

DECISION

of Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
on general results of the Municipal Elections held on December 23, 2019

The Municipal Elections in the Republic of Azerbaijan were appointed to December 23, 2019 by Decision # 7/24, dated 18 October 2019 by the Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Central Election Commission). 1 626 910 out of 4 976 858 voters included in the voter's list on the country or 32,69 % of voters' general number participated in the voting in these Elections.

41462 candidacies were registered during the preparation and conduct of the Municipal Elections in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan and other legislative acts and documents. The candidates to municipality membership were provided with equal opportunities during all stages of the election process, also during pre-election campaign. The voting was conducted in 5 049 polling stations of 118 election constituencies for the election of 15 156 municipality members on the country.

As a result of military invasion of Armenia, it was impossible to hold the Municipal Elections in the territories occupied – region of NagornoKarabakh (Khankend village, Shusha, Khojali, Asgaran and Khojavend regions), full in regions Aghdara, Kalbajar, Lachin, Gubadli, Jabrayil and Zangilan regions, also in areas under occupation of Aghdam and Fuzuli regions, the sovereign rights, also the rights of the internally displaced people to participate in local self-management bodies, also to elect and be elected to those bodies were strictly violated.

Webcams were installed in 1000 polling stations (nearly 20% of the polling stations on the country), which covered the whole country geography excluding the territories under occupation. Internet users were able to monitor all the processes on the voting day in polling stations lively through the CEC website without any registration either within the country or outside the country. Along with 17 international observers, more than 52 636 local observers representing different political parties, registered candidates, non-governmental organizations, also those who joined the elections on their own initiatives, as well as, local and foreign media representatives who functioned in the republic observed the elections independently and freely.

The votes were being counted incessantly after the voting ended on Election Day. Preliminary results on more than 92% of polling stations and protocol information were posted in an operative manner on the CEC website in few hours after the voting ended to make local and international community familiar with the election returns. The direct transfer process of the information from the polling stations was carried regularly and the preliminary results on all polling stations were submitted to the public within short period. All these carry large importance to ensure transparency in elections.

The final protocols and other documents attached to them were transferred to Con.ECs by PECs within the timeframe defined by law, the Con.EC protocols on all municipalities were submitted to the Central Election Commission within 2 days after the voting day in comply with legislation.

Final protocols and information included in other election documents, as well as, all the appeals filed to the Central Election Commission were investigated thoroughly and fairly. The Central Election Commission made decision basing on the results obtained upon

investigating thoroughly the appeals received through the hotline and address, materials posted on social pages, thereby considering the cases which could have obstructed the elections to be held in compliance with legislation and current standards. The video records were also addressed to during the investigation process.

At the end, the incidents of allowing serious law violations, which could affect the voting results during the voting process and vote tabulation by some election commissions, serious mistakes and restriction of voters' voting rights were found out. Thus, legal grounds were established to consider the voting results invalid on 32 PECs due to the impossibility of determining voters' will, as well as, to dismiss 12 PECs due to the irregularities in their activity during the preparation and conduct of elections and determination of the results. It should be noted that as a result of previous investigations, by the relevant decisions of the Central Election Commission, the voting results of 6 polling stations and by the decision of Garadagh Con. EC # 11, the voting results of 1 polling station were considered invalid, meanwhile, 2 PECs were dismissed by the CEC decision # 3/16, dated 5 January 2020.

In general, it was impossible to determine voters' will in 39 polling stations and serious grounds were determined to consider the voting results invalid on 9 municipalities (as well as, the voting results on 1 municipality was considered invalid by the CEC decision # 26/143, dated 31 December 2019).

As the number of the votes cast for each of the two registered candidates of two municipalities were equal, it was impossible to form those municipalities in full composition.

It was determined that 15 075 municipality members were elected upon considering the voting results on 9 municipalities had been considered invalid, consequently, 1 595 municipalities were formed in full composition and 2 municipalities were not formed in full composition.

Basing on the above-mentioned, pursuant to 19.4, 19.14, 23.5, 25, 28.2, 28.4, 107.4, 108, 239, 240 and 241 of Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Central Election Commission **decides:**

1. It shall be considered that the Municipal Elections held on December 23, 2019 was valid and conducted in compliance with the Constitution, Election Code and other legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
2. Due to the impossibility of determining voters' will on 32 polling stations, the voting results on those polling stations, as well as, on 8 municipalities that cover 16 polling stations out of the polling stations indicated shall be considered invalid.
3. Considering the decisions by the Central Election Commission and Garadagh Con. EC # 11 on the invalidation of the election results on some polling stations and municipalities, regarding invalid the voting results in 39 polling stations (Appendix # 1) and election results on 9 municipalities (Appendix # 2) shall be taken into consideration.

4. Due to the irregularities allowed in their activity during the preparation, conduct of elections and determination of results, PECs 5,6,7 of Nasimi second Con.EC # 22, PEC # 9 of Nasimi-Sabail Con.EC # 23, PECs # 3,4 of Nizami first Con.EC # 24, PEC # 14 of Neftchala Con.EC # 61, PECs # 8, 10 of Jalilabad-Masalli Con.EC # 69, PEC # 4 of Fuzuli Con.EC # 84, PEC # 3 of Zagatala-Balaken Con.EC # 111 and PEC # 13 of Aghdam village Con.EC # 119 shall be dismissed.

5. 1 595 municipalities where the general election results have been officially approved shall be considered to be formed in full composition (Appendix # 3) and 2 municipalities shall be considered not to be formed in full composition.

6. The list of the municipality members elected shall be declared.

7. Final protocol of the Central Election Commission on general results of the Municipal Elections shall be compiled.

CEC Chairman

Mazahi Panahov

CEC Secretary

Arifa Mukhtarova

CEC Secretary

Mikayil Rahimov