

# ***OSCE/ODIHR*** ***&*** ***Election Observation***

*Nashville, Tennessee*  
*July 2016*



Organization for Security and  
Co-operation in Europe



# Overview



The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is a regional security organization with 57 participating States, including the United States.



The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is responsible for election observation.



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# ODIHR and Election Observation

- OSCE participating States committed to uphold key principles of democratic elections (universality, equality, transparency, vote secrecy, accountability, fairness and freedom).
- Elections are assessed against OSCE commitments, international obligations and other standards and national legislation.
- ODIHR: +300 observation activities in 56 of 57 participating States.
- In 2016, observation activities already to Iceland, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Serbia, and recommended for upcoming elections including to Bulgaria, Georgia, Russian Federation, and US.

# Election Observation in the US

- Six previous observation missions to the US since 2002 - always by invitation from the US government.
- Needs Assessment Mission from 16-20 May to assess the pre-election environment and preparations for the 8 November general elections.
- Meetings held with various federal institutions/authorities, both main political parties and civil society organizations.
- Mission recommended to send an election observation mission (EOM) to observe the upcoming elections.

# Election Observation Mission Timeline

## Early October - mission opening:

- ✓ Core team of 12-15 experts based in Washington DC
- ✓ Up to 100 long-term observers across the country

## Early November:

- ✓ Up to 400 short-term observers for election day joined by some 100 members of parliaments from OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

## 9 November:

- ✓ Presentation of preliminary findings and conclusions

## Approx. two months after the elections:

- ✓ Publish final mission report with recommendations



# Relations between ODIHR and the US

- ODIHR has enjoyed fruitful co-operation with the authorities, including with the Secretaries of State.
- ODIHR welcomes the NASS *Resolution on International Election Observers*.
- The US represents a key supporter of ODIHR observation activities, including through its continued secondments of observers.
- ODIHR looks forward to maintaining the strong bilateral relationship and to post-election follow-up.

# Contacts

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**Radivoje GRUJIĆ**

Election Adviser/Desk Officer for the US

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights

Email: [radivoje.grujic@odihr.pl](mailto:radivoje.grujic@odihr.pl)

Website: [www.osce.org/odihr/elections](http://www.osce.org/odihr/elections)