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## Process of the Primaries for Congressional Elections

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Nomination procedures in the United States are unlike those of most other democratic systems. The primary election system, often called the direct primary election system, is used only in the US, in a few states [1]. Primary elections are internal elections within parties in which political party's candidates for the next general election are chosen. Primaries allow for only one candidate from a party to advance to general elections, so that voters from one party don't have to make a choice between candidates from the same party. Through this primary election process, candidates for elective offices in the US are selected by voters rather than by party leaders. Exactly how this is done depends on the legal framework, internal party rules, and informal practices in states [1].

In the USA the two-party system which represents a multi-party system version operates. For two-party systems the most typical distinctive feature is exclusive domination on a political arena of two main parties which alternately replace each other in power. One of these parties has power, while the other acts in a correcting, oppositional role. From time to time they interchange their position [2]. For more than one hundred years the political arena of the USA has been exclusively dominated by two main parties – Republican and Democratic. In due time (shortly before the beginning and during civil war 1861–1865) the Republican Party represented interests of bourgeoisie of the North, and the Democratic party was the political organization of slaveholders-southerners [3]. Then political distinctions between parties were erased, but they still conduct fierce selective struggle at level of federation, states, cities and counties. In the USA parties are engaged in the organization of pre-election struggle. They possess experience, the device, the finance, communications and all necessary for advancement of the candidates [4]. Therefore, to have real chances to win elections, the candidate as a rule should be supported one of two basic parties. Sometimes independent candidates achieve success also, but it occurs seldom, especially for high posts. For support of parties, especially such influential ones as the republican and democratic ones, at selection on elective posts some applicants usually struggle. Primaries have been created to select the candidates democratically [5].

Since the primary election system operates under the laws of states, there can be some important differences from state to state in the operation of primaries, such as “open” or “closed” primaries. Depending on the state, primaries are distinguished between closed and open. In closed primaries only republican voters can vote on republican candidates, and only democrats can choose democrats [1]. Candidates for statewide office, as well as for seats in Congress and in state legislatures, are selected in primary elections in virtually all states. Only in some states are candidates nominated by convention. In this case, two-stage elections are held, with a primary election as a first stage and a run-off if no candidate has the majority in the direct primary election.

How do voters become republicans or democrats? This can occur at the moment of registration: people name a political party to which they intend to affiliate themselves in primaries; it is possible to change parties only on the following registration. Recruitment can sometimes take place at an input in voting point where the voters receive the bulletin of that political party which have preferred; if there is a desire for the following primary to change party orientation, it is necessary to receive in a definite time prior to elections the certificate assured by the court secretary – term depending on the state that fluctuates from six months to about ten days [6]. Some other states enter a test of fidelity of the political party, usually called an «inquiry»: at an input in point of voting the voter demands the ballot of any one political party. Before it is handed over, the voter is asked to make the statement that he or she has supported candidates of that political party on last elections and will support them in the next. In some southern states the personal statement for support of the candidate of the political party which has been put forward on primaries is required even from independents [4].

If a candidate is from a major party (a Republican or Democrat, or is a candidate of a party that got above a certain threshold of votes in the previous general election), having the party committee’s approval is enough to register his/her candidacy in the primaries [2]. If the candidate is not of a major party or wants to run without party approval for a position, then the candidate needs to collect a specified number of signatures of registered voters, during a certain period of time. One more problem potential candidates of small political parties or independents face is that the legislation of some states only counts voters registered as members of corresponding political parties or independents (non-parties) in their quota for signatures [4].

In some states, a candidate can pay to be placed on a ballot, if he/she can’t collect the number of signatures required. This, like the signature requirement of other states, aims to eliminate «frivolous» candidates. In California, the registration payment is established in percentage terms to the size of the candidate’s income the year before the election. In 1972, the Supreme Court declared that the requirement of a registration payment is lawful only in the event that it has an alternative (usually in the form of the petition with signatures of voters) [2]. Registration by selective bodies of candidates doesn’t mean that all registered candidates will be included on the ballot.

Each voter receives a ballot in which the list of political parties and their candidates is included. The voter should choose one political party, and among its candidates – also one. If there are several positions on the ballot (if primaries are open) voters have the right to vote for different political parties for different races [6]. In some states, participation of independent voters and candidates in primaries – open and closed – is prohibited. The candidates who have declared in the petition about selection are brought in ballots, about the party accessory only. The same condition is necessary for executing and to the voter to have the right to receive the ballot on primaries [2].

The degree of influence of political parties on selection of candidates depends on rather many factors. Specify usually in direct sense of legal factors and a role of laws which can assign monopoly to political parties or offer them any advantages. In the US system development «primaries» with necessity has moved to wide intervention of legislature which has created and carefully regulated them. Except positions about selection of candidates by the political party, the essential role belongs to selective laws: a voting procedure along with structure of political parties – the solving element defining the mechanism of selection of nominees. The most simple and most realistic definition of

a national board is the following: a mode at which ruling people are selected by means of fair and free elections [3]. Henceforth speech does not go more about dialogue between the voter and the selected works, the nation and parliament: Between them there is the third that considerably changes the nature of their relations. Before to be selected the voters, the deputy is selected political party: voters only ratify this choice. It visible addresses to us in the conditions of one-party modes when on national approval the unique candidate is exposed. If we adhere to the theory of legal representation, it is necessary to recognize that the elite receives a double mandate: from the political party and from the voters. The importance of each of them is various depending on the country and on the political parties, but in general the party mandate tends to triumph over the voter mandate. It means that the concept of a choice (election correcting operated) is radically deformed [5]. At the modes applying for the maximum identity of the classical power of the people, actually elections are preceded by preliminary elections in which course the political party leads selection of candidates which then will appear before voters: experience American «primaries» – the real example of this tendency. In one-party systems this process will look not less important, than elections. Besides in one-party systems where there is no other party and accordingly a choice the electorate approves the worthy candidate in one political party among those that passed selection. Therefore it is possible to believe that in this case if selection of candidates happens in the corresponding one party, if it occurs publicly and fairly becomes a basic element of elections, and it opens a democratic element. In states of the American South owing to it get major importance primaries, voters participate in them more actively, than in the actual elections. Results of primaries are brought separately for each political party. Won that its candidate who has received the relative majority of votes of voters of the given political party (only in 10 southern states is considered the overwhelming majority of the voices submitted for political party is required and in case of need in the second round of voting revote of two candidates who have collected the greatest poll in the first round) is made. Usually parliamentary primaries begin in the end of February – the beginning of March and come to an end in July of year of elections. The success on them means the end of the procedures of candidate selection.

Candidate-selection methods hold significance for at least four reasons: 1) They have large political consequences for the composition of parliaments and the behavior of their members; 2) they play a major role in the delegation process within modern representative democracy; 3) they show how power is distributed within parties; and 4) their importance is rising with the increase of candidate-centered, or personalized, politics [7].

The rise of candidate-centered politics further boosts the importance of candidate-selection methods, since these so greatly influence the career prospects and hence the behavior of politicians. In other words, we should be increasingly interested in the methods used for the selection of individual politicians within parties, and should avoid restricting our interest to the competition between parties that marks general elections. In many parties across the world, slightly more inclusive selectorates comprising small nominating committees play central roles in candidate selection. Such bodies are likelier to receive input from wider party agencies and hence to be more inclusive and transparent than small, informal groups of party grandees. Moreover, nominating committees often submit the proposed nominees for broader intraparty ratification.

The highest representative body in Kazakhstan is a constantly operating professional parliament of two houses which carries out legislative functions. The parliament's upper chamber – the Senate, is formed by the deputies representing two persons from each area of the country and Kazakhstan's capital. Fifteen deputies of the Senate are appointed by the President of Republic Kazakhstan taking into account necessity of maintenance of representation for the Senate of national-cultural and other significant interests of a society. The Parliament lower chamber – Representative of Parliament consists of 107 deputies, 98 from which are selected under party lists from among the parties which have passed in parliament as a result of elections. 9 more deputies of the lower chamber are selected Assembly of the people of Kazakhstan which has the status of the constitutional body [4].

The candidate will be considered elected if they received more than fifty percent of votes of the voters (electors) who have taken part in voting; or if they received at a runoff voting the majority of a poll of the voters who have taken part in voting. Deputies of Representative of Parliament from political parties are selected under party lists on uniform national election district. In the elections of deputies for the local Legislature the candidate is considered elected, who has received the most votes in comparison with the other candidates [4].

I believe that the ideal electoral system doesn't exist. Any system has its advantages and the drawbacks. The primary system in the U.S. is evidence of this; while this aspect of the electoral system has its advantages, it also has weaknesses.

The primary election system privileges American voters compared to voters in other democracies: Voters have both the right to vote for one political party over another in the general election as well as the right to decide who their party's nominees should be. Furthermore, voters enjoy the power to vote without assuming any obligation to the party. They neither have to pay party dues nor to subscribe to the party's principles, nor do they have to vote for the party's candidates in the general election. It is important that election of candidates doesn't depend only on the party.

However, some aspects of the American primary system do not meet democratic principles. For example, while there are many parties in the U.S., primarily two parties: Democratic party and Republican party, represent the interests of Americans in legislative bodies. Another weakness of the system is the importance of money. Money spent on election campaigns in the U.S. is massive, and candidates without money to run for office are unlikely to win.

In each country there is a history, tradition, and mentality. These differ greatly between America and Kazakhstan. While it would be difficult to introduce primary elections in Kazakhstan, considering this, I think the advantages of primary elections warrant trying. It is a tool of political modernization that will continue the development of a democratic society in Kazakhstan. The internal competition among Party members during which there is more possibility of selection of the best and most effective candidates in central and local representative bodies of the country, in turn increases. Besides the given procedure gives the chance to raise the popularity of candidates and causes them to be already more recognized in the opinion of voters at election time. Thus there is an additional occasion to dialogue with voters to tell about essential affairs, beliefs and ideas of the party. Depending on a rating of candidates, the party will make the decision on their inclusion in a definitive variant of the list for elections. Additional studying of all accompanying questions is required.

In connection with what is stated above, I think that the experience of carrying out of preliminary elections of Primaries can be considered, both for a two-party system like that of the USA, and for the current one-party or potential future multi-party systems in Kazakhstan. Thus it will make a positive impact on development of Parliamentarism and the further modernization of the political system of the country.

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