**ELECTIONS - EKLOYEZ**

**KINOTIKES – COMMUITY,**

**DIMOTIKES – LOCAL,**

**PERIFERIA - REGIONAL AND**

**EVROPIE-EKES - EUROPEAN**

**PART 1**

**What we know so far, which applies for all the ballots:**

- **Four elections will take place on Sunday, 26th May.** If there is no clear winner, there will be a second round the following Sunday, 2nd June. On both days, voting stations will be open **from 07.00 to 19.00.**

- The new system of **simple proportional** will be in force, meaning the winner needs 50% + 1 vote.

- If there are no decisive winners (50+ 1), a **second round** of elections will take place the following Sunday, 02/06, between the two leaders from the first round.

- Zakynthos has **nine combinations** for mayor.

- **Whoever the winner is,** will not take over the reins of the dimos/municipality until **1st September, 2019.** The term of these new Local and Regional Authorities will be four (4) years – instead of the five years that existed.

- **Colours** will be used to **separate each poll** and lessen confusion. On the blue curtain of the screen that we go behind to choose the ballot paper and place a cross by our preferred candidate, there will be a visible mauve coloured paper, 35 x 50, for the European elections with ‘European Elections’ written on in white, with the same colour and writing on the ballot box. For the Regional elections the visible paper will be light-blue in colour, 35 x 50, with ‘Regional Elections’ written on in white. The Local elections will be represented by yellow, lastly Community elections with orange. Don’t worry if you don’t remember, the election committee will guide you as to where to go and how many crosses you need to place on your voting paper.

- The whole of **Zakynthos is classed as one Dimos** / municipality / council.

- All **schools will be closed** from 24th to 27th May, for the 1st round. Schools in the areas where a 2nd round is necessary, will be closed from 31st May to 3rd June.

**- Where do I vote?** Click here - *http://eklogesapps.ypes.gr/eea/eeaeu/eea.htm.* Click on respective flag, i.e. if you are a European or Greek citizen. Enter your name, surname and birth year, if you have your ‘special voters number’ enter that too (I found that without, the info was available).

**- Voters age:** For the first time 17-year-olds have the right to vote, that is those who were born up till 31st December, 2002, has been introduced. The vote to 17-year olds, was given with the simple proportional, but has yet to be applied.

**- Local communities:** The administration of local communities elected in a separate third ballot box. For communities with up to 300 inhabitants, the president is elected from a single ballot paper. For communities with more than 300 residents, the president is indirectly elected by its councillors.

**- Polling stations:** will be split into parts A and B, so as not to cause long delays in the four polls. At the A polling station voters will cast their vote for regional-European elections, while in an adjacent room voters will cast their vote for part B, the municipal-community elections. Excluding stations that have very few registered voters.

**- Exceptions**: from the compulsory right to exercise their vote are: Greek citizens that reside abroad, those who are over 70 years of age and those who reside, on voting day, more than 200 kilometres from the polling station where they vote.

- **Can I vote in Greece if I am from another EU country?**
Yes, all citizens of the Union who reside in Greece and are up to the age of 17 in the election year can vote. However, it is necessary that they have registered before 28th February, 2019, in the special electoral lists of the municipality of the Greek State.

**- What documents should I bring to the polling station?**
You must bring your identity card or passport for the necessary check. Other public documents may be accepted under certain conditions.

**- Invalid votes:** a vote is classified as invalid if black or blue ink to mark the cross has not been used. The ‘cross’ to be used is a plus sign – ‘+’ – NOT - ‘x’. It is also invalid if there is any form of writing / graffiti on it, or is in an envelope with other valid, invalid and blank voting papers. ( your voting paper must not be able to be picked out of all the votes). Abstaining, white and invalid votes, as a political protest option, have the same effect: they are not taken into account in the final result and thus in the percentages of the parties /combinations / candidates.

**-** For the **election** of municipal **councillors**, on the ballot paper, one **cross** is placed to the left-hand side of the name you wish. Even if you don’t place a cross, or place too many, your vote is still considered valid counting towards the combination you chose. For community councillors, if the community has more than 300 inhabitants two (2) crosses or for less than 300 inhabitants one (1) cross. For regional councillors, if electing up to three councillors, one (1) cross.

**-** Voters that have a **mobility disability**, have priority when it comes to voting. If the polling station is not accessible to them in their wheelchair, the representative of the judicial authority of the election committee is called upon to take the necessary measures to ensure the right to vote is taken and at the same time ensure the secrecy and smooth conduct of the vote.

- The procedure to be followed when the voter finds themselves **not on the electoral roll** despite being registered in a Municipal and / or Male Register and not being deprived of their right to vote. The Mayor, or his representative, should issue a duplicate registration certificate for interested persons in the Municipalities or the Register of Male and give them one of the two copies. The certificate corresponding to each election (26th May, 2nd June) will be presented by the voter to the Election Committee, in order to allow them to vote.

- **Election leave** is granted to both private and public sector workers, for the European, municipal and regional elections. In the private sector the special leave given, for the exercise of voting rights, is paid leave, which is not offset against normal or other form of leave. Depending on distance, this leave is between one and three days.

**EUROPEAN ELECTIONS**

The above also apply for the European elections.

* Greece elects 21 M.E.P’s.
* The electoral threshold for the election of a M.E.P in Greece is 3%.
* The Greek territory is one classed as a single constituency. Political parties therefore propose single ballots across the country.
* In Greece, a vote with a cross of preference is applied, which gives voters the opportunity to reward specific candidates. On the political party or combinations’ ballot papers there may be up to four (4) crosses. The candidates receiving the most crosses are elected, provided that their party has secured a seat.

**Part 2,** with details of combinations for Local and Regional elections to follow.