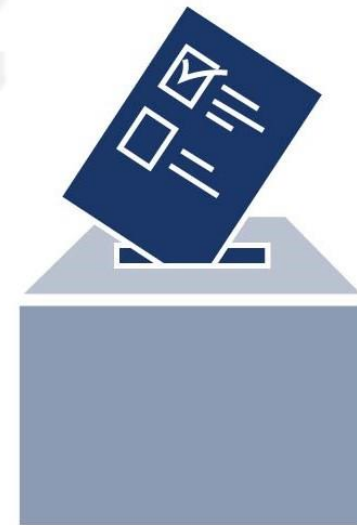




Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

2020 Election Observation Overview



Election Observation 2020

Missions' Overview

2020	Country of Observation	Elections
9 February	AZERBAIJAN	Parliamentary
30 August	MONTENEGRO	Parliamentary
30 October	GEORGIA	Parliamentary
3 November	USA	General

The COVID-19 pandemic caused disruption to many aspects of work, including to election observation.

In spite of the restrictions caused by the pandemic the OSCE PA was able to deploy four observation missions in four OSCE participating States in 2020.

141 participants took part in the missions, including 96 Members of Parliament.

Election Observation 2020

Mission Leadership

Date	Country of Observation	Type of Elections	Surname	Name	Mr/Ms	Country of Participant
9-Feb-20	AZERBAIJAN	Parliamentary	GERASYMOV	Artur	Mr.	UKRAINE
30-Aug-20	MONTENEGRO	Parliamentary	CEDERFELT	Margareta	Ms.	SWEDEN
31-Oct-20	GEORGIA	Parliamentary	HOXHA	Elona	Ms.	ALBANIA
3-Nov-20	USA	General	LINK	Michael	Mr.	GERMANY

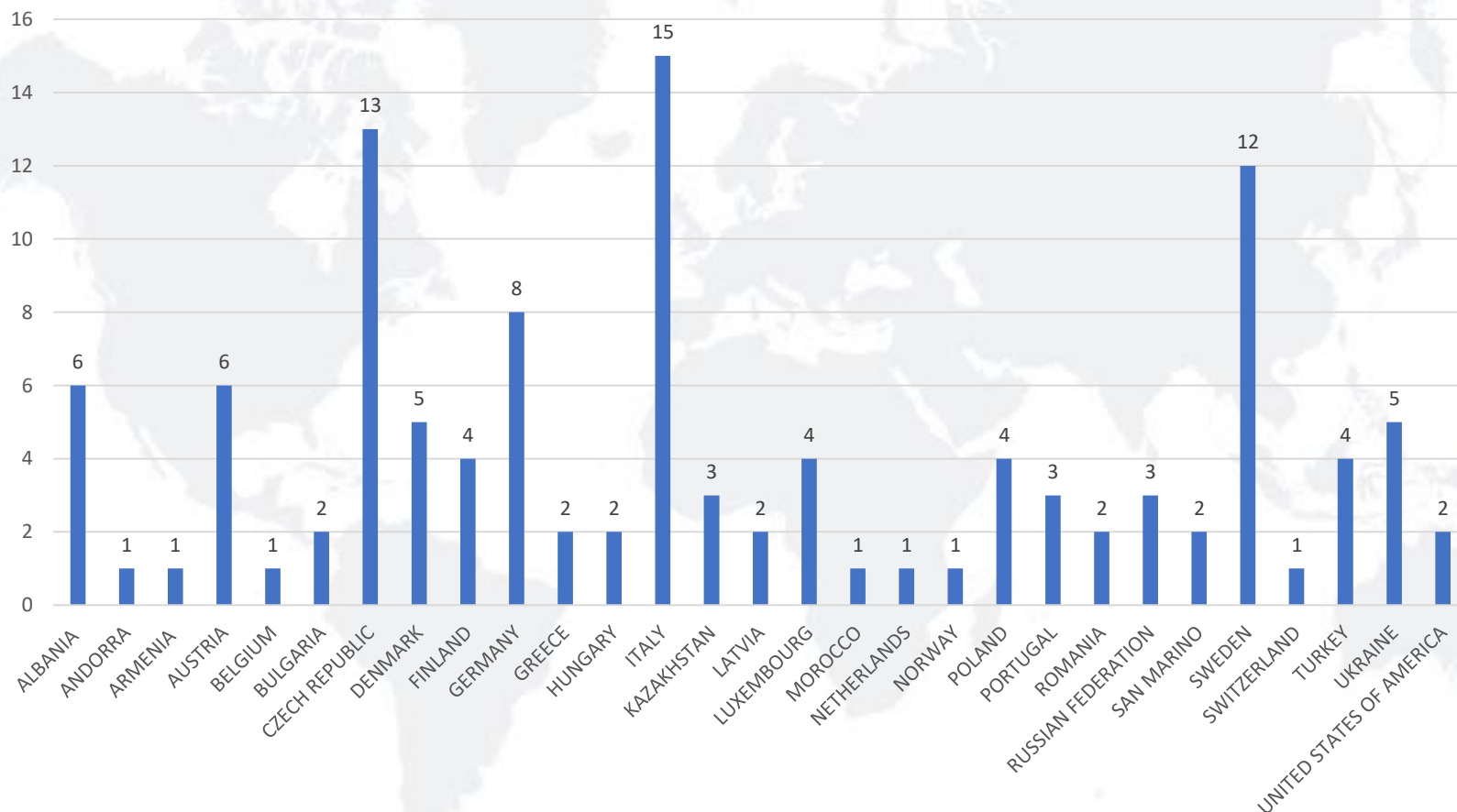
**Special
Co-ordinators**

Date	Country of Observation	Type of Elections	Surname	Name	Mr/Ms	Country of Participant
9-Feb-20	AZERBAIJAN	Parliamentary	HOXHA	Elona	Ms.	ALBANIA
31-Oct-20	GEORGIA	Parliamentary	KAUMA	Pia	Ms.	FINLAND
3-Nov-20	USA	General	HENRIKSEN	Kari	Ms.	NORWAY

**Heads of OSCE PA
Delegation**

Election Observation 2020

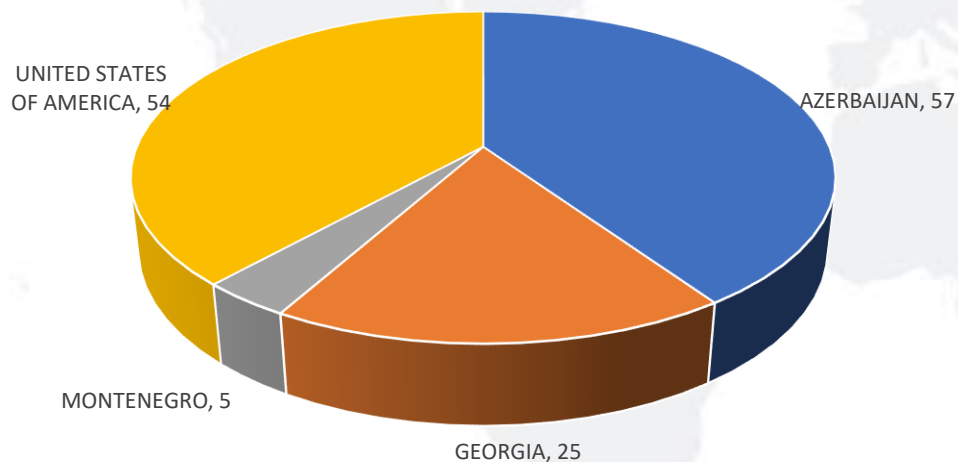
Participation Overview



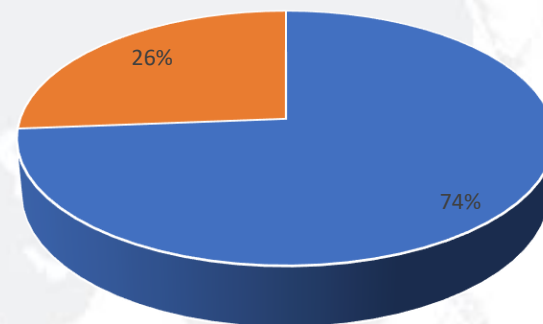
Election Observation 2020

Observer Participation

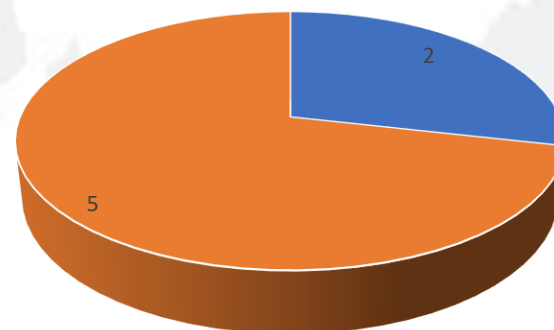
Mission-by-Mission



Gender among membership



Gender among leadership



■ Mr. ■ Ms.

Election Observation 2020

Azerbaijan, Parliamentary Elections

9 February 2020

In a post-election [statement](#), delivered in Baku, OSCE observers noted that the restrictive legislation and political environment prevented genuine competition in Azerbaijan's early parliamentary elections. Despite the large number of candidates, voters were not provided with a meaningful choice, due to a lack of real political discussion. The observers noted that many candidates used social media to reach out to the voters, but this did not compensate for the absence of campaign coverage in traditional media.

"I regret very much that what could have been improvements did not lead to a competitive environment enabling truly democratic elections. Counting on election day was disappointing. I would have hoped for some real changes. The absence of any serious coverage of the campaign in traditional media and the lack of debate in public and on television are some of the reasons for low public attention," said Artur Gerasymov, Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE short-term observer mission.

"In these elections, unfortunately, we saw a low level of participation of women candidates," said Elona Hoxha Gjebrea, Head of the OSCE PA delegation. "It is clear to me that greater efforts are needed to promote the participation of women in public and political life, and to increase youth engagement. This could go a long way towards strengthening Azerbaijan's democracy as a whole."

The election administration was well resourced and met legal deadlines, and the Central Election Commission (CEC) made concerted efforts to act transparently and was welcoming towards international observers. However, significant procedural violations during the counting and tabulation of votes on election day raised concerns over whether the results were established honestly, the observers said.

There were considerable concerns raised about the political affiliation or lack of independence of some citizen observer groups.

The OSCE PA worked closely with the delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) as well as the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR).



Photos from the mission available [here](#).

Election Observation 2020

Azerbaijan, Parliamentary Elections

9 February 2020

<u>Special Co-ordinator</u>			
UKRAINE	GERASYMOV	Artur	Mr.
<u>Head of the OSCE PA Delegation</u>			
ALBANIA	HOXHA	Elona	Ms.
<u>Members of Delegation</u>			
AUSTRIA	HAFENECKER	Christian	Mr.
AUSTRIA	GROSSMANN	Elisabeth	Ms.
BELGIUM	BEX	Stijn	Mr.
BULGARIA	AHMEDOV	Ahmed	Mr.
BULGARIA	MEHMEDOVA	Imren	Ms.
CZECH REPUBLIC	BAUER	Jan	Mr.
CZECH REPUBLIC	HAJEK	Josef	Mr.
CZECH REPUBLIC	ONDRACEK	Zdenek	Mr.
CZECH REPUBLIC	VACLAVEC	Ladislav	Mr.
CZECH REPUBLIC	ZALAUDIK	Jan	Mr.
CZECH REPUBLIC	MARIKOVA	Karla	Ms.
DENMARK	SONDERGAARD	Soren	Mr.
GERMANY	NEUMANN	Christoph	Mr.
GERMANY	PODOLAY	Paul Viktor	Mr.
GREECE	SYRIGOS	Evangelos	Mr.
GREECE	VAREMENOS	Georgios	Mr.
ITALY	AUGUSSORI	Luigi	Mr.
ITALY	DEL BARBA	Mauro	Mr.
ITALY	GRIMOLDI	Paolo	Mr.
ITALY	MOLLAME	Francesco	Mr.
ITALY	VATTUONE	Vito	Mr.
KAZAKHSTAN	ABSATIROV	Kenes	Mr.
LATVIA	NAUDINS	Romans	Mr.
LUXEMBOURG	GRAAS	Gustave	Mr.
POLAND	ROSATI	Dariusz	Mr.
POLAND	BARTUS	Barbara	Ms.

POLAND	LICHOCKA	Joanna	Ms.
POLAND	SOIN	Agnieszka	Ms.
ROMANIA	FENECHIU	Catalin Daniel	Mr.
ROMANIA	ROMASCANU	Lucian	Mr.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	KORNIENKO	Aleksei	Mr.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	TUROV	Artem	Mr.
SWEDEN	LARSSON	Dag	Mr.
SWEDEN	CEDERFELT	Margareta	Ms.
TURKEY	ARSLAN	Ahmet	Mr.
TURKEY	KIRAZOGLU	Mehmet Sait	Mr.
<u>Staff of Delegation</u>			
ALBANIA	VESHI	Antonela	Ms.
CZECH REPUBLIC	ANDRISOVA	Silvia	Ms.
CZECH REPUBLIC	KOSARIKOVA	Katerina	Ms.
ITALY	FERRARI	Massimiliano	Mr.
ITALY	TREZZA	Giuseppe	Mr.
ITALY	CALIFANO	Pia	Ms.
ITALY	LAI	Laura	Ms.
LATVIA	AIZSTRAUTS	Igors	Mr.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	KARSEKA	Sergey	Mr.
TURKEY	ATAHAN	Yuksel	Mr.
TURKEY	KOCAK	Konur Alp	Mr.
<u>International Secretariat</u>			
GERMANY	NOTHELLE	Andreas	Mr.
GERMANY	KNOBLAU	Tim	Mr.
ITALY	ALMERIGOGNA	Guido	Mr.
ITALY	FERRARI	Roberto	Mr.
UKRAINE	SABASHUK	Iryna	Ms.
USA	PARRY	Nat	Mr.
USA (External Expert)	PRICE	Everett	Mr.
USA (External Expert)	TONER	Mark	Mr.

Election Observation 2020

Montenegro, Parliamentary Elections

30 August 2020

In a post-election [statement](#) delivered in Podgorica, OSCE observers noted that while the 30 August parliamentary elections were managed transparently and efficiently, the widespread abuse of office and state resources gave the ruling party an undue advantage against the backdrop of an intensely polarized debate over issues of church and national identity.

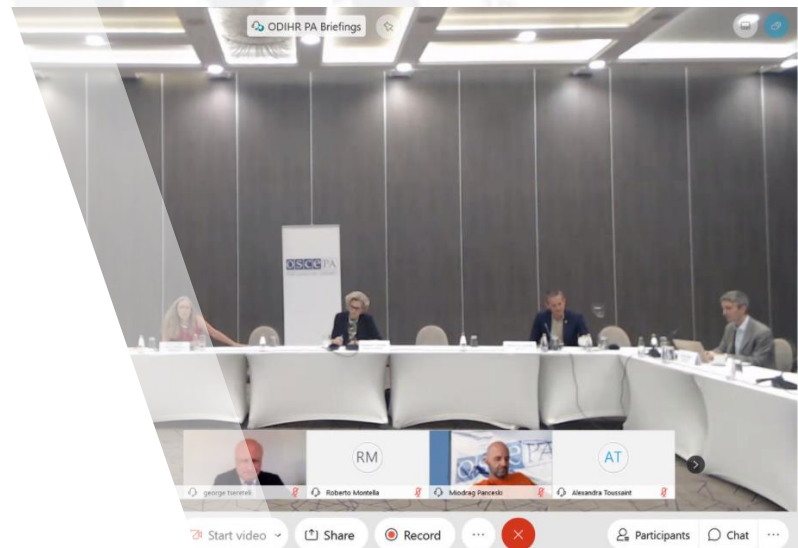
“This was a hard-fought campaign, but the ruling party benefited from an uneven playing field. COVID’s impact on the campaign and yesterday on election day was undeniably strong, but even this took a back seat to the major debates related to church and national identity,” said OSCE PA Vice-President Margareta Cederfelt, Special Co-ordinator and leader of the OSCE short-term observers.

The legal framework generally allowed democratic elections to take place, but needed to be improved, as legislative gaps and ambiguities undermined legal certainty and made it easy to sidestep the rules.

The observers noted that the campaign was peaceful despite a frequently confrontational tone. In the face of health restrictions candidates were still able to reach out to the voters and convey their messages. At the same time, the fact that campaign coverage footage was overwhelmingly produced by the candidates themselves, together with the lack of independent editorial coverage, lowered the quality of information available to voters.

The elections took place amid concerns over patchy compliance with the constitution. Not only were the elections called early without shortening the parliament’s mandate, but the pandemic-related restrictions on fundamental freedoms, including a ban on public gatherings and political rallies, were introduced without the declaration of a state of emergency by parliament. Election day was orderly and the process was generally transparent and well administered, while health protocols were not implemented consistently, observers said.

The OSCE PA observers worked closely with partners from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, in this first mission deployed by the Parliamentary Assembly after the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Photos from the mission available [here](#).

Election Observation 2020

Montenegro, Parliamentary Elections

30 August 2020

<u>Special Co-ordinator</u>			
SWEDEN	CEDERFELT	Margareta	Ms.
<u>Member of Delegation</u>			
DENMARK	JENSEN	Kristian	Mr.
<u>OSCE PA International Secretariat</u>			
BiH	DOGOVIC	Hana	Ms.
DENMARK	BAKER	Andreas	Mr.
SERBIA	TODORIC	Dimitrije	Mr.

Election Observation 2020

Georgia, Parliamentary Elections

30 October 2020

Georgia's parliamentary elections were competitive and, overall, fundamental freedoms were respected. Nevertheless, pervasive allegations of pressure on voters and blurring of the line between the ruling party and the state reduced public confidence in some aspects of the process, international observers said at the post-election press-conference in Tbilisi.

The observers [concluded](#) that the technical aspects of the elections were managed efficiently, despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but the dominance of the ruling party in the election commissions negatively affected the perception of their impartiality and independence, especially at the lower levels.

"I am very pleased that we were able to contribute to the observation of these very important and challenging elections for Georgia. I commend the extra efforts that inevitably had to be made in preparations, and also commend all the people who courageously decided to go out and vote, notwithstanding the immense challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic," said Elona Gjebrea Hoxha, OSCE Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE election mission.

Observers visited a limited numbers of polling stations and witnessed that procedures were mostly followed. Preventive measures against COVID-19 were largely in place, but social distancing was rarely respected or possible.

"I commend the many women in polling stations across the country who were actively working to ensure a smooth process on election day," said Pia Kauma, head of the delegation from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. "I also welcome steps taken to increase women's representation in the electoral contest, and I hope this will be reflected in the incoming parliament and government."

The legal framework, overall, provided a sound basis for democratic elections. While many recent amendments were welcomed as bringing some improvement, there were concerns about a lack of effective implementation and enforcement in the areas of election administration, the campaign and campaign finance, the observers noted.

The OSCEPA worked closely with colleagues from PACE, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, and OSCE/ODIHR.



Photos from the mission available [here](#).

Election Observation 2020

Georgia, Parliamentary Elections

30 October 2020

<u>Special Co-ordinator</u>			
ALBANIA	HOXHA	Elona	Ms.
<u>Head of the OSCE PA Delegation</u>			
FINLAND	KAUMA	Pia	Ms.
<u>Members of Delegation</u>			
ARMENIA	DANIELYAN	Hamazasp	Mr.
AUSTRIA	KASSEGGGER	Axel	Mr.
AUSTRIA	MINNICH	Andreas	Mr.
CZECH REPUBLIC	HAJEK	Josef	Mr.
DENMARK	SONDERGAARD	Soren	Mr.
FINLAND	HOPUS	Inka	Ms.
HUNGARY	CSENGER-ZALAN	Zsolt	Mr.
KAZAKHSTAN	DYUSSEMBAYEV	Gumar	Mr.
KAZAKHSTAN	YERMAN	Mukhtar	Mr.
PORTUGAL	MALO DE ABREU	Antonio	Mr.

SWEDEN	LARSSON	Dag	Mr.
SWEDEN	OMANOVIC	Jasenko	Mr.
SWEDEN	POSIO	Yasmine	Ms.
SWEDEN	SODER	Bjorn	Mr.
<u>Staff of Delegation</u>			
ALBANIA	VESHI	Antonela	Ms.
ALBANIA	LLESHI	Leterije	Ms.
CZECH REPUBLIC	HARAKOVA	Kristyna	Ms.
SWEDEN	SVENSSON	Fredrik	Mr.
<u>OSCE PA International Secretariat</u>			
GERMANY	KNOBLAU	Tim	Mr.
GERMANY	KOCI	Freyja	Ms.
ITALY	MONTELLA	Roberto	Mr.
ITALY	PAGANI	Francesco	Mr.
ITALY	DI DOMENICO	Anna	Ms.

Election Observation 2020

USA, General Elections

3 November 2020

OSCE observers [concluded](#) that the 3 November general elections were competitive and well managed despite the many challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The campaign was characterised by deeply entrenched political polarisation that often obscured the broader policy debate and included baseless allegations of systematic fraud.

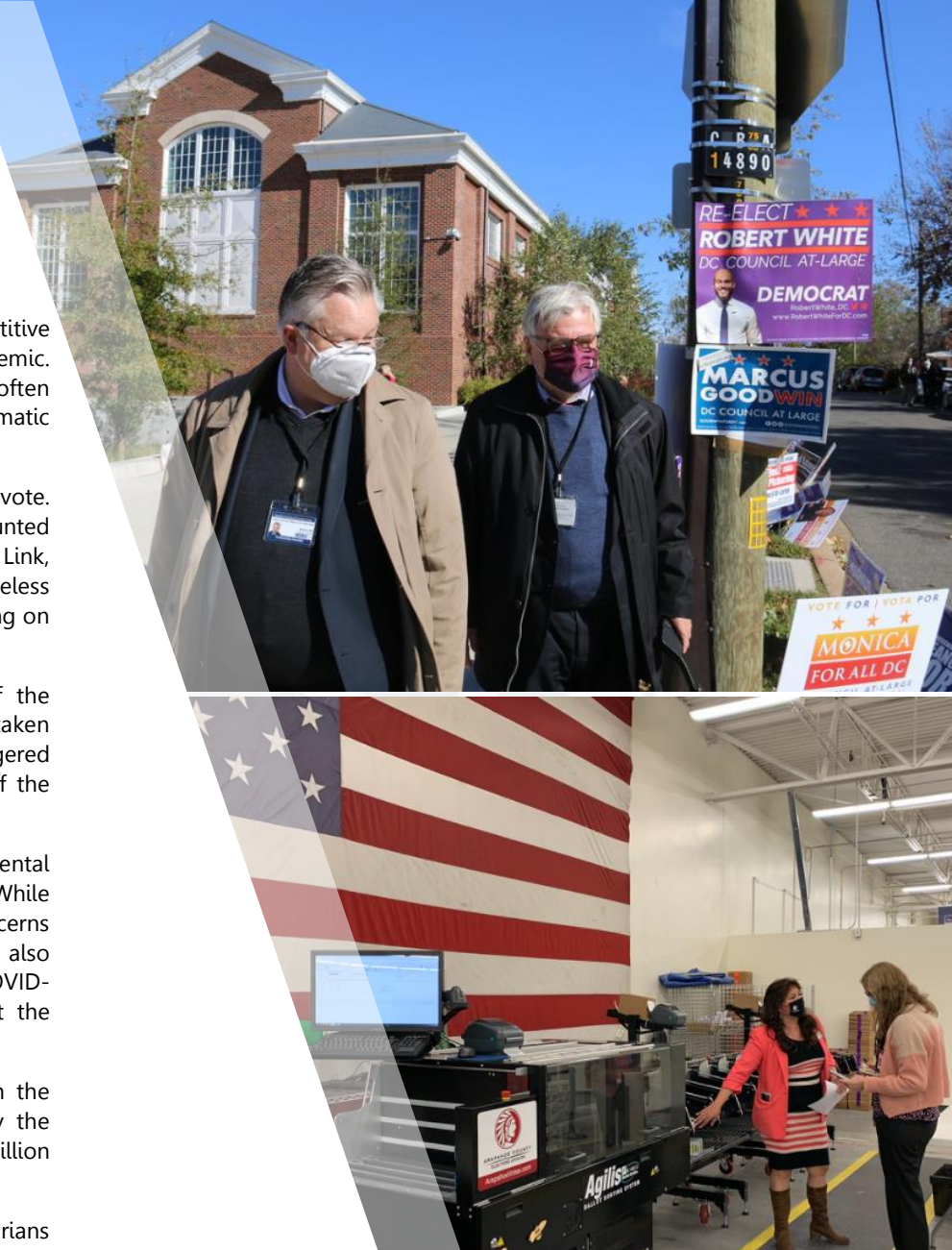
“Nobody – no politician, no elected official – should limit the people’s right to vote. Coming after such a highly dynamic campaign, making sure that every vote is counted is a fundamental obligation for all branches of government,” said Michael Georg Link, Special Co-ordinator and leader of the short-term OSCE observer mission. “Baseless allegations of systematic deficiencies, notably by the incumbent President, including on election night, harm public trust in democratic institutions.”

The COVID-19 pandemic was an enormous challenge to the organisation of the elections, but it also had a significant impact on the election campaign. Measures taken to ensure that voters were able to cast their ballot during the pandemic triggered drawn-out lawsuits driven by partisan interests, negatively affecting the work of the election administration and confusing voters.

“The right to vote and to have that vote counted is among the most fundamental principles of democracy,” said Kari Henriksen, Head of the OSCE PA delegation. “While the United States has taken great strides toward expanding the franchise, concerns remain regarding universal adult suffrage. Women’s participation in politics has also increased, but there should be greater attention paid to this. In the context of COVID-19 and the rise in mail-in voting, I am concerned about attempts to restrict the counting of legally cast ballots.”

The observers also raised concerns over campaign finance. The regulations on the unrestricted independent spenders effectively reduce transparency and amplify the impact of money in politics. The total expenditure was estimated to reach \$14 billion for these elections.

The international election observation mission was composed of the parliamentarians and staff from the OSCE PA as well as ODIHR-deployed experts and observers.



Photos from the mission available [here](#).

Election Observation 2020

USA, General Elections

3 November 2020

<u>Special Co-ordinator</u>			
GERMANY	LINK	Michael Georg	Mr.
<u>Head of the OSCE PA Delegation</u>			
NORWAY	HENRIKSEN	Kari	Ms.
<u>Members of Delegation</u>			
ALBANIA	BUSHATI	Ditmir	Mr.
ANDORRA	COSTA MARIMON	Ferran Joaquim	Mr.
AUSTRIA	LOPATKA	Reinhold	Mr.
AUSTRIA	STROGMULLER	David	Mr.
CZECH REPUBLIC	MARIKOVA	Karla	Ms.
CZECH REPUBLIC	PLZAK	Pavel	Mr.
DENMARK	JUEL-JENSEN	Peter	Mr.
DENMARK	LARSEN	Malte	Mr.
FINLAND	JUNNILA	Vilhelm	Mr.
FINLAND	KAUMA	Pia	Ms.
GERMANY	HUNKO	Andrej	Mr.
GERMANY	KEUL	Katja	Ms.
GERMANY	MARTIN	Dorothee	Ms.
GERMANY	NEUMANN	Christoph	Mr.
GERMANY	PODOLAY	Paul Viktor	Mr.
HUNGARY	ARATO	Gergely	Mr.
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ITALY	DEL BARBA	Mauro	Mr.
ITALY	GRIMOLDI	Paolo	Mr.
ITALY	MOLLAME	Francesco	Mr.
ITALY	VATTUONE	Vito	Mr.
LUXEMBOURG	GRAAS	Gustave	Mr.
LUXEMBOURG	HAAGEN	Claude	Mr.
LUXEMBOURG	LORSCH	Marie Josee	Ms.
MOROCCO	EL HAMMS	Abdelkrim	Mr.

NETHERLANDS	KARIMI	Farahnaz	Ms.
PORTUGAL	DA GRACA NUNES	Luis Miguel	Mr.
PORTUGAL	GUIMARES COELHO	Lima Andre	Mr.
SAN MARINO	MURATORI	Michele	Mr.
SAN MARINO	RONDELLI	Paolo	Mr.
SWEDEN	BUSER	Johan	Mr.
SWEDEN	CEDERFELT	Margareta	Ms.
SWEDEN	ODEBRINK	Carina	Ms.
SWEDEN	THOMPSSON	Lars	Mr.
SWITZERLAND	DITTLI	Josef	Mr.
UKRAINE	FROLOV	Pavlo	Mr.
UKRAINE	POTURAEV	Mykyta	Mr.
UKRAINE	RAKHMANIN	Serhii	Mr.
<u>Staff of Delegation</u>			
CZECH REPUBLIC	ANDRISOVA	Silvia	Ms.
ITALY	FERRARI	Massimiliano	Mr.
UKRAINE	RUDENKO	Vitalii	Mr.
<u>OSCE PA International Secretariat</u>			
CANADA	BAKER	Andreas	Mr.
FRANCE	KOLTCHANOV	Stephanie	Ms.
GERMANY	KOCI	Freyja	Ms.
GERMANY	NOTHELLE	Andreas	Mr.
ITALY	ALMERIGOGNA	Guido	Mr.
ITALY	MONTELLA	Roberto	Mr.
SPAIN	PALLARES	Gustavo	Mr.
SERBIA	PANCESKI	Miodrag	Mr.
TAJIKISTAN	SALOKHUDINOV	Manuchekhr	Mr.
<u>Supported by:</u>			
USA (Int. Secretariat)	PARRY	Nat	Mr.
USA (Int. Secretariat)	PAUL	Stephen	Mr.

Election Observation: 28 years in action

Year	Missions #	MPs	Total Participants	Average Participants
2020	4	96	141	35
2019	9	340	455	51
2018	8	436	479	60
2017	5	161	216	43
2016	10	334	445	45
2015	6	221	298	50
2014	9	398	522	58
2013	7	166	240	34
2012	11	392	523	48
2011	6	286	374	62
2010	10	392	511	51
2009	6	174	223	37
2008	7	313	387	55
2007	6	244	303	51
2006	7	296	380	54
2005	6	186	225	38
2004	9	313	375	42
2003	4	133	163	41
2002	3	103	118	39
2001	6	207	134	22
2000	6	131	163	27
1999	4	122	165	41
1998	10	213	269	27
1997	6	122	159	27
1996	5	118	163	33
1995	10	164	214	21
1994	4	66	85	21
1993	1	36	57	57



The International Secretariat of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

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