



# Georgia Votes: 2024 Parliamentary Elections



## Every Voice Heard, Every Vote Counted

On October 26, 2024, Georgia will hold the first fully proportional parliamentary election in the nation's modern history, as voters from across the country will elect 150 members of parliament to four-year terms.

The Government of Georgia has successfully implemented necessary reforms that align the election legislation and practice with international standards – bringing the nation one step closer to full Euro-Atlantic integration and European Union accession.

*"We want as many observers as possible to come to Georgia. We invited the OSCE/ODHIR mission back in February, and they will come to Georgia to observe the elections, along with several other major missions. Our policy in this regard is completely open. The more, the better - that is our approach."*

*- Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze*



## Pre-Election:

## Building the Most Democratic Election in Georgia's History

To bring Georgia's election legislation in line with Euro-Atlantic standards, the government implemented the recommended policies of leading elections watchdogs: the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODHIR), the Venice Commission, and the Council of Europe's anti-corruption body GRECO. Additionally, Georgia's Central Election Commission has established permanent working groups dedicated to addressing issues related to ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and gender – ensuring the election will have equal participation and representation for all Georgians.

- **Promoting International Accountability** – The Government of Georgia sent letters to OSCE/ODIHR, NATO PA, PACE, OSCE PA, and the European Parliament, inviting these organizations to deploy election observers to Georgia to ensure accountability for our elections. Observer teams on the ground will have access to all the information they need to assess Georgia’s democratic progress. The National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute have already launched their election observation missions and have been registered with the CEC of Georgia to observe non-election-period activities. The mentioned organizations are also registered with the CEC to observe electoral campaign and voting processes on October 26.
- **Safeguarding Public Resources** –The Government established strict criminal liability measures to prevent voter intimidation and violations of voter secrecy, and increased fines for misuse of administrative resources – giving Georgians peace of mind that they can make their voice heard without pressure.
- **Raising Public Awareness** – The Government launched an informational campaign to educate citizens about new technologies and voting procedures as well as to inform the electorate residing abroad on voting opportunities, ensuring every citizen is prepared.
- **Fighting Disinformation** – The CEC established the Information-Analytical Division to monitor and detect harmful disinformation, giving the administration the tools it needs to educate the public with the facts and prevent malign interference in the election.
- **Ensuring a Level Playing Field** – As a part of the Venice Commission recommendations, the Government banned financing of political parties by legal entities and decreased the upper cap on annual expenses compared to GDP, allowing a more level playing field between parties in the electoral contest by reducing the influence of ‘big money’ in the political sphere.





## Election Day: Voting in the 21st Century

When Georgians head to the polls, they will cast their votes using secure, efficient, and internationally verified modern equipment in-line with the standards of the world's leading democracies.

Smartmatic, a provider of election technologies for U.S. elections, will provide electronic devices that simplify electoral procedures, verify voter identities, expedite results, and enhance the accuracy and reliability of results - greatly reducing human error. Furthermore, these devices are not connected to the internet and maintain a paper trail, mitigating the risk of results tampering or cyber interference.

**90% of Georgians are expected to use this cutting-edge technology**, while the other 10% will use paper ballots that will be fully digitalized and uploaded by professionals. Additionally, Georgia banned using ID cards without electronic information issued before 2011 to vote, ensuring older ID cards aren't used for election manipulation.

The Central Election Commission instituted these new technologies after conducting eight pilot sessions, demonstrating the commission's commitment to enhancing efficiency and the integrity of Georgia's election process, bringing it in line with the best international standards. Georgia is the first EU Eastern Partnership country to hold elections via advanced electronic voting technology.



### **Post-Election: Accountability and Professionalism**

After all the votes are cast, the Government of Georgia has implemented improved safeguards to ensure any issues are addressed in a timely, efficient, and accountable manner.

- **Professionalizing the Central Election Commission** – The CEC Chair and three professional members are now elected by Parliament in an open competitive process with the support of minority parties, making the election administration independent of partisanship.
- **Simplifying Electoral Dispute Resolution** – Any potential disputes will now be adjudicated in a timely, professional, and transparent method.



- **Recounting** – In addition to a compulsory recount of 10% of all voting precincts, the Government initiated new procedures for recounts if numerical irregularities arise, ensuring results will be accurately tabulated and verified.
- **Auditing Results** – As it did during the 2023 midterms, the CEC will conduct an electronic technology compliance audit during the October 26 elections. The audit will be conducted by PRO V&V – a U.S. registered election systems testing laboratory accredited by leading institutions.



## **An Unwavering Commitment to Free, Fair, and Transparent Elections**

Since enacting comprehensive electoral reforms in 2012, Georgia has held seven consecutive national elections that were deemed competitive and reflecting the will of Georgia's population. 2024 will be no exception. The people of Georgia have clearly expressed their desire for Georgia to become a member of the Euro-Atlantic family, and the Government is not backing down from making that dream a reality. Georgia is proud to hold a truly democratic, truly open, and truly fair election where every Georgian can freely make their voice heard.

*"These elections will be held for the first time after receiving EU candidate status, and of course, it is important both for the country and for our institution that appropriate standards and good international practices are taken into account to ensure the administration of the elections with appropriate standards."*

*- Central Election Commission Chair  
Giorgi Kalandarishvili*