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**POLITICAL PARTIES. ELECTIONS: PROCESS OF ELECTIONS. ACTIONS
STRATEGY**

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***Abstract:** This article provides a comprehensive overview of political parties and the electoral process, focusing on the actions and strategies employed during elections. It explores the key steps involved in elections, including voter registration, candidate nominations, campaigning, voting, and result certification. Additionally, it discusses various actions and strategies that political parties and candidates use to maximize their chances of success, such as platform development, fundraising, grassroots mobilization, media engagement, voter targeting, coalition building, and data analysis. The article highlights the importance of political parties in democratic systems and emphasizes the dynamic nature of election campaigns.*

***Keywords:** Political parties, elections, electoral process, campaigning, voter registration, candidate nominations, grassroots mobilization, media engagement, coalition building, data analysis.*

Political parties play a crucial role in democratic systems by representing groups of individuals who share similar political ideologies and goals. They provide platforms for citizens to participate in the political process and choose their representatives through elections. Elections, in turn, are the formal mechanisms through which citizens express their preferences and determine the composition of legislative bodies and executive offices. Understanding the processes, actions, and strategies involved in political parties and elections is essential for comprehending the dynamics of democratic systems.



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This article aims to provide a comprehensive overview of political parties and the electoral process, with a specific focus on the actions and strategies employed during elections. It will outline the key steps involved in elections, including voter registration, candidate nominations, campaigning, voting, and result certification. Moreover, it will explore the various actions and strategies that political parties and candidates utilize to enhance their chances of success, such as platform development, fundraising, grassroots mobilization, media engagement, voter targeting, coalition building, and data analysis.

¹Political parties in Uzbekistan Uzbekistan has a presidential system of government. The president, Islam Karimov, has played a principal role in all areas of the political landscape since independence in 1991. Although some recent steps empower the legislature against the executive, all political parties represented in parliament are pro-regime and far from providing political alternatives. The executive Article 98 of the constitution stipulates that executive power is exercised by the Cabinet of Ministers which is accountable both to the parliament and the president. The cabinet ensures the execution of laws and other decisions issued by the parliament and decrees and orders of the president. Since the 2014 constitutional amendments, the political party holding the majority in parliament proposes a candidate for the post of prime minister. After considering the nominee, the president proposes him/her for consideration and approval by each chamber of the parliament. Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been prime minister since 2003. The president is the head of state and is elected by absolute majority vote through a two-round system. Islam Karimov, the last Communist Party leader from the Soviet era, was elected as the first president of the Republic of Uzbekistan in December 1991. Karimov was challenged by Muhammed Salih, leader of the opposition Erk (Freedom) Party, but the election was regarded as 'seriously marred'. President Karimov subsequently banned the oppositionist Erk Party and Birlik (Unity) Party; their leaders fled the country and lived in exile after the crackdown against the opposition intensified. A referendum in 1995 extended Karimov's mandate until 2000. Karimov was re-elected for a five-year period in January 2000, capturing 91.9% of the votes. In January 2002, constitutional amendments extended the tenure of the president from five to seven years, enabling Karimov to stay in post until 2007. He won by a landslide in the

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2007 presidential elections, having received 90.7% of the votes. In 2008, constitutional amendments abolished the possibility of running for president as an independent candidate. In 2011, the length of the presidential term was changed back from seven to five years. Despite the clear limit on the presidential term set by the constitution (Article 90), the Central Election Commission registered Karimov as a candidate on the grounds that previous terms served before the amendment did not count towards the two-term limit. Islam Karimov, capturing 90.39% of the votes, was elected for a fourth term in the 29 March 2015 elections. The legislature Uzbekistan has a bicameral parliament, Oliy Majlis (Supreme Assembly). The upper chamber, Senat (Senate), of the parliament is the chamber of territorial representation. According to the Law on the Senat, the 12 provinces, along with the capital Tashkent and the (autonomous) Republic of Karakalpakstan, are represented equally in the Senate (six persons each). Senate members serve a five-year term: 84 are indirectly elected by secret vote from among the local councils and 16 are appointed from among the most distinguished citizens by the president. Establishment of groups on territorial, political or other grounds in the Senate is prohibited. The 150-member Qonunchilik Palatasi (legislative chamber) is the parliament's lower chamber. When the number of seats in the lower chamber was increased from 120 to 150 in 2008, so as to increase the number of parties represented, 15 seats were reserved without election for the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan (EMU), which is regarded as 'an important factor in increasing the role of the parliament in addressing environmental issues'. The remaining 135 members of the chamber are elected on the basis of a majoritarian system in single-mandate constituencies. Candidates are declared elected if they obtain more than 50% of the votes. If this condition is not met, a second round of elections takes place between the two leading candidates. The parliament has been steadily gaining more responsibilities after a series of constitutional amendments. On 16 April 2014, President Karimov signed the amendments which granted the parliament the right to exercise EPRS Political parties in Uzbekistan Members' Research Service Page 2 of 2 oversight over the government. Moreover, the parliament gained the right to dismiss the government with a no-confidence vote. These steps to boost the parliament's influence have been seen as improvements towards restoring the checks and balances between the legislative and executive branches of government.

Political parties represented in Parliament The Liberal Democratic Party of Uzbekistan (LDP), founded in 2003, defines itself as 'a staunch supporter of the ideas forming the country's free, socially oriented market economy, democratic state and a strong civil society [and] a broad political party and civil society movement for liberalisation of all the spheres of life in Uzbekistan'. LDP took part in the elections to the Legislative Chamber



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for the first time in the 2004 parliamentary elections, capturing 34.2% of the votes and gaining 41 of the 120 seats. Its seats increased to 150 in 2008. It ranked first in the 2009 and 2014 elections, winning 53 and 52 seats respectively. LDP's nominee for the 2007 and 2015 presidential elections was Islam Karimov. First established in 1995, the National Revival (Milly Tiklanish) Democratic Party (NRDP) later merged with the National Democratic Party (Fidokorlar) in June 2008. Before the merger, Fidokorlar and Milli Tiklanish had 18 and 11 parliamentary seats respectively. NRDP encourages Uzbeks to grow their national consciousness, nurture and strengthen their national pride, fidelity and love for their country. Based on these values, it is critical of Russia's influence over Uzbekistan. In the most recent parliamentary elections, NRDP won 36 seats, ranking second after the LDP. NRDP nominated Akmal Saidov for the presidential elections in 2015. Akmal Saidov received 3.08% of the votes, far behind Karimov's 90.39%. The People's Democratic Party (PDP), founded in 1991, is the heir of the Communist Party of the Uzbek SSR. In terms of membership, it is the biggest party in the country. PDP's programme focuses on social policies and one of its objectives is the 'protection of the interests of the general population, who are in need of targeted and social protection of the state and society'. PDP supported Islam Karimov in the 1991 presidential elections but nominated its chairman Khotamjon Ketmonov for those in 2015, in which he got 2.92% of the votes. PDP came third in the 2014 legislative elections, getting 27 of the 150 seats. The Social Democratic Justice (Adolat) Party (SDJP), founded in 1995, aims at intensifying democratic processes that strengthen national independence and places special attention on trade unions and vulnerable sections of the population, such as low-income families. Adolat Party had 11 seats after its first participation in the elections held in 1999 for the then 250-member parliament. It got ten out of 120 seats in the 2004 elections, 19 seats in those of 2009, and 20 seats in the 2014 elections. Its nominee for the 2015 presidential elections, Narimon Umarov, received 2.05% of the votes. The Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan (EMU), founded in 2008, aims at ensuring environmental and public health protection, which is among the priorities of the government. EMU places special attention on the drying up of the Aral Sea and the Rogun Dam construction, the latter creating disputes between upstream (Tajikistan) and downstream (Uzbekistan) countries. The EMU does not take part in the parliamentary elections. The 15 members representing the EMU in parliament are designated by its supreme body. Uzbekistan bans the existence of opposition parties, religious parties and movements. Given that amendments to the Elections Law in 2008 bar independent candidates from standing, only pro-government parties are allowed to field candidates for the legislative chamber elections. This limitation has evoked criticism that



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'genuinely independent voices have not been allowed to register and participate in the elections'.

Elections are the formal processes through which citizens choose their representatives or express their preferences on specific issues. Elections can take various forms, including national, regional, or local elections, and they are crucial for determining the composition of legislative bodies and executive offices. The specific procedures and rules for elections vary between countries, but they generally involve aspects such as voter registration, campaigning, ballot casting, and vote counting. The process of elections typically involves the following steps:

1. **Announcement:** Elections are announced by the relevant authority, such as a government body or an independent election commission. The announcement includes important dates, guidelines, and eligibility criteria.
2. **Voter Registration:** Eligible citizens are required to register themselves as voters within a specified period. This ensures that only qualified individuals can participate in the electoral process.
3. **Nomination of Candidates:** Political parties or independent candidates nominate individuals to run for various offices. Nominees often go through internal party processes, such as primaries or caucuses, to determine the official party candidate.
4. **Campaigning:** Candidates engage in political campaigns to promote their platforms, gain support, and persuade voters. This includes activities such as public speeches, debates, advertisements, and grassroots organizing.
5. **Voting:** On the designated election day, registered voters cast their votes using various methods, such as paper ballots or electronic voting machines. This can take place at polling stations or through alternative means like mail-in voting or electronic voting systems.
6. **Vote Counting:** After the voting period ends, the votes are counted to determine the winners. This process is usually conducted by election officials in the presence of candidates' representatives or party observers to ensure transparency and fairness.
7. **Results and Certification:** Once the vote counting is complete, the results are announced to the public. The relevant authority then certifies the outcome, confirming the winners and their respective offices.

Political parties and candidates employ various actions and strategies during elections to maximize their chances of success. Some common actions and strategies include:



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1. **Platform Development:** Parties develop a comprehensive platform that outlines their policies, goals, and vision for the country or region. This platform serves as a basis for their campaign and helps attract voters who align with their ideology.
2. **Campaign Messaging:** Candidates and parties craft persuasive messages tailored to different demographics and target audiences. They focus on key issues, highlight their strengths, and often contrast themselves with opponents.
3. **Fundraising:** Parties and candidates engage in fundraising efforts to secure financial resources for their campaigns. This includes soliciting donations from individuals, organizing fundraising events, and seeking contributions from interest groups or businesses.
4. **Grassroots Mobilization:** Parties and candidates organize volunteers and supporters to engage in grassroots activities, such as door-to-door canvassing, phone banking, or organizing rallies. This helps mobilize voters and build support at the local level.
5. **Media Engagement:** Parties and candidates use various media channels, including television, radio, print media, and social media, to reach a wider audience. They may give interviews, participate in debates, or run advertisements to convey their message.
6. **Voter Targeting:** Parties and candidates analyze voter demographics and voting patterns to identify key constituencies. They tailor their campaign efforts to appeal to specific groups, using targeted messaging and campaign events.
7. **Coalition Building:** Parties may form alliances or coalitions with other parties or interest groups to broaden their base of support. This can help pool resources, increase visibility, and improve their chances of winning.
8. **Polling and Data Analysis:** Parties and candidates often conduct polls and utilize data analysis to assess public opinion, gauge their standing, and identify areas where additional efforts are needed.

It's important to note that the specific actions and strategies employed by parties and candidates can vary significantly depending on the political system, cultural context, and available resources in a given country or region. Political parties and elections are fundamental components of democratic systems. Understanding the electoral process and the actions and strategies employed by political parties and candidates is crucial for comprehending the dynamics of democratic politics. The process of elections involves various stages, from voter registration to result certification, while political parties employ diverse actions and strategies to maximize their chances of success. By engaging in platform development, fundraising, grassroots



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mobilization, media engagement, voter targeting, coalition building, and data analysis, political parties and candidates aim to attract voter support and secure electoral victories.

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