

Article 47 Pre-election Campaigning

(1) Citizens of the Republic of Moldova, parties and other socio-political organizations, electoral blocs, candidates and trustees of candidates have the right to put forward for free discussion all aspects of candidates' electoral programs, and the political, professional and personal qualities of the candidates; and to campaign for or against candidates in elections at meetings, reunions, meetings with the electorate, using means of mass media and other forms of communication except for those that disturb public order or are unethical. Electioneering for an electoral contestant is allowed only after his/her registration with an electoral body.

[Paragraph 1 art.47 completed via the Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

(2) Electioneering via foreign audiovisual institutions broadcasting their programs on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, as well as via audiovisual institutions set up by joint ventures in compliance with the law, shall be prohibited. Electioneering in foreign papers published and distributed in the Republic as well as in their supplements shall be prohibited also. Registration of electoral contestants who violate this provision will be cancelled and so will be the licenses on broadcasting or publishing of the relevant audiovisual and press institutions.

(3) During electoral campaigns, public audiovisual institutions will grant free of charge air time, within the limits set by Central Electoral Commission, to electoral contestants for public debates. For electioneering purposes, each electoral contestant will be granted against charge air time not exceeding two hours for the entire electoral campaign, including no more than two minutes per day.

(4) During roundtables private audiovisual institutions may organize free of charge three debates not exceeding two hours each and inviting representatives of all electoral contestants. All electoral contestants' speeches shall be chronometered during the show, all electoral contestants shall be granted equal time. Electoral contestants shall be informed on the time of broadcasting the relevant shows seven days prior to launching electoral campaign. The air time granted against charge shall not exceed two minutes per day for each electoral contestant.

(5) It is prohibited to air, apart from the air time granted free of charge during debates, spots and TV or radio reports, on the activity of the electoral contestant or on their or their trustees participation in meetings with the voters, on working visits of the electoral contestants who hold offices at republican or county level. No electoral candidate shall be entitled to privileges due to the offices they hold.

(6) Electoral contestants shall be liable for the content of published or aired electoral materials.

(7) Public or private audiovisual institutions shall provide equal opportunities for electoral candidates to buy air time, by establishing equal fees. Conditions of booking air time and the relevant fees shall be announced seven days prior to the launch of the electoral campaign. Fees for the air time granted to electoral contestants may not exceed fees for the commercials. Air time for electoral spots shall be granted at the same broadcasting hours.

(8) Results of the opinion polls shall cease to be published ten days prior to the election day.

(9) On election day, prior to closing polling stations mass media shall refrain from announcing results of questioning electorate regarding their vote "for" or "against" electoral contestants, or failure to vote for them.

(10) Refusal to broadcast or publish free of charge or against fee electoral spots in compliance with this law may be appealed in court.

[Paragraphs 2-10 art.47 introduced via Law no.894-XIV of 23.03.2000]

(11) Electoral contestants may organize meetings with the electorate. Electoral councils and bureaus and local public administration authorities shall ensure that opportunity to organize such meetings is provided on equal terms and conditions to all contestants.

(12) For the time period of electoral campaign, as well as for the time period of conducting a referendum, air time granted to Parliament, Presidency, and Government press service may not be used to electioneer or to campaign for or against the issues put up for referendum.

[Paragraph 3 art.47 introduced via Law no.480-XIV of 02.07.99]

(13) After registration of electoral contestants by the relevant electoral body, they shall have the right to post their slogans, which may not run counter to law or ethics.

[Paragraph 13 (4) (3) art.47 modified via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]

(14) The local public administration must, within five days of the registration of the candidate, establish and guarantee a minimum of special places for electoral posters. The area provided for electoral posters shall be equal for all candidates.

(15) Campaign activity on election day and the day preceding the elections is prohibited.

[Paragraph 6 (5) art.47 completed via the Law no.268-XIV of 04.02.99]