



Changes to the Romanian electoral legal framework during 2020

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Key dates of a most unusual year

- 29 January 2020 – The Government engaged its responsibility before the Parliament on the two-round election of mayors (later rejected by the Parliament);
- 14 February 2020 – The Government regulates snap elections – Emergency Government Decision no. 26/2020;
- 16 March 2020 – The President declares the state of emergency in Romania – Presidential Decree no. 195/2020;
- 17 March 2020 – The Constitutional Court declares the unconstitutionality of EGD no. 26/2020 – Constitutional Court Decision no. 150/2020;
- 8 April 2020 – The Government postpones local elections - Emergency Government Decision no. 44/2020;
- 12 June 2020 – The Constitutional Court declares the unconstitutionality of EGD no. 44/2020 – Constitutional Court Decision no. 240/2020;



- 20 June 2020 – The Parliament postpones local elections (again) – Law no. 84/2020;
- 28 June 2020 – The Parliament amends local and parliamentary elections laws – Law no. 91/2020;
- 27 July 2020 – The Parliament tries to postpone the parliamentary elections as well – (PL-x nr. 450/2020)
- 18 august 2020 – The Parliament sets the date of local elections – Law no. 135/2020;
- 18 august 2020 – The President of Romania submits a constitutional challenge regarding the postponement of parliamentary elections;
- 4 September 2020 – The Government sets the date of parliamentary elections – Government Decision no. 744/2020;
- 19 September 2020 – The Parliament amends parliamentary elections law – Law no. 202/2020;
- 27 September 2020 – local elections day;



- 15 October 2020 – The Constitutional Court rejects the constitutional challenge regarding the postponement of parliamentary elections;
- 23 October 2020 – The President of Romania asks the Parliament to reexamine the law regarding the postponement of parliamentary elections;
- 5 and 6 December 2020 – Parliamentary elections.



Short overview of the 2020 modifications of Romanian election legal framework

- Expanding voter access
- Facilitating the registration of candidates
- Increasing the transparency of vote counting and tabulation
- Adapting to the challenges posed by the pandemic
- Consolidating the capacity of election administration



Instead of conclusions

- A gain or a loss? No more Government emergency ordinances on elections.
- COVID-19 crisis was/is an opportunity for election reform.
- Election administration was key in ensuring the resilience of the electoral system and to promoting change.
- Election law must go from regulating business as usual to worst-case scenarios.