

Based on Articles 10 and 11 of the Statute of the Party

# ZAJEDNO

## **RULEBOOK ON PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

is adopted

### **General provision**

#### **Article 1**

The importance of direct democracy and the responsibility of public office holders towards the voters who elect them is declared by the Party ZAJEDNO by organizing primary elections. Pre-elections, or primary elections (primaries), are organized before the elections are called for all levels of government with the aim to select candidates for public office. ZAJEDNO can organize primaries independently, or jointly with other political organizations with which it participates in elections (coalition partners and citizens' associations). Pre-elections are always organized when conditions allow, that is, when elections are regular and when there is enough time to organize pre-elections in case of extraordinary elections. ZAJEDNO can organize primaries even before the official announcements of extraordinary elections in order to be ready for these elections.

### **Organization of primaries**

#### **Article 2**

Primaries are organized so that they are completed no later than 30 days before local, provincial, parliamentary or presidential elections.

### **Calling the primaries**

#### **Article 3**

Primary elections are called by the Council of Cities and Municipalities, passing an individual legal act on announcing primary elections in accordance with this Rulebook on primary

elections and annexes for specific elections including deadlines, rules and procedures for holding primary elections.

The individual legal act by which the primaries are called, contains all the necessary information regarding the primaries, such as: basic information about the primaries (what the primaries are for and how many candidates are elected), what is the purpose of the primaries, which bodies conduct the primaries and how they are established, who can run in the primaries, who can vote in the primaries, where, when and how to vote in the primaries, how and in what way the candidates will be advertised and how the campaign for the primaries will be conducted, how interested citizens can follow the process and when and how election results will be processed and communicated.

Primaries can be organized in cooperation with other political organizations by the decision of the Councils of cities and municipalities without violating the principles proclaimed by these rules and the Statute of the Party ZAJEDNO. Other political entities can accept the rules of organizing party primaries and participate in the primaries on an equal partnership basis.

## **Primary election formats**

### **Article 4**

Primary elections can be organized in several different formats. The format of the primary election is defined through the annexes of this Rulebook or if the annex is not provided for by the individual act on calling primary elections and it defines the authorities for conducting elections, active and passive voting rights, candidacy and voting procedures, type of electoral system, election day(s), method of selecting candidates and protection of electoral rights.

The preselection formats for candidates are as follows:

FPK 1: Primary elections with closed candidature – only party members can run in pre-elections.

FPK 2: Primary elections with semi-closed candidature – only party members, supporters, members of friendly associations or other political subjects can run in the pre-elections (the

status of supporters, friendly associations and other political subjects is decided by the Council of Cities and Municipalities).

FPK 3: Primary elections with semi-open candidature - party members, supporters, members of friendly associations or other political entities and any citizen who meets certain conditions for becoming a candidate can run in the primary elections - a certain number of collected signatures supporting the candidate for example (the status of supporters, friendly associations and other political entities are decided by the Council of Cities and Municipalities, and the conditions for the citizens becoming candidates are defined by the annex to the Rulebook and/or by the decision on calling the primaries).

FPK 4: Primary elections with open candidacy - every citizen can run for office on an equal basis as a party member, without any additional restrictions. The rules of candidacy for party members also apply to any other citizen.

The primary election formats for voter voting are as follows:

Voters who are registered to vote on the List of Voters of the Republic of Serbia and who reside on the territory of the electoral unit where the primaries are held (republic, province, city, municipality, electoral unit defined by the decision on calling the primaries, polling station) can vote in the primaries.

FPG 1: Closed primaries - only party members who have registered as party members of ZAJEDNO before the primaries can vote in the primaries.

FPG 2: Semi-closed primaries – party members and sympathizers or members of friendly associations or other political entities vote in the primaries (the status of sympathizers, friendly associations and other political entities is decided by Party bodies).

FPG 3: Semi-open primaries – party members and all voters registered for the primaries in a unique list of voters defined for the primary elections, can vote in the primaries (registration takes place after the primaries are called and every voter in the Republic of Serbia has the right to register to vote in the primaries)

FPG 4: Open primaries - every voter in the Republic of Serbia can vote in the primaries without prior registration in the voter list for the primaries.

In the case of organizing primaries with other political entities, the decision on the format of the primaries is made and regulated by a special document that is adopted by the bodies of political entities.

Electoral system formats:

For the election of candidates for president and mayor/president of the municipality:

FPI 1: single-district majority electoral system – simple majority system/first past the post (the candidate with the most votes is the elected candidate for mayor in the primaries)

FPI2: two-round majority election system - absolute majority system (if there is no candidate who won more than 50%+1 of the votes cast, the two candidates with the most votes go to the second round of voting where the candidate with more votes wins).

For the selection of candidates for members of parliament and councilors in municipal and city assemblies:

FPI 3: single-district majority electoral system – simple majority system/ first past the post in single-candidate constituencies

FPI 4: two-round majority electoral system – absolute majority system in single-candidate constituencies

FPI 5: single-district majority electoral system in one or more candidate constituencies in which several candidates are elected (the number of candidates to be elected is determined, the candidates become those with the most votes)

FPI 6: scoring system in single-candidate or multi-candidate units (the voter assigns a certain number of points to the candidates - e.g. assigns points 1, 2 and 3 to three candidates -

depending on the number of candidates being elected - the candidates with the most points become the ones.

## **Authorities for conducting primaries**

### **Article 5**

The authorities for conducting the primaries are the Central Primary Election Commission (hereinafter: CPK), the Candidate Verification Commission (hereinafter: VKK) and the Electoral Committees (hereinafter: BO). CPK, VKK and BO can be established for several levels of pre-elections when they are held simultaneously.

The Central Election Commission is composed of five permanent members and members of interested parties.

The five permanent members of the Central Primary Election Commission are: one prominent lawyer who is not a member of the ZAJEDNO Party and who is elected by the ZAJEDNO Party Presidency, one representative of the ZAJEDNO Party Statutory Commission and three members of the ZAJEDNO Party who are not candidates in the primaries, two of whom come from one Autonomous Organization each who are appointed by the Presidency of the Party ZAJEDNO. If the Presidency has not been formed, its responsibilities will be taken over by the Provisional Council.

The members of the CPK are obliged to be autonomous and independent in their work and to ensure the legality and integrity of the primaries.

Members of the Central Primary Election Commission who are interested parties are delegated representatives of the candidates in the primaries. Each of the candidates in the primaries can have one representative in the CPK.

In the case of organizing primaries with other political organizations, the composition and work of the CPK is regulated by a special document that is adopted by the bodies of the said political organizations - which maintains elements of independence and integrity of the work of the CPK.

The Candidate Verification Commission (VKK) is formed when citizens who are not members of the Party can participate in the primaries. VKK consists of 5 members. The members of the ZAJEDNO Party are the Secretary General of the ZAJEDNO party, who chairs the VKK, the President of the ZAJEDNO party's Executive Committee and three appointed members, two of whom must be from Autonomous Organizations appointed by the ZAJEDNO party Presidency. The VKK confirms the right to run for the non-party candidates in accordance with the annexes of this Rulebook and/or the decision on the announcement of primaries in which non-party candidates can participate. The VKK verifies compliance with the provisions of the ZAJEDNO party Statute, i.e. the eligibility of candidates when the annex or decision provides for it.

The technical conditions for becoming a candidate, as well as the eligibility of candidates are defined by the annexes of this Rulebook and decisions on calling the primary elections. The eligibility of candidates is declared in order to ensure the candidate's credibility and commitment to the implementation of the basic principles of the ZAJEDNO Party defined in Article 2 of the Party Statute. VKK decides by a qualified majority (4 out of 5 members). The VKK can accept the candidacy and forward it to the CPK for announcement or rejection of the candidate with a public notice (on the party's website or a specially designed website dedicated to the primaries) and with an explanation of the rejection of the candidacy that is forwarded to the candidate.

Electoral committees conduct primary elections in accordance with the annexes of this Rulebook and the decision on calling primary elections. Electoral committees are made up of members of the ZAJEDNO party and representatives of other candidates who participate in the primaries when they are not closed. Electoral committees are organized according to the territorial principle, depending on the elections for which the primaries are organized and in relation to the number of candidates and pre-election units in which candidates are elected.

Polling stations are defined by the annexes of this Rulebook and individual decisions on calling primaries. An online polling station can also be opened. Primary elections can only be organized with an online polling station.

## **Voter's list in the primaries**

### **Article 6**

Depending on the chosen format of voting in the primaries, a voter list for the primaries is created. All party members are registered in the voter list for the primaries by their status. Depending on the chosen format of primaries, special annexes on primaries and decisions on calling primaries define the look and design of the voter list for primaries, the necessary data and the method of updating, controlling and monitoring voting during election day.

## **The results of the primaries**

### **Article 7**

The results of the primary elections are determined by the CPK and they are binding for all Party bodies.

## **Protection of electoral rights**

### **Article 8**

The party's Statutory Commission takes care of the protection of electoral rights and respect for the Party's Statute during the primaries. Every candidate or registered voter can appeal to the CPK in the first level of protection, and appeals against the decisions of the CPK can be submitted to the Statutory Commission.

## **Primary elections for different types of electoral process**

### **Article 9**

This rulebook consists of its annexes, which contain special rules for different levels and types of elections and different municipalities and cities.

Secretary General  
Zoran Petrov