PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

Parliamentary elections serve as a democratic mechanism for the election of the Members of the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia, which is a unicameral legislature and legislative branch of power in the Republic of North Macedonia.

In accordance with the Constitution, the Assembly consists of 120 to 140 MPs. The exact number of MPs is specified in the Electoral Code. Until 2008, there were 120 MPs, but with the changes from 2008 and 2015, this number may increase to 123 MPs.

The citizens entrust the political power to the legislature through this mechanism, which then represents their sovereign will. The electorate enables the transfer of the sovereignty from the citizens to the elected representatives in a democratic way.

The basic principles of parliamentary elections are regulated in the Constitution, while the manner, conditions and procedure for election of MPs are regulated in the Electoral Code.

MPs are elected for a period of four years at general, direct and free elections by a secret vote.
Parliamentary elections are held every four years, during the last 90 days of the mandate of the old parliamentary composition. The elections are called by the President of the Assembly.

Parliamentary elections can also be held in case of dissolution of the Assembly (early elections), if a decision is passed by the majority of the total number of MPs. In that case, elections are held within 60 days of the day of the dissolution of the Assembly.

VOTING RIGHT

Active voting right
The right to vote is given to every citizen of Republic of North Macedonia at the age of 18, who has the capacity to work and has permanent residence in the electoral district where elections are held.
Citizens of the Republic of North Macedonia, who are temporarily working or staying abroad on the day of elections, can also vote during the parliamentary elections. They exercise their voting right in the diplomatic-consular offices of the Republic of North Macedonia in foreign countries.
Voting is not obligatory.

Passive voting right
A candidate for MP can be any citizen of the Republic of North Macedonia aged 18 and with capacity to work, unless that person serves an imprisonment sentence for a committed crime and unless the person is pronounced by valid court decision an unconditional imprisonment sentence of more than 6 months, and the person has still not started to serve the sentence.

ELECTION MODELS

The electoral model is a set of rules on the basis of which the number of votes are translated into MPs mandates.

There are two basic types of electoral models (with many different possible variations): the majoritarian electoral system and the proportional electoral system.

According to the majoritarian electoral system, the parliamentary mandate (seat in the Parliament) belongs to the candidate who wins the required majority (plurality, relative, absolute or qualified majority). In most cases majoritarian electoral systems are applied in small single-mandate constituencies where voters cast their ballots for candidates, and not for party lists.

According to the proportional electoral systems, every candidate list is represented in the legislative body in proportion to the part of the votes of the electorate that the list receieved, i.e. every list receieve as big as a share of the mandates in proportion to the percentage of the votes it had won during the elections. The proportional electoral systems are most commonly applied in large multimember constituencies, where voters cast their ballots for party lists, and not candidates.

ELECTION MODELS AT THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE COUNTRY (1990 - 2016)

The first democratic multi-party parliamentary elections in the Socialist Republic of Macedonia were held on November 11, 1990, immediately after the introduction of the political pluralism in September the same year.

The first parliamentary elections, once the country gained its independence in 1991, were held in October, 1994.

Post stamp of the Macedonian post on the occasion of 20 years from the first multiparty elections in the country (FDC 19/2010, November 11, 2010)

For the parliamentary elections in 1990 and 1994, the allocation of the parliamentary seats was made by using the majoritarian electoral model, with absolute majority in the first round and relative majority in the second round. At these elections, the MPs were elected on the basis of the principle: one parliamentary mandate – one electoral district.
In 1998, the absolute dominance of the majoritarian model was abandoned and the combined electoral model was introduced: 85 MPs were elected on the basis of the majoritarian model and 35 MPs on the basis of the proportional model. The territory

of the whole country was a single electoral district for the 35 parliamentary seats, which were allocated according to the proportional model. The allocation of seats was made according to the D'Hondt model, with an electoral threshold of 5%.

At the parliamentary elections in 2002, the proportional model was introduced for the distribution of all 120 parliamentary seats, and the territory of the country was divided in six electoral districts, whereby 20 MPs were elected from each district. In order to ensure bigger representation of women in the Assembly, the 30% quota was introduced for the first time as a guarantee for the participation of the less represented gender. The same electoral model was applied for the parliamentary elections in 2006 and the early elections in 2008. In accordance with the changes in the Electoral Code from 2008, at the early elections in 2011, for the forst time Macedonian citizens that are temporarily living or working abroad were granted the right to vote. 123 MPs were elected to the Assembly. 120 of them were elected according to the proportional model (20 MPs in each of the six electoral districts), while out of the three overseas electoral districts 3 MPs were elected according to the majoritarian electoral model (in one round). The same electoral model was used at the third early parliamentary elections in 2014.

At the early elections in 2016, 120 MPs were elected in the Assembly. At these elections, no MPs were elected from the Diaspora as the required criteria established with the Electoral Code of 2015 were not met. According to those changes, three MPs are elected in one electoral district according to the proportional model: the first MPs is elected if the list of candidates wins at least the minimum number of votes needed to elect an MP in an electoral district in the country. The second MP is elected with twice that number, while the third with triple the number of votes needed to elect the MP with the least number of votes. If in the seventh electoral district none of the lists win the necessary votes, no MPs are elected. The quota which guarantees inclusion of the less represented gender was increased to 40% with the changes of the Electoral Code of 2015.

CANDIDATES FOR MPS

The nomination of candidates for MPs is made by a submission of candidates' lists for MPs. Registered political parties, coalitions of parties or group of voters have the right to submit a candidates' list for MPs.

When a group of voters submits a candidates' list for MPs, it is necessary that at least 1.000 signatures of registered voters from the Electoral Register in the electoral district are collected.

ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

Electoral campaign is a public representation of the candidates and their programs in the pre-election period, aimed to influence the voters' decision (public events, public posters, video presentations at public places, media and Internet presentation, distribution of printed materials, etc.).
The electoral campaign starts 20 days before the day of the elections and ends 24 hours before the day of elections, when the electoral silence begins.
The organizers of the electoral campaign have the right to use all types of political propaganda under the same conditions.

During the electoral campaign, the public broadcaster is obligated to broadcast the political representation of the participants in the election process free of charge.

VOTING

Voting for parliamentary elections starts at 7:00 a.m. and lasts continually until 7:00 p.m.

Voters who are temporarily staying or working abroad on the day of elections vote in the diplomatic-consular representative offices, one day before the day of elections in Republic of North Macedonia. Voting is held in the same time interval from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., according to the respective time zone of the country. Persons who are in detention or serve an imprisonment sentence, as well as internally displaced and sick and disabled people, also vote one day before the election day.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND ALLOCATION OF PARLIAMENTARY MANDATES

The official complete results are established by the State Election Committee, based on the reports with the summarized results from each municipal electoral committee. Results are established separately for each electoral district.

In the seven electoral districts the parliamentary seats are allocated by applying the D'Hondt formula. To elect MPs in the seventh electoral district, certain criteria, explained above, must be met.

The formula is:

$$\frac{V}{s+1}$$

V is the total number of votes cast for the candidate list, while S is the number of mandates/seats received by the list (at the beginning 0 for all lists, and the procedure is repeated until mandates are allocated).

According to the D'Hondt system, the number of votes on each list is divided with 1, 2, 3, 4.....n (n is the number of parliamentary seats in the electoral district). The obtained quotients are ordered based on their size, whereby the biggest quotients are taken into consideration as many as there are representative mandates in the electoral district. Each list gets as many mandates depending on the biggest quotients contained in the votes won. Mandates are allocated according to the order of candidates on the list.

For instance, let assume that on the elections in one electoral district, where six representatives are elected, four party lists participate. List A won 330.898, List B won 212.512, List C 154.926 and List D won 99.730 votes. Electoral results of each list are divided with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

List A

330.898:1 = 330.898
330.898:2 = 165.449
330.898:3 = 110.299
330.898:4 = 82.724
330.898:5 = 66.179
330.898:6 = 55.149

List B

212.512:1 = 212.512
212.512:2 = 106.256
212.512:3 = 70.837
212.512:4 = 53.128
212.512:5 = 42.502
212.512:6 = 35.418

List C

154.926:1 = 154.926
154.926:2 = 77.463
154.926:3 = 51.642
154.926:4 = 38.731
154.926:5 = 30.985
154.926:6 = 25.821

List D

99.730:1 = 99.730
99.730:2 = 49.856
99.730:3 = 33.243
99.730:4 = 24.932
99.730:5 = 19.946
99.730:6 = 16.621

From all results, the sixth biggest result is 106.256, which at the same time represents also the common divisor which divides the total results for each list as follows:

List A - 330.898:106.256=3
List B - 212.512:106.256=2
List C - 154.926:106.256=1
List D - 99.730:106.256=0

The example shows that party A shall win three mandates, party B two mandates, party C one mandate, while party D shall not win a single mandate.

Parliamentary Elections '94

Political entity	Number of mandates won
SDSM and other	87
PDP	10
NDP	4
DPM	1
Independent candidate	6
PCER	2
LP	5
SDSM	1
CDPM	1
SPM	1
PDA-DPTM	1
SDSM-LP	1
Total	120

Parliamentary Elections '98

Political entity	Number of mandates won
VMRO-DPMNE	49
SDSM	27
PDP-NDP	25
LDP-DPM	4
SPM	1
DA	13
SRM	1
Total	120

Parliamentary Elections '02

Political entity	Number of mandates won
SDSM and other	60
VMRO-DPMNE- LP	33
DUI	16
DPA	7
PDP	2
NDP	1
SPM	1
Total	120

Parliamentary Elections '06

Political entity	Number of mandates won
VMRO-DPMNE and other	45
SDSM and other	32
DUI and other	17
DPA	11
NSDP	7
VMRO-NP	6
DOM	1
PEI	1
Total	120

Parliamentary Elections '08

Political entity	Number of mandates won
VMRO-DPMNE and other	63
SDSM and other	27
DUI	18
DPA	11
PEI	1
Total	120

Parliamentary Elections '11

Political entity	Number of mandates won
VMRO-DPMNE and other	56
SDSM and other	42
DUI	15
DPA	8
NDP	2
Total	123

Parliamentary Elections '14

Political entity	Number of mandates won
VMRO-DPMNE and other	61
SDSM and other	34
DUI	19
DPA	7
NDP	1
GROM	1
Total	123

Parliamentary Elections '16

Political entity	Number of mandates won
VMRO-DPMNE and other	51
SDSM and other	49
DUI	10
BESA Movement	5
Alliance for Albanians Coalition	3
DPA	2
Total	120

Parliamentary Elections '20

Political entity	Number of mandates won
VMRO-DPMNE and other	46
SDSM and other	44
DUI	15
Alliance for Albanians/ Alternativa	12
Levica	2
DPA	1
Total	120

List of acronyms

VMRO-DPMNE - VMRO-Democratic party for Macedonian National Unity
SDSM - Social-Democratic Union of Macedonia
DUI - Democratic Union for Integration
DPA - Democratic Party of Albanians
LDP - Либерално демократска партија
SPM - Liberal Democratic Party
PEI - Socialist Party of Macedonia
DPTM - Party for European Future
NDP - Party for Democratic Prosperity
DA - Democratic Alternative
GROM - Citizen Option for Macedonia
DOM - Democratic Alternative
PCER - Party for Full emancipation of Roma
NSDP - New Social-Democratic Party
LP - Liberal Party of Macedonia
DPM - Democratic Party of Macedonia
SDPM - Social-Democratic Party of Macedonia
PDP - Party for Democratic Action-Islamic Way
PDA - Democratic Party of Turks in Macedonia
VMRO-NP - VMRO-People' Party
SRM - Union of Roma in Macedonia