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Managing Stakeholder Expectations in ensuring Democratic Elections: The Case of Kazakhstan and the European Union

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THESIS ABSTRACT

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The focus of this thesis is on businesses' involvement in the electoral process of Kazakhstan. The aim is to examine the role of the business sector in the electoral process and to identify the pros, cons, and tactics of its involvement in the elections, which will positively impact the democratization process of Kazakhstan and improve the management of stakeholders' expectations regarding the electoral process.

Therefore, this thesis attempts to answer questions on the impact of the involvement of the business sector on the electoral process, whether it should be involved in the electoral process, as well as how the involvement of the business sector in the electoral process could be improved. The thesis study was conducted using research methods such as content analysis, literature review, case study, the PEST method, and survey. The theoretical background of the study consisted of an analysis of the overall picture of elections in good governance, a deep analysis of pros, cons of businesses' involvement in the electoral process, and it sheds light on the issues of business-state relations, tactics for businesses' participation, and the impact of businesses' involvement in the electoral process. Within the framework of the empirical analysis of the study, a survey was conducted among business representatives from Kazakhstan to examine the current situation of the election process in Kazakhstan and the involvement of business in this process.

In conclusion, the author suggests that the business sector should support its involvement in the electoral process and agrees on its positive impact on business development as well as on the economic conditions of the country. At the end of the thesis, practical recommendations to further improvement businesses' involvement are proposed.

Keywords: electoral process, Kazakhstan, business sector, lobbying

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Terms and Abbreviations

CEC	Central Election Commission
TEC	Territorial Election Commission
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
Mazhilis of the Parliament	Lower house of the Parliament of the RK
Senate of the Parliament	Upper house of the Parliament of the RK
Maslikhat	Local representative body of the Parliament

1 INTRODUCTION

To start with main principles of democracy include respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the principle of holding transparent and democratic elections. According to Katz (1997) participation in political and public life plays a crucial role in promoting democratic governance, the rule of law, social inclusion and economic development as well as promoting human rights. Thus, one of the main goals of the state is to ensure participation of citizens in the election process in order to develop democracy and empower the rights of citizens and other interested parties in the political system.

It is worth noting that electoral systems and processes are considered one of the main characteristics of democracy and the fundamental difference between democratic and authoritarian states is that in democratic states decisions are made directly (at referendums) or indirectly (through alternative elections) and approved by citizens (Rosanvallon, 2018). Therefore, electoral activity in the political culture of citizens is the most massive and legitimate form of political activity.

Moreover, Kjaer (2023) states political values create the core of good governance and derives in democratic political culture. Thus, political pluralism, transparent government and fair election processes are crucial factor in strengthening good governance (Kjaer, 2023; Rothstein, 2012). However, international community has aim to ensure human-centered development and fundamental human rights through good governance since citizen or man play the key role in building strong state ecosystem.

Election process is considered as democratic tool that ensures direct citizens' participation and one the fundamental constitutional right to take part in decision-making process. Election process as a complex issue in Kazakhstan includes involvement of multiple stakeholders such as central and regional state bodies, NGOs, political parties, international organizations, citizens and business actor. The role of every stakeholder is crucial in implementing transparent, democratic and fair elections that directly affects further development of the state. Therefore, managing stakeholders' expectations includes provision with all necessary information on election cycle, enhancing legitimacy, increasing participation rate and other related issues.

Moreover, according to the international experience businesses plays crucial role in the election process and impacts political decisions, however in Kazakhstani context the process of businesses involvement in the election cycle is understudied by scholars and this thesis attempts to deeply analyze the role of business in the election process of Kazakhstan and how to improve their participation.

1.1 Background of the study

The main figure in the election process is citizen and according to the Article 3 of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan (1995).

1. The people shall be the only source of governmental power.
2. The people shall exercise power directly through national referendum and free elections, as well as delegate the execution of their ability to state institutions.

Considering this human-centered politics could be assumed to be accountable when it holds elections, especially when ensures free and fair election process. Following this, the Constitution covers fundamental human rights enshrined by giving rights to voters to participate in decision making process of the country.

Moreover, Clawson et.al. (1986) argue participation rights are also inextricably linked to other rights such as the rights to peaceful assembly and association, freedom of opinion and expression and the rights to education and information. However, election process is complex issue that include different stakeholders and not only citizens, state bodies, NGOs, international community that are the part of election process, there is also business actors should be involved in election process (Clawson et. al.,1986). Therefore, managing stakeholders' expectations includes provision with all necessary information on election cycle, enhancing legitimacy, increasing participation rate and other related issues.

If we come to the issue of interaction of business and government is widely discussed among scholars since evolution of market economy shows us trends of highly connected government-business relationships that directly affect national economy and legal framework of state policies. According to Henderson (2005) business plays vital role in creating workplaces, decreasing the role of state as donor for governmental programs as well as

business are providers of social services and even could help to state apparatus to increase welfare of citizens. As it was mentioned before, the election process is the basis of creating democratic and prosperous state the role of business in election process is crucial (Henderson, 2005).

It should be mentioned that Kazakhstan as post-Soviet country is considered to be more state regulated and involvement of business in state policy or election process is new phenomena that emerged in recent decade. Even though Kazakhstani government was mostly authoritarian government and involvement of business in election process could increase citizens' trust to governmental decisions and expand hope for beneficial changes in political system (Bilyalova, 2019). Therefore, there are several reasons for business to participate in election process such as presenting the will of citizens or business actors as well as maximizing profit by lobbying own interests in legislative branch of the government (Bromley & Meyer, 2017).

Moreover, business could diversify the political representation in parliament and increase competition among political parties since the main goal in election process is to win and get more places in legislative body. However, there are also drawbacks for business actors in involving in election process since business with high profit could have more opportunities to protect own interests rather than small business, thus the involvement of business in election process is not constant and equal. Thus, government and business should implement mechanism of interaction in election process that provide equal opportunities for stakeholders and maximize the effectiveness of legislative branch as well as hold transparent and fair elections. Here it should be mentioned that the process of business involvement should be supported by state that creates diversity of choices for citizens during election process and it requires collaborative work for common goal of the state rather than reaching own goal of the political party or business actor.

1.2 Purpose of the study

The main purpose of the study is to evaluate participation of business in the election process in case of Kazakhstan, examine its role and impact on the democratization process and develop practical recommendations.

In order to reach the main purpose of the study, following objectives were identified:

- to analyze theoretical aspects of involvement of business in the election process;
- to study international experience of involvement businesses in the election process;
- to analyze impact of businesses' involvement in the election process on political decisions;
- to examine current situation of business' participation in the election process in Kazakhstan including legal framework;
- to analyze motives and incentives of involvement business in election process;
- to develop proposals based on the abovementioned analysis.

1.3 Research problem and research question

Considering the fact that business is one of the main stakeholders of the election process, there is still a need to clarify the impact of businesses' involvement in the election process of Kazakhstan in the context of effective governance and role in political and economic development. There is a need to gain comprehensive reasons of business involvement in the election cycle, identify pros and cons, tactics of their involvement as well as understand whether business need to be involved or not. Moreover, this thesis attempts to shed the light on complex issue of state-business relationships and answering to previous questions will result in practical recommendations that attempts to improve business involvement in the election process and contribute to the literature on this field.

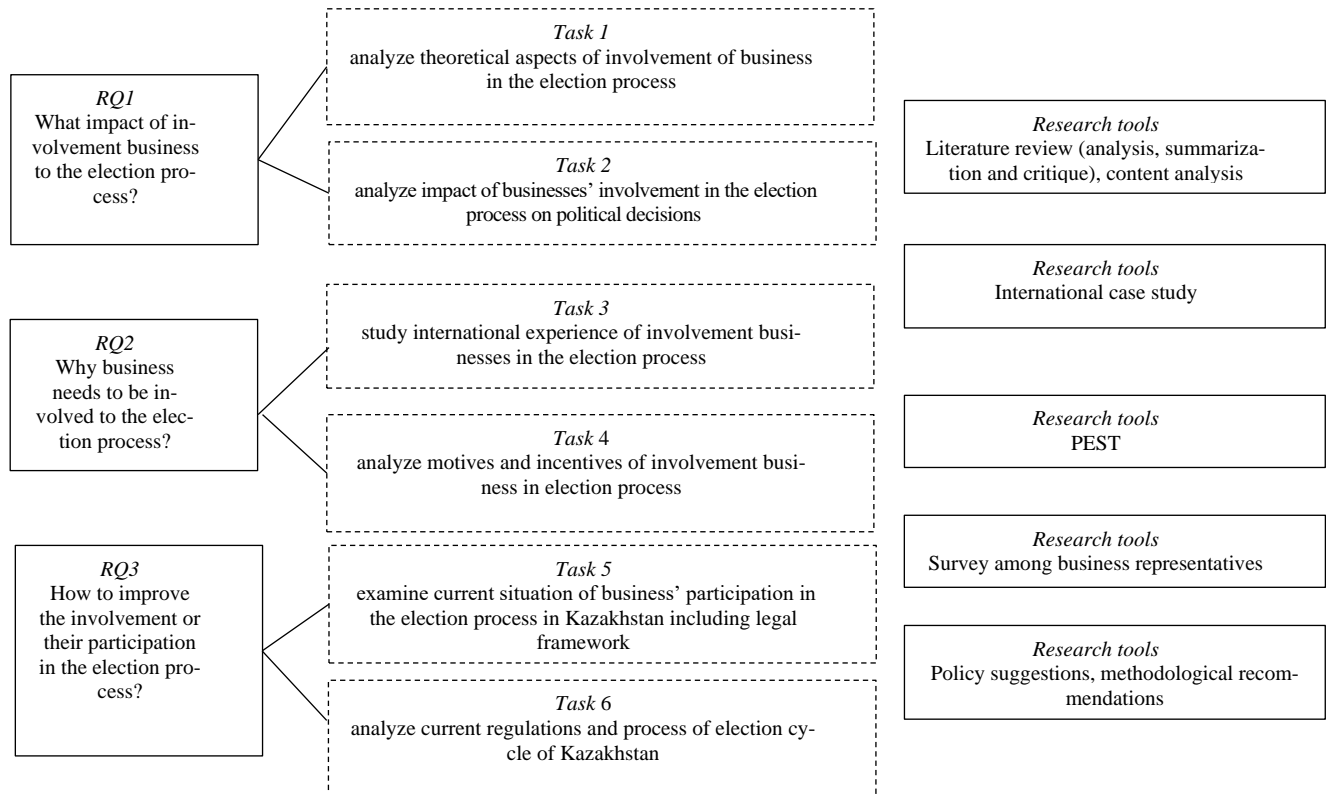


Figure 1. The process of answering to the research questions.

1.4 Research methods

Since the study of the interaction of business and government contains various perspectives of public administration, both qualitative and quantitative research methods such as content analysis, literature review, case study, PEST method and survey were applied.

The data collection techniques will consist of primary data that is survey results. Survey is conducted amongst business representatives to analyze their attitudes towards election process in Kazakhstan, used tactics and strategies to involve in this process as well as recommendations).

The secondary data included:

- governmental documents and legal acts that regulate the election process in the various countries.
- scholarly journals, articles and academic books that were adapted from online databases and libraries.
- reports on non-governmental organizations that examined business in the election process.

- media sources that also presented business in the election process.

Moreover, in using secondary data, the researcher firstly analyzed the sources and used only reliable and relevant sources to the research topic.

In order to study international experience, the case study method was applied, and it is widely used in public administration studies since concentrates on current events, also it is applicable to study unique events in public administration (Van Thiel, 2014).

Moreover, PEST analysis could be useful to formulate strategic approach and explore external factors of good governance concept in studied three areas since it contains analysis of Political (P), Economic (E), Social (S) and Technological (T) factors that influence to the object of the study (Ho, 2014).

1.5 Structure of the study

Chapter 1 is an introduction and covers background of the study and gives general overview on significance of study involvement of business in the election process, identifies research problem and questions as well as objectives in answering them. In order to reach the abovementioned purposes and answer research questions this thesis has 5 chapters.

Chapter 2 firstly covers a theoretical approach to businesses' political participation that covers tactics, pros, cons as well as international practice of involving business will be studied based on literature review of scholarly articles, books, publication also official country reports of international organizations. Moreover, Chapter 2 aims to draw up theoretical background of the impact of businesses' involvement in the election process and contributes to the basis of further recommendations.

Following this, Chapter 3 is focused on describing applied research methods to study business involvement in the election process of Kazakhstan, data collection techniques, analysis of respondents of survey among business representatives, PEST analysis. In addition, Chapter 3 presents reliability and validity of the thesis.

Further, based on the results of qualitative and quantitative analysis, Chapter 4 covers empirical analysis of current situation of election process in Kazakhstan, legal basis of the election process, analysis of recently held election and the role of business in the election process of Kazakhstan. In addition, Chapter 4 aims to explore the issue political parties' funding and its possible impact on the election results.

Finally, Chapter 5 concludes the findings of the previous chapters and summarizes main results of the theoretical and empirical analysis in order to develop policy suggestions to improve the involvement of business in the election process and proposes recommendations for enhancing involving business in election process of Kazakhstan. Chapter 5 also provides author's suggestions for further studies in this field.

2 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND – BUSINESSES’ POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: PROS, CONS AND TACTICS

The Chapter 2 of the thesis will be focused on the theoretical background of the businesses’ political participation in the decision-making processes that is widely discussed and could be considered as controversial topic among scholars.

First of all, Chapter 2 aims to answer questions on what is the role of elections in good governance? What are main relationships between business and state? The next aim of this part of the thesis is to examine literature on the advantages and disadvantages of businesses involvement in the election process that will help to answer research question on whether business needs to be involved in the election process.

Moreover, theoretical background of businesses’ used tactics in the election cycle as well as international experience on business participation in the election process will be examined in order to answer questions on businesses impact on decision-making process as well as to draw up recommendations on improving their involvement.

2.1 The role of elections in good governance

The concepts of governance and good governance were widely studied by scholars and Rothstein (2012) highlighted its importance in enhancing rule of law, democracy as well as fair election processes. In order to investigate and analyze the role of business in political participation it is needed to give definition of good governance, then pros, cons and tactics of business’s political participation will be discussed further in this section.

To start with, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) was one of the first organizations who started to promote good governance worldwide according to its definition “good governance is decision making process and the process by which decisions are implemented and ensures that corruption does not occur, voices of minority and vulnerable members of society are accounted for, and that decision making is responsive to current and future needs of society” (Qudrat-I Elahi, 2009).

Moreover, political values create the core of good governance and derives in democratic political culture. Thus, political pluralism, transparent government and fair election processes are crucial factor in strengthening good governance (Kjaer, 2023; Rothstein, 2012).

Following this, according to Rothstein (2012) good governance covers various aspects of political system, however, this thesis will consider only business as a part of good governance. As it was said good governance term also considers issues of cooperation and connections between government and non-governmental bodies such as NGOs or business actors since they contribute to the delivery of the public services through provision of maintenance, construction, advocacy, emergency help and so on. Consequently, in ensuring delivery of public goods to citizens and in increasing economy as well as effective state apparatus it is relevant also to consider the role of business in good governance that is central figure to analyze in this thesis.

In addition, good governance also implies to the phenomena of establishing networks of NGOs and other actors in contributing to the policy making processes, thus governance not only the way how states implement public policy, but how they maintain relationships with non-governmental bodies in ensuring economic and democratic development in the country (Smith, 2007).

However, there are 8 principles of democratic government such as freedom of expression, forming organizations, right to vote, free elections, holding political campaigns, diversity of information sources and public policy based on the need of citizens (Trebilcock & Chitalkar, 2009). Thus, in the same work author mention that election process could be considered as main goal in democratization process of the country and it should include diverse stakeholders in ensuring transparent elections (op. cit.). During election process the true interests of citizens as well as interested groups could be observed, thus citizens vote for the party that more deeply express citizens' needs and trust in further implementation of announced objectives. As a result, according to Schedler (2002) holding elections is one of the most important principles of democracy and openness of government that give opportunities to express opinions of citizens could be assessed through fair and free elections.

The next issue is the development of political pluralism during election process, it means that group of people could form political party to express opinions and protect own interests (Norris, 2003). Therefore, political pluralism helps to promote democracy, protect

rights of vulnerable groups of citizens as well as enhancing political participation through providing fundamental right of freedom of associations.

2.2 Interaction of business and government

Before proceeding to the study of the issues of involvement of between business in election processes, it is necessary to reveal the main conceptual aspects of the research topic and determine the essence of the category "interaction between the state and business". Despite the fact that in recent years the government, business and scientists have made significant progress towards a common understanding of the term "interaction between the state and business", as before, there are many different points of view on its essence and content. Moreover, there is often no distinction between these concepts.

Poulantzas (2000) in his work mentions that Government has various functions such as investment source, catalyst for economic processes, provision of social services, planning and forecasting, stimulation of scientific and technological progress, creation of an innovation system, creation of a stable credit and financial system. Thus, government acts as the guarantee of economic and social rights of the population, environmental protection, elimination of regional disproportions, differentiation of tax rates, etc. are the prerogatives of the state.

Within the framework of this study, state power will be considered as the ability of state authorities to regulate and coordinate in order to determine strategic guidelines in social and economic development, creation of basic conditions for business, increasing the economy as well as development and implementation projects at national level and scale (Osborne, 1993).

Whereas considering literature sources, business could be understood as the process of "... self-renewal and self-organization of individuals and enterprises, carried out in interaction with the micro- and macro-environment of their functioning." (Rutland, 2018). This definition shifts the focus from profit maximization to maximizing the businessman's opportunities

"... to satisfy the complex of his socio-economic needs within the framework of an unbalanced dynamic balance of conflicting socio-economic interests of the participants in this process - individuals, organizations and society as a whole." (op. cit.).

Moreover, according to Frazier & Howell (1983) business is main driver of the national economy, the main donor of the state budget; leader of scientific and technological progress, a large employer that significantly affects both the level of employment and the level of wages and the system of social and labor relations; an important factor in shaping the country's image in international community.

According to Needle & Burns (2010) functions of business could be considered as following:

- networking and operations between business and other actors in the economic system, for instance, consumers;
- exchange between different businesses and management of this process;
- develop new technological tools and processes, consumer products;
- government relations that consider interactions with state bodies or managing relations with media.

In addition to certain functions, modern researchers distinguish innovative, modernizing, developing and social functions of business (Needle & Burns, 2010).

Therefore, under the "business" sector, we will understand entrepreneurial organizations of any form of ownership and amount of capital that are actively operating within the corresponding administrative-territorial unit.

Considering this business and government interactions are intertwined with economy and possess mechanism for interaction of legislative and executive authorities with the business community. This interaction finds its real embodiment in the unity of the diversity of various forms and directions: the creation of the infrastructure of the economic system directly, the provision of favorable conditions for the effective functioning of the economy; formation and implementation of industrial policy; placement of state and municipal orders; institutionalization of lobbying activities of business structures; institutional design of the corporate sector, etc.

Moreover, business and government interactions could also reflect the interests of society in order to regulate market relations, thus the state cannot do without business, just as business cannot exist without the state. The choice of ways and mechanisms to achieve effective interaction between business and government is becoming in ensuring democracy and development of national economy. Thus, interaction between business and the state should be developed in optimal forms for political democracy and a market economy (Maxfield & Schneider, 1997). This means that the system of representation of business interests in public authorities must be flexible and have the ability to express not only aggregated, but also individualized interests. A legitimate place in it should be given to both big business and small business associations, the sector of microstructures and independent intermediaries.

No doubts that there could be the problem in the relationship between business and government, however, there is no consensus on the proper principles of relations between these actors of social life. The spread ranges from views on the state as an institution hostile to business, exercising its strict control and regulation, to ideas about the purely benevolent attitude of the authorities towards entrepreneurship, protecting it from manifestations of foreign competition, about its technical and market support, cheap loans, etc.

Maxfield and Schneider (1997) argue that there could be opinions that the state that creates the conditions for the development of the economy and private entrepreneurship, also sets the parameters to the influence of entrepreneurs on social life. Thus, it seems absolutely natural and logical for business to participate in the formation of state policy.

To start with, Smith (2007) says that the state creates regulatory norms to carry out economic activities and conditions for free markets. In addition, individuals and corporations have not only agreements to carry out work, but also there are state laws and rules that actually make it possible to implement these agreements between economic agents, and state bodies give them legal authority and guarantee the execution of concluded contracts.

Moreover, according to Smith (2007), the state could use various tools such as reducing or raising taxes, tightening or weakening environmental legislation, rules for granting loans, increasing or reducing social programs, etc. in order to create economic market model to carry out business activities. Thus, these regulations and legal framework as well as state

tools could vary from country to country and vulnerable to changes according to existing trends in the society and economic situation in the country.

Furthermore, as Smith (2007) and Fisman and Khanna (2004) mention the state could be considered as the largest consumer and in many countries control at least a third of the gross domestic product. Although most of their activities are related to the redistribution of funds from taxpayers to recipients of state pensions, allowances, subsidies, etc., the role of the customer-buyer remains no less important. Next issue is that the state provides normal economic conditions for the work of entrepreneurs, maintaining an acceptable level of inflation and unemployment. For example, in the post-war period, many Western countries pursued what is known as Keynesian policies, alternating between periods of increased spending and tax cuts to reduce unemployment, and phases of cutting social programs and raising taxes to fight inflation.

Doner and Schneider (2000) argue that political participation of business is highly related to economic and political situation in the country, even as a result of business participation could be increase in economic growth and efficiency of political system. However, the formation of certain models of interaction between business structures and public authorities depends on the previous experience of the country's development, the existing political culture and the established social, economic and political institutions.

It should be noted that the participation of business in politics can be direct and indirect. Direct participation implies the arrival of a business representative in the executive and legislative authorities when he holds a public position. Whereas indirect participation ranges from financing the election campaign of a political party to lobbying the interests of a firm through an official for a certain fee (Maclean et.al., 2006).

Interest in the problem of interaction between business structures and public authorities is also associated with management tasks. Building an effective model of interaction between business structures and public authorities requires the formation of appropriate institutional foundations for such interaction as well as the development of mechanisms for their implementation in practice.

Overall, participation of business in political activities of the country could follow uncertainties since business could highly interfere the political processes, whereas on the one hand,

the state largely occupies business sector. Thus, business representatives not only lobby their interests in the regional authorities, but also directly participate in politics. On the other hand, regional authorities dominate in determining the rules of the game in the market, therefore further sections will investigate the pros and cons of business participation and determine some tactics of business.

2.3 Pros of businesses participation in the election process

To start with Zardkoohi (1985), the political participation of business has roots for a long time ago, for instance in 1970s in the United States federal act ensured participation full expansion of business activities in electoral process. The reason for this could be that parliament or elected officials in government they perform regulatory functions that directly affect business sector; thus, business is highly interested in somehow affecting legal regulations and influence to the electoral process.

Furthermore, there are studies that argue election process open boundaries to business to establish interaction with politicians and further to have opportunity to influence political decisions. Overall, election process could have positive economic effect to business and enrich political capital these are main reasons to participate and donate to elections (Feng et.al., 2015).

Zardkoohi (1985) considers that political party is central figure in election processes and their based on their success the number of distributed seats in representative institutions, thus many business actors are interested to establish close ties with them. The closer these organizations were to each other in terms of their socio-economic and political-ideological characteristics, the stronger was their mutual attraction. Mainly ties between business and parties are based on the form of financial support of parties and individual candidates, allocating funds to hold election campaigns.

The direct participation of entrepreneurs in politics through election to parliamentary assemblies can be assessed as a strategy to ensure their interests. The main interest for the owner, as mentioned above, is stable conditions for the implementation of property rights. Entrepreneurs with a deputy mandate unlike other market participants, independently minimize the risks that arise for business due to the fact that political status and the opportunities arising from it allow them to avoid "rules for everyone" (Clawson et.al., 1986).

Entrepreneurs with a mandate are more successful in accumulating social capital and maintaining sustainable relationships with politicians and officials. Participation in political process can give opportunity to business to avoid violations and even if they are, violations could be insignificant (Shiau, 2016).

Considering this we can draw up hypothesis that stronger business has higher degree of political participation and main thing for business remains as ability to convert accumulated economic resources into political influence.

Feng et.al. (2015) proposed hypothesis that political participation by an entrepreneur will result in a preferential treatment of firms under his or her control. They argue that previous studies suggested that political networks can improve firms' access to capital and even some banks provide some benefits for those who make large contributions election campaigns. Thus, business actors that have high level of participation could have access in long-term debt financing. Moreover, Szakonyi (2020) argues that some of potential ways for the government to facilitate such preferential treatment could for example be through government subsidies or lower taxes. It could be through industry subsidies or debt capital, we thus conjecture that political participation may have a significant effect on firm performance through more government subsidies, lower effective tax rates, and better access to regulated industries.

According to Roth (1998) and Szakonyi (2020), in order to get further advantages of participation in election process, business actors could make political investments in various ways, such as:

- lobbying for the appointment of certain persons to senior positions in executive power structures, i.e., buying a place in the power hierarchy;
- victory for one's candidate in all kinds of elections at the local, regional and higher levels (or buying "passing" places on party lists);
- buying and financing the activities of political parties.

In other words, within the framework of the "investment" strategy of business and government, not power (administrative) service is bought, but the obligations of a politician who then elected (appointed to a position) will have to ensure the power aspects of the development of a particular business (Roth, 1998; Szakonyi, 2020).

Overall, Roth (1998) and Szakonyi (2020) argue that from the business side there are various advantages of participation in election process and mostly they consider economic and administrative benefits, then resulting in suitable policies and legal framework. However, government officials seem to also benefit from this situation since they get victory by the help of business donations or help. Even though, this seems to be win-win situation for both business and government, still there could arise issues of lobbying or illegal elections since some parties could have more opportunities to win.

Duffy (2007) says that there are several ways for business to participate in the election process. First of all, business can facilitate citizens' participation by encouraging voters to vote. For instance, business representatives could inform workers on ongoing elections, registration process and where to go for voting as well as provision of special time for voting on election day.

The next way to participate is donations to political parties in holding campaigns through political action committees or donation to candidates and some states establish limits on voluntary funding of political parties.

Still many business companies use election as tool for lobbying their interests and influence policy decisions in order to develop own business and eliminate legal acts that could have negative influence on their business (Duffy, 2007; Szakonyi, 2020).

It should be mentioned that business can act as advocate for certain problems in society and support or oppose political decision and parties. However, in abovementioned processes business should comply with finance laws and act according to legal framework of election process.

2.4 Cons of businesses participation in the election process

This subsection will consider what are disadvantages for business to participate in election process. For instance, in small regions business has to pay a considerable price to get success in the market, thus successful lobbyists financially support the region, getting the opportunity to influence the decision-making process. At the same time, they face corruption and unfair competition. Some Sinha and Wyatt (2019) argue that regional politicians could invisibly control and establish 'entry' to the market and businesspeople are forced to

finance government initiatives, from social to commercial, sometimes under pressure from the authorities.

There are evidence of disadvantages for business in political processes such as taking property of business or raiding that is a serious threat to the realization of property rights (Sinha & Wyatt, 2019).

Moreover, Smith (2000) argues that business sector with political power has more rights to get subsidies or other privileges aimed to help growing economy by stimulating business. Indeed, businessmen with a parliamentary mandate in comparison with other market participants occupy a privileged position and we can observe unfair conditions. The motives were not obvious. A businessman seeks to receive a state order, because, unlike a private construction site, he guarantees the reliability of investments and compliance with the contract on the part of the customer.

The situation with property rights, especially for small and medium-sized businesses, is such that economic agents are guided by the independent protection of their interests through activities in the field of politics. According to the Szakonyi (2020) entrepreneurs purposefully go into politics, despite the costs of time, effort and even money associated with this. Since formal institutions (laws and legal norms, agreements, and contracts) are not sufficient to ensure the stable development of business and the risks of economic activity can sometimes be eliminated only by being close to the authorities. A paradoxical situation arises in which an effective way for the owner to avoid the risks posed by the state and its representatives is the actual inclusion in the number of agents of the state. In other words, being vulnerable in the face of a state that arbitrarily applies rules and is unable to create an equal and safe business environment, entrepreneurs reinforce the situation of inequality in the market: the dominant position is occupied by owners close to power (Szakonyi, 2020).

However, Smith (2000) also mentions that not only small medium business can have negative consequences from participation in election process, also influence of lobbying movements can destabilize democratic processes and the necessary change in opportunities to work effectively, the government, in turn, is engaged in serving the interests of various shadow elites.

Moreover, Bernhagen (2007) states that participation of business in election process also could have negative consequences such as negative impact on company branding in case of supporting particular political party. Thus, in fact company loses customers that have different political opinions and decrease on revenues or bad image in front of customers.

Next, Bernhagen (2007) points out that the election process business should follow all rules, procedures of election process as well as stay in the limit of donation and possible framework of lobbying law in order to avoid regulatory and legal risks.

As well as business could badly to influence to their image since sometimes could act as lobbying own interests, thus it could negatively affect consumers' perception and viewed as unethical (Szakonyi, 2020).

In addition, to this businesses participation in election process could also lead to some misunderstandings if employee and head of the company have different political views on some issues, thus employee could leave workplace or show lower results during worktime and overall productivity of business could decrease.

Last but not the least, Cheeseman (2011) argues that business could suffer from loss of economical and time resources during participation in election process that's distracts from main activities and even sometimes efforts of businesses could be unsuccessful after election results.

Overall, businesses for themselves should weight out risks and possibilities of participation in election process as well as balancing with main activities.

2.5 Tactics for businesses participation in the election process

This section will review tactics for business to participate in the election process. First of all, business contribute own resources such as funding, human resources and time in order to support political parties or topical issues on their interest.

The next fact is that business try to lobby directly or indirectly their own political concerns on certain issues as regulatory or legal framework, thus influence political decisions that could positively affect own business (Bernhagen, 2007).

Szakonyi (2020) says that one more tactic includes political advertisement that is using media, printed sources or open platforms in order to support political figures that have similar interest with business's objectives. Here also we can include voter education and funding of media participants to shape public opinion on particular interested political issues.

However, according to Kraft and Kamieniecki (2007) mostly big businesses implement huge activities in encouraging political participation of citizens since they have many employees who could be stimulated by participating in the elections and business could agitate during worktime on their interested political decision and propose candidates to vote.

Overall, Duffy (2007) argues that the above-mentioned business tactics arise from the incentives such as protection of own interests that could benefit them, establishing communication and network with governmental authorities as well as social responsibility of business and work on increasing own reputation among citizens.

Around the globe business actors are represent members of legislative bodies, for instance, the most business actors are represented in the US legislative bodies, in the US this number is approximately 20%, whereas similar picture could be observed Italy, Germany, the UK and Canada. Szakonyi (2020) argues that for business actors participating in election process by giving own candidacy is the most effective way of influence in policy making process.

According to Romeijn (2021) there are different reasons for business actors to participate in election process and leave main activities in business sector that provide opportunities to earn money. One of the main tactics of business to participate in election process is donations to political parties to carry out political campaigns. The relationship between government and business in the issue of financing election campaigns could be both in legal and shadow political and economic activities. At the same time, depending on the form of interaction there is a strengthening or weakening of the role that business itself plays in financing election campaigns (op. cit.). The availability of financial resources has a significant impact on the results of the election campaign. Therefore, a significant role should be assigned to the legislative regulation of the financing of election campaigns.

Van Biezen (2003) says that across the globe funding of election campaigns could be public, private or mixed and law establishes permission or prohibition on anonymous donations or funding from individuals, legal entities as well as donations from foreign organizations. At present, the increase in the costs of conducting election campaigns and lobbying activities of economic entities increases the dependence of their results on the interests of wealthy groups (op. cit.).

Moreover, business actors have opportunity to influence on political parties to promote own power through donations during election campaigns. Among legitimate ways to finance election campaigns, it is needed to distinguish between two complementary sources of subsidies: public and private funding. Their combination is practiced in most countries. According to Geddis (2001), public funding from the federal budget is carried out in various ways in different countries and is largely seen as a means of preventing corruption and limiting the influence of private capital. Indirect public funding (for example, free airtime on radio and television, rental of premises, media space, or tax breaks) often benefits only the ruling party. To regulate private investment, the legislation of various countries provides for a ban on funding from certain sources, limiting the amount of donations, prohibiting or limiting spending, full or public disclosure of information (op. cit.).

Metear (2004) argues that during direct participation of business, one representative is chosen and appointed in the board of directors of the company or already was head of the business, thus in other words, it is called businessperson candidacy. All efforts of political party are focused on winning of businessperson in election process. However, business actors face challenges in choosing what strategy to use direct or indirect since in second choice there is no guarantee that business will reach own goals after elections and they can face some uncertainties. Lobbying could be done in different ways such as big business hire employees to carry out government relations, use outsourcing and others could form trade unions or another forms of business community that could represent their interests in legislative body of the country (op. cit.).

Overall, according to Hall (2014) lobbying implies a practice and a system for realizing the interests of different groups of citizens through organized influence on the activities of state authorities. It should be noted that lobbying mostly occurs as a result of the social differentiation of society that has diversity of interests, also lobbying could happen on the ba-

sis of political pluralism and access to power is expanding. For instance, state representatives could not satisfy all needs of society and prioritize it, thus some groups of people start to protect their interests that beneficial to them through lobbying (Hall, 2014; Van Biezen, 2003).

According to You (2022), the strengthening of the role of lobbying leads to the transformation of democracy from civil representation to the representation of interests that happens through emergence of influential political agents that have an impact on the authorities, often directly, without participating in elections. Lobbyism is not only one of the main mechanisms for the development and adoption of state decisions, but also a significant operating mechanism in the formation of a pluralistic democracy due to the influence on public authorities.

The laws governing the financing of election campaigns of candidates and political parties are aimed at achieving specific goals: providing candidates with equal opportunities to be elected; transparency of funding and public access to relevant information by setting campaign financial reporting requirements; limiting overall spending on political events.

2.6 International experience of involvement businesses in the election process

This section of the thesis will consider international experience of involvement business in the election process and as a prominent example of democratic country with high variety of interest groups in politics, the USA experience will be analyzed.

According to Klumpp et.al. (2016) in the USA business can donate money to the election process through political action committees as well as directly to political candidates within legal framework. Moreover, in the USA lobbying is widespread, in some cases businesses could lobby own beneficial interests and to influence political decisions. It is important to note that while businesses can participate in the election process, there are regulations and reporting requirements that they must follow to ensure transparency and accountability. These include requirements to disclose political contributions and lobbying activities, and restrictions on contributions from foreign entities. Additionally, some businesses may choose to refrain from engaging in political activities to avoid any potential negative consequences on their brand or reputation (op. cit.).

Among the normative sources, mention should be made of the US Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech. The First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees the right of the people to petition state authorities, arguing for the existence of interest groups and being the basis for further legal regulation of their activities. The legal basis for the functioning of interest groups and their lobbying activities are the Federal Lobbying Act of 1946, the Lobbying Transparency Act of 1995, the American League of Lobbyists Code of Ethics, amendments to the Federal Lobbying Transparency Act Lobbying Disclosure Technical Amendments Act 1998, Lobbying Transparency and Accountability Act 2006, Honest Leadership and Open Government Act 2007, Internal Revenue Code (IRC), Ensuring Responsible Spending of Recovery Act of 2009, Ensuring Responsible Spending of Recovery Act Funds, Executive Lobbyist and Power Broker Rules the United States and both houses of Congress (Fried et.al., 2011; Luneburg, 2009; Straus, 2010, 2015).

Legislative acts of some states supplement and clarify the rules for conducting lobbying activities, but for the most part duplicate federal legislation. The federal law on election campaigns, decisions of the Supreme Court, comments of the Federal Election Commission on the current legislation are the legal basis for financing the election process by interest groups (Truman, 1951).

Garret (2009) states that each state has its own specific political structure and considering the institution of lobbying and the influence of interest groups on the electoral process, one can testify to the functioning of an effective pluralistic institution for the formation of political decisions. The US experience shows that the legislative regulation of lobbying has changed very significantly over the past decades towards stricter and even tougher regulation, which should ensure maximum openness of lobbying and comply with democratic procedures. Conducting the study was partly hampered by the fact that purely ethical aspects are inevitably affected, a lot depends on how the accents are placed: one can talk about both legalized bribery of politicians and one of the channels of communication between civil society and state institutions. This is also indicated by the very high cost of the election campaign, which nullifies the principle of equality of opportunity (Garret, 2009; Luneburg, 2009).

Compared to other countries, Szakonyi (2020) argues that US interest groups play a particularly prominent role in political life. About 30% of Americans in one way or another, on

a partial or full basis, participate in the activities of various interest groups; in addition, joining groups and solving community problems with their help is more characteristic of the United States than other countries. Therefore, it is not surprising that political scientists writing about interest groups focus on the United States as the most obvious example of a political system in which interests are represented in this way. Many view interest groups as the building blocks that make up American political life. There are differing views in Western political science as to why groups are so important in American society and politics. It is also worth noting that the United States is a community of many different communities, representing different races, nationalities, religions, cultures and languages, so this diversity is a constant reminder of the existence and functioning of groups involved in various activities to protect and promote well-being. its members (Anzia, 2011; Szakonyi, 2020).

Anzia (2011) and Szakonyi (2020) say that campaign financing in the United States has traditionally been one of the main methods of lobbying. Almost from the very beginning of American statehood, interest groups have seen giving money in elections as an effective way to ensure subsequent influence on politicians and ultimately get officials to make the decisions they want. With the strengthening of the powers of the head of the executive branch, more and more interest groups began to pay significant attention to the financing of presidential elections. Historically, the leading role in this process has been played by big business - the US monopoly capital. The trends that emerged in the American electoral mechanism in the 21st century, namely the rapid increase in the cost of campaigns with a high degree of dependence of the election result on monetary costs, forced candidates to pay increasing attention to finding sources of funding and, accordingly, become more dependent on interest groups that have the necessary funds (Anzia, 2011; Szakonyi, 2020).

Whereas Franz (2008) said that the search for funds during this period became especially relevant for candidates applying for the presidency for the first time: superior campaign spending allowed them to more or less successfully compete with a competitor already in the White House. The rising costs of election campaigns, among other things, contributed to the strengthening of the two-party system: representatives of third parties and independent candidates were unable to raise the necessary funds and make any serious competition to the candidates from the leading parties. At the same time, the two main US parties,

which did not have a sufficient financial base, could not help but become financially dependent on interested groups. These trends, exacerbated by the almost complete non-intervention of the state in this area, created the conditions for the active participation of interest groups in election campaigns (Franz, 2008, 2013).

In discussing the election process in the USA, it should be noted about stakeholder's theory that includes interests of stakeholders such as community, citizens, politicians, various organizations, companies and so on. This theory argues that organizations have a responsibility to balance the competing demands of different stakeholders and create value for all of them (Moriarty, 2014).

Thus, Friedman and Miles (2006) state that in examining the impact of business on the election process stakeholder's theory draws valuable framework for it since we could assess impact by examining businesses engagement in political activities, parties, voters, political participation and other connected issues. As it was mentioned before, business can participate in the election process by lobbying or funding political parties, however, it could have negative or positive impact on the society as a whole or on political decision as well as undermine or increase trust in the state bodies (Friedman & Miles, 2006).

Moreover, it could be argued that in stakeholder theory every part of the process needs to balance their contributions and follow ethics, transparency and accountability as well as according to the legal framework without conflict of interests. Therefore, it is better for business to shape public opinion in promoting welfare and development of the country rather than just following own interests and goals since business is very powerful tool that could easily shape citizens' opinion.

3 METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH OF THE THESIS

The main purpose of the study is to evaluate participation of business in the election process in case of Kazakhstan and develop practical recommendations in improving involvement of business in the election process. This could be reached by examining the impact of involvement business to the election process and studying reasons of their participation.

Based on the literature review and content analysis that was done in previous Chapter, main trends of theoretical background on businesses' involvement. One of the main findings is that businesses participate in the election process to protect own interests and provide comfortable conditions for business development, however, they could experience obstacles such as regulatory framework or reputational risks of participating in the election. Overall, elections cycle is one of the principles of good governance as well as state-business relationships includes collaboration for reaching common goals. Thus, election process is highly connected with stakeholders' cooperation in ensuring legitimacy, transparency, creation of diverse political culture with actors with different backgrounds.

Chapter 3 aims to explain used research methods in this thesis as well as gives overall understanding of data collection techniques, analysis of background information on survey respondents and provides reliability of the study.

3.1 Research methods

Considering research questions of the thesis both quantitative and qualitative research techniques were applied. First of all, the quantitative approach allows studying statistical data to make conclusions, and in this case a survey was conducted among business representatives.

Thus, in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of research question mixed method approach was implemented. Since the study of interaction of business and government contains various perspectives of public administration research methods such as content analysis, literature review, case study. PEST method and survey was applied. Both content analysis and literature review on existing scholarly works on the participation of business in the election process as well as their impact on political decisions.

The research approach used in the thesis is descriptive since its purpose to identify the outcomes of involving business in the electoral process and how to increase it based on the collected survey data.

In order to study international experience, the case study method was applied, and it is widely used in public administration studies since concentrates on current events, also it is applicable to study unique events in public administration (Van Thiel, 2014).

Moreover, PEST analysis could be useful to formulate strategic approach and explore external factors of good governance concept in studied three areas since it contains analysis of Political (P), Economic (E), Social (S) and Technological (T) factors that influence to the object of the study (Ho, 2014).

3.2 Data collection

First of all, data collection techniques will consist of primary data that is survey among businesses.

According to Fowler (2013), the implementation of a survey could be done in several steps, such as:

1. Defining the research questions that the survey aims to answer. What are the impacts of the involvement of business in the election process? What is the level of trust of business in the election process? What are barriers that limit the involvement of business in the election process?
2. The target population as business was identified. The main selection criterion is employment in business structures and entrepreneurs.
3. In this study, a simple random sampling of respondents among business representatives was conducted. In addition, the sampling was carried out according to the random (spontaneous) method by choosing the "first comer" in the topic under study. The sample must be representative, i.e., reflect the main characteristics of the general population.

4. A survey questionnaire was developed according to the results of done literature review and topical issues regarding business in the election process as well as variables that impact this process were identified and based on its questionnaire was developed. The questions in the questionnaire are classified according to the following criteria:
5. Content - questions about the facts of consciousness and behavior of the respondent's personality;
6. Form - open (without pre-formulated answers), semi-closed (along with the proposed answers, free answers are provided), closed (with pre-formulated answers);
7. Functions - basic (aimed at collecting information on the topic), non-core (filter questions to identify the addressee of the main question and control questions to check the sincerity of the respondent)
8. The draft of the survey was tested among students of master's degree and professionals in the field of public policy.
9. The data was collected through Google forms platform for the convenience of respondents and data interpretation. The questionnaire contains questions with the correct formulation, which are formulated clearly, unambiguously, accessible, in accordance with the solution of the research objectives.
10. A qualitative analysis of data was carried out in order to identify the main trends that answer to developed questions and describe business participation in the election process.
11. Further, the data was interpreted and presented in the thesis in order to draw up recommendations.
12. In ensuring the reliability and validity of survey results, the researcher conducted survey according to academic and ethical standards without direct contact or influence on the respondents.

Moreover, in writing this thesis, included analysis of secondary data that is already existing materials in electronic databases and libraries. Secondary data analysis gives opportunity to look through the election process from historical and comparative perspective to the researched area.

Secondary data included:

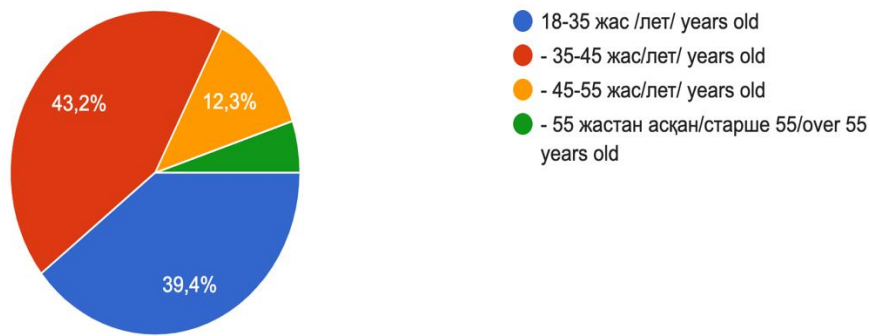
- governmental documents and legal acts that regulate the election process in the various countries.
- scholarly journals, articles and academic books that were adapted from online databases and libraries.
- reports on non-governmental organizations that examined business in the election process.
- media sources that also presented business in the election process.

Moreover, in using secondary data, the researcher firstly analyzed the sources and used only reliable and relevant sources to the research topic.

3.3 Data analysis

In this section, data analysis of background of survey respondents will be presented. To start with survey was conducted to identify businesses engagement in the election process as well as their awareness on election, donations, methods, tactics, techniques and experience in participating elections.

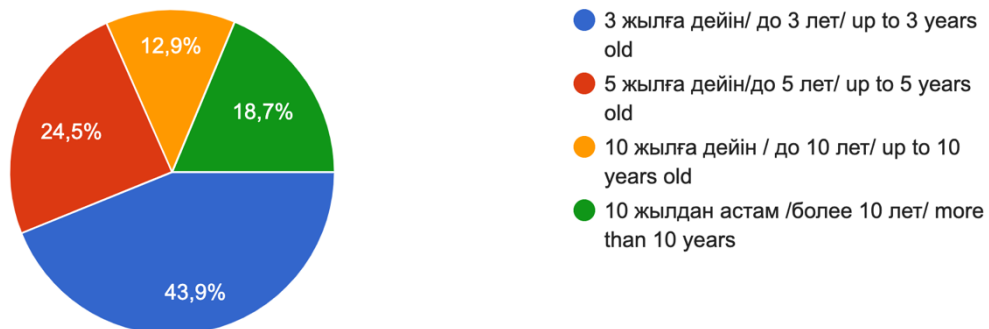
155 business representatives of big, medium-sized, and small companies took part in the survey from all the regions of Kazakhstan. The age of participants is shown in picture below.



Picture 1. Age of respondents.

According to Picture 1, we can see that most of respondents are aged between 35–45 that is 43.2% (67), whereas second category is 18–35 years old – 39.4% or 61 respondents. Also, a minority of the respondents represent business aged 44–55 years old and over 55 years old, 12.3% (19) and 5.2% (8) respectively.

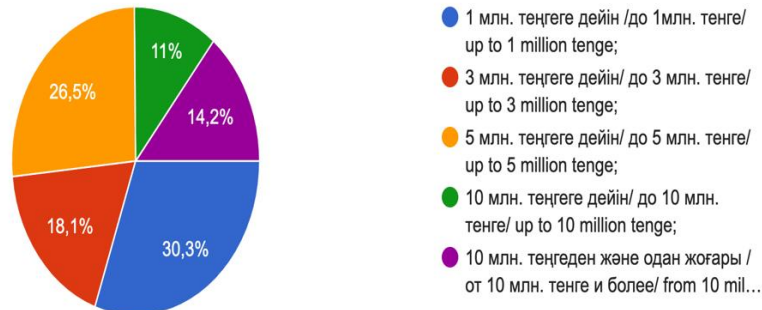
The next issue to discuss is the period of the activity of the company that could affect to their participation in the election process (Picture 2).



Picture 2. Period of functioning of respondents' companies

According to Picture 2, most companies could be characterized as small enterprises that has functioning less than 3 years that is 43.9% (68), also 38 companies (24.5%) have activities less than 5 years. Moreover, only 29 business structures or 18.7% of companies could be characterized as big companies with more than 10 years of experience and 20 companies has experience between 5-10 years.

Moreover, monthly turnover of business representatives also varies across respondents that is seen in Picture 3 below.



Picture 3. Monthly turnover of businesses

According to the data presented on the Picture 3, we can observe that most of businesses (56.8%) has turnover 5 million tenge (about 10,5 thousand Euros) or less (at least 2,100 Euros). It should be mentioned that only 11% of respondents has monthly turnover less than 21,141 Euros and 14.2% of businesses have monthly turnover at the level of 20,000 Euros.

That is our respondents represent average entrepreneur that has medium business and from various types of industries such as consulting, hospitality, groceries, real estate, tourism, cleaning, project management, engineering, construction, provision of various services to people. Further empirical analysis of survey results will be presented in Chapter 4. Moreover, data collection techniques include analysis of legal acts in the field of elections in Kazakhstan that considers process, regulations of involvement stakeholders in the election process, examination of previous elections in Kazakhstan. In addition, data collection was done on election funding in Kazakhstan, also information on current representation of business in the legislative body was done.

3.4 Reliability of the study and limitations

Validity and reliability are important concepts in the research study, where reliability refers to the stability of results that could be obtained in different circumstances. For instance, Brink (1991) states that results of this study could be interpreted again in another similar studies, thus reliability of the study mainly connected to correctly chosen research methods and defined variables.

However, according to Surucu and Maslakci (2020) the validity describes suitability of the application of methods and research results in specific conditions. A more applied definition of the concept of "validity" is a measure of the compliance of the methods and results of the study with the tasks set (op. cit.).

Consequently, both reliability and validity are crucial issues to consider for researchers, here the important step in writing research thesis is identification of research questions, objectives and ensure implementation of ethical research methods under established research protocol.

This thesis was written in order to ensure high level of validity and reliability since correct mechanisms of research writing was implemented. In order to reach purpose of the study researcher used data triangulation that is multiple research methods and techniques to collect data, thus both quantitative and qualitative analysis was done.

However, it should be mentioned that every research has its limitations and arise from factors such as the sample size, the methodology used, the availability of data, or the resources available to the researchers.

No doubts that this study also contained some limitation such as businesses participation in the election process could be hidden from official statistics and were obstacles to identify its impact in political decision.

Moreover, in this study one of the limitations was that previously in Kazakhstan business and limited information from governmental agencies could be obtained. Thus, it is also significance of the research that before Kazakhstani scholars did not study businesses participation in the election process and this work could contribute to the academic community of Kazakhstan.

4 EMPIRICAL ANALYSIS OF INVOLVEMENT OF BUSINESS IN THE ELECTION PROCESS

Chapter 4 covers empirical analysis of involvement of business in the election process that consist of examining election process in Kazakhstan, businesses' involvement in the election process of Kazakhstan in the context of latest elections of 2023. This chapter also contains analysis of regulations of Kazakhstani legal acts including previous amendments and its possible impact on democratization process of Kazakhstan.

Furthermore, discussion of survey results conducted among 155 business representatives in Kazakhstan was carried out in this chapter. In addition, Chapter 4 aims for conducting a PEST analysis of the election process is to identify the key political, economic, social, and technological factors that may affect the fairness, transparency, and effectiveness of the electoral process of Kazakhstan.

Overall, results and discussion of empirical analysis of involvement of business in the election process revealed some gaps to develop further recommendations that could improve participation of business stakeholder in the election process.

4.1 Election process in Kazakhstan

Election process in Kazakhstan is regulated by the Constitutional Law “On Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan” (1995) that indicates procedures of conduction elections at all levels such as elections of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, deputies of the Senate and Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, maslikhats, akims of districts, cities of regional significance, cities of district significance, villages, towns, rural districts and members of other local governments, as well as when recalling deputies of the Mazhilis of the Parliament and maslikhats elected in single-member territorial constituencies, and establishes guarantees that ensure the freedom of expression of the will of citizens of the Republic.

Constitutional Law (1995) establishes both direct and indirect elections of deputies to the parliament in Kazakhstan. The principle of direct suffrage is expressed in the fact that the President, deputies of the Majilis and maslikhats, members of local self-government bod-

ies of the Republic of Kazakhstan are directly elected by citizens. Indirect suffrage is explained as electors participate in the elections of deputies of the Senate, i.e., citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan who are deputies of maslikhats. Electors participate in the election of deputies of the Senate on an equal basis and each of the electors has one vote in the election of a deputy of the Senate. Passive suffrage in the election of deputies of the Senate at sessions of maslikhats is carried out with the restrictions established by the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan (Constitutional Law, 1995).

Moreover, according to the Constitutional Law (1995) Kazakhstani election system has the principle of voluntary participation of citizens in elections, thus no one has the right to influence the voter in order to force him to participate or not to participate in elections. It should be noted that freedom of expression during elections is also ensured by the fact that campaigning on election day is not allowed.

However, in the State nation address on 16 March, 2022 the Head of State outlined 10 areas of political reforms that require legislative support at the level of the Constitution and laws. Of these, 8 areas require appropriate amendments to the laws and some of them that connected to the elections will be discussed further (State-of-the-Nation Address, 2022a).

The first is amendments to Constitutional Law "On the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan" (1995), that reveals the following:

1. The introduction of restrictions for the President on membership in political parties during the presidency;
2. Imposing restrictions on close relatives of the President to occupy positions;
3. Changing the powers to appoint deputies of the Senate of the Parliament, chairmen of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Judicial Council;
4. Exclusion of the powers of the President in relation to local executive bodies to cancel acts, to dismiss akims of all levels from office;
5. Bringing into line with the new provisions of the Constitution, in particular regarding the term of office of the President, without the right to re-election (State-of-the-Nation Address, 2022a).

The Constitutional Law (1995) also had amendments such as:

1. Transfer of the quota of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan from the Mazhilis to the Senate;
2. Introduction of a mixed electoral system;
3. Revision of the procedure for consideration and adoption of laws in the chambers of Parliament (the possibility of overcoming the disapproval of the law by the Senate by the Majilis; consideration of urgent and constitutional laws at joint meetings);
4. Termination of the powers of a deputy elected on a party list by decision of the governing body of a political party;

The next law on Constitutional law (1995) considers transition to a mixed electoral system, as following: Mazhilis of the Parliament: according to party lists (70%) - 69 deputies, in single-mandate constituencies (30%) - 29 deputies, Maslikhats of regions: according to party lists (50%) - 15–20 deputies, in single-mandate constituencies (50%) - 15–20 deputies; Maslikhats of districts: only in single-mandate constituencies (100%) - 15–20 deputies. The boundaries of single-member constituencies are determined by the CEC and TEC.

This law also considered nomination and self-nomination of deputies that means self-nomination justified by the need to provide citizens with the opportunity to run outside the party field, whereas nomination by a political party is justified by the need to develop a party structure even in a majoritarian system. Nomination by a public association (similar to the nomination of the President).

In addition, to ensure democracy and transparency of work of deputy's imperative mandate (deputy recall) that regulates the reason is the loss of voters' confidence, as well as the non-fulfillment of the election program (Constitutional Law, 1995).

Initiation cannot be applied until the end of the first year and in the last year of the deputy. If the deputy's mandate is maintained, then the re-initiation of the recall cannot be earlier than one year later.

Procedure for recalling a deputy consists of following steps. First, registration of the initiator's application. Second, the collection of signatures of voters of the corresponding single-mandate constituency is carried out by the initiator within a month (at least 10% of voters). For example: if there are 1,126,854 voters in Almaty, then the initiator needs to collect sig-

natures of 112,685 voters within a month, which is 10 percent. If there are 1,162,994 voters in the Turkestan region, then the initiator needs signatures of 116,299 voters within a month.

Thirdly, if this number of signatures is collected, the relevant election commission decides to hold a vote to revoke the mandate

1. The vote is recognized as valid if more than 1/3 of the voters in the constituency participated;
2. When voting, to recall a deputy "FOR" more than 50% of the voters who participated in the voting must vote).

For example: voting on the recall of a deputy (self-nominated) of the Mazhilis of the Parliament from the Almaty region, who received 60,000 votes, must be attended by at least 20,000 voters, of which more than 10,000 votes must be "FOR".

When developing approaches to the imperative mandate, various alternative options were considered, including the implementation of the withdrawal of the mandate through the institution of an online petition.

But taking into account the unresolved issues related to technical equipment, the safety of personal data, ensuring the secrecy of voting, the readiness of election commissions, the cheating of votes, multiple voting, voting by voters from other districts, the above approach was chosen to ensure the legitimacy of voting when recalling the mandate of deputies.

In particular, in the Address, the Head of State gave instructions regarding the curtailment of the powers of the President, reformatting the representative branch of power, improving the electoral system, strengthening human rights institutions, and modernizing the electoral process. If we talk about parliamentary election, here Kazakhstan has mixed, majoritarian-proportional electoral system, which means that such system is used in the elections of the main composition of the Mazhilis as well as in the elections of the President, deputies of the Senate, maslikhats, local self-government bodies. When elections are held under this system a candidate who receives more than 50% of the votes of the voters is considered elected. If in the first round of voting there is no candidate who has received

the established percentage, then a second round of voting is held, in which two candidates, for whom the greater number of voters participated. Thus, the candidate who received more votes than the other candidate in the repeated voting is considered elected. In the case of repeated voting when the only candidate is running, he is considered elected if 50% of the number of voters who took part in the voting voted for him (Constitutional Law, 2023a).

According to the Law the main body to ensure fair election process in Kazakhstan is Central election commission (CEC) and its rights indicated in the law by more than 17 points. Moreover, the amount of budgetary funds allocated to finance the activities of political parties in Kazakhstan is determined in the law on the republican budget. The procedure for financing political parties is determined by the CEC. The funds of political parties are formed from entrance and membership fees, donations from citizens and non-governmental organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan, income from entrepreneurial activities and budgetary funds. It is not allowed to receive donations to a political party and its structural subdivisions from foreign states, foreign legal entities and international organizations, foreigners and stateless persons, legal entities with foreign participation, state bodies and state organizations, religious associations and charitable organizations, anonymous donors as well as from citizens or non-governmental organizations of the Republic of Kazakhstan receiving grants and other funds from international or foreign non-governmental organizations (Constitutional Law; Decree of the President of RK, 1996).

Furthermore, the procedure for financing political parties of Kazakhstan is regulated mainly on the basis of a by-law of the CEC such as the Rules for Financing Political Parties. Budgetary funds are distributed among political parties in proportion to the votes received and it could be used for the implementation of statutory goals with established restrictions. Thus, political parties are not entitled to use these funds for election campaigning, including paying for speeches in the media, holding public election events, issuing campaign materials, candidates' travel expenses, as well as for doing business, charity, they are not entitled to distribute funds between party members. Thus, only parties represented in the Mazhilis, are eligible for state funding, that was elected by a proportional electoral system with a seven percent barrier (Central Election Commission, 2023a).

In Kazakhstan, there are two types of financing of expenses for organizing and holding elections - from state and non-state sources. These funds include funding for campaign costs for candidates. The amount of voluntary donation limits is presented in Table below.

Table 1. Voluntary donation limits (Central Election Commission, 2023b).

Electoral fondies (MW – 127 Euro) for 2022	Own funds	Voluntary donations	Suggestions for voluntary dona- tions from	
			individuals	Legal entitles
Candidate for President of the Republic of Ka- zakhstan	1,5 mln euro	1,8 mln euro	12 074 euro	60 373 euro
Candidate for dep- uties of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan	24 149 euro	60 373 euro	3000 euro	6000 euro
Political parties (elec- tions to the Mazhilis)	603 371 euro	1,2 mln euro	12 074 euro	60 373 euro
self-nominated candi- date (Mazhilis)	24 149 euro	60 373 euro	3000 euro	6000 euro
Political party (elec- tions to maslikhats)	120 746 euro	241 492 euro	6000 euro	30 186 euro
Self-nominated candidate (mas- likhat) - regional	12 074 euro	24 149 euro	1207 euro	3000 euro
Self-nominated candidate (mas- likhat) - district	6000 euro	12 000 euro	603 euro	1811 euro

From table above it could be observed that Kazakhstani legislation also puts limits on donations to the election and business is under legal entities graph and their regulated donation's amount could be considered as low. Thus, it could be argued that business does not interfere highly to the election process.

Financial transparency of all participants in election campaigns is ensured in several ways such as the candidate and the political party submit to the election commission a report on the total amount of money and the amount of voluntary donations received by the fund, its sources, and campaign expenses.

Next, the candidate and the political party submit to the election commission information about the funds allocated for election campaigning in the media and social networks.

If we consider campaigning in social networks, there are 3 main blocks of amendments aimed to allow campaigning on social networks. First, securing the rights of candidates and political parties for campaigning on social media. Second, extending the competence of the CEC to determine the procedure for conducting pre-election campaigning on social networks. Third, the spread of the norm that the state guarantees equal allocation of funds to candidates for speaking with their programs not only in the media, but also in social networks (Central Election Commission, 2023a).

Overall, abovementioned election amendments show the trend of more democratic procedures of elections as well as gives opportunity to decrease obstacles for interested candidates to participate in election process. Moreover, by limiting the power of the President, government makes step forward in transition to parliamentary state and opportunities to the emergence of new diverse political parties.

4.2 Participation of business in the election process of Kazakhstan

It could be assumed that through analysis of funding we can observe the participation of business in election process of Kazakhstan. Last year President of Kazakhstan announced extraordinary elections of deputies of the Mazhilis of the Parliament and maslikhats of the Republic of Kazakhstan on March 19, 2023. President mentioned that holding these elections will be the step forward to the democratization and the distinctive feature of these elections is that deputies of the Mazhilis and maslikhats of all levels will be elected on the same day,

while two systems are used simultaneously - proportional (according to party lists) and majoritarian (according to single-mandate constituencies) (President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's State of the Nation Address, 2022b).

Kazakhstanis elected 98 Majilis deputies, 69 of them from party lists, 29 from single-mandate constituencies. Seven political parties were admitted to the elections to the Majilis and 283 candidates from these parties. There were 435 candidates in single-mandate constituencies, their names are included in other ballots, each constituency has its own candidates (Central Election Commission, 2023a).

The parties are:

1. Amanat Party.
2. People's Democratic Patriotic Party "Auyl" (PDPP "Auyl").
3. Republican Party.
4. People's Party of Kazakhstan (NPK).
5. Kazakhstan Green Party "Baytak".
6. Democratic Party of Kazakhstan "Ak Zhol" (DPK "Ak Zhol").
7. National Social Democratic Party (OSDP) (Central Election Commission, 2023c).

From CEC databases we can analyze the funds of participated parties as it seen from Table below.

Table 2. Funding of political parties (Central Election Commission, 2023c).

№	Name of events	Name of political parties						
		"AMANAT"	"Auyl"	"Respublica"	People's Party of Kazakhstan	Kazakhstan Green Party "Baytak"	"Ak Zhol"	National Social Democratic Party
1	Receipts of funds to the electoral fund of a political party, including	2220, 00 euro	1596,2 euro	791,2 euro	971,1 euro	114,5 euro	1280 euro	443,5 euro
1.1	Own funds of political parties to the electoral fund (according to paragraph 1, paragraph 2 of Article 92-1 of	740 euro	697,6 euro	717,3 euro	211,4 euro	114,5 euro	664,9 euro	422,4 euro

	the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan")							
1.2	Voluntary donations of citizens and organizations of the Republic (according to paragraph 2, paragraph 2 of Article 92-1 of the Constitutional Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan"), including	1480 euro	898,6 euro	73,9 euro	759,7 euro	0,0 euro	615,0	21,14 euro
1.2.1	Voluntary donations from citizens	629,8 euro	6,4 euro	0,0 euro	759,7 euro	0,0 euro	585,4 euro	21,14 euro
1.2.2	Voluntary donations from organizations of the Republic	850,0 euro	892,1 euro	73,9 euro	0,0 euro	0,0 euro	29,5 euro	0,0 euro

On Table above the report on donations and spending on electoral issues of participated parties is presented. Here 1.1 is own funds of political parties to the electoral fund, whereas 1.2 - voluntary donations of citizens and organizations of the Republic, 1.3 -voluntary donations from citizens and 1.4 is voluntary donations of organizations of the country. Thus, donations of business could be calculated through 1.2 and 1.4 among the parties.

It is observed that the most funded political party was "Amanat" with budget 2 220,00 euros and only 740,0 euros of it is own funds of political party, whereas voluntary donations of organizations of the country citizens was 629,8 euro and from organizations comes 850,0 euro.

Then "Ayul" party has funding in the amount of 1596,2 euro, here is the similar situation and most of funds come from voluntary donations of organizations and donations of citizens 6,4 euro, here 892,1 euro is received from organizations.

The next party "Ak zhol" is funded mostly from own funds 664,9 euro out of 1,280 euro, others are funded by donations of citizens 585,4 euro and only 29,5 euro comes from organizations, thus it could be considered that participation of business is small in "Ak zhol" party's activities.

Whereas if we look to the funding of newly formed party “Republic” that consist mainly from business actors, it could be seen that it is self-funded party and 717,3 euro out of 791,2 euro is own party’s funding. Thus, only 73,9 euro is from organizations. This trend could be explained by the fact that new parties need time to gain trust of citizens and organization, thus should achieve proposed goals and probably in future elections “Republic” party will gain more donations. However, this party comes from business actors and here is significant influence of business in further political decision could be observed.

Given that the funds allocated to the parties from the state budget are distributed among them in proportion to the votes received, a significant share of these funds is received by the country's largest party “Amanat”. For this party, state funding is the most significant, but its share in the structure of all revenues is less than half. Thus, the dominant party in Kazakhstan is less dependent on state funding. Moreover, funding situation of parties could be described as differentiated, however, in analyzing further results of parliamentary elections hypothesis on connection between party funding and elections results could be made.

In order to analyze the impact of funding of business in the election process, next the election results should be examined (Table 3).

Table 3. Results of parliamentary elections 2023 (Central Election Commission, 2023c).

Deputies	Number of deputies	%
Total deputies	98	100.00
including:		
Men	80	81.63
Women	18	18.37
By specialty:		
Teachers	18	18.37
Doctors	2	2.04
Economists	16	16.33
Lawyers	16	16.33
political scientists	4	4.08
Engineers (energy, builders, mechanics, technicians)	15	15.31

Agricultural workers (agronomists, live-stock specialists, veterinarians and others)	3	3.06
Other specialties	19	19.39
Journalists	5	5.10
By class group:		
Deputies of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan	19	19.40
Employees of central authorities and ministries	2	2.04
Employees of state enterprises, institutions, organizations	5	5.10
Employees of akims and maslikhats	2	2.04
Employees of commercial structures	19	19.39
Journalists	3	3.06
Workers of science, culture and education	10	10.20
Temporarily not working	1	1.02
Other	28	28.57
Akims, deputy akim	2	2.04
Employees of political parties and NGOs	7	7.14

According to Table 3 it could be said that working field of deputies only 19.39% (19) of them come from the commercial structures, this number is similar to re-elected deputies' number that is also 19 deputies. Moreover, representation of NGOs and workers of political parties is also low and its only 7 deputies out of 98.

The next total distribution of deputies among political parties should be analyzed in order to gain total picture of the situation (Table 4).

Table 4. Distribution of deputies among political parties (Central Election Commission, 2023c).

Nominated:	Number	%
Total		
including:		
Self-nomination	7	7.14

Party "AMANAT"	62	63.27
NDPP "Aul"	8	8.16
DPK "Ak Zhol"	6	6.12
Republican Party	6	6.12
NPK	5	5.10
NSDP	4	4.08

According to the data on Table 4, it could be observed that most places in the legislative body of Kazakhstan are taken by the most funded political party “Amanat”, thus this party had highest number of voluntary donations from citizens and organizations. Whereas other parties had average 6 places in the parliament. For instance, Republican Party is consisted for business actors who promoted protection the rights of business in Kazakhstan and they mostly self-funded, however, they won only 6 places.

Thus, it could be assumed that there is high correlation between funding amount in the election process and successive election results. However, parliamentary elections of 2023 were the first time when businesses Republican Party registered and started their campaign, as a result gained 6 places. Even though there are other political parties such as “Ak Zhol” or “Aul” that has long time of existence, however, gained almost similar number of places as Republican Party. Therefore, high interest of businesses’ involvement in the election process could be observed and Kazakhstani political situation is changing towards diverse political culture and democratization.

4.3 Results and analysis

The reason for conducting a PEST analysis of the election process is to identify the key political, economic, social, and technological factors that may affect the fairness, transparency, and effectiveness of the electoral process. This analysis can provide valuable insights into the broader context in which elections take place and the factors that may influence voter behavior, campaign strategies, and election outcomes.

At the initial stage, it is important to highlight the main environmental factors that have a significant impact on the area under consideration. The positive outcomes of conducting

PEST analysis of participation business in the election process is to identify policy decisions, increasing stakeholders' engagement by examining various factors that affect election process.

Table 5. PEST analysis.

PEST analysis	
P-Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal and regulatory framework - Law on elections, funding, political parties - Election commission activities that oversee and regulates election process as well as further complaints - Transparency of government - Transparency of political campaigns and their funding - Stability of political situation in the country - Power of political parties in making decisions and influencing them - Geopolitical situation - International relations of the government
E-Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding of political campaigns - State budget to fund political parties - Economic stability in the country - Welfare of citizens that impact on voters' choice during election - The role of stakeholders such as business or NGOs in shaping citizens' opinion - Poverty and economic inequality among citizens that affect their choice and perception
S-Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The societal structure and culture that affect voters' opinion - Demographics - Diversity of political parties

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Media and social networks in shaping citizens' opinions - Ongoing serious social problems that affect voters' behavior
T-Technological	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Online voting - Digital tools of political campaign - Social media tools - Cybersecurity - Blockchain technologies to protect collected data - Infrastructure for technological development of election process

It could be argued that currently Kazakhstan has made amendments to the legislation in the field of election process, thus there are social factor such as demographics, welfare of citizens as well as social media tools that could affect involvement of business in the election process and voters' participation since it could increase stakeholders' trust in government.

Moreover, technological factors such as online voting, digital tools of political campaigns and cybersecurity could make election process more transparent and attract more businesses to involve in this process. It should be mentioned that election commission activities that oversee and regulates election process as well as further complaints is crucial in managing expectations of stakeholders' since they could disagree with election results and should be able to receive adequate feedback from the state bodies. In case of absence of constant interaction or feedback from state bodies social media tools could be used to disseminate negative perception among people and destabilize societal structure.

According to PEST-analysis funding of political campaigns could lead to power of political parties in making decisions that is intertwined with welfare of citizens, economic stability and the society as a whole. It could be also said that social factor on ongoing serious social problems that affect voters' behavior also connected with political and economic stability in the country, thus in case of business focuses on these problems voters tend to change perception towards business parties.

Furthermore, in case of stable political situation in the country business could have all necessary opportunities to develop own business and increase profit, thus they possibly will make more contributions to the political parties or will create their own party in order to protect their interests and enhance citizens' welfare, as a result create diverse political situation in the country.

According to Table above main political, economic, social and technological factors that affect businesses participation in the election process could be observed. This analytical tool is crucial in increasing awareness of policymakers to identify what affect election process, as well as ensures transparency of the election process and lead to more effective policy decisions, and greater resilience against potential risks and challenges.

The next part of analysis chapter will consider the results of survey among businesses in Kazakhstan. Survey was conducted among 155 business representatives aged from 18 to over 50. The survey was conducted online using Google-forms platform and respondents were asked about their attitude towards election process in Kazakhstan and overall, their opinions and experience in the election process.

The results of the survey indicated that Kazakhstani government did not create all necessary conditions for businesses to participate in the election process, 52.9% of respondents agreed on this, whereas 46 (29.7%) respondents reported that government creates all necessary conditions for business as it could be seen in picture below.

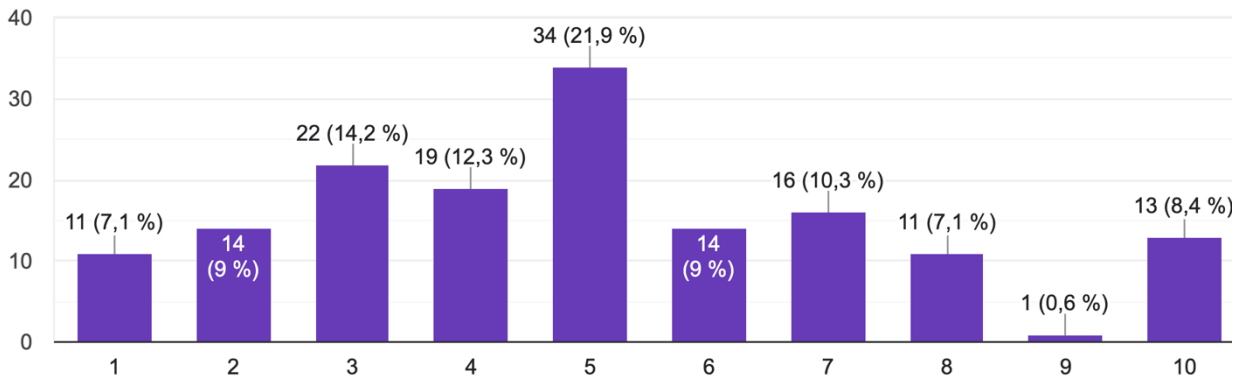


Picture 4. Necessary conditions for the involvement of business.

The question on necessary conditions for the involvement business in the election process of Kazakhstan reveals gaps in this system that should be taken into account in further elections. It should be mentioned that 69% (107) of respondents reported that there is high need of businesses' involvement in the election process and only 25 respondents disagreed with this. Therefore, it could be argued that in case of creation all necessary comfortable conditions for business to participate in the election process, the political culture of Kazakhstan would become more diverse and business as a main stakeholder could positively impact economic situation in the country.

Furthermore, respondents showed own high participation rate in the election process of Kazakhstan that was conducted in March 2023 and before, their participation rate was 63.2% and 71.6% respectively, thus it shows us high interest of business representatives in election process of Kazakhstan.

Moreover, the survey revealed how business representatives access degree of their involvement in the election process of Kazakhstan as it represented in picture below.



Picture 5. Assessment of the involvement of the business in the election process.

From Picture 5, it could be seen that the degree of involvement of business in the election process is medium or low (1-5) rather than high (5-10), this could happen since mostly big businesses involve in the election process and small or medium business have limited opportunities to donate or support political parties.

However, according to scale 1 to 5 (1 means low level of trust, 5 means high level of trust) their trust to the electoral process in Kazakhstan also showed uncertain trends such as 43

respondents marked it at 3, 60 people marked at level 1-2 and only 23 respondents assessed it as high 5 level. Overall trend of degree of trust correlates with results of questions on the degree of involvement of business.

In order to study the question: "What influences the involvement of business in the electoral process?" the author found out what difficulties business representatives may face if they participate in the electoral process.

Thus, the survey results showed that the main reason is low confidence in the electoral process in the country, this answer was chosen by 38.1% or 59 respondents;

31.6% or 49 of those polled believe that there are "unequal starting conditions compared to existing parties". This indicator indicates that it is difficult for business to compete with existing political parties that are firmly rooted and financially strong enough. Consequently, there is a need to revise the conditions for business participation in the electoral process. A clear need has been identified for changing the legislation regarding the representation of business communities in political parties.

In addition, 23.2% or 36 respondents agreed that they "do not have enough money to participate in the elections." Often, even those businessmen who want to improve the economic and political situation in the country do not have sufficient funds to participate in elections. Therefore, it becomes necessary to review the conditions for self-nominated candidates by lowering the minimum threshold for mandatory contributions.

The high level of bureaucracy in the electoral process also caused the low involvement or unwillingness of businesses to participate in the electoral race (35 respondents, 22%). It is necessary to switch to an electronic format for collecting documents for candidates; for this, Kazakhstan now has all the conditions. Unfortunately, 15.5% or 24 respondents believe that any novellas will not change anything.

In order to answer the research question "Why does business need to be involved in the electoral process?" Top three answers to the question "What positive effect is expected from the involvement of business in the electoral process?" divided as follows: 51 respondents, who accounted for 32.9% of the total number of 155 respondents, believe that the main positive effect of involving business in the electoral process will be an increase in the

level of the country's economy; 34 respondents (21.9%) believe that this will help improve the conditions for business development; and 20.6% of respondents (32 respondents) chose all the proposed options, and these are: in addition to the two above - increasing the level of democratization of the country (18.7%), increasing the level of participation of citizens in the electoral process (15.5%), the ability to protect the rights business in the country's legislative branch (16.8%), increasing the transparency of elections (11%). The remaining 8.3% in the aggregate were divided between the answers "I don't know", "None of the above", "No comment".

The conducted survey answers the research question "Why does business need to be involved in the electoral process?" and as we can see, the survey shows a positive trend among the respondents. The main answer is to increase the level of the country's economy. On table below the impact of businesses participation in the election process could be observed:

Table 6. The impact of businesses participation in the election process.

Answers	Quantity of answers
Raising the level of the country's economy	51
Increasing the level of democratization in the country	29
Increasing the level of citizens' participation in the electoral process	24
The opportunity to protect the rights of business in the legislative branch of government of the country	26
Improving the conditions for business development in the country	34
Increasing the level of election transparency	17

All of the above	32
None of the above	10

According to the results from Table above, it could be said that most businesses participate in the election since it improves their conditions for the development in the county and 34 respondents reported on this, as well as businesses interested in the development of the economy of the country (54 choices) and protection of their rights in the legislative branch of the state (26). Therefore, it correlates with the findings within theoretical part of the thesis.

Moreover, according to the results of survey business representatives agree that their participation in the election process will lead to democratization process and creates more diversity of political parties (29). Overall, businesses want to protect their rights and since they see low participation rate in the election process, survey shows high participation rate in case of creation adequate opportunities for them to involve in the election process.

Furthermore, respondents reported on existing barriers that hinders their participation in the election process of Kazakhstan as following:

- Limited legislative regulation. Possible restrictions on financial support of political campaigns or on participation in campaigns by private campaigns – 44;
- Risks that may lead to negative consequences for business – 32;
- Lack of time and resources. Participation in the electoral process may require significant time and financial resources – 32;
- Lack of awareness. Many business leaders may not have enough information about how to participate in the electoral process and how their participation can influence the political process – 31;
- Reputational risks. Participation in the electoral process can damage the reputation of business companies if their political views do not meet the expectations of their customers or partners – 9;

- All of the above – 20;
- None of the above – 8;

From the list above, it could be said that legislation of Kazakhstan limits their opportunities to participate in the election process, as well as informational work of the state on their possibilities to participate in the election process as business stakeholder is not implemented in enough amount. Moreover, as it was said in the literature review part, most barriers for business to participate in the election process is because of threats to their business as well as time resources that are not enough and reputational risks.

Thus, majority of results of the survey showed the correlation with theoretical analysis that was done before and showed similar results of previous studies, however, this study was carried out in the Kazakhstani context.

One of the research questions of the topic of this study is the question, “How to improve the involvement or their participation in the election process?” and for its study, the respondents had to answer the question of what needs to be done to successfully involve business in the electoral process.

25.8% (40) respondents reported on the importance of transparency and openness of business leaders in order to avoid the perception of their participation in the electoral process as secretive and corrupt activities, whereas there is also high level of choices of cooperation of business leaders with other political forces, government agencies, non-governmental organizations for common goals and ways to achieve them as 37 respondents supported this recommendation.

Moreover, almost similar picture could be seen on electoral training of business leaders’ participation of business leaders in various communities to represent the interests and needs of their clients and employees, 33 and 35 responses respectively.

Furthermore, on question “Whether it is necessary to introduce amendments and additions to the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding the participation of business entities in the electoral process?” the majority of respondents agreed on this issue. The answer "Yes" was presented by 67.1% or 100 respondents, 14.1% or 21 people answered in the negative

and 18.8% or 28 of the respondents expressed their desire to abstain. In addition, to the open question “Are there any proposals and recommendations for involving business in the electoral process in Kazakhstan?” the majority also answered about the need to change the existing legislation.

Summing up, we can say that the survey turned out to be quite deep, revealed answers to the research questions posed and showed in which direction it is necessary to go in order to correctly involve business in the electoral process. In addition, the results of survey revealed attitudes of business towards the election process in Kazakhstan and suggests that business representatives support involvement in the election process as they have aims to protect businesses’ rights in the legislative branch of the state as well as make contribution to the economy of the country. In addition, survey results gave opportunity to answer question on the impact of involvement business to the election process, as well as their needs to be involved to the election process, some recommendations on improving the involvement or their participation in the election process were suggested that could have positive impact on policy development.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Election process is complex issue that involves various stakeholders that play crucial role in ensuring transparency, legitimacy and fairness of elections as well as good governance in the country. Considering the fact that business is one of the main stakeholders of the election process, there is still need to clarify impact of businesses' involvement in the election process of Kazakhstan in the context of effective governance and role in political and economic development. There is need to gain comprehensive reasons of business involvement in the election cycle, identify pros and cons, tactics of their involvement as well as understand whether business need to be involved or not.

The main purpose of the study is to evaluate participation of business in the election process in case of Kazakhstan, examine its role and impact on the democratization process and develop practical recommendations. In order to reach the main purpose of the study answer research questions theoretical aspects, impact of businesses' involvement in the election process as well as international experience were analyzed. Moreover, current situation of business' participation in the election process in Kazakhstan including legal framework, funding of political parties and their motives of involvement business in election process were analyzed based on survey results and PEST analysis.

The thesis revealed main impact of business to participate in the election process as increase in the level of the country's economy, improving the conditions for business development, increasing the level of democratization of the country and ability to protect the rights business in the country's legislative branch. Moreover, in developing recommendations for business involvement in the election process results of PEST analysis that revealed various social, political, economic, and technological factors that also should be considered.

5.1 Recommendations

Within the framework of the thesis, based on the results of survey, PEST analysis and study on international experience, the following recommendations to increase participation of business in the election process could be suggested by enhancing importance of transparency and openness of business leaders in order to avoid the perception of their participation in the electoral process as secretive and corrupt activities. For instance, considering US experience

business could contribute to political campaigns through Political action committee and in order to remove lobbying activities political parties should provide transparent information on donations. However, the business in the US is highly developed and collaborate with government agencies, make networks with other businesses as well as could form strong trade associations to protect own interest. Therefore, by for businesses is crucial to work together with other stakeholders in enhancing own positions that as a result would lead to the strong political system and diversity of political parties in the legislative branch of the government as well as transparent and democratic elections. Even though there should be balance in managing stakeholders of the election process since business with high profit or revenues could use own resources to lobby own interests and lead to corruption risks that weakens democratic process in the country, thus, there also should be representatives of small and medium business that according to survey findings highly interested in being actively involved in the elections process of Kazakhstan and currently experience barriers in implementing it. As the survey results revealed small and medium businesses agreed on willingness to participate in the election process and see opportunities for economic growth in the country and protection of their interests in the legislative branch. Thus, following recommendations could increase businesses' participation in the election process:

1. Governmental authorized election state bodies should work on openness and raising awareness of business on election process. Electoral trainings for business leaders on the importance of participation in the election process as they are crucial stakeholders in country's economic and political development could be organized. Training through seminars and workshops will increase awareness and knowledge on election process in the country as well as decrease negative perception on the election process;
2. Business could cooperate with other business leaders, political forces, government agencies, non-governmental organizations to increase impact of business in the election process since in stakeholders' collaboration they will be focused on common goals and ways to achieve them;
3. Promote campaigns in the media that could undermine businesses reputational risks, thus state bodies should change perception of businesses on the election process and show its transparency and fairness by supporting initiatives of businesses to involve in the election process. In addition, during election process

business actors could have opportunity to advertise more in the election process through media tools;

4. According to survey result main reason for business to participate in the election process is to protect own interests and get opportunities to develop own business in the country, as a result business wants to make contribution to the economic growth of the country. Government should establish good relationship with business and hear their suggestions or proposal on various policy decisions on constant basis. As a result, it will decrease barriers and obstacles between government and business when business will experience positive policy decisions on their interested issues and in case of observance business friendly environment in the country.

Overall, for state bodies more informational campaigns on legal regulation of the elections should be implemented on constant basis, thus gap between government and business will be decreased and further activities on democratization process and efficient involvement of stakeholders will be carried out.

5.2 Conclusion

Election process is the main pillar of democratization process that ensures fundamental human rights stated in the Constitution, every citizen of the country has right to participate in decision-making process of the state. In addition, election process involves participation of different stakeholders such as citizens, NGOs, international organizations or business actors that gives opportunity for emergence of political pluralism, transparency and fair elections.

Business sector is the main driver of the economy as well as takes part in creation of workplaces and provision of public services to citizens, thus it takes crucial part in the election process since decisions of the legislative branch directly affect their business activities, makes it better or worse. Therefore, in developed countries there is high level of business involvement in the election process, whereas Kazakhstan is only on the way formation this model.

Within the scope of the thesis main purpose of the study was identified as to evaluate participation of business in the election process in case of Kazakhstan and develop practical recommendations and main as it could be observed in table below.

Table 7. Main results of the thesis.

Research questions	Research method used	Results
1. What impact of involvement business to the election process?	Survey of 155 private company representatives, literature review	<p>1. The result showed that due to low confidence in the results of elections, business tends not to get involved in the electoral process. It follows that one solution to this problem could be the introduction of electronic voting. This would make the electoral process more transparent and increase voter confidence.</p> <p>2. Secondly, the result showed that business, although willing to participate in the electoral process, still tends to believe that there is a large gap of financial opportunities between the existing political parties. The study showed that there is a need for amendments and additions to the electoral legislation in terms of mandatory representation of business in Parliament.</p> <p>3. The results of survey showed that there is lack of awareness of businesses on the election process that arises gaps in involving business in the election process. Many business leaders do not have enough information about how to participate in the electoral process and how their participation can influence the political process.</p>

<p>2. Why business needs to be involved to the election process?</p>	<p>Study of international experience, literature review, PEST analysis, survey of 155 business representatives</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. According to the survey results conducted among 155 businesses showed interest in involving in the election process in order to protect their interests and rights in the legislative body of the state that will positively impact the economic situation in the country as well as expansion of business sector. It should be mentioned that according to the international experience and theoretical framework business plays key role in governance and economy of the country, thus governmental bodies should work together. 2. The thesis results showed that state and business are highly intertwined with each other as one united organism in ensuring stable socio-economic and political-ideological characteristics, thus the closer ties of state-business results in better interaction. It could happen since connection between business and political parties are based on the form of financial support of parties and individual candidates, allocating funds to hold election campaigns. 3. As it was studied, funding of political parties is the main tool for business's participation in the election process, thus more profitable campaigns have better opportunities to impact on election outcomes and on political decisions that could made in favor to them. This could result in the monopoly of businesses in the election process and close opportunities for medium and small sized business representatives that could suffer from further political decisions. 4. According to the results of PEST analysis it is seen that the most important factors are political fac-
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		<p>tors because the form the policy environment to participating of business in the election process, which show which is more evidence by literature review as well.</p> <p>5. According to the results of PEST analysis there are social factor such as demographics, welfare of citizens as well as social media tools that could affect involvement of business in the election process and voters' participation since it could increase stakeholders' trust in government.</p> <p>6. Furthermore, in case of stable political situation in the country business could have all necessary opportunities to develop own business and increase profit, thus they possibly will make more contributions to the political parties or will create their own party in order to protect their interests and enhance citizens' welfare, as a result create diverse political situation in the country.</p>
3. How to improve the involvement or their participation in the election process?	Study of international experience, literature review, PEST analysis, survey of business representatives	<p>1. The study results showed that whereas there is need of collaboration of stakeholders involved in the election process to reach better results and make political culture more diverse. Thus, considering stakeholder's theory business leaders should cooperate with other political forces, government agencies, non-governmental organizations for common goals and ways to achieve them.</p> <p>2. . Both literature review and survey results showed that there is high importance of transparency and openness of election process to avoid the perception of business participation in the electoral process as secretive and corrupt activities. Thus, government</p>

		<p>should make attempts to make election process more transparent and fair that will result in high level of business participation and trust to the government.</p> <p>3. To ensure participation of different sizes of business representatives, the state should provide equal opportunities for both big, medium and small sized businesses. It could be done by holding awareness raising campaigns by authorized body in the elections process as well as members of the Parliament. It could be done in forms of electoral trainings for business leaders on the importance of participation in the election process as they are crucial stakeholders in country's economic and political development could be organized.</p> <p>4. According to PEST analysis it is seen that economical factor plays a crucial role such as funding of political campaigns could lead to power of political parties in making decisions that is intertwined with welfare of citizens, economic stability, and the society.</p>
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It was implemented by analyzing theoretical aspects of involvement of business in the election process, studying international experience of involvement businesses in the election process, impact of businesses' involvement in the election process on political decisions and examining current situation of business' participation in the election process in Kazakhstan including legal framework. The thesis tried to answer questions on the impact of involvement business to the election process, thus, according to conducted survey it is development of the economic situation in the country, improvement the conditions for business development in the country and protection of own interest of the business.

Moreover, it was identified that during the election process most funded political party takes more places in the legislative branch of Kazakhstani government, similar situation could be observed in the international community. Even though Kazakhstan regulates funding of political parties by limits of donations, there are still uncertainties in this issue

and funding by businesses in lobbying their interests is still unclear in Kazakhstani situation. It should be mentioned in Kazakhstan businesses involvement in the election process is newly emerged term that could be seen from last parliamentary election 2023, Republican party consisted of business actors won 6 places in the legislative branch.

Furthermore, there are both pros and cons for business to be involved in the election process, even if business can lobby own interests, have power to influence political decision or even promote own candidacy in achieving own goals. However, in post-Soviet countries businesses used to be afraid of participating in election process since of fear of losing their business. Moreover, businesses could have no human, time or funding resources to participate in the election, thus this issue is controversial and depends on the own perspectives of business or its owner. It should be mentioned that according to survey results among 155 business representatives, there is high interest of further involvement in the election process to protect their rights and promote own ideas to improve opportunities of business development and this is positive trend for further democratization process in Kazakhstan.

5.3 Suggestions for further study

In this study, the main stakeholder of the electoral process under consideration was business. The study revealed that businesses are interested in being involved in the electoral process, but still do it not as actively as they would like for a number of reasons that were voiced in the work. However, for further study of this issue, there is a need to study all other stakeholders of the electoral process: the population, the state, independent organizations, political parties for the need to involve the business community in the electoral process. It would be very important to study the opinion of such major international election observation organizations as: the OSCE, the SCO, the Commonwealth of Independent States, which are actively involved in the electoral process.

The recommended future studies can show the point of view of all stakeholders, thus it will help to draw further conclusions about the need for changes or additions to the electoral legislation, to more clearly identify the role of business in government.

In addition, further study of international experience in terms of the number of business representatives in various government bodies is recommended. How business participates in

government, what are the advantages or disadvantages of its participation or non-participation. To do this, there is a need to study the electoral bodies of other countries by conducting a survey, interviews.

This will help to delve deeper into the problem under study and reveal a clear picture on this topic. In addition, there is a need to study the minimum number of business representatives necessary for the effective functioning of parliament, and an important aspect would be to study the sectors of the economy from which business is present. But all this can only be shown by a deeper study of all interested stakeholders. From this we can conclude that this topic has every opportunity for further study. Given that each state is interested in its successful development, the role of business as one of the engines of the country's progress plays a very decisive role. This means that business should be studied by the state, business should always be heard by the state and the population can be heard through business representatives in Parliament.

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APPENDICES

Survey questionnaire

Бизнес-қауымдастық басшыларына арналған сауалнама.

Құрметті бизнес-қоғамдастықтың өкілі!

Сізден Қазақстандағы сайлау процесіне Бизнесінің тартылуын зерделеу тақырыбындағы зерттеу аясында жүргізілетін сауалнамаға қатысуыңызды сұраймыз.

Зерттеу нәтижелері ғылыми мақалалар жазу кезінде, сондай-ақ бизнесінің Қазақстандағы сайлау процесіне тартылу деңгейін арттыру бойынша ұсынымдар дайындау кезінде пайдаланылатын болады.

Бұл сауалнама сіздің уақытыңыздың 7-10 минутынан басталады. Алынған деректердің анонимділігіне кепілдік беріледі. Қатысқаныңыз үшін рахмет.

Сұрақтар туындаған жағдайда төменде көрсетілген байланыстар бойынша хабарласуыңызды сұраймыз.

Құрметпен, Линара Әкешова.

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e-mail: l.akeshova@apa.kz

Анкета опроса для руководителей бизнес-сообществ.

Уважаемый представитель бизнес-сообщества!

Просим Вас принять участие в опросе, который проводится в рамках исследования на тему: Изучение вовлеченности бизнеса в избирательный процесс в Казахстане.

Результаты исследования будут использованы при написании научных статей, а также подготовки рекомендаций по повышению уровня вовлеченности бизнеса в избирательный процесс в Казахстане.

Данный опрос займет от 7-10 минут Вашего времени. Анонимность полученных данных гарантируется. Благодарим за участие.

В случае возникновения вопросов просим обращаться по указанным ниже контактам.

С уважением, Линара Акешова.

Телефон: + 7 (747) 222 66 87

e-mail: l.akeshova@apa.kz

Survey questionnaire for business community leaders.

Dear representative of the business community!

We ask you to take part in the survey, which is conducted as part of the research on the topic: Studying the involvement of business in the electoral process in Kazakhstan.

The results of the study will be used in writing scientific articles, as well as preparing recommendations for increasing the level of business involvement in the electoral process in Kazakhstan.

This survey will take from 7-10 minutes of your time. Anonymity of the received data is guaranteed. Thank you for participating.

If you have any questions, please contact the contacts listed below.

Sincerely, Linara Akeshova.

Phone: + 7 (747) 222 66 87

e-mail: l. akeshova@apa.kz

1 бөлім. Бизнестің жалпы сипаттамалары/ Часть 1. Общие характеристики бизнеса/ Part 1. General characteristics of the business

1. Жасыңызды көрсетіңіз?/Укажите Ваш возраст?/ Specify your age?

- 18-35 жас /лет/ years old
- 35-45 жас/лет/ years old
- 45-55 жас/лет/ years old
- 55 жастан асқан/старше 55/over 55 years old

2. Жұмыс істеп тұрған бизнесіңіздің аймағын көрсетіңіз/ Укажите регион Вашего действующего бизнеса/ Specify the region of your current business:

- Астана қаласы/ город Астана/ Astana city
- Алматы қаласы/ город Алматы/ Almaty city
- Шымкент қаласы/ город Шымкент/ Shymkent city
- Абай облысы /Абайская область/ Abay region
- Алматы облысы/Алматинская область/ Almaty region
- Ақмола облысы/ Акмолинская область / Akmola region
- Ақтөбе облысы/Актюбинская область/ Aktobe region
- Атырау облысы/Атырауская область/ Atyrau region
- Шығыс Қазақстан облысы /Восточно-Казахстанская область/ East Kazakhstan region
- Жамбыл облысы /Жамбылская область/ Zhambyl region
- Жетісу облысы /Жетысуйская область/ Zhetysu region
- Батыс Қазақстан облысы /Западно-Казахстанская область/ West Kazakhstan region
- Қарағанды облысы/Карагандинская область/ Karaganda region
- Қостанай облысы /Костанайская область/ Kostanay region
- Қызылорда облысы/Кызылординская область/ Kyzylorda region
- Маңғыстау облысы /Мангистауская область/ Mangystau region
- Павлодар облысы/ Павлодарская область/ Pavlodar region
- Солтүстік Қазақстан облысы /Северо-Казахстанская область/ North Kazakhstan region
- Түркістан облысы /Туркестанская область/ Turkestan region
- Ұлытау облысы/Улытауская область/ Ulytau region

3. Сіздің компанияңыздың қызмет ету мерзімі?/Период деятельности Вашей компании?/ The period of activity of your company?

- 3 жылға дейін/ до 3 лет/ up to 3 years old
- 5 жылға дейін/до 5 лет/ up to 5 years old

- 10 жылға дейін / до 10 лет/ up to 10 years old
- 10 жылдан астам /более 10 лет/ more than 10 years

4. Сіздің компанияңыз кәсіпкерлік субъектілерінің қандай мәртебесіне жатады?/ К какому статусу субъектов предпринимательства относится Ваша компания?/ What is the status of business entities your company belongs to?

- микробизнес (15 қызметкерге дейін)/ микробизнес (до 15 работников)/ microbusiness (up to 15 employees);
- шағын бизнес (15-тен 20-ға дейін жұмысшы)/ малый бизнес (от 15 до 20 работников)/ small business (from 15 to 20 employees);
- орташа бизнес (50-ден 250-ге дейін жұмысшы)/ средний бизнес (от 50 до 250 работников)/ medium-sized business (from 50 to 250 employees);
- ірі бизнес (250 және одан да көп қызметкерден)/ крупный бизнес (от 250 и более работников)/ large business (250 or more employees).

5. Сіздің компанияңыз жататын экономикалық қызмет түрлерінің жалпы жіктеуішіне (ЭҚЖЖ) сәйкес экономика саласын көрсетіңіз / Укажите отрасль экономики согласно общего классификатора видов экономической деятельности (ОКЭД) к которой относится ваша компания/ Specify the branch of the economy according to the general classifier of types of economic activity (OKED) to which your company belongs:

- Ауыл, орман және балық шаруашылығы/ сельское, лесное и рыбное хозяйство/ agriculture, forestry and fisheries;
- Тау-кен өнеркәсібі және карьерлерді қазу / горнодобывающая промышленность и разработка карьеров/ mining and quarrying;
- Тамақ және сусындар өндірісі / производство продуктов питания и напитков/ food and beverage production;
- Жеңіл өнеркәсіп /легкая промышленность/ light industry;
- Химия өнеркәсібі /химическая промышленность/ chemical industry;
- Фармацевтика өнеркәсібі /фармацевтическая промышленность/ pharmaceutical industry;
- Құрылыс материалдарын өндіру / производство строительных материалов/ production of building materials;
- Металлургия және металл өңдеу / металлургия и металлообработка/ metallurgy and metalworking;
- Машина жасау /машиностроение/ mechanical engineering;
- Құрылыс /строительство/ construction;
- Сауда / торговля/trading;
- Көлік және қоймалау (оның ішінде курьерлік қызметтер, автокөлікті жалға алу)/ Транспорт и складирование (в том числе курьерские службы, аренда авто)/ transportation and warehousing (including courier services, car rental);
- Тұру бойынша қызмет көрсету (қонақ үйлер, тұрғын үйді жалға алу)/ предоставление услуг по проживанию (гостиницы, аренда жилья)/ provision of accommodation services (hotels, rental housing);
- Тамақтану қызметтерін ұсыну (мейрамханалар, кафелер, тамақ жеткізу)/ предоставление услуг по питанию (рестораны, кафе, доставка еды)/ provision of catering services (restaurants, cafes, food delivery);
- Қаржылық және сақтандыру қызметі /финансовая и страховая деятельность/ financial and insurance activities;
- Жылжымайтын мүлікпен операция (үй-жайларды жалға алу)/ операция с недвижимым имуществом (аренда помещений)/ real estate transaction (rental of premises);

- Ақпарат және байланыс /информация и связь/ information and communication;
- Білім / образование/ education;
- Денсаулық сақтау здравоохранение/ healthcare;
- Өнер, ойын-сауық және демалыс (кинотеатрлар, мұражайлар және т. б.) искусство, развлечение и отдых (кинотеатры, музеи и прочее)/ art, entertainment and recreation (cinemas, museums, etc.);
- Халыққа өзге де қызметтер (сұлулық салондары, шаштараздар, тұрмыстық қызметтер)/ прочие услуги населению (салоны красоты, парикмахерские, бытовые услуги)/ other services to the public (beauty salons, hairdressers, household services);
- Туроператорлар мен турагенттіктердің қызметі/ деятельность туроператоров и турагентств /activities of tour operators and travel agencies в;
- Басқа /Другое/ Other _____

6. Сіздің компанияңыздың қызмет түрін нақтылаңыз (мысалы: туристік агенттік, кафе, киім дүкені, азық-түлік дүкені, жиһаз цехы және т. б.)/ Уточните вид деятельности вашей компании (например: туристское агентство, кафе, магазин одежды, продуктовый магазин, мебельный цех и тд)/ Specify the type of activity of your company (for example: travel agency, cafe, clothing store, grocery store, furniture shop, etc.)

7. Сіздің компанияңызда қанша адам жұмыс істейді?/ Сколько человек трудоустроено в Вашей компании?/ How many people are employed in your company?

- 15 адамға дейін/ до 15 человек/up to 15 people;
- 50 адамға дейін/ до 50 человек/ up to 50 people;
- 250 адамға дейін /до 250 человек/ up to 250 people;
- 250 адамнан және одан көп /от 250 человек и более/ from 250 people and more.

8. Сіздің компанияңыздың ай сайынғы айналымы қанша?/ Сколько составляет ежемесячный оборот Вашей компании?/ How much is your company's monthly turnover?

- 1 млн. теңгеге дейін /до 1млн. тенге/ up to 1 million tenge;
- 3 млн. теңгеге дейін/ до 3 млн. тенге/ up to 3 million tenge;
- 5 млн. теңгеге дейін/ до 5 млн. тенге/ up to 5 million tenge;
- 10 млн. теңгеге дейін/ до 10 млн. тенге/ up to 10 million tenge;
- 10 млн. теңгеден және одан жоғары / от 10 млн. тенге и более/ from 10 million tenge or more.

9. Сізде мемлекеттік секторда тәжірибе болды ма ?/Имели ли вы опыт работы в государственном секторе?/ Have you had any work experience in the public sector

- Иә /Да/ Yes;
- Жоқ /Нет/ No;
- Жауап беруден бас тартамын /Воздержусь от ответа/ I will refrain from answering;
- Басқа /Другое/ Other _____.

II. Негізгі бөлігі. Бизнесті сайлау процесіне тартуға байланысты мәселелер/ Основная часть. Вопросы, связанные с вовлечением бизнеса в избиратель-

ный процесс / The main part. Issues related to the involvement of business in the electoral process.

10. Сіздің ойыңызша, Қазақстанда мемлекет тарапынан бизнесті дамыту үшін барлық қажетті жағдайлар жасалған ба?/ По вашему мнению, созданы ли в Казахстане все необходимые условия для развития бизнеса со стороны государства?/ In your opinion, have all the necessary conditions for business development on the part of the state been created in Kazakhstan?

- Иә /Да/ Yes;
- Жоқ /Нет/ No;
- Жауап беруден бас тартамын /Воздержусь от ответа/ I will refrain from answering;
- Басқа /Другое/ Other _____.

11. Сіздің ойыңызша, бизнесті сайлау процесіне тарту қажеттілігі бар ма?/ Как вы думаете, есть ли необходимость вовлечения бизнеса в избирательный процесс? / Do you think there is a need to involve business in the electoral process?

- Иә, қатысу қажеттілігі жоғары / Да, необходимость вовлечения высокая/ Yes, the need for involvement is high;
- Жоқ, бизнес пен сайлау процесінің ортақ тұстары жоқ / Нет, бизнес и избирательный процесс не имеют общего/ No, business and the electoral process have nothing in common;
- Жауап беруден бас тартамын /Воздержусь от ответа/ I will refrain from answering;
- Басқа /Другое/ Other _____.

12. Сіздің ойыңызша, Бизнестің сайлау процесіне қатысуының қандай оң әсері болады?/ По вашему мнению, какой положительный эффект будет от участия бизнеса в избирательном процессе?/ In your opinion, what positive effect will be from the participation of business in the electoral process?

- Ел экономикасының деңгейін арттыру/ Повышение уровня экономики страны/ Raising the level of the country's economy;
- Елдегі демократияландыру деңгейін арттыру / Повышение уровня демократизации в стране/ Increasing the level of democratization in the country;
- Азаматтардың сайлау процесіне қатысу деңгейін арттыру Повышение уровня участия граждан в избирательном процессе/ Increasing the level of citizens' participation in the electoral process;
- Ел билігінің заң шығарушы тармағында бизнес құқығын қорғау мүмкіндігі / Возможность защищать права бизнеса в законодательной ветви власти страны/ The opportunity to protect the rights of business in the legislative branch of government of the country;
- Елімізде бизнесті дамыту үшін жағдайды жақсарту/ Улучшение условий для развития бизнеса в стране/ Improving the conditions for business development in the country;
- Сайлаудың транспаренттілік деңгейін арттыру / Повышение уровня транспарентности выборов/ Increasing the level of election transparency;
- Басқа /Другое/ Other _____.

13. Бизнестің сайлау процесіне қатысу дәрежесін 1-ден 10-ға дейінгі шкала бойынша бағалаңыз, мұнда ең төменгі балл (1) қатысудың төмен деңгейін, ең жоғары балл (10) Бизнестің сайлау процесіне қатысуының жоғары деңгейін білдіреді./ Оцените пожалуйста степень вовлеченности бизнеса в избирательный процесс по шкале от 1 до 10, где наименьший балл (1) означает низкий уровень вовлеченности, наивысший балл (10) означает высокий уровень вовлеченности бизнеса в избирательный процесс / Please rate the degree of business involvement in the electoral process on a scale from 1 to 10, where the lowest score (1) means a low level of involvement, the highest score (10) means a high level of business involvement in the electoral process.

- 1; -2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10.

14. 1-ден 5-ке дейінгі шкала бойынша Қазақстандағы сайлау процесіне деген сенім деңгейіңізді көрсетіңіз? мұндағы ең төменгі балл (1) сенімнің төмен деңгейін білдіреді, ең жоғары балл (10) сайлау процесіне деген сенімнің жоғары деңгейін / По шкале от 1 до 5, укажите ваш уровень доверия к избирательному процессу в Казахстане? где наименьший балл (1) означает низкий уровень доверия, наивысший балл (10) означает высокий уровень доверия в избирательный процесс/ On a scale from 1 to 5, what is your level of confidence in the electoral process in Kazakhstan? where the lowest score (1) means a low level of trust, the highest score (10) means a high level of trust in the electoral process..

1; -2; 3; 4; 5.

15. Сіздің ойыңызша, мемлекеттік аппаратта бизнес-қауымдастықтарды ұсыну қажеттілігі бар ма?/ Как вы считаете, есть ли необходимость представительства бизнес-сообществ в государственном аппарате?/ Do you think there is a need for the representation of business communities in the state apparatus?

- Иә, бизнес мемлекеттік басқарудағы негізгі ойыншы болуы керек, өйткені бизнестің арқасында елдің экономикалық өсуі артып келеді;/ Да, бизнес должен быть ключевым игроком в государственном управлении, так как благодаря бизнесу повышается экономический рост страны;/ Yes, business should be a key player in public administration, because thanks to business, the economic growth of the country increases;

- Жоқ, бизнестің мемлекеттік басқаруға қатысуы міндетті емес/Нет, участие бизнеса в государственном управлении необязательно; / No, business participation in public administration is optional

- Жауап беруден бас тартамын /Воздержусь от ответа/ I will refrain from answering;

- Басқа /Другое/ Other _____.

16. Сіздің ойыңызша, Бизнестің сайлау процесіне қатысуын қандай кедергілер шектей алады?/ Как Вы считаете, какие барьеры могут ограничивать вовлечение бизнеса в избирательный процесс?/ What barriers do you think may limit the involvement of businesses in the electoral process?

- Шектеулі заңнамалық реттеу. Саяси науқандарды қаржылық қолдауға немесе жеке науқанға қатысуға мүмкін болатын шектеулер;/ Ограниченное законодательное регулирование. Возможные ограничения на финансовую поддержку политических кампаний или на участие в кампаниях со стороны частных компаний;/

Limited legislative regulation. Possible restrictions on financial support of political campaigns or on participation in campaigns by private campaigns;

- Бизнес үшін жағымсыз салдарға әкелуі мүмкін тәуекелдер / Риски, которые могут привести к негативным последствиям для бизнеса;/ Risks that may lead to negative consequences for business

- Уақыт пен ресурстардың жетіспеушілігі. Сайлау процесіне қатысу айтарлықтай уақыт пен қаржылық ресурстарды қажет етуі мүмкін;/ Нехватка времени и ресурсов. Участие в избирательном процесса может требовать значительных временных и финансовых ресурсов;/ Lack of time and resources. Participation in the electoral process may require significant time and financial resources;

- Ақпараттың жеткіліксіздігі. Көптеген бизнес көшбасшыларында сайлау процесіне қалай қатысу керектігі және олардың қатысуы саяси процеске қалай әсер ететіні туралы жеткілікті ақпарат болмауы мүмкін;/ Недостаточная информированность. Многие бизнес-лидеры могут не иметь достаточной информации о том, как участвовать в избирательном процессе и как их участие может влиять на политический процесс;/ Lack of awareness. Many business leaders may not have enough information about how to participate in the electoral process and how their participation can influence the political process;

- Беделді тәуекелдер. Сайлау процесіне қатысу, егер олардың саяси көзқарастары клиенттерінің немесе серіктестерінің күткеніне сәйкес келмесе, бизнес-компаниялардың беделіне нұқсан келтіруі мүмкін./ Репутационные риски. Участие в избирательном процессе может повредить репутацию ызнес-компаний, если их политические взгляды не соответствуют ожиданиям их клиентов или партнеров./ Reputational risks. Participation in the electoral process can damage the reputation of business companies if their political views do not meet the expectations of their customers or partners.

- Жоғарыда айтылғандардың бәрі/ Все вышесказанное/ All of the above.

- Жоғарыда айтылғандардың ешқайсысы жоқ/ Ничего из вышесказанного/ None of the above

17. Бизнесі сайлау процесіне сәтті тарту үшін не істеу керек?/ Что необходимо предпринять для успешного вовлечения бизнеса в избирательный процесс?/ What should be done to successfully involve businesses in the electoral process?

- Бизнес көшбасшыларын электоралды оқыту/ Электоральное обучение бизнес-лидеров/ Electoral training of business leaders;;

- Бизнес-көшбасшылардың сайлау процесіне қатысуын жасырын және сыбайлас жемқорлық қызметі ретінде қабылдауын болдырмау үшін олардың ашықтығы мен ашықтығы/ Прозрачность и открытость бизнес-лидеров во избежание восприятия их участия в избирательном процессе как скрытной и коррупционной деятельности;/ Transparency and openness of business leaders in order to avoid the perception of their participation in the electoral process as secretive and corrupt activities

- Бизнес көшбасшыларының өз клиенттері мен қызметкерлерінің мүдделері мен қажеттіліктерін білдіру үшін әртүрлі қауымдастықтарға қатысуы / Участие бизнес-лидеров в различных сообществах для представления интересов и потребностей своих клиентов и сотрудников;/ Participation of business leaders in various communities to represent the interests and needs of their clients and employees

- Бизнес көшбасшыларының басқа саяси күштермен, үкіметтік органдармен, үкіметтік емес ұйымдармен ортақ мақсаттар мен оларға қол жеткізу тәсілдері үшін ынтымақтастығы;/ Сотрудничество бизнес-лидеров с другими политическими силами, правительственными органами, неправительственными организациями для общих целей и способов их достижения;/ Cooperation of business leaders with other political forces, government agencies, non-governmental organizations for common goals and ways to achieve them.

- Жоғарыда айтылғандардың барлығы / Все из вышеперчисленного;/ All of the above

- Жоғарыда айтылғандардың ешқайсысы жоқ; /Ничего из вышеперчисленного;/ None of the above

- Басқа /Другое/ Other _____.

18. Сіз 2023 жылғы наурызда ҚР парламенті сайлауында сайлаушы рөліне қатыстыңыз ба?/ Принимали ли вы участие в роли избирателя на выборах Парламента РК в марте 2023 года?/ Did you participate as a voter in the elections of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan in March 2023?

Иә/ Да/ Yes

Жоқ/Нет / No

Жауап беруден бас тартамын /Воздержусь от ответа/ I will refrain from answering

Басқа /Другое/ Other _____.

19. Сіз 2022 жылға дейінгі сайлауда сайлаушы рөліне қатыстыңыз ба?/ Принимали ли вы участие в роли избирателя на выборах до 2022 года?/ Have you participated as a voter in the elections until 2022?

Иә/ Да/ Yes

Жоқ/Нет / No

Жауап беруден бас тартамын /Воздержусь от ответа/ I will refrain from answering

Басқа /Другое/ Other _____.

20. Сіз өз қызметкерлеріңіздің арасында олардың сайлауға қатысуы туралы үгіт-насихат жүргіздіңіз бе?/ Проводили ли Вы агитацию среди Ваших сотрудников по участию их на выборах?/ Have you campaigned among your employees on their participation in the elections?

Иә/ Да/ Yes

Жоқ/Нет / No

Жауап беруден бас тартамын /Воздержусь от ответа/ I will refrain from answering

Басқа /Другое/ Other _____.

21. Сіз 2023 жылғы наурызда өткен Қазақстан Республикасының Парламентіне сайлауда өз кандидатураңызды ұсындыңыз ба?/ Выдвигали ли Вы свою кандидатуру на выборах в Парламент Республики Казахстан, прошедших в марте 2023 года?/ Did you nominate your candidacy for the elections to the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan held

in March 2023?

Иә/ Да/ Yes

Жоқ /Нет / No

Жауап беруден бас тартамын /Воздержусь от ответа/ I will refrain from answering

Басқа /Другое/ Other _____.

22. Сайлауға қатысқан жағдайда бизнес өкілдері қандай қиындықтарға тап болуы мүмкін?/ С какими трудностями могут столкнуться представители бизнеса в случае участия в выборах?/ What difficulties can business representatives face if they participate in the elections?

- Сайлауға қатысу үшін қаржы жеткіліксіз/ Недостаточно финансов для участия в выборах/ Not enough finances to participate in the elections

- Қолданыстағы партиялармен салыстырғанда бірдей бастау шарттары емес/ Не равные условия старта по сравнению с существующими партиями/ Not equal starting conditions compared to existing parties

- Елдегі сайлау процесіне деген сенімнің төмендігі/ Низкое доверие к процессу выборов в стране/ Low confidence in the election process in the country

- Бәрібір ештеңе өзгермейді/ Все равно ничего не изменится/ Nothing will change anyway

- Сайлау процесінде бюрократияның жоғары деңгейі/ Высокий уровень бюрократии в избирательном процессе/ High level of bureaucracy in the electoral process

- Басқа /Другое/ Other

23. Сіздің Қазақстандағы сайлау процесіне бизнесті тарту бойынша ұсыныстарыңыз бен ұсыныстарыңыз?/ Ваши предложения и рекомендации по вовлечению бизнеса в избирательный процесс в Казахстане?/ What are your suggestions and recommendations on the involvement of business in the electoral process in Kazakhstan?

24. Егер сіз терең сұхбатқа қатысқыңыз келсе, байланыс мәліметтерін қалдыруыңызды сұраймыз./ Если Вы хотите принять участие в глубинном интервью, просим Вас оставить свои контактные данные/ If you would like to participate in an in-depth interview, please leave your contact details.

Благодарим, что приняли участие!

Сіздің жауабыңыз біздің зерттеуіміз үшін өте маңызды!

Благодарим, что приняли участие!

Ваш ответ очень важен для нашего исследования!

Thank you for taking part!

Your answer is very important for our research!

