

Statement by the VI Municipalities Forum

In the opinion of the Municipalities Forum, both the statutes governing e-elections and the manner of conducting e-elections are in conflict with the Constitution. The system contains very large risks to security in addition to its lack of transparency which undermines confidence in the results of e-elections as well as governmental authority.

The Forum therefore calls for

1. the whole e-election system to be ready and in place at least 18 months in advance of the elections, in the event that e-elections are used in the future;
2. the system's technical information to be made public in total, and translated into English;
3. all interested parties - both experts as well as ordinary citizens - to be convinced of the system's security. Toward that end, a thorough testing on an international level, to which are invited computer hackers from across the world, is to be held at least 12 months before the elections;
4. an electronic certificate to be given an elector upon casting an electronic vote. In accordance with such a certificate, the elector must have the possibility to confirm on the Elections Commission's website that s/he has cast her or his vote;
5. the use at e-elections only those computers checked by the Elections Commission and in facilities that guarantee the secrecy of the vote;
6. for an elector's right to choose at the polling place to vote either by a paper ballot or electronically;
7. the municipalities to consider, in their respective jurisdictions, increasing the number of polling places;
8. uniformity in elections procedures as required by the Constitution. If the elector chooses to vote via the Internet, the vote can be cast only once just as is demanded of the elector who chooses the paper ballot;
9. the same rules to be applied at e-elections as for those held at polling places. It is against the law to campaign on the day of elections and the same law must be applied to e-elections, including the Internet. It is for that reason that voting electronically must be done at the same time as the elections held at polling places. It is possible to extend elections from one day to two days, thereby giving electors the possibility to vote either on a Saturday or Sunday.

The Municipalities Forum recommends for local governments to ask the Constitutional Supervisory Board of the State Court whether the current manner of conducting e-elections is in compliance with the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia.

We call on the Cyber Defence League, the state information systems security problems resolution division CERT, the Estonian Police cyber security specialists, E-state Academy, IT-College, and the Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications to address publicly e-elections reliability and to assist in

increasing public confidence in e-elections and other Estonian state institutions.

We also call on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), and the American, German and Finnish specialists on risks involved in e-elections for assistance in order to have confidence in Estonia's e-elections system domestically as well as internationally.

The above Statement was adopted by an overwhelming majority of those attending the VI

Municipalities Forum held on April 29, 2011 in Tallinn.

Chairmen of the VI Municipalities Forum:

Toomas Vitsut

City of Tallinn

Andrus Blok

Parish of Rakke