

Information on the voting method in the Capital City of the Slovak Republic Bratislava and in the city of Košice

The right to vote (municipal elections and self-governing region elections)

A citizen of the Slovak Republic and a foreigner who has permanent residence in the municipality and is 18 years old at the latest on the day of the election, has the right to vote for the city and city borough bodies [councilors and the mayor].

A citizen of the Slovak Republic and a foreigner who is a permanent resident of a municipality which belongs to the territory of a self-governing region, or who is a permanent resident of a military district which belongs to the territory of a self-governing region for the purposes of elections to the bodies of the self-governing region, and who at the latest on the day of the election is 18 years old, shall have the right to vote for the bodies of the self-governing region.

The right to vote shall be impeded by a restriction on personal liberty imposed by law for the protection of public health unless a special law provides otherwise at the time of a pandemic.

Elections to municipal and regional self-government bodies in 2022

A voter may vote only in the city district of his/her permanent residence in the electoral district in which he/she is registered. Upon arrival at the polling station, the voter is obliged to prove his/her identity to the electoral commission by presenting his/her identity card or proof of residence for foreigners.

The district election commission shall circle the voter's serial number in the list of voters for the elections to the council of the self-governing region (regional assembly/regional parliament) and shall **issue the voter with a blank blue envelope** bearing the official stamp of the city district (city borough) **and two ballot papers with blue stripes - one ballot paper for the election to the council of the self-governing region [zastupiteľstvo samosprávneho kraja] and one ballot paper for the election of the president of the self-governing region [predseda samosprávneho kraja].**

The district election commission shall then circle the voter's serial number in the list of voters for the municipal elections and **issue the voter with a blank white envelope** bearing the official stamp of the **city district (city borough) and four white ballot papers - one ballot paper for the city district (city borough) council [miestne zastupiteľstvo], one ballot paper for the mayor of the city district (city borough) [starosta], one ballot paper for the city council [mestské zastupiteľstvo] and one ballot paper for the mayor of the city [primátor]. The ballot paper for the election of the city council and the ballot paper for the election of the mayor of the city shall be marked on the left-hand edge with a grey stripe.**

Collection of the ballot papers and the envelopes shall be acknowledged by the voter separately in each list of voters **by a handwritten signature.**

Before voting, each voter must go to a special area designated for ballot paper editing. A voter who does not enter the special area for the adjustment of the ballot papers shall not be allowed to vote by the district electoral commission.

On the ballot paper for the elections to the council of the self-governing region, the voter may circle no more than as many serial numbers of candidates as the number of councilors to be elected in the constituency concerned (the number of councilors to be elected in the constituency is indicated on the ballot paper).

A voter may circle the serial number of only one candidate on the ballot paper for the election of the president of the self-governing region.

In the special area for ballot paper editing, the voter shall place the ballot paper for the election of the council of the self-governing region and the ballot paper for the election of the president of the self-governing region in the blue envelope.

On the ballot paper for the borough council elections and on the ballot paper for the city council elections, the voter may circle no more than as many serial numbers of the candidates as the number of councilors to be elected in the constituency concerned (the number of councilors to be elected in the constituency is indicated on the ballot paper).

A voter may circle the serial number of only one candidate on the ballot paper for the election of the city borough mayor [starosta] and on the ballot paper for the election of the mayor of the city [primátor].

In a special area designated for ballot paper editing, the voter shall place in a white envelope the white ballot papers for the borough council elections, for the city council elections, for the mayoral elections of the borough and for the mayoral elections of the city.

If the voter places the ballot paper in the wrong envelope, such ballot paper shall be invalid.

At the voter's request, the district election commission shall issue another ballot paper for the incorrectly adjusted ballot paper. The voter shall place the incorrectly altered ballot paper in the ballot box for the deposit of unused or incorrectly altered ballot papers.

A voter who is unable to adjust the ballot paper himself or herself because of a disability or because he or she cannot read or write, and who notifies the district election commission before voting, shall have the right to take with him or her to the area designated for adjusting the ballot paper another able-bodied person to adjust the ballot paper according to the voter's instructions and the law and to place it in the envelope. Both persons shall be instructed by a member of the district electoral commission, before entering the special ballot paper editing area, on the manner of voting and on the facts of the offence of obstructing the preparation and conduct of elections and on the facts of the offence of electoral corruption. Members of the district election commission shall not alter the ballot papers of voters.

After leaving the special area for ballot paper editing, the voter shall place the blue envelope in the blue box for voting for elections to local government bodies and the white envelope in the white box for voting for elections to local government bodies.

If the voter places the envelope in the wrong ballot box, the vote shall be invalid.

A voter who is unable to place the envelope in the ballot box himself due to a disability, may request that another person, but not a member of the district election commission, place the envelope in the ballot box in his/her presence.

A voter who is unable to attend the polling station for serious reasons, in particular for health reasons, shall have the right to request the municipality and the district election commission on the day of the election to place the ballot in a portable ballot box, only within the territorial area of the district of his/her permanent residence.

The voter is obliged to deposit unused or incorrectly adjusted ballot papers in a sealed box for depositing unused or incorrectly adjusted ballot papers, otherwise he/she commits an offence for which he/she will be fined 33 EUR.