



International Foundation  
for Electoral Systems

# **Election FAQs: North Macedonia**

*Presidential Elections*

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Europe & Eurasia

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

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**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Election Snapshot ..... 1

When is Election Day? ..... 1

Why are these elections important? ..... 1

Who are citizens voting for on Election Day? ..... 1

What is the electoral system? ..... 3

What is the legal framework for conducting the elections? ..... 3

Who is eligible to run as a candidate? ..... 4

What are the campaign expenditure and donation limits? ..... 4

What is the election management body? What are its powers? ..... 4

Who can vote in these elections and how many registered voters are there? ..... 4

What provisions are in place that support the equal rights of women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups? ..... 5

Is out-of-country voting allowed? ..... 6

Who can observe during Election Day? How can they get accreditation? ..... 7

Who is managing security on Election Day? ..... 7

Where are vote counting and tabulation held? ..... 7

When will official results be announced? ..... 7

How will election disputes be adjudicated? ..... 8

Resources ..... 9

About IFES in North Macedonia ..... 9

Disclosure ..... 9

## Election Snapshot

- **Election Day:** April 24, 2024; second round, if required, on May 8, 2024
- **Registered voters:** 1,814,317, including 2,569 registered to vote outside the country
- **Polling stations:** 3,360 within North Macedonia and 31 at diplomatic-consular offices
- **Candidates:** 7
- **Campaign expenditure and donation limits:** Campaign expenditures are limited to 110 Macedonian denar<sup>1</sup> per voter registered in the electoral district or municipality for which the list of candidates has been submitted. Election campaigns may be financed only from the regular bank account of the political party, party membership fees, private persons, and legal entities.<sup>2</sup>
- **Election Campaign:** April 4-22, 2024 (and May 6 in the case of a second round)

## When is Election Day?

The Republic of North Macedonia will hold presidential elections on Wednesday, April 24, 2024. Voting will take place from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.<sup>3</sup> in 3,360 polling stations across the country and 31 Diplomatic-Consular Offices (DCOs). Voting at DCOs will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. local time. Voting will be organized for the day before Election Day for voters who are homebound due to incapacity and/or illness;<sup>4</sup> confined to prison, other detention, or house arrest;<sup>5</sup> in non-family-based care institutions;<sup>6</sup> internally displaced,<sup>7</sup> or temporarily employed or residing abroad.<sup>8</sup> If no candidate wins the majority of votes on Election Day based on the total number of citizens listed in the Voter Register, a second round of elections will be held two weeks later, on May 8, for the two candidates who received the most votes in the first round.<sup>9</sup>

## Why are these elections important?

Presidential elections in North Macedonia are taking place in a dynamic political environment and a competitive presidential race. The opposition Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE) – accused the ruling Social Democrat (SDSM) party of corruption and pressured the government coalition to hold early parliamentary elections. VMRO-DPMNE and other parties also criticized SDSM for bowing to Greek and Bulgarian demands related to European Union (EU) accession. In 2018, the government signed the Prespa Agreement with Greece, which changed the country's name from Macedonia to North Macedonia.<sup>10</sup> The agreement was unpopular among many. Resulting obstacles for citizens included the need to obtain new passports before February 12, 2024, when citizens would no longer be able to travel on passports issued by the Republic of Macedonia.<sup>11</sup> In

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<sup>1</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 84.

<sup>2</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 83 (2).

<sup>3</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 101 (1).

<sup>4</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 111 (4).

<sup>5</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 113.

<sup>6</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 111-a (4).

<sup>7</sup> Handbook for the Execution of Electoral Actions for Conducting Elections for the President of the Republic of North Macedonia, 2024, Article X.

<sup>8</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 113-a (1).

<sup>9</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 121.

<sup>10</sup> Smith, H. (2018, June 18). "[Macedonia changes name, ending bitter dispute with Greece.](#)" *The Guardian*.

<sup>11</sup> Euronews (2024, February 11). "[Macedonian citizens rush to get new passport before deadline](#)"

2022, members of parliament from the SDSM and their allies also proposed an agreement to recognize Bulgarians as an ethnic minority in the country. This move was unwelcome among many in North Macedonia, who have long disputed their cultural and linguistic ties with Bulgaria.<sup>12</sup>

Tensions have also arisen in the SDSM-led governing coalition due to distinct positions among the leadership of the Alliance for Albanians party, a junior coalition partner. The split emerged as the party was deciding whether to join the opposition ethnic Albanian bloc – the European Alliance for Change<sup>13</sup> – for presidential and parliamentary elections thereby challenging North Macedonia's largest ethnic Albanian party, the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI), which has been in power for more than 20 years. The party was also considering whether to support the ruling coalition and the incumbent president, Stevo Pendarovski. These disagreements led party leader Arben Taravari to join the European Alliance for Change,<sup>14</sup> registered as VLEN (Worth), and run as its candidate<sup>15</sup> and DUI fielded its own candidate, Bujar Osmani.<sup>16</sup> SDSM previously hoped DUI would support Pendarovski to gain a second term in the first round of voting.<sup>17</sup>

With EU accession negotiations ongoing since 2022, North Macedonia is pursuing a path toward European integration. The country's EU accession will be contingent on its implementing constitutional reforms, including formally recognizing ethnic Bulgarians as a minority in the constitution.<sup>18</sup> Additionally, more progress is needed in the fight against corruption and to reform the judiciary, protect fundamental freedoms, and several other areas.<sup>19</sup> These issues will feature heavily in the lead-up to and during the presidential election campaign.

## Who are citizens voting for on Election Day?

Seven presidential candidates have received either the necessary 10,000 signatures or the signatures of 30 members of parliament (MPs) to stand for the election. The candidates are:

- Stevo Pendarovski of the ruling coalition the Social Democrats (SDSM). Pendarovski was North Macedonia's coordinator for NATO membership before ascending to the presidency in 2019.<sup>20</sup>
- Gordana Siljanovska Davkova of the main opposition party, the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE). Davkova is an MP representing VMRO-DPMNE and was the party's unsuccessful candidate for president in the 2019 elections.<sup>21</sup>
- Bujar Osmani of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI). Osmani currently serves as Minister of Foreign Affairs<sup>22</sup> and was previously the Minister of Health and Deputy Prime Minister in charge of European affairs.

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<sup>12</sup> Reuters. (2022, July 16). "[North Macedonia votes to end dispute with Bulgaria, clears way for EU talks.](#)" Reuters.

<sup>13</sup> This bloc unites the Alternativa, BESA and Democratic Movement parties.

<sup>14</sup> Marusic, S. J. (2024, February 5). "[North Macedonia's 'Alliance for Albanians' Split over Election Strategy.](#)" *Balkan Insight*.

<sup>15</sup> Marusic, S. J. (2024, February 15). "[North Macedonia's Albanian Opposition Nominates Own Runner. Shakes up Presidential Race.](#)" *Balkan Insight*.

<sup>16</sup> Euronews Albania. (2024, February 22). "[Bujar Osmani confirmed to run for president in North Macedonia](#)"

<sup>17</sup> Marusic, S.J. (2024, February 15). *Op. cit.*

<sup>18</sup> bne Intellinews. (2024, February 9) "[Voters prepare to punish North Macedonia's ruling SDSM for broken promises.](#)"

<sup>19</sup> European Commission. (2024, November 8). [North Macedonia 2023 Report](#)

<sup>20</sup> Euronews Albania. (2024, March 1). "[Pendarovski seeks another presidential mandate in North Macedonia](#)"

<sup>21</sup> Si, N. (2024, March 3). "[Gordana Siljanovska Davkova, candidate for the president of VMRO-DPMNE](#)"

<sup>22</sup> Euronews Albania. (2024, February 22). "[Bujar Osmani confirmed to run for president in North Macedonia](#)"

- Dr. Biljana Vankovska Cvetanovska of the Levica party. Cvetanovska is a political scientist who leads the of Global Changes Center at the Faculty of Philosophy at Saints Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje.
- Arben Taravari of the Alliance for Albanians is endorsed by the VLEN Coalition (Worth).<sup>23</sup> Since 2017, he has been mayor of the municipality of Gostivar. Taravari is a professor at the University Clinic of Neurology-Skopje and a researcher at University Saints Cyril and Methodius University of Skopje.
- Maxim Dimitrievski of the Movement for Our Macedonia. Dimitrievski currently serves as mayor of Kumanovo and is a former MP representing SDSM.<sup>24</sup>
- Stevco Jakimovski, president of the Citizens Option for Macedonia. Jakimovski currently serves as the mayor of Karposh.<sup>25</sup> In March 2024, he was banned from entering the United States due to accusations that he used his position to interfere with procurement efforts.<sup>26</sup>

## What is the electoral system?

The presidential election will be held in North Macedonia and designated Diplomatic-Consular Offices in Europe, North and South America, Australia, and Asia. North Macedonia is a single electoral district that uses the majoritarian model.<sup>27</sup> The nomination of presidential candidates requires the submission of the signatures of at least 10,000 voters or at least 30 members of parliament.<sup>28</sup> The president serves a five-year term and is elected by an absolute majority vote through a two-round system (see “When is Election Day?”). In a second round of presidential elections, the candidate who wins most of the votes is elected, if a 40 percent turnout is achieved. The president may be elected to a maximum of two five-year terms.<sup>29</sup>

## What is the legal framework for conducting the elections?

Elections in North Macedonia are primarily regulated by the Electoral Code, most recently revised in March and April 2024, after the elections had been announced. The legal framework also includes the Constitution, updated in 2019,<sup>30</sup> the Law on Political Parties, the Law on Financing Political Parties, the Law on Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest, the Criminal Code, and regulations adopted by the State Election Commission to supplement the Electoral Code. The Electoral Code includes regulations regarding the election schedule, register of broadcasters, print media, electronic media for elections, and others.<sup>31</sup> North Macedonia is a member of major international and regional instruments related to the holding of democratic elections. These include the Venice Commission and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

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<sup>23</sup> The VLEN Coalition includes Besa, Alternativa, Democratic Movement, and the Arben Taravari faction of the Alliance for Albanians.

<sup>24</sup> Dimoski, A. (2024, February 22). “[Maksim Dimitrievski to be ZNAM Movement’s presidential candidate.](#)” *MIA*.

<sup>25</sup> Petrovik, M.P. “[Jakimov announced that he had collected the necessary signatures for the presidential candidacy.](#)” *Sloboden Pечат*

<sup>26</sup> Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (2024, March 19). “[U.S. Bans Entry to Officials of North Macedonia, Kosovo over Suspicion of Corruption](#)”

<sup>27</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 4 (1).

<sup>28</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 59.

<sup>29</sup> Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 80.

<sup>30</sup> [Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia](#)

<sup>31</sup> [State Election Commission of North Macedonia](#)

## Who is eligible to run as a candidate?

The constitution mandates that the president must be a citizen of North Macedonia. A candidate for the presidency must be over the age of 40 on the day of the election and must have lived in the country for 10 of the 15 years before Election Day. A person who has held the presidency for two five-year terms is ineligible to run for the office for a third time.<sup>32</sup>

## What are the campaign expenditure and donation limits?

Election campaign expenditures are limited to no more than 110 Macedonian denar (MKD), the equivalent of roughly €1.80, per voter registered in the electoral district the municipality for which the list of candidates has been submitted, for both the first and the second round of voting. Each presidential candidate is required to establish a tax number and open a bank account for the campaign, and the funds not be used for any other purpose.<sup>33</sup> Election campaigns may be financed only from funds from the regular bank account of the party, political party membership fees, donations from private persons of up to the equivalent of €3,000 or legal entities of up to the equivalent of €30,000, and political parties' bank loans earmarked for election campaigns. If a legal entity or private person donates funds to both the political party's bank account and the election campaign bank account, the cumulative amount of funds donated must not exceed the equivalent of €3,000 for a private person or €30,000 for a legal entity. Anonymous donations; donations from foreign sources; and funds from municipal governments, state-owned companies, religious and charitable organizations, and the media are prohibited.<sup>34</sup>

All campaigns must maintain a registry of expenditures and donations<sup>35</sup> and submit interim and final financial reports of incomes and expenditures to the State Election Commission (SEC), State Audit Office (SAO), State Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (SCPC), and Parliament.<sup>36</sup> Financial reports are published on the SEC, SAO, and SCPC websites.<sup>37</sup>

The state pays for all political advertising for elections in broadcast, print, and online media. The SEC reimburses media outlets and platforms directly. While presidential candidates do not receive direct public funding for the campaign, they may be funded by political parties.<sup>38</sup> The funds for paid political advertising from the state budget must not exceed the equivalent of €2 per registered voter for the first round of elections and an additional €1 per registered voter for a second round, if it takes place.<sup>39</sup>

## What is the election management body? What are its powers?

The State Election Commission (SEC) is the primary election management body. It comprises a president, vice president, and five members.<sup>40</sup> Currently, only two of the seven members are women – less than the required 30 percent.<sup>41</sup> Opposition political parties nominate the president and two members of the SEC, and the ruling political parties nominate the vice-president and

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<sup>32</sup> Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 80.

<sup>33</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 71.

<sup>34</sup> *Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia*, Article 83.

<sup>35</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 83-b.

<sup>36</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 85 (3).

<sup>37</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 83(4).

<sup>38</sup> OSCE/ODIHR. (2024, February 29). [Republic of North Macedonia, Presidential and Early Parliamentary Elections](#)

<sup>39</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 76-e.

<sup>40</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 26 (1).

<sup>41</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 21 (3).

three members. Members of parliament select nominees through a two-thirds majority of votes.<sup>42</sup> Upon election, all members of the SEC serve five-year terms.<sup>43</sup>

For this election, lower-level election bodies include 80 Municipal Election Commissions (MECs),<sup>44</sup> 3,360 Election Boards (EBs) in North Macedonia, and 31 EBs in Diplomatic-Consular Offices.<sup>45</sup> Each MEC consists of five members and their deputies, selected randomly from among public servants. MEC members serve five-year terms,<sup>46</sup> EB members serve four-year terms. Three of the five members of each EB are public servants and two are political appointees.<sup>47</sup> Each has a deputy.<sup>48</sup>

The SEC, MECs, and EBs are responsible for the entire administration of the electoral process, maintaining the voter list and voter registration, counting and tabulating results, resolving election disputes, managing election security arrangements and election observation, and other duties specified by the government.<sup>49</sup> All election management bodies are responsible for safeguarding legality in the preparation and administration of elections in accordance with the Electoral Code.<sup>50</sup>

## **Who can vote in these elections, and how many registered voters are there?**

All citizens who are at least 18 years old on Election Day, have legal capacity, and are permanent residents of the electoral district where the election takes place have the right to vote. Citizens who are temporarily employed or residing abroad and are listed in the Voter Register also have the right to vote.<sup>51</sup>

Registration for in-country voting is passive. The State Election Commission compiles voter lists based on data from the Ministry of Interior. Voters were able to inspect the lists until March 18, 2024, after which the Voter Register was closed.<sup>52</sup>

A total of 1,814,317 voters are listed on the Voter Register, including 2,549 who registered to vote abroad, 2,147 in prisons, 534 in elderly homes and two internally displaced.<sup>53</sup>

The March 2024 legal amendments eliminate the requirement for citizens to possess a valid ID document in order to retain their inclusion in the voter register, in line with a previous ODIHR recommendation. To mitigate the severe delays of replacing documents which became invalid following the country's name change in 2019, citizens whose identity documents expired up to nine months before the election days will also be permitted to use these outdated documents for voter identification.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 27 (6).

<sup>43</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 26 (4).

<sup>44</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 33 (1).

<sup>45</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 113-a (2).

<sup>46</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 34.

<sup>47</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 38 (4)(5)(6).

<sup>48</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 34 (3).

<sup>49</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 31 (2) and Article 37 (2).

<sup>50</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 31 (1) and Article 37 (1).

<sup>51</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 6.

<sup>52</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 52.

<sup>53</sup> SEC decision on closing the voters list <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18pGirjDor-bzDJPk89C5kNKaviX2h8Oq/view>

<sup>54</sup> OSCE/ODIHR Interim Report, 09 April 2024, <https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/a/e/566401.pdf>

## What provisions are in place that support the equal rights of women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups?

Voters with disabilities or who are illiterate can choose a person to assist them in voting.<sup>55</sup> Additionally, Election Boards are required to facilitate voting for persons with disabilities who cannot enter a polling station.<sup>56</sup> Persons with disabilities can check the accessibility of polling stations on the State Election Commission's website. Based on this information, they may decide to vote from home or to vote in person, either with assistance or independently.

To facilitate voting on Election Day, each polling station is located within three kilometers of the farthest address in an urban settlement and five kilometers in a rural settlement. A polling station is not established in areas where there are fewer than 10 or more than 1,000 voters.<sup>57</sup>

Voters who are unable to vote at a polling station due to incapacity or illness may notify the Municipal Election Commission not later than seven days prior to Election Day. Those voters will cast their ballots at home one day before Election Day using a special ballot box.<sup>58</sup>

Voters in non-family care institutions can register to vote in the institution by submitting a request to the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy not later than the date that public inspection of the voters' list ends (in this case, March 18, 2024). They will also vote one day prior to Election Day.<sup>59</sup>

Each sex should be represented by at least 30 percent of members of election management bodies (EMBs),<sup>60</sup> while ethnic communities that constitute more than 20 percent of the population in a municipality should be represented in lower-level EMBs. The law also calls for the provision of voting materials in any language spoken by more than 20 percent of a municipal population.<sup>61</sup> Therefore, voting materials on Election Day will be provided in Macedonian; in Albanian in 25 municipalities;<sup>62</sup> and in other minority languages, such as Turkish, in five municipalities,<sup>63</sup> Serbian in three,<sup>64</sup> and Roma in one.<sup>65</sup>

## Is out-of-country voting allowed?

Out-of-country voting is allowed for presidential elections, for which citizens must have registered electronically via an online application on the [State Election Commission](#) (SEC) website or submitted an ink-signed application to Diplomatic-Consular Offices by March 18, 2024. Out-of-country voting will be held on April 23 in diplomatic missions and consulates to which at least 10 voters submitted applications and approved by the SEC.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 112 (1).

<sup>56</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 112-a.

<sup>57</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 166.

<sup>58</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 111 (4).

<sup>59</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 111-a (4).

<sup>60</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 21 (3).

<sup>61</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 23 (3).

<sup>62</sup> Aracinovo, Bogovinje, Brvenica, Butel, Cair, Caska, Cucer-Sandevo, Debar, Dolneni, Gostivar, Jegunovce, Kicevo, Krusevo, Kumanovo, Lipkovo, Saraj, Sopiste, Struga, Studenicani, Suto Orizari, Tearce, Tetovo, Zelenikovo, Vrapciste, and Zelino.

<sup>63</sup> Centar Zupa, Gostivar, Plasnica, Vrapciste, Mavrovo I Rostuse

<sup>64</sup> Kumanovo, Staro Nagoricane, Cucer Sandevo

<sup>65</sup> Shuto Orizare

<sup>66</sup> Republic of North Macedonia State Election Commission. (2014, February 14). [Public Call for registration and inspection of the Electoral List for voting abroad for the election of the President of the Republic of North Macedonia](#)



## Who can observe during Election Day? How can they be accredited?

The State Election Commission (SEC) is responsible for determining for election observation procedures. International organizations, representatives of foreign countries, and domestic and foreign organizations that were established at least one year prior to Election Day and whose statutes include the protection of human rights can observe Election Day administration and procedures.<sup>67</sup> Interested observers may apply for accreditation to the SEC from the day of the announcement of the elections until April 13, 2024 (10 days before Election Day). Within seven days it receives a request, the SEC must issue observer authorizations to approved organizations.<sup>68</sup> The SEC has the right to revoke the accreditation of any observer who expresses public support for a candidate, party, or coalition.

Although the Electoral Code does not state whether observers may be present for voting at home or in non-family care institutions (see “What are the provisions in place to support the equal rights of women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups?”), it does state that accredited observers can observe the entirety of the electoral process.<sup>72</sup>

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) opened an Election Observation Mission for the April 24 presidential election and the May 8 early parliamentary elections. Starting on March 27, the OSCE/ODIHR deployed a team of 12 core experts from OSCE participant states and 20 long-term observers throughout the country.<sup>69</sup> The OSCE also requested the deployment of 300 short-term observers to monitor Election Day nationwide.<sup>70</sup> The OSCE/ODIHR mission will conduct its Election Day observation with delegations from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament.

## Who is managing security on Election Day?

On Election Day, the police will secure polling stations continuously from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Upon the closure of each polling station and during vote counting, the police will secure the building where the polling station and Election Board (EB) are located. As conditions require, an EB may ask for police assistance to restore order at the polling station. Also, upon the request of the EB's president or deputy president, the police may remove unauthorized persons from the building or room where voting is taking place or within 100 meters of the building.

The police will escort EB representatives as they transport election materials during the handover to the relevant Municipal Election Commission.<sup>71</sup>

## Where are vote counting and tabulation held?

After voting ends, the Election Board (EB) must immediately start the procedure for counting ballots and tabulating results at the polling station. This begins with EB members tallying the number of people who voted, including those who used biometric identification devices and who

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<sup>67</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 161.

<sup>68</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 162.

<sup>69</sup> Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. (2024, March 21). [ODHIR opens elections observation mission in North Macedonia](#)

<sup>70</sup> OSCE/ODIHR. (2024, February 29). [Republic of North Macedonia, Presidential and Early Parliamentary Elections](#)

<sup>71</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 102.

provided a signature or fingerprint upon check-in. Next, EB members count all unused ballots. Then they open the ballot box to begin counting individual ballots. One EB member, selected by lot, opens each ballot and hands it to the EB president, who shows it to the rest of the EB members and observers. The EB then decides if the ballot is valid before recording the vote. Once the EBs finish counting and fill in the results protocol, they turn over all materials to the appropriate Municipal Election Commission (MEC). The MEC tabulates the results from all polling stations in the electoral district within five hours of receiving ballots from EBs.<sup>72</sup> Once MECs complete tabulation, they send all election materials, including results protocols, to the State Election Commission.<sup>73</sup> EBs at Diplomatic-Consular Offices prepare election materials and deliver them to the State Election Commission (SEC) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs via diplomatic post. It is the SEC's responsibility to tabulate and establish the results from out-of-country voting.<sup>74</sup>

### **When will official results be announced?**

Upon receipt of results from polling stations, Municipal Election Commissions (MECs) enter them electronically and immediately make them available on the State Election Commission (SEC) website. Once MECs submit tabulations, the SEC announces initial results. It announces final results immediately, or no later than 24 hours from the day the results become final.<sup>75</sup>

### **How will election disputes be adjudicated?**

Any citizen whose individual voting right has been violated during the election process may submit a complaint in writing to the State Election Commission (SEC) directly or through the relevant Municipal Election Commission (which forwards it to the SEC) within 48 hours of the time when the violation occurred. Similarly, any voter whose individual voting right has been violated abroad at any stage of the election process may submit a complaint to the SEC within 48 hours of the violation via electronic or express mail. The time required to file the complaint begins when the mail is sent. The SEC must then reach a decision within four hours of receiving the complaint. The decision of the SEC may be appealed to the Administrative Court within 48 hours of receipt of the decision. The Administrative Court then must render a decision within 48 hours from receipt of the appeal.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 124.

<sup>73</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 127.

<sup>74</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 113-a (7), (8).

<sup>75</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 135.

<sup>76</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 149-a.

## **Resources**

[Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia](#)

[Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia](#)

[North Macedonia, Presidential and Early Parliamentary Elections, 24 April and 8 May 2024: OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report](#)

[North Macedonia, OSCE/ODIHR Interim Report, 09 April, 2024](#)

[State Election Commission Calendar for the Execution of Electoral Actions for Conducting Elections for the President of the Republic of North Macedonia, 2024](#)

## **About IFES in North Macedonia**

In supporting North Macedonia's ongoing democratic development, IFES delivers targeted assistance to a range of stakeholders – state institutions, political parties, civil society, youth, and citizens – to improve their understanding of electoral process and international good practices, and to advance the country's efforts toward credible and well-administered elections, democratic reforms, and political processes. IFES's long commitment to working with these stakeholders under a range of donors has helped to build and strengthen electoral democracy at the national, regional, and local levels.

## **Disclosure**

These FAQs reflect decisions made by the State Election Commission of the Republic of North Macedonia as of the publication date, April 16, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any IFES policy or technical recommendations.