

**ELECTIONS - AN IMPORTANT CRITERION OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

Shayusupova Munisa Shaniyazovna

Independent Researcher of Tashkent State Law University

Abstract

This article reveals the role of democratic elections in the formation of civil society. The content, nature and significance of the elections are explained. It also analyzes the description of civil society, its institutions and their participation in elections. Proposals and recommendations have been put forward for further improvement of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Keywords: elections, democracy, civil society, civil society institutions, political parties, non-governmental non-profit organizations.

One of the important criteria for the establishment of a democratic legal state and civil society is the active participation of citizens in political processes, in particular, in the management of the state and society. Elections, which are considered an important political process, occupy the main place in the effective implementation of this activity [1, 4].

The principles of free election and free expression of one's will, first of all, the constitutional right of each person to elect and be elected to the representative bodies of state power form the basis of our model of national statehood. Elections are the main form of free expression of the will of the people, citizens' participation in the management of the state and society [2, 18]. Through fair elections, democratic criteria will be implemented, a reliable representative of the people will come to power, the rights and freedoms of all citizens will be guaranteed, and their dreams will come true.

The election is a symbol of the people's power, and first of all, it expresses the interest of the members of the society, as well as the voter-citizen. As the highest gift of independence, elections represent not only national but also universally recognized values.

The role and importance of elections in progressing from a strong state to a strong civil society, in particular, in the renewal and modernization of society, and further democratization of social life, is incomparable. At the current stage of the independent development of Uzbekistan, the formation of representative bodies of state power on the basis of free, legal and fair elections is a vivid example of democratic processes and renewal being expressed as a high value in social life [3, 47].

In the process of holding free elections, adherence to a number of general legal principles, such as legality and equality, will serve to successfully implement them and build a civil society.

Elections are an important tool and method for democratic development. People's hopes and aspirations come true through elections. The rule of peace and stability in the country and the



provision of security of the individual, society, and state are directly dependent on the degree to which the principles of democratic elections are realized.

Elections are the product of several centuries of historical development of the individual society, and are an institution that appeared for the purpose of forming improved models of the state and society. By the present time, in most countries of the world, democratic elections associated with the formation of state power and self-governing bodies have become an integral part of the political system. The level of development of the legal state and civil society in different countries is determined by the elections held in them, the participation of the population in the elections, and the level of the elections [4, 2].

"What does the election mean? To answer this question simply, in the case of the Republic of Uzbekistan, it is the process of forming the head of state - the President, representative bodies of state power - the Oliy Majlis, regional, district and city councils of People's Deputies, citizens' self-government bodies through voting by the people and the public. Election is a vibrant socio-political process, which can be seen in a number of specific aspects, for example, election is the highest democratic value. In fact, it has withstood the tests of history for several years and even several centuries as the most appropriate method of forming state power, showing its superiority, being recognized by mankind and gaining a certain value. That is why it is valued. Elections are a legal expression of the will of the people. Of course, elections are held in legal form. In order for it to be carried out in a truthful, legal and fair manner, it should be carried out within the framework of legal norms established by the legislation. There are several forms of expression of opinion and will, but the election manifests its true essence only when it takes place in a legal form.

Elections are a legal means of achieving democratic governance of society and state. It is impossible to form representative bodies without elections. Organizing state power through elections is the most correct and effective way to manage the state and society. Because it is important for the people and the community to decide who will lead it and who will make positive changes in its life.

Elections are the level and indicator of democracy, which serves to increase the socio-political activity of citizens. This democratic process is limited not only to the election of a specific candidate or the formation of relevant state representative bodies, but it serves to increase the political and legal activity of citizens, to ensure the diversity of opinions in the country, and to further increase the sense of involvement of people in the fate, development, and progress of the Motherland.

Elections are the most important political process aimed at the formation of authorities in a democratic state. As a result of the elections, the representatives who are trusted by the voters will have appropriate positions in the state government and will try to represent the interests of their voters.

Voting for a specific candidate by citizens, expressing confidence in him as their representative, and expressing the person's attitude related to participation in state administration through the above representative, that is, connecting his fate, future with the activities of the relevant candidate, and the activity of identifying this official is an important social activity, no less important than elections. - shows that it is a political process. Also,



depending on the elections held in a particular country, their compatibility with democratic principles, the participation and activity of citizens in the election process, the country itself is evaluated.

"Elections are the mirror of democracy," it is acknowledged. In fact, the fair organization and implementation of elections, the active participation of citizens in this political process and the free and legal voting of their representatives, the fact that as a result of the elections, worthy candidates have a mandate in the parliament and representative bodies, the formation of democracy in the territory of the country, the political-legal consciousness and culture of citizens represents the height. The election is such a process that determines the organization of the state administration in the country, the relationship between the state power and the citizens, the political culture of the people, the political bigotry (pluralism) in the region, and, in turn, the principles of social justice, legality, equality, and humanity in the country. shows its actual expression.

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, special attention is being paid to the issue of expanding the activities of civil society institutions, increasing their role and prestige as a priority of state policy. As a result of this, the position of non-governmental non-profit organizations and other civil institutions in the political system of society and state administration is increasing today. Elections are an important criterion of civil society. If the civil society is a society consisting of free citizens whose rights and freedoms are fully guaranteed, where the supremacy of principles such as equality and social justice are recognized and practiced, then such a society will definitely be formed on the basis of free and fair elections. Without elections, the above principles also lose their meaning.

On the basis of the noble goals of the Republic of Uzbekistan, which are the formation of civil society, the following interests are embodied:

firstly, the civil society through its institutions, ensuring the participation of the individual in the management of state affairs, achieves the establishment of the basis of the state representative democracy and the socio-political system in the country;

secondly, the people of Uzbekistan are creating stable conditions for their political rise and expression of vital national interests through civil institutions and mechanisms, primarily through the electoral system;

thirdly, civil society is built on the basis of a mutually acceptable balance of vital interests of individuals and society, citizens and the state, ethnic and confessional communities, socio-demographic groups;

fourthly, a democratic society is based on the social and political activity of citizens. In turn, he himself tries to consistently encourage the growth of such activity in the process of reforms in all spheres of life and creates conditions for active participation of citizens in state and community management [5, 84].

Of course, the establishment of civil society cannot be achieved only by the formation of organizational and institutional mechanisms. It is in the process of forming these mechanisms that the implementation of democratic principles is an important factor. In this regard, free and fair elections come to the fore. Therefore, elections are defined as an important sign of democracy and the main means of forming a civil society.



Indeed, it is difficult to build a civil society without free and fair elections. Because civil society is an association of free citizens whose rights and freedoms are fully guaranteed and practically ensured. Representatives of such a community have their say and opinion in state and community management, and use it to form the existing authority. This is done through elections and referendums [6, 121].

Civil society is built on the basis of a mutually acceptable balance of vital interests of individuals and society, citizens and the state, ethnic and confessional communities, socio-demographic groups. Civil society, through its institutions, provides a high level of opportunity for the implementation of representative democracy in the state, and plays a leading role in the development of the socio-political system in the country, ensuring the participation of the individual in the management of state affairs. Today, the formation of civil society in our country, civil institutions and mechanisms, primarily through the electoral system, create stable conditions for its political rise and expression of vital national interests.

In many studies dedicated to clarifying the essence of the civil society, some of its foundations are shown by scientists. One of them and the main one is democratic elections. Of course, free and fair elections organized on the basis of law are a democratic form of formation of state power. When this criterion finds its application in practice, when all citizens fully exercise their right to vote, which is considered a constitutional right, participate freely in elections, make their choice legally, only then will we achieve building a just civil society.

An important sign of civil society is the full participation of people in state and community management. Citizens' participation in the management of state affairs takes place in several forms. First of all, according to the Constitution, this participation can take place directly and through representatives. Direct forms include: participation in elections, referendums, discussions of draft laws, as well as participation in meetings of local authorities and self-government bodies (neighborhood meetings), etc. There are many forms of participation in management through representatives. These are: the President, deputies of the Oliy Majlis and Local Councils, elected officials at all levels of government agencies, etc. [7, 33].

The political ground of the civil society is made up of various thoughts, ideas, views and ideologies. These will find their reflection in the management of the state and society. The most appropriate form of their implementation is undoubtedly democratic elections. Elections are a political process that reflects the activities aimed at choosing a specific representative whom the citizens have expressed confidence in realizing their interests and presenting him to the governing body. This process can be evaluated as a form of realization of political rights of citizens.

The range of political rights and freedoms of citizens includes, first of all, electoral rights. After all, state authorities are formed through elections. Together with the right to vote, the Constitution also provides for the participation of the population in the referendum. According to Article 32 of the Constitution, citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan have the right to participate in the management of society and state affairs directly and through their representatives. Such participation is carried out through self-governance, referendums and democratic organization of state bodies.



In our opinion, it is appropriate to further expand the participation of civil society institutions in election processes. Because they play an important role in ensuring openness, transparency and legitimacy in elections.

For this purpose, it is appropriate to include a separate chapter on the participation of civil society institutions in the elections in the Election Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and mainly to reflect the legal mechanisms of the participation of non-governmental non-profit organizations in it.

In short, elections are the foundation of the rule of law and, in turn, civil society institutions ensure that elections are held more fairly. In general, the democratic changes in Uzbekistan, as well as the growing political and legal consciousness of citizens and civil society institutions, are a reasonable source for further improvement of the electoral system. Increasing the electoral culture and activity of voters, strengthening trust in the electoral institution, and strengthening the active citizenship position of the population is an urgent task facing civil society institutions.

References

1. Guarantees of citizens' electoral rights. - T.: "Adolat" National Legal Information Center 2021. - 29. p.
2. The concept of further deepening of democratic reforms and development of civil society in our country: report at the joint meeting of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan. November 12, 2010. -T.: "Uzbekistan", 2010. -B. 35.
3. Parliamentary election: national legislation and foreign experience: scientific and practical guide // M. Abdusalomov and others. -Tashkent: Publishing House of the Institute for Monitoring Current Legislation under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 2019. Page 26.
4. Joraev Q.A. Liberalization of the electoral system is a factor of democratic development. Justice. May 6, 2021 No. 20 (825)
5. Constitutional law of the Republic of Uzbekistan // Kh.T. Odilkoriev, I.T. Tulteev, O'.Kh. Mukhammedov; prof. Under the general editorship of Kh.T.Odilkhariyev. -T.: 2005. -p. 216.
6. Mikheev D. S., Dudko I. G., Mikheeva T. N. Public control in the mechanism of realization of the principle of local authority publicity // Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences. – 2015. – no. 3 p7. - p. 41.
7. Odilkoriev Kh.T. Constitution and civil society. -T.: 2002. -B. 115.