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THE PARTICIPATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN ELECTIONS TO THE VOLYN REGIONAL COUNCIL (1994-2015)

The active process of the new political institutions' forming, the principles of democracy and political pluralism, the formation of the system of representative bodies in the regions began with the Declaration of the Independence. Volyn region as a component part of sovereign Ukraine actively participates in the development of the state and nation and, therefore, the practice of democratic transformation's learning, on its territory is an important factor of replenishment of the state's creation national experience.

Keywords: political parties, elections, democracy, democratic transformation

The purpose of this article is to analyze the process of formation of the structure of party-political associations in Volyn region, their participation in the elections to the Volyn Regional Council.

The nature of party-political structuring in the Volyn region as a whole fits into the scheme of evolution of the party system of Ukraine proposed by domestic specialists: 1990–1995 (phase of the multiparty system formation); 1996–1999 (phase of the polarized pluralism's system formation); 2000–2004 (the transition to the system of the moderate pluralism); 2005-February 2010 (phase of the moderate pluralism's system stabilization) [1, p.3].

The constituent Assembly of regional branch of the first in Volyn region alternative to the Communist party – Ukrainian Republican Party (URP) was held in may 1990. The activists of the Ukrainian Helsinki Union and People's Movement of Ukraine (PMU). In the second half of August 1990 a founding conference of the Volyn regional organization of the Ukrainian People's Democratic party (UPDP) was held. Volyn regional organization of Democratic party of Ukraine (DPU) was established in early October [2, p. 10, 12, 16]. Characteristically, all the three organizations that emerged in 1990 belonged to the ideological spectrum of right-wing parties of the national-patriotic direction.

The left wing parties began to emerge only after a failed coup attempt in August 1991 and the cessation of activities of the Communist party. The regional organization of the Peasant party of Ukraine (PPU) was established. The regional organization of the Socialist party of Ukraine (SPU) was established in October 1992 [2, p. 37, 47].

In 1993, the number of political parties in Ukraine increased to 31. The impetus for the development of a multiparty system in Ukraine was the adoption by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on June 16 1992 the Law of Ukraine «On Associations of Citizens», which defined the legal basis of activities of political parties [3, p.10].

The process of the right wing the party associations' establishment continued in 1992–1993. This time the regional organization of the Congress of the Ukrainian Nationalists (CNU) starts its activity. A regional branch of the Congress of the National Democratic Forces (CNDF) was established in September 1992. In February 1993, the creation in Lutsk of another party uniting right-wing with a great name – Anti-Imperial Anti-Communist front Volyn was declared. The originators of the front's creation were PMU, URP, CNDF [2, p. 49].

In 1993, after the recovery Congress, which was held in Donetsk in June, the Communist party of Ukraine returned to «politics». So, at the beginning of 1994 the structure of party organizations in the Volyn region had pronounced a brightly polarized view where on

the left flank the party cell of the Communist party, PPU, SPU were centered, while PMU, URP, DPU, CNDF, CUN were centered on the right one.

The local elections of 1994 showed the weakness of the young political parties. Therefore mostly non-partisan candidates found here electoral support. So, in the elections to the Volyn Regional Council of 60 members, only 15 were the nominees of political parties. The largest representation in the Council had PPU (6 members), URP (5), CPU (2), PMU and DPU for one deputy [4, p. 121–122]. That is, the sympathy of the electorate after the ideological direction was shared between the representatives of right-wing and left-wing forces almost equally.

If the beginning of the 1990s is marked as the process of the emergence of right-wing and left-wing parties which embodied the struggle of the national-democratic and pro-communist forces, than at the beginning of the second half of the 1990s, the process of formation of the centrist parties that had professed a principle of pragmatism started in Volyn. The first such party in the region was the Liberal party of Ukraine (LPU). Its regional center was created in spring 1995. In 1996 the Volyn regional organizations of the National Democratic party (NDP) and the Christian Democratic party of Ukraine (CDPU) were established.

Intensification of structural adjustment of the Ukraine's political system was facilitated by the introduction in the parliamentary elections 1998 the mixed proportional-majoritarian system of elections. Significant in this context in Volyn was 1997 year, when the regional organizations of the Agrarian party of Ukraine (APU), all-Ukrainian Association «Hromada» («Community»), Party of National-Economic Development of Ukraine (PNEDU), Republican Christian party (RCP), Ukrainian party of Justice (UPJ), the People's party, Social Democratic party of Ukraine United (SDPU (U)), the party «Reforms and Order», Party of Greens of Ukraine (PGU) began their activity. So from the newly created regional organizations only – RCP can be attributed to the right wing of the ideological spectrum.

In the elections to the Volyn Regional Council, 1998, which was of 80 deputies, parliamentary seats were won by representatives of the following parties: APU (10), PDP (3), PPU (2), UPJ (2), PMU (2), CPU (2) URP (1), DPU, AU «Hromada» (1) – in total 26 deputies. That is, the majority of deputies at the time, remained non-partisan [5, p. 142].

According to Yu. Shweda's findings, after 1996, the party system of the country was in a state of transition from the atomized system to the polarized pluralism one. This clearly proved the existence of two strong poles of the opposition (anti-systemic left and right). The parliamentary elections of 1998, in his opinion, has made some changes to the configuration of the party system of Ukraine, contributing to the formation in Ukraine of small parties (in accordance with the proposed by P. Mayer's classification of party system where two major parties which have at their disposal more than 80 % of the seats it is necessary to qualify as a system of large parties, if they manage 65 % of the mandates, we are talking about the system of secondary parties, and if they have 42 % of the seats, it is a system of small parties.). Of the eight parties passing in 1998 4 percent barrier, only the Communist party won over 15% of votes (of 24.65 %). It is obvious that the party system of Ukraine, where the two largest parties, the Communist party and PMU got together in 1998 37, 55 % of the seats, belonged to the latter type (small parties) [6, p.18].

After the parliamentary and presidential elections at the end of the 1990s the process of political structuring, where the ideological factor no longer played a decisive role, continued in Ukraine. The state of the legitimacy of party cells in the Volyn region confirms the results of the elections to the Regional Council 2002 year. So, to the highest representative Body of the region, representatives of 14 parties with a total number of 38 were elected, 42 members were non-partisan. On party office: APU (14), PDP (10), Party of Industrialists and

Entrepreneurs and the UPM (2); AU «Bat'kivshchyna» («Fatherherland»), CPU, CUN, PMU, parties «Democratic Union», «Women for Future», «Reforms and Order», «Labor Ukraine», SDPU (U), URP were able to delegate to Council only for one deputy [4, pp. 174–175].].

As evidenced by the election results there was a significant decrease in the representation in the regional Council of the ideological parties of the left and right wing, but the advantage of a pragmatic centrist parties became apparent. Thus, there have been fundamental changes in the structure of party representation in the Council, which gives reason to confirm the transition of the party system from the polarized system to the system of the moderate pluralism.

On the eve of parliamentary elections of 2006, there was truly «explosive» growth in the number of political parties and artificial parties' formations, which only formally can be considered parties. So, in the Volyn region that year there was the largest at that time number of the registered party cells – 29. Their noticeable increase is due to the adoption in April 2004 of the Law of Ukraine On Elections of People's Deputies providing for the introduction of a proportional electoral system. The rapid growth in the number of parties experts also explain by the effect of article 10 of the Law «On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine» according to which candidates may be nominated only by the party registered in the prescribed manner not later than 365 days before election day, or election bloc of parties, provided that it comprises parties registered not later than 365 days before election day.

Elections to local authorities of 2006 made clear the sympathy of the electorate to certain political forces. In the Volyn region, unlike the South-Eastern regions, the sympathies of voters are mostly given to the AU «Bat'kivshchyna», which confirmed its dominance at the election of the Supreme representative body of the region. Of the 80 parliamentary mandates AU «Bat'kivshchyna», has won more than a half – 42. For the first time in the history of democratic elections, one party was able to recruit such a large number to the regional Council. 12 deputies from the party «Our Ukraine», five from the UPM, four from the USDP were also elected to Council, for three from the People's party, the PR, SPU the PIEU, the PMU received two of the mandate [4, pp. 332–334].

Election to local authorities on 31 October 2010 in Ukraine became logical continuation of the presidential campaign, since the main political struggle was between the political forces opponents in the presidential elections of Ukraine in 2010. For the first time in national practice, local elections were held separately from parliamentary. In total 80 seats in the regional Council were representatives of 14 parties, and its overall composition was such (tab. 1).

Table 1

Results of the elections to the Volyn Region Council 2010

№	Political party	% votes	Number of mandates
1.	AU «Fatherland» «Bat'kivshchyna»	32,5	26
2.	Party of regions	27,5	22
3.	Peoples party	8,8	7
4.	AU «Svoboda» «Freedom»	7,5	6
5.	Our Ukraine	5,0	4
6.	United Center	5,0	4
7.	Front of Changes	2,8	3
8.	URP «Sobor»	2,5	2
9.	For Ukraine!	1,2	1
10.	Strong Ukraine	1,2	1
11.	Peasant party	1,2	1

12.	Agrarian party	1,2	1
13.	Communist party of Ukraine	1,2	1
14.	Solidarity of women of Ukraine	1,2	1
Total		100,0	80

Source: [5, p. 170].

Intensification of political structuring in the region in 2015, contributed elections to the local authorities, because according to part 3, article 2 of the Law of Ukraine «On Local Elections», the election of deputies of regional, city and district councils in the cities were held by the proportional system in multi-member constituency according to the electoral lists of local organizations of political parties [7]. So, if 2014 there were 11 new Volyn regional party cells, then in 2015 there were already 50. At the end of 2015, the regional Department of justice registered more than 200 existing party organizations.

The results of the local elections showed a fundamental change in the balance of political forces after the 2010 local elections. and the political emergence of the young political parties that were formed out of civil society activists, representatives of businesses and politicians who either came from the ranks of former political parties or paved their own way in politics. The nature of sympathies of Volyn voters for parties and electoral blocs clearly show the results of the elections to the Volyn regional Council (tab. 2).

Table 2

Results of the elections to the Volyn Region Council 2015

№	Political parties and electoral blocs	Votes for	% of votes	The number of mandates
1.	«UAP»	90 195	26,56	17
2.	PPB «Solidarnist'» «Solidarity»	73 308	20,31	13
3.	AU«Fatherland»»Bat'kivshchyna»	65 678	18,75	12
4.	AU «Svoboda» «Freedom»	35 825	10,94	7
5.	«Association «Samopomich»»	26 793	7,81	5
6.	«Our Land»	21 305	6,25	4

Source: [8].

The unpredictable success of the political party «Ukrainian Association of Patriots – UAP» in the Volyn region is primarily due to the authority of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine of VI and VII convocations, the member of political Council of party «UAP» citizen of Volyn I. Palyca, who put a lot of effort into the development of Lutsk and region. The process of political structuring in the region in the future has not stopped: at the end of August 2016 there were about 20 regional organizations of the new political parties.

So, the elections to the Volyn Regional Council during the research period showed that there have been significant changes in the structure of electoral preferences of voters. If during the acute ideological confrontation between pro-communist and national-patriotic forces, the beginning of the 1990s the population's sympathy was on the side of the latter, the authority of the nationalist parties began to fall. With the emergence of pragmatic centrist parties in the late 1990s – early 2000s, when the political struggle moved from the plane of ideological confrontation in the confrontation between the government and the opposition, the sympathies of the locals were almost always on the side of the opposition. When fundamental changes in the political system of the country after the fall of the regime of Yanukovich, certain permanence evidence such political parties, as AU «Fatherland», AU «Svoboda», the Agrarian party etc. The party «UAP» declared in the electoral cycle of 2014–2015 valid claims to represent the interests of locals.

In the absence of a sustainable social base the variability of the process of political structuring is due to the fact that the political organizations of the region are predominantly not spokesmen of social groups' interests, but the spokesmen of the technological and

business projects, growth in the number of which correlates with the beginning of another election campaign.

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З проголошенням незалежності розпочався активний процес формування нових політичних інститутів, утвердження принципів демократії та політичного плюралізму, формування системи представницьких органів влади у регіонах. Волинська область як складова частина суверенної України є активним суб'єктом розбудови держави і нації і тому вивчення практики демократичної трансформації на її теренах є вагомим чинником поповнення загальнонаціонального досвіду державотворення.

Ключові слова: політичні партії, вибори, демократія, демократична трансформація

С провозглашением независимости начался активный процесс формирования новых политических институтов, утверждение принципов демократии и политического плюрализма, формирование системы представительных органов власти в регионах. Волынская область как составная часть суверенной Украины является активным субъектом развития государства и нации и поэтому изучение практики демократической трансформации на ее территории является весомым фактором пополнения общенационального опыта государственного строительства.

Ключевые слова: политические партии, выборы, демократия, демократическая трансформация