ELECTORAL RIGHTS

According to Art.38 of the Constitution, the citizens of the Republic of Moldova who reached the age of 18 before Election Day, have the right to vote. You have the right to vote, which foresees the following:

RIGHT TO VOTE

The citizen of the Republic of Moldova takes part at elections through a universal, equal, direct, secret and free vote.

- Universal Vote. You can vote and you have the right to be voted without any discrimination based on race, nationality, ethnic origin, gender, opinion, political affiliation or social origin.
- Free vote. You are free to vote. Nobody has the right to oblige you to vote or not to vote. Also, nobody has the right to oblige you to vote for a certain electoral block, political party or candidate. Only You can decide whom to vote for.
- Equal vote. You, like any other voter, have the right to only one vote. Each vote has equal legal power. You have to vote only for one electoral competitor (electoral block, party or independent candidate).
- Direct Vote. You have to vote personally. Nobody can vote instead of another person, that is nobody can vote instead of you and neither can you vote for another person, even if he/she is your close relative or a public person.
- Secret Vote. The vote is secret, so that nobody should know about your opinion. You have to enter the voting booth alone, so that nobody can influence you for whom you should or shouldn’t vote.

OTHER ELECTORAL RIGHTS

1. In case when on election day you will not be in your location of domicile, a few days before elections, you have the right to receive certificates from the electoral district (place of residence) so that you can vote in a different location;
2. You have to be registered in the voter rolls. The voter rolls are developed at each precinct and include the persons who have a permanent domicile in the area of this precinct;
3. Also you have the right to find out seven days before the elections, where exactly the elections will take place (at the school or at another facility);
4. In order to make the right choice you have the right to be familiarized with the electoral list, that is to know the candidates and their programs;
5. To prevent from making mistakes during elections, you have the right to see the ballot paper ahead of time;
6. The persons who cannot move to the precincts due to disease or disability can require by phone or by means of other ... the place they reside at that moment. In such a case, the chairman of the precinct is obliged to sent special ballot box (mobile ballot box and necessary materials for voting) a special team composed of accredited members and observers.
7. The persons who serve in the army can vote at the precinct in the location where the military unit is deployed;
8. The persons who are in hospitals, maternitys, sanatorium, disabled and nursing houses, and in case if they cannot go to the nearest precinct, they can ask for a mobile ballot box directly to the hospital, maternity, sanatorium, etc.

IT IS PROHIBITED!!!:

1. When voting, to announce your opinion in public or to show your ballot paper to other persons, after having applied the “vote” stamp;
2. To leave the precinct with the ballot paper received;
3. To enter the voting booth together with family members, friends or other persons. You should be alone in the voting booth!!;
4. To vote more than once. You have the right to receive only one ballot paper at the precinct;
5. Any publication or electoral propaganda on election day and 24 hours in advance;
6. Selling and drinking alcohol at precincts and within 100 meters from the precincts;
7. Placing any electoral publicity materials at the precinct and within 100 meters from the precincts;
8. The permanent presence of police officers or military in uniform and armed at the precincts.

Note: in case if you notice that these rules are not followed, You have to inform the precinct and observers present at precincts and/or the chairperson of the electoral bureau of the precinct and to ask for the fulfillment of rules.

How to vote?

On Election Day, the precincts run from 7.00 am till 9:00 pm. You can show up to the precinct in the area of your residence at any time during this interval.

You have to present your ID or passport to the precinct.

After showing your ID and having signed below your name in the voter rolls, you will be given the ballot paper and go to the voting booth alone. Here you have to apply the “voted” stamp in the circle
placed to the right of the name of block, party or independent candidate for whom you want to vote. If you will not apply the “voted” stamp to the ballot paper or if you apply it several times (voting for more competitors) your ballot paper will not be valid. After voting you have to fold your ballot paper and go to the member of electoral committee, who shall apply another stamp on the bottom of the ballot paper. Nobody has to see whom you voted for.

After the member of electoral committee has applied the stamp on the bottom, you should throw the ballot paper in the ballot box and leave the precinct. These rules have to be followed by all persons, including by the mayor, MP or even electoral candidate. Within the precinct nobody has the right to find out more than it is necessary for voting. Only the members of the electoral committee and the accredited observers can stay there permanently.

If you are not registered in the voter rolls, but you can prove that you reside within the area of the given precinct, the members of the electoral committee have to allow you to vote and to include you in the additional electoral lists.

In case if you would like to ask for advice, you have to address to the Chairpersons of the Electoral Bureau of the precinct and to the present observers.

**IF YOUR ELECTORAL RIGHTS HAVE BEEN BREACHED** –

You have to inform immediately the Chairman of the Electoral Bureau and the precinct and observers within the precinct!

In case if the problem can be solved at once, the observers and the Chairperson of the electoral bureau of the precinct shall indicate what has to be done in order to repair the drawbacks, after which you can vote.

In case if you cannot vote, and you think that your rights have been breached, than you have to file a complaint immediately (appeal) addressed to the Chairperson of the Electoral Bureau of the precinct and we recommend to hand the copy of this complaint to observers.

Addresses of organisations who can provide free of charge legal assistance in cases of violation of electoral rights:

1. **LADOM** (League for Defence of Human Rights of Moldova), Chişinău, str.Vasile Alecsandri nr.13 bir.28, tel. 729352 280512
2. **CCCSD** (Consultation Center for Socially Vulnerable Categories), Chişinău, str.Vasile Alecsandri nr.13 bir.24, tel. 733233
3. **Legal Clinic in Comrat**, or.Comrat, str.Lenin, 160 bir.8 tel. 298/29480
4. **Legal University Clinic**, Bălți, str. Puşkin 38, et. 1, bloc 5, tel. (231) 24479;
5. **Legal Center of the Pro-Democracy Association**, Orhei, bd. Mihai Eminescu 9, tel. (235) 27568
7. **Central Electoral Committee** (Chişinău, 1 Piata Marii Adunări Naționale str., Government Building, tel. 23-25-97)

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**LADOM**

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**Know your rights!**

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