

ELECTIONS

Referendum on independence

On December 10, 1991 a referendum on independence was held in the Nagorno Karabakh Republic (the “Republic” or “NKR”). During the said referendum, the total number of registered voters was 132,328. 108,736 individuals participated, which constitutes 82.2 per cent of the total number of registered voters.

The question posed to the voters in the referendum was as follows: “Do you agree on the Nagorno Karabakh Republic to be an independent state, independently determining the forms of cooperation with other states and communities?”

108,615 individuals or 99.9 per cent of the total number of registered voters answered “Yes” to the aforementioned question; while 24 individuals or 0.002 per cent answered “No”.

Thus, the absolute majority of NKR’s population voted for the independence of the Republic.

The referendum was monitored by a number of independent observers, who were present at all 30 polling stations of the Republic, and in conclusion issued a report on the Referendum^{*i}.

Parliamentary elections

On December 28, 1991, elections for the NKR Supreme Soviet were held.

81 districts and 214 polling station commissions were formed in NKR. Based on the results of the elections, 81 members were elected to the NKR Supreme Soviet..

On April 30, 1995, early elections for the NKR National Assembly were held.

33 districts were formed. 73.9 per cent of the total number of voters participated. 23 members were elected to the NKR National Assembly, in one round of voting. Independent international observers monitored these elections.

On June 18, 2000, regular elections for the NKR National Assembly took place.

33 districts were formed. In all districts elections were completed in one round. 33 members were elected to the National Assembly. 59.7 per cent of the total number of voters participated. Independent international observers monitored these elections, and they were present in 170 polling stations, they also participated in the compilation of the votes*.

Presidential elections

On November 24, 1996, presidential elections were held in NKR.

70,052 voters, or 78.07 per cent, out of the total 89,733 number of voters participated in the elections. Mr. Robert Kocharyan was elected as NKR president. Independent international

observers monitored these elections, and 51 signed the final report on the presidential elections.

Due to the appointment of Mr. Robert Kocharyan to the post of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, the NKR Central Electoral Commission issued a decision for the holding of an early presidential election, **on September 1, 1997.**

76,257 persons or 84.6 per cent of the total 90,137 voters participated in the elections. Mr. Arkady Ghoukasian was elected as the NKR president. International observers from the Russian Federation, France, Switzerland, Ukraine, and Armenia monitored these elections.

On August 11, 2003 the third presidential elections were held in NKR.

64,736 voters or 75.7 per cent of the total 85,523 participated in the elections. Mr. Arkady Ghoukasian was re-elected as NKR president. International observers from Russian Federation, the United States, Great Britain, Armenia and other countries monitored at the elections.

Elections for local self-governing bodies

Two elections for local self-governing bodies were held in NKR, **on September 27, 1998 and September 5, 2001.**

The results of the elections were as follows:

	1998	2001
Number of registered voters	90,137	86,525
Voters	76,257	53,537
Percentage	84.6 %	61.9%
Candidates to the Elders Council	1,350	1,550
Elected members to the Elders Council	1,248	1,361
Candidates to the Heads of Communities	391	360
Elected Heads of Communities	195	194

***Note:** The results of the 2001 elections do not include data on the heads of communities in 30 communities, since elections will be held there upon the termination of the terms.*

During the elections for the NKR self-governing bodies held on September 27, 1998, two observers from the Central Electoral Commission of Armenia, as well as other local observers monitored the elections, while during the elections held on September 5, 2001, local observers and representatives from the mass media conducted the observers' mission.

i* *See Library/Reports*

***See Library/Reports/joint statements*