Ukraine Proves Its Commitment To Democracy

The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America’s (UCCA) international Election Observer Mission (EOM), which observed the elections in every region of Ukraine, as well as at the diplomatic posts in the United States – affirms that the July 21st parliamentary elections met international standards for free and fair elections that accurately reflects the will of the electorate.

Місія міжнародних спостерігачів за виборами (MMC) Українського Конгресового Комітету Америки (УККА), яка спостерігала за виборами в кожному регіону України, а також у дипломатичних представництвах у США, стверджує що Парламентські вибори 21 липня відповідали міжнародним стандартам вільних і чесних виборів, які точно відображають волю електорату.
UCCA's short-term observers were its primary resource for assessing the July 21st snap parliamentary elections. Its election observation methodology, which provides for a contribution by each observer, is designed to achieve an overall picture of Ukraine's election-day proceedings. After reviewing UCCA’s one-of-a-kind electronic questionnaire that provides an overall profile of polling-station activity throughout the country and at diplomatic posts, we were able to draw our conclusion based on our collective experience.

In visiting over 150 polling stations on Election Day, UCCA's EOM witnessed the following minor infractions: the inability of a few PECs to open the polling station at 8:00am as required by law and in a few precincts information displayed for the voters was not correct or complete. And, as reported in all of UCCA's previous election observation missions, physical access to the polling stations remains problematic. UCCA observers noted that over 13% of the time, access to the polling stations was difficult.

Thus, despite the minor infractions reported, which were not systemic in nature, UCCA’s 32 registered International Election Observers reported that the voting process was conducted in a peaceful and democratic manner that conformed to international democratic standards – rating the elections good to very good 93% of the time.

Moreover, although only 49.84% of the electorate voiced their vote, down considerably from the over 62% of the electorate that cast their
ballots during the recent presidential elections, Ukraine’s electorate has proven that they take their democratic civic duty seriously.

The 2019 snap parliamentary elections marked an important step in consolidating Ukraine’s democracy. Given that these elections took place in a challenging political and security environment, the CEC made every effort to hold elections throughout the country. However, due to the illegal annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, and the ongoing hostilities in Donbas, fueled by Russia, the elections were not held in large parts of Donetsk and Luhansk and in the illegally occupied Crimean peninsula.

UCCA lauds Ukraine’s Central Election Commission’s impartial and efficient efforts to mobilize in such a short period of time, ensuring that the July 21st snap parliamentary elections took place.

UCCA stands with the people of Ukraine in their desire for a democratic, territorial whole and united Ukraine and wishes the newly elected parliament the fortitude to put the interests of its citizens first and pass key reforms to secure its territorial integrity, strengthen democracy, fight imbedded corruption and bring Ukraine closer to the EuroAtlantic community.

Lastly, UCCA expresses its sincere gratitude to its International Election Observers, many of whom for the third time this year volunteered their time and money to participate as members of our Election Observation Mission – their commitment to democracy and Ukraine must be commended.

Past Issues

Translate
The President of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA), the representative organization of over one million Americans of Ukrainian descent, traveled to Oregon on July 9-10 to meet with representatives of the Ukrainian-American community. During his two-day visit, UCCA’s Andriy Futey met with the leadership and members of the Ukrainian American Cultural Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington (UACA), a non-profit, educational & cultural organization that promotes Ukrainian heritage and traditions in the Pacific Northwest, and which provides assistance to Ukrainians in the greater Portland metropolitan area as well as to Ukrainians in Ukraine. During their discussions, Mr. Futey outlined the work of UCCA, emphasized the importance of unity within the Ukrainian-American community, and encouraged UACA to join UCCA, which unites fraternal, educational, veterans, religious, cultural and humanitarian Ukrainian-American organizations under one national umbrella organization.

During his visit to the area, UCCA’s President also met with the management and employees of two Pacific Northwest branches of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union, located in Portland, OR, and Federal Way, WA. Highlighting UCCA’s long collaboration with the Ukrainian National Federal Credit Union Association — a UCCA member organization which is represented on UCCA’s Executive Board — Mr. Futey emphasized how important it is for the community to support local branches and organizations that serve the Ukrainian-American community.
reinvest their earnings into community projects and initiatives.

Over the course of his two-day visit, Mr. Futey also appeared on two live radio programs on Nashe Radio, where he once again underscored the importance of unity within our Ukrainian-American community. During the radio call-in portion of the show, Mr. Futey addressed the various ways UCCA supports the community and their issues of concern.

On the final evening of his visit, UCCA's President addressed the parishioners of the Ukrainian Bible Church, a large Ukrainian Pentecostal Christian congregation located in Fairview, OR. During his remarks, Futey outlined the historical role UCCA played in advocating for religious freedom in Ukraine, and how UCCA continues work with the various religious denominations in Ukraine, specifically the Christian community.

“It was an honor to meet so many members of this active and vibrant Pacific Northwest hromada. I hope UCCA will be able to strengthen its cooperation with this 80,000-strong community, because together we can wield much more influence on the United States political process, and have a greater ability to assist our brethren in Ukraine” remarked Futey. “I'm grateful to the Ukrainian American Cultural Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington for inviting me to Oregon, and I look forward to a fruitful relationship going forward” concluded UCCA's President.
**WHAT IS UCCA?**
The Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA) is a non-profit, non-partisan community-based organization that has represented the interests of Ukrainians in the United States since 1940.

**ЩО ТАКЕ УККА?**
Український Конґресовий Комітет Америки (УККА) є неприбутковою, безпартійною громадською організацією, яка представляє інтереси українців у Сполучених Штатах Америки з 1940 року.