

# Philippine Election Laws

## Alberto C. Agra

Chairman, Philippine Reclamation Authority

Election Law and Local Government Law Professor  
and Political Law Bar Reviewer, Ateneo Law School

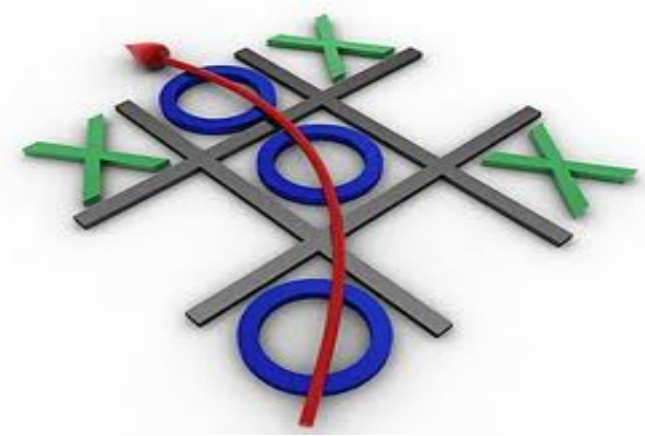
Certified PPP and Regulation Specialist™

PhD Candidate, Leadership Studies major in Public  
Management, Ateneo School of Government

Former Acting Secretary of Justice, Acting Solicitor  
General and Government Corporate Counsel

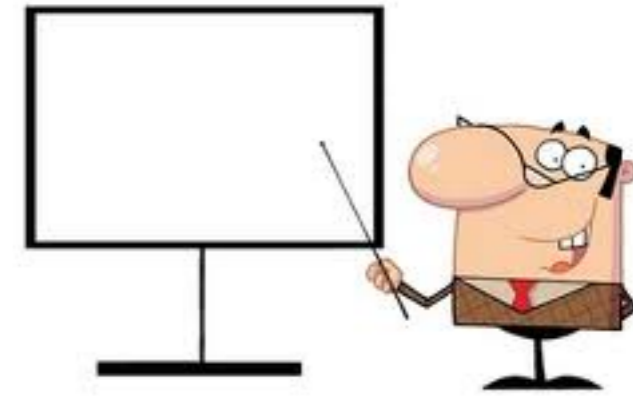
*May 25, 2017*

# Election Laws



1. 1987 Constitution
2. Omnibus Election Code (B.P. 881)
3. Automated Election Law (R.A. 9369 amending R.A. 8436)
4. Synchronized Elections Act (R.A. 7166)
5. 1991 Local Government Code (R.A. 7160)
6. Initiative and Referendum (R.A. 6735)
7. Party-List System Act (R.A. 7941)
8. Fair Election Act (R.A. 9006)
9. Voter's Registration Act of 1996 (R.A. 8189)
10. Overseas Absentee Voting (R.A. 10590 amending R.A. 9189)
11. Biometrics (R.A. 10367)
12. Lone Candidate in Special Elections (R.A. 8295)
13. Official Sample Ballots (R.A. 7004)
14. Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act (R.A. 9225)

# Topics for Discussion



- [1) Philippine Elections
- [2) Commission on Elections and Election Tribunals
- [3) Voters and Voter Registration
- [4) Elective Officials and Candidates
  - [4.1) Party-List System
- [5) Campaign
- [6) Contributions and Expenditures
- [7) Postponement and Failure of Elections
- [8) Automated Elections
- [9) Pre-Proclamation Cases
- [10) Post-Proclamation Cases
- [11) Election Offenses
- [12) Dispute Resolution

# 1) Philippine Elections



- General
- Free
- Direct
- Equal
- Secret
- Choices (Person & Policy)
- Automated
- All Levels
- Synchronized conduct
- Regular
- Plurality Formula
- Regulated by Law
- Supervised by Comelec
- Clean, Honest, Orderly, Peaceful and Free
- Inexpensive
- Participated in by Political Parties
- Public Disclosures

# 1) Philippine Elections (May 2016)



## Figures

- Registered Voters: 54,363,844
- Established Precincts: 369,133
- Clustered Precincts: 92,509 (not more than 7 precincts and 800 voters)
- Vote-Counting Machines (VCMs): 97,517 (Phl 92,509; Overseas 120, Contingency 4,888)
- Major Political Parties: 14 (2 dominant parties; 10 major national and 2 major local)

## Elective Offices

- President: 1
- Vice-President: 1
- Senators: 12 (of 24)
- District Representatives: 235
- Party-List Representatives: 58 (59)
- Autonomous Region: 1
- Provinces: 81
- Cities: 144
- Municipalities: 1,490



## 2) Commission on Elections

- **Independent 7-Person Constitutional Body**  
(administrative agency, public office, fixed term, permanent appointments)
- **Plenary authority** to decide all questions affecting elections except the question as to the right to vote (qualifications)
- **Enjoys Fiscal Autonomy**
- **Wide** discretion in adopting means to carry out its mandate of ensuring **CHOPFE** (not straitjacketed by procedural rules)

## 2) Commission on Elections



- **Enforcement Power:** All election laws (persons and policies); exclusion of others; **enforce, not amend laws (2016)**
- **Judicial Power:** Qualifications and Election Contests (excludes Suffrage)
- **Control and Supervision:** over BEIs and BOCs, **over election officers since its agents (2016)**
- **Jurisdiction:** Original (Regional, Provincial and City); and Appellate (Municipal, Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan)





## 2) Commission on Elections

- **Remedies:** En Banc (MR, administrative) and Division (1st instance, judicial)
- **Process:** Division - MR to En Banc then Certiorari to SC
- **Contempt:** Judicial (not Administrative)



# 2) Commission on Elections



## Judicial (Division)

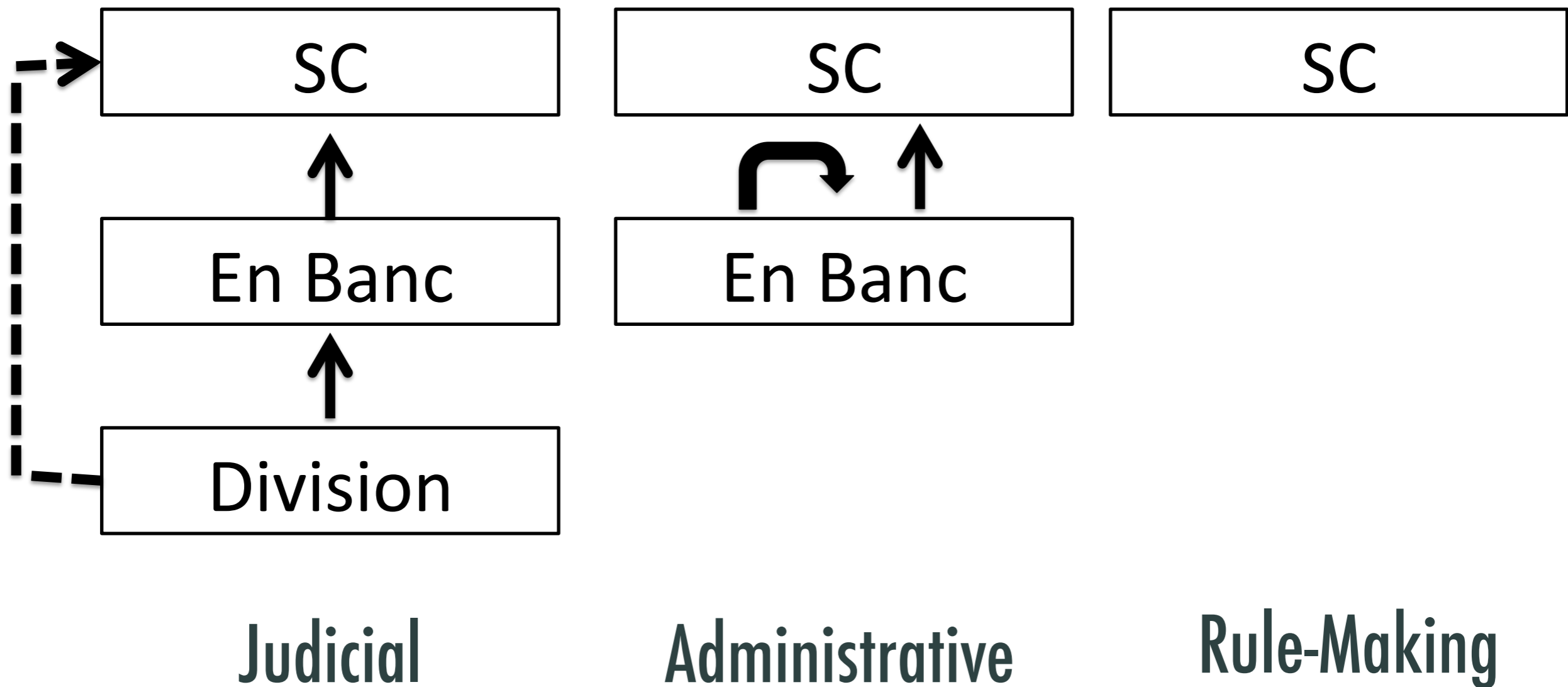
- Disqualification
- Election Protest
- Quo Warranto
- Pre-Proclamation
- Annulment of Proclamation
- Intra- and inter-party
- Cancellation of a certificate of candidacy
- Leadership (not expulsion of member)
- Registration of Political Parties

## Administrative (En Banc)

- Failure of Elections
- Postponement of Elections
- Election Offense (filing of information)
- Annulment of Book of Voters
- Cancellation of certificate of candidacy based on final judgment of conviction with ancillary penalty of DQ
- Allocation of party-list seats
- Accreditation of Major Parties



## 2) Commission on Elections



# 3) Public Offices



Branch	Public Office
Regular Courts	Supreme Court (judicial review over SET and HRET, 2016) Court of Appeals Regional Trial Court Municipal Trial Court
Tribunals	Presidential Electoral Tribunal Senate Electoral Tribunal (exclusive and only task, 2016) House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (assumes jurisdiction when proclaimed and taken oath, 2016)
COMELEC	National Board of Canvassers En Banc Division (can become final without en banc confirmation, 2016) Board of Canvassers Board of Election Inspectors Law Department
Executive	Department of Justice

# 3) Election Tribunals



	<i>Elective Positions</i>							
<i>Cases</i>	<u>Pres/ VP</u>	<i>Senators</i>	<i>District Reprs.</i>	<i>Part-List Reprs.</i>	<i>Regional Officials</i>	<i>Provincial Officials</i>	<i>City Officials</i>	<i>Municipal Officials</i>
<i>Disqualification</i>	<u>Comelec</u> Division							
<i>Proclamation</i>	Congress	<u>Comelec En Banc</u>	Local/ District Board of Canvassers	<u>Comelec En Banc</u>	<u>Comelec En Banc</u>	Provincial Board of Canvassers	City Board of Canvassers	Municipal Board of Canvassers
<i>Annulment of Proclamation</i>	[Congress]	[ <u>Comelec En Banc</u> ]	[ <u>Comelec Division</u> ]	[ <u>Comelec En Banc</u> ]	<u>Comelec</u> Division			
<i>Election Protests</i>	Presidential Electoral Tribunal	Senate Electoral Tribunal	House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal	<u>Comelec</u> Division			Regional Trial Court	
<i>Quo Warranto</i>								
<i>Postponement of Elections</i>	COMELEC En Banc							
<i>Failure of Elections</i>								
<i>Election Offenses</i>	[Immunity after Proc.]	<u>Comelec</u> Law Department or Prosecutors ( <u>Comelec En Banc</u> filing of Information; Regional Trial Court for Trial)						

# 3) Voters: Concepts



- **What?** Suffrage is a Right (not an obligation)
- **Who?** Qualifications defined in Constitution; Disqualifications defined in Statute; Allow Absentee Voting, Dual Citizens, Disabled and Illiterates to Vote
- **How?** Procedural Requirements allowed to be imposed, Substantive not allowed
- Distinguished from **Right to Register**

# 3) Voters: Qualifications



- [Filipino **Citizen**
- [At least 18 years of **age** on election day
- [**Resident in Philippines** for at least 1 year prior to election day (domicile; permanent residency)
- [**Resided in place** wherein propose to vote for at least 6 months prior to election day (permanent or temporary)
- [**Free** from Disqualifications
- [In order to vote, must be a **registered voter**



# 3) Voters: Disqualifications



- [Sentenced by final judgment – imprisonment of 1 year or more
- [Sentenced to suffer accessory penalty – political rights
- [Adjudged by final judgment – crime involving disloyalty
- [Court-declared insane and incompetent persons



# 3) Voters: Registration



- **Nature:** Continuing
- **Listing:** Computerized List at all Levels
- **Number:** 200 Voter-Precinct (unless clustered)
- **Biometrics:** Mandatory for new; for registered voters, validation
- **Changes:** Permanent but subject to changes (+ or -)

# 3) Voters: Registration



## Addition (+)

- New Voters
- Transfer of Residence to
- Reactivation
- Inclusion

## Deletion (-)

- Cancellation (death)
- Transfer of Residence from
- Deactivation
- Exclusion
- Annulment of Book of Voters

# 3) Voters: Deactivation



- [Disqualified to Vote
- [Failed to Vote in 2 preceding elections
- [Registration Excluded by the Court
- [Lose Filipino Citizenship
- [Failure to have biometrics taken (validation)

# 3) Voters: Opposition



- **What?** Applications not yet resolved
- **Where Oppose?** Election Registration Board
- **Who may Oppose?** Voter, Candidate or Political Party
- **When?** Specified Period
- **How Oppose?** File Written Opposition/ Challenge
- **Why Oppose?** Not Qualified, Fictitious
- **Appearance?** Mandatory if application opposed

# 3) Voters: Inclusion/ Exclusion



- **What?** Applications already acted upon
- **Where File?** MTC (not Comelec), then RTC (not Comelec), then SC (question of law)
- **Grounds?** Disapproval or Name Stricken Out (Inclusion); Not Qualified or Voter Not Real (Exclusion)
- **When?** Specified Period

# 3) Voters:

## Annulment of Book of Voters



- **Annul What?** Book of Voters per precinct
- **Where File?** Comelec
- **When Filed?** Normally, after period to file inclusion/ exclusion lapses
- **Who Files?** Any Voter, EO or Party
- **What Grounds?** (1) Book Prepared Improperly, Preparation Attended with Vice or Fraud, and (2) Book contains Statistically Improbable Data (not qualification of voters)

# 3) Voters: Election Day



## Illegal Voter

- [Not registered; Use another name; Disqualified; Multiple Registrant (*allowed to vote if properly identified*)

## Illegal Act

- [Vote-Buying; Vote-Selling; Vote-Betting: Promise to induce or withhold vote (*allowed to vote if take oath*)



# 4) Officials: Elective



## National Office

— [President; Vice-President; Senators (24; 1/2);  
Representatives (District and Party-List)]

## Local Office

— [LCE: Regional Governor, Provincial Governor, City  
or Municipal Mayor and Punong Barangay]

— [VLCE: Vice-Governor and Vice-Mayor; Sanggunian  
Members]

# 4) Officials: Qualifications



**Enumeration:** Set by the Constitution (national) and statutes (local)

- [Citizenship (naturalized elsewhere: oath and renounce, 2016; founding presumed natural-born unless proven otherwise, 2016)
- [Age
- [Residency (physical presence may be broken; not require 24/7, 2016)
- [Registered Voter
- [Literacy
- [Free from Disqualifications
- [Undertake Drug Test under CDDA OF 2002, unconstitutional]

**Procedure:** Electoral aspect of DQ (administrative proceeding): summary

# 4) Specific Qualifications



<i>Elective Position</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>					<i>Term (Years)</i>	<i>Term Limit</i>
	<i>Citizenship</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Literacy</i>	<i>Voter</i>	<i>Residency</i>		
<b><i>President and Vice President</i></b>	Natural-Born	40	Read and Write	Registered	10 years in <u>Phl</u>	6	P-1 VP-2
<b><i>Senator</i></b>	Natural-Born	35	Read and Write	Registered	2 years in <u>Phl</u>	6	2
<b><i>District Representatives</i></b>	Natural-Born	25	Read and Write	Registered in District	1 year in District	3	3
<b><i>Party-List Representatives</i></b>	Natural-Born	25 (if youth: 25-30)	Read and Write	Registered	1 year in <u>Phl</u>	3	3
<b><i>ARMM Governor</i></b>	Natural-Born	35	Read and Write	Registered in ARMM	5 years in ARMM	3	3
<b><i>ARMM Legislators</i></b>	Natural-Born	21	Read and Write	Registered in District	5 years in District	3	3
<b><i>Local Officials</i></b>	Citizen	<u>Prov/HUC</u> : 23 Other Mayor/ VM: 21 Others: 18	Read and Write Filipino or Local dialect	Registered in Locality	1 year in Locality	3	3

# 4) Candidate: Evolution of Definition



<i>Automated Election Law</i> <i>RA No. 9369</i> <i>(January 23, 2007)</i>	<i>Omnibus Election Code</i> <i>B.P. Bldg. 881</i> <i>(December 3, 1985)</i>	<u><i>Comelec Resolution</i></u> <i>No. 9991</i> <i>(October 2, 2015)</i>	<u><i>Comelec Resolution</i></u> <i>No. 10049</i> <i>(February 1, 2016)</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Filed Certificate of Candidacy (<u>CoC</u>)</li> <li>2. Start of campaign period</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aspiring for elective office</li> <li>2. Filed <u>CoC</u></li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aspiring for elective office</li> <li>2. Filed <u>CoC</u></li> <li>3. Not withdrawn <u>CoC</u> before start of campaign period</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Seeking elective office</li> <li>2. Filed <u>CoC</u></li> <li>3. Not died, withdrawn <u>CoC</u></li> <li>4. Not disqualified or <u>CoC</u> cancelled or denied due course before start of campaign period</li> </ol>

# 4) Officials: Candidate



- **Definition:** Seeks public office *and* files certificate of candidacy *and* campaign period has started
- **Nature of CoC:** announce and declare eligible (2016); if CoC void, candidate not considered a candidate even if cancelled after elections (2016)
- **Ministerial Duty:** If filed in due form, ministerial duty to receive COC; Comelec may look into patent defects (appearing on the face) of CoCs
- **Effect of Non-Filing:** Not a candidate (*not liable for unlawful acts and omissions before becoming a candidate; before start of campaign period*)
- **Effect of Filing:** On Tenure of Incumbents (elective – remain in office; appointive – *ipso facto* resigned)



# 4) Incumbents: Advantages



1. Elective officials not considered resigned regardless of elective position sought (appointive officials considered ipso facto resigned upon filing of certificate of candidacy)
2. Electioneering does not extend to acts of governance, provided no intention to campaign for or against a candidate (not all acts of beneficence is considered campaigning)
3. News about incumbents not considered campaigning, thus, not covered in caps on campaign media exposure
4. Governance collaterals and announcements may not be required to be removed since not considered campaigning without intent to campaign
5. Rules of Appreciations favor incumbents (*no longer applicable in an automated election where names are printed on ballots*)

# 4) Incumbents: Offenses



- Vote-buying
- Coercion of subordinates
- Appointment of new employees, creation of new positions, promotions, or gives salary increases
- Transfer of officers and employees in the civil service
- Intervention of public officers and employees
- Undue influence
- Appointment or use of special policemen, special agents, confidential agents or the like
- Illegal release of prisoners before and after election
- Use of public funds, money deposited in trust, equipment, facilities owned or controlled by the government for an election campaign
- Use of armoured land, water or air craft
- Use of Policemen and provincial guards acting as bodyguards or security guards
- Release, disbursement or expenditure of public funds
- Construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants and similar devices
- Suspension of elective provincial, city, municipal or barangay officer



# 4) Officials: Substitution



- **Grounds:** (1) Death, (2) Withdrawal, and (3) Disqualification (*not allowed if:* (a) violate term limit; (b) not meet residency requirement; (c) CoC denied due course or cancelled – (c.1) nuisance and (c.2) material misrepresentation); if invalid substitution – not considered a candidate
- **Who?** Substitute must be Qualified
- **When?** Up to mid-day of election day (if withdrawal, on or before December 10, 2015 for 2016 elections)
- **Substitute?** Qualified (not disqualified) and Same Party
- **Limitations:** Substituted candidate can still run for other elective positions; Withdrawal not affect liabilities

# 4) Officials: Disqualifications



- Purpose of DQ: prevent candidate from running, or if elected, from serving; **DQ distinct from administrative case (2016)**
- Lack qualifications/ possess some disqualifications
- Violate Term Rule (1-2-3 terms)
- Commission of an election offense
- Nuisance Candidate
- Sentenced by Final Judgment (accessory penalty)
- Willfully Commits Material Misrepresentation
- No valid, timely and properly filed certificate of candidacy
- Grounds under the 1991 LGC, for local elective officials

# 4) Officials: Disqualifications



**Lack of Qualifications** (fact prevails over statements in CoC, 2016)

- **Pleading?** Petition to Disqualify a Candidate
- **Grounds?** Constitution or Statutes; for local officials under OEC and LGC (e.g. fugitives) (2016)
- **Where File?** Comelec Division
- **When File?** Before Proclamation
- **Process?** Summary, Due Process, requires a complaint/ petition; not motu proprio unless there is final judgment
- **If Not File?** Quo Warranto

# 4) Officials: Disqualifications



## Commission of Election Offenses

- **Pleading?** Petition to Disqualify a Candidate
- **What Offenses?** Enumerated in Section 68 OEC: Vote-Buying, Terrorism, Unlawful Expenditures, Unlawful Campaign, Coercion of Subordinates, Threats, Prohibition against Release of Public Funds (other election offenses – file EO case – RTC hears)
- **Where File?** Comelec Division
- **When File?** Before Proclamation
- **If Not File?** Election Protest; Election Offense

# 4) Officials: Disqualifications



## Nuisance Candidate

- **Petition?** Petition to Declare a Candidate a Nuisance Candidate
- **Who Is?** Campaign Capability, Intention, Performance, Exposure, Platform, Party Affiliation, Organization, Profession, Income, Health, Education, Name
- **Where File?** Comelec Division (**not HRET, 2016**)
- **When File?** Within 5 days from Last Day Filing of Certificate of Candidacy
- **If Not File?** No remedy

# 4) Officials: Disqualifications



## Misrepresentation

- **Pleading?** Petition to Deny Due Course to or Cancel a Certificate of Candidacy
- **What?** Misrepresentation must be Material (pertains to Qualifications and Disqualifications, **also as to permanent residency (2016); knowing conviction of libel/ crime involving moral turpitude, 2016**); not surname, profession, political party) and Willful/ Deliberate; Even if there is ‘misrepresentation,’ if actually qualified, should not be disqualified
- **Where File?** Comelec Division (**summary nature, rule on patent misrepresentations, not make conclusions of law contrary to jurisprudence, 2016**)
- **When File?** 25 days from Filing of CoC
- **If Not File?** Quo Warranto



# 4) Officials: Disqualifications



## Misrepresentation

<i>Material Entries</i>	<i>Formal Entries</i>
<p>Qualification-related:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Citizenship</li><li>2. Residency</li><li>3. Registered Voter</li><li>4. Age</li><li>5. Literacy</li></ol> <p>To be disqualified under Misrepresentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The misrepresentation must be material, i.e., qualification-related</li><li>2. The candidate had the intent to defraud the voters (deliberate)</li><li>3. The candidate is not actually qualified</li></ol>	<p>Non-Qualification-related:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Political Party</li><li>2. Profession</li><li>3. Legitimacy or Illegitimacy</li><li>4. Use of another surname</li><li>5. Civil Status</li></ol>



# 4) Compare and Contrast



<i>Aspects</i>	<i>Grounds</i>			
	<i>Lack of Qualifications, etc.</i>	<i>Commission of an Election Offense</i>	<i>Material Misrepresentation</i>	<i>Nuisance Candidate</i>
<b><i>Pleading</i></b>	Petition to Disqualify a Candidate	Petition to Disqualify a Candidate	Petition to Deny Due Course to or Cancel a Certificate of Candidacy (CoC)	Petition to Declare a Candidate as a Nuisance Candidate (or <u>Comelec</u> initiates)
<b><i>Allegations</i></b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Candidate does not possess all qualifications</li> <li>2. Candidate possesses some or all of disqualifications</li> <li>3. Candidate violated rule on term limits</li> </ol>	<p>Candidate committed any of enumerated election offenses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vote-Buying</li> <li>2. Terrorism</li> <li>3. Unlawful Expenditures</li> <li>4. Unlawful Campaign</li> <li>5. Coercion of Subordinates</li> <li>6. Threats</li> <li>7. Prohibition against Release of Public Funds</li> <li>8. Failure to submit Statement of Contributions and Expenditures in at least 2 elections</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Misrepresentation is material, i.e., qualification-related</li> <li>2. Candidate intended to defraud the voters (deliberate)</li> <li>3. Candidate is not actually qualified</li> </ol>	<p><u>CoC</u> has been filed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>put</u> the election process in mockery or disrepute</li> <li>2. <u>cause</u> confusion among the voters by the similarity of the names of the registered candidates</li> </ol> <p>Candidate no bona fide intention since no/ not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Campaign Capability</li> <li>2. Bona fide intention to run for office</li> <li>3. Track Record</li> <li>4. Exposure</li> <li>5. Platform</li> <li>6. Party Affiliation</li> <li>7. Funds</li> <li>8. Good Health</li> <li>9. Appropriate education</li> </ol>

# 4) Compare and Contrast



	<i>Grounds</i>			
<i>Aspects</i>	<i>Lack of Qualifications, etc.</i>	<i>Commission of an Election Offense</i>	<i>Material Misrepresentation</i>	<i>Nuisance Candidate</i>
<i>Where File</i>	<u>Comelec</u> Division			
<i>When File</i>	Any time before proclamation	Any time before proclamation	Within 25 days from Filing of <u>CoC</u>	Within 5 days from Last Day Filing of Certificate of Candidacy
<i>Who Files</i>	Registered voter or registered political party	[Registered voter or registered political party] <u>Comelec</u> Campaign Finance Office, SEC-registered NGOs and CSOs	Registered voter or registered political party	Registered candidate for the same position
<i>Remedy After Period</i>	Quo <u>Warranto</u> case	Election Offense	Quo <u>Warranto</u>	No remedy
<i>Substitution after Resolution</i>	Not allowed	Allowed	Not allowed	Not allowed

# 4) Effect of DQ

## Succession or Special Elections

- Commission of an election offense



## “2<sup>nd</sup> Placer”

- Violation of 3-term limit
- Not a voter (inclusion denied with finality)
- Conviction of criminal offense involving moral turpitude
- Not a Filipino citizen
- **Dual Citizen (2016)**
- Final decision on DQ before elections

# 5) Campaign: Concept



- [ **Definition:** Act designed to *promote* the election or *defeat* of a candidate; **satire of political parties on social issues not election propaganda (2016)**
- [ **Operative Act:** *Intent/ Design* material (not all acts of beneficence are considered campaigning) and Period (start of campaign)
- [ **Application:** All Candidates for All Elective Offices
- [ **Framework:** Regulated but Liberalized

# 5) Campaign: Allowable Forms



- [Forming Organizations
- [Holding Rallies
- [Making Speeches
- [Distributing Campaign Materials
- [Soliciting Votes
- [Publishing Advertisements



# 5) Campaign: Propaganda



- [Paid Political Advertisements (Comelec debates could be live-streamed, 2016)
- [Free Space and Airtime
- [Use of Gadgets and Billboards
- [Private Poster Areas
- [Posting in Private Places, PUVs and terminals



# 5) Campaign: Forms



- [Printed Materials (8.5" W x 14" L)
- [Letters
- [Posters (2' x 3' ) in Poster Areas (12' x 16' )
- [Rally Streamers (3' x 8' )

# 5) Campaign: Paid Ads



- **Print:** 1/4<sup>th</sup> page in broadsheet; 1/2 in tabloid 3x a week
- **Television:** 120 minutes (for national); 60 minutes (for local) per station
- **Radio:** 180 minutes (for national); 90 minutes (for local)

# 5) Campaign: Unlawful Acts



- [Foreign Intervention
- [Removal or Destruction of Lawful Propaganda
- [Materials not Disclose Payor
- [Exceed Limits (Time and Space)
- [Transportation, Foods and Drinks During Rallies
- [Movie or Video of or by Candidate

# 6) Prohibited Contributions



- [All SEC-registered corporations
- [Financing Institutions
- [Public Utility Operator
- [Natural Resources Explorer
- [Government Contractors
- [Franchise Holders
- [Donee Institution from Government (P100,000)
- [Donee Educational Institutions (P100,000)
- [Foreigners/ Foreign Corporations
- [Civil Servants and AFP

# 6) Other Prohibited Acts



- [Not reveal true name of contributor
- [Not report all contributions
- [Exceed Limits (P10, P5, P3)
- [Not file Statement
- [Expenditures made by non-authorized persons

# 6) Lawful Expenditures



- [Use of Facilities
- [Travel
- [Compensation
- [Communications
- [Written Materials
- [Pollwatchers
- [Office/ HQ

- [Advertisements
- [Meetings/ Rallies
- [Counsel\*
- [Copying of List of Voters\*
- [Sample Ballots\*
- [Volunteers

*(\* - not included in cap)*





# 7) Postponement of Elections

- **Grounds:** (1) Force majeure, (2) Violence, (3) Terrorism, (4) Loss or Destruction of Election Paraphernalia, and (5) Analogous Causes
- **Extent:** Serious *and* Impossible to have free and orderly elections
- **Conditions:** Grounds must exist before end of voting/transmission
- **Authority:** Comelec en banc (petition or motu proprio); not BEI or election officers
- **Result:** Special Elections within 30 days from cessation



# 7) Failure of Elections

- **Grounds:** (1) Force majeure, (2) Violence, (3) Terrorism, (4) Fraud, and (5) Analogous Causes
- **Extent:** Failure to elect *and* affect results of elections; **relates to entire elections (2016)**
- **Examples:** *Failure* - transfer of venue of counting without notice, ballots replaced/ burned; *No Failure* – voting resumes after sporadic violence/ gun fire, fake ballots, landslide results, vote-buying, destruction of copies of ERs; **convincing evidence showing will of people muted by causes (2016)**
- **Conditions:** Election not held or suspended, After voting, During preparations or transmission of election returns, Canvassing
- **Authority:** Comelec en banc (petition)
- **Result:** Special Elections within 30 days from **cessation (objective of declaration, 2016)**



# 7) Compare and Contrast

	<i>Postponement of Elections</i>	<i>Failure of Elections</i>
<b>Legal Bases</b>	Section 5, Omnibus Election Code Section 4, RA No. 7166	Section 6, Omnibus Election Code Section 4, RA No. 7166
<b>Grounds</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Force Majeure</li> <li>2. Violence</li> <li>3. Terrorism</li> <li>4. Loss or Destruction of Election Paraphernalia</li> <li>5. Analogous causes</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Force Majeure</li> <li>2. Violence</li> <li>3. Terrorism</li> <li>4. Fraud</li> <li>5. Analogous causes</li> </ol>
<b>Extent of Cause</b>	Serious <i>and</i> Impossibility to have free and orderly elections	Failure to elect <i>and</i> affect results of elections (illegality must affect 50% of the votes)
<b>Basis</b>	Expectancy/ potential Effect	Actual outcome/results
<b>Conditions</b>	Grounds must exist before voting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Election not held or suspended</li> <li>2. After voting or during preparation</li> <li>3. Transmission</li> <li>4. Canvassing</li> </ol>
<b>Area</b>	Any political subdivision	Any polling place
<b>Procedural Requirements</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Motu Propio</u> or by Verified Petition</li> <li>2. Notice and Due Process</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Verified Petition</li> <li>2. Notice and Due Process</li> </ol>
<b>Authority</b>	<u>Comelec</u> En Banc	
<b>Effect if Petition Granted</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Postpone elections</li> <li>2. Conduct elections reasonable close to elections which was not held; but not later than 30 days from cessation of the cause</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Declaration of failure of elections</li> <li>2. Holding or continuation of elections reasonably close to elections which was not held; but not later than 30 days from cessation of cause</li> </ol>

# 8) Automated Elections



- **Statutory Bases:** RA 9369 amending RA 8436
- **Automated Election System:** voting, counting, consolidating, canvassing, and transmission (not proclamation)
- **Paper-Based or Direct Recording Election System:** Ballots, Election Returns, Certificate of Canvass, Statement of Votes
- **Comelec Discretion:** AES or AESs, Paper-Based or Direct Recording

# 8) Automated Elections



— **Features:** Use of Ballots, Stand-alone machine, with Audit Trails, Minimum Human Intervention and Security Measures

— **Processes:**

1. Casting, Counting and Transmission at Precinct Level
2. Consolidation and Proclamation at Canvassing Levels



# 8) Vote-Counting Machines



- USES PASSWORDS & PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS (PIN)
- USES 3 DIGITAL SIGNATURES





# 8) Automated Elections



- **Precinct-Level Result:** Printing of Elections Returns (30 copies) then Electronic Transmission to Board of Canvassers; Results loaded in Data Storage Devices
- **Canvassing at BoC:** Consolidation of Results in Data Storage Devices then Electronic Transmission to Comelec (Senate and Party-List) and Congress (President and Vice-President) and Proclamation

# 8) Automated Elections



- A. **Preliminaries: 6:00 to 7:00 a.m.**
  - 1. BEI sets up Polling Place
  - 2. Pollwatchers present credentials to BEI
  - 3. BEI posts Precinct Certified Voters List (PCVL)
  - 4. BEI shows sealed Vote Counting Machine (VCM) and empty Ballot Box to public
  - 5. BEI turns on Vote Counting Machine (VCM) and logs in

# 8) Automated Elections



- B. **Voting Proper: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**
  1. Voters vote in the order of arrival
  2. Voter approaches BEI
  3. BEI verifies Voter identity
  4. BEI checks if fingers unstained with Indelible Ink (if stained, cannot vote)
  5. BEI announces name of Voter
  6. If no challenge or challenged dismissed, Voter signs in Election Day Computerized Voters List (EDCVL)

# 8) Automated Elections



7. BEI Chair:
  - a) Signs Ballot in space provided
  - b) Gives Ballot inside Secrecy Folder and Marking Pen to voter
8. Voter votes by shading circles
9. Voter inserts Ballot in the VCM
10. Ballot is accepted or rejected (given another Ballot):
  - a) Misread Ballot (re-fed in 4 different orientations)
  - b) Previously Read Ballot (diverted to Bin for Rejected Ballot)
  - c) Invalid Ballot

# 8) Automated Elections



11. BEI applies Indelible Ink
12. Voter gets Voter Receipt
13. Voter returns Secrecy Folder and Marking Pen
14. Voter departs
15. Illiterates and Persons with Disability can be assisted by relative within 4<sup>th</sup> degree, person of confidence or BEI
16. No premature announcement of status of voting before close of polls

# 8) Automated Elections



## C. Closing of Polls: 5:00 p.m. up

1. If there are Voters within 30-meter radius, they will be allowed to vote (must fall in line, fill-up sheet and called)
2. BEI prints 8 copies of National Election Returns (NERs) and 8 copies of Local Election Returns (LERs)
3. VCM transmits results to:
  - a) Comelec
  - b) Transparency Server (KBP)
  - c) City/ Municipal Board of Canvassers (C/ M BoC)



# 8) Automated Elections



4. VCM prints 22 copies of NERs and 22 copies of LERs
5. BEI signs all ERs and affixes thumbmarks and places 8 NERs and 8 LERs inside Envelopes
6. Distribute all 30 NERs and 30 LERs (Next/ Higher Level of Canvassing, National and Local Political Parties, Media, Citizens' Arm, Ballot Box, Posted on Wall)
7. BEI shall post 1 copy of ER in a conspicuous place inside polling place

# 8) Automated Elections



8. VCM prints Statistical and Audit Reports
9. Unused Ballots shall be disposed (torn lengthwise and placed in Envelopes)
10. BEI removes SD card (Slot A) and place inside Envelope (SD is Slot B not removed)
11. VCM shall be turned over to Logistics Provider or Election Officer
12. Deliver Ballot Box to the Local Treasurer

# 9) Pre-Proclamation Cases



- **Aspects:** BoC-related (BoC or Comelec division) and Results-related (BoC)
- **Allowed:** Objections pertaining to Proceedings and Composition of BoC; Pollwatchers-related; Data-Storage Delayed, Destroyed, Falsified (*before canvass*)
- **Not Expressly Allowed:**
  1. Material Defects, Manifest Errors, Omission, Discrepancy (not allowed under Comelec Resolution)
  2. Rules of Appreciation; Violence; Voting Procedure; Eligibility of Voters (whether manual or AES)

# 10) Post-Proclamation: Election Protests



- **Grounds:** Fraud and Irregularities in Casting, Counting and Canvassing
- **Documents in Question/ Evidence:** Ballots, ERs, CoCs and Data-Storage Devices
- **Venue:** P/VP (PET); Senators (SET); Representatives (HRET); Regional; Province; City (Comelec Division); Municipality (RTC); Barangay (MTC)
- **Requirements:** Filed by candidate; Within period; Protestee proclaimed; Payment of filing fee; Allegations of fraud; Identify precincts; Verified; Certificate of non-forum shopping
- **Procedure:** Revision; Trial
- **If prosper:** protestee removed, true winner proclaimed

# 10) Post-Proclamation: Quo Warranto



- **Grounds:** Disloyalty to Republic; Ineligibility
- **Venue:** Same as Election Protest
- **If prosper:** Respondent ousted; special elections or succession



# 10) Post-Proclamation: Annulment of Proclamation



- **Grounds:** Proclamation based on irregular and illegal canvass
- **Period to File:** 10 days from proclamation
- **Venue:** Comelec Division
- **Effect:** Proclamation annulled; re-canvass



# 11) Election Offenses



PHASE	ELECTION PERIOD								
	PRE-ELECTION DAY		ELECTION DAY			ELECTION DAY +1	POST-PROCLAMATION		
	CAMPAIGN PERIOD	EVE	VOTING	CASTING	TRANSMISSION	CANVASSING	PROCLAMATION		
ELECTION OFFENSES	VOTE BUYING / SELLING OR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ACT								
	WAGERING UPON RESULTS OF ELECTION								
	COERCION OF SUBORDINATES TO INFLUENCE VOTE								
	THREATS, FRAUD, OR TERRORISM TO INFLUENCE VOTE								
	COERCION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS								
	CREATION OF NEW POSITION, APPOINTMENT OF EMPLOYEES, PROMOTION, GIVING SALARY INCREASE								
	WITHIN 45 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY								
	TRANSFER OF EMPLOYEES OR OFFICERS IN CIVIL SERVICE								
	CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS OR EMPLOYEES ENGAGING IN PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES								
	PROMISE/ SOLICIT EMPLOYEMENT TO INFLUENCE VOTING								
	UNLAWFUL ELECTIONEERING								
	PROHIBITION AGAINST DISMISSAL OF EMPLOYEES, LABORERS, OR TENANTS FOR REFUSING OR FAILING TO VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE								
	APPOINTMENT OR USE OF SPECIAL POLICEMEN, AGENTS, COFIDENTIAL AGENTS								
	ILLEGAL RELEASE OF DETENTION PRISONERS								
	WITHIN 60 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY								
	USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR CAMPAIGN								
	BEARING, CARRYING, OR TRANSPORTING FIREARMS OUTSIDE RESIDENCE OR BUSINESSES EVEN WITH PERMIT TO CARRY								
					CARRYING DEADLY WEAPONS WITHIN RADIUS OF 100 METERS				
					USE OF ARMORED LAND, WATER, OR AIR CRAFT				
WEARING UNIFORMS AND BEARING ARMS OURSIDE VICINITY OF WORK PLACE									
USE OF SECURITY PERSONNELS OR BODYGUARDS BY CANDIDATES, UNLESS AUTHORIZED									
						WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER ELECTION DAY			

# 11) Election Offenses



PHA	PRE-ELECTION DAY		ELECTION DAY			ELECTION DAY +1		POST-PROCLAMATION
	CAMPAIGN PERIOD	EVE	VOTING	CASTING	TRANSMISSION	CANVASSING	PROCLAMATION	
ELECTION OFFENSES	ORGANIZATION OR MAINTENANCE OF REACTION FORCES, STRIKE FORCES, OR OTHER SIMILAR FORCES							
	RELEASE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PUBLIC WORKS, SOCIAL WELFARE, COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS		VOTING MORE THAN ONCE OR IN SUBSTITUTION					
	WITHIN 45 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY							
	CONSTRUCTION AND DELIVERY OF MATERIALS FOR PUBLIC WORKS, ISSUANCE OF TREASURY WARRANTS		OPENING OF BOOTHS OR STALLS FOR SALE OF MERCHANDISE OR REFRESHMENT WITHIN 30 METERS RADIUS					
	WITHIN 45 DAYS BEFORE ELECTION DAY		HOLDING OF FAIRS, COCKFIGHTS, BOXING, HORSE RACES, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR SPORTS					
	SUSPENSION OF ELECTIVE PUBLIC OFFICIAL WITHOUT APPROVAL OF COMELEC							
	ALTERATION OF TERRITORY OF A PRECINCT OR ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PRECINCT							
	GIVING DONATIONS OR GIFTS IN CASH OR IN KIND							
	CAMPAIGNING ON HOLY WEEK		SELLING, FURNISHING, OFFERING, BUYING, SERVING, OR TAKING INTOXICATING LIQUOR					
			GIVING, ACCEPTING, FREE TRANSPORTATION, FOOD, OR DRINKS OR THINGS OF VALUE					
		CAMPAIGNING						
		SOLICITING VOTES OR BLACK PROPAGANDA WITHIN						

# 12) Cases per Category



Categories	Specific Cases
<b><i>Electorate</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Objection on Application for Registration</li><li>○ Inclusion and Exclusion</li><li>○ Annulment of Book of Voters</li><li>○ Challenge on Election Day</li></ul>
<b><i>Candidate</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Disqualification</li><li>○ Quo Warranto</li></ul>
<b><i>Election Integrity</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Postponement of Elections</li><li>○ Failure of Elections</li></ul>
<b><i>Pre-Proclamation</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ BoC-related</li><li>○ Consolidated Results-related</li></ul>
<b><i>Election Protests/ Post-Proclamation</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Annulment of Proclamation</li><li>○ Election Protest</li><li>○ Quo Warranto</li></ul>
<b><i>Election Offenses</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Against Candidates</li><li>○ Against Non-Candidates and Voters</li></ul>



# 12) Dispute Resolution



	<i>Cases/ Disputes</i>									
<i>Aspects</i>	<i>Annul Book of Voters</i>	<i>DQ of Candidates</i>	<i>Postpone Elections</i>	<i>Failure of Elections</i>	<i>Voter Challenges</i>	<i>Pre-Proc.</i>	<i>Annul Proclamation</i>	<i>Election Protest</i>	<i>Quo Warranto</i>	<i>Election Offenses</i>
<b>Grounds</b>	Book Prepared Improperly, Preparation Attended with Vice or Fraud; Book contains Statistically Improbable Data	Lack of Qualifications; Material <u>Misrep. in CoC</u> ; Nuisance; Commission of Election Offense	Impossible to have free elections due to: Force Majeure Violence Terrorism Loss or Destruction of Election Paraphernalia Analogous causes	Failure to elect and affect outcome of elections due to: Force Majeure Violence Terrorism Fraud Analogous causes	Illegal Voter Illegal Acts	Illegal Composition and Proceedings of Board of Canvassers Irregularities affecting authenticity of Election Returns/ Certificates of Canvass (Data-Storage Delayed, Destroyed, Falsified)	Anomalies in the Proclamation	Fraud or irregularities in election (whole process)	Disloyalty to the Republic; Ineligibility	Offenses enumerated in Election Laws

# 12) Dispute Resolution



	<i>Cases/ Disputes</i>									
<i>Aspects</i>	<i>Annul Book of Voters</i>	<i>DQ of Candidates</i>	<i>Postpone Elections</i>	<i>Failure of Elections</i>	<i>Voter Challenges</i>	<i>Pre-Proc.</i>	<i>Annul Proclamation</i>	<i>Election Protest</i>	<i>Quo Warranto</i>	<i>Election Offenses</i>
<i>Period</i>	Pre-election	Filing of <u>CoC</u> to Pre-Proc.	Pre-election	Election Day to Pre-Proc.	Election Day	During Canvassing	After Proclamation	After Proclamation	After Proclamation	Pre-and Post-Election
<i>Jurisdiction (1<sup>st</sup> Instance)</i>	<u>Comelec</u> En Banc	<u>Comelec</u> Division	<u>Comelec</u> En Banc	<u>Comelec</u> En Banc	Board of Election Inspectors	1 <sup>st</sup> : Board of Canvassers or <u>Comelec</u> Division 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Board of Canvassers	<u>Comelec</u> Division	P/ VP: SET Senate: SET Reps: HRET <u>Reg'l, Prov'l and City: Comelec</u> Division Municipal: RTC	P/ VP: SET Senate: SET Reps: HRET <u>Reg'l, Prov'l and City: Comelec</u> Division Municipal: RTC	<u>Comelec</u> Law Dept. or Prosecutors <u>Comelec</u> En Banc (for filing of information)
<i>Period to File</i>	[no order to execute within 90 days before election]	Lack of Q and Election Offense: Before Proc. Material <u>Misrep</u> : Within 25 from <u>CoC</u> filing Nuisance: Within 5 days from <u>CoC</u> deadline	Before or on Election Day	Before Proclamation	Before Voter casts ballot	1 <sup>st</sup> : When ground apparent 2 <sup>nd</sup> : Before canvass of <u>ER/ CoC</u>	10 days from proclamation/ within period to file Election Protest	P/ VP: 30 days from proclamation Senate: 15 days from proclamation Others: 10 days from proclamation	10 days from proclamation	5 years from commission

# 12) Dispute Resolution



<i>Aspects</i>	<i>Annul Book of Voters</i>	<i>DQ of Candidates</i>	<i>Postpone Elections</i>	<i>Failure of Elections</i>	<i>Voter Challenges</i>	<i>Pre-Proc.</i>	<i>Annul Proclamation</i>	<i>Election Protest</i>	<i>Quo Warranto</i>	<i>Election Offenses</i>
<b>Procedure</b>	Petition and hearing	Petition and hearing	<u>Motu proprio</u> or Petition and hearing	Petition and hearing	Challenge recorded	1 <sup>st</sup> : Petition and hearing; canvassing suspended during pendency 2 <sup>nd</sup> : verbal and written objections at the same time, then evidence within 24 hours	Petition and hearing	Petition, hearing and revision	Petition and hearing	Complaint, Finding of Probable Cause, Filing of Information and Trial before RTC
<b>Petitioner</b>	Voter, election officer or political party	Lack of Q, Election Offense and Material Misrep: Registered voter or registered political party Nuisance: Registered candidate Election Offense: <u>Comelec</u> Campaign Finance Office, NGOs	Any interested party	<u>Comelec motu proprio</u> or any interested party	Voter or watcher	Any candidate or political party	Any candidate or political party	P/ VP/ Municipal: 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> placer Others: Any candidate	Any voter	Any interested party/ Any voter



# 12) Dispute Resolution



	<i>Cases/ Disputes</i>									
<i>Aspects</i>	<i>Annul Book of Voters</i>	<i>DQ of Candidates</i>	<i>Postpone Elections</i>	<i>Failure of Elections</i>	<i>Voter Challenges</i>	<i>Pre-Proc.</i>	<i>Annul Proclamation</i>	<i>Election Protest</i>	<i>Quo Warranto</i>	<i>Election Offenses</i>
<i>Effect if Granted</i>	Book of Voters annulled	Prevent candidate from running, or if elected, from serving; Can be substituted if DQ based on commission of election offense	Elections will be postponed in political subdivision; Special elections will be held not later than 30 days from cessation of cause	Declaration of failure (no winner can be determined) in affected polling place; <u>elections will be held not later than 30 days from cessation of cause</u>	Not allowed to vote	1 <sup>st</sup> : <u>BoC</u> reconstituted or rectifies proceedings 2 <sup>nd</sup> : <u>ER/ CoC</u> set aside and corrected	Proclamation annulled and canvassing anew	True winner proclaimed	Incumbent ousted	Conviction Imprisonment <u>DiO</u> to hold public office Deprivation of right of suffrage

**THANK YOU. GOOD LUCK.**