shall not apply to legal relations that arose in relation to the conduct of elections and referendums called before it entered into force.

2. It shall be established that Federal Law No. 124-FZ of September 19, 1997 "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum" (Collection of Laws of the Russian Federation, 1997, No. 38, art. 4339; 1999, No. 14, art. 165; 2001, No. 29, art. 2944) shall apply only to legal relations that emerged in relation to conduct of elections and referendums called before this Federal Law entered into force. It shall be established that Federal Law No. 124-FZ of September 19, 1997 "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum" shall cease to be in force in the procedure specified in Section 3 of this article.

3. Upon expiration of six months from the day when this Federal Law enters into force, the following shall cease to be in force:

Federal Law No. 124-FZ of September 19, 1997 "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum" (Collection of Laws of the Russian Federation, 1997, No. 38, art. 4339);

Federal Law No. 55-FZ of March 30, 1999 "On Introduction of Amendments and Additions in the federal law 'On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum'" (Collection of Laws of the Russian Federation, 1999, No. 14, art. 1653);

Article 1 of the Federal Law No. 89-FZ of July 10, 2001 "On Introduction of Amendments and Additions in the federal laws 'On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum' and 'On the Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation'" (Collection of Laws of the Russian Federation, 2001, No. 29, art. 2944);

4. Article 18 of this Federal Law shall not apply to elections of deputies of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Union State of the first convocation from the Russian Federation conducted under the federal law.

5. If the legislation of a subject of the Russian Federation do not comply with Section 16, Article 35 of this Federal Law, the said section shall not apply to elections in this subject of the Russian Federation called before July 14, 2003. Within the said period, the legislation of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be brought into compliance with Section 16, Article 35 of this Federal Law. The said period shall not apply if less than three regional branches of political parties are registered on the territory of the subject of the Russian Federation, and the legislation of such subject of the Russian Federation shall be brought into compliance with Section 16, Article 35 of this Federal Law before the expiration of one month from the day on which regional branches of at least three political parties are registered. The legislation of a subject of the Russian Federation may also be brought into compliance with Section 16, Article 35 of this Federal Law before the expiration of the above periods.

6. Became invalid – Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ

7. Provisions of Section 9, Article 4, and Section 6, Article 70, of this Federal Law shall not apply to elective officials of local self-government, who are deputies to legislative/representative bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, elected before May 13, 2002.

(Section 7 was introduced by Federal Law of June 29, 2005, # 69-FZ).

Article 81. Transitional Provisions

1. Election commissions formed before this Federal Law entered into force, with the exception of those referred to in Section 1, Article 85 of this Federal Law, shall retain their powers until the expiration of the period for which they were formed, but for not more than five years from the day of their formation. Vacant seats in election commissions shall be occupied in a procedure established by this Federal Law.

2. Invalid since January 1, 2009 – Federal Law of July 23, 2008, # 160-FZ.

Article 81.1. On the Procedure for Application of Article 10 of this Federal Law

(introduced by Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

1. If the period, for which they were elected at elections appointed before August 15, 2005, the body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or the body of local self-government, or deputies to the said bodies, expires in the period from November 1, to December 31, after August 15, 2005, except for the case envisaged in Section 5 of this Article, the next elections shall be held on the second Sunday of March of the year immediately following the year when the said period expires.

2. If the period, for which they were elected at elections appointed before August 15, 2005, the body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or the body of local self-government, or deputies of the said bodies, expires in the period from January 1 to March 31, after August 15, 2005, the following elections shall be held on the second Sunday of March of the year when the said period expires.

3. If the period, for which they were elected at elections appointed before August 15, 2005, the body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation or the body of local self-government, or deputies of the said bodies, expires in the period from April 1 to October 31, after August 15, 2005, except for the case envisaged in Section 5 of this Article, the following elections shall be held on the second Sunday of October of the year when the said period expires, and on the year of elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the regular convocation – on the voting date in the said elections.

4. If implementation of provisions of Section 1 or 2 of this Article leads to the same combination of days of voting in several elections, including elections to the body/bodies of local self-government, as a result of which the voter will be able to simultaneously vote on four voting ballots (except for ballots issued at early, repeated and additional elections), elections to the body/bodies of local self-government shall be appointed for the second Sunday of October of the year, in which they should have been held, and in the year of elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of regular convocation – on the date of voting at the said elections. If implementation of provisions of Section 3 of this Article leads to such combination of days of voting at several elections, in particular, elections to the body/bodies of local self-government, as a result of which a voter will be able to simultaneously vote on four voting ballots (except for the ballots issued at early, repeated and additional elections), elections to the body/bodies of local self-government shall be appointed for the second Sunday of March of the year immediately following the year where they should have been held.

5. Elections to bodies of state power of subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, terms of powers of which or terms of powers of deputies of which expire in the period till January 1, 2006, shall be held within the periods of time established in constitutions/ charters, laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, charters of municipal entities, unless a law of the subject of the Russian Federation determines that the appropriate elections are held on the second Sunday of March 2006.

6. Terms of powers of bodies or deputies, elections of which, as a result of implementation of Sections 1 to 5 of this Article, are postponed to a later date, shall be extended accordingly.

7. Elections to representative bodies of the first convocation and elections of heads of newly established municipal entities, in accordance with Federal Law of October 6, 2003, # 131-FZ, On General Principles of Arranging for Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation, as well as elections to bodies of local self-governance, the term of office of which was extended or reduced, in accordance with Article 82 of this Federal Law, shall be held within the periods of time established in laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, in accordance with Part 1, Article 85, Federal Law of October 6, 2003, # 131-FZ, On the General Principles of Arranging for Local Self-Governance in the Russian Federation, and Section 2, Article 82, of this Federal Law.

8. In the subjects of the Russian Federation where elections were held in accordance with Section 3, 4, 5, and 7 of this Article, other than on the second Sunday of March, subsequent elections shall be held within the periods of time established by constitutions/ charters, laws of subjects of the Russian Federation, charters of municipal entities, on the second Sunday of March or the second Sunday of October of the year, when the term of powers of the appropriate bodies or deputies of the appropriate bodies expires, and if the term of powers expires in the year of holding elections of deputies to the State Duma of Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of regular convocation – on the voting date at the said elections.

9. If elections were held in the subject of the Russian Federation in accordance with Section 3, 4, 5, or 7 of this Article, other than on the second Sunday of March, and the constitution/charter/ law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the law of the subject of the Russian Federation, the charter of the municipal entity does not envisage holding of the next elections in March, the law of that subject of the Russian Federation may envisage extension of powers of bodies of state power of that subject of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government in that subject of the Russian Federation for holding of the next appropriate elections in the second Sunday of March of the year immediately following the year, in which the period, for which the appropriate bodies or deputies of the appropriate bodies were elected, expires.

10. If elections to the legislative/ representative body of the state power of the subject of the Russian Federation were held in accordance with Section 5, Article 10, of this Federal Law, other than on the second Sunday of March, the subsequent elections shall be held on the day, which is the closest to the day of expiry of the term of powers of this authority, as established in Section 3, Article 10, of this Federal Law, for which elections may be appointed, and if such day falls on the second Sunday of October of the year of holding the elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, on the date of voting on the said elections. The term of powers of the legislative/ representative body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation shall be extended or reduced, accordingly.

(Section 10 was introduced by Federal Law of March 8, 2011, # 34-FZ)

Article 82. On Combination of Elections, Extension or Reduction in Terms of Powers of Legislative/ Representative Bodies of State Power of Subjects of the Russian Federation, Bodies of Local Self-government

(in the version of Federal Law of March 8, 2011, # 34-FZ)

(in the version of Federal Law of August 12, 2004, # 99-FZ)

1. It is allowed to extend or reduce the terms of powers of bodies of local self-government by not more than one year, for the purpose of combination of the voting day:

At the elections to bodies of local self-government, with the day of voting at the elections to bodies of local self-government of municipal entities, newly established in accordance with Federal Law of October 6, 2003, # 131-FZ, On the General Principles of Arranging for Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation (hereinafter Federal Law on General Principles of Arranging for Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation)

At the elections to the bodies of local self-government of municipal entities in the subject of the Russian Federation

At the elections to bodies of local self-government of one and the same municipal entity

At the elections to bodies of local self-government with the day of voting at the elections to bodies of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation

Elections to bodies of local self-government, terms of powers of which were extended or reduced, should be held by November 1, 2005.

2. Extension or reduction of the terms of powers of bodies of local self-government shall be carried out:

By law of the subject of the Russian Federation, in cases envisaged in paragraphs 2 and 3, Section 1, this Article

Regulation of the body of local self-government, in cases envisaged in paragraphs 4 and 5, Section 1, this Article

The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be notified of such extension or reduction of terms of powers of local self-government. In this case, funding of elections shall be at the expense of funds of the appropriate budgets.

3. It is allowed to extend, by January 1, 2006, terms of powers of bodies of self-government of municipalities, which exist on the effective date of Chapter 12, Federal Law on the Basic Principles of Arranging for Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation, the boundaries of which have been modified or which have been transformed in such manner as established in Section 84 of the said Federal Law.

Extension of terms of powers of the said bodies shall be by law of the subject of the Russian Federation. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be notified of such extension of terms of powers of bodies of local self-government.

4. It is allowed by law of the subject of the Russian Federation to extend or reduce, by not more than one year, the terms of powers of bodies of local self-government for the purposes of combination of the date of voting at the elections of at least two thirds of bodies of local self-government of municipalities in that subject of the Russian Federation.

It is not allowed to extend or reduce the terms of powers of bodies of local self-government, as a result of which the voter will be able to vote on simultaneously more than four election ballots, with the exception of voting ballots issued in connection with early, repeated or additional elections.

(Section 4 was introduced by Federal Law of July 22, 2008, # 149-FZ)

5. Elections to bodies of local self-government, terms of powers of which were extended or reduced in accordance with Section 4 of this Article shall be appointed on the voting dates envisaged in Sections 3 and 6, Article 10, of this Federal Law, in particular, on the first or second Sunday of October. These elections should be held by March 14, 2011. If these elections are appointed and held, provisions of Article 811 of this Federal Law shall not apply.

(Section 5 is introduced by Federal Law of July 22, 2008, # 149-FZ)

6. It is allowed by law of the subject of the Russian Federation to extend or reduce the terms of powers of legislative/ representative body of the state power of the subject of the Russian Federation by not more than six months, for the purpose of combination of the voting date at the elections to this body with the voting date at the elections of deputies to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

It shall not be allowed to extend or terminate the term of powers of the legislative/ representative body of state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, as a result of which the voter will be able to simultaneously vote on more than 4 voting ballots, except for ballots issued in connection with early, repeated or additional elections.

In holding of elections to the legislative/ representative body of the state power of the subject of the Russian Federation, the term of powers of which was extended or reduced in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Section, provisions of Article 811 of this Federal Law shall not apply.

(Section 6 is introduced by Federal Law of March 8, 2011, # 34-FZ)

Article 83. Guarantees of Performance of Electoral Functions by the Head of Local Administration

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

If there is no office of the head of a local administration, and the charter of the municipality does not determine the person authorized to perform electoral actions under this Federal Law, or if the said persons have failed to perform such actions within the periods required by this Federal Law, such electoral actions shall be performed by the highest official of the subject of the Russian Federation (the head of the executive body of state power of a Russian Federation subject) or by some other official appointed by him.

(in the version of Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ)

Article 84. On Participation of Political Public Associations in Elections

1. Political public associations that were established and registered in accordance with the federal laws, laws of subjects of the Russian Federation at a level corresponding to the level of the election, or at a higher level, shall be entitled to participate, as electoral associations and along with the electoral associations referred to in Section 25, Article 2 of this Federal Law, in an election of the relevant level, the decision on calling which was officially published before the expiration of two years from the day of entry into force of the Federal Law "On Political Parties." The said political public associations, or amendments and supplements introduced to the charters of public association to confer the status of political public associations on them, shall be registered not later than one year before voting day, and when an election is called to the legislative (representative) body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation or to the executive body of state power of a subject of the Russian Federation, to the body of local self-government in the event of early termination of powers of the relevant body, not later than six months before voting day. The said periods shall not apply to the other amendments and supplements introduced to the charters of political public associations.

2. A political public association that was recognized as an electoral association and was entitled to nominate candidates for membership in commissions before this Federal Law entered into effect, in the event of its reorganization that has no effect on its status of a political public association, or in the event of its reorganization into a political party, shall retain the rights specified in Section 7, Article 23, Section 8, Article 24, Section 7, Article 25, Section 7, Article 26, Section 5, Article 27 of this Federal Law. A voluntary association of two or more electoral associations that was recognized as an electoral bloc and was entitled to nominate candidates for membership in commissions before this Federal Law has entered into effect, in the event of its reorganization that has no effect on its status of a political public association, or in the event of its reorganization into a political party, shall retain the rights specified in Section 7, Article 23, Section 8, Article 24, Section 7, Article 25, Section 7, Article 26, Section 5, Article 27 of this Federal Law. Such electoral bloc may, by a decision of a duly authorized body, delegate these rights to one of its member electoral associations, or to an electoral association the founders of which are electoral associations that are members of this electoral bloc. The said electoral association, in the event of its reorganization that has no effect on its status of a political public association, or in the event of its reorganization into a political party shall retain the right to make such nominations.

Article 85. Became invalid – Federal Law of July 21, 2005, # 93-FZ