


This monthly newsletter is a brief overview of Ukrainian authorities' work on implementation of Reform #1 in Ukraine

DRAFT AMENDMENTS ON DECENTRALIZATION TO BE INTRODUCED INTO THE CONSTITUTION OF UKRAINE ARE PRESENTED TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

On July 16 the Parliament adopted the Resolution "On putting draft law on introduction of amendments into Constitution of Ukraine (as to decentralization of power) on agenda of 2nd session of Verkhovna Rada of 8th convocation and on its further submission for consideration by Constitutional Court of Ukraine"

The Draft Law suggests changes concerning decentralization of state authority in Ukraine and strengthening of constitutional and legal status of local self-government.

Also, the draft law takes into consideration a Complex of activities on observance of Minsk agreements. It provides that the peculiarities of local self-government in certain raions of Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts are defined by a special law.



"Neither the law, nor the draft amendments to be introduced into the Constitution, contain a single word about special status for Donbas. Instead, both in Donbas and in all other regions of Ukraine communities will get much more authority and opportunities", **said the President of Ukraine, Petro Poroshenko.**

Source: web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

VERKHOVNA RADA APPROVED THE NEW LAW ON LOCAL ELECTIONS

On July 14 Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved the law "On local elections", which provides the basic principles, organization scheme, and the procedure for conducting local elections.

According to the law, in settlements with population numbers below 90 thousand residents, the elections will be held according to the simple majority system.

Elections to raion councils, city councils, and oblast councils will be held according to proportional system. Mayors of cities with population above 90 thousand residents will be elected by the absolute majority – 50%+1 vote. For this purpose, an opportunity for the second round is provided.

A city, a raion, an oblast are divided into constituencies. In each constituency a party may nominate its candidate. If a party gets 5% of votes or more, the number of candidates from this party is defined in accordance to the number of votes, submitted directly for the deputy in a separate constituency. The council will include not the candidates that were placed by the party in the first places of its electoral list, but the candidates, which received greatest support from the voters.



"At last we have moved away from the hybrid system, which was very strange and provoked a lot of complaints. Under that system, one part of deputies was elected according to the lists, while another part was elected in majority consistencies", **said the Chairman of Parliament Volodymyr Groysman.**

Source: web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

LOCAL ELECTION IN UKRAINE WILL TAKE PLACE ON OCTOBER 25


On July 17 Verkhovna Rada adopted the Resolution "On regular election of deputies to city councils and election of village, small town and city heads in 2015".

According to the resolution text, regular local elections are scheduled for Sunday, October 25, 2015.

Regular election of deputies of Verkhovna Rada of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, all local councils and all village, settlement, city council heads on the temporarily occupied territory of the AR of Crime and the city of Sebastopol shall not be scheduled and conducted.

Local election also shall not be scheduled in certain raions, cities, settlements, and villages of Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts, situated on territories, defined as temporarily occupied territories.

Source: web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine




"As for elections in Donbas, I would like to hear all the parties, however, I think that elections should be held on all Ukrainian territory, where they are possible in terms of ensuring the standards of democracy, openness, transparency, and accessibility", **said the Chairman of Parliament, Volodymyr Groysman.**

THE PARLIAMENT SUPPORTED A PACKAGE OF DRAFT LAWS ON DE-MONOPOLIZATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

On July 14 Verkhovna Rada adopted in the first reading a package of 4 draft laws, which will ensure the delegation of responsibility for provision of administrative services from the state to local authorities and notary offices.

These draft laws are targeted at decentralization, de-monopolization, and de-bureaucratization of services, and represent a significant step towards destruction of corrupted centralized vertical power structure. Legislative changes aim to make registration of property and business, as well as obtaining of personal documents by citizens without any queues or bribes.

Source: web-site of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine




"This package of laws ensures the conduction of a complex reform in the sphere of provision of administrative services and introduction of a new approach into the relations between public servants and citizens", **says the Minister of Justice, Pavlo Petrenko.**

645 PROJECTS ALREADY APPLIED FOR RESOURCES FROM THE STATE FUND FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

645 projects, which have to be implemented before the end of 2015, have been submitted to the State fund for regional development through online platform dfr.minregion.gov.ua. 165 of these projects, applying for a total sum of almost 500 million UAH, are already approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine. Generally, in 2015 the government allocated 3 billion UAH to the Fund.

Source: web-site of Decentralization of Power



"We want to make the project selection process as transparent as possible, and ease the access to the resources of the State fund for regional development, which has been created by the government for financing of these projects", **said the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Regional Development, Construction, and Housing and Communal Services, Gennady Zubko.**

IN MOST REGIONS THE PROCESS OF VOLUNTARY UNIFICATION OF COMMUNITIES HAS STARTED

In July more than 35 of future unified territorial communities from regions of Ukraine submitted respective draft decisions of local councils to oblast state administrations, which will analyze them as to their correspondence to the Constitution of Ukraine and the legislation in force.

Almost two thirds of these communities have already received the opinions of oblast state administrations. The next steps envision the adoption of final decisions on unification by communities and submission of applications for creation of unified territorial communities to oblast councils. Oblast councils, in their turn, will consider such applications within 30 days, and make respective decisions.

“Communities get more and more interested in unification, because they understand, that investors will support those, who will be the first to create favourable investment climate”, **said the Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Regional Development, Construction, and Housing and Communal Services, Gennady Zubko.**



Source: web-site of Decentralization of Power

A DRAFT LAW, ALLOWING A COMMUNITY TO CONTROL LOCAL AUTHORITIES, IS DEVELOPED

On July 6 a draft law on public control has been registered in Verkhovna Rada. It defines the right of territorial community members for participation in control of local self-government bodies, communal enterprises, organizations, educational, healthcare, cultural, social protection establishments, legal and physical persons, providing services on the territory of the respective community.

Activity of the above-mentioned bodies will be verified as to compliance with the legislation of Ukraine and with the interests of territorial communities.

The process of control shall be exercised in the forms of sociological and statistical research, public monitoring, expert examination, and checks, discussions on public hearings etc.

Source: web-site of Decentralization of Power