

Pavlik Sargsyan's Demand is Groundless

Yesterday Pavlik Sargsyan, a nominee candidate for the RA Presidential Elections, applied to the Human Rights Defender, demanding to help him consider unconstitutional the electoral deposit requirement of 8 million drams defined by the Electoral Code.

The citizen's application was immediately accepted for consideration, of which the applicant was also informed. The application was considered by the Ombudsman Staff lawyers; as a result of which no ground for challenging the constitutionality was found.

The Legislation clearly stipulates the precondition for realization of the electoral right: an institute of electoral deposit for presidential candidates, which is 8000 times the minimum salary. Electoral deposit is accepted in many modern democratic societies, such as Great Britain, France, Canada and other countries.

Generally the electoral deposit is a guarantee that the presidential candidate actually enjoys the support and trust of some part of the society. Thus, it cannot be viewed as a restriction and/or violation of the right.

For clarification we also wish to note that the RA Legislation clearly envisages that citizens who have been recognized as incapacitated by a court ruling, cannot be elected, as such individuals are unable to realize the significance of their actions or control them as a result of mental disorder. Citizens who have been sentenced to imprisonment cannot be elected as well, because the person who has committed a crime and been imprisoned is automatically deprived of that right. Anyone, who hasn't attained the age of 35, cannot be a presidential candidate, as he/she must have experience, must be a citizen of the Republic of Armenia for the past ten years in order to be well aware of the daily concerns and problems of the Armenian citizens.

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