



USPISHNA VARTA
HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM

2019 UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

REPORT ON THE OBSERVATION
OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

(third intermediate)
April 1-18, 2019



The "Uspishna Varta" human rights platform
Kiev, Ukraine

April 19, 2019

Table of contents

GENERAL SITUATION BEFORE DAY OF VOTING APRIL 21st	3
MANAGEMENT OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS	3
REGISTRATION OF VOTERS	5
CANDIDATE ELECTION CAMPAIGN	6
"Black PR" and defamatory electoral campaigns.....	6
Budgetary administrative resources	8
The "web" and voter bribery	8
ENSURING SECURITY AND LAW & ORDER DURING THE ELECTION.....	10
MASS MEDIA.....	10
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS	11

GENERAL SITUATION BEFORE DAY OF VOTING APRIL 21st

On April 7th, the Central Election Commission officially announced the results of the first round of the presidential election on March 31st. Vladimir Zelensky received 30.24% or 5,714,034 votes, Petro Poroshenko - 15.95% or 3,014,609 votes. 18,893,864 voters took part in the voting. 22,600 ballots were deemed invalid. The Commission decided to hold a second vote in the latest Ukrainian presidential election on March 31st (second round), having scheduled it for Sunday, **April 21st 2019**.

The electoral campaign in the period between the two rounds was characterized by a high intensity of the distribution of "black PR" and campaigns aimed at discrediting candidates on social media platforms and traditional media, as well as through printed campaign materials. According to the observers of "Uspishna Varta", these factors limit the ability of voters to make an informed choice and negatively affect the perception of the entire electoral process.

"Uspishna Varta" also considers problems with the staffing of district election commissions to be among the risks that may adversely affect the vote on April 21st. They arose due to the fact that one of the candidates (Petro Poroshenko) did not submit a sufficient number of candidates to the commission, with the result that the personnel deficit amounted to almost 60,000 people. District commissions had to independently select members of district commissions, including those from people who do not possess information about electoral procedures and legislation.

The observers of "Uspishna Varta" are also concerned by the reports coming from constituencies about the functioning of the so-called "webs" in the interests of the candidate Petro Poroshenko and the exertion of administrative pressure on employees of budgetary organizations in order to ensure controlled voting.

MANAGEMENT OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

During the reporting period, the CEC continued to operate in accordance with its mandate as the main body in the electoral management system.

After election day on March 31st, the observers of "Uspishna Varta" recorded **difficulties with the reception of ballots and electoral documentation in a number of district election commissions (DECs)**¹. In a number of DEC scandals flared up and physical violence was even used.

Thus, in the Ternopol region, PEC members had a fight for a place in the queue for the delivery of ballots to the DEC, as a result of which a woman was injured. The incident happened in the night of March 31st to April 1st in Zborov, when the DEC began collecting ballots.

On April 1st a scandal also arose in Kovel, Volyn region. Members of one of the district commissions from 00:00 stood in a queue and could not pass the ballots to DEC number 21.

Another incident occurred in the Kiev-Svyatoshinsky district of Kiev. The head of the headquarters of the "Bloc of Petro Poroshenko" tried to hinder the work of DEC No. 95. According to eyewitnesses, he repeatedly tried to bring a representative of the SBU to the server because the system repeatedly produced an error due to discrepancies

¹<https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/zatyagivaniye-raboty-oik-porozhdayet-skandaly-i-vozmozhnost-falsifikatsii>

in the numbers that were entered. As a result, there was a problem with the slow reception of electoral documentation in the DEC.

On the deadline stipulated by law (April 10th 2019) the Central Election Commission formed the composition of 199 **district election commissions** (DECs) in order to organize and carry out a repeat vote. The candidate Petro Poroshenko submitted the maximum possible number of candidates (altogether - 1393 people) to the composition of all 199 DECs. The candidate Vladimir Zelensky also almost completely used up his quota, delegating 1,379 candidates to 197 DECs².

At the same time, in the **process of forming precinct election commissions (PECs) in a number of regions, DEC members faced the problem of a shortage of members**. The situation arose due to the fact that representatives of the candidate Petro Poroshenko offered to the PEC 2 people instead of 6-8 (depending on the size of the station). As a result, district commissions were forced to independently search for people to form commissions. In a number of electoral districts, the shortage of commission members reached 1,000.

For example, as of April 13th in Zaporozhye, in DEC No. 74, 314 PEC members were missing, in DEC No. 76, 457 people were missing, in DEC No. 77 344 people were missing. At DEC No. 62 in Zhytomyr the shortage of members in the PEC was 400 people. The situation with the shortage of PEC members was reported by observers in Lutsk and Lvov. A similar situation was recorded in other regions of Ukraine.

According to the interlocutors of "Uspishna Varta", PEC members from the candidate Poroshenko were not massively paid for their work in the first round. This concerns the so-called "unofficial" payments that were promised by headquarters and are common informal practices for Ukrainian elections. According to the data received from the source at the headquarters of Petro Poroshenko, in the second round the candidate is planning to pay 3000 hryvnia to PEC heads, 2000 hryvnia to the secretary, and ordinary members of the commission are not supposed to receive payments. Accordingly, people are not motivated to work in commissions³.

On April 15th the CEC also called on the chairpeople of district election commissions (DECs) to pay official payments to those commission members who participated in the first round of the presidential election.

According to the election schedule, PECs should have been formed before April 15th, inclusive, in order to hold the first meeting - no later than April 17th (no later than the second day after the formation decision was made).

At the same time, in accordance with the provisions of Part 12 of Article 85 of the Law "On the Ukrainian Presidential Election", if a candidate for the presidency of Ukraine did not use their opportunity to submit a fixed number of candidates to the structure of the relevant PEC within the time frame stipulated in Part 9 of this article, the district election commission forms the structure of the precinct election commission in the number determined by Part 8 of this article, upon the submission of the Chairperson of the relevant district election commission on the basis of offers of members of the district election commission.

According to the CEC report, as of April 15th the problem of forming PECs for the Ukrainian presidential election on the proposal of the chairperson of district election commissions appeared in **more than 40 districts**. According to the CEC, problems with PEC configuration arose in the following regions:

² <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/v-oik-ot-poroshenko-voshli-predstaviteli-yego-tekhnicheskikh-kandidatov-ot-zelenskogo-lyudi-timoshenko-lyashko-i-gritsenko>

³ <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/shtab-poroshenko-sabotiruyet-protsess-formirovaniya-uik-podav-vsego-po-2-chlena-vmesto-6-8>

- Dnepropetrovsk region: territorial constituency Nos. 26, 27, 28;
- Transcarpathia region: territorial constituency Nos. 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73;
- Kirovograd region: territorial constituency Nos. 100, 101, 102, 103;
- Lugansk region: territorial constituency Nos. 106, 107, 112, 113, 114;
- Sumy region: territorial constituency Nos. 157, 161;
- Kharkov region: territorial constituency Nos. 171, 176, 180;
- Kherson region: territorial constituency Nos. 183, 184, 185;
- Chernigov region: territorial constituency Nos. 206, 209, 210;
- City of Kiev: territorial constituency Nos. 216, 217, 220, 223.

In total, district election commissions should form a composition of 29,801 precinct election commissions (PECs), involving about 413,000 citizens of Ukraine in their functioning.

According to the CEC, as of 12:50 on April 17th 2019 information about the appointment of 408,864 people to the posts of the chairperson, secretary, and members of the precinct election commission was available in the "Vybory" electronic automated information system.

- 197566 – submitted by Zelensky V.A.,
- 148564 – submitted by Poroshenko P.A.,
- 62734 – submitted by DEC chairpersons, ship captains, and the head of the polar station.

Thus, as of April 17th, the shortage was 4,136 people from the originally declared number.

By April 18th, according to the observers of "Uspishna Varta", the problem of the shortage of commissions in most districts was solved by involving volunteers, as well as via appeals to local authorities and employment centers.

The situation with the shortage of members of district commissions and the involvement of volunteers and people via employment centers can lead to a decrease in the quality of the management of the electoral process due to their lack of knowledge of the electoral legislation and the appropriate level of training. In addition, there is still the risk of disrupting the electoral process in polling stations where there will not be enough commissioners to open a quorum by the day of voting.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

On election day on March 31st 315,725 Ukrainians changed their voting place, including Ukrainian citizens registered in the Donetsk (63,869 people) and Lugansk (28,834 people) regions⁴. Before the second vote on April 21st, 325,604 Ukrainians took advantage of their right to change their place of voting (+9879 compared with the first round). From them, 58,968 residents of the Donetsk region and 29,784 residents of the Lugansk

⁴ https://www.drv.gov.ua/ords/portal!/cm_core.cm_index?option=ext_num_voters&pdt=6&pmn_id=127

region changed their polling place. Taking into account the fact that in Ukraine there are 1.52 million immigrants from the temporarily occupied territories of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea⁵, less than 6% of them took advantage of their right to vote.

Unlike the first round, before the second vote the time period for changing the place of voting is significantly limited (from April 8th to 15th). During this period, mass queues of people who wanted to change their place of voting were observed in the offices of the State Registry. In a number of districts of Kiev the queues reach 500 people, and people spent up to 9 hours in them⁶.

According to the assessment of the human rights activists of "Uspishna Varta", in order to ensure the constitutional right of citizens to elect and be elected, the procedure for changing the place of voting should be significantly simplified, including by offering the possibility of submitting the necessary documents online. In addition, it is advisable to allow the possibility of simultaneously changing the place of voting for both rounds of the Ukrainian presidential election.

CANDIDATE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

"Black PR" and defamatory electoral campaigns

Before the second vote on April 21st, **presidential candidates have not carried out campaign trips to regions**, limiting themselves to television broadcasts and correspondence discussions through video clips on social networks. A key topic for discussion was the **debate between candidates**, which was eventually scheduled for April 19th at the Olympic Stadium in Kiev.

"Black PR" tactics and defamatory campaigns were the main focus of the strategies of candidates. Social media platforms, traditional media, and printed campaign products were used to spread negative messages about opponents. Discretionary materials were distributed at these sites, including humiliating photo collages, fake news, and aggressive labelling.

Thus, the observers of "Uspishna Varta" recorded the **distribution in various regions of Ukraine of different campaign products that discredit the presidential candidate Vladimir Zelensky**⁷. Such products were also distributed during the campaign of the candidate Petro Poroshenko at the Olympic Stadium in Kiev on April 14th⁸.

On the other hand, during the weekend of April 13th-14th in a number of cities of Ukraine (Kiev, Kharkov, Cherkassy) advertising posters appeared with the words "The end", made in the style of the billboards of Petro Poroshenko featuring the slogan "Think". Source data was not specified on the billboards.

On April 9th the observers of "Uspishna Varta" submitted to the CEC a request to check the compliance of the **electoral campaign of the presidential candidate Petro Poroshenko featuring the depiction of the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin** with the requirements of the Law of Ukraine "On the Ukrainian Presidential Election". In particular, in accordance with Paragraph 1, Part 1 of Article 64 of the Law, participation in electoral campaigning is not allowed for persons who are not citizens of Ukraine. Also, lawyers

⁵ Data of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine as of November 12th 2018

⁶ <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/boleye-9-chasov-v-ocheredi-radi-prava-golosa-mesto-golosovaniya-izmenili-uzhe-156-618-ukraintsev>

⁷ <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/po-ukraine-raskleivayut-listovki-s-elementami-chernogo-piara-protiv-zelenskogo>

⁸ <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/v-poslednyuyu-nedelyu-do-vyborov-ukrainu-zakhlestnula-volna-chernogo-piara-protiv-kandidatov>

say that according to Part 1 of Article 8 of the Law of Ukraine "On Advertising", it is prohibited to place an image of an individual in advertising or use their name without their written consent⁹. As of April 18, a response from the CEC has not yet been forthcoming.

"Uspishna Varta" also appealed to the State Bureau of Investigation with a statement about the commission of a criminal offence under Article 161 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine ("Inciting ethnic hatred") by the people's deputy Nina Yuzhanina in preliminary agreement with Oksana Zabuzhko, Ivan Malkovich, and other unidentified persons from the headquarters of the candidate for the post of President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko¹⁰. We are talking about the distribution of campaign material in the form of the **newspaper "April 21st VOTE"**, which was **made at the order of the candidate Petro Poroshenko**. According to the lawyers of "Uspishna Varta", the newspaper contains statements that violate the principle of equality of man and citizen enshrined in the Constitution of Ukraine and, conversely, create a public danger that intensifies the escalation of the conflict between various members of society.

Also, from open sources it became known that the police initiated a criminal case because of the **video published on the Internet in which a truck knocks down the candidate for the presidency of Ukraine Vladimir Zelensky**¹¹. Criminal proceedings were initiated under Part 1 of Article 346 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine ("Threat or violence against a state or public figure"). The headquarters of the candidate Poroshenko denied any involvement in the production of this video. At the same time, journalists found out that the distribution of this video was started from Internet resources controlled by Poroshenko's headquarters.

In different regions newspapers, leaflets, and stickers that discredit the candidate Zelensky were distributed through mailboxes, as well as with the participation of a number of public organizations. Thus, in Kharkov the observers of "Uspishna Varta" found out that the distribution center of materials that contain elements of "black PR" against the candidate Vladimir Zelensky was carried out by the center of interaction of volunteers "Ukrop-kholl", which was established in June 2015 at the initiative of the public organisations "Euromaidan Kharkov, the charity fund "Sister of Mercy of the ATO", the public organisation "Civil Self-Defense", and other organisations¹².

On April 18th in Zhytomyr an observer of "Uspishna Varta" submitted a statement to the police about the fact of the distribution of materials containing elements of "black PR" against the candidate Zelensky on April 17th. The distributor of materials was an underage girl who refused to give the name of the organisation that hired her.

The distribution of special editions of press publications by the campaigners of Petro Poroshenko's headquarters (for example, "Ukraina Moloda") was also recorded in different regions.

According to the evaluation of the observers of "Uspishna Varta", the massive distribution of "black PR" materials through social networks and printed campaign products significantly limits the ability of voters to make an informed choice and adversely affects the perception of the entire electoral process.

9 <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/uspishna-varta-obratilas-v-tsik-proverit-agitatsiyu-poroshenko-s-izobrazheniyem-putina>

10 <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/uspishna-varta-trebuyet-ot-gbr-rassledovat-razhiganiye-vrazhdy-v-gazete-poroshenko>

11 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaefT3-vj60&feature=youtu.be>

12 <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/kharkovskiy-yevromaydan-prizyvayet-razdavat-listovki-protiv-zelenskogo>

Budgetary administrative resources

Before the second vote on April 21st, Petro Poroshenko did not carry out electoral trips to regions, but did carry out a campaign on national television channels.

At the same time, Poroshenko made a number of personnel changes in the Presidential Administration and the leadership of regions. Thus, on April 10th President Poroshenko, having received the consent of the government, signed a decree on the resignation of the governor of the Odessa region Maksim Stepanov. The former governor linked the fact of his dismissal with his refusal to help build a so-called "web" and transfer social benefits in the region for the period after April 21st.

Budgetary administrative resources remained a significant factor of influence after the day of voting on March 31st. Thus, before the debate on April 19th the observers of "Uspishna Varta" spotted the facts of the centralised transportation of employees of budgetary organisations through the district administrations of Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Volyn, Zaporizhzhia regions for a trip to Kiev in support of the candidate Petro Poroshenko. There were also reports of the forced dispatch to Kiev of students from one of the universities of Nikolaev in order to present them as supporters of the candidate Poroshenko.

In addition, the observers of "Uspishna Varta" recorded cases where employees of state-financed organisations (teachers, doctors) carried out promotion in support of Petro Poroshenko during the performance of their official duties.

The "web" and voter bribery

According to the results of the opinion poll conducted by the "Rating" group, it turned out that **17% of voters or their acquaintances faced bribery attempts in the first round of the Ukrainian presidential election**. 8% faced bribery personally, and 9% heard about it from their relatives. Almost 40% of those surveyed by sociologists of the "Rating" group are expecting large-scale fraud in the second round of the presidential election.

"Uspishna Varta" analysed the constituencies where there was an **anomalous turnout and support for the current president P. Poroshenko** (well above the regional average) at stations during the first round of the presidential election on March 31st. It is precisely at such polling stations that alleged fraud was carried out in order to ensure that the current president progress to the second round of the election. "Uspishna Varta" published this information about district No. 46¹³ and district No. 60¹⁴ in the **Donetsk region** for everyone interested in order to prevent similar fraud in the second round of the election on April 21st.

For example, in territorial constituency No. 46 in the Donetsk region (the center is the city of Bakhmut), **at 78 out of 163 polling stations (47%) the turnout exceeded the average for the region**. At 20% of districts (33 districts), the support for President Poroshenko exceeded the average for the region. At those stations where the turnout ranges from 35-59% (average for the region and below), the support for the president (except for a few stations) is also in the range of 2-6%. Thus, a number of **front-line villages** (Verkhnekamenskoye, Zaitsevo, Zvanovka, Kalinovka, Vozrozhdenie, Yagodnoye, Zelenopole, Pokrovskoye) stand out against the others since both their turnout and level of support for the current president are much higher than the average for the region. , in the villages of Vozrozhdenie and Mednaya Ruda (station 140063), turnout reached 86%, and

¹³ <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/setka-i-falsifikatsii-v-okruge-46-donetskoy-oblasti-na-vyborakh-31-marta-kto-i-kak-ikh-realizoval>

¹⁴ <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/setka-i-falsifikatsii-v-okruge-60-donetskoy-oblasti-na-vyborakh-31-marta-kto-i-kak-ikh-realizoval>

the support for the current president — 32.8%. At the same time, in the town of Seversk located in the same district, the turnout figures correspond to the average for the region (46-55%), while support for Petro Poroshenko fluctuates at a level of 2-4.5%

As the human rights activists of "Uspishna Varta" found out, the "web" of Petro Poroshenko on the territory of district No. 46 and directly in the city of Bakhmut **involved municipal and public organisations that are supervised by the local authorities** - from city council officials to school principals, heads of housing offices, and community leaders of individual urban areas.

According to the results of the statistical analysis carried out by the experts of "Uspishna Varta", at **constituency No. 60** (center - Volnovakha) it was found that **at least 30 stations out of 131 were "anomalous"** - the support for the current president exceeded the regional average (12.64%) and reached 55%. At the same time, voter turnout in such polling stations was almost 85%. At the disposal of the "Uspishna Varta" human rights platform there is data with the forenames and surnames of people in Donbass who illegally helped the president progress to the second round of the presidential election.

On the eve of the second vote on April 21st there are also **numerous reports concerning the planned bribery of voters within the framework of the so-called "web" of the headquarters of Petro Poroshenko.**

Thus, on April 5th in the city of Vyshgorod in the **Kiev region** (territorial constituency No. 96), local activists discovered the headquarters of the current president, Petro Poroshenko, in which 1000 hryvnia is distributed to voters. The headquarters was located in the building of a nationalised bank, inside which people with passports and money were found. It is reported that a large number of different staff documents were also found, including the originals of the minutes of the local electoral commission with a wet stamp¹⁵.

As local media reported, in **Dnepr** residents started to receive calls from campaigners offering to vote for the current president and candidate Poroshenko in exchange for a material reward of 2,000 hryvnia¹⁶.

In **Chernigov** voter bribery took place in the reception office of a people's deputy (presumably the deputy head of the "Bloc of Petro Poroshenko" faction Sergey Berezenko). After receiving information about possible voter bribery, the police squad came to the scene. It was previously established that senior citizens were given 1,000 hryvnia in exchange for a vote in support of the current president. Earlier, on March 13th, Sergey Berezenko was called in for questioning as a witness in criminal proceedings under Part 2 of Article 160 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine ("Bribing a voter or referendum participant"). On March 18th he did not appear for questioning by the National Police concerning this case. The Interior Ministry reported that they will summon the people's deputy for questioning again.

In the village of Olyka, in **Volyn**, the police seized 720,000 hryvnia destined for "activists" from the "web" of the candidate for the post of president of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko. According to journalists, the representative of the current president distributed the money to the campaigners directly in the building of the village council¹⁷. Local journalists also filmed the participants of the "web" in the village of Lipno, in the Volyn region. It turned out that the director of the local cultural center is responsible for the functioning of the "web" in the village¹⁸. "Web" functionaries were also found in the village of Znamirovka in the Volyn region. In the Kamen-

15 <https://vesti-ukr.com/politika/331603-v-vyshhorode-nashli-seryj-shtab-poroshenko-po-skupke-holosov-video>

16 <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=731768360552790>

17 <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/na-volyni-i-chernigovshchine-postupayut-soobshcheniya-o-podkupe-izbirateley-v-polzu-poroshenko>

18 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=278sJiFogPc&feature=youtu.be>

Kashirsky district of the Volyn region, officials and educators are involved in the functioning of the “web” in the interests of Petro Poroshenko.

Information coming from constituencies before the second vote on April 21st about the functioning of the so-called “web” in the interests of the candidate Petro Poroshenko and the administrative pressure being put on employees of state-financed organisations in order to ensure controlled voting requires a thorough and prompt investigation by law enforcement bodies.

ENSURING SECURITY AND LAW & ORDER DURING THE ELECTION

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, since the beginning of the electoral campaign 8,927 such complaints were made by Ukrainian citizens, and 383 were submitted to the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations as such that show signs of a criminal offence, and almost 800 ended in the drawing up of an administrative protocol for bringing citizens to justice.

According to 29 criminal proceedings, 38 notices of suspicion concerning the commission of a criminal offence were handed to citizens. Starting from April 1st (the end of the first round of the election), the police received 1,075 complaints from citizens about violations of electoral legislation. According to the results of these complaints, 71 events were included in the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations as those that show signs of a criminal offence.

MASS MEDIA

Like before, the **principles of justice, balance, and impartiality in covering electoral campaigns in the Ukrainian media are not respected enough**, including the lack of an equal and impartial attitude towards all candidates. “Black PR” campaigns, both in traditional media and on social networks, as well as “jeansa”, inappropriate labelling of advertisements, and new forms of hidden propaganda remain a cause for concern for observers.

Throughout the campaign, social networks (first and foremost, Facebook and YouTube) remain platforms for launching defamatory campaigns against opponents and “black PR” campaigns.

Among other things, the **headquarters of candidates on election day use journalistic certificates in order to get unauthorised persons into the polling stations**. According to the National Union of Journalists of Ukraine (NUJU), in Kiev, on the eve of the day of voting on March 31st, outsiders with journalistic badges were hired to work as observers. In the Zhytomyr region the mass registration of journalists from the same publications at polling stations was recorded, and the certificates of some were missing their name. We are talking about the journalists of the newspaper “Popilnya na Dolonyakh”, “Ruzhin na Dolonyakh”, and “Dilovy Berdychiv”¹⁹.

The NUJU also recorded the non-admission of journalists to polling stations, the refusal to provide public information and accusations of violating the secrecy of the vote. In addition, the NUJU stated the facts of aggression against journalists on election day. Thus, on the square in front of the CEC, young men did not allow

¹⁹ <https://uspishna-varta.com/ru/novyny/v-nszhu-zayavili-o-psevdozhurnalistakh-i-prepyatstvovanii-zhurnalistskoy-deyatelnosti-v-den-golosovaniya>

the journalist of the Russian TV channel "Dozhd" to film a program. They accused him of distorting facts and roughly pushed the journalist away from the square.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

For the second vote on April 21st the CEC has registered **2,700 official observers from foreign states and international organizations** (prior to the March 31st vote this figure was 2,157). The largest number of observers were sent to Ukraine by OSCE ODIHR international organisations (997), ENEMO (384), the World Congress of Ukrainians (249), and CANADEM (203), and from foreign states - the US (65) and Poland (45).

The right to observe the elections was received by **139 Ukrainian public organizations**, which registered **82,265 observers** (before the March 31st vote this figure was 88,486 observers).

More than 48.5% of all observers are still registered from public organisations that are affiliated with the environment or party structure of the incumbent President Poroshenko. We are talking about the "Ukrainian Center for a Democratic Society" ([27,610](#) observers), "Solidarity Youth" (7,276), "All-Ukrainian Department of Corruption Detection in Government and Local Government" (3,332), and "Vitaly Klitschko UDAR" (1702).

In a number of district commissions **issues arose before the second vote concerning the access of official observers to the meetings of the commissions.** Thus, on April 17th the head of DEC No. 29 in the city of Dnepr refused to allow the official observer from "Uspishna Varta" to attend the meeting of the commission, referring to the fact that the observer didn't have a CEC resolution on their registration as an official observer.

According to CEC Resolution No. 54 from January 11th 2019²⁰, official observers who participated in organising the preparation and holding of voting for the Ukrainian presidential election (March 31st) [retain their status](#) for the second vote on April 21st.

On January 18th 2019 the "Uspishna Varta" human rights platform received permission from the Central Election Commission to have its official election observers. Observation is carried out by the work of more than 100 long-term and short-term observers in constituencies; interviews with representatives of candidate headquarters, election commissions, the media community, and the public sector; the collection of information from open sources of information.

This report was formed on the basis of observation over the period of April 1st-19th 2019 in order to inform the Ukrainian and international public about the progress of the electoral process in Ukraine and violations that may

a
f
f
e
c
t

t
h
e

f
_____ ²⁰ <https://www.cvk.gov.ua/pls/acts/showcard7e06.html?id=44373&what=0>

e
e

w
i