



Ministerie van Binnenlandse Zaken
en Koninkrijksrelaties

Electoral Act

Maart 2026

Electoral Act

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Elections Act

Applicable from 1 August 2025

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Part I. General provisions

Chapter A Introductory provisions

§ 1. Definitions

- **Section A 1**

In this Act and the provisions based on it, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

governing board: a representative assembly of a water board in so far as it includes members of the category referred to in section 12, subsection 2 (a) of the Water Boards Act;

executive board: the executive board of a water board.

§ 2. The Electoral Council

- **Section A 2**

There shall be an Electoral Council, established in The Hague.

- **Section A 3**

1. The Electoral Council will have the following duties:
 - a. to act as the central electoral committee in the situations in which the law so requires;
 - b. to advise the government and the two Houses of the States General in implementation-related matters relating to the voting right or the elections;
 - c. to arrange software to be used in the elections in accordance with the provisions to be set by or pursuant to this Act;
 - d. to promote the quality of the conduct of the electoral process in cases where the law so stipulates;
 - e. to collect, and provide general access to, the results of the elections held pursuant to this Act;
 - f. to give effect to the other duties assigned to it in this Act.
2. The chairperson, the members designated for this purpose and the extraordinary members of the Electoral Council shall perform the duty referred to in subsection 1 (a).
3. In the event of an election as referred to in subsection 1 (a), the duties and powers referred to in sections A 12, A 13, Ea 10, Ea 11 and Ea 12 shall be performed

and exercised by a deputy chairperson and members of the Electoral Council designated for this purpose who are not also charged with the performance of the duty referred to in subsection 1 (a).

- **Section A 4**

The Autonomous Administrative Authorities Framework Act, except for sections 12, 21 and 22, applies to the Electoral Council.

- **Section A 5**

1. The Electoral Council consists of a chairperson, six other members and two extraordinary members. It may appoint deputy chairpersons from among its members.
2. The extraordinary members shall only perform the duty of the Electoral Council referred to in section A 3, subsection 1 (a). They shall not be appointed as deputy chairpersons.
3. Section 11 of the Advisory Bodies Framework Act applies to the Electoral Council.
4. The members and the extraordinary members of the Electoral Council are appointed on the basis of their expertise on the franchise and elections. Section 12, subsection 3 of the Advisory Bodies Framework Act applies.
5. The appointment of members and the extraordinary members of the Electoral Council shall be terminated by Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations at their own request. They may also be suspended or dismissed by royal decree on the grounds of unsuitability, incompetence or other compelling reasons relating to the person concerned. A recommendation to suspend or dismiss a member shall not be made until the Electoral Council has been heard on the matter.

- **Section A 6**

1. Section 15, subsections 1, 3, 4 and 5 and section 16 of the Advisory Bodies Framework Act apply to the Electoral Council.
2. Sections 21 and 29 of the Advisory Bodies Framework Act do not apply to the Electoral Council.

- **Section A 7**

The Electoral Council shall adopt administrative regulations and, following the approval referred to in section 11 of the Autonomous Administrative Authorities Framework Act, shall publish the regulations in the Government Gazette.

- **Section A 8**

1. The Electoral Council has a secretary and a supporting secretariat.
2. The secretary and the secretariat staff shall not be members of the Electoral Council.
3. Notwithstanding section 4.6, subsection 1 of the Government Accounts Act 2016, the chairperson of the Electoral Council shall represent the State when concluding, amending and terminating individual employment contracts with the secretary and the staff of the Electoral Council.

- **Section A 9**

1. The Electoral Council may designate persons who shall perform the duty referred to in section A 11, subsection 1 on its behalf.
2. The persons referred to in subsection 1 shall not be members of the Electoral Council or persons who hold a position in the electoral process that is incompatible with the duty referred to in section A 11, subsection 1 and may be designated if:
 - a. they have attained the age of eighteen years on polling day;
 - b. on the day of designation, they:
 - 1º. have not been disqualified from voting by the final decision of a court;
 - 2º. are not an elected member of the representative assembly for which the election is being held or a candidate in the election, and
 - c. they are deemed by the Electoral Council to possess sufficient knowledge and skills concerning the electoral process.
3. Rules on the granting of compensation by the Electoral Council to the persons referred to in subsection 1 may be laid down by ministerial order.

§3. Promotion of the quality of the conduct of the electoral process

- **Section A 10**

In this division and the provisions based on it, the following definition applies:

electoral committee: every electoral committee, postal vote electoral committee, municipal electoral committee, principal electoral committee, national postal vote electoral committee and central electoral committee as referred to in this Act.

- **Section A 11**

1. To promote the quality of the electoral process, the Electoral Council shall support the mayor, the municipal executive, the executive board and an electoral committee in the performance of the duties assigned to them pursuant to this Act.
2. Following consultation with a body that may be deemed representative of the municipal executives and the mayors, a body that may be deemed representative of the executive boards, or the public bodies referred to in section Ya 2 (a), the Electoral Council shall draw up a plan for the way in which the Electoral Council will cooperate with the mayor, the municipal executive and the mayor, the executive boards, the island executives and the Lieutenant Governors of the public bodies referred to in section Ya 2 (a) and an electoral committee and the way in which the support referred to in subsection 1 will be provided and the power referred to in section A 12 will be exercised. The Electoral Council shall make the plan publicly available by electronic means.
3. To support the conduct of the electoral process, the Electoral Council may draw up instructions and quality standards for the proper implementation of the provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Act.
4. In the event of unforeseen circumstances during the conduct of the electoral process, the Electoral Council may make rules regarding the way in which the electoral committees must act in those circumstances. In doing so, it shall also establish the date on which these rules expire. The rules made by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.
5. Rules on the way in which and the conditions under which the Electoral Council will involve the municipal executives and the mayors, the executive boards and the public bodies in the performance of the duty referred to in subsection 1 may be laid down by order in council.

- **Section A 12**

1. The Electoral Council may give the chairperson of an electoral committee or an electoral committee a process instruction if:

- a. irregularities occur regarding the actual course of events in places or parts of places that are used by an electoral committee to conduct an election as referred to in this Act, which may result in risks to the course of the election or the reliability of the result of the election, and
 - b. consultation has not resulted in the irregularities and the threat of the risks identified having been removed.
- 2. In any event, a process instruction shall not pertain to:
 - a. the performance of the duties and the exercise of the powers assigned to the mayor, the municipal executive or the executive board in this Act, and
 - b. the result of a determination as referred to in sections N 6, N 25, Na 18, Na 26, O 5, P 20 and T 10.
- 3. A process instruction shall be proportionate to the purpose for which it is given.
- 4. When giving a process instruction, the Electoral Council shall set a period within which the process instruction must be complied with.
- 5. In the event of a process instruction, the Electoral Council shall immediately notify the mayor and the municipal executive of the relevant municipality.

- **Section A 13**

- 1. In the case of an election, the Electoral Council shall draw up a report of findings on the irregularities established by the Electoral Council regarding the actual course of events in places or parts of places that are used by an electoral committee to conduct an election as referred to in this Act and of the process instructions given pursuant to section A 12, subsection 1.
- 2. The Electoral Council shall send the report of findings to the representative assembly concerned as soon as possible after its adoption and shall make it publicly available by electronic means.

- **Section A 14**

- 1. If, in response to irregularities identified regarding an election that result in risks to the validity of the poll, the Electoral Council is of the opinion that a new poll as referred to in section V 6, subsection 2 is necessary in one or more polling stations or provinces, the Electoral Council shall make this known to the representative assembly in writing, in any event before the examination referred to in section V 4, subsection 1 commences, stating the affected polling stations or provinces.

- 2. The Electoral Council shall make an opinion as referred to in subsection 1 publicly available by electronic means.

- **Section A 15**

On request and of their own accord, the mayor, the municipal executive, the executive board, the municipal electoral committee, the national postal vote electoral committee, the principal electoral committee and the central electoral committee shall provide the Electoral Council with the data and information the Electoral Council needs to perform its duties and exercise its powers as referred to in this division.

- **Section A 16**

Without prejudice to section 20 of the Autonomous Administrative Authorities Framework Act, the Electoral Council shall provide Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of its own accord with information about an irregularity identified by the Electoral Council that results in serious risks to the course of the election or the reliability of the result of the election.

Part II. The election of members of the House of Representatives of the States General, of provincial councils, of governing boards, of municipal councils and of the electoral college for Dutch nationals who are not residents

Chapter B The franchise

• Section B 1

1. Members of the House of Representatives of the States General shall be elected by persons who are Dutch nationals on nomination day and have attained the age of eighteen years on polling day, with the exception of persons who have their actual place of residence in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten on nomination day.
2. This exception does not apply to:
 - a. Dutch nationals who have been resident in the Netherlands for at least ten years;
 - b. Dutch nationals who are employed in the Dutch public service in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten and their Dutch spouses or partners and children, in so far as they have joint households.

• Section B 2

Members of the provincial councils shall be elected by persons who are residents of the province on nomination day, provided they are Dutch nationals and have attained the age of eighteen years on polling day.

• Section B 2a

1. Members of the governing board shall be elected by persons who are residents of the water board district on nomination day and have attained the age of eighteen years on polling day.
2. Section B 3, subsection 2, opening words and (a), and subsection 3 apply.

• Section B 3

1. Members of municipal councils shall be elected by persons who are residents of the municipality on nomination day and who have attained the age of eighteen years on polling day.
2. To be entitled to vote, persons who are not nationals of a European Union member state must, on nomination day, also meet the following requirements:

- a. they are legally resident in the Netherlands pursuant to section 8 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (l) of the Aliens Act 2000 or pursuant to a headquarters agreement between an international organisation and the State of the Netherlands, and
 - b. they have been resident in the Netherlands for an uninterrupted period of at least five years immediately prior to nomination day and have residence rights as referred to at (a) above or pursuant to section 3 or section 6 of the BES Admission and Expulsion Act.
3. Non-Dutch nationals and persons employed in the Netherlands as members of diplomatic or consular missions posted to the Netherlands by other States, and their non-Dutch spouses or partners and children, in so far as they have a joint household, are not entitled to vote.

• Section B 4

1. For the purposes of this Act, residents of the Netherlands or of a province, water board district or municipality are persons who have their actual place of residence in the Netherlands or in the province, water board district or municipality respectively.
2. Those whose names and addresses are entered in the personal records database of a municipality shall, for the purposes of this Act and subject to proof to the contrary, be deemed to have their actual place of residence in that municipality.
3. Those whose names and addresses are entered in the personal records database shall, for the purposes of this Act and subject to proof to the contrary, be deemed to have their actual place of residence in the water board district in which that address is situated.

• Section B 5

1. Persons who have been disqualified from voting by the final decision of a court shall be disqualified from the franchise. The disqualification shall be assessed by reference to the situation on nomination day.

2. Our Minister of Justice and Security shall ensure that notice of every final decision of a court as referred to in subsection 1 is given as quickly as possible. If the person concerned is registered in the personal records database as a resident, notice shall be given to the mayor of the municipality where the person concerned has his address according to the personal records database. In other cases, notice shall be given to the mayor of the municipality of The Hague. The notice shall include the name, initials or given names, address and date of birth of the person concerned and of the duration of the disqualification.
3. On receipt of the notice the mayor or the mayor of The Hague, respectively, shall notify the person of his disqualification and the duration thereof.

• Section B 6

1. Persons entitled to vote who are lawfully deprived of their liberty on polling day shall exercise the franchise by voting by proxy.
2. This limitation does not apply:
 - a. to those who have sufficient de facto freedom of movement on polling day to be able to vote in person;
 - b. to those who are entitled to periodic leave under the regime of the institution in which they are detained.
3. Rules relating to voting by proxy by the persons referred to in subsection 1 may be made by order in council.

Chapter C

The term of office of members of the House of Representatives of the States General, of provincial councils, of governing boards and of municipal councils

• Section C 1

1. Members of the House of Representatives shall be elected for a term of four years.
2. They shall retire simultaneously on a date to be determined by the President of the House of Representatives, on the Wednesday between 29 March and 4 April.

• Section C 2

1. Members of the House of Representatives elected after the dissolution of the House shall retire simultaneously on a date to be determined by the President of the House of Representatives, on the first Wednesday in the period referred to in section C 1, subsection 2, after four years have elapsed since the meeting of the central electoral committee at which the result of the election was announced.
2. If these four years end in a period beginning on the date referred to in section C 1, subsection 2, and ending on a date to be determined by the President of the House of Representatives, on the Wednesday between 25 and 31 May, they shall retire on the first Wednesday in the period referred to in subsection 2 after three years have elapsed since the meeting of the central electoral committee.

• Section C 3

1. If the date specified in section C 1, subsection 2, or in section C 2 falls in a year in which an election to the provincial councils or the municipal councils is being held, the members of the House of Representatives shall retire simultaneously on a date to be determined by the President of the House of Representatives, on the Wednesday between 25 and 31 May.
2. Members of the House of Representatives elected to fill the places of members who have retired on the date referred to in subsection 1 shall, unless the circumstance referred to in subsection 1 arises again, retire simultaneously on a date to be determined by the President of the House of Representatives, on the first Wednesday in the period referred to in section C 1, subsection 2, after three years have elapsed since the meeting of the central electoral committee at which the result of the election was announced.

• Section C 4

1. Members of provincial councils, of governing boards and of municipal councils shall be elected for a term of four years.
2. They shall retire simultaneously on the Wednesday between 29 March and 4 April.

• Section C 5

A person who has been appointed as a member to fill a casual vacancy shall retire on the date on which the person in whose place he was appointed would have had to retire.

Chapter D

Registration of the franchise

• Section D 1

The municipal executive shall register the franchise of the residents of the municipality.

• Section D 2

The municipal executive of The Hague registers persons who live outside of The Netherlands and who are eligible to vote according to [section B 1](#) and who have not been excluded from the right to vote as stated in [section B 5](#).

• Section D 3

1. Registration of a person as referred to in [section D 2](#) is done on request, without prejudice to [section D 6](#), [subsections 2 and 3](#). The application of a person who has reached the age of seventeen shall be processed for a registration as from the 44th day before that person turns eighteen.
2. An application must be received on or before the forty-second day prior to the day of the vote. Any applications received after that day will be accepted for processing for the next election.
3. In derogation of paragraph 2, an application for a change to a registration must be received on or before the sixty-third day prior to the day of the vote.
4. A form shall be used for the submission of an application. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.

• Section D 4

An order in council shall determine what information and documents constitute the registration as referred to in [section D 2](#).

• Section D 5

The municipal executive or the municipal executive of The Hague, respectively, shall immediately inform any person, upon his request, of whether he has been registered for the franchise. If he is not registered for the franchise, the reasons shall be explained to him within a period to be determined by order in council.

• Section D 6

1. In addition to [section 16](#) of the General Data Protection Regulation, a registration may be changed:

- a. concerning a registration as referred to in [section D 1](#), if the person is not registered for the franchise, upon request; and
 - b. concerning a registration as referred to in [section D 2](#), if not upon request, *ex proprio motu* in accordance with subsections 2 and 3.
2. The municipal executive of The Hague shall incorporate in the registration any information on a person ensuing from a change in his information in the personal records database.
 3. The municipal executive of The Hague shall remove a person from the registration if and when circumstances become known to it based on which the person should not be registered for the franchise.

• Section D 7

1. An application as referred to in this chapter or to exercise the right to rectification as referred to in [section 16](#) of the General Data Protection Regulation in respect of a registration as referred to in [section D 1](#) or [D 2](#) shall be decided on within a period to be determined by order in council.
2. *Ex proprio motu* changes as referred to in [section D 6](#) are equated with a formal decision.

• Section D 8

1. Title 8.3 of the General Administrative Law Act does not apply to decisions made based on this chapter.
2. Notwithstanding [section 8:41 subsection 5](#) of the General Administrative Law Act, the term within which the amount due must be credited or transferred is two weeks. The president of the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State can decide to shorten this term.
3. The Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State will handle the case in compliance with [part 8.2.3](#) of the General Administrative Law Act. [Part 8.2.4](#) does not apply. The municipal executive will be sent a copy of the appeal without delay.

• Section D 9

By order in council, further rules can be set with regard to the registration to vote in the franchise, including concerning:

- a. the submission of an application, the decision on an application and the provision of forms as referred to in [section D 3](#); and
- b. *ex proprio motu* changes referred to in [section D 6](#).

- **Section D 10**

Section 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation does not apply to the processing of personal data pursuant to section D 1.

Chapter E

Electoral districts and electoral committees

§ 1. Electoral districts

- **Section E 1**

1. For elections to the House of Representatives, the Netherlands shall be divided into electoral districts in accordance with the table appended to this Act.
2. The electoral districts for the election of the members of the House of Representatives, to the extent situated in the European part of the Netherlands, will also constitute the electoral districts for the election of the members of the provincial executive. The provincial executive may divide such electoral districts into more electoral districts for the election of the members of provincial executive, designating the municipalities where a principal electoral committee will be established.
3. For elections to governing boards, each water board shall form a single electoral district.
4. For elections to municipal councils, each municipality shall form a single electoral district.

- **Section E 2**

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

§ 2. Electoral committees and electoral committees/polling stations for postal voting

- **Section E 3**

1. The municipal executive shall establish one or more electoral committees in the municipality. Each electoral committee shall have a number.
2. The electoral committees for elections to provincial councils are also the electoral committees for elections to governing boards.
3. The number of members constituting an electoral committee shall be determined by order in council. One of the members shall be the chairperson.

- **Section E 4**

1. The municipal executive shall appoint the members of each electoral committee and a sufficient number of alternate members in good time before each election.
2. A person who has attained the age of eighteen on polling day and, after taking a training course, is deemed by the municipal executive to possess sufficient knowledge and skills concerning the electoral process may be appointed as member or alternate member of an electoral committee, with the exception of a person who:
 - a. on nomination day has been disqualified from voting by the final decision of a court;
 - b. is a member or alternate member of the municipal electoral committee, principal electoral committee or central electoral committee for the relevant election;
 - c. as member of an electoral committee in a previous election has acted or omitted to act contrary to the provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Act;
 - d. is a candidate for the election in the relevant electoral district;
 - e. is an elected member of the representative assembly for which the election is being held.
3. Membership of an electoral committee shall terminate automatically once a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.
4. Further rules may be laid down by order in council on the training course, including rules on a test. The rules may stipulate that only those who have passed the test may be appointed as members or alternate members of an electoral committee.

- **Section E 5**

1. The municipal executive of The Hague shall establish an electoral committee/polling station for postal voting in the municipality for every election to the House of Representatives.
2. Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations shall establish an electoral committee/polling station for postal voting at the Dutch representation in Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten for every election to the House of Representatives.
3. Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations may, in consultation with the municipal executive of the relevant municipality, designate a municipality where the municipal executive shall also establish an electoral committee/polling station for postal voting for every election to the House of Representatives.

4. The number of members constituting a postal vote electoral committee shall be determined by order in council. One of the members shall be the chairperson.

- **Section E 6**

1. The municipal executive of The Hague or Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations or the municipal executive of the designated municipality, respectively, shall appoint the members of the postal vote electoral committee and a sufficient number of alternate members in good time before each election to the House of Representatives.
2. Section E 4, subsections 2 to 4 apply *mutatis mutandis*, provided that:
 - a. in subsection 2, (b) is read as 'is a member or alternate member of the national postal vote electoral committee or central electoral committee for the relevant election'.
 - b. the powers of the municipal executive in respect of an electoral committee/polling station for postal voting as referred to in section E 5, subsection 2 shall be vested in Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

§ 3. Municipal electoral committees

- **Section E 7**

1. The municipal executive shall establish a municipal electoral committee for every election.
2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, in the event of combined voting in an election to a provincial council and the members of a governing board, the municipal executive may establish one or more municipal electoral committees that will carry out the count for one or more elections.
3. The municipal council may decide that a municipal electoral committee established for an election on the basis of this Act shall also act as a municipal electoral committee for another poll called by the municipal council.
4. The number of members constituting a municipal electoral committee shall be determined by order in council, one of whom shall be the chairperson and another the deputy chairperson.

- **Section E 8**

1. The municipal executive shall appoint the members of the municipal electoral committee and a sufficient

number of alternate members in good time before each election.

2. Section E 4, subsections 2 to 4 apply *mutatis mutandis*, provided that subsection 2 (b) is read as 'is a member or alternate member of the electoral committee, principal electoral committee or central electoral committee for the relevant election'.

- **Section E 9**

Further rules may be laid down by order in council on the composition and procedures of the municipal electoral committee.

§ 4. Principal electoral committees and the national postal vote electoral committee

- **Section E 10**

1. The municipal executive of the municipality designated for this purpose in the table corresponding to section E 1, subsection 1 shall establish a principal electoral committee for every election to the House of Representatives.
2. The principal electoral committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be the chairperson and another the deputy chairperson.

- **Section E 11**

1. For each election of the members of the provincial executive in a province that is divided into multiple electoral districts, the municipal executive of the municipality designated for such purpose by the provincial executive will establish a principal electoral committee.
2. The principal electoral committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be the chairperson and another the deputy chairperson.

- **Section E 12**

1. The chairperson, the deputy chairperson, the other members of the principal electoral committee and at least three alternate members shall be appointed by the municipal executive in good time before each election.
2. A person who has attained the age of eighteen on polling day may be appointed as member or alternate member of the principal electoral committee, with the exception of a person who:
 - a. on nomination day has been disqualified from voting by the final decision of a court;

- b. is a member or alternate member of the electoral committee, municipal electoral committee or central electoral committee for the relevant election;
 - c. as member of a principal electoral committee in a previous election has acted or omitted to act contrary to the provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Act;
 - d. has put himself forward as a candidate for the relevant election.
 - e. is an elected member of the representative assembly for which the election is being held.
6. Section E 4, subsection 3 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

- **Section E 13**

1. The municipal executive of The Hague shall establish a national postal vote electoral committee for every election to the House of Representatives.
2. The national postal vote electoral committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be the chairperson and another the deputy chairperson.
3. The chairperson, the deputy chairperson, the other members and at least three alternate members shall be appointed by the municipal executive in good time before the election.
4. Section E 4, subsections 2 to 4 apply *mutatis mutandis*, provided that subsection 2 (b) is read as 'is a member or alternate member of the postal vote electoral committee or the central electoral committee for the relevant election'.

- **Section E 14**

Further rules may be laid down by order in council on the composition and procedures of the principal electoral committee and the national postal vote electoral committee.

§ 5. Central electoral committees

- **Section E 15**

There shall be one central electoral committee for elections to each representative assembly.

- **Section E 16**

The Electoral Council shall act as the central electoral committee for elections to the House of Representatives of the States General.

- **Section E 17**

1. For elections to the provincial council, the central electoral committee shall be situated in the municipality where the provincial council meets.
2. The central electoral committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be the chairperson and another the deputy chairperson.
3. The chairperson shall be the mayor of the municipality in which the central electoral committee is situated. The deputy chairperson, the other members and at least three alternate members shall be appointed and dismissed by the provincial executive.

- **Section E 18**

1. For elections to the governing board, the central electoral committee shall be situated in a municipality within the water board district designated for this purpose by the representative assembly of the water board.
2. The central electoral committee shall consist of five members, one of whom shall be the chairperson and another the deputy chairperson.
3. The presiding officer of the representative assembly shall be the chairperson of the central electoral committee. The deputy chairperson, the other members and at least three alternate members shall be appointed and dismissed by the executive board.

- **Section E 19**

1. For elections to the municipal council, the central electoral committee shall consist of three or five members, one of whom shall be the chairperson and another the deputy chairperson.
2. The mayor shall be the chairperson of the central electoral committee. The deputy chairperson, the other members and at least three alternate members shall be appointed and dismissed by the municipal executive.

- **Section E 20**

1. A person who has attained the age of eighteen may be appointed as member or alternate member of the central electoral committee, not being the Electoral Council, with the exception of a person as referred to in section E 4, subsection 2 (a) and (c) to (e).
2. The appointments referred to in sections E 17, E 18 and E 19 shall last for a term of four calendar years. A person who has been appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall retire on the date on which the person in whose place he was appointed would have had to retire.

- **Section E 21**

1. The municipal executive shall designate a suitable location for the meetings of the central electoral committee referred to in sections E 17 and E 19.
2. The executive board shall designate a suitable location for the meetings of the central electoral committee for elections to the governing board.

- **Section E 22**

Further rules may be laid down by order in council on the composition and procedures of central electoral committees, not being the Electoral Council.

CHAPTER Ea

Digital Support in the Electoral Process

- **Section Ea 1**

The following terms as used in this chapter and the provisions based thereon will have the following meanings:

result software:

- a. software used by the municipal electoral committee for purposes of determining the numbers as referred to in section Na 26;
- b. software used by the principal electoral committee for purposes of determining the numbers as referred to in section O 5;
- c. software used by the national postal electoral committee for purposes of determining the numbers as referred to in section O 16; and
- d. software used by the central electoral committee for purposes of determining the results of the election and determining the numbers as referred to in section P 20(1);

user:

the municipal electoral committee, the national postal electoral committee, the principal electoral committee, or the central electoral committee;

connection requirements:

the connection requirements as referred to in section Ea 4(1), opening lines and under (a);

use instructions:

the use instructions as referred to in section Ea 4(1), opening lines and under (b);p

municipal executive:

the municipal executive (mayor and aldermen) that has established the municipal electoral committee, the municipal executive of The Hague that has established the national postal electoral committee, the municipal executive of the municipality where the central electoral committee for the election of the members of the municipal council or of the provincial executive is seated;

executive committee:

the executive committee of the water authorities for which the central electoral committee for the election of the members of the general administrative body has been established.

- **Section Ea 2**

1. In accordance with the provisions set by or pursuant to this chapter, the Electoral Council will arrange the making available, maintenance, reliable operation and security of the result software.
2. For each election, the Electoral Council will make the result software available to the user, provided that a test, as referred to in section Ea 5(1) was performed first.
3. If the result software uses central facilities, the Electoral Council will set up such central facilities and take central measures, with a view to the reliable operation and security of the result software.
4. Rules on the making available of the result software to the user will be set by order in council.

- **Section Ea 3**

1. Without prejudice to sections Ea 3(4) and Ea 5(4), and with a view to transparency of the result software, the Electoral Council will, before each election, electronically publish, in a manner that is generally accessible:
 - a. data, in any event including technical data, relating to the result software to be used in that election; and
 - b. in the situation as referred to in section Ea 2(3): a description of the central facilities and measures of the Electoral Committee as referred to in that section.
2. Paragraph 1 may be departed from, to the extent that compelling reasons relating to the security of the result

software or the central facilities and measures opposes publication.

3. The Electoral Council will prepare a specification for the result software, making clear how the provisions of chapter P that are relevant to the calculation and determination of the results of the election will be applied in the result software.
4. The Electoral Committee will have the specification tested by an independent expert agency, and will electronically publish the specification and the outcome of the test in a manner that is generally accessible.
5. The result software will contain the functionalities that, in accordance with the specification, as referred to in paragraph 3, are required for the calculation and determination of the results of the elections.
6. The result software will be designed so as to prevent its accidental or intentional misuse.
7. By order in council, further rules will be set on:
 - a. the data referred to in paragraph 1(a) and the procedure for publication of the data and of the description referred to in paragraph 1(b);
 - b. the operation, design, reliability and security of the result software; and
 - c. the organisation, operation, reliability and security of the central facilities referred to in [section Ea 2\(3\)](#) and the requirements relating to the measures referred to in that section.

• Section Ea 4

1. With a view to the reliable operation and the security of the result software, the Electoral Council will, for each election, in regulations, adopt:
 - a. connection requirements on the decentralised facilities and measures as referred to in [section Ea 6\(1\)](#), for the use of the result software;
 - b. use instructions on the use of the result software.
2. The connection requirements and use instructions will contribute to the safe and reliable use of the result software.
3. Prior to adoption of the connection requirements and use instructions, an agency that can be deemed to be representative of the municipal executives and an agency that can be deemed to be representative of the executive committees will be consulted.
4. Rules on the subjects to which the connection requirements and use instructions may relate, as well as the timing of adoption of the connection requirements and use instructions, will be set by order in council.

• Section Ea 5

1. Before the Electoral Council makes available result software in the event of an election, an independent expert agency to be designated by the Electoral Council will have tested that:
 - a. the result software meets the requirements referred to in [section Ea 3\(5\)](#) and [\(6\)](#), and [\(7\)](#) opening lines and under [\(b\)](#);
 - b. the central facilities and measures of the Electoral Council referred to in [section Ea 2\(3\)](#) are in compliance with the rules, as referred to in [section Ea 3\(7\)](#), opening lines and under [\(c\)](#), to be set by or pursuant to an order in council; and
 - c. the connection requirements and the use instructions meet the requirement set in [section Ea 4\(2\)](#) and are in compliance with the rules, as referred to in [section Ea 4\(4\)](#), to be set by or pursuant to an order in council.
2. If, after completion of the test as referred to in paragraph 1, the Electoral Council makes any minor changes to the result software, the central facilities and measures of the Electoral Council, the connection requirements, or the use instructions, no new test will need to be performed before it makes the result software available to the user, provided that such changes may in any event not relate to:
 - a. the way in which chapter P is applied in the result software for purposes of allocation of the seats to the lists and to the candidates;
 - b. any components designed for the security of the result software.
3. If, in response to a recommendation from the test, as referred to in paragraph 1, any non-minor change is made to the result software, the central facilities and measures, the connection requirements, or the use instructions, the component to which the change applies will be re-tested by the agency as referred to in paragraph 1.
4. The Electoral Council will electronically publish, in a manner that is generally accessible:
 - a. the outcome of the test referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3; and
 - b. where applicable, data relating to minor changes as referred to in paragraph 2.
5. Further rules on the publication as referred to in paragraph 4 will be set by order in council.

• Section Ea 6

1. The municipal executive will, for each election, enable the user, not being the Electoral Council in its

capacity as central electoral committee, to use the result software in a reliable and safe manner. To that end, it will implement decentralised facilities and take decentralised measures, and will ensure that such decentralised facilities and measures meet the connection requirements.

2. The municipal executive will investigate, at a time to be set by order in council prior to the day of the election, whether the decentralised facilities and measures and the connection requirements are satisfactory, and will prepare a declaration as to the outcome of such investigation. The Electoral Council will adopt a template for such declaration in regulations. The municipal executive will promptly electronically publish such declaration in a manner that is generally accessible. It will also promptly provide such statement to the Electoral Council.
3. The municipal executive will, either temporarily or permanently, interrupt the use of the result software by a user, not being the Electoral Council in its capacity as central electoral committee, if it establishes that the decentralised facilities or measures no longer meet the connection requirements. As soon as the municipal executive establishes that the decentralised facilities and measures meet the connection requirements again, it will re-enable the user concerned to use the result software.
4. The municipal executive will promptly notify the Electoral Council of any interruption and re-enabling of the use of the result software as referred to in paragraph 3.
5. If the municipal executive interrupts the use of the result software as referred to in paragraph 3, it will take measures to be able to resume use as soon as possible.
6. If, after interruption of the use of the result software, pursuant to paragraph 3, it is not possible to resume use within a short term, the municipal executive will contact the Electoral Council.
7. This section will apply *mutatis mutandis* to:
 - a. the Electoral Council, enabling itself, in its capacity as central electoral committee for the election of the members of the House of Representatives, to use the result software in a reliable and safe manner and, in the situation as referred to in paragraph 3, either temporarily or permanently interrupts its use of the result software. Paragraph 2, last sentence, paragraph 4 and paragraph 6 do not apply;
 - b. the executive committee to the extent relating to the central electoral committee for the election of the members of the general administrative body.

8. Further rules on the investigation, and the declaration as referred to in paragraph 2 will be set by order in council.

• Section Ea 7

1. In the determination referred to in sections Na 26, O 5 and O 16, or P 20(1), as the case may be, the user will use the result software made available by the Electoral Council.
2. The user will ensure that the result software is used by it in a manner that is reliable and safe. It will thereby observe the use instructions.

• Section Ea 8

1. The Electoral Council, the municipal executives, the executive committees, and the users will work together in the performance of the duties assigned to them by or pursuant to this chapter in order to come to reliable and safe use of the result software.
2. In order to promote reliable and safe use of the result software, the Electoral Council will adopt a partnership protocol after consultation with: Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, an agency that can be deemed to be representative of the municipal executives, as well as an agency that can be deemed to be representative of the executive committees.
3. The partnership protocol will in any event record procedures for situations where:
 - a. decentralised facilities or measures as referred to in section Ea 6(1)(a) do not meet the connection requirements;
 - b. the use of the result software by the user is not in accordance with the use instructions;
 - c. there is any other form of, actual, suspected or threatened, malfunction in, or impairment of, the operation, reliability or security of the result software, abuse, or improper use of the access to the result software.
4. The Electoral Council will publish the partnership protocol in the Government Gazette. The Electoral Council will also electronically publish the partnership protocol in a manner that is generally accessible on the day prior to the nomination.

• Section Ea 9

1. The Electoral Council will, both on request and of its own accord, provide the municipal executive, the executive committee and the user with data and information on any actual, threatened or suspected, infringement of the reliable and safe operation of the

result software, to the extent necessary for the reliable and safe use of the result software.

2. The municipal executive, the executive committee and the user will, both on request and of its own accord, promptly notify the Electoral Council of:
 - a. any actual or suspected abuse or improper use of the result software;
 - b. any infringement of the security or integrity of the decentralised facilities and measures;
 - c. any other information that the Electoral Council may require to take measures in order to avoid or terminate an infringement of the reliable and safe operation of the result software.
3. Anyone may file a written, substantiated report with the Electoral Council of an alleged or detected, actual or threatened, malfunction in, or impairment of, the operation, reliability or security of the result software. Without prejudice to [section Ea 12\(2\)](#), opening lines and under (b), the Electoral Council will electronically publish any such reports in a manner that is generally accessible for each election.
4. Rules on publication of the reports as referred to in paragraph 3 may be set by order in council.

• **Section Ea 10**

1. The Electoral Council may give the municipal executive or the executive committee a management instruction in respect of the decentralised facilities and decentralised measures as referred to in [section Ea 6\(1\)](#) if:
 - a. the municipal executive or the executive committee fail to meet the connection requirements as a result of which the reliable or safe operation of the result software is jeopardised; or
 - b. there are any unforeseen circumstances of such a nature that the reliable or safe operation of the result software is jeopardised.
2. The Electoral Council may give the user a management instruction in respect of the use of the result software if:
 - a. the user fails to comply with the use instructions as a result of which the reliable or safe operation of the result software is jeopardised; or
 - b. there are any unforeseen circumstances of such a nature that the reliable or safe operation of the result software is jeopardised.
3. A management instruction will be proportional to the purpose for which it is given.

4. In the management instruction, the Electoral Council will set a term within which the instruction must be complied with.

• **Section Ea 11**

1. The Electoral Council may, either temporarily or permanently, interrupt, or cause the interruption of, a user's use of the result software if:
 - a. a management instruction as referred to in [section Ea 10](#) is not complied with;
 - b. there is any other form of, actual or threatened, serious malfunction in, or impairment of, the operation, security or reliability of the result software; or
 - c. there is any other form of, actual or threatened, abuse, or improper use of, the access to the result software.
2. Interruption of the use of the result software pursuant to [paragraph 1](#) is a last resort which may be implemented only if giving instructions and giving a management instruction is impossible or inadequate to remove the detected risk to the reliable and safe operation of the result software.
3. As soon as the Electoral Council establishes that the ground giving rise to the interruption of the use has ceased to exist, it will re-enable, or cause a third party to re-enable, the user concerned to use the result software.
4. Wherever possible, the Electoral Council will notify the municipal executive or the executive committee and the user in advance of any interruption or re-enabling of the use of the result software, but in any event promptly upon interrupting or re-enabling the use.
5. In the notice of interruption of the use of the result software, the Electoral Council will give instructions to the municipal executive or the executive committee, and the user concerned, as to the measures to be taken to be able to resume use.
6. The Electoral Council will also promptly notify Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations of any interruption of the use and re-enabling the use of the result software.
7. Rules on the consequences of the interruption, or of causing the interruption, of the use of the result software will be set by order in council.

• **Section Ea 12**

1. The Electoral Council will prepare a report of findings on the irregularities established by the Electoral Council

as a result of which the reliable or safe operation of the result software has been jeopardised.

2. The municipal executive, the executive committee and the user will, both on request and of their own accord, provide the Electoral Council with such data and information as the Electoral Council may require to prepare the report.
3. The Electoral Council will send a report to the representative body concerned as soon as possible after adoption and will electronically publish same in a manner that is generally accessible.

- **Section Ea 13**

If, for any election, the Electoral Council does not make any result software available or the Electoral Council interrupts, or causes the interruption of, the use of the result software, the sections in chapters Na, O and P, to the extent relating to the use of the result software, will not apply when determining the outcome of the vote and the result of the election by the user.

Chapter F

Date of nominations

- **Section F 1**

1. Nominations for elections to the House of Representatives, provincial councils, governing boards and municipal councils shall take place on the Monday between 30 January and 5 February or, in a leap year, on the Monday between 31 January and 6 February.
2. In the case referred to in section C 3, subsection 1, nominations for elections to the House of Representatives shall take place on the Monday between 28 March and 3 April.
3. If there are compelling reasons for so doing relating to the date of nomination day or polling day, it may be stipulated by royal decree that nominations shall take place on the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday before the day referred to in subsection 1 or 2 as the case may be. The royal decree shall be published at the latest six months before the day referred to in subsection 1 or 2.

- **Section F 2**

In the event of the dissolution of the House of Representatives, nominations shall take place on a date to be determined by the royal decree of dissolution.

Chapter G

Registration of the appellation and logo of a political grouping

- **Section G 1**

1. A political grouping which is an association having full legal capacity may submit a request in writing to the central electoral committee for an election to the House of Representatives to enter the appellation by which it wishes to be known on the list of candidates for that election in a register kept by the central electoral committee. Requests received or supplemented as referred to in section 4:5, subsection 1 of the General Administrative Law Act after the forty-second day before nomination day shall be disregarded for the purpose of the next election.
2. A deposit of EUR 450, or in the case of a grouping whose seat is located by virtue of its constitution in Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba a deposit of USD 450, shall be paid to the State for the registration referred to in subsection 1. The person who makes the payment shall be given proof of payment. The deposit shall be returned to him after a valid list of candidates has been filed for the next election following the decision on the request.
3. The following shall be filed with the request:
 - a. a copy of the notarial instrument containing the association's charter;
 - b. the proof of payment referred to in subsection 2;
 - c. a declaration by the political grouping designating its authorised agent and deputy agent at the central electoral committee, which shall apply until it is replaced by another.
4. The central electoral committee shall refuse the request only if:
 - a. the appellation is contrary to public policy;
 - b. the appellation is identical or largely similar to the previously registered appellation of another political grouping or to an appellation for which a request for registration was previously received pursuant to this section, so that there is a risk of confusion;
 - c. the appellation is misleading for the voters in some other way;
 - d. the appellation contains more than 35 letters or other characters;
 - e. the appellation is identical or largely similar to that of a legal person which has been banned by final decision of a court and has therefore been dissolved;

- f. the request was received by the central electoral committee on the same day as another request for registration of an identical or largely similar appellation, unless this other request must be refused on one of the grounds referred to at (a) to (e) above.
 - 5. Notice of the decision of the central electoral committee on the request shall be given to the agent and in the Government Gazette.
 - 6. A political grouping whose appellation has been registered may submit a request in writing to the central electoral committee for the appellation to be amended. The last sentence of subsection 1 and subsections 4 and 5 apply *mutatis mutandis* to requests for amendment.
 - 7. The central electoral committee shall cancel the appellation in the register and give notice of this in the Government Gazette if:
 - a. the political grouping has ceased to exist;
 - b. the political grouping has made a request to this effect;
 - c. the political grouping has been banned as an association by final decision of a court and has therefore been dissolved;
 - d. no valid list of candidates was submitted for the previous election to the House of Representatives.
 - 8. On the fortieth day before nominations for an election to the provincial council, the governing board or the municipal council, the central electoral committee shall give notice in the Government Gazette of the appellations of political groupings registered by it, in so far as such registration is final, and of the names of the agents and their deputies.
 - 9. The central electoral committee shall destroy the request and the documents submitted along with it, as referred to in subsection 3, as soon as the cancellation of the appellation of the political grouping is final. The declaration referred to in subsection 3 (c) shall also be destroyed if it is replaced by another.
- **Section G 1a**
 - 1. A political grouping may submit a request in writing to the central electoral committee for an election to the House of Representatives to add its logo to the register referred to in section G 1 of the Elections Act. Requests received or supplemented as referred to in section 4:5, subsection 1 of the General Administrative Law Act after the forty-second day before nomination day shall be disregarded for the purpose of the next election.
- 2. The central electoral committee shall refuse the request only if:
 - a. the appellation of the political grouping has not been registered with that central electoral committee or, if applicable, a previously submitted request for registration of the appellation is refused;
 - b. the logo is contrary to public policy;
 - c. the logo is identical or largely similar to the previously registered logo of another political grouping or to a logo for which a request for registration was previously received pursuant to this section, so that there is a risk of confusion;
 - d. the logo is misleading for the voters in some other way;
 - e. the logo is identical or largely similar to that of a legal person which has been banned by final decision of a court and has therefore been dissolved;
 - f. the request was received by the central electoral committee on the same day as another request for registration of an identical or largely similar logo, unless this other request must be refused on one of the grounds referred to at (a) to (e) above.
 - 3. Notice of the decision of the central electoral committee on the request shall be given to the agent and in the Government Gazette.
 - 4. A political grouping whose logo has been added to the register may submit a request in writing to the central electoral committee for the logo to be changed. The last sentence of subsection 1 and subsections 2 and 3 apply *mutatis mutandis* to requests for change.
 - 5. The central electoral committee shall cancel the logo of a political grouping if it cancels the appellation of this political grouping or at the request of this political grouping.
 - 6. Further rules may be laid down by order in council on the way in which a logo shall be submitted.
- **Section G 2**
 - 1. A political grouping which is an association having full legal capacity and whose appellation has not already been registered with the central electoral committee for an election to the House of Representatives may submit a written request to the central electoral committee for elections to the provincial council to enter the appellation by which it wishes to be known on the list of candidates for that election in a register kept by the central electoral committee. Requests received or supplemented as referred to in section 4:5, subsection 1 of the General Administrative Law Act

- after the forty-second day before nomination day shall be disregarded for the purpose of the next election.
2. A deposit of EUR 225, or in the case of a grouping whose seat is located by virtue of its constitution in Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba a deposit of USD 225, shall be paid to the municipality where the central electoral committee is situated for the registration referred to in subsection 1. The person who makes the payment shall be given proof of payment. The deposit shall be returned to him after a valid list of candidates has been filed for the next election following the decision on the request.
 3. The following shall be filed with the request:
 - a. a copy of the notarial instrument containing the association's charter;
 - b. the proof of payment referred to in subsection 2;
 - c. a declaration by the political grouping designating its authorised agent and deputy agent at the central electoral committee, which shall apply until it is replaced by another.
 4. The central electoral committee shall refuse the request only if:
 - a. the appellation is contrary to public policy;
 - b. the appellation is identical or largely similar to the appellation of another political grouping previously registered pursuant to this section or section G 1 or to an appellation for which a request for registration was previously received pursuant to this section, so that there is a risk of confusion;
 - c. the appellation is misleading for the voters in some other way;
 - d. the appellation contains more than 35 letters or other characters;
 - e. the appellation is identical or largely similar to that of a legal person which has been banned by final decision of a court and has therefore been dissolved;
 - f. the request was received by the central electoral committee on the same day as another request for registration of an identical or largely similar appellation, unless this other request must be refused on one of the grounds referred to at (a) to (e) above.
 5. Notice of the decision of the central electoral committee on the request shall be given to the agent and in the provincial gazette.
 6. A political grouping whose appellation has been registered may submit a request in writing to the central electoral committee for the appellation to be amended. The last sentence of subsection 1 and subsections 4 and 5 apply *mutatis mutandis* to requests for amendment.
 7. The central electoral committee shall cancel the appellation in the register and give notice of this in the provincial gazette if:
 - a. the political grouping has ceased to exist;
 - b. the political grouping has made a request to this effect;
 - c. the political grouping has been banned as an association by final decision of a court and has therefore been dissolved;
 - d. no valid list of candidates was submitted for the previous election to the provincial council.
 8. On the fortieth day before nominations for an election to the municipal council, the central electoral committee shall give notice in the provincial gazette of the appellations of political groupings registered by it, in so far as such registration is final, and of the names of the agents and their deputies.
 9. The central electoral committee shall destroy the request and the documents submitted along with it, as referred to in subsection 3, as soon as the cancellation of the appellation of the political grouping is final. The declaration referred to in subsection 3 (c) shall also be destroyed if it is replaced by another.
- **Section G 2a**
1. A political grouping which is an association having full legal capacity or a foundation and whose appellation has not already been registered with the central electoral committee for an election to the House of Representatives may submit a written request to the central electoral committee for elections to the governing board to enter the appellation by which it wishes to be known on the list of candidates for that election in a register kept by the central electoral committee. Requests received or supplemented as referred to in section 4:5, subsection 1 of the General Administrative Law Act after the forty-second day before nomination day shall be disregarded for the purpose of the next election.
 2. A deposit of EUR 225, or in the case of a grouping whose seat is located by virtue of its constitution in Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba a deposit of USD 225, shall be paid to the water board for the registration referred to in subsection 1. The person who makes the payment shall be given proof of payment. The deposit shall be returned to him after a valid list of candidates has been filed for the next election following the decision on the request.

3. The following shall be filed with the request:
 - a. a copy of the notarial instrument containing the association's or foundation's charter;
 - b. the proof of payment referred to in subsection 2;
 - c. a declaration by the political grouping designating its authorised agent and deputy agent at the central electoral committee, which shall apply until it is replaced by another.
4. The central electoral committee shall refuse the request only if:
 - a. the appellation is contrary to public policy;
 - b. the appellation is identical or largely similar to the appellation of another political grouping previously registered pursuant to this section or section G 1 or to an appellation for which a request for registration was previously received pursuant to this section, so that there is a risk of confusion;
 - c. the appellation is misleading for the voters in some other way;
 - d. the appellation contains more than 35 letters or other characters;
 - e. the appellation is identical or largely similar to that of a legal person which has been banned by final decision of a court and has therefore been dissolved;
 - f. the request was received by the central electoral committee on the same day as another request for registration of an identical or largely similar appellation, unless this other request is refused on one of the grounds referred to at (a) to (e) above.
5. Notice of the decision of the central electoral committee on the request shall be given to the agent and in the water board gazette.
6. A political grouping whose appellation has been registered may submit a request in writing to the central electoral committee for the appellation to be amended. The last sentence of subsection 1 and subsections 4 and 5 apply *mutatis mutandis* to requests for amendment.
7. The central electoral committee shall cancel the appellation in the register and give notice of this in the water board gazette if:
 - a. the political grouping has ceased to exist;
 - b. the political grouping has made a request to this effect;
 - c. the political grouping has been banned as an association or a foundation by final decision of a court and has therefore been dissolved;
 - d. no valid list of candidates was submitted for the previous election to the governing board.

8. The central electoral committee shall destroy the request and the documents submitted along with it, as referred to in subsection 3, as soon as the cancellation of the appellation of the political grouping is final. The declaration referred to in subsection 3 (c) shall also be destroyed if it is replaced by another.

● Section G 3

1. A political grouping which is an association having full legal capacity and whose appellation has not already been registered with the central electoral committee for elections to the House of Representatives or the provincial council may submit a written request to the central electoral committee for elections to the municipal council to enter the appellation by which it wishes to be known on the list of candidates for that election in a register kept by the central electoral committee. Requests received or supplemented as referred to in section 4:5, subsection 1 of the General Administrative Law Act after the forty-second day before nomination day shall be disregarded for the purpose of the next election.
2. A deposit of EUR 112.50 shall be paid to the municipality for the registration referred to in subsection 1. The person who makes the payment shall be given proof of payment. The deposit shall be returned to him after a valid list of candidates has been filed for the next election following the decision on the request.
3. The following shall be filed with the request:
 - a. a copy of the notarial instrument containing the association's charter;
 - b. the proof of payment referred to in subsection 2;
 - c. a declaration by the political grouping designating its authorised agent and deputy agent at the central electoral committee, which shall apply until it is replaced by another.
4. The central electoral committee shall refuse the request only if:
 - a. the appellation is contrary to public policy;
 - b. the appellation is identical or largely similar to the previously registered appellation of another political grouping or to an appellation for which a request for registration was previously received pursuant to this section or to section G 1 or G 2, so that there is a risk of confusion;
 - c. the appellation is misleading for the voters in some other way;
 - d. the appellation contains more than 35 letters or other characters;

- e. the appellation is identical or largely similar to that of a legal person which has been banned by final decision of a court and has therefore been dissolved;
 - f. the request was received by the central electoral committee on the same day as another request for registration of an identical or largely similar appellation, unless this other request must be refused on one of the grounds referred to at (a) to (e) above.
5. Notice of the decision of the central electoral committee on the request shall be given to the agent and in the municipal gazette.
 6. A political grouping whose appellation has been registered may submit a request in writing to the central electoral committee for the appellation to be amended. The last sentence of subsection 1 and subsections 4 and 5 apply *mutatis mutandis* to requests for amendment.
 7. The central electoral committee shall cancel the appellation in the register and give notice of this in the municipal gazette if:
 - a. the political grouping has ceased to exist;
 - b. the political grouping has made a request to this effect;
 - c. the political grouping has been banned as an association by final decision of a court and has therefore been dissolved;
 - d. no valid list of candidates was submitted for the previous election to the municipal council.
 8. The central electoral committee shall destroy the request and the documents submitted along with it, as referred to in subsection 3, as soon as the cancellation of the appellation of the political grouping is final. The declaration referred to in subsection 3 (c) shall also be destroyed if it is replaced by another.

• Section G 4

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection 2, a registered appellation, notice of which has been given in accordance with the provisions of section G 1, subsection 8, or section G 2, subsection 8 shall also be valid for an election to a provincial council, a governing board and a municipal council or for an election to a municipal council.
2. The central electoral committee for an election to a provincial council, a governing board or a municipal council may decide that the effect of the registration shall not be extended as referred to in subsection 1 if the registered appellation is identical or largely similar to the appellation of another political grouping

registered pursuant to section G 2, G 2a or G 3, so that there is a risk of confusion.

3. A decision as referred to in subsection 2 shall be taken no later than the fourteenth day after the date of the Government Gazette or the provincial gazette in which the notice referred to in section G 1, subsection 8 or section G 2, subsection 8 is given. A copy of the decision shall be immediately forwarded to the agent of the relevant grouping.

• Section G 5

1. Notwithstanding section 6:7 and section 6:8, subsection 1 of the General Administrative Law Act, an application for review of:
 - a. a decision as referred to in sections G 1 to G 3 shall be filed no later than the sixth day after the date of the official gazette in which notice is given of the decision;
 - b. a decision as referred to in section G 4 shall be filed no later than the sixth day after the date on which the decision is forwarded.
2. Section D 8 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

• Section G 6

1. Further rules regarding the payment of deposits for registration shall be laid down by order in council.
2. Models for the request for registration of an appellation, the request for registration of a logo, the notice to be given of the registered appellations and the names of agents and their deputies, and the proof of payment of the deposit shall be established by ministerial order.

Chapter H

Submission of lists of candidates

• Section H 1

1. Lists of candidates may be submitted to the central electoral committee between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on nomination day.
2. At least three weeks before nomination day the central electoral committee shall give notice of when and where lists of candidates and the accompanying documents may be submitted. In the case of elections to the House of Representatives, a provincial council, a governing board or a municipal council, notice shall be given in the Government Gazette, the provincial gazette, the water board gazette or the municipal gazette.

3. When and where forms for the lists of candidates may be obtained, free of charge, by voters shall be regulated by order in council. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.

- **Section H 2**

A list of candidates shall include the name of the electoral district or districts for which it is being submitted.

- **Section H 3**

1. The list shall be submitted in person by a voter qualified to take part in the relevant election. The person concerned shall present an identity document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act. The candidates may be present when the list is submitted.
2. The person submitting the list may be authorised by the agent referred to in subsection 3 of section G 1, G 2, G 2a or G 3 to place at the top of the list the appellation of the relevant grouping as registered by the central electoral committee. A declaration by the agent evidencing this authorisation shall be submitted with the list.
3. The person submitting the list shall be qualified to place at the top of it an appellation formed by a combination of the appellations or abbreviations thereof registered for the relevant election, if he has been empowered to do so by the agents of the various groupings. A declaration evidencing this power shall be submitted with the list. An appellation formed in this way may not contain more than 35 letters or other characters.
4. The person who has submitted the list shall receive proof thereof.
5. When and where forms for the declarations relating to the placing of appellations of political groupings at the top of lists of candidates may be obtained, free of charge, shall be regulated by order in council. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.

- **Section H 4**

1. For each electoral district for which a list is submitted, the list shall be accompanied by written declarations of support, listing the candidates in the same way and in the same order as on the list. The minimum number of declarations of support shall be:
 - a. for electoral district 20 (Bonaire): 10;
 - b. for an electoral district in an election to a municipal council with fewer than 19 seats to be allocated: 10;

- c. for an electoral district in an election to a municipal council with fewer than 39 seats but at least 19 to be allocated: 20;
 - d. for all other electoral districts: 30.
2. Declarations of support for an electoral district may be made only by persons registered as voters for the relevant election in that electoral district.
3. A voter who wishes to make a declaration of support shall, no more than 14 days before, or on, nomination day, sign the declaration at the offices of the municipality where he is registered as a voter, in the presence of the mayor or a municipal official designated by him for this purpose. The voter shall hand the mayor or the municipal official a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act.
4. The mayor or the municipal official designated by him for this purpose shall immediately check whether the voter is registered in his municipality. If this proves to be the case, he shall note it on the declaration.
5. A voter may not sign more than one declaration of support.
6. Once submitted, a declaration of support may not be retracted.
7. When and where forms for declarations of support may be obtained, free of charge, by voters shall be regulated by order in council. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.
8. The obligation referred to in subsection 1 does not apply to a list of candidates of a political grouping whose appellation was placed at the top of a list of candidates to which one or more seats were awarded at the last election to the relevant representative assembly. The previous sentence shall also apply to:
 - a. a combination of appellations of two or more groupings, if one or more seats were awarded at the last election to the relevant assembly, either to the groupings jointly or to at least one of them;
 - b. a new appellation if two or more groupings are participating in the election as a single grouping under a new name and each of the individual groupings was awarded one or more seats at the last election to the relevant assembly;
 - c. a new appellation if two or more groupings are participating in the election as a single grouping under a new name and participated under a combined appellation with a joint list and one or more seats were awarded to them at the last election to the relevant assembly.

- **Section H 5**

One or more persons shall be mentioned on the list who are qualified, in the absence of the person submitting it, to rectify any omissions as referred to section I 2.

- **Section H 6**

1. The names of the candidates shall be placed on the lists in the order in which preference is given to them.
2. No one list may include the names of more than fifty candidates. In the case of a political grouping whose appellation was placed at the top of a list of candidates to which more than fifteen seats were awarded at the last election to the relevant representative assembly, the number of names on one list may not exceed eighty. The provisions of the previous sentence apply *mutatis mutandis* to cases in which the appellations of two or more groupings are combined.

- **Section H 7**

1. The name of a candidate may not appear on a list if the candidate will not attain the age required for membership of the relevant assembly during the term of office of the assembly to which the election is being held.
2. The name of a candidate may not appear on more than one of the lists submitted for the same electoral district.
3. If, in the case of an election to a provincial council, governing board or municipal council, the name of a candidate who is not a resident of the province, water board district or municipality appears on a list, a declaration signed by that candidate and showing that, if appointed, he intends to take up residence in the relevant province, water board district or municipality shall be submitted with the list.

- **Section H 8**

The way in which candidates are described on the list shall be regulated by order in council.

- **Section H 9**

1. A written declaration shall be submitted with the list by each candidate appearing on the list that he consents to his nomination on the list for the electoral district or districts for which it is submitted. The declaration shall include the address where the candidate wishes to receive notification of his appointment, as referred to in section V 1, unless an agent as referred to in section H 10, subsection 1 or section H 10a, subsection 1 is designated.

2. Once submitted, a declaration of consent may not be retracted.

3. The list shall be accompanied by a copy of a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act for every candidate who is not a member of the representative assembly for which the election is being held. In the absence of a copy of a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act for any such candidate, the declaration of consent of the candidate concerned shall be deemed not to have been submitted.
4. When and where forms for declarations of consent may be obtained, free of charge, by voters shall be regulated by order in council. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.

- **Section H 10**

1. A candidate whose place of residence is situated outside the European part of the Netherlands shall, in the declaration of consent, also designate an agent resident in the European part of the Netherlands, stating the latter's name, initials and address. If the candidate appears on more than one list, the same agent must be designated in each declaration. This agent shall be empowered, in the candidate's place, to perform the procedures referred to in section V 2, subsections 1, 4 and 5, section V 3, subsections 1 and 3, and section W 2, subsection 1 (f). If the candidate's place of residence is situated in one of the public bodies Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba, the agent is empowered, in the candidate's place, to perform the procedures referred to in section V 2, subsections 1, 4 and 5, section V 3, subsections 1 and 2, and section W 2, subsection 1 (f).
2. A candidate shall be entitled to cancel an authorisation given in accordance with subsection 1. He shall notify the chairperson of the central electoral committee of this in writing, if necessary designating a new agent. If no new agent is designated, the candidate shall state the address where he wishes to receive notification of his appointment as referred to in section V 1.

- **Section H 10a**

1. In the case of an election to the House of Representatives or a provincial council in a province with more than one electoral district, a candidate resident in the European part of the Netherlands may designate, in the declaration of consent, an agent resident in the European part of the Netherlands, stating the latter's name, initials and address. If the

candidate appears on more than one list, the same agent shall be named in each declaration. The agent is empowered, in the candidate's place, to perform the procedures referred to in section V 2, subsections 1, 4 and 5, section V 3, subsections 1 and 2, and section W 2, subsection 1 (f).

2. This authorisation may be used only to ensure that candidates on the political grouping's joint lists are declared appointed in the order established by the said grouping before polling day.
3. If an appointment precedes the first meeting of the newly-elected assembly, the authorisation may not be used for candidates who have obtained a number of votes on the joint lists on which they appear which exceeds 25% of the electoral quota.
4. The political grouping shall communicate the order referred to in subsection 2 to the central electoral committee no later than two weeks after nomination day. The chairperson of the central electoral committee shall ensure that notice of the order is given in the Government Gazette or, in the case of an election to a provincial council, in the provincial gazette as soon as possible.
5. Section H 10, subsection 2 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

● Section H 11

1. Lists of candidates submitted for different electoral districts on which the same candidates appear in the same number and the same order shall together form a set of identical lists.
2. Lists of candidates submitted for different electoral districts at the top of which the same appellation of a political grouping appears shall together form a group of lists. The provisions of the previous sentence shall also apply to cases in which the appellations of two or more groupings are combined.

● Section H 12

1. If the election is to the House of Representatives, a deposit of EUR 11,250 – or, if the appellation of a grouping whose seat is located by virtue of its constitution in Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba appears at the top of the list of candidates, or if no appellation appears at the top of the list of candidates and the first candidate on the list is a resident of Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba, a deposit of USD 11,250 – shall be paid to the State for each group of lists, each set of identical lists not forming part of a group and each separate list.
2. Section H 4, subsection 8 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

3. The person who made the payment referred to in subsection 1 shall receive proof thereof. The proof must be submitted whenever a list is submitted for one or more electoral districts.
4. If no valid list is submitted, the State shall return the deposit to the person who paid it, after the result of the election has been determined.
5. After the result of the election has been determined by the central electoral committee, the deposit shall be returned to the person who paid it, unless the total number of votes cast for the group of lists, the set of identical lists not forming part of a group or the separate list is lower than 75 per cent of the electoral quota referred to in section P 5. In that case the deposit shall be forfeited to the State.

● Section H 13

1. In the case of an election to a provincial council, a deposit of EUR 1,125 – or, if the appellation of a grouping whose seat is located by virtue of its constitution in Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba appears at the top of the list of candidates, or if no appellation appears at the top of the list and the first candidate on the list is a resident of Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba, a deposit of USD 1,125 – shall be paid to the municipality where the central electoral committee is located for each group of lists, each set of identical lists not forming part of a group and each separate list.
2. Section H 4, subsection 8 applies *mutatis mutandis*.
3. The person who made the payment referred to in subsection 1 shall receive proof thereof. The proof must be submitted whenever a list is submitted for one or more electoral districts.
4. If no valid list is submitted, the municipality where the central electoral committee is located shall return the deposit to the person who paid it, after the result of the election has been determined.
5. After the result of the election has been determined by the central electoral committee, the deposit shall be returned to the person who paid it, unless the total vote of the group of lists, the set of identical lists not forming part of a group or the separate list is lower than 75 per cent of the electoral quota referred to in section P 5. In that case the deposit shall be forfeited to the municipality where the central electoral committee is located.

- **Section H 13a**

1. In the case of an election to a governing board, a deposit of EUR 225 shall be paid to the water board for each list.
2. Section H 4, subsection 8 applies *mutatis mutandis*.
3. The person who made the payment referred to in subsection 1 shall receive proof thereof. This proof must be submitted with the list.
4. If no valid list is submitted, the water board shall return the deposit to the person who paid it, after the result of the election has been determined.
5. After the result of the election has been determined by the central electoral committee, the deposit shall be returned to the person who paid it as soon as possible, unless the total vote for the list is lower than 75 per cent of the electoral quota referred to in section P 5 and no seat was allocated to the list. In that case the deposit shall be forfeited to the water board.

- **Section H 14**

1. In the case of an election to a municipal council, a deposit of EUR 225 shall be paid to the municipality for each list.
2. Section H 4, subsection 8 applies *mutatis mutandis*.
3. The person who made the payment referred to in subsection 1 shall receive proof thereof. This proof must be submitted with the list.
4. If no valid list is submitted, the municipality shall return the deposit to the person who paid it, after the result of the election has been determined.
5. After the result of the election has been determined by the central electoral committee, the deposit shall be returned to the person who paid it, unless the total vote for the list is lower than 75 per cent of the electoral quota referred to in section P 5 and no seat was allocated to the list. In that case the deposit shall be forfeited to the municipality.

- **Section H 15**

Further rules regarding the payment of deposits for the lists of candidates shall be made by order in council. Models for the proof of payment of the deposit shall be established by ministerial order.

- **Section H 16**

Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data by the central electoral committee under or pursuant to this chapter.

Chapter I

The examination, numbering and publication of the lists of candidates

§ 1. Examination of the lists of candidates

- **Section I 1**

1. At 16.00 hours on the day after nomination day, the central electoral committee shall meet to examine the lists of candidates for each electoral district for which they have been submitted.
2. If the circumstances referred to in section H 7, subsection 3 occur during the examination of a list of candidates for elections to provincial councils, the central electoral committee shall immediately report this to the central electoral committee for the election to the council of the province of which the person in question is a resident. If the latter central electoral committee receives two or more reports as referred to above regarding a single person, it shall notify the central electoral committee from which it received the reports.
3. Subsection 2 applies *mutatis mutandis* to elections to governing boards and municipal councils.

- **Section I 2**

1. If one or more of the following omissions are discovered during the examination of a list of candidates for an electoral district, the central electoral committee shall immediately notify the person who submitted the list, by registered letter or receipted delivery, that:
 - a. if declarations of support had to be submitted with the list, the minimum number referred to in section H 4, subsection 1 for this electoral district has not been submitted, not including declarations which do not satisfy the provisions of section H 4, subsection 1, first sentence, and subsection 2, declarations which do not contain a note as referred to in section H 4, subsection 4, and declarations by a voter who has signed more than one declaration;
 - b. in the circumstances referred to in section H 7, subsection 3, there is no declaration that, if appointed, the candidate intends to take up residence in the relevant province, water board district or municipality;

- c. a candidate has not been described in accordance with the provisions laid down pursuant to section H 8;
 - d. there is no declaration that the candidate consents to his nomination on the list for this electoral district;
 - e. a candidate whose place of residence is situated outside the European part of the Netherlands has not designated an agent in his declaration of consent;
 - f. if a deposit must be paid for the list, there is no proof of payment;
 - g. the list was not submitted personally by a voter qualified to take part in the relevant election;
 - h. the person concerned did not present an identity document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act;
 - i. there is no declaration as referred to in section H 3, subsection 2 or 3.
2. Within two days of the meeting referred to in section I 1, subsection 1, the person who submitted the list may rectify the omission or omissions specified in the notification at the offices of the central electoral committee between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on both days.
 3. In the case referred to in subsection 1 (a), voters may make declarations of support during the time allowed for rectifying the omission.
 4. In the case referred to in subsection 1 (f), the deposit may still be paid during the time allowed for rectifying the omission.
 5. In the case referred to in subsection 1 (g), a voter who would have been qualified to submit the list may, during the time allowed for rectifying the omission, by appearing in person at the offices of the central electoral committee, take the place of the unqualified person; the former shall present an identity document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act. The provisions of the preceding sentence apply *mutatis mutandis* if, in the case of point h, the person submitting the list fails to present proof of identity during the time allowed for rectifying the omission.
 6. If the person who submitted the list is absent or unable to be present, a replacement mentioned on the list as referred to in section H 5 shall take his place.
- **Section I 3**
Immediately after the lists have been examined by the central electoral committee, they and, if required, the

declarations of support shall be deposited for public inspection at the offices of the central electoral committee until a final decision has been taken on the validity of the lists submitted.

- **Section I 4**

On the day after the period referred to in section I 2, subsection 2, the central electoral committee shall decide, at a public meeting starting at 17.00 hours, on the validity of the lists for each electoral district for which they have been submitted and on whether the candidates appearing on the list and the appellation of a political grouping at the top of it can be allowed to stand. It shall make this decision known at the meeting.

- **Section I 5**

A list for an electoral district shall be invalid if:

- a. it is not submitted to the central electoral committee between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on nomination day;
- b. where a deposit must be paid for the list, no proof of payment was submitted with the list;
- c. where declarations of support must be submitted with the list, the minimum number of valid declarations referred to in section H 4, subsection 1 for this electoral district was not submitted;
- d. it does not comply with the model established by ministerial order;
- e. it was not personally submitted by a voter qualified to take part in the relevant election;
- f. the person submitting it did not present an identity document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act;
- g. all the candidates have been struck off it pursuant to section I 6.

- **Section I 6**

1. The central electoral committee shall strike from the list for an electoral district, in the order indicated in this subsection, the name of a candidate:
 - a. who has not been described in accordance with the provisions laid down pursuant to section H 8;
 - b. whose declaration as submitted does not show that he consents to his nomination for the list for this electoral district;
 - c. whose place of residence is situated outside the European part of the Netherlands, if no agent has been designated;
 - d. who will not attain the age required for membership of the assembly for which the election is being held during its forthcoming term of office;

- e. who is not, in the case of an election to a provincial council, governing board or municipal council, a resident of the relevant province, water board district or municipality and for whom there is no declaration that, if appointed, he intends to take up residence in the said province, water board district or municipality;
 - f. who has declared that if appointed he intends to take up residence in the province, water board district or municipality, but who is also discovered to have made a similar declaration for an election to a council of a different province, a governing board of a different water board district or a council of a different municipality;
 - g. who appears on more than one of the lists submitted for this electoral district;
 - h. in respect of whom an extract from the register of deaths or a copy of a death certificate has been submitted;
 - i. who appears on the list after the maximum number of names permitted.
2. The central electoral committee shall strike from the list for an electoral district, in the order indicated in this subsection, the appellation of a political grouping, if:
 - a. there is no declaration as referred to in section H 3, subsection 2 or 3;
 - b. the appellation appears at the top of more than one of the lists submitted for the same electoral district.
 3. If the appellation of a political grouping does not correspond with that under which it has been registered, the central electoral committee shall alter it *ex proprio motu* to make it so correspond.
- **Section I 7**
 1. Notwithstanding section 8:1 of the General Administrative Law Act, any interested party or any voter may apply for judicial review of a decision as referred to in section I 4. Notwithstanding section 6:7 of the General Administrative Law Act, the time limit for lodging an application for review shall be four days.
 2. Section D 8 applies *mutatis mutandis*.
 3. The Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State shall give judgment no later than the sixth day after the application for review has been received.
 4. If the judgment of the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State declares the application for review well founded, it shall substitute its judgment for the decision that has been set aside.
 5. The president of the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State shall immediately notify

the parties and the chairperson of the central electoral committee of the judgment.

- **Section I 8**

1. If an appeal has been lodged against a decision in which the central electoral committee has declared a list for an electoral district invalid or has deleted the name of a candidate or the appellation of a political grouping on grounds of one or more of the defects as listed in section I 2(1), without the central electoral committee having given advance notice, in accordance with the provisions of that section, of the existence thereof to the person who had submitted the list, such person or a person as referred to in section H 5 may still remedy the defect or defects before the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State. Section I 2(3) to (6) inclusive will apply *mutatis mutandis*.
2. If an omission has been rectified in accordance with subsection 1, the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State shall take this into account in its judgment.

- **Section I 9**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

§ 2. The merging of lists of candidates to form a combined list

- **Section I 10**

[Repealed on 1 December 2017]

- **Section I 11**

[Repealed on 1 December 2017]

§ 3. The numbering of the lists of candidates

- **Section I 12**

The central electoral committee shall number the lists of candidates that it has declared valid at the meeting referred to in section I 4 and shall make that decision known at the meeting.

- **Section I 13**

For numbering purposes, groups of lists and sets of identical lists not forming part of a group shall be treated as single lists.

- **Section I 14**

1. The first lists to be numbered shall be those of political groupings whose appellation appeared at the top of a list of candidates to which one or more seats were allocated at the last election to the relevant representative assembly. These lists shall be numbered from 1 onwards in the order of the total votes cast for them at that election, provided that the number 1 is given to the list of the grouping with the most votes. In the event of a tied vote, the matter shall be determined by lot.
2. Subsection 1 applies *mutatis mutandis* to the cases referred to in section H 4, subsection 8 (a), (b) and (c). In the cases referred to in section H 4, subsection 8 (a) and (b), where one or more seats were allocated to at least one of the groupings in question, the number of votes cast for the lists of the groupings to which the seats were allocated shall be added together for the purposes of the provisions of the second sentence.
3. The numbers following those assigned by virtue of subsection 1 shall then be assigned to the remaining lists in the order of the number of electoral districts to which the list applies, provided that the next number is assigned to the list for the most electoral districts. Where the number of electoral districts is the same, the matter shall be decided by lot.

- **Section I 15**

Immediately after the numbering has taken place, the chairperson shall announce the numbers assigned to the various lists.

- **Section I 16**

1. If a judgment by the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State declares a list of candidates to be invalid, that shall not affect the numbers assigned to the other lists of candidates.
2. If a judgment by the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State declares a list of candidates to be valid, the Division shall assign to that list, if it has not been numbered, the number following the last number assigned pursuant to section I 14 and, where applicable, by an earlier judgment of the Division.

§ 4. Publication of the lists of candidates

- **Section I 17**

1. After a final decision has been taken on the validity of the lists submitted, the central electoral committee shall publish the lists as quickly as possible.
2. Publication shall be effected:
 - a. if the election is to the House of Representatives or to the council of a province with more than one electoral district, by placing the lists, arranged according to the electoral districts and with a note of their numbers and, where appropriate, the appellations of the political groupings, in the Government Gazette; and
 - b. if the election is to the council of a province which forms a single electoral district, a governing board or a municipal council, by placing the lists, with a note of their numbers and, where appropriate, the appellations of the political groupings, in the provincial gazette, the water board gazette or the municipal gazette.

§ 5. Concluding provisions

- **Section I 18**

1. An official report shall be drawn up of the meetings referred to in sections I 1 and I 4. The report shall be available for public inspection.
2. The central electoral committee shall also immediately make the official reports publicly available by electronic means, omitting any signatures.
3. Those present at the meeting referred to in section I 4 may make verbal objections. Mention of these objections and of the response of the central electoral committee shall be made in the official report.
4. The following shall be regulated by order in council:
 - a. the place where official reports are to be deposited for inspection;
 - b. the announcement of the time and place of the meeting referred to in section I 4.
5. Model official reports shall be established by ministerial order.

- **Section I 19**

The central electoral committee shall destroy the lists of candidates and the corresponding documents submitted, with the exception of the declarations of consent submitted, after the result has been determined. An official report shall be drawn up of their destruction.

- **Section I 20**

Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data by the central electoral committee under or pursuant to this chapter.

Chapter J Voting

§ 1. General provisions

- **Section J 1**

1. Voting shall take place on the forty-fourth day after nomination day. If section F 1, subsection 3 is applied, it may be determined by the royal decree referred to in that section that polling day shall fall on a day after the forty-fourth day after nomination day, provided that polling day is not moved back by more than the number of days by which nomination day was moved forward.
2. Voting shall start at 07.30 hours and continue until 21.00 hours.

- **Section J 1a**

1. If required for an electoral committee due to the location where the committee is in session, the municipal executive may decide that voting at the polling station in question shall start earlier or later than 07.30 hours and continue until a time earlier than 21.00 hours. The mayor shall give notice of these times in the municipal gazette at least fourteen days before polling day.
2. Polling stations as referred to in subsection 1 must be open for an uninterrupted period of at least eight hours on polling day.
3. In polling stations as referred to in subsection 1 the count shall take place at a location and time to be determined and announced by the municipal executive, but not before 21.00 hours. The location and the time of the count shall be announced in the notice referred to in subsection 1.
4. If an electoral committee as referred to in subsection 1 does not commence the count immediately after polling, the electoral committee shall state in the official report the number referred to in section J 25, subsection 9 and the numbers referred to in section K 11, subsection 2 and section L 17, subsection 3 in conjunction with section J 25, subsection 9.

5. Further rules on the provisions of subsections 3 and 4 may be laid down by order in council.

- **Section J 2**

In each electoral district votes shall be cast for the candidates whose names appear on the lists of candidates declared valid for that electoral district.

- **Section J 3**

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

- **Section J 4**

1. The municipal executive shall designate a suitable polling station for each electoral committee. Further rules on this may be made by order in council. The mayor shall give voters notice of the polling stations' addresses in a manner to be determined by order in council.
2. The municipal executive shall ensure that all of the municipality's polling stations are situated, equipped and furnished in such a way that voters with physical disabilities can cast their vote without assistance as far as possible.
3. If the municipal executive fails to comply with subsection 2, it shall inform the municipal council of the reason for the same.
4. At the request of the municipal executive, the boards of private schools shall make available suitable rooms, and the furniture they contain, for use as polling stations, if appropriate in return for payment of the expenses incurred.
5. The mayor shall be responsible for equipping the polling station and shall if necessary designate persons to assist the electoral committee.

- **Section J 4a**

1. A municipal executive may designate mobile polling stations in its municipality. The mayor shall give notice of such designation in the municipal gazette at least fourteen days before polling day.
2. The municipal executive shall determine the times during which the mobile polling stations will be open and the locations at which they will be stationed on polling day. The times and locations shall be included in the notice referred to in subsection 1.
3. Before a polling station as referred to in subsection 1 moves to a different location, the slot in the ballot box shall be closed and sealed by the chairperson of the electoral committee within sight of the persons present. During the move to the next location, the

chairperson shall hold the key with which the ballot box was locked. When the mobile polling station arrives at its new location, the ballot box shall be opened by the chairperson within sight of the persons present.

4. Section J 1, subsection 4 applies *mutatis mutandis*.
5. Section J 1a, subsections 4 and 5 apply *mutatis mutandis* to the location where the electoral committee was most recently in session for polling.

- **Section J 5**

1. Except in the cases referred to in Chapters K, L and M, voters shall cast their votes in a polling station of their choosing that is situated in the municipality where they were registered to vote on nomination day and that is situated in the area governed by the assembly for which the election is being held.
2. The municipal executive may decide that voters may vote in one or more polling stations situated in the municipality but outside the area governed by the assembly for which the election is being held.

- **Section J 6**

The municipal council may decide that another poll called by the municipal council shall be held in the polling station at the same time as voting is taking place in the polling station.

- **Section J 6a**

Polls in an election to the provincial council and an election to the governing board shall take place in the same polling stations.

- **Section J 6b**

Regulations governing combined polls as referred to in sections J 6 and J 6a shall be made by or pursuant to order in council.

§ 2. Voting pass

- **Section J 7**

1. The day after nomination day, for the purpose of personalising the voting passes the mayor shall establish the details of the persons registered as voters in the municipality and qualified to vote on nomination day.
2. At least fourteen days before polling day each voter referred to in subsection 1 shall receive a voting pass from the mayor of the municipality where he is

registered as a voter. Every voting pass shall bear a serial number.

3. Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations shall establish a model for the voting pass by ministerial order.
4. Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations shall provide the municipal council with the information needed to produce the voting pass in good time before the election.
5. Section 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation does not apply to the processing of personal data under or pursuant to the first sentence of this section.

- **Section J 7a**

1. There shall be a register of invalid voting passes. The day before polling day, the mayor shall produce an extract from the register listing the invalid voting passes in his municipality.
2. A voting pass shall be invalid if:
 - a. a voter's pass or certificate of authorisation has been issued by the mayor in its stead;
 - b. it has been replaced by a new voting pass pursuant to section J 8;
 - c. its holder has been issued with a postal vote certificate pursuant to Chapter M;
 - d. its holder should not be registered as a voter or has died before casting his vote;
 - e. it has been established that the voting pass has been stolen or is otherwise unlawfully in circulation.
3. The details to be contained in the register and the extract as referred to in subsection 1 shall be determined by or pursuant to order in council.
4. The mayor shall keep the register for three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected. He shall then destroy the register immediately. An official report shall be drawn up of its destruction.
5. Sections 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data under or pursuant to this section.

- **Section J 8**

1. A voter who is qualified to take part in the election but whose voting pass has been mislaid or who has not received a pass shall, at his request, be issued with or sent a new voting pass by the mayor.
2. A voter shall make a written or verbal request to this effect to the mayor.
3. The written request must be received on or before the fifth day prior to the day of the vote. The oral request

will be made on or before the day of the vote at 12:00 noon. These terms will be stated on the voting pass.

4. When requesting a new voting pass the applicant shall provide a copy of a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act.
5. No new voting pass shall be issued to persons whose original voting pass is invalid on the basis of section J 7a, subsection 2 (a), (c), (d) and (e).

- **Section J 9**

The mayor shall bring the lists of candidates to the attention of the voters in a manner to be determined by order in council. Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data under or pursuant to this section.

- **Section J 10**

Every employer is obliged to ensure that all the voters in his employ have an opportunity to cast their votes if they cannot do so outside fixed working hours and provided that the voters are not as a result prevented from working for more than two hours.

§ 3. The electoral committee

- **Section J 11**

1. The chairperson and the members of the electoral committee and the persons who assist the electoral committee at its polling station who are taking part in the election in a different municipality to the one in which they are registered to vote may, if they are eligible to vote for the assembly for which the election is being held, cast their votes either at the polling station in question or, if they so choose, at a polling station within the municipality in which they are registered to vote.
2. The casting of their votes shall be mentioned in the official report.
3. This section does not apply to municipal council elections.

- **Section J 12**

1. The chairperson and two members of the electoral committee shall always be present while the polling station is open.
2. The electoral committee shall decide who is to act as the second and third members of the electoral committee.

3. In the absence of the chairperson, the second member shall act as chairperson, and in his absence the third member.
4. In the absence of a member, his place shall be taken by an alternate member designated by or on behalf of the municipal executive.
5. If no alternate member is available, the chairperson shall request one of the persons whom he considers suitable and who is present at the polling station to act as such until one does become available.
6. The changes in the composition of the electoral committee and the time of the changes shall be noted in the official report.

- **Section J 13**

If there is a tied vote when the electoral committee takes a decision, the chairperson shall have the casting vote.

- **Section J 13a**

1. During polling, the members of the electoral committee may decide on a different division of the duties assigned to them pursuant to this Act.
2. Subsection 1 does not apply to the duties referred to in sections J 37 and J 38.

- **Section J 14**

The members of the electoral committee shall give no indication of their political convictions while carrying out their duties.

§ 4. The equipping of the polling station

- **Section J 15**

The polling station shall be equipped in such a way as to ensure that votes are cast in secret.

- **Section J 16**

1. The polling station shall contain a table for the electoral committee and one or more ballot boxes and polling booths.
2. The entrance to the polling booths must be visible to the public.
3. Each polling booth shall contain a set of instructions for the voter. A model for the instructions shall be established by ministerial order.
4. The table for the electoral committee shall be placed in such a way that the persons present in the polling station can observe the activities of the electoral committee.

- **Section J 17**

1. The extract from the register of invalid voting passes shall be placed on the table in front of the electoral committee. The mayor shall ensure that every electoral committee has a copy of the extract.
2. Each electoral committee shall have a copy of the statutory regulations governing voting.

- **Section J 18**

1. The ballot box, manufactured in accordance with regulations laid down by order in council shall be visible to and shall be within the reach of the member of the electoral committee responsible for the task referred to in section J 26, subsection 3.
2. The electoral committee shall close the ballot box well before the start of polling, after having made sure that it is empty.

- **Section J 19**

Further rules governing the equipping of the polling station may be made by order in council.

§ 5. Ballot papers

- **Section J 20**

1. Using ballot papers to be used for the election, voters may make a choice from the candidates for whom votes may be cast. The ballot papers shall bear the name of the representative assembly for which the election is being held and an indication of the electoral district.
2. A model for the ballot papers shall be established by ministerial order.

- **Section J 21**

The mayor shall ensure that sufficient ballot papers and official report forms are available at each polling station in his municipality before the start of polling. Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data under or pursuant to this section.

- **Section J 22**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

- **Section J 23**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

§ 6. Voting procedure

- **Section J 24**

1. A person may vote only if he is entitled to do so and provided:
 - a. the chairperson of the electoral committee has established the person's identity on the basis of a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act;
 - b. he is in possession of the voting pass sent to him or issued to him pursuant to section J 8, or a voter's pass or certificate of authorisation.
2. The verification of identity referred to in subsection 1 (a) may also take place by a written confirmation of the relevant authority of the loss having been reported, in accordance with section 5a of the Passport Act, together with a document containing the name and a photograph of the voter.

- **Section J 25**

1. The voter shall hand the identity document referred to in section J 24, subsection 1 (a) and the voting pass to the chairperson of the electoral committee.
2. If the chairperson establishes that the voter does not possess a valid identity document, the voter shall not be allowed to vote.
3. If, in the opinion of the chairperson, the voter is in possession of a valid identity document, the chairperson shall check the authenticity of the voting pass.
4. If the electoral committee establishes that the voting pass is not authentic, the chairperson shall retain it and the voter shall not be allowed to vote.
5. If the voting pass is authentic, the second member of the electoral committee shall check whether the serial number on the voting pass appears in the extract from the register of invalid voting passes referred to in section J 7a, second sentence. If the serial number does appear in the extract, the second member of the electoral committee shall retain the voting pass and the voter shall not be allowed to vote.
6. If the serial number on the voting pass does not appear in the extract from the register of invalid voting passes, the chairperson shall check whether the details in the identity document correspond to those on the voting pass. If the chairperson establishes that this is not the case, the voter shall not be allowed to vote.
7. If the voter is in possession of both a valid identity document and a valid voting pass, and the identity details in the two documents correspond, the second

member of the electoral committee shall retain the voting pass and the voter shall be allowed to vote. In so far as this act constitutes processing of personal data as referred to in section 4 of the General Data Protection Regulation as a result of a new poll as referred to in section V 6, subsection 2, sections 15, 16 and 18 of that Regulation do not apply.

8. The chairperson shall then hand the voter a ballot paper.
9. The chairperson shall keep a record of the number of valid voting passes submitted.
10. The electoral committee shall render unusable any voting passes that have been retained pursuant to this section on the grounds that they are invalid or not authentic.

- **Section J 26**

1. After receiving the ballot paper, the voter shall proceed to a polling booth and cast his vote there by colouring red a white spot opposite the name of the candidate of his choice.
2. He shall then fold the ballot paper and take it to the electoral committee.
3. The third member of the electoral committee shall ensure that the voter puts the ballot paper into the ballot box.

- **Section J 27**

1. If a voter makes a mistake when completing his ballot paper, he shall return it to the chairperson. The latter shall then provide him once, at his request, with a new ballot paper.
2. The returned ballot papers shall be immediately rendered unusable by the chairperson in a manner to be determined by order in council.

- **Section J 28**

If the electoral committee observes that a voter requires help because of his physical condition, it shall allow him to avail himself of assistance.

- **Section J 29**

1. If the electoral committee observes that a voter does not put his ballot paper in the ballot box, the chairperson shall make a note accordingly.
2. If a voter returns his ballot paper, it shall immediately be rendered unusable by the chairperson in a manner to be determined by order in council.

- **Section J 30**

As soon as the period specified for polling has expired, this shall be announced by the chairperson and only the voters present at that moment in the polling station or at the entrance thereof shall still be allowed to vote.

- **Section J 31**

Further rules governing voting procedure may be made by order in council.

§ 7. Voting other than by ballot papers

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

- **Section J 32**

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

- **Section J 33**

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

- **Section J 34**

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

§ 8. Order in the polling station

- **Section J 35**

1. Every person is entitled to be present in the polling station while the electoral committee is in session, provided he does not create a disturbance or hinder the progress of the session.
2. The persons present in the polling station may make verbal objections.
3. The objections and the response of the electoral committee shall be recorded in the official report of the session of the electoral committee. In so far as any personal data are processed pursuant to this provision, sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply.

- **Section J 36**

No activities shall be undertaken in the polling station which are intended to influence the voters in their choice.

- **Section J 37**

The chairperson shall be responsible for maintaining order during the session. He may request the mayor for assistance for this purpose.

- **Section J 38**

1. If circumstances arise in or near the polling station which, in the opinion of the electoral committee, make the proper conduct of the session impossible, the chairperson shall make a statement to this effect. The session shall then be suspended. The chairperson shall immediately notify the mayor accordingly. The mayor shall then decide when and where the session will be resumed.
2. Further rules on this shall be made by or pursuant to order in council.

§ 9. Observers

- **Section J 39**

1. To implement a treaty or international agreement, Our Minister of Foreign Affairs may permit persons to witness the course of elections as observers.
2. Observers are entitled to be present in polling stations while the electoral committee is in session.
3. Further rules on the monitoring of elections may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

Chapter K Voting using a voter's pass

- **Section K 1**

1. In accordance with the provisions of this chapter voters shall be permitted, at their request, to vote at a polling station of their choice within the area governed by the assembly for which the election is being held.
2. Without prejudice to subsection 1, voters may vote in the polling stations referred to in section J 5, subsection 2.

- **Section K 2**

The provisions of section K 1 do not apply to a voter who has been allowed, at his request, to vote by proxy or to whom a postal vote certificate has been issued.

- **Section K 3**

1. A voter shall make a written or oral application to the mayor of the municipality where he was registered as a voter on nomination day.
2. When requesting a new voting pass the applicant shall provide a copy of a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act.

3. The written request must be received on or before the fifth day prior to the day of the vote. The oral request will be made on or before the day of the vote at 12:00 noon. The mayor will announce these terms in the municipal gazette on the day of the nomination.

- **Section K 4**

1. A declaration that his application has been granted, known as a voter's pass, shall be sent or delivered to the voter.
2. A voter to whom a voter's pass has been sent or delivered may only take part in the election with this pass.
3. No new voter's pass shall be sent or delivered to a voter whose pass has been mislaid.
4. A model for the voter's pass shall be established by ministerial order. Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations shall provide the municipal council with the information needed to produce the voter's pass in good time before the election.

- **Section K 5**

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

- **Section K 6**

1. A form shall be used to submit a written application. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.
2. An oral application shall be made by the voter in person to the municipality where he was registered as a voter on nomination day.

- **Section K 7**

1. Notwithstanding section K 3, a person who is registered as a voter as referred to in section D 2 shall submit a written application to the mayor of The Hague.
2. The application must have been received at least six weeks prior to polling day.

- **Section K 8**

1. A decision shall be taken on a written application as soon as possible. A decision on an oral application shall be taken immediately.
2. An application shall be refused only if the applicant was not registered as a voter on nomination day, if he has been given permission to vote by proxy in accordance with division 2 of Chapter L, or if a postal vote certificate has been issued.
3. If the application is not processed or is refused, the applicant shall be notified in writing, with the reasons for the decision.

4. Section D 8 applies *mutatis mutandis* to a decision as referred to in this section.

- **Section K 9**

Further rules regarding voting by voter's pass, including concerning the submission of an application, the decision on an application and the provision of forms as referred to in section K 6, subsection 1, may be laid down by order in council.

- **Section K 10**

[Repealed on 17 October 2013]

- **Section K 11**

1. When voting the voter shall hand the identity document referred to in section J 24, subsection 1 (a) and his voter's pass to the chairperson of the electoral committee.
2. Section J 25, subsections 2 to 4 and 6 to 10 apply *mutatis mutandis*.

- **Section K 12**

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

- **Section K 13**

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

Chapter L

Voting by proxy

§ 1. General provisions

- **Section L 1**

A voter who does not expect to be able to vote in person may vote by proxy in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

- **Section L 2**

1. An authorisation may be granted either in response to a written application in accordance with the provisions of division 2 or by the transfer of a voting pass or voter's pass in accordance with the provisions of division 3 of this chapter. The person issuing an authorisation shall designate a proxy himself. The person issuing an authorisation shall inform the proxy in good time of the way in which he wishes the authorisation to be exercised, by indicating the candidate to be voted for or by indicating that a blank vote must be cast.

2. A written application to vote by proxy may not be made by a voter who has been issued with a voter's pass or postal vote certificate.

- **Section L 3**

The proxy may vote by virtue of the authorisation only at the same time as he casts his own vote for that election.

- **Section L 4**

A voter may not accept more than two designations as proxy for each election.

- **Section L 5**

1. The person issuing a written authorisation shall not be entitled to withdraw it once it has been given or to vote in person after issuing it.
2. The person issuing an authorisation by transferring the voting pass or voter's pass to another person may withdraw the authorisation at any time until a vote is cast by proxy.
3. A written application to vote by proxy may be withdrawn unless a decision has been taken on it.

- **Section L 6**

1. A declaration known as a certificate of authorisation shall be issued to the proxy in confirmation of his powers.
2. No new certificate of authorisation shall be issued to a proxy whose certificate of authorisation has been mislaid.

§ 2. The written application to vote by proxy

- **Section L 7**

1. The application referred to in section L 8 must be received on or before the fifth day prior to the day of the vote.
2. The mayor shall give notice of this time limit in the municipal gazette on nomination day.

- **Section L 8**

1. A voter who wishes to vote by proxy shall apply to the mayor of the municipality where he was registered as a voter on nomination day. A form shall be used for the submission of an application. To prevent abuse, the mayor may impose limitations on the availability. He shall give notice of any decision to this effect in the municipal gazette.

2. The voter shall designate a proxy in his application.
Only a person who was registered on nomination day as a voter within the area covered by the election may act as a proxy.
3. The application shall be accompanied by a declaration by the proxy that he is prepared to act as such.
4. Models for the form and the declaration shall be established by ministerial order. Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations shall provide the municipal council with the information needed to produce the declaration in good time before the election.

- **Section L 9**

1. Notwithstanding section L 8, subsection 1, first sentence, a person who is registered as a voter as referred to in section D 2 shall submit an application to the mayor of The Hague.
2. The application must have been received at least six weeks prior to polling day.

- **Section L 10**

1. The application shall be refused if:
 - a. it is found that the voter did not himself designate the proxy;
 - b. the voter who submitted the application has already been issued with a voter's pass or a postal vote certificate;
 - c. there is no declaration by the proxy that he is prepared to act as such;
 - d. the person designated as proxy is not registered as a voter within the area covered by the election.

- **Section L 11**

1. A decision on the application shall be taken as quickly as possible but not before nomination day.
2. If the application is granted, a certificate of authorisation shall be drawn up. A model for this certificate shall be established by ministerial order. The person issuing the authorisation shall be notified accordingly.
3. If the application is not processed or is refused, the applicant shall be notified in writing, with the reasons for the decision. The person who has indicated his willingness to act as proxy shall be notified of the decision.
4. Section D 8 applies *mutatis mutandis* to a decision as referred to in this section.

- **Section L 12**

1. Further rules regarding voting by proxy as referred to in section L 8, subsection 1, including the submission of an application, the decision on an application and the provision of forms, may be laid down by order in council.

- **Section L 13**

[Repealed on 1 April 2017]

§ 3. Authorisation by the transfer of the voting pass or voter's pass to another voter

- **Section L 14**

1. A voter with a voting pass may authorise another voter to vote on his behalf if the other voter votes in the municipality of the person issuing the authorisation.
2. A voter with a voter's pass may authorise another voter to vote on his behalf.
3. To this end he shall sign the form on the voting pass or voter's pass and have the pass countersigned by the proxy.
4. He shall then hand to the proxy the voting pass or voter's pass that has thus been converted into a certificate of authorisation.

- **Section L 15**

1. A voter shall not issue an authorisation at a polling station.
2. If a voter issues an authorisation at a polling station, the other voter may not cast the proxy vote. If that other voter has presented the certificate of authorisation to the chairperson of the electoral committee, the chairperson shall return it to the voter who issued it, or, if the latter has left the polling station, to the voter who received it.

- **Section L 16**

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

§ 4. Voting by proxy

- **Section L 17**

1. The proxy shall hand the certificate of authorisation to the chairperson of the electoral committee.
2. In the case of a certificate of authorisation as referred to in division 3 of Chapter L, the proxy shall also

present a copy of an identity document as referred to in [section J 24](#) relating to the person issuing the proxy.

3. [Section J 25, subsections 2 to 10](#) apply *mutatis mutandis*.

Chapter M

Voting by post

§ 1. General provisions

• Section M 1

1. A person registered as a voter as referred to in [section D 2](#) shall receive a postal vote certificate as proof of being allowed to vote by post. He shall not receive a postal vote certificate if he is allowed to vote by proxy or if a voting pass has been issued.
2. For elections to the House of Representatives, a person who is eligible to vote and who will not be in the Netherlands on polling day will be allowed, upon request, to vote by post in accordance with the provisions under or pursuant to this chapter. As proof of compliance with his request, he shall be issued with a postal vote certificate.

• Section M 2

No voting pass shall be issued to a person to whom a postal vote certificate has been sent. He may vote only in the manner specified in [section M 7](#).

• Section M 3

1. A request to vote by post shall be submitted to the mayor of The Hague.
2. When making the request, the voter shall provide a copy of a document as referred to in [section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act](#).
3. A request must have been received no later than the 28th day before polling day.
4. In the request, the voter shall state the e-mail address on which he wishes to receive the ballot paper. If he does not state an e-mail address, the ballot paper shall be sent to him by post.
5. A voter who wishes to receive the ballot paper by post shall state this in his request.
6. A form shall be used for the submission of a request. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.

• Section M 4

1. A decision shall be taken on the request as quickly as possible.

2. The request shall be refused only if it is found that the applicant is not a voter as referred to in [section M 1, subsection 2](#).
3. If the application is not processed or is refused, the applicant shall be notified in writing, with the reasons for the decision.
4. The mayor of The Hague shall inform the mayor of the municipality where the applicant is registered as a voter of the decision as soon as possible.
5. [Section D 8](#) applies *mutatis mutandis* to a decision as referred to in this section.

• Section M 5

1. There shall be a register of postal vote certificates. This register shall be managed by the mayor of The Hague.
2. A postal vote certificate or replacement postal vote certificate shall be invalid if:
 - a. it has been replaced by a replacement postal vote certificate pursuant to [section M 6b](#);
 - b. its holder should not be registered as a voter or has died before casting his vote;
 - c. it has been established that the postal vote certificate or replacement postal vote certificate has been stolen or is otherwise unlawfully in circulation.
3. No later than the eighth day before polling day, the mayor of The Hague shall produce an extract from the register listing the invalid postal vote certificates, which he provides to all postal vote electoral committees. The mayor shall also provide to every postal vote electoral committee whose address is stated on the return envelope referred to in [section M6, subsection 1 \(b\)](#) an extract from the register listing the valid postal vote certificates which will presumably be sent to that postal vote electoral committee.
4. The mayor shall keep the register for three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected. He shall then destroy the register immediately. An official report shall be drawn up of its destruction.
5. Sections 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data under or pursuant to this section.

• Section M 6

1. The mayor of The Hague shall send the persons referred to in [section M 1](#) the following in a manner to be determined by order in council:
 - a. a ballot paper;
 - b. an overview of candidates, arranged by list;

- c. an addressed return envelope;
 - d. a postal vote certificate containing a declaration to be signed by the person that he has personally completed the ballot paper;
 - e. an envelope in which to seal the ballot paper;
 - f. a set of instructions for the voter.
2. The postal vote certificate shall state a number.
 3. The documents referred to in subsection 1 shall be sent to the persons referred to in section M 1, subsection 1 at least twelve weeks prior to polling day and to the persons referred to in section M 1, subsection 2 as soon as possible, except for the ballot paper and the overview of lists of candidates, which shall be sent to all persons referred to in section M 1 as soon as possible. Voters who have their actual place of residence in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten shall be sent the voting documents through the good offices of the Dutch representation in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten.
 4. Without prejudice to subsection 3, the mayor of The Hague shall make the overview referred to in subsection 1 (b) publicly available by electronic means as soon as possible.
 5. Models for the documents referred to in subsection 1 (a) to (f) shall be established by ministerial order. Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations shall provide the municipal council of The Hague with the information needed to produce the postal vote certificate in good time before the election.

• Section M 6a

1. The ballot paper and the overview of candidates referred to in section M6, subsection 1 (a) and (b) shall include the logo of a political grouping if:
 - a. the logo is registered with the central electoral committee; and
 - b. the ballot paper and the overview of candidates include the appellation of that grouping.
2. The logos of two or more political groupings shall be placed jointly if:
 - a. the logos are registered with the central electoral committee; and
 - b. the ballot paper and the overview of candidates mention an appellation formed by a combination of the registered appellations or abbreviations of the appellations of those political groupings.
3. If the ballot paper and the overview of candidates mention an appellation formed by a combination of the registered appellations or abbreviations of two or more political groupings and logos have not been registered with the central electoral committee for all these

political groupings, no logo will be placed on the ballot paper or the overview of candidates.

• Section M 6b

1. A voter who is qualified to take part in the election but whose postal vote certificate has been mislaid or who has not received a postal vote certificate shall, at his request, be provided with a new postal vote certificate by the mayor of The Hague. This shall be a replacement postal vote certificate. The above applies *mutatis mutandis* to a voter whose replacement postal vote certificate has been mislaid or who has not received the replacement postal vote certificate.
2. A voter shall make the request to the mayor of The Hague either in writing or verbally. The voter may also submit the request through the representative of the Netherlands in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten either in writing or verbally, provided that the voter has his actual place of residence there on nomination day.
3. A written application must be received no later than the twelfth day before polling day. When making the request, the voter shall provide a copy of an identity document designated by order in council. The voter shall state in the application whether he wishes to receive his replacement postal vote certificate by post or by e-mail. A decision shall be taken on the request as quickly as possible.
4. An oral application must be made no later than twelve noon on the ninth day before polling day. The voter shall present an identity document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act, along with a declaration that the voter has Dutch nationality or with the documents referred to in section J 24, subsection 2 of the Elections Act. A decision on the application shall be taken immediately.
5. The replacement postal vote certificate can only be sent by post or delivered in person to a voter who has his actual place of residence in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten.
6. The replacement postal vote certificate shall state a number.
7. Models for the application referred to in subsection 3 and the replacement postal vote certificate shall be established by ministerial order.

• Section M 7

1. A voter shall vote using the ballot paper, by:
 - 1°. colouring with a colour of his choice the box placed before the list that includes the candidate of his choice; and subsequently

- 2°. colouring with a colour of his choice the box placed before the number of the candidate of his choice on that list.
2. He shall then fold the ballot paper in such a way that the names of the candidates are not visible and put it in the envelope intended for that purpose or in another envelope.
3. He shall sign a declaration on the postal vote certificate or on the replacement postal vote certificate that he has completed the ballot paper personally.
4. He shall enclose a copy of an identity document that has been designated by order in council. The identity document must be valid on nomination day. A person as referred to in section B 1, subsection 2 (b) shall enclose a statement that he or a person related to him is in the Dutch civil service.
5. He shall then put the postal vote certificate or the replacement postal vote certificate, the copy of the identity document, if applicable the statement of being in the Dutch civil service, and the envelope containing the ballot paper in the return envelope that was sent to him or in another return envelope, and shall close and return it.
6. A voter may send the return envelope to the mayor of The Hague by post or submit it in person, without prejudice to subsection 7.
 - a. If it is returned by post, the voter shall ensure that the return envelope is stamped.
 - b. If the return envelope is submitted in person, the person receiving the return envelope for the mayor shall note this by placing the date and time of receipt and his signature on the return envelope.
7. The voter may also send the return envelope that was sent to him or another return envelope by post or submit it in person to the head of a diplomatic or consular mission of the Netherlands abroad. Subsection 6 applies *mutatis mutandis*. The head of the diplomatic or consular mission shall ensure that the return envelope is forwarded to the mayor of The Hague immediately after receipt. In doing so, he shall ensure that the return envelopes in his possession no later than 10.00 hours local time on the fifth day before polling day are in the possession of the mayor of The Hague in time.

• Section M 7a

Further rules on postal voting may be made by order in council, including rules on:

- a. the information and documents that make up a request, the submission of a request, the decision on

a request and the provision of forms as referred to in section M 3;

- b. sending and returning voting documents; and
- c. the information contained in the register of postal vote certificates and the extracts referred to in section M 5.

§ 2. Postal voting in the municipality of The Hague

• Section M 8

1. The return envelope referred to in section M 7, subsection 6 must be in the possession of the mayor of The Hague no later than 15.00 hours on polling day.
2. The mayor shall ensure that return envelopes which are received in time and, if returned by post, are stamped are handed over unopened to the chairperson of the postal vote electoral committee referred to in section E 5, subsection 1 no later than 21.00 hours on polling day.
3. The day and, if it is polling day, the time of arrival shall be noted by the mayor on return envelopes that arrive too late. These envelopes and return envelopes which, if returned by post, are not stamped shall be placed by the mayor unopened in one or more sealed packets, which shall be accompanied by a description of their contents.
4. The mayor shall keep the packets referred to in subsection 3 for three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected. He shall then destroy the packets immediately. An official report shall be drawn up of their destruction.

• Section M 9

1. The return envelope referred to in section M 7, subsection 7 must be in the possession of the mayor of The Hague no later than 17.00 hours Dutch time on the fifth day after polling day.
2. The mayor shall ensure that return envelopes which are received in time are handed over unopened to the chairperson of the postal vote electoral committee referred to in section E 5, subsection 1 as soon as possible, but no later than 21.00 hours on the fifth day after polling day.
3. Section M 8, subsections 3 and 4 apply *mutatis mutandis*.

§ 3. Postal voting in other municipalities and in Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten

- **Section M 10**

Section M 7, subsection 6, section M 7a, opening words and (b) and section M 8 apply *mutatis mutandis* to postal vote electoral committees as referred to in section E 5, subsections 2 and 3, provided that:

- a. tasks entrusted to the mayor are performed by the representative of the Netherlands in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten, or by the mayor of the designated municipality;
- b. the said times apply in local time.

- **Section M 11**

[Repealed on 1 January 2023]

- **Section M 12**

[Repealed on 1 January 2023]

Chapter N The count

§ 1. Provisions on electoral committees

- **Section N 1**

1. The municipal executive may decide for an election that the municipal electoral committee shall determine the number of votes cast for each candidate of a list.
2. The decision to hold a central count as referred to in subsection 1 shall be announced no later than nomination day for an election.

- **Section N 1a**

1. Immediately after voting has ended, the electoral committee shall determine the numbers of valid voting passes, voter's passes and certificates of authorisation. The sum of these numbers is the number of voters allowed to vote.
2. The chairperson shall announce the numbers to the persons present.

- **Section N 2**

1. The electoral committee shall place the following documents in separate packets:
 - a. the valid voting passes, voter's passes and certificates of authorisation;

- b. the voting passes, voters' passes and certificates of authorisation that have been rendered unusable;
 - c. the ballot papers that have been rendered unusable;
 - d. the unused ballot papers;
 - e. the extract from the register of invalid voting passes.
2. Every packet shall be sealed and marked with the name of the municipality, the number of the polling station and a description of its contents.

- **Section N 3**

Immediately after the packets have been sealed as referred to in section N 2, the ballot box shall be opened.

- **Section N 4**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

- **Section N 5**

The members of the electoral committee shall open the ballot papers and sort them by list. They may be assisted in their work by alternate members and by officials of the municipality designated for this purpose by the municipal executive.

- **Section N 6**

1. The electoral committee shall determine in respect of each list:
 - a. the number of votes cast for each candidate;
 - b. the sum of the numbers of votes referred to at (a).
2. The electoral committee shall also determine:
 - a. the number of blank votes;
 - b. the number of invalid votes.
3. The sum of the numbers of votes cast for candidates, blank votes and invalid votes is the number of votes counted.
4. Subsection 1 (a) does not apply in the event of a central count.
5. The numbers referred to in subsections 1 to 3 shall be mentioned in the official report.

- **Section N 7**

1. A blank vote is one cast on a ballot paper on which the voter has not coloured the white spot in the box entirely or partly red and has not written or drawn anything else.
2. An invalid vote is one cast on a ballot paper other than those which may be used in accordance with provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Act.
3. A vote which is not regarded as a blank vote but which has been cast by means of a ballot paper on which the voter has not indicated unequivocally for which

candidate he has voted, by colouring the white spot in the box entirely or partly red, or a ballot paper to which additions have been made from which the voter can be identified shall also be invalid.

- **Section N 8**

1. The electoral committee shall decide on the validity of the votes, having regard to [section N 7](#).
2. The chairperson shall immediately notify the persons present of the reason for a declaration of invalidity and any doubts about validity, and the decision taken thereon.
3. A ballot paper must be revealed if one of the persons present so wishes. The persons present may make verbal objections to a decision.

- **Section N 8a**

1. The electoral committee shall determine the difference between the number of voters allowed to vote and the number of votes counted. Where possible the electoral committee shall give an explanation of this difference.
2. Immediately after the votes have been counted, the chairperson shall notify the persons present of those numbers and the numbers referred to in [section N 6](#).
3. The persons present may make verbal objections. The objections and the response of the electoral committee shall be recorded in the official report of the session of the electoral committee.

- **Section N 9**

1. The electoral committee shall place the following documents in packets:
 - a. the ballot papers bearing blank votes;
 - b. the ballot papers bearing invalid votes.
2. Every packet shall be sealed and marked with:
 - a. the name of the municipality;
 - b. the number of the polling station; and
 - c. a description of its contents.
3. Subsequently, the ballot papers bearing valid votes for candidates, arranged by list, shall be placed in one or more packets. Subsection 2 applies.

- **Section N 10**

1. After all the procedures have been completed, an official report on the voting and the count shall be drawn up immediately.
2. The official report shall be signed by all the members of the electoral committee present.
3. A model for the official report shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model

established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

- **Section N 11**

1. After having made sure that the transport box is empty, the electoral committee shall place the packets referred to in [sections N 2](#) and [N 9](#) in the transport box. The transport box shall be marked with the name of the municipality, the number of the polling station and an indication of the election. Subsequently, the transport box shall be locked and sealed.
2. The electoral committee shall keep the key to the transport box and its official report in an envelope, which it shall also seal. The name of the municipality, the number of the polling station and an indication of the election shall be mentioned on the envelope.
3. The electoral committee shall hand the mayor the transport box and the envelope as soon as possible. Until such handover, the electoral committee shall ensure that the seals on the transport box and the envelope are not broken.

- **Section N 12**

Further rules may be laid down by order in council on the transport box, the transport and storage of the voting documents, the official report of the electoral committee and the handover of the transport box and envelope.

- **Section N 13**

[Repealed on 1 January 2023]

- **Section N 14**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

§ 2. Provisions on postal voting in the Netherlands

- **Section N 15**

1. A postal vote electoral committee shall hold two public meetings. The purpose of the meetings shall be to:
 - a. perform the procedures referred to in [sections N 18 to N 22](#);
 - b. count the votes and determine and announce the results.
2. For each day on which the postal electoral committee will be in session, the municipal executive will designate one suitable location for the sessions of the postal electoral committee. That location may also be outside the boundaries of its own municipality.

3. In so far as the meetings are held simultaneously, the procedures performed for both meetings shall be performed by different members of the postal vote electoral committee.
4. Sections J 12 to J 14, section J 16, with the exception of the regulations governing polling booths, section J 17, subsection 2, section J 18, section J 19, section J 35, section J 37 and section J 39, subsections 2 and 3 apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meetings of the postal vote electoral committee, provided that 'section J 26, subsection 3' is read as 'section N 20, subsection 1' in section J 18, subsection 1.

● Section N 16

1. The meeting referred to in section N 15, subsection 1 (a) shall start on a date and time to be determined by the municipal executive, but not before the seventh day before polling day.
2. The meeting referred to in section N 15, subsection 1 (b) shall start at 7.30 hours on polling day in respect of the ballot papers in the ballot box at that time, or at such later time as the municipal executive may determine.
3. The designation of the locations as referred to in section N 15, subsection 2 and the times shall be announced at least seven days before the start of the first meeting day of the postal vote electoral committee.

● Section N 17

1. The chairperson of the postal vote electoral committee shall suspend the meeting in any event if:
 - a. circumstances arise in or near the location of the electoral committee/polling station for postal voting which, in the opinion of the postal vote electoral committee, make the proper conduct of the meeting impossible;
 - b. the meeting cannot be completed in one day.
2. If, in the opinion of the postal vote electoral committee, a situation arises as referred to in subsection 1 (a), the chairperson shall make a statement to this effect. The meeting shall then be suspended. The chairperson shall immediately notify the mayor accordingly. The mayor shall then decide when and where the meeting will be resumed.
3. Further rules on this shall be made by or pursuant to order in council.

● Section N 18

1. The postal vote electoral committee shall open the return envelope and shall take out the replacement postal vote certificate, the copy of the identity document, the envelope containing the ballot paper and if applicable the statement of being in the Dutch civil service. Subsequently, it shall check:
 - a. whether the postal vote certificate or replacement postal vote certificate is authentic;
 - b. that the number of the postal vote certificate or replacement postal vote certificate does not appear in the extract from the register of invalid postal vote certificates referred to in section M 5, subsection 3;
 - c. that, as evidenced by the register of valid postal vote certificates referred to in section M 5, subsection 3, no postal vote certificate or replacement postal vote certificate with this number has been received previously;
 - d. using the copy of the identity document, whether this document was valid on nomination day;
 - e. whether the declaration that the voter has completed the ballot paper personally has been signed and whether the signature under it corresponds to the signature on the identity document; and
 - f. if applicable, whether the statement of being in the Dutch civil service has been signed and whether the signature under it corresponds to the signature on the identity document.
2. If the member establishes that the return envelope does not contain all requisite documents, he shall be empowered to open the envelope containing the ballot paper to ascertain whether the missing document is present there. The ballot paper must not be examined in this process.
3. The member of the postal vote electoral committee shall put the documents found back in the return envelope, seal it and put it aside, if:
 - a. the return envelope does not contain all requisite documents;
 - b. the voting documents, other than the ballot paper, do not satisfy the requirements referred to in subsection 1; or
 - c. a return envelope contains voting documents of more than one person and one or more of them do not satisfy the requirements referred to in subsection 1 or the number of voting documents does not correspond to the number of ballot papers or envelopes containing ballot papers.

- **Section N 19**

1. In the extract from the register of valid postal vote certificates referred to in [section M 5, subsection 3](#), the postal vote electoral committee shall keep a note of voters allowed to vote on the basis of a replacement postal vote certificate.
2. If the number of a postal vote certificate or replacement postal vote certificate does not appear in the extract referred to in subsection 1, the postal vote electoral committee shall contact the mayor of The Hague.
3. If the mayor observes that a postal vote certificate or replacement postal vote certificate with that number has previously been received by another postal vote electoral committee, [section N 18, subsection 2](#) applies. If no other postal vote electoral committee has previously received a postal vote certificate or replacement postal vote certificate with that number, the postal vote electoral committee that has received the postal vote certificate or replacement postal vote certificate shall add the number to its extract from the register of valid postal vote certificates and the postal vote electoral committee in whose extract from the register of valid postal vote certificates the number appears shall note in the extract that it has been received.

- **Section N 20**

1. If the return envelope has not been put aside, the envelope containing the ballot paper shall be put in the ballot box unopened. If the ballot paper is not in the envelope intended for that purpose, it shall be put in the ballot box folded and without examination.
1. If the sum of the number of postal vote certificates and replacement postal vote certificates corresponds to the number of ballot papers or envelopes containing ballot papers but a return envelope contains more than one postal vote certificate or replacement postal vote certificate, the postal vote electoral committee shall keep a note of this.

- **Section N 21**

1. The postal vote electoral committee shall determine the sum of the number of postal vote certificates and replacement postal vote certificates received. This is the number of voters allowed to vote.
2. The chairperson shall notify the persons present of the number of voters allowed to vote.

- **Section N 22**

1. The postal vote electoral committee shall place the following documents in one or more separate packets:
 - a. the postal vote certificates and replacement postal vote certificates received;
 - b. the envelopes that were put aside pursuant to [section N 18, subsection 2](#).
2. Every packet shall be sealed and marked with the name of the municipality and a description of its contents.

- **Section N 23**

1. The chairperson of the postal vote electoral committee shall open the envelopes to be found in the ballot box.
2. If an envelope is found to contain no ballot paper or more than one ballot paper, this shall be noted in the official report. If an envelope is found to contain more than one ballot paper, the chairperson of the postal vote electoral committee shall put these ballot papers back into the envelope and put it aside, after having sealed it.

- **Section N 24**

The members of the postal electoral committee will open the ballot papers and gather those on a list-by-list basis. They may seek assistance in their work from replacement members and from civil servants of the municipality, to be designated for such purpose by the municipal executive.

- **Section N 25**

1. The postal vote electoral committee shall determine in respect of each list:
 - a. the number of votes cast for each candidate;
 - b. the sum of the numbers of votes referred to at (a).
2. The postal vote electoral committee shall also determine:
 - a. the number of blank votes;
 - b. the number of invalid votes.
3. The sum of the numbers of votes cast for candidates, blank votes and invalid votes is the number of votes counted.
4. The numbers referred to in subsections 1 to 3 shall be mentioned in the official report.

- **Section N 26**

1. The postal vote electoral committee shall decide on the validity of the votes.
2. A valid vote shall be a vote cast for a candidate or a blank vote cast, using a ballot paper that may be used by or pursuant to this Act and to which no additions have been made from which the voter can be identified.

3. A vote has been cast for a candidate if the voter has unequivocally indicated this by colouring entirely or partly both the box placed before a list and the box placed before the number of a candidate on that list.
4. Without prejudice to subsection 3, a vote has been cast for the first candidate of a list if:
 - a. the voter has unequivocally indicated that the candidate of his choice is on that list by colouring the box placed before a list entirely or partly, and no box placed before the number of a candidate has been coloured entirely or partly;
 - b. it is unequivocally clear that the voter did not wish to vote for another candidate by writing notes.
5. A vote shall be a blank vote if the voter has unequivocally indicated this by not colouring any box on the ballot paper.
6. The chairperson of the postal vote electoral committee shall immediately inform the persons present of the reason for a declaration of invalidity and any doubts about validity, and the decision taken thereon.
7. A ballot paper shall be revealed if one of the persons present so wishes. The persons present may make verbal objections to a decision.

• Section N 27

1. The postal vote electoral committee shall determine the difference between the number of voters allowed to vote and the number of votes counted. Where possible, the postal vote electoral committee shall provide an explanation of this difference.
2. The chairperson of the postal vote electoral committee shall notify the persons present of those numbers and the numbers referred to in [section N 25](#), but not before voting has finished at all the polling stations in the Netherlands. Any person who is *ex officio* in a position to know the numbers determined is obliged to keep this information secret until that time.
3. The persons present may make verbal objections. The objections and the response of the postal vote electoral committee shall be recorded in the official report of the session of the postal vote electoral committee.

• Section N 28

1. The postal vote electoral committee shall place the following documents in one or more separate packets:
 - a. the ballot papers bearing votes for candidates, arranged by list;
 - b. the ballot papers bearing blank votes;
 - c. the ballot papers bearing invalid votes;

- d. the envelopes that were put aside pursuant to [section N 23, subsection 2](#).

2. Every packet shall be sealed and marked with the name of the municipality and a description of its contents.

• Section N 29

1. After all the procedures have been completed, the postal vote electoral committee shall prepare an individual official report for each of the meetings referred to in [section N 15, subsection 1](#). In these official reports, the postal vote electoral committee shall account for every day it was in session.
2. The official reports shall be signed by all the members of the postal vote electoral committee present, in any event including the chairperson and all deputy chairpersons.
3. Further rules on the accountability of the postal vote electoral committee may be made by or pursuant to order in council.
4. A model for each of the official reports shall be established by ministerial order. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

• Section N 30

1. After having made sure that the transport box is empty, the postal vote electoral committee shall place the packets referred to in [sections N 22 and N 28](#) in the transport box. The transport box shall be marked with the name of the municipality and an indication of the election. Subsequently, the transport box shall be locked and sealed.
2. The postal vote electoral committee shall keep the key to the transport box in an envelope, which it shall also seal. The name of the municipality and an indication of the election shall be mentioned on the envelope.
3. The postal vote electoral committee shall hand the mayor the transport box and the envelope as soon as possible. Until such handover, the postal vote electoral committee shall ensure that the seals on the transport box and the envelope are not broken.

• Section N 31

1. A postal vote electoral committee established by the municipal executive of The Hague shall take its official reports to the mayor immediately.
2. The mayor shall immediately make the official reports publicly available by electronic means, omitting any signatures. An internet address may be designated for this purpose by ministerial order. The documents shall

be available for at least three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.

3. The mayor shall deposit copies of the official reports at the municipal offices for public inspection until a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected. The mayor shall also take the official reports to the national postal vote electoral committee immediately.
4. Further rules may be laid down by order in council on the mayor's procedures.

- **Section N 32**

1. A postal vote electoral committee established by the municipal executive of another municipality shall take its official reports to the mayor immediately.
2. The mayor shall deposit copies of the official reports at the municipal offices for public inspection until a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected. The mayor shall also immediately notify the national postal vote electoral committee of the official reports by electronic means.
3. Section N 31, subsections 2 and 4 apply *mutatis mutandis*.

- **Section N 33**

1. The mayor shall keep the packets referred to in sections N 22 and N 28 and the copies referred to in section N 31, subsection 3 or section N 32, subsection 2 for three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected. Subsequently, these documents shall be destroyed immediately, unless:
 - a. a public prosecutor or an examining magistrate has requested the surrender of the packets in connection with a criminal investigation, in which case they shall be destroyed after the investigation has been completed;
 - b. criminal proceedings have been instituted in connection with offences under this Act, sections 125 to 129 of the Criminal Code, or sections 131 to 135 of the BES Criminal Code, in which case they shall be destroyed after a final and conclusive judgment has been given.
2. An official report shall be drawn up of their destruction.

- **Section N 34**

After a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected, the mayor is empowered to surrender the packets and the copies to the public prosecutor in the interests of the investigation of a criminal offence.

- **Section N 35**

Section N 12 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

§ 3. Provisions on postal voting in Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten

- **Section N 36**

Division 3 applies *mutatis mutandis* to the postal vote electoral committees situated in in Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten, with the exception of section N 24, second sentence and section N 31, provided that:

- a. the powers of the mayor are powers of the representative of the Netherlands in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten;
- b. the powers of the municipal executive are powers of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations;
- c. the said times apply in local time;
- d. the location of the Dutch representation in the relevant country is designated as the location of the electoral committee/polling station for postal voting;
- e. notwithstanding section N 22, subsection 2 and section 28, subsection 2, the name of the country is stated rather than the name of the municipality;
- f. section N 27, subsection 2 does not apply if the session referred to in section N 15, subsection 1 (b) begins earlier (by Dutch time) than in the Netherlands;
- g. the representative deposits the copies of the official reports referred to in section N 32, subsection 2 at the Dutch representation in the relevant country for public inspection.

- **Section N 37**

1. The members of a postal vote electoral committee established in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten may be assisted by alternate members and/or persons employed at the Dutch representation in the relevant country.
2. Without prejudice to the provisions of section J 35, every person shall be entitled to be present in the postal vote polling station unless, in the opinion of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, this is impossible as a result of particular circumstances in the relevant country. This impossibility and the circumstances that resulted in it shall be stated in the official reports.

§ 4. Processing of personal data

• Section N 38

Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data under or pursuant to this chapter.

Chapter Na

The function of the municipal electoral committee in the procedure for determining the election result

§ 1. General provisions

• Section Na 1

1. The municipal electoral committee shall hold a public meeting on the day after polling day.
2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, the municipal electoral committee shall hold a public meeting on the first or second day after polling day for an election to the governing board.

• Section A 2

1. The municipal executive shall designate one or more suitable locations for the meeting of the municipal electoral committee. It shall also determine the date and time on which the procedures will commence for every location.
2. The designation of one or more locations, the date and the starting time of the procedures shall be announced at least fourteen days before polling day.
3. If more than one location is designated for checking the official reports or the central count, the municipal executive shall also determine for every electoral committee at which location the procedures will be performed. Subsection 2 applies *mutatis mutandis*.
4. The municipal executive shall give voters notice of the location where the procedures for every electoral committee will be performed and of the date and starting time of the procedures of the municipal electoral committee at every designated location in a manner to be determined by order in council.

• Section Na 3

The mayor shall be responsible for equipping the location where the municipal electoral committee performs its procedures.

• Section Na 4

1. At least five members shall be present during the meeting, including the chairperson or a deputy chairperson, at every location where the municipal electoral committee is in session.
2. Notwithstanding subsection 1, at least three members shall be present for an election to a municipal council, including the chairperson or a deputy chairperson, at every location where the municipal electoral committee is in session.
3. If the chairperson is absent, the tasks and powers entrusted to him under or pursuant to the law shall be exercised by a deputy chairperson.

• Section Na 5

1. If the procedures take place at more than one location, the members of the municipal electoral committee present at every location shall decide and act on behalf of the municipal electoral committee.
2. If a vote in order for the members present to make a decision ends in a tie, the chairperson will have the casting vote.

• Section Na 6

1. The members of the municipal electoral committee may be assisted in their work by one or more assistants. Assistants may be: officials of the municipality designated for this purpose by the municipal executive and other persons appointed for this purpose by the municipal executive.
2. Section E 4, subsection 2, opening words and (a), (c) to (e), subsections 3 and 4 apply *mutatis mutandis*.

• Section Na 7

1. The chairperson of the municipal electoral committee is responsible for maintaining order during the meeting. He may request the mayor for assistance for this purpose.

• Section Na 8

1. The chairperson of the municipal electoral committee shall suspend the meeting if:
 - a. the procedures cannot be completed on the day on which they commenced; or
 - b. circumstances arise in or near the location where the meeting is held which, in the opinion of the municipal electoral committee, make the proper conduct of the meeting impossible.
2. If, in the opinion of the municipal electoral committee, a situation arises as referred to in subsection 1, the

chairperson shall make a statement to this effect. The meeting shall then be suspended. The chairperson shall immediately notify the mayor accordingly. The mayor shall then decide when and where the meeting will be resumed.

3. Further rules on this shall be made by or pursuant to order in council.

- **Section Na 9**

The mayor shall ensure that the transport box referred to in section N 11, subsection 1 and the envelope referred to in section N 11, subsection 2 of every electoral committee are handed to the municipal electoral committee in good time.

§ 2. *Checking of the official reports of the electoral committees*

- **Section Na 10**

This division applies if no central count as referred to in section N 1 takes place in the election.

- **Section Na 11**

The municipal electoral committee shall check the accuracy of the result of the poll as determined by every electoral committee. To this end it shall be empowered to open the envelopes referred to in section N 11, subsection 2.

- **Section Na 12**

The municipal electoral committee shall conduct a recount of the voting documents or part thereof if:

- a. in its official report, the electoral committee has stated a difference between the number of voters allowed to vote and the number of votes cast, and the electoral committee has not provided a full explanation of this difference in its official report;
- b. the municipal electoral committee suspects that the electoral committee has made one or more errors in the count; or
- c. the electoral committee has made one or more errors in determining the result of the poll.

- **Section Na 13**

1. The members of the municipal electoral committee shall be empowered to open the transport box and the packets referred to in section N 11, subsection 1 for a recount.

2. The municipal electoral committee shall state in its official report for which electoral committees a recount of voting documents has taken place, the reason for doing so and the specific voting documents involved.
3. The voting documents shall be recounted, having regard to the provisions laid down by or pursuant to the law in respect of the count by an electoral committee.
4. Once the recount has been completed, the voting documents from the opened packets shall be repacked and sealed as described in sections N 2 and N 9. The packets shall then be placed back into the transport box. Subsequently, the transport box shall be locked and sealed.

- **Section Na 14**

1. The municipal electoral committee shall record the result of the recount in a corrigendum which it shall enclose with the official report of the electoral committee.
2. The numbers recorded in the corrigendum shall replace the numbers the electoral committee previously stated in its official report.
3. The corrigendum shall be signed by the members of the municipal electoral committee who conducted the recount.
4. A note of the existence of the corrigendum shall be made on the official report of the electoral committee.
5. A model for the corrigendum to the official report of the electoral committee shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

- **Section Na 15**

1. After the check of the official report of an electoral committee has been completed, the official report of that electoral committee, if applicable the corrigendum, and the key to the transport box shall be put in an envelope. The envelope shall be sealed.
2. The name of the municipality, the number of the polling station and an indication of the election shall be mentioned on the envelope.

§ 3. Central count

- **Section Na 16**

This division applies if a central count as referred to in section N 1 takes place in the election.

- **Section Na 17**

1. The municipal electoral committee shall determine the result of the poll for every electoral committee.
2. For this purpose, the members of the municipal electoral committee shall be empowered to open the transport box and the packets referred to in section N 11, subsection 1 and the envelope referred to in section N 11, subsection 2.

- **Section Na 18**

1. The municipal electoral committee shall determine in respect of each list:
 - a. the number of votes cast for each candidate;
 - b. the sum of the numbers of votes referred to at (a).
2. The municipal electoral committee shall also determine:
 - a. the number of blank votes;
 - b. the number of invalid votes.
3. The sum of the numbers of votes cast for candidates, blank votes and invalid votes is the number of votes counted.

- **Section Na 19**

1. If an assistant has doubts about the validity of a vote or considers that a vote is invalid, the ballot paper shall be presented to one or more members of the municipal electoral committee for review. The members shall decide on the validity of the vote, having regard to section N 7.
2. The persons present shall be informed immediately of the reason for the doubts about the validity of a vote or the reason for declaring a vote invalid.
3. A ballot paper shall be revealed if one of the persons present so wishes. The persons present may make verbal objections to a decision.

- **Section Na 20**

1. The municipal electoral committee shall conduct a recount of the numbers of valid voting passes, voter's passes or certificates of authorisation if:
 - a. in its official report, the electoral committee has stated a counting difference as referred to in section N 8a, subsection 1 and the electoral committee has not provided an explanation of this difference; or

- b. there is a difference between the number of voters allowed to vote as referred to in section N 1a, subsection 1 and the number of votes cast as determined by the municipal electoral committee as referred to in section Na 18, subsection 3, and the electoral committee has not provided an explanation of this difference.

2. Notwithstanding section N 1a, subsection 1, the sum of the numbers referred to in subsection 1 is the number of voters allowed to vote.

- **Section Na 21**

Once the count of an electoral committee has been completed, the voting documents from the opened packets shall be repacked and sealed as described in sections N 2 and N 9. The packets shall then be placed back into the transport box. Subsequently, the transport box shall be locked and sealed.

- **Section Na 22**

1. For each list, the municipal electoral committee shall determine the difference between the sum of the number of votes cast for the candidates it has determined and the sum of the number of votes cast for the candidates as determined by the electoral committee.
2. The municipal electoral committee shall determine the difference between the number of voters allowed to vote and the number of votes counted.
3. Where possible, the municipal electoral committee shall provide an explanation of the differences.

- **Section Na 23**

The municipal electoral committee shall notify the persons present of the numbers referred to in section N 1a, subsection 1, section Na 18, subsections 1 to 3, section Na 20, subsections 1 and 2, and section Na 22, subsections 1 and 2.

- **Section Na 24**

1. The official report of the municipal electoral committee shall contain the result of the poll for every electoral committee.
2. It shall also mention all objections stated in the official reports of the electoral committees and the responses the electoral committees have given to them.

- **Section Na 25**

1. After the count for an electoral committee has been completed, the official report of that electoral

committee and the key to the transport box shall be put in an envelope. The envelope shall be sealed.

2. The name of the municipality, the number of the polling station and an indication of the election shall be mentioned on the envelope.

§ 4. The determination of the result of the poll at the municipal level

• Section Na 26

1. The municipal electoral committee shall determine how many votes have been cast in the municipality for each candidate and each list.
2. The municipal electoral committee shall also determine:
 - a. the number of blank votes;
 - b. the number of invalid votes;
 - c. the number of valid voting passes;
 - d. the number of valid voter's passes;
 - e. the number of valid certificates of authorisation; and
 - f. the sum of the numbers referred to at (c), (d) and (e).
3. The municipal electoral committee shall also determine the difference between the number of voters allowed to vote and the number of votes counted. Where possible, the municipal electoral committee shall give an explanation of this difference.
4. The numbers referred to in subsections 1 to 3 shall be mentioned in the official report.

• Section Na 26a

1. The municipal electoral committee will at least enter the numbers, as referred to in section Na 26(1) to (3) inclusive, from the record in the software, stating the number of the electoral committee.
2. The entry referred to in paragraph 1:
 - a. will be made by two members of the municipal electoral committee or supporting staff acting independently; and
 - b. will be made manually.

• Section Na 27

1. The municipal electoral committee will verify the software-generated outcome of the vote on a municipal level based on a verification protocol to be prepared by the Electoral Council. If the municipal electoral committee finds that the software has not performed reliably and the defect cannot be remedied after investigation, it will disregard the software-

generated outcome and promptly notify the Electoral Council of this finding.

2. The outcome of the verification, as referred to in paragraph 1, will be stated in the record of the municipal electoral committee.
3. The Electoral Council will publish the verification protocol as referred to in paragraph 1 in the Government Gazette on or before the day of the nomination.

• Section Na 28

The municipal executive will notify the municipal electoral committee, on the basis of the registration referred to in section D 1, of the number of persons eligible to vote for the election. This number will be adopted by the municipal electoral committee in the software and the record.

• Section Na 29

The municipal electoral committee shall notify the persons present of the numbers referred to in sections Na 26 and Na 28.

• Section Na 30

The persons present may make verbal objections. The objections and the response of the municipal electoral committee shall be recorded in the official report of the municipal electoral committee.

• Section Na 31

1. After all the procedures have been completed, an official report of them shall be drawn up immediately.
2. The official report shall be signed by all the members of the municipal electoral committee present, in any event including the chairperson and all deputy chairpersons.
3. A model for the official report shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

• Section Na 32

1. The municipal electoral committee shall hand the mayor its official report immediately. The transport boxes and envelopes previously received pursuant to section Na 9 shall also be handed back.
2. Until the handover, the municipal electoral committee shall ensure that the seals on the transport boxes and the envelopes are not broken.
3. The municipal electoral committee will electronically transfer the software-generated digital file containing

the outcome of the vote on a municipal level to the mayor, the principal electoral committee and the central electoral committee or, where an election of the municipal council, of the general administrative body, or of the provincial executive of a province constituting one single electoral district is concerned, to the mayor and the central electoral committee.

• Section Na 33

1. The mayor will promptly electronically publish the record of the municipal electoral committee, the software-generated digital file containing the outcome of the vote on a municipal level, the records of the electoral committees and, where applicable, the relevant corrigenda, leaving out the signature, in a manner that is generally accessible.
2. If the municipal electoral committee has used software to determine the result of the count, the electronic file generated with it shall also immediately be made publicly available by electronic means.
3. The documents shall be available for at least three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.
4. Further rules on the electronic availability of the official reports, corrigenda and electronic files may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

• Section Na 34

1. The mayor shall immediately deposit copies of the official report of the municipal electoral committee, the official reports of the electoral committees and, if applicable, the accompanying corrigenda at the municipal offices for public inspection until a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.
2. Further rules on depositing the official reports and corrigenda for public inspection may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

• Section Na 35

1. The official report of the municipal electoral committee shall immediately be taken to the principal electoral committee or, in the case of an election to a municipal council, governing board or council of a province which forms a single electoral district, the central electoral committee. If no central count has taken place in the municipality, the official reports of the electoral committees and the corrigenda shall also be delivered.
2. If the municipal electoral committee has used software to determine the result of the poll, the electronic file generated with it shall also immediately be provided

to the principal electoral committee and the central electoral committee or, in the case of an election to a municipal council, governing board or council of a province which forms a single electoral district, the central electoral committee.

3. Further rules on the handover referred to in subsection 1 and the provision referred to in subsection 2 may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

• Section Na 36

4. In the case of an election to a municipal council, provincial council or governing board, the mayor shall provide the Electoral Council with the electronic file containing the result of the count as soon as possible after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.
5. If the municipal electoral committee has not used software to determine the result of the count, instead of the electronic file referred to in subsection 1 the mayor shall provide the Electoral Council with a copy of the official report of the municipal electoral committee and, if no central count has taken place, copies of the official reports of the electoral committees.

• Section Na 37

1. The mayor shall keep the packets referred to in sections N 2 and N 9 and the copies referred to in section Na 34, subsection 1 for three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected. Subsequently, these documents shall be destroyed immediately, unless:
 - a. a public prosecutor or an examining magistrate has requested the surrender of the packets in connection with a criminal investigation, in which case they shall be destroyed after the investigation has been completed;
 - b. criminal proceedings have been instituted in connection with offences under this Act, sections 125 to 129 of the Criminal Code, or sections 131 to 135 of the BES Criminal Code, in which case they shall be destroyed after a final and conclusive judgment has been given.
2. An official report shall be drawn up of their destruction.

• Section Na 38

After a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected, the mayor is empowered to surrender the packets referred to in sections N 2 and N 9 and the copies referred to in section N 34a, subsection 1 to the public prosecutor in the interests of the investigation of a criminal offence.

- **Section Na 39**

Section N 12 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

- **Section Na 40**

Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data under or pursuant to this chapter.

Chapter O

The function of the principal electoral committee and the national postal vote electoral committee in determining the election result

§ 1. Provisions on the principal electoral committee

- **Section O 1**

Immediately after the principal electoral committee has received the official report of an electoral committee, it shall begin the work of determining and announcing the result of the poll at the polling stations at the electoral district level.

- **Section O 2**

1. The principal electoral committee will verify whether the digital file, as referred to in section Na 32(3), has been provided to it in accordance with the requirements set in that respect by or pursuant to an order in council.
2. The principal electoral committee will request the municipal electoral committee concerned still promptly to arrange provision of the file in accordance with such requirements, if it establishes that this has not yet been done.

- **Section O 3**

If the principal electoral committee has received a digital file as referred to in section Na 32(3), and the outcome stated in such file on a municipal level varies from the outcome as determined in the accompanying record of the municipal electoral committee, the principal electoral committee will assume that the latter is correct and will state this in its record.

- **Section O 4**

On the fifth day after polling day, the principal electoral committee shall meet at 10.00 hours to

determine the result of the poll at the polling stations at the electoral district level.

- **Section O 5**

1. The principal electoral committee shall determine, in respect of each list, the number of votes cast for each candidate and the sum of these numbers. The sum shall be referred to as the total vote.
2. The principal electoral committee shall also determine
 - a. the number of blank votes;
 - b. the number of invalid votes;
 - c. the number of valid voting passes;
 - d. the number of valid voter's passes;
 - e. the number of valid certificates of authorisation;
 - f. the sum of the numbers referred to at (c), (d) and (e); and
 - g. the number of persons entitled to vote.
3. The principal electoral committee shall also determine the difference between the number of voters allowed to vote and the number of votes counted. Where possible, the principal electoral committee shall provide an explanation of this difference.
4. The numbers referred to in subsections 1 to 3 shall be mentioned in the official report.

- **Section O 5a**

1. The principal electoral committee will at least enter the numbers, as referred to in section O 5(1) to (3) inclusive, from the record in the software, stating the number of the electoral committee.
2. The entry referred to in paragraph 1:
 - a. will be made by two members of the principal electoral committee or supporting staff acting independently; and
 - b. will be made manually at least once.

- **Section O 6**

1. The principal electoral committee will verify the software-generated outcome of the vote on an electoral district level based on a verification protocol to be prepared by the Electoral Council. If the principal electoral committee finds that the software has not performed reliably and the defect cannot be remedied after investigation, it will disregard the software-generated outcome and promptly notify the Electoral Council of this finding.
2. The outcome of the verification, as referred to in paragraph 1, will be stated in the record of the principal electoral committee.

3. The Electoral Council will publish the verification protocol as referred to in paragraph 1 in the Government Gazette on or before the day of the nomination.

- **Section O 7**

1. After all the procedures have been completed, an official report on them shall immediately be drawn up.
2. The official report shall be signed by all the members of the principal electoral committee present.
3. A model for the official report shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

- **Section O 8**

1. The official report of the principal electoral committee shall immediately be made publicly available by electronic means, omitting any signatures.
2. The software-generated digital file containing the outcome of the vote in any given electoral district will be promptly electronically published in a manner that is generally accessible.
3. The documents shall be available for at least three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.
4. Further rules on the electronic availability of the official report may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

- **Section O 9**

1. A copy of the official report of the principal electoral committee shall immediately be deposited for public inspection at the municipal offices of the municipality where the principal electoral committee is situated until a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.
2. Further rules on depositing the official report for public inspection may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

- **Section O 10**

1. The official report of the principal electoral committee and the official reports of the municipal electoral committees shall immediately be taken to the central electoral committee. If the principal electoral committee has received official reports of electoral committees and corrigenda, they shall also be delivered.

2. The software-generated digital file containing the outcome of the vote in any given electoral district will promptly be provided to the central electoral committee as well.
3. Further rules on the delivery of the official reports and corrigenda and the provision of the electronic file may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

- **Section O 11**

1. In the event of an election of the members of the provincial executive in a province that is divided into multiple electoral districts, the mayor of the municipality where the principal electoral committee is established will provide the file containing the outcome of the vote on an electoral district level to the Electoral Council as soon as possible after a decision has been made on the admission of the elected representatives.
2. If the principal electoral committee has not used software to determine the result of the poll, instead of the electronic file referred to in subsection 1 the mayor shall provide the Electoral Council with a copy of the official report of the principal electoral committee.

- **Section O 12**

1. Further rules governing the task of the principal electoral committee in determining the election result may be made by order in council.

§ 2. Provisions on the national postal vote electoral committee

- **Section O 13**

Immediately after the national postal vote electoral committee has received the official reports of a postal vote electoral committee, it shall begin the work referred to in this division.

- **Section O 14**

The national postal vote electoral committee shall check the accuracy of the result of the poll as determined by the postal vote electoral committee.

- **Section O 15**

1. In response to the check referred to in [section O 14](#), the national postal vote electoral committee shall instruct a postal vote electoral committee to conduct a recount of the voting documents or part thereof if:
 - a. in its official report, the postal vote electoral committee has stated a difference between the

- number of voters allowed to vote and the number of votes cast, and the postal vote electoral committee has not provided an explanation of this difference;
 - b. it suspects that the postal vote electoral committee has made one or more errors in the count; or
 - c. the postal vote electoral committee has made one or more errors in determining the result of the poll.
 - 2. The national postal vote electoral committee shall state in its official report which postal vote electoral committee has conducted a recount of voting documents and what instruction it received in that respect.
 - 3. The postal vote electoral committee shall perform its procedures as soon as possible at a public meeting. The date and time of the meeting and the location shall be determined by the mayor or the representative of the Netherlands in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten and announced as soon as possible. The manner of the announcement shall be regulated by order in council.
 - 4. The mayor or the representative of the Netherlands in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten shall immediately take the transport box and the envelope referred to in [section N 30](#) to the location where the postal vote electoral committee is in session. The national postal vote electoral committee or the mayor or the representative shall take the official reports of the postal vote electoral committee to this location immediately.
 - 5. The voting documents shall be recounted, having regard to the provisions laid down by or pursuant to the law in respect of the postal vote electoral committee, provided that [section Na 14](#) applies *mutatis mutandis*.
 - 6. A model for the record of the public session as referred to in paragraph 3 will be adopted by ministerial order.
- **Section O 16**
 1. The national postal vote electoral committee shall determine as soon as possible how many votes have been cast by post for each candidate and each list.
 2. The national postal vote electoral committee shall also determine:
 - a. the number of voters allowed to vote;
 - b. the number of blank votes;
 - c. the number of invalid votes.
 3. The national postal vote electoral committee shall also determine the difference between the number of voters allowed to vote and the number of votes counted. Where possible, the national postal vote

electoral committee shall provide an explanation of this difference.

4. The numbers referred to in subsections 1 to 3 shall be mentioned in the official report.

- **Section O 16a**

1. The national postal electoral committee will at least enter the numbers, as referred to in [section O 16\(1\)](#) to (3) inclusive, from the record in the software, stating the number of the electoral committee.
2. The entry referred to in paragraph 1:
 - a. will be made by two members of the national postal electoral committee or supporting staff acting independently; and
 - b. will be made manually.
3. If, pursuant to [section O 15\(1\)](#), the postal electoral committee proceeds to re-count all the election documents, or any part thereof, the entry as referred to in paragraph 1 will relate to the record of the new vote counting.

- **Section O 17**

1. The national postal electoral committee will verify the software-generated outcome of the vote counting of the postal voting based on a verification protocol to be prepared by the Electoral Council. If the national postal electoral committee finds that the software has not performed reliably and the defect cannot be remedied after investigation, it will disregard the software-generated outcome and promptly notify the Electoral Council of this finding.
2. The outcome of the verification, as referred to in paragraph 1, will be stated in the record of the national postal electoral committee.
3. The Electoral Council will publish the verification protocol as referred to in paragraph 1 in the Government Gazette on or before the day of the nomination.

- **Section O 18**

The municipal executive of the Hague will notify the national postal electoral committee, on the basis of the registration referred to in [section D 2](#), of the number of persons eligible to vote for the election. This number will be adopted by the national postal electoral committee in the software and the record.

- **Section O 19**

1. The national postal vote electoral committee shall announce the numbers referred to in sections O 16 and O 18 at a public meeting as soon as possible.
2. The date and time of the meeting and the location shall be determined and announced by the mayor of The Hague.
3. The persons present may make verbal objections. The objections and the response of the national postal vote electoral committee shall be recorded in the official report of the national postal vote electoral committee.
4. The chairperson of the national postal vote electoral committee is responsible for maintaining order during the meeting. He may request the mayor of The Hague for assistance for this purpose.

- **Section O 20**

1. After all the procedures have been completed, the national postal vote electoral committee shall draw up an official report of them immediately.
2. The official report shall be signed by all the members present, in any event including the chairperson and all deputy chairpersons.
3. A model for the official report shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

- **Section O 21**

1. The national postal vote electoral committee shall take its official report, and the official reports and the corrigendum of the electoral committee situated in The Hague, to the central electoral committee immediately. It shall also take a copy of its official report to the mayor of The Hague as soon as possible.
2. The national postal vote electoral committee shall immediately notify the central electoral committee by electronic means of the official reports and corrigenda of the other postal vote electoral committees received by electronic means. Provisions stipulating the requirements the handover must meet may be made by or pursuant to order in council.
3. The national postal electoral committee will electronically provide the software-generated digital file containing the outcome of the postal voting to the central electoral committee and to the mayor of The Hague.

- **Section O 22**

1. The mayor of The Hague shall immediately make the copy of the official report of the national postal vote electoral committee publicly available by electronic means, omitting any signatures.
2. The mayor of The Hague will promptly electronically publish the software-generated digital file containing the outcome of the postal voting in a manner that is generally accessible.
3. The documents shall be available for at least three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.
4. Further rules on the electronic availability of the official report may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

- **Section O 23**

1. The mayor of The Hague shall immediately deposit a copy of the official report of the national postal vote electoral committee at the municipal offices for public inspection until a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.
2. Further rules on depositing the official report for public inspection may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

§ 3. *Processing of personal data*

- **Section O 24**

Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data under or pursuant to this chapter.

Chapter P

Determination of the election result by the central electoral committee

§ 1. *General provisions*

- **Section P 1**

Immediately after the central electoral committee has received the official report of a municipal electoral committee or a principal electoral committee, it shall begin the work of determining and announcing the result of the election.

- **Section P 1a**

1. If the central electoral committee uses software to calculate the election result or the allocation of seats, it shall publicly disclose what software it uses by electronic means.
2. Further rules concerning the disclosure of information about the software shall be laid down by or pursuant to order in council. The conditions under which the central electoral committee may use software to calculate the election result or the allocation of seats and the requirements to be met by such software shall also be stipulated.

- **Section P 1b**

1. Anyone may file a written, substantiated report with the central electoral committee of an alleged error in the record of an electoral committee or municipal electoral committee.
2. A report as referred to in paragraph 1 may also relate to an alleged error in the software-generated digital file containing the outcome of the vote.
3. The report must be received by the central electoral committee at least forty-eight hours prior to the session referred to in section P 20(2).

- **Section P 1c**

1. The central electoral committee will verify whether the digital file, as referred to in section Na 32(3), has been provided to it in accordance with the requirements set in that respect by or pursuant to an order in council.
2. The central electoral committee will request the municipal electoral committee concerned still promptly to arrange provision of the file in accordance with such requirements, if it establishes that this has not yet been done.

- **Section P 1d**

1. The central electoral committee shall check the results in the official reports of the municipal electoral committees.
2. If the municipal executive has not decided that a central count as referred to in section N 1 will take place in the election, the central electoral committee shall also check the results in the official reports of the electoral committees situated in that municipality.
3. For purposes of the verifications referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, the central electoral committee will use a verification protocol to be prepared by the Electoral Council. The Electoral Council will publish such

verification protocol in the Government Gazette on or before the day of the nomination.

4. The central electoral committee will, furthermore, verify the correctness of the outcomes in the records and the digital file referred to in section Na 32(3), based on any reports as referred to in section P 1b.

- **Section P 1e**

1. If the verification referred to in section P 1d gives rise to the suspicion that a municipal electoral committee has made one or more errors in the counting of the votes or the adoption of the outcome of the vote, the chairperson of the central electoral committee will instruct the municipal electoral committee to investigate the alleged errors further and, if necessary to that end, to recount the voting records, or part thereof, in respect of one or more electoral committees.
2. The municipal electoral committee shall perform its procedures at a public meeting. The date and time of the meeting and the location shall be determined and announced in good time by the mayor.
3. The voting documents shall be recounted, having regard to the provisions laid down by or pursuant to the law in respect of the municipal electoral committee, provided that section Na 14 applies *mutatis mutandis* to the official report of the municipal electoral committee.
4. The municipal electoral committee will bring the contents of the software-generated digital file containing the outcome of the vote in a municipality in line with its record and, where applicable, the records of the electoral committees, with due observance of the corrections as listed in the corrigenda.
5. If combined voting as referred to in section J 6 or J 6a of the Elections Act has taken place, the central electoral committee shall immediately notify the central electoral committee for the other election of a decision as referred to in subsection 1.
6. Further rules on the further investigation by the municipal electoral committee may be made by or pursuant to order in council.
7. A model for the corrigendum to the official report of the municipal electoral committee shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

- **Section P 1f**

1. Unless in the case of an election to a municipal council, governing board or council of a province which forms a single electoral district, the central electoral committee shall adopt a corrigendum to the official report of a principal electoral committee if the further investigation by a municipal electoral committee as referred to in section P 1e results in a corrigendum to the official report of that municipal electoral committee.
2. The numbers recorded in the corrigendum shall replace the numbers the principal electoral committee previously included in its official report.
3. The corrigendum shall be signed by the chairperson of the central electoral committee.
4. A note of the existence of the corrigendum shall be made on the official report of the principal electoral committee in a manner to be determined by order in council.
5. The central electoral committee will bring the contents of the software-generated digital file containing the outcome of the vote in an electoral district in line with the records of the municipal electoral committee and the principal electoral committee, with due observance of the corrections as listed in the corrigenda. Section O 6 will apply *mutatis mutandis*.
6. A model for the corrigendum to the official report of the principal electoral committee shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

- **Section P 1g**

1. A copy of an official report with a note as referred to in section P 1f, subsection 4 shall be provided to the principal electoral committee as soon as possible.
2. The central electoral committee will also provide the corrected digital file to the principal electoral committee.
3. Sections O 8 and O 9 apply.

- **Section P 1h**

1. Sections P 1b to P 1d (1), (3) and (4) inclusive will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the record of a principal electoral committee and a digital file as referred to in section O 10(2).
2. If, in response to the check referred to in section P 1d, the central electoral committee suspects that a principal electoral committee has made one or more

errors in determining the result of the poll, sections P 1f and P 1g apply *mutatis mutandis*.

- **Section P 1i**

1. Section P 1b, section P 1d and section P 1e, subsections 1, 2, 6 and 7 apply *mutatis mutandis* to the official reports of postal vote electoral committees, provided that in respect of the postal vote electoral committees in Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten, the tasks entrusted to the mayor are performed by the representative of the Netherlands in the relevant country.
2. The voting documents shall be recounted, having regard to the provisions laid down by or pursuant to the law in respect of the postal vote electoral committee, provided that section Na 14 applies *mutatis mutandis*.
3. Sections P 1f and P 1g apply, provided that for the purposes of that provision, the following terms are read as:
 - a. 'municipal electoral committee': postal vote electoral committee;
 - b. 'principal electoral committee': national postal vote electoral committee;
 - c. 'sections O 4 and O 5': sections O 22 and O 23;
 - d. 'section O 5': section O 23.

- **Section P 1j**

1. Sections P 1b to P 1d (1), (3) and (4) inclusive will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the record of the national postal electoral committee and the digital file as referred to in section O 21(3).
2. If, in response to the check referred to in section P 1d, the central electoral committee suspects that the national postal vote electoral committee has made one or more errors in determining the result of the poll, section P 1i, subsection 4 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

- **Section P 2**

1. A set of identical lists as referred to in section H 11, subsection 1 shall be treated as a single list for the purposes of determining the election result.
2. The central electoral committee shall add up the total votes for these identical lists and the number of votes cast for each candidate.

§ 2. The allocation of seats

• Section P 3

A group of lists as referred to in section H 11, subsection 2 shall, for the purposes of determining the number of seats to be allocated to it, be treated as a single list with a total vote equal to the sum of the total votes cast for the lists comprising the group.

• Section P 4

[Repealed on 1 December 2017]

• Section P 5

1. The central electoral committee shall divide the sum of the total votes of all the lists by the number of seats to be allocated.
2. The quotient thus obtained shall be known as the electoral quota.

• Section P 6

A seat shall be awarded to a list as many times as the total vote for that list contains the electoral quota.

• Section P 7

1. If the number of seats to be allocated is nineteen or more, the remaining seats, known as residual seats, shall be awarded sequentially to the lists which, after the award of the seat, have the highest average number of votes per seat awarded. If the averages are equal, the matter shall be decided by lot.
2. If the election is to the House of Representatives, lists with a total vote lower than the electoral quota shall not be eligible for seats awarded in this way.

• Section P 8

1. If the number of seats to be allocated is fewer than nineteen, the residual seats shall be awarded sequentially to the lists whose total votes have the largest remainder when divided by the electoral quota. Lists which have no remainder shall be deemed for this purpose to be the lists with the lowest remainder. If the remainders are equal, the matter shall be decided by lot.
2. Lists with a total vote lower than 75% of the electoral quota shall not be eligible for seats awarded in this way.
3. If all the eligible lists have received a residual seat and there are still seats to be allocated, these seats shall be awarded in accordance with the system of the highest averages as referred to in section P 7, subsection 1,

provided always that no more than one seat may be awarded in this way to any of the lists.

• Section P 9

If a list which has obtained an absolute majority of the valid votes cast has been awarded a number of seats which is smaller than the absolute majority of the number of seats to be awarded, the list in question shall be awarded one additional seat. One seat awarded to the list which obtained a seat for the lowest average or the smallest remainder shall therefore be withheld. If two or more lists obtained a seat for an equally low average or an equally low remainder, the matter shall be decided by lot.

• Section P 10

If as a result of the application of the previous provisions a list would be awarded more seats than it has candidates, the remaining seat or seats shall pass, by the continued application of such provisions, to one or more of the other lists containing candidates to whom no seat has been awarded.

• Section P 11

[Repealed on 1 December 2017]

• Section P 12

1. The allocation of the seats awarded to a group of lists among the lists which comprise the group shall be effected as follows.
2. The central electoral committee shall divide the total vote of the group of lists by the number of seats awarded to the group.
3. The quotient thus obtained shall be known as the group electoral quota.
4. A seat awarded to the group shall be awarded to each of the lists comprising the group as many times as the total vote of the relevant list contains the group electoral quota.
5. The residual seats shall be awarded sequentially to the lists of the group whose total votes have the highest remainder when divided by the group electoral quota. Lists which have no remainder shall be deemed for this purpose to be the lists with the lowest remainder. If remainders are the same, the matter shall be decided by lot.

• Section P 13

1. If the application of section P 12 would result in the award of more seats to a list than there are candidates, the remaining seat or seats shall pass, by the continued

application of that section, to one of the other lists in the group containing candidates to whom no seat has been awarded.

2. If there are still seats to be awarded after subsection 1 has been applied, they shall be awarded in accordance with the system of the highest averages as referred to in [section P 7, subsection 1](#).

- **Section P 14**

1. The drawing of lots referred to in the previous sections shall take place at the meeting of the central electoral committee referred to in [section P 20](#).

§ 3. Award of seats to the candidates

- **Section P 15**

1. Candidates who have obtained a number of votes exceeding 25% of the electoral quota on the joint lists on which they appear shall be elected in the order of the number of votes cast for them, provided sufficient seats have been awarded to the group of lists or the list not forming part of a group of lists. If the numbers are the same, the matter shall if necessary be decided by lot.
2. If the number of seats to be allocated in an election to a municipal council is lower than nineteen, half rather than 25% of the electoral quota shall be taken into account when applying subsection 1.

- **Section P 16**

1. If, in the case of a group of lists, a candidate elected in this way appears on more than one list, he shall be deemed to have been elected for the list on which he has obtained the highest number of votes, in so far as sufficient seats have been awarded to that list. If the numbers are the same, he shall be deemed to have been elected for the list for the electoral district with the lowest number.
2. If sufficient seats have not been awarded to any of the lists on which the elected candidate appears, he shall nonetheless be awarded a seat in respect of the list on which he has obtained the highest number of votes. The seat which was awarded last in accordance with [section P 12](#) or [P 13](#) to one of the lists of the group shall therefore be withheld.

- **Section P 17**

Seats awarded to lists which do or do not form part of a group of lists, which have not been awarded to a

candidate after [sections P 15](#) and [P 16](#) have been applied, shall be awarded to the as yet unelected candidates on the relevant lists in the order in which they appear on the list.

- **Section P 18**

1. If, pursuant to section P 17, a candidate has been declared elected on more than one list of a group of lists, he shall be deemed to have been elected on the list on which the largest number of votes were cast for him. If the numbers are the same, he shall be deemed to have been elected on the list submitted for the electoral district with the lowest number.
2. The seats awarded to a list which have not yet been allocated to a candidate after subsection 1 has been applied shall be awarded to the as yet unelected candidates on the relevant list in the order in which they appear on the list.
3. If, once subsection 2 has been applied, a candidate has again been elected on more than one list, the procedure referred to in subsections 1 and 2 shall be repeated until all the seats awarded to the lists have been allocated to candidates.

- **Section P 18a**

[Repealed on 1 December 2008]

- **Section P 19**

1. The central electoral committee shall arrange the candidates appearing on each list in the order in which they have been awarded the seats, with at the top the candidates to whom a seat has been awarded pursuant to [section P 15](#).
2. These shall be followed, in the order of the number of votes cast for them, by the candidates appearing on the list who have obtained more than 25% or half of the electoral quota on the joint lists on which they appear but who have not been declared elected in accordance with [section P 15, subsection 1](#) or [2](#). If the numbers are equal, the matter shall be decided by the order in which they appear on the list.
3. Finally, the other candidates appearing on the list shall be arranged in the order of the list.
4. [Section P 18](#) does not apply to the arrangement of the candidates in order.
5. Except in an election in which the number of seats to be allocated is less than nineteen, this need not be done in respect of lists for which no candidates have been declared elected and which do not form part of a group of lists to which one or more seats have been awarded.

- **Section P 19a**

If a candidate has died, he shall not be considered for the purposes of this division.

§ 4. Publication of the election result

- **Section P 20**

1. The central electoral committee shall determine the result of the election as quickly as possible, but not before the eighth day after polling day. It shall also determine:
 - a. the number of blank votes;
 - b. the number of invalid votes;
 - c. the number of valid voting passes;
 - d. the number of valid voter's passes;
 - e. The number of valid certificates of authorisation;
 - f. the number of valid postal vote certificates and replacement postal vote certificates;
 - g. the sum of the numbers referred to at (c), (d), (e) and (f);
 - h. the number of persons entitled to vote; and
 - i. the difference between the number of voters allowed to vote and the number of votes counted.Where possible, the central electoral committee shall provide an explanation of this difference.
2. The result shall be determined and announced at a public meeting of the central electoral committee. The time and date of the meeting shall be announced in good time by the chairperson of the central electoral committee. The manner of the announcement shall be regulated by order in council.
3. The persons present may make verbal objections.
4. The chairperson of the central electoral committee is responsible for maintaining order during the meeting.

- **Section P 20a**

1. The central electoral committee will at least enter the numbers, as referred to in section P 20(1) to (3) inclusive, from the record in the software, stating the number of the electoral district.
2. The entry referred to in paragraph 1:
 - a. will be made by two members of the central electoral committee or supporting staff acting independently; and
 - b. will be made manually at least once.

- **Section P 20b**

1. The central electoral committee will verify the software-generated outcome of the vote based on a

verification protocol to be prepared by the Electoral Council. If the central electoral committee finds that the software has not performed reliably and the defect cannot be remedied after investigation, it will disregard the software-generated outcome. Where an election of the members of the municipal council, the provincial executive or the general administrative body is concerned, the central electoral committee will promptly notify the Electoral Council of this finding.

2. The Electoral Council will publish the verification protocol as referred to in paragraph 1 in the Government Gazette on or before the day of the nomination.

- **Section P 21**

1. If there are serious grounds for suspicion that one or more municipal electoral committees or postal vote electoral committees have made errors in the count that might affect the allocation of seats, at the meeting referred to in section P 20, before the result of the election is announced, the central electoral committee may decide, either *ex proprio motu* or in response to a reasoned request from one or more persons, to conduct a recount of the ballot papers from all or from one or more polling stations or postal vote polling stations.
2. The municipal electoral committee or the postal vote electoral committee that previously counted the votes shall conduct a recount as referred to in subsection 1 in public, subject to a mandate and authorisation from the central electoral committee.
3. The mayor or the representative of the Netherlands in Aruba, St Maarten or Curaçao shall designate one or more suitable locations for the recount and the determination and announcement of the results of this count. He shall also determine the date and time on which the recount shall commence. The corresponding decision shall immediately be made publicly available by electronic means.
4. If the recount is conducted by a municipal electoral committee, section P 1e, subsections 3 to 7, section P 1f and section P 1g apply *mutatis mutandis*.
5. If the recount is conducted by a postal vote electoral committee, section P 1i, subsections 2 to 4 apply *mutatis mutandis*.
6. If a recount takes place in the case of combined voting as referred to in section J 6 or J 6a of the Elections Act, it shall be conducted in the presence of the central electoral committee for the other election. The central electoral committee that is present at the recount shall

report on this to the representative assembly for which it determines or has determined the election result.

7. Further rules on the recount may be made by order in council.

- **Section P 22**

1. After all the procedures have been completed, an official report of them shall be drawn up immediately. The following shall be stated in the official report:
 - a. the result of the election, which can be broken down by electoral district;
 - b. the number of votes cast for every candidate and the total vote for every list;
 - c. the reports received as referred to in [section P 1b](#), subsection 1, and how they have been handled; and
 - d. the objections made verbally and the response of the central electoral committee.

The official report shall state how many votes have been cast for each candidate and each list.

2. The official report shall be signed by all the members of the central electoral committee who are present.
3. 3. A model for the official report shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

- **Section P 23**

1. The central electoral committee shall immediately make its official report publicly available by electronic means, omitting any signatures.
2. The central electoral committee shall also immediately deposit a copy of its official report for public inspection until a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.
3. The central electoral committee will also electronically publish the software-generated digital file in a manner that is generally accessible.
4. In the case of an election to a municipal council, provincial council or governing board, the central electoral committee shall provide the Electoral Council with the electronic files or, if the central electoral committee has not used software to calculate the election result, a copy of its official report as soon as possible.
5. Further rules on the electronic availability of the official report and the electronic files may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

- **Section P 24**

1. The central electoral committee shall send the following to the representative assembly:
 - a. a copy of its official report; and
 - b. the official reports of the municipal electoral committees.
2. If the central electoral committee is in possession of the following documents, it shall also send them to the representative assembly:
 - a. the official report of the national postal vote electoral committee;
 - b. the official reports of the postal vote electoral committees;
 - c. the official reports of the principal electoral committees;
 - d. the official reports of the electoral committees; and
 - e. the corrigenda to the aforementioned official reports.

- **Section P 25**

[Repealed on 1 January 2023]

- **Section P 26**

[Repealed on 1 January 2023]

- **Section P 27**

Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data under or pursuant to this chapter.

Chapter Pa

The election of members of the electoral college for Dutch nationals who are not residents

- **Section Pa 1**

Members of the electoral college shall be elected, unless provided otherwise in this chapter, by the application *mutatis mutandis* of the provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Part concerning the election of members of the council of a province which forms a single electoral district.

- **Section Pa 2**

1. Members of the electoral college shall be elected by persons who are Dutch nationals, who have attained the age of eighteen years on polling day, and who are not residents of the Netherlands on nomination day, with the exception of persons who have their actual

place of residence in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten on nomination day.

2. This exception does not apply to:

- a. Dutch nationals who have been resident in the Netherlands for at least ten years;
- b. Dutch nationals who are employed in the Dutch public service in Aruba, Curaçao or St Maarten and their Dutch spouses or partners and children, in so far as they have joint households.

• Section Pa 3

The provisions under and pursuant to Chapter D apply *mutatis mutandis* to the election of the electoral college, provided that in section D 2, ‘who are eligible to vote according to section B 1’ is read as: who are eligible to vote according to section Pa 2.

• Section Pa 4

For elections to the electoral college, the area outside the Netherlands shall form a single electoral district: electoral district abroad.

• Section Pa 5

1. For elections to the electoral college, the municipal executive shall not establish electoral committees as referred to in section E 3, subsection 1 nor a municipal electoral committee as referred to in section E 6, subsection 1.
2. For elections to the electoral college, an electoral committee/polling station for postal voting as referred to in section E 5, subsection 1 shall be established.
3. Section E 5, subsection 4 and section E 5a apply *mutatis mutandis* to the electoral committee/polling station for postal voting referred to in subsection 2, provided that section E 5a, subsection 1 is read as: The municipal executive of The Hague shall appoint the members of the postal vote electoral committee and a sufficient number of alternate members in good time before the election of members of the electoral college.

• Section Pa 6

The central electoral committee for an election to the council of the province of South Holland shall also act as the central electoral committee for an election to the electoral college.

• Section Pa 7

The central electoral committee shall give notice in the Government Gazette of the decision as referred to in section G 2, subsection 5 and the cancellation of the

appeal in the register as referred to in section G 2, subsection 7.

• Section Pa 8

1. The provisions under or pursuant to section G 1a concerning the registration of logos apply *mutatis mutandis* to elections to the electoral college, provided that subsection 1, first sentence, is read as: A political grouping whose logo has not already been registered with the central electoral committee for an election to the House of Representatives may submit a request in writing to the central electoral committee for an election to the electoral college to add its logo to the register referred to in section Pa 1 in conjunction with section G 2 of the Elections Act.
2. A logo registered for an election to the House of Representatives, notice of which has been given in the Government Gazette, shall also apply to an election to the electoral college.

• Section Pa 8a

The announcement referred to in section H 1(2) will be made in the Government Gazette

• Section Pa 9

Further to section H 3, subsection 1 and section I 5, opening words and (e), the list of candidates may be submitted by a voter who is entitled to vote in the election to the provincial council.

• Section Pa 10

The minimum number of declarations of support to be submitted as referred to in section H 4, subsection 1 for an election to the electoral college shall be: 10.

• Section Pa 11

1. Notwithstanding section H 4, subsection 3, a voter shall make a declaration of support in a digital environment, in the presence of the mayor of The Hague or an official of the municipality designated for this purpose. In the digital environment, the voter shall indicate by means of an expression of will how the declaration is to be completed and that the mayor or municipal official may complete the declaration of support on his behalf. The mayor or municipal official shall declare that the declaration of support corresponds to the voter’s expression of will by signing the declaration. A model declaration for the form shall be established by ministerial order.

2. The voter shall present a copy of a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act in the digital environment.
3. Notwithstanding section H 4, subsection 4, second sentence, the mayor or municipal official shall immediately check whether the person present in the digital environment is registered for the election to the electoral college and shall note this on the declaration.
4. The declaration of support may only be made in so far as:
 - a. the voter and the mayor or municipal official can see and hear each other through the audiovisual means of communication; and
 - b. the voter can see the mayor or municipal official complete and sign the declaration of support.
5. Immediately after the declaration of support has been made, a copy of the declaration shall be sent to the voter by electronic means. The voter and the mayor shall remain present in the digital environment until the voter receives the copy of the declaration and indicates whether the declaration has been completed and signed correctly on his behalf. If not, the voter may request that a new declaration be made. The new declaration shall replace the first declaration.

• **Section Pa 12**

Section H 7, subsection 3 is read as: If, in the case of an election to the electoral college, the name of a candidate who is a resident of the Netherlands appears on a list, a declaration signed by that candidate and showing that, if appointed, he intends to take up residence outside the Netherlands shall be submitted with the list.

• **Section Pa 13**

1. Notwithstanding section H 10, subsection 1, first sentence, a candidate may choose not to designate an agent in his declaration of consent.
2. If a candidate does not designate an agent, he shall note on the declaration of consent referred to in section H 9, subsection 1 that he consents to receiving the notification of his appointment through an electronic data processing system in which the addressee has access to the notice through a publicly issued means of authentication.

• **Section Pa 14**

A deposit of EUR 225 shall be paid to the municipal council of The Hague for every list of candidates submitted for an election to the electoral college.

• **Section Pa 15**

1. After the end of the meetings referred to in section I 1, subsection 1 and section I 4 for an election to the council of the province of South Holland, the central electoral committee shall proceed to hold these meetings for the election to the electoral college. The time of the meeting as referred to in section I 4 shall be made publicly available by electronic means in good time. The announcement of the time and digital location of the meeting shall be laid down by order in council.
2. Further to section I 18, subsection 1, the official reports shall immediately be made publicly available by electronic means.

• **Section Pa 16**

1. Interested persons other than those physically present can be present at the meeting referred to in section I 4 by attending it in a digital environment. Interested persons must also be able to follow the meeting remotely by means of a live connection.
2. A meeting as referred to in subsection 1 shall only be held in so far as:
 - a. the members are visibly and audibly recognisable in such a way that they can be identified;
 - b. the other participants can be seen and heard in so far as the chairperson gives them the floor; and
 - c. the chairperson is able to maintain order.
 - d. Further rules may be laid down by order in council on the digital environment, the live connection and the way in which interested parties may make objections through the digital environment.

• **Section Pa 17**

For the purposes of the application, *mutatis mutandis*, of section I 2, subsection 1 (b) and section I 6, subsection 1 (e), these provisions are read as the circumstance that the candidate is a resident of the Netherlands and in respect of whom the declaration referred to in section Pa 11 that he intends to take up residence outside the Netherlands is lacking.

• **Section Pa 18**

Further to section I 3, the documents referred to in that section shall be made publicly available by electronic means, omitting any signatures.

• **Section Pa 19**

The publication of the lists of candidates for an election to the electoral college as referred to in section I 17,

subsection 1 shall take place in accordance with section I 17, subsection 2 (a).

- **Section Pa 20**

A voter may only participate in the poll for an election to the electoral college by post. Voters shall not receive voting passes and cannot vote at polling stations.

- **Section Pa 21**

The option to vote by proxy or using a voter's pass as referred to in Chapters K and L does not apply.

- **Section Pa 22**

The provisions under or pursuant to Chapter M apply *mutatis mutandis* to elections to the electoral college, provided that section M1, subsection 1 is read as: A person registered as a voter as referred to in Pa 3 in conjunction with section D 2 shall receive a postal vote certificate as proof of being allowed to vote.

- **Section Pa 23**

Notwithstanding section N 31, subsection 3, second sentence, the mayor of The Hague shall take the official reports to the central electoral committee.

- **Section Pa 24**

In section P 1, 'the official report of a municipal electoral committee or a principal electoral committee' is read as: the official reports of the postal vote electoral committee.

- **Section Pa 25**

Notwithstanding section P 10, the remaining seat or seats shall not be awarded to a list if this were to result in the award of more seats to a list than there are candidates.

- **Section Pa 26**

After the end of the meeting referred to in section P 20, subsection 2 for an election to the council of the province of South Holland, the central electoral committee shall proceed to hold this meeting for the election to the electoral college. The time shall be made publicly available by electronic means in good time. The announcement of the time and digital location of the meeting shall be laid down by order in council.

- **Section Pa 27**

1. Interested persons other than those physically present can be present at the meeting referred to in section P 20, subsection 2 by attending it in a digital environment. Interested persons must also be able

to follow the meeting remotely by means of a live connection.

2. A meeting as referred to in subsection 1 shall only be held in so far as:

- a. the members are visibly and audibly recognisable in such a way that they can be identified;
- b. the other participants can be seen and heard in so far as the chairperson gives them the floor; and
- c. the chairperson is able to maintain order.

3. Further rules may be laid down by order in council on the digital environment, the live connection and the way in which interested parties may make objections through the digital environment.

Part III. Election of the members of the Senate of the States General

Chapter Q General provisions

• Section Q 1

1. The members of the Senate shall be elected by the members of the provincial councils.
2. The members of the provincial councils shall meet in each province to cast their votes.

• Section Q 2

1. The members of the Senate shall be elected for a term of four years.
2. They shall retire simultaneously on the Tuesday between 7 and 13 June in the year in which the members of the provincial councils are elected.
3. If the first meeting of the Senate elected after a dissolution comes before the date on which the term of office of the dissolved House would have ended, the members of the newly elected House shall retire simultaneously on that date.

• Section Q 3

A person appointed as a member of the Senate to fill a vacancy shall retire at the time at which the person in whose place he was appointed would have had to retire.

• Section Q 4

Nominations for an election to the Senate shall take place on the Tuesday between 19 and 25 April.

• Section Q 5

In the event of the dissolution of the Senate, nominations shall take place within forty days of the date of the royal decree of dissolution, on a day to be set in that decree.

• Section Q 6

1. The registration of an appellation of a political grouping for an election to the House of Representatives, as referred to in [section G 1](#), shall also apply to an election to the Senate.
2. A political grouping which is an association with full legal competence, whose appellation has not been registered for an election to the House of Representatives, may request the central electoral

committee for the election to the Senate in writing to enter the appellation by which it wishes to be known on the list of candidates for that election in a register kept by the central electoral committee. Requests received after the twenty-ninth day before nomination shall not be considered for the next election.

3. [Section G 1](#), [subsections 2 to 7](#) and [9](#) apply *mutatis mutandis*, provided that, for the purposes of subsection 7 (d), 'the House of Representatives' is read as 'the Senate'.
4. Apart from the grounds referred to in [section G 1](#), [subsection 4](#), a request to register the appellation of a political grouping for an election to the Senate shall be rejected if the appellation is identical with or very similar to an appellation of another political grouping that has already registered for the election to the House of Representatives, or an appellation in respect of which a registration request for the election to the House of Representatives has been received earlier, creating the risk of confusion.
5. Notwithstanding [section 6:7](#) and [section 6:8](#), [subsection 1](#) of the General Administrative Law Act, an application for review of a decision as referred to in this section shall be filed no later than the sixth day after the date of the Government Gazette in which the decision is published. [Section D 8](#) applies *mutatis mutandis*.

• Section Q 7

1. The provisions on the digital support in the election process set by or pursuant to chapter Ea will apply *mutatis mutandis* to the election of the members of the Senate of the States General.
2. In the determination referred to in [sections U 3](#), the user will use the result software made available by the Electoral Council.

Chapter R Submission of lists of candidates

• Section R 1

1. Lists of candidates may be submitted in person to the central electoral committee between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on nomination day.

2. The lists shall state the province or provinces to which they refer.
3. When and where the forms for the lists of candidates may be obtained, free of charge, by members of provincial councils shall be regulated by order in council. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.

• **Section R 2**

1. A written declaration of support for the list by at least one member of the provincial council of each province to which the list refers, listing the candidates in the same way and in the same order as on the list, shall be submitted with the list.
2. No member of a provincial council may sign more than one declaration of support.
3. Once submitted, a declaration of support may not be retracted.
4. When and where forms for declarations of support may be obtained, free of charge, by members of provincial councils shall be regulated by order in council. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.
5. Section H 4, subsection 8 applies.

• **Section R 3**

One or more persons shall be named on the list who are qualified, in the absence of the person submitting it, to rectify any omissions as referred to in section S 1, subsection 3.

• **Section R 4**

1. The names of the candidates shall be placed on the lists in the order in which preference is given to them.
2. No one list may include the names of more than fifty candidates. In the case of a political grouping whose appellation appeared at the top of a list of candidates to which more than fifteen seats were awarded at the last election of members of the representative assembly in question, the number of names that may appear on the same list may not exceed eighty. The provisions of the previous sentence apply *mutatis mutandis* to combined appellations of two or more groupings.

• **Section R 5**

1. The name of a candidate may not appear on a list if the candidate will not attain the age required for membership of the Senate during the term of office of that assembly to which the election is being held.

2. The name of a candidate may not appear on more than one of the lists submitted for the same province.

• **Section R 6**

The way in which candidates are described on the list shall be regulated by order in council.

• **Section R 7**

1. The agent referred to in section G 1, subsection 3 (c) or section Q 6, subsection 3, in conjunction with section G 1, subsection 3 (c), may authorise the person submitting the list of candidates to place at the top of the list the appellation of the relevant grouping as registered by the central electoral committee. A declaration by the agent evidencing this authorisation shall be submitted with the list.
2. The person who submits the list shall be qualified to place an appellation at the top of it formed by a combination of the appellations or abbreviations registered by the central electoral committee for elections to the Senate or House of Representatives, if he has been empowered to do so by the agents of the various groupings. A declaration evidencing this power shall be submitted with the list. An appellation formed in this way may not contain more than 35 letters or other characters.
3. The person who has submitted the list shall receive proof thereof.
4. When and where forms for the declarations relating to the placing of appellations of political groupings at the top of lists of candidates may be obtained, free of charge, shall be regulated by order in council. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.

• **Section R 8**

1. A written declaration by each candidate appearing on the list that he consents to his nomination on this list for the province or provinces to which the list refers shall be submitted with the list. If no agent as referred to in section R 9 or R 9a is designated, the declaration shall state the address where the candidate wishes to receive notification of his appointment as referred to in section V 1.
2. Once submitted, a declaration of consent may not be retracted.
3. The list shall be accompanied by a copy of a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act for every candidate who is not a member of the Senate. In the absence of a copy of a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory

Identification Act for any such candidate, the declaration of consent of the candidate concerned shall be deemed not to have been submitted.

4. When and where the forms for the declarations of consent may be obtained, free of charge, shall be regulated by order in council. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.

• Section R 9

1. A candidate whose place of residence is situated outside the European part of the Netherlands shall, in the declaration of consent, also designate an agent resident in the European part of the Netherlands, stating the latter's name, initials and address. If the candidate signs more than one declaration, the same agent must be designated in each declaration. The agent is empowered, in the candidate's place, to perform the procedures referred to in section V 2, subsections 1, 4 and 5, section V 3 and section W 2, subsection 1 (f). If the candidate's place of residence is situated in one of the public bodies Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba, the agent is empowered, in the candidate's place, to perform the procedures referred to in section V 2, subsections 1, 4 and 5, section V 3, subsection 1, and section W 2, subsection 1 (f).
2. A candidate shall be entitled to cancel an authorisation given in accordance with subsection 1. He shall notify the chairperson of the central electoral committee of this in writing, if necessary designating a new agent. If no new agent is designated, the candidate shall state the address where he wishes to receive notification of his appointment as referred to in section V 1.

• Section R 9a

1. A candidate resident in the European part of the Netherlands may designate, in the declaration of consent, an agent resident in the European part of the Netherlands, stating the latter's name, initials and address. If the candidate signs more than one declaration, the same agent shall be designated in each declaration. The agent is empowered, in the candidate's place, to perform the procedures referred to in section V 2, subsections 1, 4 and 5, section V 3, subsections 1 and 2, and section W 2, subsection 1 (f).
2. This authorisation may be used only to ensure that candidates on the political grouping's joint lists are declared appointed in the order established by the said grouping before polling day.
3. If the appointment precedes the first meeting of the newly elected assembly, the authorisation may not

be used for candidates who have obtained a number of votes on the joint lists on which they appear which exceeds or is equal to the electoral quota.

4. The political grouping shall communicate the order referred to in subsection 2 to the central electoral committee no later than two weeks after nomination day. The chairperson of the central electoral committee shall ensure that notice of the order is given in the Government Gazette or, in the case of an election to a provincial council, in the provincial gazette as soon as possible.
5. Section R 9, subsection 2 applies mutatis mutandis.

• Section R 10

1. Lists of candidates submitted for different provinces on which the same candidates appear in the same number and the same order shall together form a set of identical lists.
2. Lists of candidates submitted for different provinces at the top of which the same appellation of a political grouping appears or on which the first candidate is the same shall together form a group of lists. The provisions of the previous sentence shall also apply to cases in which the appellations of two or more groupings are combined.

• Section R 11

1. Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data by the central electoral committee under or pursuant to this chapter.

Chapter S

The examination, numbering and publication of the lists of candidates

§ 1. Examination of the lists of candidates

• Section S 1

1. There shall be a central electoral committee for an election to the Senate. The Electoral Council shall act in this capacity.
2. The central electoral committee shall meet to examine the list of candidates.
3. If one or more of the following omissions are discovered during the examination, the central electoral committee shall immediately notify the

person who submitted the list, by registered letter or receipted delivery, that:

- a. for one or more provinces, a declaration as referred to in section R 2, subsection 1 has not been submitted, disregarding declarations by a member of a provincial council who has signed more than one declaration;
 - b. a candidate has not been described in accordance with the provisions of section R 6;
 - c. there is no declaration that the candidate consents to his nomination on the list for the province or provinces to which the list refers;
 - d. a candidate whose place of residence is situated outside the European part of the Netherlands has not designated an agent in his declaration of consent;
 - e. there is no declaration as referred to in section R 7.
4. The person who submitted the list may rectify the omission or omissions specified in the notification by presenting himself to the central electoral committee between 09.00 and 17.00 hours, no later than the third day after the meeting referred to in subsection 2.
5. If the person who submitted the list is absent or unable to be present, a person named on the list pursuant to section R 3 shall take his place.

● **Section S 1a**

Immediately after the lists have been examined by the central electoral committee, they shall be deposited for public inspection at the offices of the central electoral committee.

● **Section S 2**

1. No later than the tenth day after nomination day, the central electoral committee shall decide at a public meeting on the validity of the lists for each province for which they have been submitted and on whether the candidates appearing on the list and the appellation of a political grouping placed at the top of it can be allowed to stand.
2. The chairperson of the central electoral committee shall give notice of the date, time and location of the public meeting in the Government Gazette in good time.

● **Section S 3**

A list shall be invalid for a province if:

- a. it is not submitted in person to the central electoral committee between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on nomination day;

- b. it is not accompanied by a declaration by a member of the provincial council of the province in question as referred to in section R 2, subsection 1, disregarding declarations by a member of a provincial council who has signed more than one declaration;
- c. it does not comply with the model established by ministerial order;
- d. all the candidates have been struck off it pursuant to section S 4.

● **Section S 4**

1. The central electoral committee shall strike off the list for a province, in the order indicated in this subsection, the name of a candidate:
 - a. who has not been described in accordance with the provisions of section R 6;
 - b. for whom no declaration of consent to the nomination for the province in question has been submitted;
 - c. whose place of residence is situated outside the European part of the Netherlands, if no agent has been designated;
 - d. who will not attain the age required for membership of the Senate for which the election is being held during its forthcoming term of office;
 - e. who appears on more than one of the lists submitted for the province in question;
 - f. in respect of whom an extract from the register of deaths or a copy of a death certificate has been submitted;
 - g. who appears on the list after the maximum number of names permitted.
2. The central electoral committee shall strike from the list for a province, in the order indicated in this subsection, the appellation of a political grouping, if:
 - a. there is no declaration as referred to in section R 7;
 - b. the appellation appears at the top of more than one of the lists submitted to the central electoral committee for the province in question.
3. If the appellation of a political grouping does not correspond with that under which it has been registered, the central electoral committee shall alter it *ex proprio motu* to make it so correspond.

● **Section S 5**

1. Notwithstanding section 8:1 of the General Administrative Law Act, any interested party or any voter may apply for judicial review of a decision as referred to in section S 2.

2. Section I 7, subsection 1, second sentence, and subsections 2 to 4 apply *mutatis mutandis*.
3. The president of the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State shall immediately notify the parties and the chairperson of the central electoral committee of the judgment.

- **Section S 6**

1. If an appeal has been lodged against a decision in which the central electoral committee has declared a list for a province invalid or has deleted the name of a candidate or the appellation of a political grouping on grounds of one or more of the defects as listed in section S 1(3), without the central electoral committee having given advance notice, in accordance with the provisions of that section, of the existence thereof to the person who had submitted the list, such person or a person as referred to in section R 3 may still remedy the defect or defects before the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State. Section S 1(5) will apply *mutatis mutandis*.
2. If an omission has been rectified in accordance with subsection 1, the Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State shall take this into account in its judgment.

- **Section S 7**

1. An official report shall be drawn up of the meetings referred to in sections S 1 and S 2. The report shall be available for public inspection.
2. Those present at the meeting referred to in section S 2 may make verbal objections. Mention of these objections and of the response of the central electoral committee shall be made in the official report.
3. Model official reports shall be established by ministerial order.

§ 2. The numbering of the lists of candidates

- **Section S 8**

[Repealed on 1 January 2011]

- **Section S 9**

[Repealed on 1 January 2011]

- **Section S 10**

The central electoral committee shall number the lists of candidates at the meeting referred to in section S 2.

- **Section S 11**

For numbering purposes, groups of lists and sets of identical lists not forming part of a group shall be treated as single lists.

- **Section S 12**

1. The first lists to be numbered shall be those of political groupings whose appellation appeared at the top of a list of candidates to which one or more seats were allocated at the last election to the Senate. These lists shall be numbered from 1 onwards in the order of the total votes cast for the relevant lists at that election, provided always that the number 1 is given to the list of the grouping with the highest total vote. In the event of a tied vote, the matter shall be determined by lot.
2. Subsection 1 applies *mutatis mutandis* to cases in which the appellations of two or more groupings are combined if, at the last election to the Senate, one or more seats were allocated either to the combinations of groupings or to at least one of them. Where one or more seats were allocated to at least one of the groupings, the number of votes cast for the lists of the groupings to which the seats were allocated shall be added together for the purposes of subsection 1, second sentence.
3. The other lists shall then be numbered with the numbers following the last number given pursuant to subsection 1, in the order of the number of provinces to which the list applies, provided that the next number is assigned to the list that applies to the most provinces. Where the number of provinces is the same, the matter shall be decided by lot.

- **Section S 13**

After a final decision has been taken on the validity of the lists submitted, the chairperson of the central electoral committee shall publish the lists no later than the seventh day before polling day by placing the lists, arranged by province, in the Government Gazette, stating their numbers and, where appropriate, the appellations of the political groupings.

- **Section S 14**

A decision in review proceedings to declare a list of candidates invalid shall not affect the numbers given to the other lists of candidates.

§ 3. Concluding provision

- **Section S 15**

The central electoral committee shall destroy the lists of candidates and the corresponding documents submitted, with the exception of the declarations of consent submitted, after the result has been determined. An official report shall be drawn up of their destruction.

- **Section S 16**

Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data by the central electoral committee under or pursuant to this chapter.

Chapter T Voting and the count

- **Section T 1**

1. Voting shall take place on the thirty-fourth day after nomination day.
2. Voting shall take place at 15.00 hours (European Dutch time).

- **Section T 2**

1. The lists of candidates for whom votes may be cast shall be printed on one side of the ballot paper used in the election, with the name of the province and the signature of the presiding officer of the provincial council on the other.
2. A model ballot paper shall be established by ministerial order.
3. The presiding officer shall ensure that the requisite number of ballot papers are available in the assembly before the start of voting.

- **Section T 3**

The presiding officer shall appoint three members from those present in the assembly of the provincial council to form the electoral committee, with himself as chairperson.

- **Section T 4**

1. A member of the provincial council shall vote by colouring red a white spot opposite the name of the candidate of his choice.
2. A member of the provincial council shall be permitted to vote by proxy at his request. A member wishing to exercise this right shall do so by notifying the presiding

officer in writing before the start of the meeting of the provincial council at which voting will take place, designating a member of the provincial council who is prepared to act as proxy. A member of the provincial council may not accept more than one appointment as proxy. A model notification shall be established by ministerial order.

3. Section J 27 applies, provided that 'a voter' is read as: a member of the provincial council.

- **Section T 5**

After casting his vote a member of the provincial council shall hand his folded ballot paper to the chairperson.

- **Section T 6**

1. The chairperson shall announce how many ballot papers have been lodged.
2. The vote shall be invalid if this number exceeds the number of members present in the assembly, plus the number of members present who have been authorised to cast proxy votes.
3. In that case the chairperson shall destroy the ballot papers lodged and a new poll shall take place.

- **Section T 7**

1. The chairperson shall open the ballot papers.
2. He shall then state the list and the candidate for which each ballot paper was cast. He shall also state whether the ballot paper bears a blank or invalid vote.
3. After one of the members of the electoral committee has checked the ballot paper, the two other members shall keep a note of each vote cast.

- **Section T 8**

1. A blank vote is one cast on a ballot paper on which the voter has not coloured the white spot in the box entirely or partly red and has not written or drawn anything else.
2. An invalid vote is one cast on a ballot paper other than those which may be used in accordance with provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Act.
3. A vote which is not regarded as a blank vote but which has been cast by means of a ballot paper on which the voter has not indicated unequivocally for which candidate he has voted, by colouring the white spot in the box entirely or partly red, or a ballot paper to which additions have been made from which the voter can be identified shall also be invalid.

- **Section T 9**

In the event of doubt about the validity of a ballot paper the assembly shall decide. In the event of a tied vote, the presiding officer shall decide.

- **Section T 10**

1. Immediately after the votes have been counted, the chairperson shall announce in respect of each list both the number of votes cast for each candidate and the number of votes cast for the list as a whole. The latter figure shall be referred to as the total vote. He shall also announce the number of blank and invalid votes cast.
2. The ballot papers bearing blank votes and the ballot papers declared invalid shall subsequently be placed in packets, which shall then be sealed. On these packets shall be stated:
 - a. the name of the province;
 - b. the number of ballot papers contained in the packet.
3. The valid ballot papers, arranged by list, shall be placed in a packet, which shall then be sealed. On each packet shall be stated:
 - a. the name of the province;
 - b. the number of ballot papers contained in the packet.

- **Section T 11**

1. After all the procedures referred to in [section T 10](#) have been completed, an official report on the voting and the count shall be drawn up immediately.
2. The official report shall be signed by the chairperson and all the members of the electoral committee.
3. The official report, together with the sealed packets referred to in [section T 10](#), shall be taken to the chairperson of the central electoral committee immediately after voting has ended.
4. The chairperson of the central electoral committee shall immediately make the official reports publicly accessible by electronic means, omitting any signatures. He shall also immediately make copies of the official reports available for inspection at the office of the central electoral committee, until a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected.
5. A model for the official report shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

Chapter U

Determination of the election result by the central electoral committee

§ 1. General provisions

- **Section U 1**

Immediately after the official reports have been received, the central electoral committee shall begin the work of determining and announcing the result of the election.

- **Section U 2**

1. Each vote shall count, according to the province where it has been cast, for a number of votes equal to the figure obtained by dividing the population of the province by a hundred times the number of members comprising the provincial council. The quotient is then rounded to a whole number, upwards if the fraction is $\frac{1}{2}$ or more and downwards if the fraction is less than $\frac{1}{2}$. This figure is known as the vote value.
2. The population of a province shall be taken to be the population according to the population figures published by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) for 1 January of the year in which the election takes place.
3. If, in the case of dissolution of the Senate, the populations of the provinces for 1 January of the year in which the election takes place have not been published three weeks before nomination day, the population of a province shall be the population according to the population figures published by Statistics Netherlands for the first day of the fourth month before the month in which nomination day falls.
4. The central electoral committee shall determine the vote values in accordance with this section and shall publish them in the Government Gazette before polling day.

§ 2. The allocation of seats

- **Section U 3**

For each province the central electoral committee shall multiply the number of votes cast for each candidate and the total vote cast for the lists by the vote value for that province. In order to determine the result of the election, the products thus obtained shall serve as the numbers of votes cast for each candidate or the total votes cast for the lists.

- **Section U 3a**

1. The central electoral committee will at least enter the numbers referred to in section U 3 in the software.
2. The entry referred to in paragraph 1:
 - a. will be made by two members of the central electoral committee or supporting staff acting independently; and
 - b. will be made manually.

- **Section U 4**

1. A set of identical lists as referred to in section R 10, subsection 1 shall be treated as a single list for the purpose of determining the result of the election.
2. The central electoral committee shall add up the total votes for these identical lists and the number of votes cast for each candidate.

- **Section U 5**

A group of lists as referred to in section R 10, subsection 2 shall be treated, for the purpose of determining the number of seats to be allocated to it, as a single list with a total vote equal to the sum of the total votes of the lists comprising the group.

- **Section U 6**

[Repealed on 1 January 2011]

- **Section U 7**

1. The central electoral committee shall divide the sum of the total votes of all the lists by the number of seats to be allocated.
2. The quotient thus obtained shall be known as the electoral quota.

- **Section U 8**

A seat shall be allocated to a list as many times as the total vote for that list contains the electoral quota.

- **Section U 9**

The remaining seats, known as residual seats, shall be allocated sequentially to the lists which, after the seats have been allocated, have the highest average number of votes per seat allocated. If the averages are equal, the matter shall be decided by lot.

- **Section U 10**

If, as a result of the application of the previous provisions, a list would be allocated more seats than it has candidates, the remaining seat or seats shall pass, by the continued application of such provisions, to one or more of the other

lists containing candidates to whom no seat has been allocated.

- **Section U 11**

[Repealed on 1 January 2011]

- **Section U 12**

1. The allocation of the seats awarded to a group of lists among the lists which comprise the group shall be effected as follows.
2. The central electoral committee shall divide the total vote of the group of lists by the number of seats awarded to the group.
3. The quotient thus obtained shall be known as the group electoral quota.
4. A seat awarded to the group shall be awarded to each of the lists comprising the group as many times as the total vote of the relevant list contains the group electoral quota.
5. The residual seats shall be awarded sequentially to the lists of the group whose total votes have the highest remainder when divided by the group electoral quota. Lists which have no remainder shall be deemed for this purpose to be the lists with the lowest remainder. If the remainders are equal, the matter shall be decided by lot.

- **Section U 13**

1. If the application of section U 12 would result in the award of more seats to a list than there are candidates, the remaining seat or seats shall pass, by the continued application of such provisions, to one of the other lists of the group containing candidates to whom no seat has been awarded.
2. If there are still seats to be awarded after subsection 1 has been applied, they shall be awarded in accordance with the system of the highest averages as referred to in section U 9.

- **Section U 14**

The drawing of lots referred to in the previous sections shall take place at the meeting of the central electoral committee referred to in section U 16.

§ 3. Award of seats to the candidates

- **Section U 15**

1. The candidates elected shall be those on the list designated for this purpose by applying sections P 15

to P 18 and section P 19a mutatis mutandis, provided that, notwithstanding section P 15, subsection 1, first sentence, the candidates elected shall be those who have obtained a number of votes greater than or equal to the electoral quota.

2. The candidates shall be arranged in order in accordance with the provisions of section P 19, subsections 1, 3 and 4, provided that the order does not apply in the case of lists on which no candidates have been declared elected and which do not form part of a group of lists to which one or more seats have been awarded.

§ 4. Publication of the election result

• Section U 16

1. The central electoral committee shall determine the result of the election as quickly as possible. The result shall be determined and announced at a public meeting of the central electoral committee. Section P 20, subsections 2 to 4, and section P 22 apply.
2. The central electoral committee shall immediately make its official report publicly available by electronic means, omitting any signatures. An internet address may be designated for this purpose by ministerial order.
3. The chairperson of the central electoral committee shall send a copy of the official report to the Senate.

• Section U 17

The central electoral committee may decide, either *ex proprio motu* or in response to a reasoned request from one or more members of a provincial council, to conduct a recount of the ballot papers from one or more provinces.

• Section U 18

1. As soon as the result of the election has been determined, the opened packets shall be resealed, after all the ballot papers have been replaced in them.
2. The central electoral committee shall keep the sealed packets for three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected. It shall then destroy the packets immediately. An official report shall be drawn up of their destruction.

• Section U 19

1. Sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply to the processing of personal data under or pursuant to this chapter.

Chapter Ua

The election of members of the Senate by the members of the electoral college for Dutch nationals who are not residents

• Section Ua 1

1. The members of the Senate who represent Dutch nationals who are not residents shall be elected by the members of the electoral college.
2. The members of the electoral college shall meet in the European part of the Netherlands to cast their votes.
3. For elections to the Senate, the area outside the Netherlands shall form a single electoral district: electoral district abroad.

• Section Ua 2

The provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Part on the election of members of the Senate shall, unless provided otherwise in this division, apply *mutatis mutandis* to the election of these members by the members of the electoral college, provided that the following terms are read as:

- a. 'province' or 'provinces': electoral district abroad;
- b. 'the provincial council' and 'the council': the electoral college;
- c. 'member of the provincial council': member of the electoral college; and
- d. 'assembly of the provincial council': assembly of the electoral college.

• Section Ua 3

1. Further to section T 4, subsection 2, if a member of the electoral college is prevented from physically participating in the vote, he may notify the chairperson by electronic means of his request to vote by proxy before the start of the meeting.
2. A model notification shall be established by ministerial order. Further rules may be laid down by order in council on the notification by electronic means.

• Section Ua 4

1. Notwithstanding section U 2, subsection 1, the vote of a member of the electoral college shall count for a number of votes equal to the figure obtained by first dividing the number of voters registered for the election to the electoral college by a hundred times the number of members of the electoral college pursuant

to section 5, subsection 1 of the Non-Resident Electoral College Act and multiplying the resulting figure by the figure obtained by dividing the number of residents of the Netherlands by the number of persons entitled to vote in the elections to the provincial councils and the electoral colleges for the Senate in Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba. The quotient is then rounded to a whole number, upwards if the fraction is $\frac{1}{2}$ or more and downwards if the fraction is less than $\frac{1}{2}$. This figure is known as the vote value.

2. The number of registered persons eligible to vote for the election of the members of the electoral college will be the number of voters registered for such election pursuant to Pa 3 in conjunction with section D 2 thirty-four days prior to the day of the vote. The municipal executive will promptly provide this information to the central electoral committee.
3. The population of the Netherlands shall be taken to be the population according to the population figures published by Statistics Netherlands (CBS) for 1 January of the year in which the election takes place.
4. The number of persons entitled to vote in the elections to the provincial councils and the electoral colleges for the Senate in Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba shall be the number of persons entitled to vote in the previous election to the provincial councils and the aforementioned electoral colleges.
5. If, in the case of dissolution of the Senate, the population of the Netherlands for 1 January of the year in which the election takes place has not been published three weeks before nomination day, the population according to the population figures published by Statistics Netherlands for the first day of the fourth month before the month in which nomination day falls shall apply.
6. The central electoral committee shall determine the vote value in accordance with this section and shall publish it in the Government Gazette before polling day.

Part IV. The commencement of and changes in membership of the House of Representatives and Senate of the States General, of provincial councils, governing boards and municipal councils and of the electoral college for Dutch nationals who are not residents

Chapter V

The commencement of membership

§ 1. General provisions

• Section V 1

1. The chairperson of the central electoral committee shall notify an appointee in writing of his appointment. The letter containing this notification shall be handed over, in return for a dated receipt, or sent by registered post no later than the day after the result of the election has been determined or after the declaration of appointment. The President of the House of Representatives or the Senate of the States General shall, within the said time limit, hand the letter, in return for a dated receipt, or send it by registered post to appointed members of the House of Representatives or the Senate of the States General. To this end the chairperson of the central electoral committee shall hand the letter to the President of the House of Representatives or the Senate of the States General immediately after the determination of the result or the declaration of appointment.
2. If the appointee has designated an agent, the letter shall be sent or handed to the agent.
3. The chairperson shall at the same time give written notice of the appointment to the representative assembly. This notice shall serve as the appointee's credentials.

• Section V 2

1. The appointee shall ensure that the representative assembly receives a communication accepting the appointment from him or from the agent by letter no later than the tenth or, in the case of an appointment to fill a vacancy occurring after the first meeting of the newly elected assembly, the twenty-eighth day after the date of the notification of appointment.

2. If such a communication has not been received within this time limit, he shall be deemed not to have accepted the appointment.
3. The presiding officer of the representative assembly shall inform the chairperson of the central electoral committee without delay that the appointee has accepted the appointment or that he is deemed not to have accepted it.
4. If the appointee does not accept the appointment, he or his agent shall inform the chairperson of the central electoral committee accordingly by letter within the time limit referred to in subsection 1. The chairperson shall notify the representative assembly.
5. Until such time as a decision has been taken to admit the appointee, the latter or his agent may inform the representative assembly by letter that he has reconsidered his acceptance of the appointment. He shall then be deemed not to have accepted the appointment. The presiding officer of the representative assembly shall give immediate notice of receipt of this communication to the chairperson of the central electoral committee.

• Section V 3

1. When stating that he accepts his appointment the appointee or his agent shall at the same time file with the representative assembly a declaration signed by him and disclosing all public offices held by the appointee.
2. Unless the appointee was already a member of the representative assembly at the time of his appointment, he shall also file an authenticated copy of data from the personal records database, showing his place of residence, his date and place of birth, his franchise, and, in the case of an appointment to the House of Representatives, the Senate or a provincial council, his Dutch nationality.
3. The agent of an appointee who has his place of residence outside the Netherlands shall file, instead of the copy referred to subsection 2, an extract from the

register of births showing the date and place of birth of the appointee and proof that the appointee has Dutch nationality.

4. If a person appointed as a member of a municipal council is not a national of a European Union member state, he shall file an authenticated copy of data from the personal records database, showing that he fulfils the requirements referred to in section 10, subsection 2 of the Municipalities Act.

- **Section V 4**

1. The representative assembly for which the election has been held shall examine the credentials immediately and decide whether to admit the appointee as a member of the assembly. In doing so, it shall ascertain that the appointee fulfils the requirements for membership and holds no position incompatible with membership, and shall settle any disputes which arise in connection with the credentials or the election itself. If the appointee will have reached the requisite age for membership before the first meeting of the newly elected assembly, account will be taken of this in reaching the decision. The examination of the credentials of members of the House of Representatives or Senate shall be regulated in the rules of procedure of the relevant House.
2. The examination of the credentials shall not extend to the validity of the lists of candidates.
3. In the case of the admission of a person appointed to fill a casual vacancy, the examination shall not extend to points involving the conduct of the election or the determination of the result.

- **Section V 4a**

1. For the elections to the House of Representatives, provincial councils, governing boards and municipal councils, for the purposes of the examination referred to in section V 4, subsection 1 the representative assembly may decide on a recount of the ballot papers from all or from one or more polling stations or postal vote polling stations.
2. The municipal electoral committees or the postal vote electoral committees that previously counted the votes shall conduct a recount as referred to in subsection 1 in public, on the responsibility of the representative assembly.
3. In so far as a representative assembly decides on a recount in the case of combined voting as referred to in section J 6a of the Elections Act, it shall be conducted in

the presence of the representative assembly for which the other election is held.

4. Further rules on the recount may be made by order in council.

- **Section V 4b**

1. For an election to the Senate, for the purposes of the examination referred to in section V 4, subsection 1 the representative assembly may decide on a recount in one or more provinces.
2. The chairperson of the central electoral committee shall take the packets referred to in section T 10 to the representative assembly immediately. The representative assembly shall start the recount immediately after receiving the packets. To this end it shall be empowered to open the sealed packets and to compare the contents with the official reports of the electoral committees. Sections T 6 to T 10 apply *mutatis mutandis*.
3. Once the examination has been completed, the documents from the opened packets shall be repacked and sealed as prescribed in section T 10.

- **Section V 5**

An invalid poll in one or more polling stations, postal vote polling stations or provinces or any error in the determination of an election result shall not prevent the admission of members whose election cannot have been affected by the invalidity or error or, in the event of an invalid poll, cannot be affected by a new poll.

- **Section V 6**

1. If the assembly to which an appointment has been made decides not to admit one or more persons on account of an invalid poll at one or more polling stations, postal vote polling stations or provinces, the presiding officer shall immediately notify:
 - a. Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations in the case of an election to the House of Representatives or Senate;
 - b. the provincial executive in the case of an election to a provincial council;
 - c. the executive board in the case of an election to a governing board;
 - d. the municipal executive in the case of an election to a municipal council.
2. A new poll shall be held no later than the thirtieth day after this notification has been received, at the polling stations, postal vote polling stations or provinces referred to in subsection 1, and the result of the

election shall be determined anew. The date of the vote shall be determined by:

- a. Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations in the case of an election to the House of Representatives or Senate;
 - b. the provincial executive in the case of an election to a provincial council;
 - c. the executive board in the case of an election to a governing board;
 - d. the municipal executive in the case of an election to a municipal council.
3. During this determination, a person who has already been admitted as a member shall remain elected, even if it proves that the election was incorrect. The candidate who would have been elected if the person admitted had not been declared elected shall then drop out.

• Section V 7

1. The persons qualified to take part in a new poll as referred to in section V 6, subsection 2 shall be those whose names appear on the valid voting passes, voter's passes, certificates of authorisation (where a person issuing an authorisation is concerned), postal vote certificates and replacement postal vote certificates that were submitted in the poll that was declared invalid, with the exception of persons who, it becomes clear after the poll that was declared invalid, should not have been registered to vote. In so far as the documents involve the processing of personal data as a result of a poll referred to in section V 6, subsection 2, sections 15, 16 and 18 of the General Data Protection Regulation do not apply.
2. If the poll referred to in section V 6, subsection 2 concerns all polling stations in a municipality, the persons qualified to take part in the new poll shall be those who, in respect of the poll that was declared invalid:
 - a. were rightly registered to vote or wrongly not registered to vote in the municipality, with the exception of persons:
 - to whom a voter's pass was issued that was not submitted in the poll that was declared invalid in the municipality;
 - for whom a certificate of authorisation was issued that was not submitted in the poll that was declared invalid in the municipality; or
 - to whom a postal vote certificate was issued;
 - b. were rightly registered to vote in another municipality and appear on the valid voter's passes

or certificates of authorisation (where a person issuing an authorisation is concerned) submitted in the poll that was declared invalid in the municipality.

3. Subsection 2 does not apply to postal vote polling stations.

• Section V 8

[Repealed on 1 January 2023]

• Section V 9

1. If the representative assembly to which an appointment has been made has applied section V 4a or V 4b, no later than the fourteenth day after polling day the central electoral committee shall determine the result of the election anew if necessary and announce it at the meeting.
2. Sections P 20 and P 22 to P 24 apply *mutatis mutandis*.
3. The examination of the credentials of the person thus newly declared elected shall not extend to points involving the conduct of the election.

• Section V 10

If the assembly to which an appointment has been made has decided not to admit the appointee as a member because he does not fulfil the requirements for membership or holds a position incompatible with membership, or because the declaration of appointment by the chairperson of the central electoral committee contravenes the provisions of Chapter W, the presiding officer of the assembly shall immediately notify the chairperson of the central electoral committee accordingly.

• Section V 11

The membership of a person appointed as a member of a representative assembly shall commence as soon as he has been notified of the decision on his admission.

• Section V 11a

1. The representative assembly for which the election has been held shall keep the documents handed to it pursuant to section P 24 for three months after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected. It shall then destroy these documents immediately, with the exception of the copy of the official report of the central electoral committee. An official report shall be drawn up of their destruction.
2. Subsection 1 applies to the packets referred to in section V 4b.

§ 2. Special provisions governing the commencement of membership of a provincial council, governing board or municipal council

• Section V 12

A decision on the admission of persons appointed to be members of a provincial council, governing board or municipal council shall be taken immediately.

• Section V 13

1. Notice of every decision relating to the admission of a person appointed to be a member of a provincial council, governing board or municipal council shall be given immediately by the presiding officer of the provincial council, the presiding officer of the representative assembly of the water board or the presiding officer of the municipal council respectively to the appointee.
2. A person who has not been admitted shall be notified of the reasons for the decision.
3. Subsection 1 applies *mutatis mutandis* if no decision has been taken by the representative assembly because of repeated tied votes or a tied vote at a plenary meeting on a resolution concerning admission.

• Section V 15

1. If, by the time the members of a provincial council, a representative assembly of a water board or a municipal council have to retire in rotation, the credentials of over half of the statutory number of members have not been approved, the members of that representative assembly shall remain in office until this has been done. During this period the members elected in the election shall not carry out their duties.
2. A place which falls vacant after the periodic retirement shall be filled in the same way as if it had fallen vacant previously.

Chapter W Replacement

• Section W 1

1. If a vacancy must be filled other than pursuant to the determination of an election result, the chairperson of the central electoral committee shall declare in a reasoned decision, no later than the fourteenth day after the vacancy has come to his attention, the appointment of the eligible candidate who was placed

highest in the order referred to in section P 19 or section U 15, subsection 2 on the list containing the person who must be replaced. If the member whose place must be filled ceased to hold office with effect from a particular date, the time limit referred to in the first sentence shall start on that date.

2. If a place which was filled by the application of section P 16, subsection 2, falls vacant, the chairperson of the central electoral committee shall declare, notwithstanding subsection 1, the appointment of the eligible candidate on a list from which a seat was withheld pursuant to section P 16, subsection 2.
3. If the list referred to in subsection 1 forms part of a group of lists and candidates who appear on one or more lists or sets of identical lists of that group have obtained, on the joint lists on which they appear, a number of votes exceeding 25% of the electoral quota but have not been elected pursuant to section P 15, the chairperson of the central electoral committee shall declare, notwithstanding subsection 1, the appointment of whichever of these candidates obtained the highest number of votes.
4. In the case of the replacement of a member of a municipal council with fewer than nineteen seats, the figure taken into account for the purposes of subsection 3 shall be half of the electoral quota instead of 25% thereof.
5. If a vacancy occurs in respect of a place which had been filled pursuant to subsection 3, and subsection 3 may not be applied anew, the chairperson of the central electoral committee shall declare the appointment of the eligible candidate on a list from which a seat was withheld pursuant to subsection 3.
6. A model shall be established by ministerial order for the decision of the chairperson of the central electoral committee appointing a member of a representative assembly necessitated by:
 - a. the non-acceptance of an appointment by a candidate;
 - b. the non-admission of a candidate, or
 - c. the occurrence of a vacancy in the assembly.
7. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

• Section W 2

1. For the purposes of section W 1, no account shall be taken of a candidate:
 - a. who has died;

- b. who has been granted temporary termination of membership in connection with pregnancy, childbirth or illness;
 - c. whose vacancy is being filled;
 - d. who has been declared appointed to a vacancy but who has declared in writing that he does not accept the appointment or is deemed not to have accepted it, who has not filed the documents referred to in section V 3 in good time or who has not been admitted to the representative assembly by virtue of a decision;
 - e. who is a member of the representative assembly or has been declared appointed as such if no decision has yet been taken on his admission as a member, unless he has been appointed to fill a vacancy that has arisen as a result of temporary termination of membership as referred to in division 3 of Chapter X;
 - f. from whom the chairperson of the central electoral committee has received a written declaration that he does not wish to be considered for the appointment;
 - g. who was a member of the representative assembly although it has come to the notice of the chairperson of the central electoral committee that the vacancy left by this candidate too must be filled;
 - h. who, in the case of an election to a provincial council, governing board or municipal council, cannot be appointed pursuant to section 12 of the Provinces Act, section 31b of the Water Boards Act or section 11 of the Municipalities Act.
2. A declaration as referred to in subsection 1 (f) may be retracted.
 3. A model for the declaration referred to in subsection 1 (f) shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

• **Section W 3**

If, following the application of the provisions of this chapter, there is no longer any candidate eligible for appointment on the list for which the person who must be replaced was elected and this list forms a group of lists with one or more other lists, the seat shall pass to one of the other lists pursuant to section P 13 or section U 13. The candidate on this list who is eligible for appointment according to the order determined in accordance with section P 19 or section U 15 respectively shall be declared appointed. If there is no longer any candidate eligible for

appointment on this list either, the place shall be awarded to another list forming part of the group by the further application of the provisions of this subsection, and so forth.

• **Section W 4**

1. If, in the case of replacement of members of a representative assembly with fewer than nineteen members, there is no longer any candidate eligible for appointment on the list for which the person to be replaced was elected or on the lists which form with it a group of lists, a decision shall be taken on which of the other lists will be awarded the place pursuant to section P 10. The candidate on the list to which the place is awarded and who is eligible for appointment according to the order determined in accordance with section P 19 shall be declared appointed.
2. If, following the application of the provisions of this chapter, there is no longer a candidate eligible for appointment on any of the lists, the central electoral committee shall decide that no replacement can be appointed. A model for such a decision shall be established by regulation of the Electoral Council. The model established by the Electoral Council shall be subject to the approval of Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

• **Section W 5**

1. If the application of section W 3 or W 4 results in a matter being decided by lot, the drawing of lots shall take place at a meeting of the central electoral committee.
2. Sections P 20 and P 22 apply *mutatis mutandis* to the meeting referred to in subsection 1.

• **Section W 6**

If the chairperson of a central electoral committee is notified on the same day that more than one vacancy has occurred in a representative assembly and that consequently a candidate on more than one list should be declared appointed, the latter shall be appointed by the application *mutatis mutandis* of section P 18.

• **Section W 7**

1. Notice of each appointment made pursuant to the provisions of this chapter shall be given immediately in the Government Gazette or, in the case of an appointment to a provincial council, governing board or municipal council, in the provincial gazette, water board gazette or municipal gazette.

2. The chairperson of the central electoral committee shall send a copy of the appointment decision to the representative assembly.

- **Section W 8**

Further rules may be laid down by order in council regarding the filling of vacancies in representative assemblies.

Chapter X

Termination of membership and temporary replacement of a member

§ 1. General provisions concerning the termination of membership

- **Section X 1**

1. As soon as it has been finally established that a member of a representative assembly does not possess one of the requirements for membership or that he holds a position which is incompatible with membership, he shall cease to be a member.
2. The presiding officer of the representative assembly shall immediately notify the chairperson of the central electoral committee accordingly.
3. Similar notification shall be given if a vacancy has occurred in the representative assembly owing to the death of a member.

- **Section X 2**

1. A member of a representative assembly on whose admission a decision has been taken may resign at any time. It is not possible to resign with retroactive effect.
2. He shall inform the presiding officer of the representative assembly of this in writing. The latter shall immediately notify the chairperson of the central electoral committee.
3. Once resignation has been tendered, it cannot be retracted.

§ 2. Special provisions concerning the termination of membership

- **Section X 3**

1. If a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate is appointed to an office as referred to in section

57, paragraph 2 of the Constitution, his membership of the House or Senate shall be terminated automatically.

2. If a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate finds himself in one of the situations referred to in section X 1, subsection 1, except on the basis of section X 3, subsection 1, he shall notify the House of this, stating the reason.
3. If no notification is given and the presiding officer of the House considers that a member of the House is in one of the situations referred to in section X 1, subsection 1, he shall warn the person concerned in writing.
4. The person concerned may then refer the matter to the judgment of the House not later than the eighth day after the date of the warning referred to in subsection 3.

- **Section X 4**

1. If a member of a provincial council finds himself in one of the situations referred to in section X 1, subsection 1, he shall notify the council of this, stating the reason.
2. If no notification is given and the presiding officer of the provincial council considers that a member of the provincial council is in one of the situations referred to in section X 1, subsection 1, he shall warn the person concerned in writing.
3. The person concerned may then refer the matter to the judgment of the provincial council not later than the eighth day after the date of the warning referred to in subsection 2.

- **Section X 4a**

1. If a member of a governing board finds himself in one of the situations referred to in section X 1, subsection 1, he shall notify the representative assembly of the water board of this, stating the reason.
2. If no notification is given and the presiding officer of the representative assembly of the water board considers that a member of the governing board is in one of the situations referred to in section X 1, subsection 1, he shall warn the person concerned in writing.
3. The person concerned may then refer the matter to the judgment of the representative assembly of the water board not later than the eighth day after the date of the warning referred to in subsection 2.

- **Section X 5**

1. If a member of a municipal council finds himself in one of the situations referred to in section X 1, subsection 1, he shall notify the council of this, stating the reason.
2. If no notification is given and the presiding officer of the municipal council considers that a member of the municipal council is in one of the situations referred to in section X 1, subsection 1, he shall warn the person concerned in writing.
3. The person concerned may then refer the matter to the judgment of the municipal council not later than the eighth day after the date of the warning referred to in subsection 2.

- **Section X 6**

Members of a provincial council, governing board or municipal council who have tendered their resignation shall retain their membership, even if they have resigned with effect from a particular date, until the credentials of their successors have been approved or until the central electoral committee has decided that no successor can be appointed.

- **Section X 7**

1. A member of a provincial council who contravenes section 15 of the Provinces Act may be suspended from his position by the presiding officer of the provincial council. The latter shall refer the matter to the provincial council for consideration at its next meeting.
2. After giving the person suspended the opportunity to defend himself orally, the provincial council may declare him expelled. If it finds no reason to do so, it shall terminate the suspension.
3. The provincial council may also expel a member *ex proprio motu*, after giving him the opportunity to defend himself orally, if that person has contravened section 15 of the Provinces Act.
4. The decision of the provincial council referred to in subsections 2 and 3 shall be forwarded forthwith to the person concerned.
5. If the provincial council has decided to expel a member, this decision shall not take effect within the time limit for lodging an application for review or, if an application for review has been lodged, until a decision has been taken. If the expulsion is by virtue of a decision taken *ex proprio motu*, the member of the provincial council shall be suspended from his position during this period.
6. If a member of the provincial council has been expelled under this section, the King's Commissioner shall notify

the chairperson of the central electoral committee accordingly.

- **Section X 7a**

1. A member of a governing board who contravenes section 33, subsection 1 of the Water Boards Act may be suspended from his position by the presiding officer of the representative assembly of the water board. The latter shall refer the matter to the representative assembly for consideration at its next meeting.
2. After giving the person suspended the opportunity to defend himself orally, the representative assembly of the water board may declare him expelled. If it finds no reason to do so, it shall terminate the suspension.
3. The representative assembly of the water board may also expel a member *ex proprio motu*, after giving him the opportunity to defend himself orally, if that person has contravened section 33, subsection 1 of the Water Boards Act.
4. The decision of the representative assembly of the water board referred to in subsections 2 and 3 shall be forwarded forthwith to the person concerned.
5. If the representative assembly of the water board has decided to expel a member, this decision shall not take effect within the time limit for lodging an application for review or, if an application for review has been lodged, until a decision has been taken. If the expulsion is by virtue of a decision taken *ex proprio motu*, the member of the governing board shall be suspended from his position during this period.
6. If a member of the governing board as referred to in subsection 1 has been expelled under this section, the presiding officer of the water board shall notify the chairperson of the central electoral committee accordingly.

- **Section X 8**

1. A member of a municipal council who contravenes section 15, subsection 1 of the Municipalities Act may be suspended from his position by the presiding officer of the municipal council. The latter shall refer the matter to the municipal council for consideration at its next meeting.
2. After giving the person suspended the opportunity to defend himself orally, the municipal council may declare that the member is expelled. If it finds no reason to do so, it shall terminate the suspension.
3. The municipal council may also expel a member *ex proprio motu*, after giving him the opportunity to defend

himself orally, if the member has contravened section 15, subsection 1 of the Municipalities Act.

4. The decision of the municipal council referred to in subsections 2 and 3 shall be forwarded forthwith to the person concerned.
5. If the municipal council has decided to expel a member, this decision shall not take effect within the time limit for lodging an application for review or, if an application for review has been lodged, until a decision has been taken. If the expulsion is by virtue of a decision taken *ex proprio motu*, the member of the municipal council shall be suspended from his position during this period.
6. If a member of the municipal council has been expelled under this section, the mayor shall notify the chairperson of the central electoral committee accordingly.

- **Section X 9**

Section D 8 applies *mutatis mutandis* to a decision as referred to in section X 4, subsection 3, section X 4a, subsection 3, section X 5, subsection 3, section X 7, subsection 4, section X 7a, subsection 4, and section X 8, subsection 4.

§ 3. Termination of membership and replacement in connection with pregnancy, childbirth and illness

- **Section X 10**

1. The presiding officer of a representative assembly shall, at a member's request, grant temporary termination of membership in connection with pregnancy and childbirth to the member. The termination of membership shall commence on the date mentioned in the request, which must be at most six and at least four weeks before the expected date of birth, as shown in a certificate issued by a physician or midwife and submitted by the member.
2. The presiding officer of a representative assembly shall, at the member's request, grant temporary termination of membership to a member of the assembly, if the member is unable because of illness to perform the duties of membership and it appears probable from a medical certificate that he will be unable to resume the duties of membership within eight weeks. The termination of membership shall commence on the day after the decision on the request is made known.
3. The membership of a member who has been granted temporary termination of membership as referred to

in subsection 1 or 2 shall resume automatically sixteen weeks to the day after the temporary termination of membership commenced.

4. A member of a representative assembly may be granted temporary termination of membership as referred to in subsection 1 or 2 no more than three times in each term of office of the assembly.

- **Section X 11**

1. The presiding officer of the representative assembly shall decide on a request for temporary termination of membership as referred to in section X 10, subsection 1 or 2 as soon as possible, and in any event no later than the fourteenth day after the request was submitted.
2. The decision on the request for temporary termination of membership shall be taken in accordance with the certificate of the physician or midwife referred to in section X 10, subsection 1 or 2.
3. A decision to grant temporary termination of membership shall contain the date on which the temporary termination of membership is to commence.
4. The presiding officer of the representative assembly shall immediately notify the chairperson of the central electoral committee of a decision to grant temporary termination of membership.

- **Section X 12**

1. The chairperson of the central electoral committee shall appoint a replacement member to fill a vacancy resulting from temporary termination of membership as referred to in this division. Chapters V and W apply, except that, notwithstanding section V 2, subsection 1, the appointment shall be accepted no more than ten days after the date of the notification of appointment.
2. The replacement member shall cease to be a member sixteen weeks to the day after the temporary termination of membership commenced, without prejudice to the possibility of the replacement membership ending on an earlier date in accordance with this Act.
3. If the replacement for a member of a representative assembly who has been granted temporary termination of membership in connection with pregnancy, childbirth or illness resigns before the temporary termination ends or is appointed as a member of a representative assembly to fill a vacancy not resulting from temporary termination of membership, the chairperson of the central electoral committee shall appoint a new temporary replacement for

the remainder of the temporary termination of membership.

4. Section X 6 does not apply to a replacement member.

Chapter Xa

The commencement of and changes in membership of the electoral college for Dutch nationals who are not residents

- **Section Xa 1**

The provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Part on the commencement of and changes in membership of a provincial council and concerning the termination of membership and temporary replacement of a member shall, unless provided otherwise in this chapter, apply *mutatis mutandis* to the membership of the electoral college, provided that ‘the provincial council’ and ‘the council’ are read as: the electoral college.

- **Section Xa 2**

1. If an appointee has not designated an agent as referred to in section Pa 13, subsection 1, notwithstanding section V 1, subsection 1 the letter containing the notification of his appointment shall be sent through the good offices of the mayor of The Hague through an electronic data processing system in which the addressee has access to the notice through a publicly issued means of authentication.
2. If subsection 1 applies, the appointee shall perform the procedures referred to in section V 2, subsections 1, 4 and 5, section V 3, section W 2, subsection 1 (f) and section Xa 3 by sending a notice to the electoral college or the central electoral committee by electronic means.
3. Further rules on performing the procedures referred to in subsections 1 and 2 by electronic means and the use of the electronic data processing system may be made by or pursuant to order in council.

- **Section Xa 3**

Further to section V 3, subsection 2, an appointee who does not have an agent shall file an extract from the register of births showing the date and place of his birth and proof of Dutch nationality.

- **Section Xa 4**

For the purposes of the application, *mutatis mutandis*, of section V 6, subsection 1 (b) and subsection 2 (b), ‘the provincial executive’ is read as ‘Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations’.

- **Section Xa 5**

The appointment of a member of the electoral college shall be announced in the Government Gazette pursuant to section W 7, subsection 1.

Part V. The election of members of the European Parliament

Chapter Y

The election of members of the European Parliament

§ 1. Definitions

• Section Y 1

For the purposes of this Part, the following definitions apply:

- a. the Act: the Act of 20 September 1976 concerning the election of the representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage (Netherlands Treaty Series 1976, no. 175);
- b. member of the European Parliament: a member of the European Parliament elected in the Netherlands.

§ 2. The election

• Section Y 2

Members of the European Parliament shall be elected, unless provided otherwise in this Part, by the application *mutatis mutandis* of the provisions laid down by or pursuant to Part II concerning the election of members of the House of Representatives of the States General, having regard to the Act.

• Section Y 3

Members of the European Parliament shall be elected by:

- a. persons who are Dutch nationals on nomination day, have attained the age of eighteen years on polling day and have not been disqualified from voting;
- b. nationals of other member states of the European Union, provided:
 - 1°. on nomination day their actual place of residence is in the European part of the Netherlands,
 - 2°. they have attained the age of eighteen years on polling day, and
 - 3°. they have not been disqualified from voting in the Netherlands or in the member state of which they are nationals.

• Section Y 4

The following shall be eligible for election to the European Parliament:

- a. those who fulfil the requirements laid down in section 56 of the Constitution for membership of the States General;
- b. nationals of other member states of the European Union, provided:
 - 1°. their actual place of residence is in the European part of the Netherlands;
 - 2°. they have attained the age of eighteen years; and
 - 3°. they have not been disqualified from standing for election in the Netherlands or in the member state of which they are nationals.

• Section Y 5

1. Members of the European Parliament shall be elected for a term of five years, subject to the possibility of the term being extended or curtailed pursuant to section 3, paragraph 2, second sentence of the Act.
2. This term shall commence with the opening of the first session following each election.

• Section Y 5a

In section D 2, ‘who are eligible to vote according to section B 1’ is read as: who are eligible to vote according to section Y 3 (a).

• Section Y 6

1. For Dutch nationals who have their actual place of residence in another member state, the application referred to in section Y 2 in conjunction with D 3 shall include their declaration that they will not also take part in the election in the other member state.
2. A model declaration shall be established by ministerial order.
3. The municipal executive of The Hague shall reject an application or shall remove a person from the registration referred to in section Y 2 in conjunction with D 2 if it has been notified by the member state that the person is registered as a voter in that member state. Sections D 7, D 8 and D 9 apply *mutatis mutandis* to the decision of the municipal executive.

- **Section Y 8**

1. Voting in an election to the European Parliament shall take place on the Thursday in the period specified for this purpose pursuant to section 11, paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Act.
2. Nominations shall take place on the forty-fourth day before polling day.

- **Section Y 9**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

- **Section Y 10**

In addition to the grounds referred to in section G 1, subsection 4, a request for the registration of the appellation of a political grouping for an election to the European Parliament shall also be refused if the appellation is identical or largely similar to an appellation of another political grouping which has previously been registered for an election to the House of Representatives or to an appellation for which a request for registration was previously received for that election, so that there is a risk of confusion.

- **Section Y 11**

Section G 1, subsection 8 does not apply.

- **Section Y 11a**

In addition to the grounds referred to in section G 1a, subsection 2, a request for the registration of the logo of a political grouping for an election to the European Parliament shall also be refused if the logo is identical or largely similar to a logo of another political grouping which has previously been registered for an election to the House of Representatives or to a logo for which a request for registration was previously received for that election, so that there is a risk of confusion.

- **Section Y 12**

For the purposes of the application, *mutatis mutandis*, of Chapters H and I, the Netherlands shall count as one electoral district. Section H 10a does not apply.

- **Section Y 13**

1. A written declaration shall be submitted for each candidate on a list to the effect that he will not stand for election to the European Parliament in any other member state.
2. When and where forms for the declaration referred to in subsection 1 may be obtained by voters, free of

charge, shall be laid down by order in council. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.

- **Section Y 14**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

- **Section Y 15**

Further to section I 2, subsection 1, the absence of the declaration referred to in section Y 13, subsection 1 shall be regarded as an omission.

- **Section Y 16**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

- **Section Y 17**

The central electoral committee shall strike off the list, before any other, the name of any candidate for whom a declaration as referred to in section Y 13, subsection 1 has not been submitted.

- **Section Y 17a**

Further to section I 19, the central electoral committee shall also destroy the declarations submitted as referred to in section Y 13, subsection 1 after the result has been determined.

- **Section Y 18**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

- **Section Y 19**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

- **Section Y 20**

[Repealed on 1 March 2004]

- **Section Y 21**

[Repealed on 1 March 2004]

- **Section Y 22**

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

- **Section Y 22a**

1. In each electoral district votes shall be cast for the candidates whose names appear on the lists of candidates declared valid for the entire country.
2. The ballot papers shall bear the signature of the representative assembly for which the election is being held.

- **Section Y 22b**

1. The municipal electoral committee shall not implement the provision of [section Na 29](#) until after the close of polling in the member state whose voters are the last to vote within the period referred to in the Act. The meeting shall be suspended until that time.
2. The public meeting of the national postal vote electoral committee referred to in [section O 38](#), subsection 1 shall not be held until after the close of polling in the member state whose voters are the last to vote within the period referred to in the Act.

- **Section Y 22c**

[Section M 7](#), subsection 7, last sentence, reads: ‘In doing so, he shall ensure that the return envelopes in his possession no later than 10.00 hours local time on the sixth day before polling day are in the possession of the mayor of The Hague in time.’

- **Section Y 23**

Where [section P 24](#) and [section V 11a](#) refer to the representative assembly for which the election was held, this is replaced by the House of Representatives.

- **Section Y 23a**

For the purposes of [section P 15](#) and [section P 19](#), subsection 2, ‘25% of the electoral quota’ is read as ‘10% of the electoral quota’.

- **Section Y 24**

Regulations may be laid down by order in council differing where necessary from provisions laid down by order in council pursuant to [Part II](#).

§ 3. The commencement of and changes in membership

- **Section Y 25**

1. The House of Representatives shall examine as soon as possible whether the appointee may be admitted as a member of the European Parliament pursuant to national legislation.
2. [Sections V 1 to V 4a](#) and [sections V 5 to V 10](#) apply *mutatis mutandis*, on the understanding that where they refer to the representative assembly or the assembly to which the appointment has been made, this shall be taken to mean the House of Representatives.

- **Section Y 26**

The President of the House of Representatives shall notify the President of the European Parliament and the appointee of the result without delay. If the House of Representatives has decided that the appointee may be admitted as a member of the European Parliament pursuant to national legislation, the President of the House of Representatives shall also forward the appointee’s credentials to the President of the European Parliament.

- **Section Y 27**

If a vacancy has to be filled other than by the determination of an election result, [Chapter W](#) applies *mutatis mutandis*, on the understanding that for the purposes of [section W 1](#), subsection 3, ‘25% of the electoral quota’ is read as ‘10% of the electoral quota’.

- **Section Y 28**

As soon as it has been finally established that a member of the European Parliament does not fulfil one of the requirements for membership referred to in [section Y 4](#) or holds a position incompatible with membership pursuant to national legislation, he shall cease to be a member. The President of the House of Representatives shall immediately notify the President of the European Parliament and the chairperson of the central electoral committee accordingly.

- **Section Y 29**

1. If a member of the European Parliament finds himself in one of the situations referred to in [section Y 28](#), he shall immediately notify the President of the House of Representatives of this, stating the reason.
2. If no notification is given and the President of the House of Representatives considers that a member of the European Parliament is in one of the situations referred to in [section Y 28](#), he shall warn the person concerned in writing.
3. The person concerned may then refer the matter to the judgment of the House of Representatives no later than the eighth day after the date of the warning referred to in subsection 2.

- **Section Y 30**

If the President of the European Parliament notifies the President of the House of Representatives that a person’s membership of the European Parliament has been terminated because he has resigned, died or holds a position which, under the Act, is incompatible with such

membership, he shall immediately notify the chairperson of the central electoral committee accordingly.

- **Section Y 30a**

[Ed.: This section will not enter into force. The section was withdrawn in Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 2020/77.]

The membership of a member of the European Parliament shall be temporarily terminated in connection with pregnancy and childbirth or illness by the application *mutatis mutandis* of section X 10 and section X 11, provided that:

- a. in section X 10, subsections 1 and 2, 'presiding officer of a representative assembly' is read as 'President of the House of Representatives';
- b. in section X 11, subsections 1 and 4, 'presiding officer of the representative assembly' is read as 'President of the House of Representatives';
- c. the President of the House of Representatives shall notify the President of the European Parliament of the decision to grant temporary termination of membership without delay.

- **Section Y 30b**

[Ed.: This section will not enter into force. The section was withdrawn in Bulletin of Acts and Decrees 2020/77.]

1. The chairperson of the central electoral committee shall appoint a replacement member to fill a vacancy resulting from temporary termination of membership as referred to in section Y 30a. Sections Y 25 to Y 27 apply *mutatis mutandis*.
2. Section X 12, subsections 2 and 3 apply *mutatis mutandis* to the replacement member.

§ 4. Special provisions governing participation in an election by nationals of other member states of the European Union

- **Section Y 31**

A national of another member state of the European Union who is entitled to vote and whose actual place of residence is in the European part of the Netherlands shall take part in the election either in the European part of the Netherlands or in the member state of which he is a national.

- **Section Y 32**

1. The municipal executive shall register the franchise of persons as referred to in section Y 3 (b) who are residents of the municipality, if they have submitted a written request to that effect.
2. The request shall include the applicant's address and, where applicable, the place where he was last registered to vote in the member state of which he is a national. The request shall be accompanied by a copy of a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act. The applicant shall also declare that he has not been disqualified from voting in the member state of which he is a national and that he shall exercise his right to vote exclusively in the Netherlands.
3. Requests received after nomination day shall be disregarded for the purposes of the forthcoming election.
4. When and where request forms may be obtained free of charge by voters shall be laid down by order in council. The declarations referred to in subsection 2 shall be incorporated in this form. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.
5. The municipal executive shall send nationals of other member states of the European Union who settle in the municipality from outside the European part of the Netherlands a form for requesting registration of their franchise.
6. The municipal executive shall decide on the request no later than the seventh day after receiving the request and shall notify the applicant of its decision forthwith.
7. If the municipal executive has been notified by another member state that a national of that member state has been disqualified from voting there, it shall not register the franchise of the person in question.
8. After the request for registration has been granted, the municipal executive shall notify the authority designated by the relevant member state that the person in question has been registered as a voter in the Netherlands. Further rules concerning how and when the notification should be made may be laid down by or pursuant to order in council.
9. At least six weeks before nomination day, the mayor shall give notice in the municipal gazette of the fact that nationals of other member states have the option of registration.
10. Section D 8 applies *mutatis mutandis* to a decision as referred to in this section.

- **Section Y 33**

1. The franchise of a national of another member state shall remain registered while the person in question is a resident of a Dutch municipality or until such registration is cancelled.
2. The municipal executive shall cancel the registration of the franchise of a national of another member state who is registered to vote:
 - a. at the request of the person concerned;
 - b. if the executive becomes aware of circumstances which should exclude the person concerned from being registered.
3. The municipal executive shall immediately notify the person concerned of the decision to cancel the registration of the franchise. It shall also notify the authority designated by the relevant member state of which he is a national of this decision.
4. Section D 8 applies *mutatis mutandis* to a decision as referred to in this section.

- **Section Y 33a**

The municipal executive shall cancel the registration of the franchise as referred to in section Y 32, subsection 1, if the person concerned acquires Dutch nationality.

- **Section Y 34**

The notice referred to in section H 1 shall also mention the possibility of nominating nationals of other member states.

- **Section Y 35**

1. The name of each candidate on the list who is a national of another member state and does not also hold Dutch nationality shall be accompanied by a declaration by the candidate that he has not been disqualified from standing for election in that member state. The candidate's declaration shall also state his nationality, date and place of birth, and his most recent address in the member state in question.
2. Forms for the declaration shall be made available to voters free of charge in the same manner and for the same time period as the forms referred to in section Y 13, subsection 2. A model form shall be established by ministerial order.
3. Further to section I 2, subsection 1, the absence of the declaration referred to in subsection 1 shall be regarded as an omission.

- **Section Y 35a**

The central electoral committee shall strike off the list the name of a candidate who has not submitted a declaration as referred to in section Y 35, subsection 1.

- **Section Y 35b**

1. The central electoral committee shall send the declaration referred to in section Y 35, subsection 1 immediately to the authority designated for this purpose in the other member state.
2. The central electoral committee shall request the authority referred to in subsection 1 to declare in writing, before the start of the meeting referred to in section I 4, if the candidate concerned in the declaration referred to in section Y 35, subsection 1 has been disqualified from standing for election in that member state.

- **Section Y 35c**

1. The central electoral committee shall strike off the list the name of a candidate who, as is evident from a declaration as referred to in section Y 35b, subsection 2, has been disqualified from standing for election in another member state, if the declaration was received before the start of the meeting referred to in section I 4.
2. If the central electoral committee receives, after the date referred to in subsection 1, a declaration as referred to in section Y 35b, subsection 2 to the effect that a candidate has been disqualified from standing for election in the member state of which he is a national, it shall send the declaration:
 - a. to the House of Representatives with the notice referred to in section V 1, subsection 3 if the candidate is being appointed as a member of the European Parliament;
 - b. immediately to the House of Representatives if the candidate is a member of the European Parliament.

- **Section Y 36**

The central electoral committee shall inform the other member states, through the good offices of Our Minister of Foreign Affairs, of the names of their nationals who do not also hold Dutch nationality, who appear on valid lists of candidates.

- **Section Y 38**

1. If the authority referred to in section Y 35b, subsection 1 asks the central electoral committee for a declaration as to whether a candidate has been disqualified from standing for election in the Netherlands, the central

electoral committee shall ask Our Minister of Justice and Security for a declaration to that effect.

The declaration shall be issued immediately.

2. The central electoral committee shall forward the declaration by Our Minister of Justice and Security to the authority as soon as possible, but in any event within five working days after receiving the request from the authority.

§ 5. Concluding provision

- **Section Y 39**

Models established pursuant to Parts II and IV which, in accordance with the provisions of this Part, are declared applicable *mutatis mutandis* for elections to the European Parliament, may be defined in more detail for these elections by ministerial order.

Part Va. The election of members of the House of Representatives of the States General, the island councils, the electoral colleges for the Senate, the Senate of the States General and the European Parliament in Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba

Chapter Ya

The election of members of the House of Representatives of the States General, the island councils, the electoral colleges for the Senate, the Senate of the States General and the European Parliament in Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba

§ 1. General provisions

- **Section Ya 1**

This Act and the provisions based on it shall also apply to Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba, with due regard to the provisions of this Part.

- **Section Ya 2**

In this Part and the provisions based on it, the following definitions apply:

- a. public body: the public body Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba;
- b. the Joint Court: the Joint Court of Justice of Aruba, Curaçao and St Maarten and of Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba.

- **Section Ya 3**

1. For the purposes of provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Act in Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba, the following terms, unless provided otherwise in this Part, are read as:
 - a. 'the municipality': the public body;
 - b. 'the mayor': the Lieutenant Governor;
 - c. 'the municipal executive': the island executive;
 - d. 'the municipal council': the island council;
 - e. 'the municipal offices': the island executive's office;
 - f. 'the municipal gazette': the official bulletin;
 - g. 'the municipal electoral committee': the electoral committee of the public body;

h. 'section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act':

section 2 of the BES Compulsory Identification Act.

2. Where reference is made solely to the municipality, mayor or municipal executive of The Hague, subsection 1 (a) to (c) does not apply.

- **Section Ya 3a**

Further to section D 6, subsection 1 (a), a registration of a resident of the public bodies Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba may be amended upon request if the person is not correctly registered as a voter. Section D 7, subsection 1 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

- **Section Ya 3b**

1. In derogation of section Ea 7(1), the Electoral Council and the governing council will determine by mutual consultation whether the electoral committee of the public entity and the central electoral committee will use the result software to be made available by the Electoral Council in the determination referred to in sections Na 26a and P 20a.
2. If, in the determination referred to in paragraph 1, the electoral committee of the public entity and the central electoral committee do not use the result software, chapter Ea and the sections in chapters O and P relating to the use of the result software will not apply.

§ 2. The election of members of the House of Representatives

- **Section Ya 4**

Lists of candidates may also be submitted to a Lieutenant Governor between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on nomination day.

- **Section Ya 5**

1. The declarations, proofs or certificates that must be submitted with a list of candidates submitted to a Lieutenant Governor or the central electoral committee may also be submitted separately to a Lieutenant

Governor or the central electoral committee between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on nomination day.

2. The documents shall be submitted by the person who submitted the list of candidates or a person who, as evidenced by the list of candidates, has the power to rectify omissions.
3. As proof of identity, the person concerned shall present a document as referred to in section 2 of the BES Compulsory Identification Act or a document as referred to in section 1 of the Compulsory Identification Act to a Lieutenant Governor or the central electoral committee.
4. The person who submits the declarations, proofs or certificates separately shall receive proof thereof.

- **Section Ya 6**

[Repealed on 1 December 2017]

- **Section Ya 7**

1. The Lieutenant Governor shall assess the authenticity of the documents submitted to him and record his findings in an accompanying declaration. A model accompanying declaration shall be established by ministerial order.
2. The Lieutenant Governor shall immediately notify the central electoral committee by electronic means of the accompanying declaration and the documents.
3. The Lieutenant Governor shall make certified copies of the accompanying declaration and the documents. He shall immediately destroy these copies once the decision of the central electoral committee on the validity of the lists has become final. An official report shall be drawn up of their destruction.
4. The Lieutenant Governor shall place the documents in a packet and seal it. The sealed packet shall be delivered to the central electoral committee by post as quickly as possible.

- **Section Ya 8**

1. If the central electoral committee has discovered one or more omissions in a list submitted in a public body, it shall immediately notify the Lieutenant Governor of that public body by electronic means.
2. The Lieutenant Governor shall immediately notify the person who submitted the list of the omissions by registered letter or receipted delivery.

- **Section Ya 9**

A rectifiable omission may also be rectified at a Lieutenant Governor's office no later than between

09.00 and 17.00 hours on the first working day before the day referred to in section I 4. Section Ya 7 applies *mutatis mutandis*.

- **Section Ya 10**

1. The central electoral committee shall send copies of the lists of candidates submitted for electoral district 20 (Bonaire) and, if required, declarations of support to the Lieutenant Governors by electronic means immediately after the lists have been examined.
2. The Lieutenant Governors shall deposit the documents at the clerk to the island executive's office for public inspection as soon as they have been received. The documents shall be available for public inspection until a final decision has been taken on the validity of the lists submitted.
3. The Lieutenant Governors shall immediately destroy the documents after a decision has been taken on the admission of those elected. An official report shall be drawn up of their destruction.

- **Section Ya 10a**

1. Section I 5, opening words and (a) do not apply if a list is submitted to a Lieutenant Governor between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on nomination day.
2. A declaration, proof or certificate that is submitted separately shall not be valid if it is not submitted in accordance with section Ya 5, subsections 1 to 3.

- **Section Ya 11**

1. In derogation of section Na 35(1), the lieutenant governors of Sint Eustatius and Saba will be responsible for promptly electronically providing the record of the electoral committee of the public entity to the principal electoral committee.
2. If no central counting of the votes has taken place in the public entity, the records of the electoral committees and corrigenda will be provided to the principal electoral committee according to the same procedure.

- **Section Ya 12**

In derogation of section O 10(1), the chairperson of the principal electoral committee will be responsible for electronically providing the election documents referred to in that provision to the central electoral committee promptly after the members of the principal electoral committee have signed the record.

§ 3. The election of members of the island councils, the commencement of and changes in membership of the island councils, and the termination of membership and temporary replacement of a member

• Section Ya 13

The provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Act on the election of members of a municipal council, concerning the commencement of and changes in membership of the municipal council and concerning the termination of membership and temporary replacement of a member shall, unless provided otherwise in this Part, apply *mutatis mutandis* to the island councils.

• Section Ya 14

1. Members of the island councils shall be elected by persons who are residents of the public body on nomination day and have attained the age of eighteen years on polling day.
2. To be entitled to vote, persons who are not nationals of the Netherlands must, on nomination day, also meet the following requirements:
 - a. they are legally resident in the Netherlands pursuant to section 3 or section 6 of the BES Admission and Expulsion Act or pursuant to a headquarters agreement between an international organisation and the State of the Netherlands, and
 - b. they have been resident in the Netherlands for an uninterrupted period of at least five years immediately prior to nomination day and have residence rights as referred to at (a) above or have been legally resident in the Netherlands pursuant to section 8 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e) or (l) of the Aliens Act 2000.
3. Non-Dutch nationals and persons employed in the Netherlands as members of diplomatic or consular missions posted to the Netherlands by other States, and their non-Dutch spouses or partners and children, in so far as they have a joint household, are not entitled to vote.

• Section Ya 15

1. A political grouping that submits a request for the registration of an appellation as referred to in section G 3 to the central electoral committee for the election of members of an island council shall pay to the public body a deposit of USD 112.50.

2. Further to the provisions of section G 3, subsection 3, the request shall be accompanied by authenticated proof of entry in the commercial register as referred to in section 2 of the Commercial Registers Act 2007 or section 2 of the BES Commercial Registers Act 2009.
3. On the fortieth day before nominations for an election to the electoral college, the central electoral committee shall give notice in the official bulletin of the appellations of political groupings registered by it, in so far as such registration is final, and of the names of the agents and their deputies.

• Section Ya 16

In section H 10, subsection 1, section I 2, subsection 1 (e) and section I 6, subsection 1 (c), the words ‘the European part of the Netherlands’ are read as ‘the public body where he is a candidate’, and in section H 10, subsection 1, the words ‘in one of the public bodies Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba’ are read as: in the Netherlands, but not in one of the public bodies Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba.

• Section Ya 17

For every list of candidates that is submitted in one of the public bodies, a deposit of USD 225 shall be paid to that public body.

• Section Ya 18

As soon as possible after a decision has been made on the admission of the elected representatives, the lieutenant governor will electronically transfer copy of the record of the electoral committee of the public entity, as referred to in section Na 31, and copy of the record of the central electoral committee, as referred to in section P 22, to the Electoral Council or, where the electoral committee of the public entity or the central electoral committee has used software, the digital files.

• Section Ya 19

[Repealed on 1 August 2018]

• Section Ya 20

For the purposes of section W 2, subsection 1 (h), the words ‘section 11 of the Municipalities Act’ are read as: section 12 of the Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba (Public Bodies) Act.

• Section Ya 21

For the purposes of section X 8, subsections 1 and 3, the words ‘section 15, subsection 1 of the Municipalities

Act' are read as: section 16, subsection 1 of the Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba (Public Bodies) Act.

§ 3a. The election of the members of the electoral college for the Senate, the commencement of and changes in membership of the electoral college for the Senate, and the termination of membership and temporary replacement of a member

• **Section Ya 22**

The provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Act on the election of members of a provincial council, concerning the commencement of and changes in membership of the provincial council and concerning the termination of membership and temporary replacement of a member shall, unless provided otherwise in this division, apply to the electoral college, provided that the following terms are read as:

- a. 'the province' and 'a province which forms a single electoral district': the public body;
- b. 'the provincial council' and 'the council': the electoral college;
- c. 'the provincial executive': the island executive.

• **Section Ya 23**

For elections to the electoral college, each public body shall form a single electoral district.

• **Section Ya 24**

The electoral committees, the electoral committee of the public body and the central electoral committee for elections to the island councils are also the electoral committees, the electoral committee of the public body and the central electoral committee, respectively, for elections to the electoral college.

• **Section Ya 25**

1. In section G 2, subsection 1, 'for an election to the House of Representatives' is read as: for an election to the House of Representatives or for an election to the island council.
2. A political grouping that submits a request for registration of the appellation as referred to in section G 2, subsection 1, to the central electoral committee for elections to the electoral college shall pay the public body a deposit of USD 225.
3. Further to the provisions of section G 2, subsection 3, the request shall be accompanied by authenticated

proof of entry in the commercial register as referred to in section 2 of the Commercial Registers Act 2007 or section 2 of the BES Commercial Registers Act 2009.

4. In section G 2, subsection 4 (b), 'or section G 1' is read as: section G 1 or section Ya 15 in conjunction with section G 3.
5. The central electoral committee shall give notice in the official bulletin of the decision as referred to in section G 2, subsection 5 and the cancellation of the appellation in the register as referred to in section G 2, subsection 7.

• **Section Ya 26**

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection 2, a registered appellation, notice of which has been given in accordance with the provisions of section G 1, subsection 8, or section Ya 15, subsection 3, shall also be valid for an election to an electoral college.
2. The central electoral committee for an election to an electoral college may decide that the effect of the registration shall not be extended as referred to in subsection 1 if the registered appellation is identical or largely similar to the appellation of another political grouping registered pursuant to section G 2 in conjunction with section Ya 25, so that there is a risk of confusion.
3. A decision as referred to in subsection 2 shall be taken no later than the fourteenth day after the date of the Government Gazette in which the notice referred to in section G 1, subsection 8 is given or no later than the fourteenth day after the date of the notice referred to in section Ya 15, subsection 3. A copy of the decision shall be immediately forwarded to the agent of the relevant grouping.

• **Section Ya 27**

The minimum number of declarations of support to be submitted as referred to in section H 4, subsection 1 for the electoral district in an election to the electoral college shall be: 10.

• **Section Ya 28**

Sections Ya 16 and Ya 17 apply.

• **Section Ya 28a**

In section J 6a, 'an election to the governing board' is read as: an election to the island council.

- **Section Ya 29**

Notwithstanding section P 10, the remaining seat or seats shall not be awarded to a list if this were to result in the award of more seats to a list than there are candidates.

- **Section Ya 29a**

In section P 15, subsection 1, ‘25% of the electoral quota’ is read as: 50% of the electoral quota.

- **Section Ya 29b**

In derogation of section P 19(5), ranking will not take place in respect of the election of the members of the electoral college to the extent that lists are concerned on which no candidates have been declared to have been elected.

- **Section Ya 29c**

In derogation of section W 4(1), no successor will be appointed if there is no further candidate who is eligible for appointment on the list on which the person to be succeeded was elected.

§ 4. Election of the members of the Senate of the States General

- **Section Ya 30**

1. The members of the Senate shall be elected in the public bodies by the members of the electoral colleges.
2. The members of the electoral colleges shall meet in each public body to cast their votes.
3. The provisions laid down by or pursuant to this Act on the election of members of the Senate shall, unless provided otherwise in this division, apply to the election of these members by the members of the electoral colleges, provided that the following terms are read as:
 - a. ‘the province’ or ‘the provinces’: the public body or the public bodies, respectively;
 - b. ‘the provincial council’ and ‘the council’: the electoral college;
 - c. ‘member of the provincial council’: member of the electoral college;
 - d. ‘assembly of the provincial council’: assembly of the electoral college.

- **Section Ya 31**

Sections Ya 4, Ya 5, Ya 7 and Ya 8 apply, provided that, for the purposes of section Ya 4 and section Ya 5, ‘a Lieutenant Governor’ is always read as ‘the Lieutenant Governor’.

- **Section Ya 31a**

Without prejudice to section S 1, subsections 4 and 5, the person who submitted the list may rectify the omission or omissions specified in the notification by presenting himself to the clerk to the island executive’s office between 09.00 and 17.00 hours, no later than the third day after the meeting of the central electoral committee. Section Ya 7 applies.

- **Section Ya 31b**

1. The central electoral committee shall send copies of the lists of candidates submitted for the electoral districts Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba to the Lieutenant Governors by electronic means immediately after the lists have been examined.
2. Section Ya 10, subsections 2 and 3 apply.

- **Section Ya 31c**

1. Section S 3, opening words and (a) do not apply if a list is submitted to a Lieutenant Governor between 09.00 and 17.00 hours on nomination day.
2. Section Ya 10a, subsection 2 applies.

- **Section Ya 31d**

1. The chairperson of the electoral committee in a public body shall also ensure that the central electoral committee is informed by electronic means of the official report referred to in section T 11, subsection 1 immediately after the members of the electoral committee have signed it.
2. The chairperson shall make an authenticated copy of the official report. He shall destroy this copy immediately after the central electoral committee has announced the result of the election and has decided on the admission of those elected. An official report shall be drawn up of its destruction.
3. The chairperson shall ensure, finally, that the documents referred to in section T 11, subsection 3 shall be delivered to the central electoral committee by post as quickly as possible.

- **Section Ya 31e**

In section U 2, subsection 1, the words ‘the number of members comprising the provincial council’ are read as: the number of members of the electoral college pursuant to section 94a of the Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba (Public Bodies) Act.

§ 5. The election of members of the European Parliament

• Section Ya 32

Sections Ya 4 to Ya 11 apply *mutatis mutandis* provided that in section Ya 10, subsection 1, ‘for electoral district 20 (Bonaire)’ is read as: for the country.

• Section Ya 33

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

• Section Ya 34

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

• Section Ya 35

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

• Section Ya 36

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

• Section Ya 37

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

• Section Ya 38

[Repealed on 1 December 2013]

• Section Ya 39

Sections Y 32, Y 33 and Y 33a do not apply.

§ 6. Administrative law, application for review and transitional provisions

• Section Ya 40

1. An administrative authority that receives written texts on which clearly a different administrative authority is competent to take action shall immediately forward them to that other authority, while at the same time informing the sender.
2. An administrative authority that receives written texts that are not intended for it and that cannot be forwarded shall return them as quickly as possible to the sender.

• Section Ya 41

A person who submits an application as referred to in section D 6, subsection 1 shall provide such information and documents as he can reasonably be expected to obtain that are needed for a decision on his request.

• Section Ya 42

1. Notwithstanding section 7 of the BES Administrative Law Act, an application for review of a decision by the island executive as referred to in section D 7, subsection 1, a decision by the Lieutenant Governor as referred to in section K 8, subsection 1, section L 11, subsection 1 and section M 4, subsection 1, a decision by the electoral college as referred to in section X 4, subsection 3, or a decision by the island council as referred to in section X 5, subsection 3 and section X 8, subsection 4 shall be lodged with the Joint Court.
2. Chapters 3 and 6, except for § 1 and § 3, of the BES Administrative Law Act apply *mutatis mutandis* to the application for review.
3. Sections 54 and 55 of the BES Administrative Law Act do not apply.
4. Notwithstanding section 17, subsection 5 of the BES Administrative Law Act, the time limit within which the amount due must be paid or deposited shall be two weeks. The President of the Joint Court may set a shorter time limit.
5. In handling the case, the Joint Court shall apply § 2 of Chapter 6 of the BES Administrative Law Act *mutatis mutandis*. A copy of the application for review shall be sent immediately to the administrative authority.

• Section Ya 43

1. Notwithstanding section 7 of the BES Administrative Law Act, an application for review of a decision pursuant to sections G 1, Q 6 and Y 2 in conjunction with section G1 that concerns a political grouping whose charter states that its seat is in Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba shall be lodged with the Joint Court.
2. Section G 5, subsection 1, opening words and (a) and section Ya 42, subsections 2 to 5 apply *mutatis mutandis*.

• Section Ya 44

1. Notwithstanding section 7 of the BES Administrative Law Act, an interested party or any voter may apply solely to the Joint Court for review of a decision pursuant to sections I 4, S 2 and Y 2 in conjunction with section I 4 of this Act. The first sentence only applies in so far as it concerns:
 - a. a list of candidates at the top of which an appellation was placed when the list was submitted of a political grouping whose charter states that its seat is in Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba; and

- b. a list of candidates at the top of which no
appellation was placed but whose first candidate is a
resident of Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba.
2. Section I 7, subsection 1, second sentence, and
subsections 3 to 5, section I 8 and section Ya 42,
subsections 2 to 5 apply *mutatis mutandis*.

- **Section Ya 45**

An application for review of a decision pursuant to
section G 2, G 4 or I 4 taken with reference to elections
to a provincial council may be lodged solely with the
Administrative Jurisdiction Division of the Council of State.

- **Section Ya 46**

1. Notwithstanding section 7 of the BES Administrative
Law Act, an application for review of a decision
pursuant to section G 2, G 3 or G 4 taken with reference
to elections to an island council or elections to an
electoral college shall be lodged with the Joint Court.
2. Notwithstanding section 7 of the BES Administrative
Law Act, an interested party and any voter may apply
solely to the Joint Court for review of a decision
pursuant to section I 4 taken with reference to elections
to an island council or with reference to elections to an
electoral college.
3. Section G 5, subsection 1, opening words, and (b)
and (c) apply *mutatis mutandis* in the case of a decision
pursuant to section G 2, G 3 or G 4.
4. Section I 7, subsections 3 to 5 and section I 8 apply
mutatis mutandis in the case of a decision pursuant to
section I 4.
5. Section Ya 42, subsections 2 to 5 apply *mutatis mutandis*.

- **Section Ya 47**

[Repealed on 10 October 2015]

- **Section Ya 48**

[Repealed on 10 October 2014]

- **Section Ya 49**

[Repealed on 10 October 2014]

- **Section Ya 50**

[Repealed on 10 October 2014]

- **Section Ya 51**

[Repealed on 10 October 2015]

Part VI. Penalty, final and transitional provisions

Chapter Z

Penalty, personal data, final and transitional provisions

§ 1. Penalty provisions

- **Section Z 1**

A person who forges or falsifies ballot papers, voting passes, voters' passes, certificates of authorisation, postal vote certificates or replacement postal vote certificates with the intention of using them or having them used by others as though they were genuine and unfalsified shall be liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six years or a category four fine.

- **Section Z 2**

A person who intentionally uses or causes others to use as though they were genuine and unfalsified ballot papers, voting passes, voters' passes, certificates of authorisation, postal vote certificates or replacement postal vote certificates which he himself has forged or falsified or whose forgery or falseness was known to him when he received them, or who has them in stock with the intention of using them or having them used by others as though they were genuine and unfalsified shall be liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six years or a category four fine.

- **Section Z 2a**

A person who intentionally and unlawfully accesses or damages the result software, or affects its reliable operation, will be punished by imprisonment for up to six years or a category 4 fine.

- **Section Z 3**

A person who has in his possession ballot papers, voting passes, voters' passes, certificates of authorisation, postal vote certificates or replacement postal vote certificates with the intention of using them or causing others to use them unlawfully shall be liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or a category four fine.

- **Section Z 4**

1. A person who, by means of a gift or promise, bribes a voter to give him a proxy authorisation to vote on his behalf shall be liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months or a third- category fine.
2. A person who, by means of a gift or promise, bribes a voter or otherwise compels him to issue a declaration as referred to in section H 4, subsection 1, in support of a list, shall be liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months or a third-category fine.
3. A voter who allows himself to be bribed by means of a gift or promise to grant a proxy authorisation or issue a declaration of support shall be liable to the same penalty.

- **Section Z 5**

1. In the event of a conviction for one of the indictable offences referred to in sections Z 1 to Z 4, the offender may be deprived of the rights referred to in section 28, paragraph 1 (1o), (2o) and (4o) of the Criminal Code, or if the deprivation is handed down by a court in Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba, of the rights referred to in section 32 (1o), (2o) and (4o) of the BES Criminal Code.
2. In the event of a sentence to a term of imprisonment of at least one year for one of the serious offences referred to in sections Z 1 to Z 3, the offender may be deprived of the rights referred to in section 28, paragraph 1 (3o) of the Criminal Code, or if the deprivation is handed down by a court in Bonaire, St Eustatius or Saba, of the rights referred to in section 32 (3o) of the BES Criminal Code.

- **Section Z 6**

A person who votes in an election as proxy for a person who he knows has died shall be liable to a term of detention not exceeding a month or a category two fine.

- **Section Z 7**

[Repealed on 1 January 2010]

- **Section Z 8**

The person who intentionally approaches a person in order to persuade that person:

- a. to sign the form on his voting pass intended for voting by proxy as referred to in section L 14 and hand over that pass; or
- b. to submit an application as referred to in section L 8, shall be guilty of abuse of the system of proxy voting and, as such, shall be liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months or a third-category fine.

- **Section Z 8a**

A national of a member state of the European Union who votes in an election to the European Parliament both in the Netherlands and in another member state shall be liable to a term of detention not exceeding one month or a category two fine.

- **Section Z 9**

An employer who does not comply with the obligation to which he is subject under section J 10 shall be liable to a term of detention not exceeding fourteen days or a category two fine.

- **Section Z 10**

The chairperson and members of an electoral committee and alternate members who have been called up shall be liable to a category one fine if they are unnecessarily absent from the meeting without a replacement having been arranged.

- **Section Z 11**

The offences referred to in sections Z 1 to Z 4 shall be regarded as indictable offences and the offences referred to in sections Z 6 to Z 10 as summary offences.

exercise of the rights referred to in Chapter III of the General Data Protection Regulation with regard to the processing of personal data pursuant to this Act.

§ 2. Final and transitional provisions

- **Section Z 12**

1. If procedures prescribed by or pursuant to this Act would fall on a Saturday, Sunday or official public holiday they shall take place instead on the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or official public holiday. This provision shall also apply to the simultaneous retirement of the members of representative assemblies.
2. Subsection 1 also applies to procedures for which the statutory time limit is determined by counting backwards from a particular date or event.
3. Where it is left to the authorities to determine the time of such procedures, no Saturdays, Sundays or official public holidays shall be designated.
4. Official public holidays are the days named as such in section 3 of the General Time Limits Act and days equated with them by or pursuant to that section.

§ 1a. Processing of personal data

- **Section Z 11a**

1. Sections 14 to 21 of the General Data Protection Regulation (Implementation) Act apply *mutatis mutandis* to the exercise of the duties and powers of the Dutch Data Protection Authority within the framework of this Act.
2. Sections 124 and 268 of the Municipalities Act do not apply with regard to the supervision of the municipal executive and the mayor concerning the processing of personal data within the framework of this Act.

- **Section Z 11b**

Section 34 of the General Data Protection Regulation (Implementation) Act applies *mutatis mutandis* to the

- **Section Z 13**

The table annexed to this Act shall form part of it.

- **Section Z 14**

Section 12 of the Publication Act does not apply to any deposit for public inspection made pursuant to this Act.

- **Section Z 15**

[Repealed on 11 May 2005]

- **Section Z 16**

[Repealed on 11 May 2005]

- **Section Z 17**

[Repealed on 11 May 2005]

- **Section Z 18**

[Repealed on 11 May 2005]

- **Section Z 19**

2. [Repealed on 11 May 2005]

- **Section Z 20**

1. This Act shall enter into force on a date to be determined by royal decree.
2. Prior to the publication of this Act Our Minister of the Interior and Kingdom Relations shall rearrange the numbering of the sections, divisions and chapters of this Act and shall alter the references in this Act to the sections, divisions and chapters to conform to the new numbering.

- **Section Z 21**

This Act may be cited as the Elections Act.
Original closing form and signatures

Table referred to in section E 1, subsection 1 of the Elections Act

Number of electoral district	Area covered by the electoral district	Municipality where the principal electoral committee is situated
1.	Province of Groningen	Groningen
2.	Province of Fryslân	Leeuwarden
3.	Province of Drenthe	Assen
4.	Province of Overijssel	Zwolle
5.	Province of Flevoland	Lelystad
6.	Municipalities of Berg en Dal, Beuningen, Buren, Culemborg, Druten, Heumen, Maasdriel, Neder-Betuwe, Nijmegen, Tiel, West Betuwe, West Maas en Waal, Wijchen, Zaltbommel	Nijmegen
7.	Municipalities of the province of Gelderland not included in electoral district 6	Arnhem
8.	Province of Utrecht	Utrecht
9.	Municipality of Amsterdam	Amsterdam
10.	Municipalities of Aalsmeer, Amstelveen, Beverwijk, Blaricum, Bloemendaal, Diemen, Gooise Meren, Haarlem, Haarlemmermeer, Heemskerk, Heemstede, Hilversum, Huizen, Laren, Ouder-Amstel, Uithoorn, Velsen, Wijdmeren, Zandvoort	Haarlem
11.	Municipalities of the province of North Holland not included in electoral districts 9 or 10	Den Helder
12.	Municipality of The Hague and the area outside the Netherlands	The Hague
13.	Municipality of Rotterdam	Rotterdam
14.	Municipalities of Alblasterdam, Albrandswaard, Barendrecht, Delft, Dordrecht, Goeree-Overflakkee, Gorinchem, Hardinxveld-Giessendam, Hendrik-Ido-Ambacht, Hoeksche Waard, Maassluis, Midden-Delfland, Molenlanden, Nissewaard, Papendrecht, Ridderkerk, Rijswijk, Schiedam, Sliedrecht, Vlaardingen, Voorne aan Zee, Westland, Zwijndrecht	Dordrecht
15.	Municipalities of the province of South Holland not included in electoral districts 12, 13 or 14	Leiden
16.	Province of Zeeland	Middelburg
17.	Municipalities of Alphen-Chaam, Altena, Baarle-Nassau, Bergen op Zoom, Breda, Dongen, Drimmelen, Etten-Leur, Geertruidenberg, Gilze en Rijen, Goirle, Halderberge, Hilvarenbeek, Loon op Zand, Moerdijk, Oisterwijk, Oosterhout, Roosendaal, Rucphen, Steenbergen, Tilburg, Waalwijk, Woensdrecht, Zundert	Tilburg
18.	Municipalities of the province of North Brabant not included in electoral district 17	's-Hertogenbosch
19.	Province of Limburg	Maastricht
20.	Public bodies Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba	Bonaire

Deze brochure is een uitgave van:

Rijksoverheid
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