

CONSTITUTION OF UKRAINE

Translated into English by the Council of Europe

CONSTITUTION OF UKRAINE

Adopted at the Fifth Session
of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine
on 28 June 1996

- The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, on behalf of the Ukrainian people — citizens of Ukraine of all nationalities,
- expressing the sovereign will of the people,
- based on the centuries-old history of Ukrainian state-building and on the right to self-determination realised by the Ukrainian nation, all the Ukrainian people,
- providing for the guarantee of human rights and freedoms and of the worthy conditions of human life,
- caring for the strengthening of civil harmony on Ukrainian soil,
- striving to develop and strengthen a democratic, social, law-based state,
- aware of our responsibility before God, our own conscience, past, present and future generations,
- guided by the Act of Declaration of the Independence of Ukraine of 24 August 1991, approved by the national vote of 1 December 1991,
- adopts this Constitution — the Fundamental Law of Ukraine.

Chapter I General Principles

Article 1

- Ukraine is a sovereign and independent, democratic, social, law-based state.

Article 2

- The sovereignty of Ukraine extends throughout its entire territory.
- Ukraine is a unitary state.
- The territory of Ukraine within its present border is indivisible and inviolable.

Article 3

- The human being, his or her life and health, honour and dignity, inviolability and security are recognised in Ukraine as the highest social value.
- Human rights and freedoms and their guarantees determine the essence and orientation of the activity of the State. The State is answerable to the individual for its activity. To affirm and ensure human rights and freedoms is the main duty of the State.

Article 4

- There is single citizenship in Ukraine. The grounds for the acquisition and termination of Ukrainian citizenship are determined by law.

Chapter III

Elections. Referendum

Article 69

- The expression of the will of the people is exercised through elections, referendum and other forms of direct democracy.

Article 70

- Citizens of Ukraine who have attained the age of eighteen on the day elections and referendums are held, have the right to vote at the elections and referendums.
- Citizens deemed by a court to be incompetent do not have the right to vote.

Article 71

- Elections to bodies of state power and bodies of local self-government are free and are held on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, by secret ballot.
- Voters are guaranteed the free expression of their will.

Article 72

- An All-Ukrainian referendum is designated by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine or by the President of Ukraine, in accordance with their authority established by this Constitution.
- An All-Ukrainian referendum is called on popular initiative on the request of no less than three million citizens of Ukraine who have the right to vote, on the condition that the signatures in favour of designating the referendum have been collected in no less than two-thirds of the oblasts, with no less than 100 000 signatures in each oblast.

Article 73

- Issues of altering the territory of Ukraine are resolved exclusively by an All-Ukrainian referendum.

Article 74

- A referendum shall not be permitted in regard to draft laws on issues of taxes, the budget and amnesty.

Chapter IV

Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine

Article 75

- The sole body of legislative power in Ukraine is the Parliament — the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine.

Article 76

- The constitutional composition of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine consists of 450 National Deputies of Ukraine who are elected for a four-year term on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage, by secret ballot.
- A citizen of Ukraine who has attained the age of twenty-one on the day of elections, has the right to vote, and has resided on the territory of Ukraine for the past five years, may be a National Deputy of Ukraine.
- A citizen who has a criminal record for committing an intentional crime shall not be elected to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine if the record is not cancelled and erased by the procedure