

32. ELECTIONS

On 20 and 21 October 2017, regular **elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic** were held for another four-year electoral term based on the Decision of the President of the Czech Republic No 135/2017 Sb of 19 April 2017.

The way of determining the election results, the procedure of their further processing, up to the allocation of seats is governed by the Act No 247/1995 Sb, on Elections to the Parliament of the Czech Republic, as amended (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"). The data presented are based on the results processed for the State Electoral Committee. Provided data are adjusted based on findings of the Supreme Administrative Court during re-calculation of results of voting for the ODS political party in 910 electoral wards of the Středočeský Region. On the website of the Czech Statistical Office, both results are provided: the ones found out in the regular term of the elections as well as the results with changes reflected based on the resolution of the Supreme Administrative Court (the file number of the Supreme Administrative Court: Vol 58/2017).

The elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic were held on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot, following the principle of proportional representation in the electoral regions. It is laid down in the Constitution of the Czech Republic that the number of deputies elected (seats) shall be 200. An annex to the Act defines 14 electoral regions, which are identical with the administrative regions of the Czech Republic.

It was made possible for Czech citizens to vote also abroad, in polling stations installed in selected embassies, honorary consulates, or consular agencies of the Czech Republic. Voting results from abroad were added to results of the Středočeský electoral region (as decided by a lot drawn by the State Electoral Committee).

The voters were citizens of the Czech Republic, who at least on the second polling day attained the age of at least 18 years, and no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred. Voters could exercise their right to vote in some of the permanent electoral wards on the territory of the Czech Republic or in a special electoral ward abroad, in which they were included in the electoral roll. A voter could vote also in any permanent or any special electoral ward (i.e. in the Czech Republic or abroad) upon submission of an elector's certificate.

The seats were contested by a total of 31 political parties and political movements (hereinafter referred to as the "party"), which had submitted their individual lists of candidates at least in one of the electoral regions. The lists contained the names of candidates in the descending order preferred by the party for the allocation of seats. The maximum number of candidates is limited by the Act, differentially for each electoral region.

To vote, a voter inserted one ballot paper of the selected party into an official envelope and then cast the envelope into the ballot box. The voter was allowed to show preference for the candidates by marking with a circle up to four ordinal numbers on the ballot paper. Such ballot paper represented one valid vote for the party, provided that the voting procedure complied with conditions pursuant to the Act.

Valid votes won by individual parties decided which parties were to distribute among themselves the determined number of seats. Only those parties, which reached the determined percentage of the total number of returned valid votes added up for all electoral regions, qualified for the scrutiny. The percentage is stipulated by the Act depending on the type of the list of candidates; it is 5% for a political party or a political movement standing for the election independently.

Seats falling to the electoral regions were allocated to the parties gradually within the electoral regions based on the shares of votes calculated using the d'Hondt method (i.e. valid votes received by a party were gradually divided by 1, 2, 3, etc.). The seats won by the party were obtained by its candidates in the order, in which they were listed on the ballot paper; provided that a candidate won preferential votes making up at least 5% of the vote for the party in the region, the seat was allocated preferentially to that candidate.

In January 2018, the second direct **election of the President of the Czech Republic** took place. The election was held on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot, using the first-past-the-post system and the territory of the Czech Republic constituted the only election district.

The election of the President of the Czech Republic was announced by the Decision of the Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic No 275/2017 Sb of 23 August 2017 to be held on 12 and 13 January 2018. The execution of the election was governed by the Act No 275/2012 Sb, on the Election of the President of the Czech Republic and by the Decree No 294/2012 Sb, on Implementation of Some Provisions of the Act on the Election of the President of the Czech Republic.

A citizen of the Czech Republic who at least on the second polling day of the presidential election attained the age of at least 40 years and had not been incapacitated as for execution of his/her active right to vote could have been elected President of the Czech Republic. At least twenty deputies or at least ten senators may have nominated a presidential candidate as well as a citizen may have done so who attained 18 years of age provided that his/her proposal was supported by a petition signed by at least 50 000 citizens with the right to vote for a President of the Czech Republic.

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To vote, a voter inserted one ballot paper of the selected candidate into an official envelope and then cast the envelope into the ballot box. Pursuant to the Act, a candidate, who wins an overall majority of the total number of returned valid votes, is elected President of the Czech Republic. Since none of the candidates won in the first round the number of votes necessary to be elected, the second round of the election took place after 14 days. Two candidates advanced to the second round run-off, who won in the first round the biggest number of returned valid votes. The second round of the election took place on 26 and 27 January 2018. The candidate, who won in the second round of the election the highest number of valid votes of qualified electors, was elected President of the Czech Republic.

First names, surnames, and degrees of candidates have been taken over from the lists of candidates submitted to the Ministry of the Interior.

Registered voters refer to the numbers of persons registered in the electoral rolls (lists of persons who meet statutory conditions for execution of their active right to vote).

The turnout is calculated as the share of the number of voting voters (persons who were issued an official envelope in the polling station) in registered voters (persons included in the electoral rolls).

Names of political parties and political movements, which are too long, have been shortened for presentation in the tables. Only data on identical political entities can be compared to those of previous years. Identification according to the name (or the abbreviation), however, may not be unambiguous when comparing timewise, because of frequent changes (new political entities were founded, names of political entities changed, compositions of coalitions changed, etc.).

Due to rounding off (or showing data on percentages of valid votes to two decimal places without rounding off), the sum of percentages 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