

COMMENT

on the rules for voters' early voting

The Comment has been prepared to determine the rules for the organization and conduct of early voting of voters in elections (referendum) (hereafter referred to as - elections) of the Republic of Azerbaijan in comply with Articles 46, 104 and 106 of the Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter referred to as – Election Code).

1. General provisions

- 1.1. Pursuant to Article 104.4 of the Election Code, relevant Constituency Election Commission shall allow the conduct of voting in ships sailing under State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Election day, remote places and places with impassable roads at most 10 days prior to the voting day. In regard with this, the Constituency Election Commission shall make relevant decision.
- 1.2. Early voting in the ships sailing under the State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be conducted only in Presidential elections and referendum of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

2. Rules for the conduct of early voting in ships sailing under the State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan, remote places and places with impassable roads

- 2.1. Early voting may be conducted in the polling stations within the places indicated in item 1.1. of the Instruction (if these polling stations have not been established later than the period implied in item 1.1 of the Instruction) at least 50 days, in exceptional cases determined by Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan (hereafter referred to as – Central Election Commission) at least 5 days prior to the voting day.
- 2.2. Voters' list on the polling stations established in ships sailing under the State Flag of the Republic of Azerbaijan shall be approved by the Precinct Election Commission in the basis of the information on voters submitted by the captain of the ship and checked by this commission at least 5 days prior to the voting day.
- 2.3. Voters' list on the polling stations established in remote places and places with impassable roads shall be specified by Precinct Election Commissions in the basis of the information on voters submitted by the heads of relevant executive authorities and municipalities at least 25 days,

but in exceptional cases 2 days after the establishment of the Precinct Election Commission.

2.4. Applying to Central Election Commission, the relevant Constituency Election Commissions shall make grounded report on the necessity of conducting early voting in the above-stated places at latest 20 days prior to the voting day.

2.5. The information submitted by Constituency Election Commissions should include the number of the polling stations where early voting is planned to be conducted, of the voters included in the voters' list compiled on the polling stations and of the ballot papers necessary for voting.

2.6. The appeals of Constituency Election Commissions shall be reviewed and relevant decision shall be made by Central Election Commission. In the case of considering early voting in the above-mentioned places sufficient, the relevant Constituency Election Commission shall be issued ballot papers at necessary amount on the basis of an act compiled with the participation of the Con.EC chairman and secretaries at latest 12 days prior to the voting day. Text of ballot papers, as well as, of protocols of Precinct Election Commission on voting results may be delivered by using other technical means in exceptional cases (wireless, transmitter and so on).

2.7. Voting in the mentioned places shall be conducted from 8.00 till 19.00 in a manner defined by Article 104 of the Election Code.

2.8. After the voting ends in the polling stations where the voting has been conducted, the relevant Precinct Election Commission shall submit (deliver) the protocol on the voting results to the Constituency Election Commission within no later than 24 hours. If delivering the information on voting results is impossible by other means, then this information may be conveyed in a manner defined in item 2.6 of the Instruction.

2.9. If all the voters included in the voters' lists take part in the voting, then Precinct Election Commissions may inform on early ending of the voting.

2.10. Information on the voting results on the polling stations where early voting has been conducted shall be attached to the final protocol by the relevant Constituency Election Commission upon being added to the voting results later organized generally.

3. Final provisions

3.1. Since the day of enforcing this Comment, the "Comment on the rules for voters' early voting" in Presidential elections of the Republic of Azerbaijan" approved by the CEC decision 11/67 dated 12 July 2003 and Comment "On the rules for voters' early voting in referendum" approved by the CEC decision 1/4-6 dated 8 January 2009 shall be invalidated.