



International Foundation  
for Electoral Systems

# **Election FAQs: North Macedonia**

*Parliamentary Election*

*May 8, 2024*

Europe & Eurasia

International Foundation for Electoral Systems

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## Election Snapshot

- **Election Day:** May 8, 2024
- **Registered voters:** 1,815,350
- **Polling stations:** 3,360
- **Seats:** 120 in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>
- **Submitters of candidate lists:** 17
- **Campaign expenditure and donation limits:** Individuals can donate up to €3,000 (approximately \$3,250 USD) to election campaigns, and legal entities can donate up to €30,000 (approximately \$32,500 USD).<sup>2</sup> A candidate may spend no more than 110 denars (approximately €1.80, or \$1.90 USD) per voter registered in the electoral district for which the list of candidates has been submitted.<sup>3</sup> Election campaigns may be financed only by funds from the regular bank account of a political party, party membership fees, donations from private persons or legal entities, and bank loans earmarked for election campaigns.<sup>4</sup>

## When is Election Day?

The Republic of North Macedonia will hold parliamentary elections on Wednesday, May 8, 2024. Voting will take place from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.<sup>5</sup> in 3,360 polling stations across the country. Voting will be organized one day prior to Election Day for voters who are sick or infirm;<sup>6</sup> in prison or detention, or under home arrest;<sup>7</sup> or in non-family care institutions;<sup>8</sup> and internally displaced persons.<sup>9</sup>

## Why is this election important?

Parliamentary elections will take place in North Macedonia in a dynamic political environment and among certain ethnic and political tensions in the country. The parliamentary election was originally planned for early July, but it was moved up to coincide with the date of the second round of the presidential election. In the first round of the presidential election, the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO DPMNE)'s Gordana Siljanovska Davkova and the Social Democratic Union's Stevo Pendarovski will were the two candidates that won the most votes, making them eligible to compete in the second round.. Scheduling both elections for the same day is widely considered a strategy to obtain the 40 percent voter turnout required for the results to be valid, as fewer citizens vote in presidential than parliamentary elections. This is because the narrow responsibilities of the president are of less interest to the electorate than parliamentary duties.

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<sup>1</sup> The Electoral Code provides that up to 123 members of Parliament can be elected, with three additional members elected from the out-of-country district if a certain number of votes are cast. Since the number of people who registered for out-of-country voting for the parliamentary elections in 2024 (2,605) is lower than the threshold needed to win a mandate (5,355), out-of-country voting will occur for this election. Therefore, Parliament will have 120 members in the next term.

<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 84.

<sup>4</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 83 (2).

<sup>5</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 101 (1).

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

<sup>7</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 113.

<sup>8</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 111-a (4).

<sup>9</sup> *Handbook for the Execution of Electoral Actions for Conducting Elections for the President of the Republic of North Macedonia*, 2024.

In January 2024, Parliament voted in a technical government led by the former speaker of Parliament, Talat Xhaferi – the country’s first ethnic Albanian prime minister. The technical government serves for 100 days under a mandate to organize free and fair parliamentary elections. The main opposition party, Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE) named ministers and deputy ministers in the caretaker government without voting in favor of the government. In this way, the party made known its disagreement with the appointment of Xhaferi as the caretaker prime minister.

VMRO-DPMNE and other parties also criticized the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (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 they could no longer travel on passports issued by the Republic of Macedonia.<sup>11</sup> In 2022, members of Parliament from the SDSM and their allies proposed an agreement to recognize Bulgarians as an ethnic minority in the country. This move was unwelcome among many who have long disputed North Macedonia’s cultural and linguistic ties with Bulgaria.<sup>12</sup>

With EU accession negotiations ongoing since 2022, North Macedonia is pursuing a path toward European integration. Its EU accession is contingent on implementing constitutional reforms, including formal recognition of ethnic Bulgarians as a minority group in the country.<sup>13</sup> Additionally, more progress is needed in the fight against corruption and to reform the judiciary, protect fundamental freedoms, and several other areas.<sup>14</sup> These issues will feature heavily in the lead-up to and during the parliamentary election.

## Who are citizens voting for on Election Day?

Seventeen political entities have submitted candidate lists for the parliamentary election. These include five coalitions, 11 political parties, and one independent group of voters. Thirteen entities submitted candidate lists for all six electoral districts, and four entities submitted lists for fewer than six electoral districts.<sup>15</sup> Among the larger political contestants to submit candidate lists are the following:

- European Future Coalition, led by the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM, the Social Democrats), which has been in power as the main government coalition partner since 2017. The coalition consists of SDSM and 13 smaller political parties, including those representing people of Turkish, Vlach, and Roma ethnicity.<sup>16</sup>
- Your Macedonia Coalition, led by the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE, Christian-Democratic ideology), the main opposition party, which was in power from 2006 to 2016. The coalition

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<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](#)

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

<sup>13</sup> bne Intellinews. (2024, February 9) [Voters prepare to punish North Macedonia’s ruling SDSM for broken promises](#).

<sup>14</sup> European Commission. (2024, November 8). [North Macedonia 2023 Report](#).

<sup>15</sup> Kolevski, I. (2024, April 3). [SEC receives 17 MP candidate lists for parliamentary elections](#). MIA.

<sup>16</sup> Dimoski, A. (2024, March 27). [SDSM and coalition partners establish “Coalition for European Future.”](#) MIA.

consists of VMRO-DPMNE and 23 smaller political parties, including some representing ethnic communities of Turks, Vlachs, Serbs, Bosniaks, and Roma people.<sup>17</sup>

- European Front Coalition, led by the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI), the largest party among ethnic Albanian voters and the second-largest partner in the current government coalition. It has been in power continuously since 2008. The coalition consists of DUI and eight smaller parties, some representing ethnic communities of Turks, Bosniaks, and Roma people.<sup>18</sup>
- VLEN Coalition, branded as the united Albanian opposition bloc, the main rival of DUI among ethnic Albanian voters. The coalition comprises several parties: the Democratic Movement; BESA; Alternativa; part of the Alliance for Albanians party, and supporters of the Self-Determination Party of Kosovar Prime Minister Albin Kurti. The goal of this opposition bloc is to push the long-standing DUI out of government.<sup>19</sup>
- The Levica (Socialist) party, formed in 2015. Two members of Parliament were party members in the previous parliamentary term, and the party is vying to position itself as the third main party among Macedonian voters.<sup>20</sup>
- ZNAM (For Our Macedonia), a new party formed just months before the elections. It consists primarily of former members of the ruling SDSM party. Its leader is contesting the for the presidency and the party is expected to gain several seats in Parliament. Thus, it could play a crucial role in the post-election process for forming the new government.<sup>21</sup>
- Brave for Macedonia Coalition, composed of the political parties Citizen Option for Macedonia (GROM), Macedonian Conservative Party, and the Party for Full Emancipation of Roma.<sup>22</sup> The leader of GROM, Stevcho Jakimovski, the coalition candidate in the presidential election, was banned from entering the United States due to accusations of corruption and using his position to interfere with public procurement and privatization efforts.<sup>23</sup>

## What is the electoral system?

The 120 members of North Macedonia's Parliament (MPs) will be elected through closed-list proportional representation system. The country is divided into six electoral districts, each of which will elect 20 MPs. Seats in Parliament will be allocated according to the D'Hondt method.<sup>24</sup> To nominate MPs, registered political parties, coalitions, and groups of voters may submit candidate lists to the State Election Commission for approval.<sup>25</sup> When the submitter of a list of candidates for MPs is a group of voters, the group must collect the signatures of at least 1 percent of voters registered on the voter list of the relevant electoral district.<sup>26</sup> MPs are elected to a four-year mandate and have no term limits.

<sup>17</sup> Marusic, B.A. (2024, March 29). [VMRO-DPMNE signs charter with election coalition partners](#). MIA.mk.

<sup>18</sup> Nikolik, N. (2024, March 28). [Sela's wing of AA joins in coalition with DUI's "European Front" in upcoming elections](#). MIA.mk.

<sup>19</sup> SOT. (2024, February 17). [The Albanian opposition unites in RMV, the "VLEN" Coalition is 'reborn'](#).

<sup>20</sup> Kolevski, I. (2024, March 20). [Levica unveils election list principals](#). MIA.mk.

<sup>21</sup> Dimoski, A. (2024, March 22). [ZNAM Movement unveils list principals](#). MIA.mk.

<sup>22</sup> Nikolik, N. (2024, March 27). [GROM, INTEGR, PCER sign coalition agreement](#). MIA.mk.

<sup>23</sup> RFE/RL Balkan Service. (2024, March 19). [U.S. Bans Entry to Officials of North Macedonia, Kosovo over Suspicion of Corruption](#). Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

<sup>24</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 127-a (4).

<sup>25</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 60.

<sup>26</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 61 (1).

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

Elections in North Macedonia are regulated primarily by the Electoral Code, last updated in March and April 2024, after the elections were announced.<sup>27</sup> The legal framework also includes the Constitution, updated in 2019,<sup>28</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>29</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.

## Who is eligible to run as a candidate?

A citizen of North Macedonia may run for a seat in Parliament if he or she is at least 18 years old and has legal capacity.

Citizens who have been sentenced to more than six months in prison and have not started serving the sentence, and those in prison for committing a criminal offense, cannot run for Parliament.<sup>30</sup>

## What are the campaign expenditure and donation limits?

Expenditures by election campaigns are limited to no more than 110 denars, or roughly \$1.90, per voter registered in the electoral district for which the candidate list has been submitted.<sup>31</sup> Each participant in the election is required to establish a tax number, open a bank account for the campaign, and ensure campaign funds are not used for any other purpose.<sup>32</sup> Election campaigns may be financed only with 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 (about \$3,250 USD), donations from legal entities of up to the equivalent of €30,000 (about \$32,500 USD), and political parties' bank loans earmarked for election campaigns.<sup>33</sup> 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 amounts noted above. 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>

Each campaign 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>

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<sup>27</sup> [Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia.](#)

<sup>28</sup> [Constitution of the Republic of North Macedonia.](#)

<sup>29</sup> [State Election Commission of North Macedonia.](#)

<sup>30</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 7.

<sup>31</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 84.

<sup>32</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 71.

<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).

The state pays for all political advertising for elections in broadcast, print, and online media. The SEC reimburses media outlets and platforms directly. The funds for paid political advertising from the state budget must not exceed the equivalent of €2 per registered voter.<sup>38</sup>

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

The State Election Commission (SEC) is North Macedonia's primary election management body. It comprises a president, vice president, and five members.<sup>39</sup> Currently, only two of the seven members are women – less than the required 30 percent.<sup>40</sup> Opposition political parties nominate the president and two members of the SEC, and the ruling political parties nominate the vice-president and three members. Members of Parliament select nominees through a two-thirds majority.<sup>41</sup> Upon election, all members of the SEC serve five-year terms.<sup>42</sup>

For this election, lower-level election bodies include 80 municipal election commissions (MECs)<sup>43</sup> and 3,480 election boards (EBs).<sup>44</sup> Each MEC consists of five members and their deputies, selected randomly from among public servants. MEC members serve five-year terms,<sup>45</sup> and EB members serve four-year terms. Three of the five members of each EB are public servants, and two are political appointees.<sup>46</sup> Each has a deputy.<sup>47</sup>

The SEC, MECs, and EBs are responsible for the administration of the entire 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>48</sup> All election management bodies are responsible for safeguarding legality in the preparation and administration of elections in accordance with the Electoral Code.<sup>49</sup>

## **Who can vote in this election, and how many registered voters are there?**

All citizens who are at least 18 years old on Election Day, including all citizens who are temporarily employed or residing abroad, have the right to vote, except those who do not have legal capacity based on a court decision.<sup>50</sup> All citizens who turned 18 years of age on or before Election Day, in line with the act for announcement of elections, and who have residence in the territory of the country, shall be registered in the Voter Register.<sup>51</sup> Registration for in-country voting is passive. The SEC compiles voter lists based on data from the Ministry of Interior. A total of 1,815,350 voters are registered in-country. Out-of-country voting will not take place during this election (see “Is out-of-country voting allowed?”).

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<sup>38</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 76-e.

<sup>39</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 26 (1).

<sup>40</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 21 (3).

<sup>41</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 27 (6).

<sup>42</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 26 (4).

<sup>43</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 33 (1).

<sup>44</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 113-a (2).

<sup>45</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 34.

<sup>46</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 38 (4)(5)(6).

<sup>47</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 34 (3).

<sup>48</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 31 (2) and Article 37 (2).

<sup>49</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 31 (1) and Article 37 (1).

<sup>50</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 6.

<sup>51</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 41 (4).

The March 2024 legal amendments eliminate the requirement for citizens to possess valid identification documents to maintain inclusion in the voter register, in line with a previous Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) recommendation. To mitigate severe delays in replacing documents that became invalid following the country's name change in 2019, citizens whose identity documents expired up to nine months before Election Day will be permitted to use those outdated documents as voter identification.<sup>52</sup>

## **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>53</sup> Additionally, election boards are required to facilitate voting for persons with disabilities who cannot enter a polling station.<sup>54</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 or five kilometers in a rural settlement. No polling stations are established in areas where there are fewer than 10, or more than 1,000 voters.<sup>55</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 can cast their ballots in a special ballot box from home one day before Election Day.<sup>56</sup>

Voters in non-family care institutions were able to register to vote in the institution by submitting a request to the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy not later than the date when public inspection of the voters' list ended (in this case, March 18, 2024). They will vote one day prior to Election Day.<sup>57</sup>

Members of election management bodies (EMBs) should consist of at least 30 percent of each sex,<sup>58</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>59</sup> Therefore, on Election Day voting materials will be provided in Macedonian; in Albanian in 25 municipalities;<sup>60</sup> and in other minority languages, such as Turkish, in five municipalities,<sup>61</sup> Serbian in three,<sup>62</sup> and Roma in one.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> [OSCE/ODIHR Interim Report, 09 April 2024](#).

<sup>53</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 112 (1).

<sup>54</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 112-a.

<sup>55</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 166.

<sup>56</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 111 (4).

<sup>57</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 111-a (4).

<sup>58</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 21 (3).

<sup>59</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 23 (3).

<sup>60</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>61</sup> Centar Zupa, Gostivar, Plasnica, Vrapciste, Mavrovo I Rostuse.

<sup>62</sup> Kumanovo, Staro Nagoricane, Cucer Sandevo.

<sup>63</sup> Shuto Orizare.



## Is out-of-country voting allowed?

Out-of-country voting is allowed by law for parliamentary elections, for which citizens had to actively register by March 18 via an online application available on the State Election Commission website, or hand-signed applications submitted to diplomatic-consular offices and then sent to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by March 18.<sup>64</sup> However, the number of people who registered for out-of-country voting for the 2024 parliamentary election (2,605) is lower than the number required to win a mandate (5,355). Therefore, out-of-country voting will not occur for this election.<sup>65</sup>

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

The State Election Commission (SEC) determines election observation procedures. International organizations, representatives of foreign countries, and domestic and foreign organizations 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>66</sup> Interested observers may apply for accreditation to the SEC from the day of the announcement of the election until 10 days before Election Day. Within seven days of receiving a request, the SEC must issue observer authorizations to approved organizations.<sup>67</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 may 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 presidential and parliamentary elections. Starting on March 27, the OSCE/ODIHR deployed 12 core experts from OSCE participant states and 20 long-term observers throughout the country.<sup>68</sup> The OSCE also requested the deployment of 300 short-term observers to monitor Election Day nationwide.<sup>69</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 closing 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

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<sup>64</sup> Republic of North Macedonia State Election Commission. [PUBLIC CALL for registration and inspection of the Electoral List for voting abroad for the parliamentary elections in the Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia](#). February 14, 2024.

<sup>65</sup> Reed, M. (2024, March 20). [SEC: Diaspora voters to vote only for President; not enough interest for parliamentary elections](#). MIA.

<sup>66</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 161.

<sup>67</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 162.

<sup>68</sup> Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. (2024, March 21). [ODHIR opens elections observation mission in North Macedonia](#).

<sup>69</sup> Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe-Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. (2024, February 29). [Republic of North Macedonia, Presidential and Early Parliamentary Elections](#).

president or deputy president, the police may remove unauthorized persons from the building or room where voting is taking place, or from 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>70</sup>

## **Where are vote counting and tabulation held?**

After voting ends, the election board (EB) must immediately start to count ballots and tabulating results at the polling station. This process begins with EB members tallying the number of people who voted, including those who used biometric identification devices and who provided signatures or fingerprints upon check-in. Next, EB members count all unused ballots, after which 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 other EB members and observers. The EB then decides whether 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>71</sup> Once MECs complete tabulation, they send all election materials, including results protocols, to the State Election Commission.<sup>72</sup>

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

Upon receipt of results from polling stations, municipal election commissions (MECs) enter them electronically into a preliminary protocol and immediately make them available on the State Election Commission (SEC) website. Once MECs submit their tabulations, the SEC announces preliminary results. It will review MEC protocols and then announce final results immediately, or no later than 24 hours from when the results become final.<sup>73</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 will forward it to the SEC) within 48 hours of the violation. The 48-hour period begins when the mail is sent. The SEC must reach a decision within four hours after receiving the complaint. Its decision 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 after it receives the appeal.<sup>74</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 102.

<sup>71</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 124.

<sup>72</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 127.

<sup>73</sup> Electoral Code of the Republic of North Macedonia, Article 135.

<sup>74</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](#)

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

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

## **About IFES in North Macedonia**

IFES's work in the Balkans includes over a decade of targeted electoral assistance in the region and over two decades of technical specialization on strengthening electoral processes. In light of recent political developments in North Macedonia, the will for reforms and more transparent, democratic processes has enabled IFES to increase its impact. In supporting North Macedonia's ongoing democratic development, IFES delivers targeted assistance to a range of stakeholders – state institutions, political parties, civil society, and citizens – to increase their knowledge and understanding of the electoral process and international good practices.

## **Disclosure**

These FAQs reflect decisions made by the State Election Commission of the Republic of North Macedonia as of the publication date, April 30, to the best of our knowledge. This document does not represent any IFES policy or technical recommendations.