

# МЕМЛЕКЕТТІК БАСҚАРУ ЖӘНЕ МЕМЛЕКЕТТІК ҚЫЗМЕТ PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND CIVIL SERVICE ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ УПРАВЛЕНИЕ И ГОСУДАРСТВЕННАЯ СЛУЖБА

## LOCAL ELECTIONS 2021: AN OVERVIEW OF SURVEY RESEARCH

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**Abstract.** The President of Kazakhstan, on September 1, 2020, addressing the citizens of the country, took the initiative to hold direct local elections. Such elections should become a new stage of political modernization. A course was set for the liberalization of the political system in the country. This article presents partial results of the experience of conducting a study into the recent elections of local heads. The methodology of the study is described, and there are answers to some hypotheses presented. The assessment of the socio-economic situation of the objects of research- settlements is presented. The article considers electoral behavior, communication of the authorities with the population and the effectiveness of the reform. The theoretical significance of this study consists in the study and identification of factors related to electoral issues. The practical significance lies in the development and application of the questionnaire, in the pre-electoral and post-electoral period in the subsequent direct elections of heads of local executive authorities. The information obtained can be used for further study of the problematic issue, both for the areas under consideration and in similar types. The article examines the theoretical aspects of elections in general, and in particular, of local executive bodies. The research of electoral behavior in the perspective of transition into democracy, the interaction of "power and society" are considered. Some problems of personnel management, economic management and budgeting are raised.

**Keywords:** elections, local heads (akims), electoral behavior, reform, democratization, economic development.

**JEL codes:** J18, L38, J58.

**Аңдатпа.** Қазақстан Президенті, 2020 жылғы 1 қыркүйек, ел азаматтарына Жолдауын білдіре отырып, ауыл әкімдерінің тікелей сайлауын өткізу туралы бастама көтерді. Мұндай сайлау саяси жаңғырудың жаңа кезеңі болуға тиіс. Елдегі саяси жүйені ырықтандыру бағыты белгіленді. Бұл мақалада жақында өткен ауыл әкімдерінің сайлауына зерттеу жүргізу тәжірибесінің ішінара нәтижелері ұсынылған. Өткізу әдістемесі сипатталған және кейбір гипотезаларға жауаптар ұсынылған. Зерттеу объектілері - елді мекендердің әлеуметтік - экономикалық жағдайына баға берілді. Мақалада: сайлау барысындағы әрекеттер, биліктің халықпен байланысы және реформаның тиімділігі қарастырылады. Практикалық маңыздылығы электоралға дейінгі және кейінгі кезеңдерде болашақтағы әкімдерді тікелей сайлауда сауалнаманы әзірленуі және қолдануы болып табылады. Алынған ақпарат қарастырылып отырған елді мекендер үшін де, ұқсас типтегі проблемалық мәселені одан әрі зерттеу үшін пайдаланылуы мүмкін. Мақалада жалпы және жергілікті атқарушы органдардың сайлауының теориялық аспектілері қарастырылған. Демократияға транзит тұрғысынан электоралды мінез-құлықты, "билік пен қоғамның" өзара әрекеттесуін зерттеу қарастырылуда. Кадрлық менеджмент, экономикалық менеджмент және бюджеттеу мәселелері көтеріледі.

**Түйін сөздер:** сайлау, әкім, сайлау тәртібі, реформа, демократияландыру, экономикалық даму.

**JEL кодтары:** J18, L38, J58.

**Аннотация.** Президент Казахстана, 1 сентября 2020 года, обращаясь с посланием к гражданам страны, выступил с инициативой о проведении прямых выборов сельских акимов. Такие выборы должны стать новым этапом политической модернизации. Был задан курс на либерализацию политической системы в стране. В данной статье

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представлены частичные результаты опыта проведения исследования недавно прошедших выборов сельских акимов. Описывается методология проведения и представлены ответы на некоторые гипотезы. Представлена оценка социально-экономической ситуации объектов исследования - населенных пунктов. В статье рассмотрены: электоральное поведение, коммуникация властей с населением и эффективность реформы. Теоретическая значимость данного исследования состоит в изучении и выявлении факторов, связанных с выборной проблематикой. Практическая значимость заключается в разработке и применении опросника в последующих прямых выборах акимов в доэлекторальный, и в постэлекторальный периоды. Полученные сведения могут быть использованы для дальнейшего изучения проблемного вопроса, как для рассматриваемых населенных пунктов, так и в сходных по типу. В статье рассмотрены теоретические аспекты выборов в целом и в частности, местных исполнительных органов. Рассматриваются исследования электорального поведения в ракурсе транзита в демократию, взаимодействия «власть и общество». Поднимаются некоторые проблемы кадрового менеджмента, экономического менеджмента и бюджетирования.

**Ключевые слова:** выборы, аким, электоральное поведение, реформа, демократизация, экономическое развитие.  
**JEL коды:** J18, L38, J58.

### Introduction

"We can say that this event is a significant milestone in the history of our country and a strategically important task for us. For the first time, our citizens will have the opportunity to directly elect the heads of local executive authorities. We have been moving towards this gradually and systematically," the current President said. At the same time, the President pointed out the high responsibility of executive bodies in the regions. "Local heads (akims) are direct representatives of the authorities in each area. The public evaluates the effectiveness of the entire state management system based on the activities of akims. Therefore, it is very important to organize the upcoming elections correctly, which must meet the requirements of an effective state and a fair society, the President said" (Akorda, 2021). Local elections of akims of the rural level in Kazakhstan were held on July 25, 2021. In 14 regions of Kazakhstan, at 1,845 polling stations, voters chose 730 akims (heads of administrations of cities of district significance, villages, towns and rural districts) from 2,172 candidates, whose four-year terms were expiring. A study was conducted in two settlements of the Ily district.

The objects of the study were Boraldai village and Chapaevo village. The election campaign was held in 71 districts of Almaty region. According to the data provided by the precinct election commissions of the Ily district, as of 20.00 on July 25, 2021, 5,257 people included in the voter lists for this district received ballots, which amounted to 78.9% of the total number of voters. So, the elections were held in Chapaevo village of this district. A questionnaire survey of voters and targeted interviews with opinion leaders at survey points were conducted. A contrast-comparative study was also conducted in another area - Boraldai, where no elections were held. The number of candidates for akims is four people (Egov,

2021). Looking ahead, we can say, based on the data, that there are discrepancies in the number of those who took part in the vote, which varies quite a lot.

The economic development of the village and the expectation of changes in improvement. A large number of respondents believe that there are enough resources in the village. On the territory of Chapaevsky district, there are three enterprises for the production of poultry meat and eggs. Now, there are 27 peasant farms in the district, 25 of them are active, one enterprise for processing agricultural raw materials, and one bakery. In the district, there are shops, gas stations, catering points, a bakery, etc. The distance from Chapaevo to Otegen-Batyr (district center) ~ 31 km. Boraldai is an urban-type settlement in the Ily district of Almaty region, the second most economically and migratorially important settlement. Now there are several micro districts in Boraldai, large residential areas are located on almost all main streets. The village borders with the city of Almaty. The number of SMEs is 52 units, registered more than 1000 units. Big business is not localized here, the former ones are "Almaty Sugar Factory" and "Remstroytehnika", and now they are not functioning. It can be noted that in the near future it is planned to open 15 new enterprises. Boraldai Airport is located on the eastern outskirts of the village. Distance from Boraldai to Otegen-Batyr (district center) ~ 36 km. The population for 2021 is more than 43 thousand, which has grown by more than 13 thousand, which is more than 35%, after the last census, and official data of 2016.

### Research hypotheses

1. There remains the problem of the lack of the ability to manage the growth of budget funds at the expense of taxes, in particular VAT, which turns the functionality of an akim

into a pure "handyman".

2. Insufficient attractiveness in remuneration of labor and enhanced accountability to voters, and there is a discrepancy with the volume of work performed, which can lead to dissatisfaction with both an akim and population.

On the first question, we can say beforehand that this issue is very acute and will be for akims. To increase the budget, an akim, due to lack of authority, cannot apply for tax preferences to attract businesses in order to create jobs and increase tax revenues. For example, benefits or a tax reduction for those enterprises that want to start on the territory.

On the second issue, days before of the elections, the salaries of akims increased. The increase in the salary of administrative civil servants was expected and is being realized from 30% to 150%. Director of the Department of Public Service Zharkyn Tleukenov announced this during the press conference at the Central Communications Service under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Nevertheless, if we talk about the level of awareness of voters before the elections, then, of course, it is zero. In this part, the opinion of public opinion leaders about the option of wage is that it should be differentiated in proportion to the size of the population. Issues were raised in official statements about the disparity in salaries of rural and urban civil servants, and which should be reduced from 70% to 10%. Nevertheless, this is a slightly different efficiency. In an interview with the Boraldai akim, there was a viewpoint about the high volume of work.

#### **Research objectives:**

- To identify the level of awareness and political literacy of population.
- To study the practices of social activity and involvement of population.
- To identify the image of the future of villages and local communities in the views of population.
- To identify the satisfaction of residents with the activities of village akims.
- To identify the attitude to elections and the peculiarities of electoral behavior in rural areas.
- To identify the expectations of rural residents from direct elections of local leaders.

**Research approach.** To achieve the purpose and objectives of the study, an integrated approach was used and it included both quantitative and qualitative methods for

data collection. The quantitative one was a questionnaire survey of voters and the qualitative one was held as targeted interviews with leaders at survey points. The methods allowed obtaining both quantitative information on the topic and narrative information, understanding the subjective aspect of real practice related to electoral issues and the meanings that representatives of the target group put into various judgments on the topic. In this sociological study, a program was compiled in which the initial assumptions, goals and objectives, methodological support, and organizational structure were determined.

The collection of data was carried out in 4 regions: Western Kazakhstan, North Kazakhstan, Turkestan region and Almaty region. In each region, 2 points were surveyed: 1 village where elections were held (type 1), and 1 village/rural district where elections had not yet taken place (type 2). There are 8 villages, and this article considers a part and a parallel research of the general survey. The survey in type 1 and type 2 villages provided a comparative perspective for assessing attitudes towards such an event as the election of rural akims. As for the results of polling of voters, at each point of the survey, it was planned to interview 250 respondents aged 18 and over. In fact, 1876 respondents were interviewed, including 500 respondents in Boraldai village and Chapaevo village. Taking into account the small size of the general population, a spontaneous sample was used for the selection of respondents, limited only by a predetermined volume of 250 people, i.e. the respondents who were available at the time of the fieldwork in the village took part in the survey. This study was carried out under the direction and supervision of center for social and political studies "Public foundation Strategy" (Kazakhstan). In total, 4 outsourcing interviewers of the center were involved for Almaty region. The survey was conducted from July 26 to October 25, 2021.

#### **Results and discussion**

**Electoral behavior.** The attitude to direct elections, in particular assessments, trust and expectations, is not unambiguous. As for non-verbal, of course, most of the impressions about values, an individual assessment of the situation on a particular issue was also obtained through these way of communication, but during the survey there was only a written form in order to exclude speculation and to

achieve representativeness, and the non-verbal part and its interpretation were not carried out in specific figures. Therefore, personally, we would admit some results of observation, such as readiness, goodwill, and trust. Honestly, there were moments of distraction and waiting for the respondent to come back to the survey, which broke the integrity and consistency, but such cases were rare. There were both hurried and quite talkative ones. On average, 12 minutes were spent. Local elections can empower citizens or increase their participation in politics, depending on the characteristics of the area. In particular, "better elections strengthen attitudes towards participation and the protection of rights - values that are likely to be difficult to get rid of" (Birney, 2007).

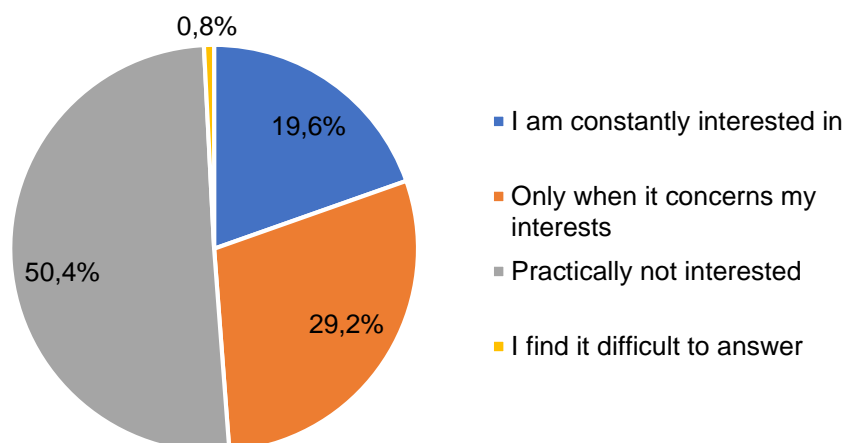
As for any agitation campaign, activists on chats, via whatsapp messengers, carried it out. Popular methods like billboards and various info boards were used, but in a conversation with a certain local, messengers were mentioned as the most affecting them personally. We should expect all candidates and political parties to use social media sites to influence our perception of candidates, or our perception of their popularity (Metaxas, at al., 2012). Activists were also involved in agitation, unfortunately, who absolutely refused to discuss the election process in Chapaev. Stolen elections can lead to revolutionary results, as the "imaginary community of robbed voters" experiences a general moral outrage that allows it to overcome the problem of collective action (Thompson, at al., 2004).

Awareness of the elections in Boraldai is 47%, and in Chapaev 76.8%, quite high, but as mentioned above, the turnout does not correspond to the announced percentage in official sources, the turnout was 34.8%. Familiarity with examples of electoral systems in other states helps to see how the elements of the electoral system function in different configurations. Of course, every country is

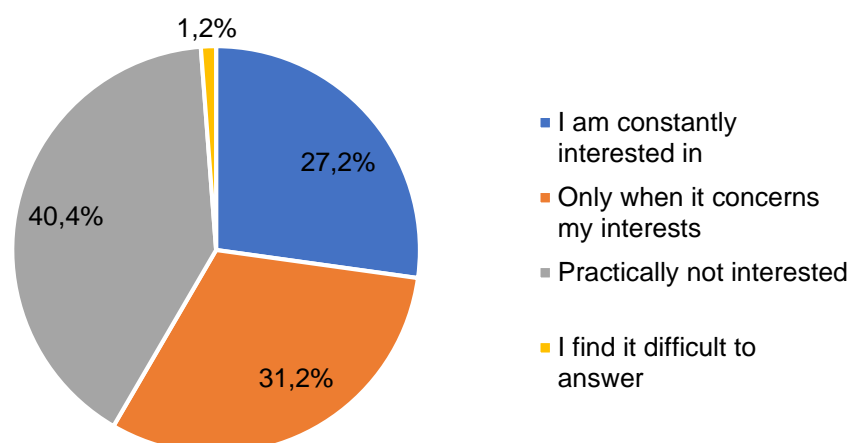
unique, but the uniqueness of any people, as a rule, lies in a diverse interweaving of basic, largely socio-political factors. Demographic factors affect both the basis of voting and turnout. Rural residents are more likely than urban residents to show up at polling stations and vote for candidates from the regime. The smaller size of the constituencies may mean that the current elite has more information with which they can guarantee compliance by voters (Magaloni, 2006).

In the legislation of quite a large number of states, turnout for elections is mandatory, and even certain sanctions are provided for voters who do not participate in elections, which affects the percentage of voters who came to the polls (Morozova, 2014). The lack of media coverage is a controversial issue. Regarding our studied area, this is not the main question, it correlates positively with the level of awareness, but the frequency and duration of broadcasting about the reform carried out in the country were less noticeable, the same in all types of media. One of the ways in which undemocratic elections can part with democratic ones is that the former can be used to forcibly mobilize voters. It seems that the elections should be forced or co-opted, depending on the degree of competition (Gandhi, at al., 2009).

During the survey, you can emphasize many aspects that are characteristic of everyone. Responsiveness, willingness to express your personal opinion, and to give your contact, which indicates many things. For example, about the desire to talk, to be open and heard. However, questions concerning the interest in politics, specifically regarding politics in one's own state, require a separate study. To the question: "How often are you interested in events, decisions in the political life of the country?", the answers were: Practically not interested - 50.4% (Boraldai) and 40.4% (Chapaev) (see diagrams No. 1 and 2).



**Diagram 1 - Survey in Boraldai village (August 2021) Question "How often are you interested in events, decisions in the political life of the country?"**

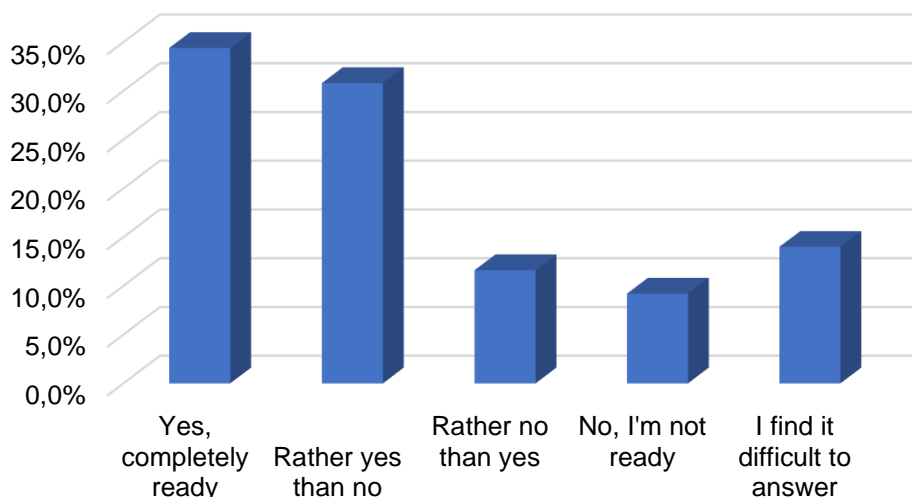


**Diagram 2 - Survey in Chapaevo village (August 2021) Question "How often are you interested in events, decisions in the political life of the country?"**

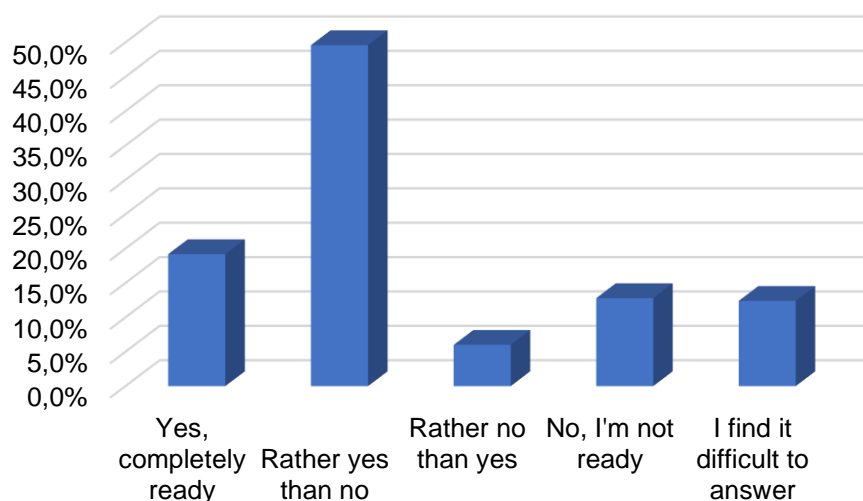
It can be summarized that, in general, there is a tendency of indifference or negative attitude. In addition, the most disturbing thing is just the same - indifference. The source of all these problems is political passivity, i.e. the individual's indifference to the events of political life and the lack of desire to participate in it in any way (Zavodskov, *at al.*, 2004). The only mechanism for overcoming political passivity, according to the researchers, can be a system of real participation of people in management – district, city, etc., starting with the support, for example, by the local

executive body of voluntary work on landscaping and gentrification, coordination of landscaping plans with the population, provision of premises to volunteers for social events and projects, etc. During the survey, to the question: "Are you, as a resident of the village, ready to take part in changes/improvements in the situation in your native village?" the answer was collectively as positive as a percentage of 65.2%, and Chapaevo village - 68.8%. (See diagrams No. 3 and No. 4).





**Diagram 3 - Survey in Boraldai village (August 2021)**



**Diagram 4 - Survey in Chapaevo village (August 2021)**

This question continued with 7-point options. The impression, which we would like to share about, are thoughtfulness and selectivity, an attempt to express their own thoughts more precisely. The opinions of voters should be taken into account when making decisions affecting their interests. The issues of the absence of apartment owners' partnership (KCK) as it was before, and according to the innovation, it will turn to be another form of partnership (OCI), as an alternative to the former, remains unresolved problems for the time being. The transition period is defined until July 1, 2022. This time is given so that the former form of partnership has the opportunity to reorganize into management or service companies and continue its activities in the maintenance of houses in a new status, but only if they are chosen by the partnership and only based on

a signed contract. The issues that should be resolved with the population, according to the state of affairs and the survey of those who were directly involved in solving repair issues, we can presumably say that the duties of akims are going to increase significantly.

Actual social and economic problems that are in the top five with a percentage not exceeding 10 are the same for both areas, in addition to the largest percentage - road construction and repair (asphalting of streets) which is more than 31%:

- water supply, drinking water, plumbing repairs;
  - public transport, route, bus stops;
  - waste collection, keeping streets clean;
  - street lighting in the village;
  - playgrounds and their maintenance.
- At the same time, as an object of hope

for improving life with a high percentage of 35.4%, they voiced the point - "with the local head, who would be directly elected by population." Consequently, the population highly support direct elections and prefer them to the appointments, which have been practiced.

**The economic development of the villages and the expectation of changes in improvement.** A large number of respondents (48%) believe that there are enough resources in the villages. In fact, compared with the last decade, the situation in landscaping has changed significantly, and has a positive assessment. Of course, some problems are still left unsolved. Those residents, who have the opportunity to compare with the former industrial opportunities, admit unemployment as one of the main problems. People who have stable and high earnings, as in all villages, are state employees (teachers and hospital staff). The prevailing majority work in Almaty or in the district center - Otegen Batyr. The proximity of the above-mentioned settlements is relatively favorable in terms of transport communication - private taxis. The cost of travel to the city is affordable and low, it does not burden the economic and social situation, but circular migration, which is specific to all districts bordering Almaty, and the authorities have to pay attention to it. Public transport to Almaty is available in Boraldai. Therefore, according to the survey, the top problem appears to be roads. Based on personal observations and interviews, we can emphasize that there is no problem with the road as it has been for decades. We conclude that in the absence of problems in terms of village improvement, we can discern a paradox - respondents cannot speak about other problems, because they do not have official information, and vague dissatisfaction pushes them to say something, but to give a positive feedback is an unusual behavior for them. In the interview, the current problem in Boraldai was revealed - the need for major repairs of water supply, heating facilities throughout the settlement. These are multibillion-tenge expenses, but the population is not aware of these problems, it continues to voice problems retrospectively. Hypothetically, it can be assumed that the problem is only in communication with representatives of the akimat.

#### **Communication of the authorities**

**with the population.** Local executive bodies do not sufficiently inform, or do not attach importance to informing, or giving feedback on the topic of the work done or the presence of higher priority tasks. Recently, it has become a tradition to report on social networks through live broadcasts. Coverage is certainly not relatively high if we are talking about the social network Instagram, which has become during the lockdown time almost the only type of communication for local broadcasting. Officials themselves resort to broadcasting or publishing information and announcements through other channels that are not official, believing that this is more effective. However, working with the audience on social networks is very specific, and sometimes unsafe for their reputation. There have been cases of agitation campaign on social media with completely questionable content. Unfortunately, other appointing meetings have become less attainable. According to the survey, there was no mention among respondents of local communities or other civil institutions in these areas. If we talk about other news accounts in the same areas, one can notice a big difference in the number of subscribers and views. The problem of reaching young people in terms of informing remains extremely difficult, due to other objective global trends in this area. Theoretically, social media data, if used correctly, can lead to predictions of events in the near future that will be affected by human behavior. (*Metaxas, at al., 2011*).

**The effectiveness of the reform of local elections.** The effectiveness of any reforms requires testing, but this kind of reform has been practiced in different years. Therefore, it is assumed that the election of 2021 will be the final decision. Electoral politics can become a catalyst for changes in other political institutions (*Zhenglin, at al., 2004*). Recommendations were given during an interview from the manager for communication with state bodies of a transnational company located in the Ili district, as part of a study concerning the effectiveness of the work of representatives of the akimat as a "service provider" and "center of expertise". Actually, this is reflected in the work with such large taxpayers – tobacco companies, whose taxes to the district budget amount to more than 90%, and to Almaty region about 17%. Their opinion about the reform is positive, but effective

implementation, in their opinion, will take time. Kazakhstan's path to democracy can be said to be thorny and complicated. The idealized idea of successful implementation from high stands does not affect people much, sloganeering does not spread among population, but the solution to the problems of official communication with government agencies remains and stagnates. Issues related to agriculture and other ones' appeals are not always met on time. They are satisfied when it is bureaucratically advantageous to control the response to the request by the 30th of a month. The reason is the lack or disinterest of the authorities. Moreover, taxes are needed for the expenditure part. "The participation of an akim does not particularly figure here, it did not play a role. He did not even consider himself authorized. As a business representative, I would like to solve issues within the village," - the opinion of the manager of a multinational company, which, as mentioned above, is significant as a large taxpayer. Such statements suggest that local executive bodies do not fully understand the importance of the effectiveness of their activities. It turns out that tasks are delegated in the opposite direction - higher, to the region. Cox, using an extensive database on the world's leaders and how they exited from office, provides in his research evidence that elections do help a wide range of non- and semi-democratic regimes regulate succession to their top posts (Cox, 2009). For Kazakhstan, the role of a voter is new, unusual; moreover, it requires a whole system of skills, established stereotypes. Both experience and traditions in this area are insignificant, and it is the institutions of political socialization that are designed to "teach" citizens how to play the role of a voter (Nasimova, 2000). Up to these days, the electoral role remains unconscious or deliberately ignored, and there is indeed a need for dialogues between the authorities or individual civil institutions on the topic of more active involvement of the local electorate.

In addition, there are issues of budget, control and accountability. The issue is not even with the elections themselves, but with the accompanying reforms of increasing governmental revenues (Ileuova, 2021). Here are some of recommendations to the authorities responsible for the development from Transparency Kazakhstan: ensure that the deputies of Maslikhats are widely involved

in discussions with local communities on the possibilities of distributing local budget funds, taking into account the views of the population and existing problems; ensure the availability and timeliness of information about the gatherings of the local assembly and the discussion of draft budgets by deputies; ensure the ratio of the costs of maintaining akim's apparatus with the costs of solving local problems, reduce the amount of funds allocated to "other" akimat expenses; to realize the potential of the institution of self-government, to increase the involvement of the population in resolving issues of local importance and people's confidence in government, enter the election of akims of cities of regional subordination, rural districts, villages, towns, villages with a population of more than 2 thousand people (Shiyan, 2020). As we see and other analysts emphasize this, a number of unresolved issues fall out of sight. The reform itself requires a comprehensive analysis. For example, the issue of competencies required to perform duties. The top qualities include several adjectives describing the ideal candidate for the post of rural akim: honest, conscientious, decent, literate and educated. "We tried to make a portrait of a potential rural akim. As mandatory requirements for the future head, rural respondents put the presence of higher education and work experience in senior positions, as well as knowledge of the state language. These requirements were dominant indicators, fundamentally important for the villagers. 3 thousand rural residents participated in our survey," Madina Nurgalieva (Kuzekbai, 2021) said. There are differences in our research results and the results that are commented on by the Director of the NurOtan Institute of Public Policy, perhaps the difference is insignificant. However, the question of checking competencies and personal qualities for compliance with an ideal portrait is difficult and does not correlate, even theoretically. During the probation period or before the election? There are tools in the private sector, we are convinced that while interviewing for a particular vacant position in the public sector and that there must be recommendations from the Public Service Agency. In addition, during the interview, it is possible to identify compliance with the required qualities that were mentioned above. However, regarding the selected akims or candidates, this point



remains not officially announced, neither by the developers of the program, nor by the Public Service Agency. The problem of forming a high level of trust in the authorities is actualized by the tasks of increasing the reputation capital of the authorities as the most important resource for building a partnership model of interaction "power - society". The formation of a positive reputation is of particular importance at the regional level, where the closest interaction between authorities and population is carried out; an equal dialogue and a broad public consensus on the main issues of the region's development are of high necessity, on which the standard of living of its population directly depends (*Kuzekbai, 2021*). Interaction of akims with the population in order to popularize their candidacy is also not an unimportant moment, since according to subjective forecasts it is too early to judge the presence of real self-nominated candidates. Although their percentage is quite high - 60%, but there is a comparison with the nominated candidates from the parties. The fame of the akim, the knowledge of his name or surname by the population is not high - no more than 50% in the village where the elections were held on the eve of the elections, with a population of less than 7 thousand.

### Conclusions

After the election of rural akims, issues of regional development should be raised at the country level. Hence, intermediate at the regional level. The reform involves increasing the role of local communities of various forms that are little known in areas, or have not been created at all. The reform involves the decentralization of power. In current 2022 a pilot project "The Budget of People's Participation" is being implemented as a tool for promoting public initiatives and a way of civil control over the changes taking place in the city. In the forthcoming reforms it might be

an opportunity for local government, and in particular for rural akims, to understand the key problems, to determine priorities for the effective use of budget funds, to quit being a "handyman", but to be motivated in making decisions with higher responsibility. Recent studies on authoritarian elections by foreign scientists has yielded important insights. There is an increased understanding that elections in authoritarian regimes are very different phenomena than their democratic counterparts. The issues at stake, the incentives for participation, and the resulting electoral behavior are strikingly different (*Gandhi, et al., 2009*). The Democracy Index 2021 provides a snapshot of the state of democracy worldwide in 165 independent states and 2 territories, and in its ranking Kazakhstan has taken 128th place; Kazakhstani regime has been classified as an authoritarian one. According to the report of the United Nations Development Program, a huge number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition have embarked on some form of decentralization programs. The Soviet centralized "legacy" or administrative traditions of different historical periods will hinder the positive perception of innovation by citizens, and by not only citizens, but also the local authorities are not ready for such a rapid democratic transit. Elections are "free" when the legal barriers to entering the political arena are low, when candidates and supporters of various political parties have considerable freedom in campaigning and obtaining votes, and when voters are practically not forced to exercise their electoral choice (*Diamond, 2002*). In addition, we can assume such a hypothesis that districts, regions may lose leverage over the village, respectively; there are risks in interaction, communication and implementation of state programs. This very reform requires careful study of proven experience.

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**2021 ЖЫЛҒЫ ЖЕРГІЛІКТІ ӘКІМДЕР САЙЛАУЫ: САУАЛНАМА НӘТИЖЕЛЕРІНЕ ШОЛУ**

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**МЕСТНЫЕ ВЫБОРЫ АКИМОВ 2021 ГОДА: ОБЗОР РЕЗУЛЬТАТОВ ОПРОСА**

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