

**REGULATION
on Compiling, Submitting, and Verifying Signatures Collecting Lists**

Chapter I. General provisions

1. This Regulation is drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Code No 1381-XIII of 21 November 1997 and sets forth the manner of compiling the signatures collecting lists, the procedure and the deadline for their submission and verification as well as the responsibilities of the persons collecting the signatures of supporters.

2. The provisions of this Regulation shall apply to the support of candidates running for President of the Republic of Moldova, Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova in the single member district, local councilor, mayor, as well as in the case of the Republican and local referendum.

3. The signatures collecting list is a list containing signatures of voters supporting a candidate, running for one of the elective positions listed in paragraph 2 hereof or the initiation of the referendum.

4. Voters shall participate voluntarily in the campaign to support the candidate running for one of the elective positions listed in paragraph 2 hereof and may sign for only one candidate within a single type of elections.

5. In local elections, one voter may support:

- a) a person running for councilor in both the first-level administrative territorial unit's council and in the second-level administrative-territorial unit's council;
- b) a person running for both mayor and councilor in a single electoral district.

6. For the cases set forth in paragraph 5 hereof, the signatures collecting lists shall be compiled separately.

7. Signatures shall be collected only for the purpose of supporting the candidate in one of the elective offices listed in paragraph 2 hereof or the initiation of the referendum. In the case of Parliamentary Elections in single member districts, as well as in the case of local elections, the signatures are collected only in the electoral districts in which the candidate is running for elections. The signatures in support of the candidates from the single member districts from abroad, as well as from the districts constituted for the localities from the left bank of the Dniester River (Transnistria), may be collected from any electoral district.

8. If the voter has supported more than one candidate, the signature first applied on the signatures collecting list, according to the date shall be valid, the other signatures shall be void. If a voter signs on the same day for the support of several candidates, and if two or more signatures of the same person are applied on the signatures collecting list in support of a candidate or in support of the referendum, regardless of the date of signature, these signatures shall be deemed invalid.

Chapter II. Compiling signatures collecting lists

Section 1. Issuance of signatures collecting lists

9. Signatures collecting lists shall be issued by the body in charge of registering the candidate or the initiative group.

10. The request for the issuance of the signatures collecting lists, in accordance with the template provided Annex No 1, signed by the candidate, shall be accompanied by the list of persons authorized to collect the signatures and shall contain: the collector's first and last name, date, month and year of birth, state identification number (IDNP) and domicile / residence.

11. IDs shall be issued to the persons set forth in paragraph 13 hereof, according to the template provided in Annex No 2:

a) by the electoral body, when signatures are collected to support a candidates or for the initiation of a Republican Referendum;

b) by the Court or by the local public authority, when the signatures are collected for the initiation of a local referendum.

12. For initiation of local referendums by the citizens with voting rights, the Central Electoral Commission shall ensure, through the local public authority or the Court that registered the initiative group, the issuance IDs printed in advance and signatures collecting list forms only on the basis of the request of the local public authority or the Court, to which is attached the decision or, respectevly, the definitive and irrevocable Court decision on the registration of the initiative group. The local public authority or the Court shall be responsible to fill in the IDs of the members of the initiative group that they have registered.

Section 2. Signatures' collecting

13. The following entities are entitled to collect signatures:

a) independent candidates and people that they authorize for local elections;

b) initiative group members supporting a candidate running for Member of Parliament in the single member district or for President of the Republic of Moldova, as well as initiative group members supporting the initiation of a referendum.

14. The supporter of the candidate for one of the elective positions listed in paragraph 2 hereof, as well as the supporter of the referendum must be the person who, at the time of signing in the signatures collecting list, has the right to vote.

15. Signatures collecting shall start:

a) for supporting the candidate – from the date of the nomination of the candidate (starting 60 days prior to the Presidential Election day, and in the case of Parliamentary and local elections – after the District Electoral Councils have been established), but not earlier than the date of registration of the initiative group to support the candidate and/or issuance of signatures collecting lists and IDs;

b) for supporting the initiation of the referendum – from the date of registration of the initiative group for the referendum, but not earlier than the date of the issuance of the signatures collecting lists and the IDs.

16. The initiative group shall be registered by:

a) the Central Electoral Commission – to support of the candidate running for President of the Republic of Moldova or for the initiation of a Republican Referendum;

b) the local public administration authority – for the initiation of a local referendum;

c) the Court – for the initiation of a local referendum of mayor revocation;

d) the District Electoral Council – for the Parliamentary Elections in Single Member Districts.

17. Signatures to support the candidate running for one of the elective functions listed in paragraph 2 hereof or to initiate the referendum shall be collected on a signatures collecting list, according to the templates provided in Annexes No 3 and No 4 hereto.

Section 3. Compiling (filling out) signatures collecting lists for the support of candidate running for the elections

18. The signatures collecting list to support the candidate running for one of the elective positions listed in paragraph 2 hereof shall mandatory include:

- a) the type of elections that the person is nominated for;
- b) date of elections;
- c) number of signatures collecting list;
- d) first and last name, year of birth, domicile, profession (occupation), title, place of work, and political affiliation of the candidate;
- e) the locality where the signatures are collected and the name and number of the single member district in case of Parliamentary Elections;
- f) the first and last names of the person collecting the signatures;
- g) notes on filling out the signatures collecting list, as well as the consent of the supporters regarding the processing of their personal data according to the legislation on personal data protection;
- h) notes regarding the responsibilities of the collector in the process of collecting and processing the personal data of the supporters according to the requirements of the legislation on personal data protection as well as the note on the authenticity of the signatures collecting list data and the signature of the person collecting the signatures;
- i) current number, the first and last names, year of birth, domicile, series and number of the identification card, date the list is signed and the signature of the candidate's supporter;
- j) the heading "Note", in which the information on filling in the data requested by the member of the initiative group or another person authorized to collect the signatures, as well as in the case the list is signed by a representative of the supporter.

The data set forth at letter i) shall be filled out by every supporter of the candidate. If the supporter, due to objective reasons, is not able to fill out the requested data, it shall be filled out by a member of the initiative group or by another person authorized to collect signatures. The signature shall be applied by the supporter him-/herself. If he/she is unable to do it, one of their representatives shall.

19. The first and last names, the year of birth, the domicile of the candidate shall be entered on the basis of the valid identity document. For the candidate who has both domicile and residence, in the period of residence validity, the address shall be entered according to the registration at the place of residence.

20. The data about the job and the place of work shall be indicated based on the Classifier of occupations of the Republic of Moldova. If the candidate works in more than one company, the main job shall be specified.

21. The Profession (speciality) shall be registered according to the diploma, certificate, attestation or other acts confirming the profession. If the candidate holds two or more professions, only one of them shall be entered.

Section 4. Compiling (filling out) and authentication of signatures collecting lists for the referendum

22. Signatures collecting lists for the initiation of the referendum shall mandatory include:

- a) the type of the referendum;
- b) the number of the signatures collecting list;
- c) the subject proposed for the referendum;
- d) the first and last names of the initiative group's member collecting the signatures;
- e) the locality where the signatures are collected;
- f) notes on filling out the signatures collecting list, as well as the consent of the supporters regarding the processing of their personal data according to the legislation on personal data protection;

g) notes regarding the responsibilities of the collector in the process of collecting and processing the personal data of the supporters according to the requirements of the legislation on personal data protection as well as the note on the authenticity of the signatures collecting list data and the signature of the person collecting the signatures;

h) the seal of the local public administration authority concerned;

i) current number, the first and last names, year of birth, domicile, series and number of the identification card, date the list is signed and the signature of the referendum's supporter;

j) the heading "Note", in which the information on filling in the data requested by the member of the initiative group or another person authorized to collect the signatures, as well as in the case the list is signed by a representative of the supporter.

The data set forth at letter i) shall be filled out by every supporter of the referendum. If the supporter, due to objective reasons, is not able to fill out the requested data, it shall be filled out by a member of the initiative group or by another person authorized to collect signatures. The signature shall be applied by the supporter him-/herself. If he/she is unable to do it, one of their representatives shall.

23. Each list to support the initiation of the referendum shall mandatory contains the question or questions to be asked during the referendum.

24. The signatures collecting list shall only contain the supporters' signatures who reside in a single locality.

25. The person who collects the signatures signs each sheet of the signatures collecting lists, certifying that the signatures have been collected personally and that the identity of the persons whose names appear on the lists was personally verified by the collector on the basis of the identity card.

26. The person who collects the signatures signs each sheet of the signatures collecting lists in the presence of the head of the local public administration authority on the territory of which the signatures were collected.

27. After the signatures collecting list is signed by the person collecting the signatures, the list shall be authenticated by applying the stamp of the local public administration authority on the territory of which the signatures were collected.

The head of the local public administration authority or the person duly authorized shall authenticate the signatures collecting lists as soon as possible or within a period not exceeding 5 calendar days from the date the initiative group has submitted the application on the signatures collecting list's authentication.

28. If the signatures collecting lists are filled in with errors, the head of the local public administration authority shall make a corresponding note on the list, certify it by personal signature and apply the stamp of the local public administration authority.

29. If the signatures collecting list includes persons without the voting right, persons not residing in the respective territory, fictitious persons or persons who have been entered in other lists, the head of the local public administration authority shall radiate the respective persons from the signatures collecting list commenting the reason for the radiation in the "Note" section.

30. The ungrounded refusal of the head of the local public administration authority to authenticate the signatures collecting lists may be challenged in the Court. During the signatures' collection for the initiation of the referendum, appealing the actions/inactions of the local public administration authority in the process of authenticating the signatures collecting lists refers to the electoral litigation, being appealed directly to the Court, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 12 of the Electoral Code that is applied

accordingly. In this case, the subjects with the right to challenge the actions/inactions of the local public administration authority in the process of authenticating the signatures collecting lists are the leader of the initiative group or the collector, member of the initiative group whose list the local public administration authority refuses to authenticate.

The initiative group has the right to submit to the competent electoral body, court or local public administration authority the copies of the signatures collecting lists, with the attachment of the copy of the court summons filed by that court. If it is established that the number of signatures is insufficient for the initiation of the referendum and the number of signatures in the disputed signatures collecting lists may influence the decision of the electoral body, the court or the local public administration authority, the competent authority shall postpone the decision until the issuance of an irrevocable court decision.

Chapter III. Submission and verification of signatures collecting lists

31. The signatures collecting lists for supporting the candidate running for one of the elective positions listed in paragraph 2 hereof shall contain the signatures:

a) of no less than 500 and no more than 1000 supporters with voting right from the single member district where they intend to run for the elections and for women candidates – the signatures of no less than 250 and no more than 500 supporters with voting rights – for Parliamentary Elections in single member districts. The signatures in support of candidates from single member districts from abroad and in the localities from the left bank of the Dniester River (Transnistria) may be obtained from any single member district out of 51 established;

b) of no less than 15000 and no more than 25000 voters from at least half of the second-level administrative territorial units of the Republic of Moldova where no less than 600 signatures have been collected – for Presidential Election in the Republic of Moldova;

c) of 2 per cent of voters from the district concerned divided by the number of seats in the council concerned, but no less than 50 people – for the elections for councilor in the local council;

d) of 5 per cent of voters from the said district, but no less than 150 people and no more than 10 000 people – for the mayor's elections.

32. The signatures collecting lists for the initiation of the referendum shall contain signatures:

a) of no less than 200 000 citizens with voting right from the Republic of Moldova – for any type of republican referendum, except for the constitutional one for which the provisions of Article 141(1) letter a) of the Constitution shall apply;

b) of 10 per cent of citizens with voting right who reside on the territory of the administrative territorial units concerned – for the local referendum.

33. Once the signatures' collecting is completed for the support of the candidates for the elections or for the initiation of the referendum, but no later than the time limits set forth in paragraph 36 hereof, the signatures collecting lists shall be submitted:

a) to the Central Electoral Commission – for the support of the candidate running for the President of the Republic of Moldova and the initiation of the republican referendum;

b) to the District Electoral Council – for the support of the candidates from the single member district running for Parliamentary Elections and the independent candidate running for local elections;

c) to the electoral council concerned or to the representative authority of the administrative territorial unit with special status – for the support in initiating the local referendum, except the support in initiating the local referendum for the mayor's revocation;

d) to the Court – for the support in initiating the local referendum for the mayor's revocation.

34. The signatures collecting lists and the documents submitted by the candidates for the elections or the initiative groups shall be received by the Reception Committee, consisting of members of the

electoral body and officials of its apparatus, established by the order of the chairman of the electoral body concerned. The courts and the local public administration authorities shall establish the commissions/working groups and/or designate the responsible persons in accordance with their internal rules of organization, ensuring compliance with the general procedure for receiving and verifying the signatures collecting lists established by the Electoral Code, this Regulation and other regulatory acts adopted by the CEC.

35. The electoral body, the court of law or the local public administration authority, if required, shall verify the authenticity of the signatures on the signatures collecting lists within the limit set forth in paragraphs 31 to 32 hereof. If signatures collecting lists with a larger number of signatures than the one established are submitted, the competent authority shall randomly check the authenticity of the collected signatures within the limit of the maximum number provided. The other signatures collected above the established threshold shall not be verified.

36. The deadline to submit the citizens' signatures collecting lists to the competent body for verification shall be:

- a) no later than 30 days prior to the election day – for the support of candidates running for Parliamentary, Presidential or Local Elections;
- b) no later than the last day of the collection deadline specified in the collector's ID – for the support in initiating the referendum (the republican one - from 2 to 3 months; the local one – from 30 to 60 days).

37. No additional signatures collecting lists shall be accepted after the competent body has received and registered the signatures collecting lists.

38. In the case of supporting the candidate running for one of the elective positions listed in paragraph 2 hereof, the signatures collecting lists shall be submitted to the relevant electoral body together with the documents necessary for the registration of the candidates. The procedure for the receipt of documents and signatures collecting lists is set forth in the Regulations on the Nomination and Registration of Candidates for each type of organized election, approved by the Central Electoral Commission.

39. In the case of support for the initiation of the referendum, the signatures collecting lists shall be submitted to the competent body no later than the last day of the term of collecting the signatures accompanied by the minutes of the initiative group indicating the date of registration of the initiative group, the number of signatures collected, the date when the signatures' collecting has been completed, the delivery-receipt document specifying the number of filled out or blank signatures collecting lists received, the number of certified signatures of the supporters of the referendum, the date and time of receipt of the signatures collecting lists. The procedure for receiving and verifying the signatures collecting lists in the Republican Referendums is described in the Guidelines on Organizing the Process of Submitting, Receiving and Verifying the Signatures Collecting Lists for the Initiation of the Republican Referendum, approved Central Electoral Commission's Decision No 4526 of 4 March 2015.

40. After the signatures collecting lists have been submitted to the competent body, they shall verify the authenticity of the signatures on the submitted lists, the voting right of the persons included in the lists, the domicile:

- a) within 5 days, but no later than the deadline set out for the registration – for the support of candidates running for the elections;
- b) within 15 days – for initiating a referendum.

41. If during the verification of signatures collecting lists there are found false signatures or repeated signatures, signatures of persons without voting rights, signatures of fictitious persons, signatures of persons that don't have residence on the territory from which the signatures were collected, as well as of persons who have their domicile in a locality not included in the single member district for which the candidate is running for elections, they shall be considered invalid and shall be excluded.

42. The signatures collecting lists compiled prior to the date the candidates' nomination or registration of the initiative group in support of the candidate running for President of the Republic of Moldova or for the initiation of the referendum starts, the signatures collecting lists that have not been signed by the collector in the manner set forth in paragraph 26 hereof, as well as the lists for the initiation of referendum, which have not been authenticated with the stamp of the local public administration authority, shall be deemed null and void.

43. Pursuant to Articles 47, 48, 86, 113, 138, 165-168 and 192-195 of the Electoral Code, as well as under the conditions hereof, shall be deemed:

1) Null and void the signatures collecting lists that:

a) are of another template than the one issued by the competent body to the initiative group or the candidate running for the elections (headings are missing or the list have another content than the approved and issued template; the number is missing or have another number than those issued) duplicated by photocopying;

b) have been compiled prior to the period of candidates' nomination for the elections or prior to the registration of the initiative group or the issuance date of the signatures collecting lists to the latter, as well as after the date the signatures collecting lists procedure has been completed;

c) contain unidentified, incomplete or correction signs in the spaces with: the name of the single member district and the first-level districts (mayor halls) on the territory of which the signatures of the supporters included in the lists have been collected; the candidate's identification data, the first and last names of the member of the initiative group;

d) are not signed by the members of the initiative group, and if required, by the candidate running for the elections or by its authorized representative;

e) have been signed by persons other than the members of the initiative group or the candidates/authorized representatives, as well as in the event of finding signs of falsification of the signature or the signature applied contains signs of correction;

f) have been compiled and signed by the members of the initiative group who, according to the data provided by the candidate/the group's leader, refused to collect signatures;

g) have been compiled by violating the provisions set forth in Article 47(4) and (6) of the Electoral Code;

h) have signs of personal data falsification included in the signatures collecting lists.

2) invalid and unauthentic the supporters' signatures who:

a) have registered and applied the signature on several signatures collecting lists. As well as the signatures that do not comply with the provisions set forth in paragraph 8 hereof;

b) have registered their data on the signatures collecting lists but failed to apply the signature;

c) are younger than 18 years on the date of signing the signatures collecting list;

d) are not citizens of the Republic of Moldova;

e) have provided identification data from an expired identification document;

f) reside in another locality than the one on the territory of which the signatures have been collected or the locality is part of another single member district than the one that the candidate is running for;

g) have provided inaccurate/incorrect identification data on the signatures collecting lists (the personal data of the holder of the identity document does not match with the one included in the list, there is indicated another residence than the registered one or the domicile is indicated instead of the residence provided that the supporter has both a valid domicile and residence);

h) have been included in the signatures collecting lists by the members of the initiative group even though it has been found that on the date of signing they were deceased;

i) contain obvious signs of signature's falsification (the signature contains other graphical signs than the once kept in the State Registry of the Population);

- j) contain signs of correction of the data entered in the list, including of the signature;
- k) indicated a date for signing the list, either an earlier date than the date when the list was issued to the initiative group or candidate, either before the initiative group was registered or a date subsequent to the one at which the process of signatures' collection has been completed;
- l) have provided another identification document than the one requested;
- m) have inappropriately/incompletely entered the identification data (only the initials of the first and last names or more/less digits for the number set for the identification document (8 digits); the signatories who at the time of signing the list are 18 years old failed to provide the date and month of birth; failed to fill in one or more columns: *signature date, serial number and/or ID number are missing, the domicile is not indicated, etc.*);

44. After the signatures collecting lists have been verified, the competent body shall draw up an informative note on the results of the examination of the signatures collecting lists submitted to support the candidate running for the election or to initiate the referendum (according to the template provided in Annexes No 5 and No 6 hereto) and shall inform the stakeholders.

45. If upon verifying the signatures collecting lists it is found that the required number of signatures has not been submitted or that, after exclusion of invalid signatures, their number has been reduced compared to the minimum threshold set out in paragraphs 31 to 32 hereof, the competent body shall take a decision according to which:

- a) shall refuse to register the candidate for election, communicating the decision within 24 hours from the adoption;
- b) shall reject the initiative to carry out a referendum, cancelling the registration of the initiative group.

46. If the candidates running for the election or the members of the initiative group disagree with the decision of the competent body, it may be appealed in the hierarchically superior electoral bodies or in the court according to the legislation in force.

47. Once the 6-month period has passed from the date of the candidate's registration or the adoption by the Central Electoral Commission of the decision to initiate or reject the carrying out of the Republican Referendum, the signatures collecting lists shall be destroyed by the competent body that ensures their record keeping. In the case of local referendums, the 6-month period shall mean the period from the date of the decision-making by the local council or the court. If the decisions to initiate/carry out the referendum are challenged in the court or the materials are submitted to other competent bodies, the signatures collecting lists shall be kept until the final settlement of the case and/or the issuance of an irrevocable court decision.

Chapter IV. Responsibilities of the individuals collecting supporters' signatures

48. The individuals who collect the signatures shall be responsible to ensure the authenticity of the data from the signatures collecting lists and to inform the citizen that he/she may only sign on a single signatures collecting list, except in the cases provided for in paragraph 5 hereof.

49. The collector shall ensure, pursuant to the provisions of Law No 133 of 8 July 2011 on personal data protection, the confidentiality and the conformity of the processing of the personal data of the supporters included in the signatures collecting lists, to which he/she has access and shall not use/process the data for purposes other than the ones established, and shall not disclose the data he/she has come to be aware of while carrying out his activity, even after he/she ceases to be a collector.

50. For failure to comply with the provisions concerning personal data protection, the collector shall be liable according to the legislation in force. In the event of liability, it shall be applied by the competent authorities, within the limits of the actions/inactions committed by the collector.

51. The requests submitted by subjects claiming a certain interest in the elaboration of statistical surveys by examining the content of the signatures collecting lists filed by the initiative groups or the candidates to the elections shall be examined and settled so as to ensure access in compliance with the data protection law and only after the end of the electoral period, but no later than the expiry of the term of keeping the signatures collecting lists, being depersonalized. The requests to review the content of the signatures collecting lists by stakeholders shall only be approved for statistical surveys. Other grounds for granting access to the contents of the signatures collecting lists, including invoking the purpose of conducting analyses on how the lists are checked by competent bodies, shall not be granted and requests for this purpose shall be submitted and examined as set forth for the settlement of electoral litigations.

The requests shall be submitted to the authorities in charge for the keeping of the signatures collecting lists until their being destroyed pursuant to paragraph 47 hereof.