

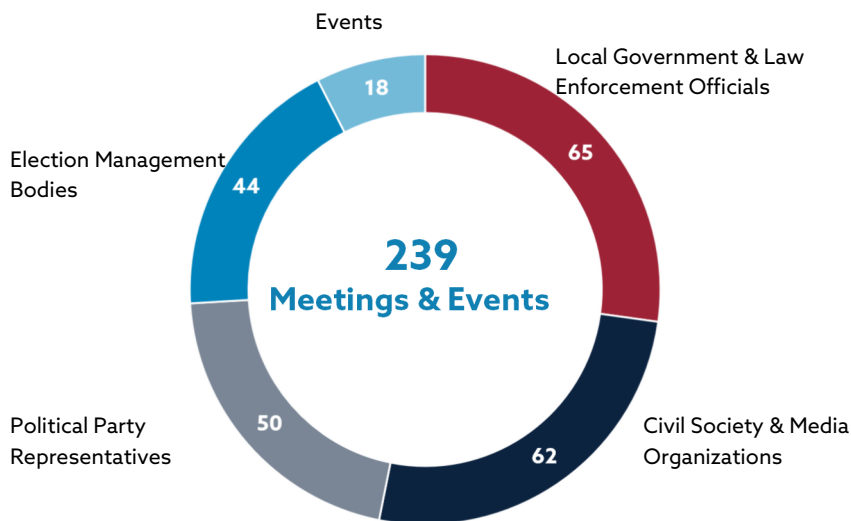
Long-Term Election Observation Pre-Election Report:

December 3, 2018 - January 5, 2019



**INTERNATIONAL
REPUBLICAN
INSTITUTE**

From December 3, 2018 to January 5, 2019, IRI's 7 teams of long-term observers (LTOs) have carried out:



Breakdown of Meetings with Political Party Representatives

Party	Meetings
Democratic Party of Moldova	19
Socialist Party of Moldova	10
Political Party Dignity and Truth	7
Our Party	4
Political Party Action and Solidarity	3
Liberal Party	3
Communist Party of Moldova	2
Liberal Democratic Party of Moldova	2

Key Findings

1. LTOs are reporting an orderly pre-election period. There have been no reports of violence.
2. The registration period ended on January 4, 2019 for initiative groups supporting candidates for single mandate districts (SMDs). According to the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), 387 groups submitted documents for registration, 348 of which were approved and registered. Candidates will run for 51 SMD seats, including Prime Minister Pavel Filip and four ministers of his cabinet. According to the CEC, 93 candidates have already submitted the required signatures and have secured a place on the ballot.
3. All initiative groups were able to collect the necessary signatures. However, there is some concern from LTOs on both the means to gather the signatures and validation of those signatures.
4. At the national level, four entities have been registered— three political parties and one electoral bloc. One party's application was rejected. However, resubmission is possible.
5. As of January 2, 2019, all 113 of Moldova's broadcasters have submitted statements on coverage of the electoral campaign. Three broadcasters, 10 TV, Gold TV, Radio 7, were issued public warnings for failing to submit their statements on time, after which they complied with the regulatory requirements.

6. District Election Commissions (DECs) were created on time, are fully staffed and function without delays or impediments. DEC members observed by LTOs are knowledgeable and are following electoral procedures.
7. IRI does question the creation of one particular DEC. According to the Election Code of Moldova, an electoral district should encompass between 55,000 and 60,000 voters. However, DEC #44 covers 35,082 voters—a substantially lower number than stated by the code. Additionally, the small Corjova commune, an administrative unit that encompasses two or more villages under the leadership of one townhall, has been split between DEC #19 and DEC #21 which may cause confusion among voters within the community.



In DEC #45, IRI observers witnessed a party-sponsored public concert . (January 2, 2019)

8. An LTO witnessed a public concert by a well-known international artist that was sponsored by a political party and featured party branding and speeches by party leaders. The potential influence of such pre-campaign activities on voter preferences remains ambiguous.
9. LTOs visited a number of local libraries that are preparing to serve as resources for voters—displaying voter education materials and training librarians with knowledge on the election in order to answer questions. IRI has also observed a number of training sessions for DECs hosted by the CECs Center for Continuous Electoral Training. These activities are funded by the United States Government.

10. Many of the LTOs' interlocutors, however, believe the general public does not currently have enough information about the new electoral system. This could lead to confusion and frustration for voters. IRI encourages the election administration to educate the population on electoral processes.



IRI observers found voter education materials at a library in Riscani.

Upcoming Dates

- January 24: Candidate registration deadline
- January 24: Campaign period kicks off
- January 29: Deadline for creation of Precinct Electoral Commissions