

Research Article



FREE ELECTIONS IN CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: This article explores the development of civil society through the adherence to general legal principles, such as legality and equality, especially in democratic elections. These principles ensure the successful implementation of elections and the formation of civil society, promoting political culture and the electorate's rights. The article highlights the types and typologies of elections, and a comparative analysis is presented on the participation of political parties in free elections in developed countries. It also reflects on pre-election campaigns, experiences, and practices from advanced foreign countries, alongside the author's insights.

Keywords: civil society, democracy, political pluralism, free elections, voting rights, election principles, equal voting rights, direct elections, secret ballots, pre-election campaigns, election commissions, liberal and conservative parties.

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Introduction

Political parties are the sole political force that acts openly in the political systems of developed countries. They represent a key institution of civil society by organizing citizens. Political parties are unparalleled in their ability to express group and individual interests in civil society. Moreover, the democratization of political systems cannot occur without competition and interaction between parties. Therefore, political parties are the product of a society's socio-economic and socio-cultural evolution. Elections symbolize the people's power, expressing the will of society members and voters alike. In Uzbekistan's current stage of independent development, the formation of representative state bodies through free, legal, and fair elections exemplifies the democratic process and renewal of social life. Following general legal principles, such as legality and equality in elections, serves to build civil society. Elections are synonymous with democracy—democracy means elections, and elections mean democracy. Indeed, democracy cannot be imagined without elections, nor elections without democracy. Democracy manifests itself in elections through the free expression of opinions and the presence of political pluralism. Elections are the product of several centuries of historical development of individuals and society. They emerged as institutions designed to create better models for governance. By today, democratic elections tied to the formation of state power and self-governing bodies have become integral parts of the political systems in most countries. The level of legal state development and civil society in various countries is often measured by the elections held, the population's participation, and the fairness of these elections. Additionally, peace and stability in a country, as well as the safety of individuals, society, and the state, depend directly on the extent to which the principles of democratic elections are observed. The exercise of free suffrage and the true will of the people form the foundation of power and legitimacy of any government. International documents emphasize every person's right to participate in their country's governance, either directly or through elected representatives. The opportunity provided to citizens to participate in elections reflects the extent to which democratic principles guide a country. The democratic development of Uzbekistan's people aims at establishing a civil society through the creation of a legal state. For Uzbekistan, civil society is a social space where law prevails. It does not hinder personal self-improvement; rather, it facilitates it. The individual's interests contribute to the full realization of their rights and freedoms, while respecting the rights and freedoms of others. Thus, freedom and the rule of law coexist harmoniously. A crucial factor in this balance is elevating people's political activity. Without doubt, the political and social maturity of citizens is measured by their active participation in the state's life. To guarantee the most vital democratic principle—the right to vote, to freely express one's will, and to protect legal interests—real conditions and legal frameworks must be created. Uzbekistan has developed all of these requirements. Forming state representative bodies through national elections is a critical indicator of a democratic legal state. Elections in democratic states determine political forces within a country's parliament and serve as an indicator of the people's preferences.

Analysis and results

In the early 19th century, American public figure Van Buren saw political parties and partisan conflicts as positive contributors to state development. He linked the necessity of political parties to society's inherent conflicts, which cannot be eradicated. Van Buren emphasized the persistent danger of power abuse by a minority, stating that "wealth creates the strongest desire to keep the government in its hands for as long as possible." He argued that oligarchic control over resources arose from extreme selfishness, requiring opportunities for the majority to protect their interests.

Since the 1970s, political scientists have defined key functions of political parties operating within democratic frameworks, including:

- Aggregating the political needs of citizens and social groups into broader political goals.
- Ensuring every citizen can influence who governs them through elections, with political parties organizing the process.
- Developing political decisions that reflect the public's will, legalizing political actions, and gaining broad recognition.
- Establishing power through elections and gaining citizens' recognition for leadership.
- Promoting programs and activities through party bodies, municipal organizations, and media participation.
- Facilitating the political education and consciousness of citizens, encouraging active participation in political processes and arenas.

Political parties, therefore, serve as a bridge between citizens and the state. Without effective political parties, citizens cannot socialize, participate in political processes, or hold their representatives accountable. This leads to disconnection between the electorate and both the party and the parliament.

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Conclusion.

In general, any human society lives and develops as a living organism. If one of its members goes out of work, the society suffers from some kind of disease. Certain crisis situations arise when the element of society called "political parties" cannot fulfill its function. First of all, the political interests of voters - the electorate are not reflected in the political system, they are not protected. In addition, since there are no real parties in which citizens participate, they cannot socialize, participate in political processes, control the activities of their representatives - deputies, as a result, the electorate cannot enter into relations not only with the party, but also with the parliament. In the end, the party and the parliament begin to operate not on the basis of the interests and needs of citizens, but on the basis of their own plans, independent of the people (orally, "on behalf of the people"). Also, when the party movement is weak, they face problems in creating a pool of personnel to feed into their political elite system. As a result, the candidates for deputy have difficulty in functioning in the parliament or other lower representative bodies because they are not sufficiently socialized and they are not well "ripened" in the competition of strong parties. If people's deputies are not mature and intellectually capable, the processes of developing effective laws and monitoring their implementation will also be complicated. The government, which does not feel the regular control of the parliament, cannot meet the requirements of democratic values, moreover, it undermines the principle of separation of powers. People's trust is lost in parties that are weak, inactive, unable to implement their programs, most of the party's candidates for deputies do not get voters' votes, and their fraction in the parliament is always in the minority.

It is known from the experience of developed countries that the role of a political party in society and state management is mainly "the people (voters) - the working class - primary party organizations - district, city and regional organizations of parties - deputies of higher and local representative bodies - political parties in the lower house of the parliament fractions - the lower house of the parliament - preparation and adoption of draft laws - control over the execution of laws and other normative documents" scheme is the organization and organization of systematic processes. In this scheme, the interests of the people and the social strata of the society are reflected in the laws and control of the state authorities on behalf of the people through the political party. A political party, on the one hand, does not live in constant mutual relations, strong unity, and achieving a common goal with them, with the deputies nominated by it, on the other hand, with the deputies nominated by it, and on the third hand, with the electorate, won't be. In the life of society, the interests of each person are different. However, among them there is one main one, about which G. Hegel said: "Man's self-realization in life is his main interest." So, this main interest of a person motivates him to join any political party. However, if he does not find an opportunity to realize such an interest in a political party, he will be disappointed, a "drowsy" member of the party will become a "drowsy" member. So, if a political party diligently protects the interests of its supporters, well-wishers, it becomes active, and if it cannot protect it, it is forced to leave the scene of "playing political roles".

The public's trust in parties that are weak, inactive and unable to implement their programs will be lost. Such a political party cannot fulfill the function of representation between the people and the state. This means that one of the main institutions of civil society is not working. The reason is known, because our people know very well that the resources of the parties are not enough to solve the issues raised in citizens' petitions. However, finding a solution to social problems and protecting human rights and freedoms are included in the programs of all parties. In civil society or democratic settings, political parties are usually referred to by the terms "governing party" or "opposition party". The ruling party needs constructive cross-party opposition. However, the fact that party members have not yet fully formed their feelings of personal attachment to the party, the fact that BPTs are only official means that this "significant indicator" is not a complete indicator. Moreover, in the participation of parties in political processes, it is not the number of their members that matters, but how many of their members are active. Therefore, this party should work diligently in the sphere of formation of political and legal culture among its electorate, development of socio-political outlook of voters. Similarly, if the population itself does not have a natural desire to participate in the activities

of party organizations, its involuntary "party membership" will not lead to the development of political power, but to its sinking.

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