

# Promo-LEX: First Hours of the Voting Marked By State Voter Register Failure

According to the first findings of Promo-LEX observers submitted by **10.00 hours**, most of the polling stations [PS] were opened in accordance with the legal provisions. Nevertheless, the sections opened with a **delay of up to 55 minutes** at PS no. 31 in Pelinia (Drochia), due to a power outage, and PS no. 5/9 in Bascalìa (Basarabesca), where the members of the PSEB failed to prepare the PS opening protocol in time.

PS no. 42 in Varnita, PS no. 9 (Basarabesca), PS no. 42 in Anenii Noi and PS no. 6 in Banestii Noi (Telenesti) started work with delays of up to **20 minutes** due to deficiencies in the functioning of the State Voters' Register. Delays were also registered at the opening of PS no. 147 (mun. Chisinau), PS no. 60 in Carpineanca (Ialoveni), PS no. 260 (Straseni) and PS no. 36 in Valea Trestieni (Nisporeni) due to the fact that the stamp "withdrawn" had not been applied in all ballots next to the name and symbol of the candidate who was recalled from the campaign, and in PS no. 6 (Floresti) because the PSEB could not seal the ballot box.

Delays of **up to 10 minutes** were registered in PS no.1 in Straseni (reason: a broken seal) and PS no.16 in Straseni, PS no. 58 in Sarata Galbena (Hancesti), PS no. 19 in Carpineni (Hancesti), PS no. 91 (Straseni), PS no. 275 (Straseni), PS no. 50 in Chisinau, and PS no. 20 in Cioresti (Nisporeni), where computers needed to be replaced.

Delays **between 2 and 8 minutes** were registered at PS no. 291 in Fauresti, PS no.19 in Cioresti (Nisporeni), PS no. 251 (Straseni), PS no. 43 (m.Chisinau), and PS no. 86 (Straseni).

PS no. 256 (mun. Chisinau) was **opened too early**, and namely at 06.55 hours.

The protocol on the preparation of the PS for the vote was not introduced into the ballot box at the opening of the PS at PS no. 155 in Chisinau.

At the same time, we note that in the early hours of the vote, **deficiencies were found with the functioning of the State Voters' Register** at the following polling stations:

PS no. 46 in Tocuz (Causeni), PS no. 5 (Ialoveni), PS nos. 23, 56, 44, 9, and 25 (Balti), PS no. 55 in Valea Rusului (Falesti), PS nos. 13, 43, 151, 135, 119, 115, 256, and 141 (Chisinau), PS no. 5 (Ialoveni), PS no. 4 (Criuleni), PS no. 29 in Naslavcea (Ocnita), PS no. 27 in Ialpuug (Cimislia), and PS no. 14 and no. 15 in Sadaclia (Basarabasca).

At the same time, 10 voters at the PS no. 36 in Milestii Noi (Ialoveni) could not be found in the State Voters' Register although they were included in the main voter lists.

### **PS Arrangements**

Promo-LEX observers noted that polling stations no. 13 in Sloveanca and no. 37 in Dobrogea Veche, raion Sangerei, were poorly lit. By 07.00 hours, there was no electricity at PS no. 31 in Pelinia (Drochia).

PS no. 49 in Valea Radoaiei (Floresti) is not equipped with a safe, and all election-related documentation is kept at the PS no. 38 in Illiciovca (Floresti). There was no heating in PS no. 9 in raion Rascani and PS no.11 in Drochia.

### **Sealing Ballot Boxes**

The ballot box at PS no. 9 (Basarabasca) cracked, and, per DEC instructions, was later stitched with tape. The seal was broken at PS no. 1 (Straseni) and PS no. 7 and Alexandreni (Sangerei).

Issues with sealing of ballot boxes (as the seal did not fit in) were also registered at PS no. 291 in Fauresti, PS nos. 147 and 53 in Chisinau, and PS no. 6 in Floresti.

The PSEB at PS no. 147 in Chisinau sealed the ballot box using a *plume*.

PS no.22 in Gradiste (Cimislia) received a smaller number of stamps than necessary, thus, one ballot box had 3 instead of 4 stamps, and was therefore sealed as such.

The seals broke in PS nos. 147, 134, and 154 in Chisinau and were later replaced.

### **Voting Ballots**

According to the information provided by Promo-LEX observers, DEC no.5 in Basarabeasca issued 249 ballots more for PSEB no.7 than the number of voters in the voter lists.

### **Issuing Voting Certificates**

DEC no. 14 in Drochia issued 600 voting certificates, which were distributed among all polling stations.

PS no. 8 in Antoneuca, PSEB no. 33 in Pervomaiscoe, PSEB no. 20 in Hasnasenii Noi, and PSEB no. 43 in Suri did not have sufficient voting certificates. PS no. 8 in Soroca did not have sufficient voting certificates either.

### **Registration of Observers**

There were issues with the registration of STO observers at the polling stations in villages Mihaileni and Groznita (Briceni) and PS no.47 in Drochia.

*The Election Monitoring Effort is part of the activities conducted by the civil society under the aegis of the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections.*

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