

## **On Elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus**

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be elected for the period of five years and shall enter the office after taking the Oath.

Presidential elections shall be called by the House of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus no later than five months and shall be held on Sunday no later than two months prior to the expiration of the term of office of the previous President in office.

The President of the Republic of Belarus took the Oath on September 23, 2020, and the following elections shall be duly held no later than on Sunday, July 20, 2025.

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, any citizen of the Republic of Belarus by birth of at least 35 years of age, who is eligible to vote and has been residing in the Republic of Belarus for at least ten years prior to the elections, may be elected President except for persons having a criminal record.

The following electoral commissions shall ensure preparing and holding of the elections of the President:

the Central Commission of the Republic of Belarus on Elections and Holding Republican Referenda (further referred to as the Central Commission);

territorial commissions on elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus – regional, of the city of Minsk, district and city (in the regional cities except for the district cities), district commissions in cities;

precinct commissions.

The following entities are entitled to nominate their representatives as members of territorial and precinct electoral commissions:

political parties and other public associations;

labor collectives of organizations or their structural divisions;

citizens in the number no less than 10 persons by submitting an application.

Territorial and precinct commissions, as a rule, are formed by no less than one third of its composition from representatives of political parties and other public associations. State employees can constitute no more than one third of the commission composition. The composition of commissions cannot include judges, prosecutors, heads of local executive and regulatory bodies.

Candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be nominated by citizens of the Republic of Belarus provided the signatures of no less than 100 thousand voters have been collected.

Nomination of the candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be carried out by initiative groups of citizens having at least 100 persons.

Registration of candidates for the office of the President of the Republic of Belarus shall be carried out by the Central Commission based on the applications

with the enclosed necessary documents as well as the protocols of territorial electoral commissions depicting the results of checking validity of the collected voters' signatures.

The Central Commission shall reject registration of any candidate for the President's office in case of violations of the legislation stipulated in article 68<sup>1</sup> of the Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus. The decision of rejection can be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Belarus.

A candidate for the President's office is entitled to have up to 30 authorized representatives, who help the candidate to campaign and advocate his/ her interest in state bodies, public associations, and electoral commissions.

Candidates for the President's office of the Republic of Belarus are entitled to set up their own electoral funds for financing their electoral campaigns in the amount no more than 9,000 basic units. One's own electoral fund can be set up prior to registration of a person as a candidate for the President's office as to pay costs and expenses for services related to collection of voters' signatures.

The election propaganda for electing candidates for the President's office may be carried out in the way of meetings, rallies, mass media and meetings with voters. Propaganda on the Election day is prohibited.

Voting of the electorate shall be carried out at elections precincts formed in the period of election campaigns according to the territorial principle. The citizens, who travel or reside abroad, can vote at elections precincts organised by heads of the relevant diplomatic missions (consular institutions) of the Republic of Belarus.

Voters, where necessary, have an opportunity to early vote five days prior to the election as well as at their location of residence if on the Election Day they cannot come to premises of voting due to health condition or other reasonable excuse.

Observers, including authorised persons of the candidates, representatives of political parties, other public associations, foreign states and international organizations as well as representatives of mass media are entitled to be present in the running of voting process. The President's office candidates can be present at elections precincts during counting of the votes.

The results of the elections shall be established by the Central Commission on the basis of protocols of regional, Minsk city commissions on President's election on the voting results as of regions, the city of Minsk.

The presidential elections are considered valid if over a half of all citizens of the Republic of Belarus enlisted in voting lists, took part in the voting process. The President shall be considered elected in case a half of all citizens of the Republic of Belarus, participating in the election, voted for him/ her.