

32. ELECTIONS

The President of the Czech Republic by his Decision No 23/2020 Sb from 22 January 2020 announced a by-election to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in the electoral district No 32 – Teplice to be held and determined the by-election to be carried out on Friday 27 March and Saturday 28 March 2020. Following hygienic and epidemiological measures and prevention of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus spread, the voting was postponed by the Act No 187/2020 Sb, on extension of periods for holding of the by-election. New days for the by-election to be held were determined by the President of the Czech Republic by his Decision No 240/2020 Sb for Friday 5 June and Saturday 6 June 2020. The by-election was held pursuant to the Article 63 (1)(f) of the Constitutional Act No 1/1993 Sb, the Constitution of the Czech Republic, and the Section 80 of the Act No 247/1995 Sb, on Elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic and on change and amendment of some other acts, as amended.

In total, 11 applications of candidates were submitted. One application was declined due to defects. One candidate became invalid due to withdrawal of the nomination. Therefore, 9 valid candidates took part in the by-election.

The by-election was held on the basis of a universal, equal, and direct right to vote (suffrage) by secret ballot using the majority voting system, in a single-seat electoral district (constituency). A voter ID (an electoral card) was applicable. In this by-election, the senator was elected only for the rest of the electoral term, which pertained to the originally elected senator whose mandate ceased to exist. In the electoral district No 32 – Teplice, the last regular elections were carried out on 5 and 6 October 2018.

Delineation of the electoral district was comprised in the Annex No 3 to the Act No 247/1995 Sb, on Elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic, as amended.

Citizens of the Czech Republic who have attained the age of eighteen years on the second polling day at the latest were eligible to vote; they were entitled to vote provided no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred. Voters could exercise their right to vote in some of the electoral wards on the territory of the electoral district No 32, in which they were included in the electoral roll. Citizens of the Czech Republic with permanent residence abroad were also entitled to vote if they stayed on the territory of the Czech Republic on the polling day and had a voter ID (an electoral card). They could vote in any electoral ward of the electoral district No 32.

Political parties and political movements with registration at the Ministry of the Interior or their coalitions were allowed to nominate their candidates for the by-election to the Senate or an individual independent candidate was also allowed to register (self-nominate) as a candidate for the by-election provided that he or she met prerequisites set by law (hereinafter referred to as “election parties”).

A voter inserted one ballot paper of the selected candidate into an official envelope and cast the envelope into the ballot box executing thereby his or her vote. If a candidate won over 50% of the total number of valid votes cast in the electoral district, he or she was elected senator. If none of the candidates won over 50% of valid votes cast, the senator was not elected and the second round of the by-election took place in the electoral district a week later. It was a runoff between the two candidates, who won the highest numbers of valid votes in the first round.

In the first round of the by-election in the electoral district No 32 (Teplice), on 5 and 6 June 2020, nobody was elected senator and therefore a week later, on 12 and 13 June 2020, the second round of the by-election took place. In the second round, Hynek Hanza was elected senator.

Registered voters are (the number of) persons included in electoral rolls (persons who meet prerequisites determined by law for the exercise of their right to vote or, in other words, active suffrage). The turnout is calculated as the share of the number of voting voters (persons who were given an official envelope) in the registered voters (persons included in the electoral rolls).

Names of election parties that are too long have been shortened for the needs of presentation in Tables. Only data on identical political entities are comparable to those from previous years. However, identification according to the name (or an abbreviation) when comparing in time may not be unequivocal due to often changes (births of new political entities, changes to their names, changes in the composition of coalitions, etc.).

Since the percentages are rounded off, their sum may not be equal to 100.

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Further information can be found on the website of the Czech Statistical Office at:

- www.czso.cz/csu/czso/elections_en
- www.volby.cz/index_en.htm