

What are PUBLIC COUNCILS (PC)?

- this is a mechanism of public participation in adoption and implementation of state decisions.

The infographic was produced at the request of the Coordinating Council of the Public Councils with the state agencies with assistance from UNDP Project "Capacity Building Mechanism" co-funded by the Open Society Foundations and joint EU-UNDP project "Operationalization of good governance for social justice"



Decisions of the PC are of advisory nature



Participation in the PC is voluntary and gratuitous

"Public Councils are one of forms of interaction and cooperation of the public with ministries, state committees and administrative institutions. Establishment of public councils does not exclude or limit other forms of interaction and cooperation of the public with ministries, state committees and administrative institutions as well as maintaining public monitoring over their performance."

The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic "On public councils with the state agencies" No 74 dated May 24, 2014

OBJECTIVES OF THE PUBLIC COUNCILS

- Promote public initiatives related to the activity of the state agencies;
- Assist to the state agencies in developing and adoption of high quality decisions of public importance including strategic ones;
- Increase transparency and efficiency of the use of financial resources and grants by the state agencies;
- Improve the quality of public services delivered to the population..

More details:
Article 4 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Councils

RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC COUNCILS

- Participate in the development and public discussion of draft normative and legal acts as well as governance decisions;
- Organize public hearings and other events;
- Inform the public on the performance of the state agencies;
- Assist the state agencies in their interaction with the public;
- Attract funding which is not prohibited by the Kyrgyz legislation;
- Participate as observers in the sittings of ministries, state committees and administrative institutions (working groups, collegiate sessions etc) as well as structural subdivisions thereof; in the work of tender, competition and other commissions of ministries, state committees and administrative institutions etc.

More details:
Article 5 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Councils

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PUBLIC COUNCILS

- Accept for the review proposals from citizens and organizations concerning the activity of the state agencies;
- Inform and report to the public on the activity and decisions made by the PC.

More details:
Article 6 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Councils

SELECT COMMISSION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE PUBLIC COUNCILS

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Is composed of 15 persons



A Commission member cannot be a member of the PC.

14 days

14 calendar days for the replacement of a representative in the Commission.

5 persons

- One permanent representative from
- Administration of the Jogorku Kenesh
- Office of the President
- Office of the Government
- Akiykatchy (Ombudsman)
- State Personnel Service

For 5 year's period

10 persons

Representatives of the civil society.
Elected for the period **5 years** on the competitive basis.

10 days

10 calendar days for the replacement of a member of the Commission from the civil society.

Requirements towards the candidate for membership in the Commission

- Legal capacity as a citizen of the KR
- At least 25 years of age
- Absence of criminal record
- Higher education
- Experience in public activity
- Not a civil / municipal servant

The contest shall be held in the presence of the Counting board (representatives of the Office of the President, Office of the Government, the Ombudsman, the CEC) by open rating vote (in writing) among the candidates to the Commission.

More details: Article 9 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Councils

1 person

One association can nominate only **one candidate** to be elected to the Commission from the civil society.

Association **at least three** non-commercial organizations registered as a public association, foundation and / or institution (except for state and municipal agencies).

Contest for the membership in the Commission 10-20 calendar days

1 month

Documents from applicants for the participation in the contest are accepted within 1 month since the publication in the media.

Documents to be submitted by the candidate to the Commission

- Letter from the Association
- Application from the candidate
- CV

FORMATION OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL

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7-15 members

The PC shall be composed of at least 7 but no more than 15 members.

For 2 years

70%

- not more than 70% persons of the same gender among the members of the Council.

Councils are formed by the Commission on the basis of a contest.

1 person

Only **one person** can be elected to a PC from one organization. One and the same person can be elected only to one PC.



Candidates for the membership in the PC can be proposed by self-nomination.

Requirements towards the candidate for membership in the Public Council

Legal capacity as a citizen of the KR

Absence of criminal record

Not a civil / municipal servant

Impeccable business reputation

Having no relatives in the state agency where the PC is created

Having no dependency on the state agency where the PC is created

Experience in community activity

More details: Article 14 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Councils

1 mont

The documents for the participation in the contest shall be accepted within 1 month since the day of relevant publication in the media.

Documents to be submitted by the candidate to the Public Council

Application from the candidate

CV with a photo

At least two reference letters

Description of a personal vision of activity in the PC

PROCEDURES OF ACTIVITY OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL

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CC

Coordination Council of the PC shall coordinate the joint efforts of all Councils established with the state agencies

SECRETARIATS OF PC

- prepare the meetings of Councils;
- provide informational support to Councils;
- maintains business records of Councils.

More details: Article 20 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Councils

PCs interact with each other on the principles of equality and partnership.

The main form activity of the PC is its meeting, the meeting is deemed eligible in the event it is attended by at least two thirds of the members. Meetings are convened as necessary but at least once a month.

More details: Article 17 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Councils

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE PC

- organizes the activities of the PC;
- chairs the meetings of the PC;
- signs the documents of the PC;
- implements the decisions of the PC;
- represents the PC in the state agencies.

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS OF THE PC

- perform the functions of the Chairperson during his / her absence;
- oversee the work of PC commissions and working groups.

MEMBERS OF THE PC

- personally attend at its meetings;
- one PC member shall have one vote;
- have the right to convene extraordinary meetings of the PC;
- have no right to publish, hand over to the state agencies or other persons documents as well as other materials on behalf of the PC prior to their due approval by the Council..

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL

- conduct round tables and other events;
- invite the heads of the state agencies at its meetings on the issues of their competence;
- assist the state agencies in their interaction with the public;
- create permanent or / and temporary working committees, groups etc.

Sessions of Councils are open for the citizens, civil society representatives and media. The PCs may also invite the representatives of the state agencies, experts etc.

The head of the state agency shall appoint one of his / her deputies as a permanent representative of the agency in the Council with the right to personally attend at the meetings of the Council.

STATE EXECUTIVE AGENCIES



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE AGENCIES IN THEIR INTERACTION WITH THE PUBLIC COUNCILS

- The state agency shall receive the agenda of the meeting of the public council at least two days prior to the meeting day;
- The state agency is obliged to inform the Council on the date, venue and agenda of meetings of tender and other commissions arranged by the state agency two days prior to these meetings and ensure the participation of the Public Council at any stage of such meetings;
- The state agency has the right to propose issues for the inclusion in the agenda of the Council;
- The state agency shall in due course receive a copy of the annual work plan of the Council at least 5 working days since the date of its approval;
- The state agency shall provide necessary information to the Council upon its request (excluding state secrets);
- Having received a request from the Council, the relevant official of the state agency has to provide an answer in writing at least within two weeks since the day of the registration of the request;
- The state agency shall provide premises for the meetings of the Council, office equipment etc.

More details: Article 18 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Public Councils