



# THE ROLE OF PUBLIC CONTROL IN EFFECTIVE POLITICAL DECISION MAKING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

**Isabaev Maksad Bahodirovich**  
Teacher of Namangan State University

## ABSTRACT

*In this scientific article, international and national legislation on citizens decision-making processes has been investigated, to what extent is the importance of public control in the process of political decision-making, the implementation of citizens' participation in local government directly by itself or through elected representatives (political institutions). Also, practical proposals aimed at increasing the participation of public structures in decision-making were made.*

**KEY WORDS:** *public organizations, political decision, civil institutions, local council, Public Relations, E-Government, media.*

## DISCUSSION

Understanding local needs is often done through a process called "Public Relations". English scientist Stuart argues that there is no bright definition of public involvement[1]. Attempts of the connections with public are mainly considered in the conditions of planning and decision making. This has to do with how the role of planning is being managed and of course, having the authority to make a final decision.

The best way to achieve citizen involvement is not to encourage paternalism in decision – making with respect to local community organizations, but rather to promote cooperation and self-awareness[2]. If the involvement of citizens and the joint efforts don't occur as thought, it will lead to the loss of established mutual relations. The phrase "citizen involvement" is based on four principles of local needs satisfaction and the origin of local government namely competence, cooperation, government and governance. In these four principles of local government, the link between citizen participation and decision-making at local level is direct and is usually described as "simple roots" or "bottom-up" relationships[3].

Today, the question of to what extent the general public takes part in the process of political decision-making is one of the controversial topics in the field of political science. As we analyze the theoretical approaches expressed in terms of public involvement in management, we find that they are different, and even opinions that are mixed – opposite to each other.

According to the first liked theoretical approach, the participation of the community through local government bodies is regarded as the result of the social development activities of the community. Local government as the smallest and most accessible unit in the public administration system, plays a major role in overcoming the invisible barriers between the individual and the society[4]. In order for the board members to have a result of their relations with the general public, they must also have a controlling role[5]. This allows democracy to participate more broadly and actively participate in government administration, political decision-making[6]. In political practice, decision-making by the elite is much more rational, less emotional and consistent than ordinary citizens[7]. It is believed that ordinary people have enough intelligence to make their own decisions, rather than giving political decisions to elite representatives[8]. In most cases, people do not think about the logical consistency of the decision-making process or the amount of information they use and in what order they use it. Instead of focusing on the process of making their own decisions, people are more interested in the expected results of making decisions and hope that their decisions (if implemented) will lead to better results[9]. In contrast to these points of view, supporters of the second approach noted that democratic public participation poses a number of important theoretical and political problems. Direct public involvement in discussions and decision-making through institutions of authorized democracy can reduce the role of officially elected



representatives (Deputies of local councils)[10]. Political decisions must be made not by a single citizen, but by a selected group that is considered competent. Because, public decision-making and reasoning skills are questionable. The fact that citizens make political decisions is a one-time job, which is carried out mainly through voting[11]. In modern times, such participation (except for voting) largely depends on the problem and the situation in it[12].

In our opinion, the elected representatives play an important management role at the local level. Because, they are responsible for ensuring that the activities of public organizations on behalf of the general public are fair, effective and that local needs are met. They are also responsible for the overall balance of results, public action and effective local collaboration. It should also be taken into account that those who have a high level of Education – elected officials-can use the information in a different way in their own interests. In such a process, teams and private organizations will have to take control of them. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure transparency, equality, indivisible communication and debate in achieving efficiency in activities.

Until now, several international documents on the decision-making processes of citizens have been adopted, in which the rights associated with political participation are guaranteed. In particular, Article 25 of the International Covenant on civil and Political Rights, adopted in 1966, states that every citizen has the right to participate in public affairs, the right to vote and access to the elected civil service. Also, the rights of citizens to participate in public affairs, to participate directly in the mass meetings held, and to make decisions on local problems or the affairs of a particular community are specified in Article 25 of the Convention on civil and social cooperation. The decision on equal participation in political and Public Affairs adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2015 year emphasizes the importance of citizens' participation in public affairs without legal and practical obstacles and their ability to participate in political life. Also, Article 8 of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders of the United Nations General Assembly defines that everyone has the right to take part in the work of his government by carrying out state and public affairs, both personally and in conjunction with others.

The Orxus Convention (1998 year), which is one of the important international documents on the participation of the general public in the decision-making process, guaranteed the right to information, public participation in decision-making and their use[13]. During the preparation of various plans, programs and policies, the public will be given the opportunity to express their feedback and suggestions, as well as the results of the consultations held will be taken into account as much as possible.

In Uzbekistan, in recent years, effective results have been achieved on the participation and control activities of the general public in the spheres of Public Administration. Bunda of course, the strategy of action on the five priority directions of development in 2017 - 2021 years, adopted in due time, is important. Its 1.3.-the item is called "improving the public administration system", in which the issues aimed at increasing the role and role of the public institution are reflected. It will be necessary to pay special attention to the fact that the quality of state decisions aimed at "satisfying" the needs of the state and society in a timely manner, its expressiveness and effective control. "In the interest of our people, in making any decision that concerns his tomorrow's destiny, we must make a cut by measuring seven"[14]. It is important that this is the participation of the general public in all processes from the adoption of political decisions to the execution of it, to the introduction of transparent and effective methods of citizens' participation in this process[15].

Taking into account the fact that currently there are more than 9 thousand 200 the mass media, more than 1 thousand 400 media outlets and about 10 thousand neighborhoods in our country, this means that it is important and relevant. To this end, many legal documents were adopted aimed at further increasing the participation of the general public in the field of Public Power and management. In particular, in the new edition of the law "on public associations", "on trade unions, guarantees of their rights and activities", "on political parties", "on non-profit organizations", "on self-government bodies of citizens", "on environmental control", "on social partnership", "on openness of the activities of the bodies of state power and administration", "on parliamentary control" and "on public control" are examples.

In the law "on the openness of the activities of public authorities and management bodies", adopted only in 2014, it was important that the public was informed in detail about the activities of these bodies, the order and sources of information disclosure were clearly indicated, due to the openness and transparency of the information, the main principles of openness of the activities of the "Because, in a democratic and open society, public administration is carried out with direct and indirect participation of the population. After all, it will be possible for citizens to clearly understand what decisions and programs are being taken in the country, how they are being implemented, how responsible and officials are performing their duties, and, if necessary, express their attitude to these processes"[16]. Only then democratic values are formed and developed in all parts of society.

The wide participation of citizens directly or indirectly in the decision-making process is one of



the main components of the construction of civil society in the country. Therefore, the head of our state attaches particular importance to the participation of citizens in the management of political decisions. All conditions are provided for this in our country. The procedure for reporting and information is established in the state authorities, including economic, banking and financial departments, municipal services, internal affairs, foreign affairs, education and training, health, judicial and local councils, and people's control is being implemented in practice[17]. This shows that the principle of effective management is more dependent on the participation of citizens in the decision-making process. This will force institutions to increase transparency and accountability. When people know the way to make decisions, it will help them to foresee and develop laws. Although this can lead to a slight delay in decision-making.

But the fact that no similar positive cases are observed in local government remains problematic. Systematic work is being carried out to discuss the decisions taken by local authorities widely among the population and to study its implementation. Therefore, through effective organization of activities involving citizens, institutions of civil society, mass media, business entities and representatives of Science, the norm has been defined as the task of increasing the level of influence of public discussion on the process of creativity[18].

This in itself dictates further the role of non-profit organizations and other civil institutions in ensuring active participation of citizens in the life of the state and society. The wide participation of various public advisory councils, which are not state-owned, consisting of representatives of the "third sector" in decision-making, provides the basis for its full implementation. Therefore, the Advisory Council for the development of civil society under the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan; public councils under the bodies of Public Administration; Public funds for support of civil society institutions and non-profit organizations were established in the presence of the Jokargy Kenges of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, regional and Tashkent City Councils of people's deputies. The president also set up a people's reception and virtual reception. The establishment of such a new system of working directly with the citizens of the country has created many opportunities for citizens. We can only see this when more than 1,5 million appeals have been received by the population to this day from one virtual reception.

In fact, Information Communication Technology improves the policies of mass society. It increases the pragmatic political capabilities of the electronic age, which is used in relation to today's parliamentary democracy[19]. The use of ICT makes it possible to achieve the opinion of consumers. Acts

provide the freedom of information needed to ensure elite transparency[20]. The establishment of an E-government system will prevent time, bureaucracy and secondary spending. In our view, the fact that e-government can provide transaction efficiency, support a number of local government processes and invest heavily in infrastructure will help citizens to be provided more services.

The state bodies of power operate at the barges of decision-making - at the federal, regional and local level-through special press services created in cooperation with the media. They develop mutual cooperation with citizens in such forms as the creation of governance bodies, the establishment of relations between government and society[21]. In our opinion, today in the development of the Information Service of local authorities, the following several actors should be present: to inform the population about the activities of state bodies, to ask for public opinion, to adapt to it, to make recommendations on the implementation of local policies based on the like; to analyze public opinion and to formulate the attitude.

Today, having revised the execution of decisions in a more strict order, the improvement is demanded by the time itself. "It must be acknowledged that democratic institutions such as parliamentary control, public control, journalist control have not yet fully formed and taken a deep place in our lives"[22]. The legal basis for the implementation of broad public control over the execution of decisions was reflected in the law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "on public control" adopted on 12 April 2018. In the decisions taken by the law, as well as in the state and territorial programs of development, public interest, public opinion are taken into account, the legal strengthening is established. In this regard, we can observe that the socio-political activities of the citizens of our country have been somewhat revitalized in recent times. State programs are also put on the discussion of the general public from 2017 year, and then adopted. The main purpose of this study is to discuss important political decisions Komplex, to examine the views and suggestions of the public.

1310 proposals and comments on the results of the public discussion set out on the portal "system of evaluation of the impact of legislation" were received, on the basis of which 41 items of the state program for 2017 were reviewed[23]. As well as the draft State program for 2019 year 2019.strategy.uz. a total of 3399 comments were made by citizens when they were put on public discussion on the website. Regulation.gov.uz. through the website, 404 offers have been received. During the discussion of the draft State program for 2019, 4180 proposals were received, of which more than 340 proposals of citizens were used to improve the content of the draft State program. 30 editorial changes were made to the



relevant paragraphs while on the basis of proposals close suggestions[24].

In the appeal of the president to the Oliy Majlis, it was noted the necessity of wide involvement in the discussion of laws, introduction of modern information technologies, including the creation of special “fields” in the Internet Network, the introduction of electronic appeals as a community. On April 12, 2018, a joint decision of the Council of Chambers of Parliament was adopted, the regulation on the procedure for electronic collective application and their consideration through the web-portal “my opinion” was developed. The web portal “my opinion” was launched as a test from 20 April. The creation of this web portal provides citizens with the opportunity to participate in the management of state and public affairs as a subject of public control, openness of the activities of representative bodies of state power, the vital effectiveness of the decisions taken.

In our opinion, in order for decisions to be fully implemented in the regions, first of all, decisions must be taken in consultation with the broad masses of people and representatives of the relevant non-governmental sector, with a cut of seven measures. In the process, however, it is desirable that the draft resolution, which is planned to be adopted in the local representative bodies, was brought to the attention of the general public. Such a system is not fully resolved in the local representation management. Practice shows that the issues that will be included in the discussion of the Council of people's deputies before the session, in most cases, will not be discussed in advance among the existing interested organizations, specialists, representatives of Science and the population. Also in its activities, media outlets and the public almost do not work. The mass media have low participation in the development and implementation of socio-economic development programs and normative legal acts of the regions. In the preparation of decisions, practical dialogue between representative bodies and public institutions has not been systematically established.

This limits the possibility of fully taking into account the interests of the relevant stakeholders in the decisions taken. I'm sorry... how to make the right decision without talking openly with people and not knowing their problems?[25] Today, in Paragraph 8 of Article 25 of the law “on local state power” of the Republic of Uzbekistan “on the results of discussion of the report of the governor of the region, district, city” the decision of the Council of relevant people's deputies and the report of the governor must be published in official publications and on the websites of local state. It is important to attract the general public to the decision-making process, to raise their awareness, and not as soon as a decision is made. For this reason, we make the following suggestions:

One of them. After the discussion of the Council of local councils draft decisions texts and analytical materials on them, we propose to make an urgent announcement in the regional print media, as well as on official websites (not yet all local representative bodies' sites have been fully formed) on a legal basis. This serves to ensure that the activities of the local representative body are open and transparent.

2. The system of submission of the draft resolution to the attention of the general public has not found a legal basis for its adoption in local councils. Proceeding from this, we propose to add to Paragraph 3 of Article 12 of the standard regulation of the Regional, District, City Council of people's deputies that “the population will be informed in advance about the date, time, place and agenda of the sessions of the councils of people's deputies, meetings of the Permanent Commission”. Public opinion is taken into account on each issue that is included in the session discussion. Due to this, the norm determines its obligation in the preparation of each issue included in the discussion of the session;

3. To consult with public organizations and create an effective framework of use of their potential in the process of decision making projects. Article 24 of the standard regulation of the Regional, District, City Council of people's deputies “during the session brief opinions of the representatives of the relevant public Institute, which are related to the issue discussed in the process of consideration of issues, are listened to. We propose to add to the norm that the expressed opinions will be put on the discussion vote and the appropriate decision will be made”.

In place of the final opinion, it can be said that citizens represent their political will and interests. Citizens participate in the activities of public organizations or directly in the process of making political decisions. This will lay the groundwork for the implementation of the following socio-political changes:

participation of citizens in decision-making serves to realize their political and social interests, as well as the process of socialization of each citizen, that is, they are involved in the affairs of society and the state;

active political participation in decision making, which takes into account the interests and aspirations of ordinary citizens, gives them a sense of free human dignity, form a spirit of political responsibility as an active citizen;

the skills acquired as a result of the expression of the interests of citizens by means of various public organizations and political parties will make them more active, which will greatly contribute to the effective functioning of the councils as a result of mutual agreement of interests;

political participation creates conditions for every citizen to realize his / her identity, to take a



worthy place from society. This develop their national pride, forming a sense of ownership of his country and territory;

the process of achieving the expression of the interests of all social groups in their political decisions and their implementation in life, local authorities further strengthen it, take measures to implement decisions on the territory without any tension and voluntarily, as well as puddling;

conditions for the expression of the will of the majority of citizens in society are created, the basis for the functioning of society and state power on the basis of democratic principles is strengthened.

As a result, cooperation and cooperation takes place in the local councils through the practical expression of the interests of citizens and various social groups, on this basis, one of the main signs of local government is its expression in life.

## REFERENCES

1. Stuart G. 'Encouraging a broad understanding of community engagement, posted 13 October 2016 at Sustaining Communities: Families, communities, the environment, viewed 27 October 2016, <<https://sustainingcommunity.wordpress.com/2016/10/13/broad-understanding-of-ce/>>
2. Jayne Meyer Tucker. *Decision making at the local level – the missing link? A thesis submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the Australian National University.* ProQuest LLC. 2017. Pp.237.
3. Lowndes V. and Sullivan H. 2008, 'How low can you go? Rationales and challenges for neighbourhood governance', *Public Administration*, vol. 86, no. 1, Pp. 53–74.
4. Richards P.G. *The Local Government System.* London: Allen & Unwin. 1983. P. 167.
5. Goss S. *Making Local Governance Work - Networks, Relationships and the Management of Change.* Basingstoke: Palgrave. 2001. P.134.
6. Putnam R. *Bowling Alone.* New York: Simon and Schuster. 2000.
7. Converse P. "The Nature of Belief Systems in Mass Publics." In D. Apter (Ed.) *Ideology and Discontent.* New York: Free Press. 1964.
8. Haskell J. *Direct Democracy or Representative Government?: Dispelling the Populist Myth.* Boulder, CO: Westview Press. 2001.
9. J. Yates, E. Veinott and A. Palatano. "Hard Decisions, Bad Decisions: On Decision Quality and Decision Aiding." In S. Schneider and J. Shanteau (Eds.) *Emerging Perspectives on Judgment and Decision Research.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2003.
10. Steven Halls. *The concept and practice of territorial representation in English Local Government: impacts of government policies.* Dissertation submitted in part fulfilment of the requirements of The Nottingham Trent University for the degree of Master of Philosophy. Published by ProQuest LLC. 2016. PP. 162.
11. Schumpeter J. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy.* New York: Harper and Row. 1942.
12. Schumpeter J. *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy.* New York: Harper and Row. 1942.
13. W. Miller and D. Stokes. "Constituency Influence in Congress." *American Political Science Review.* 1963. 57 (1): 45-56.
14. *Participation of NGOs in the process of policy-and law-making. Comparative analysis.* Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law. Bulgaria // [www.bcnl.org](http://www.bcnl.org).
15. Karimov I.A. *Happiness and great future of our native country is the highest happiness.* –T. *The Republic of Uzbekistan*, 2015. –P.210.
16. "Decree of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan on measures to further improve the Anti-Corruption System in the Republic of Uzbekistan" on May 27, 2019 // [www.uza.uz](http://www.uza.uz).
17. *The basics of Civil society: tutorial/ A. Jalilov, U. Muhammadiev, Q. Jurayev and others.* –T., 2015. – P.197.
18. Mirziyoyev Sh. *Parliament should become the school of true democracy, the initiator of reforms and the main executor of our negligence.* 2017 y. 12 July // [www.uza.uz/oz/politics](http://www.uza.uz/oz/politics).
19. *The norm is a concession to improve creativity activities. Appendix 1 to the decree of the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan № PF-5505 on August 8, 2018 // ICMMB: 06/18/5505/1639-number.*
20. Bellamy C. & Raab C.D. *Wiring up the Deck-Chairs.* *Parliamentary Affairs.* 1999. 52(3) July, 518-534.
21. Steven Halls. *The concept and practice of territorial representation in English Local Government: impacts of government policies.* Dissertation submitted in part fulfilment of the requirements of The Nottingham Trent University for the degree of Master of Philosophy. Published by ProQuest LLC. 2016. PP. 162.
22. Matveev A. A., Gushchina A. A. *Influence of informal practices on the process of making managerial decisions in state authorities and local self-government // Management consulting.* No. 7. 2016. Pp. 8-13.
23. Mirziyoyev Sh. *We will build our great future together with our brave and noble people.* - T. *The Republic of Uzbekistan*, 2017. –B. 49.
24. [http://uza.uz/oz/documents/On\\_further\\_development\\_of\\_the\\_Republic\\_of\\_Uzbekistan\\_-07-02-2017](http://uza.uz/oz/documents/On_further_development_of_the_Republic_of_Uzbekistan_-07-02-2017)
25. Mirziyoyev Sh.M. *We will continue our path of national development with determination and raise it to a new level.* 1-volume. - T.: "Uzbekistan", 2017. 439 p.