

STRATEGY FOR OVERCOMING
THE POLITICAL CRISIS AND
BUILDING A DEMOCRATIC STATE
IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

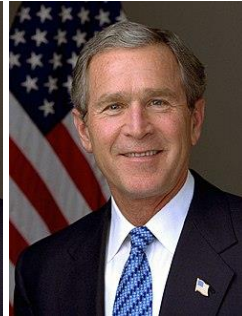
REFERENDUM

ELECTIONS TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

We want to return to the people of Belarus the right to choose. We invite you to support our ambitious idea. Let's surprise the world together!

More than 50 experts, analysts, civil servants, politicians, consultants, representatives of civil society from different countries took part in the development of a **strategy to overcome the political crisis in Belarus**. The best world practices and accumulated errors were taken into account. Following the discussions, the working group presented a plan for organising a referendum and elections to the National Council.

28 years USA vs Belarus



1994

1996

2000

2005

2010

2015

2020

2022



In July 1994, the first presidential elections were held in Belarus, in which Alexander Lukashenko was elected. For more than 28 years, he has been permanently in power. The dictatorship and cult of personality have been established in the country, all democratic institutions have been liquidated.

Election 2020

Belarus

In 2020, regular presidential elections were held in Belarus, which were not recognised by the people and the international community. The main opposition candidates were arrested or forced to leave the country. The teams of Viktor Babariko and Valery Tsepkalo collected a total of more than 600 thousand signatures of voters for nomination as presidential candidates. This was a record for the opposition in the history of election campaigns in Belarus. The authorities did not allow them to participate in the elections and left on the voting list the wife of the arrested blogger Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who became the technical candidate of the protest.

Hundreds of thousands of Belarusians throughout the country took to the streets to protest. Solidarity campaigns have been organised in more than 50 countries around the world. People believed in justice and the law.

The main demands of the people in August 2020:

1. Release of political prisoners
2. New elections



RESULTS 2020-2022



After August 2020, the country faced the largest repression in history. There are more than 1600 political prisoners in prisons. The junta recognised about 900 people as "terrorists" and according to this indicator, Belarus came out on top in the world. We faced mass emigration for political reasons. Hundreds of thousands of citizens cannot return home.

All non-profit organisations and major media outlets have been destroyed, and independent trade unions have been liquidated. The regime has become a threat to regional security, provoking a migration crisis and dragging Belarus into the war against Ukraine.

Two years later, the desire of the people of Belarus for democratic changes has not disappeared. People strive to put an end to the political terror and Lukashenko's regime and look forward to new fair elections.

Elections were not recognized at the international level. There are no legitimate body that represents people of Belarus.

The creation of a collective legitimate body will allow to switch public attention from the discussion of personalities to a discussion of the basic values of democracy.



National Council of the Republic of Belarus

It is proposed to elect by direct vote the National Council of the Republic of Belarus, which will become the highest representative and legislative body in the eyes people of Belarus during the period of illegal retention of power by the regime in the Republic of Belarus, as well as during the transitional period.

1

Citizens will have the opportunity to submit their initiatives and bills for consideration

2

Pluralism, transparency and openness are the basic principles of the National Council

3

The meetings will be broadcasted live

“

7

The elections consolidate the efforts of all political forces and citizens for the speedy resolution of the political crisis in Belarus.

The election of the People's Parliament with the support of the international observances of electoral process opens up the recognition of this body by the people of Belarus

Democracy means tolerance, compromise and deliberation.

Every citizen of Belarus will be able to elect and to be elected.

”

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 21 Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Structure of the National Council

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The main objective: restoration of law and order in the Republic of Belarus and development of institutes of parliamentarism.

Term of office: 2 years

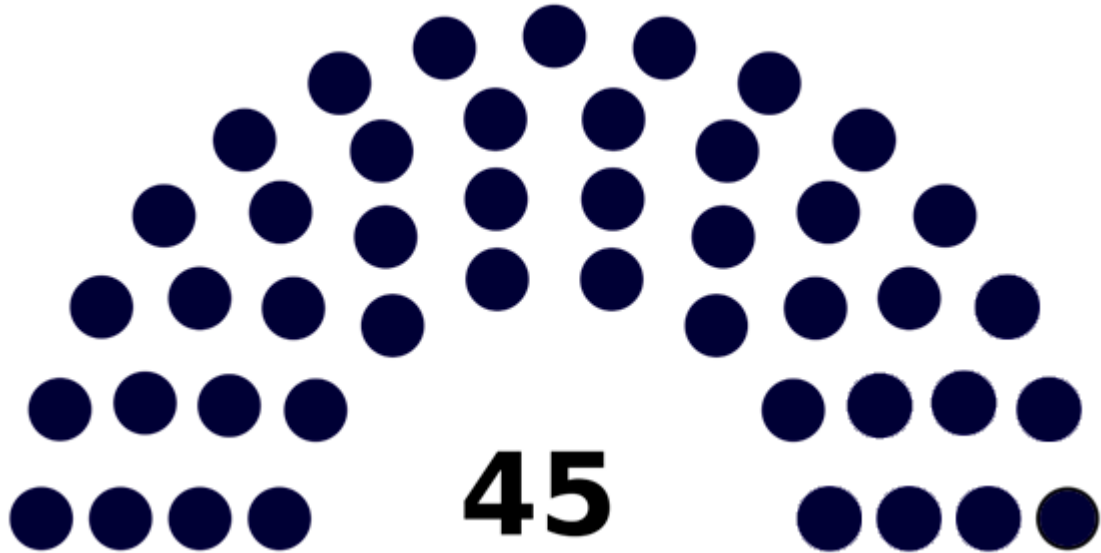
Citizens of the Republic of Belarus reaching the age of 18

Tasks:

- Consolidation and coordination of all democratic forces inside and outside the country in order to dismantle the dictatorial regime
- Coordination of activities for overcoming the political crisis in Belarus
- Representing the interests of citizens of the Republic of Belarus in various international institutions
- Development of legislative framework to ensure the transition period

Committees:

1. On the development of civil society and constitutional reform
2. National Reconciliation
3. Transit period
4. Economics and finance committee
5. International affairs committee
6. On human rights, release and rehabilitation of political prisoners
7. and others (if necessary)





E-readiness Belarus

According to the DIGITAL 2022 report, there are 8.03 million Internet users (85.1%) per 9.4 million inhabitants of Belarus

Internet:

- Laptops and computers 57%,
- Smartphones 43%

According to official data, there are 6.8 million voters in Belarus. It is planned to hold a nationwide media campaign and involve citizens to take part in the vote.

Who will be able to run as a candidate and how will the voting take place?



The voter will be able to cast for several candidates. Thus, possible minor distortions will not affect the final result. All participants in the electoral process will be on an equal footing. It is expected that all non-passing candidates will have a priority right to participate in the discussions and be involved as consultants.



Elections to the National Council will be organised via Internet by using blockchain technology. This will ensure that citizens have a safe, secure and transparent vote in elections.



The main functions and modules that are proposed to be included in the voting platform:

- verification of the identity of the voter within the country using the IP address and a unique mobile device;
- verification of the identity of the voter abroad using a passport as well as selfie voting on personal smartphones and tablets.

Protecting the personal information of all citizens will be the number one priority

Data security will be in the area of responsibility of the company, which will provide online election technology. Identifying documents (photo ID, video "selfie") will be completely deleted from the system to make sure that no personal information can be accessed in the future. The company operating the elections should be located in the USA, Canada, EU or UK and regulated in accordance with the laws of this countries.

Referendum and the Elections 2022

Belarus

Referendum organized simultaneously with elections brings back the sense for Belarus people.

The Referendum and elections will give a new impetus and faith in the imminent possibility of political change.



For reference

The *National Council of Poland* operated from 1939 to 1991 in exile. Thus in exile during the Second World War began the history of that part of the Polish state, which is associated with the tradition of Polish parliamentarism. The members of the Council were elected by citizens living in different countries.

The *Estonian government-in-exile* existed from 1944 until 1992. Diplomatic missions were the primary tool for conducting diplomacy and managing day-to-day public affairs (such as issuing passports).

The *Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile*, which is a legislative body consisting of 46 elected members, has been functioning since 1960. Currently, there is an International Network of Parliamentarians on Tibet, which includes Members of almost 30 Parliaments.

Referendum 2020

Venezuela

In 2020, a national referendum was held in Venezuela, organised by members of Venezuelan civil society, the National Assembly of Venezuela. Voting was conducted remotely and in person. The online voting platform was available through web browsers, mobile apps and iPad-based tablet apps. More than 1.7 million votes were processed through the online platform during the referendum.

Regional security

In the coming months, the international community's interest in Belarus will increase significantly. This is due to the war in Ukraine, the threat of the transfer of military operations to the territory of the country, the deterioration of the socio-economic situation.

In February 2024, the Belarusian authorities plan to hold parliamentary elections, and in March 2024, the next presidential elections are to be held in Russia. These events can lead to increased protest attitudes in society. The timely creation of the body in the form of an elected legitimate parliament will open a new window of opportunity to overcome the political crisis.

Its early resolution will help strengthen regional security, relieve tension in the region and reduce the risks of a military conflict spreading beyond the borders of Ukraine.



Necessary resources and support

We appeal to all interested citizens of the world, especially to deputies of parliaments, politicians, public figures, businessmen with a request to support our initiative.



International observers

An international election monitoring mission of the international community, the European Union, OSCE, the European Parliament, non-profit organisations and parties from different countries is extremely important for the implementation of this strategy.

Supervisory board

The task of the Supervisory Board will be to support and promote the initiative at the international level.



Supporting international organisations, governments, companies and citizens to conduct elections based on international standards



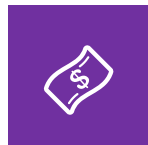
Choosing an Independent Trusted Platform to Conduct Online Elections



Informing and involving citizens of the Republic of Belarus inside the country and abroad in the election campaign



International observers and experts for consultations and subsequent independent evaluation of the elections



Resources for the organisation of elections and the functioning of the National Council, which will be formed in the elections

Who is the initiator and organiser?

The operator for the organisation of elections is the Belarusian Democratic Forum.

The Belarusian Democratic Forum is a non-governmental organisation registered in Latvia in 2020 in the form of an association. The creation of the organisation was initiated by the candidate for the presidency of the Republic of Belarus in 2020 Valery Tsepkalo.

The Belarusian Democratic Forum was created as a platform where representatives of various political and public organisations, initiatives, representatives of civil society can take part. Its main goal is to involve political and public activists of Belarus in the process of discussing the future of the country. Discussion of specific issues of the future development of Belarus focusing on relieving interpersonal tensions that exist in a democratic community.

During the activities of the Belarusian Democratic Forum, a number of investigations into corruption were conducted, several documentaries were shot, a number of online resources were created as a tool to discuss various initiatives of citizens - <https://www.belarusforum.org>. The initiative tribunal.live, containing a list of crimes against humanity of the Lukashenko's regime, has also been launched.



Valery Tsepkala

In 1993-1994 he was an adviser on foreign policy issues to the Chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus Stanislau Shushkevich. From 1994 to 1997 he worked as First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus.

Valery Tsepkala's team in 2020 collected 230 thousand signatures of citizens for his nomination as a candidate for the presidency of the Republic of Belarus with the necessary 100 thousand. This was the second result in the history of election campaigns in Belarus.



From 1997 to 2002 he was the Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the United States and Mexico (concurrently).

One of the main achievements of Valery Tsepkala is the creation of the **High-Tech Park**. During the period of his leadership from 2005 to 2017, a significant software development industry was created in Belarus from scratch.





Dmitry Bolkunets

political analyst. About 5,000 publications, comments and interviews were published in more than 300 media outlets from different countries in a few years. In November 2020, Dmitry Bolkunets launched a YouTube channel. During the existence of the channel, it gained 29 million views. Repeatedly the channel was included in the top 10 most popular monthly channels in Belarus. Editor of the information resource bolkunets.org. He organized more than 500 events.



Anatol Kotau

2002 – 2006 - third, second secretary of the main contractual-legal department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus
 2006 – 2010 - third, second secretary of the Belarusian Embassy in Poland
 2010 – 2014 - Principal Counsellor on foreign policy of the Administration of the President of the Republic of Belarus
 2014 - 2015- Senior Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Belarus in Poland
 2015 - 2019 Secretary General of the National Olympic Committee of Belarus
 2018 - 2019 Deputy Director of the European Games Directorate 2019 Foundation
 2019 - 2020 - Administrative Office of the President

Advisory Board

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Juan Guaido
Venezuela

Vaira Vike-
Freiberga
Latvia

Jason Jay Smart
USA

Lina Zedriga Waru
Uganda

Murad Kurbanov
Turkmenistan

Salem al-Meslet
Syria

Senton Kacaniku
Kosovo

On 23 January 2019, Guaido and the National Assembly declared he was acting president of Venezuela

President of Latvia from 1999 to 2007

Managing Partner
American Political
Services, LLC

Secretary of
Uganda's National
Committee for the
Prevention and
Punishment of the
Crime of Genocide,
War Crimes, Crimes
Against Humanity
and All Forms of
Discrimination.

The President
Assembly of Civic
Initiatives "Choice"
(France), President of
Turkmenistan elected
in electronic election
in 2022, Leader of
the National
Democratic
Movement "CHOIX
DEMOCRATIQUE DU
TURKMENISTAN"

President of the
National
Coalition for
Opposition and
Revolutionary
Forces of Syria.

Chairman of the
Republican
Coalition for
Kosovo.
Chairman of the
Institute for
Freedom and
Justice.

How can I get in touch?

The procedure for holding elections involves all interested citizens, calling elections, creating an election commission, inviting international observers, nominating and registering candidates, holding a media campaign, voting on an independent platform and summing up the results.

**We look forward to your active participation
in the discussion info@e-belarus.com**

