

# Election Process Ethics and Integrity for Persons with Disabilities



Heading: Election Process Ethics and Integrity for Persons with  
Disabilities

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# Introduction

This handbook aims to provide information to people with disabilities about ethics and integrity in the election process.



## Election process with ethics and integrity

is a process in which persons with disabilities have the same **Human Rights** as any other citizen.



They are guaranteed by **International treaties**, which are binding on the states that have signed and ratified such treaties.

## **International treaties on the human rights of persons with disabilities in election processes include:**

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- International Covenant on Civil and Political rights;
- European Convention on Human Rights;
- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and

## **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

This document was ratified in the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia on 05 December 2011.



The Convention is a set of rights for persons with disabilities.



It does not entail new legislation, but requires that existing legislation be improved, i.e. that citizens should not be treated differently or unfairly because of their disability.

The Convention stipulates that its signatories provide laws and measures whereby all citizens with disabilities enjoy **political rights** on equal basis as others.



## Political rights

of persons with disabilities, including the right to **vote**, to run for office, to observe



elections and execute public office, should not be different from the rights of others. Electoral rights include:

### **The right to vote.**

The right to vote is exercised on election day, when voters select from



lists of **candidates**, the leaders who would be governing their country or city.

Persons with disabilities, like all others, should be **nominated** and elected to public office if they win enough votes in elections.

## **The right to be nominated in elections**

is exercised by citizens with disabilities on an individual basis or through a **political party**.



## **Political party**

is a group of people who have similar ideas about policies and legislation in the country.

As members of political parties, persons with disabilities may/should be part of the governing bodies of the



parties, make party decisions and be elected to party leadership. Politicians with disabilities have the right to be nominated on election lists of the party where they are members.



The lists of candidates are verified by **electoral authorities**.

## **Electoral authorities**

that organize and carry out elections are:



- **The State Electoral Commission.**
- Municipal Electoral Commissions and
- Electoral Boards.



Persons with disabilities have the right to participate in electoral authorities, i.e. organize and carry out **election cycles**.

## **Election cycles are:**

a set of interrelated activities taking place in specific time intervals.  
Participation of persons with disabilities



at all times will improve accessibility and availability of the election process, which improves the ethics and integrity of the process.

Election processes are observed by authorized persons that have:

## The right to observe!

Election observation has a direct impact on improving the citizens' electoral rights.



Observers with disabilities have the right to observe the entire election process.

By reporting directly about problems encountered by voters with disabilities



and offering recommendations, they contribute to overcoming such problems.

## What should be improved?

**P**articipation by persons with disabilities in electoral processes is difficult. Improvements are needed in:



**T**he electoral legal framework should be harmonized with the provisions of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities!



**P**ersons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities should be allowed to enjoy legal capacity and the right to vote.



**V**oting by persons with disabilities who stay in institutions for out-of-family care should be facilitated!



**Q**otas for representation of persons with disabilities should be introduced in electoral authorities and on lists of candidates for parliamentary and local elections!



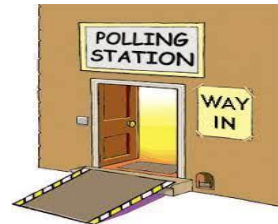
**P**olitical parties should develop accessible campaigns and facilitate access to venues where campaign rallies and gatherings take place.



**T**he number of persons with disabilities who participate in political and electoral processes should be tallied and registered!



**A**ccess to polling stations and public facilities should be provided.



**I**nformation about participating in political and electoral processes should be easily understandable.



**P**ersons with disabilities and their representatives should be included in consultations and decision-making about electoral rights and processes!



**B**udget funding should be allocated for support of candidates with disabilities.



**V**isibility and participation of persons with disabilities in campaign debates, and media broadcasting of political programming in accessible formats, should be encouraged.



Active inclusion of persons with disabilities in political and electoral processes is contributing not only to better legislative and political solutions for persons with disabilities – it enables development of a better society for ALL!

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