

THE LAW OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
"ON POLITICAL PARTIES"
(26.12.1996 No.337-I)

There amendments were made into this Law in accordance with

- Part XVIII of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 20.08.1999 . N 832-I;
- Chapter X of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 12.12.2003 . N 568-II;
- Chapter X of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 30.04.2004 . N 621-II;
- Paragraph 35 of the Chapter I of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 03.12.2004 . N 714-II;
- Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 11.04.2007. No. ZRU-90;
- Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 25.12.2008. No. ZRU-194;
- Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan on 31.12.2008. No. ZRU-197.

Article 1. Definition of political party

Political party is a voluntary association of citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, established on the basis of common views, interests and goals, aimed at fulfilling the political will of the certain group of society in the formation of government and participating in administration of state and public affairs.

Article 2. Legal bases on activity of political parties

Political parties shall pursue their activities in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the present Law, and other acts of legislation, as well as in conformity with their Charters.

Article 3. Principles of the establishment and activity of political parties

Political parties shall be established and act with the purpose to pursue rights and freedoms of citizens on the basis of free will, voluntary membership and a right to leave a party, equality of its members, self-management, legality and publicity.

The establishment and activity of the political parties shall be forbidden if they are:

- aimed at forcible alteration of the constitutional system;
- undermining state sovereignty, integrity and security of the Republic of Uzbekistan, constitutional rights and freedoms of its citizens;
- carrying on war propaganda and inciting to social, national, racial and religious enmity;
- encroaching on the health and morality of the nation;
- established on national and religious principle.

Article 4. Membership in political parties

A citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan can be a member of only one political party at a time.

It shall be forbidden to restrict the rights of a citizen, as well as to grant him benefits or advantages on the basis of the party membership.

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, being a guarantor of the adherence to rights and freedoms of all citizens of the Republic, shall have an obligation to suspend or terminate his membership or participation in a political party for the period of the discharge of presidential powers.

The following categories of persons cannot be members of political parties:

- judges;
- prosecutors and investigators of the Office of Public Prosecutor;
- officers of the bodies of internal affairs, national security service;
- armed forces personnel;
- foreign nationals and stateless persons;

Political parties shall have fixed number of individual membership.

Article 5. Guarantees of the activity of political parties

The State shall guarantee the protection of rights and legitimate interests of political parties and create for them equal legal opportunities for the fulfillment of their aims and objectives stated in their respective charters.

It shall be forbidden for public authorities, enterprises, institutions, organizations and their officials to interfere into the internal affairs of political parties or impede somehow their activity, if they are carried out in conformity with the law and their charters.

Interference of political parties in the activities of bodies of state authority and their officials shall not be allowed.

Events of the organizations of political parties shall mainly be carried out during off-hours of its members and at the expense of the funds of these parties. It shall be prohibited for private employers to demand from their employees to be engaged in political activities on behalf of the party during the working time.

The relevant legislation on labor, social security and social insurance shall be applied to the workers of the administration [*apparatus*] of political parties.

Article 6. Establishment of a political party

For the establishment of a political party, it is necessary to collect signatures of no less than twenty thousand citizens residing in at least eight territorial subjects (oblasts), including the Republic of Karakalpakstan and Tashkent city, and of those who are intended to join the party.

The Initiators of the establishment of a political party consisting of not less than fifty persons shall form an organizing committee for the preparation of constituent documents of the party, formation of its membership composition and convocation of constituent convention or conference.

The organizing committee shall inform in a written form the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan about; its initiative, composition, head (leader), and the address of the committee and the date of convocation of the constituent convention or conference no later than within 7 days from its establishment.

The organizing committee shall have the right to function no more than three months from the day of its establishment.

The political party shall be established in the constituent convention or conference.

The constituent convention or conference shall adopt the charter and the program of the party and form its electoral bodies.

Article 7. Charter of a political party

The charter of the political party shall envisage:

- name, goals and objectives of the party;
- structure of the party;
- requirements and order of enrolment to and withdrawal from the party membership;
- rights and obligations of its members;
- competence and order of establishment (convocation) of the governing bodies of the party;
- order of carrying out control over the activities of governing bodies of the party;
- sources of the formation of funds and acquisition of other property of the party and of its organization;
- address of the governing body of the party;
- procedure of the adoption of the charter and program of the party, the introduction of amendments and additions to them;
- order of reorganization or termination of the activities of the party.

The Charter may include some other provisions that are related to the activities of the party.

Article 8. Registration of a political party

A political party shall be registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The following documents must be submitted for the registration of a political party within a month from the day of adoption of the charter:

- an application signed by no less than three members of the governing body of the party;
- a charter;
- a program;
- a protocol of constituent convention or conference;
- a document from the bank certifying payment of registration fees at the amount, which is prescribed by the relevant legislation;
- documents certifying the fulfillment of the requirements of the present Law, as well as the list of twenty thousand citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan who expressed their wish to become members of the party, with their signatures, information about members of electoral bodies (family name, name, patronymic, year of birth, address, place of work, telephone number), decision of the supreme body of the party on granting authority to the members of governing body with the endowment of the rights to represent the party in the process of registration or in case of disputes at the court.

The application for registration of a political party shall be considered within a month from the day of its receipt. Based on the results of the review of the application, a decision shall be taken about the registration of the political party or about its denial. The decision shall be given or sent by post to the governing body of the political party not later than within three days after its adoption.

A political party obtains the legal status of a legal entity and can carry out its activities from the day of its registration.

Amendments and additions to charters of political parties shall be subject to registration in the order and periods provided for by the present **article** for registration of charters.

Information about the registration of a political party shall be published in mass media.

Article 9. Grounds for denying the registration of a political party

A political party shall not be registered if its charter, goals and objects and methods of its activities run counter to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the present Law and other acts of legislation or if a political party or public movement was earlier registered with the same name.

In case of denial to register political party, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall inform about it an authorized member of the governing body of the party in a written form with a reference to the legal provisions that the submitted documents are not in compliance with. The authorized members of the governing body of political party shall have a right within a month from the day of the receipt of denial of registration to re-apply to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the application about registration of the party provided that the documents are brought into conformity with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the legislation.

The denial of registration of a political party can be appealed to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan in accordance with the established order.

Article 10. Suspension of the activity of a political party

If a political party breaches any provision stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the present Law, other acts of legislation or of its own charter, the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall send a written notification about the violations to the governing bodies of the party with the indication of which provisions of the relevant legislation or charter were violated and shall determine a period for the correction of these violations. If the violations are not corrected within a given period of time, the activity of political party can be suspended for a period up to six months by the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan upon the submission of the case by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan or the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Upon the suspension of the activity of political party, it shall be prohibited for it to benefit from all mass media, conduct agitation and propaganda and participate in elections for the period of suspension.

Article 11. Termination of the activity of a political party

The activity of a political party shall be ceased as a result of:

- self-dissolution of the party in accordance with its charter. The supreme body of the party informs the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan about this fact within the three days.

- decision of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan upon the application of the Ministry of Justice or Prosecutor General of the Republic of

Uzbekistan in case of committing acts, stipulated in part 2 of the **Article 3** of the present Law, or if the actions, for the committing of which the activity was suspended, are repeated during a year.

Termination of the activity of a political party shall begin from the day of the publication of official announcement by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan in mass media.

Article 12. Rights of political parties

Political parties shall have the following rights:

- freely disseminate information about their activity, carry on propaganda of their ideas, objectives and decisions;
- participate through their representatives in electoral bodies of state authority in the preparation of the corresponding decisions;
- participate in elections of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan and bodies of state authority in accordance with procedures established by the law;
- conduct meetings, conferences and other events related to the activities of the party;
- establish mass media and make use of other mass media in accordance with the procedures established by the legislation;
- form coalitions (units) with the political parties of the Republic of Uzbekistan; establish contractual relations with them and public associations;

Political parties can also exercise other rights, provided by the present Law and other legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 13. Factions of political parties in the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan

Factions of political parties in the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall be formed in the constituent meetings of deputies, nominated by political parties, to carry out the policy of their parties in an organized manner. Factions of political parties shall be registered by the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis on the basis of respective application of the leader of the faction and constituent documents.

Factions of political party in the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan shall have the following rights:

- participate in the formation of the agenda of the session of the Legislative Chamber;
- apply to President of the Republic of Uzbekistan with initiative about resignation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- guaranteed recognition to the representative of the faction during the debates on every matter put on the agenda of the session of the Legislative Chamber;
- address with a request respectively to the Speaker of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis and to the Government of the Republic of Uzbekistan, ministers, as well as other heads of state bodies;
- introduce proposals on the candidacy of deputies of Speaker, chairpersons of committees and commissions of the Legislative Chamber;

- disseminate faction's position among deputies about the question that is under discussion in session of the Legislative Chamber;

- carry out other functions, envisaged by the legislation for the deputies of the Legislative Chamber.

A head of the faction of political party shall be included in the membership of the Board [*Kengash*] of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Operational, technical and other maintenance of activities of the factions shall be provided by the Administration of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Article 13¹. Parliamentary majority and parliamentary minority. Association of factions of political parties into a bloc

The faction of a political party which receives the majority seats in the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan makes up a parliamentary majority.

The parliamentary majority may also consist of several factions of political parties and deputies elected from the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan who establish a bloc based on the similarity or coincidence of their program objectives.

The factions of political parties as well as the deputies elected from Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan which do not share the course and program of the newly formed government, or some of its parts, may declare themselves as an opposition.

Association of factions of political parties into a bloc does not restrict their independence in exercising the rights prescribed by the law.

The faction of a political party which proclaimed itself as a parliamentary opposition along with the powers envisaged by law shall have the following rights:

- to propose a draft law in an alternative edition together with a report on the relevant issue of the responsible committee of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

- to record its special opinion on the issues under discussion in the protocol of a plenary session of the Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan;

- to a guaranteed participation of its representatives in the conciliatory commission on law which is rejected by the Senate of Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

The rights of a parliamentary opposition guaranteed by Law cannot be infringed by the parliamentary majority.

Article 14. Party groups in the Jokargi Kenes of Karakalpakstan and Kenghash of people's deputies

Party group is an association of deputies, formed by deputies of a political party and registered in the prescribed manner, in order to express the interests of the party in the Jokargi Kenes of Karakalpakstan or the Kenghash of people's deputies.

A deputy nominated by a political party and elected at the Jokargi Kenes of Karakalpakstan or at the Kenghash of people's deputies, must be a member only of this party.

Party groups in the Jokargi Kenes of Karakalpakstan and the Kenghash of people's deputies are nominated by political parties and formed at constituent meetings of the deputies. Party groups are registered respectively at the Jokargy Kenes of Karakalpakstan and the Kenghash of people's deputies upon an application by the leader of the party group and supporting documentation.

A party group in the Jokargi Kenes of Karakalpakstan or the Kenghash of people's deputies of regions, the city of Tashkent and cities (centers of regions) is formed, provided that it includes at least five elected members of this political party in the Jokargy Kenes of Karakalpakstan or the Kenghash of people's deputies.

The party group is subject to registration record.

The activities of the party group are terminated in the following cases:

On party group's own initiative;

Upon the expiration of the term of office of the Jokargy Kenes of Karakalpakstan or the Kenghash of people's deputies;

Reduction of the number of member deputies of the party group, below the limit required for its formation;

termination of the political party.

(Article 12-The law on amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan LRU-N365, 20th January 2014, made amendments to the article 14)

Article 14¹. Rights of party groups

Party groups have the right to:

to participate in forming session's agenda of the corresponding to the representative body of state power;

to nominate chairs, deputy chairs and members of committees or commissions of the relevant representative body of state authority;

to guaranteed right of speech to the representative of the party groups in the discussion on each item of agenda of the session in corresponding to the representative body of state authority;

to address questions respectively to the Chair Jokargy Kenes and Council of Ministers, ministers and heads of other state bodies of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, khokims, khokims deputies, heads of divisions and departments of khokimiyats, as well as to the heads of enterprises, institutions and organizations located on the territory of the Kenghash of people's;

to make proposals to be heard at the sessions of Jokargy Kenes of Karakalpakstan, Kenghash of people's deputies about the report or information of the head of the state body on their activities, which is located on the respective territory. Such decision will be adopted if more than half of the deputies will support it;

to disseminate party group opinion among the deputies about an issue discussed at the session respectively Jokargy Kenes of Karakalpakstan or the Kenghash of people's deputies.

Party groups in Kengashes in regions and Tashkent city have the right to initiate a submission on reasoned conclusions to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan about

unsatisfactory performance of persons approved for the post of Khokim of regions and the city of Tashkent

The proposal of party groups on issues introduced respectively to Jokargy Kenes of Karakalpakstan and Kenghash of people's deputies shall be subject to mandatory consideration.

Party groups may have other rights under the law.

Organizational, technical and other services activities of the party groups in the Jokargi Kenes of Karakalpakstan is provided apparatus Jokargy Kenes and party groups in the Kenghash of people's deputies - the relevant structural units of khokimiyats.

(Article 12-The law on amendments and additions to some legislative acts of the Republic of Uzbekistan LRU-N365, 20th January 2014, added new article 14¹)

Article 15. Property of political parties

Political parties may own buildings, structures, equipment, printing houses, means of transportation, and other property which is necessary for the accomplishment of the objectives defined in the charter.

The financing of the political parties shall be performed in accordance with the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On financing political parties”.

Political parties shall have the right to be engaged in entrepreneurship activity only for the accomplishment of the objectives defined in the charter. The results of the entrepreneurship activity of the political parties must be reflected on its financial report.

The earnings from the entrepreneurship activity of political parties shall not be redistributed among members of the political party and shall be used solely for the accomplishment of the objectives defined in the charter.

Political parties annually publish their budget for public knowledge and in accordance with the rules submit reports about the sources of financing of their activity to the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis or to other competent body entitled by thereof.

The property of political parties shall be under the protection of law.

Article 16 was excluded in accordance with the Law of Uzbekistan of 30.04.2004, N 621-II.

Article 17. Control over the compliance of the activity of political parties with the legislation and their charter

Control over the compliance of the activity of political parties with the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, legislation and their charter shall be carried out by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan.