

THE CONSTITUTION IS A STRONG LEGAL FOUNDATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW UZBEKISTAN

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ABSTRACT

This article details the results of the referendum, how many voters participated, and the changes and additions to the Constitution.

Keywords: Constitution, referendum, ballot, Central election commission, etc.

INTRODUCTION

According to the results of the referendum, the new version of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan entered into force on May 1, 2023.

Until then, since 1992, the constitution has been amended 15 times. This time, due to the large scale of changes, a new version of the document was adopted.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

As a result of the update, the number of items in the main dictionary increased from 128 to 155, and the norms in it increased from 275 to 434. In general, according to official data, the constitution has been updated by 65 percent.

1. Uzbekistan is a legal, social and secular state

The sentence "Uzbekistan is a sovereign democratic republic" in Article 1 of the Constitution is being changed as follows:

- Uzbekistan is a sovereign, democratic, legal, social and secular state with a republican form of government.

2. The Constitution is directly applicable

Article 15 is amended as follows:

- The Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan has supreme legal force in the entire territory of the country, is directly applicable and forms the basis of a single legal space.

3. Privileges do not need to be written down in law

Article 19 of the new constitution (formerly Article 18) is about equality of citizens before the law, regardless of gender, nationality, status, etc. Part 2 of this article is amended as follows:

- Old: Privileges can only be established by law and must be consistent with the principles of social justice.

- New: Privileges must be established only in accordance with the law and must be consistent with the principles of social justice.

4. All uncertainty is in favor of man

According to the new version of the Constitution:

- All conflicts and ambiguities in the legislation that arise in the interaction between a person and state bodies are interpreted in favor of a person.

5. Human rights may be restricted in order to maintain social morality and public order

The issue of restriction of rights and freedoms was regulated by the following two norms in the previous constitution²:

- Human rights and freedoms enshrined in the constitution and laws are inviolable and no one has the right to deprive or limit them without a court decision.

- Citizens must not harm the legitimate interests, rights and freedoms of other persons, the state and society while exercising their rights and freedoms.

In the new version of the Constitution, the above two norms were kept almost unchanged. At the same time, a new norm has been added as follows:

- Human rights and freedoms may be limited only in accordance with the law and only in the scope necessary to protect the constitutional system, public health, social morality, rights and freedoms of other persons, public safety and public order.

6. Special recognition for teachers

A new article about teachers was added to the Constitution. It consists of two clauses;

- In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the teacher's work is recognized as the basis for the development of society and the state, the formation and upbringing of a healthy, mature generation, the preservation and enrichment of the nation's spiritual and cultural potential.

- The state takes care of protecting the honor and dignity of teachers, their social and material well-being, and professional growth.

7. Land can be private property

Privatization of non-agricultural land plots has started in Uzbekistan since 2022.

8. Obstruction of media activity is a cause of responsibility

The chapter "Media" of the previous constitution consisted of one article. It said: "The media is free and operates in accordance with the law. They are responsible for the correctness of the information. Censorship is not allowed."

According to the new constitution, this chapter consisted of two articles:

- Mass media are free and operate in accordance with the law. The state guarantees the freedom of media activity, their rights to seek, receive, use and disseminate information. Mass media are responsible for the reliability of the information they provide.

- No censorship allowed. Obstructing or interfering with the activities of the mass media is a cause of liability in accordance with the law.

9. Changes in public administration. The term of office of the President was 7 years

According to the new constitution of Uzbekistan:

- The term of office of the President was extended from 5 to 7 years. The status of the president as "head of state", the fact that the same person cannot be president for more than two terms, the text of the president's oath and most other norms related to the president were left unchanged. For information, the term of office of the president was extended from 5 to 7 years in 2003, and in 2011 it was reduced from 7 to 5 years.

- The candidate for the prime minister is now presented by the president. It was decided that the president will hold consultations with the factions of all the parties that entered the parliament before presenting the candidate for the prime minister.

CONCLUSION

Let us remind you that the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, spoke about the constitutional reform for the first time on November 6, 2021, in his speech at the inauguration ceremony of his second presidential term.

In December of the same year, on the eve of the holiday dedicated to the 29th anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the head of state emphasized the need to "think seventy times, not seven times, when solving the extremely important and strategic task of renewing the constitution."

In May 2022, a constitutional commission was formed and the process of updating the document began.

According to official information, December 8, 1992 will still be recognized as the date of adoption of the constitution, December 8 - the date of the holiday will not change.

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