PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
IN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Parliamentary elections serve as a democratic mechanism for election of the Members of the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia, as a unicameral legislature and legislative branch of power in the Republic of Macedonia.

The citizens entrust the political power to the legislature through this mechanism, which then represents their sovereign will. The electorate enables the transfer of the sovereignty from the citizens to the elected representatives in a democratic way.

The basic principles of parliamentary elections are regulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, while the manner, conditions and procedure for election of MPs are regulated by the Electoral Code.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia, the Assembly consists of 120 to 140 MPs. The exact number of MPs is specified in the Electoral Code. Until 2008, there were 120and then the number increased to 123.

MPs are elected for a period of four years at general, direct and free elections by a secret vote.

Parliamentary elections are held every four years, during the last 90 days of the mandate of the old parliamentary composition, and the President of the Assembly calls the elections.

Parliamentary elections are also held in case of dissolution of the Assembly (early elections), if a decision is passed by the majority of the total number of MPs. In that case, elections are held within 60 days from the day of dissolution of the Assembly.

VOTING RIGHT

Active voting right

Tre right to vote is given to every citizen of Republic of Macedonia at the age of 18, who has the capacity to work and has permanent residence in the electoral district where elections are held.

Citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, who are temporarily working or staying abroad on the day of elections, can also vote on the parliamentary elections. They exercise their voting right in the diplomatic-consular offices of the Republic Macedonia in foreign countries.

Voting is not obligatory.

Passive voting right

Any citizen aged 18 and with capacity to work can be a candidate for MP can be any citizen of Republic of Macedonia, unless s/he serves an imprisonment sentence for a committed crime and unless s/he is pronounced by valid court decision an unconditional imprisonment sentence of more than 6 months, and the person has still not started to serve the sentence.

ELECTION MODELS

The election model is a set of rules on the basis of which the voters' votes are turned into MPs mandates.

There are two basic types of election models (with different possible variations): majority principle election model and proportional representation election model.

According to the majority principle election model, only one parliamentarian is elected in each election district, whereby the number of election districts is equal to the number of parliamentary seats. The voter casts the vote for one of the candidates on the ballot. The parliamentary mandate of each election district belongs to the candidate who wins the biggest number of votes (relative or absolute majority).

According to the proportional representation model, several MPs are elected in each election district, and the number of election districts may differ. In this case, the voter casts the vote for a list of candidates (list of political party, coalition or list of independent candidates), while the allocation of seats is made among the candidates or political parties according to the proportional representation of votes won in the total number of votes.

ELECTION MODELS AT THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN MACEDONIA (1990 - 2014)

The first democratic multi-party parliamentary elections in the Socialist Republic of Macedonia were held on November 11, 1990, immediately after the introduction of the political pluralism in September the same year.

The first parliamentary elections, once the Republic of Macedonia gained its independence in 1991, were held in October, 1994.

Post stamp of the Macedonian post on the occasion of 20 years from the first multiparty elections in Macedonia (FDC 19/2010, November 11, 2010)

For the parliamentary elections in 1990 and 1994, the allocation of the parliamentary seats was made by using the majority principle election model, with absolute (in the first round) and relative majority (in the second round). At these elections, the MPs were elected on the basis of the principle: one parliamentary mandate – one electoral district.

In 1998, the absolute dominance of the majority principle was abandoned and the combined election model was introduced: 85 MPs were elected on the basis of the majority principle, and 35 MPs on the basis of the proportional representation model. The territory of the whole Republic of Macedonia was the only election district for the 35 parliamentary seats, which were allocated according to the proportional representation model. The allocation of seats was made according to the D'Hondt model, with an election threshold of 5%.

At the parliamentary elections in 2002, the proportional representation model was introduced for distribution of all 120 parliamentary seats, and the territory of the Republic of Macedonia was divided in six election districts, whereby 20 MPs were elected for each election district. In order to ensure bigger representation of women in the Assembly, the 30% quota was introduced for the first time as a guarantee for participation of the less represented gender. The same election model was applied for the parliamentary elections in 2006 and the early elections in 2008 (the parliamentary elections in 2008 were the first early elections held in Republic of Macedonia).

According to the changes in the Election Code from 2008, 123 MPs were elected for the Assembly of Republic of Macedonia in 2008. 120 MPs were elected according to the proportional representation model, and the territory of the Republic of Macedonia was divided in six election districts, and 20 MPs were elected for each election district.

Three MPs are elected by the citizens of Republic of Macedonia who are temporarily working or staying abroad on the day of elections. These three MPs are elected according to the majority principle model, i.e. one parliamentarian for each of the three election districts: one election district covers Europe and Africa, another election district covers North and South America and the third election district covers Australia and Asia.

This election model was applied for the first time during the early parliamentary elections in 2011. At these elections, the Macedonian citizens who were temporarily working or staying abroad, were given the voting right for the first time. The same election model was applied for the third early parliamentary elections in 2014.

CANDIDATES FOR MPS

The nomination of candidates for MPs is made by a submission of candidates' lists for MPs. Registered political parties independently, coalitions or group of voters have a right to submit a candidates' list for MPs.

When a group of voters submits a candidates' list for MPs, it is necessary that at least 1.000 signatures of registered voters from the Electoral Register in the electoral district are collected.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Election campaign is a public representation of the candidates and their programs in the pre-election period, aimed to influence the voters' decision (public events, public posters, video presentations at public places, media and

Internet presentation, distribution of printed materials).

Election campaign starts 20 days before the day of elections and should not last 24 hours before the day of elections and on the day of elections.

Organizers of election campaign have the right to use all types of political propaganda under the same conditions. During the election campaign, the public broadcaster is obligated to broadcast also the political representation of the participants in the election process for free.

VOTING

Voting for parliamentary elections starts at 7:00a.m. and lasts continually until 7:00p.m.

Voters who are temporarily staying or working abroad on the day of elections shall vote in the diplomatic-consular representative offices, one day before the day of elections in Republic of Macedonia. Voting is held in the same time interval from 7:00a.m. to 7:00p.m., according to the respective time zone in the country. Persons who are in detention or serve an imprisonment sentence, as well as internally displaced and sick and disabled people also vote one day before the election day.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS AND ALLOCATION OF PARLIAMENTARY MANDATES

The official compete results are established by the State Election Committee, based on the reports with the summarized results from each municipal electoral committee. Results are established separately for each electoral district.

In each of the three electoral districts outside of the territory of Republic of Macedonia, the candidate who won the biggest number of votes from the voters, but not less than 2% of the total number of registered voters in the electoral district, shall be elected as an MP.

In the six electoral districts on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, where elections are carried out according to the proportional representation model, the allocation of parliamentary seats is made by application of the D'Hondt formula without electoral threshold:

$$\frac{V}{s+1}$$

V is the total number of votes cast for the candidate list, while S is the number of mandates/seats received on the list (at the beginning 0 for all lists, and the procedure is repeated until mandates are allocated).

According to the D'Hondt system, the number of votes on each list is divided with 1, 2, 3, 4.....n (n is the number of parliamentary seats in the electoral district). The obtained quotients are ordered based on their size, whereby the biggest quotients are taken into consideration as there are representative mandates in the electoral district. Each list gets as many mandates depending on the biggest quotients contained in the votes won. Mandates are allocated according to the order of candidates on the list.

For instance, let us assume that on the elections in one electoral district, where six representatives are elected, four party lists participate. List A won 330.898, List B won 212.512, List C 154.926 and List D won 99.730 votes. Election results on each list are divided with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

List A	List B
330.898:1 = 330.898	212.512:1 = 212.512
330.898:2 = 165.449	212.512:2 = 106.256
330.898:3 = 110.299	212.512:3 = 70.837
330.898:4 = 82.724	212.512:4 = 53.128
330.898:5 = 66.179	212.512:5 = 42.502
330.898:6 = 55.149	212.512:6 = 35.418

List C	List D
154.926:1 = 154.926	99.730:1 = 99.730
154.926:2 = 77.463	99.730:2 = 49.856
154.926:3 = 51.642	99.730:3 = 33.243
154.926:4 = 38.731	99.730:4 = 24.932
154.926:5 = 30.985	99.730:5 = 19.946
154.926:6 = 25.821	99.730:6 = 16.621

From all results, the sixth biggest result is 106.256, which at the same time represents also the common divisor which divides the total results from each list as follows:

List A - 330.898:106.256=3

List B - 212.512:106.256=2

List C - 154.926:106.256=1

List D - 99.730:106.256=0

The example shows that party A shall win three mandates, party B two mandates, party C one mandate, and party D shall not win a single mandate.

Parliamentary Elections 1994

Political entity	Number of mandates won	Political entity	Number of mandates won
Alliance for Macedonia	87	LP	5
PDP	10	SDSM	1
NDP	4	CDPM	1
DPM	1	SPM	1
Independent candidate	6	PDA-DPTM	1
PCER	2	SDSM-LP	1
		Total	120

Parliamentary Elections 1998

Political entity	Number of mandates won
VMRO-DPMNE	49
SDSM	27
PDP-NDP	25
LDP-DPM	4
SPM	1
DA	13
CPM	1
Total	120

Parliamentary Elections 2002

Political entity	Number of mandates won
Coalition for Macedonia together	60
VMRO-DPMNE- LP	33
DUI	16
DPA	7
PDP	2
NDP	1
SPM	1
Total	120

Parliamentary Elections 2006

Political entity	Number of mandates won
Coalition For Better Macedonia	45
Coalition For Macedonia Together	32
DUI-PDP-DLB	17
DPA	11
NSDP	7
VMRO-NP	6
DOM	1
PEI	1
Total	120

Parliamentary Elections 2008

Political entity	Number of mandates won
Coalition For Better Macedonia	63
Sonce Coalition for Europe	27
DUI	18
DPA	11
PEI	1
Total	120

Parliamentary Elections 2011

Political entity	Number of mandates won
Coalition VMRO-DPMNE	56
Coalition SDSM	42
DUI	15
DPA	8
NDP	2
Total	123

Parliamentary elections 2014

Political entity	Number of mandates won	Political entity	Number of mandates won
VMRO-DPMNE and other	61	DPA	7
SDSM and other	34	NDP	1
DUI	19	GROM	1
		Total	123

Political parties

VMRO-DPMNE- VMRO-Democratic party for Macedonian National Unity

SDSM – Social-Democratic Union of Macedonia

DUI – Democratic Union for Integration

DPA – Democratic Party of Albanians

LDP – Liberal Democratic Party

SPM – Socialist Party of Macedonia

PEI – Party for European Future

PDP – Party for Democratic Prosperity

NDP – People' Democratic Party

DA – Democratic Alternative

GROM – Citizen Option for Macedonia

DOM – Democratic Renewal of Macedonia

DS – Democratic Union

NSDP – New Social-Democratic Party

LP – Liberal Party of Macedonia

DPM – Democratic Party of Macedonia

DLB – Democratic League of Bosniacs

CDAM – Party of Democratic Action in Macedonia

DPTM – Democratic Party of Turks in Macedonia

DPSM – Democratic Party of Serbs in Macedonia

OPRM – United Party of Roma in Macedonia

PCER – Party for Full emancipation of Roma

SDPM – Social-Democratic Party of Macedonia

PDA – Party for Democratic Action – Islamic Way

VMRO-NP – VMRO-People' Party

CPM – Union of Roma in Macedonia

Coalitions

Sonce Coalition for Europe - SDSM, LDP, NSDP, LP, New Alternative

Coalition For Macedonia Together - SDSM, LDP, DPTM, OPRM, DLB, DPSM

Coalition For better Macedonia - VMRO-DPMNE, SPM, DS, DOM, DPSM, DPTM, OPRM, VMRO-Makedonska, CDAM

Alliance for Macedonia - SDSM, LP, SPM