

THE RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF THE INFORMATION SOCIETY IS THE STRENGTHENING OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

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ANNOTATION:The article provides information on the forms of citizen participation in social and political processes, the content of electronic democracy, the discussion of social issues and decision-making, the role of information and communication technologies and online platforms in increasing the political activity of citizens, electronic public control, electronic information exchange between citizens and state bodies.

Key words and terms:Civil society, e-democracy, political activism, e-public control, e-Government, political-social processes, mass media.

АННОТАЦИЯ:Мақолада фуқароларнинг ижтимоий-сиёсий жараёнларда иштироки шакллари, электрон демократиянинг мазмун моҳияти, ижтимоий масаларнинг муҳокамаси ва қарорлар қабул қилиш, фуқароларнинг сиёсий фаоллигини оширишда ахборот коммуникацион технологиялар ҳамда онлайн платформаларнинг ўрни, электрон жамоат назорати, фуқаролар ва давлат органлари ўртасида электрон ахборот алмашувга оид масалалар тўғрисида маълумот берилган.

Калит сўзлар ва атамалар:Фуқаролик жамияти, электрон демократия, сиёсий фаоллик, электрон жамоат назорати, электрон Ҳукумат, сиёсий-ижтимоий жараёнлар, ОАВ.

АННОТАЦИЯ:В статье представлена информация о формах участия граждан в общественно-политических процессах, содержании электронной демократии, обсуждении социальных вопросов и принятии решений, роли информационно-коммуникационных технологий и онлайн-платформ в повышении политической активности граждан, электронный общественный контроль, электронный обмен информацией между гражданами и государственными органами.

Ключевые слова и термины:Гражданское общество, электронная демократия, политический активизм, электронный общественный контроль, электронное правительство, политико-социальные процессы, средства массовой информации.

Social and political changes and reforms in the life of the society are also causing citizens to become active.

Necessary political-legal, socio-economic and scientific-educational foundations for the establishment of New Uzbekistan have been created in our country. Also, to review the current mechanisms of law-making and parliamentary control from the point of view of effectiveness, to increase the initiative of the public in state management by ensuring the participation of citizens in these processes, to connect deputies with their voters and senators with citizens in the regions within the framework of "Electronic Parliament" Issues such as proper communication, discussion of the problems of voters and digitization of the decision-making process have been identified as priorities for the next five years.¹

¹<https://lex.uz/docs/> (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated January 28, 2022 No. PF-60 "On the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022-2026")

Participation of citizens in socio-political processes is usually indicated as a vital aspect of democracy. In the following years, in order to deepen the democratic reforms and strengthen the role of political parties in the modernization of the country, the issue of introducing a mixed (majoritarian-proportional) system of elections to representative bodies was also defined as a priority for the state and society,² and it is appropriate to carry out these processes through the development of today's electronic democracy.

E-democracy has its place in important socio-political issues in society, but this issue has not been sufficiently studied in the legal science of Uzbekistan, although today the process of actively introducing this form (or, in other words, manifestation) of democracy into state legal practice has begun. As news, the virtual reception of the President of the country, the government portal gov.uz, the portal of public opinion "My opinion", the system for assessing the impact of legal acts (SOVAZ) within the framework of the regulation.uz portal have been launched. As a result, in recent years, a fundamentally new model of interaction between the state and citizens using ICT (information communication technologies) has begun to take shape. Institutional and legal foundations of such mutual cooperation were created, certain experience was gathered. However, there are many problems. In fact, we see that practice is far ahead of science in this regard, and it is necessary to urgently study the conditions, status and prospects of the development of e-democracy. There are many publications devoted to e-democracy. The category "Electronic democracy" is recognized, which means ensuring the openness and transparency of state power, actively involving the population in the process of making political and legal decisions using ICT.

Many researchers today talk about "e-democracy" as a promising and effective form of interactive cooperation between the state and citizens. Combining concepts such as "virtual democracy", "electronic democracy" and "cyber democracy", they emphasize that digital democracy is not only a new, interactive type of government activity, but also a set of practices for implementing democratic procedures. Digital tools are a tool that allows to bring the state and society management closer together without denying the previous traditional forms of participation of citizens in public administration. But we must not forget that e-democracy is not a new form of governance; represents a new form (as well as means) of implementing democracy.

Therefore, when defining the content and characteristics of the concept of "electronic democracy", researchers express different opinions and approaches. Ya.V. Antonov stated that e-democracy is a legal, technological and management structure, which includes various state-legal institutions ("Electronic Government", "Electronic Parliament", "Electronic State", "Electronic Justice") and tools (for example, state bodies) are created and developed. Electronic forums on important state and political issues are discussed on the Internet.³

According to M.S. Grigoreva⁴, the concept of "electronic democracy" is complex and multifaceted, and its essence includes two semantic loads: "democracy" and "electronic methods of its implementation". Other experts emphasize⁵ the thesis of "changing the modern democratic

²<https://lex.uz/docs/> (Decree No. PF-158 of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated September 11, 2023 "On the strategy of Uzbekistan - 2030")

³ Антонов Я.В. Электронное голосование в системе электронной демократии: конституционно-правовое исследование: автореф. дисс. ... канд. юрид. наук. – М., 2015. – С. 3.

⁴ Григорьева М.С. Правовое определение, сущность и содержание понятия «электронная демократия» // Юридическая наука. 2018, № 3. – С. 43.

⁵ Телешина Н.К. Понятие и сущность электронной демократии // Государство и право: теория и практика. 2016. № 1 (2). – С. 63.

paradigm to a more open paradigm that helps establish pluralism, new values, needs, methods and procedures." According to A.Yoldoshev, public discussion on the Internet "enables a significant increase in the efficiency of working with proposals, as well as creates conditions for citizens to objectively understand the content and purpose of state decisions, and to consciously participate in state affairs." Essentially, e-democracy becomes an important means of implementation of democracy, support of democratic institutions and wide spread of democratic values in Uzbekistan, complementing and enriching traditional forms and channels of implementation of democracy. In foreign countries, the term "e-democracy" has spread widely, meaning support and strengthening of rights and obligations of citizens in the knowledge and information society. At the same time, the purpose of e-democracy is to expand information policy and form an active citizen's position, to increase openness in the activities of state authorities and administrative bodies, and to support democratic processes.⁶ E-democracy covers various forms of participation of citizens in the management of public affairs and social development through ICT.

Today, the information environment has turned into a multi-functional environment, creating great opportunities for the expansion of the population's participation in public administration, for the cooperation of citizens with state authorities and administrative bodies in the provision of public services in electronic form.

The Republic of Uzbekistan has risen to 30th place in the world by scoring 70 points in Open Data Inventory⁷ (ODIN). This means a policy of information sharing and openness among citizens.

It is known that the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Sh. Mirziyoyev, in his address to the Oliy Majlis on December 22, 2017, emphasized the need to involve the public in the discussion of laws, to introduce modern information and communication technologies, including the creation of special "fields" on the Internet. Based on this, in paragraph 34 of the State Program approved by the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No. PF-5308 dated January 22, 2018, an electronic collective appeal to the Chambers of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, People's Deputies of the Region, District and City Councils through the special web portal "My Opinion" introduction of the procedure is set.⁸ The "My Opinion" web portal was created in order to expand the opportunities of citizens to participate in the management of society and state affairs in our country, to ensure the openness of the activities of representative bodies of state power, and to ensure that the adopted laws are viable and effective. Through this web portal, every citizen can send his proposals to the legislation in the form of an electronic collective appeal on important issues of state and community importance.

As of September 29, 2023, the "My Opinion" portal received 6,285 collective appeals with the initiative of adopting a regulatory legal document, and 28,871 user comments were made on them, of which only 15 collective appeals were considered by the relevant state authorities.⁹ 3 public appeals were processed and resulted in a positive decision in favor of citizens, as well as more than 2,300 collective appeals were not considered due to insufficient votes,

Currently, various electronic resources and social networks have taken the role of the most optimal means of influencing state bodies and their officials. In this respect, digital technologies,

⁶ Эшмухамад Кадиров “Демократия И Информационные Технологии: Соотношение И Развитие В Узбекистане” Central Asian Journal of social sciences and history volume :04 issue :02 | feb 2023 (issn: 2660- 6836)

⁷ <https://data.egov.uz/uzbКт/news/ozbekiston-ochiq-malumotlar-reytingida-dunyoda-30->

⁸ <https://lex.uz/> Ўзбекистон Республикаси Президентининг Фармони, 22.01.2018 йилдаги ПФ-5308-сон

⁹ <https://meningfikrim.uz/uz/pages/about>

which are rapidly entering all aspects of society's life, and their widespread application to the process of public control, create conditions for the formation and development of "electronic public control".

Electronic public control is the introduction of modern information technologies into the processes of public control. This is a new form of control over the service activities of state bodies and their officials by the subjects of public control using the possibility of digital technologies.

In essence, this means the use of modern information technologies in the process of public control, and in terms of importance, it is manifested in achieving an effective result by using convenient methods to ensure the rule of law.

It is often observed in practice that modern technologies are introduced into the processes of public control. For example, attempts by citizens to constantly monitor, evaluate and control the state of compliance with the rule of law in the activities of state bodies and their officials are increasing. In recent times, there have been cases of extensive discussion of the activities of employees of various state bodies through social networks, and cases of expressing opinions regarding the legality of their actions.¹⁰

Or the illegal actions of some officials are widely spread through social networks, causing a great controversy. Residents are demanding an official response from state authorities. On the other hand, the officials of the state bodies are adapting to fulfill the legal requirements of the subjects of public control, to take appropriate measures, to come out through mass media and give explanations and statements about the relevant situation.

What is more, if the state body pays serious attention to these processes, responds quickly to public opinion, and effectively uses modern approaches in working with citizens, its influence among the population is increasing.

It is known that on July 16, 2020, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan adopted Resolution No. 444 "On measures to further develop the electronic government system, as well as to introduce the procedure for electronic reporting of public activities by state bodies and organizations." According to it, starting from September 1, 2020, the public administration bodies, their regional divisions, as well as the Council of Ministers of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent city hokims, district (city) hokims will submit electronic reports to the public on their activities at the end of the half year and at the end of the year. Reports: first posted on the official website, official pages on social networks, published in central (regional) print media; then online broadcasts will be organized in the form of briefings and press conferences through the official website of the organizations and the social media accounts of their first leaders.¹¹

The creation of the "E-Anticor.uz" electronic platform, which allows monitoring and evaluation of the activities of state authorities and administrative bodies in the field of fighting against corruption, as well as the creation of special mobile software, which allows to inform the Anti-Corruption Agency about corruption cases, is an important step in this direction. We believe

¹⁰Ш.У.Якубов, Жамоатчилик назоратининг конституциявий-ҳуқуқий асослари. –Тошкент: Ўқув қўлланма, ТДЮУ, 2021. – 85 бет.

¹¹Ўзбекистон Республикаси Вазирлар Маҳкамасининг 2020 йил 16 июлда «Электрон ҳукумат тизимини янада ривожлантириш, шунингдек, давлат органлари ва ташкилотларининг ўз фаолияти бўйича жамоатчилик олдида электрон ҳисобот бериши тартибини жорий этиш чора-тадбирлари тўғрисида»ги 444-сонли қарори // Қонун ҳужжатлари маълумотлари миллий базаси, 17.07.2020 й., 09.20.444.1077-сон. <https://lex.uz>.

that it is necessary to electronicize the forms of control over the activities of state bodies and their officials.¹²

Article 6 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Public Control" defines the following eight forms of public control: appeals and requests to state bodies, participation in public board meetings of state bodies; public discussion, public hearing, public monitoring, public expertise, public opinion research, hearing reports of state officials by citizens' self-government bodies.¹³ First of all, it is necessary to create conditions for monitoring information on the content and quantity of requests based on digital technologies, for this, a separate page or a special electronic platform should be created on the official websites of each state body. Information about the content of the appeals and requests and the results of their resolution should be disclosed through it.

In particular, if the processes related to sending appeals and requests to state bodies are electronicized, if practical work in this field is disclosed to the general public, if information is provided to the population about the results, then efficiency will be achieved in solving the current issues in the life of society and the problems that concern the population.

The emergence of various social networks, with the increasing level of their use by citizens, creates opportunities for digitization of some forms of public control. For example, modern technologies can be effectively used in the process of conducting public discussions in order to analyze current issues in the life of society, ensuring the rule of law in the activities of state bodies.¹⁴

The special electronic platform created today - the portal for discussion of regulatory legal documents of the Republic of Uzbekistan (<https://regulation.gov.uz>) is becoming a very important discussion area in this regard. As of September 30, 2023, 21,164 projects of regulatory legal documents have been posted on this portal, of which 879 are Laws; 4 are decisions of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis, 2 are decisions of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, 349 are Presidential Decrees; 975 - Presidential Decision; 3553 - Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers; 2,402 are orders or decisions of various state agencies, 8,915 are draft resolutions of the governor.¹⁵ It is possible to analyze each of them in the section of sectors. During the discussion of these documents, a total of 38,626 proposals were received from the public. Of course, such online discussions lead to the perfection of normative legal documents adopted by various state bodies.

Today, taking into account the digitization of all spheres, it is important to implement public control through information technologies and determine the future. Even so, it is the need of the time to eliminate some of the obstacles. In particular, the quality of Internet communication is not up to the required level, the material and technical base of public control subjects and electronic resources are not fully provided, the legal bases, organizational and institutional structures are not perfect, officials who do not count with the public are still operating in state administration bodies, some state bodies it is necessary to admit that openness is not fully ensured.

¹²Ш.У.Якубов, Жамоатчилик назоратининг конституциявий-ҳуқуқий асослари. –Тошкент: Ўқув қўлланма, ТДЮУ, 2021. – 85 бет.

¹³Ўзбекистон Республикасининг «Жамоатчилик назорати тўғрисида»ги қонуни // Қонун ҳужжатлари маълумотлари миллий базаси, 13.04.2018 й., 03/18/474/1062-сон. <https://lex.uz>.

¹⁴Зулфикооров Ш.Х. Мамлакатимизда қонун лойиҳаларини тайёрлаш ва қонунлар ижросини назорат қилишда депутатлар ҳамда кенг жамоатчиликнинг иштироки // Юридик фанлар ахборотномаси doi.org/10.34920/rfs.1.2020.22-26.

¹⁵Ўзбекистон Республикасининг Норматив-ҳуқуқий ҳужжатлар муҳокамаси портали. <https://regulation.gov.uz/oz/document/index?sort=-commentsCount&page=14>

In the current conditions in Uzbekistan, it is important to solve the following issues for the wide introduction and implementation of electronic public control and the development of its organizational and legal foundations¹⁶:

- The Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Public Control" refers to the introduction of relatively effective, modern (for example, electronic, remote, etc.) forms of public control based on the wide application of modern information technologies in the sphere of public life. changes and additions are necessary. In this case, the organizational and legal mechanisms of digital public control, the procedure for using various electronic platforms should be clearly defined in this law. It is necessary to reflect the rights and obligations in the field of its implementation through special web portals that allow public control, as well as the procedures and rules for electronic reporting of state bodies, which are designed to post photo and video materials about violations in this area.

- it is necessary to create special electronic platforms and software systems for the further development of the organizational technical base of electronic public control. It should provide all necessary facilities and opportunities for the subjects of public control to control the activities of state administration bodies and their officials.

The development of the institution of electronic democracy in Uzbekistan is closely related to the reforms in the socio-economic, legal, administrative and other spheres implemented in our country, and it can be concluded that it requires the development and improvement of the institution of electronic democracy. For this, the need of the hour is to increase the public administration system and infrastructure of the ICT sector, active citizenship of the population, transparency and responsibility of the state authorities and management bodies. E-democracy, which emerged as a result of the rapid development of the information society, is being transformed into a modern system of democratic procedures, rules, standards and means of decision-making by state bodies with extensive use of modern ICT in the implementation of democracy.

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¹⁶Ш.У.Якубов, Жамоатчилик назоратининг конституциявий-ҳуқуқий асослари. –Тошкент: Ўқув қўлланма, ТДЮУ, 2021. – 85 бет.

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