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POLITICAL FINANCE AND ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

IN 5 EASY QUESTIONS

1. What is political finance?

Answer:

Political finance is the money used by political parties and candidates for their work and election campaigns. It includes money they receive and money they spend. Political finance also includes issues such as abuse of state resources and vote buying.



2. Why is transparency important in political finance?

Answer:

Transparency means being open about money. People should know where those wishing to run the country get their money and how they spend it. This helps citizens trust political parties and elections, and it helps prevent corruption and makes elections more transparent and fair.



INCOME	EXPENSES
• Donations	• Campaign events
• Memberships	• Advertising
• Public funding	• Travel
• Other	• Other



3. What is a third-party campaigner?

Answer:

A third-party campaigner is a person or organization that spends money on supporting or opposing a political party or candidate during an election, even though they are not themselves running in the election.



Example:

An CSO (NGO) that spends money on advertisements encouraging people to vote for a certain candidate.

4. Can an influencer participate in an election campaign?

Answer:

Yes. An influencer can support a candidate or political party. If the influencer is paid to promote a political message, that payment should usually be reported as a campaign expense.



Example:

A popular YouTuber receives money to encourage followers to vote for a particular party.

5. What is abuse of state resources?

Answer:

Abuse of state resources happens when public money, government vehicles, public offices, or government employees are used to help a political party or candidate gain an advantage in an election. It can also happen when governments take decisions ahead of elections that are specifically aimed at improving the popular support of the government, and so of the party or party in power.



Example:

Using a government car to attend a party campaign event.



Example:

Delaying the opening of new hospitals to shortly before an election.



International Foundation
for Electoral Systems

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTORAL SYSTEMS (IFES)

IFES advances democracy for better future. We collaborate with civil society, public institutions, and the private sector to build resilient democracies that deliver for everyone. As a global leader in the promotion and protection of democracy, our technical assistance and applied research develop trusted electoral bodies capable of conducting credible elections; effective and accountable governing stakeholders; civic and political processes in which all people can safely and equally participate; and innovative ways in which technology and data can positively serve elections and democracy. Since 1987, IFES has worked in more than 145 countries, from developing to mature democracies. IFES is a global, nonpartisan organization based in Arlington, Virginia, USA, and registered as a nonprofit organization

Since 2015, IFES has maintained a continuous presence in North Macedonia, partnering with electoral bodies, public authorities, civil society organizations, political parties, and the media to strengthen democratic governance and electoral integrity. Through long-term technical assistance and capacity-building support, IFES has contributed to improving election administration, advancing transparency and accountability, promoting inclusive political participation, and enhancing public confidence in democratic processes, helping to build more resilient and responsive democratic institutions.

For more information about IFES's work in North Macedonia, visit the website <https://www.ifes.org/> or follow us on <https://www.facebook.com/ifesmk/>

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