

# Measures to Enhance the Role of Political Parties in the Republic of Uzbekistan and Their Importance

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## ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to reforming the activities of political parties in the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as increasing the role of political parties.

**KEYWORDS:** *political parties, electorate, elections, monitoring, local government, assessment, efficiency*

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Presidential elections were held in the Republic of Uzbekistan on October 24, 2021. This has become a key event that will affect the further domestic and foreign policy of our country in the next five years. It is known that elections are viewed as an effective institution of civilized political competition and government.

When studying the national electoral legislation, it is important to take into account one important aspect, which is that in the Republic of Uzbekistan, only a political party can nominate a candidate for President, provided that it is registered by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan no later than four months before the day of the announcement of the start of the electoral campaigns.

Pluralism of opinions and a pragmatic way in solving political, social and economic problems are highly valued in our country. This also includes the role of political parties as the main subject of electoral legal relations.

The role of political parties in society is measured by the influence exerted, the effectiveness of the proposed and implemented programs in the socio-political, economic, cultural and spiritual spheres, the number of their supporters, and the electorate.

It is important to note that the development of the party system in Uzbekistan is largely due to the nature of the legislative regulation of the electoral process and party activities. With the gaining of independence of our country, the status of our citizens also changes. The process of democratization of the country's social and political life is enriched with new content. And it all depends on each person. Time is changing. People are changing. Their consciousness is changing. Today our citizens are not inert listeners, but deeply interested participants in socio-political processes who have their own point of view, express their wishes, suggestions, want to have a clear idea of their rights and obligations.

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held a meeting with the leaders of the country's political parties on February 2, 2021. He noted the importance of political parties through their parliamentary corps to study social and economic problems on the ground, put forward proposals for their solution, as well as exercise effective parliamentary and public control.

At the end of 2017, during a message to parliament, the head of our country Shavkat Mirziyoyev already criticized the deputies for their low initiative. Then he noted that out of 136 legislative initiatives received during the year, only 27 were nominated by deputies, and mainly relate to the introduction of amendments and additions to existing laws based on decrees and resolutions of the president. The President pointed out that this testifies to the insufficient efficiency of the parliament's activities.

Citizens, voters, as well as representatives of the electorate of one or another political party expect that the political force they have elected should have the following qualities necessary for the implementation of the set goals and objectives. This is the ability to understand complex issues of social practice, to have experience in analyzing socio-political problems, to have the skills to work with representatives of various strata of the masses, categories of citizens. Taking into account the diverse social interests of citizens, various strata and categories of the population, political parties should be able to develop informed legal decisions.

To enhance the role of political parties in our country, it is necessary to implement the following measures:

1. Broad participation of political parties in the formation of elected representative bodies of state power. This presupposes that all political parties to one degree or another participate in organizing election campaigns, in nominating their candidates for deputies, since in a democratic society the only means of mastering state power are elections.
2. Participation in the formation of the political course of the state is determined by the interest of a political party in pursuing a policy that is beneficial for this party and its supporters. This applies to both the ruling and other parties. The ruling party always has more opportunities. But other parties also have certain opportunities for such influence. For instance:
  - A. participation in pre-election discussions, debates, where the party's approaches to solving certain pressing problems are expressed;
  - B. promulgation of election platforms, programs;

- C. training and promotion of their leaders to government posts;
  - D. the formation of public opinion and, with its help, pressure on state bodies and the course of state policy.
3. Influence on the process of lawmaking, lawmaking of executive bodies and law enforcement activities of state bodies. This form is expressed in the introduction of proposals for the adoption of new laws, other regulatory legal acts, on the abolition of existing ones; in the use of the right to legislative initiatives through their deputies, other channels, as well as by pressure through public opinion on the executive and law enforcement agencies.

Further strengthening of the role of the Oliy Majlis, political parties in deepening democratic reforms and modernization of the country are identified as the priorities of the Action Strategy, which was adopted at the initiative of the head of our state Sh.Mirziyoyev in 2017.

In this regard, important tasks are to further expand the powers of the parliament in matters of domestic and foreign policy, strengthen parliamentary control over the activities of the executive branch and radically improve the quality of lawmaking.

The strengthening of the role of political parties in the renewal and further democratization of public administration and the modernization of the country played a great role in deepening democratic reforms in our country. As a result, political parties have become an important tool for increasing the political and public activity of citizens, expressing the will and opinion of the population.

In order to further strengthen the role of the Oliy Majlis, political parties in deepening democratic reforms and modernization of the country, it was proposed to amend the Laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On the Rules of Procedure of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan", "On the Rules of Procedure of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan" and "On parliamentary control".

According to the changes, a mechanism has been introduced for hearing the heads of state bodies and economic management bodies at meetings of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis (until now, only members of the government could be heard at the meetings of the chambers).

Also, it is envisaged to introduce a procedure according to which the heads of state bodies and economic management bodies will be sent the

decisions of the chambers of the Oliy Majlis, adopted on the basis of their hearing, and in relation to members of the government - to the Cabinet of Ministers.

Currently, new development prospects have opened up for political parties. First of all, it is about increasing the role and responsibility of political parties, party factions and groups in working with the population, with the electorate. It is the voters and representatives of the electorate who should be the first to feel the practical application of the goals and objectives of political parties in life. In this context, in our opinion, political parties face the following important tasks:

**First:** It is necessary to improve the legal and regulatory framework for the activities of political parties. Here it is necessary to take an inventory of the existing regulatory framework and its improvement by studying and applying in practice foreign experience in new realities. The creation of a legal basis for the implementation of effective public control by political parties over the entire system of executive power - from government to local authorities - helps to strengthen their role and practical importance in public life.

**Second:** It is necessary to improve the participation of political parties in the process of monitoring the activities of executive authorities. This function should be in the nature of systemic information and analytical work based on objective and reliable information, the study of citizens' appeals and expert assessments. The purpose of monitoring is through public, party and directly deputy control to increase the efficiency of the work of the executive authorities, in the implementation of the duties assigned to them by the Constitution and laws. It seems that this task should be solved through the interaction of primary organizations and party groups in kengash with deputies of the Legislative Chamber and senators of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Third:** It is necessary to ensure the professionalization of party work, and not only in the area of exercising control functions, but also in transforming public expectations into political decisions in parliament and local Kengashes. In this context, we are considering the possibility of creating information and analytical groups in the central apparatus of the party, with subdivisions in regional, district and city party organizations.

The mission of clearing-house teams becomes clearer by considering the possible functions they will perform. First of all, it is the function of monitoring

the socio-political and socio-economic situation in the country and on the ground in order to adequately assess the effectiveness of the work of the executive bodies. Groups can also perform the function of organizing party self-control, monitoring the implementation of decisions of party plenums, the requirements of the Charter and the Program, accumulate information on citizens' appeals to party bodies and monitor the progress of their consideration.

They can also be used to ensure sustainable communication with the public (studying the interests and opinions of voters on the ground, summarizing expert opinions and results of public opinion polls).

The organization of the work of the information and analytical group in the central apparatus of the party should provide for a mechanism for interaction with representative bodies, i.e. party groups of regional kengashes and the city of Tashkent for obtaining the necessary information, including through the use of the parliamentary inquiry mechanism, cooperation with local media, involvement of independent experts, as well as conducting public opinion polls.

It seems that the implementation of the above and other functions will serve to radically improve the quality of interaction between representative bodies and party organizations.

New legal norms give political parties significant powers in the formation of structural divisions of parliament, representative bodies at the local level, as well as the government and local authorities.

**Over the past five years,** the participation of the national parliament in the implementation of reforms, solving the most important socio-economic, political and legal tasks has significantly expanded, and its powers have increased.

In particular, results have been achieved in the following areas:

**First:** The quality of legislative activity of the parliament has improved.

Legislative activity covers a multi-stage process from determining the need to regulate the relevant public sphere at the level of the law to assessing the effectiveness of the adopted law. In view of the fact that the quality of laws, first of all, depends on the legislative activity, its elements have been radically changed.

In order to strengthen the mechanisms of parliamentary control, the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Parliamentary Control", adopted in 2016, was amended and supplemented 10 times. In

particular, the changes were aimed at expanding the subjects, objects and forms of parliamentary control.

An analysis of parliamentary activity shows that today parliamentarians are actively using the mechanisms of parliamentary control.

In general, the listed institutional and legislative changes contributed to the strengthening of parliamentary control mechanisms, the role of the Oliy Majlis in the system of state power and increased responsibility and accountability of the executive branch to parliamentarians. In turn, this contributed to the intensification of constructive cooperation between parliament and the executive branch.

**Second:** The parliamentary mechanisms of dialogue with citizens are being improved and the openness of the parliament is increasing.

Over the past period, a multidimensional dialogue of parliamentarians with the people has been formed, including directions for involving citizens in lawmaking, parliamentary control, working with citizens' appeals and accumulating their initiatives.

As noted above, much attention is paid to expanding mechanisms for public discussion of draft laws with the broad participation of representatives of civil society institutions, placing draft laws on the official websites of the lower house.

The work of parliamentarians with voters has radically changed. Today, a new practice has been introduced for the systematic study of voter problems with on-site visits.

For example, even in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, local deputies organized over five thousand meetings with the participation of 95 thousand voters, carried out 14 trips to study the situation in the regions. If last year the deputies considered more than 9.3 thousand applications of citizens, then more than 2.9 thousand applications (31 percent) of them were received directly during meetings and receptions of citizens in the field. A distinctive aspect of such meetings can be noted that more than 2.6 thousand voter appeals were positively resolved on the ground. The results of the studies and the issues raised in the addresses became one of the main reasons for initiating parliamentary inquiries, parliamentary hearings and parliamentary inquiries.

The pandemic also contributed to the development of communication between parliamentarians and voters through digital technologies, social networks, in

particular, Telegram, Facebook and other communication channels.

Elements of the "Electronic Parliament" system are also being developed in parallel. New sites have been launched in test mode to enhance dialogue with voters and discuss draft laws - oliymajlis.gov.uz, qonun.gov.uz, deputat.gov.uz. The practice of online broadcasting of sessions of the Senate and the Legislative Chamber has also been introduced.

In addition, at the initiative of the head of state, the Mening Fikrim portal of collective appeals was launched in 2018, which is designed to accumulate initiatives and proposals of citizens aimed at improving legislation and institutional changes in the socio-political and socio-economic spheres.

So, over two years, this web portal received about 4.2 thousand requests, of which more than 400 were put up for voting, only 20 requests received a sufficient number of votes for consideration by the authorized body. In addition, citizens left more than 2.7 thousand comments on applications submitted for voting. It is also noteworthy that the proposals voiced in 40 addresses, even though they did not receive a sufficient number of votes, were implemented due to their relevance for society. On them, the relevant decisions were made by authorized bodies - parliament, government, local representative bodies.

It should be noted that the work of parliamentarians to improve the efficiency of the system of dialogue with the people, to introduce into practice alternative methods of discussing urgent problems with the public is already yielding positive results, which are reflected in the indicator of the level of trust among the electorate.

**Third:** Information and analytical support of the parliament is being improved.

The activity of the information-analytical and legal services of the chambers of the parliament has been improved and the work of the information-analytical and legal services has changed. For example, legal departments have been transformed into legal departments with an increase in the number of employees.

Thus, we can conclude that a phased, sequential process of democratic reforms continues in Uzbekistan, which is marked by the strengthening of the role of parliament and political parties in the further creative transformation of our society.