***32 Elections***

***Methodological notes***

*On 20 and 21 September 2024, regular elections to regional councils were held in 13 Regions of the Czech Republic for another four-year electoral term. (The elections were not held in the Capital City of Prague, the Hl. m. Praha Region, in which the function of the regional council is performed by the Prague City Assembly, elected pursuant to the Act on elections to local councils.) At the same time, also regular elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic took place in   
27 electoral districts. It applied to those districts, in which the electoral term of senators elected in 2018 was about to be finished, and to the electoral district No 32, in which a senator was elected in the by-elections in 2020. The elections were announced by the Decision of the President of the Czech Republic published in the Collection of Laws and International Treaties under   
No 147/2024 Sb.*

*The elections were only held in the territory of the Czech Republic and their execution was governed by the Act No 130/2000 Sb, on Regional Council Elections, and amending certain acts, as subsequently amended, and the Act No 247/1995 Sb, on Elections to the Parliament of the CR, and on amendments to some other acts, as subsequently amended.*

*Ballots were cast, examined, and counted in permanent electoral wards; the ward election committees were the same for both elections. The elections to regional councils took place in 13 591 electoral wards, the elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic in 4 718 electoral wards, and in 4 264 electoral wards the aforementioned elections were held concurrently.*

***The elections to regional councils*** *were held on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot, using the proportional representation system. The number of seats in a regional council was determined for these elections in proportion to the population of the Region as at 1 January 2024; accordingly, 45, 55, or 65 councillors were to be elected. In these elections, for the first time since the year 2000, the number of councillors got increased in some of the Regions. Namely, it was in the* Plzeňský *Region, in which the population exceeded the 600 thousand threshold and the number of councillors was thus increased from 45 to 55.*

*Citizens of the Czech Republic who had attained the age of 18 years on the second polling day at the latest had the right to vote and were eligible to vote provided that no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred. Voters could exercise their right to vote in the electoral ward, in which they were included in the permanent electoral roll (permanent list of voters) according to their place of permanent residence or with a voter ID (an electoral card) in another electoral ward belonging to the territorial district of the Region, in which he or she was registered for permanent residence.*

*Lists of candidates for elections to regional councils were to be submitted to registration offices by political parties, political movements, and coalitions thereof (hereinafter only referred to as “election parties”, sometimes also called “electoral parties”). The total of 8 269 valid candidates listed on 183 registered lists of candidates of 94 election parties stood up in Regions in the elections for the total of 685 seats in regional councils.*

*Votes were cast as follows: voters inserted one ballot paper of an election party chosen by them into an official envelope and cast the envelope into the ballot box, while they were allowed to mark in a required way up to four candidates on the ballot paper and thereby prefer them to others (hereinafter referred to as “preferential votes”). Only those election parties winning at least 5% of the total number of valid votes in the Region could compete for the seats in the council. The seats were then split among the election parties in a single scrutiny, according to the Election Act, using electoral divisors. The seats won by an election party were allocated to its candidates starting from the top of the list of candidates; provided that a candidate gained preferential votes making up at least 5% of the vote for the election party in the Region, he/she jumped to the top for seat allocation. Provided that there were more such candidates, their order on the top positions was decided about by the number of preferential votes. In case that the number of their preferential votes was the same, what was deciding was the order of the candidate on the ballot paper.*

***The elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic*** *were held on the basis of universal, equal, and direct right to vote (suffrage) by secret ballot using the majority voting system, in single-seat electoral districts (constituencies). The electoral term of senators is 6 years. A voter ID (an electoral card) can be used.*

*Delineation of electoral districts is in the Annex No 3 to the Act No 247/1995 Sb, on Elections to the Parliament of the CR, and on amendments to some other acts, as subsequently amended. The amendment No 72/2018 Sb, which became effective on 19 May 2018, cancelled two sections of the Election Act and, as a result, electoral districts are not redistricted every time when the population in some of the electoral districts drops or increases by 15% compared to the average population per seat. Electoral districts remain to be delineated in the same way as in the year 2016.*

*Citizens of the Czech Republic who had attained the age of 18 years on the second polling day at the latest had the right to vote and were eligible to vote provided that no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred. Voters could exercise their right to vote in the electoral ward, in which they were included in the electoral roll (list of voters), or with a voter ID (an electoral card) in any of electoral wards in the territory of the electoral district, in which they were included in the electoral roll (list of voters). Citizens of the Czech Republic with permanent residence abroad were also entitled to vote with a voter ID (an electoral card) if they stayed in the territory of the Czech Republic on the polling day. They could vote in any electoral ward of the electoral district, in which the elections took place.*

*Political parties and political movements with registration at the Ministry of the Interior of the CR or their coalitions were allowed to nominate their candidates for the elections to the Senate or an individual independent candidate was also allowed to register (self-nominate) as a candidate for the elections provided that he or she met prerequisites set by law (hereinafter only referred to as “election parties”). In total, 169 candidates were standing for a seat in the elections from the total of 63 election parties.*

*A voter inserted one ballot paper of the selected candidate into an official envelope and cast the envelope into the ballot box executing thereby his or her vote. If a candidate won over 50% of the total number of valid votes cast in the electoral district, he or she was elected senator. If none of the candidates won over 50% of valid votes cast, the senator was not elected and the second round of the elections took place in the electoral district a week later. The second round was a runoff between the two candidates who won the highest numbers of valid votes in the first round.*

*In the first round of the elections, on 20 and 21 September 2024, five senators were elected, namely in the election districts No 2 (*Sokolov*), No 17 (Prague 12), No 71 (*Ostrava-město*), No 74 (*Karviná*), and No 77 (*Vsetín*). In the remaining 22 election districts, the second round of the elections took place on 27 and 28 September 2024.*

*The number of registered voters is the number of persons included in electoral rolls (lists of voters) (persons who meet prerequisites determined by law for the exercise of their right to vote or, in other words, active suffrage).*

*The number of issued official envelopes equals to the number of voting voters who came to vote and were given, usually in the polling station, an official envelope to put their ballot paper in.*

*The number of returned official envelopes is the number of official envelopes cast by the voting voters into ballot boxes.*

*The turnout is calculated as the proportion of the number of voting voters (i.e. those who came to the elections and were given an official envelope) in the number of registered voters (i.e. the eligible to vote and included in the electoral rolls (lists of voters)).*

*Names of election parties that are too long have been shortened for the needs of presentation in tables. Only data on identical political entities are comparable to those from previous years. Nevertheless, identification according to the name (or   
an abbreviation) when comparing in time may not be unequivocal due to often changes (births of new political entities, changes of their names, changes in the composition of coalitions, etc.).*

*First names, surnames, and degrees of elected senators have been copied from applications for registration for the elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the CR, which had been submitted to the relevant registration office.*

*Since the percentages are rounded off, their sum may not be equal to 100. In the Tab.* ***32.3****, data on the percentages of valid votes for election parties are not rounded off and are provided to two decimal places.*

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*Further information can be found on the websites of the Czech Statistical Office at:*

– [www.csu.gov.cz/elections](http://www.csu.gov.cz/elections)

– [www.volby.cz/index\_en.htm](http://www.volby.cz/index_en.htm)