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Societas Civilis - Skopje

**THE REPUBLIC
OF MACEDONIA'S
2017
LOCAL ELECTIONS
HANDBOOK**

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POLITICS

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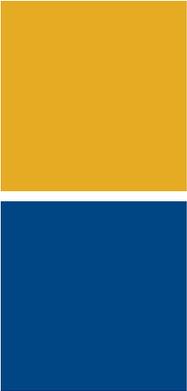
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INTRODUCTION TO THE 2017 LOCAL ELECTIONS

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2017 LOCAL ELECTIONS

The sixth local elections since the independence of the Republic of Macedonia will take place on 15th October 2017. The President of the Parliament, within his legal authority, called the local elections¹ on 6th August 2017.² Mayors and councilors will be elected in 80 local municipalities and the city of Skopje.

During the previous mandate of the local authorities, from March 2014 until May 2017, most of the mayoral seats were held by members of the Inner Macedonian Revolutionary Organization – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE), which won 55 mayoral seats and 559 positions of councilors. The runner-up in the 2013 elections was the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI), which won 14 mayoral seats and 176 positions of councilors. The Social-Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) had mayors in 4 municipalities, and held 395 positions of municipal councilors. The second largest party with Albanian electorate, the Democratic Party of the Albanians (DPA), held two mayoral seats and 101 positions of councilors. Besides these parties, there was one mayor elected from each the Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia (DPTM), the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS), and the Macedonian Roma Union (SRM). DPTM won 22 positions of councilors, while SRM got 11 and SNS 7 positions in the local municipal councils. Two independent candidates won mayoral seats and 55 positions of councilors. There were other parties that

¹ The full title of the decision is as follows: Decision to Call Local Elections for Members of the Municipal Councils and the City of Skopje's Council, as well as for Mayors of the Municipalities and the Mayor of the City of Skopje.

² "The local elections will take place on 15th October", Akademik MK. Accessed at: <http://www.akademik.mk/lokalnite-izbori-ke-se-odrzhat-na-15-oktomvri> (last visited on: 28th August 2017).

won only positions in the municipal councils. The National Democratic Revival (NDP) won 26 positions of councilors, the Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM) 10, the National Movement for Macedonia (RMM) 9, the Movement for National Unity of the Turks (DNET) 5, the Party for European Future (PEI) 5, the United Democratic Forces of the Roma (ODSR) 4, the Social Democratic Union (SDU) 3, the Liberal Party (LP) 2, and the Social Democratic Party of Macedonia (SDSM) 1.

On the national level, VMRO-DPMNE had been in power since 2006, having won four consecutive parliamentary elections, which took place on 1st June 2008, 5th June 2011, and 27th April 2014. In the snap elections that were held on 11th December 2016, the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE won 2 positions in the Parliament more than the coalition led by SDSM. However, they did not succeed in creating a parliamentary majority or establishing the government.

Consequently, the 2017 Local Elections were preceded by a turbulent and dynamic period filled with many political disruptions and upheavals. After the snap elections on 11th December 2016, the several-year long political crisis culminated in a delay in constituting the Parliament and the election of a new President of the Assembly from the new parliamentary majority, for almost 5 months after the elections. The coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE won 51 mandates in the elections, and the coalition led by SDSM won 49 mandates. DUI won 10, BESA 5, the Alliance of the Albanians (AA) 3, and DPA 2 mandates.³ Prior to the start of the negotiations among the parties for establishing coalitions for the new government, on 29th December, the leaders of the Albanian parties, i.e. DUI's Ali Ahmeti, BESA's Bilal Kasami, and the leader of the Alliance of the Albanians Zijadin Sela had a meeting in Tirana with the Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama, where they all signed the so-called "Declaration of the Albanian Parties in Macedonia",

³ "The Results from the Election of MPs in the Republic of Macedonia's Parliament held on 11th December 2016", the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly. Accessed at: <http://www.sobranie.mk/izborni-rezultati-2016.nspix> (last visited on: 29th August 2017).

which later became known as the "Albanian Platform", or the "Tirana Platform". According to the signees, the goal of the Platform was to secure that the unresolved issues of the Albanians in Macedonia would be a priority for the new government, regardless of which party would be forming it. The document⁴ prepared in Tirana contained seven points that encompass a set of demands for equality in accordance with the Ohrid Framework Agreement and the Constitution: creating a balanced regional development; respecting the rule of law; building trust in the interethnic relations; finding a solution for the name dispute; establishing good neighborly relations, and a fast Euro-Atlantic integration.

The President of the Republic, Gjorgje Ivanov, in accordance with his constitutional authority, gave the mandate for forming the new government to Nikola Gruevski, as the leader of the party which had won the majority of positions in the Parliament, VMRO-DPMNE. Thereupon, VMRO-DPMNE started negotiations with the parties of the Albanians in order to form a parliamentary majority of 61 MPs and a new government.

The party BESA declared⁵ that it will not negotiate for any possible coalition with the parties VMRO-DPMNE and DUI due to the fact that members of both parties are incriminated in cases run by the Special Public Prosecution (SJO). The Alliance of the Albanians also refused to negotiate with VMRO-DPMNE due to the, as they reported, "anti-Albanian rhetoric" of certain members of that party.⁶ DUI accepted the possibility to negotiate with VMRO-DPMNE as their partners in the previous governments, and their teams started the negotiations on

⁴ "Joint Platform of the Albanian Parties", Fokus.mk. Accessed at: <http://fokus.mk/zaednichkata-platforma-na-albanskite-partii/> (last visited on: 29th August 2017).

⁵ "BESA refuses negotiations with incriminated politicians", Telma TV. Accessed at: <http://telma.com.mk/vesti/besa-ne-pregovara-so-inkriminirani-politichari> (Last visited on: 30.08.2017).

⁶ "BESA and the Alliance of the Albanians see Gruevski as anti-Albanian", Alsat-M, Accessed at: <http://www.alsat-m.tv/mk/Беса-и-Алијансата-за-Албанците-во-Грue/> (Last visited on: 25.09.2017).

19th January for preserving the coalition. However, on 30th January, both parties announced that they could not reach any agreement to form a coalition, and that their positions had diverged. VMRO-DPMNE's position was that they cannot cross their red lines with regard to DUI's demand for bilingualism on the entire state territory on the one hand, and revoking the SJO, due to the fact that it had become a party instrument of SDSM, on the other. At the same time, VMRO-DPMNE demanded⁷ calling new parliamentary elections as the only solution of the crisis. DUI announced that they had not reached a decision to establish the coalition due to the fact that in their inter-party debate there were not enough arguments in favor of the coalition. On 1st February, President Ivanov announced that he will not give the mandate for establishing the new government to Zoran Zaev, the leader of runner-up SDSM, until he provides signatures to confirm the support from the majority of the MPs in Parliament. He also requested a guarantee⁸ that the new mandate holder would protect the national interests and carry out a reform of the national security system. The parties BESA and DPA made it clear that their MPs would give their signatures in order to enable Zaev to get the mandate. On the other hand, on 6th February, SDSM started negotiations with DUI to form the parliamentary majority and the government. DUI's leader, Ali Ahmeti, promised to support Zaev with his party's signatures if he provided a written guarantee that SDSM would accept the demands from the "Declaration of the Albanian Parties". This guarantee was provided by Zaev on 13th February, but both parties refused to make the contents of the document public. On 24th February, DUI gave their MPs signatures to SDSM as support for Zaev to receive the mandate for the new composition of the government from President Ivanov, which secured the proof that he had the support of the majority of MPs in Parliament.

⁷ "Gruevski failed to form government now demands new elections", Radio Free Europe. Accessed at: <https://www.slobodnaevropa.mk/a/28266302.html> (Last visited on: 30.08.2017).

⁸ "Announcement after consulting the political parties represented in the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly", President of the Republic of Macedonia. Accessed at: <http://president.mk/mk/2011-06-17-09-55-07/2011-07-19-10-40-39/4319.html> (Last visited on: 30.08.2017).

On 26th February, the leader of VMRO-DPMNE, Gruevski, published a post on Facebook, stating that Macedonia had been long under attack by, as he called them, "external power centres". Gruevski highlighted that these centers were carrying out an operation aiming at removing VMRO-DPMNE from power, and, by introducing Zaev, weakening the state and finally change the name and the identity of the Macedonians. On his Facebook profile, he called the people to defend the state.⁹ The following day, on 27th February, Zaev forwarded the signatures to President Ivanov, with the request to receive the mandate for establishing a new government as soon as possible. On the same day, the newly established initiative "For a Shared Macedonia"¹⁰ initiated their daily protests against the acceptance of the "Albanian Platform" by Zaev, at the same time demanding to reject it in order to preserve the unitary character of the state. On 1st March, Ivanov again refused to give the mandate to Zaev, with the explanation¹¹ that the constitutional deadline has not been met, highlighting the fact that he would not give the mandate to anyone negotiating the implementation of foreign agendas, referring to the Platform of the Albanians. At the same time, Ivanov asked for international rejection of this platform which, as he stated "threatens the sovereignty and the unitary character of Macedonia".

In this period, EU's Enlargement Commissioner Johannes Hahn, EU's Foreign and Security Policy High Representative Federica Mogherini, and Brian Hoyt Yee, Deputy Assistant of the US State Secretary, visited Macedonia in order to apply pressure, so that the crisis would be overcome sooner, the new parliament constituted, and the new

⁹ Nikola Gruevski's statement, President of VMRO-DPMNE, Facebook. Accessed at: <https://www.facebook.com/NGruevski/posts/10155007364502716> (last visited on: 30.08.2017)

¹⁰ "The Citizens Initiative for Common Macedonia has made an announcement: Time has come for the Fourth Ilinden", Kurir. Accessed at: <http://kurir.mk/makedonija/vesti/graganskata-initsijativa-za-zaednichka-makedonija-objavi-proglas-dojde-vreme-za-chetvrtiot-ilinden/> (last visited on: 30.08.2017).

¹¹ Address of the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Gjorgje Ivanov (PhD)", President of the Republic of Macedonia. Accessed at: <http://president.mk/mk/2011-06-17-09-55-07/2011-07-19-10-40-39/4353.html> (last visited on: 30.08.2017).

government formed. Mogherini, during her visit, tried to convince Ivanov to give the mandate for establishing the government to the new parliamentary majority. At the same time Russia¹² announced its position: The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the situation in Macedonia as a result of the interference of NATO and the EU to make sure that Macedonians would accept the "Tirana Platform", which, in their opinion, was based on the map for a Great Albania. However, these visits of international high representatives did not substantially influence the political actors in Macedonia, with most of them adhering to their former positions.

On 27th March 2017, the Assembly continued its constitutional session that had started on 30th December 2016, which was presided by the previous President of the Parliament, Trajko Veljanovski from VMRO-DPMNE. Meanwhile, the MPs of VMRO-DPMNE and SDSM, did not file requests for establishing parliamentary groups, so that their representatives could evade the limitations set by the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly in relation to the number and length of discussions. The MPs of the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE used this opportunity to prolong the discussion on the election of the president and members of the Commission for Election and Appointments, which precedes the election of the President of the Assembly, until 27th April. The election of the president is necessary in order to arrange a session for the election of a new government. During this time. The daily protests of the initiative "For a Shared Macedonia" continued, always gathering in front of the Parliament building. Until that day, the protests had generally been peaceful. However, on 27th April, after the presiding Trajko Veljanovski had announced the end of the working day at the Assembly at 5PM, the new parliamentary majority decided to continue the session with voting to move to the second issue from the agenda for that day, i.e. election of

the President of the Assembly. The MPs from the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE, in an attempt to prevent this, surrounded and took over the speaker's podium in the plenary hall. In a tense and chaotic atmosphere, the representatives of the majority, in their part of the hall, voted in favor of moving to the next point of the agenda, and thereupon voted for DUI's MP Talat Xhaferi to become the new President of the Assembly.

These developments stirred part of the protesters from "For a Shared Macedonia" who were in front of the Parliament building at that time to penetrate the protective fence and the police cordon, and they managed to reach the compartment where the MPs were located. The slow reaction of the police forces and the Parliament's security in preventing the intrusion was apparent. Part of the crowd that reached the Assembly soon attacked some of the MPs and journalists who were being moved into the Parliament's pressroom. During this incident, some of the representatives of the newly established parliamentary majority, including several journalists, were injured. SDSM leader and future government mandate holder Zoran Zaev was among the injured, while the leader of the coalition Alliance for the Albanians, Zijadin Sela, received more serious injuries. After the assault, Sela was taken to hospital and kept for treatment for several days

The representatives of the majority in the Assembly led by SDSM labeled the intrusion of the demonstrators as an "attempted murder" of some of their MPs, orchestrated by VMRO-DPMNE, and an attempt to provoke street conflicts among the citizens in order to call a state of emergency. The representatives of the new opposition led by VMRO-DPMNE characterized the event as a "violation of the Constitution and a coup" organized by SDSM, and said that the demonstrators had been completely provoked by SDSM to enter the Parliament building. The media called the incident "Black Friday". All the political parties and the international community condemned the events of 27th April, and the investigation is still examining the incidents.

¹² Comment by the Information and Press Department on the Greater Albania threat to stability in the Balkans", Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. Accessed at: http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/al/-/asset_publisher/U6ix5j-p8oEzV/content/id/2735157 (Last visited on: 25.09.2017)

According to the Electoral Code¹³ the mandates of the councilors elected in the 2013 Local Elections were supposed to expire in April 2017, and the mayors' mandates on 15th May 2017. Thus, the new local elections were supposed to take place in the first half of May 2017. However, due to the delay in constituting the Parliament, the deadline for calling the elections expired on 6th March.¹⁴ In order to overcome the possible legal discrepancies due to the expiry of the mandates, the Ministry of Local Self Government and the World Macedonian Congress filed two initiatives¹⁵ to the Constitutional Court: to reexamine the constitutional character of certain articles of the Law on Local Self Government and the Electoral Code. One of the initiatives addressed the article of the Law on Local Self Government which determines the councilors' mandates to expire prior to the mayors', insisting on revoking it since it creates inequality in the duration of mandates.

The initiative concerning the Electoral Code required annulling the provision that the election shall take place in the "first half of May". During the session held on 10th May, the Constitutional Court rejected both initiatives and brought forth the decision that both disputed articles are in accordance with the Constitution. A day earlier, on 9th May, the Association of the Local Self Government Units, ZELS,¹⁶ the members of which are all the municipalities and mayors, required the Assembly to extend the mandates of the elected officials on behalf of

¹³ Electoral Code (refined text) (Unofficial version prepared by the Expert Service of the State Election Commission) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 40/06, 136/08, 148/08, 155/08, 163/08, 44/11, 51/11, 54/11, 142/12, 31/13, 34/13, 14/14, 30/14, 196/15, 35/16, 97/16 и 99/16). Accessed at: https://www.sobranie.mk/content/Избори/ИЗБОРЕН%20ЗАКОНИК%20-%20ПРЕЧИСТЕН%20ТЕКСТ_%20МАЈ%202016.pdf (Last visited on: 28.08.2017).

¹⁴ "Local Elections to be postponed", The Nova Makedonija, 7th March 2017. Accessed at: <http://novamakedonija.com.mk/NewsDetail?title=Локалните-избори-пред-одложување-&id=cbe251d9-f7b6-4658-a754-e89b0f50ef17> (Last visited on: 28.08.2017).

¹⁵ Decision (U.No. 29/2017-0-0) from 10th May 2017. The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia. Accessed at: <http://www.ustavensud.mk/domino/WEBSUD.nsf> (Last visited on: 28.08.2017).

¹⁶ "ZELS: Assembly urged to extend mayors' and councilors' mandates", Telma, 9th May 2017. Accessed at: <http://telma.com.mk/vesti/zels-sobranieto-da-go-prodolzhi-mandatot-na-gradonachalnicite-i-sovetnicite> (Last visited on: 24.08.2017)

the municipalities, arguing that the functions need to be fulfilled in order to avoid illegal decision making.

After the events of 27th April, VMRO-DPMNE refused to acknowledge the election of the new President of the Assembly, DUI's Talat Xhaferi, with the explanation that the Constitution had been violated by the election procedure. This led to a delay for Mr Xhaferi's formally acquiring the position until 9th May, when the Official Gazette published the decision about the election of the new President of the Assembly.

On 1st May, the Deputy Assistant of the US State Secretary, Hoyt Yee, visited Macedonia for the second time in order to meet with President Ivanov and the leaders of the political parties involved in the recent events. After the meeting, the President's Office announced that if there is a true leadership among the heads of the parliamentary parties, the legal and political obstacles for determining a mandate for the constitution of the government are unsurpassable. In this announcement,¹⁷ Zaev was requested to provide guarantees for strengthening the unitary character of the state and for every step to be in accordance with the Constitution. On 17th May, he eventually presented a written letter of guarantee for the protection of the constitutional order of the country, after which Ivanov provided him with the mandate¹⁸ for the constitution of the new government. The Parliament continued its work on 30th May with a session in which the Government¹⁹ of the mandate holder Zoran Zaev from SDSM was elected.

¹⁷ "Meeting with the Deputy Assistant of the US State Secretary for European and Euro-Asian Affairs, Mr. Hoyt Brian Yee", President of the Republic of Macedonia, 1st May 2017. Accessed at: <http://president.mk/mk/2011-06-17-09-55-07/2011-09-03-11-41-54/4428.html> (Last visited on: 31.08.2017).

¹⁸ "President Ivanov handed over the mandate for the constitution of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia". President of the Republic of Macedonia, 17th May 2017. Accessed at: <http://president.mk/mk/2011-06-17-09-55-07/2011-09-03-11-36-59/4441.html> (Last visited on: 31.08.2017).

¹⁹ "New Government Elected in the Republic of Macedonia", The Government of the Republic of Macedonia, 1st June 2017. Accessed at: <http://vlada.mk/node/12802> (Last visited on: 31.08.2017).

On 1st June²⁰, the Assembly adopted the changes in the Electoral Code that replaced the term for holding the local elections in May 2017 by October 2017, with which the mandates of the presiding councilors and mayors were extended.

ELECTION PARTICIPANTS

There are 14 political entities that are represented on the electoral lists for mayors, either individually or in coalitions. However, none of them has nominated candidates for mayors in all of the 81 Local Self Government Units. The biggest number of candidates, 70, has been nominated by the coalition led by SDSM, six of which are women. VMRO-DPMNE and its coalition partners (in one case individually) have nominated 68 candidates for mayors in total, four of which are women. DUI has nominated 18 candidates, (only one woman), BESA ten (one woman), and DPA has nominated 7 candidates for mayors, none of which is a woman. The political party Alliance of the Albanians is promoting 6 candidates, the Social Democratic Party of Macedonia (SDPM) has put forward four and the Left three candidates, the coalition Alliance of the Albanians, the People's Movement for Macedonia (NDM) and the Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia (DPTM) have nominated two candidates each, while the parties Permanent Macedonian Radical Unification (TMRO), Movement for National Unity of the Turks (DNET), Citizens` Option for Macedonia (GROM), Party for Democratic Prosperity (PDP) and the Union of the Roma from Macedonia (SRM) have put forward one mayoral candidate each. There are 26 independent mayoral candidates, out of which only two are women. Out of the total 224 candidates for mayors, only 16 are women (7%). Unlike the legal obligation for the parties to promote a third of their candidates from the sex less represented on their lists for councilors, there is no such

²⁰ "Local Elections to take place on 15th October", TV Nova, 2nd June 2017. Accessed at: <http://tvnova.mk/vesti/makedonija/lokalnite-izbori-ke-se-odrzhat-na-15-ti-oktomvri/> (Last visited on: 24.08.2017).

obligation for mayoral candidates.²¹ All the participants in the elections have met this condition, since the electoral administration will reject any list that does not fulfill the legal obligations.

Regarding candidates for councilors, total of 373 lists were submitted by all parties, groups and coalitions involved in these local elections.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2017 LOCAL ELECTIONS

The amendment to the Electoral Code, in the section of Article 16 where the date for the elections was changed from May to October 2017, can be considered the start of the preparations. The Assembly adopted this amendment on 1st June 2017. The President of the Assembly, Talat Xhaferi, within his authority, called the local elections on 6th August. During its session on 5th September, the Government adopted the "Declarative Commitments for Free and Fair Elections",²² where it declares "its commitment towards advancing the electoral process and preventing pressure on the citizens". With this declaration, the Government stated its intention to form a Coordinative body that will monitor the compliance with the restrictions deriving from the Electoral Code in the period from the call for elections until their completion. It also announced its intention to publish a list of initiated projects that represent regular and current activities, and that it will request all municipalities including the City of Skopje to follow this example.

According to the Timetable for Conducting Elections, the participants in the campaigns were allowed to open their bank accounts earliest on 8th August 2017 (48 hours after the call for elections), and no later than

²¹ Article 64 from the Electoral Code.

²² "Declarative commitments for free and fair elections", Government of the Republic of Macedonia. Accessed at: <http://vlada.mk/sites/default/files/Декларативни%20заложиби%20за%20слободни%20и%20фер%20избори.pdf> (Last visited on: 25.09.2017).

48 hours after the candidate lists have been confirmed. The accounts are to be closed in a period of three months after the elections are concluded.

Even before the start of the election campaign, which, in accordance with the Electoral Code, started on 25th September, the largest parties started promoting some of their candidates for mayors and councilors. Among the first, as early as on 3rd September, Arben Taravari from the Alliance of the Albanians, currently Minister of Health, confirmed his intention to run for the mayoral position. SDSM and their coalition partners promoted some of their candidates for mayors in the Skopje municipalities and the City of Skopje on 5th September. The coalition of VMRO-DPMNE started the official promotion of their candidates for mayors on 13th September, when they announced some of the names for the Skopje municipalities and the City of Skopje. The parties then continued to announce the rest of the names of their candidates for mayors. VMRO-DPMNE framed the candidate announcement process with a great convention in Skopje. The Alliance of the Albanians had their promotional event on 25th September in Tetovo. SDSM presented their candidates at several smaller local events.

The starting date for collecting signatures to be presented to the authorized personnel at the State Election Commission (SEC), in order to promote the lists of candidates for mayors of the municipalities, i.e. the City of Skopje, and the lists of candidates for members of the municipal councils, i.e. the council of the City of Skopje, is set for 15 days after the elections are called. The timeframe for collecting signatures for the SEC started on 21st August and ended on 4th September 2017.

In the period between 21st August and 9th September 2017, the Voter List was publicly displayed, which enabled every citizen to confirm the accuracy of their data. The Voter List contains all adult citizens (over

18 years old) residing on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, holding biometric personal IDs. In addition, the Voter List contains citizens of the Republic of Macedonia residing or temporarily working abroad, but holding valid travel documents.

According to the SEC`s Timeline for Conducting Elections , it is obliged to announce the candidate lists for mayors and councilors on the polling stations in the municipalities 23 days prior to the elections.²³

In accordance with the determined deadlines and the abovementioned Timeline, the campaign starts on 25th September and ends on 13th October, while for the second round, the campaign concludes on 27th October 2017 at midnight.²⁴

RECENT AMENDMENTS TO THE ELECTORAL LEGISLATION²⁵

The latest amendments to the electoral legislation derive from the Przhino Agreement. In the 75th session, the Assembly brought forth a package of laws, including the Law Amending and Supplementing the Electoral Code,²⁶ that derive from the Przhino Agreement and the leaders' meeting, aiming at creating conditions for fair and legitimate snap parliamentary elections. These amendments encompass the following key aspects of the election process:

²³ Full candidate lists for mayors and members of the councils are available at <https://kandidati.sec.mk/Default.aspx>

²⁴ Timetable for conducting election activities and carrying out the 2017 Local Elections for mayors and members of the councils for the municipalities and the City of Skopje. State Election Commission, 7th August 2017. Accessed at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8ZpCwro9h-zRHM2Qy1ndEM0VHM/view> (Last visited on: 5th September 2017).

²⁵ KAS, IDSCS, The Republic of Macedonia's 2016 Parliamentary Elections Handbook, second updated edition. Available at: http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_21607-1442-2-30.pdf?170131155919

²⁶ Law Amending and Supplementing the Electoral Code, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 196, 10th November 2015. Accessed at: <http://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/63cc34eb402342698f7e82e59629175a.pdf> (Last visited on: 9th September 2017).

- The use of state premises, equipment, and transportation for the requirements of the campaign is strictly forbidden, except under specific provisions.
- As part of the amendments of the Electoral Code, it is intended to introduce a Code for Fair and Democratic Elections²⁷ to be signed by the political parties participating in the elections, starting from the day when the elections are called. With the Code, the participants are obliged not to apply pressure on the employees in the public and state administration or other institutions financed by the Republic of Macedonia's budget. In addition, the Code's role is to guarantee that the citizens' support, or lack of support, for any political party or candidate will not provoke any threats imposed by the participants in the election process, in relation to the citizens' employment or social security. In relation to the 2017 Local Elections, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, on 5th September 2017, brought forth the Declarative Commitments for Free and Fair Elections, which respond to Priebe's recommendations and the Przhino Agreements as of 2nd June 2015 and 20th July 2016, respectively. According to this declaration, a coordinative body should be established to control the process of compliance with the Electoral Code. With this declaration, the Government is obliged to publish a list of all initiated projects financed from the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia²⁸
- The composition of the SEC was changed and now includes nine instead of seven members. It currently comprises a president, vice president, and 7 members. The method of selecting

²⁷ Code for Fair and Democratic Elections, November 2016. Accessed at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8ZpCwro9h-zTGdoMmZIZjV4UkE/view> (Last visited on: 5th September 2017).

²⁸ Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Declarative Commitments for Free and Fair Elections, September 2017. Accessed at: <http://vlada.mk/sites/default/files/Декларативни%20заложи%20за%20слободни%20и%20фер%20избори.pdf> (last visited on: 25th September 2017).

the members of the SEC was also changed. With the new amendments, the political parties in power recommend three members, two of which are recommended by the governmental party with the largest group of MPs in the Assembly, and one member is recommended by the second largest party. The parties in opposition recommend three members, two of which are recommended by the opposition party with the largest number of MPs in the Assembly, and the third member is recommended by the second largest opposition party. Three expert members shall be selected by consensus. The amendment introduced the position of Secretary General of the SEC, with the intention to strengthen the administrative segment. The Secretary General is not part of the SEC's composition and is not entitled to vote.

- Additional amendments to the Electoral Code include provisions related to the Voter List. The SEC is appointed as the only authorized institution to run and update the Voter List. The SEC enables an electronic access to the Voter List in accordance with the provisions. The SEC publishes the Voter List on its website, enabling each citizen to file a request to the SEC without revealing their address publicly for security reasons. The SEC updates the Voter List once per month, and every 6 months issues a public call to the citizens to review their data. In addition, in order to determine the validity of the Voter List, each member of the SEC can look into the database of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for issued biometric IDs, as well as into the databases of other state organs and institutions. The SEC adopts a Rulebook on the methodology of running and updating the Voter List, based on regular examinations and statistics, cross-examinations of various databases and registers, field examinations and other suitable and recognized methods of checking, as well as a Rulebook on the methodology for full access, making changes

and deleting data from the Voter List, as well as a procedure for conducting field examinations in order to update it.

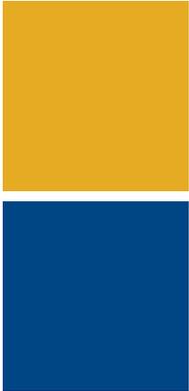
- The amendments to the Electoral Code envision an increase of the percentage of the less represented sex in the submitted candidate lists for members of the councils in the municipalities and the City of Skopje, from the current 33% to 40%. Hence, every third candidate should be from the less represented sex, and in addition, every tenth candidate should also be from the less represented sex.
- When it comes to media presentation, the amendments to the Electoral Code, for the first time, enlist the electronic media (Internet portals) as media which, just like radio broadcasting and printed media that cover the election process, are obliged to work in accordance with the Electoral Code. In addition, financing and donating resources to the political parties by the media and persons related to them is strictly forbidden, as well as broadcasting ads financed by the Republic of Macedonia's Budget and budgets of the municipalities and the City of Skopje. The amendments to the Electoral Code focus on enabling equal and balanced access for the political parties to the advertising space.

In 2017, two major changes were introduced to the Electoral Code. First, the date for holding local election was changed from May to October. The Republic of Macedonia's Assembly thus prolonged the mandates of the council members and the mayors received at the elections held on 24th March 2013 until the election of new council members and mayors in the first half of October 2017.²⁹ On 11th September 2017, a new amendment was introduced to the Electoral Code, which obliges the

²⁹ Law Amending and Supplementing the Electoral Code, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 67/17.

Republic of Macedonia's Assembly to harmonize the composition of the State Election Commission with the results of the last elections of MPs in the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly, no later than 30 days prior to the day of the elections.³⁰

³⁰ Law Amending and Supplementing the Electoral Code, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 125/17.



HISTORY OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS IN MACEDONIA (1996-2013)

HISTORY OF THE LOCAL ELECTIONS IN MACEDONIA (1996-2013)

The first local elections in the independent Republic of Macedonia were held in 1996, when the average voter turnout for the election of councilors for the municipalities was 60.17%, while it was 53.20% for the City of Skopje. The average voter turnout for the election of mayors was 60.28%, while it was 53.20% for the City of Skopje. Due to irregularities in the voting process, in some municipalities the votes were annulled, meaning that the data do not include the results of the election of mayors and council members from 9 municipalities in total. These local elections were held in accordance with the territorial organization as of 1996, according to which 123 municipalities were established, with the City of Skopje as a separate unit.³¹ SDSM won the majority of mayoral positions, 51 in total, VMRO-DMPNE and MAAK-Conservative won 27 positions, and the Socialist Party won 19 positions.³² 1,495,288 voters had the right to vote.

During the local elections in 2000, there were considerable violations in the election process according to the international standards for free and democratic elections. The elections took place with a series of incidents and outbursts of violence, as well as intimidation of citizens. In the municipalities of Gostivar, Tetovo, Labunista, Dzepciste, and Mavrovi Anovi, the elections were accompanied with armed incidents.

³¹ The Law on Territorial Division of the Republic of Macedonia and Determination of the Areas of the Local Self-Government Units. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, 49/1996, 14.09.1996. Accessed at: <http://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/CAFFB1AA376347A0B1E3044B8FAC16C6.pdf> (last visited on: 28.08.2017)

³² State Election Commission, 1996 Local Elections: Final results of the local elections for mayors and members of councils of the municipalities and the City of Skopje. Skopje 1997. Accessed at: http://izbornaarhiva.mk/dokumentacija/Локални%20избори%201996/5_Извештај%20од%20избори/Извештај%20од%20локални%20избори%201996_ДИК.pdf (last visited on: 24.09.2017)

In several electoral units of other municipalities the ballot boxes were opened and destroyed by force. Violence also occurred in various places during the second voting round. The mission of OSCE/ODIHR registered group voting in 25% of the monitored locations, in 8% of the locations an open voting was registered, and in 5% voting instead of other persons. After these elections, the SEC did not publish full and comprehensive results of the elections. In the first round, the coalition "For Macedonia Together" led by SDSM won 38% of the votes for mayors, the coalition of VMRO-DPMNE and Democratic Alternative (DA) 27%, DPA 13%, and PDP 6%.³³ The final results showed victory for the coalition of VMRO-DPMNE and Democratic Alternative "For Changes" in 48% of the municipalities, which implied 59 mayoral positions. The coalition led by SDSM "For Macedonia Together" won 32 mayoral positions.³⁴ 1,634,859 voters had the right to vote.

The local elections in 2005 повторно again did not meet the key international standards for universality, equality and secrecy of the right to vote. Unlike the previous ones, these elections were not marked with violence, but there was a considerable amount of irregularities in the western and northwestern regions of the country, as well as in Skopje. At the same time, the elections in 2005 were the first ones held according to the territorial organization as of 2004 which established 84 municipalities on the territory of Macedonia, preserving the status of the City of Skopje as a separate unit of local government.³⁵ The mission of OSCE/ODIHR registered 30 cases of stuffing the ballot boxes and over 50 cases of voting instead of other persons. In 9 municipalities,

³³ Ibid

³⁴ OSCE/ODIHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Municipal Elections 10 September 2000. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, 2000. Accessed at: <http://idscs.org.mk/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/finalen-izvestaj-OSCE-ODIHR-2000.pdf> (last visited on: 28.08.2017).

³⁵ Law on Territorial Organization of the Local Self Government. Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No.55/2004, 16.08.2004. Accessed at: <http://www.pravo.org.mk/documentDetail.php?id=204> (last visited on: 28.08.2017)

among which the City of Skopje, as a result of the complaints related to the irregularities in the first voting round, the latter had to be repeated. The second round of voting was to take place at these locations as well, which resulted in delays of the second round that was then held on 10th April 2005. The voter turnout in the first round was 56.36%, in the second round on 27th March 53.66%, and on 10th April 35.6%. As a result of these elections, the coalition led by SDSM won 36 mayoral positions. VMRO-DPMNE and their coalition won 21 mayoral positions, DUI 15, VMRO-NP 3, DPA 2 and the Union of the Roma 1. Seven independent candidates became mayors, among which the candidate for the City of Skopje, Trifun Kostovski, who was supported by VMRO-DPMNE.³⁶ 1,711,293 voters had the right to vote.

The local elections in 2009, which were held on the same day as the presidential elections, were the first local elections which took place in general accordance with the international and OSCE standards for democratic elections. However, the OSCE/ODIHR mission still had major remarks related to the intimidation of voters during these elections. The monitoring report points at intimidation and pressure on the voters, particularly on those employed in the public administration as well as social welfare beneficiaries, who were threatened to vote for the ruling party.³⁷ In the 2009 elections there were also cases of family votes, voting instead of other persons (3% of the cases), one

³⁶ OSCE/ODIHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Local Elections 12th and 27th March and 10th April 2005. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report, Warsaw, 2005. Accessed at: http://izbornaarhiva.mk/dokumentacija/Локални%20избори%202005/6_Извештаи%20од%20меѓународни%20и%20домашни%20набљудувачи/Финален%20набљудувачки%20извештај%20локални%20избори%202005_Македонија_ОБСЕ-ОДИХР_АНГ_оригинал.pdf (last visited on: 24.09.2017).

³⁷ OSCE/ODIHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Presidential and Municipal Elections 22 March and 5 April 2009. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, June 2009. Accessed at: http://izbornaarhiva.mk/dokumentacija/Локални%20избори%202009/6_Извештаи%20од%20меѓународни%20и%20домашни%20набљудувачи/Финален%20набљудувачки%20извештај%20претседателски%20и%20локални%20избори%202009_Македонија_ОБСЕ-ОДИХР_АНГ_оригинал.pdf (last visited on: 28.08.2017)

person “assisting” several other voters (4%), intimidation of voters and members of electoral boards (EB) (1%), identical signatures in the registry of the Voters List (2%) and multiple voting (1%).³⁸ VMRO-DPMNE won the elections in 56 municipalities, DUI in 15, SDSM in 7, and DPA, ND, DPTM, SR, PDSM won one mayoral position each. Two independent candidates also won mayoral positions. A total of 1,792,082 voters had the right to vote.

The priority recommendations from 2009, which would be repeated in the report on the early parliamentary elections in 2011, require the government to take measures and deal with the pressure on citizens and their intimidation. Besides this, the OSCE/ODIHR report provided five other priority recommendations: to separate the state from the party; to eliminate all drawbacks and ambiguities in the Electoral Code; to review and update the Voters List; to take measures in order to settle conflicts of interest among those involved in politics who control the private radio broadcasting services; to introduce deadlines for court decisions related to objections by the Broadcasting Council. In both reports, OSCE/ODIHR recommends reviewing the Voters List, which was one of the recommendations that were fulfilled. The European Union recognized the Republic of Macedonia’s success achieved during the implementation of the elections and replicated the conclusions and recommendations of OSCE/ODIHR. The US Ambassador at the time, Philip Reeker, assessed the elections as well implemented.³⁹

The local elections in 2013 were held in a peaceful atmosphere, receiving positive assessment of the efficiency of their implementation, although certain drawbacks were highlighted. The latter were mainly related to the lack of conditions for securing equal competitive space among the candidates. There were certain remarks regarding the

overlapping of state and party activities, the financing of the campaign, the legal framework, as well as the media coverage.⁴⁰ In some rare cases, there were certain remarks related to violating the secrecy of voting, family voting and destroying campaign material. There were serious remarks about the media in relation to their division along ethnic and party lines.⁴¹ OSCE/ODIHR prepared a range of recommendations for overcoming the drawbacks. The general recommendations involved increasing the accuracy of the Voter List, protecting voters from intimidation, and amendments to the Electoral Code. Regarding the financing, the recommendations referred to changes in the relation between the donations from legal and physical entities, precising whether the limitations of the campaign expenses refer to both rounds of the elections, as well as more detailed reporting.⁴² Regarding the media, the recommendations referred to securing a more balanced presentation of the candidates by improving the Electoral Code, the Law on Radio Broadcasting, and addressing the discrepancies between them.⁴³ A total of 1,743,403 voters, distributed across 2976 stations, were entitled to vote. The new Law on Local Self Government was brought into force with these elections, which was the first time mayors and councilors were elected in a total of 81 municipalities, since the municipalities of Vraneštica, Drugovo, Zajas, and Oslomej had joined the municipality of Kičevo.⁴⁴ The turnout on these elections was rather high. In the first election round it reached 67%, while in the second round that took place

⁴⁰ OSCE/ODIHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Local Elections 24th March and 7th April 2013. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, 2013. Accessed at: <http://www.osce.org/mk/odihr/elections/103832?download=true> (last visited on: 24th August 2017)

⁴¹ For more information see: KAS, IDSCS Republic of Macedonia’s 2013 Local Elections Handbook, second updated edition. Available at: http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_33810-1522-2-30.pdf?130315120532

⁴² OSCE/ODIHR Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Local Elections 24th March and 7th April 2013. OSCE/ODIHR Election Observation Mission Final Report. Warsaw, 2013. Accessed at: <http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections/103411?download=true> (last visited on: 25th August 2017)

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ MOST: Final Report, Domestic Monitoring of the 2013 Local Elections, Skopje 2013. Accessed at: http://www.most.org.mk/images/MOST/Final%20Report_Local%20Elections%202013_ENG.PDF (last visited on: 25th August 2017)

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Popovski, R. Interview with Philip T. Reeker, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Macedonia. X/0 talks show, Kanal 5 TV. 8 June 2011

in 29 municipalities the turnout reached 59%. The first round of voting was repeated in the municipality of Dolneni, while due to the annulled results, the voting in the second round was repeated in the municipalities of Center, Dolneni, Struga, and Gjorče Petrov. The turnout on the third election day was 65%.⁴⁵ These local elections were dominated by VMRO-DPMNE, which won most of the mayoral positions in relation to the other parties. VMRO-DPMNE won 55 mayoral positions, DUI 14 mayors, SDSM 4, DPA 2, the Democratic Party of the Turks (DPTM) and the Serbian Progressive Party in Macedonia (SNS) won one mayor each, and one independent candidate was elected mayor⁴⁶

Table 1: Local Elections Turnout from 1996 until 2013,⁴⁷ for the first and second round.⁴⁸

Year	1996	2000	2005	2009	2013
Turnout	60 % (51%)	59% (53%)	56% (53%)	57% (43%)	67% (59%)

⁴⁵ State Election Commission, 2013 LOCAL ELECTIONS: <http://www.sec.mk/lokalni-izbori-2013/>

⁴⁶ For more information see: KAS, IDSCS Republic of Macedonia's 2013 Local Elections Handbook, second updated edition. Available at: http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_33810-1522-2-30.pdf?130315120532

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ The first percentage refers to the turnout in the first round, and the second percentage to the turnout in the second round. The percentages are rounded.

THE MACEDONIAN VOTING SYSTEM FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS^{49 50}



THE MACEDONIAN VOTING SYSTEM FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

VOTING MODEL

In the Republic of Macedonia, the elections for **mayors in the Local Government Units** (LGUs) follow the majority rule, while the selection of council members in the Local Government Units is done by the proportional representation model. The elections for mayors and council members are held simultaneously in all municipalities **every four years in the first half of October**.⁵¹ The President of the Assembly calls for new elections with a suitable act published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, and the period after the call for elections until the day of the elections should not be more than 90, or less than 70 days.

The mayors are elected by the **majority voting model**. The candidate who has won the majority of votes in the first round is appointed as mayor, if the turnout amounts to at least a third of the number of registered voters in the Voters List for the respective Local Government Unit. If none of the candidates fulfills the necessary conditions, the elections are repeated in the second round for the two candidates with the largest number of votes. If there is only one candidate participating in the elections, but he or she

⁴⁹ According to the Electoral Code (refined text) Unofficial version prepared by the Expert Service of the State Election Commission (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 40/06, 136/08, 148/08, 155/08, 163/08, 44/11, 51/11, 54/11, 142/12, 31/13, 34/13, 14/14, 30/14, 196/15, 35/16, 97/16 and 99/16). Accessed at: https://www.sobranie.mk/content/Избори/ИЗБОРЕН%20ЗАКОНИК%20-%20ПРЕЧИСТЕН%20ТЕКСТ_%20МАЈ%202016.pdf (last visited on: 28.08.2017)

⁵⁰ The recent amendments as of 1st June and 11th September 2017 are also taken into consideration (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia 67/17 and 125/17)

⁵¹ With the recent amendments in the Electoral Code as of June 2017, Article 16 line 1, the phrase "in the first half of May" was replaced with the phrase "in the first half of October". This enabled the 2017 Local Elections to take place in the first half of October.

fails to win the necessary majority, the voting procedure is repeated. The second round of voting is conducted 14 days after the end of the first round. In the second round, the candidate with the majority of votes is appointed as mayor.

The **proportional representation model** is applied for the **election of council members** in the LGUs, and the D'Hondt formula is applied for distributing mandates. According to this formula, the total number of votes cast for the proposed candidate lists is divided first by 1, then by 2, then 3... right up to the number of seats to be allocated for the respective constituency. The distribution figures are ranged by size, and the highest distribution figures are taken into consideration when allocating the seats in the council. One candidate list is allocated as many seats in the council as there are highest distribution figures from those taken into consideration.

ELECTORAL ORGANS

The organs that conduct elections are the State Election Commission (SEC), the Municipal Election Commissions (MEC) and the Election Commission of the City of Skopje, the electoral boards, as well as the electoral boards in the diplomatic and consular offices.⁵² According to the changes in the Election Code foreseen by the Przhino Agreement,⁵³ the SEC comprises nine members elected by the Assembly with two-thirds of votes from the total number of MPs. They perform their function with a five year mandate and can be reelected. Members of the SEC are elected 30 days before the current mandate of the SEC ends. Six

⁵² In the diplomatic and consular representative offices, the citizens who abide or are temporarily working abroad can vote only in the Republic of Macedonia's Presidential and Parliamentary Elections, while in the Local Elections the voting is enabled in the area of the municipality i.e. the City of Skopje.

⁵³ European Commission, Agreement between the four political parties, 20 July 2016. Accessed at: http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/delegations/the_former_yugoslav_republic_of_macedonia/press_corner/all_news/news/2016/2016-07-20_agreement_en.htm (Last visited on: 24th September 2017)

members of the SEC represent the political parties of the Assembly, and three expert members are elected from a list of applicants through a joint proposition of the leading and oppositional parties. The party in power with the largest number of MPs proposes two members and the second largest party in power proposes one. The opposition party with the largest number of MPs proposes two members and the second largest opposition party proposes one. The president and vice president of the SEC are elected by the Assembly from members proposed jointly by the parties in power and in opposition, whereas both should come from the members of the largest non-majority community. The SEC nominates a secretary general who is responsible for the experts' office and in charge of administrative, organizational and technical tasks.⁵⁴ With the recent amendments of 11th September 2017, a new article was added to the Electoral Code, which obliges the Assembly to harmonize the composition of the State Election Commission with the results of the last parliamentary elections, no later than 30 days before the election day.⁵⁵

The SEC is responsible for the **entries in the Voters List** where all adult citizens (over 18 years old) with permanent address on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia are registered, including those who temporarily live abroad and hold a valid identification document or passport. The citizens whose legal capacity has been terminated with a final court decision are not registered in the Voters List.

The **Municipal Election Commissions** (MEC) that are established in each municipality are responsible for implementing the elections and monitoring the work of the election boards within the territory under their auspices. Each MEC comprises five members, namely

⁵⁴ KAS, IDSCS, The Republic of Macedonia's 2016 Parliamentary Elections Handbook, second updated edition. Available at: http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_21607-1442-2-30.pdf?170131155919

⁵⁵ Law amending and supplementing the Electoral Code, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No.125/17.

one president and four other members, each having a deputy. The members and deputies of the MEC are highly qualified and elected employees from state, public, and municipal administrations, each receiving a mandate of five years. Their selection is conducted by the SEC by random choice using the data records of state and municipal administrations, the administration of the City of Skopje and the public administration.⁵⁶

The composition of the **electoral boards** is a combination of the employees from the state, public and municipality administration (the president, the vice president, two members and their deputies) and representatives from the political parties. The parties that are in opposition and have won most of the votes in the last parliamentary elections each propose one member and deputy for the board. The ruling parties that have won the last elections also each propose one member and deputy for the board. The duration of the mandate of the electoral board members is four years. The random selection of electoral board members (from the administration) is conducted by the MEC and the Electoral Commission of the City of Skopje for the electoral districts in question, following a legal act by the SEC.⁵⁷

In the municipalities with at least 20% minority population, the principle of equal and just representation is applied for the composition of the MEC and the Electoral Boards. The law prescribes each gender to be represented by at least 30% of the members of the electoral organs. The members of the MEC and the electoral boards cannot be selected or appointed by state officials in the Government, the Assembly or by employees in the state administration of the Ombudsman, the Ministries

⁵⁶ KAS, IDSCS, The Republic of Macedonia's 2016 Parliamentary Elections Handbook, second updated edition. Available at: http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_21607-1442-2-30.pdf?170131155919

⁵⁷ For more details see: Instructions for the way of appointing members of the election boards with recommendation from the political parties for the Local Elections that will take place on 15th October 2017. The State Election Commission. Accessed at: <http://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8ZpCwro9h-zdzFKTTFuTldBTGM/view> (last visited on: 4th September 2017)

of Justice, Defense, Internal Affairs, the Secretariat for Legislation, the State Statistical Office, the Crisis Management Centre, the technical and expert services of the Administrative Court, the SEC and the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption (SCPC).

The electoral organs can make decisions only if there is a majority of members present during the sessions. Missing members of the MEC, the Electoral Committee of the City of Skopje and the Electoral Board can be replaced by their deputies who are also appointed by the SEC.

ELECTIVE RIGHTS

A candidate for mayor or council member can be any person over 18 years old with legal capacity. Persons sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and more with a final court decision whose sentence has not started yet, or who serve time for committed crimes, cannot run for these positions. Besides these conditions, the candidates for mayor or council member should maintain a permanent place of residence in the LGU they run for.

Contrary to the last local elections, there were no additional limitations for these local elections that were stipulated in the Law on Determining an Additional Condition for Holding Public Office (also known as the Lustration Law) since the bill is out of force.

RESTRICTIONS FOR CURRENT STATE OFFICIALS

The functions of councilor and mayor are professionally conducted, and they cannot coincide with the function of President of the Republic, President of the Republic of Macedonia's Government, minister, judge,

public prosecutor, public attorney, ombudsman, or other of public offices, elected or appointed by the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly and Government. The function of mayor can neither coincide with the function of MP, nor with the provision of expert or administrative services in the state administrative organs, nor with any other economic or profitable vocation, nor with any membership in administrative boards of public companies, public institutions, funds, agencies, institutes, and other legal entities, nor with the function of representative of the state and social capital in the trading companies. In addition, the function of mayor of the City of Skopje and the function of councilor in the City of Skopje's Council cannot coincide with the function of municipal mayor and the function of councilor of the municipalities in the area of the City of Skopje.

If Members of Government and deputy ministers are announced as candidates for mayors or council members (the same applies if they run for presidency or the position of MP), they are restricted in executing their activities within the functions they hold. The holder of such function who runs for mayor or council member has no access to the budget of the Republic of Macedonia, the public funds of the municipalities and the City of Skopje, the public companies' resources, the institutions and other legal entities under the state budget, as well as other facilities providing social services (kindergartens, schools, sports facilities etc.). These individuals can neither provide irregular income, pensions, social welfare, nor other payments related to the budget or other public funds. Moreover, these individuals cannot enter into a contract for alienating state capital nor sign collective agreements. These restrictions enter into force on the day when the decision for calling the elections is made and are valid until the day of concluding the elections for mayors and councilors, i.e. until the City of Skopje and the municipality councils are established.

In addition, in the period from the call for elections until the election day no new employment procedures can commence, neither any termination of employment can be concluded for state and public institutions, and all initiated procedures will be put on hold. In the period of 20 days before the start of the election campaign no subsidies will be allocated outside the regular monthly payments, and no promotional events for new construction projects or commissioning facilities under public financing are allowed. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for publicly announcing all budgetary payments outside regular salaries in a specific database, and is obliged to submit a financial report which will be published on their website prior to the elections.⁵⁸

THE NUMBER OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The number of council members in each of the Local Government Units is determined in proportion to the size of the population living within the respective unit. The municipalities with less than 5000 inhabitants establish councils that consist of 9 members, between 5001 and 10,000 inhabitants – 11 members, between 10,001 and 20,000 inhabitants – 15 members, between 20,001 and 40,000 inhabitants – 19 members, between 40,001 and 60,000 inhabitants – 23 members, between 60,001 and 80,000 inhabitants – 27 members, between 80,000 and 100,000 inhabitants – 31 members, and over 100,000 inhabitants – 33 members. The City of Skopje Council consists of 45 members⁵⁹

⁵⁸ Article 8-a of the Electoral Code (refined text) (Unofficial version prepared by the Expert Service of the State Election Commission) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia No. 40/06, 136/08, 148/08, 155/08, 163/08, 44/11, 51/11, 54/11, 142/12, 31/13, 34/13, 14/14, 30/14, 196/15, 35/16, 97/16 and 99/16). Accessed at: http://www.sobranie.mk/content/Избори/ИЗБОРЕН%20ЗАКОНИК%20-%20ПРЕЧИСТЕН%20ТЕКСТ_%20МАЈ%202016.pdf (last visited on: 28.08.2017)

⁵⁹ Article 34 of the Local Self Government Law, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 05/16.

THE PROCEDURE AND THE RIGHT TO APPOINT CANDIDATES FOR MAYORS AND COUNCILOR LISTS

The right to propose candidate lists for councilors and candidates for mayors is held by the registered political parties, individually or as part of coalitions, as well as groups of voters. Depending on the size of the LGU, the groups of voters have to collect a certain number of signatures: from 100 signatures for LGU with less than 10,000 inhabitants to 450 for LGU with more than 100,001 inhabitants, while for the City of Skopje, 1,000 signatures are required to run for mayor.

On the candidate list for councilors, a candidate belonging to the less represented gender should be placed on every third position.

The lists of candidates for mayors and council members are presented to the MEC at least 35 days before the elections take place. The MEC should publish the lists at least 25 days prior to the elections.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN^{60 61}

The election campaign starts 20 days before the elections take place and should finish 24 hours before the start of the elections. There cannot be any campaigning activities on the day of the elections. The election campaign for these elections commences on 25th September 2017 at midnight. The election campaign for the first round concludes

on 13th October 2017 at midnight, while the election campaign for the second round concludes on 27th October 2017 at midnight.⁶²

Within 48 hours after confirmation of the candidate list, organizers of an election campaign must open a separate bank account only for the purpose of the election campaign, and the latter can be financed only with resources from this account. The election campaign can be financed by the political party's membership fees and donations in amounts up to 3,000 EUR for natural persons and 30,000 EUR for legal persons. Donations can be in the form of money, goods, and services, but their value should not surpass the determined amounts. If the amount of the donation exceeds the limit, the participant in the election campaign is obliged to transfer the difference between the limit and the donation into the budget of Republic of Macedonia within five days. The participants in the election campaign may spend up to 110 denars per voter registered in the electoral unit in which they have submitted a candidate list, which is 70 denars less than the amount allowed in the 2014 elections.

The election campaign cannot be financed from the budget of Republic of Macedonia, the municipal budgets or the budget of the City of Skopje, except from the compensations for election expenditures which are in possession of the election campaign organizers. The election campaign cannot be financed with funding from public properties and public institutions, associations of citizens, religious communities, religious groups and foundations, foreign governments, international institutions, properties with mixed capital in which foreign capital is dominant, nor from unidentified sources. With the new legislative changes, radio broadcasting companies, printed and electronic media

⁶⁰ The Election Code (consolidated text), unofficial version prepared by the Expert Service of the oral Commission No 40/60, 136/08, 148/08, 155/08, 163/08, 44/11, 51/11, 54/11, 142/12, 31/13, 34/13, 14/14,30/14, 196/15, 35/16, 97/16 and 99/16, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia. Accessed at: https://www.sobranie.mk/content/Избори/ИЗБОРЕН%20АКОНИК%20-%20ПРЕЧИСТЕН%20ТЕКСТ_%20МАЈ%202016.pdf (last visited on: 28.08.2017)

⁶¹ KAS, IDSCS, The Republic of Macedonia's 2016 Parliamentary Elections Handbook, second updated edition. Available at: http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_21607-1442-2-30.pdf?170131155919

⁶² Timeline for conducting election activities for implementing the 2017 Local Elections for members of the municipal council and the City of Skopje's Council, as well as for mayors of the municipalities and the City of Skopje. State Election Commission, 7th August 2017. Accessed at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8ZpCwro9h-zRHM2Qy1ndEMOVHM/view> (last visited on: 5th September 2017)

(internet portals), and persons related to them must not finance or donate to political parties, including campaigns. Related persons are considered to be family members, including relatives of the spouse or extramarital partner, persons who have a share in the equity, participate in the management, and persons who have been generating more than 30% of their income from advertising, TV shopping or sponsorship through based on a marketing or other contract.⁶³

If a candidate drops out of the race, the organizers of the election campaign are obliged to return the saved donations to the donors within a period of 60 days. The participant in the election campaign is obliged to file a financial report on the incomes and expenditures of the campaign – immediately but no later than 30 days from the end of the election campaign. Elected candidates for members of the councils i.e. for mayors are entitled to compensation from the state budget in the amount of 15 MKD per vote if they win at least 1.5% of the vote in an Electoral Unit. These resources are transferred within three months after filing the financial report for the election campaign.

As part of the legislative changes introduced by the Przhino Agreement, from the day elections are called until they are finished, the radio broadcasting companies, printed and electronic media (internet-portals) may not publish advertisements financed from the budget of the Republic of Macedonia, from the budget of the municipalities and the City of Skopje or from other persons that have been given public authorization by law.

If the rights of a candidate are violated during public appearances and announcements, they have the right to press charges. In such a case,

⁶³ The term “related persons” is more precisely defined in the Law on Audio and Audio-Visual Media Services, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 184 of 26 December 2013. Accessed at : <http://www.slvesnik.com.mk/Issues/b063254742a44129b8dfe1221762ddb4.pdf> (last visited on: 5th September 2017).

the competent general court will preside in urgency and the decision be announced in the public media.

THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC MEDIA^{64 65}

During the election campaign, the public radio broadcasting service, the commercial radio broadcasters and the electronic media (internet-portals) are obliged to present the election programs and candidates in a just, balanced, and unbiased manner. The Agency for Audio and Audiovisual Media Services (AAMS),⁶⁶ under the Law on Audio and Audiovisual Media Services, is the entity responsible for monitoring the media presentation of the political parties and the candidates in the radio broadcasting and electronic media (internet-portals) from the day elections are called until the end of the voting on Election Day. If the Agency determines any irregularities, it may press charges against the broadcaster violating the regulations.

Editors, journalists, program hosts and presenters who run the programs of the radio broadcasters are not allowed to participate in the pre-election activities of political parties, coalitions, groups of voters and their representatives. If these persons decide to participate in any such campaign activities, their engagement in the programs of the radio broadcasters should be put to rest until the elections are finished.

⁶⁴ Electoral Code (refined text), unofficial version prepared by the Expert Service of the State Election Commission, (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 40/06, 136/08, 148/08, 155/08, 163/08, 44/11, 51/11, 54/11, 142/12, 31/13, 34/13, 14/14, 30/14, 196/15, 35/16, 97/16 и 99/16). Accessed at: <http://www.sec.mk/izboren-zakonik/> (last visited on: 4th September 2017)

⁶⁵ KAS, IDSCS, The Republic of Macedonia’s 2016 Parliamentary Elections Handbook, second updated edition. Available at: http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_21607-1442-2-30.pdf?170131155919

⁶⁶ Law on Audio and Audio-Visual Media Services, Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia, No. 184/2013. Accessed at: http://www.ujp.gov.mk/files/attachment/0000/0697/Zakon_za_audio_i_audiovizuelni_uslugi_132_2014.pdf (last visited on: 5th September 2017).

The public broadcasting service, Macedonian Radio Television (MRTV), is obliged to inform the citizens on voting modalities and electoral matters without any financial compensation whatsoever. MRTV is required to provide equal access to the informative program. With the changes to the Election Code as a result of the Przhino Agreement, 30% of the programs should relate to events in the country and around the world, 30% to activities of the parties in power, 30% to activities of the opposition parties and 10% to the activities of non-parliamentary political parties.

During the election campaign, MRTV is obligated to broadcast the political presentation of participants in the elections in a balanced manner and free of charge. This balance is proportional according to the number of confirmed lists of MP candidates. The Assembly Channel should provide free of charge political presentation of up to three hours for the opposition and ruling parties in accordance with the results of the last parliamentary elections and one hour for the submitters of lists who are not represented in the Assembly. The free of charge political presentation has to be adequately and visibly marked as such during the entire duration of the broadcast. Unlike MRTV, radio broadcasting companies are not allowed to broadcast free of charge political presentation from the day the elections are called until their end.

In the period between the call for the elections and the start of the election campaign, radio broadcasters and the printed media are not allowed to broadcast or publish any paid political advertising. During this time, advertisements financed by the state or municipal budget are not allowed either. Radio broadcasters are compelled to record their programs from the day elections are called until their conclusion, and they should keep that material for 30 days after the

elections in order to provide it to the AAMS in case this data should be requested.

Media entities are obliged to determine their pricelists⁶⁷ for paid political advertising within five days after elections are called and publicly announce them. These prices may not be altered for the duration of the campaign. Radio broadcasters covering the elections are allowed to broadcast 18 minutes of additional advertising per actual hour of broadcasting exclusively dedicated to paid political advertising. This allows them to sell up to eight minutes each to the political parties in power and opposition and one minute for political parties without a parliamentary group and for non-parliamentary parties. In case one political party wants its advertising of two subsequent hours to be merged, the media must alternate the representation of political parties in power and opposition accordingly. Radio broadcasters and printed media are obligated to submit a report on the advertising space used by each participant in the election campaign and the funds paid or claimed for that purpose.

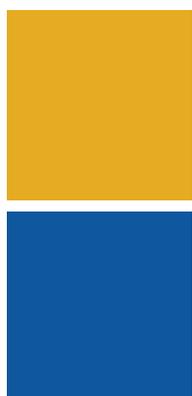
Results from public opinion polls related to the candidates should not be published through public services in the last 5 days before the elections. When public opinion poll results related to candidates in the election process are published, members of the media are obligated to identify the entity that has commissioned and funded the poll, the institution that has conducted the poll, the applied methodology, size and structure of the sample and the period in which the research was conducted. Results of public opinion polls conducted on the day of elections must not be published before the polling stations close at 19:00 hours.

⁶⁷ The media pricelists for paid political advertising for participants in the election process for the 2017 Local Elections are available on the SEC's website, and can be retrieved here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B8ZpCwro9h-zTVJ4cmlUYzFWUFU/view> (last visited on: 27th September 2017)

MONITORING THE ELECTIONS⁶⁸

The right to monitor elections is held by accredited domestic, foreign and international organizations and representatives of foreign countries with accreditations granted by the SEC. Accreditation for monitoring can be granted to national civic organizations registered at least one year prior to the elections, provided that the principle of human rights protection is integrated in their statute. Submitters of the lists also have the right to an authorized representative designated to monitor the work of the election bodies.

⁶⁸ KAS, IDSCS, The Republic of Macedonia's 2016 Parliamentary Elections Handbook, second updated edition. Available at: http://www.kas.de/wf/doc/kas_21607-1442-2-30.pdf?170131155919



POLITICAL PARTIES AND COALITIONS

POLITICAL PARTIES AND COALITIONS^{69 70 71}

VMRO-DPMNE



VMRO-DPMNE (VMRO – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity) declares itself a center-right people’s party within the parameters of Christian-Democratic ideology. In 2017, the party announced that it would preserve its values, but focus on wider legitimation as a civic right wing party. Since Macedonia’s independence, VMRO-DPMNE has been one of the two largest parties. It has participated in almost all the parliamentary and local elections, except the 1994 parliamentary elections when the party boycotted the second round. As a result of the third parliamentary elections, held in 1998, VMRO-DPMNE established the Government for the first time after having won 49 mandates in coalition with the Democratic Alternative, which won 13 seats, and PDPA-NDP (later DPA) with 11 seats, as well as several smaller parties. VMRO-DPMNE remained in power until 2002. However, during the conflict from May until November 2001, a broad coalition government was established, which included ministers from SDSM and LDP. In 2002, VMRO-DPMNE and their coalition partners won 33 seats in the Parliament, lost the elections and formed the opposition until 2006. In 2006, together

⁶⁹ The parties’ logos are taken from the Internet sites of the respective parties. The Internet is the source for each logo and photograph used in this document. Due to a lack of official data, for some of the political parties the contact information are not complete.

⁷⁰ The arrangement of the political parties is alphabetical. The three largest parliamentary parties participating in the elections are the first on the list.

⁷¹ All the election results are taken from the State Election Commission. Available at: <http://www.sec.mk/izbori-arhiva/>

with the coalition “For a Better Macedonia”, they achieved victory in the parliamentary elections, winning 45 mandates in total and thus being entitled to establish the Government. During these elections, the party promoted its program for the first time, with specific deadlines, which was a novelty in the electoral competitions. Since then, VMRO-DPMNE has achieved victory in three other election cycles: in the snap parliamentary elections in 2008, 2011, and 2014. In the 2008 elections, the party won a record of 63 parliamentary seats together with the coalition “For a Better Macedonia”. In the 2011 snap parliamentary elections, VMRO-DPMNE won 56 seats together with the coalition. In the 2014 parliamentary elections, they won 61 out of 123 total seats. In the last parliamentary elections, held in 2016, VMRO-DPMNE won 51 parliamentary seats, which made it the most represented political party in the Republic of Macedonia’s Assembly. However, due to the newly established coalition between SDSM and DUI, VMRO-DPMNE went into opposition.

Ljubco Georgievski was the first leader of VMRO-DPMNE, from its founding until 2003. At the party congress in May 2003, Georgievski resigned, and Nikola Gruevski was elected and has led the party ever since. Gruevski was President of the Republic of Macedonia’s Government from 2006 until January 2016.

In the first local elections in 1996, VMRO-DPMNE, together with MAAK-Conservative, won mayoral positions in 27 municipalities. In the next local elections in 2000, the party won 59 mayoral positions, 37 of which it lost in 2005, i.e., together with its coalition partners and supporting an independent candidate for Skopje, it won 22 mayoral positions. In the next local elections held in 2009, the party won 56 mayoral positions, thus significantly restoring power on the local level. With the outcome of the 2009 local elections, VMRO-DPMNE imposed itself as a dominant power on a national as well as local level.

In the last local elections in 2013, the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE won 57 mayoral positions out of 80 municipalities in total, including the City of Skopje. The party also won 537 councilor positions in 68 municipalities.



For these local elections, the coalition of VMRO-DPMNE consists of 18 parties:⁷² VMRO-DPMNE, Socialist Party of Macedonia, Democratic Party of the

Serbs in Macedonia, Citizens Option for Macedonia – GROM, Union of the Roma from Macedonia, Party of Justice, Party for Democratic Action of Macedonia, Party of the Vlachs in Macedonia, Workers` Agricultural Party of the Republic of Macedonia, New Liberal Party, Party of the United Democrats of Macedonia, Macedonian Alliance, (MAAK), Democratic Forces of the Roma, United Roma from Macedonia, Movement for National Unity of the Turks, Union of Tito’s Left Forces.⁷³

VMRO-DPMNE

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⁷² The composition of the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE varies in some municipalities, while in the municipality of Tearce, VMRO-DPMNE has an independent nomination for mayor. Besides the municipality of Tearce, within the various coalitions, VMRO-DPMNE will promote their own candidates in 67 other municipalities and the City of Skopje.

⁷³ The Central Registry of the Republic of Macedonia. Accessed at: <http://crm.com.mk/DS/default.aspx?MainId=3> (last visited on: 20.09.2017).

DEMOCRATIC UNION FOR INTEGRATION



The Democratic Union for Integration (DUI) was formed by former representatives of the People's Liberation Army (ONA) which had initiated the military conflict in 2001. Ideologically, DUI declares itself as a center-left party aimed at advancing the rights of the Albanians, as well as full implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. The party was established in 2002 and took part in the parliamentary elections of the same year, winning the largest portion of votes among the Albanian electorate. Thus, DUI secured 16 parliamentary seats and subsequently became part of the Government led by SDSM. DUI was part of the Government from 2002 until 2006, and it was represented by the largest number of ministers ever coming from an Albanian party in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. In the 2006 parliamentary elections, DUI won the majority of votes among the Albanian electorate (12.2%) and 17 seats in parliament, but after the unsuccessful negotiations with VMRO-DPMNE, it was not included in the Government coalition. As a result, DUI boycotted the work of the Assembly from 2006 until 2008, when snap parliamentary elections were called. In the 2008 parliamentary elections, DUI won 12.8% of the votes and 18 MPs, and as the largest political party representing ethnic Albanians joined the Government under the leadership of Nikola Gruevski. In the next parliamentary elections, in 2011, DUI again emerged as the third largest party in Macedonia, winning 14 parliamentary seats. In 2014, DUI won 19 seats and, again, formed the Government together with VMRO-DPMNE. In the most recent 2016 parliamentary elections, the party showed much weaker results, winning only 10 seats, partly due to the growth of the Alliance for the Albanians and BESA, as well as the transfer of votes to SDSM. However,

owing to the coalition with SDSM, DUI is again part of the Republic of Macedonia's Government.

The party has been lead by Ali Ahmeti since it was founded.

So far, DUI has participated in two election cycles for local elections. In both elections, 2005 and 2009, DUI won 15 mayoral positions, although in 2009 it lost Tetovo and Gostivar, two major municipalities with predominantly Albanian population. Since the 2013 local elections, DUI holds 14 mayoral positions.



In the local elections 2017, DUI will promote its own candidates in 18 municipalities, while in Bitola, Gazi Baba and Ohrid, they will promote joint candidate lists for councilors with BESA and the Alliance for the Albanians.

Democratic Union for Integration

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SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION OF MACEDONIA



The Social Democratic Union of Macedonia declares itself a center-left, within the parameters of social-democratic ideology. At the moment, it is the second largest party in Macedonia. It was founded at the Congress on 21st April 1991 as a legal heir to the League of Communists of Macedonia

– Party for Democratic Transformation (SKM-PDP). In the same year, the party changed its name to SDSM, and its ideology from communist to social-democratic. SDSM participated in all parliamentary and local elections since the Independence. In 1992, after the dismissal of the first expert Government, SDSM, although not backed by a majority in the Assembly, received the mandate to establish the first political Government of the Republic of Macedonia. In the period between 1994 and 1998, the party held the majority in the Assembly, having won 85 seats together with its coalition partners in the 1994 parliamentary elections, only to lose power in 1998 when they won only 27 seats. SDSM was the largest party in opposition until 2002, when it gained victory in the elections by securing 60 parliamentary seats, and together with its coalition partners stayed in power until the next parliamentary elections in 2006. In the 2006 parliamentary elections the coalition of SDSM won 32 seats. After that, SDSM was in the opposition until 2014, losing in three consecutive election cycles (2008, 2011, and 2014). In the snap parliamentary elections in 2008, together with their coalition partners, SDSM secured 27 parliamentary seats, and in the snap parliamentary elections in 2011, they won 42 seats with their partners. In the 2014 parliamentary elections, SDSM won 27 seats, and together with the coalition 34 MPs in total. In the 2016 parliamentary elections, SDSM won 49 seats, thus improving their result significantly in relation to the previous

parliamentary elections. The coalition led by SDSM, although with two MPs less than the coalition of VMRO-DPMNE, managed to establish the Government by forming a parliamentary majority with DUI and the Alliance for the Albanians.

Branko Crvenkovski led the party since Macedonia's independence and the transformation from SKM-PDP to SDSM in 1991, until 2004. He withdrew from this position after his victory in the snap presidential elections in 2004, when he became President of the Republic of Macedonia. At the party congress in November 2004, Vlado Bučkovski was elected party leader, and he remained in this position until the defeat in the 2006 elections. After the elections, Bučkovski ceased to enjoy the trust of the party membership, and at the early congress in November 2006, Radmila Šekerinska was elected head of the party. She remained in this position until June 2008, when she resigned following the defeat in the snap parliamentary elections. In September 2008, at the 8th SDSM congress, Zoran Zaev was elected leader of the party. In 2009, when his presidential mandate expired, Branko Crvenkovski was again elected leader of SDSM. He remained in this position until 2013, when he withdrew and appointed the current head of the party, Zoran Zaev.

In the local elections in 1996, SDSM won 54 mayoral positions, making them the most successful party of the elections. In the local elections in 2000, the coalition led by SDSM won 32 mayoral positions. In 2005 their success increased, and they won 36 mayoral positions, which, again, made them the most successful party. In 2009, SDSM lost most of the municipalities where it had been in power, winning only 6 mayoral positions, plus another mayoral position with its coalition. In the most recent local elections in 2013, SDSM won mayoral seats in 4 out of 80 municipalities in total.

In these local elections, the coalition led by the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia (SDSM) will promote its candidates

for mayors in 70 municipalities. 22 political parties are members of the coalition: New Social-Democratic Party (NSDP), Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Democratic Union of the Vlachs in Macedonia (DSVM), New Alternative (NA), Party of the United Pensioners and Citizens of Macedonia (POPGM), Social Democratic Union (SDU), Liberal Party of Macedonia (LP), Democratic Union (DS), Serbian Progressive Party in Macedonia (SNSM), Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM), Party for Full Emancipation of the Roma in Macedonia (PCER), Political Party Dignity (PPD), Party for Economic Changes (PEP21), Alliance for a Positive Macedonia (APM), Party for European Future (PEI), Party for Movement of the Turks in Macedonia (PDT), Serbian Party in Macedonia (SSM), Democratic Party of the Roma (DPR), United Party for Equality of the Roma (OPER), United for Macedonia (OM), Macedonian Unifying Reform Organization – Workers` Party (MORO).⁷⁴

Social Democratic Union of Macedonia

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⁷⁴ Central Registry of the Republic of Macedonia. Accessed at: <http://crm.com.mk/DS/default.aspx?MainId=3> (last visited on: 20th September 2017).

CITIZENS` OPTION FOR MACEDONIA – GROM



The Citizens` Option for Macedonia (GROM) is a political party positioned at the center, which was established in 2014. The party is lead by its founder Stevče Jakimovski. They took part in the 2014 presidential elections, with their candidate, Zoran Popovski, winning 3.6% of the total number of votes.

The party promoted their own candidates in the parliamentary elections of the same year and won one seat. In the 2016 parliamentary elections, GROM was part of the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE. The 2017 local elections will be the first time for GROM to promote their own candidate independently, running for the mayoral position in the municipality of Karpoš.

Citizens Option for Macedonia – GROM

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BESA MOVEMENT



The political party BESA Movement was established on 23rd March 2015 in Skopje. Their goal is to promote the interests of all citizens, and in particular the Albanians.

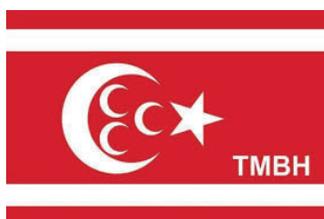
Their basic commitments are to equality, justice, freedom, wellbeing, and fight against corruption. The Movement points at the asymmetrical positioning of the state towards the peoples in it. In order to achieve their goals, BESA

strives for changes in the functioning of the system by advancing the universal values of humanism, improving democracy, eliminating every kind of discrimination, and building a legal state etc. This party appeared for the first time at the 2016 parliamentary elections, winning 5 seats in total, one in the first and the second Electoral Units and three in the sixth Electoral Unit (4.86% of the votes on national level). In the 2017 local elections, the party will promote their own candidates for mayors individually in 19 municipalities and the City of Skopje. For the municipalities of Bitola, Ohrid, and Gazi Baba, BESA will promote joint councilor lists with DUI and the Alliance for the Albanians.

Movement BESA

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MOVEMENT FOR NATIONAL UNITY OF THE TURKS



The Movement for National Unity of the Turks (DNET) is one of the political parties that are committed to the rights of the Turkish minority in the Republic of Macedonia. Ideologically, this political party is positioned in the center and led by Erdogan Saraç. The party appeared for the first time at the 2006 parliamentary elections. They did not show any significant results in these elections, neither in the next elections in 2008. In the 2011 parliamentary elections DNET was part of the coalition led by SDSM, winning only one seat. They did not take part in the elections in 2014, but in 2016 they joined the coalition with VMRO-DPMNE. In the

previous local elections, DNET won 9 councilors positions in the municipalities of Debar, Centar Župa, and Šuto Orizari. On these local elections, DNET is part of the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE, except for the municipality of Dolneni where it will promote its own candidate for mayor, independently.

Movement for National Unity of the Turks

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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE ALBANIANS



The Democratic Party of the Albanians was founded in June 1997 by uniting the Party for Democratic Prosperity of the Albanians (PDPA) and the National Democratic Party (NDP). PDPA was founded in 1994, after the radical leaders of the Party for Democratic Prosperity (PDP), Arben Xhaferi and Menduh Taçi, had left the mother party. DPA declares itself a center-right party and it strives for more rights for the Albanians in Macedonia, as well as redefining the constitutional frame set by the Ohrid Framework Agreement. In the elections in 1998, DPA won 11 parliamentary seats, and formed the Government of the Republic of Macedonia together with VMRO-DPMNE. During the 2011 conflict, DPA remained within the Government of the broad coalition, which later signed the Ohrid Agreement. One of the signees of the Ohrid Agreement was DPA's then leader Arben Xhaferi. When this government was reformed, DPA remained within the governmental coalition. In the next parliamentary elections in 2002, DPA won 5.2% of the votes and 7 mandates, switching

into opposition in the Assembly. DPA returned to power after the successful negotiations with VMRO-DPMNE, which won the elections in 2006. DPA won 7.5% of the votes, or 11 mandates, in these elections, less than their rival DUI. In the snap elections in 2008, DPA won 11 mandates again. After the snap parliamentary elections in 2008, the largest parliamentary party VMRO-DPMNE discontinued the traditional partnership with DPA by establishing a coalition with the largest Albanian party in the Parliament, DUI. In the snap parliamentary elections in 2011, DPA won 8 mandates, while in the parliamentary elections in 2014, it secured only 7 seats. In the snap parliamentary elections in 2016, DPA received 2.6% of the votes on national level, winning 2 MPs in the Electoral Unit 6, which is 5 MPs less than in the previous parliamentary elections.

The head of DPA is Menduh Taçi, who was appointed to this position on 30th June 2007. Taçi acquired this position after the resignation of the previous leader, Arben Xhaferi.

In the elections in 2005, DPA won two mayoral positions in coalition with PDP, and in the next elections in 2009, it won one mayoral position in Tetovo. In the local elections in 2013, the party won the mayoral position in the municipality of Struga, but mayor Zijadin Sela later separated from the party. Besides the only mayoral position, DPA succeeded in winning 103 councilor positions. On the local elections in October 2017, the Democratic Party of Albanians will promote their own candidates for mayors in 16 municipalities and the City of Skopje.

Democratic Party of the Albanians

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DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF THE TURKS IN MACEDONIA



The Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia (DPTM) represents the ethnic Turks in the Republic of Macedonia. The party's leader is Bejkan Iljas. In the 2016 parliamentary elections, DPTM joined the coalition with VMRO-DPMNE, winning one parliamentary seat. In the last local elections from 2013, the party won 20 councilor positions. In these local elections, the party will promote their candidates within the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE, except in the municipalities of Vrapčište and Centar Župa, where DPTM promotes their own candidates.

Democratic Party of the Turks in Macedonia

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COALITION "ALLIANCE FOR THE ALBANIANS" (UNITETI, NDP)



The Coalition "Alliance for the Albanians" is a union of the parties Movement for Reforms of DPA, Uniteti and NDP. The Coalition's leaders are the head of the Movement for Reforms of DPA, Zijadin Sela, the leader of the National Democratic Revival, Vesel Memedi, and the head of Uniteti, Gezim Ostreni. The main commitments of the Coalition are related to full equality of the Albanians in Macedonia, promoting the Albanian language as a second official language in Macedonia, equal distribution of the budget, and the functioning of the Special Public Prosecution (SJO), which is regulated by the Constitution. This coalition won 3 parliamentary seats in the in the 2016 elections, one

of which in the Electoral Unit 5 and two in the Electoral Unit 6. The political party is now part of the governmental coalition.

In 2017, Zijadin Sela left the Coalition "Alliance for the Albanians" and established the political party "Alliance for the Albanians", leaving the political parties Uniteti and NDP in the coalition. The Coalition "Alliance for the Albanians" has promoted their candidates for mayors in the municipalities of Gostivar and Debar.

Coalition "Alliance for the Albanians" (Uniteti, NDP)

www.uniteti.org

www.rdk.mk

THE LEFT



The Left is a new political party founded in the end of 2015. The party has a leftist orientation and strives for anti-capitalism, anti-nationalism, anti-militarism, anti-clericalism, and anti-conservatism. The main focus of the party is the workers and basic human rights, and it represents, primarily, the poor, underprivileged, marginalized, and disadvantaged. This party took part in the 2016 parliamentary elections for the first time, winning 12120 votes in total, i.e. 1.02% of the votes on national level. In the 2017 local elections, they will promote their candidates for mayors in the City of Skopje and the municipalities of Gazi Baba and Center.

The Left

ul. Gjuro Gjaković br.20, vlez 1, kat 3, lokal br.12

1200 Skopje

contact@levica.mk

www.levica.mk

PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT FOR MACEDONIA



The People's Movement for Macedonia was founded in May 2002 as a party with national orientation, based on the traditions of the Macedonian people, which strives for improving the social state and introducing a tax for the rich. NDM's leader is Janko Bačev. In the 2013 Local Elections, the party won 9 councilor positions in 8 municipalities. The party did not take part in the 2016 parliamentary elections, due to the fact that the State Election Commission rejected the candidate lists of the party. In the 2017 local elections, the party will promote their own candidates independently in 11 municipalities and the City of Skopje.

People's Movement for Macedonia

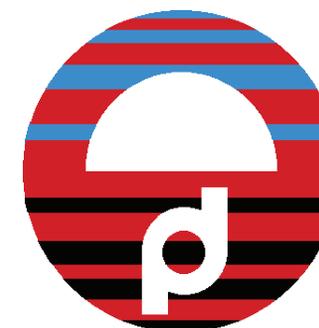
ul. Dame Gruev br. 10

1000 Skopje

ndm@ndm.org.mk

www.ndm.org.mk

PARTY FOR DEMOCRATIC PROSPERITY



The Party for Democratic Prosperity (PDP) is the oldest party of the Albanians in Macedonia, founded in 1990. The party joined DPA after the parliamentary elections. It reactivated in January 2014, with Abduladi Vejselli as their leader, an MP in three previous compositions of the Assembly. In the 1990s, PDP had been the largest parliamentary party representing the interests of the Albanians in

Macedonia, and they were a coalition partner in the governments of SDSM at several times. 1994, the radical wing separated from the party and founded DPA. Ever since, PDP has been seen as a moderate political party. They strive for full equality of the Albanians in Macedonia's political, economic, social and cultural sphere, for their national language and for harmonious interethnic relations based on the democratic principles of equality and true justice. In the 2016 parliamentary elections, the Party for Democratic Prosperity got 1143 votes (0.1%), not winning any parliamentary seat.

In the 1996 Local Elections, the party won 12 mayoral positions. The results in the local elections in 2000 were much weaker, and PDP won only three mayoral positions. In the 2005 local elections, PDP formed a coalition with DPA, winning 2 mayoral positions, in the municipalities of Želino and Saraj. In the 2009 local elections, the party won only 328 votes without any mayoral position. In 2013, PDP did not participate in the local elections.

In the 2017 Local Elections, PDP will promote their candidate for mayor in the municipality of Bogovinje, while in the municipalities of Gazi Baba, Želino, Lipkovo, Studeničani and Tetovo they will promote candidate lists for councilors only.

Party for Democratic Prosperity

ul. Karaorman br. 62

1200 Tetovo

https://www.facebook.com/PPDzyrtare/?ref=br_rs

POLITICAL PARTY "ALLIANCE FOR THE ALBANIANS"



The Alliance for the Albanians is a political party under the leadership of Zijadin Sela, which separated from the Coalition "Alliance for the Albanians". This party derives from the Movement for Reforms of DPA, and it was registered as a political party just before the local elections under the name "Alliance for the Albanians", which was disputed by the leadership of Uniteti and NDP. The Alliance for the Albanians will participate in the elections independently, with their own candidates for mayors in 15 municipalities and the City of Skopje. In the municipalities of Bitola, Gazi Baba, and Ohrid, they will promote joint candidate lists for councilors together with the parties DUI and BESA.

Political Party Alliance for the Albanians

ul. Ilinden bb.

1200 Tetovo

info@ndryshe.eu

www.ndryshe.eu

UNION OF ROMA IN MACEDONIA



The Union of Roma in Macedonia (SRM) is a party that represents the interests of the Roma ethnic community in Macedonia. They are active on the political stage since 1996. The leader of the party is Amdi Bajram. In the period between 1998 and 2002, they had only one MP in the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly. Since 2006, SRM has been represented in parliament with one seat, within the coalitions led by VMRO-DPMNE. In the 2009 local elections, SRM won 6 councilor positions and one mayoral position in the municipality of Šuto Orizari.

It won the same mayoral position in the 2013 local elections as well, in addition to 11 councilor positions. In the 2017 elections, SRM is part of the coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE. However, in the municipality of Šuto Orizari. They will promote their own candidate for mayor and candidate list for councilors independently.

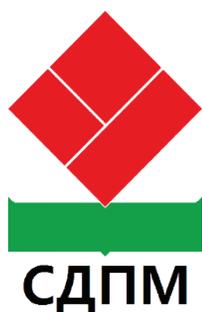
Union of Roma in Macedonia

Šuto Orizari 50

1000 Skopje

<https://www.facebook.com/partija.srm.5>

SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF MACEDONIA (SDPM)



The Social Democratic Party of Macedonia (SDPM) was established in 1990. Its first leader was Slavko Milosavljević. SDPM is a left-oriented party positioning itself within the social-democratic ideology. Its current leader is Branko Janevski, with his third consecutive mandate as the leader of the party. Since Macedonia's independence, this party has taken part in several election cycles, without any significant success. In the 2011 parliamentary elections, SDPM won 1807 votes (0.16%). In the 2013 local elections, SDPM promoted its candidates for mayors and councilors independently, without winning any mayoral or councilor positions. The party did not take part in the 2016 parliamentary elections due to the fact that the State Election Commission rejected their candidate lists. In the 2017 local elections, SDPM will promote their own candidates in the municipalities of Gostivar, Zrnovci, Kočani, and Makedonski Brod.

Social Democratic Party of Macedonia

bul.JNA br.54 zgrada br.1, vlez 1 prizemje

1200 Skopje

PERMANENT MACEDONIAN RADICAL UNIFICATION - TMRO



The Permanent Macedonian Radical Unification (TMRO) is a political party founded in 2002. Its ideology is right-oriented, promoting conservative values of conservatism and Macedonian patriotism. Their understanding of the state of Macedonia is as a national state of the Macedonian people. The leader and founder of the party is Vančo Šehtanski. The party achieved insignificant results in the parliamentary elections in 2006 and 2008. In the 2011 parliamentary elections, the party joined the coalition with VMRO-DPMNE and remained within it for the elections in 2014 and 2016. In the 2017 local elections, TMRO will promote its independent candidates for mayors in the municipalities of Kavadarci and the City of Skopje.

Permanent Macedonian Radical Unification – TMRO

Bul. Jane Sandanski 116-3/10

1000 Skopje

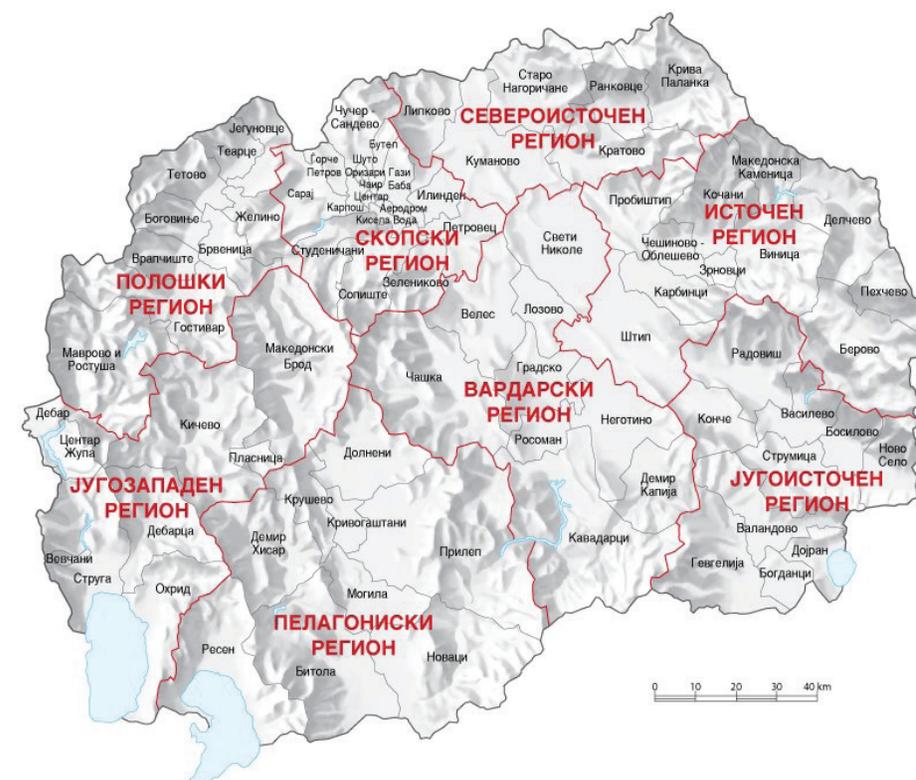
t_tmro@yahoo.com

<http://tmro-mk.weebly.com/>

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES FOR MAYORS FOR THE 2017 LOCAL ELECTIONS

OVERVIEW OF MAYORAL CANDIDATES⁷⁵

Statistical regions and municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia



Territorial organization of the Republic of Macedonia
Source: State Statistical Office

In this part the mayoral candidates for the 2017 local elections are presented. The nominated persons in 29 municipalities and the City

⁷⁵ All images were downloaded from internet sources, with a specific reference being made to the link of the corresponding source. The images mostly used are those downloaded from the official Facebook profiles of the mayoral candidates. The photos of the candidates from VMRO-DPMNE are taken from the website: <http://novaera.mk/>, while the photos of the candidates from SDSM are taken from the website <http://zivotzasite.mk/>.

of Skopje⁷⁶ are presented with their curriculum vitae and photo.⁷⁷ The candidates for the remaining municipalities are listed.

The extensive overview encompasses only the largest municipalities, including all municipalities in the City of Skopje. The criteria for the inclusion of the municipalities in the sample were urban status, population size (only the large ones are included), ethnic structure (we tried to include as many multiethnic municipalities as possible), and the number of nominated mayoral candidates.



City of Skopje

Area	1854 км ²
Population	506 926
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (66.75%) Albanians (20.49%) Romani (4.36%) Serbs (2.82%) Turks (1.7)
Number of Councilors	45
Budget for 2016 ⁷⁸	6 651 736 000
Address	Bulevar Ilinden No. 82 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3 297 255 02/ 3 297 536 02/ 3 297 265 02/ 3 297 236
Website	http://www.skopje.gov.mk

⁷⁶ The presentation of the mayoral candidates in 29 municipalities and in the City of Skopje has been done by following the alphabetical order of the initial letter of the candidate's surname.

⁷⁷ The resumes and/or photos of some of the candidates are not presented herewith due to the lack of information. The overview of the mayoral candidates refers to the candidates who have been announced by the State Election Commission. The official list is available at <https://kandidati.sec.mk>.

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE CITY OF SKOPJE



*Naim Bajrami (Political Party of Alliance for Albanians)*⁷⁹ is a lawyer by profession. He graduated in political sciences from the Faculty of Law „Justinian I” at the “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” University in Skopje. In 2017, Naim Bajrami was appointed Second Spokesperson to the Government of the Republic of Macedonia as a nominated member of the political party of the Alliance for Albanians.



*Koce Trajanovski (VMRO-DPMNE)*⁸⁰ is the current Mayor of the City of Skopje, executing his second mandate. He has held this position since the 2009 local elections. Before this tenure, from 2005 to 2009, he was mayor of the Skopje Municipality of Gazi Baba. As from 2008, he was president of the Association of the Units of Local Self-Government (ZELS). From 1998 to 2005, he was a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. Before starting to engage in politics, he had run his own computer company, and for 15 years he had worked for MZT-Hepos. Trajanovski graduated from the Faculty of Mechanics in Skopje. He is 61 years old.



*Gjorgji Todorov (The People's Movement for Macedonia)*⁸¹ is a member of the Executive Committee of NDM. Todorov was a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia during the term 1998-2002, representing the political party VMRO-Macedonian. He graduated from the Faculty of Technical Sciences from the Department of Traffic. He worked as Head of the Dispatching Centre of the Public Traffic Enterprise in Skopje. Also, he was the Vice-President for Traffic in the City Committee for Urbanism, Communal and Accommodation Affairs, Traffic and Environment Protection at the City of Skopje. He was born in 1958 in Skopje.

⁷⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/naim.bajrami.10>

⁷⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/koce.trajanovski/>

⁸⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/Народно-Движење-За-Македонија-1017491648264591/>



*Bekim Fazliu (DPA)*⁸² is a former DPA-nominated Member of Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. He was an MP during the 2011-2014 and 2014-2016 terms. Before assuming the function of MP, Bekim Fazliu was Mayor of the Saraj Municipality for one term. He graduated from the Faculty of Law in Skopje. He was born in 1979 in Skopje.



*Nafie Selmani (BESA)*⁸³ is employed in the municipal administration in the City of Skopje, in the Sector for Support to the Mayor in the area of public relations.



*Marija Johns (The Left)*⁸⁴ has worked as a translator from Macedonian into English and English into Macedonian for more than 10 years. She has worked as a youth journalist for culture for „Mlad Borec“ and „Studentski Zbor“ as well as for some minor radio stations in Skopje. She has also worked as a sales assistant and cook in Skopje, as a room-maid, waitress, marketing agent for advertising space in a financial editorial in London; as a teacher of Macedonian for foreigners and as an English teacher in Skopje, Morocco, Hungary and Great Britain. She studied theater directing, law, comparative literature, English language and art in Skopje and London. She is 39 years old.



*Petre Shilegov (SDSM)*⁸⁵ is the Vice-President of SDSM, and Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. Prior to this function, he was spokesperson of SDSM. In the 2014 parliamentary elections, Petre Shilegov was the front-runner in the Electoral Unit 2, whereas in the 2016 Parliamentary Elections, he was the front-runner in the Electoral Unit 6. He was born in Skopje in 1969. He graduated from the Law Faculty „Justinian I“ at the „Ss Cyril and Methodius“ University in Skopje. Prior to his MP function, Shilegov worked as a lawyer at attorney.



*Vancho Shehtanski*⁸⁶ is leader and founder of the party Permanent Macedonian Radical Unification (TMRO). He graduated from the Law Faculty at the „Ss Cyril and Methodius“ University in Skopje in 1996, and passed his bar exam in 1998. He is a lawyer at attorney by profession. In 2009, he was appointed the first Director of the Agency for Management of Seized and Forfeited Assets, whereas in the period of 2010 to 2017, he was the Director of the State Inspectorate for Local Self-Government. He was President of the Football Club Vardar in 2008 and 2010 respectively. He was born in 1972 in Skopje.

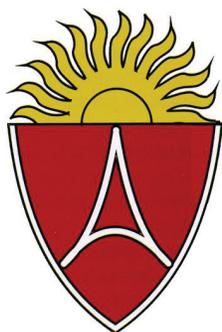
⁸² http://www.sobranie.mk/demokratska-partija-na-albancite-ns_article-bekim-fazliu-11.nsp

⁸³ <https://www.facebook.com/nafie.selmani>

⁸⁴ <https://levica.mk/gradonachalnik-skopje/>

⁸⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/p.shilegov/>

⁸⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/TMROMK>



Municipality
of Aerodrom

Area	20 км ²
Population	72 009
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (89.4%) Serbs (4.28%) Albanians (1.41%)
Number of Councilors	27
Budget for 2016	1 072 418 000
Address	Bul. Jane Sandanski No. 1096 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2 400 970
Website	http://www.aerodrom.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF AERODROM



*Ivica Konevski (VMRO-DPMNE)*⁸⁷ has been Mayor of the Aerodrom Municipality since 2009. From 2006 until his election as a Mayor, he was Director General of the Public Enterprise for Management of Housing and Business Premises of the Republic of Macedonia. In 2005 and 2006, he was Councilor in the City of Skopje. Konevski is a graduated lawyer with a passed bar exam. He is 34 years old.



*Zlatko Marin*⁸⁸ is President of the Municipal Organization of SDSM in Aerodrom. By profession he is a professor of physical and health education.

⁸⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/IvicaKonevski/>

⁸⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/Zlatko.Marin>



Municipality
of Butel

Area	57 км ²
Population	36 154
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (62.25%) Albanians (25.19%) Turks (3.61%) Serbs (4.28%) Bosniaks (2.68%) Romani (1.55%)
Number of Councilors	19
Budget for 2016	433 925 000
Address	Str. Butelska No. 4 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2 600 506
Website	http://www.opstinabutel.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF BUTEL

Vlatko Damjanovski (NDM)



*Darko Kostovski (VMRO-DPMNE)*⁸⁹ is a Councilor in the Municipality of Butel, elected in the 2013 Local Elections. He is employed in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. He was recently appointed the the function of spokesperson of VMRO-DPMNE. Kostovski graduated in political sciences. He is 29 years old.

⁸⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/darkokostovskizabutel/>



*Ermond Miftari (DPA)*⁹⁰ works as a speech therapist in the Institute for Rehabilitation of Children and Youth. Miftari graduated in defectology from the Faculty of Defectology (Department of Speech Therapy) at Zagreb University.



*Velimir Smilevski (SDSM)*⁹¹ is the current Vice-President of the municipal organization of SDSM Butel. He is SDSM Councilor in the Butel Municipal Council. Smilevski is an entrepreneur and a company owner.



*Naser Curi (BESA)*⁹² graduated in pedagogy from the Faculty of Pedagogy at the „Ss Cyril and Methodius“ University in Skopje. From 1996 to 2004, Naser Curi worked in the primary school „Emin Duraku“, Skopje region. As from 2004, he was employed in the primary school „Zivko Brajkovski“ in Butel as a teacher of Albanian language and literature. From 2005 to 2009, Curi was Councilor in the Council of the City of Skopje, nominated by the National Democratic Party.



Municipality of Gazi Baba

Area	92 км ²
Population	72 617
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (73.67%) Serbs (17.22%) Albanians (2.89%) Romani (2.87)
Number of Councilors	27
Budget for 2016	924 385 000
Address	Str. Arhimedova No. 2 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3 226 655
Website	http://www.gazibaba.gov.mk/

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF GAZI BABA



*Borce Georgievski (SDSM)*⁹³ is the President of the Municipal Organization of SDSM Gazi Baba. Since 2013, he has been a Councilor in the Municipal Council of Gazi Baba.

⁹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/ermond.miftari>

⁹¹ <https://www.facebook.com/velimiramsmilevski>

⁹² <https://www.facebook.com/NaserCurri2017/>

⁹³ <https://www.facebook.com/BorceGeorgievskiZaGaziBaba/>



*Toni Trajkovski (VMRO-DPMNE)*⁹⁴ currently executes his second mandate as a Mayor of the Municipality of Gazi Baba. Until his election as mayor in 2009, he was employed in the Shareholding Company „Elem“, and prior to this, he worked as an engineer in the Shareholding Company „ESM“. In 2005 he was elected Councilor in the Municipal Council of Gazi Baba, whereas in 2008 he was appointed President of the Municipal Council. Trajkovski graduated from the Faculty of Mechanics in Skopje in 2001. He is 43 years old.



*Zoran Trpceviski (The Left)*⁹⁵ is a former non-commissioned officer in the Army of the Republic of Macedonia. As from 2007, he has been a military pensioner. He completed his secondary military school in Sarajevo. He is 43 years old.



Municipality of Gjorce Petrov

Area	67 км ²
Population	41 634
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (85.16%) Serbs (4.16%) Albanians (3.84%) Romani (3%)
Number of Councilors	23
Budget for 2016	500 994 000
Address	Str. Gjorce Petrov No. 73 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2 039 307
Website	http://www.opstinagpetrov.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF GJORCE PETROV



*Vlado Misajlovski (VMRO-DPMNE)*⁹⁶ is a former Minister of Transport and Communications in the Government of Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski in the period from May 2015 to May 2017. Prior to this function, he assumed the post of Director of the Public Enterprise for National Roads. Before this, Misajlovski had performed the functions of State Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Communications and State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Misajlovski graduated in political sciences, and has undertaken masters` studies in European and International diplomacy and politics. He is 32 years old.

⁹⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1080561723>

⁹⁵ <https://levica.mk/gradonachalnik-gazi-baba/>

⁹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/misajlovskivlado/>



*Aleksandar Naumovski (SDSM)*⁹⁷ was appointed Director of the Investigative Prison Skopje in Shuto Orizari in August 2017. This is Naumovski's second subsequent candidature for mayor of the municipality of Gjorce Petrov. Prior to his current post, he worked in an insurance company, as a manager in the private sector and as entrepreneur. In the period from 2006 to 2011, he was associate to the Ministry of Justice, and he also worked as Advisor for Legal Affairs to the Director General of the Central Register of the Republic of Macedonia. Naumovski has obtained his Masters and BS degrees from the Law Faculty „Justinian I“ in Skopje . He was born in Skopje in 1977.



Municipality
of Karpoš

Area	35 км ²
Population	59 666
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (88.51%) Albanians (3.27%) Serbs (3.66%) Romani (1.03%)
Number of Councilors	23
Budget for 2016	1 978 462 000
Address	Str. Radika No. 9, Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3 061 353
Website	http://www.karpos.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF KARPOŠ



*Stefan Bogoev (SDSM)*⁹⁸ is currently a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. He is also former President of the Social-Democratic Youth of Macedonia. Stefan Bogoev graduated in economics and currently undertakes his masters studies in applied economics at the University American College- Skopje. He was born in 1989 in Skopje.

⁹⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/AleksandarNaumoskizaGorce/>

⁹⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/bogoevstefan/>



STEVCHE JAKIMOVSKI (GROM)⁹⁹ currently executes his third mandate as Mayor of the Municipality of Karpoš. He executed his first and his second mayoral mandates in the period from 2000 to 2003 and from 2009 to 2013. In 2003, he was appointed Minister of Economy, whereas in the period from December 2004 to 2006 he performed the function of Minister of Labour and Social Policy. Following the completion of his ministerial mandate, he worked in his private company. Before starting his political career, he was occupied with his private business, and he also was Director of Katlanovo Tours. Jakimovski graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Skopje. He is 56 years old.



*Municipality
of Kisela Voda*

Area	47 км ²
Population	57 236
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (91.69%) Serbs (2.49%) Romani (1.25%) Vlachs (1.13%)
Number of Councilors	23
Budget for 2016	1 000 135 000
Address	Str. Petar Deljan No. 17 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2 785 400
Website	http://www.kiselavoda.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF KISELA VODA



Johan Tarchulovski (VMRO-DPMNE)¹⁰⁰ is a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, elected in the 2016 Parliamentary Elections. Before he was elected MP he worked as an entrepreneur. In the period from 1999 to 2004, Tarchulovski was Escort Inspector in the Security Service to the President of the Republic of Macedonia Boris Trajkovski. Due to certain activities in the 2001 conflict, he was accused and convicted by the Prosecution of the Hague Tribunal for violation of laws and warfare customs. He was extradited to the Hague on 16 March 2005. He served six years in the Scheveningen prison, while the remaining two years he served in the city of Diez, Germany. In April 2013, Tarchulovski was released and he returned to Macedonia, where he then took up the function of organizational secretary of VMRO-DPMNE.

⁹⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/stevco.jakimovski.12>

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/Johan.Tarchulovski/>



*Filip Temelkovski (SDSM)*¹⁰¹ has been President of the Municipal Organization of SDSM Kisela Voda since 2013. From 2008 to 2009, Filip Temelkovski was Secretary General of the Social-Democratic Youth of Macedonia. He has also performed other party functions. Apart from politics, Filip Temelkovski works in the catering sector.



Municipality of Saraj

Area	241 км ²
Population	35 408
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (91.53%) Macedonians (3.89%) Bosniaks (3.16%)
Number of Councilors	19
Budget for 2016	/
Address	Recreational Centre Saraj bb Municipality of Saraj
Telephone	02/ 2 057 990 02/ 2 057 996
Website	http://www.saraj.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF SARAJ



*Ekrem Alija (Political Party Alliance for the Albanians)*¹⁰²



*Sefedin Aliu (DPA)*¹⁰³

¹⁰¹ <https://www.facebook.com/TemelkovskiFilip/>

¹⁰² <https://www.facebook.com/Ekrem-Alija-Faqja-Zyrtare-1963399940651792/>

¹⁰³ <https://www.facebook.com/Saraj.co/>



*Bashkim Bakiu (BESA)*¹⁰⁴ is a researcher and founder of the Research Institute for Policies and Good Governance in Skopje. Bakiu graduated in political sciences from the Law Faculty „Justinian I“ in Skopje, and obtained his masters degree on the subject of comparative local development under the masters program coordinated by the University of Trento, Italy. Presently, Bakiu is a PhD candidate at the University of “Ss. Cyril and Methodius” in Skopje.



*Blerim Bexheti (DUI)*¹⁰⁵ is a member of the DUI Central Presidency. In 2009, he was elected Mayor of the Municipality of Saraj and he was appointed member of the ZELS Governing Board. He performed these functions until 2011, when he was appointed Minister of Justice. Earlier, in the period from 2006 to 2009, on two occasions he was elected DUI nominated Member of the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia. In the period from 2005 to 2006, he ran his own law at attorney office, whereas from 2002 to 2005, he worked as Senior Advisor in the Ministry of Justice. Bexheti graduated in law and has his bar exam passed as appropriate. He is 41 years old.



Municipality of Centar

Area	10 км ²
Population	45 412
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (85.4%) Serbs (4.49%) Albanians (3.23%) Romani (2.14%) Turks (1.08%) Vlachs (1.01%)
Number of Councilors	23
Budget for 2016	1 503 504 000
Address	Str. Mihail Cokov nn Skopje
Telephone	02/ 3 203 600
Website	http://www.opstinacentar.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF CENTAR



*Sasha Bogdanovic (SDSM)*¹⁰⁶ was born in 1985 in Postojna, Slovenia. He has been member of SDSM since 2001, whereas in 2009 he became member of the Executive Board of the Municipal Organization of SDSM Centar, and in 2014, he became its President. He graduated from the Faculty of Political Sciences at the „Ss Cyril and Methodius“ University in Skopje. Presently he is Director of the Public Enterprise Parking Premises of the Municipality of Centar.

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/bashkimbakiuofficial/>

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/bexhetii/>

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/sasha.bogdanovikj/>



*Dejan Jovanovski (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁰⁷ has been member of VMRO-DPMNE's Executive Committee since 2017. In 2016, he was briefly appointed Secretary General of the Macedonian Basketball Federation (MBF), but after only one month, he rescinded from this function. In the period from 2012 to 2013, Jovanovski was Sport Director of the BC Rabotnichki, and after this he worked in the Agency for Youth and Sports. He is a former professional basketball player and had played for a number of basketball clubs in Macedonian and abroad. He was a member of the Macedonian national basketball team. Jovanovski is 44 years old.



*Aleksandar Mitrov (The Left)*¹⁰⁸ works as a tour guide in Spanish and English and as Argentine tango instructor. He has working experience in a number of areas, starting from sale, catering, financial institution for rapid money transfer, projects in the area of fostering and promotion of workers rights, introduction of electronic register in the kindergartens of RM etc. In 2008, he was one of the founders of the Movement for Social Justice „Lenka“. Mitrov graduated in political sciences and international relations. He is 34 years old.



Municipality of Čair

Area	4 км ²
Population	64 773
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (57%) Macedonians (24.13%) Turks (6.95%) Romani (4.76%) Bosniaks (4.55%)
Number of Councilors	27
Budget for 2016	1 363 866 359
Address	Bul. Hristijan Todorovski No. 5 Skopje
Telephone	02/ 5 101 855
Website	http://cair.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF ČAIR



*Faruk Avdiu (Political Party Alliance for the Albanians)*¹⁰⁹ has worked as professor in the secondary school SUGS Arseni Jovkov in Skopje since 2010. In 2009, he graduated from the Law Faculty at the Tetovo State University. He was born in 1985 in Skopje.



*Ismailj Bojda (NDM)*¹¹⁰ is President of the Alliance of Macedonians of Islamic confession and President of the Union of Gorani. He was born in 1954 in the village of Brod in the area of Gora in Kosovo.

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/DejanTimCentar/>

¹⁰⁸ <https://levica.mk/gradonachalnik-centar/>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/faruk.avdiu.7>

¹¹⁰ <http://facebook.com/ibojda>



*Visar Ganiu (DUI)*¹¹¹ performed the function of Deputy Minister of Education and Science. After submitting his mayoral candidature for the Municipality of Čair, he resigned from his post in the Ministry. Prior to this, as from 2004 he worked in the Tetovo State University as junior professor assistant and assistant on the subject: Theory and methodology of sports training. In 2009, he was appointed docent, and as from 2013 extracurricular professor. He graduated from the Faculty of Physical Culture at the Tetovo State University. He was born in 1978 in Skopje.



*Zecirija Ibraimi (BESA)*¹¹² is a Member of the the Parliament of RM elected in the 2016 Parliamentary Elections. He is a member of the Party Central Presidency. Prior to assuming his Deputy function, he worked as scientific staff at the Institute for the Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of the Albanians, Skopje. Zecirija graduated from the Faculty of Philology. He is 40 years old.



*Idriz Orana (DPA)*¹¹³ is a surgeon in the Clinical Centre in Skopje. He was DPA Councilor in the last municipal council in the City of Skopje. Until 2017, Orana was Vice-President of the Medical Chamber of Macedonia.



*Nermin Telovska (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹¹⁴ is member of VMRO-DPMNE's Executive Committee. She is a defectologist and speech therapist and President of the Board of Speech Therapists under the auspices of the Union of Defectologists of Macedonia. Telovska is a specialist in psychomotor reeducation and relaxation, in speech diffluent disorders, and she holds masters degrees in defectology (speech therapy). She is 52 years old.

¹¹¹ <https://www.facebook.com/VisarGaniu.Cair/>
<http://www.mia.mk/en/Inside/RenderSingleGalleryTest/133852564/1?month=9&year=2017&day=12&desc=1>

¹¹² http://sobranie.mk/dvizenje-besa-2016-ns_article-zekjirija-ibrahimi-16.nspx

¹¹³ <https://www.facebook.com/idriz.orana.1>

¹¹⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/Nermin.Telovska.Makedonija/>



Municipality of Shuto Orizari

Area	7 км ²
Population	22 017
Ethnic structure of the population	Romani (60.6%) Albanians (30.32%) Macedonians (6.53%)
Number of Councilors	19
Budget for 2016	248 393 000
Address	Str. Vietnamska nn Skopje
Telephone	02/ 2 650 584
Website	http://www.sutoorizari.org.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHUTO ORIZARI



*Elvis Bajram (SRM)*¹¹⁵ has been Mayor of the Municipality of Shuto Orizari since 2009. Prior to assuming his mayoral post, he was President of the Municipal Council of Shuto Orizari. He runs a family business and has completed primary education. He is 36 years old.



*Kurto Dudush (SDSM)*¹¹⁶ has been a Member of the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia since 2016. He graduated in business management from the MIT University in Skopje. He was born in Skopje in 1974.

¹¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/Elvis-Bajram-1609731929079429/>

¹¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/kucoo.dudush>

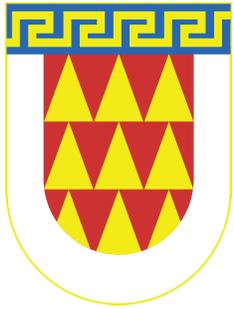
Faik Sadiki (DPA)

Muhamed Curi (BESA)



*Hhela Chajani (DUI)*¹¹⁷ works as officer at the Secretariat for Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. He graduated in law from the Law Faculty at the „Ss Cyril and Methodius“ University in Skopje.

¹¹⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/xhelalC>



Municipality
of Bitola

Area	792 км ²
Population	95 385
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (88.71%) Albanians (4.36%)
Number of Councilors	31
Budget for 2016	1 618 668 311
Address	Bul. 1 st May, No. 61 Bitola
Telephone	047/234-234
Website	http://www.bitola.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF BITOLA



*Zoran Ilioski (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹¹⁸ performs his second mandate as a Member of the Parliament of RM. He was elected MP in the 2014 Parliamentary Elections for the first time. Ilioski is a member of the party's Executive Committee. Prior to being elected MP, he was Director of the Public Enterprise "Water Supply". Ilioski graduated in electrical engineering and is 55 years old.



*Jorgo Oggenovski (independent candidate)*¹¹⁹ is a professional actor. He has his own company for production of movies and TV serials. Also, he is the founder of the humanitarian organization „For better health“ Bitola, aimed at serving the needs of the Bitola hospital. He has produced 4 feature films in Hollywood, USA, one of which in coproduction with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Macedonia. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Skopje. He is 62 years old.



*Natasha Petrovska (SDSM)*¹²⁰ is Councilor in the Municipal Council of Bitola and SDSM Coordinator to the Municipal Council. Prior to this, for one mandate she was a member of the SDSM Executive Board, whereas for two mandates she was a member of the Executive Board of the Municipal Organization of SDSM in Bitola. She is a Master of Human Resources Management from the University of Tourism and Management, and she works as a mathematics professor at the Technical School „Gjorgji Naumov“. She completed her secondary education in the gymnasium Josip Broz Tito in Bitola. She was born in Bitola in 1971.



*Kjircho Toshkov (independent candidate)*¹²¹ is an independent mayoral candidate for Bitola municipality. He is employed in the Shareholding Company ELEM, subsidiary REK Bitola.

¹¹⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/zoraniloskibitola/>

¹¹⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/jorgo.oggenovski>

¹²⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/SoLjubovZaBitola/>

¹²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/Кирчо-Ташков-1936150186642999/>



Municipality
of Veles

Area	464 км ²
Population	55 108
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (84.86%) Albanians (4.17%) Turks (3.13%) Romani (1.45%)
Number of Councilors	23
Budget for 2016	906 299 344
Address	Str. Panko Brashnar No. 1 Veles
Telephone	043/232-966
Website	http://www.veles.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF VELES



*Ace Kocevski (SDSM)*¹²² was Mayor of the Municipality of Veles for two mandates in the period from 2000 to 2009 and Under-Secretary in the Ministry of Local Self-Government from 1999 to 2000. He was a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia in the period from 1994 to 1998. During his studies, he was President of the Youth Organization of the University „Ss Cyril and Methodius“ from 1982 to 1983. He is a construction engineer by vocation. He is 56 years old.



*Slavcho Chadiev (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹²³ is Mayor of the Municipality of Veles, elected in the 2013 Local Elections. Prior to assuming this function, he was Councilor and President of the Municipal Council of Veles for two mandates, from 2005 respectively. Chadiev has obtained his masters degree in defectology– surdologist and works in the Public Health Institution “General Hospital” Veles, ORL Department. He is Vice-President of the Union of Defectologists of Macedonia, long-year collaborator to the Union of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons of the Republic of Macedonia and of the Department for Deaf Persons “Koco Racin” Bitola, as well as to the subsidiaries of the Union of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Persons and the Union of Blind Persons in Veles. He graduated from the Faculty of Defectology in Belgrade. He is 58 years old.

Goce Chushkov (NDM) is a former member of VMRO-DPMNE. , He has worked for many years as Director of the Agro-Combine Lozar in Veles. He completed his secondary education in the gymnasium „Kocho Racin“ in Veles. He was born in Veles in 1965s.

¹²² <https://www.facebook.com/kocevskiace/>

¹²³ <https://www.facebook.com/cadievslavco/>



Municipality
of Gevgelija

Area	485 км ²
Population	22 988
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (96.82%) Serbs (1.6%)
Number of Councilors	19
Budget for 2016	733 066 292
Address	Str. Dimitar Vlahov No. 4 Gevgelija
Telephone	034/213-843
Website	http://gevgelija.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF GEVGELIJA



*Sasho Pockov (SDSM)*¹²⁴ is Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics and is a Master of Economic Sciences. In the 2009 Local Elections Sasho Pockov was top candidate of the SDSM Councilors List and was then elected Councilor in the Municipal Council of Gevgelija for the mandate 2009-2013. In 2009, he was elected President of the Municipal Organization of SDSM Gevgelija He was born in Gevgelija in 1966.



*Ivan Frangov (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹²⁵ executes his second mandate as Mayor of the Municipality of Gevgelija. Previously, from 2007, he worked as Head of the Tax Department of the Public Revenue Office in Gevgelija. From 2002 to 2007, he worked for the private company „Solun 53“ ShC Gevgelija, first as Head of Marketing, and then as executive member of the Board of Directors. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Skopje, from the Department of Foreign Trade and Marketing. He is 47 years old.

¹²⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/sashopockov/>

¹²⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/frangovivan/>



Municipality
of Gostivar

Area	519 км ²
Population	81 042
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (66.68%) Macedonians (19.59%) Turks (9.86%) Romani (2.76%)
Number of Councilors	31
Budget for 2016	1 096 684 000
Address	Str. Braca Ginoski No. 61 Gostivar
Telephone	042/213-511
Website	http://www.gostivari.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF GOSTIVAR



*Asaf Ademi (BESA)*¹²⁶ was Ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to Denmark until 2016. Before he was appointed Ambassador in 2009, he worked as Advisor to the Minister of Environment and Physical Planning. From 2007 to 2009, Ademi was Head of the Sector for Urban Planning and Environment in the Municipality of Gostivar. From 2005 to 2007 he was Head of the Sector for Economic Development in the municipality, whereas from 2004 to 2005, he was Advisor for Infrastructure to the Mayor. Ademi holds a BS and MS in engineering.

¹²⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/asaf.ademi>



*Nevzat Bejta (DUI)*¹²⁷ is Mayor of the Municipality of Gostivar, elected in the 2013 Local Elections. He was Mayor of the Municipality in the period 2005-2009. From 2011 to February 2013, he was Minister of Local Self-Government in the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. In 2005, he was elected Mayor of the Municipality of Gostivar and Vice-President of ZELS. In the 2002 to 2005 term, he was Member of the Parliament of RM. In 2000, he was elected Councilor in the Municipal Council of Gostivar. Prior to this post, he had worked as a professor of history in the village of Chegrane and in Gostivar. He graduated from the History Department of the Faculty of Philosophy in Prishtina and obtained his Masters` degree at Tirana University. He is 55 years old.



*Shpat Iseini (Coalition Alliance for the Albanians)*¹²⁸ is President of the Youth Forum of the Political Party National Democratic Renewal. He is a student of political sciences at the University of South-Eastern Europe. He is 25 years old.



*Sebajdin Izairi (DPA)*¹²⁹ graduated in political sciences and is a member of the party central presidency. He was born in the village of Chegrane, Gostivar area.

127 <https://www.facebook.com/NevzatBejtaFaqjaZyrtare/>
 128 <https://www.facebook.com/shpat.iseini.3>
 129 <https://www.facebook.com/PDSH-Dega-Gostivar-Zgjedhjet-Lokale-2017-175041466403620/>



Lenka Jovanovska (SDPM)

*Safina Stojanoska (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹³⁰ is a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, elected in the 2016 elections. Before she was elected MP, Stojanoska was Councilor in the Municipality of Gostivar, elected in the 2013 Local Elections. From June 2015 until July 2017, Stojanoska was member of VMRO-DPMNE's Executive Committee. She graduated in dental science and is currently a Masters Degree candidate. She is 43 years old.



*Arben Taravari (Political Party Alliance for the Albanians)*¹³¹ is currently Minister of Health. Before he was appointed to this function, he worked as a medical practitioner. He is a senior scientific collaborator for the subject of neurology at the University Clinic for Neurology. He was appointed Head of the Department for Migraines, Headaches and other Painful Syndromes at the University Clinic for Neurology, as well as President of the Board of the University Clinic for Neurology. Taravari is the author of several publications in the area of neurology, which are used as manuals for the students of medicine in Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania. He is 44 years old.

130 <https://www.facebook.com/Дафина-Стојаноска-1799978110245044/>
 131 <https://www.facebook.com/arbentaravari.mk/>



Municipality
of Debar

Area	145 км ²
Population	19 542
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (58.07%) Macedonians (20.01%) Turks (13.73%) Romani (5.53%)
Number of Councilors	15
Budget for 2016	279 204 000
Address	Str. 8 September, No. 72 Debar
Telephone	046/831-196
Website	http://www.dibra.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF DEBAR



*Arben Agoli (Political Party Alliance for the Albanians)*¹³² is employed in the Primary Health Institution Pediatrics in Debar. He is a pediatrician by profession.



*Dragan Klopchevski (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹³³ is a medical practitioner in a health institution in Debar. He graduated from the Medical Faculty in Skopje, and completed his secondary education at the Gymnasium in Debar.

¹³² <https://www.facebook.com/dr.arbenagolli>

¹³³ <https://www.facebook.com/Драган-Клопчевски-311904212552932/>



*Ruzhdi Llamba (DUI)*¹³⁴ is currently Mayor of the Municipality of Debar, elected in the 2013 Local Elections. Before he assumed this function, as from 2009 he was lecturer at the Department for Oriental Philology at the Tetovo State University and mufti at the Debar Muftiate. He has worked for the Islamic Religious Community of Macedonia since 1995 and at the Faculty for Islamic Studies in Skopje from 1993 to 1995 and again from 2009 to date. From 1980 to 1991, he worked at the Islamic Religious Community and was lecturing at the Prishtina University. He has translated literature from Arabic and Turkish, and has also published his own books. He graduated from the Department of Oriental Languages at the Faculty of Philology at Prishtina University, where he also obtained his masters degree of philological sciences. He is 63 years old.

Petrit Kljenja (DPA)



*Xhemal Chuli (BESA)*¹³⁵ is a professor at the Prishtina University. He holds a PhD in political sciences from the University of South-Eastern Europe in Skopje, and he has worked as a religious official in the Islamic Religious Community in the Debar region.



*Shkelkim Xhafa (Coalition Alliance for the Albanians)*¹³⁶ is President of the Debar branch of the Uniteti party. He is economist by profession. He has graduated from the Faculty of Economics at Prishtina University.

¹³⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/mr.ruzhdi.lata>

¹³⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/xhemal.cupi.5>

¹³⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/shkelqimxhafa2/>



Municipality
of Delchevo

Area	145 км ²
Population	17 505
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (95.04%) Romani (3.72%)
Number of Councilors	15
Budget for 2016	287 115 000
Address	Str. Svetozar Markovic, No 1 Delchevo
Telephone	033/411-550
Website	http://www.delcevo.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF DELCHEVO



*Goran Trajkovski (SDSM)*¹³⁷ is SDSM Councilor in the Municipal Council of Delchevo. In the last local elections Goran Trajkovski was top candidate of the SDSM councilor list. From 2010 to 2013, he was president of the SDSM municipal organization in Delchevo.



*Ivan Sokolov (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹³⁸ is a member of the Republic Council for Traffic Safety. From 2006 to 2014, he was a member of the Governing Board of the Public Enterprise for Pastures Management. He has completed secondary education. He is 56 years old.

¹³⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/GoranTrajkovskiZaDelcevo/>

¹³⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/ivansokolovmk>

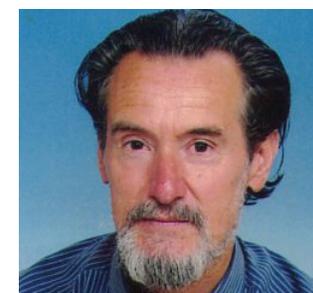


Municipality
of Kavadarci

Area	1132 км ²
Population	38 741
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (96.79%) Romani (1.75%)
Number of Councilors	19
Budget for 2016	811 013 000
Address	Marshal Tito square, bb Kavadarci
Telephone	043/416-130
Website	http://www.kavadarci.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAVADARCI

Verica Arsova (TMRO)



*Boris Davidov (independent candidate)*¹³⁹ was Councilor in the Municipal Council of Kavadarci in the period 2009-2013. He has worked as a professor and has run his private business, developing trade relations with Turkey and China. Prior to this occupation, he was a military officer in Pula, and was later employed in the Municipal administration of Kavadarci. He graduated from the Military Academy in Belgrade. He is 70 years old.



*Mitko Janchev (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁴⁰ is the owner and manager of DPTU Kozuvchanka from Kavadarci, a private company for production of mineral water in Macedonia. Janchev is an engineer by vocation. He graduated in geology from the "Goce Delchev" University in Shtip and obtained his masters degree on the same subject from the Department of Technical Sciences, Petrology, Mineralogy and Geochemistry. He is 36 years old.

¹³⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/boris.davidov.73>

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/MitkoJanchev/>



*Betiane Kitev (SDSM)*¹⁴¹ is a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia. Prior to this function, he was a Councilor in the Municipal Council of Kavadarci for the mandate 2009-2013. He is a master of political sciences and has obtained his degree from the Law Faculty in Skopje. In October in 2008, he graduated from the Department of Political Studies at the same Faculty. He was born in Skopje in 1985.



*Municipality
of Kičevo*

Area	839 км ²
Population	56 734
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (54.51%) Macedonians (35.74%) Turks (5.28%) Romani (2.87%)
Number of Councilors	23
Budget for 2016	518 683 000
Address	Str. Boris Kidrich, No. 1 Kičevo
Telephone	045/223-001
Website	http://www.kicevo.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF KIČEVO



*Fatmir Dehari (DUI)*¹⁴² is currently Mayor of the Municipality of Kičevo. He was elected in the 2013 Local Elections. From 2009 to 2013, he was Mayor of the Municipality of Oslomej, when in 2013, pursuant to the Law on Territorial Organization, the municipality had merged with Kičevo, together with the municipalities of Zajas, Drugovo and Vraneshtica. Before 2009, he had performed the function of Deputy Minister of Interior and Deputy Director of State Security and Counterintelligence, and immediately before assuming the mayoral post he was Director of the Macedonian Postal Services in the Postal Services Unit of Kičevo. He graduated from the Faculty of Physical Education at Prishtina University. He is 42 years old.

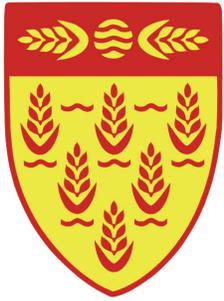


*Vlatko Sajkoski (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁴³ is a former member of the State Election Commission (2011 to 2014). He graduated from the Law Faculty in Skopje. In the period 2006-2008, he worked as Director of the PE for Water Supply „Studenchica“ in Kičevo. He was born in 1976 in Ohrid.

¹⁴¹ <https://www.facebook.com/Бетиан-Китев-274855852624468/>

¹⁴² <https://www.facebook.com/Fatmir-Dehari-Faqja-Zyrtare-149762858516336/>

¹⁴³ <https://www.facebook.com/VSajkoski/>



Municipality of Kochani

Area	382 км ²
Population	38 092
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (93.12%) Romani (5.12%)
Number of Councilors	19
Budget for 2016	524 375 400
Address	Str. Rade Kratovche No. 1 Kochani
Telephone	033/274-001
Website	http://www.kocani.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF KOCHANI



*Ratko Dimitrovski (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁴⁴ is currently Mayor of the Municipality of Kochani, a function which he had already executed from 2009 until 2013. From 2006 to 2009, he was a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, and a founder of the publishing house „Evropa 92”, which is one of the leading printing houses in Macedonia. In the period from 1977 to 1990 he worked in the printing houses „Kiro Dandaro” – Bitola and „Mladost” – Kochani. He graduated in graphic engineering in Zagreb. Dimitrovski is 60 years old.



*Nikolcho Ilijev (SDSM)*¹⁴⁵ is an entrepreneur from Kochani and Director of the INT Company. He is not a member of SDSM, but has been nominated as a nonparty candidate by the party organs.

Metodi Jovanov (SDPM)

¹⁴⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/RatkoDimitrovski/>

¹⁴⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/Nikolco-Ilijev-174501533098459/>



Municipality of Kriva Palanka

Area	481 км ²
Population	20 820
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (96.06%) Romani (3.21%)
Number of Councilors	19
Budget for 2016	355 338 500
Address	Str .Joakim Osogovski No. 175 Kriva Palanka
Telephone	031/372-130
Website	http://www.krivapalanka.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF KRIVA PALANKA

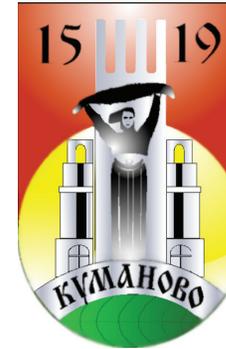


*Arsencho Aleksovski (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁴⁶ executes his second mandate as Mayor of the Municipality of Kriva Palanka. Prior to assuming this post in 2009, he was owner of the private company „Tranšped Trejd DOOEL” which he had founded and was running until 2006. Previously, he had worked for 13 years in the „Tranšped Komerс” as Head of the company branch „Deve Bair”. In the period from 1986 to 1991, he worked in the Forestry Enterprise „Osogovo” in Kriva Palanka. Previously, he had worked as inspector in the Ministry of Interior. He graduated in law and is 56 years old.

¹⁴⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/Arsenco.Gradonacalnik/>



*Borjancho Micevski (SDSM)*¹⁴⁷ is a Councilor in the Municipal Council of Kriva Palanka and President of the SDSM Municipal Organization in Kriva Palanka. In the 2013 Local Elections, Borjancho Micevski was top candidate of the Councilor List of the SDSM-led Alliance for the Future in Kriva Palanka. He graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in Skopje. He is a member of the Kriva Palanka local council for prevention and of the local council for the national platform for reduction of risks from accidents and disasters at local and regional level. He was born in Kriva Palanka in 1971.



Municipality of Kumanovo

Area	509 км ²
Population	105 484
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (60.43%) Albanians (25.87%) Serbs (8.59%) Romani (4.03%)
Number of Councilors	33
Budget for 2016	1 793 766 626
Address	Str. 11 Oktomvri, bb Kumanovo
Telephone	031/475-800 031/438-633
Website	http://www.kumanovo.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF KUMANOVO



*Zoran Gjorgjevski (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁴⁸ presently executes his second mandate as Member of the Parliament of RM. He was first elected MP in the 2014 Parliamentary Elections. This is Gjorgjevski's second candidature for Mayor of the Municipality of Kumanovo after he was not elected in the 2013 elections. Previously, he was Head of the Surgery Department at the General Hospital in Kumanovo. From 2002 to 2010, he was Head of the Surgery Department. He graduated from the Medical Faculty and holds his specialization in general surgery. He is 58 years old.

¹⁴⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/borjanchom/>

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/drzorangjorgjevski/>



*Maksim Dimitrievski (SDSM)*¹⁴⁹ is a Member of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, elected in the 2016 Parliamentary Elections. He has been a party member and member of the SDSM Leadership in Kumanovo for many years. For several years, Maksim Dimitrievski had performed the function of President of the Municipal Council of Kumanovo, but resigned from this post due to his MP nomination. Apart from his political engagement, he has been a private entrepreneur since 1998. He was born in Kumanovo in 1975.



*Bashkim Osmani (political party Alliance for the Albanians)*¹⁵⁰



*Driton Sulejmani (BESA)*¹⁵¹ is a member of the BESA political party Presidency. He completed his secondary education in the gymnasium Goce Delchev in Kumanovo. He studied at the Faculty for Business Administration at the University of South-Eastern Europe. Sulejmani is a professor at the secondary school Cvetan Dimov in Skopje.

Besnik Memeti (DPA)



Municipality of Negotino

Area	414 км ²
Population	19 045
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (92.48%) Serbs (3.26%) Romani (2.36%) Turks (1.26%)
Number of Councilors	15
Budget for 2016	550 921 000
Address	Str. Aco Adzi Ilov No 32 Negotino
Telephone	043/361-045
Website	http://negotino.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF NEGOTINO

Gjorgji Ajtov (independent)



*Toni Delkov (SDSM)*¹⁵² has been a Councilor in the Municipal Council of Negotino since the 2013 Local Elections. He is a private entrepreneur and former sportsman and handball player for the HC Povardarie.

¹⁴⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/Maksim-Dimitrievski-590981394365638/>

¹⁵⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/Bashkim-Osmani-913318788820470/>

¹⁵¹ <https://www.facebook.com/driton.sulejmani.906>

¹⁵² <https://www.facebook.com/pg/delkovtoni>



*Zlatko Penkov (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁵³ has worked for the past 6 years as Head of the Local Unit Negotino. He completed his primary education in the Primary School Goce Delchev in Negotino and his secondary education in the gymnasium Josip Broz Tito in Negotino. He graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture at the "Ss Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje. He has worked with private companies for several years. He has acquired experience in agricultural production by performing activities in the DZP Dubrovo in Dubrovo. Also, he has worked for the EU Project for the National Register of Vineyards at the MAFW: Local Unit Negotino. He was born in Negotino in 1971.



Municipality of Ohrid

Area	390 км ²
Population	55 749
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (84.93%) Albanians (5.31%) Turks (1.26%)
Number of Councilors	23
Budget for 2016	1 108 502 627
Address	Str. Dimitar Vlahov No. 57 Ohrid
Telephone	046/262-492
Website	http://www.ohrid.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF OHRID



*Jovan Stojanoski (SDSM)*¹⁵⁴ has been a SDSM member for many years and is presently coordinator of the SDSM Councilor group in the municipality of Ohrid. As from 2003, he has worked as a professor at the Faculty of Tourism and Catering in Ohrid. He graduated and acquired his masters degree from the Faculty of Economics at the "Ss Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje. He obtained his PhD in the area of International Tourism from the "St Kliment Ohridski" University in Bitola. He was born in 1970.



*Stevche Stevoski (independent candidate)*¹⁵⁵ graduated from the Faculty of Security, with a specialization taken in organized crime in the state and public enterprises. Stevche Stevoski was born in 1967 in the village of Elshani, Ohrid area.

¹⁵³ <https://www.facebook.com/zlatko.penkov.9>

¹⁵⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/prof.dr.jovan.stojanoski/>

¹⁵⁵ <http://ohridpress.com.mk/?p=73794>



*Mitko Tilevski (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁵⁶ is a medical practitioner in the Special Hospital for Orthopedics and Traumatology „St. Erazmo“ in Ohrid. Until recently, Tilevski was Director of this Public Health Institution. From 1998 to 2002, he was Member of the Parliament of RM. Tilevski is a pediatrician specialist and has graduated from the Faculty of Medicine. He is 55 years old.



Municipality of Prilep

Area	1194 км ²
Population	55 749
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (92.35%) Romani (5.77%) Turks (1.19%)
Number of Councilors	27
Budget for 2016	1 165 284 000
Address	Str Prilepski braniteli bb Prilep
Telephone	048/401-701
Website	http://www.prilep.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRILEP



*Ilija Jovanoski (SDSM)*¹⁵⁷ is coordinator of the Councilor Group of SDSM in the Municipal Council of Prilep for the mandate 2013-2017. He is a doctor by vocation. In 2017, Ilija Jovanoski was appointed Director of the General Hospital in Prilep. He has been Vice-President of the Macedonian Medical Association since 2002. He was born in Prilep in 1956.



*Marjan Risteski (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁵⁸ currently executes his third mandate as Mayor of the Municipality of Prilep. He was first elected Mayor in the 2005 Local Elections. As from that year, he has been a member of the ZELS Governing Board. Before he assumed the post of mayor, he worked as a public utilities inpector in the local self-government in Prilep. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics in Prilep. He is 45 years old.

¹⁵⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/mitkotilevski/>

¹⁵⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/ilija.jovanoski.90>

¹⁵⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/gradonacalnikip/>



Municipality
of Resen

Area	739 км ²
Population	16 825
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (76.07%) Turks (10.68%) Albanians (9.13%)
Number of Councilors	15
Budget for 2016	300 071 623
Address	Car Samuil Square, No 20 Resen
Telephone	047/ 551 481
Website	http://www.resen.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF RESEN



Živko Gošarevski (SDSM)¹⁵⁹ is a Councilor in the Municipal Council of Resen, elected in the 2013 elections. He has been a member of SDSM for many years. Živko Gosharevski is owner of a private dental office.



Gjoko Strezovski (VMRO-DPMNE)¹⁶⁰ currently executes his first mandate as Mayor of the Municipality of Resen. Before he assumed this post following the 2013 Local Elections, he worked in the Ministry of Interior as Spokesperson of the Bitola Sector for Internal Affairs (SVR), but due to his mayoral candidature he had to put this appointment on hold. Previously, he worked as Senior Advisor in the Cabinet of the Minister of Interior and as Head of the Department for Internal Affairs of Resen. Strezovski graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and has obtained his masters degree in management of education. He is 53 years old.



Municipality
of Struga

Area	507 км ²
Population	65 375
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (56.85%) Macedonians (32.09%) Turks (5.72%)
Number of Councilors	27
Budget for 2016	914 947 000
Address	Mother Tereas Square bb Struga
Telephone	046/781-223
Website	http://www.struga.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF STRUGA



Vasil Aštalkoski (SDSM)¹⁶¹ graduated in Customs and Freight Forwarding Management from the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality in Ohrid. He has held several various positions in the private and civic sector. He has been appointed Deputy Director of the Penitentiary Institution in Struga. He was born in Struga in 1976.



Ramiz Merko (DUI)¹⁶² is a Minister without portfolio in the Government, responsible for foreign investments. Before he was appointed to this position, he was an MP at the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly in the period between 2014 and 2016. From 2005 until 2013, Merko was Mayor of the municipality of Struga in two consecutive mandates. From 2003 until 2005, he was in charge of the Health Fund in Struga, and from 1983 until 1999, he was a senior officer at the Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development. He graduated in economy and is 60 years old.

¹⁵⁹ <http://www.ohridsky.com/живко-гошаревски-е-кандидатот-на-сдсм/>

¹⁶⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/Гокo-Стрезовски-512017292217770/>

¹⁶¹ <https://www.facebook.com/Васил-Ашталкоски-Кандидат-за-градоначалник-на-општина-Струга-349623068811442/>

¹⁶² <https://www.facebook.com/Ramiz-Merko-Faqja-Zyrtare-1470970386454894/>



*Nasto Polioski (NDM)*¹⁶³ is the former vice president of VMRO-DPMNE's border committee for Europe. In 1999 Palioski, was elected president of the Macedonian congress for Europe. He has lived in Munich for more than 40 years.



*Zijadin Sela (political party Alliance for the Albanians)*¹⁶⁴ is an MP in the current composition of the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly. He previously resigned from the position of Mayor of the municipality of Struga, which he held from 2013 until 2016. Zijadin Sela had been an MP in the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly in the period between 2011 and 2013. He is leader of the political party Alliance for the Albanians. He completed his secondary education in Prishtina, and continued his studies at the Medical Faculty of Tirana University. He was born in 1972 in the village of Livada, Struga.



*Sejad Solakoski (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁶⁵ is a medical doctor. He graduated in Medicine from the Pleven Faculty in Bulgaria, general practice. Selakovski is employed at the Private Health Institution Poliklinika Meniks in Labuništa as a family doctor. He has been a member of VMRO-DPMNE since 2014 and is 37 years old.



Municipality of Strumica

Area	32 км ²
Population	54 676
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonians (32.09%) Turks (6.87%)
Number of Councilors	23
Budget for 2016	1 075 947 734
Address	Ul. Sando Masev br.1 Strumica
Telephone	034/348-030
Website	http://www.strumica.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF STRUMICA



*Marjan Bajraktarov (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁶⁶ is an oral surgeon with his private dental practice in Strumica. In the period between 2009 and 2013, he was a member of the Municipal Council of Strumica, and from 2005 until 2007 he was president of the municipal branch of VMRO-DPMNE in Strumica. Bajraktarov graduated in dentistry, with a specialization in oral surgery. He is 52 years old.



*Kosta Janevski (SDSM)*¹⁶⁷ is an MP from SDSM at the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly. Prior to this position, Kosta Janevski was a member of the Municipal Council of Strumica since the local elections in 2013. He specializes in internal medicine. He was born in Štip 1960.

¹⁶³ <https://www.facebook.com/nasto.palioski.3>

¹⁶⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/ZiadinS/>

¹⁶⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/solakoskisejad/>

¹⁶⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/MarjanBajraktarov/>

¹⁶⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/kostajanevski4/>



Municipality
of Tetovo

Area	1080 км ²
Population	86 580
Ethnic structure of the population	Albanians (70.32%) Macedonians (23.16%) Romni (2,72%) Turks (2,17%)
Number of Councilors	31
Budget for 2016	1 967 097 578
Address	ul. Dervish Cara bb Tetovo
Telephone	044/511-930
Website	http://www.tetova.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF TETOVO



Teuta Arifi (DUI)¹⁶⁸ is the current Mayor of the municipality of Tetovo, elected in the 2013 Local Elections. In the period from 2011 until February 2013, she was Vice-President of the Government for European Affairs. She resigned from this position to run for the mayoral position in Tetovo. She was an MP at the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly from 2002 until 2011. She is a PhD in Philology. She was a professor at the Philology Faculty, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, as well as at the South East European University, where she was also Dean of the Faculty of Pedagogy from 2001 until 2006. Before her political career she was active in several civic organizations. Arifi is a writer and author of several scientific publications. She is 47 years old.



Bardulj Dauti (DPA)¹⁶⁹ is an MP in the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly, elected in the 2016 Parliamentary Elections. He is the vice-President of DPA. Dauti holds a PhD in Economic Sciences from the University of Ljubljana. He is a professor at the University for Business and Technology in Pristina, as well as the State University in Tetovo. He is 35 years old.



Bilal Kasami (BESA)¹⁷⁰ is the President of the political party BESA. He has completed his graduate, postgraduate and doctor studies at the Economy Faculty, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje. From 2002 until 2004, Bilal Kasami was employed at the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia, and from 2004 until 2006 he was appointed State Secretary at the Ministry of Economy. In 2009, he was employed in the private sector, while from 2009 until 2011 he was a professor at the International Balkan University. He was born in Tetovo in 1975.



Goran Manojlovski (VMRO-DPMNE)¹⁷¹ is an MP at the Republic of Macedonia's Assembly, elected in the elections in 2016. In the previous 2013 Local Elections, he ran for the mayor's seat in Tetovo. He is the president of the municipal branch of VMRO-DPMNE in Tetovo. Manojlovski is a medical doctor, specialist in internal medicine, and interventional cardiologist. He is 40 years old.



Adnan Neziri (political party Alliance for the Albanians)¹⁷² graduated from the University of Pristina. He completed his secondary education at the Secondary School "Kiril Pejčinović" in Tetovo. In the period between 2009 and 2013, he worked as financial manager in the municipality of Tetovo. Neziri was the first president of the Tetovo branch of the Movement for Reforms in DPA under the leadership of Zijadin Sela.

¹⁶⁹ http://sobranie.mk/demokratska-partija-na-albancite-2016-ns_article-bardulj-dauti-16.nspx

¹⁷⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/bilalkasami1/>

¹⁷¹ http://sobranie.mk/vmro-dpmne-2016-ns_article-goran-manojlovski-16.nspx

¹⁷² <https://www.facebook.com/adnannezirii>

¹⁶⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/teutaarifiofficial/>



Municipality
of Štip

Area	556 км ²
Population	47 796
Ethnic structure of the population	Macedonian (87.19%) Romani (4.59%) Vlach (4.34%) Turks (2.66%)
Number of Councilors	23
Budget for 2016	916 879 000
Address	Ul. Vasil Glavinov bb Štip
Telephone	032/266-600
Website	http://www.stip.gov.mk

MAYORAL CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF ŠTIP



*Blagoj Bočvarski (SDSM)*¹⁷³ is an MP from SDSM in the current composition of the Parliament, and vice-President of SDSM since 2017. He graduated from the Faculty of Architecture in Skopje. He has been a member of SDSM since 2002, and since 2013 he has been a member of the executive board of the party. In 2017 he became member of the Central Board. Before his mandate as an MP, he worked as an architect in a private construction company. He was born in Štip in 1985.



*Ilčo Zahariev (VMRO-DPMNE)*¹⁷⁴ was elected Mayor of the Municipality of Štip in the 2013 Local Elections. He was the Executive of the Bureau for Medicinal Products between 2001 and 2003, and from 2006 until 2013. In 2005 and 2006 he was a member and president of the Municipal Council of Štip. From 1985 until 2006, he had been the executive manager of the working unit of pharmacies in the Medical Centre in Štip. He has worked as a visiting professor at the Secondary Medical School. He holds an MA in Pharmaceutics. Zahariev is 56 years old.

¹⁷³ <https://www.facebook.com/bocvarski>

¹⁷⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/ilcozahariev1/>

MUNICIPALITY	MAYORAL CANDIDATE	SUBMITTERS OF CANDIDATURES
Aračinovo	Isuf Bislimi Ali Ismail Milikije Halimi Isen Ramadani	DUI Movement BESA Coalition led by SDSM Political party Alliance for the Albanians
Berovo	Nikola Atanasov Zvonko Pekevski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE Coalition led by SDSM
Bogdanci	Nikola Roglev Blaže Šipov	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE Coalition led by SDSM
Bogovinje	Minur Asani Berzah Bejtulahu Elvir Iseni Albon Xhemaili Vebi Xhemaili	Movement BESA DUI DPA Political party Alliance for the Albanians PDP
Bosilevo	Zoran Zimbakov Ljupč Kolev	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE Coalition led by SDSM
Brvenica	Seljatin Jusufi Enver Pajaziti Mirko Stojanovski Stojan Todorovski	Movement BESA Group of voters Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Valandovo	Pero Kostadinov Stojan Manolev Nikolče Čurlinovski	Coalition led by SDSM Group of voters Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE

Vasilevo	Marjan Janev Vančo Stojanov	Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Vevčani	Sašo Jankoski Cvetomir Ugrinovski	Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Vinica	Ivica Dimitrov Martin Pavlov	Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Vrapčište	Erdal Ahmedi Sami Aliji Daut Demiri Rexhep Rexhepi Gajur Rushiti Isen Shabani	DPTM DPA Coalition led by SDSM Movement BESA DUI Political party Alliance for the Albanians
Gradsko	Robert Bešovski Ivanče Ivanov Gligur Kocev Žaklina Čauševska	Coalition led by SDSM Group of voters Group of voters Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Debarca	Jadranka Biban Zoran Nogačeski Igor Trajkoski	Group of voters Coalition led by SDSM Igor Trajkoski
Demir Kapija	Trajče Dimitriev Lazar Petrov	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE Coalition led by SDSM
Demir Hisar	Ljupčo Blaževski Marjanče Stojanovski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE Coalition led by SDSM

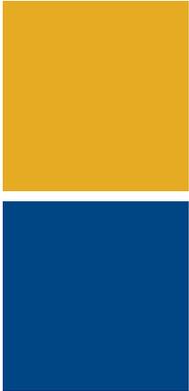
Dojran	Toni Acev Ango Angov Snežana Maneva Borče Stamov	Group of voters Coalition led by SDSM Group of voters Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Dolneni	Erol Abdiu Exhevit Ajdaroski Peco Vajgaleski Zekirija Jusufi Bilal Karishik Ismet Qamili Xhemil Qamili	DPA Movement for National Unity of the Turks Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE Political party Alliance for the Albanians Coalition led by SDSM Movement BESA DUI
Želino	Sali Ajdini Reshat Alii Fatmir Izairi Blerim Sejdi	DPA Political party Alliance for the Albanians DUI Movement BESA
Zelenikovo	Borče Gievski Aleksandar Manevski	Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Zrnovci	Kiro Kocev Vančo Mitev Metodi Nikolov Blaže Stankov	Social Democratic Party of Macedonia - SDPM Coalition led by SDSM Group of voters Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Ilinden	Martina Ivkovska Žika Stojanovski	Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE

Jegunovce	Orhan Amiti Darko Blažeski Besar Emini Toni Koceski	DUI Coalition led by SDSM Movement BESA Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Karbinci	Zoran Minov Jordan Nasev Goran Paunov	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE Coalition led by SDSM People's Movement for Macedonia (NDM)
Konče	Blagoj Iliev Blagoj Jovanov	Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Kratovo	Mite Andonovski Ljupčo Bojadžiev	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE Coalition led by SDSM
Krivogaštani	Toni Zatkoski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Kruševo	Gjorgji Damčeski Tome Hristoski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE Coalition led by SDSM
Lipkovo	Bekim Afuzi Erkan Arifi Bardil Destani Shaban Zendeli Hadi Osmani	Political party Alliance for the Albanians DUI DPA Movement BESA Coalition led by SDSM
Lozovo	Aco Velkovski Gorjan Ivanov Jordan Ilievski	Coalition led by SDSM People's Movement for Macedonia (NDM) Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE

Mavrovo and Rostuša	Alim Bilali	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Nahmir Gale	Group of voters
	Medat Kurtovski	Coalition led by SDSM
Makedonska Kamenica	Darko Mitevski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Sonja Stamenkova	Coalition led by SDSM
Makedonski Brod	Milosim Vojneski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Žarko Zlateski	Group of voters
	Živko Siljanoski	Coalition led by SDSM
	Dragiša Terzioski	Social Democratic Party of Macedonia - SDPM
Mogila	Jasmina Gulevska	Coalition led by SDSM
	Stevo Pivkovski	Group of voters
	Zoranče Sakurmovski	People's Movement for Macedonia (NDM)
Novaci	Lazar Kotevski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Ljube Kuzmanovski	Coalition led by SDSM
	Peco Micevski	Group of voters
Novo Selo	Blažo Velkov	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Boro Stojčev	Coalition led by SDSM
	Dragan Trajkov	People's Movement for Macedonia (NDM)
Petrovec	Zvonko Cvetkovski	Coalition led by SDSM
	Borče Mitevski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Pehčevo	Igor Popovski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Dragan Trenčovski	Coalition led by SDSM

Plasnica	Shpresim Ajroski Ismail Jahoski	Coalition led by SDSM DUI
Probištip	Dragan Anastasov Goran Stoilkovski Toni Tonevski	Coalition led by SDSM Group of voters Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Radoviš	Jure Gjorgjiev Gerasim Konzulov Saško Nikolov	Group of voters Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Rankovce	Robert Simonovski Ivica Toševski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE Group of voters
Rosoman	Branko Janev Stojanče Lazov	Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Sveti Nikole	Sašo Velkovski Zoran Tasev	Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Sopište	Dalibor Bogdanovski Stefče Trpkovski	Coalition led by SDSM Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
Staro Nagoričane	Elena Jaćimović	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Žaklina Jovanovska	Coalition led by SDSM
	Miloš Stijmanovski	People's Movement for Macedonia (NDM)
Studeničani	Mexhit Imeri	Political party Alliance for the Albanians
	Femi Jonuzi	DUI
	Rexhep Memedi	Movement BESA
	Akija Mustafovski	Coalition led by SDSM
	Azem Sadiki	DPA

Tearce	Isen Asani	DUI
	Nevzat Velii	Political party Alliance for the Albanians
	Vojo Gogovski	VMRO-DPMNE
	Amir Eljezi	Movement BESA
	Ruhan Ilazi	DPA
	Bobi Petruševski	Coalition led by SDSM
Centar Župa	Arijan Ibrahim	Демократска партија на Турците на Македонија
	Nevaip Ismail	Coalition led by SDSM
Čaška	Zoran Zdravevski	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Gorančo Panovski	People's Movement for Macedonia (NDM)
	Goran Stojanovski	Coalition led by SDSM
Češinovo-Obleševo	Gorančo Zašov	Coalition led by VMRO-DPMNE
	Gorančo Krstev	Coalition led by SDSM
Čučer Sandevo	Jovan Pejkovski	Group of voters
	Aco Popovski	Group of voters
	Goran Čekalović	People's Movement for Macedonia (NDM)



ELECTORAL ARCHIVES OF THE ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA SINCE 1990

ELECTORAL ARCHIVES OF THE ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA SINCE 1990

Since March 2016, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, with its representative office in the Republic of Macedonia, and the Institute for Democracy "Societas Civilis" – Skopje (IDSCS) have been implementing the joint project "Electoral Archives of the Elections in the Republic of Macedonia since 1990", with the goal of enabling comprehensive monitoring of the election processes in the Republic of Macedonia since 1990. This project encompasses all elections since 1990: presidential, parliamentary and local, gathering all the available documents related to the election processes.

The need for implementing a project of this kind derives from the lack of official state archives with all the documents and data related to the election cycles since the independence of the Republic of Macedonia. The Electoral Archives groups the documents in 7 sections:

1. Documents for Calling Elections
2. Voter List
3. Candidate Lists
4. Election Results
5. Election Reports
6. Reports from International and Domestic Monitoring Organizations
7. Electoral Code

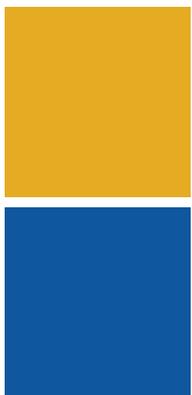
The Electoral Archives are updated elections, and all relevant documents are attached in each of the listed sections.

A crucial component of the Election Archive are the manuals for presidential, parliamentary and local elections prepared during the

election period. These manuals are published in cooperation by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Institute for Democracy „Societas Civilis“ - Skopje. So far, four manuals have been compiled: for the local elections in 2013, the presidential elections in 2014, and the parliamentary elections in 2014 and in 2016. All manuals are available on the website of the Election Archive in Macedonian, Albanian and English.

The Electoral Archive is available on the website:

<http://www.izbornaarhiva.mk/>



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