

HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES OF THE FORMATION OF ELECTORAL CULTURE IN MODERN UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract. *The article gives an opinion on the historical principles of the formation of electoral culture in Uzbekistan and analyzes the issue of youth participation in social and political life, which is considered one of the most urgent problems of the society.*

Key words: *election, absence, electoral culture, historical principles, electorate.*

Аннотация. *В статье дается мнение об исторических закономерностях формирования электоральной культуры в Узбекистане и анализируется вопрос участия молодежи в общественно-политической жизни, который считается одной из самых актуальных проблем общества.*

Ключевые слова: *выборы, абсентизм, электоральная культура, исторические принципы, электорат.*

Today, the category of electoral culture and the social behavior related to it are considered very relevant, and we can say that it is one of the least studied directions of our national science. One of the most urgent problems of modern society is the participation of our population, and first, young people, in social and political life.

There is still no generally accepted definition of electoral activity of citizens in the social and humanitarian sciences. Nevertheless, this concept is widely used in the analysis of the progress of election campaigns at various levels, in forecasting and evaluating the relevant election results.

The word "electoral" comes from the word "electorate", in the encyclopedic dictionary: electorate - (lat. elector - voter) - 1) a set of voters who support any program, party or candidate during the election process; 2) in general, it is understood the entire group of citizens who have the right to vote in the election. Therefore, electoral activity reflects the level of participation of citizens in elections at different levels.

Elections are a mechanism for exercising the constitutional rights of citizens, such as voting and being elected. In this regard, the problem of electoral activity and culture of voters, or rather, young voters, is of urgent importance.

The most promising segment of the population is the youth. This is the main electoral reserve of the society: every second potential voter is a citizen under 30 years of age. Adulthood is the age at which a citizen has the right to participate in state and community affairs, because according to the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan,

citizens who have reached the age of eighteen have the right to vote and those who have reached the age of twenty-one have the right to be elected²⁵.

Ignoring elections has a negative impact on the country's historical development and the entire system of socio-political institutions, because the will of citizens is a precondition for the legitimacy of government, through which public expectations are realized, social conflicts are limited and resolved.

Most scientists and experts classify a number of factors affecting the electoral activity of young voters as follows:

- the influence of age and gender of voters, education of parents, family traditions;
- the electoral mood and interest of the parents in the youth of the voter's life;
- level of education, type of work, social status of the voter;
- current historical changes, social and economic events, role of used information sources;
- influence of spouse, friends, membership in various public organizations;
- experience of voting in previous elections;
- level of political and legal culture.

The last factor mainly determines the electoral behavior of voters. The voter should know what laws regulate the electoral process, what are the rights and obligations of the participants of the electoral process. More attention should be paid to creating conditions for voting by citizens who have difficulties in organizing elections due to circumstances beyond their control. It is desirable to try to make the election process as open and understandable as possible for all its participants, especially young voters.

From the analysis of the theoretical foundations, it can be concluded that electoral behavior is a set of activities and actions of citizens related to the implementation of elections to local or national state authorities, as well as participation in referendums²⁶.

Having studied the problem of conscious and voluntary non-participation of some citizens in the political life of the country, it was found that this modern phenomenon is based on the factor of absence (lat. "absens", "absentis" - absence). With this term, it is known to the scientific community to express one of the forms of boycotting the election, refusing to participate in them, showing indifference to the realization of one's rights and obligations.

In relation to this category, it can be eliminated only by the factor of development of an active citizenship position. Active citizenship is a quality that develops and improves throughout a person's life. It is not a once-and-for-all acquired quality, but changes depending on the circumstances in which a person finds himself²⁷.

²⁵ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Конституцияси XXIII боб, 117-модда. www.lex.uz – Қонунчилик ҳужжатлари миллий базаси.

²⁶ Охременко И.В. Электоральное поведение: теория вопроса. -Волгаград, 2002. Ч.1. –С.17.

²⁷ Неустров И.Г. «Воспитание политической активности и правовой культуры в молодёжной среде современной России». / И.Г. Неустров. – М., 2005

The factor of development of electoral culture through the active participation of young people in elections is formed and improved on the basis of the following institutional foundations:

Family. The example of parents is an important factor in the political socialization of young people. In our opinion, the idea of the importance of the election should be formed from childhood. Therefore, the implementation of activities aimed at increasing the legal knowledge and social activity of parents is of urgent importance.

School. The school plays an important role in the development of legal culture and the formation of a civil position. Studies have shown that the higher the participation of school students in school management, the higher their political literacy and activity.

Volunteer (volunteering) actions. Voluntary, disinterested participation of young people in various non-governmental non-profit organizations and public projects increases their sense of responsibility for the fate of society and the state.

Media. The young generation receives a significant part of the information about the elections through the mass media; therefore, the role of the mass media in viewing and discussing the problems related to the state structure, the electoral system, and the rights and obligations of citizens is huge.

Party and social movements. Establishing and supporting the activities of various youth organizations is an important factor in involving them widely in the electoral process. At this point, the "youth wings" of political parties are required to be more active in working with the electorate.

In order to fully guarantee the right to vote so that voters can freely express their will, on June 7, 2021, the joint decision of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the parliament of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the program of national actions to improve the electoral culture of the population" was announced²⁸.

Based on the decision, work on improving the electoral culture of the population and the knowledge and skills of the participants of the election process is provided on the following basis:

- development of modern methods of scientific-methodical and institutional provision of improving the electoral culture of the population;
- use of modern approaches and tools in media coverage of election-related information;
- development of modern methods and tools for training members of election commissions and their active use in practice;
- providing methodical, organizational and technical support to the members of election commissions;

²⁸ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Олий Мажлиси Қонунчилик палатаси ҳамда Сенати кенгашларининг "Аҳолининг электорал маданиятини юксалтириш бўйича миллий ҳаракатлар дастури тўғрисида"ги қўшма қарори. 2021 йил 7 июнь, 1008-IV-сон. // <https://www.lex.uz/docs/5471516>



- improving the electoral culture of all participants of the electoral process and the skills of participation in the election on the basis of social partnership²⁹.

Based on this, a person cannot be considered a full and true member of society without having a citizenship position and participating in the life of his country.

However, participation in the election is not only a constitutional right, but also a political process that requires historical responsibility from the voter. In order to make a decision about who to vote for and for which political program, every member of society is required to be legally literate and to understand the social situation in the country. Otherwise, the participation of an incompetent voter will do more harm than good. We believe that it is necessary to increase the political literacy of people, especially young people, by creating a comprehensive, well-thought-out program of civic-patriotic education.

²⁹ Ўзбекистон Республикаси Олий Мажлиси Қонунчилик палатаси ҳамда Сенати кенгашларининг “Аҳолининг электорал маданиятини юксалтириш бўйича миллий ҳаракатлар дастури тўғрисида”ги қўшма қарори. 2021 йил 7 июнь, 1008-IV-сон. // <https://www.lex.uz/docs/5471516>