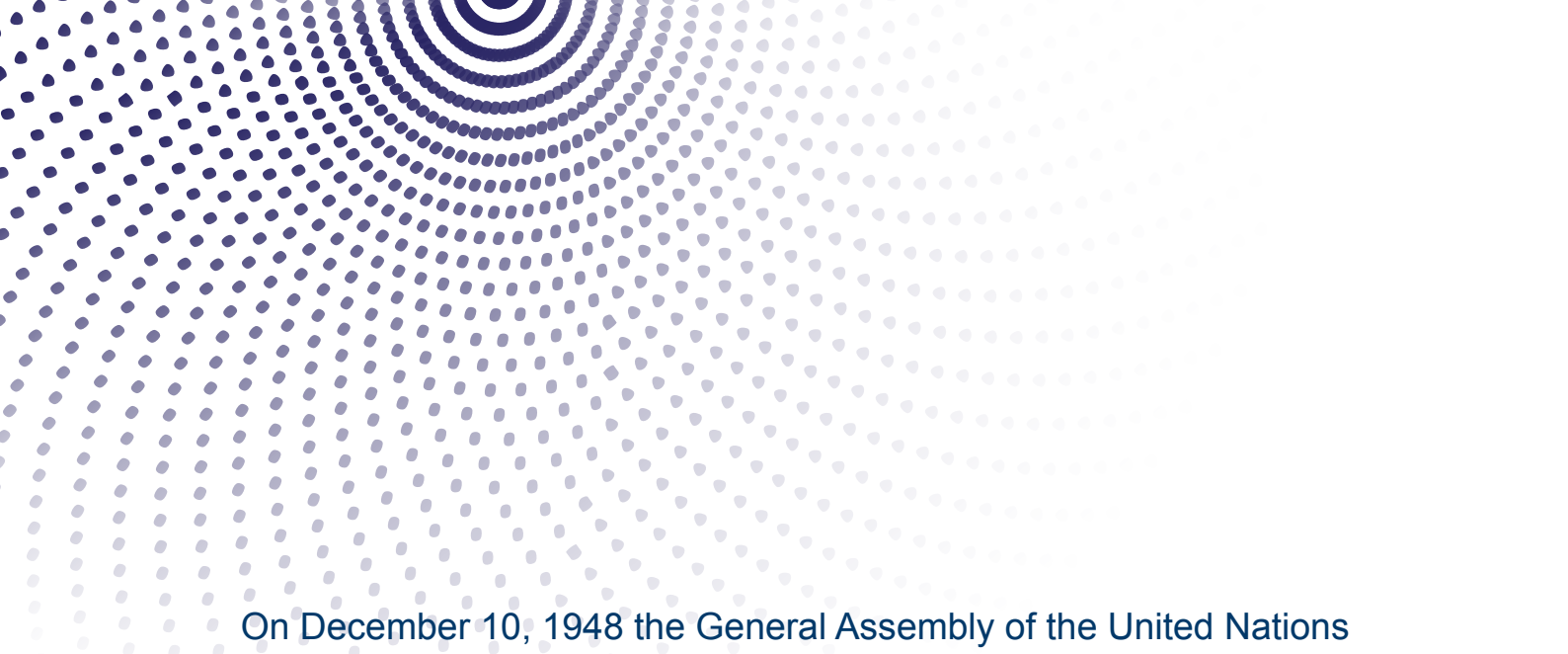




GEORGIA - HISTORY OF ELECTIONS

1990–2010



On December 10, 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This Declaration is mandatory for all UN Member States.

ARTICLE 21 STATES THE FOLLOWING:

“Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his/her country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his/her country.

The will of the people shall be the basis of authority of government; this will be expressed in periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures”.

Elections in the new Republic of Georgia commenced in 1990; when these democratic multiparty Parliamentary Elections were first conducted, it was at a time that Georgia was not acknowledged as sovereign country.

At present the following individuals/organisations are elective in Georgia:
President of Georgia - his term of office is 5 years;

Parliament of Georgia - its term of office is 4 years;

Representative Body of Local Self Governance - aka ‘Sakrebulo’ - its term of office is 4 years;

Mayor of Tbilisi - his term of office is 4 years.

ELECTION LEGISLATION

In Georgia, Elections are conducted in compliance with the Election Code, adopted August 2, 2001. This Code has been amended several times since its first implementation, and on a regular basis it is subject to revision for improvement.

Until 2001, the Elections held for the President and the Parliament of Georgia were determined by the Organic Law of Georgia (“Organic Law of Georgia on Elections of the Parliament of Georgia” and “On Elections of the President of Georgia”). Local Elections were conducted on the basis of Georgian “Law on the Representative Body of Local Self Governance – Sakrebulo”.

Elections in Georgia are held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, by secret vote.

The President of Georgia, the Members of the Parliament of Georgia and the Representative Body of Local Self Governance - Sakrebulo, are all elected directly by the voters.

The legal guidelines for conducting Elections in Georgia are delineated fully within the Constitution of Georgia, which advocates the universally recognized human rights’ principles and standards of international Law, the Election Code of Georgia, other legislative acts, and legal acts of election administration.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS?

Citizens of Georgia have the right to an active vote once they reach the age of 18 years old; this is regardless of their race, mother-tongue, gender, religious beliefs, political opinions, educational background, ethnic origin, social affiliation, ancestral descent, property ownership and occupation. The exemption is where a person's right to an active vote is deemed limited by the Constitution or Election Code of Georgia.

Citizens of Georgia have the right to a passive vote, providing they satisfy the provisions defined within the Election Code, except when limited by the Constitution of Georgia, the Electoral Code or the Georgian "Law on Combating Drugs".

Citizens of Georgia whom have either been deemed incapable by the Court or are in a penitentiary establishment by sentence of the Court shall not be entitled to suffrage.



ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The Election Administration of Georgia is an independent administrative body.

The authority of the Election Administration is defined by Organic Law of Georgia's 'Election Code'. The Election Administration is independent from all other public bodies and it consists of Central, District and Precinct Election Commissions.

The Central Election Commission (CEC) reports to the Parliament of Georgia.

The CEC consists of a Chairperson and 12 further members. The Chairperson, at the same time is the member of the Commission. Six members of the Commission are nominated by the President of Georgia and are then elected by the Parliament of Georgia, seven members are appointed by the political unions, having achieved the best results in previous elections. The CEC Chairperson is nominated by the President of Georgia, and elected by Commission members appointed by the parties (except for the commissioner appointed by the party having the best results at previous elections).





STATISTICS

Since 1990, there have been 22 elections conducted in Georgia, of which 5 have been Presidential, 7 have been Parliamentary, 7 have been Supreme Council of Adjara, and 4 have been local; there has also been 1 Referendum and 1 Plebiscite.

ELECTED PRESIDENTS

Zviad Gamsakhurdia (first President), followed by:
Eduard Shevardnadze (elected twice), followed by:
Mikheil Saakashvili (elected twice).

The greatest recorded number of voters (3,594,810) participated in the Presidential Elections held on May 26, 1991; on this same occasion, the highest turnout was also recorded, at 2,978,247.
The largest number of observers (1848 international and 13,195 local organisations) was registered by the CEC for Parliamentary Elections on May 21, 2008.

In 1991 the CEC consisted of 24 members. During the Parliamentary Elections of October 11, 1992, the CEC consisted of 44 members. This was the highest number in 20 years history of election administration. At present the CEC consists of just 13 members.

The Central Election Commission of Georgia has had 15 Chairpersons since its establishment:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Irakli Zhordania | 9. Dimitri Kitoshvili |
| 2. Archil Chirakadze | 10. Zurab Nonikashvili (acting Chairperson) |
| 3. Merab Aleksidze | 11. Gia Kavtaradze |
| 4. Ivane Kighuradze | 12. Guram Chalagashvili |
| 5. Jumber Lominadze | 13. Alexander Ghonghadze (acting Chairperson) |
| 6. George Zesashvili (acting Chairperson) | 14. Levan Tarkhnishvili |
| 7. Nana Devdariani | 15. Zurab Kharatishvili |
| 8. Zurab Chiaberashvili | |



CHRONOLOGY

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OCTOBER 28, 1990

70 years on from the Establishing Assembly of Georgia's election, it became possible to conduct multi-party, democratic elections; 14 parties participated in these elections, which were conducted through a mixed system: 250 members of Supreme Council (125 through the majoritarian system and 125 through the proportional system) were elected for 5 years.

The total number of voters that participated in these elections was 3,444,000 (67%).

The 4% threshold was passed by only two parties:

1. "Round Table - Free Georgia" (81 delegates).
2. Georgian Communist Party (44 delegates).

Seats were distributed as following, by the majoritarian system:

1. "Round Table - Free Georgia" (43 delegates).
2. Georgian Communist Party (17 delegates).
3. People's Front (11 delegates).
4. "Democratic Georgia" (2 delegates).
5. Rustaveli Society (1 delegate).

Six parties were represented in the Supreme Council.

As a result of these elections the "Round Table - Free Georgia" came to power.

The organisation of the Elections was provided by the Election Commissions of the political union of the citizens of Georgian Republic, the public union and its organisations, the staff of secondary, and the vocational and high educational institutions.

Additional rules for the election of delegates were determined by the Law of Georgian Republic.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS ARCHIL CHIRAKADZE

(FIRST) PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS MAY 26, 1991

On April 14, 1991, the presidential regime was introduced into Georgia. The Elections were deemed to be conducted in case of participation of majority of total number of voters. Candidates whom were supported by more than 50% of the total number of voters were deemed elected.

6 candidates participated in these Elections:

1. Zviad Gamsakhurdia - receiving 2,565,362 votes.
2. Valerian Advadze - receiving 240,243 votes.
3. Jemal Mikeladze - receiving 51,717 votes.
4. Nodar Natadze - receiving 36,266 votes.
5. Irakli Shengelia - receiving 26,886 votes.
6. Tamaz Kvachantiradze - receiving 8,553 votes.

Zviad Gamsakhurdia became the first president of independent Georgia.

The total number of voters was recorded at 3,594,810.

The number of voters who participated in the elections was recorded at 2,978,247.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS ARCHIL CHIRAKADZE



PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 11, 1992

These Elections were held through the mixed system. The rule for their conduction significantly differed from the rule used for other elections, as 75 delegates were elected on the basis of the majoritarian system (from single mandate districts) and 150 delegates were elected based on the proportional system (multi mandate districts). The Election threshold was 2%.

During the Elections of 1992, different districts were allocated for majoritarian and proportional elections; 10 widespread multi-mandate election districts were established for the elections held through the proportional election system; the number of voters in each of them was 230-250.

The proportional system balloting was held through a three-point system (each voter had 3 votes); quotas were identified and the votes were counted on the level of a multi-mandate district; the remaining votes were distributed on a national level, in compliance with the preference rule.

36 political parties and election blocs participated in these Elections, of which 24 parties passed the threshold:

1. Bloc "Freedom" - 29 mandates.
2. Bloc 11th of October - 18 mandates.
3. Bloc "Unity" - 14 mandates.
4. National Democratic Party - 12 mandates.
5. Green Party of Georgia - 11 mandates.
6. Democratic Party - 10 mandates.
7. " Charter 91" - 9 mandates.
8. Union of Georgian Traditionalists - 7 mandates.
9. Illia Chavchavadze Society - 7 mandates.
10. Georgian Merab Kostava Society - 5 mandates.
11. Union of National Consent and Revival - 4 mandates.
12. Socialist Party of Georgian Labor - 4 mandates.
13. Party of National Independence of Georgia - 4 mandates.
14. Party of People's Friendship and Justice - 2 mandates.
15. Union of God's Children of Georgia - 2 mandates.
16. Unity of Social Fairness of Georgia - 2 mandates.
17. Union of Land Cultivators of Georgia - 2 mandates.
18. Party of National Independence of Georgia - 4 mandates.
19. Union of Georgian Highlanders - 1 mandate.
20. Society of Revival of the Native Land - 1 mandate.
21. Bloc "Party of Georgian Unity and Political Union of Highlanders" - 1 mandate.
22. State National Party of Georgia - 1 mandate.
23. Radical Monarchist Union of Georgia - 1 mandate.
24. Constitutional Democratic Party - 1 mandate.

This was the greatest multiparty parliament.
Total number of voters: 3,471,866.

Number of voters participated in the elections:
2,575,197.

**THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS
MERAB ALEKSIDZE**

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 5, 1995

Conditions for conducting Parliamentary Elections on November 5, 1995 were determined by the transitory provisions adopted on August 24, 1995. The Parties or Political Unions that submitted the signatures of 50 thousand supporters or had representatives in the Parliament of Georgia by the date of the Constitution adoption were then eligible to participate in the Elections. Elections through the proportional system were held based on the party list. The Political Union had right to nominate in majoritarian district, a candidate already included in its party list.

The elections were not appointed in Abkhazia due to the separatist regime; consequently the term of office of the deputation of Abkhazia was extended. The deputation of Abkhazia consisted of 12 delegates.

Based on the Constitution and Election Code composition, the Parliament was determined by 235 delegates; 150 delegates were elected by the proportional system and 85 by the majoritarian.

53 parties participated in the Elections, the following passed the 5% threshold:

1. Union of Georgian citizens 23.71% - 504,586 votes (90 mandates).
2. National Democratic Party 7.96% - 169,218 votes (31 mandates).
3. Union of Revival 6.84% - 145,626 votes (25 mandates).

Only 32 majoritarian winners were revealed after the first round. In 42 districts, including Tbilisi districts, a second round was conducted.

1. Representatives of different political parties - 29 mandates.
2. Independent candidate - 29 mandates.
3. Union of Georgian Citizens - 18 mandates.
4. Union of Revival - 6 mandates.
5. National Democratic Party - 3 mandates.

Total number of voters: 3,121,075

Number of voters participated in the elections: 2,127,946

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS IVANE KIGHURADZE

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 5, 1995

The Elections were deemed to be held in case of the participation of the majority of total number of voters. The candidate supported by more than 50% of voters was deemed elected.

Six candidates participated in these Elections:

1. Eduard Shevardnadze - receiving 1,589,909 votes.
2. Jumber Patiashvili - receiving 414,303 votes.
3. Akaki Bakradze - receiving 3,350 votes.
4. Panteleimon Giorgadze - receiving 10,697 votes.
5. Kartlos Gharibashvili - receiving 10,023 votes.
6. Roin Liparteliani - receiving 7,948 votes.

Eduard Shevardnadze became the President of Georgia.
Total number of voters: 3,106,557.

Number of voters participated in the elections: 2,139,369.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS IVANE KIGHURADZE





ELECTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE - SAKREBULO NOVEMBER 15, 1998

On June 25, 1998 the Law on Election of Representative Body of Local Self Governance - Sakrebulo was adopted.

10,693 mandates of the members of Sakrebulo were distributed to 1,031 Sakrebulos.

According to the Law on Elections in 378 Sakrebulos, where the number of voters was more than 2000, elections were held through the proportional system and in 653 Sakrebulos where the number of voters was less than 2000, elections were held through the majoritarian system.

82,464 candidates participated in these Elections.

Results of the Elections of Tbilisi Sakrebulo:

1. Union of Georgian Citizens - 20 mandates.
2. Labour Party of Georgia - 12 mandates.
3. Socialist Party - 9 mandates.
4. Union of Democratic Revival - 4 mandates.
5. People's Party - 4 mandates.
6. Union of Georgian Traditionalist - 3 mandates.
7. National Democratic Party - 3 mandates.

Total number of voters: 664,273.

Number of voters participated in these elections: 258,095.

55 members were elected.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS JUMBER LOMINADZE

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS OCTOBER 31, 1999

The Parties or Political Unions that submitted signatures of 50 thousand supporters or had representatives in the Parliament of Georgia were eligible to participate in these Elections. Elections through the proportional system were held based on the party list. The Political Union had the right to nominate a majoritarian district candidate, already included in its party list.

The elections were not appointed in Abkhazia due to the separatist regime; consequently the term of office of the deputation of Abkhazia was extended. The deputation of Abkhazia consisted of 12 delegates.

Based on the Constitution and the Election Code composition, the Parliament was determined by 235 delegates. 150 delegates were elected by the proportional system and 85 by the majoritarian.

45 parties participated in these elections; the 7% threshold was passed by the following:

1. Union of Georgian Citizens 42.07% 894,850 votes (85 mandates).
2. Bloc Revival of Georgia 25.41% 540,389 votes (51 mandates).
3. Bloc Industry Saves Georgia 7.13% 151,685 votes (14 mandates).

The following parties got mandates through the majoritarian system:

1. Union of Georgian Citizens - 46 mandates.
2. Bloc Revival of Georgia - 7 mandates.
3. Bloc Industry Saves Georgia - 1 mandate.
4. Labour Party of Georgia - 2 mandates.
5. Independent candidate - 17 mandates.

Total number of voters: 3,143,851.

Number of voters participated in elections: 2,133,878.

22 MPs were elected through the majoritarian system as a result of the second round and the second ballot of the elections held on November 7 and 14, 1999.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS JUMBER LOMINADZE



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS APRIL 9, 2000

The Elections were deemed held in case of participation of the majority of total number of voters. The candidate supported by more than 50% of voters would be deemed elected.

6 Candidates participated in the Elections:

1. Eduard Shevardnadze - receiving 1,870,311 votes.
2. Jumber Patiashvili - receiving 390,486 votes.
3. Kartlos Gharibashvili - receiving 7,863 votes.
4. Avtandil Jogladze - receiving 5,942 votes.
5. Vazha Jghenti - receiving 3,363 votes.
6. Tengiz Asanidze - receiving 2,793 votes.

Eduard Shevardnadze became the President of Georgia

Total number of voters: 3,088,925.

Number of voters participated in these elections: 2,343,176.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS JUMBER LOMINADZE

ELECTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE - SAKREBULO JUNE 2, 2002

22 parties participated in these Elections; the total number of mandates distributed was 4801, out of which 4750 candidates were elected.

The number of mandates to be distributed in Tbilisi City was 49, out of which 49 candidates were elected.

1. Labour Party of Georgia - 15 mandates.
2. Bloc National Movement - Democratic Front - 14 mandates.
3. Christian-Conservative Party, Zhvania's Team - 4 mandates.
4. New Rights - 7 mandates.
5. Bloc Revival 21 - 3 mandates.
6. Bloc Industry Saves Georgia - 4 mandates.
7. Bloc Unity - 2 mandates.

Total number of voters: 634,257.

The number of voters who participated in the elections was 283,855.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS JUMBER LOMINADZE

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS NOVEMBER 2, 2003 (CANCELLED)

The Party or Political Union which submitted the signatures of 50 thousand supporters or had representatives in the Parliament of Georgia was eligible to participate in these Elections.

Elections through the proportional system were held based on the party list. The Political Union had the right to nominate in the majoritarian district, a candidate already included in its party list.

Based on the Constitution and Election Code, composition of the Parliament was determined by 235 delegates; 150 delegates were elected by the proportional system and 85 by the majoritarian.

18 parties participated in these elections; the 7% threshold was passed by the following:

1. Bloc for New Georgia 21.32% - 407,045 votes (38 mandates).
2. Union for Democratic Revival 18.84% - 359,769 votes (33 mandates).
3. Bloc Saakashvili National Movement 18.08% - 345,197 votes (32 mandates).
4. Labour Party of Georgia 12.04% - 229,900 votes (20 mandates).
5. Bloc Burjanadze Democrats 8.79% - 167,908 votes (15 mandates).
6. Bloc New Rights (The Rights) 7.35% - 140,259 votes (12 mandates).

The results of the Elections conducted through the majoritarian system were annulled only in three election districts (No.63 - Abasha, No.56 - Chiatūra, and No.23 - Bolnisi).

Mandates were distributed as following:

1. Bloc for New Georgia - 19 mandates.
2. Bloc Saakashvili National Movement - 10 mandates.
3. Union for Democratic Revival - 6 mandates.
4. Bloc Burjanadze Democrats - 4 mandates.
5. Bloc New Rights (The Rights) - 4 mandates.
6. Labour Party of Georgia - 3 mandates.
7. Industry Saves Georgia - 4 mandates.
8. National Movement Democrats - 1 mandates.
9. Independent Candidates - 21 mandates.

Total number of voters: 3,178,593.

The total number of voters whom participated in these elections was 1,909,215.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS NANA DEVDARIANI

EXTRAORDINARY PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS JANUARY 4, 2004

The candidate supported by more than 50% of voters was deemed elected.

6 candidates participated in these Elections:

1. Mikheil Saakashvili - receiving 1,890,256 votes.
2. Teimuraz Shashiashvili - receiving 36,398 votes.
3. Roin Liparteliani - receiving 5,154 votes.
4. Zaza Sikharulidze - receiving 4,782 votes.
5. Kartlos Garibashvili - receiving 4,192 votes.
6. Zurab Keleksashvili - receiving 1,901 votes.



Mikheil Saakashvili became the President of Georgia.

In 2003, the CEC of Georgia did not have a reliable database of citizens to depend upon for the coming Elections of November 2.

Pre-election registration was performed in order to form a voter's list; for this purpose the district election commissions were established, they were responsible for pre-registration of the citizens in cooperation with district divisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

A handwritten list approved by the chairperson of the PEC, the secretary of the PEC and the representative of district division for Internal Affairs was available at all precincts. On E-Day special procedure was provided for voters that did not go through the pre-registration, in order to ensure implementation of their Constitutional Right - to vote and express personal will.

Total number of voters: 2,231,986.

Number of voters participated in the elections: 1,963,556.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS ZURAB CHIABERASHVILI.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS MARCH 28, 2004 (RERUN)



The Parties or Political Unions that submitted the signatures of 50 thousand supporters or had representatives in the Parliament of Georgia were eligible to participate in the Elections.

Elections through the proportional system were held based on the unified party list.

17 parties participated in these Elections, and the 7% threshold was passed by the following:

1. National Movement Democrats 66.24% - 992,275 votes (135 mandates).
2. Right Opposition - Industrials the Rights 7.56% - 113,313 votes (15 mandates).

The CEC of Georgia did not have any reliable database of citizens to rely on for these Elections.

A handwritten list approved by the chairperson of the PEC, the secretary of the PEC and the representative of district division for Internal Affairs was available at all precincts. On E-Day special procedure was provided for voters that did not go through pre-registration, in order to ensure implementation of their Constitutional Right - to vote and express personal will.

Total number of voters: 2,343,087.

Number of voters participated in these elections: 1,498,012.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS ZURAB CHIABERASHVILI



ELECTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE - SAKREBULO OCTOBER 5, 2006

6 parties participated in these elections.

Total number of voters: 3,205,634.

Number of voters participated in elections: 1,546,936.

Tbilisi Sakrebulo

25 delegates were elected based on the majoritarian system.

National Movement- List of Unity and Prosperity of Georgia got all mandates.

Total number of voters: 883,806.

Number of voters participated in elections: 307,015.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS GURAM CHALAGASHVILI

PRESIDENTIAL (EXTRAORDINARY) ELECTIONS JANUARY 5, 2008

The candidate supported by more than 50% of voters was deemed elected.

7 candidates participated in these Elections:

1. Mikheil Saakashvili - receiving 1,059,647 votes.

2. Levan Gachechiladze - receiving 509,111 votes.

3. Arkadi Patarkatsishvili - receiving 140,801 votes.

4. Shalva Natelashvili - receiving 128,564 votes.

5. Davit Gamkrelidze - receiving 79,734 votes.

6. George Maisashvili - receiving 15,247 votes.

7. Irina Sarishvili-Chanturia - receiving 3,242 votes.

Mikheil Saakashvili became the President of Georgia.

Total number of voters: 3,527,964.

Number of voters participated in the elections: 1,982,318.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS LEVAN TARKHNISHVILI



PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS MAY 21, 2008

As a result of the referendum held in 2003, the composition of the Parliament of Georgia was determined by 150 MPs. In February 23, 2005, appropriate amendments were made to the Constitution, according to which 100 MPs should be elected through the proportional system and 50 MPs through the majoritarian system. This norm was in force until March 12, 2008. In March 2008, one more amendment was made to the Constitution, prescribing the election of 75 MPs through the proportional system and 75 MPs through the majoritarian system, from 75 single mandate districts. The election threshold moved down from 7% to 5% for the proportional system. Besides, the candidate should have been supported by at least 30% of voters to win the majoritarian elections. If none of the candidates received the required number of votes, a second round should be launched within two weeks.

The Parties or Political Unions that submitted the signatures of 30 thousand supporters or had representatives in the Parliament of Georgia were eligible to participate in the Elections.

12 parties participated in the Elections and the 5% threshold was passed by the following:

1. United National Movement for Victorious Georgia 59.18% - 1,050,237 votes (48 mandates).
2. United Opposition 17.73% - 314,668 votes (15 mandates).
3. George Targamadze Christian Democrats 8.66% - 153,634 votes (6 mandates).
4. Shalva Natelashvili - Labour Party of Georgia 7.44% - 132,092 votes (6 mandates).

Three parties won the Elections through the majoritarian system:

1. National Movement - 71 mandates.
2. United Opposition - 2 mandates.
3. Republican Party - 2 mandates .

Total number of votes: 3,465,736.

Number of voters participated in elections: 1,850,407.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS LEVAN TARKHNISHVILI

ELECTIONS OF REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF LOCAL SELF GOVERNANCE - SAKREBULO AND THE MAYOR OF TBILISI MAY 30, 2010

17 parties participated in these Elections.

Total number of voters: 3,544,770.

Number of voters participated in the elections: 1,740,652.

Tbilisi Mayor and Sakrebulo

25 members of Tbilisi Sakrebulo were elected through the majoritarian system and 25 through the proportional system.

The mandates were distributed as following:

United National Movement - 39 mandates.

Alliance for Georgia - 5 mandates.

Christian Democratic Union - 3 mandates.

National Council - 2 mandates.

Topadze Industrials - 1 mandate.



George Ugulava (United National Movement) became the Mayor of Tbilisi, with 248,954 votes.

Total number of voters: 981,505.

Number of voters participated in the elections: 462,979.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE CEC WAS ZURAB KHARATISHVILI