

30. ELECTIONS

In 2014 the electoral term, for which local councils were elected on 15 and 16 October 2010 and in additional and new elections held during the years 2011 to 2014, ended. At the same time, electoral term finished also for senators elected in October 2008 for a six-year term and a senator for district No. 30 – Kladno, elected in additional elections in March 2011.

Elections to new local councils for another four-year term on the entire territory of the Czech Republic and elections for a six-year term in 27 senatorial electoral districts were announced by the Decision of the President of the Czech Republic No. 112/2014 Sb., on the Announcement of Elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic, to local councils and councils of city districts and city parts in statutory towns and to councils of the Hl. m. Praha Region and its city parts, dated 12 June 2014. The elections were held on 10 and 11 October and on 17 and 18 October 2014.

Ballots were cast, examined, and counted for the first time in permanent electoral wards where the ward election committees were the same for both elections. The elections to local councils took place in 14 752 electoral wards, the elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in 5 144 electoral wards. The total of 10 electoral districts were formed for elections to the council of the town of Lišov (the České Budějovice District) and to two city parts of the Hl. m. Praha Region.

The elections took place only on the territory of the Czech Republic and were managed by the State Electoral Committee as a permanent election body. The Act No. 491/2001 Sb., on Local Council Elections, as amended, and the Act No. 247/1995 Sb., on Elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic, and on changes and completion of some other acts, as amended, regulate the competence of individual electoral bodies in such a way that, except the tasks of the ward election committees, the complete organizational and technical preparation for the elections and the processing of election results was made by central and local government bodies within the execution of state administration.

The **elections to local councils** were held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot. Citizens of the Czech Republic who had attained the age of 18 on the day of the elections, at the latest, had permanent residence in the municipality and no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred, were entitled to vote. Voters were allowed to cast their votes solely in the polling station of the electoral ward of their permanent residence and were included into only one electoral roll. The right to vote and to be elected was also given to foreign nationals of the states with which the Czech Republic had concluded a relevant agreement (in these elections citizens of EU Member States) who were registered as permanent or temporary residents in the municipality and placed a request for inclusion into the electoral roll.

The total of 310 individual political parties, political movements, their coalitions and associations with independent candidates took part in the elections and apart from them over 9 800 of individual independent candidates and more than 8 600 different local associations of independent candidates.

The number of elected members of a local council depended on the number of the population of a municipality ranging from 5 to 55, except for the council of the Hl. m. Praha Region (Prague City Assembly), for which 65 members were being elected. Voters were free to use one of three ways of casting their votes stipulated by the Election Act, using the ballot common to all parties standing for the election. The pre-determined number of seats in the local council was split among the electoral parties in one scrutiny, using a proportional system and election divisors.

Regular elections to local councils took place for the next four-year term in the total of 6 235 municipalities, small towns, and towns. Members of a local council were not elected in 13 municipalities due to a failure to present lists of candidates or due to an insufficient number of candidates for the determined numbers of members of the council to be elected.

The number of votes obtained in Table 30-2 shows the fact that each voter participating in the elections had a maximum of so many votes how many members of local councils were being elected. The data of the seats thus does not have to be directly proportional to the number of votes because a substantially smaller number of votes was necessary in small municipalities than in large ones (as measured by the number of voters) to get a seat.

The tables do not include results of elections to the councils of city parts and city districts of statutory cities and city parts of the Hl. m. Praha Region, broken by territory.

The **elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic** were held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot, using the plurality voting system, in single-member electoral districts. In comparison to the year 2008, nine out of 27 electoral districts where the elections took place were re-determined as for their territory. The underlying reason was the population size outside the permitted range in the senatorial districts.

The voters were citizens of the Czech Republic who had attained the age of at least 18 years on the second day of the elections at the latest. They were entitled to vote in the electoral ward of the electoral district where

they were included in the electoral roll, provided no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred. 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 election day. They could vote in any electoral ward of the electoral district, in which the elections took place.

Candidates for the elections to the Senate could be nominated by political parties and political movements, registered at the Ministry of the Interior, or by their coalitions (hereinafter only "electoral party"). The total of 242 candidates coming from 52 electoral parties competed for a seat. An application could be filed also by an independent candidate, and only five of them exercised their right.

A voter inserted a ballot paper of the selected candidate into an official envelope and put the envelope into the ballot box. If a candidate won over 50% of the total number of valid votes in the electoral district, he/she was elected senator; if none of the candidates won over 50% of valid votes, the senator was not elected and in such electoral district the second round of the elections took place a week later. Not all the candidates took part in the second round but only those two who won the highest number of valid votes in the first round.

No senator was elected on 10 and 11 October 2014 when the first round of the elections took place so the second round was held on 17 and 18 October 2014 in all of the 27 electoral districts.

First names, surnames, and degrees of candidates were taken over from lists of candidates, which had been submitted to the relevant registration office.

The sums of relative values do not have to equal 100 due to rounding off.

Names of political entities are in Czech only.

Only data for identical political entities in the framework of individual types of elections are comparable with data from previous years. However, identification by name of the electoral party may not be unambiguous due to frequent changes (new political entities appear, they change their names).

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

- www.volby.cz/index_en.htm