

**FEDERAL LAW NO 51-FZ
ON ELECTIONS OF DEPUTIES OF THE STATE DUMA
OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Adopted by the State Duma on May 18, 2005
Signed by President Putin on August 5, 2005

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CHAPTER I. GENERAL

ARTICLE 1. Basic Principles of Conducting Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as deputies of the State Duma, shall be elected by citizens of the Russian Federation on the basis of the universal, equal and direct electoral right by way of secret ballot. Participation of a citizen of the Russian Federation in elections is voluntary. Nobody shall compel a citizen of the Russian Federation to participate or refrain from participating in elections or shall infringe on free expression of their will.

ARTICLE 2. Legislation on Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

1. Legislation on elections of deputies of the State Duma is based on the Constitution of the Russian Federation and is constituted by the Federal Law No 67-FZ of June 12, 2002 On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participation in Referendums of Citizens of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participation in Referendums of Citizens of the Russian Federation), this Federal Law and other federal laws.
2. The main concepts and terms used in this Federal Law shall have the same meaning as in the Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of the Electoral Rights and the Right to Participation in Referendums of Citizens of the Russian Federation unless otherwise provided by this Federal Law.

ARTICLE 3. Elections of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation

1. In accordance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation 450 deputies shall be elected to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (hereinafter – State Duma).
2. The deputies of the State Duma shall be elected in the federal electoral district in proportion to the number of votes cast for the federal lists of candidates to the deputies of the Russian Federation (hereinafter – federal lists of candidates).

ARTICLE 4. Federal Electoral District

The federal electoral district where deputies of the State Duma shall be elected embraces the entire territory of the Russian Federation. Voters permanently residing outside the Russian Federation shall be deemed attached to the federal electoral district.

ARTICLE 5. Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation at the Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

1. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained the age of 18 on the Election Day shall be entitled to elect deputies of the State Duma, to participate in the nomination of candidates for the federal lists of candidates, in the election campaigning, in the monitoring of the conduct of the election and the work of election commissions, including determination of vote returns and establishment of election results, and in the performance of other electoral actions, in the procedure established by this Federal Law, other federal laws.

2. A citizen of the Russian Federation who has attained the age of 21 on the Election Day is eligible to be elected deputy of the State Duma.

3. A citizen of the Russian Federation who resides or stays outside the Russian Federation shall enjoy electoral rights at the elections of deputies of the State Duma equal to those of other citizens of the Russian Federation. The diplomatic representations and consular offices of the Russian Federation shall assist a citizen of the Russian Federation in effectuating their electoral rights.

4. A citizen of the Russian Federation found incapable by a court of law or imprisoned under the sentence of a court of law is not eligible to vote, stand for elections or participate in performance of other electoral actions.

4.1. The citizen has no right to be elected to the State Duma of the Russian Federation if he/she has foreign nationality or residence permit or other document confirming the right of permanent residence of a citizen of the Russian Federation on the territory of a foreign state.

(Clause 4.1 was introduced federal law from 25.07.2006 N 128-FZ)

4.2. The Following citizens have no right to be elected to the State Duma of the Russian Federation:

- 1) a person sentenced to imprisonment for a serious and (or) a particularly serious crime, and having by the day of election unexpunged or outstanding conviction for the offense;
- 2) a person convicted of a crime of extremist nature under the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, having by the day of election unexpunged or outstanding conviction for the offense;
- 3) a person subjected to administrative penalty for committing administrative offenses under Articles 20.3 and 20.29 of the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Violations, if vote in elections to the State Duma will be held before the end of the period within which the person is subject to administrative punishment;

(As per Federal Law of 24.07.2007 N 211-FZ)

In accordance with Federal Law of 19.07.2009 N 196-FZ from the day of the official publication of the results the next, held appointed after the coming into force of this Federal Law, elections of deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation in paragraph 4 of Part 4.2 of Article 5, the words "four years" will be replaced by the words "five years".

The State Duma of the fifth convocation shall be elected for a term of four years (Clause 1 of article 96 of the Constitution), and voting day being the first Sunday of the month on which expires the constitutional term for which the State Duma of the previous session was elected (part 2 of Article 6 of the Federal Law of 18.05. 2005 N 51-FZ).

Elections to the State Duma of the fifth convocation were held on December 2, 2007 (Presidential Decree of 02.09.2007 N 1144, Resolution of the Central Election Commission of Russia from 08.12.2007 N 72/591-5), respectively, elections to the State Duma of the Sixth Convocation shall be held on December 4, 2011 (except for an early election).

Official publication of the results of elections to the State Duma by the Russian Central Election Commission shall be within three weeks from Election Day (Part 4 of Article 86 of the Federal Law of 18.05.2005 N 51-FZ).

The provisions of paragraph 4 of Part 4.2 of Article 5 of the Federal Law of 26.04.2007 N 64-FZ apply only in connection with the actions of citizens and political parties, carried out after 7 December 2006.

4) in respect of which came into force the court decision that established violation of restrictions imposed by clause 1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the right to participate in the referendum of the citizens of the Russian Federation", or commitment of actions under subparagraph "g" of clause 7 and subparagraph "g" of clause 8 of Article 76 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the right to participate in the referendum of the citizens of the Russian Federation", if the violations or actions committed were during the period not exceeding four years prior to election day. (Clause 4.2 federal law from 26.04.2007 N 64-FZ)

5. A citizen of the Russian Federation who is sentenced by a court of law to loss of the right to hold public office for a specific period of time, provided such sentence has come into force, shall not be registered as a candidate at the elections of deputies of the Russian Federation if the vote is to take place before the expiry of the period for which the sentence hereabove has effect.

ARTICLE 6. Announcement of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

1. The conduct of elections of deputies of the Russian Federation within the term set forth by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and this Federal Law is obligatory.

2. The elections of deputies of the State Duma of new convocation shall be announced by the President of the Russian Federation. The resolution on the elections shall be passed not earlier than 110 days and not later than 90 days prior to the date of the vote. The vote shall take place on first Sunday of a month in which the constitutional term for which the State Duma of the previous convocation was elected expires. The constitutional term for which the State Duma is elected shall commence from the day of its election. The day of the election of the State Duma shall be the day of the vote as a result of which the State Duma was elected as a competent body. The resolution on the election shall be officially published in the mass media not later than five days after it was passed.

3. In the event the President of the Russian Federation should fail to announce elections of deputies of the State Duma within the term set forth by Clause 2 of this Article, the date of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be announced by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on first Sunday of a month, in which the constitutional term for which the State Duma of the previous convocation was elected expires. The resolution of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on the election shall be published not later than seven days after the expiry of the period set forth by Clause 2 of this Article for the official publication of the resolution on the election.

4. In the event of dissolution of the State Duma in cases and under the procedure stipulated by the Constitution of the Russian Federation, the President of the Russian Federation shall simultaneously announce elections of deputies of the State Duma of the new convocation. In this case, the last Sunday before expiration of three months after the day of dissolution of the State Duma shall be the day of election. The notice of the early elections shall be officially published in the mass media not later than on the fifth day after the adoption of such resolution.

5. In the event the President of the Russian Federation should fail to announce elections of deputies of the State Duma of the new convocation after the dissolution of the State Duma, the elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be announced by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and shall be conducted on the last Sunday before the expiration of three months after the day of dissolution of the State Duma. The resolution of the Central Election Commission shall be officially published not later than seven days after the expiry of the period set forth by Clause 4 of this Article for the official publication of the notice of the early elections.

6. In the cases dealt with in Clauses 3 to 5 of this Article the periods for the performance of electoral actions set forth by this Federal Law shall be reduced by one-fourth. The periods measured in days are multiplied by three fourths and rounded to the nearest whole number; one half decimals are rounded up. If the result of division is a number with fraction which is half of an integer, it is rounded up to the next integer.

7. In the event the Sunday on which the election is to be held coincides with a day preceding a holiday, or a holiday, or a day following a holiday or in the event this Sunday has been declared a working day in the established procedure, the election shall be held the next Sunday.

ARTICLE 7. The Right to Nominate Candidates for Deputies of the State Duma

1. Candidates for deputies of the State Duma (hereinafter – candidates) shall be put forward through the federal lists of candidates.

2. The nomination of candidates through the federal lists of candidates shall be exercised by the political parties eligible according to the Federal Law On Political Parties No 95-FZ of July 11, 2001 (hereinafter – Federal Law On Political Parties) for participation in elections, including nomination of candidates (hereinafter – political parties).

3. A political party may put forward through the federal list of candidates citizens of the Russian Federation who are not members of the given political party.

ARTICLE 8. Preparation and Conduct of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma by Election Commissions

1. Within the scope of their powers set forth by this Federal Law and other federal laws, Election Commissions shall be entrusted with the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, securing adherence to and protection of electoral rights of citizens.

2. During the preparation and conduct of elections, Election Commissions shall be independent of the bodies of state power and local government within the scope of their powers set forth by this Federal Law, other federal laws. Interference in the activity of the Election Commissions on

the part of legislative (representative) and executive bodies of state power, local government, organizations, as well as officials thereof shall not be allowed.

3. Rulings and other resolutions of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, other election commissions adopted within the scope of their powers set forth by this Federal Law, other federal laws shall be binding upon state bodies, bodies of local government, candidates, political parties and other public associations, organizations, officials thereof and voters.

4. During the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, the State Automated System of the Russian Federation 'Vybory' (hereinafter – GAS Vybory) shall be used. The rules of its use are set forth by the Central Election Commission in compliance with the Federal Law No 20-FZ of January 10, 2003 On the State Automated System of the Russian Federation 'Vybory' (hereinafter – Federal Law On the State Automated System of the Russian Federation 'Vybory').

ARTICLE 9. Transparency during the Preparation and Conduct of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma by Election Commissions

1. The preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be exercised openly and transparently. The state shall keep voters informed of the order and terms of the preparation and conduct of the elections, the course of the election campaign, of poll returns and election results.

2. The acts of the bodies of state power and local government, the acts of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation affecting the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and electoral rights of citizens shall be officially published in the state and municipal periodical press. Other resolutions of the above-mentioned bodies, resolutions of other election commissions immediately affecting the preparation and conduct of elections shall be published in the periodicals hereabove or shall be brought to the public notice in some other way. The acts of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation affecting the preparation and conduct of deputies of the State Duma shall be put on its web site in the Internet within five days of their adoption.

ARTICLE 10. The Right to Election Campaigning

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation, political parties, other public associations may conduct election campaigning in any form allowed by law, using lawful methods.

2. In this Federal Law election campaigning means the activities which are carried out during an election campaign and are aimed to encourage or are encouraging voters to vote for or against a candidate, candidates, included in the list of candidates or against all candidates (against all lists of candidates).

3. The State shall provide citizens of the Russian Federation, political parties and other public associations with free conduct of election campaigns in compliance with this Federal Law, other federal laws.

4. Equal conditions of access to state mass media for election campaigning shall be guaranteed to the political parties which registered their federal lists of candidates.

ARTICLE 11. Financing of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

1. Financing of measures related to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be performed at the expense of federal budget funds.
2. A political party which nominated its federal list of candidates shall create its own election fund for financing its election campaign. In the events stipulated by this Federal Law, a regional chapter of a political party which nominated its federal list of candidates shall be entitled by the decision of the bodies authorized herewith by its Charter to create an election fund for financing an election campaign of the political party.

ARTICLE 12. Participation in Elections of Deputies of the State Duma by Foreign Citizens, Stateless Persons, Foreign Entities, International Organizations and International Public Movements

1. Foreign nationals, stateless persons, foreign entities, international organizations and international public movements shall not engage in any activities which help or impede the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, the nomination and registration of any list of candidates, the election of registered lists of candidates.
2. The rules of participation of foreign (international) observers in observing the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be set forth by international treaties of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws.

CHAPTER II. POLLING PRECINCTS AND LISTS OF VOTERS

ARTICLE 13. Establishment of Polling Precincts

1. To provide voting and calculation of votes at elections of deputies of the State Duma polling precincts shall be established on the basis of the number of resident voters registered by the municipalities in compliance with Article 16 of the Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participation in Referendums of the Citizens of the Russian Federation.
2. Polling precincts shall be established with coordination of a respective district election commission by the head of the local administration (municipal district, city, federal city territorial unit, or commander of a military unit, head of a diplomatic representation or consular office of the Russian Federation). In the events stipulated in Clause 4 hereof the polling precincts shall be established by the territorial election commission. Polling precincts shall be established no later than 50 days prior to the day of elections with due regard to local and other conditions for the purpose of creation of maximum conveniences for voters.
3. Polling precincts shall be established with no more than 3000 registered voters per polling precinct.

Provisions of Article 16 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ, applies to legal relationships arising in connection with the conduct of elections and referendums, appointed after the coming into force of this Federal Law (Clause 4 of Article 6 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ).

4. In places of temporary stay of voters (hospitals, sanatoriums, rest homes, train and bus stations, airports, detention centers and penal institutions and other places of temporary stay), in regions difficult of access or remote regions, on navigating vessels and at polar stations, as well as in places where voters with no residence registration in the Russian Federation may stay, polling precincts may be established within the term specified in Clause 2 hereof, and in exclusive cases – with coordination of the Election Commission of the entity of the Russian Federation - no later than 5 days prior to the day of election. In regions difficult of access or remote regions, on navigating vessels and at polar stations, polling precincts may be established by the territorial election commission with coordination of the head of the entity, located in regions difficult of access or remote regions, of the vessel captain or head of the polar station.

5. Militarymen shall vote at common polling precincts. By way of exception, establishment of polling precincts in military units located in detached regions far from settlements is allowed. In such cases polling precincts shall be established by commanders of military units on the decision of a respective Election Commission of the entity of the Russian Federation within the term specified in Clause 2 hereof, and in exclusive cases - no later than 5 days prior to the day of election.

6. Polling precincts for voting and calculation of votes of the citizens of the Russian Federation staying on the territory of a foreign state shall be established by heads of diplomatic missions and consular offices of the Russian Federation on the territory of their country of stay no later than 50 days prior to the day of elections, and in exclusive cases – no later than five days prior to the day of election. The requirements for the number of voters set forth by Clause 3 hereof may be waived. Heads of diplomatic missions or consular offices shall report to the Central Election Commission of the establishment of the polling precincts no later than forty days prior to the day of elections, and in exclusive cases – no later than three days prior to the day of elections.

7. In the event polling precincts should not be established within the term specified in Clauses 2 and 4 hereof, the resolution on establishment of polling precincts shall be passed by the Election Commission of the entity of the Russian Federation within three days after the expiry of the term specified by Clauses 2 and 4 hereof for establishment of polling precincts.

ARTICLE 14. The Order of Informing Voters of Establishment of Polling Precincts

1. Lists of polling precincts with indication of their numbers and border (if a polling precinct is established on a part of the settlement) or with indication of the list of settlements (if a polling precinct is established on the territory of several settlements), addresses of the polling stations, precinct election commissions and telephones thereof shall be published by the head of local administration, city district, internal city territory of a federal level city, and incases stipulated by the Law of the Russian Federation subject – federal level city – by head of territorial body of the executive power of federal level city no later than forty five days prior to the day of elections.

2. Information on polling precincts established after the deadline set forth by Clause 2 under Article 13 of this Federal Law shall be published (brought to the public notice) within two days after the establishment thereof.

3. Before the publication (public notice) of the information on polling precincts specified in Clause 1 hereof, provided such polling precincts are established on the territory of military units, the text of the notice shall be coordinated with the commander of a respective military unit.

4. The publication (public notice) of the information on polling precincts specified in Clause 1 hereof, provided such polling precincts are established outside the Russian Federation, shall be decided upon by the heads of respective diplomatic missions or consular offices of the Russian Federation with due respect to the local conditions. In the event the diplomatic missions, consular offices of the Russian Federation should have web sites in the Internet the above-mentioned information shall be put thereon.

ARTICLE 15. The Compilation of Lists of Voters

1. The list of voters shall be compiled by the election commissions for each polling precinct individually in a form set forth by the Central Commission of the Russian Federation.

2. The list of voters shall be compiled by the territorial election commission no later than twenty one day prior to the day of elections on the basis of information provided by the head of local administration, city district, internal city territory of a federal level city, and incases stipulated by the Law of the Russian Federation subject – federal level city – by head of territorial body of the executive power of federal level city, commander of a military unit, or head of organization in which voters temporarily stay.

3. If revealed that a citizen of the Russian Federation is entered into the lists of voters at different polling precincts, the respective territorial election commission (commissions) shall check the lists of voters and remove errors and discrepancies therein before transferring the lists of voters to the precinct election commissions.

4. The lists of voters at the polling precinct established in regions difficult of access or remote regions shall be compiled by the precinct election commission no later than twenty days prior to the day of elections, and in exclusive cases – no later than on the day of formation of the precinct election commission on the basis of information provided by the head of local administration of the settlement.

5. At polling precinct established on the territory of military units, the list of military voters staying in the military unit, their family members and other voters, if they reside in the territory inside the military unit, shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by commander of the military unit no later than twenty days prior to the day of elections, and in exceptional cases – not later than on the day of formation of the precinct election commission on the basis of information on voters provided by the head of military unit.

6. At the polling precincts established in places of temporary stay of voters (hospitals, sanatoriums, rest homes, detention centers, and other), on navigating vessels and at polar stations lists of voters shall be compiled on the basis of data provided by chiefs of the said institutions no later than on the day preceding the day of elections. At the polling precincts established in compliance with Clause 4 under Article 13 of this Law in places of temporary stay of voters with no residence registration in the territory of the Russian Federation, the lists of voters shall be compiled on the basis or requests of the said voters submitted in accordance with Clause 7 under Article 16 of this Law.

7. At the polling precinct established outside the Russian Federation the lists of voters shall be compiled by a respective precinct election commission on the basis of requests of citizens of the Russian Federation permanently residing outside the Russian Federation or making long stay foreign trips, in accordance with Clause 4 under Article 16 of this Law.

8. Voter data shall be collected and checked by the officials indicated in Clauses 2, 4 and 6 herein and shall be submitted to the territorial election commissions no later than sixty days prior to the day of elections, or, if the lists of voters are compiled by the precinct election commission, to respective precinct election commission immediately after establishment thereof, according to the procedure established by the Central Elections Commission of Russian Federation.

9. The lists of voters may be compiled with the help of GAS Vybory facilities.

10. The list of voters shall be compiled in alphabetical or other order (on the basis of settlements, streets, houses, or addresses of voters). The list shall indicate last names, first names, second names, year of birth (day and month of birth additionally for the age of 18 years) and address of permanent residence of voters. The lists shall have fields to enter the voter's passport number, voter's signature (confirming the receipt of the voting ballot), election commission member's signature (confirming the issue of the voting ballot) as well as fields for special marks and each page sum-ups.

11. The list of voters shall be made in duplicate. One copy shall have a paper typewritten format; the second copy shall have a machine-scannable format. In exclusive cases, the lists of voters may be compiled in a handwritten format.

12. The first copy of the list of voters compiled in accordance with Clause 2 hereof shall be documentedly left at the precinct election commission twenty days prior to the day of elections. The second copy shall be filed with the territorial election commission and be used in the procedure fixed by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. The list of voters shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the territorial election commission with indication of the signature date and shall be sealed by the stamp of the territorial election commission.

13. The list of voters compiled by the precinct election commission in accordance with Clauses 4 to 7 hereof shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of the precinct election commission and shall be sealed by the stamp of the precinct election commission.

14. Having received the list of voters a precinct election commission shall check and update the list on the basis of personal applications from citizens made in accordance with Article 16 and 17 of this Federal Law, relevant documents of the bodies of local self-government, their officials, state registries, bodies for residence and migration control of the Russian Federation, messages from the higher-level election commission which confirm the entry of voters in the list of voters in some other polling precinct. The checked and updated list of voters shall be signed by the chairman and secretary of a precinct election commission and sealed by the stamp of the precinct election commission not later than on the day preceding the day of elections.

15. A precinct election commission may divide the first copy of the list of voters into separate books. Not later than on the day preceding the day of elections each such book shall be paginated, covered by the title page and stitched up. The stitch shall be sealed by the stamp of a respective precinct commission and signed by the chairman thereof.

16. The persons furnishing voter data shall be answerable for the accuracy and completeness of the data and its timely submission.

ARTICLE 16. Procedure of Entering Citizens of the Russian Federation on the Lists of Voters and Excluding Them Therefrom

1. All citizens of the Russian Federation, who possess the active electoral right, with the exception of the case stipulated by Clause 4 hereof, shall be entered on the list of voters. A citizen of the Russian Federation may be entered on the list of voters at one polling precinct only.

2. The grounds for entering of a citizen on the list of voters at a certain polling station shall be the fact of his/her residing on the territory of this polling station as is fixed by the bodies for residence and migration control of the Russian Federation in accordance with the federal law that regulates the rights of citizens of the Russian Federation to freedom of movement, choice of place of stay and place of residence on the territory of the Russian Federation.

3. Militarymen residing outside the military units shall be entered on the lists of voters in the place of residence in a regular procedure. The grounds for entering on the lists of voters of military voters staying in the military units, members of their families and other voters residing within the military units shall be the fact of their residence within the military units as is fixed by the bodies for residence and migration control of the Russian Federation or by the order of the commander of the military unit on entering on the unit's manning list of the citizens drafted for the military service by conscription.

4. Citizens of the Russian Federation residing outside the territory of the Russian Federation or staying on long-term business-trips abroad shall be entered on the list of voters of the polling station established outside the territory of the Russian Federation on the ground of their application letter submitted to the respective precinct polling commission on the day preceding the day of elections or their application made in person on the day of election.

5. Voters studying full time and registered in the place of stay in student dormitories (at the location of educational institutions) shall be entered on the list of voters at the place of the dormitory (educational institution) location. This information shall be conveyed through the territorial commission to the election commission of the polling precinct where the said voters are registered at the place of residence, provided these voters reside within the same entity of the Russian Federation, or to the election commission of the entity of the Russian Federation, provided these voters reside in a different entity of the Russian Federation. In the respective line of the list of voters the said election commission shall make a note 'entered on the list of voters at the polling precinct No' followed by the number of the polling precinct and the name of the entity of the Russian Federation.

6. Voters staying on the day of election in hospitals, sanatoriums, holiday hotels, detention centers and other places of temporary stay shall be included in the lists of voters on the ground of presenting their passport, or an equivalent identity document, and an absentee certificate for voting at the election of deputies of the State Duma (hereafter «absentee certificate»).

7. Voters at the place of temporary stay, who work at enterprises with a continuous operating cycle and employed at positions, where it is impossible to reduce the duration of the shift, as well as servicemen who stay outside the area where their units are stationed, if they were unable to receive an absentee certificate, may be included in the voters list by the decision of a precinct

election commission on the basis of a personal written application to be submitted to a territorial or precinct election commission not later than three days prior to the day of elections. This information shall be conveyed through the territorial commission to the election commission of the polling precinct where the said voters are registered at the place of residence, provided these voters reside within the same entity of the Russian Federation, or to the election commission of the entity of the Russian Federation, provided these voters reside in a different entity of the Russian Federation. In the respective line of the list of voters the said election commission shall make a note 'entered on the list of voters at the polling precinct No' followed by the number of the polling precinct and the name of the entity of the Russian Federation. Voters missing registration at the place of residence in the territory of the Russian Federation by the decision of the precinct election commission may be entered on the lists of voters at the polling station established in accordance with Clause 4 under Article 13 in this Federal Law at the place of their stay on the basis of their written application submitted to the precinct election commission no later than on the day of elections.

7.1. At the polling stations established in accordance with Clause 4 of Article 13 of this Federal Law on railway stations and airports, the voter lists are compiled on election day. Voters who are present on election day at these locations are included in the voters lists upon presentation of an absentee ballot.

(Clause 7.1 introduced by the federal law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ)

8. Citizens of the Russian Federation acknowledged forced migrants or registered at the federal executive body on migration as seeking the status of forced migrants shall be entered on the lists of voters at the place of their temporary residence on the ground of presenting their passport, or an equivalent identity document, as well as respective documents issued by the said bodies.

9. Citizens of the Russian Federation who possess the active electoral right arriving in foreign states under private invitations, on service, business and tourist trips, shall be entered on the list of voters provided that they apply to the precinct election commission and present a passport or an equivalent identity document and an absentee certificate. The said citizens, if failed to obtain an absentee certificate, shall be entered on the lists of voters provided they turn out at the premises of the precinct election commission on the day of elections.

10. Voters who have settled on the territory of the polling station after the list of voters had been submitted for general familiarization, as well as voters for any other reason not entered on the list of voters shall be additionally entered by the precinct election commission on the list of voters on the basis of documents of identification and, if needed, documents confirming the place of residence (or the place of stay – provided they voters have no registration at the place of residence on the territory of the Russian Federation) on the territory of this polling station.

11. After the list of voters has been signed by the chairman and the secretary of a territorial election commission (in the case stipulated by Clause 13 under Article 15 of this Federal Law – by the chair and secretary of the precinct election commission) and sealed by the stamp thereof, a citizen may be removed from the voters list only on the basis of official documents, including the notice of the higher election commission of entering of the voter on the list of voters at a different polling precinct) or when an absentee certificate is issued to the voter in a procedure set forth in this Federal Law. In this case, the date when the citizen was removed from the voters list and the reasons therefor shall be indicated in the voters list. This entry shall be certified by the signature of the chairman of a precinct election commission and, when an absentee certificate is issued, by the signature of the member of the election commission who issued the certificate, with indication of the date the signature has been attached.

12. No alterations shall be made in the lists of voters after the end of voting and commencement of vote counting.

ARTICLE 17. Familiarization of Voters with the Lists of Voters

1. Lists of voters shall be submitted by the precinct election commission for general familiarization and further adjustment no later than twenty days prior to the day of election, and, in cases stipulated by Clauses 4 through 6 under Article 15 of this Federal Law, after this date – immediately after the compilation of the lists of voters.

2. Each citizen of the Russian Federation possessing an active electoral right shall be entitled to file a complaint with the precinct election commission for the failure to put him/her on the list of voters, as well as of any other mistake or inaccuracy in the list of voters. The precinct election commission must review the complaint (application) and revise the mistake or inaccuracy, or give a written answer to the applicant indicating the reason for denying the application within 24 hours, but not later than the poll is commenced.

3. The resolution of the election commission mentioned in Clause 2 hereof may be appealed in a higher election Commission or in court (at the location of the precinct election commission), which are required to adjudicate the complaint (application) within three days, or immediately if the complaint is filed, three or fewer days prior to the election or on the day of election. In the event of a decision in favor of the applicant, the precinct election commission shall immediately make the necessary corrections in the list of voters.

4. Each citizen of the Russian Federation may report to the precinct election commission on changes of voter data mentioned in Clause 10 under Article 15 of this Federal Law as is fixed in the lists of voters at the respective polling station.

CHAPTER III. ELECTION COMMISSIONS

ARTICLE 18. The System and Status of Election Commissions at Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

1. Preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, control over adherence to and protection of voters rights shall be arranged by the following election commissions (higher ones listed first):

- 1) Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;
- 2) election commissions of the subjects of the Russian Federation;
- 3) territorial (rayon, city and other) election commissions;
- 4) precinct (polling station) election commissions.

2. The resolutions of the higher election commissions, if passed within their powers, shall be binding on the lower election commissions.

3. Any resolution of an election commission which is in breach of the law or passed by abuse of authority shall be revoked by the higher election commission or a court. In this case, the higher election commission shall be entitled to take a decision on the substance of the matter or return the documents in question for re-consideration to the election commission whose decision was revoked. In the event the lower election commission should fail to re-consider the matter the higher election commission shall be entitled to take a decision on the substance of the matter.

ARTICLE 19. Procedure of Formation of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, Election Commissions of the Entities of the Russian Federation

The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commissions of the entities of the Russian Federation shall be formed in compliance with the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation".

ARTICLE 20. Procedure of Formation of Territorial Election commissions

1. The powers of territorial election commissions for the election of deputies of the State Duma shall be exercised by territorial election commissions formed in accordance with the Federal Law «On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum» or the election commissions of municipalities vested by the said Federal Law with the powers of territorial election commissions. Should there be no such territorial election commission in some territory, it shall be formed in accordance with the said Federal Law not later than 35 days from the day of the official publication of the decision to call the election. In this case, the election commission of a subject of the Russian Federation shall establish a period for receipt of proposals on the membership of a territorial election commission, which shall not be less than one month. The decision of the election commission of a Russian Federation subject establishing this period shall be published.

2. The election commission of a Russian Federation subject may form one or several territorial commissions to direct the preparation and conduct of the election of deputies of the State Duma carried out by precinct election commissions formed on ships and at polar stations. Such territorial election commissions shall be formed in observance of the regular conditions of formation of territorial commissions set forth by the Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum.

3. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation may form one or several territorial commissions to direct the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma carried out by precinct election commissions formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation. Such territorial election commissions shall have not less than five and not more than nine voting members eligible to be elected as election commission voting members in compliance with the Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to entrust respective territorial election commissions formed during the preparation and conduct of the elections of the President of the Russian Federation with the powers of such territorial election commissions.

4. The term for which the territorial election commissions indicated in Clauses 2 and 3 hereof are formed shall be defined by the forming election commission.

5. The provisions of this Federal Law which regulate the activity of territorial election commissions shall pertain to the territorial election commissions indicated in Clauses 2 and 3 hereof, unless otherwise stipulated by this Federal Law.

ARTICLE 21. Procedure of Formation of Precinct Election Commissions

1. A precinct election commission shall be formed not earlier than 30 days and not later than 23 days before the day of elections by the higher territorial election commission in accordance with the general conditions for the formation of election commissions and the procedure for the formation of precinct election commissions set forth by the Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum with the following number of members, depending on the number of voters registered on the territory of the electoral precinct:

- 1) for up to 1001 voters - 3 to 9 voting members of the election commission;
- 2) for 1001 to 2001 voters - 7 to 12 voting members of the election commission;
- 3) over 2000 voters - 7 to 16 voting members of the election commission;

2. If the day of elections of deputies of the State Duma coincides with the day of elections of bodies of state power of a subjects of the Russian Federation, bodies of local self-government, polling day at a referendum of a subject of the Russian Federation, local referendum the maximum number of voting members of a precinct election commission indicated in Clause 1 hereof may be increased by not more than four members. Additional labor remuneration for these members of the election commission and compensation for a period during which they were relieved from their main job shall be paid to them out of the relevant budget.

3. The period during which the precinct election commission membership applications are collected shall not be less than 15 days. The notice of the formation of a precinct election commission and the period during which membership applications are collected shall be published (announced) prior to the receipt of such applications.

4. In an electoral precinct formed on the territory of a military unit stationed in an isolated locality far from populated centers, in a hard-to-reach or remote area, on a navigating vessel or at a polar station, in places of temporary stay of voters or places of stay of voters with no residential registration in Russian Federation, members of a precinct election commission shall be appointed within the period set forth by Clause 1 hereof and, in exceptional cases, not later than three days before the day of elections.

5. In an electoral precinct formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation a precinct election commission shall be formed within the period set forth by Clause 1 hereof, and in exceptional cases – no later than three days before the voting by the head of a relevant diplomatic or consular mission of the Russian Federation or by the commander of a military unit stationed outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

6. In the event a precinct election commission should be formed outside the Russian Federation:
1) the requirement of a minimum number of precinct election commission members set forth by Clause 1 hereof shall be waived, provided there are more than 3000 voters registered at the election precinct.

2) a precinct election commission membership application submitted by a political party whose federal list of candidates qualified for the distribution of seats of deputies of the State Duma (whose federal list of candidates has received deputies' mandate in accordance with Article 82.1) during the previous elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be reviewed only if a citizen of the Russian Federation who possesses an active electoral right and who is mentioned in such application is a permanent resident on the territory of a respective foreign state.

7. The higher territorial election commission shall issue certificates to voting members of a precinct election commission. The form thereof shall be set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 22. Procedure of Nomination and Length of Tenure of Election Commission Non-Voting Members

1. Starting on the day when a political party nominating the federal list of candidates submits its federal list of candidates for registration to the Central Election Commission it shall be entitled to nominate one non-voting member to the Central Election Commission and, as soon as the federal list of candidates is registered, one such member to each election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation, each territorial and precinct election commission.

2. Persons shall not be appointed non-voting members of election commissions if they are under 18 years of age, found incapable by a court of law, provided such resolution has come into force, if they are non-citizens of the Russian Federation, also citizens of Russian Federation with citizenship or residential permit of other states or holding other documents permitting permanent residence of the citizen of Russian Federation in other country, if they hold elected public office, are members of the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, deputies of legislative (representative) bodies of state power, deputies of representative bodies of local government, top officials of the entities of the Russian Federation (heads of the top executive bodies of state power of the entities of the Russian Federation), heads of local administrations of municipalities, urban and rural settlements, including city districts, internal territories of the federal cities, as well as persons holding commanding positions in military units, military organizations and institutions, judges, persecutors, election commission staff members, proxies for political parties.

3. Respective election commissions shall issue their non-voting members certificates (identity documents). The form thereof shall be set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

4. The length of tenure of an election commission non-voting member starts on the day when a respective commission receives written notice from a political party specified in Clause 1 hereof of the nomination of an election commission non-voting members and the nominee's written declaration of acceptance of office. The above-mentioned notice shall contain the nominee's family name, first name and middle name, his/her date and place of birth, citizenship, passport number and the date of its issue (or the number and the date of issue of an equivalent identity document), the code and title of the passport agency, and the residence address. For the tenure period specified in Clause 1 hereof an election commission non-voting member shall be granted leave of absence without salary at his/her principal job upon request.

5. The tenure of office of an election commission non-voting member may be terminated at any time by a political party which had appointed him/her at the volition of its authorized body and another person may be appointed.

6. The tenure of office of non-voting members of a continuing election commission appointed by political parties whose federal lists of candidates qualified for the distribution of seats of deputies as a result of elections of deputies of the State Duma, as well as political parties, whose federal list of candidates has received deputies' mandate in accordance with Article 82.1 of the Federal Law hereby, shall last till the commencement of registration of federal lists of candidates at the next elections of deputies of the State Duma. The tenure of office of other non-voting members of a continuing election commission shall terminate on the thirtieth day after the official publication of election results. The tenure of office of members of other (ad hoc) election commissions shall terminate as soon as such commission dissolve. If a political party is refused registration of its federal list of candidates or the registration of the federal list of candidates is cancelled or overruled, the tenure of office of election commission non-voting members shall terminate respectively on the day of refusal, cancellation or overruling of registration of such federal list of candidates or, if an appeal is lodged with the court of law against a notice of refusal of registration, on the day the ruling of the court confirming the refusal comes into legal force.

7. Political parties whose federal lists of candidates qualified for the distribution of seats of deputies as a result of elections of deputies of the State Duma, as well as political parties, whose federal list of candidates has received deputies' mandate in accordance with Article 82.1 of the Federal Law hereby, throughout the tenure of the State Duma shall retain the right of nomination of non-voting members of continuing election commissions, including co-optation of a missing member.

ARTICLE 23. Organization of Activities of Election Commissions. Facilitating Election Commissions in Execution of Their Powers.

1. The work of election commissions shall be organized in accordance with Article 28 of the Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum.

2. State bodies and organizations, bodies of local government, companies, if the Russian Federation, a subject of the Russian Federation or a municipality holds over thirty per cent of its stock on the day of publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma, and officials thereof shall facilitate the election commissions in execution of their powers in accordance with legislation of the Russian Federation on elections and referendums.

3. National state and municipal TV and/or radio broadcasting organizations (hereinafter – TV and radio broadcasters), editorial offices of state and municipal printed media shall, free of charge, provide election commissions within five day after the appropriate application with free air time to inform voters in the procedure set forth by this Federal Law, other federal laws as well as free advertisement space to publish resolutions of election commissions and other information. The expenses pertaining to the provision of free air time or free advertisement space shall accrue to the above-mentioned TV and radio broadcasters and printed media.

4. Bodies of state power and local government, political parties and other public association and organizations regardless of their legal form, including TV and radio broadcasters, printed periodicals and the officials thereof shall provide the election commissions with necessary

information and materials, respond to the inquiries thereof within five days, or no later than on the day preceding the day of election, if the inquiry was submitted five or fewer days before the day of elections, or immediately, if the inquiry was submitted on the day of election or on the day after the day of elections. That information and materials shall be provided to election commissions free of charge.

5. Election commissions shall be entitled to solicit the law enforcement bodies to carry out an investigation and to stop a breach of this Federal Law, other federal laws in regard to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma. The law enforcement bodies shall be obliged to undertake measures set forth by the law to stop the breach of law within five days, or no later than on the day preceding the day of election, if the solicitation therefor was submitted five or fewer days before the day of elections, or immediately, if the solicitation therefor was submitted on the day of election or on the day preceding the day of elections. In the event such solicitation should require an additional investigation the above-mentioned measures should be undertaken within ten days. The law enforcement bodies shall immediately inform the election commission which solicited therefor on the results of the investigation and on the measures undertaken.

ARTICLE 24. Status of an Election Commission Member

The status of voting and non-voting members of election commissions shall be fixed by Article 29 of the Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum.

ARTICLE 25. Powers of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

During preparation and conduct of election of deputies of the State Duma, within the scope of its powers set forth by federal laws, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall:

- 1) organize the preparation and conduct of the elections; guide the activities of election commissions in elections of deputies of the State Duma;
- 2) exercise control over observance of the rights of voters and provide uniform application of this Federal Law;
- 3) issue instructions and other normative acts on the questions of application of this Federal Law;
- 4) render assistance to lower election commissions on legal, methodological, technical, organizational and other matters;
- 5) advise election commissions on uniform use of GAS Vybory, its technical units including the vote calculation unit;
- 6) inform political parties, election commissions of the entities of the Russian Federation on the number of voters registered on the territory of each entity of the Russian Federation on the basis of the data submitted by the executive bodies of state power of the entities of the Russian Federation in regard to the number of voters registered on the territory of the entities of the

Russian Federation in line with Article 16 of Federal Law on Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum.

7) hear information of officials of bodies of executive power and bodies of local government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of elections;

8) distribute funds allocated from the federal budget for financial support of the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, support of the activities of election commissions for the period of their powers, for use and development of computer-based technologies, for teaching of election organizers and voters, as well as control over targeted use of the said funds;

9) register and certify federal lists of candidates, publish registered federal lists of candidates; in this case the following information about the candidate is not published: address of residence with the name of the street, the numbers of houses and flats, serial number and date of issue of passport or passport substitute the name or code of the agency issuing the passport or substitute documents;

10) register proxies and agents of political parties, including authorized agents of political parties on financial issues;

11) certify lists of authorized agents of regional chapters of political parties on financial issues;

12) issue certificates of an established form to the registers candidates and proxies of political parties;

13) control over adherence to the rules of informing of voters and the conduct of pre-election agitation on the territory of the Russian Federation;

14) establish unified numeration of electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation;

15) approve the form of documents (including the scannable ones, if needed) pertaining to the preparation and conduct of elections, set security requirements for voting ballots, absentee voter certificate and, on an as needed basis, lists of voters and other documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of elections, decide on issues of producing of the above-mentioned documents;

16) approve the text of the ballot in the Russian language;

17) approve samples of seals of election commissions;

18) approve the procedure for shipment of electoral documents to the election commissions, and, in agreement with the federal executive bodies on document safekeeping, approve the procedure for document safekeeping, archiving and disposal upon the expiry of their safekeeping periods;

19) develop technical standards of the equipment (polling booths and boxes) required for the work of precinct election commissions, approve these standards and exercise control over compliance therewith;

20) deal with the matters connected with the logistical support of the election;

- 21) inform voters about the time and procedure for the performance of electoral actions, the progress of the election campaign, about the political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates;
- 22) define persons elected deputies of the State Duma in a federal electoral district and issue certificates of election to them;
- 23) establish and officially publish the results of the elections;
- 24) compile lists of persons elected deputies of the State Duma and transfer these lists and necessary documents to the State Duma;
- 25) announce and organize by-elections;
- 26) consider complaints (applications) about decisions and actions (omissions) of the election commissions of the entities of the Russian Federation and their officials, and pass reasoned resolutions thereon;
- 27) carry out other powers in compliance with this the Federal Law and the Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of Citizens of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 26. Powers of the Election Commission of an Entity of the Russian Federation

During the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation shall:

- 1) coordinate activities of lower election commissions of the entity of the Russian Federation, renders assistance to them on methodological, technical, organizational and other matters;
- 2) provide for interaction of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with bodies of state power in the entity of the Russian Federation;
- 3) exercise control over observance of the rights of voters on the territory of the entity of the Russian Federation;
- 4) distribute the monetary resources allocated for preparation and conduct of the election, and exercise control over targeted use of these resources on the territory of a subject of the Russian Federation;
- 5) control over donations to the electoral funds of respective regional chapters of political parties and their expenditures;
- 6) register authorized agents of regional chapters of political parties on financial issues;
- 7) hear information of officials of bodies of executive power of the entity of the Russian Federation and bodies of local government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of elections;

- 8) provide for uniform use of GAS Vybory on the territory of the entity of the Russian Federation in the procedure set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;
- 9) provide for adherence to the technical standards of the equipment (polling booths and boxes) required for the work of precinct election commissions, approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation as well as observance of rules for safekeeping, archiving and disposal upon the expiry of their safekeeping periods of documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of the elections;
- 10) control over the provision of territorial and precinct election commissions with premises, transportation vehicles and communication equipment as well as control over the execution of the decisions made by the said election commissions on other logistical matters;
- 11) control over and provide for compliance with the uniform procedure for vote-counting, determination of vote returns and election results on the territory of the entity of the Russian Federation and publication thereof;
- 12) establish unified numeration of electoral precincts on the territory of the entity of the Russian Federation;
- 13) ensure the timely and accurate compilation of lists of voters;
- 14) control over adherence to the rules of informing of voters and the conduct of pre-election agitation on the territory of the entity of the Russian Federation;
- 15) undertake measures to distribute free air time among regional groups of candidates;
- 16) inform voters about the time and procedure for the performance of electoral actions, the progress of the election campaign, about the political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates, political parties which registered their federal lists of candidates;
- 17) in the events and in the procedure provided for by this Federal Law certify the text of the voting ballot in the state language of the Russian Federation member republic and in languages of peoples of the Russian Federation on the territory of their compact residence;
- 18) provide for printing of voting ballots and their transfer to the territorial election commissions in line with the decisions of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;
- 19) provide for the transfer to lower election commissions of absentee voter certificates and other documents pertaining to the elections;
- 20) determine vote returns in the entity of the Russian Federation, convey them to the mass media and transfer the vote return protocol (vote return protocols in each part of the entity of the Russian Federation) to the Central Election Commission;
- 7) adjudicate complaints (applications) about resolutions and actions (omissions) of territorial election commissions in this entity of the Russian Federation and adopt reasonable decisions thereon;

8) carry out other powers on in accordance with this Federal Law and Federal Law on Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participate in Referendums of the Citizens of the Russian Federation.

ARTICLE 27. Powers of the Territorial Election Commission

1. During the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the Russian Federation a territorial election commission shall:

1) exercise control over the preparation and conduct of elections, observance of the rights of voters on the respective territory, inform people on the address and telephone numbers of territorial and precinct election commissions;

2) form precinct election commissions and appoint their heads;

3) coordinate the activities of precinct election commissions, adjudicate complaints (applications) about decisions and actions (omissions) of these commissions and adopt reasonable decisions on the said complaints (applications);

4) compile for each election precinct lists of voters in the form set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with an exception of the event stipulated in Clauses 4 to 7 of Article 15 of this Federal Law, check the voter information;

5) hear information of officials of local government on issues related to the preparation and conduct of election;

6) dispose of monetary resources allocated for preparation and conduct of the election, distribute part of these resources among territorial election commissions, exercise control over targeted use thereof;

7) provide supplies of territorial election commissions with voting ballots and other documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of elections;

8) issue absentee voter certificates to voters;

9) render assistance to precinct election commissions on methodological, organizational, technical and other matters of voting at ballot stations;

10) exercise control over adherence to the rules of the informing of voters and pre-election agitation on the respective territory;

11) in the procedure set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation provide for the use of GAS Vybory on the respective territory;

12) control over and provide for adherence to the procedure of vote-counting and determination of vote returns on the respective territory;

13) provide for adherence to the technical standards of the equipment (polling booths and boxes) required for the work of precinct election commissions, approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;

14) determine vote returns on the respective territory, convey them to the mass media, transfer vote returns protocol to the election commission of the entity of the Russian federation;

15) provide for the transfer of documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of the elections to the higher election commission or archive institution of the entity of the Russian Federation in the procedure set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or disposes the said documents upon expiry of the period of their safekeeping;

16) inform voters about the time and procedure for the performance of electoral actions and the progress of the election campaign;

17) carry out other powers in compliance with this Federal Law and Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of Electoral rights and the Right to Participate in Referendums of the Citizens of the Russian Federation.

2. Territorial election commissions formed in compliance with Clause 2 Article 20 of this Federal Law carry out their powers listed in Clause 1 hereof with an exception of powers listed in par. 4, 5, 8 and 16 of Clause 1 hereof. Territorial election commissions formed in compliance with Clause 3 Article 20 of this Federal Law carry out powers listed in Clause 1 hereof with an exception of powers listed in par. 2, 4, 5, 8 and 16 of Clause 1 hereof.

ARTICLE 28. Powers of the Precinct (Ballot Station) Election Commission

1. During the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma the precinct election commission shall:

1) inform people of the address and telephone numbers of the precinct election commission, its working hours, as well as of the day, time and place of elections;

2) check the list of voters for the respective election precinct and, in the events stipulated in Clauses 4 to 7 Article 15 of this Federal Law, compile and update the said list;

3) familiarize voters with the list of voters, deal with applications on errors and inaccuracies in the list, and update the list accordingly;

4) issue absentee certificates to voters;

5) control over the rules for placement of agitation materials on the territory of the election precinct;

6) provide for the preparation and furnishing of the voting premises;

7) provide for the informing of voters on registered federal lists of candidates, registered candidates on the basis of the data received from the higher election commission;

8) void – Federal law of 25.07.2011 No. 262-F3;

9) organize polling at the ballot station on the day of election as well as early polling;

10) count ballots of voters, determine vote returns at the ballot station as well as complete the vote returns protocol and submit it to the higher election commission;

- 11) adjudicate complaints (applications) about the breaches of this Federal Law and adopt reasonable decisions thereon;
- 12) ensure the safekeeping and transfer to the respective higher election commission of the documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of the elections;
- 13) provide for the use on the territory of the ballot station of the automated vote-counting devices in the procedure set forth by the Federal Law On Basic Guarantees of the Electoral Rights and the Rights to Participate in Referendums of the Citizens of the Russian Federation;
- 14) carry out other powers in compliance with this Federal Law.

2. The term of powers of the precinct election commission shall expire in ten days after the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma are officially published, unless complaints (applications) were lodged with the higher election commission about resolutions and actions (omissions) of the given election commission as a result of which the procedure of the voting and (or) of the vote counting was violated, or a court of law examines the said facts. In the case of appeal of the vote at the corresponding polling station, the territory or the election results the authority of the precinct election commission shall terminate from the date of the higher election commission decision or the date of entry into force of a court decision on the complaint (appeal).

ARTICLE 29. Transparency of the Activities of the Election Commissions

1. Members and the staff of the higher election commissions, authorized agents of political parties which registered their federal lists of candidates, or a candidate on the said list may attend all meetings of any election commission and be present when a relevant precinct, territorial election commission is working with lists of voters, ballots, absentee certificates, protocols of vote returns. The aforementioned persons shall not need any additional permission to attend the meetings and be present when the election commission is working with the said electoral documents. Media representatives may also be present at all meetings of election commissions, when they are working with the said electoral documents and counting votes.
2. The election commission shall inform the election commission of the next higher level, the authorized representative of each political party, which has registered federal lists of candidates about the time and place of the commission meetings and shall provide free access of the persons listed in Clause 1 hereof to its meetings or to the premises where vote counting is exercised or documents listed in Clause 1 hereof are processed.
3. Applicants as well as representatives of the parties concerned may be present at the meetings of election commissions when the commission considers complaints (applications) and may give explanations and submit evidence on the substance of the matter being considered.
4. Election commissions shall inform voters about the results of the registration of the federal lists of candidates; about biographical and other data of registered candidates which was received by the election commission in accordance with this Federal Law; about vote returns for each registered federal list of candidates.
5. On the day of elections and on the days of early voting, from the time a precinct election commission begins its work and until it is notified by the higher election commission about acceptance of the protocols of vote returns and also when votes are recounted, the persons listed in Clause 1 hereof as well as observers, including foreign (international) observers, may be

present at polling stations. Observers, including foreign (international) observers may be present in other election commissions when these commissions are determining the vote returns, election results, working on the protocols of vote returns, election results and when votes are being recounted.

6. All members of an election commission, the persons indicated in Clause 1 hereof, observers shall be given access to the premises of a precinct election commission of any electoral precinct formed on the territory of a military unit, in a closed administrative-territorial unit, at a hospital, sanatorium, holiday hotel, detention centers or in other places of a temporary stay of voters as well as to the voting premises and premises where votes are counted.

7. Non-voting members of election commissions, observers, media representatives if present during the voting or vote counting may have badges specifying their status, surname, first and middle name, the political party which has nominated the non-voting members or observer and (for the media representatives) the title of the organization they represent, provided this badge bears no signs of electoral agitation.

8. In the events when this Federal Law provides for the issue to the persons listed in Clause 5 hereof of the certified copies of the protocols of vote returns, election results and other documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of the elections, such copies shall be certified by the respective election commission chair, deputy chair or secretary. The person who certifies the copy shall write "accurate" or "the copy is accurate", shall sign it, indicate his/her surname and initials, date and time of certification and shall stamp a seal of a respective election commission.

CHAPTER IV. Observers, Foreign (International) Observers, Mass Media Representatives

ARTICLE 30. Observers

1. Each political party which has registered its federal lists of candidates shall be entitled to delegate observers.

2. A citizen of the Russian Federation who possesses an active electoral right shall be entitled to be an observer. Persons holding elected public offices, deputies, top officials of the entities of the Russian Federation (heads of top executive bodies of state power of the entities of the Russian Federation), heads of local administration, their immediate subordinates, judges, prosecutors and voting members of election commissions shall not be observers.

3. The status of an observer shall be certified in written form in credentials issued by a political party specified in Clause 1 hereof. The credentials shall contain the observer's surname, first and middle names, residence address, the ballot station number, title of the election commission to which he/she is delegated, as well as declaration of non-applicability of the restrictions imposed by Clause 2 hereof. No additional information about the observer shall be required. The credentials shall be deemed valid provided a passport or an equivalent identity document is presented. No prior notice of delegating an observer shall be needed.

4. The credentials referred to in Clause 3 hereof may be presented to a precinct election commission during the period specified in Clause 5 Article 29 of this Federal Law and to a different election commission during the period from the beginning of the voting at polling stations till the completion of protocols of vote returns, election results, and vote re-calculation.

5. A political party specified in Clause 1 hereof shall be entitled to delegate several observers to each precinct election commission. Such observers shall be entitled to do the poll-watching in turns. The poll watching in the premises of an election commission shall not be done by two or more observers representing the interests of the same political party. No restrictions other than those provided for by this Federal Law pertaining to the presence of observers in the premises of an election commission, of voting, of poll watching, of vote calculation, of completion of vote returns protocols and issuance thereof shall not be allowed.

6. An observer shall be entitled to:

1) familiarize oneself with the list of voters, register of issuance of absentee voter certificates, absentee voter certificates lodged with the election commission, register of applications (requests) for out-of-the-ballot-station voting;

2) be present in the voting place of a respective ballot station on the day of elections, on days of early voting at any time during the period specified in Clause 5 Article 29 of this Federal Law;

3) observe the issuance of voting ballots to voters;

4) be present during the out-of-the-ballot-station voting;

5) observe the calculation of voters entered to the list of voters, of voting ballots issued thereto, of cancelled voting ballots and cancelled absentee voter certificates;

6) observe the vote calculation at the distance and under conditions which enable him/her to see the voter marks made on the ballots;

7) look at any completed or uncompleted voting ballot during the vote calculation as well as observe the completion of the vote returns protocol and other documents during the period specified in Clause 5 Article 29 of this Federal Law;

8) turn with proposals and remarks on matters of voting organization to the precinct election commission chair or, in the event of his/her absence, to a person acting in lieu thereof;

9) familiarize oneself with the protocols of vote returns, of election results, with the attached documents, receive copies thereof certified by respective election commissions, provided such protocols are completed by the commission to which the observer is delegated or by immediate lower-level commissions;

10) lodge an appeal against resolutions and actions (inactions) of an election commission to which he/she is delegated in the immediate higher-level election commission or a court of law;

11) be present during re-calculation of votes in respective election commissions.

7. An observer shall not:

1) issue voting ballots to voters;

- 2) sign on behalf of a voter, even at his/her request, for the receipt of a voting ballot;
- 3) complete a voting ballot on behalf of a voter, even at his/her request;
- 4) act in a way that violates the secrecy of the vote;
- 5) be immediately involved in the ballot counting performed by the election commission voting members;
- 6) interfere with the work of an election commission;
- 7) campaign among voters;
- 8) participate in the decision-making process of an election commission.

Article 31. Foreign (International) Observers

1. Foreign (international) observers shall obtain permit of entry to the Russian Federation in the procedure set forth by the federal law and, if they hold an invitation letter specified in Clause 3 hereunder, shall be accredited with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.
2. The activities of the foreign (international) observers shall be regulated by the international treaties of the Russian Federation, this Federal Law, other federal laws.
3. Invitation letters may be forwarded by the President of the Russian Federation, by Houses of the Federal Council (Parliament) of the Russian Federation, by the Government of the Russian Federation, by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma. Proposals on invitees may be sent in by the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsmen) of the Russian Federation, international and domestic governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as by individuals whose authority in the field of human rights protection is widely acknowledged. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall forward invitation letters to the election bodies of foreign states and to international organizations dealing with elections, electoral legislation and rights of voters.
- 4) The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall issue certificates of a fixed form on the basis of the documents presented (an application for foreign (international) observer accreditation, a copy of the invitation letter forwarded to them by any of the bodies listed in Clause 3 hereof and an identity document). The certificate shall entitle a foreign (international) observer to perform corresponding activities during the period specified in Clause 5 hereof.
- 5) The tenure of a foreign (international) observer shall commence on the day of his/her accreditation with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and terminate on the day when the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma are officially published.
- 6) Election commissions, bodies of state power, bodies of local government, officials thereof shall render the necessary assistance to foreign (international) observers within the scope of their authority.

7) A foreign (international) observer shall act independently and at his/her own discretion. The expenses incurred by a foreign (international) observer shall be paid for by the delegating organization or by the observer him/herself.

8) Foreign (international) observers shall be entitled to meet with candidates, representatives of political parties and of other public organizations, with observers.

9) Foreign (international) observers shall make public statements on the electoral legislation of the Russian Federation, on the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, to hold press conferences and appeal to the mass media only after the termination of the vote throughout the entire territory of the Russian Federation.

10) Foreign (international) observers shall not use their status to perform activities not relating to observation of the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

11) The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to revoke the accreditation of a foreign (international) observer in the event he/she violates the generally accepted principles and norms of international law, this Federal Law, other federal laws.

Article 32. Mass Media Representatives

When informing about the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, mass media representatives shall be entitled to:

1) be present at meetings of election commissions;

2) familiarize themselves with protocols of vote returns completed by the precinct election commission or protocols of vote returns, election results and vote re-counting completed by other election commissions;

3) receive copies of protocols specified in Clause 2 hereof and copies of documents attached thereto from a respective election commission;

4) be present at and cover campaign events;

5) be present in the premises of voting on the day of elections, on days of early voting, and take photos and do video taping.

CHAPTER V. Political Parties

Article 33. Participation of Political Parties in Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

1. Political parties shall participate in elections of deputies of the State Duma, including nomination of federal lists of candidates, in compliance with this Federal Law and Federal Law On Political Parties. A political party has the right to nominate one list of candidates.

2. A federal executive body empowered to register political parties shall compile a list of political parties entitled in compliance with this Federal Law and Law On Political Parties to participate in elections of deputies of the State Duma, including nomination of federal lists of

candidates, as valid on the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma and, within three days after such publication, shall publish the list mentioned hereabove in the national periodical press, places it on the Web, and forward it and excerpts from Charters of these political parties describing their emblems as valid on the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

Article 34. Title and Emblem of a Political Party

1. A political party which has nominated its federal lists of candidates shall present to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation information of its title.
2. The title of a political party shall be the title mentioned in its Charter.
3. A political party shall be entitled to present to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation its emblem, as described in its Charter, simultaneously with the presentation for certification of its federal list of candidates.
4. The electoral documents shall use the full name of a political party if it is not more than seven words. If the full name of a political party consists of more than seven words, and the acronym is no more than seven words, the abbreviated name of a political party is used on the ballot papers. If both full and abbreviated name of a political party consists of more than seven words, a political party agrees with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation upon a short (consisting of not more than seven words) name, which is used in the election documents. Short name of a political party shall be formed in compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Federal Law "On Political Parties", using only the words that make up the name of a political party specified in its charter. Political parties shall coordinate with the Central Election Commission of Russian Federation the emblem, which is to be used in the election documents.
5. Amendments of the title and emblem of a political party after presentation thereof to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall not be allowed.

Article 35. Authorized Agents of a Political Party and its Regional Chapters

1. A political party which has nominated its federal list of candidates shall be entitled to nominate no more than 500 agents authorized in compliance with this Federal Law to represent the political party on all matters related to its participation in elections of deputies of the State Duma including agents on financial matters (hereinafter – authorized agents of a political party, authorized agents of a political party on financial matters).
2. A political party upon the proposal of its regional chapter shall appoint authorized agents on financial matters entitled to dispose of electoral funds of the given regional chapters (hereinafter – authorized agents on financial matters of a regional chapter of a political party).
3. Authorized agents referred to in Clauses 1 and 2 hereof shall be appointed by the resolution of the Convention of a political party or by the resolution of a body empowered thereto by the Convention. The resolution shall indicate the surname, first and middle name of each authorized agent, his/her passport number or the number of an equivalent identity document, place of employment or service, the position occupied (in the lack thereof, occupation), residence address

and the scope of their powers. The resolution on authorized agents on financial matters shall also indicate that they are entitled to sign the payment (reconciliation) documents.

4. Lists of authorized agents mentioned in Clauses 1 and 2 hereof shall be presented to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in a scannable paper format set forth by the Commission. The list shall contain information about authorized agents indicated in Clause 3 hereof, their contact telephone numbers and, additionally for authorized agents on financial matters, the declaration that they are authorized agents on financial matters and the scope of their powers. The declarations of acceptance of office of authorized agents shall be attached to the list.

5. Authorized agents of a political party shall act under the resolution provided for in Clause 3 hereof, and authorized agents on financial matters shall act under the power of attorney duly executed and authenticated by Notary in the procedure set forth by the law. The power of attorney shall indicate the surname, first and middle name of the agent, his/her date and place of birth, residence address, passport number or number of an equivalent identity document, its date of issue and the passport agency code, the scope of powers and a sample seal of the stamp for financial documents of the political party or its regional chapter.

6. Authorized agents of a political party on financial matters shall register with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. The registration shall be done on the strength of the resolution and power of attorney specified in Clauses 3 and 5 hereof, provided the authorized agent presents a passport or an equivalent identity document.

7. The list of authorized agents of regional chapters of political parties on financial matters shall be certified by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and, after the certification of the federal list of candidates nominated by the political party, shall be presented to the election commissions of entities of the Russian Federation for registration of authorized agents of regional chapters of political parties on financial matters. The registration shall be done on the strength of the resolution and power of attorney specified in Clauses 3 and 5 hereof, provided the authorized agent presents a passport or an equivalent identity document.

8. A political party at the decision of a body authorized thereto shall be entitled to terminate the tenure of office of an agent appointed thereby by notifying him/her in writing and by sending a copy of the decision to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and the election commission of the respective entity of the Russian Federation. A copy of the decision of termination of the tenure of office of an authorized agent on financial matters shall also be sent to the branch of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) at which a political party, a respective regional chapter opened a specialized electoral account to accumulate electoral funds.

9. Authorized agents specified in Clauses 1 and 2 hereof shall not abuse powers vested in them by their status.

10. The tenure of office of authorized agents of a political party shall commence on the day of their appointment and terminate on the day when all candidates on the federal list nominated by the given political party are deprived of their status but not later than on the day of official publication of results of elections of deputies of the State Duma. The tenure of office of authorized agents on financial matters shall terminate in 90 days from the day of elections and, in the event they participate in the court investigation on the part of the political party that appointed them, on the day succeeding the day when the court decision comes into legal force.

11. An authorized agent of a political party which has registered its federal list of candidates shall be entitled to receive in the election commission of the entity of the Russian Federation the

list of electoral precincts with indication of their borders, addresses and telephone of territorial and precinct election commissions, addresses of ballot stations.

CHAPTER VI. Nomination and Registration of Federal Lists of Candidates

Article 36. Nomination of a Federal List of Candidates

1. A decision to nominate a federal list of candidates from a political party shall be taken by secret voting at a congress of the political party.
2. The procedure of placing candidates on the federal list of candidates and of secret voting mentioned in Clause 1 hereof shall be provided for in the Charter of a political party.
3. The nomination of a federal list of candidates at a congress of a political party shall be carried out not earlier than 10 days and not later than 30 days after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.
4. In the event of the dissolution of the State Duma nomination of a federal list of candidates shall be carried out at a congress of a political party not earlier than 10 days and not later than 30 days after the official publication of the presidential decree on early elections of deputies of the State Duma of a new convocation or the official publication of the resolution of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation adopted in pursuance of Clause 5, Article 6 of this Federal Law.
5. The decision of the congress (convention) of a political party on the nomination of a federal list of candidates shall be recorded in its minutes (or in the form of some other document), which must indicate:
 - (1) the number of registered participants in the congress (convention);
 - (2) the number of participants which is required for adoption of the decision under the Charter of the political party;
 - (3) the decision on the nomination of candidates and the results of the vote taken on this decision (the federal list of candidates shall be appended);
 - (4) the decision on the appointment of authorized agents of the political party, its authorized agents on financial matters as well as authorized agents of regional chapters of the political party, its authorized agents on financial matters (in the case of the nomination thereof);
 - (5) the date of the resolution.
- 6) The regional group of candidates, to which the votes cast for the federal list of candidates outside the Russian Federation shall correspond to, in the event of a political party making decision under part 9.1 of this article.
6. A political party shall be entitled to nominate candidates on its federal list who are not members of the given political party. The said persons shall comprise no more than fifty per cent

of the total number of candidates on the federal list. A political party shall not include members of other political parties in its federal list.

7. The federal list of candidates nominated by a political party shall be signed by the leader of the political party, authorized by the charter of political party or decision of the authorized party body, and certified with the party's seal.

8. The persons on a federal list of candidates and their order thereon shall be determined by a political party in compliance with the requirements imposed by Clauses 6, 9-11, 15-22 hereof.

9. A federal list of candidates shall be split (entirely or partially) into regional groups of candidates corresponding to entities of the Russian Federation, groups of entities of the Russian Federation, parts of territories of entities of the Russian Federation.

9.1. A political party is entitled to determine the regional group of candidates, to which the votes cast for the federal list of candidates outside the Russian Federation shall correspond to.

10. The number of voters registered on the territory of an entity of the Russian Federation, or a group of entities of the Russian Federation, or parts of an entity of the Russian Federation to which a regional group of candidates corresponds shall not exceed three million. The number of voters registered in parts of entities of the Russian Federation to which a regional group of candidates corresponds shall be not less than 650 thousand.

11. A regional group of candidates may correspond to a part of an entity of the Russian Federation under the condition that the total number of voters registered on the entire territory of the respective entity of the Russian Federation exceeds 1.3 million.

12. Void - Federal Law of 26.04.2007 N 64-F3.

13. Not later than twenty days prior to the date during which the decision on elections of deputies of the State Duma must be adopted or, in the event of early elections, not later than in five days after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma, the Central Election Commission shall determine the borders of parts of entities of the Russian Federation to which regional groups of candidates may (shall) correspond and shall publish the list thereof with indication of their titles, titles of administrative units, municipalities or settlements included therein (if the territory of a part of an entity of the Russian Federation includes parts of administrative units, municipalities or settlements the list shall specify the borders thereof).

14. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall determine the borders of parts of entities of the Russian Federation to which regional groups of candidates may (shall) correspond in line with the following requirements:

1) the number of voters registered in the entity of the Russian Federation shall be divided by 650,000. The integer of the resulting number shall be the number of parts into which this entity of the Russian Federation shall be divided;

2) parts of entities of the Russian Federation shall be approximately equal in terms of the number of registered voters and shall deviate by no more than fifteen per cent from one another. In abidance by these requirements, administrative division of entities of the Russian Federation and municipalities shall be taken into account. If in a city district not less than 650,000 voters are registered such district shall be divided between no more than two parts of an entity of the Russian Federation, provided one of these parts includes only the territory of the above-

mentioned city district. If in a city district less than 650,000 but more than 300,000 voters are registered such city district shall not be divided between parts of an entity of the Russian Federation;

3) parts of entities of the Russian Federation shall not comprise territories which do not border on one another unless these territories do not border on other territories of an entity of the Russian Federation;

4) the title of a part of an entity of the Russian Federation shall include the title of a respective entity of the Russian Federation.

15. A part of an entity of the Russian Federation to which a regional group of candidates corresponds may correspond to a part of an entity of the Russian Federation determined in compliance with Clauses 13 and 14 hereof or it may correspond to a group of parts of an entity of the Russian Federation determined in compliance with Clauses 13 and 14 hereof.

16. A federal list of candidates shall include no more than one regional group of candidates corresponding to one and the same entity of the Russian Federation including the entity embraced by a group of entities of the Russian Federation or to one and the same part of an entity of the Russian Federation.

17. A federal list of candidates shall not be divided into regional groups of candidates corresponding to territories which do not border on one another unless the entity of the Russian Federation does not border on other entities of the Russian Federation or a constituent territory of an entity of the Russian Federation does not border on other territories of this entity of the Russian Federation.

18. Regional groups of candidates corresponding to an entity of the Russian Federation, a group of entities of the Russian Federation or a part of an entity of the Russian Federation shall be deemed a regional part of a federal list of candidates. Each regional group of candidates shall bear a name, no more than five words long, and the federal list of candidates shall specify to which entity of the Russian Federation, group of entities of the Russian Federation or part of an entity of the Russian Federation it corresponds. Within the federal list of candidates each regional group is assigned a serial number, and it is indicated what subject of the Russian Federation, a group of subjects of the Russian Federation (with the list of subjects of the Russian Federation), part of the territory of the Russian Federation or group of parts of the territory of the Russian Federation (with the list of parts of the territories and subjects of the Russian Federation) corresponds to each regional group of candidates. In case the of political party making decision under Clause 9.1 of this Article, the federal list of candidates shall also indicate to which regional group of candidates the votes cast for the federal list of candidates outside the Russian Federation would correspond to.

19. The number of regional groups of candidates shall not be less than seventy. A regional part of a federal list of candidates shall embrace all entities of the Russian Federation.

20. No more than ten candidates shall be on a national part of a federal list of candidates.

21. A candidate shall be mentioned in a federal list of candidates only once.

22. The total number of candidates on a federal list of candidates shall not exceed six hundred.

Article 37. Guarantees to the Effectuation of a Passive Electoral Right

1. Within three days after the official publication of notice of election of deputies of the State Duma or, in the event of early elections, with three days after the official publication of the presidential decree or the resolution of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on early elections of deputies of the State Duma passed in compliance with Clause 5 Article 6 of this Federal Law, each citizen of the Russian Federation who possesses a passive electoral right shall be entitled to offer his/her candidacy to any regional chapter of any political party which is due to nominate its federal list of candidates. In the event at least ten members of the political party support this candidacy it shall be submitted for the review of the conference (general meeting) of a regional chapter of a political party when making decisions related to participation of the political party in elections.
2. A candidacy supported by the conference (general meeting) of a regional chapter of a political party shall be submitted for the decision of the congress (convention) of the political party on equal terms with other candidates.
3. The lack of offers stipulated for in Clause 1 hereof shall not prevent a political party from placing a citizen of the Russian Federation who is not a member of this political party on its federal list of candidates at its own initiative and in line with its Charter provided the citizen submits a written declaration of consent to stand for elections on this federal list of candidates and provided the requirements imposed by Clause 6 Article 36 of this Federal Law are complied with.
4. Cases of violation of requirements imposed by Clause 1 hereof by a regional chapter of a political party or requirements imposed by Clause 2 hereof by a political party shall be prosecuted in accordance with the Federal Law *On Political Parties*.

Article 38. Submission of Federal Lists of Candidates and Other Documents to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

1. A federal list of candidates shall be submitted by an authorized agent of a political party to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation within thirty days after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma. The federal list of candidates shall indicate the surname, first and middle name, place and date of birth, residence address, series and No. of passport, name or code of the body that issued the passport or substituting document, education, place of employment and position occupied (in the lack thereof, occupation) of each candidate; for part-time elected deputies – the information thereon and the title of a respective representative body. In the event a candidate has unspent or uncompleted previous convictions – the information on the convictions. At the will of the candidate his membership in other political parties or other public associations registered not later than a year prior to the elections as well as his/ her status therein may be indicated in a federal list of candidates, provided he/she submits a document to authenticate the said information certified by the continuing executive body of the political party, public association.
2. A federal list of candidates shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in the paper scannable form in a format which shall be approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and shall be submitted to the political

parties no later than on the day when nomination of federal lists of candidates shall commence in accordance with this Federal Law.

3. Simultaneously with the federal list of candidates an authorized agent of the political party shall submit:

1) a copy authenticated by notary public of a document certifying the fact that the record of the political party was entered into the state register of legal entities, issued by the executive body authorized to perform functions of registering political parties;

2) void – Federal law of 23.07.2011 N 259-F3;

3) a resolution of the party congress (convention) on the nomination of a federal lists of candidates;

4) lists of authorized agents of a political party, authorized agents thereof on financial matters as well as authorized agents of regional chapters of a political party, authorized agents thereof on financial matters (if appointed) drafted in line with the requirements set forth in Clauses 3 and 4 Article 35 of this Federal Law;

5) void – Federal Law of 26.04.2007 N 64-Ф3;

6) an officially certified by a permanent governing body of a political party list of citizens included by it into the federal list of candidates and being members of the political party, on paper, as well as in machine-readable form. Format of the list provided to be provided in hard copy and in machine-readable form as established by the Central Election Commission of Russian Federation.

4. Simultaneously with the documents indicated in Clauses 1 and 3 hereof an authorized agent of a political party shall submit:

1) each candidate's declaration of consent to stand for elections on the federal list of candidates nominated by this political party that shall state the commitment of the said candidates to stand down from a position incompatible with the status of a deputy of the State Duma. The declaration shall indicate the surname, first and middle names, date and place of birth, residence address, passport number or number of an equivalent identity document, the title or code of the passport agency, citizenship, place of employment and position occupied (or, in the lack thereof, occupation); for elected part-time deputies – information thereon and the title of a respective representative body. In the event a candidate has unspent or uncompleted previous convictions – the information on the convictions. At his/her own will the candidate may indicate his/her membership in other political parties or other public associations registered not later than a year prior to the elections as well as his/ her status therein, provided he/she submits a document to authenticate the said information certified by the continuing executive body of the political party, public association. The candidate shall coordinate with the said body and the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation a short title (not more than seven words long) of the said political party, public association which is to be indicated in documents pertaining to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

2) information on the amount and sources of income of each candidate as well as on the property owned (or jointly owned) by them, including bank deposits, securities (compiled in the form set forth in Appendix 2 to this Federal Law). The same information shall be provided in scannable form established by the Central Election Commission of Russian Federation.

4.1. In the case of a nomination for the list of candidates of a person who is disabled and therefore not having the opportunity to write one's own application of consent to run, or to assure certify other documents required by law, such person is entitled to use help of another person. In this case the authority of the person providing assistance in filling of or certification of documents specified in Clause 4 of this Article shall be certified by a notary.

5. A candidate may be only on one federal list of candidates.

6. A federal list of candidates and documents attached thereto shall be filed with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation alongside with copies (authenticated by an authorized agent of the political party) of a document certifying the identity of the candidate and of documents certifying information, indicated in his/her declaration of consent, on education, place of employment and position occupied (occupation) and information that the candidate is a deputy. Authenticated copies of the said documents shall be filed for each candidate on the federal list of candidates. When submitting the federal list and attached documents to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the authorized representative of a political party also presents proxies for the authorized representatives of political parties for financial matters and for authorized representatives of regional branches of political parties for financial matters (in case of appointment thereof), issued in accordance with the requirements of Clause 5 of Article 35 of this Federal Law. Copies of the said proxies shall be made by the Central Election Commission of Russian Federation in the presence of an authorized representative of a political party, shall be certified by signature of the person who accepted the documents, and shall be attached to these documents.

7. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall within seven days check the documents and upon review shall either certify the federal list of candidates and issue the authorized agent of a political party a certified copy of a federal list of candidates or refuse certification of the said list and provide the authorized agent of a political party a grounded refusal.

8. The grounds for refusal of issuance of a certified copy of a federal list of candidates shall be the lack of all or some documents specified in Clauses 1 - 4 and 6 hereof, breach of procedure for nomination of a federal list of candidates set forth in Article 36 of this Federal Law and in Clause 5 hereof.

9. The refusal of issuance of a certified copy of a federal list of candidates may be appealed by the political party in the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation which shall examine the complaint within five days.

10. After the federal list of candidates is filed with the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation it shall not be altered or amended with an exception of amendments caused by the quitting of a candidate, or by the revocation of a candidate by a political party, or by the death of a candidate, or by the removal of a candidate from the federal list of candidates by the resolution of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

11. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall place read-only information on certified federal lists of candidates in the Internet, as well as information on amendments thereto.

Article 39. Support of the Nomination of Federal Lists of Candidates

1. The nomination of a federal list of candidates shall be supported by voters by means of signing signature sheets, with an exception provided for in Clause 2 hereof.

The provisions of Article 39 of the Federal Law of 22.04.2010 N 63-FZ, shall apply to legal relationships arising in connection with the elections, appointed after the coming into force of this Federal Law.

2. Registration of the federal list of candidates nominated by a political party which federal list of candidates is accepted for the distribution of deputy mandates on the basis of officially published results of previous elections of deputies of the State Duma (which federal list of candidates has been submitted the parliamentary mandate in accordance with Article 82.1 of this Federal Law) shall be made without collecting signatures of voters based on a decision on the nomination of the federal list of candidates accepted by the political party in the manner prescribed by the federal law. Based on this decision the registration of the federal list of candidates nominated by a political party which federal list of candidates is accepted for the distribution of deputy mandates (which lists of candidates submitted their deputy mandates in accordance with the law of the subject of the Russian Federation set forth by Clause 17, Article 35 of the Federal Law "On basic guarantees of electoral rights and right to participate in the referendum of the citizens of the Russian Federation") in force as of the date of official publication of the decision to call elections of the State Duma deputies of legislative (representative) bodies of state power in not less than one-third of subjects of the Russian Federation.

3. If a political party decides to collect signatures of voters in support of its federal list of candidates it shall be obliged to collect no less than 200 thousand signatures of voters, not more than 10 thousand of which shall be signatures of voters residing in any single entity of the Russian Federation. If signatures of voters are collected outside the Russian Federation the total number of such voters shall not be more than 10 thousand.

4. In the event of early elections of deputies of the State Duma the number of signatures of voters needed for the registration of a federal list of candidates as well as the maximum number of signatures collected in any single entity of the Russian Federation or outside the Russian Federation shall be reduced by half.

5. Void – Federal Law of 09.02.2009 N 3-F3

6. Void – Federal Law of 09.02.2009 N 3-F3.

Article 40. Signature Sheets

1. A signature sheet shall indicate:

1) the date of voting;

2) the date of authentication of a federal list of candidates by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;

3) the entity of the Russian Federation where signatures of voters were collected (in the event signatures of voters were collected outside the Russian Federation – the respective foreign state);

4) the title of the political party nominating its federal list of candidates;

5) surnames, names and patronymics of candidates included in the federal part of the federal list of candidates (if any), as well as three candidates who are heads of the regional group of candidates (each of the regional groups of candidates) related to the subject of the Russian Federation on which territory the collection of signatures (in case signatures are collected among voters living outside the territory of the Russian Federation, the signature sheet shall contain surnames, names and patronymics of candidates included in the federal part of the federal list of candidates (if any), and in the case the political party makes a decision stipulated by Part 9.1, Article 36 of this Federal law, also of the three candidates who are heads of their respective regional group of candidates);

(as amended by Federal Law No. 188-Φ3 of 21.07.2007)

6) number of the special electoral account of the electoral fund of a political party, its regional offices from which payment is made for the production of signature sheets.

2. Void – Federal Law 25.07.2006 N 128-F3.

3. In the event a candidate whose name is mentioned in the signature sheet has an unspent or uncompleted conviction the information thereon shall be indicated in the signature sheet.

4. In the event a candidate whose name is mentioned in the signature sheet in the declaration of consent to stand for elections in accordance with par.1, Clause 4 Article 38 of this Federal Law indicated his/her membership in a political party or a public association of a different type and his/her status therein such information at the request thereof may be indicated in the signature sheet.

5. Signature sheets shall be printed at the expense of an electoral fund of a political party in line with the form appended to this Federal Law (Appendix 1). Production of signature sheets has to be paid for before the collection of signatures begins.

Article 41. The Collection of Signatures of Voters in Support of the Nomination of a Federal List of Candidates and the Processing of Signature Sheets

1. A political party shall be entitled to start collecting signatures of voters in support of its federal list of candidates on the day production of signature sheets has been paid for.

2. A capable citizen of the Russian Federation 18 years of age or older shall be entitled to the collection of signatures of voters. A political party shall be entitled to conclude a contract for the collection of signatures with a signature collector.

3. A political party shall be obliged to compile a list of signature collectors in line with the form set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. Such list shall indicate the following information on each signature collector: the surname, first and middle names, date of birth, residence address, passport number or the number of an equivalent identity document, title or code of the passport agency and shall be signed by the signature collector. The information on signature collectors and signatures thereof shall be authenticated by the Notary Public.

4. All costs of the collection of signatures of voters shall exclusively accrue to the electoral fund of a political party.
5. The collection of signatures of voters shall be exercised at the place of residence and in other places where campaigning and collection of signatures is not banned by the federal law.
6. The involvement of bodies of state power, bodies of local government, bodies of companies irrelevantly of the legal form, voting members of election commissions in the collection of signature of voters shall be banned. It shall be strictly forbidden to force voters to give signatures in support of a federal list of candidates or remunerate them therefor in any form. It shall be forbidden to collect signatures at the place of work, study, during and at the place of payment of salaries, pensions, benefits, scholarships and other fees, and during philanthropic actions.
7. The collection of signatures is exercised by putting them into signature sheets. A voter shall be entitled to give signatures in support of different federal lists of candidates but only once in support of one and the same federal list of candidates. A voter shall put his/her signature, indicate the date, his/her surname, first and middle name, the year of birth (and, if aged 18, the month and the day of birth), residence address, passport number or the number of an equivalent identity document. The signature and the date shall be written by a voter with his/her own hand. The information on a voter putting his signature into a signature sheet may at the request of the voter be written by a signature collector. The said information shall be fixed in handwriting with no use of pencils being allowed.
8. Each signature sheet shall be certified by signatures of signature collectors and an authorized agent of the political party. While certifying the signature sheet the signature collector shall in his/her own hand write his/her surname, name and middle name, date of birth, residence address, passport number or the number of an equivalent identity document, title or code of the passport agency, and shall sign the sheet and put the date. While certifying the signature sheet an authorized agent of a political party shall in one's handwriting against one's name write his/her surname, first and middle name, shall sign the sheet and put the date.
9. During the collection of signatures of voters a signature sheet may be filled in on both the front and reverse side of the sheet. The reverse side shall be deemed the continuation of the front page with successive numeration of signatures; and the certifying signatures of and information on a signature collector and an authorized agent of a political party shall be placed on the reverse side immediately after the signatures of voters.
10. At the demand of a voter a signature collector shall be obliged to demonstrate a copy of a federal list of candidates authenticated by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.
11. After the completion of the collection of signatures authorized agents of a political party shall separately count the number of signatures collected in each entity of the Russian Federation where signatures of voters were collected, the number of signatures collected outside the Russian Federation and the total number of signatures collected. The counting results shall be documented in the protocol on results of signature collection in two copies in the form set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. The protocol copy shall be signed by an authorized agent of the political party.

Article 42. Submission of Electoral Documents for Registration of a Federal List of Candidates

1. For registration of a federal list of candidates an authorized agent of a political party shall submit to the Central Election Commission:

- 1) the first financial report of the political party;
- 2) information on changes introduced to the federal list of candidates after its copy was authenticated; on changes of information about each candidate on the federal list of candidates which were submitted earlier in compliance with Clauses 1 and 4 Article 38 of this Federal Law (provided such changes took place);

2. If in support of the nomination of a federal list of candidates signatures of voters were collected, the following documents in addition to the documents mentioned in Clause 1 hereof shall be submitted:

- 1) signature sheets duly numerated and stitched up in folders by each entity of the Russian Federation where signatures of voters were collected, for signatures collected outside the Russian Federation – duly numerated and stitched up in folders by each foreign state where signatures of voters were collected. The total number of signature sheets in the folder submitted by the collector is certified by signatures of respective consular offices of the Russian Federation. The number of signatures submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation for registration may exceed the number set forth by this Federal Law for registration of a federal list of candidates by no more than five per cent.

- 2) two copies of the protocol on results of signature collection in the paper scannable format;

- 3) the list of signature collectors compiled in compliance with the requirements set forth by Clause 3 Article 41 of this Federal Law, also the list of collectors in scanable form set forth by the CEC of Russian Federation;

- 4) document, proving the fact of payment for production of signature sheets.

3. If the nomination of a federal list of candidates was secured by an electoral deposit, a copy of the payment order for the electoral deposit certified by a branch of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) shall be submitted in addition to the documents mentioned in Clause 1 hereof.

4. All documents for registration of a federal list of candidates shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation simultaneously not earlier than 75 days and not later than 45 days prior to 18 o'clock (Moscow time) of the day of elections.

5. When accepting documents for registration of a federal list of candidates the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall issue the authorized agent of the political party a receipt confirming the acceptance of the documents submitted and indicating the time and the date of acceptance and the declared number of signatures. In addition, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall stamp a seal to each folder with signature sheets, check the conformity of the number of signature sheets to the number fixed in the protocol on results of signature collection. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall not impede or refuse of access of an authorized agent of a political party to the premises it occupies or refuse him/her of acceptance of the documents being submitted for registration of a federal list of candidates in the event these documents are delivered before the expiry of the term set forth in Clause 4 hereof.

Article 43. Check-Up of Compliance with Requirements Imposed by This Federal Law during the Nomination of a Federal List of Candidates

1. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall check the compliance with the requirements imposed by this Federal Law during the nomination of a federal list of candidates.
2. In the event of submission of signature sheets the Central Election Commission of the Russian federation shall check the compliance with the procedure of signature collection, the appearance of signature sheets, and the authenticity of information on voters and of their signatures put into the signature sheets.
3. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall check the authenticity of information on candidates and other information submitted by a political party in accordance with this Federal Law.
4. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall apply for the check-up of the authenticity of information on candidates submitted in accordance with this Federal Law to respective bodies which shall be obliged within ten days (or, as for information submitted in accordance with par.2 Clause 4 Article 38 of this Federal Law, within 20 days) report on the results of the check-up. In the event an application for check-up are forwarded ten or less days prior to the day of elections, the respective bodies shall report on the results of the check-up within the term set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.
5. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall bring to the notice of voters information on candidates submitted during the nomination of a federal list of candidates in a set amount.
6. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall forward to the mass media information on revealed facts of inauthenticity of information submitted by candidates about themselves.
7. For the check-up of compliance with the procedure of nomination of federal lists of candidates, the appearance of signature lists, the authenticity of information on voters contained therein and the authenticity of their signatures, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to create of its own volition working groups composed of the CEC members, of staff thereof and of organizations created to assist in its activities. For the check-up it may recruit members of lower-level election commissions, experts working for bodies of the Interior Ministry, the Ministry of Justice, census and statistics bodies, military enlistment offices and other state bodies of the Russian Federation, as well as other persons in accordance with the clause 19 of Article 28 of the Federal Law “On basic guarantees of electoral rights and right to participate in referendum of citizens of Russian Federation”. Conclusions of experts as documented in signature sheet check-up registers may serve as a reason to acknowledge information on voters and their signatures contained in signature sheets void.
8. For the check-up of authenticity of information contained in signature sheets the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be entitled to use the GAS Vybory, including register of voters and referendum participants. Conclusions of the check-up results, signed by the authorized representative of the elections commission of the subject of Russian Federation, including those received through the communication channels of GAS Vybory and certified with a digital signature, may serve as a reason to acknowledge signatures of voters void.

9. Not less than twenty per cent of the signatures necessary for the registration of a federal list of candidates and information on voters corresponding thereto shall be checked. For the preliminary check-up an equal number of signatures shall be selected in each federal list of candidates. The check-up shall be exercised on a selective basis. The procedure of a selective check-up shall be set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. The selective check-up may be attended by authorized agents or proxies of political parties submitted the necessary number of signatures of voters for registration of federal lists of candidates. The selection (sampling) shall be exercised by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation immediately after the issuance to an authorized agent of a political party of a document confirming the acceptance of the signature sheets. The selective check-up may be attended by other persons delegated by the said political parties.

10. All signatures of voters and information on voters corresponding thereto, if selected for the selective check-up, shall be checked. As a result of the check-up a signature may be acknowledged authentic, inauthentic and (or) void.

11. An inauthentic signature is the one made on behalf of one person by another person on the basis of a conclusion of an expert recruited for the check-up in line with Clause 7 hereof.

12. The following signatures shall be deemed void:

1) signatures of voters possessing no active electoral right as well as signatures of voters residing outside the respective entity of the Russian Federation, when collecting signatures outside of Russian Federation – signatures of voters not residing permanently outside of Russian Federation;

2) signatures of voters, if information on voters corresponding thereto is false. In this case the signature shall be acknowledged void provided there is an official reference received from the registration bodies of Russian Federation, or data signed by the official of the elections commission of an entity of Russian Federation, information received through the communication channels of GAS Vybory and certified with a digital signature, or a written conclusion of an expert recruited for the check-up in line with Clause 7 hereof;

3) signatures of voters, if all or some pieces of information required in accordance with this Federal Law are missing or if there is no date of signature in the signature sheet;

4) signatures of voters if information thereon is written in pencil or is made not in handwriting;

5) signatures of voters, if the dates of signatures are modified and such modifications were not agreed upon with voters, as well as signatures of voters, if dates of signatures are not put in their own hand – on the basis of the conclusion of an expert recruited for the check-up in line with Clause 7 hereof;

6) signatures of voters, if information of voters corresponding thereto is modified and such modifications were not specifically agreed upon with the voters or persons certifying signature sheets;

7) all signatures of voters in the signature sheet in the case the signature sheet is not certified in their own hand by signature collectors and (or) an authorized agent of the political party, or in the case at least one of these signatures is inauthentic, or at least one date of signature of the said persons is not valid, or in case the signature sheet was certified by the person collecting signatures, who was underage at the moment of collecting, or at least one date of signature of the said persons is not put in by the own hand of the person, or in the case information on the signature collector and (or) the date of signature of the signature collector or an authorized agent

of a political party was modified and no evidence is provided that the said persons agree to such modifications, or in the case the information on signature collector or on an authorized agent of a political party is incomplete or inauthentic, or in the case information on the signature collector is not written in his/her own hand;

8) signatures of voters put in the signature sheet before the day production of signature sheets was paid for;

9) signatures of voters collected in breach of the procedures set forth by Clauses 5 and 6 Article 41 of this Federal Law;

10) signature of voters if information thereon is written by persons other than those who put the signatures or the signature collector – on the basis of a conclusion of an expert recruited for the check-up in line with Clause 7 hereof;

11) all signatures of voters in the signature sheet if it was printed in breach of the requirements set forth in Article 40 of this Federal Law, or if it does not contain amendments stipulated by clauses 1, 3 and 4 of Article 40 of this Federal Law, or it is produced in breach of requirements set forth by clause 5 of Article 40 of this Federal Law;

12) all signatures of voters in the signature sheet if it was certified by a signature of a signature collector who is not on the list of signature collectors compiled in accordance with Clause 3 Article 41 of this Federal Law.

13) signatures included in the signature sheets after the certification of the signatures sheet by a person which collects signatures of voters, and (or) an authorized representative of a political party;

(Clause 13 was introduced by Federal Law No. 259-Φ3 of 23.07.2011)

14) all signatures of voters, referendum participants in the in the signatures sheet in case the certification entry of a person which collects signatures of voters has been made after the certification entry of an authorized representative of a political party.

(Clause 14 was introduced by Federal Law No. 259-Φ3 of 23.07.2011)

13. The abbreviations of words and dates in information on voters contained in the signature sheet, if interpreted in an unambiguous way, shall not serve as a reason to acknowledge the signatures of voters void.

14. The signatures of voters contained in the signature sheets and information corresponding there to, if crossed out, shall not be checked and considered unless otherwise is specially stated by voters in the signature list before the signature sheets are submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;

15. If the check-up reveals several signatures of the same voter in support of the same federal list of candidates only one of these signatures shall be acknowledged valid, others shall be acknowledged void.

16. If the check-up reveals that in the signature sheets there is (are) completed line(s) in breach of requirements imposed by this Federal Law, only the signature in this (these) line(s) shall not be considered with an exception of cases provided for in par. 7, 11, 12 and 14 of Clause 12 hereof.

17. If modifications and mistakes are properly explained during the compilation of the signature sheet, they shall not serve as a reason to acknowledge a signature of a voter void unless it is revealed that it is void in line with par. 7, 11 and 12 Article 12 hereof.

18. In the event inauthentic and (or) void signatures of voters should equal to or outnumber five per cent of the total number of signatures selected for the selective check-up an additional check-up of other fifteen per cent of signatures necessary for the registration of a federal list of candidates in the procedure set forth in this Article.

19. If the total sum of inauthentic and (or) void signatures revealed during the selective check-up equals or outnumbers five per cent of the total number of signatures selected for the check-up in line with Clauses 9 and 18 hereof the further check-up shall stop and the federal list of candidates shall not be registered.

20. The federal list of candidates shall not be registered if the number of submitted signatures with the deduction of those acknowledged inauthentic and (or) void is less than the necessary minimum.

21. After the completion of the check-up for each federal list of candidates the concluding protocol shall be compiled which shall be signed by a voting member of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation for the resolution on the registration of a federal list of candidates or on the refusal of such registration. The protocol shall document the number of declared, submitted and checked signatures as well as the number of signatures acknowledged inauthentic and (or) void and an explanation of reasons. The protocol shall be attached to the Resolution of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on the registration of a federal list of candidates or on the refusal of such registration. After the adoption of the said Resolution the amendments to the protocol shall be banned. A copy of the protocol shall be passed to an authorized agent of a political party not later than two days prior to the meeting of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation during which the resolution on the registration of a federal list of candidates will be considered. In the event the number of authentic signatures should be insufficient for the registration or the number of signatures acknowledged inauthentic and (or) void should equal or outnumber five per cent of the total number of signatures selected for the check-up, an authorized agent of a political party shall be entitled to receive in the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation simultaneously with a copy of the concluding protocol the certified signature sheet check-up registers which explain reasons of acknowledgement of signatures inauthentic and (or) void and indicate the numbers of the folder, signature sheet and the line that contain such signatures as well as to receive copies of official documents on the ground of which the respective signatures were acknowledged inauthentic and (or) void.

22. The recheck of signatures sheets after the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation makes a decision on registration or rejection of registration of the federal list of candidates may be made only by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation in accordance with Part 7, Article 91 of this Federal Law, and only concerning signatures to be verified.

23. If the information about the candidates is found to be incomplete or in case of non-compliance with the requirements of this Federal Law concerning registration of documents submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in accordance with Article 38, Part 1, Clauses 2 and 4 of Part 2, Part 4 of Article 42 of this Federal Law, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall notify the political party which nominated a federal list of candidates not later than three days prior to its meeting which is to consider the issue of registration of the federal list of candidates,. Not later than one day prior to the day of

this meeting a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates shall be entitled to make clarifications and amendments to the documents containing information about the candidates nominated by it to the federal list of candidates, as well as other documents submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in accordance with Article 38, Part 1, Clauses 2 and 4 of Part 2, Part 4 of Article 42 of this Federal Law, in order to bring the above-mentioned documents in accordance with the requirements of the present Federal Law, including the preparation thereof. A political party shall be entitled to substitute the submitted document only if it has been prepared with violation of the requirements of this Federal Law.

Article 44. Registration of a Federal List of Candidates

1. Not later than after ten days after the receipt of documents necessary for the registration of a federal list of candidates the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall adopt a resolution on the registration of a federal list of candidates or on the grounded refusal of such registration.

2. The resolution on the registration of a federal list of candidates shall contain the time and the date of registration.

3. In the event it should be decided against the registration of a federal list of candidates, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be obliged within three days from the adoption of such decision to issue an authorized agent of a political party a copy of the decision that explains the reasons of refusal. There shall be the following reasons:

1) incompliance with the requirements of nomination of a federal list of candidates provided for in the Federal Laws On Political Parties, On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participate in Referendums of Citizens of the Russian Federation and in this Federal Law;

2) lack among the documents submitted for the registration of a federal list of candidates of documents necessary in accordance with Articles 38 and 42 of this Federal Law, documents listed in Clauses 1-4 and 6 of Article 38, Clauses 1 and 2 of Article 42 of this Federal Law (except in cases the above documents are missing in respect of individual candidates included in the federal list of candidates) for the registration of a federal list of candidates;

2.1) availability of documents executed in violation of the requirements of Parts 3 - 5 of Article 35, Parts 5 and 7 of Article 36, Parts 1 - 4 and 6 of Article 38, Clauses 2 and 3 of Part 2 of Article 42, Part 1 and Clause 1 of Part 2 of Article 68 of this Federal Law (except for improper execution of documents in respect of individual candidates included in the federal list of candidates) among documents submitted in accordance with Articles 38 and 42 of this Federal Law as of the day preceding to the meeting of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation during which the question concerning registration of the federal list of candidates is to be considered;

(Clause 2.1 introduced by Federal Law No. 64-Φ3 of 26.04.2007, as amended by The Federal Law No. 3-Φ3 of 09.02.2009)

2.2) non-availability of any information specified in Parts 1 and 4 of Article 38 of this Federal Law (except for the non-availability of information in respect of individual candidates included in the federal list of candidates) in the documents submitted in accordance with Article 38 of this Federal Law as of the day preceding to the meeting of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation during which the question concerning registration of the federal list of candidates is to be considered.

3) more than 10 per cent of signatures submitted for the registration of a federal list of candidates were collected in places where the collection thereof is prohibited in accordance with this Federal Law;

4) insufficient number of authentic signatures of voters are submitted for the registration of a federal list of candidates, or five or more per cent of signatures selected for the check-up are acknowledged inauthentic and (or) void signatures of voters;

4.1) the fact of non-observance of restrictions by a political party under paragraph 1 or 1.1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On basic guarantees of electoral rights and the right to participate in the referendum of the citizens of the Russian Federation" established by a court;

(Clause 4.1 introduced by Federal Law No. 64-Φ3 of 26.04.2007)

4.2) the fact of bribery of voters by the political party, its agent, authorized representative, as well as other person or organization acting on their behalf established by a court;

(Clause 4.2 introduced by Federal Law No. 64-Φ3 of 26.04.2007)

5) void – Federal Law of 09.02.2009 N 3-Φ3;

6) a political party has not created its electoral fund. The lack of cash therein shall not serve as a reason for refusal of registration;

7) expenditures made by a political party for the needs of its election campaign from other sources than its electoral fund and electoral funds of its regional chapters exceed five per cent of the maximum limit of all expenditures from an electoral fund set forth by this Federal Law;

8) expenditures made by a political party for the needs of its election campaign exceed five per cent of the maximum limit of all expenditures from an electoral fund set forth by this Federal Law;

9) the number of candidates excluded from the federal list of candidates at the volition of these candidates, at the decision of a political party (with an exception of force majeure circumstances) and at the decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation adopted in line with Clause 4 of this Article exceeds twenty five per cent of the total number of candidates on an authenticated federal list of candidates;

10) authorized agents or proxies of a political party more than once took advantage of their office;

11) as a result of quitting of candidates less than seventy of regional groups of candidates remain on the federal list of candidates;

4. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall exclude a candidate from a federal list of candidates if:

1) the candidate does not possess a passive electoral right;

2) the candidate has indicated unspent or uncompleted conviction;

3) the court of law determines that the candidate during the campaign period has not complied with the restrictions imposed by Clause 1 ar 1.1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law “On basic guarantees of electoral rights and rights to participate in referendum of citizens of Russian Federation”;

4) the candidate more than once has taken advantage of his office;

5) the candidate is registered in another federal list of candidates;

6) presence of a candidate nominated by a political party in the federal list of candidates, who is a member of another political party;

(Clause 6 introduced by Federal Law No. 106-Φ3 of 12.07.2006)

7) non-availability of documents required in accordance with Parts 1, 4 and 6 of Article 38 of the present Federal Law for registration of a candidate included in the federal list of candidates among other documents submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in accordance with Article 38 of the present Federal Law.

(Clause 7 was introduced by Federal Law No. 64-Φ3 of 26.04.2007)

8) availability of documents executed in respect to the candidate in violation of the requirements of Parts 1, 4 and 6 of Article 38 of this Federal Law among documents submitted in accordance with Articles 38 of this Federal Law as of the day preceding to the meeting of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation during which the question concerning registration of the federal list of candidates is to be considered

(Clause 8 introduced by Federal Law No. 64-Φ3 of 26.04.2007)

9) non-availability of any information in respect to the candidate stipulated by Parts 1 and 4 of Article 38 of this Federal Law among documents submitted in accordance with Articles 38 of this Federal Law as of the day preceding to the meeting of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation during which the question concerning registration of the federal list of candidates is to be considered

(Clause 9 introduced by Federal Law No. 64-Φ3 of 26.04.2007)

5. In the event the registration of a federal list of candidates should be refused its second nomination shall not be banned provided the procedure and terms set forth by this Federal Law is complied with.

6. In the event evidence should be revealed of the criminal or administrative offence the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall pass to the law enforcement bodies, court of law the corresponding documents and materials for the offence to be investigated and decided upon.

7. The Resolution of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on the registration of a federal list of candidates or on the refusal of such registration may be appealed in the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation which shall examine the complaint within five days after the day it is filed.

8. After the registration of a federal list of candidates a candidate on such list shall acquire a status of a registered candidate. Each registered candidate shall be issued a certificate.

9. Registered federal lists of candidates and information of the candidates thereon shall be within 48 hours passed by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation to the representatives of the mass media. The information on property and income of registered candidates subject to the obligatory publication shall be specified by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

10. Territorial election commission not later than fifteen days prior to the day of elections shall place on the stands in their premises information on registered candidates specified in Clauses 3 to 5 Article 72 of this Federal Law. Information on cancellation of registration of registered federal lists of candidates, on the quitting of candidates from the registered federal list of candidates shall be placed in the same way. Information on registered candidates and political parties which registered federal lists of candidates shall be placed in the order as in the voting ballot.

11. In the event that less than two federal lists of candidates are registered 35 days before the elections, the day of elections of deputies of the State Duma at the decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be postponed by no longer than two months to allow an additional nomination of federal lists of candidates and execution of further electoral actions.

CHAPTER VII. Status of Candidates

Article 45. Equality of Candidates

All candidates shall have equal rights and bear equal obligations, save as otherwise provided for in this Federal Law, the Federal Law *On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participate in Referendums of Citizens of the Russian Federation*.

Article 46. Restrictions Pertaining to Office or Official Position

1. Candidates who hold state or elected municipal offices or are on state or municipal service; candidates who are members of bodies of organizations regardless of their legal form (for organizations the supreme bodies of which are general meetings – also members of governing bodies of such organizations) with an exception of political parties; as well as candidates who are officials, journalists or other staff members of mass media organizations during the election campaign shall refrain from taking advantage of their office or official position.

2. Registered candidates who are on state or municipal service or who work for mass media organizations shall, during their participation in elections of deputies of the State Duma, be relieved from their office duties. A certified copy of relevant order (resolution) shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation by an authorized agent of a political party within five days of the day of registration of a respective federal list of candidates.

3. Non-candidates who hold state or elected municipal offices or are on state or municipal service; or who are members of bodies of organizations regardless of their legal form (for organizations the supreme bodies of which are general meetings – also members of governing bodies of such organizations) with an exception of political parties; as well as officials,

journalists or other staff members of mass media organizations during the election campaign shall refrain from taking advantage of their office or official position to promote the nomination of federal lists of candidates and (or) the election of candidates placed thereon.

4. In this Federal Law taking advantage of an office or official position means:

1) involvement of persons who are subordinate to or dependent on a candidate in the line of duty, other state and municipal employees in activities carried out during the working hours to promote nomination and (or) election of a candidate;

2) use of premises occupied by state bodies or bodies of local self-government, organization regardless of their legal form (with an exception of premises occupied by political parties) for activities promoting nomination and/or election of a candidate (candidates) if the use of the same premises is not guaranteed to other candidates on the same terms and conditions;

3) use of telephone, fax and other facilities of communication, information services, office equipment of state bodies or bodies of local self-government, state and municipal institutions, organizations regardless of legal form (with an exception of the said facilities of communication, information services, office equipment used for everyday activities of political parties) for election campaigning unless their use is not paid for at the expense of a respective electoral fund;

4) use of transportation owned by state or municipal bodies, by organizations (with an exception of transportation owned by political parties) at no charge or reduced charges for activities promoting nomination and/or election of a candidate (candidates). This provision shall not apply to persons using the said transport facilities in accordance with the Russian Federation laws on the security services provided by the state;

5) collection of signatures or election campaigning carried out by persons who hold state and municipal elected offices or are in state or municipal service, or are heads of local administrations, or members of bodies of organizations regardless of their legal status (for organizations the supreme bodies of which are general meetings – also members of governing bodies of such organizations) with an exception of political parties during business trips (paid for from the respective budget or funds of organizations);

6) privileged access (compared to other candidates) to the state and municipal mass media for collection of signatures or election campaigning;

7) propaganda speeches at mass events organized during an election campaign by a state and (or) municipal body, organization regardless of their legal form (with an exception of political parties);

8) publication of any work progress reports during an election campaign, mailing of congratulations and other materials on behalf of a citizen who is a candidate unless such mailing is paid for out of a relevant electoral fund.

5. Compliance with the restrictions listed in Clause 4 of this article must not prevent deputies from exercising their powers and performing their obligations to voters.

6. Officials, journalists and other persons holding creative jobs in mass media organizations shall not participate in highlighting an election campaign in the mass media if these persons are candidates or authorized agents, or proxies of political parties.

Article 47. Guarantees for the Activity of Registered Candidates

1. The employer, head of state body or its subdivision, commander of a military unit, administration of an academic institution where a registered candidate works, serves, do alternative civil service, undergoes military training or studies shall be obliged to relieve the candidate from work, service, training and study on any day and for any time in the period from the day of the candidate's registration by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation to the day of the official publication of the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

2. At one's own initiative the employer (administration of an academic institution) shall not be entitled to dismiss a registered candidate from work, service or study as well as to move him/her to a different position, call for military service, military training or alternative civil service. The period during which a candidate participates in elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be included in his overall employment record in accordance with his specialty before the registration.

3. A registered candidate shall not be subjected to criminal prosecution, arrest or administrative court convictions without the consent of the Prosecutor-General of the Russian Federation. Having given such consent, the Prosecutor-General of the Russian Federation shall serve an immediate notice to this effect on the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

Article 48. Proxies of Political Parties

1. A political party which nominated its federal list of candidates shall be entitled to appoint as many as one thousand proxies. The said proxies shall be registered by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation within three days after the submission by political parties of written notice of the appointment of proxies and declarations of acceptance of office of such persons, but not before the decision of certification of the federal list of candidates. The list of proxies shall be submitted on paper and in scanable form as set forth by the CEC of Russian Federation.

2. The notice of the appointment of proxies shall indicate the surname, first and middle names, date of birth, number and date of issue of the passport or an equivalent identity document, place of employment and office held (if unemployed – occupation), residence address of each proxy.

3. The following persons shall not be appointed proxies: candidates to elected offices of any level, heads of local administrations, staff members of election commissions. Persons enrolled on state or municipal service may be appointed proxies provided they are relieved from office or office position for the period they are empowered with duties of proxies. Registration of proxies enrolled on state or municipal service shall be exercised under the condition copies of the respective order (resolution) are presented to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

4. Certificates (ID cards) shall be issued to proxies by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. At the request of proxies the employer shall grant them an unpaid leave of absence for the period during which they are to exercise the powers of a proxy.

5. Proxies shall participate in the election campaign of the political party which appointed them. A proxy shall have no powers of an observer.

6. Political parties which appointed proxies may, at any time, recall them and appoint other proxies in their place by serving a notice to this effect on the Central Election Commission of the

Russian Federation, which shall annul certificates issued to the recalled proxies. Proxies may, at any time, resign their powers on their own initiative by returning their certificates to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and notifying the political party of their decision.

7. The powers of proxies shall commence from the day when proxies are registered by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and cease when a candidate's status is lost by all candidates nominated on a federal list of candidates by a political party, save as otherwise provided for in Clause 5 hereof, but not later than the day of the official publication of the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma, or, if a complaint about violations of this Federal Law is being examined by a court, not later than the date when the court hands down a final decision.

8. Registration of a proxy shall be annulled by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation if the proxy acquires a status incompatible with the status of a proxy. The political party shall be notified of such decision within three days.

Article 49. Quitting of Candidates, Revocation of Federal Lists of Candidates

1. A candidate may at any time but not later than fifteen days or, in the presence of compelling circumstances, not later than one day before the day of elections, decide against hi/her further participation in elections of deputies of the State Duma by submitting a written application to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. Such application shall be irrevocable. In response to such application, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall remove the candidate from the federal lists of candidates within three days of receipt of his application or, three or less days before the day of elections, within 24 hours.

2. At any time but not later than five days before the day of elections, a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates may recall their federal list of candidates upon a decision of the duly authorized body of this political party by submitting a written application to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. Such application shall be irrevocable.

3. A political party in accordance with the federal legislation and its Charter shall be entitled within fifteen days before the day of elections to remove a candidate from its federal lists of candidates authenticated (registered) by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, no later than in 15 days before the voting, except for cases stipulated by clause 11 article 91 of this Federal Law.

4. No new persons shall be put on the list of persons and no changes shall be made in the order in which candidates are arranged on the list, save the cases where changes in the arrangement of candidates result from the quitting of some candidates.

5. In the event fewer than two registered federal lists of candidates should remain by the day of elections, the elections of deputies of the State Duma upon the Decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be postponed by a period of no longer than three months for the additional nomination of federal lists of candidates and execution of further electoral actions.

6. If the circumstances indicated in Clause 11 hereof result from the fact that a political party recalled a registered federal list of candidates in the absence of any compelling circumstances, or

the registration of a federal list of candidates was annulled by a court, or the registration of a federal list of candidates was annulled on the grounds provided for in Clauses 2, 3 or 4 Article 91 of this Federal Law (with an exception when the quitting of candidates is caused by compelling circumstances) all expenses incurred by all election commissions in the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be collected from the respective political party.

7. In this Federal Law the following circumstances shall be regarded as compelling a candidate to quit from the further participation in election of deputies of the State Duma: the pronouncement of a candidate to be legally incapable or partially incapable by a court, a serious illness or persistent health problems of a candidate or his next of kin. The circumstances compelling a political party to recall a federal list of candidates shall mean the quitting of the candidates on the national part of the federal list of candidates or the quitting of more than 25 percent of candidates on the federal list of candidates, unless due to compelling circumstances or death of such candidates.

CHAPTER VIII. INFORMING OF VOTERS AND ELECTIONEERING

Article 50. Informational Support of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

The informational support of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall include informing of voters and electioneering (campaigning) and shall contribute to the conscious expression of voters will and openness of elections.

Article 51. Informing of Voters

1. Informing of voters shall be carried out by bodies of state power, bodies of local government, election commissions, mass media organizations, legal entities and individuals in accordance with this Federal Law, Federal Law *On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participate in Referendums of Citizens of the Russian Federation*. Bodies of state power, bodies of local government shall not inform voters of political parties which nominated lists of candidates or individual candidates on such lists.

2. Informational materials carried by the mass media or disseminated by other methods shall be objective and accurate and shall not violate the equality of political parties provided for in this Federal Law.

3. Mass media organizations shall be entitled to inform voters freely with an exception of restrictions imposed by this Federal Law, Federal Law *On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right to Participate in Referendums of Citizens of the Russian Federation*.

4. In TV and radio news programs and in the publications carried by the print media reports concerning election events shall be always presented in the form of separate news items, without any comments. Such news items shall not be paid for by political parties, candidates and shall not discriminate against or give preference to any political party, in particular with regard to the time devoted to highlighting their election activities, the amount of space allocated in the print media for such reports.

5. Journalists, other creative workers and officials of a mass media organization who are engaged in the activity aimed at the informational support of elections of deputies of the State Duma in accordance with the electoral laws of the Russian Federation shall not be fired by the administration (employer) and shall not be transferred to other jobs without their consent during the election campaign at elections of deputies of the State Duma and during one year thereafter, save the case where a disciplinary action was taken against them in accordance with the labor laws of the Russian Federation and this action was not appealed in a court or was declared lawful and appropriate by a court.

6. On the day of elections, before the end of voting in the Russian Federation, no information shall be published (made public) about the results of the elections and no such information shall be placed in the public information and telecommunication networks (including the Internet), before the voting is over on the territory of Russian Federation.

Article 52. Participation of Election Commissions in Informational Support of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

1. Election Commissions shall engage in the informing of voters by various means, including by means of mass media, of the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, of the terms and order of execution of electoral action, of political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates, such federal lists of candidates, candidates thereon and of the electoral legislation of the Russian Federation. Election commissions also take measures necessary to inform the disabled voters.

2. During the period from the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma till the official publication of election results the nation-wide state-owned broadcasting organizations shall grant no less than fifteen minutes of the air time at each of their channels to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and the regional state-owned broadcasting organizations shall grant no less than ten minutes of the air time at each of their channels to the election commissions of the entities of the Russian Federation weekly for the purpose provided for in Clause 1 hereof and for the answers to questions of voters. For the same purpose the nation-wide state-owned broadcasters shall free of charge grant no less than ten minutes of the air time at each of their channels weekly to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation within ninety days before the termination of the period during which the decision on the elections shall be adopted till the notice of elections is officially published.

3. During the period from the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma nation-wide state-owned print mass media organizations, if published once a week or more frequently, shall free of charge allocate to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation not less than one hundredth of their weekly printed space. During the period from the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma regional state-owned printed mass media organizations, if published once a week or more frequently, shall free of charge allocate to the election commissions of the entities of the Russian Federation not less than one hundredth of their weekly printed space. These election commissions shall use the said printed space for the purpose provided for in Clause 1 hereof and for the answers to questions of voters.

Article 53. Publishing of Opinion Poll Results

1. The publishing of opinion poll results pertaining to elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be deemed a variety of informing of voters.
2. When publishing opinion poll results pertaining to elections of deputies of the State Duma the mass media, citizens and organizations that publish (make public) these results shall indicate the organization which conducted the poll, the time when it was conducted, the number of respondents (sample), how the information was gathered, the region where the poll was conducted, the precise formulation of the question, the statistical assessment of a possible error, the person (persons) who ordered the poll and paid for the publication of its results.
3. Within five days before the day of elections and on the day of elections it shall be prohibited to publish (make public) opinion poll results, forecasts of election results at elections of deputies of the State Duma, other studies relating to the election, in particular in the public information and telecommunication networks (including the Internet).

Article 54. TV and Radio Broadcasting Organizations and Print Media Used for Informational Support of the Election of Deputies of the State Duma

1. The informational support of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be provided by means of state, municipal and non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media.
2. In this Federal Law state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media which are founded (co-founded) or the editorial offices of which are founded (co-founded) by state bodies and organizations and/or which, a year before the day of the official publication of notice of elections, received state support in the form of subsidies and/or subventions for their current functioning from the federal budget, budgets of entities of the Russian Federation and/or which have a charter capital where the Russian Federation or an entity of the Russian Federation has a stake as of the day of the official publication of notice of elections.
3. In this Federal Law municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media which are founded (co-founded) or the editorial offices of which are founded (co-founded) by bodies of local government or municipal organizations and/or which, a year before the day of the official publication of notice of elections, received municipal support in the form of subsidies and/or subventions for their current functioning from the municipal budget and/or which have a charter capital where a municipality or municipalities have a stake as of the day of the official publication of notice of elections.
4. In this Federal Law non-state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media mean TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media which do not fall within Clauses 2 and 3 hereof.
5. In this Federal Law, depending on their coverage and distribution area, state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media are divided into:

1) nation-wide TV and radio broadcasting organizations, i.e., TV and radio organizations which have a broadcasting license covering the territory of a half or more than a half of entities of the Russian Federation or whose programs are distributed on a contractual basis by other organizations in a half or more than a half of entities of the Russian Federation;

2) regional TV and radio broadcasting organizations, i.e., TV and radio broadcasting organizations which have a broadcasting license covering less than a half of entities of the Russian Federation as well as relevant divisions of the TV and radio broadcasting organizations indicated in par. 1 hereof;

3) nation-wide print media registered for distribution in a half or more than a half of entities of the Russian Federation;

4) regional print media registered for distribution in less than a half of entities of the Russian Federation.

6. Print media founded by legislative (representative), executive and judicial bodies of state power, bodies of local government exclusively for the publication of their official documents and reports, regulations and other acts shall not publish any campaign materials and editorial articles highlighting the activity of political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates and such candidates.

7. The list of nation-wide TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media shall be published by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on the basis of the information submitted by the federal bodies of executive power which formulate and implement the state policy vis-à-vis the mass media, not later than on the tenth day after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

8. The list of regional state TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media and of municipal TV and radio broadcasting organizations and editorial offices of municipal print media shall be published by the election commissions of entities of the Russian Federation on the basis of the information submitted by the territorial agencies of the federal bodies of executive power which formulate and implement the state policy vis-à-vis the mass media and the relevant bodies of executive power of entities of the Russian Federation not later than on the tenth day after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

9. The lists specified in Clauses 7 and 8 hereof shall be submitted to respective election commissions not later than on the fifth day after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma. The said lists shall indicate the following information about each broadcasting organization, each periodical print media:

1) Title of a broadcasting or print media organization;

2) Legal address of a broadcasting or print media organization;

3) Founder (co-founders) of a broadcasting or print media organization;

4) Sort and amount of state or municipal support (if any has been rendered throughout a year preceding the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma);

5) A share of or a contribution to the charter capital of the Russian Federation, entities of the Russian Federation or municipalities (if any is available on the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma);

6) Periodicity of issue of a print media outlet;

7) Indication that the broadcaster or print media periodical is specialized (for specialized broadcasters, printed periodicals)

Article 55. Electioneering (Campaigning)

1. The following shall be regarded as electioneering (campaigning) during the conduct of an election campaign:

1) calls for voting for or against a federal list of candidates, or for or against individual candidates on the list;

2) expression of preference for some political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, for some individual candidate(s), in particular, statements indicating the federal list of candidates, candidate(s) for which a voter will vote (save as for publishing of opinion poll results in accordance with Clause 2 Article 53 of this Federal Law);

3) description of possible consequences of the election or non-election of a federal list of candidates;

4) dissemination of materials with a marked predominance of the information about some political parties which nominated a federal list of candidates, some candidate(s) with positive or negative comments;

5) dissemination of information about the activities of a candidate unrelated to his/her professional activity or performance of his/her official duties;

6) activity promoting formation of a positive or negative attitude of voters towards a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, candidate(s);

2. Actions indicated in par. 1 Clause 1 hereof, if done by representatives of mass media organizations as their professional duties, shall be deemed electioneering provided such actions are done with a view to encourage voters to vote for or against a federal list of candidates, or for or against some candidate(s). Actions indicated in par. 2-6 Clause 1 hereof shall be deemed electioneering if done more than once.

3. Election campaigning may be conducted:

1) on TV or radio channels of and in the print media;

2) by means of public electioneering events;

3) by producing and distributing printed, audio-visual and other campaign materials;

4) by other methods which are not prohibited by law.

4. Electioneering on TV and radio channels and in the print media shall be conducted in the form of public debates, discussions, roundtables, press conferences, interviews, speeches, demonstration of TV stories and video films about political parties which registered federal lists of candidates, about registered candidates, and in other forms which are not prohibited by law.

5. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates shall be entitled at its own discretion to select the contents, form and methods of its election campaign, do electioneering and involve other persons therein in the procedure established by the law of the Russian Federation.

6. Electioneering can be done on behalf of a political party by candidates on its federal list, persons empowered therewith as well as proxies and agents of a respective political party (hereinafter – agents of a political party).

7. No election campaign shall be conducted and no kind of campaign materials shall be produced and distributed by:

1) bodies of state power, other state bodies, bodies of local government;

2) persons who hold state or elected municipal office, who are state or municipal servicemen, persons who hold executive office in organizations regardless of their legal status (in organizations whose supreme body is a general meeting, - in governance bodies thereof), with an exception of political parties when discharging their official duties by taking advantage of their office and official position;

3) military units, military institutions and organizations;

4) charity and religious organizations and organizations founded by them as well as members and representatives of religious associations when they are performing rites and ceremonies;

5) election commissions and voting members thereof;

6) foreign nationals, stateless persons and foreign entities;

7) international organizations and international public movements;

8) representatives of mass media organizations when they are engaged in their professional activities.

9) persons in which respect violation of restrictions stipulated by Clause 1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On basic guarantees of electoral rights and the right to participate in the referendum of the citizens of the Russian Federation" was established by the judgement of the court during the ongoing election campaign for the elections of deputies of the State Duma.

(Clause 9 introduced by Federal Law No. 64-Φ3 of 26.04.2007)

8. Persons who hold state or elected municipal office shall not engage in electioneering on TV and radio channels and in the print media unless such persons are on a registered federal list of candidates.

9. Persons under 18 years of age on the day of elections shall not be involved in electioneering which includes use of pictures and sayings of such persons in campaign materials save as provided for in par. 5 Clause 10 hereof.

10. Pictures of individuals, their statements about a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, such candidate(s) may be used in campaign materials only with a written consent of such individuals. The document confirming such consent shall be submitted to an election commission together with copies of campaign materials subject to submission in accordance with Clause 5, Article 63 of this Federal Law. If the campaign material is to be broadcast by a

TV and radio broadcasting organization or published in a print media outlet, the said document shall be submitted to an election commission upon its request. This restriction shall not apply to:

1) the use of statements of candidates put on the federal list of a respective political party, about this political party, this candidate (these candidates) on such a list;

2) opinions about a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, about a candidate (candidates) expressed in public and published (made public), provided the date (period of time) of the publication and name of the mass media outlet where this opinion was published are indicated. References in campaign materials to such statement of an individual, who is not allowed to do electioneering under this Federal Law shall be allowed only if this statement was published (made public) before the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma. Such reference must indicate the date (period of time) when this statement was published (made public) and the name of the mass media outlet where it was made public.

3) quoting of opinions about a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, a candidate (candidates) published (or made public) by other political parties in their campaign materials produced and distributed in accordance with this Federal Law;

4) void – Federal law of 26.04.2007 N 64-F3;

5) the use by a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates of pictures where a candidate put on such list is depicted with his/her spouse, children, including those under 18 years of age, parents and other close relatives as well as among an unidentified group of people.

11. All electioneering expenditures shall be paid exclusively from electoral funds of political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates and their regional chapters (if available). Campaign activities aiming to encourage or encouraging voters to vote for a federal list of candidates nominated by a political party which are paid for from electoral funds of other political parties and their regional chapters shall be prohibited.

12. A political party which has registered a federal list of candidates shall within 20 days before the day of elections publish its election program at least in one national state print media outlet and on the Internet and shall within the same timeframe provide the CEC of Russian Federation with a copy of such publication, and provides the url of the webpage hosting the election program of the political party. Such publication shall be carried out with the use of either free space provided by the print media under this Federal Law or space paid for from the electoral fund of the political party.

Article 56. Electioneering Period

1. Electioneering period shall commence on the day of nomination of a federal list of candidates and end at 00.00 hours local time one day before the day of elections.

2. Electioneering on TV and radio channels and in the print media shall be conducted in the period which begins 28 days before the day of elections and ends at 00.00 hours local time one day before the day of elections.

3. No electioneering shall be conducted on the day of elections and on the day preceding the day of elections.

4. Printed campaign materials (leaflets, posters, etc.) which were earlier displayed outside polling stations and premises of election commissions at a minimum distance of 50 meters from the entrance thereto in the procedure established by the federal law, shall remain in place on the day of elections.

Article 57. General Terms of Access of Political Parties to the Mass Media

1. Air time on TV and radio channels and space in print media may be made available (offered) to political parties which registered federal lists of candidates in the procedure established by this Federal Law free of charge (free air time, free space), save as provided for in Clause 2 hereof, or for a charge.

During elections of deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation being held after the day of entry into force of the Federal Law No. 203-Φ3 of 19.07.2009 provisions of Part 2 of Article 57 (as amended by above-named Law) shall apply to political parties which have not reimbursed in full to the broadcasting organizations and the editorial offices of periodicals the cost of free airtime, free space allocated to them for the elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the fifth convocation as of the day of official publication of the decision on the appointment of the elections. The list of such political parties is made by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on the basis of information provided by organizations, broadcasters, within ten days after the official publication) a decision to call the elections of deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation (Federal Law No. 203-Φ3 of 19.07.2009) after the entry into force of the above-mentioned Law.

2. Free air time, free print space shall not be offered to:

1) a political party which on the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma has an outstanding debt to the state-owned TV and radio broadcasters and print media organizations incurred as a result of use by this political party (or an electoral bloc this political party belonged to) of free air time, free print space at previous elections of deputies of the State Duma, elections of the President of the Russian Federation;

2) a political party which is a successor to a political party, federal list of candidates of which during previous elections to State Duma gained less than three percent of cast votes, and was not admitted to distribution of deputies' mandates.

2.1. The provisions of Part 2 of this Article shall not apply to the political party which is the successor of another political party which acceded thereto, which federal list of candidates has received less than 3 percent of votes taking part in nearest preceding elections of deputies to the State Duma in case the federal list of candidates of this political party which is the successor received 3 and more percent of votes taking part in the elections.

3. A political party shall not use the offered free and paid air space, free and paid print space to electioneer for other political parties.

4. State-owned and municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets shall be obliged to ensure political parties have equal terms and conditions for electioneering and, in particular, for the presentation of their election programs to voters.

5. Nation-wide state-owned TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets shall offer free air time, free print space to political parties for electioneering.

6. Regional state-owned TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets shall offer free air time, free print space to political parties for electioneering by offering free air time, free print space to respective regional groups of candidates.

7. Municipal state-owned TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets may offer free air time, free print space to political parties for electioneering by offering free air time, free print space to respective regional groups of candidates. Such free air time, free print space shall be offered to the said organizations only for a charge.

8. In the event in a registered federal list of candidates there should be no regional group of candidates corresponding to a respective entity of the Russian Federation (a group of entities of the Russian Federation which includes this entity of the Russian Federation) or part of an entity of the Russian Federation, such a political party which registered its federal list of candidates shall not be offered free air time, free print space in the regional and municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets in this entity of the Russian Federation, save as provided for in Clause 18 Article 58 and Clause 10 Article 59 of this Federal Law.

9. Non-state-owned TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets founded at least one year prior to the commencement of an election campaign as well as non-state-owned TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets founded by political parties (or regional chapters thereof) within one year prior to the commencement of an election campaign may provide air time, print space to political parties for a charge, provided requirements of Clauses 10 and 11 hereof are complied with. Other non-state-owned TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets shall not provide air time, space in print media to political parties.

10. The terms of payment for the provision of air time, print space shall be equal for all political parties to which they were provided. This requirement shall not apply to the editorial offices of print media founded by political parties, candidates. In this Federal Law print media founded by a candidate (candidates) means print media founded not less than one year before the commencement of an election campaign by a citizen (citizens) of the Russian Federation, who participates (participate) in elections of deputies of the State Duma as a candidate (candidates).

11. Information about the rates charged (in the Russian Federation currency) for air time, space in print media shall be published by a relevant TV and radio broadcasting organization, editorial office of a print media outlet not later than 30 days after the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma. The said information and notice of readiness to provide air time, space in print media to political parties shall within the same period be submitted to:

1) the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation – by nation-wide TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets;

2) the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation – by regional and municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets.

12. TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets (regardless of the form of ownership) which provided free or paid air time and free or paid space to political parties shall keep separate records of the amount and cost of such air time and print space in according to the forms of such records established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, and, within ten days of voting day, shall furnish the data of these records to:

1) the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation – by nation-wide TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets;

2) the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation – by regional and municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets.

13. At the request of Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets (regardless of the form of ownership) which provided free or paid air time and free or paid space to political parties (or, in the case of regional or municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets, at the request of the election commission of a respective entity of the Russian Federation) shall present documents confirming the consent of an authorized financial agent of a political party (or of a regional chapter thereof) to the provision of paid services.

14. Non-state-owned and municipal TV and radio broadcasters and print media outlets, specialized TV and radio broadcasting organizations and print media and state-owned print media which are published less than once a week may refuse to offer political parties free air time, free print space for electioneering. Such refusal shall be deemed effective if no notice indicated in Clause 11 hereof was submitted to a relevant election commission within the period established by this clause.

15. Provision of free air time, free print space for electioneering shall be contracted in writing between TV (radio) broadcaster, print media outlet and a political party (a regional chapter thereof) before free air time, free print space is provided.

16. Mass media organizations shall be obliged to keep the documents indicated in Clause 12, 13, and 15 hereof, which confirm the provision of free and paid air time and free and paid space in print media, for not less than three years after the day of elections.

1. The total air time which each of nation-wide state-owned TV and radio broadcaster provides on each of its channels for electioneering to political parties which registered their federal lists of candidates shall be not less than one hour on working days during the period specified in Clause 2 Article 56 of this Federal Law. The total air time which each of the regional state-owned TV and radio broadcasters provides on each of its channels shall be not less than half an hour daily on working days during the period specified in Clause 2 Article 56 of this Federal Law or, in the event the total air time of the broadcaster is less than two hours daily, not less than one quarter of its total air time.

Article 58. Electioneering on Television and Radio

1. The total amount of airtime that each national state broadcasting organization provides on each of its channels free of charge, and in case specified in Clause 1.1 of this Article also for a fee to political parties which have registered federal lists of candidates for the election propaganda shall be not be less than one hour on working days within the period specified in Part 2 of Article 56 of the present Federal Law. The total amount of airtime that each regional state broadcasting organization provides free of charge, and in the case specified in Part 1.1 of this Article, also for a fee on each of its channels for the election propaganda shall be not less than 30 minutes on working days within the period established by Part 2 of Article 56 of the present Federal Law. If the total broadcasting time of the broadcasting organization is less than two hours per day the total amount of air time provided to them shall be not less than one-fourth of the total broadcasting time. In case in the result of provision of airtime for each political party which nominated a registered list of candidates, for each regional group of candidates there is

more than 60 minutes of air time, the total amount of air time provided in accordance with this Article by each TV and radio broadcasting organization shall be reduced and shall be 60 minutes, respectively multiplied by the number of political parties which nominated registered candidates' lists, regional groups of candidates.

(Part one as amended by Federal Law No. 203-Φ3 of 19.07.2009)

1.1. On the basis of the contract concluded with TV and radio broadcasting organization political parties referred to in Clause 2 of Article 57 of this Federal Law shall have the right to receive out of the total broadcasting time made available in accordance with Part 1 of this Article shares or parts thereof due to them for a fee which may not exceed the amount of payment for air time reserved by state TV and radio broadcasting organizations in accordance with Part 13 of the present Article for election propaganda. The distribution of air time provided on the basis of a contract stipulated by the present Part shall effect in accordance with Clauses 3 - 6 of the present Article.

2. Free air time shall be provided during the prime time hours established by a respective broadcaster.

3. Free air time shall be provided for discussions, round tables, other joint campaign events (hereinafter – joint campaign events) and (or) for broadcasting of campaign materials of political parties, regional groups of candidates. A political party (or a regional chapter thereof – in respect to the air time provided by a regional state-owned broadcaster) shall be entitled within 35 days prior to the day of elections to refuse the offered air time wholly or in part of the air time offered for joint campaign events, or in part of the air time offered for broadcasting of campaign materials by filing a notice thereof respectively to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation. The said refusal shall lead to a proportionate reduction of free air time provided by a broadcaster in compliance with Clause 1 hereof, save as provided for in Clause 4 hereof.

4. Half of the total free air time shall be provided for joint campaign events. Should a political party, a regional group of candidates in the procedure set forth in Clause 3 hereof refuse to participate in joint campaign events, the amount of free air time provided by a broadcaster for broadcasting joint campaign events shall be reduced by a share pertaining to this political party, regional group of candidates. At the request of this political party, regional group of candidates submitted alongside with a notice specified in Clause 3 hereof shall be given to them for broadcasting campaign materials.

5. In a joint campaign event broadcast in accordance with Clause 4 hereof on a channel of a nation-wide state-owned TV or radio broadcaster political parties shall participate or so shall regional groups of candidates, if a joint campaign event is broadcast on a channel of a regional state-owned TV or radio broadcaster. Should an entity of the Russian Federation be divided into parts corresponding to regional groups of candidates, free air time shall be calculated and provided separately in respect to each part of an entity of the Russian Federation. Regional groups of candidates corresponding to a group of parts of an entity of the Russian Federation or an entity of the Russian Federation (including entities of which a group of entities of the Russian Federation is composed of) shall be offered free air space in each part of a respective entity of the Russian Federation on equal terms and conditions with regional groups of candidates corresponding to this part of an entity of the Russian Federation. Provided any of the parts of an entity of the Russian Federation is not included into a territory to which a regional group of candidates corresponds, a political party which nominated the respective federal list of candidates shall be refused of free air time provided in this part of an entity of the Russian Federation.

6. Date and time of broadcasting of joint campaign events on channels of nation-wide state-owned broadcasters shall be selected by sortition as provided for in Clause 11 hereof.

7. A political party, a regional group of candidates may refuse to participate in a joint campaign event after the sortition within five day prior to the date when the joint campaign event is to be broadcast or, if the sortition takes place less than five day prior to the date of broadcasting, on the day of sortition, provided the notice thereof is filed in writing to a respective broadcasting organization. In this event the share of air time pertaining to this political party, regional group of candidates shall be offered to them for broadcasting of campaign materials save as provided for in Clause 8 hereof.

8. If as a result of refusal to participate in a joint campaign event in line with the procedure set forth in Clause 7 hereof fewer than two participants of the said event remain, the share each political party, each regional group of candidates is entitled to as a result of such refusal shall be reduced by half.

9. In the event a political party, a regional group of candidates refuses to participate in a joint campaign event after the deadline set forth in Clause 7 hereof, even if as a result of such refusal fewer than two participants of the said event remain, the air time provided for a joint campaign event shall not be reduced.

10. Air time provided in accordance with clause 1 of this article for broadcasting of campaign materials of political parties, regional groups of candidates shall be distributed respectively among all political parties, all regional groups of candidates in equal shares, however, the shares which political parties, regional groups of candidates refused in line with Clause 4 hereof shall not be taken into account.

11. In view of distributing free air time for broadcasting joint campaign events and campaign materials the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation shall organize sortition after the completion of registration of federal lists of candidates not later than thirty days prior to the day of elections. The sortition may be attended by persons listed in Clause 1 Article 29 of this Federal Law. As a result of the sortition organized by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with attendance of representatives of nation-wide state-owned broadcasters the date and time of broadcasting of joint campaign events and campaign materials of political parties shall be defined. As a result of the sortition organized by the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation with attendance of representatives of respective regional state-owned broadcasters the date and time of broadcasting of joint campaign events and campaign materials of regional groups of candidates shall be defined. The results of the sortition shall be documented in protocols.

12. On the basis of the protocols specified in Clause 11 hereof a schedule of distribution of free air time (provided in accordance with clause 1 of this article) shall be compiled and approved by the decision of corresponding election commission and published in, respectively, nation-wide and regional state-owned print periodicals.

13. State-owned broadcasters shall be obliged to reserve paid air time for electioneering of political parties and regional groups of candidates. The total paid air time which shall be reserved by each broadcaster shall not be less than the total free air time provided in line with Clause 1 hereof, however, it shall not exceed it by more than two times.

14. Each political party, each regional group of candidates shall be entitled for a certain charge to obtain paid air time within a share resulted from division of the total paid air time by the total number of political parties or respective regional groups of candidates.

15. Paid air time shall be provided by a state-owned broadcaster during the period established in Clause 2 Article 56 of this Federal Law. Dates and time of broadcasting of campaign materials shall be defined in line with the sortition organized by a state-owned broadcaster with attendance of interested persons on the basis of their written applications submitted by authorized agents of political parties. The sortition shall be organized within the term set forth in Clause 11 hereof.

16. Municipal broadcasters, if complying with the requirements provided for in Clause 11 Article 57 of this Federal Law, shall offer regional groups of candidates paid air time for electioneering. The total offered paid air time shall be fixed by a municipal broadcasting organization. Dates and time of broadcasting of joint campaign events and/or campaign materials shall be defined in line with the sortition organized by a municipal broadcaster with attendance of interested persons on the basis of their written applications submitted by authorized agents of political parties. The sortition shall be organized within the term set forth in Clause 11 hereof.

17. Should a political party, a regional group of candidates refuse to use their free or paid air time after the sortition, they shall within five days prior to the date of broadcasting or, if the sortition takes place less than five day prior to the date of broadcasting, on the day of sortition, file a written notice thereof to a respective broadcasting organization which shall be entitled to use the time thus released at its own discretion.

18. In the event undistributed air time should remain as a result of distribution of paid air time in accordance with Clauses 15 or 16 hereof or as a result of refusal of a political party, a regional group of candidates of use of its air time in accordance with Clause 17 hereof, this air time may be offered for a charge to political parties which applied for such air time. The remaining air time shall be distributed among the said political parties on equal terms by means of sortition.

19. Non-state-owned broadcasting organizations, provided the conditions set forth in Clause 11 Article 57 of this Federal Law have been fulfilled, shall be obliged to offer air time for electioneering to political parties on equal terms. In the event non-state-owned broadcasting organizations should fail to fulfill the requirements set forth in Clause 11 Article 57 of this Federal Law, they shall not be entitled to offer political parties air time for electioneering.

20. The contract for paid air time shall stipulate the following conditions: the type (form) of electioneering, date and time of broadcasting of campaign materials, the length thereof, amount and order of payment, the way and conditions of involvement of a journalist (moderator) in the TV or radio program. After the contract obligations have been fulfilled, the Statement of Fulfillment shall be signed and the specification of the program, name of the broadcast and time of broadcasting shall be appended thereto.

21. Not later than two days before the provision of air time an authorized financial agent of a political party, a regional chapter of a political party shall submit a payment order to a branch of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) to wire the full amount of payment for the air time. An authorized financial agent of a political party, of a regional chapter of a political party shall present a copy of the payment order endorsed by the branch of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) to a TV and radio broadcasting organization before provision of air time. If these terms and conditions for the provision of air time are not complied with, air time on the channels of TV and radio broadcasting organizations shall not be provided.

22. The branch of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) shall wire the money not later than the next banking day after receipt of the payment order. The time for processing a non-cash payment shall not exceed two banking days within an entity of the Russian Federation and five banking days within the Russian Federation.

23. If, while using paid air time, a political party or a regional group of candidates violate the terms and conditions stipulated by this Federal Law, a broadcasting organization may apply to a court for cancellation of the contract for the provision of air time.

24. Broadcasting of a campaign material shall not be interrupted; neither shall it be interrupted by commercials.

25. Overlaying (substitution) of campaign materials with other TV or radio programs, other campaign materials shall be prohibited.

26. Video and audio records of the aired campaign materials shall be kept in a respective broadcasting organization within no less than twelve months of the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

Article 59. Electioneering through Print Media

1. Political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates, except for political parties listed in clause 2 of article 57 of this Federal law, and regional groups of candidates shall be entitled to free print space in, respectively, nation-wide state-owned print periodicals or regional state-owned print periodicals, unless the said periodicals are published with a periodicity of less than once a week, on the following conditions: offered print space shall have the same amount, place in the column, the same font size and other equal conditions.

2. The total minimum weekly amount of free print space which the editorial office of each state-owned print media outlet is to provide to political parties or regional groups of candidates in accordance with clause 1 of this article free of charge, and in case stipulated by clause 2.1 of this article on paid basis, shall equal to or exceed 10 percent of the total amount of weekly print space of the print media outlet in the period provided for in Clause 2 Article 56 of this Federal Law. The information about the total amount of free print space which the given print media outlet is to provide for electioneering shall be published in the given print media outlet within 30 days after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

2.1. On the basis of the contract concluded with the editorial office of a periodical political parties referred to in Part 2 of Article 57 of this Federal Law shall have the right to receive out of the total printed area made available in accordance with Part 2 of this Article shares or parts thereof due to them for a fee which may not exceed the amount of payment for printed area reserved by editorial offices of a state periodicals in accordance with Part 5 of the present Article for election propaganda. The distribution of printed area provided on the basis of a contract stipulated by the present Part shall effect in accordance with Parts 3 and 4 of the present Article.

3. The amount of free print space provided in accordance with clause 2 if this article shall be distributed among political parties, regional groups of candidates in shares calculated by dividing this amount by the number of political parties, regional groups of candidates entitled to free print space in the given print media outlet.

4. After the end of the registration of federal lists of candidates but not later than 30 days before the day of elections, the CEC of Russian Federation, electoral commissions of entities of Russian Federation with attendance of interested persons shall organize sortition to distribute print space, provided in accordance with clause 2 of this article, between all political parties, regional groups of candidates and to fix the date of publication of their campaign materials. Sortition may be attended by persons indicated in Clause 1 Article 29 of this Federal Law. The results of sortition shall be recorded in a protocol. Space in print media shall be provided on the basis of a contract to be concluded after the sortition.
5. The editorial offices of state-owned print media published with periodicity of no less than once a week shall reserve space for paid publications of campaign materials by political parties, regional groups of candidates. The total amount of paid space to be reserved by the editorial office of a print media outlet shall not be less than the total amount of free space to be provided in accordance with Clause 2 of this article but shall not exceed this amount by more than two times.
6. Each political party, regional groups of candidates shall be entitled to paid space from the total amount of the reserved space within a part thereof calculated by dividing this total amount by the total number of political parties or regional groups of candidates.
7. Print space shall be provided by editorial offices of state-owned print media outlets during the period specified in Clause 2 Article 56 of this Federal Law. The dates for publication of campaign materials shall be fixed by means of sortition which the editorial office of a state-owned print media outlet with attendance of interested persons mentioned in applications for sortition submitted by authorized agents of political parties. The sortition shall be organized within the time set forth in Clause 4 hereof. The sortition may be attended by, respectively, members of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation as well as persons indicated in Clause 1 Article 29 of this Federal Law. The results of the sortition shall be recorded in a protocol.
8. The editorial offices of municipal print media, editorial offices of state print media published with periodicity of less than once a week, if complying with the provisions of Clause 11 Article 57 of this Federal Law shall provide paid space to regional groups of candidates. The total amount of paid space to be provided shall be determined by the editorial offices at their discretion. The dates of publication of campaign materials shall be determined by sortition, with which shall be organized by the said editorial offices of the print media with the attendance of interested persons on the basis of written applications for sortition, submitted by authorized agents of political parties. The sortition shall be conducted within the time set forth by Clause 4 hereof.
9. Should after the sortition a political party, a regional group of candidates refuse to use the offered print space for electioneering they shall within five days prior to the date of publication of campaign materials file a written notice thereof to a respective editorial office of a print media outlet which shall be entitled to use the time thus released at its own discretion.
10. In the event undistributed print space should remain as a result of distribution of paid print space in accordance with Clauses 7 or 8 hereof or as a result of refusal of a political party, a regional group of candidates to use its print space in accordance with Clause 9 hereof, this print space may be offered for a charge to political parties which applied for such print space. The remaining print space shall be distributed among the said political parties on equal terms by means of sortition.

11. Editorial offices of non-state-owned print media, provided the conditions set forth in Clause 11 Article 57 of this Federal Law have been fulfilled, shall be obliged to offer print space for electioneering to political parties on equal terms. The said editorial offices of non-state-owned print media outlets shall be entitled to refuse a political party of print space for electioneering. In the event non-state-owned broadcasting organizations should fail to fulfill the requirements set forth in Clause 11 Article 57 of this Federal Law, they shall not be entitled to offer political parties air time for electioneering.

12. Not later than two days before the publication of campaign materials an authorized financial agent of a political party, of a regional chapter of a political party shall submit a payment order to a branch of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) to wire the full amount of payment for the print space. An authorized financial agent of a political party, of a regional chapter of a political party shall present a copy of the payment order endorsed by the branch of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) to the editorial office of a print media outlet before the publication. If this condition is not complied with, print space shall not be provided.

13. The branch of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) shall wire the money not later than the next banking day after receipt of the payment order. The time for processing a non-cash payment shall not exceed two banking days within an entity of the Russian Federation and five banking days within the Russian Federation.

14. Campaign materials published in accordance with this Article shall not be accompanied with any form of editorial comments or headlines or illustrations, if they are not pre-approved by a respective political party.

15. The editorial offices of print media which publish campaign materials shall not give preference to any political party which registered a federal list of candidates by changing the circulation and periodicity of publication of the print media. This requirement shall not apply to the editorial offices of the print media founded by political parties, candidates.

16. All campaign materials published by print media shall indicate a political party or a regional chapter thereof from whose electoral fund the given publication was paid for. If campaign materials were published free of charge in accordance with Clause 1 hereof, the publication shall indicate this fact and the name of a political party, regional group of candidates which were provided with this opportunity.

Article 60. Electioneering by Means of Mass Events

1. State bodies and bodies of local government shall assist political parties which registered federal lists of candidates in organizing and conducting campaign mass events.

2. Notifications of rallies, demonstrations, marches and pickets shall be submitted by organizers for review in the procedure set forth by the law of the Russian Federation.

3. Should a political party which nominated its federal list of candidates apply for state- or municipality-owned premises suitable for mass events, the owner shall provide such premises in accordance with the Russian electoral law for the period specified by the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation or at its direction by a territorial election commission for meetings with voters. Election commissions shall guarantee equal terms of use of the said premises to all political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates.

4. If the premises, referred to in paragraph 3 of this article, as well as premises owned by an organization, which on the day of official publication (publication) of the decision on the election of deputies of the State Duma have in their stock (reserve) capital a share (contribution) of the Russian Federation, of the subjects of the Russian Federation and (or) of the municipalities in excess of (more than) 30 percent, were allocated to one political party, the owner of the premises shall not deny other political parties provision of facilities on the same terms. In case of the provision of facilities to a political party the owner of the premises shall not later than the day following the date of the provision of premises notify in writing the election commission of the Russian Federation of the fact of provision of premises, the conditions under which it was granted, and when this facility may be granted for campaigning to other political parties.

4.1. Election Commission of the Russian Federation which has been notified of the fact of provision of facilities to a political party shall within two days of receiving the notice place the information contained therein on the "Internet" or otherwise bring it to the attention of other political parties.

5. Applications for premises for meeting with voters shall be reviewed by owners of the premises specified in Clauses 3 and 4 hereof within three days.

6. Political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates shall be entitled to rent for mass events buildings and premises which belong to citizens and organizations regardless of their legal form.

7. Electioneering inside military units, military organizations and institutions shall be prohibited unless the only building or premise suitable for mass events are located inside a military unit, military organization or institution. Such building or premise shall be provided for meetings with voters engaged in the military service to political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates at the request of the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation or on its behalf at the request of a territorial election commission. Meeting with voters engaged in the military service shall be co-organized by the commander of the military unit and the respective election commission. Authorized agents and proxies of other political parties shall be notified of the time and place of such meeting at least three days prior to the meeting.

8. Security measures during mass events shall be undertaken in accordance with the law of the Russian Federation.

Article 61. Production and Distribution of Printed, Audio-Visual and Other Campaign Materials

1. Production and distribution of printed, audio-visual and other campaign materials by political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates in line with the procedure set forth by the law of the Russian Federation shall not be impeded. All campaign materials shall be produced in the Russian Federation.

2. Advertising organizations and individual entrepreneurs shall provide advertising services to political parties which nominated their lists of candidates on equal terms.

3. Producers of printed campaign materials shall guarantee political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates equal payment conditions for the said campaign materials. Information on prices (in Russian rubles) and other payment conditions shall be published by producers of printed campaign materials within thirty days of the day of notice of elections of

deputies of the State Duma and within the same term shall be submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or to a respective election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation. Said campaign materials shall not be produced by organizations or individual entrepreneurs in the event they should fail to comply with these requirements.

4. All printed, audio-visual and other campaign materials shall indicate the title, legal address and individual tax payer number (INN) of an organization which produced them or the surname, first and middle name, full residence address of an individual entrepreneur, the title of an organization (name of an individual) which (who) placed the order as well as the number of copies produced, date of production and the electoral fund at the expense of which the said order was paid for.

5. Printed, audio-visual and other campaign materials or copies thereof shall be submitted by political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or to the election commission of a respective entity of the Russian Federation prior to their distribution. Enclosed shall be addresses of organizations or persons which (who) placed and fulfilled the order for such materials.

6. Void – Federal law of 26.04.2007 N 64-F3.

7. No campaign materials shall be produced in breach of requirements imposed in Articles 4 and 6 hereof. Neither shall they be produced without the advance payment for the order at the expense of the electoral fund.

8. No distribution of campaign materials shall be allowed in breach of requirements imposed in Clause 5 hereof and in Clause 10 Article 55 of this Federal Law.

9. At least thirty days prior to the day of elections bodies of local government at the proposal of the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation shall allocate special place(s) in each election precinct for campaign materials. The said places shall be easy of access to voters and their location shall ensure voters can read the information placed therein. Authorized agents of political parties shall be entitled to obtain the list of places allocated for campaign materials.

10. In cases other than those specified in Clause 9 hereof printed campaign materials may be placed in premises, on buildings, constructions and other objects only under the written consent (contract) of the owners and on their conditions. Should such objects be a state or municipal property or property of an organization, in which the Russian Federation, an entity of the Russian Federation and (or) municipality holds over thirty per cent of the stock, campaign materials shall be placed on them on equal terms for all political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates, free of charge.

11. Printed campaign materials shall not be placed on monuments, obelisks or in premises, on buildings and constructions of historical, architectural or cultural value as well as in buildings accommodating election commissions, voting halls and within fifty meters thereto.

12. Provisions of this article shall not apply to election materials distributed in accordance with articles 58 and 59 of this Federal Law.

Article 62. Restrictions Imposed on Electioneering

1. In course of campaigning violation of limitations stipulated by clauses 1 and 1.1 of article 56 of Federal Law on basic guarantees of electoral rights and rights to participate in referendum of citizens of Russian Federation shall not be permitted.

2. Political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates, such candidates, proxies and authorized financial agents of political parties and authorized financial agents of regional chapters of political parties as well as other persons and organizations involved in election campaigns shall not bribe voters: they shall not give voters money, gifts and other things otherwise than for the performance of organizational work (collection of voter signatures and other campaigning activities); remunerate voters who perform the said organizational work depending on the results of the vote or promise such remuneration; sell goods at reduced prices; distribute free of charge any goods other than printed materials (including illustrated booklets) and badges specially produced for the election campaign; render services free of charge or at reduced rates, also influence voters by promises of money, securities, other things (in particular, depending on the voting results) and by rendering services otherwise than on the basis of decisions of bodies of state power and local self-government taken in accordance with the federal laws.

3. During the period of an election campaign, the election and election results shall not be an object of lotteries, totalizators (bets) and other risk-based games.

4. In the event commercials and other non-election advertisement should during the election campaign use the name or pictures of a candidate, title, emblem or other symbols of a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates it should be paid for at the expense of the electoral fund of a political party. On the day of elections and on the preceding day such advertisement, even if paid for at the expense of the electoral fund, shall not be allowed.

5. Political parties which nominated their federal lists of candidates, candidates, proxies, authorized agents (including authorized financial agents) of political parties and their regional chapters as well as organizations founded after the commencement of the election campaign, if the said persons or political parties are founders, owners or members of bodies thereof, shall not engage in charity activities during the election campaign. Other individuals and legal entities shall not engage in charity activities during the election campaign at the request, at the direction or on behalf of the said political parties, candidates, proxies and authorized agents; neither shall they electioneer during the charity activities. The said political parties, candidates, proxies and authorized agents shall not make proposals to other individuals or legal entities to provide material, financial aid or services to voters.

5.1 Campaigning materials cannot contain commercial advertisements.

5.2. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates may not use airtime on TV channels granted for campaigning for:

1) calls to vote against a federal list of candidates (federal lists of candidates);

2) description of the possible negative consequences should a particular federal candidate list be admitted to distribution of seats (one or the other federal list of candidates be granted deputies mandates), or should certain candidate (or another candidate), listed (included) in federal list of candidates be elected;

3) dissemination of information with dominating attention paid to any political party that

nominated a federal list of candidates, any candidate (any candidates), included into the federal list of candidates, combined with the negative comments;

4) dissemination of information that promotes a negative attitude of the voters towards a political party that nominated a federal list of candidates, the candidate (s) included into the federal list of candidates.

6. Mass media outlets in case of publishing campaign and informing materials (including such materials which contain trustworthy information) which may damage the honor, dignity or business reputation of a candidate or a political party shall give a candidate, a political party a possibility to publish a denial or some other explanation in defense of their honor, dignity or business reputation before the end of the election campaigning period. When a possibility is offered to a candidate, a political party to publish (make public), free of charge, a denial or some other explanation in defense of their honor, dignity or business reputation air time shall be provided at the same time of the day at which the original information was made public. The amount of air time provided for making a denial or explanation shall not be less than the amount of air time provided for presentation of the original information and shall not be less than two minutes. In print media a denial shall be printed in the same type, in the same place on the page and shall be allocated space not less than the space taken up by the original compromising text. The failure to provide such possibility to a candidate, a political party may serve as a ground for bringing to responsibility the organizations indicated in this clause and their officials under the laws of the Russian Federation. Requirements of this clause do not cover cases of placement of campaigning materials, provided by political parties, within exercising of their right for free or paid airtime, free or paid printed space in accordance with this Federal law.

7. Election commissions shall ensure the rules of election campaign are complied with and, in the case of breach, shall take countermeasures. Should false printed, audio-visual or other campaign materials be distributed, or should such distribution be in breach of Clauses 4-8, 10 and 11 Article 61 of this Federal Law, or should media outlets violate the order of election campaign, the respective election commission shall request law enforcement bodies, a court, a federal body for control over mass media to stop the unlawful campaign activities, seize the unlawful campaign materials and to institute proceedings against media outlets and their officials as well as other persons in line with the law of the Russian Federation.

8. Law enforcement and other bodies shall take measures to stop unlawful campaign activities, to seize and prevent the production of unlawful campaign materials, to identify the producers of such materials and sources from which they are paid for and to promptly inform respective election commissions of the facts revealed and measures taken.

CHAPTER IX. Funding of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma. Electoral Funds

Article 63. Funding of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

1. Expenditures incurred in relation to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, work of election commissions throughout their tenure of office, use of computer facilities, voter education and training of election officials shall be disbursed from the funds allocated for these purposes in the federal budget. Provision for such funds shall be made in the federal budget in accordance with the Budget Classification of the Russian Federation and shall

be transferred to election commissions (or executive authorities in charge of diplomatic missions, consular offices, and military units which form election precincts in line with Clauses 5 and 6 Article 13 of this Federal Law) to their accounts opened in the institutions of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation or, in the lack thereof, in branches of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation). The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall be in charge of handling these funds.

2. Funds allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be put at the disposal of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in accordance with the approved Budgetary Provisions within ten days of the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

3. Not later than fifty days prior to the day of elections the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall distribute funds allocated for elections of deputies of the State Duma among election commissions of entities of the Russian Federation which, in their turn, shall distribute the said funds among territorial election commissions not later than thirty days prior to the day of elections. Funds for elections of deputies of the State Duma in election precincts formed in the procedure set forth in Clauses 5 and 6 Article 13 of this Federal Law shall be distributed by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation among the state authorities in charge of handling voter issues in the said election precincts and among territorial election commissions formed in accordance with Clauses 2 and 3 Article 20 of this Federal Law not later than thirty days prior to the day of elections. In the case of early elections or in the case of untimely or incomplete funding of elections the said election commissions shall distribute funds as they become available.

4. In the event of early elections of deputies of the State Duma the amount of funds allocated in the federal budget for their preparation and conduct shall not be less than the sum contained in the report of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on the expenditure of funds for the preparation and conduct of the previous elections of deputies of the State Duma (with due regard for the changes in the minimum monthly wage established by the federal law regulating labor remuneration).

5. Chairpersons of election commissions shall handle funds allocated in the federal budget for the elections of deputies of the State Duma and shall bear responsibility for the compliance of the financial documents with resolution of election commissions on financial issues and for the submission of expenditure reports in the procedure and terms set forth by this Federal Law.

6. Within sixty days of the submission to the Chambers of the Federal Assembly (Parliament) of the Russian Federation of the expenditure report for the elections of deputies of the State Duma and of the report on handling electoral funds, the unspent funds for elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be returned to the federal budget and be used in the procedure and for the purposes provided for in the budget laws of the Russian Federation.

Article 64. Electoral Funds

1. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates shall create an electoral fund to finance its own election campaign. A regional chapter of such political party which is registered in accordance with the federal law in an entity of the Russian Federation shall be entitled at the decision of the duly authorized governing body of the political party to create its own electoral fund, provided the federal list of the political party has a regional group of candidates corresponding to this entity of the Russian Federation (including those belonging to a group of

entities of the Russian Federation) or a regional group(s) of candidates corresponding to a part (parts) of this entity of the Russian Federation. Candidates put on the federal list of candidates shall not create their own electoral funds.

2. Electoral funds of political parties shall be created exclusively at the expense of:

1) internal funds of the political party; such funds shall sum up to no more than fifty per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law for electoral funds of political parties;

2) voluntary donations of citizens and legal entities; such donations for each citizen and legal entity shall not exceed respectively 0.07 and 3.5 per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law for electoral funds of political parties;

3. The maximum for electoral funds of political parties shall not exceed 700 million rubles. The said sum shall not include expenditures made by regional chapters of this political party from their own electoral funds.

4. Electoral funds of regional chapters of political parties shall be created exclusively at the expense of:

1) internal funds of the political party (but not the funds in the electoral fund of the political party); such funds shall sum up to no more than fifty per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law for electoral funds of regional chapters of political parties;

2) voluntary donations of citizens and legal entities; such donations for each citizen and legal entity shall not exceed respectively 5 and 50 per cent of the maximum allowed by this Federal Law for electoral funds of regional chapters of political parties;

5. The maximum for electoral funds of regional chapters of political parties shall not exceed:

1) fifteen million rubles - in an entity of the Russian Federation, to which corresponds the regional group of candidates, where no more than 100 thousand registered voters reside;

2) twenty million rubles - in an entity of the Russian Federation, to which corresponds the regional group of candidates, where more than 100 thousand but fewer than 500 thousand registered voters reside;

3) twenty five million rubles - in an entity of the Russian Federation, to which corresponds the regional group of candidates, where more than 500 thousand but fewer than 1 million registered voters reside;

4) thirty five million rubles - in an entity of the Russian Federation, to which corresponds the regional group of candidates, or all parts of territory of which correspond to regional groups of candidates, where more than 1 million but fewer than 2 million registered voters reside;

5) fifty five million rubles - in an entity of the Russian Federation, to which corresponds the regional group of candidates, or all parts of territory of which correspond to regional groups of candidates, where more than 2 million registered voters reside.

6. In the event regional groups on the federal list of candidates should correspond to a part (a group of parts but not the whole territory) of an entity of the Russian Federation established in line with Clause 13 and 14 Article 36 of this Federal Law the maximum for electoral funds of such regional chapters of political parties shall not exceed:

1) for entities of the Russian Federation where more than 1 million but fewer than 2 million registered voters reside – a number calculated as 35 million divided by the number of parts of entities of the Russian Federation formed in this entity of the Russian Federation in line with Clauses 13 and 14 Article 36 of this Federal Law and multiplied by the number of parts of the entity of the Russian Federation, identified in accordance with Clauses 13 and 14 of Article 36 of this Federal Law and included in the part of entity of Russian Federation, to which a regional group of candidates on the federal list of candidates corresponds;

2) for entities of the Russian Federation where more than 2 million registered voters reside - a number calculated as 55 million divided by the number of parts of entities of the Russian Federation formed in this entity of the Russian Federation in line with Clauses 13 and 14 Article 36 of this Federal Law and multiplied by the number of parts of the entity of the Russian Federation, identified in accordance with Clauses 13 and 14 of Article 36 of this Federal Law and included in the part of entity of Russian Federation to which a regional group of candidates on the federal list of candidates corresponds;

6.1. If the Regional Group (regional groups) of candidates of the federal list of candidates get excluded (excluded) from the federal list of candidates, but the federal list of candidates still includes not less than one regional group of candidates, the corresponding to a part of the territory of the Russian Federation, the maximum amount of all expenditures from the electoral Fund of the corresponding regional office of a political party, determined in accordance with Clauses 5 and 6 of this Article shall not be reduced.

7. Donations to electoral funds shall not be made by:

1) foreign states;

2) foreign organizations;

3) foreign citizens;

4) stateless persons;

5) citizens of the Russian Federation under 18 years of age on the day of elections;

6) Russian legal entities in which over thirty per cent of the stock is held by a foreign stockholder(s) on the day of publishing of notice of elections of State Duma deputies or, for open joint-stock companies, on the day of compilation of the last list of shareholders with right to participate in annual stockholders meeting for the previous fiscal year;

7) international organizations and international public movements;

8) bodies of state power, other state agencies, bodies of local government;

9) state or municipal institutions, state or municipal unitary enterprises;

10) legal entities in which over thirty per cent of the stock is held by a the Russian Federation, entities of the Russian Federation and (or) municipalities on the day of publishing of notice of elections of State Duma deputies or, for open joint-stock companies, on the day of compilation of the last list of shareholders with right to participate in annual stockholders meeting for the previous fiscal year;

11) organizations founded by state bodies and (or) bodies of local government (with an exception of joint stock companies founded as a result of privatization); organizations founded

by legal entities stipulated in par. 6 and 10 hereof; organizations in which over thirty per cent of the stock is held by legal entities stipulated in par. 6 and 10 hereof on the day of publishing of notice of elections of State Duma deputies or, for open joint-stock companies, on the day of compilation of the last list of shareholders with right to participate in annual stockholders meeting for the previous fiscal year;

12) military units, military institutions and organizations, law enforcement bodies;

13) charity and religious organizations and their organizations founded by them;

14) anonymous donors. In this Federal Law an anonymous donor shall mean a citizen who has not specified in his/her payment document for donation any piece of the following information: surname, first, middle name, residence address (or who has specified false information); or a legal entity which has not specified in its payment order for donation any piece of the following information: identification tax payer number (INN), title, bank requisites (or which has specified false information);

15) legal entities registered later than one year prior to the day of elections.

16) non-profit organizations which, during the year preceding the day of the donation to election fund is made, received money or other property from:

a) foreign states, as well as agencies, organizations or individuals referred to in paragraphs 2 - 5, 7 - 9, 12 - 15 of this clause;

b) Russian legal entities with foreign participation, if the share (contribution) of foreign participation in their charter (reserve) capital exceeds 30 percent on the date of transfer of funds or transfer of other assets (for public companies - on the day the list of persons eligible to participate in the annual general meeting of shareholders for the previous financial year);

c) legal persons, the authorized (share) capital share (contribution) of the Russian Federation, Russian Federation and (or) municipal exceeded (greater than) 30 percent on the date of transfer of funds or transfer of other assets (for public companies - on the date of compilation of the list of persons entitled to participate in the annual general meeting of shareholders for the previous financial year);

d) organizations, government agencies, and (or) local authorities (except for joint stock companies established in the manner of privatization);

e) organizations established by legal persons specified in subparagraphs "b" and "c" of this Clause;

f) organizations with participatuion of legal entities referred to in subparagraphs "b" and "c" of this clause, if their share (contribution) in charter (reserve) capital exceeds 30 percent on the date of transfer of funds or transfer of other assets (for public companies - on the day the list of persons eligible to participate in the annual general meeting of shareholders for the previous financial year).

7.1. Nonprofit organizations described in paragraph 16 of Clause 7 of this Article shall not be entitled to make donations to the election fund only if obtained funds or other property were not returned by these nonprofit organizations to foreign governments, agencies, organizations or individuals listed in subparagraphs "a" - "e" of paragraph 16 of Clause 7 of this article (in case of impossibility of return were not impounded (transferred) to the income of the Russian Federation), before the day of the donation to the election fund is made.

8. The right to handle an electoral fund shall be vested in the political party which created such fund. The right to handle an electoral fund of a regional chapter of a political party shall be vested in the regional chapter of a political party which created such fund in cooperation with a person authorized by the governing body of this political party to deal with such issues.

9. Electoral funds of political parties shall be spent targetedly for the following purposes only:

1) to finance activities organized to collect signatures of voters;

2) to finance electioneering activities, to pay for informational and consulting services;

3) to pay for other services (work) rendered by citizens and legal entities, and for other expenditures immediately related to campaign activities;

4) void – Federal Law of 09.02.2009 N 3-F3.

10. Electoral funds of regional chapters of political parties shall be spent targetedly for the following purposes only:

1) to finance electioneering activities unless they require the use of paid air time and paid print space in the nation-wide media; to pay for informational and consulting services;

2) to pay for other services (work) rendered by citizens and legal entities, and for other expenditures immediately related to campaign activities.

11. Collection of signatures of voters, electioneering and other activities aimed at ensuring a certain result at elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be financed by political parties, their regional chapters exclusively from their respective electoral funds (including internal funds) accumulated in line with the procedure set forth by this Federal Law.

12. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates shall not be obliged to pay from its electoral fund for the use of the real estate and movables (with an exception of equities, printed materials and office supplies) provided they were at the disposal of this political party on the day of official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

13. A political party shall use for its election campaign only those means which were transferred to the special electoral accounts of their electoral funds before the day of elections in line with the procedure set forth in this Federal Law.

14. In the event of additional nomination of federal lists of candidates under circumstances specified in Clause 11 Article 44 and Clause 5 Article 49 of this Federal Law, the maximum for electoral funds of political parties which registered federal lists of candidates and their regional chapters shall be increased by fifty per cent.

Article 65. Special Electoral Accounts

1. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates shall be obliged to open a special electoral account to accumulate its electoral fund as soon as it receives a copy of its federal list of candidates certified by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

2. A regional chapter of a political party shall be entitled to open a special electoral account in an entity of the Russian Federation in which it is registered to accumulate its electoral fund as soon

as it submits to the election commission of the entity of the Russian Federation a copy of a federal list of candidates certified by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, provided it has a resolution of the duly authorized governing body of the political party specified in Clause 1 Article 64 of this Federal Law.

3. A special electoral account shall be opened in a branch of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) nominated for political parties by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or, for regional chapters of political parties, by election commissions of entities of the Russian Federation. A political party, a regional chapter of a political party shall be entitled to only one special electoral account.

4. Immediately upon submission of the duly compiled documents set forth by this Federal Law branches of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) shall open special electoral accounts for political parties, their regional chapters. No fees shall be payable for opening such accounts and processing transactions therethrough. No interest shall be paid on the money deposited in such accounts. All transactions in such accounts shall be carried out in the currency of the Russian Federation.

5. A political party shall open a special electoral account on the basis of a document which shall be issued by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation within three days of the day when the federal list candidates was certified and authorized financial agents of this party have been registered. A regional chapter of a political party shall open a special electoral account on the basis of a document which shall be issued by the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation within three days of the submission of an authenticated copy of the federal list of candidates, certified list of authorized financial agents of the regional chapter and the registration thereof.

6. All transactions in a special electoral account except for the return to the electoral fund of unspent money or entry in the account of the money wired before the day of elections shall terminate on the day of elections. In the event the political party should fail to submit to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation the documents needed for the registration of its federal list of candidates, or in the event of refusal of such registration or cancellation thereof, all transactions in a special electoral account shall be terminated by the branch of Sberbank following the notice by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

7. All transactions through the special electoral account of a regional chapter of a political party save as stipulated in Clause 6 hereof shall terminate in the event the regional group of candidates corresponding to this entity of the Russian Federation (or all regional groups of candidates corresponding to this entity of the Russian Federation, if there are several of them) should be removed from the federal list of candidates. Transactions shall be terminated by the branch of Sberbank following the notice by the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation.

8. Transactions relating to the electoral fund through the special electoral account of a regional chapter of a political party may be terminated (suspended) upon the ruling of the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation following the decision of the governing body of the political party which authorized herewith by its convention.

9. Following the application from a political party, its regional chapter respectively the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation may extend the period for the performance of the financial operations through a respective special electoral account to pay for the services (work) done before the financial operations were terminated (adjourned).

10. A special electoral account shall be closed by a political party, its regional chapter before they submit the final financial report.

11. The procedure of opening, handling and closing of special electoral accounts shall be fixed by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in cooperation with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

Article 66. Void – Federal Law of 09.02.2009 N 3-F3

Article 67. Voluntary Donations to the Electoral Fund

1. Voluntary donations of citizens of the Russian Federation to electoral funds shall be done through a postal office or a bank in person out of their own means by presenting a passport or an equivalent identity document. The following information shall be specified in the payment document: the citizen's surname, first and middle name, date of birth, residence address, passport number or the number of an equivalent identity document, citizenship.

2. Voluntary donations of legal entities to electoral funds shall be made by a bank wire transfer to a special electoral account. The payment order for donations shall specify the following information: the entity's individual tax-payer number (INN), title, date of registration, banking details, note of lack of restrictions imposed in Clause 7 Article 64 of this Federal Law.

3. Voluntary donations to electoral funds shall be credited to special electoral accounts by postal offices or banks no later than on the day successive to the day of receipt of a respective payment document. The total time for processing the payment made by a bank wire transfer shall not exceed two banking days, if made within an entity of the Russian Federation, or five days, if made within the Russian Federation.

4. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, its regional chapter shall be entitled to return the donation made to its electoral fund to the donor unless the donor is anonymous. In the event a voluntary donation to an electoral fund should be made by a citizen or a legal entity who (which) lack the right to make such donations or should such donation be made in breach of requirements set forth in Clause 1 and 2 hereof, or should it be made in an amount exceeding the maximum limit set forth in Article 64 of this Federal Law, the political party, its regional chapter shall within ten days of receipt of the donation return it in full or return the part which exceeds the said maximum limit to the donor (deducting the wire costs and specifying the reasons of return). A political party, its regional party shall not be answerable for the acceptance of donations which were made by donors who provided the wrong information stipulated in Clause 1 and 2 hereof, provided the political party, its regional chapter had no timely evidence thereof.

5. Donations to electoral funds made by anonymous donors shall within ten days of receipt of such donations be transferred to the state budget.

6. Citizens and legal entities shall not be entitled to provide financial support to a political party otherwise than through its electoral fund. It shall be prohibited to render paid services, do paid work or sell/purchase goods if such activities directly or indirectly pertain to elections of deputies of the State Duma and seek certain results at elections unless they are paid out of a respective electoral fund with a duly documented consent of an authorized financial agent of the political party, its regional chapter. No cash shall be used for the settlement of accounts between

a political party, its regional chapter and a legal entity for the said work (services), for the said goods.

7. Legal entities, their branches, representations or other subdivisions shall be prohibited to do work (render services) free of charge or at a price below (or above) normal pricing, if such work (services) directly or indirectly pertain to elections of deputies of the State Duma and seek certain results at elections. Material support to a political party, if seeking a certain result at elections, shall not be provided unless it is compensated for at the expense of a respective electoral fund.

8. Citizens shall be entitled to do work (render services) free of charge, in person and without involvement of an outside workforce for the benefit of a political party, its regional chapter in the course of election campaign.

Article 68. Accounting for Electoral Funds, Publication of Consolidated Financial Reports of Political Parties

1. A political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, its regional chapter shall keep books of account of all receipts and expenditures of its electoral fund. The procedure and forms of accounting and reporting of a political party, its regional chapter shall be approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

2. A political party shall present to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation the following financial reports:

1) the first financial report – when presenting documents necessary for the registration of a federal list of candidates in line with the procedure set forth in this Federal Law. The report shall document information valid as of the fifth day preceding the submission of this report.

2) the final financial report – within thirty days of the day of official publication of results of elections of deputies of the State Duma. Appended to the final report shall be primary financial documents confirming all receipts and expenditures of an electoral fund of a political party, documents fixing the unspent money and(or) confirming the closing of the said account as well as documents provided for in Clause 5 Article 61 of this Federal Law, or their copies.

3. Within thirty days of official publication of results of elections of deputies of the State Duma a regional chapter of a political party which established an electoral fund shall present to the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation the final financial report. Appended to the final financial report shall be primary financial documents confirming all receipts and expenditures of an electoral fund of a regional chapter of a political party, documents fixing the unspent money and(or) confirming the closing of the said account as well as documents provided for in Clause 5 Article 61 of this Federal Law, or their copies.

4. The list of primary financial documents appended to the final financial report of a political party, its regional chapter shall be decided upon by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

5. An obligation to present a financial report of a political party or a regional chapter thereof shall be laid upon authorized financial agents of, respectively, a political party or a regional chapter thereof.

6. Respective election commissions shall pass out copies of financial reports stipulated in Clause 2 and 3 hereof to the media for publication and place them on the Internet within five days of the receipt of the said documents. Within three days the nation-wide or regional print media outlets shall publish financial report supplied to them by, respectively, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation.

7. Branches of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) shall at least once a week or, within ten days prior to day of elections, at least once per three banking days supply the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation with information about all receipts and expenditures of electoral funds in the forms approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. *GAS Vybory* facilities may be utilized for that purpose.

8. Before the day of elections periodically, at least once per two weeks, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of the Russian Federation shall supply to the media information about all receipts and expenditures of electoral funds for publication. The Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation shall upon the respective official application familiarize authorized financial agents of political parties or regional chapters of political parties as well as the media with the reports on receipts and expenditures of electoral funds supplied to them by branches of Sberbank. Upon the request of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation (or upon the request of authorized financial agents of political parties, their regional chapters if such requests concern their respective electoral funds) branches of Sberbank shall within three days or, if less than three days remain before the day of elections, immediately present the certified copies of primary financial documents confirming all receipts and expenditures of electoral funds.

9. Void – Federal Law of 19.07.2009 N 196-F3

In accordance with Federal Law of 19.07.2009 N 196-FZ since the official publication of the results of the next election of deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation appointed after the coming into force of this Federal Law, in the first paragraph of Clause 10 of Article 68, the words "for the four reporting years prior to" shall be replaced by "the five financial years prior to" and the the words "four years" will be replaced by the words" five years".

The State Duma of the fifth convocation is elected for a term of four years (Clause 1 of article 96 of the Constitution), and voting day being the first Sunday of the month in which the constitutional term for which was the State Duma of the previous convocation expires expires, (Clause 2 of Article 6 of the Federal Law of 18.05. 2005 N 51-FZ).

Elections to the State Duma of the fifth convocation were held on December 2, 2007 (Presidential Decree of 02.09.2007 N 1144, Resolution of the Central Election Commission of Russia from 08.12.2007 N 72/591-5), respectively, elections to the State Duma of the Sixth Convocation shall be held on December 4, 2011 (except for an early election).

Official publication of the results of elections to the State Duma by the Russian Central Election Commission shall be done within three weeks from Election Day (Clause 4 of Article 86 of the Federal Law of 18.05.2005 N 51-FZ).

10. Nation-wide and regional print media outlets shall be obliged to publish information on receipts and expenditures of electoral accounts and consolidated financial reports of political parties, which have registered federal lists of candidates, for four accounting years prior to the

year of elections of deputies to State Duma, and if political party has been registered in less than four years before the year of current elections – for the period since registration of the political party and through the year preceding the year of elections – as supplied to them by, respectively, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation or the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation. The following information shall be mandatorily published:

- 1) on an individual financial operation expended from the electoral fund should its amount exceed RUR 800,000.00 for a political party or RUR 100,000.00 for a regional chapter thereof;
- 2) on legal entities which donated to a respective electoral fund (to an account of a political party) should such donation exceed RUR 400,000.00 for a political party or RUR 50,000.00 for a regional chapter thereof;
- 3) on the number of individuals whose donations to a respective electoral fund exceeded RUR 40,000.00 for a political party or RUR 20,000.00 for a regional chapter thereof;
- 4) on the sums returned to donors from a respective electoral fund and on the reasons of return;
- 5) on the total amount of money accumulated in the electoral fund and on the total expenditures from the said fund;

11. Within five days of the request of a respective election commission, bodies for migration control over citizens of the Russian Federation, a federal executive body for registration of legal entities shall free of charge check information provided by citizens and legal entities when donating to electoral funds and report to the election commissions of the check-up results. The said information shall be supplied in the forms approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation. *GAS Vybory* facilities may be utilized for that purpose. If revealed by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation that the voluntary donations were made in breach of requirements set forth in Clause 7 Article 64 of this Federal Law, the information thereof shall be immediately reported by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation to respective political parties and their regional chapters.

Article 69. Return of Deposits to Political Parties and Their Regional Chapters

1. In the period after the day of elections till the submission of a final financial report a political party which nominated a federal list of candidates, its regional chapter shall be obliged to transfer unspent money remaining in their electoral accounts to the donors pro rata to the donations (deducting the transfer costs).
2. At the expiration of sixty days after the day of elections branches of Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation) shall at the written direction of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the election commission of a respective entity of the Russian Federation transfer the money remaining in special electoral accounts to the federal budget.
3. Void as of august 1 2009.
4. Obligations imposed on political parties by Clauses 1 hereof shall be effective on the day of official publication of results of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

Article 70. Funding of Election Commissions

1. Election commissions shall at their own volition expend the funds allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, securing of activities of election commissions, education of voters and training of election officials for the purposes stipulated in this Federal Law.

2. The following expenditures of election commissions shall be covered from the federal budget:

1) bonus remuneration to voting members and personnel of election commissions, compensation for unpaid salaries to voting members of election commissions if withdrawn from the principal work of their vocation for the period of preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, as well as fares to individuals who contracted for the work in election commissions and to those on contract for auditing of election commissions;

2) production of printed materials and publishing activities;

3) purchase, delivery and installation of equipment, other valuables necessary for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and for activities of election commission;

4) transportation expenses including those incurred during the organization of elections in remote or difficult of access areas;

5) transfer and custody of electoral documents, retention and disposal of documents;

6) business trips and other expenses pertaining to the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and activities of election commissions;

7) use and maintenance of computing facilities, education of voters and training of election officials.

3. A voting member of an election commission may be offered bonus remuneration for the work done during the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma. A voting member of an election commission, if withdrawn from the principal work of their vocation for the said period, shall retain his/her principal work (office) and be paid a compensation for the unpaid salary. The payment procedure and amount of bonus remuneration and compensations shall be set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation at the expense of the federal budget and within the amount allocated therein for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

4. Voting members of election commissions, if employed full-time (enrolled as staff), personnel of election commissions shall be paid within the amount allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma, in line with the procedure and at the amount set forth by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

5. Within ten days of the day of elections a precinct election commission shall report to the territorial election commission of the receipts and expenditures of the amounts allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma. Within twenty days of the day of elections a territorial election commission shall report to the election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation of the receipts and expenditures of the amounts allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

6. Within fifty days of the day of elections an election commission of an entity of the Russian Federation shall report to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation of the receipts and expenditures of the amounts allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and, provided regional chapters of political parties established their electoral funds, of the receipts and expenditures of such funds.

7. Within three months of the official publication of results of elections of deputies of the State Duma the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation shall report to the Chambers of the Federal Assembly (Parliament) of the receipts and expenditures of the amounts allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and of receipts and expenditures of electoral funds. The said report shall within one month afterwards be published by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in its official press and be passed out for publication to other media outlets.

Article 71. Auditing Committees Attached to Election Commissions

1. Attached to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation and election commissions of entities of the Russian Federation, there shall be established auditing committees to extend control over the targeted use of funds allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma and for the purpose of checking financial reports of political parties which nominated federal lists of candidates, their regional chapters and income and property declarations presented by candidates.

2. Auditing committees shall be staffed with specialists (including heads) of state bodies, other bodies and organizations including the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, Sberbank (Savings Bank of the Russian Federation), and head offices of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation in entities of the Russian Federation. Following the application of a respective election commission within one month after the official publication of notice of elections of deputies of the State Duma the said bodies and organizations shall delegate their on-staff specialists to work in the election commission for the period of no less than five months.

3. For the period of their assignment with auditing committees the specialists referred to in Clause 2 hereof shall be withdrawn from the principal work of their vocation; they shall retain their work (office) and be paid at the rate fixed in relation to them at their principal work. The said specialists shall additionally be entitled to the bonus remuneration payable by the election commissions from the funds allocated in the federal budget for the preparation and conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma.

4. Regulations of an auditing committee shall be approved a respective election commission. A respective election commission shall provide organizational, legal and material support for the activities of its auditing committee.

5. During the conduct of elections of deputies of the State Duma at the direction of respective election commissions auditing committees shall:

1) check (audit) financial reports of political parties, their regional chapters which established electoral funds and of lower-level election commissions;

2) provide for the check of income and property declarations presented by candidates along with information on sources of such incomes, monetary deposits and securities of candidates including shares or other types of stake in the stock of commercial enterprises, on property (including trust property) located outside the Russian Federation;

- 3) control over the compliance with the procedure of funding by political parties, their regional chapters of their campaign and related activities;
 - 4) make inquiries of political parties, their regional chapters into all matters of the committee's competence;
 - 5) make inquiries of federal executive authorities, other government bodies, organizations regardless of their legal form and citizens into matters of the committee's competence; request information and materials concerning financial issues of elections. The committee's requests shall be responded to within ten days or, if five or less days remain prior to the election, immediately;
 - 6) document all violations regarding the financing of elections;
 - 7) advise respective election commissions on initiating proceedings against political parties, their regional chapters, as well as against individuals and legal entities for the violations regarding the financing of their respective election campaigns;
 - 8) reach out to experts to do the check-ups, prepare auditing reports and expert opinions.
6. *Gas Vybory* facilities may be utilized to provide for the activities of auditing committees.

Article 72. Polling Station

1. The polling station shall be placed at the disposal of a precinct election commission free of charge by the head of a municipality, and, in the cases provided by this Federal Law, by the commanding officer of a military unit, ship captain, head of a polar station, head of a diplomatic or consular mission of the Russian Federation.
2. The polling station shall have a hall with booths or other special places for secret voting, provided with a lighting system and writing utensils other than pencils.
3. Inside or directly in front of the polling station a precinct election commission shall set up a notice-board(s) for displaying the following information about all federal lists of candidates on the ballot and about all political parties, which nominated them:
 - (1) The name of the political party;
 - (2) Void;
 - (3) Information from financial report of political parties and the results of their verification in the amount established by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation;
 - (4) the biographical data of registered candidates of the common federal list of candidates and respective regional groups of candidates in the scope established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation but not less detailed than as stipulated by for the publishing of the registered federal lists of candidates;
 - (5) information about the income and property of registered candidates of the common federal list of candidates and respective regional groups of candidates in the scope established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;
 - (6) information, if any, about the inaccuracy of the data submitted by registered candidates in accordance with Clause 4, Article 38, of this Federal Law.
4. If a registered candidate has a conviction that has not been cancelled and annulled, this fact shall be indicated in the information materials;

5. Void.

6. The notice-board shall display samples of marked ballots which must not contain names of registered candidates registered on the ballot, names of political parties, which nominated federal lists of candidates.

7. Information about registered candidates and political parties shall be arranged in the information materials in the order which was determined when the form and the text of ballots were approved.

8. The notice-board shall display extracts from the Criminal Code of the Russian federation, from the Administrative Code related to sanctions for violations of the electoral legislation of then Russian federation.

9. The materials displayed on the notice-board shall be free from any election propaganda. The precinct electoral commission arranges the materials in such a manner as to allow voters to examine them freely.

9.1. In order to inform citizens who are visually handicapped, the information stand shall have the materials specified in Clauses 3, 4 and 8 of this article, made in large type and (or) by using the Braille font. Polling stations, to host such information stands with such materials are determined by the decision of Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

10. At the polling station there shall be federal lists of candidates registered by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

11. An enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns shall be provided at the polling station to record vote returns as they are determined. The enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns shall be posted before the commencement of voting so that it is within the field of vision of members of a precinct election commission, observers, at a distance at which they can read the information contained therein. The enlarged form of the protocol does not substitute the final protocol of the precinct electoral commission and data entered into it is of no legal significance.

12. Inside the polling station there shall be stationary ballot boxes. The functions of stationary ballot boxes may be performed by vote-counting machines, including programmed technical complexes for processing of electoral ballots. Vote-counting machines and programmed technical complexes for processing of electoral ballots shall be used in the procedure established by the Federal Law «*On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the Right of Citizens of the Russian Federation to Participate in a Referendum,*» and in accordance with the Instructions approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

13. The polling station shall be fitted out so that the places where ballots are issued, as well as the voting booths and the ballot boxes are all located within the field of vision of members of a precinct election commission, observers.

Article 73. Electoral Ballot

1. The procedure for controlling the production of ballots and their quantity shall be approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation not later than 45 days before voting

day. The total number of ballots can not exceed by more than 1,5% the number of registered voters.

2. To protect ballots from forgery they are printed on a water-marked paper or with printed microtyface and protective pattern or a special sticker (stamp) is used for this purpose. No later than 60 days before election day the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation approves procedures to produce and use special stickers (stamps), their number, as well as requirement to deliver special stickers (stamps) by upper-level commission to subordinate commission.

2.1 To assist citizens who are visually handicapped, the ballots shall be provided (at the decision of the election commission) with the special templated for individual filling in using the Braille font. Polling stations, to host such information stands with such materials are determined by the decision of Election Commission of the Russian Federation

3. No later than 24 days before election day the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation approves layout and text of electoral ballot in the Russian language. Text on electoral ballots should be printed only on one side of ballot.

4. A ballot shall contain, in the order stipulated in the result of lot-drawing, names of political parties, which registered federal lists of candidates and their emblems (if the emblems were submitted to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in accordance with Clause 3, Article 34 of this Federal Law) printed in black and white. Lot-drawing shall be organized by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation with participation of authorized representatives of political parties not later than 30 days before voting day. The number drawn by a political party shall be retained by them until the end of the election campaign. Placed under the name of a political party shall be the surname, first name and patronymic of candidates from the federal part of a federal list of candidates nominated by this political party. If there is a regional group of candidates corresponding to the given Russian Federation subject, to a group of Russian Federation Subjects or to a part of territory of Russian Federation, then electoral ballots for this Russian Federation subject, for a group of Russian Federation Subjects or for a part of territory of Russian Federation the above mentioned information is also followed by surnames, first names and patronymic names of the first three candidates from this regional group of candidates. If a federal list of candidates does not have a federal part, the ballot shall indicate the name of the political party and the number of the regional group of candidates, also information indicating to what entity of Russian Federation or group of entities of Russian Federation (with the list of entities of Russian Federation), to what territory of the entity of Russian Federation or groups of territories of entities of Russian Federation (with the list of groups of territories of entities of Russian Federation) this regional group of candidates corresponds to, and the surname, first name and patronymic of each of the first three candidates from this regional group of candidates. In case of political party making decision under clause 9.1 of article 36 of this Federal Law, the ballot for voting outside of Russian Federation shall contain under the name of the political party the names, first names and patronymic names of the candidates included in the federal part of the list of candidates nominated by this party (given there is a federal part) with indication of the number of the regional group of candidates and information on what entity of Russian Federation or group of entities of Russian Federation (with the list of entities of Russian Federation), to what territory of the entity of Russian Federation or groups of territories of entities of Russian Federation (with the list of groups of territories of entities of Russian Federation) this regional group of candidates corresponds to, and the surname, first name and patronymic of each of the first three candidates from this regional group of candidates.

5. A blank box shall be placed to the right of the name of each political party.

6. If a registered candidate whose surname, first name and patronymic is indicated on the ballot has a conviction that has not been cancelled and annulled, the ballot shall indicate the information about the candidate's conviction. The information about convictions shall be indicated in the ballot on the basis of the appropriate documents submitted to Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation before approval of the text of the ballot.

7. Electoral ballot shall contain marking instructions.

8. Ballots shall be printed in the Russian language. Subject to a decision of the election commission of a Russian Federation subjects, ballots can also be printed in the official language of the given republic comprised in the Russian Federation and, in the necessary cases, in the languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation on the territories where they are concentrated. If ballots for an electoral precinct are printed in two or more languages, the text in these languages shall be printed on each ballot. In this case the text of the ballot shall be approved by the election commission of a Russian Federation subject not later than 22 days before voting day.

9. No later than 24 days before election day the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation approves the number of electoral ballots. Electoral ballots are produced in two stages:

1) To ensure early voting, voting in polling stations established in hard-to-access or remote locations and in polling stations established beyond the border of the territory of the Russian federation – no later than 20 day before election day. In this case to ensure early voting, voting in polling stations established in hard-to-access or remote locations and in polling stations established beyond the border of the territory of the Russian federation electoral ballots are produced by decision of electoral commission of respective subject of the Russian Federation with the number of copies defined by them within the number of copies of electoral ballots specified for these respective subjects of the Russian Federation by the decision of the Central Electoral commission of the Russian Federation while the number of electoral ballots for voting at electoral precincts outside of borders of the Russian Federation is defined by the decision of the Central Electoral Commission.

2) to ensure voting on election day – no later than 10 days before election day by decisions of electoral commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation in the number of copies defined by the decision of the Central electoral commission for subjects of the Russian Federation excluding the ballots produced earlier to ensure early voting at electoral precincts established in hard to access or remote locations.

10. Ballots produced by a printshop shall be transferred and certificate shall be signed to the members of electoral commission, which placed the order to produce electoral ballots. The certificate must indicate the date and time when it was drawn up and the quantity of transferred ballots. After the ballots packed in bundles are handed over in the quantity corresponding to the order, the personnel of the printshop shall destroy rejected and surplus ballots (if any) and shall draw up a certificate to this effect. Electoral commission, which placed the order to produce electoral ballots, must make the decision about the place and time of the ballot transfer and destruction at no later than two days before the transfer of the ballots by respective printshop. Any member of the given electoral commission and representatives of political parties have the right to sign the above mentioned certificate.

11. Transfer of electoral ballots to territorial electoral commissions is done within the terms established by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. Superior

commissions transfer the entire pressrun of ballots received from printshops to territorial electoral commissions based on their decision about distribution of electoral ballots among territorial electoral commissions.

12. Based on decision of territorial electoral commission about distribution of ballots precinct electoral commissions receive electoral ballots from territorial electoral commission no later than one day before election day (early voting). In every electoral precinct the number of ballots can not exceed by more than 0,5% (but at least by two electoral ballots) the number of registered voters in the given electoral precinct and can not be less than 70% of the number of voters on voters' list on the day of the transfer of ballots. For electoral precinct where a considerable number of absentee voters are expected the number of electoral ballots can be increased by the decision of electoral commission of the subject of the Russian Federation. When transferring of electoral ballots to precinct electoral commissions the ballots are checked and counted one by one and spoilages (if any) are destroyed by members of territorial electoral commissions and a certificate is drawn to this effect.

13. After transferring of ballots by superior electoral commission to subordinate electoral commissions a certificate is drawn up in two copies. The certificate specifies the time and date and the number of transferred ballots. When transferring of electoral ballots by superior electoral commission to subordinate electoral commissions, member of the above mentioned commissions and representatives of political parties on the ballots have the right to attend. Respective electoral commission is obliged to notify all members of the given electoral commission and representatives of the above mentioned political parties about the time and location of the transfer of electoral ballots and provide the opportunity to attend to at least one representative of political parties when the above mentioned transfer takes place. In this case each of the above mentioned individuals has the right to sign the transfer certificate.

14. Chairpersons of electoral commission, which receive, transfer and store electoral ballots, are responsible for transferring and keeping of the electoral ballots.

15. Precinct electoral commission for precincts established outside of the territory of the Russian Federation or territorial electoral commissions established according to Clause 3 Article 20 of the present Federal Law, can receive electoral ballots directly from electoral commissions, which placed the print order for the ballots under the procedures established by the Central Electoral commission of the Russian Federation in the amount defined by voters' registration data.

16. In exceptional cases, in electoral precincts formed in remote and hard-to-reach regions, on ships at sea on voting day, at polar stations, at electoral precincts established outside the territory of the Russian Federation electoral documents related to preparations and implementation of elections of State Duma deputies, including ballots, when it is technically possible, may be printed by a precinct election commission itself. A decision to produce electoral documents, indicating the required quantity of ballots and the deadline for their production, shall be taken by this precinct election commission with the concurrence of a relevant territorial election commission. The decision to produce these documents specifying the number of copies and terms of production of electoral ballots is made by the respective precinct electoral commission in coordination with the superior territorial electoral commission or with the Central electoral commission of the Russian Federation.

17. Signatures of two voting members of a precinct election commission certified by the commission's seal shall be put on the face of all ballots received by the precinct election commission. Uncertified electoral ballots are treated as electoral ballots of an unspecified form and they are ignored when counting votes.

18. The responsibility for the delivery and safekeeping of ballots shall be borne by chairmen of election commissions which deliver, accept and keep the ballots.

19. If any candidates whose surname, first name and patronymic name are on the ballots withdraw from the election, or if the registration of federal lists of candidates of any political parties is cancelled or recalled after the ballots have been produced, territorial and precinct election commissions shall, on the instruction of the Central Electoral commission, cross out from the ballots the data of these candidates, political parties, which nominated these federal lists of candidates. If information a political party is to be changed in printed ballots, subject to a decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the required changes may be introduced in ballots by members of a territorial election commission or a precinct election commission by hand or using technical equipment.

18. On election day, after the voting time ends, territorial election commissions shall count and cancel unused ballot that they keep and draw up a certificate to this effect. The persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 9 of the present Federal Law may be present when ballots are being cancelled. Cancelled ballots shall be sealed and handed over for safekeeping to the secretary of the given electoral commission.

Article 74. Absentee Certificate

(As per Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ)

1. Absentee certificate is a document of strict accountability. Absentee certificate is made according to the form in Annex 2 to the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the right to participate in the referendum of the citizens of the Russian Federation." The text of an absentee certificate, the number of absentee certificate, the form of the register of issued absentee certificates shall be approved not later than 60 days before voting day by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, which also defines the methods of protection against forgery of absentee certificates in course of their manufacture.

2. In order to protect absentee certificates against forgery their manufacture shall uses paper with water marks and (or) bear the typographic inscription in microlettering and (or) protective netting and (or) any other special security features.

3. Placing an order for production of absentee certificates shall be done by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on the basis of its decision.

4. Distribution of absentee certificates from the higher election commission to lower election commissions shall be carried out on the basis of the decision by a higher election commission on the distribution of absentee certificates between lower-level election commissions and in the manner prescribed for distribution of ballots. Responsibility for the distribution and preservation of the absentee certificates shall be vested in chairmen of election commissions conducting distribution, receipt and storage of absentee certificates.

5. The voter who will not be able to arrive on the day of voting at the polling station where he was listed as a voter is entitled to receive absentee certificate from the relevant territorial election commission (45 - 20 days before election day) or from a precinct election commission (for 19 or less days before voting day) to vote at the polling station at which he will be on election day.

6. Absentee certificate shall be issued by the election commission upon the written request of the voter indicating the reason for which he will need an absentee certificate. Absentee certificate shall be issued to the voter personally or to his representative on the basis of a notarized power of attorney. Power of attorney may also be certified by the administration of the inpatient medical facility (if the voter is in the facility for treatment), administration of penal institution housing suspects or defendants (if the voter is held in this facility as a suspect or the defendant).

7. The chairman, vice chairman, secretary or other member of election commission with decisive vote for the issuing of an absentee certificate, shall mark in it the name and surname of the voter, series and number of his passport or passport substitute, the number of the polling station where the elector is included in the voters list, the address of the precinct election commission, the names of the municipality and the subject of the Russian Federation on the territory of which the polling station is, the name of the electoral commission, which issued an absentee certificate, as well as his surname and initials, date of issuance of an absentee certificate, with signature and stamp the corresponding Election Commission.

8. The territorial election commission shall issue the voter or his representative an absentee certificate on the basis of voter data presented to the territorial election commission in accordance with Clause 8 of Article 15 of this Federal Law. The territorial election commission shall register the issuance of absentee certificates, indicating the name, first name and patronymic, year of birth (if aged 18 - the day and month of birth), address, place of residence. The chairman, vice chairman, secretary or other member of the territorial election commission with decisive vote, who issued an absentee certificate to the voter, shall register the issued absentee certificates in the corresponding register, indicating the number of issued absentee certificates and putting his signature.

9. The territorial election commission in 20 days before voting day shall send to the precinct election commission, together with the first copy of the list of voters, certified extracts from the register of issued absentee certificates, which contain information on voters who have been issued absentee certificates and who are registered in the territories of the respective polling stations. On the basis of corresponding extracts the precinct election commission member shall mark in "Special Notes" of the voter list: "Received an absentee certificate No. from the territorial election commission" indicating the number of the issued absentee certificate and put his signature.

10. When issuing the voter an absentee certificate at a precinct election commission the chairman, deputy chairman, secretary or other member of the precinct election commission with decisive voting, who issued the certificate, shall mark in "Special Notes" of the voter list: "Received an absentee certificate No. from the territorial election commission" indicating the number of the issued absentee certificate and put his signature.

11. When receiving an absentee certificate the voter shall indicate the series and number of his passport or passport substitute, and sign in the corresponding boxes of the absentee certificates register (territorial election commission) or a list of voters (precinct election commission). When receiving an absentee certificate by proxy the representative of the voter shall indicate the series and number of the voter's passport or passport substitute and his surname, first name and patronymic, series and number of passport or passport substitute, and signs. After that, the voter representative proxy is withdrawn and attached respectively to the registry of absentee certificates or to the voter list.

12. A voter who has received an absentee certificate (including through the representative by proxy), is excluded from the precinct election commission voter list at the corresponding polling

place for this election to the State Duma and is not counted when calculating the number of registered voters in preparation of the protocol of the precinct election commission on voting results.

13. Re-issuance of an absentee certificate is not permitted. In case of loss a duplicate absentee certificate will not be issued.

14. Upon presentation of an absentee certificate on election day the voter is additionally included in the list of voters at the polling station at which he will be on election day. The Precinct Election Commission marks in the "Special Notes" "Voted by absentee certificate N" with the number of absentee certificate filed by the voter. After this the certificate is withdrawn from the voter. Absentee certificates according to which the voters are included in voters lists are stored with the specified voters list.

15. In case of loss of the form an absentee certificate the election commission, which established the fact of such loss, without delay draws up the act and makes a decision, stating the number of the lost form, the fact of loss of the form and cause of loss. This decision is on the same day communicated directly to the higher election commission and the Central Election Commission of Russia. Based on this decision, the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation deems the corresponding absentee certificate null and void, informing on that all subordinate election commissions. Invalid absentee certificate may not serve grounds for inclusion of voters in the voter list. Upon presentation by the voter of such absentee certificate it shall be seized.

16. On the election day before the voting time the unused absentee certificates shall be canceled. Information about cancellation of unused absentee certificates, with their numbers and amount shall be entered in the act of the relevant committee, composed in the form as approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

17. Distribution of absentee certificates to election commissions and accounting of absentee certificates, including with use of GAS "Vybory", shall be implemented in a manner approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation in accordance with Clause 16 of Article 62 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the right to participate in referendum of the citizens of the Russian Federation. "

Article 75. Voting Procedure

1. Voting shall be conducted from 8.00 to 20.00, local time. If there residents in the precinct, whose working time coincides with voting time (enterprises with a continuous production cycle or with shifts), the electoral commission of the subject of the Russian Federation can make the decision to start earlier voting in the precinct in question by 2 hours maximum.

2. Territorial and precinct election commissions shall inform voters about the time and place of voting not later than 20 days before voting day through the mass media or by other methods and, when early voting is to be conducted in accordance with Article 76 of this Federal Law, not later than five days before early voting day.

3. A precinct election commission formed on ships at sea, in military units, at polar stations, in remote and hard-to-reach regions may declare voting to be completed ahead of the time specified in Clause 1 of this Article if all voters on the voters list have voted.

4. On voting day before the start of voting the chairman of a precinct election commission shall declare the polling station open and shall invite the members of a precinct election commission, voters and persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law, who are present at the polling station, to examine empty stationary and mobile ballot boxes, which then shall be sealed. The chairman of a precinct election commission shall also show to the said persons sealed mobile ballot boxes containing ballots marked in accordance with Clauses 2 to 9, Article 76 of the present Federal Law by early voters (if any).

5. Voting members of a precinct election commission shall receive ballots from the chairman of a precinct election commission for issuance to voters and shall sign for their receipt. After that the chairman of a precinct election commission shall invite voters to start voting.

6. Ballots shall be issued to voters included in the voters' lists upon production of a passport or an equivalent identity document and also an absentee certificate, if a voter votes on the basis of an absentee certificate. Each voter may receive one ballot. If the Central Electoral commission makes a respective decision the series and number of passport or equivalent identity document can be entered into the voters' list using Stated Automatic System "Vybory" when the lists are compiled. Before issuing ballots to a voter a member of the election commission shall check to make sure that the voter has not received an absentee ballot, not voted early, no written or oral application of the voter for voting outside the polling station has been recorded in the register indicated in Clause 2, Article 77 of this Federal Law, no voting members of the election commission have been sent to the voter to conduct voting outside the polling station.

7. When receiving ballots, a voter shall write the series and number of his passport or an equivalent identity document in the voters list. With the consent or at the request of a voter the series and number of his passport or an equivalent identify document may be entered in the voters list by a voting member of a precinct election commission. If the Central Electoral Commission makes a respective decision the series and number of passport or equivalent identity document can be entered into the voters' list using State Automatic System "Vybory" when the lists are compiled. In this case a voting member of precinct electoral commission verifies the data with the document submitted by the voter. A voter shall check the accuracy of the entry and shall sign for receipt of each ballot. The member of the election commission who issued ballots to a voter shall also put his signature in the corresponding column of the voters list. If a voter votes on the basis of an absentee certificate, a note to this effect shall be made in the voters list.

8. A voter shall vote by putting any mark in the box to the right of the candidate of the federal list chosen by the voter.

9. Each voter shall vote in person. Voting for other voters shall not be allowed. Ballots shall be marked in a booth or some other place specially prepared for secret voting, where the presence of other persons shall not be allowed, save as otherwise provided by Clause 10 of this article.

10. A voter who is not able to sign for receipt of ballots or mark the ballots, or take part in electronic voting by himself may be assisted by another voter who is not a member of the election commission, or a registered candidate, or an authorized representative or agent of a political party, including representatives on financial issues, or an authorized representative of regional branches of political parties on financial issues, or an observer, including foreign (international) observers. This voter shall orally inform the election commission of his intention to ask for assistance in marking the ballot. In this case the surname, first name and patronymic, series and number of the passport or an equivalent identity document of the person assisting such voter shall be indicated in the appropriate column (columns) of the voters list.

11. If a voter considers that he has made a mistake when marking a ballot, he may ask the election commission member who had issued the ballot to give him a new ballot in place of the spoiled one. The election commission member shall issue a new ballot to the voter, note this fact in the voters list against the name of this voter and sign the note. This inscription is also certified by the signature of the secretary of the precinct electoral commission and this ballots shall be immediately cancelled.

12. Voters shall drop marked ballots into a sealed stationary ballot box.

13. The chairman of a precinct election commission shall maintain order at the polling station. Instructions of the chairman issued within the scope of his competence shall be mandatory for all persons present in the polling station. In the absence of the chairman of a precinct election commission his functions shall be performed by the deputy chairman of a precinct election commission, and, in the absence of the deputy chairman, by the secretary of the commission or some other voting member of the given election commission authorized thereby.

14. Persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law may be present at the polling station during the voting, when votes are being counted and when a precinct election commission is preparing the protocol of vote returns. Based on their credentials a precinct election commission shall make up a list of persons who observed the progress of voting and tabulation of votes.

15. A member of a precinct election commission shall be immediately barred from participation in its work and an observer and other persons shall be expelled from the polling station if they commit a violation of the electoral laws of the Russian Federation. In such cases a reasoned decision shall be taken by a precinct election commission or a higher election commission. The law enforcement authorities shall enforce the decision and take steps to bring the barred member of a precinct election commission, expelled observer and other persons to responsibility under Russian Federation laws.

16. Political parties, which registered their federal lists of candidates, candidates and their agents, authorized representatives of political parties as well as organizations, which are founded, owned, possessed by the said persons and organizations and/or which have governing bodies where the said persons and organizations are represented, other individuals and legal entities acting at the request or on the instructions of the said persons and organizations shall not take any actions to arrange for transportation of voters for participation in voting.

Article 76. Early Voting

1. Electoral commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation may allow all voters in one or several electoral precincts on ships at sea on voting day, at polar stations, in other remote and hard-to-reach areas to vote early but not earlier than 15 days prior to voting day. The Central Electoral commission can allow early voting (but not earlier than 15 days prior to voting day) for all voters on one or several electoral precincts established outside of the territory of the Russian Federation. In this case, early voting shall be conducted in accordance with the rules established by Article 75 of this Federal Law. Immediately after the end of early voting votes cast by voters shall be counted and vote returns shall be determined in accordance with the requirements 79 of this Federal Law.

2. If separate groups of voters included in the voters list of an electoral precinct remain at places which are far away from the polling station and are inaccessible or hard to reach by any means of transport (at polar stations and in other remote and hard-to-reach areas) and, therefore, early voting cannot be conducted in the whole electoral precinct in accordance with Clause 1 of this article, an electoral commissions of subjects of the Russian Federation may allow these groups of voters to vote early, but not earlier than 15 days before voting day, in the course of several days, in the procedure established by Clauses 3 to 9 of this article. The Central Electoral commission can allow early voting (but not earlier than 15 days prior to voting day) can allow voting for group of voters residing outside of the territory of the Russian Federation in the course of several days, in the procedure established by Clauses 3 to 9 of this article.

3. Early voting indicated in Clause 2 of this article shall be conducted with the use of mobile ballot boxes, the quantity of such boxes being determined by a relevant precinct election commission. Before early voting starts, at the premises of a precinct election commission empty mobile ballot boxes shall be shown to and examined by the majority of the commission's members and the persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law, and an appropriate certificate shall be executed to record this fact. After that, empty mobile ballot boxes shall be sealed (seals shall be affixed to the ballot boxes).

4. Two voting members of a precinct election commission shall put their signatures at the upper right on the face of each ballot issued to an early voter and their signatures shall be certified by a seal of a precinct election commission.

5. Early voting outside the polling station shall be conducted by not less than two voting members of a precinct election commission. They shall be provided with a mobile ballot box sealed beforehand in a precinct election commission; the required number of ballots of a standard form; an excerpt from the voters list containing the data of the voters whom they are going to visit to conduct early voting, or the voters list; the necessary writing utensils (excepting pencils) for voters to mark ballots.

6. An early voter shall sign for each ballot issued to him in the excerpt from the voters list or in the voters list. Members of a precinct election commission who conduct early voting shall make a note in the said excerpt or in the said voters list to indicate that the voter voted early and shall indicate the date and time of voting. If a voter put his signature in the excerpt from the voters list, these notes as well as the series and number of the passport or an equivalent identity document shall be entered in the voters list after the end of early voting. The said excerpt from the voters list shall be kept together with the voters list.

7. A voter shall mark the ballot and drop it into a mobile ballot box as provided in Article 75 of this Federal Law.

8. A certificate shall be drawn up to record the fact of early voting, indicating the day and time of voting, the number of voters who received ballots for participation in early voting, the names of the election commission members and other persons present at the voting. This certificate shall be kept together with the mobile ballot box.

9. After the end of early voting the slots for ballots in mobile ballot boxes shall be sealed by the chairman of a precinct election commission. Arrangements for safekeeping of mobile ballot boxes shall be made by the secretary of a precinct election commission. Mobile ballot boxes shall not be opened till the beginning of vote counting at the polling station. Mobile ballot boxes containing ballots dropped there by early voters shall not be used for voting on voting day.

10. Early voting may be witnessed by persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law. When early voting is to be conducted with the use of mobile ballot boxes, a precinct election commission shall make arrangements for at least two persons from among non-voting members of the election commission, observers appointed by different political parties to have the same possibilities to go to the place where early voting is to be conducted as the voting members of a precinct election commission who are to conduct early voting .

11. Early voting shall be conducted only at the time established by the decision of a relevant precinct election commission. This time shall be made known to voters and persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law through the mass media and/or by other means.

12. When conducting early voting a precinct election commission shall ensure the secrecy of voting, prevent any possibility of the expression of the voters' will being distorted, make arrangements for safekeeping of ballots and ensure that the votes of voters are reckoned in when the vote returns are determined.

Article 77. Voting Outside the Polling Station On Voting Day

1. A precinct election commission shall make arrangements to enable voters to vote if they are entitled to be on, or are included in, the voters list in the given electoral precinct but are unable to come to the polling station for valid reasons (poor health, physical disability). Precinct election commission shall also enable voters to vote if they are included in the voters list of this elections precinct and are in custody as suspects or defendants of crimes.

2. Save as otherwise provided by Article 76 of this Federal Law, voting outside the polling station shall be conducted only on voting day on the basis of a written or oral application of a voter (which may be relayed through other persons) for voting outside the polling station. Such application may be made by a voter at any time after the formation of a precinct election commission but not later than six hours before the end of the voting time on voting day. A precinct election commission shall record all received applications in a special register and, after the end of voting, shall keep this register together with the voters list. Application (oral address) submitted after the deadline shall not be satisfied, which will be communicated to the voter or person assisting in submitting the application immediately at the moment of receiving the application (address).

3. An entry in the register mentioned in Clause 2 of this article recording an oral application shall indicate the time when the application was received; the surname, first name and patronymic of the voter who stated his intention to vote outside the polling station; the voter's place of residence. The entry shall be signed by a member of a precinct election commission who received the application (telephone call, message, etc.). If such application was relayed by another person, the register shall also indicate the surname, first name and patronymic of this person. Upon the arrival of members of a precinct election commission to the voter, the voter shall confirm his oral application by a written application which shall be registered.

4. A written or oral application of a voter for voting outside the polling station must state the reason why the voter is unable to come to the polling station. The application should also contain the surname, first name and the last name of the voter and his place of residence. A precinct election commission may determine that the reason why a voter is unable to come to the polling station unaided is untenable and, on this basis, refuse to allow the voter to vote outside the

polling station. The voter should be immediately notified about this decision of the precinct electoral commission to deny this voting to the voter.

5. At least 30 minutes before the departure of members of a precinct election commission, the chairman of the precinct election commission shall announce that commission members are going to conduct voting outside the polling station, and also propose to members with consultative vote and observers to attend.

6. A precinct election commission shall have the necessary number of mobile ballot boxes to conduct voting in accordance with this article, the number of such boxes being determined by a decision of the precinct election commission. However the maximum number of mobile ballot boxes used on the voting day for voting outside the polling station at one polling station shall make as follows, depending on the number of voters registered at the polling station:

- 1) under 501 voters – 1 mobile ballot box;
- 2) from 501 to 1001 voters – 2 mobile ballot boxes;
- 3) more than 1000 voters – 3 mobile ballot boxes;

6.1. Decision of the territorial election commission to use of mobile ballot boxes outside the polling station, referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Clause 6 of this Article may be increased, but by not more than 1 mobile box given least one of the following conditions:

- 1) The precinct includes the territories of several settlements, and the settlement, where the polling station is located, is beyond walking distance from the other settlements during the time of voting;
- 2) The territory of the polling station has a place of temporary stay of voters where the polling station is not established;
- 3) The territory of the polling station has more than 50 registered voters older than 80 and (or) voters with disabilities, with data thereon presented in accordance with Clause 16.1 of Article 20 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the right to participate in the referendum of the citizens of the Russian Federation";
- 4) In case of combined voting day for the elections of State Duma deputies with the day of voting in elections of deputies of legislative (representative) state authority of the Russian Federation and (or) the local government the voter has the opportunity to vote at the same time on more than two ballots.

7. Voting members of a precinct election commission who conduct voting outside the polling station shall receive ballots and sign for their receipt in the register of ballots for voting outside of polling station. The total of ballots received cannot exceed the number of applications (spoken addresses) submitted by time of departure by more than 5 percent, but cannot be less than two ballots. Voting outside the polling station shall be conducted by not less than two voting members of a precinct election commission who shall bring with them a mobile ballot box sealed beforehand at the precinct election commission; the required number of ballots of the standard form; a register indicated in Clause 2 of the present Article or its certified excerpt, containing the necessary data of the voters and the information about the received written and oral applications of voters for voting outside the polling station; the written applications for voting outside the polling station; the necessary writing utensils (excepting pencils) for voters to mark

the ballots. Voting outside the polling station may be conducted by one voting member of a precinct election commission, provided that not less than two persons indicated in Clause 12 of this article are present at the voting.

8. Voting outside the polling station shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Article 75 of this Federal Law.

9. In the written application for voting outside the polling station the voter shall indicate the series and number of his passport or an equivalent identity document and the address of the place of residence and shall sign for receipt of each ballot. With the consent or at the request of the voter the above mentioned data may be entered in the application by a voting member of a precinct election commission. Voting members of a precinct election commission shall confirm the issuance of ballots by putting their signatures on the written application of the voter. A corresponding note shall be made on the application when a new ballot is issued in place of a spoilt one.

9.1. If the voter due to disability or health can not acknowledge receipt of the ballot or fill out the ballot himself, he may use help of another voter in the manner prescribed by Clause 10 of Article 75 hereof.

10. The voting members of a precinct election commission who conduct voting outside the polling station shall issue ballots only to those voters whose written or oral applications were recorded in the register as provided by Clause 2 of this Article.

11. The series and number of the passport or an equivalent identity document of a voter who voted outside the polling station shall be entered in the voters list by the voting members of a precinct election commission who conducted voting outside the polling station on the basis of written or oral applications of voters. At the same time, the words «*Voted outside the polling station,*» signed by the precinct commission members indicated above, shall be written in the appropriate column (columns) of the voters list.

12. When voting is carried out outside the polling station, non-voting members of an election commission, observers may be present at the voting. In this case, a precinct election commission shall provide the same possibilities to at least two persons form among its non-voting members, observers appointed by different political parties to come to the place of voting together with voting members of the precinct election commission who conduct voting outside the polling station. Voting outside the polling station shall be organized so as to prevent any violations of electoral rights of citizens and distortion of the expression of a voter's will.

13. If a voter who made a written or oral application for voting outside the polling station comes to the polling station to vote after voting members of a precinct election commission were sent to him to conduct voting outside the polling station, a none of the member of a precinct election commission shall issue a ballot to this voter at the polling station until the commission members who organize voting outside the polling station in response to a written or oral application of this voter come back and it has been established that the voter has not voted outside the polling station.

14. At the end of voting with each mobile ballot box the electoral commission draws up a certificate, which shall indicate the number ballots issued by voting members of the precinct electoral commission who conducted voting outside the polling station, the number of written applications of voters for voting outside the polling station and the number of returned (unused, spoilt by voters) ballots as well as information about voting members of precinct electoral

commission who conducted voting outside the polling station, about non-voting members of precinct electoral commission and observers, who attended this voting outside the polling station.

CHAPTER XI. COUNTING OF VOTES. DETERMINATION OF THE RESULTS OF VOTING. DEFINING THE RESULTS OF ELECTIONS OF DEPUTIES OF THE STATE DUMA.

Article 78. Protocol of Vote Returns of a Precinct Election Commission

The provisions of Article 78 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ apply to legal relationships arising in connection with the conduct of elections and referendums, appointed after the coming into force of this Federal Law (Part 4 of Article 6 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ)

1. A precinct election commission shall confirm its decision about the results of voting with a protocol of the results of voting for corresponding precinct.
2. The protocol of vote returns of a precinct election commission shall be drawn up on one sheet. In exceptional cases the protocol may consist of more sheets than one and each sheet of such protocols shall be numbered, signed by all present voting members of a precinct election commission and sealed with the commission's seal. The protocol of a precinct election commission indicated in Clause 1 of this article shall contain the following:

- (1) copy No.;
- (2) the name of the election, date of voting;
- (3) the word «*Protocol*» ;
- (4) the address of the polling station and the number of the electoral precinct;
- (5) the following lines of the protocol:
 - line 1: number of voters on the voters list as of the end of voting;
 - line 2: number of ballots received by the precinct election commission;
 - line 3: number of ballots issued to early voters;
 - line 4: number of ballots issued by the precinct election commission to voters at the polling station on voting day;
 - line 5: number of ballots issued to voters who voted outside the polling station on voting day;
 - line 6: number of canceled ballots;
 - line 7: number of ballots in the mobile ballot boxes;

line 8: number of ballots in the stationary ballot boxes;

line 9: number of invalid ballots;

line 10: number of valid ballots;

line 11: number of absentee certificates received by the precinct election commission;

line 12: number of absentee certificates issued by the precinct election commission at the polling station before voting day;

line 13: number of voters who voted at the polling station on the basis of absentee certificates;

line 14: number of unused and cancelled absentee certificates at the polling station;

line 15: number of absentee certificates issued to voters by a territorial election commission;

line 16: number of lost absentee certificates;

line 17: number of lost ballots;

line 18: number of ballots unaccounted for when the transfer of ballots occurred;

line 19 and following lines where the names of political, which registered their federal lists of candidates, are entered in their order on the electoral ballot, as well as number of votes collected by each federal list of candidates and against all federal lists of candidates.

- 6) number of attached to the protocol of voters' complaints (statements) received by the district electoral commission on election day;
- 7) last names and initials of the chairperson, deputy chairperson, secretary and other voting members of the precinct electoral commission and their signatures (if the protocol contains more than one page, this information should be on its every page);
- 8) date and time (hours and minutes) when the protocol was signed (if the protocol contains more than one page, this information should be on its every page);
- 9) seal of the precinct electoral commission (if the protocol contains more than one page, this seal should be on its every page);

3. The numbers indicated in Clause 2 of the present article shall be entered in the protocol in numerals and words.

Article 79. Counting of Votes and Preparation of Protocols of Vote Returns of a Precinct Election Commission

The provisions of Article 79 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ apply to legal relationships arising in connection with the conduct of elections and referendums, appointed

after the coming into force of this Federal Law (Part 4 of Article 6 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ)

1. Votes cast by voters shall be counted openly and publicly, with the results of ballot and vote counting carried out by voting members of a precinct election commission being consecutively announced and entered in the enlarged form of the protocol of vote returns. The persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law shall be allowed to be present at and observe vote counting.

2. After the voting time expires, the chairman of a precinct election commission shall announce that only those voters who are already inside the polling station may receive ballots and vote. Counting of votes cast by voters shall begin immediately after the voting time expires and shall be continued without interruption until the vote returns are determined. The said vote returns shall be made known to all members of a precinct election commission and to persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law.

3. After the end of voting, voting members of a precinct election commission in the presence of persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law shall count unused ballots, cancel them by cutting off the lower left corner (damaging the boxes located on the ballots to the right of the names of political parties is not allowed), announce the number of cancelled ballots obtained by summing up the number of unused ballots and the number of ballots spoiled by voters in the course of voting and enter the number of cancelled ballots in lines 6 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged copy. After that members of a precinct election commission shall announce the number of unused absentee certificates according to the certificate indicated in Clause 8, Article 74 of this Federal Law and enter this number in line 14 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged copy. The cancelled ballots and absentee certificates may be examined by persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law under the supervision of voting members of the precinct election commission.

4. The chairman, the deputy chairman or the secretary of a precinct election commission shall announce the number of ballots received by the precinct election commission and enter this number in line 2 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged copy.

5. Before starting to count votes voting members of a precinct election commission shall enter the following data in each page of the voters list, summarized for this page:

- (1) the number of voters on the list as of the end of voting (minus the voters issued absentee certificates by a territorial election commission and precinct election commission and voters removed from the voters list for other reasons);
- (2) the number of ballots issued to voters at the polling station on voting day (as established on the basis of the number of voter signatures in the voters list);
- (3) the number of ballots issued to voters who voted outside the polling station (as established on the basis of the number of appropriate entries in the voters list);
- (4) the number of early voters (as established on the basis of the number of appropriate entries in the voters list);
- (5) the number of absentee certificates issued by the precinct election commission at the polling station of the electoral precinct before voting day;

- (6) the number of voters who voted at the polling station of the electoral precinct on the basis of absentee certificates;
- (7) the number of absentee certificates issued to voters by a territorial election commission.

6. After entering the data indicated in Clause 5 of this article the voting member of a precinct election commission who entered this data shall sign each page of the voters list and announce this data to the chairman, the deputy chairman or the secretary of a precinct election commission and to persons present at vote counting. The chairman, the deputy chairman or the secretary of a precinct election commission shall announce the summarized data obtained by summing up the data established in accordance with Clause 5 of this article for all pages of the voters list, write this data on the last page of the voters list and certify it with his signature and the seal of a precinct election commission. The announced data shall be entered in the corresponding lines of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged copy:

- (1) the number of voters on the voters list as of the end of voting - in line 1;
- (2) the number of ballots issued to early voters - in line 3;
- (3) the number of ballots issued to voters at the polling station on voting day - in line 4;
- (4) the number of ballots issued to voters who voted outside the polling station on voting day - in line 5;
- (5) the number of absentee certificates issued by a precinct election commission to voters of this electoral precinct before voting day - in line 12;
- (6) the number of voters who voted in this electoral precinct using absentee certificates - in line 13;
- (7) the number of absentee certificates issued to voters by a territorial election commission - in line 15.

6.1. Following the actions specified in Clause 6 of this Article, the following control ratio shall be checked: the number of absentee certificates received by the precinct election commission shall be equal to the sum of the number of absentee certificates issued to voters of the precinct election commission at the polling station before polling day and the number of absentee certificates cancelled at the polling station. If the specified control ratio is not met, the Precinct Election Commission shall decide on the additional recalculation of the data included in the voters list, and of the canceled absentee certificates. If the additional calculation of the above does not ensure the control ration, the precinct election commission shall take appropriate action, which is attached to the protocol of vote results, and indicates the discrepancies in the line 16 of the protocol of vote results and its aggregated form. If the specified control ratio is proven, the figure "0" is out in line 16.

7. After committing of actions specified in Clause 6 of the present Article, the voters list shall be made available for examination to persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law, and non-voting members of a precinct election commission have the right to verify the accuracy of the counting.

8. No further work shall be carried out on the voters list until the control relationships of the data entered in the protocols of vote returns are checked as provided by Clause 21 of this article. In

the meantime, the voters list shall be kept in a safe or at a place specially equipped for safekeeping of documents. The chairman or the secretary of a precinct election commission shall make arrangements for the safekeeping of the voters list so as to make it inaccessible to persons present at the polling station.

9. Votes shall be counted by voting members of a precinct election commission from ballots in the ballot boxes.

10. Non-voting members of a precinct election commission, other persons listed in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law may be present when votes are being counted.

11. Votes shall be counted at the polling station, at special places fitted out so as to allow access to them for voting and non-voting members of a precinct election commission. Voting members of a precinct election commission, with the exception of the chairman (deputy chairman) and the secretary of a precinct election commission, shall not use any writing utensils during vote counting, save as otherwise provided by Clauses 13 and 16 of this article. The actions of members of a precinct election commission shall be clearly visible to all persons present at vote counting.

12. When sorting out the ballots a precinct election commission shall separate ballots which do not conform to a standard format, i.e., which were not produced officially or are not certified by the given election commission. Non-standard ballots shall not be reckoned in when votes are counted. Such ballots shall be packed separately and sealed.

13. First of all, ballots shall be counted in the mobile ballot boxes: first in the boxes containing ballots left by early voters, then in the boxes containing ballots left by voters who voted outside the polling station on voting day. Before each mobile ballot box is opened, the number of voters who voted with the use of the given mobile ballot box shall be announced, the integrity of the seals on the boxes shall be checked and at the request of the chairman of a precinct election commission shall be verified by commission members and other persons present at vote counting. Votes shall be counted so as to avoid violating the secrecy of voting, with non-standard ballots to be put apart. The number of standard ballots taken out of the boxes shall be announced and entered in line 7 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged copy. If the number of standard ballots found in the mobile ballot box exceeds the number of notes made in the voters list to indicate that the voter voted early or the number of applications of voters marked to indicate receipt of a ballot for voting, all ballots in the given mobile ballot box shall be declared invalid by the decision of a precinct election commission and this fact shall be recorded in a separate certificate which shall be appended to the corresponding protocol of vote returns. The certificate shall indicate the surnames and initials of the members of a precinct election commission who conducted early voting or voting outside the polling station using this mobile ballot box. The number of ballots thus invalidated shall be indicated in the aforementioned certificate and subsequently shall be added to the number of invalid ballots found when the ballots are sorted out. The reason why the ballot was invalidated shall be indicated on the face of all such ballots, on the boxes located to the right of the names of political parties. The corresponding note shall be signed by two voting members of a precinct election commission and certified by the commission's seal and, when votes are to be counted, such ballots shall be packed separately, sealed and disregarded in vote counting.

14. Stationary ballot boxes shall be opened after the integrity of their seals is verified.

15. Voting members of a precinct election commission shall sort out into separate bundles the ballots taken out of the mobile and stationary ballot boxes, according to the votes cast for each

registered federal list of candidates; at the same time, they shall put apart non-standard and invalid ballots. While sorting out the ballots, voting members of the precinct election commission shall read out the notes made by voters on ballots and show ballots for examination to all persons present at vote counting. The notes on two and more ballots shall not be read out simultaneously.

16. Invalid ballots shall be counted and summed up separately. Ballots shall be invalid if they do not contain any marks in the boxes to the right of the corresponding names of political parties, or if more boxes than one are marked on a ballot. If any doubts arise with regard to the expression of a voter's will, the ballot shall be put apart in a separate bundle and, after the ballots are sorted out, a precinct election commission shall decide the question of the validity of each doubtful ballot by voting and a note explaining the decision to pronounce the ballot valid or invalid shall be made on the back of the ballot. This note shall be certified by signatures of not less than two voting members of the commission and the commission's seal. The ballot pronounced valid or invalid shall be put in the corresponding bundle of ballots. The total number of invalid ballots (including the ballots invalidated in accordance with Clause 13 of this article) shall be announced and entered in lines 9 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged copy.

17. After that the sorted out standard ballots shall be counted separately in each bundle, according to the votes cast for each registered federal list of candidates. Ballots shall be counted by moving them from one part on the bundle to the other part so that the persons present at vote counting could see the mark made by the voter on each ballot. Ballots from different bundles shall not be counted simultaneously. The data thus obtained shall be announced and entered in lines 19 and subsequent lines of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged copy.

18. Voting members of a precinct election commission shall sum up the data of lines 19 and subsequent lines of the protocols of vote returns, announce the number of valid ballots and enter this number in line 10 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarge copy.

19. Voting members of a precinct election commission shall count the number of standard ballots in the stationary ballot boxes, announce this number and enter it in line 8 of the protocol of vote returns and its enlarged copy.

20. After that observers, foreign (international) observers may examine the sorted out ballots under the supervision of voting members of a precinct election commission, and non-voting members of the commission may make sure that the counting was carried out correctly.

21. After non-voting members of a precinct election commission and observers examine the sorted out ballots the control relationships of the data entered in the protocols of vote returns shall be checked in accordance with Annex 3 to this Federal Law in the order defined by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.. If these control relationships are not complied with, a precinct election commission shall take a decision to carry out additional vote counting for all or some of the lines of the protocols of vote returns, including additional counting of ballots. If, after additional counting of the data in lines 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 of the protocol of vote returns the control relationships are not complied with again, a precinct election commission shall draw up a statement to this effect to be appended it to the protocol of vote returns and enter the discrepancies in the special lines of the protocol of vote returns: line 17 «*Number of lost ballots*» and line 18 «*Number of ballots unrecorded upon receipt.*» If the number indicated in line 2 of the protocol of vote returns is larger than the sum of the numbers indicated in lines 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the protocol of vote returns, the difference between the number indicated in line 2 and the sum of the numbers indicated in lines 3, 4, 5 and 6 shall be entered in line 17 and the numeral «0» shall be put in line 18. If the sum of the numbers indicated in lines 3,

4, 5 and 6 of the protocol of vote returns is larger than the number indicated in line 2 of the protocol of vote returns, the difference between the sum of the numbers indicated in lines 3, 4, 5 and 6 and the number indicated in line 2 shall be entered in line 18 and the numeral «0» shall be put in line 17. If changes have to be made in the protocol of vote returns on the basis of additional counting, a new blank form of the protocol shall be completed and appropriate alterations shall be made in the enlarged form of the protocol. If the control relationships are complied with, the numeral «0» shall be put in lines 17 and 18.

22. After the counting has been completed the ballots shall be packed in separate bundles according to registered federal list of candidates and against all federal lists of candidates. Invalid and cancelled ballots shall be packed in separate bundles. The bundles shall indicate the number of ballots in the bundle, the name of the political party, marked in the ballots or shall bear an inscription «*Invalid ballots*». The ballots packed as above as well as the ballots packed in accordance with Clauses 12 and 13 of this article, packed absentee certificates and voters lists shall be placed in bags or boxes which shall be marked with the number of the electoral precinct, the total number of all packed ballots and the total number of all packed absentee certificates. The bags or boxes shall be sealed and may be opened only by a decision of the higher election commission or a court. Voting and non-voting members of a precinct election commission, other persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law may put their signatures on these bags or boxes.

23. After all necessary actions and counting operations are completed a precinct election commission shall hold a mandatory final meeting at which it shall consider complaints and statements about infractions of the present Federal Law committed during the voting and then sign the protocol of vote returns of the precinct election commission and issue copies of the protocols to persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law. The protocol of vote returns shall be made in duplicate and shall be signed by all voting members of a precinct election commission present at the meeting, with the indication of the date and time (hours and minutes) when it was signed. If vote returns were obtained by means of technical vote counting facilities, the protocol of vote returns shall become legally valid after it is signed by the aforementioned persons. The protocols of vote returns shall not be completed with a pencil and no alterations shall be made therein. Signing of such protocol in violation of these rules may constitute a reason for invalidation of this protocol and for a vote recount.

24. If some voting members of a precinct election commission are absent when the protocol of vote returns is prepared, a note to this effect shall be made in the protocol indicating the reason for their absence. The protocol shall be valid if they are signed by the majority of the established number of voting members of the given precinct election commission. If, when a protocol of vote returns is being signed, the signature of at least one voting member of a precinct election commission is put for this member by some other commission member or by some other person, this shall constitute a reason for invalidation of this protocol and for a vote recount.

25. When the protocols of vote returns are being signed voting members of a precinct election commission who dissent from the contents of the protocols may attach their dissenting opinion to the protocols and this fact shall be noted in the protocols.

26. At the request of any member of a precinct election commission, persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 this Federal Law, immediately after signing the protocols of vote returns a precinct election commission shall issue a copy of the protocols of vote returns to these persons and have these copies certified by the commission. The issuance of such certified copies shall be recorded by a precinct election commission in a special register and the person who receives a certified copy shall sign for its receipt in the register. The responsibility for completeness and accuracy of

the data contained in a copy of the protocol of vote returns shall be borne by the person who certified this copy.

27. The first original of the protocol of vote returns of a precinct election commission, after it was signed by all present voting members of a precinct election commission and its registered copies were issued to all persons entitled to receive them, shall be, without delay, forwarded to a relevant territorial election commission and shall not be returned to the precinct election commission. Precinct electoral commissions established at polling stations outside of the territory of the Russian Federation sent the first copy of the protocol and all documents attached to it directly to the Central Electoral Commission or to the territorial electoral commission if the latter was established according to Clause 3 Article 20 of the present Federal Law. Attached to the first originals of the protocols shall be the dissenting opinions of voting members of a precinct election commission; the complaints (statements) about violations of this Federal Law received by an election commission on voting day and before the end of vote counting; the decisions taken by a precinct election commission in connection with these complaints (statements); certificates, statements and registers of the commission. Certified copies of these documents and decisions of a precinct election commission shall be attached to the second originals of the protocols. The first originals of the protocols of vote returns with the attached documents shall be delivered to a territorial election commission by the chairman or the secretary of a precinct election commission or some other voting member of a precinct election commission at the request of its chairman. Such delivery of the protocols may be witnessed by other members of a precinct election commission and by observers sent to the given precinct election commission. All electoral documents of precinct election commissions formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation, including ballots but excluding the first originals of the protocols of vote returns and documents attached to it and submitted to the higher election commission, shall be kept by diplomatic and consular missions of the Russian Federation for not less than one year from the day of the official publication of the general results of election of State Duma deputies, after which they shall be destroyed on the basis of an appropriate certificate, in the procedure established by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation

28. The second original of the protocol of vote returns of a precinct electoral commission shall be made available for examination to persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law and its certified copy shall be displayed to the general public at a place designated by the precinct election commission. The second original of the protocols of vote returns together with the electoral documents stipulated by this Federal Law, including sealed ballots and the lists of the non-voting members of a precinct election commission and persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 29 of this Federal Law who were present at the determination of vote returns and preparation of the protocols, voters' lists, as well as the seal of a precinct election commission shall be handed over for safekeeping to a relevant territorial election commission within five days after the official publication of the results of the elections of State Duma Deputies.

28. If appropriate equipment is available, immediately after the members of a precinct election commission formed in an electoral precinct in a remote or hard-to-reach area, on a ship at sea, at a polar station, or outside the territory of the Russian Federation, sign the protocol of vote returns its data shall be transmitted via technical communication channels to the higher election commission. It shall be mandatory that subsequently, at the earliest opportunity, the first originals of the protocols of vote returns and all electoral documents indicated in Clause 27 of this article be submitted to the higher election commission directly or through diplomatic and consular missions abroad of the Russian Federation.

29. The procedure for using a technical system for transmission of information about the election of State Duma deputies, the manner and periods of transmission, processing and utilization of this information, including the data of the protocols of vote returns transmitted over technical communication channels, shall be approved by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation.

30. If, after the protocol of a precinct electoral commission of vote returns is signed and its first original was sent to a territorial election commission, this precinct election commission finds any inaccuracy in the lines 1 through 18 of the protocol (a slip of the pen, misprint or an error in data summation) or if such inaccuracy is found by a territorial election commission in the course of a preliminary verification of the protocols, such precinct election commission shall call a meeting to consider the question of making corrections in the lines 1 through 18 of the protocol. In its announcement about this meeting to be made in accordance with Clause 2, Article 29 of this Federal Law a precinct election commission shall state that it is going to consider this matter at the meeting. A precinct election commission shall ensure that its decision is made known to non-voting members of the commission, observers and other persons who were present when the previously approved protocol was prepared, as well as to members of the press. In this case, a precinct election commission shall prepare a protocol of vote returns marked «Repeat.» This protocol shall be forthwith sent to a territorial election commission. The previous protocol of vote returns submitted by a precinct election commission to a territorial election commission shall be attached to the corrected protocol. In case of clarifications are to be made in line 19 and subsequent lines, votes shall be recounted as specified in Clause 17, Article 80 of the present Federal law. Any violations of the above specified procedure for a repeat protocol are to be used as grounds to declare such a protocol invalid.

Article 80. Establishment of Vote returns by a Territorial Electoral Commission

1. After preliminary verification of correctness of the protocols on vote returns of precinct electoral commissions, a territorial electoral commission shall, not later than on the third day after the voting day, determine the vote returns for the given territory based on the data contained in those protocols, including such data transmitted over technical communication channels from precinct electoral commissions set up in the electoral precincts in remote and hard-to-reach areas, on ships at sea, at polar stations or outside the territory of the Russian Federation. The data contained in the said protocols shall be summed up personally by voting members of the territorial electoral commission. The persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law are allowed to be present at this stage.

2. The precinct electoral commissions' protocols on vote returns shall be accepted, the data of these protocols shall be summed up and the territorial electoral commission protocol on vote returns shall be compiled in one and the same room. All actions of the territorial electoral commission members when they accept the protocols of the precinct electoral commissions, sum up the data contained in those protocols and compile the territorial electoral commission protocol on vote returns shall be taken within the field of vision of members of the territorial electoral commission and other persons indicated in Clause 5, Article 31 of the present Federal Law. There shall be an enlarged form of the summary table of the territorial electoral commission in this room. The data from the protocol on vote returns of a precinct electoral commission shall be entered into the table and the time of entry indicated immediately on arrival of the chairman, secretary or other voting member of this commission who deliver the first copy of the protocol.

3. The chairman, secretary or other voting member of the precinct electoral commission shall submit the first copy of the precinct electoral commission protocol, together with the attached documents, to a voting member of the territorial electoral commission, who verifies correctness of the protocol and presence of all required documents attached to the protocol. If the territorial electoral commission is equipped with a set of automation facilities of GAS "Vybory", the data from the protocol shall be immediately entered into GAS "Vybory", along with verification of the check-up ratios in the protocol. If technical errors made during the entry of the data are detected, the correct data shall be entered into GAS "Vybory" exclusively by substantiated decision of the territorial electoral commission. If GAS "Vybory" is not used, the verification of the check-up ratios is effected by the territorial electoral commission member who checks correctness of the protocol.

4. If the protocol on vote returns of the precinct election commission does not meet the present Federal Law requirements with regard to such protocols, the precinct electoral commission shall complete a corrected protocol in accordance with the requirements of Clause 31, Article 79 of the present Federal Law while the previously submitted protocol shall be retained by the territorial electoral commission.

5. If the protocol on vote returns of the precinct election commission meets the requirements of the present Federal Law with regard to such protocols, a voting member of the territorial election commission shall enter the data of this protocol into the summary table of the territorial electoral commission. The chairman, secretary or some other voting member of the precinct electoral commission who submitted the protocol on vote returns to the territorial electoral commission, shall put his signature in the enlarged form of the summary table under the data from the respective protocol.

6. As soon as the data from the protocols on vote returns of the precinct electoral commissions are being entered into GAS "Vybory", but not later than in 24 hours after the voting day (for the protocols marked "Corrected" or "Vote recount" – not later than 24 hours after compilation of the respective protocol) they shall be placed in the Internet by the electoral commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation and stored there for not less than one year after the day of the elections to the State Duma.

7. On the basis of the vote returns, the territorial electoral commission shall compile its protocol on the vote returns which shall contain the following figures:

- 1) the number of precinct electoral commissions in the respective territory;
- 2) the number of protocols on vote returns received from the precinct electoral commissions, on the basis of which the territorial electoral commission's protocol on vote returns is compiled;
- 3) the number of the electoral precincts for which the vote returns were invalidated, and the total number of persons included in the voter lists of those electoral precincts at the end of voting;
- 4) the summary data for all lines in the protocols on vote returns of the precinct electoral commissions, as specified in Clauses 2, Article 78 of the present Federal Law.

The provisions of Article 80 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ apply to legal relationships arising in connection with the conduct of elections and referendums, appointed

after the coming into force of this Federal Law (Part 4 of Article 6 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ)

5) the number of absentee certificates received by the territorial election commission, the number of absentee certificates issued to the subordinate district election commissions, the number of absentee certificates unused and canceled by the territorial election commission, the number of absentee certificates lost in the territorial election commission.

8. Before the protocol on vote returns is signed, the territorial electoral commission shall obligatorily hold a final meeting to consider complaints (petitions) with regard to violations of the present Federal Law in the course of voting, vote count and establishment of the vote returns, submitted to the commission. Then the territorial electoral commission signs the protocol on vote returns and issues certified copies of it to the persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law. The territorial electoral commission protocol on vote returns shall be made in duplicate and signed by all voting members of the territorial electoral commission present at the meeting, and the date and time (hours and minutes) of signing shall be indicated in it. Signing of the protocol not in compliance with these rules shall constitute basis for invalidation of the said protocol. Any voting member of the territorial electoral commission who disagrees with the whole protocol or any part thereof may attach his minority opinion to the protocol and this fact shall be noted in the protocol.

9. The following documents shall be attached to each copy of the territorial electoral commission protocol on vote returns:

1) the summary table of the territorial electoral commission summarizing the full data contained in all protocols on vote returns of the precinct electoral commissions submitted to the territorial electoral commission;

2) official receipts confirming delivery of ballots by the territorial electoral commission to the precinct electoral commissions as well as cancellation of unused ballots which have been retained by the territorial electoral commission, with indication of the number of such ballots;

Provisions of Article 80 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ apply to legal relationships arising in connection with the conduct of elections and referendums, appointed after the coming into force of this Federal Law (Part 4 of Article 6 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ).

3) official receipts confirming issuance of absentee-vote certificates by the territorial electoral commission to voters, delivery of absentee-voting certificates to the precinct electoral commissions as well as cancellation of unused absentee-vote certificates which have been retained by the territorial electoral commission, with indication of the number of such certificates.

10. The summary table and the documents specified in Clause 9 of the present Article shall be signed by the chairman (vice-chairman) and the secretary of the territorial electoral commission.

11. The following documents shall be attached to the first copy of the territorial electoral commission protocol on vote returns: minority opinions of the territorial electoral commission

members; complaints (petitions) on violations of the present Federal Law in the course of voting, vote count and establishment of the vote returns, submitted to the said commission starting from the voting day through the day when the territorial electoral commission compiles the protocol on vote returns; the rulings issued by the territorial electoral commission upon consideration of the said complaints (petitions). Certified copies of the minority opinions, complaints (petitions) and rulings of the territorial electoral commission shall be attached to the second copy of the protocol.

12. After being signed by all voting members of the territorial electoral commission who are present, the first copy of the territorial electoral commission's protocol on vote returns, together with the attached documents and the precinct electoral commissions protocols on vote returns, shall be immediately forwarded to the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation. The protocol on vote returns of a territorial electoral commission established in accordance with Clause 3, Article 20 of the present Federal Law shall be forwarded to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. The territorial electoral commission's protocol on vote returns, forwarded to a higher-level electoral commission, is not subject to return to the territorial electoral commission.

13. The second copy of the territorial electoral commission's protocol on vote returns, the second copies of the summary table and of the documents specified in Clause 9 of the present Article, shall be made available for examination by non-voting members of the territorial electoral commission, of the higher-level electoral commissions, and other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law, and their certified copies shall be displayed for the general public at a place designated by the territorial electoral commission.

14. The second copy of the territorial electoral commission's protocol on vote returns, together with the second copies of the summary table and of the documents specified in Clause 9 of the present Article, the lists of the territorial electoral commission non-voting members and of other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law who had been present at the moment of establishment of vote returns and compilation of the protocol, shall be kept in storage by the secretary of the territorial electoral commission.

15. If, after the territorial electoral commission's protocol on vote returns and/or the summary table of the territorial electoral commission were signed and their first copies forwarded to a higher-level commission, the territorial electoral commission which had compiled them or the higher-level electoral commission, in the course of preliminary verification, find any inaccuracy in them (including spelling and typing errors or errors in calculation of the data from the precinct electoral commissions protocols), the said territorial electoral commission shall consider the matter of correcting the protocol and/or the summary table at its meeting. When announcing the said meeting in accordance with Clause 2, Article 29 of the present Federal Law, the territorial electoral commission shall notify that this matter will be included into the meeting's agenda. It is mandatory for the electoral commission to inform its non-voting members and other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law who had been present during compilation of the previously adopted protocol, about its decision on this matter. In this case, the territorial electoral commission shall compile a protocol on vote returns and/or summary table which shall be marked "Corrected". The said protocol and/or summary table shall be immediately forwarded to the higher-level electoral commission. The protocol on vote returns and/or summary table earlier submitted by the territorial electoral commission to the higher-level electoral commission are attached to the corrected protocol and/or corrected summary table.

Non-compliance with the said rules of submission of the corrected protocol and/or corrected summary table shall constitute basis for invalidation of the corrected protocol.

16. If any errors or inconsistencies are found in the protocol on vote returns submitted by a precinct electoral commission or should any doubts as to its correctness arise, the territorial electoral commission (either in the course of preliminary verification of the protocol or after its acceptance) is authorized to order vote recount by the precinct electoral commission or effect vote recount at the respective electoral precinct on its own. The said vote recount can be effected before the establishment of vote returns by the territorial electoral commission and compilation of its protocol on vote returns.

17. The vote recount is effected, in the presence of a voting member (voting members) of the territorial electoral commission, by the precinct electoral commission which had compiled and approved the protocol in question, or by the territorial electoral commission which ordered the vote recount. The electoral commission conducting the vote recount shall inform about it the members of the respective precinct electoral commission, other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law, who are allowed to be present during the vote recount. On the basis of the vote recount results, the electoral commission which effected it shall compile a protocol on vote returns marked "Vote Recount". Properly compiled and certified copies of such protocol shall be issued to the persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law. If such protocol is compiled by the precinct electoral commission, it shall be immediately forwarded to the territorial electoral commission. The protocol on vote returns previously submitted by the precinct electoral commission to the territorial electoral commission shall be attached to this protocol. Non-compliance with the said rules for compilation of the protocol marked "Vote recount" by the electoral commission effecting the vote recount shall constitute basis for invalidation of the protocol.

Article 81. Establishment of Vote returns by an Electoral Commission of a Subject of Russian Federation

1. On the basis of the data contained in the first copies of the protocols on vote returns of the territorial electoral commissions and after preliminary verification of their correctness, an electoral commission of a Subject of the Russian Federation, not later than on the fifth day after the voting day, establishes the vote returns in the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation by summing up those data. If there is at least one regional group of candidates corresponding to a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation, the electoral commission of that Subject of the Russian Federation establishes the vote returns not for the whole territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation but for each part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation as defined in accordance with Clauses 13 and 14, Article 36 of the present Federal Law. The voting members of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation personally sum up the data contained in the said protocols.

2. The protocols on vote returns of the territorial electoral commissions shall be accepted, the data contained in those protocols shall be summed up and the protocols on vote returns of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation (vote returns in each part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation) shall be compiled in one and the same room. All actions of the members of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation

when they accept the protocols, sum up the data contained in those protocols and compile the protocols on vote returns (vote returns in each part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation), shall be within the field of vision of the members of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation, other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law. An enlarged form of the summary table on vote returns for the Subject of the Russian Federation (enlarged forms of the summary tables on vote returns for each part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation) shall be displayed in that room. Immediately on arrival of the chairman, secretary or a voting member of a territorial electoral commission with the first copy of the protocol on vote returns of the territorial electoral commission, the data contained in that protocol shall be entered into the enlarged form of the respective summary table, with indication of the time of their entry.

3. The chairman, secretary or voting member of the territorial electoral commission delivers the first copy of the protocol on vote returns of the territorial electoral commission, together with the attached documents, to a voting member of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation who shall verify correctness of the protocol compilation, completeness of the attached documents and compliance with the check-up ratios.

4. If the protocol and/or summary table on vote returns of the territorial electoral commission do not meet the relevant requirements of the present Federal Law, the territorial electoral commission shall compile a corrected protocol and/or summary table in accordance with the requirements of Clause 15, Article 80 of the present Federal Law while the previously submitted protocol and/or summary table shall be retained by the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation.

5. If the protocol and/or summary table on vote returns of the territorial electoral commission fully meet the relevant requirements of the present Federal Law, the member of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation enters the data contained in that protocol into the summary table of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation. The chairman, secretary or voting member of the territorial electoral commission who had delivered the protocol to the member of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation, puts his signature under the data from the said protocol entered into the enlarged form of the summary table of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation.

6. On the basis of the protocols on vote returns of the respective territorial electoral commissions, the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation establishes the vote returns by its own protocol. If there is at least one regional group of candidates corresponding to a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation, the electoral commission of that Subject of the Russian Federation compiles not one protocol on vote returns but protocols for each part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation as defined in accordance with Clauses 13 and 14, Article 36 of the present Federal Law.

7. The protocol on vote returns (vote returns in a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation) shall contain the following data:

1) the number of the territorial electoral commissions in the territory (part of the territory) of the Subject of the Russian Federation;

- 2) the number of protocols on vote returns of the territorial electoral commissions on the basis of which the protocol on vote returns for the Subject of the Russian Federation (for the part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation) is compiled;
- 3) the number of electoral precincts where the vote returns were invalidated and the total number of the voters included into the voter lists of those electoral precincts at the end of voting;
- 4) the summary data for all lines in the protocols on vote returns of the territorial electoral commissions.

Provisions of Article 81 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ apply to legal relationships arising in connection with the conduct of elections and referendums, appointed after the coming into force of this Federal Law (Part 4 of Article 6 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ).

5) number of absentee certificates received by election commission of the Russian Federation, the number of absentee certificates issued to the subordinate territorial electoral commissions, the number of absentee certificates unused and canceled by the election commission of the Russian Federation, the number of absentee certificates lost at the Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation of absentee ballots.

8. Before the protocol on vote returns of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation (vote returns in a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation) is signed, the said commission shall obligatorily hold a final meeting to consider complaints (petitions) on violations of the present Federal Law in the course of voting, vote count and establishment of the vote returns, submitted to the commission. After that, the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation signs the protocol and issues certified copies of it to the persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law. The protocol shall be made in duplicate and signed by all voting members of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation who are present, with indication of the date and time of signing. Signing of the protocol not in compliance with these rules shall constitute basis for invalidation of the said protocol. Any voting member of the territorial electoral commission who disagrees with the whole protocol or any part thereof may attach his minority opinion to the protocol and this fact shall be noted in the protocol.

9. The following documents shall be attached to each copy of the protocol on vote returns of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation (vote returns in a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation):

1) the summary table on vote returns of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation containing the full data contained in all protocols on vote returns (for a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation – in the respective protocols) of the territorial electoral commissions submitted to the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation; The summary table on the voting results shall also record data on the protocols of territorial election commissions on the number of absentee certificates received by the Election Commission of the Russian Federation and by the corresponding territorial election commission, on the number of absentee certificates issued to the subordinate district election commissions, including the absentee certificates unused and cancelled by the relevant territorial election Commission, and the number of absentee certificates that have been lost at the corresponding territorial election commission;

2) receipts confirming delivery of ballots by the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation to the territorial electoral commissions (for a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation – to the territorial electoral commissions in the respective part), with indication of the number of those ballots;

The provisions of Article 81 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ apply to legal relationships arising in connection with the conduct of elections and referendums, appointed after the coming into force of this Federal Law (Part 4 of Article 6 of the Federal Law of 04.10.2010 N 263-FZ).

3) receipts confirming issuance of absentee-vote certificates to the territorial electoral commissions (for a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation – to the territorial electoral commissions in that part), with indication of the number of such certificates.

10. The summary table and the documents specified in Clause 9 of the present Article shall be signed by the chairman (vice-chairman) and secretary of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation.

11. The following documents shall be attached to the first copy of the protocol on vote returns of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation (vote returns in a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation): minority opinions of the members of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation; complaints (petitions) on violations of the present Federal Law (for a protocol on vote returns in a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation – the respective complaints (petitions) or their certified copies) submitted to the said commission starting from the day of voting through the day when the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation compiles the protocol on vote returns; the rulings issued by the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation upon consideration of the said complaints (petitions). Certified copies of the minority opinions, complaints (petitions) and rulings of the electoral commission of the Subjects of the Russian Federation shall be attached to the second copy of the protocol.

12. After the protocol and the summary table on vote returns (vote returns in a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation) are signed, the first copy of the protocol of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation together with the attached documents shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation and is not subject to return to the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation.

13. The second copy of the protocol on vote returns of the electoral commission of the subject of the Russian Federation (vote returns in a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation), the second copies of the summary table and of the documents specified in Clause 9 of the present Article, shall be made available for examination by non-voting members of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation, of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, and other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law, and their certified copies shall be displayed for the general public at a place designated by the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation.

14. The second copy of the protocol on vote returns of the electoral commission of the subject of the Russian Federation (vote returns in a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation), together with the second copies of the summary tables and of the documents specified in Clause 9 of the present Article, the lists of the electoral commission non-voting members and of other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law who had been present at the moment of establishment of vote returns and compilation of the protocol,

the protocols of the territorial and precinct electoral commissions as well as with other documents specified by the present Federal Law, are kept in storage by the secretary of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation.

15. If, after the protocol on vote returns of the electoral commission of the subject of the Russian Federation (vote returns in a part of the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation) and/or the summary table were signed and their first copies forwarded to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation which had compiled the protocol and the summary table, or the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, in the course of preliminary verification, find any inaccuracy in them (including spelling and typing errors or error in calculation of the data from the territorial electoral commissions protocols), the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation shall consider the matter of correcting the protocol and/or the summary table at its meeting. When announcing the said meeting in accordance with Clause 2, Article 29 of the present Federal Law, the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation shall notify that this matter will be included into the meeting's agenda. It is mandatory for the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation to inform its non-voting members and other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law who had been present during compilation of the previously adopted protocol, about its decision on this matter. In this case, the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation shall compile a protocol on vote returns and/or summary table which shall be marked "Corrected". The said protocol and/or summary table shall be immediately forwarded to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. The protocol on vote returns and/or summary table earlier submitted to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation are attached to the corrected protocol and/or corrected summary table. Non-compliance with the rules for submission of the corrected protocol and/or corrected summary table shall constitute basis for invalidation of the corrected protocol.

16. If any errors or inconsistencies are found in the protocols on vote returns submitted by lower-level electoral commissions or should any doubts as to their correctness arise, the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation is authorized to order vote recount in the respective precinct or respective territory. The said vote recount can be effected before the establishment of vote returns by the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation and compilation of its protocol on vote returns.

17. In the case referred to in Clause 16 of the present Article, the vote recount is effected by the precinct electoral commission which had compiled and approved the protocol in question, or a higher-level electoral commission or the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation in the presence of a voting member (voting members) of the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation. The electoral commission conducting the vote recount shall inform about it the members of the respective precinct electoral commission, other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law, who are allowed to be present during the vote recount. On the basis of the vote recount results, the electoral commission which effected it shall compile a protocol on vote returns marked "Vote Recount". Based on this protocol, changes are made in the higher-level commission's protocol on vote returns. Properly compiled and certified copies of such protocol shall be issued to the persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law. If such protocol is compiled by a lower-level electoral commission, it shall be immediately forwarded to the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation. The protocol on vote returns previously submitted by the precinct or territorial electoral commission shall be attached to the protocol based on the vote recount

results. Non-compliance with the said rules for compilation of the protocol marked "Vote recount" shall constitute basis for invalidation of the said protocol.

Article 82. Establishment of the Results of Elections of the Deputies of the State Duma

1. On the basis of the data contained in the first copies of the protocols on vote returns of the electoral commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation, protocols on vote returns in the parts of the territories of the Subjects of the Russian Federation, protocols on vote returns of the territorial electoral commissions specified in Clause 3, Article 20 of the present Federal Law (if such territorial electoral commissions had not been set up – on the basis of the data contained in the protocols on vote returns of the precinct electoral commissions set up at the electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation, including the data transmitted by the said precinct electoral commissions through technical communication channels), the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall, after preliminary verification of correctness of the said protocols and not later than in two weeks after the voting day, establish the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma by summing up the data contained in those protocols. The data contained in the said protocols shall be summed up personally by the voting members of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

2. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall compile a protocol on the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma. The following data shall be included into it:

- 1) the number of electoral commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation;
- 2) the number of the territorial electoral commissions specified in Clause 3, Article 20 of the present Federal Law (if such territorial electoral commissions had not been set up – the number of the precinct electoral commissions set up at the electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation);
- 3) the number of protocols on vote returns of the electoral commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation, and on vote returns in the parts of the territories of the Subjects of the Russian Federation, on the basis of which the present protocol had been compiled;
- 4) the number of protocols on vote returns of the territorial electoral commissions specified in Clause 3, Article 20 of the present Federal Law, on the basis of which the present protocol had been compiled (if such territorial electoral commissions had not been set up – the number of protocols of the precinct electoral commissions set up at the electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation, on the basis of which the present protocol had been compiled);
- 5) the summary data for all lines in the protocols on vote returns of the electoral commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation (on vote returns in the parts of the territories of the Subjects of the Russian Federation) and of the territorial electoral commissions specified in Clause 3, Article 20 of the present Federal Law (if such territorial electoral commissions had not been set up – in the protocols of the precinct electoral commissions set up at the electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation);
- 5.1) the number of absentee certificates received by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation, the number of absentee certificates issued by the subordinate election commissions, the number of absentee certificates unused and canceled by the Central Election

Commission of Russian Federation, the number of absentee certificates lost by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation;

6) the percentages of votes (derived from the total number of voters who had taken part in the voting) cast for each federal list of candidates;

7) Void;

8) names of the political parties the federal lists of candidates of which are admitted to distribution of the deputies' mandates, and the number of the deputies' mandates allotted to each of the said lists;

8.1) the names of political parties, federal lists of candidates of received their deputy mandates in accordance with Clause 10.1 of this article and the number of seats due for each of these lists;

9) names of the regional groups of candidates in the federal lists of candidates, admitted to distribution of the deputies' mandates, and the number of the deputies' mandates allotted to each of the said regional groups;

10) last names, first names and patronymic names of the registered candidates elected deputies of the State Duma, from each federal list of candidates admitted to distribution of the deputies' mandates.

3. On the basis of the protocol on the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall issue a ruling on the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma.

4. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall declare the elections of the deputies of the State Duma to be legally null and void:

1) Void;

2) if not a single federal list of candidates received 7 percent or more than 7 percent of the votes cast;

3) if all federal lists of candidates in the aggregate received 60 percent or less than 60 percent of the votes cast.

5. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall declare the elections of the deputies of the State Duma to be invalid:

1) if the violations committed in the course of voting or establishment of the vote returns make it impossible to reliably determine the results of the voters' expression of will;

2) if the vote returns are declared invalid at such number of electoral precincts that the number of voters in them, included in the voter lists at the end of voting, in the aggregate comprise not less than 25 percent of the total number of voters included in the voter lists at the end of voting;

3) by court decision.

6. The number of voters who had taken part in the voting is equivalent to the number fixed form ballots found in the ballot boxes.

7. The federal lists of candidates each of which received 7 percent or more than 7 percent of the votes cast, are admitted to distribution of the deputies' mandates shall be, provided that there are not less than two such lists and that in the aggregate more than 60 percent of the voters who had taken part in the voting had voted for those lists. In this case other federal lists of candidates shall not be not admitted to distribution of the deputies' mandates.

8. If the federal lists of candidates each of which received 7 percent or more than 7 percent of the votes cast, in the aggregate received 60 percent or less than 60 percent of those votes, the said lists shall be admitted to distribution of the deputies' mandates along with the federal lists of candidates which received less than 7 percent of the votes cast, in the order of diminution by the number of received votes – to the point when the sum total of votes cast for the federal lists of candidates, admitted to distribution of the deputies' mandates, in the aggregate shall exceed 60 percent of the votes cast.

9. If more than 60 percent of the votes cast had been cast for one federal list of candidates while other federal lists of candidates received less then 7 percent of the votes cast, the said federal list of candidates shall be admitted to distribution of deputies' mandates along with a federal list of candidates which received the greatest number of votes among the federal lists of candidates which had received less than 7 percent of the votes cast.

10. The federal lists of candidates admitted to distribution of the deputies' mandates shall be allotted the said mandates in accordance with the methodology of the deputies/ mandates distribution prescribed in Article 83 of the present Federal Law.

10.1 In addition to the federal list of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy mandates, mandates are granted to federal lists of candidates which received less than 7, but not less than 5 percent of voters who took part in the voting, and not admitted to the distribution of deputy mandates. Such federal lists of candidates get their deputy mandates in accordance with Article 82.1 of this Federal Law

11. The deputies' mandates allotted to a federal list of candidates shall be allotted first of all to the registered candidates included into the central federal part of the federal list of candidates. The remaining deputies' mandates shall be allotted to the registered candidates included into the regional groups of candidates, in accordance with the methodology of the deputies/ mandates distribution prescribed in Article 83 of the present Federal Law.

12. The deputies' mandates shall be distributed between the registered candidates in the order of their places in the federal list of candidates which had been established by the act of registration of this list by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. This order is equivalent (within the central federal part of the federal list of candidates and within each regional group of candidates) to the order of priority in allotment of the deputies' mandates.

13. Void.

14. The protocol of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be signed by all voting members of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation who are present. A summary table including the complete data from all protocols on vote returns submitted by the electoral commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation, protocols on vote returns in the parts of the territories of the Subjects of the Russian Federation and protocols of the territorial electoral commissions

specified in Clause 3, Article 20 of the present Federal Law (if such territorial electoral commissions had not been set up – the protocols on vote returns of the precinct electoral commissions set up at the electoral precincts formed outside the territory of the Russian Federation). In the summary table shall also include data from protocols of election commissions of the Russian Federation on the outcome of voting, on voting results in parts of the territories of the Russian Federation, the number of absentee certificates received by the election commission of the Russian Federation (if the territory of the Russian Federation is divided into parts - for each part of the territory of the Russian Federation), the number of absentee certificates issued to the subordinate territorial election commissions, including the absentee certificates unused and canceled by the election commission of the entity of Russian Federation, and the number of absentee certificates lost at the election commission of the entity of Russian Federation; and in the case of formation of the territorial election commission to oversee local election commissions formed in electoral precincts outside the territory of the Russian Federation, also data on the number of absentee certificates received by the corresponding territorial election commission, including absentee certificates issued to the subordinate district election commissions, including the absentee certificates unused and canceled by the corresponding territorial election commission, and the number of absentee certificates lost at the corresponding territorial election commission.

15. A voting member of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation who disagrees with the whole protocol of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma or with any part thereof, is authorized to attach a minority report to the protocol and this fact shall be noted in the protocol. Complaints (petitions) on violations of the present Federal Law submitted to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, in the period from the day of voting through the day of compilation of the protocol of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma, as well as rulings issued by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation upon consideration of those complaints (petitions) shall be attached to the protocol.

16. Certified copies of the protocol of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma and of the summary table are issued to all members of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, to other persons specified in Clause 1, Article 29 of the present Federal Law who had been present during establishment of the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma, as well as to representatives of mass media.

17. If, after the protocol of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma and/or the summary table have been signed, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall find any inaccuracy in them (including spelling or typing error or error in calculation of the summary data from the protocols of lower-level electoral commissions), the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall obligatorily consider the matter of correcting the protocol and/or the summary table at its meeting. When announcing this meeting in accordance with Clause 2, Article 29 of the present Federal Law, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall notify that this matter will be included into the meeting's agenda. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall obligatorily inform its non-voting members and other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law who had been present during compilation of the earlier approved protocol of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma.

18. If any errors or inconsistencies are found in the protocols on vote returns submitted by lower-level electoral commissions or should any doubts as to their correctness arise, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation is authorized to order vote recount in the respective precinct, respective territory or respective Subject of the Russian Federation. The said vote recount can be effected not later than one day before expiry of the time period prescribed by the present Federal Law for establishment of the results of elections of the deputies of the State Duma.

19. In the case referred to in Clause 18 of the present Article, the vote recount is effected, in the presence a voting member (voting members) of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, by the electoral commission which had compiled and approved the protocol in question, or by immediately superior electoral commission or by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. The electoral commission conducting the vote recount shall inform about it the members of the respective electoral commission, other persons specified in Clause 5, Article 29 of the present Federal Law, who are allowed to be present during the vote recount. On the basis of the vote recount results, the electoral commission which effected it shall compile a protocol on vote returns marked "Vote Recount". Based on this protocol, changes shall be made in the protocols on vote returns of all higher-level electoral commissions. The previously submitted protocol on vote returns shall be attached to the protocol based on the vote recount results. Non-compliance with the said rules for compilation of the protocol on vote returns marked "Vote recount" shall constitute basis for invalidation of the said protocol.

Article 82.1. Transfer of mandates to the federal list of candidates, which received less than 7, but not less than 5 percent of voters who cast their vote, and admitted to the distribution of deputy mandates

1. Prior to distribution of deputy mandates in accordance with Article 83 of this Federal Law deputies seats shall be given to federal lists of candidates, which received less than 7, but not less than 5 percent of voters who cast their vote and not admitted to the distribution of deputy mandates. The number of granted seats is determined in accordance with Clauses 2 and 3 of this article.

2. Federal list of candidates, which received less than 6, but not less than 5 percent of voters who cast their vote, and not admitted to distribution of deputy mandates, gain one deputy's mandate.

3. Federal list of candidates who received less than 7, but not less than 6 percent of voters who cast their vote, and not admitted to distribution of deputy mandates, gain two seats.

4. Deputies mandates handed over in accordance with Clauses 2 and 3 of this article, go first to the registered candidates included in the federal part of the federal list of candidates, in order of their placement on the list.

5. If the federal list of candidates which received the deputies mandate (mandates), has no federal part, one shall determine the number of votes cast for the federal list of candidates in those regions of the Russian Federation (in groups of subjects of the Russian Federation, part of the territory of the Russian Federation), which correspond to the regional group of candidates,

which made parts of the federal list of candidates (hereinafter - the votes cast for the regional groups of candidates). The votes of the voters living outside the Russian Federation, in case of the decision by the political party under Clause 9.1 of Article 36 of this Federal Law, shall be deemed cast in favour of the corresponding regional group of candidates.

6. Deputy mandate, given in accordance with Clause 2 of this Article to the federal list of candidates not having the federal part, goes to the first one in the order of the registered candidates included in the regional group of candidates, for which the largest number of votes was cast. In case of equal number of votes cast for candidates of regional groups, and such groups being more than one, the regional group to gain the mandate shall be determined in accordance with the order of placement of the regional groups in the federal list of candidates.

7. If the federal part of the federal list of candidates to which the deputy mandates were given in accordance with Clause 3 of this article there is one registered candidate, the second deputy mandate goes to the first one in the order of the registered candidates included in the regional group of candidates which gained most votes. In case of equal number of votes cast for candidates of regional groups, and such groups being more than one, the regional group to gain the mandate shall be determined in accordance with the order of placement of the regional groups in the federal list of candidates.

8. Parliamentary mandates granted in accordance with Part 3 of this Article to the federal list of candidates not having the federal part, go to the first ones in the order of the registered candidates included in the two regional groups of candidates gaining most votes. In case of equal number of votes cast for candidates of regional groups, and such groups being more than one, the regional group/groups to gain the mandate shall be determined in accordance with the order of placement of the regional groups in the federal list of candidates.

9. If the granted mandate becomes vacant, it goes to the first one in the order of the registered candidates from among the registered candidates who had not received mandates and who are included in the same regional group of candidates (federal part) of the federal list of candidates, as the registered candidate, whose deputy mandate became vacant. If this regional group of candidates (federal part) of the federal list of candidates has no registered candidates, who can be granted the vacant deputy's mandate, it goes to the first one in the order of the registered candidates included in the regional group of candidates gaining most votes and to the registered candidates who did gain a deputy mandate. In case of equal number of votes cast for candidates of regional groups, and such groups being more than one, the regional group to gain the mandate shall be determined in accordance with the order of placement of the regional groups in the federal list of candidates.

10. If in the process of distribution of deputy mandate the federal list of candidates has no more registered candidates who have the right to replace the vacant deputy mandate, the deputy mandate remains vacant until the next elections to the State Duma.

Article 83. Methodology of Proportional Distribution of Deputy Seats

1. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall calculate the sum total of the votes received by the federal lists of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats in accordance with the rules set forth in Clauses 7 to 9, Article 82 of the present Federal Law. This sum total of votes shall be divided by 450, being the number of deputy seats to be distributed within the federal electoral district. In case the deputies mandates are handed to the federal list of candidates in accordance with Article 82.1 hereof, the indicated number of voters is divided by

the number of deputies mandates left after the hand-over. The obtained result is the first electoral quotient which is used in the process of distribution of deputy seats between the federal lists of candidates.

2. The number of votes received by each federal list of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy seats shall be divided by the first electoral quotient referred to in Clause 1 of the present Article. The integer part of the number obtained as the result of such division represents the number of deputy seats to be received by respective federal list of candidates as the result of primary distribution of deputy seats.

3. If, after the primary distribution of deputy seats effected in accordance with Clause 2 of the present Article, there remain undistributed deputy seats, secondary distribution of them shall be effected. One undistributed deputy seat shall be allotted to each federal list of candidates, which turns out with the largest fractional part of the number obtained as the result of the division effected in accordance with Clause 2 of the present Article. In case the fractional parts are equal (through the sixth digit after the decimal point) preference shall be given to the federal list of candidates which had received greater number of votes.

4. After the distribution of the deputy seats referred to in Clause 3 of the present Article, they shall be distributed within each federal list of candidates between the regional groups of candidates and the all-federal part of the federal list if it exists. The deputy seats are first allotted to the registered candidates included in the all-federal part of the federal list of candidates, in the order of their places in the said list.

5. If, after the deputy seats were allotted to all registered candidates included in the all-federal part of the federal list of candidates, there remain deputy seats due to the said federal list of candidates, the said seats shall be distributed within the federal list of candidates as follows. The sum total of votes cast for the federal list of candidates in the Subjects of the Russian Federation (groups of the Subjects of the Russian Federation; in the parts of the territories of the Subjects of the Russian Federation) which correspond to the regional groups of candidates into which the federal list of candidates had been divided, and the votes of voters residing outside of Russian Federation (should the political party make decision under clause 9.1 of Article 36 of this Federal Law), (hereinafter – votes cast for the regional groups of candidates) shall be divided by the number of deputy seats remaining undistributed within the federal list of candidates. The obtained result is the second electoral quotient for the given federal list of candidates. The number of votes cast for each regional group of candidates shall be divided by the second electoral quotient. In this case the votes of voters residing outside of Russian Federation, should the political party make decision under clause 9.1 of Article 26 of this Federal Law, shall be considered cast in favour of corresponding regional group of candidates. The integer part of the number obtained as the result of such division represents the number of deputy seats to be allotted to the respective regional group of candidates. If, after the said actions, there remain undistributed deputy seats due to the given federal list of candidates, one undistributed deputy seat shall be allotted to each regional group of candidates, which turns out with the largest fractional part of the number obtained as the result of division of the number of votes cast for each regional group of candidates by the second electoral quotient. In case the fractional parts are equal preference shall be given to the federal list of candidates which had received greater number of votes. If, in case of equality of votes cast for regional groups of candidates, the number of such groups would be higher than the number of deputies mandates, the regional

group gaining the mandate shall be determined in accordance with their order in the federal list of candidates.

6. If, in the course of the distribution of deputy seats within a federal list of candidates, one regional group of candidates or several regional groups of candidates is (are) found not to have sufficient number of registered candidates, the deputy seats that remained undistributed are subject to additional distribution among the regional groups of the same federal list of candidates which include registered candidates who did not receive deputy seats. If at the time of such additional distribution there are regional groups that did not receive deputy seats in the course of their distribution in accordance with Clause 5 of the present Article, and if there are groups which include registered candidates who did not receive deputy seats, one seat shall be allotted to each of the said regional groups of candidates. In this case, the deputy seats shall be allotted in the same order of priority (in accordance with values of the fractional parts) determined on the basis of the initially calculated second electoral quotient. If, in the course of additional distribution, there remain no more regional groups of candidates which received no deputy seats in the course of distribution according to the values of the fractional parts, but there remain undistributed deputy seats, then one deputy seat shall be allotted to the regional groups of candidates with the smallest coefficient of additional distribution calculated for each of the regional group of candidates which include registered candidates to whom no deputy seats were allotted. The said coefficient shall be calculated by dividing the number of deputy seats already allotted to the regional group of candidates by the number of votes cast for this regional group of candidates. If the said coefficients are equal, the deputy seat shall be allotted to the regional group of candidates which had received greater number of votes. If after such distribution the number of deputy seats being additionally distributed shall exceed the number of the regional groups of candidates which are entitled to receive them, the procedure of additional distribution shall be repeated as many times as necessary, the said coefficient to be calculated anew each time. Additional distribution shall be also effected in other cases specified by the present Federal Law.

7. If, after the distribution of deputy seats among the federal lists of candidates effected in accordance with Clauses 1 to 3 of the present Article, necessity arises to additionally distribute one deputy seat or several deputy seats among all federal lists of candidates or some of them, such distribution shall be effected as follows. The deputy seats shall first be allotted to the federal lists of candidates which received no deputy seats when they were distributed according to the values of the fractional parts (the procedure set forth in Clause 3 of the present Article), then deputy seats shall be allotted according to the coefficients of additional distribution of deputy seats to be calculated for each federal list of candidates by dividing the total number of deputy seats already allotted to the respective federal list, by the number of votes cast for this federal list. Each of federal lists of candidates with the smallest coefficients shall receive one deputy seat. If the said coefficients are equal, the deputy seat shall be allotted to the federal list of candidates which had received greater number of votes. If after such distribution the number of deputy seats being additionally distributed shall exceed the number of the federal lists of candidates which are entitled to receive them, the procedure of additional distribution shall be repeated as many times as necessary, the said coefficient to be calculated anew each time. Deputy seats received by a federal list of candidates shall be allotted to registered candidates who are included in the all-federal part of the federal list of candidates but did not receive deputy seats; in the absence of such candidates – to registered candidates included in the regional groups of candidates of the given list, in accordance with the additional distribution procedure set forth in Clause 6 of the present Article. Federal lists of candidates may participate in the additional distribution of deputy seats only if they have registered candidates who did not receive deputy seats.

8. If, after the initial distribution of deputy seats within a federal list of candidates, a deputy seat becomes vacant, it shall be allotted to a registered candidate from the same federal list of candidates. The deputy seat shall be allotted to the first-in-the-line registered candidate among those registered candidates who did not receive deputy seats and who are included in the same regional group of candidates (the all-federal part of the federal list of candidates) with the registered candidate whose deputy seat becomes vacant. If there are no registered candidates in the respective regional group of candidates (the federal part of the federal list of candidates) who did not receive deputy seats, the vacant seat shall be allotted to another regional group of candidates of the same federal list of candidates according to the additional distribution procedure set forth in Clause 8 of the present Article.

9. If, in the course of distribution of deputy seats within a federal list of candidates, there remain no registered candidates who did not receive deputy seats, the undistributed deputy seats shall remain vacant until the next elections of deputies of the State Duma, with the exception of cases referred to in Clause 10 of the present Article.

10. If, as the result of implementation of requirements set forth in Clause 9 of the present Article, the State Duma still does not possess the number of deputies sufficient to make it legally competent, the undistributed deputy seats are allotted to the federal lists of candidates which were not admitted to distribution of deputy seats in accordance with the requirements set forth in Clauses 7 to 9, Article 82 of the present Federal Law and which had received the number of votes exceeding the first electoral quotient. In this case each of the said lists is entitled to the number of deputy seats not exceeding the number of deputy seats which it could have received were it admitted to distribution of deputy seats along with the federal lists of candidates referred to in Clauses 7 to 9, Article 82 of the present Federal Law (taking into account the deputies mandates received in accordance with article 82.1 of this Federal Law). Such deputy seats are distributed among the federal lists which were not admitted to distribution of deputy mandates in accordance with the requirements set forth in Clauses 7 to 9, Article 82 of the present Federal Law, and which had received the number of votes exceeding the first electoral quotient, in proportion to the number of votes received by them and according to the procedure of deputy seats distribution set forth in the present Article.

Article 84. Repeat Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

If elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be declared null and void or invalid, on the grounds set forth in Article 82 of the present Federal Law, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall set repeat elections in accordance with the procedure set forth in the present Federal Law. The repeat elections shall be held not later than in four months after the elections had been declared null and void or invalid. When repeat elections are held, the time intervals of the electoral actions can be reduced by decision of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation but not more than by one third. Announcement about the repeat elections shall be published in mass media not later than in three days after the respective decision had been made. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation can order prolongation of the term of powers of the precinct electoral commissions or establishment of new precinct electoral commissions, in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 21 of the present Federal Law.

Article 85. Registration of Deputies of the State Duma

1. After the protocol on the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma had been signed, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall immediately send notices about it to the registered candidates elected deputies of the State Duma. A registered candidate elected deputy of the State Duma must, within five days after reception of the notice, submit to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation copy of an order (other document) relieving him from duties incompatible with the status of deputy of the State Duma, or copy of a document certifying that he had, within three days upon reception of the notice, filed application about being relieved from such duties.

2. If a registered candidate, who was elected to the State Duma, does not meet the requirement under clause 1 of this Article, his deputy's mandate is deemed vacant and is handed over by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation to other registered candidates of the same federal list of candidates in the manner provided for by clause 9 of Article 82.1, or clause 8 Article 83 of this Federal Law. At the same time such a mandate can not be handed over to the registered candidate elected to the State Duma, who also failed to comply with the requirement under clause 1 of this Article, or who refused the mandate in accordance with Clause 2.1 of this Article, if his deputy mandate is vacant.

2.1 A registered candidate, who was elected to the State Duma, may within five days from the date of receipt of the notice indicated in Clause 1 of this Article refuse from the mandate by submitting to the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation a written statement. In this case his deputy's mandate is deemed vacant and is handed over by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation to other registered candidates of the same federal list of candidates in the manner provided for by clause 9 of Article 82.1, or clause 8 Article 83 of this Federal Law. At the same time such a mandate can not be handed over to the registered candidate elected to the State Duma, who also failed to comply with the requirement under clause 1 of this Article, or who refused the mandate in accordance with Clause 2.1 of this Article, if his deputy mandate is vacant.

2.2. Submission by the registered candidate elected to the State Duma of the statement specified in clause 2.1 of this Article shall not entail the exclusion of the registered candidate from the federal list of candidates admitted to the distribution of deputy mandates (federal list of candidates to which the deputy mandates are given in accordance with Article 82.1 of this Federal Law).

3. After official publication of the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma and implementation by a registered candidate elected deputy of the State Duma of the requirements set forth in Clause 1 of the present Article, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall register such candidate and issue to him certificate on being elected deputy of the State Duma.

Article 86. Publication (Promulgation) of Vote Returns and Results of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

1. Vote returns for each electoral precinct, each territory, each Subject of the Russian Federation, meaning the complete data contained in the protocols of the respective electoral commissions and electoral commissions of the next lower level, shall be made available for examination to all voters, registered candidates, authorized representatives and substitute candidates of political parties, observers, foreign (international) observers, members of the press at their request, immediately after the protocols on vote returns and on State Duma election results had been signed by the members of the electoral commission to which such a request had been submitted. The said data shall be provided by the respective electoral commission.

2. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall furnish preliminary data on the results of elections of deputies of the State Duma to the mass media as soon as the said data are being forwarded to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

3. An electoral commission of a Subject of the Russian Federation shall, not later than in two weeks after the election day, officially publish the data contained in the protocols on vote returns of all territorial electoral commissions and in the respective summary tables. Such publication shall be effected in regional state-owned printed periodicals. If vote recount had taken place in certain electoral precincts, certain territories and its results are forwarded to the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation after the expiry of the said term, the electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation shall officially publish the corrected data within one week after the respective decision had been made on their basis. The electoral commission of the Subject of the Russian Federation is entitled to effect publication of the summary tables of the territorial electoral commissions in one or several municipal printed periodicals or in a special brochure which shall be supplied to state-owned and municipal public libraries in the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation as well as to organizations engaged in mass media publication and to regional branches of political parties registered in the territory of the Subject of the Russian Federation.

4. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall, within three weeks after the election day, officially publish the results of the elections of deputies of the State Duma along with the data on the number of votes cast for each registered list of candidates. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall, within the same time period, officially publish in its official periodical the complete data contained in protocols on vote returns of all electoral commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation.

5. The Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation shall, within two months after the election day, officially publish in its official periodical the complete data contained in protocols on vote returns and protocols on State Duma election results of all electoral commissions, with the exception of the precinct electoral commissions as well as biographical and other information on all elected deputies of the State Duma, the contents of this information to be set forth by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation. The said information shall, not less than in seven days after the day of publication, be placed by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation in Internet network and stored there not less than one year after the day of official publication of the results of the elections of deputies of the State Duma.

Article 87. Rules for Utilization of GAS “Vybory”

1. Nothing but GAS “Vybory” shall be utilized in the course of preparation and holding the elections of deputies of the State Duma, including registration (counting) of voters, compilation of the voter lists, establishment of vote returns and of election results, and fast receipt, transmission and processing of information.
2. If the respective equipment is available, the data from the protocol on voter returns of the electoral commission shall be, immediately after signing of the protocol, transmitted through GAS “Vybory” telecommunication channels in electronic form to the higher-level electoral commission. Subsequent submission of the first copy of the protocol on vote returns to the higher-level electoral commission is obligatory.
3. The respective electoral commission shall set up a group for control of utilization of GAS “Vybory” or its certain facilities, the group to be made up of voting and non-voting members of the electoral commission. The powers of the said group shall be as determined by the Federal Law "On the "Elections" State Automated System of the Russian Federation".
4. All members of the electoral commission and observers are entitled to examine any information entered into GAS “Vybory” and received from it in the process of establishment of vote returns and the results of the elections of deputies of the State Duma.
5. Starting from the beginning of voting and until signing of the respective electoral commission protocol on vote returns, GAS “Vybory” through which the data from lower-level commissions are being transmitted to higher-level electoral commissions, shall be used for monitoring of the progress of voting and establishment of its returns. Transmission of any data from the higher-level electoral commissions' information centers to the lower-level electoral commissions' information centers, with the exception of signals acknowledging receipt of information, is forbidden.
6. The data on the progress of voting and its results obtained through GAS “Vybory” shall be regarded as preliminary and not having legal force, except for the cases when technical facilities for vote count and/or equipment for electronic voting are used in accordance with the procedure set forth by the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of the Citizens of the Russian Federation and Their Right to Participate in Referendum".
7. A computer printout of the protocol on vote returns of the precinct electoral commission, which had been forwarded to the next higher-level electoral commission and entered into GAS “Vybory”, shall be attached to the second copy of the said protocol. The authenticity of the data contained in the computer printout shall be certified by signature of a person responsible for entry of the data.
8. The data on the voter turnout at the elections of deputies of the State Duma, on preliminary and final vote returns entered into GAS “Vybory” shall be readily accessible (in the "read-only"

mode) to the users of Internet network in accordance with the procedure to be set forth by the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation.

Article 88. Safekeeping of Electoral Documentation

1. The documents of the precinct electoral commissions (including ballots) shall be kept in guarded rooms and handed over to higher-level electoral commissions in time periods set forth by the present Federal Law.

2. The documents of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, the electoral commissions of the Subjects of the Russian Federation, the territorial electoral commissions, together with the documents submitted to them by the precinct electoral commissions for safekeeping, shall be kept for the time period specified by legislation of the Russian Federation.

3. The ballots, absentee-vote certificates, voter lists and signature sheets with voters' signatures shall be kept not less than one year after the day of the official publication of the results of the elections of deputies of the State Duma.

4. The first copies of the protocols on vote returns of the electoral commissions and on the results of the elections of deputies of the State Duma, of the summary tables; balance sheets of the electoral commissions reporting receipt of funds from the federal budget and their expenditure for preparation and holding of elections; final balance sheets of political parties whose federal lists of candidates had been registered, and of their regional branches shall be kept not less than five years after the day of the official publication of the results of the elections of deputies of the State Duma.

5. If there are complaints (appeals) against a decision of an electoral commission on vote returns or the State Duma election results pending in courts or if a criminal proceedings for violation of the electoral rights of citizens of the Russian Federation had been instituted, the safekeeping period for the respective documentation shall be extended until the court decision enters into legal force or until the criminal case is terminated in accordance with the law.

6. Responsibility for preservation of the documentation relating to preparation and holding of elections of deputies of the State Duma shall rest with the chairman (deputy chairman) and secretary of the respective electoral commission until the said documentation shall be either transferred to a higher-level electoral commission or to an archive, or until it shall be destroyed due to expiration of the safekeeping period.

CHAPTER XII. FILLING OF VACANT DEPUTY MANDATES

Article 89. Filling of Vacant Deputy Mandates, exclusion of a registered candidate from the federal list of candidates admitted to distribution of deputy mandates, from the federal list of candidates to which the deputy mandates were given

CHAPTER XIII. COMPLAINTS ON VIOLATIONS OF THE ELECTORAL RIGHTS OF CITIZENS. RESPONSIBILITY FOR VIOLATION OF LEGISLATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION IN THE COURSE OF ELECTIONS OF DEPUTIES OF THE STATE DUMA

Article 90. Complaints on Decisions and Actions (Inaction) Violating the Electoral Rights of Citizens. Exercise of Control of Electoral Commissions over Observation of the Electoral Rights of Citizens

1. Filing of complaints on decisions and actions (inaction) violating the electoral rights of citizens shall be effected in accordance with the procedure and in time periods set forth by the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of the Citizens of the Russian Federation and Their Right to Participate in Referendum".

2. The electoral commissions should, within the scope of their competence, consider complaints on violations of the present Federal Law, other federal laws relating to preparation and holding of elections, received in the course of electoral campaign; investigate the facts reported in those complaints and answer the complainants in written form within five days but not later than the day before the election day, in the case of complaints received on the election day or on the day immediately after the election day – immediately. If additional investigation of the facts reported in the said complaints is needed, decisions on them shall be made not later than within ten days. If the complaints report violations of the present Federal Law and other pertinent federal laws by a political party which had nominated a federal list of candidates, or by a candidate, the representatives of this political party or this candidate must be immediately notified about receipt of such complaint. The said persons are entitled to give explanations with regard to the matter presented in the complaint.

3. In case of violation of the present Federal Law by a political party or candidate, the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation, an electoral commission of a Subject of the Russian Federation are entitled, within the scope of their competence, to issue warning to this political party or the candidate, the said warning to be brought to information of the voters through the mass media or other channels.

Article 91. Grounds for Annulment of Registration of Federal Lists of Candidates, for cancellation of the decision of the CEC of Russian Federation on registration of the list of candidates, on denial of registration to the list of candidates, exclusion of the candidate from the list of candidates, cancellation of registration of the list of candidates

1. Registration of a federal list of candidates can be annulled by decision of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation if the political party makes decision to withdraw its federal list of candidates submitted to the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation in accordance with Article 49 of the present Federal Law.

2. Registration of a federal list of candidates shall be annulled if the number of candidates excluded from this list exceeds 25 percent of the candidates in the certified federal list of candidates, the grounds for such exclusion being: candidates' petitions on their refusal to participate in the elections of deputies of the State Duma; a decision of the political party to exclude candidates from its federal list of candidates (except for cases of withdrawal in view of compelling circumstances); a decision of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on exclusion of candidates from the federal list of candidates on the grounds set forth in Clause 4, Article 44 of the present Federal Law.

3. Registration of a federal list of candidates shall be annulled if, as the result of exclusion of candidates, the number of regional groups of candidates decreases to less than 70, except in cases set forth in Clause 4 of the present Article.

4. If, as the result of exclusion of regional groups of candidates referred to in Clause 6 of the present Article, less than 70 of them remain in the federal list of candidates while not more than 10 regional groups of candidates had been excluded, registration of the federal list of candidates shall be annulled if, as the result of exclusion of candidates from it, there remain less than 60 regional groups of candidates in the said list.

5. Registration of a candidate included in the federal list of candidates registered shall annulled by the Central Election Commission of Russian Federation in the event of his losing of the passive electoral right.

6. Registration of the federal list of candidates shall be annulled by the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation on the basis of a court decision to suspend the activities of a political party that nominated the federal list of candidates, or in the event of its liquidation

7. Decision of the Central Election Commission of Russian Federation on registration of the federal list of candidates for registration, on denial of registration to a federal list of candidates may be overruled by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation at the request of the Central Election Commission of Russia, of a political party against subject to such decision, of a political party, the federal list of candidates of which is registered, if it is determined that the decision of the Central Election Commission of the Russian Federation was in violation of the requirements of Clause 3 of Article 44 of this Federal law, or other requirements of this Federal Law.

8. Registration of a federal list of candidates can be cancelled, not later than in five days before the election day, by the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation on request of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation or on petition of the political party which had registered another federal list of candidates:

1) if circumstances had been newly disclosed which, in accordance with Clause 1, 4.1, 4.2, 7, 8 or 10 of Article 44 of the present Federal Law, shall constitute grounds for refusal in registration of the federal list of candidates. Here the newly discovered are those circumstances that existed at the time of the decision on registration of the federal list of candidates, but were not and could not have been known by the Central Election Commission of Russian Federation;

- 2) if a leader of the political party had repeatedly taken improper advantage of his office or position in the public service;
- 3) if facts of voters bribery by the political party, its substitute candidate or authorized representative (including representative for financial matters) or by other persons or organizations, so requested or directed by the said parties, had been established;
- 4) if, in order to obtain a certain result at the elections, the political party or its authorized representative for financial matters had used financial means other than its electoral fund and electoral funds of its regional branches, and those expenditures had by more than 5 percent exceeded the maximum sum total of expenditures from the party electoral fund permitted by the present Federal Law;
- 5) if the political party or its authorized representative for financial matters had by more than 5 percent exceeded the maximum sum total of expenditures from the party electoral fund permitted by the present Federal Law;
- 6) if the political party does not observe restrictions imposed by clause 1 or 1.1 of Article 56 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights and the right to participate in the referendum of the citizens of the Russian Federation", as well as non-observance by candidates on the federal list of registered candidates of restrictions imposed by clause 1 of Article 56 of this Federal Law, if a political party which nominated that list does not exclude a candidate from the list in accordance with clause 11 of this article;
- 7) in case of repeated non-compliance by a political party, the federal list of candidates of which was registered, with the restrictions specified in clause 5.2 of Article 62 of this Federal Law

Provisions of paragraph 8 of Clause 8 of Article 91 of the Federal Law of 26.04.2007 N 64-FZ shall apply only in connection with the actions of citizens and political parties, carried out after 7 December 2006.

13. A petition on cancellation of registration of a federal list of candidates, on exclusion of a regional group of candidates from a federal list of candidates can be filed with court not later than in eight days before the election day.

Article 92. Repeal of Decisions of Election Commissions on Vote Returns, Results of Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

1. If violations of the present Federal Law, the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of the Citizens of the Russian Federation and Their Right to Participate in Referendum" had been perpetrated in the course of voting or establishment of vote returns, a higher-level electoral commission – before establishment of vote returns, State Duma election results by itself – can repeal the decision of the lower-level electoral commission on vote returns and order vote recount and, if the violations preclude reliable establishment of the results of the voters' expression of will, declare the vote returns or elections results invalid.

2. After establishment of vote returns, results of the State Duma elections by a higher-level electoral commission, the decision of the lower-level electoral commission on vote returns can be repealed only by court, or court can order to make corrections in the electoral commission

protocol and/or summary table. If an electoral commission files a court petition on repeal of vote returns, making corrections in protocol and/or in summary table, the said commission shall inform the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation about its decision. If the court orders making corrections in the electoral commission protocol and/or summary table, the respective electoral commission shall compile a new protocol on vote returns marked "Secondary" and/or new summary table marked "Secondary".

3. After having repealed a decision of an electoral commission on vote returns, a respective-level court can make decision on vote recount if violations of the present Federal Law, the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of the Citizens of the Russian Federation and Their Right to Participate in Referendum" had been perpetrated in the course of voting or establishment of vote returns. If the violations preclude reliable establishment of the results of the voters' expression of will, the court can declare the vote returns results invalid.

4. Decision of the Central Electoral Commission of the Russian Federation on the results of the elections of deputies of the State Duma can be repealed by court in case of one the following circumstances being ascertained by the court:

1) a political party whose federal list of candidates is admitted to distribution of deputy mandates, has financed its electoral campaign from financial means other than its electoral fund and electoral funds of its regional branches and exceeding 10 percent of the maximum sum total of expenditures from the party electoral fund permitted by the present Federal Law;

2) a political party whose federal list of candidates is admitted to distribution of deputy mandates, had practiced voter bribery and the said violation precludes establishment of the actual will of voters;

3) a political party whose federal list of candidates is admitted to distribution of deputy mandates, had in the course of campaigning transgressed the limitations set forth in Clause 1, Article 62 of the present Federal Law which precludes establishment of the actual will of voters;

4) a leader of a political party whose federal list of candidates is admitted to distribution of deputy mandates, had taken improper advantage of his office or position in the public service and this violation precludes establishment of the actual will of voters.

5. A respective-level court can repeal a decision of an electoral commission on vote returns, on results of State Duma elections on grounds other than those set forth in Clause 4 of the present Article, in particular because of violations of the procedure of voter lists compilation and establishment of electoral commissions; illegal refusal in registration of a federal list of candidates if such illegality is recognized after the election day; other violations of the electoral legislation of the Russian Federation, established by court, if those violations preclude establishment of the actual of voters.

6. Repeal by court of a decision on the results of the elections of deputies of the State Duma shall involve declaration of the election results invalid if the violations perpetrated preclude establishment of the actual will of voters.

7. A decision of an electoral commission on establishment of vote returns and results of State Duma elections as well as on declaration of vote returns and elections results invalid cannot be repealed on the grounds that violations of the present Federal Law had led to election of

candidates or intended to encourage voters to vote for federal lists of candidates which, on the basis of the election results, are not admitted to distribution of deputy mandates.

8. Violations perpetrated by certain political parties and referred to in Clause 4 of the present Article, can lead to repeal by court of a decision to admit the federal lists of candidates of those political parties to distribution of deputy mandates and redistribution of deputy mandates.

8.1 Should the political party, the federal list of candidates of which was granted the deputies mandate in accordance with Article 82.1 of this Federal Law, commit violations specified in clause 4 of this Article, it may result in cancellation of the court's decision to hand over deputies mandate to the federal list of candidates of the political party. In this case, the deputies mandate remains vacant until the next elections to the State Duma

9. A violation by a regional group of candidates of the requirements of the present Federal Law, that is, expenditures made by the said regional group from the electoral fund of the respective regional branch of the political party in excess of more than 10 percent of the maximum sum total of the expenditures from the said electoral fund permitted by the present Federal Law, shall lead to repeal by court of the decision on allotment of deputy mandates to that regional group of candidates and to redistribution of deputy mandates within the respective federal list of deputies.

10. If vote returns at an electoral precinct, territory or Subject of the Russian Federation are declared invalid after the respective next-higher electoral commission had compiled its protocol on vote returns, on election results, that electoral commission must compile a new protocol on vote returns, on election results marked "Secondary".

11. On the basis of the protocols on vote returns marked "Secondary" or "Vote recount" compiled after compilation of the higher-level electoral commission protocol on vote returns, on elections results and of summary table, the said higher-level commission shall make respective corrections in those protocol and summary table.

Article 93. Responsibility for Violations of Legislation of the Russian Federation at Elections of Deputies of the State Duma

Responsibility for violation of legislation of the Russian Federation on elections of deputies of the State Duma shall be established by federal laws.

CHAPTER XIV. CONCLUDING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 94. Entry of the present Federal Law into Force

1. The present Federal Law shall enter into force on December 7, 2006, except for Clause 6 of the present Article.

2. Clause 6 of the present Article shall enter into force on the day of official publication of the present Federal Law.

3. The present Federal Law shall regulate elections of deputies of the State Duma of the first convocation to be elected after its entry into force.

4. The following legislation shall be considered invalid since December 7, 2006:

1) Articles 1 to 85; Article 87; Points 3 to 5, Article 88; Article 89 to 91; Points 2 to 4, Article 92; Article 93 to 99; Supplements 1 to 5 to the Federal Law of December 20, 2002 No. 175-FZ "On Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (*Statutes of the Russian Federation*, 2002, No. 51, Art. 4982);

2) The Federal Law of June 23, 2003 No. 82-FZ "On Amending Point 2, Article 5 of the Federal Law "On Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (*Statutes of the Russian Federation*, 2003, No. 26, Art. 2571);

3) Article 2 of the Federal Law of June 23, 2003 No. 83-FZ "On Amending Sub-Point "G", Point 5, Article 40 of the Federal Law "On Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights of the Citizens of the Russian Federation and Their Right to Participate in Referendum" and Sub-Point 8, Point 4, Article 49 of the Federal Law "On Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (*Statutes of the Russian Federation*, 2003, No. 26, Art. 2572);

4) the Federal Law of June 23, 2003 No. 84-FZ "On Amending Sub-Point 2, Point 4, Article 98 of the Federal Law "On Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (*Statutes of the Russian Federation*, 2003, No. 26, Art. 2573);

5) Articles 2 and 3 of the Federal Law of June 23, 2003 No. 85-FZ "On Amending Article 36 of the Federal Law "On Political Parties" and the Federal Law "On Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (*Statutes of the Russian Federation*, 2003, No. 26, Art. 2574);

6) the Federal Law of July 4, 2003 No. 93-FZ "On Approval of the Borders of One-Mandate Districts for Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (*Statutes of the Russian Federation*, 2003, No. 27, Art. 2707).

5. To consider the Federal Law of December 20, 2002 No. 175-FZ "On Elections of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation" (*Statutes of the Russian Federation*, 2002, No. 51, Art. 4982) invalid from the day of termination of the State Duma convocation which shall be in office at the day of the present Federal Law taking force.

6. If the State Duma convocation which shall be in office at the day of official publication of the present Federal Law is dissolved, the present Federal Law shall enter into force. The federal laws and separate provisions of the federal laws specified in Clause 4 of the present Article shall also be considered invalid from the day of official publication of a decree of the President of the Russian Federation on dissolution of the State Duma of the said convocation.

Article 95. Transitional Provisions

1. Non-voting members of electoral commissions appointed before the entry of the present Federal Law into force by an electoral bloc whose federal list of candidates had been admitted to distribution of deputy mandates in the State Duma convocation which shall be in office at the day of the present Federal Law taking force, shall continue their term of powers until termination of the said State Duma convocation. If, after the entry of the present Federal Law into force, powers of such member of an electoral commission are terminated by decision of the electoral bloc's governing body, they cannot be transferred to another person.

2. If a municipal entity does not have a head of local administration and the municipal entity charter does not authorize any person to effect electoral actions in accordance with the present Federal Law, such actions shall be effected by the chief public official of the respective Subject of the Russian Federation (chief official of the supreme executive body of the Subject of the Russian Federation) or by another public official so directed by him.