

Election Law and the 2025 Elections

20 Topics - 45 Updates



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2 March 2025



1. Suffrage

Before, one can be imprisoned for not voting. Today, since 1987, suffrage is a **right**.

1. Suffrage

On election day, as one is about to cast his/her vote, s/he can be **challenged** for being an illegal voter or for committing an illegal act.



2. Regular Elections

There are **3 levels** of elective officials – National, Regional and Local. There are **3 elections** in 2025.



2. Regular Elections

Philippine elections must be held **regularly** and can only **postponed by law** or by authority of law.



3. **Aspirants and Candidates**

There are no candidates today
for local elective positions,
only aspirants.



3. Aspirants and Candidates

Aspirants cannot be held liable for **vote-buying** and **illegal campaigning** but can held liable for crimes under the Revised Penal Code and Special Laws.



4. Incumbents

Incumbent Local Chief Executives running for any Elective Office are **not deemed resigned.**



4. Incumbents

Appointive Officials are deemed resigned on the day they file their Certificates of Candidacy.

5. Qualifications

The qualifications for National Elective Officials are found in the **1987 Constitution** while those for Local Elective Officials are listed in the **1991 Local Government Code**.



5. Qualifications

Congress can change the qualifications of **local elective officials** like requiring them to be high school graduates, but not for national officials.

5. Qualifications

A local elective official serves a **full 3-year term** even if s/he resigns, is placed under preventive suspension, and vacates his/ her office due to an immediately executory decision dismissing him/ her. A term is not served if one succeeds into office and is suspended.



6. Disqualifications

COMELEC can declare a candidate a **nuisance**, **cancel** a certificate of candidacy and **disqualify** a candidate.

6. Disqualifications

A respondent in a disqualification case who is subsequently **proclaimed** can be unseated and will be replaced if a **final decision** is rendered while serving his/ her term.



7. Substitution

Today, up to election day, an affiliated aspirant/ candidate can be substituted only on account of **death and disqualification.**

7. Substitution

The substitute must be have the **same surname** as the original candidate and must belong to the **same political party** as the latter.



8. Party-List System

I can be a nominee of a **Women's Party** and serve as its Party-List Representative.

8. Party-List System

A Party-List Organization which obtains **less than 2% of 2nd votes** can secure a seat for as long as not all the seats (**63 in 2025**) are filled-up.



9. Electoral Offices

Aside from COMELEC, **Courts and Electoral Tribunals** can resolve election-related disputes.



9. Electoral Offices

Not all cases are filed with the **COMELEC Division** at the 1st instance like Petitions for Failure of Elections, Postponement of Elections and Accreditation of Party-Lists.



10. Campaign by Public Officials

Elective Officials can campaign while Appointive Officials, save Cabinet Secretaries, cannot. Job Order and Contract of Service Workers can.



10. Campaign by Public Officials

While Local Elective Officials can campaign, they cannot use the **funds, resources and facilities** of the **LGU** for their campaign.

11. Campaign by Voters

A voter need **not follow** the **size requirements** for posters (2' x 3'), rally streamers (3' x 8') and printed materials (8.5''W x 14''L).

11. Campaign by Voters

A voter can campaign in **social media** and is not required to register his/her campaign social media accounts. S/he can be held liable for cyber-libel.



12. Campaign

Campaign has a **specific purpose** – promote the election or defeat of a candidate. One can be held liable for **non-campaign related activities** like libel, coercion, physical injuries and littering.



12. Campaign

Giving *ayuda* by public officials may or may not be considered campaigning or vote-buying but regardless of purpose, cannot be distributed from **May 2 to 12, 2025**. Distribution of *ayuda* with campaign materials is **presumed vote-buying**.

12. Campaign

Campaigning must be **fair and non-discriminatory** – no labeling/ red-tagging, no discrimination against women, no gender-based harassment and no vilification of PWDs.

12. Campaign

Candidates are encouraged to use **reusable materials** for food and beverage, energy-efficient lighting, biodegradable materials for banners and LED billboards.

12. Campaign

Vote-Buying is presumed when there are unusual transactions involving **P500,000** or when persons possess or transport **>P500,000** from May 10 to 12.

13. Tri-Media Campaign

The use of tri-media in campaigning by local candidates is expressly allowed and regulated by statute – **TV** (60 minutes/ station), **radio** (90 minutes/ station) and **print** (1/2 page in broadsheet and 1/4 page in tabloid).



13. Tri-Media Campaign

Being featured in the news is not counted in tri-media campaign exposure.

14. Billboards and Gadgets

For the very first time, putting up billboards are **expressly allowed** by COMELEC. There is no size limit. The only limitations are duration and distance.



14. Billboards and Gadgets

While giving away shirts and gadgets is no longer prohibited, **COMELEC approval** is required.



15. Use of Public Funds

Starting March 28, public funds cannot be disbursed for **public works, social services and housing-related projects** unless with COMELEC authority.



15. Use of Public Funds

Starting March 28, public funds can be used for **calamity** even without COMELEC authority and for public works under a **Public-Private Partnership** arrangement.



16. Election Offenses

The Gun Ban, Suspension Ban for LGU Elected Officials and Transfer/ Detail Ban in the Public Sector are already effective.



16. Election Offenses

The prohibitions on **Vote-Buying, Fund-Raising, Giving Donations, Coercion of Subordinates** and **Giving Free Food and Drinks** during rallies local elected positions will become effective on March 28.

17. Expenditures

If there are 500,000 voters, a local candidate affiliated with a political party can only spend as much as P1.5M (x P3). If running as an independent, P2.5M (x P5).

17. Expenditures

Allowable expenditures are payments for Pollwatchers, HQs, printed materials, tri-media ads, lawyers, printing of sample ballots and copying of list of voters. The **last 3** are not covered in the P5/3 cap.



17. Expenditures

The deadline for all candidates to file their **Statement of Contributions and Expenditures (SOCE)** is on June 11.



18. Voting Hours

Regular voting hours on Election Day is from **7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**, but Seniors and PWDs can vote as early as **5:00 a.m..**



18. Voting Hours

On Election Day, Vote-Buying/ -
Selling, Campaigning, Free
Transportation, Food and Drinks,
Setting-up of Booths and
Cockfighting are not allowed.

19. Voting

A voter shall:

- shade ovals.
- deposit the ballot inside the Automated Counting Machine.



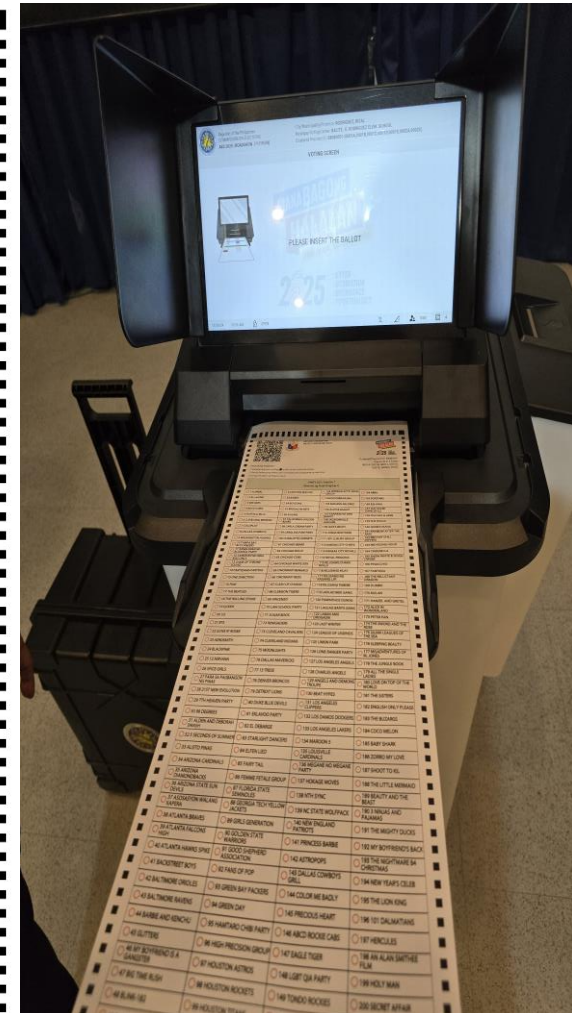
MAY 12, 2025 NATIONAL, LOCAL AND BARMM PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS
ALANGILAN, CITY OF BACOLOD, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Clustered Precinct ID: 45010091
Precincts in Cluster: 0302A, 0302B, 0302C, 0305A, 0305B

PARAAN NG PAGBOTO
1. Markahan ang tolo ng bilog. satabi ng nais ibotong kandidato.
2. Gamitin lamang ang marking pen na ibinigay para sa pagmarka ng mga bilog.
3. Huwag markahan ng higit sa isat.

PARTY LIST / Vote for 1
(Bumoto ng hindi hihigit sa 1)

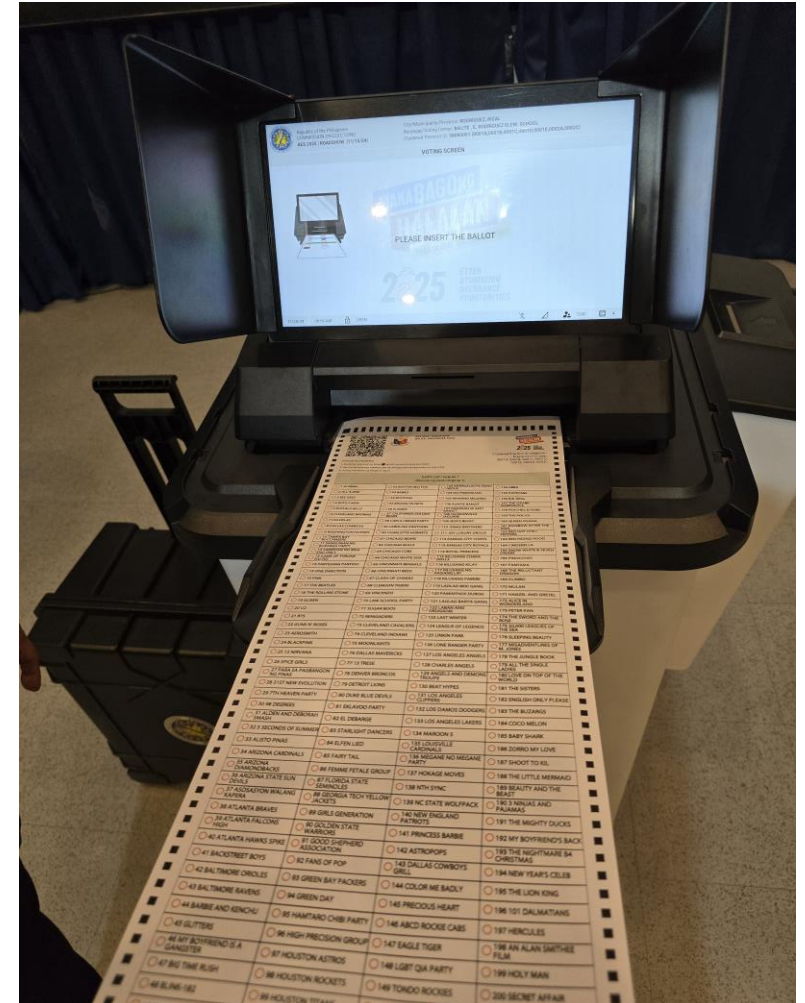
<input type="radio"/> 1 APS	<input type="radio"/> 40 BABAE AKO	<input type="radio"/> 80 BOSES PARTY-LIST	<input type="radio"/> 119 COOP NATCCO
<input type="radio"/> 2 PPP	<input type="radio"/> 41 ARISE	<input type="radio"/> 81 ARANGKADA FILIPINO	<input type="radio"/> 120 KABAYAN
<input type="radio"/> 3 FPJ PANDAY BAYANIHAN	<input type="radio"/> 42 MAGDALO	<input type="radio"/> 82 AANGAT TAYO	<input type="radio"/> 121 1MUNTI
<input type="radio"/> 4 KABATAAN	<input type="radio"/> 43 APEC	<input type="radio"/> 83 OFW	<input type="radio"/> 122 PINOY WORKERS
<input type="radio"/> 5 OUTERTE YOUTH	<input type="radio"/> 44 MAGBUBUKID	<input type="radio"/> 84 BIDA KATAGUMPAY	<input type="radio"/> 123 API PARTY
<input type="radio"/> 6 ML	<input type="radio"/> 45 SSS-GSIS PENSIONADO	<input type="radio"/> 85 KAMANGGAGAWA	<input type="radio"/> 124 AKO BISAYA
<input type="radio"/> 7 PBBM	<input type="radio"/> 46 GABRIELA	<input type="radio"/> 86 BFF	<input type="radio"/> 125 KAMALAYAN
<input type="radio"/> 8 P3PWD	<input type="radio"/> 47 TINGOG	<input type="radio"/> 87 BUNYOG	<input type="radio"/> 126 AKO TANOD
<input type="radio"/> 9 HURANG KURYENTE	<input type="radio"/> 48 APAT-DAPAT	<input type="radio"/> 88 AGRI	<input type="radio"/> 127 PROBINSYANO AKO
<input type="radio"/> 10 BISOL SARO	<input type="radio"/> 49 AHON MAHIRAP	<input type="radio"/> 89 SENIOR CITIZENS	<input type="radio"/> 128 KABABAHIAN
<input type="radio"/> 11 IPATUPAD	<input type="radio"/> 50 UGB	<input type="radio"/> 90 4K	<input type="radio"/> 129 RAM
<input type="radio"/> 12 PATROL	<input type="radio"/> 51 AKBAYAN	<input type="radio"/> 91 PBP	<input type="radio"/> 130 ALONA
<input type="radio"/> 13 JUAN PINOY	<input type="radio"/> 52 AGIMAT	<input type="radio"/> 92 ONE COOP	<input type="radio"/> 131 AKO BICOL
<input type="radio"/> 14 ARTE	<input type="radio"/> 53 PHILRECA	<input type="radio"/> 93 CIBAC	<input type="radio"/> 132 GP GALING SA PUSO
<input type="radio"/> 15 WFI	<input type="radio"/> 54 KAPUSO PM	<input type="radio"/> 94 BHT-BADONG HENERASYON	<input type="radio"/> 133 KAUNLAD PINOY
<input type="radio"/> 16 MAAGAP	<input type="radio"/> 55 ILOCANO DEFENDERS	<input type="radio"/> 95 LAGILA	<input type="radio"/> 134 ABP
<input type="radio"/> 17 UNITED SENIOR CITIZENS	<input type="radio"/> 56 1-RIDER PARTY-LIST	<input type="radio"/> 96 EDUAKSYON	<input type="radio"/> 135 CWS
<input type="radio"/> 18 EPANAW SAMBAYANAN	<input type="radio"/> 57 TICTOK	<input type="radio"/> 97 ANG TINIG NG SENIORS	<input type="radio"/> 136 LPQMA
<input type="radio"/> 19 AKO PADAYON	<input type="radio"/> 58 BAYAN MUNA	<input type="radio"/> 98 BG PARTY-LIST	<input type="radio"/> 137 A TEACHER
<input type="radio"/> 20 TUCP	<input type="radio"/> 59 ANG PROBINSYANO	<input type="radio"/> 99 PINOY AKO	<input type="radio"/> 138 SWERTE
<input type="radio"/> 21 ACT TEACHERS	<input type="radio"/> 61 BANAT	<input type="radio"/> 100 H.E.L.P. PILIPINAS	<input type="radio"/> 139 GABAY
<input type="radio"/> 22 IPACHAN	<input type="radio"/> 62 SBP	<input type="radio"/> 101 HEALTH WORKERS	<input type="radio"/> 140 MALASAKIT-IBABAYANINAN
<input type="radio"/> 23 TGP	<input type="radio"/> 63 BUHAY	<input type="radio"/> 102 PEOPLE'S CHAMP	<input type="radio"/> 141 AKAY NI SOL
<input type="radio"/> 24 DUMPER PTDA	<input type="radio"/> 64 TULUNGAN TAYO	<input type="radio"/> 103 AA-KASOSYO PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 142 LUNAS
<input type="radio"/> 25 ANAKALUSUGAN	<input type="radio"/> 65 SAGIP	<input type="radio"/> 104 SOLID NORTH PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 143 DIWA
<input type="radio"/> 26 AKSYON DAPAT	<input type="radio"/> 66 BTS BAYANING TSUPER	<input type="radio"/> 105 ABAMIN	<input type="radio"/> 144 PINUNO
<input type="radio"/> 27 BHW	<input type="radio"/> 67 VENDORS	<input type="radio"/> 106 TRABAHO	<input type="radio"/> 145 PAMILYA MUNA
<input type="radio"/> 28 SULONG DIGNIDAD	<input type="radio"/> 68 ACT-CIS	<input type="radio"/> 107 ANGKASANGGA	<input type="radio"/> 146 BAGONG PILIPINAS
<input type="radio"/> 29 BANGANG QUIAPO	<input type="radio"/> 69 AKTIBONG KAAGAPAY	<input type="radio"/> 108 TODA AKSYON	<input type="radio"/> 147 HUGPONG FEDERAL
<input type="radio"/> 30 PBA	<input type="radio"/> 70 ASENSO PINOY	<input type="radio"/> 109 TURISMO	<input type="radio"/> 148 TUPAD
<input type="radio"/> 31 GILAS	<input type="radio"/> 71 SOLO PARENTS	<input type="radio"/> 110 ABONG	<input type="radio"/> 149 LAANG KAWAL
<input type="radio"/> 32 AKO ILOKANO AKO	<input type="radio"/> 72 ANG KOMADRONA	<input type="radio"/> 111 ASAP NA	<input type="radio"/> 150 PAMILYA KO
<input type="radio"/> 33 PAMILYANG MAGSASAKA	<input type="radio"/> 73 PROMDI	<input type="radio"/> 112 LINGAP	<input type="radio"/> 151 BBM
<input type="radio"/> 34 CLICK PARTY	<input type="radio"/> 74 PUSONG PINOY	<input type="radio"/> 113 UNITED FRONTLINERS	<input type="radio"/> 152 HEAL PH
<input type="radio"/> 35 ABANTE BISDAK	<input type="radio"/> 75 KUSUG TAUSUG	<input type="radio"/> 114 KASAMBAYAN	<input type="radio"/> 153 ABANG LINGKOD
<input type="radio"/> 36 MANILA TEACHERS	<input type="radio"/> 76 DAMAYANG FILIPINO	<input type="radio"/> 115 TUTOK TO WIN	<input type="radio"/> 154 MAGSASAKA
<input type="radio"/> 37 PAMANA	<input type="radio"/> 77 MPBL	<input type="radio"/> 116 AKO OFW	<input type="radio"/> 155 MAHARILKA
<input type="radio"/> 38 NANAY	<input type="radio"/> 78 ANGAT	<input type="radio"/> 117 AGAP	<input type="radio"/> 156 USWAG ILONGGO
<input type="radio"/> 38 NANAY	<input type="radio"/> 79 KALINGA	<input type="radio"/> 118 ITAHANAN	



19. Voting

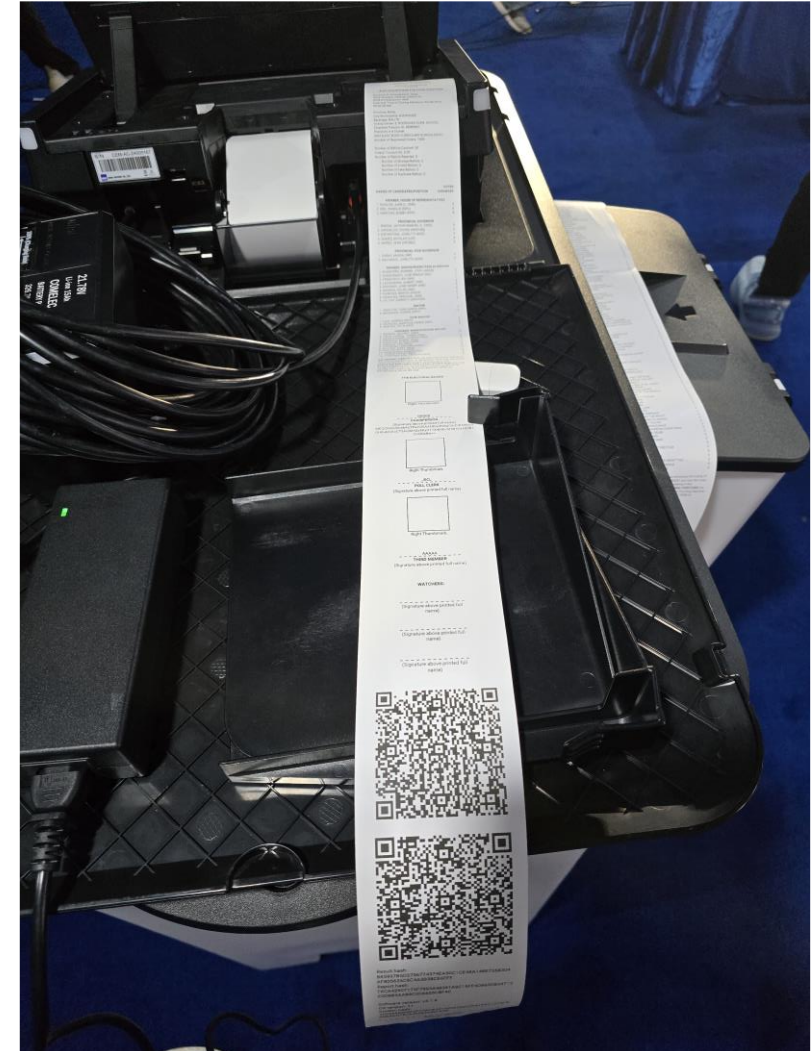
The Automated Counting Machine:

- displays the choices of the voter.
- prints a Voter-Verified Paper-Audit Trail (VVPAT).



20. Canvassing

30 Election Returns have **QR Codes**, will be **transmitted** (after printing of 8 copies and posting 1 copy), and will be given to 10 Political Parties.



20. Canvassing

The bases for canvassing and **proclamation** are the transmitted results. The **COMELEC en banc** proclaims 12 Senators and allocates 63 party-list seats while **Local Boards of Canvassers** proclaim winning local candidates.

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Thank you.



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