

**FINAL REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF LONG-TERM  
OBSERVATION OF THE REPEAT ELECTIONS OF DEPUTIES  
TO LOCAL COUNCILS IN THE CITIES OF BISHKEK, OSH  
AND TOKMOK, SCHEDULED FOR JULY 11, 2021**

**OBSERVATION PERIOD FROM JUNE 21 TO JULY 31  
2021**

**THE COMMON CAUSE PUBLIC FOUNDATION**

**AUGUST 2021**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

3

1.	4
2.	6
3.	7
4.	8
5.	9
6.	12
7.	13
8.	15
9.	16
10.	21
11.	24
12.	25

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ARBB	Automatically Reading Ballot Box
CEC of the KR	Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic
FL	Fuels and lubricants
Foundation	Common Cause Public Foundation
JK of the KR	Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic
KR	Kyrgyz Republic
LTO	Long-term observer
Media	Mass media
PEC	Precinct Election Commission
PIN	Personal Identification Number
PP	Political Party
President of the KR	President of the Kyrgyz Republic
RRCG	Rapid Response Coordination Group
STO	Short-term observer
TEC	Territorial Election Commission

## 1. SUMMARY

The Common Cause Public Foundation (hereinafter – the Foundation) has prepared a final report on the results of observation of the preparation and conduct of the repeat elections of deputies to city councils in the cities of Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok held on July 11, 2021

Due to the lack of available information, the data obtained by the Foundation does not allow for a full assessment of the past election campaign, however, it does provide an opportunity to highlight major trends and problems.

The Foundation, based on the results of the limited monitoring of the organization and conduct of repeat elections of deputies to the city councils of Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok cities, notes the following:

- The repeat elections took place against the background of the economic crisis, the peak of the third wave of the COVID epidemic, political reforms, the election of a new composition of the Central Election Commission (CEC), complete changes in the composition of Territorial Election Commissions (TEC) in Osh and Tokmok cities and partial changes in the composition of the Bishkek TEC, as well as in a number of Precinct Election Commissions (PECs).
- Despite the mentioned problems and tight timeframes, the elections were organized in accordance with the norms of electoral legislation. However, such manipulations as vote-buying and abuse of administrative resources have been repeated in these elections and, as such, are taking even more covert forms and may continue to influence the election results.
- In general, the stages of registration of voters and candidate lists took place within the established procedures and deadlines. At the stage of registration of candidate lists there were complaints filed against the registration of new parties due to their non-participation in the elections on April 11, 2021. However, the Foundation considers the gap in the legislation regarding the prohibition of participation of political parties whose actions led to the invalidation of the voting results to be a more significant problem which requires detailed legislative regulation
- Due to the political "migration" of candidates from one political party to another, the candidate lists of political organizations have undergone significant changes compared to the elections held on April 11, 2021. Thus, at the repeat elections, some candidates were nominated in the lists of other political parties. This circumstance indicates the instability of individual political parties, the weak political consciousness of individual candidates, which ultimately complicates the choice for voters and negatively affects the trust in the institutions of political parties and elections in general.
- The pre-election campaigning, according to public observers, was relatively passive compared to previous election campaigns. A decrease in the activity of both political parties and the electorate was noted.
- It is worth noting that law enforcement agencies were more active in responding to received signals about possible violations of the electoral legislation, while in some cases they themselves directly identified the facts of possible violations.
- Based on independent observation, the day of voting outside the premises went in accordance with the law, except for isolated cases of violations of certain procedures.
- On the day of voting in the premises, the polling stations opened on time according to the law with minor procedural violations. The voting process proceeded calmly in accordance with the law,

with isolated cases of violations of the secrecy of the vote and technical failures. Public observers noted fewer violations on the day of voting outside the premises compared to the day of voting inside the premises. Some cases of pressure on the public observers, the presence of outsiders, as well as athletically built persons in the polling stations in Osh and Tokmok cities, in which this phenomenon is repeated from one election campaign to another, are a cause for concern. The Foundation notes that the signals about the violations on the polling day were received more often on the situations outside the polling stations from different electoral subjects. The closing and counting procedures were conducted in a timely manner and in accordance with the law with an isolated case of infringement of the rights of public observers.

➤ Earlier, the Foundation predicted a low turnout at the repeat elections. This prediction was confirmed, and, in this regard, the Foundation notes the problem of political non-participation of the electorate, which in turn leads to the fact that only a small part of the electorate makes a decision and chooses the authorities. In addition to the reasons related to the summer period, the pandemic, and economic problems, the non-participation of a large portion of voters may be due to the following reasons:

- low activity of political parties during the campaign period;
- non-transparent and incomprehensible practice of the formation of candidate lists by political parties for voters, which makes it difficult for the electorate to make a choice;
- the inability of political parties to interest most of the electorate to participate in repeat elections to city councils;
- the influence of financial resources on the voting results, when a significant part of the electorate believes that only the candidates and parties with large financial resources can get deputy seats;
- the electorate's exhaustion from the elections, due to the fact that four election campaigns and two referendums have taken place in the last 10 months;
- the belief of a certain part of the electorate that their votes won't make any difference;
- and other reasons.

➤ The tabulation process in all TECs was conducted in compliance with the deadlines. According to the monitoring results, tabulation of results in Bishkek and Osh cities took place in accordance with the law after the processing of all complaints and petitions. However, in Tokmok city the review process of complaints by the TEC raises questions about the legality of decisions made, some of which were cancelled by the CEC, which in turn led to the dissolution of the Tokmok TEC for the second time.

Thus, the repeat elections to the city councils of Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok were generally held within the deadlines and in accordance with the law. However, the Foundation notes that the last election campaign was held under the conditions of indifference to the elections on the part of different participants in the electoral process. A situation where certain political parties once again did not want to recognize the election results due to bribery and abuse of administrative resources by a number of other political parties was repeated, as well as some candidates who were suspected of violations during the past elections were registered. With regard to the work of law enforcement agencies, it remains unclear to the public, why so many cases are written off to the nomenclature.

The Foundation extends its gratitude to volunteers, public observers, the media, civil society organizations, election commissions, and government agencies for their assistance in conducting the independent observation.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

The Common Cause Public Foundation is a non-profit organization established to monitor elections of various levels in the Kyrgyz Republic, implement civic education projects, and promote greater citizen participation in decision-making processes. The Foundation supports the conduct of free and fair elections and the development of civil society and democracy in Kyrgyzstan<sup>1</sup>.

The Foundation's activities are aimed at building effective interaction with the authorities and the population through dialogue, monitoring of important political processes, participation in decision-making processes and ensuring transparency of their promotion in order to protect the rights and freedoms of citizens, to take joint actions for the sustainable democratic development of the country.

The purpose of elections observation is to provide the citizens and election stakeholders with a professional, non-partisan and timely assessment of the compliance with international standards and the national legislation, including the information on potential violations, voter turnout and election results.

Long-term observation is conducted for the purpose of:

- ensuring a fair electoral process in accordance with international standards and national legislation.
- analyzing the electoral legislation in order to draw up recommendations for its further improvement.
- detecting violations and falsification of elections and reporting on them.
- providing verified, timely and unbiased information about the pre-election and post-election periods.

Long-term observation covers the procedures of nomination and registration of candidates from political parties, the formation and the activities of election commissions at all levels, the informing and pre-election campaign period, the activities of election commissions on election day and the summing up of the results of elections of deputies to local councils of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The Foundation's long-term observation is carried out by the head office and 8 long-term observers, who are present in all regions of the country. Observers collect information about the work of territorial and precinct election commissions, headquarters of political parties and their representatives, and monitor the campaigning process.

During the period of repeat elections of deputies to local councils in Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok, scheduled for July 11, 2021, the Common Cause Public Foundation carried out the **following work:**

- Informing voters about their rights;
- Long-term observation of the process of preparation and conduct of elections, including the work of election commissions, election campaigning, informing citizens, as well as the post-election period;
- Limited short-term observation on the polling day;
- Monitoring of the electoral disputes.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://commoncause.kg/about>

The Common Cause Public Foundation conducted the **long-term observation** of the repeat elections of deputies to three city councils:

1. Bishkek city
2. Osh city
3. Tokmok city

During the long-term observation in the pre-election period, the Foundation monitored the activities of the CEC, TECs and political parties (the Foundation surveyed representatives of political parties) and recorded the violations.

Violations are classified into three types:

1. Form on the abuse of administrative resources, pressure, violence and threats.
2. Form on vote-buying
3. Form on violations of election campaigning rules

The head office staff, legal experts, regional coordinators, three LTOs in Osh city, four LTOs in Bishkek city and one LTO in Tokmok city were involved to conduct long-term observation of the elections of deputies to local councils.

The head office, as part of the project on observing the elections of deputies to local councils, coordinates the process of long-term observation in the pre-election period.

Short-term observation was carried out in all three cities - Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok. On the day of voting outside the premises, stationary observers covered 43 PECs, including 25 in Bishkek, 15 in Osh and 3 in Tokmok. On the election day, stationary observers covered 52 PECs out of 326, including 31 in Bishkek, 18 in Osh and 3 in Tokmok. In addition, eight mobile groups from the Foundation's staff worked in Bishkek, five in Osh, and one in Tokmok. Mobile teams monitored the outside of polling stations. According to the data obtained, mobile groups covered 53 PECs.

Google Form was used to collect data. Stationary observers collected the data on the opening, closing, and tabulation procedures, as well as the voting process, using forms specially developed by the Foundation. Mobile teams assessed the situation outside the voting premises and the voting process itself at the visited polling stations. Furthermore, a team of lawyers worked at the Foundation's headquarters to process signals of violations from stationary and mobile observers.

The Common Cause Public Foundation notes that the assessment of the repeat elections is based on full observation of the pre-election period, stationary observation of 43 PECs on field voting day, 52 PECs on the election day, and mobile observation of 53 PECs in the three cities.

### **3. ABOUT ELECTIONS**

Elections of deputies to local councils, including 28 city councils, were held on April 11, 2021. In 25 of them the elections were recognized as valid. In three cities (Bishkek, Osh, and Tokmok), the election results were declared void due to numerous violations.

In accordance with the Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic "On the appointment of repeat elections of deputies to Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok city councils of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated May 27, 2021 No. 231, elections will be held on July 11, 2021 in three cities of Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok.

On May 28, 2021, the CEC approved the "Calendar Plan" of the core organizational and practical measures for the preparation and conduct of repeat elections of deputies to Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok city councils of the Kyrgyz Republic, scheduled for July 11, 2021.

According to the legislation on elections of deputies to local councils, the time limit for repeat elections is reduced by one third. Thus, 20 days before election day, meaning on June 20, 2021, the registration of candidate lists of political parties for the elections of deputies to Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok city councils was completed.

The results of the April 11 election were cancelled due to the fault of candidates from several parties, and those parties were allowed to run again in the repeat election, and new parties that did not run in the election of April 11, 2021, were also allowed to participate. The CEC notes that the candidates against whom the court ruled that they had violated the law in the April 11 elections will not be allowed to run in the repeat elections. Yet the law does not provide for the exclusion of the entire party from the repeat elections.

Territorial election commissions in three cities have registered the lists of candidates from 26 parties.

The total number of candidates on the registered lists was 2,359 . In Bishkek, there are 1,314 candidates from 18 parties, in Osh - 691 candidates from 9 parties, and in Tokmok - 354 candidates from 6 parties.

Lists of all candidates from political parties are published in the local media, as well as posted on the CEC website, in the "**Talapker**" system at <https://talapker.shailoo.gov.kg>, where the parties must also submit their election programs for publication, and information about the receipt and expenditure of party election funds.

In accordance with the law, 20 days are allocated for campaigning in the city councils of Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok (from June 20 to 8:00 a.m. on July 10, 2021). July 10 is the day of election silence and election outside the premises will be held, where those citizens who were not able to vote at the polling station and who submitted their applications three days before the election day will vote. July 11 is the election day.

- Persons wishing to become deputies of city councils must be nominated as members of a party as well, that is, on party lists under the proportional representation system.

- The 7 percent threshold is maintained for parties wishing to be elected to the city councils of the aforementioned cities, as it was before.

#### 4. SOCIO-POLITICAL SITUATION

The pre-election period for the repeat elections to the city councils was held under the conditions of the peak of the third wave of COVID-19 epidemic, the tense socio-political situation in the country, political reforms and the summer period, during which the electorate is, a priori, passive in the electoral processes.

Regarding the social and economic situation in the country, the Foundation notes increased tension among the population due to rising food prices, drought in some regions, electricity, and gas cuts, growing unemployment, increasing crime, low vaccination rates and an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases.

As of July 30, 2021, a total of 161,973 confirmed COVID-19 cases have been recorded across the country, with 958 new cases detected in the last 24 hours, <sup>2</sup>of which 574 are in Bishkek, 6 in Osh, and 128 in the Chui oblast. The chart below shows that Kyrgyzstan is experiencing the peak of the third wave of COVID-19 epidemic growth. Independent experts predicted the peak of COVID-19 infections in July 2021, and the postponement of repeat elections in the three cities was not considered, political parties themselves did not ask for a postponement of repeat elections. Such a

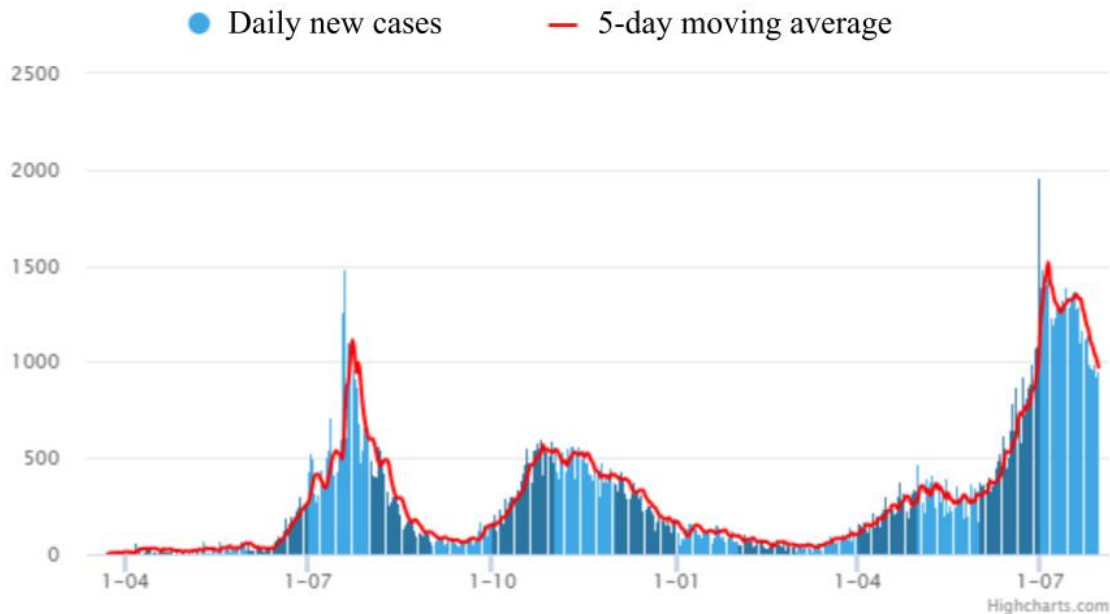
---

<sup>2</sup> Data from the Ministry of Health,



situation could lead to negative consequences in the future, namely a decrease in the level of confidence in elected deputies.

**Figure 1. Statistics of COVID-19 cases, 2020-2021<sup>3</sup>**



## 5. ACTIVITIES OF ELECTION COMMISSIONS

As noted earlier, the results of the elections of deputies to city councils in Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok on April 11, 2021, were declared void. Moreover, the liability of Osh and Tokmok territorial election commissions was addressed, as a result of which these TECs were dissolved and approved in new compositions.

The Foundation also notes that the polling day and tabulation of the results of the repeat elections of deputies of local keneshes was carried out by the new composition of the CEC.

The composition of Bishkek TEC also underwent changes, where the former chairman of Bishkek TEC Kairat Mamatov joined the CEC, consequently, new TEC members were introduced from the reserve, Stamov Aibek Kubatovich was elected as chairman of Bishkek TEC and Konurov Bakhadyr Arunovich as secretary.

In addition, due to the expiration of the CEC term of office, Jogorku Kenesh deputies voted to elect 12 new CEC members at the June 30 session.

According to the new constitutional law "On the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic" signed by the President Sadyr Japarov, 50% of candidates to the CEC are nominated by the head of state, the remaining 50% are nominated by the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic. Thus, the new composition of the CEC is as follows:

CEC members nominated from JK of the KR:

1. Uzarbek Zhylykbayev (SDPK)

<sup>3</sup> <https://zdorovie.akipress.org/news:1692857>

- ; 2. Akylbek Eshimov ("Kyrgyzstan") (repeatedly);
3. Kairat Mamatov ("Respublika–Ata Jurt") (former head of the Bishkek TEC);
4. Tynchtyk Shainazarov ("Onuguu-Progress") (repeatedly);
5. Abdyzhapar Bekmatov ("Bir Bol") (repeatedly);
6. Iskender Gaipkulov ("Ata Meken");

CEC members nominated by the President of the Kyrgyz Republic:

7. Nurzhan Shaildabekova (repeatedly);
8. Mars Naspekov;
9. Anar Dubanbaeva;
10. Nurlan Koichukeev;
11. Akbalyk Zhumalieva;
12. Aidan Zhupuev.

The Foundation's observers carry out observation in the CEC and following TECs:

- 1) Bishkek TEC
- 2) Osh TEC
- 3) Tokmok TEC

Territorial election commissions handle the main workload in local elections. Accordingly, the role of each TEC in local elections is important, requiring more autonomy than in parliamentary and presidential elections, but the overall coordination and approval of election results is done by the CEC.

The observation showed that all TECs were formed in accordance with the requirements of electoral legislation. The registration of public observers at all TECs was easy as long as they presented the necessary referrals.

The TECs of Bishkek and Tokmok were available for observation in the pre-election period during the reporting period. In Bishkek, due to the aggravation of COVID-19 epidemic, Foundation's observers monitored the activities of the TEC remotely. A quorum was observed at all TEC meetings.

TECs in Bishkek and Tokmok were notified of upcoming meetings, mostly by meeting with TEC members in person. The Foundation's observers noted that during the meetings in Bishkek and Tokmok TECs sanitary rules were observed partially. It was noted, however, that election commission workers were at increased risk of COVID-19 infection and some of them were in isolation.

When considering complaints, applications and appeals, TECs did not always meet the deadlines for consideration. For example, in Osh, the process of reviewing complaints and appeals was delayed.

During the monitoring, the public observers of the Foundation in Osh city were not notified by the Osh TEC about the upcoming meetings of the working groups and the Commission itself, and were not invited, and in some cases were not allowed to the working group meetings. Besides, a number of applications were sent to the Osh TEC, which were not considered in a timely manner and the copies of the decisions made were not handed over to the public observers of the Foundation in time. The Foundation filed an appeal to the CEC in connection with the above-mentioned facts. The facts stated by the Foundation were confirmed in the course of consideration of this appeal.

TECs made a number of decisions when considering violations committed by political parties:

On June 23, 2021, the working group on control of compliance with the procedure of carrying out election campaign of Bishkek TEC considered the messages received from RRCG of the KR CEC and posts published in social networks by political parties "Ishenim", "Reforma" and "Stolitsa", as well as by a candidate from political party "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan" with indications of premature election campaigning and decided to issue an oral warning to a candidate from political party "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan" K.K. Kongantiev, as well as the political parties "Ishenim", "Reforma", and "Democratic Party "Stolitsa" on the inadmissibility of violation of election campaign rules.

On July 3, 2021, the Bishkek TEC at its meeting considered the applications against the political party "Bizdin Kyrgyzstan" for the use in their campaign materials of a photo with the image of a political figure of another state, which is a violation of the requirements of Part 2, Article 28 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On Elections of Deputies of the Local Councils". As a result of the consideration, a decision was made to issue a written warning to the political party "Bizdin Kyrgyzstan".

Regarding the information disseminated in the media, on the published video in the social network, where the candidate of the political party "Kelechek-Budushchee" advocates the legalization of bigamy, the political party "Reforma" in its application refers to the Constitution of the KR, the Criminal Code of the KR and the Law "On Elections of Deputies of the Local Councils".

Based on the results of the consideration, Bishkek TEC did not find any violations of the Law "On Elections of Deputies of the Local Councils", however, it advised the applicant to refer to law enforcement bodies to identify signs of criminal offence in the statement of candidate Abdykaimova N., as well as to remove the published video to avoid creating a negative public opinion.

Based on the video published in the Facebook social network, where the candidate from the "Emgek" party S. Dolotbakov paints a bench in one of the courtyards of Oktyabrsky district of Bishkek, as well as photos with children, and having considered the additional video materials presented by the candidate, the Bishkek TEC has not identified any violation of the election campaigning procedure and rules.

On July 10, 2021, the CEC at its meeting considered the Foundation's complaint against the decision of the Osh TEC on the fact of vote buying by the party "Yntymak" in Osh.

At the CEC meeting, it was noted that the suspects of vote-buying were detained in Osh city on 7 July. Specifically, three people were detained in one of the houses on Zhumabaev Street; they had 115,000 soms and a list of voters registered at that polling station. In the course of the investigation, it was established that all the detainees were supporters of the party "Yntymak", including the candidate B. Latihanov. M. Mamataliev, the leader of the party "Yntymak", spoke at the meeting and said that after the incident the detained candidate was expelled from the party, but, as it turned out, the court let him go. He asked the CEC members to support the decision of the CEC working group to issue a warning to the party, but not to withdraw it from the election.

Nurjan Shaildabekova, head of the CEC, noted that the party is responsible for its candidates and proposed to cancel the registration of the party's candidate list. She also pointed out that Osh TEC had all the evidence of violations from the law enforcement bodies. In this case, there was an inaction on the part of the Osh TEC to take measures for such a gross violation of the law, she added. In his turn, M. Mamataliev asked the CEC members to allow the party itself to withdraw its candidate list for the elections to the Osh city council.

As a result of the discussion, the CEC members, accepting the statement of M. Mamataliev, made a decision to cancel the registration of the candidate list from "Yntymak" party and also warned the Osh TEC about the inadmissibility of inaction in cases of violation of the electoral legislation.

## 6. VOTER REGISTRATION

On June 9, 2021, the CEC of the KR posted a preliminary voters' list on the state voter portal "[Tizme](https://tizme.gov.kg/)" - <https://tizme.gov.kg/> and on June 20, 2021, the control list for the repeat elections to local councils in Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok was posted, and the final list was posted at the polling stations before July 9, 2021. However, on July 2, 2021, the deadline for the verification in the lists of citizens and the submission of applications expired. Thus, the final list included 426,699 voters in Bishkek, 152,718 voters in Osh, and 38,100 voters in Tokmok.

Voters could clarify their polling station (number and address) and check themselves in the voter lists on the state voter portal "[Tizme](https://tizme.gov.kg/)" - at <https://tizme.gov.kg/>, or by calling the short number 1255, as well as by calling or sending an SMS to the number **119** with their PIN - number indicated in their passport.

In order for the citizens to participate in the elections of deputies to local councils, the citizens' address of residence registration must correspond to the address / record in the chip of residence in the passport.

**Table 1. The number of voters on the list for the repeat elections of deputies of local councils in three cities, on June 20, 2021.**

Cities	Number of the PECs	Preliminary list Number of voters as of 09.06.2021	Control list Number of voters as of 20.06.2021	09.06.21/ 20.06.21 comparison	Final list 02.07.01	20.06.21/0 2.07.01 comparison
Bishkek TEC	228	424,847	425,107	260	426,699	1,592
Osh TEC	78	148,144	148,224	80	152,718	4,494
Tokmok TEC	20	37,164	37,134	-30	38,100	966

**Table 2. The number of voters in the control list for the elections of deputies to local councils, as of April 2, 2021, by gender and age.**

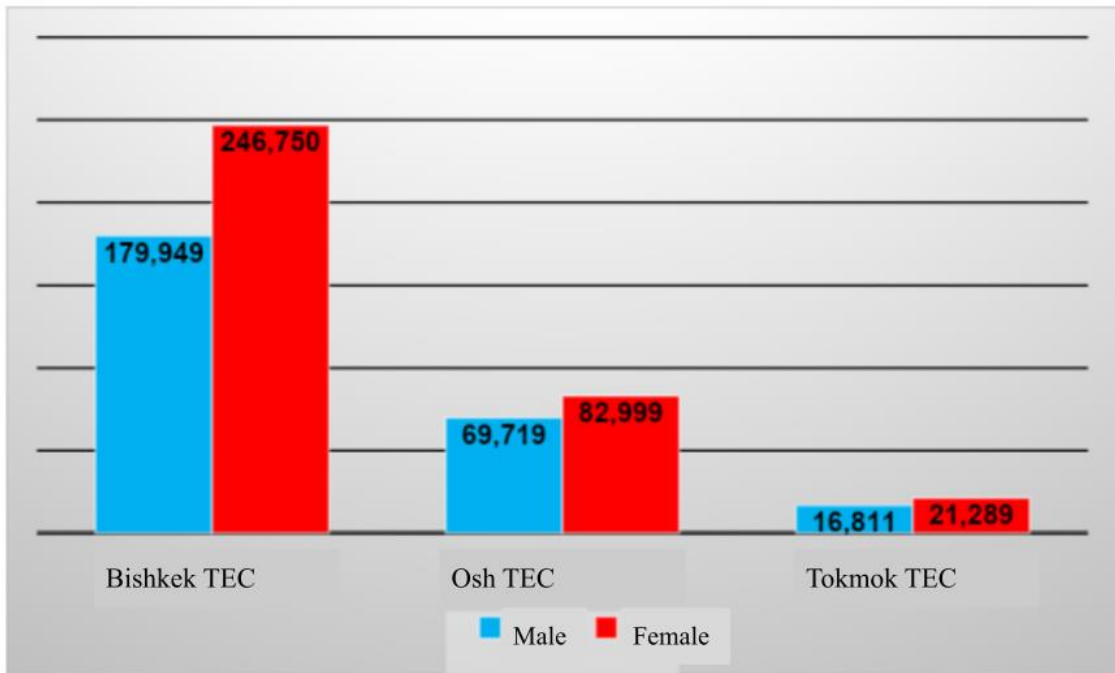
Territorial election commissions	By gender		By age					
	men	women	~ 29	30 ~ 39	40 ~ 49	50 ~ 59	60 ~ 69	70+ ~
Bishkek TEC	179,949	246,750	101,331	100,012	77,640	68,862	48,831	30,023
Osh TEC	69,719	82,999	42,773	38,408	24,791	23,262	16,737	6,747
Tokmok TEC	16,811	21,289	10,318	8,670	6,518	6,037	4,486	2,071

As of July 2, 2021, the number of voters in the control voters' list for repeat elections of deputies of local councils is as follows: 426,699 voters in Bishkek, from which men - 179,949, women - 246,750 or 42.2% and 57.8% respectively, with an increase by 1,592 voters compared to the control list of June 20, 2021.

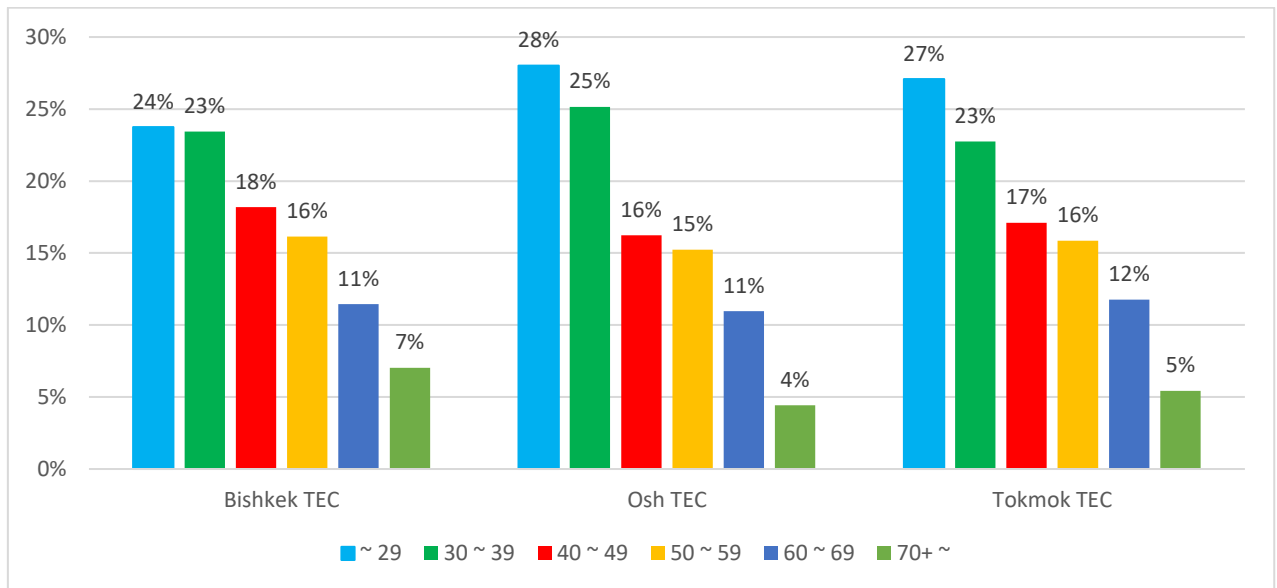
In Osh - 152,718 voters, 69,719 men and 82,999 women or 45.6% and 54.4% respectively, with an increase by 4,494 voters.

In Tokmok - 38,100 voters, of which 16,811 - men, 21,289 - women or 44.1% and 55.9% respectively, the number of voters in Tokmok city also increased by 966 people.

**Figure 2. Voter gender representation in Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok cities**



**Figure 3. Voter age categories in Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok cities**



## 7. ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The pre-election campaigning, according to observers, was relatively passive compared to previous election campaigns. A decrease in the activity of both political parties and the electorate was noted.

On June 13, 2021, according to the CEC Calendar Plan for the preparation and conduct of repeat elections of deputies of Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok city councils, scheduled for July 11, 2021, the stage of the nomination of candidate lists from political parties for the repeat elections of deputies of Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok city councils was completed.

Candidates from 26 parties registered for repeat elections to the city councils of Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok. Of these, 18 were registered in the Bishkek city council, nine in Osh, and six in Tokmok.

**Table 3. Information about three city councils.**

No.	Name of the city council	Number of seats	Number of political parties	Number of candidates	Men	Women
	<b>3 city councils</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2,359</b>	<b>1,459</b>	<b>900</b>
1	<a href="#">Bishkek city council</a>	45	18	1,314	798	516
2	<a href="#">Osh city council</a>	45	9	691	440	251
3	<a href="#">Tokmok city council</a>	31	6	354	221	133

As a result, Bishkek TEC registered candidate lists from 18 parties: "Emgek", "Onuguu-Progress", "Turan", "Bizdin El", "Zamandash", "Capital", "Green Party", "Yntymak", "Bizdin Kyrgyzstan", "Social Democrats", "Reforma", "Sila v edinstve", "Kelechek-Budushchee", "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan", "Ishenim", "Jany Mezgil", "Uluu-Jurt", and "Aikol Kyrgyzstan."

18 political parties nominated 1,371 candidates, of which 57 candidates nominated in the candidate lists were denied registration, as a result Bishkek TEC registered 1,314 candidates

Osh TEC registered 691 candidates from nine political parties: "Yntymak", "Uluu Jurt", "Bir Bol", "Bizdin Kyrgyzstan", "Butun Kyrgyzstan", "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan", "Uluttar Birimdigi", "Kelechek-Budushchee", and "Nur".

Six political parties submitted their candidate lists for registration to Tokmok TEC and passed the registration: "El Birimdigi", "Birge-Vmeste", "Emgek", "Patriot Yntymagy", "Asyl Muras Jashtary", "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan".

The political party "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan" intends to run in the elections in three cities.

Five parties ("Kelechek-Budushchee", "Bizdin Kyrgyzstan", "Yntymak", "Uluu-Jurt", "Emgek") nominated their candidate lists in two cities.

The rest of the parties submitted candidate lists for only one of the cities.

At the same time, some parties that won the April 11 elections according to preliminary results, refused to participate in the repeat elections for various reasons, while some parties participated in this process for the first time.

On this occasion, the "Social Democrats" demanded that the new parties be denied registration. Bishkek TEC decided to deny the appeal of the "Social Democrats", citing the fact that the law does not contain provisions restricting the participation of new parties in repeat elections to local councils. The Foundation believes that this situation requires a clearer legislative regulation.

According to observers, there was very little public awareness of the upcoming repeat elections in all three cities. Some citizens did not know the date of the upcoming repeat elections.

As part of the monitoring of local elections, long-term observers of the Foundation held meetings with the representatives of political parties. Thus, meetings with 5 parties out of 18 registered were held in Bishkek.

As of July 2, 2021, observers met with 5 political parties in Bishkek:

1. PP "Turan"
2. PP "Social Democrats"
3. PP "Emgek"
4. PP "Stolitsa"
5. PP "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan"

Based on the results of the meetings, the political parties noted the following:

1) The greatest concern of all the surveyed political parties is the lack of public awareness of the upcoming elections to local councils on July 11, 2021, and the weak work of the relevant government agencies on this issue.

In light of these events, the surveyed political parties predicted a record low voter turnout, which was also due to the current negative epidemiological situation in the country, the abnormally hot weather, the vacation season and the exhaustion of citizens from the often repeated electoral processes.

2) The "Turan" and "Stolitsa" parties stated that they had completely abandoned the production of printed materials and the rental of banners, giving preference to campaign work in social networks on the Internet.

3) The "Social Democrats" party expressed doubts about the reliability of the data on the election funds of certain parties regarding the cost of rented spaces for advertising being at a price dozens of times lower than their market value.

4) "Emgek", "Stolitsa" and "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan" parties expressed dissatisfaction with the large amount of "smear campaign" against the parties themselves, as well as against individual candidates.

5) Some parties note that despite the cancellation of past elections, the use of administrative resources and bribery by individual parties, as well as the involvement of heads of house and neighborhood committees to get elected, persisted in all three cities.

## **8. OBSERVATION ON THE DAY OF VOTING OUTSIDE THE VOTING PREMISES**

According to the observation findings, the day of voting outside the voting premises was held in accordance with the law, with the exception of isolated cases of violations of certain procedures.

A total of 43 PECs were covered, including 25 in Bishkek, 15 in Osh and 3 in Tokmok. No serious violations were detected at the observed polling stations, except for procedural violations at one polling station in Osh city.

According to the reports of the Foundation's observers, the register of applications for voting outside the voting premises was available at all 43 PECs. No cases of voters filing applications to vote outside the premises after the register was closed were identified.

At all 43 PECs, observers were shown empty mobile ballot boxes for voting outside the premises.

In 42 PECs the empty mobile ballot boxes were sealed with the seal of the precinct election commission, and only in PEC No. 5322 in Osh city the sealing procedure was not completed fully, in connection with which the Foundation's observer appealed to the PEC members.



At 42 PECs, the checklist was signed by all those present at the polling station and placed in the mobile ballot box for voting outside the premises, and a procedural violation was observed in the same PEC No. 5322 in Osh.

In Osh city, at PEC No. 5316, two voters who did not apply for voting outside the premises and were not included in the corresponding register voted outside the voting premises. On this fact, observers of the Foundation have drawn up the relevant reports and filed complaints to the Osh TEC.

The precautions and recommendations related to COVID-19 were observed in only 32 PECs, in one PEC - only partially, and in 10 PECs they were not observed at all.

In all 43 PECs observed, there was not a single case of obstructing the observation or accessing necessary information for observation, no one influenced the expression of the will of the voters, and the secrecy of ballot was upheld everywhere.

In all 43 PECs, a PEC member recorded voter data on the paper voter list when issuing the ballot, and a note "Voted outside the voting premises" was also entered.

Reports on the end of voting were made at all 43 PECs.

## **9. OBSERVATION ON THE DAY OF VOTING INSIDE THE VOTING PREMISES**

Stationary observation was conducted in 52 out of 326 PECs, including 31 in Bishkek, 18 in Osh and 3 in Tokmok.

In addition, eight mobile groups from the Foundation's staff worked in Bishkek, five in Osh, and one in Tokmok. Mobile teams monitored the outside of polling stations.

### *Opening procedures.*

In general, the opening of polling stations took place in a timely manner in accordance with the law, with some minor violations of certain procedures.

According to the data received from the Foundation's observers, all 52 observers were allowed into the voting premises to carry out the monitoring.

At 50 PECs, the observers were shown blank ballots for a visual inspection.

The meeting started before 07:00 in 5 PECs, from 7:00 to 7:30 - in 36 PECs, and after 7:30 - in 10 PECs, and no meeting was held in one PEC.

In 47 PECs, the chairpersons were women, and in 5 PECs the chairpersons were men.

Recommendations related to COVID-19 were observed at 51 PECs. Only 35 PECs were accessible to people with reduced mobility.

The drawing of lots was not held at 1 PEC (PEC No. 1309, Bishkek), in the same PEC where there was no meeting.

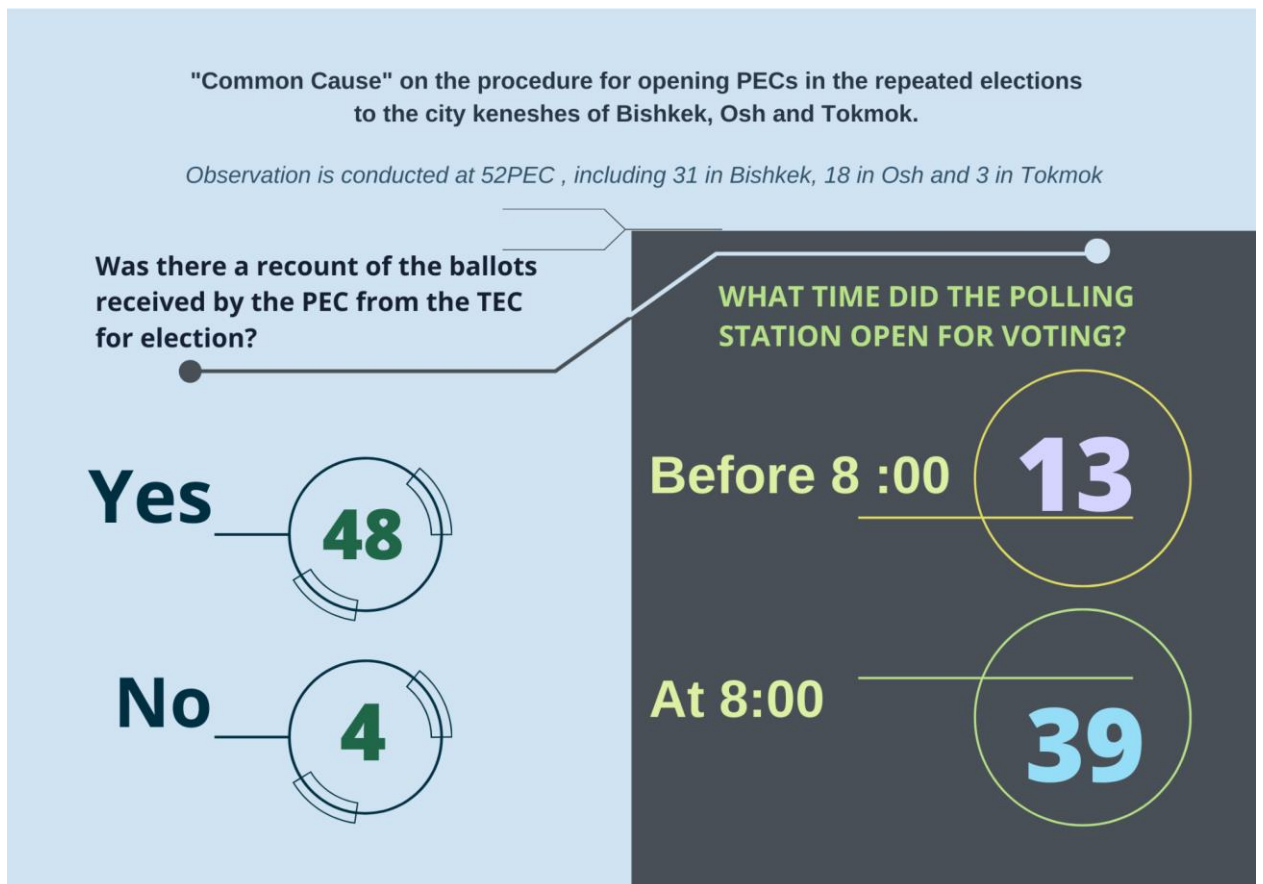
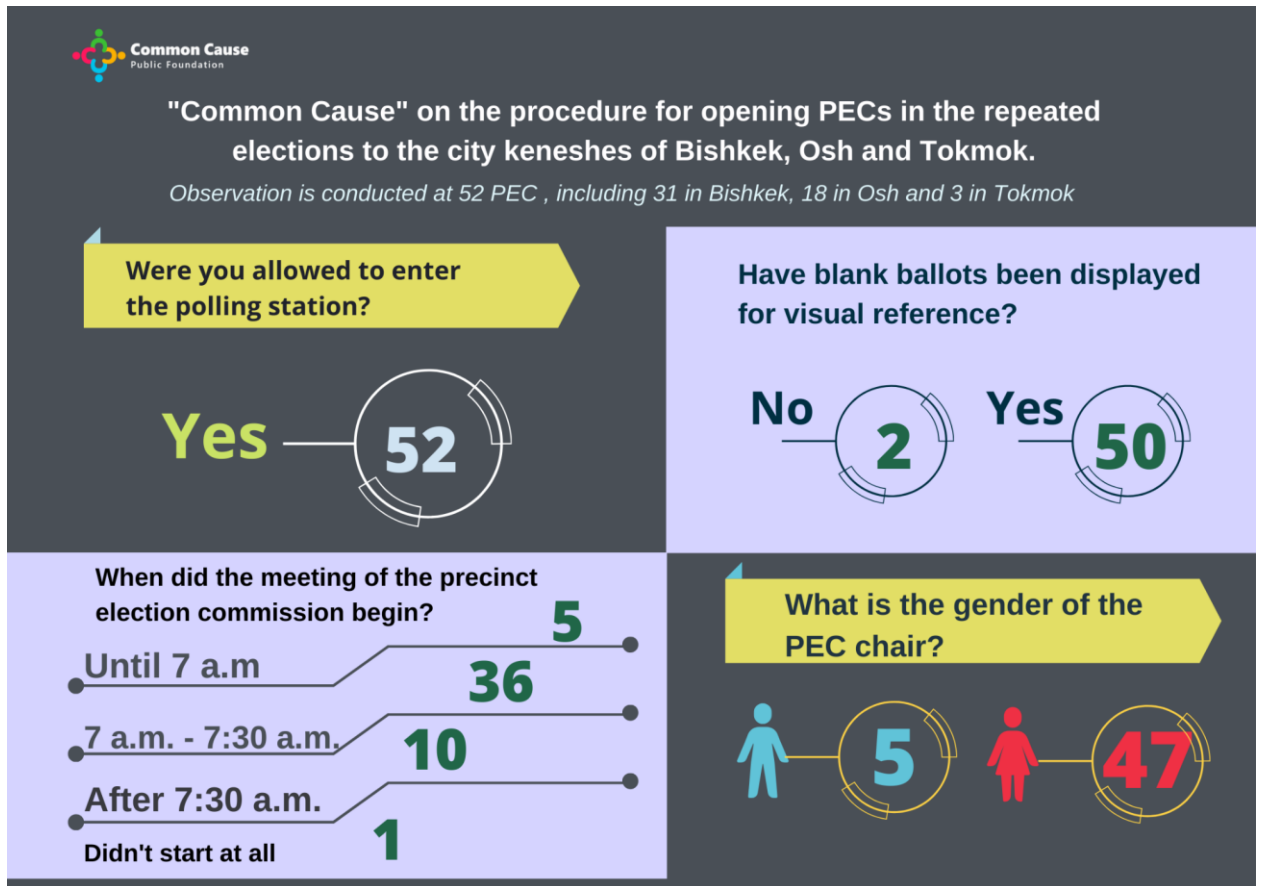
Empty ballot boxes (ARBBS, etc.) were demonstrated and sealed/tamper-evident sealed in all 52 PECs, and the checklist was signed by all those present in the polling station and placed in the ballot box in 50 PECs.

At 48 PECs, there was a recount of ballots received by the PECs from the TECs during the opening procedures.

The rights of Foundation's observers were not infringed in any of the PECs.

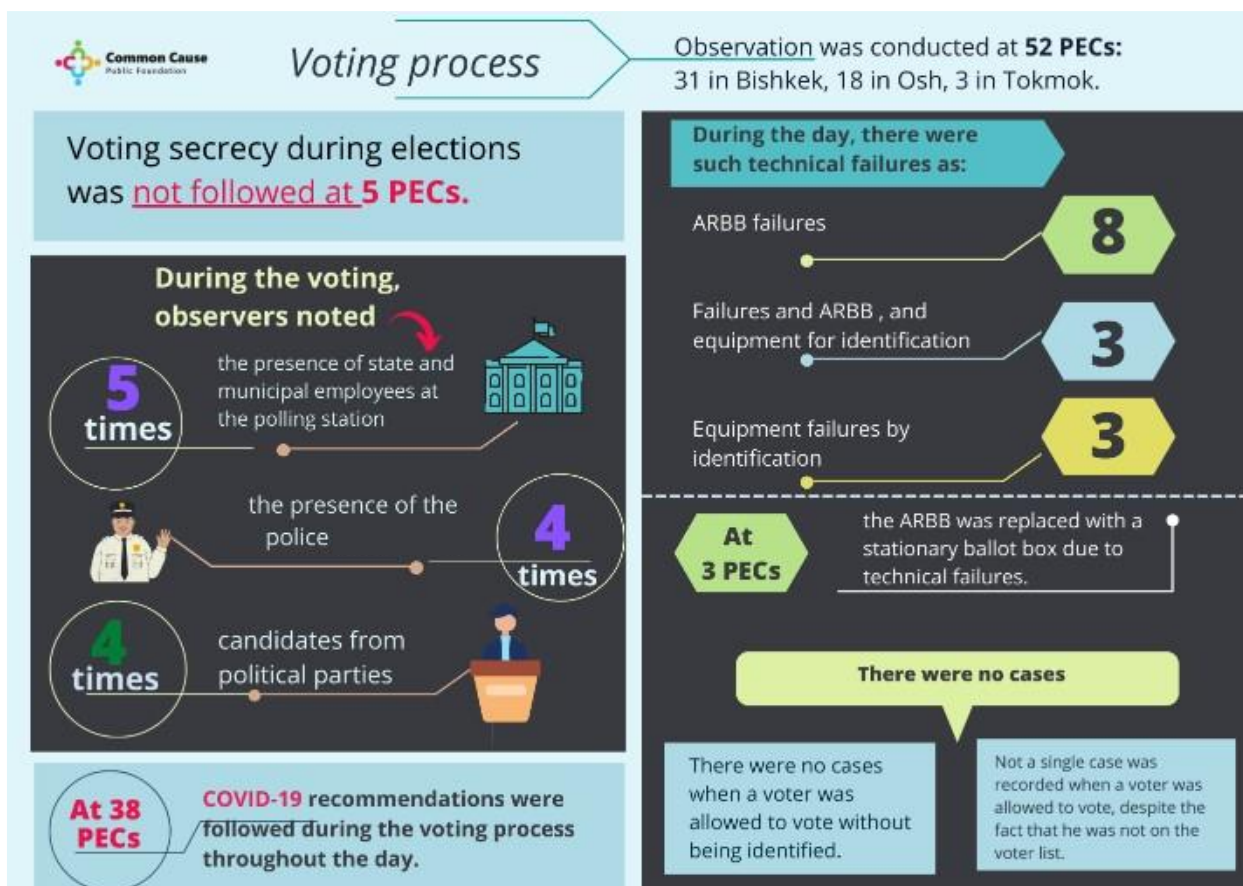


PECs opened without delay, 13 of them opened before 08:00, and 39 PECs opened at 08:00.



## Voting process

The voting process proceeded calmly in accordance with the law, with isolated cases of violation of the ballot secrecy and technical failures of the ARBBs and identification equipment.



According to the findings received from our observers, there were no cases of intimidation, pressure or intimidation of voters in any of the PECs, nor were the rights of citizen observers infringed upon during the monitoring of the voting process.

Voting secrecy during the elections was not respected in 5 PECs.

During the voting the observers registered the presence of state and municipal officials at the polling station 5 times, the presence of internal affairs bodies 4 times, and the presence of candidates from political parties 4 times.

38 PECs complied with COVID-19-related recommendations during the voting process throughout the day.

Throughout the day there were such technical failures as:

- ARBB failures - 8
- both ARBBs and identification equipment failures - 3
- identification equipment failures – 3

There were no recorded cases where a voter was allowed to vote without being identified, and no cases where a voter was allowed to vote despite not being on the voter list during the voting process throughout the day.

In 3 PECs, the ARBBs were replaced with a stationary ballot box due to the technical failures.

51 PECs closed on time - at 20:00, and 1 PEC closed before 20:00.

*Observation outside the polling stations (mobile groups)*

According to the data obtained, mobile teams covered 53 PECs, observing and assessing the situation outside the polling stations. Following the results of the observation, the conclusions are as follows:

Mobile teams in Bishkek consisting of four long-term observers and four Head Office staff covered 31 PECs (Nos. 1206, 1113, 1222, 1240, 1157, 1158, 1151, 1208, 1152, 1332, 1330, 1334, 1337, 1322, 1318, 1321, 1351, 1343, 1317, 1003, 1011, 1048, 1354, 1358, 1305, 1239, 1241, 1305, 1317, 1061, 1034).

Mobile teams in Osh city consisting of the regional coordinator, three long-term observers and one volunteer covered 10 PECs (Nos. 5307, 5309, 5308, 5299, 5304, 5280, 5901, 5306, 5303, 5310).

In Tokmok, the regional coordinator as a mobile team covered 12 PECs (Nos. 7065, 7067, 7068, 7070, 7064, 7071, 7075, 7072, 7074, 7062, 7077, 7063).

According to the observation data from the mobile groups, the observed situation was as follows:

- The situation around the polling station: calm on 47 polling stations, tense - on 6.
- Queue caused by the delayed operation of the ARBBs at 2 polling stations.
- Delivery of voters near the PECs was observed at 2 polling stations.
- Presence of unidentified athletically built persons near the PECs was observed at 12 polling stations.
- Large queue of voters near the PECs caused by COVID-19 measures at 3 polling stations.

It should be noted that the observation took place under the crisis conditions due to the worsening COVID-19 epidemiological situation, nevertheless, according to the reports of the mobile teams, the findings are as follows:

- COVID-19-related recommendations were followed at 37 PECs during the voting process throughout the day, and partially - at 16 PECs.
- In 36 PECs, voters complied with COVID-19-related recommendations during the voting process throughout the day, and partially - in 17 PECs.

There were no cases of intimidation, pressure or threatening towards voters during the voting process.

No cases of violation of the ballot secrecy were observed.

No cases of photo and video recording of a filled ballot were observed.

There were no cases of presence of more than one voter in the voting booth.

The infringement of the public observer's rights during the observation of the voting process took place at one polling station.

Illegal campaigning on election day: polling stations Nos. 5310, 5308

Signals of vote-buying: polling stations Nos. 1240, 1011

Illegal restriction of observers' rights: polling station No. 1061

There were people in the voting premises at 14 polling stations, including representatives of internal affairs bodies at 13 polling stations and unidentified state and municipal officials at one polling station.

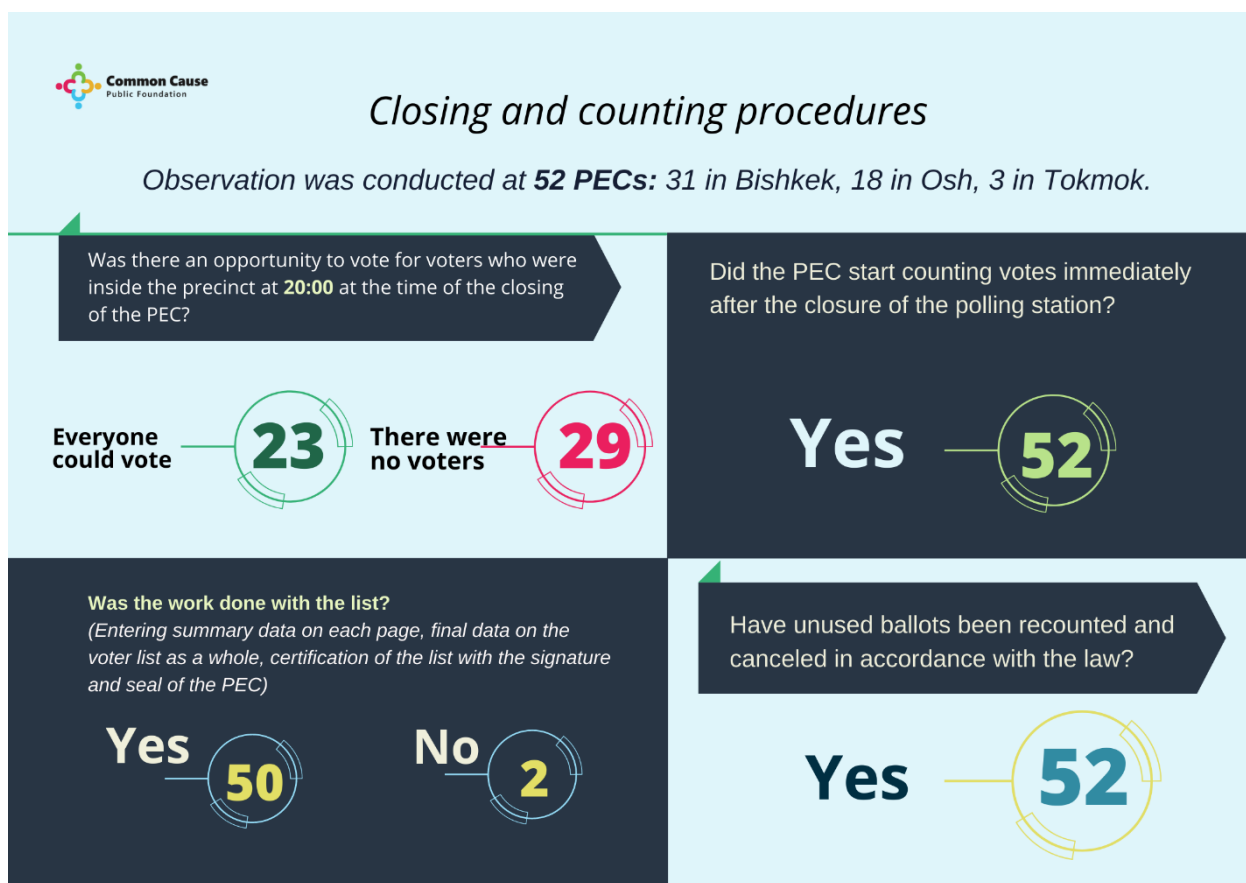
ARBB failures occurred at 3 polling stations.

Identification equipment failures occurred at 1 polling station.

Hidden forms of bribery were noted, which were more difficult to prove. For example, there was a case of voters going to nearby retail stores after voting, where they could presumably receive a reward.

### *Closing and vote counting procedures*

The closing and counting procedures were conducted in a timely manner and in accordance with the law with an isolated case of infringement of the rights of public observers.



There were voters in 23 PECs at the time of the closing of PECs who were given the opportunity to vote. There were no queues at the other 29 PECs.

All 52 PECs immediately began counting votes after the close of the polling station, and in all 52 PECs covered, unused ballots were recounted and cancelled in accordance with the law.

The list was processed at 50 PECs (entering summary data on each page, the final data on the voter list, certifying the list with the signature of the chairperson and the seal of the PEC).

The opening of mobile ballot boxes in accordance with the law and manual counting took place in all 52 PECs.

All 52 observers were able to obtain a certified copy of the manual counting protocol.

Recommendations related to COVID-19 were observed at the closing of PECs in 49 PECs and were not observed in the remaining 3 PECs.

The rights of public observers were infringed at one PEC during the observation of the closing and counting procedures.

## Closing and counting procedures

Observation was conducted at **52 PECs**: 31 in Bishkek, 18 in Osh, 3 in Tokmok.

Did the PECs comply with COVID-19 recommendations during the closing procedures?

Yes **49**

No **3**

Have the opening of the portable ballot boxes carried out in accordance with the vote count legislation?

Yes **52**

Have your rights as a public observer been impaired while observing the closure and counting procedures?  
(Obstacles to Observing or Obtaining Necessary Information)

Yes **1**

No **51**

Did you receive a certified copy of the hand counting protocol of the voting results?

Yes **52**

### 10. VIOLATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

Taking into account the established conditions, which practically reduce the probability of violations at polling stations, in contrast to a number of previous monitoring missions of local and international scale, the Foundation decided to monitor the repeat elections of deputies of Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok city councils of the Kyrgyz Republic with an emphasis on monitoring in the pre-election period for possible facts of violations of election campaign rules, bribery, and abuse of administrative resources

#### *Pre-election period*

During the observation period of repeat elections of deputies of Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok city councils of the Kyrgyz Republic (from June 18 to July 9, 2021) 83 signals on violations of the electoral legislation were received, including:

- 65 signals of violations of election campaign rules
- 11 signals of vote-buying
- 5 signals of the use of administrative resources, threats and pressure on voters
- 1 signal of violations of candidate registration procedures
- 1 signal of violation in the formation of the PEC composition.



During the period of observation of the repeated elections of deputies of the **Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok** city keneshes of the Kyrgyz Republic from June 18 to July 9, 2021, the Public Foundation "Common Cause" revealed **83 facts** of violations of electoral legislation,

**of which:**



**65**

facts of violation of the rules of pre-election campaign



**11**

facts of vote-buying



**5**

facts of misuse of administrative resources, threats and pressure on voters



**1**

fact on violations of candidate registration procedures



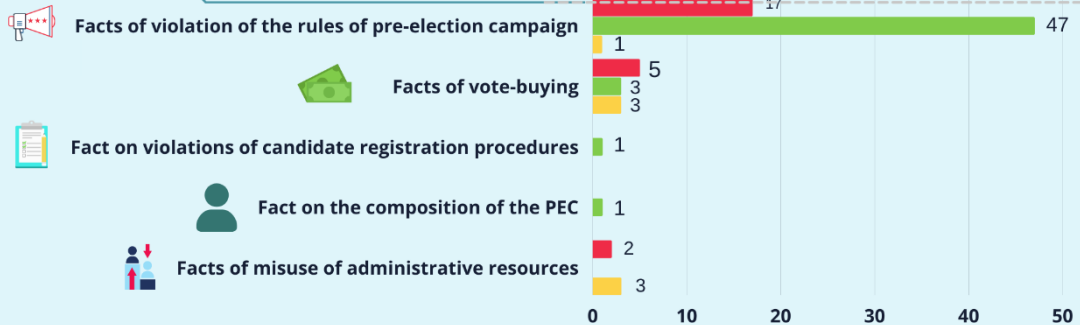
**1**

fact on the composition of the PEC.



**FROM THE MESSAGES RECEIVED, THE BREAKDOWN BY CITIES IS AS FOLLOWS:**

*By types of violations:* **Bishkek city – 24** **Osh city – 52** **Tokmok city - 7**



Taking into account the conditions created, which almost reduce the likelihood of violations at polling stations, in contrast to a number of previous monitoring missions of local and international scale, the foundation decided to monitor the repeated elections of deputies of the **Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok** city keneshes with an emphasis on observing the pre-election period for possible facts of violation of the rules of pre-election campaigning, vote-buying, misuse of administrative resources, threats and pressure on voters.

Out of 65 signals of violations of election campaign rules, 52 appeals were filed to the Osh TEC. 52 signals were reported to the TECs and 2 signals of violations were reported to the CEC. From the signals received, the breakdown by city is as follows:

Osh city – 52. By type of violations: 47 signals of campaign violations, 3 signals of vote-buying, 1 signal concerning candidate lists, and 1 concerning PEC composition.

Bishkek city - 24. By type of violations: 17 signals of violations of election campaign rules, 5 signals of vote-buying, and 2 signals of the use of administrative resources.

Tokmok city - 7. By type of violations: 1 signal of violation of election campaign rules, 3 signals of vote buying, 3 signals of the use of administrative resources.

#### *Voting day outside the voting premises*

Public observers of the Common Cause Public Foundation recorded 11 violations on the day of voting outside the premises (July 10, 2021).

In Bishkek, there was one case of campaigning on the election silence day on the part of the "Reforma" party.

In Osh, 10 instances of violation were revealed. Of these: by political parties: "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan" party - 1 instance; by types of violations: 1 violation - campaigning on the election silence day; 3 violations - regarding the voter lists; 6 violations - regarding procedural matters.

#### *Voting day*

Public observers of the Common Cause Public Foundation registered 36 violations on the day of voting inside the premises (July 11, 2021).

Of these, 17 in Bishkek; 19 in Osh.

In Bishkek, by types of violations: 9 instances of procedural violations at the opening of polling stations; violation of the ballot secrecy (including photos or videos of the ballots) - 5 instances; vote buying - 2 instances; tracking the voter list by a party representative - 1 instance; gathering of unidentified people around PECs - 3 instances; also by political parties: "Emgek" party - 2; "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan" party - 1.

In Osh, by types of violations: 6 instances of procedural violations during the opening of polling stations; tracking of the voter list and voting procedures by a party representative - 4 instances; presence of unauthorized persons at the PEC - 2 instances; violation of the ballot secrecy (including photographing the filled ballot - 2 instances; delivery of voters - 2 instances; campaigning on the voting day - 2 instances; bribery - 1 instance, and by political parties: "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan" party - 5; "Bizdin Kyrgyzstan" party - 3.

#### *Total for the observation period*

- During the whole period of observation (from June 18 till July 12, 2021) the public observers of the Common Cause Public Foundation revealed **130 instances of violations of the electoral legislation**.
- **87 appeals** (applications and complaints) were filed: to the Central Election Commission - 2 appeals; to Territorial Election Commissions: in Bishkek - 4 appeals; in Osh - 81 appeals.

→ There were **13 signals** to the RRCG, including: 4 signals during the pre-election period; 1 signal on the day of voting outside the premises (July 10, 2021); and 7 signals on the voting day (July 11, 2021).

## 11. TABULATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE REPEAT ELECTIONS

The tabulation process in all TECs was conducted in compliance with the deadlines. According to the monitoring results, tabulation of results in Bishkek and Osh cities took place in accordance with the law after the processing of all complaints and petitions. However, in Tokmok city the review process of complaints by the TEC raises questions about the legality of decisions made, some of which were cancelled by the CEC, which in turn led to the dissolution of the Tokmok TEC.

In three cities: Bishkek, Osh and Tokmok, elections to local city councils were deemed valid.

Voter activity looked as follows: the highest turnout was observed in Tokmok city - 44.55%, which is even higher than in April elections by 3%, also relatively high turnout in Osh city - 42.87%, which is slightly less than in April elections by 3.4%, however, in Bishkek the turnout was the lowest - 24.41%, in April the turnout was 31.8%, which indicates a decrease in turnout by 7.4%.

Having passed the 7% threshold in the repeat elections, 6 parties out of 18 registered won seats in the Bishkek city council and distributed seats as follows:

- "Emgek" - 18.25% (11 seats);
- "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan" - 14.26% (9 seats);
- "Ishenim" - 12.56% (8 seats);
- "Yntymak" - 10.82% (7 seats);
- "Onuguu-Progress" - 8,16% (5 seats);
- "Social Democrats" - 8.09% (5 seats).

According to the protocols of Osh TEC on the results of voting and election results, the lists of candidates of 4 political parties, which received 7 percent or more of votes, is as follows:

- "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan" - 38.91% (19 seats);
- "Bizdin Kyrgyzstan" - 32.41% (15 seats);
- "Uluttar Birimdigi People's Party" - 15.51% (7 seats),
- "Bir Bol" - 7.85% (4 seats).

At the repeat elections, five parties out of seven registered passed to the Tokmok city council and distributed the seats as follows:

- "Birge-Vmeste" - 28.28% (9 seats);
- "Emgek" - 24.83% (8 seats);
- "Asyl Muras-Jashtar" - 16.67% (5 seats);
- "Patriot Yntymagy" - 13.70% (5 seats);
- "El Birimdigi" - 12.14% (4 seats).

The "Ata-Jurt-Kyrgyzstan" party won seats in the city councils of Bishkek and Osh, where it received nine and nineteen seats, respectively. In the end, the "Ata-Jurt Kyrgyzstan" party won the seats in 14 out of 28 city councils in the elections of deputies to local councils.

The remaining parties received the seats in only one of the three cities in the repeat elections of deputies to local councils.



The "Onuguu-Progress" party has 65 seats in 15 city councils, with an average of 4.3 seats per city council.

The "Yntymak" party received 69 seats in 10 city councils, almost 7 seats in each city council.

## **12. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the results of the observation of the elections of deputies to city councils, the Common Cause Public Foundation provides the following recommendations:

### **1. To the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic on introducing amendments to statutory instruments regulating electoral legal relations:**

- 1) Revise the size of the electoral threshold for the elections of deputies to local city councils and set it by analogy with the elections of deputies to the Jogorku Kenesh.
- 2) Revise the requirement for the number of public observers to be present at a polling station at the same time.
- 3) Provide public observers with the authority to appeal the decisions and (or) actions (inaction) of election commissions, including decisions on the tabulation of voting results and the determination of election results.
- 4) Establish the responsibility for non-compliance with the established deadlines for consideration of received applications (appeals, complaints, etc.) by the subjects authorized to consider electoral disputes.
- 5) Amend the criminal law to classify crimes of abuse of administrative resources as an offence of public prosecution.
- 6) In order to ensure greater transparency of election funds, to establish in the law the requirements to disclose the sources of origin of funds of contributors in case they make a contribution to the election funds in amounts exceeding the amount defined by law.
- 7) Envisage a norm in the legislation allowing for the return of the electoral deposit in the event that the election results are declared void.
- 8) Consider a provision in the law on the removal (disqualification) of a party, through the fault of which the results of the election were declared void.
- 9) Introduce regulations in the Election Law to provide a clear list of the grounds for a voter to apply to vote outside the premises.
- 10) Introduce the concepts regulating temporary technical inoperability and failure of ARBBs into the Election Law.

### **2. To the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic:**

- 1) Strengthen the work of law enforcement agencies to ensure timely and full consideration of complaints and appeals, as well as to ensure public safety, including preventive measures.
- 2) Work together with the CEC on informing the citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic about the norms of electoral law and procedures not only during elections but also in the period between elections.
- 3) Together with the CEC, consider the possibility of optimizing the payroll, providing social guarantees and benefits for members of PECs and TECs in order to increase the

remuneration paid to members of commissions and, accordingly, stimulate them to effectively perform their duties in emergency conditions.

- 4) Together with the CEC and other authorized state bodies, local authorities, to take measures for the quality compilation of the voters' list and continuous registration of voters, as well as to provide mechanisms that exclude the possibility of manipulation with the voters' lists and to provide for the responsibility for the committed manipulations.

#### **4. To the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Kyrgyz Republic:**

- 1) Strengthen the work with territorial and precinct election commissions on open, transparent and objective response and consideration of violations of electoral legislation.
- 2) Develop a consistent practice of accountability for certain types of violations of electoral legislation.
- 3) Develop a unified procedure for recording and transmitting data on voter turnout by precinct election commissions on the voting day.

#### **4. To authorities that consider electoral disputes:**

- 1) Internal affairs bodies shall strictly comply with deadlines for reviewing applications (appeals) received, as prescribed by electoral legislation, stating a reasoned justification for the decisions made and inform the public about the measures taken.
- 2) Prosecutor's Office bodies shall supervise compliance of internal affairs bodies with deadlines for reviewing complaints and applications related to electoral disputes.

#### **5. To political parties and candidates of the Kyrgyz Republic:**

- 1) Conduct an election campaign based on the principles of the rule of law, transparency, priority of the interests and rights of citizens, as well as mutual respect between political parties and candidates, and strict compliance with the Memoranda signed between the political parties.
- 2) The Common Cause Foundation calls on political parties to be consistent from the start of elections to the winning of seats, in particular, to retain candidates who were included on party lists according to established quotas, not to change the order of candidates on the registered lists of political party candidates after the day of voting.
- 3) Ensure greater transparency of financial funds, including expenditures on social media advertising, and mark the launched advertisements as political, indicating the source of funding. These measures are necessary to avoid the suspension and removal of ads from the Facebook platform due to the lack of source data (disclaimer) of the advertising post.