



According to Article 37 of the [Georgian Constitution](#), members of parliament are elected **"on the basis of universal, free, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot."**

Article 21 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) establishes the basic principles of democratic elections: "The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in **periodic** and **genuine** elections which shall be by **universal** and **equal** suffrage and shall be held by **secret vote** or by equivalent **free** voting procedures."

The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (thereafter ISFED) believes that during Georgia's 2024 parliamentary elections, four of the five core principles of democratic elections - universal, free, equal, and secret vote, were violated.

The combination of fundamental violations observed by ISFED during the pre-election period and on election day of the 2024 parliamentary elections, affected the free expression of voters' will; As a result, the election outcome cannot be considered a true reflection of the will of Georgian voters.

All this was the result of the extensive abuse of administrative resources, involvement of state agencies in favor of the ruling party, changes to the rules for composition and decision-making in the Central Election Commission (CEC), flaws in the composition of Precinct Election Commissions (PECs) and changing the timelines for allocating the functions to PEC members before election day. Additionally, on election day, the rights of observers were restricted, which was reflected in denying their access to polling stations, systematically expelling them from polling stations, and harassing them verbally and physically.

VIOLATION OF THE UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE PRINCIPLE

Not all citizens of Georgia were provided with the opportunity to participate in the elections and express their choice.

- Voters' Identity Documents were taken away prior to election day, thereby restricting citizens' participation in the elections.
- The right of Georgian citizens living abroad to participate in elections was limited, specifically:
 - Despite numerous requests from Georgian citizens, the CEC did not open additional polling stations abroad. Two lawsuits from ISFED requesting the setting up of polling stations were also rejected;
 - Due to improper polling station arrangements and insufficient commission members, long queues were formed at the polling stations opened abroad. As a result, Many voters, overwhelmed with queuing times were forced to abandon lines and leave, therefore, could not participate in the election.

VIOLATION OF THE FREE SUFFRAGE PRINCIPLE

Intimidation of voters, and control of their will, both during the pre-election period and on election day, limited citizens' ability to participate freely in the elections

- In the pre-election period, to influence voters, the ruling party continued to collect [dossiers](#) on them based on illegally obtained personal data.
- During the pre-election period, activists from the ruling party gathered lists of supporters that included voters' personal data, including identification numbers.
- On election day, ISFED observers detected instances of voter tracking by ruling party coordinators at the outer perimeter of 31% of polling stations. During the tracking, individuals sometimes photocopied voters' ID cards or recorded their information.
- On election day, ISFED observers reported cases of alleged voter bribery occurring outside 13% of polling stations. Local political officials and civil servants, along with individuals affiliated with the ruling party, were also involved in the process.
- At polling stations, ruling party representatives have been indicating to voters that they would vote in favor of the Georgian Dream party.

VIOLATION OF THE EQUAL SUFFRAGE PRINCIPLE

On election day, observer organizations revealed cases of multiple voting.

- In the pre-election period, the CEC, by its [decree](#) altered the timing of the procedure for distributing the functions of PEC members, establishing it one week before the election instead of on election day. This made it possible for commission members to ignore violations that directly breach the principle of equal suffrage and affect the results. Among these violations were:
 - Systematic violations of the procedures of voter inking/checking of inking occurred at 9% of polling stations. In the 2021 municipal elections, only 1% of polling stations reported similar issues.
 - Instances and attempts of multiple voting, including by PEC members.
 - Facts of issuing more than one ballot to a voter.
 - Instances and attempts of proxy voting.
 - Case of ballot stuffing.
- Observers at polling stations were limited in their ability to monitor the voter identification and verification process, thus making it impossible to check the voter verification process.

VIOLATION OF THE SECRET VOTE PRINCIPLE

In the October 26 election, the secrecy of the vote was systematically violated

- In the pre-election period, it was widely reported that voting through new election technologies would make the voter's choice identifiable, creating fear of violating the secrecy of the vote among voters;
- On election day, violations of the secrecy of the vote were identified in various ways:
 - In the polling stations where the elections were held using electronic technologies, on the back of the ballot, traces of a marker were visible so that, taking into account the order of the electoral subjects, it was easy to determine who the voter voted for.
 - The representatives of the ruling party placed video cameras in the polling stations, which were installed in relation to the voting booths and ballot boxes in such a way that the secrecy of the vote was violated.
 - PEC members have been taking the ballots placed in a frame-envelope from the voters and inserting them into the electronic vote-counting machines. At this time, it became known who the voter had voted for.
 - There have been cases of taking photos of the ballot filled by the voters in the voting booth. It was common for two or more people to enter the voting booth together to fill in the ballot. In addition, commission members often attended the ballot-filling process by the voter in the voting booth.
 - When voting in the traditional manner, a number of cases of the voter signing, placing initials, or other identifying information on the ballot were revealed while voting in favor of the Georgian Dream.

The document does not include a complete list of violations revealed during the election period. However, it is presented in such a way as to show cause and effect in relation to the principles guaranteed by the Constitution. For more information, refer to the [ISFED's summary statement](#).

ISFED continues to assess and analyze the October 26 election and is also engaged in legal disputes with the relevant agencies.

ISFED MISSION

Coverage area: 73 electoral districts

Mission:

- up to 1,000 short-term observers inside polling stations;
- 231 observers on the outer perimeter of the stations;
- 73 District Election Commission observers;
- 85 mobile groups;
- 23 lawyers;
- 32 operators.

Methodology: Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) - collection of quantitative and qualitative information from a representative random sample of precincts. The PVT included polling stations in towns and villages within the country, as well as polling stations created in exceptional cases and polling stations opened abroad.

ISFED - VIOLATIONS DETECTED ON E-DAY (490)

WITHIN THE POLLING STATIONS (323)

- 2 cases of ballot stuffing;
- 12 cases of multiple voting/attempt to vote;
- 30 cases of restriction or expulsion of observers;
- 76 cases of violation of inking procedure rules - 9% of PECs;
- 76 cases of violation of vote secrecy - 9% of PECs;
- 22 cases of violations related to the mobile ballot box;
- 17 errors related to electronic technologies;
- 62 other violations;
- 26 problems identified in polling stations abroad.

ISFED submitted a total of 294 complaints to election commissions on the day of voting and in the period after.

