

# The regulation of vote buying around the world and in Kyrgyzstan

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*The regulation of vote buying around the world*

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## Executive Summary

- Vote buying is universally considered a serious violation, and is banned in at least 95% of countries in the world.
- The Kyrgyz Republic also is included in this list of countries, therefore vote buying is considered as a crime and a serious violation which is strictly prohibited.
- While there is no definition of vote buying accepted everywhere, it can be considered as “the giving or promising to give something of value in order to influence for what party or candidate that someone casts their vote, or to abstain from voting”
- Key considerations from this analysis of vote buying provisions in 141 countries include *who* should be banned from engaging in vote buying activities, whether it should be required to prove *intent* with gifts given or promised, and if vote buying provisions should be limited to certain *times*.
- It is also discussed to what extent that *promises* to provide gifts or advantages should be defined as vote buying, to make the provisions as effective as possible without penalising standard election campaign promises.
- It is argued that while criminalising vote selling (the receipt of vote buying) can reduce willingness among voters to receive gifts from politicians, it can also reduce their willingness to report experienced violations to the authorities.
  
- The available sanctions in different countries is analysed, and while it is rare that violators face losing their positions as candidates or holders of elected seats, it is argued that such sanctions could be valuable additions (in certain circumstances)
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## Introduction

Democracy requires open regular elections where the voters freely decide who to support and cast their vote without undue interference. The buying of votes is considered a major violation of the democratic nature of an election, which is reflected in the fact that at least 95% of all countries in the world that hold elections have bans against such activities.<sup>1</sup>

The problem of vote-buying has taken place throughout the entire existence of sovereign Kyrgyzstan. The words of the country's first president, Askar Akayev, are well known, who once said: "If someone gives money, take it, if someone feeds you, eat it. But on Election Day, being in a booth, vote for whomever you want."

By his statement, being the president of the country, A. Akaev recognized vote-buying as an integral element of the electoral process.<sup>2</sup>

Vote buying is a highly complicated issue, and there are many discussions about how it should be defined and understood both in law and within the context of the political process, and many attempts have been made to measure its use and impact. This document focuses exclusively on the formal regulations that countries have used to ban vote buying. It analyses the way that vote buying has been regulated in 141 countries around the world, analysing the various solutions and alternatives. The provision against vote buying in these countries is included in the appendix.

As well as in the other countries vote buying became one of the basic problems and barriers became one of the fundamental problems and a barrier to fair and transparent elections.

## The international regulatory experience

### Main outline of regulating vote buying

Regulations against vote buying generally try to ban the giving or promising to give something of value in order to influence for what party or candidate that someone casts their vote, or to abstain from voting. Normally this covers gifts by any person or entity, although some countries limit the regulations to only cover political parties or candidates.<sup>3</sup>

A version of this regulation is to ban what is sometimes called "treating", which can be conceived as the giving of gifts to voters, regardless of whether or not an intent to influence their voting behaviour

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<sup>1</sup> Data taken, unless otherwise noted, from the International IDEA political finance database, available at [www.idea.int/political-finance](http://www.idea.int/political-finance). This database covers 180 countries, out of which data was found for the question about vote buying regarding 171 countries. Some of these have been excluded in this study as the provided supporting data was not clear. Some countries use different laws for different types of elections (such as for president, parliament and local government). In these cases, it has not always been possible to show if a ban on vote buying exists for *all types* of elections.

<sup>2</sup>

<https://iwpr.net/ru/global-voices/%D0%BA%D1%8B%D1%80%D0%B3%D1%8B%D0%B7%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD-%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B4%D0%B8%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%82%D1%8B-%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%B4%D0%B0%D0%B1%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B0%D1%8E%D1%82-%D0%B8%D0%B7%D0%B1%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D0%B5%D0%B9>

<sup>3</sup> Some countries simply ban "bribery" in relation to the electoral process. In these cases, it is likely that this concept is defined further in other legislation (such as the penal code), which may not have been available for analysis here.

can be proven. Another issue is whether vote selling (receiving gifts intended to influence voters) should be banned.

Regulations against vote buying are normally included in the electoral legislation of a country (frequently among the list of electoral offences), though in some cases it is instead (or in addition) regulated in the penal or criminal code.<sup>4</sup>

A particular form of activity is where resources of the state are spent ahead of an election that is likely to increase the popularity of incumbent political parties or politicians. Often this relates to spending that directly impacts regular voters, such as spending on social welfare, education or infrastructure projects, increases in salaries of public employees and benefits such as pensions, as well as hiring additional staff to the public sector. Targeted tax credits to specific companies or industries can function as a reverse approach serving the same goal of increasing the popularity of the incumbent.

It can be argued that activities of this kind serve as vote buying use public funds (compare with the discussions about “treating” and promises of gifts below), and as so blurring the areas of vote buying and abuse of state resources. However, at least as long as they are not explicitly done in return for increased voter support, they are seldom if ever covered by vote buying regulations. On the other hand, separate from vote buying regulations, an increasing number of countries are introducing limitations on public spending (or the increase thereof) during pre-election periods, to reduce the advantage of incumbency.

*Regulations against abuse of state resources are not further considered in this document. For further information, please see Part III of the IFES Political Finance Oversight Handbook.*<sup>5</sup>

### Considerations in regulating vote buying

Below follows a discussion about key aspects of regulations against vote buying, with information about the usage in different countries, as well as about the advantages and disadvantages of different solutions.

#### Who is banned from making the regulated gifts or promises?

In most cases, the ban relates to *all* persons without limitations. However, where gift-giving (treating) itself is banned, as a complement to the giving/offering in return for votes (see the next point), it is necessary to limit the provision to identified entities (normally political parties and/or candidates). This is since otherwise all giving of gifts would be banned (at least during pre-election periods).

There are some countries where the ban focuses on gifts given to influence voters that limit these regulations to political parties or candidates. These include;<sup>6</sup>

*Table 1, Countries where only vote buying by parties or candidates is banned*

Country	Legal provision
Azerbaijan	Candidates, registered candidates, political parties, blocs of political parties, referendum campaign groups, their agents, and other persons and organizations who participate directly in a preelection campaign shall be prohibited from: ... influencing voters during

<sup>4</sup> Where different laws are used for different types of elections, it seems that the provisions against vote buying are not always consistent.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.ifes.org/publications/tide-political-finance-oversight-handbook>

<sup>6</sup> For full references, see the appendix.

	the pre-election campaign by promising them securities, money and other goods and services based on grounds that contradict legislation
Iraq	During the election campaign it is prohibited for any candidates to provide gifts, donations or other kind of assistance which aims at influencing the voting
Kazakhstan	Conduct of the pre-election campaign accompanied by granting to voters of goods, services, securities free of charge or on favorable terms as well as conduct of lotteries, charitable actions, payment of money or promise to provide the latter shall be considered as inadequate pre-election campaign, except for free distribution of the printed and illustrative materials, badges, flags and the tags specially produced for the election campaign. Conduct of inadequate pre-election campaigns shall be forbidden
Seychelles	Political parties (xi) Any attempts to influence voting through money or allurements are election offences. Everyone should be aware of these offences. (xvi) No candidate or party can commit or give covertly or overtly any contribution, grant or favour to any individual, institution, body or organisation until election or referendum day for the purpose of election campaigning and obtaining votes

It is difficult to see why provisions against vote buying should be limited to a particular set of actors, as this would encourage these to use middle men to carry out these activities. Nepal has a provision that the ban covers parties, candidates and anyone acting on their behalf. However, it seems to be a better solution to phrase the regulation to cover all persons.

Many countries also ban the provision of gifts to voters in order to influence their votes that is done through another person or entity, meaning that not only the person actually handing over the gift but also the person with whom the gifts originated can be penalised.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, it is not that clear and inefficient, there is no clear indication of who is going to be responsible for vote buying. Candidates can buy votes through a person who is not specified in the criminal code, which can lower the level of criminal liability to which such a person can be brought. Because the candidate usually isn't participating directly in the process of vote buying, but, upon his will, is he going to be responsible for the captured person who was conducting the vote buying crime? This is an issue that arises from that criminal code but not only. The second issue which can be faced due to the criminal code formulation – if we have a proven guilt of a candidate and its representative, who was implementing his will on vote buying in his favor - is it going to be criminal complicity? If yes, then the responsibility will be bigger since it is an aggravating circumstance. Article 41 of the criminal code states that complicity in a crime is the intentional joint participation in the commission of an intentional crime of two or more subjects of the crime.

In the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic "vote buying" was first introduced as crime in 1997's Criminal Code in the article 140, which prohibited vote buying and criminalized that activity. However, the formulation of the disposition was "vote buying ...by giving or distributing material values or promoting getting any position or other benefits – is punished" without any specifications, which were later made in the new Criminal Code adopted in 2017. The new Code came into force in 2019 with the attempt to regulate the subjects of vote buying violation included specifications in the article 192, which states that vote buying poses social danger and undermines free and equal exercising of electoral rights, the right to participate in a referendum, guaranteed by the Constitution (Basic Guarantees of Electoral Rights).

«Article 192. Vote buying

1. Vote buying by paying or distributing monetary funds, handing over material values or assisting in getting any position or other benefits during the election period is punished with a category IV fine (180,000 -220,000 KGS).

2. The same violation committed by a candidate for the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, a candidate for a deputy of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic or a local kenesh, a candidate for other elected bodies of state power and local self-government bodies or by spouses, close relatives of a candidate and authorized representatives, proxies, is punished with a fine of the V category (220,000 -260,000 KGS or imprisonment of the I category form 6 months to 2 years and 6 months».

The new norm introduced in 2019 divided the subject of violation into two groups, first was consisting of persons which are buying votes, and the second specified the list of persons who are prohibited to conduct vote buying, and the gravity of crime was raised for them.

The main difference was made to underline socially dangerous acts belonging to the category of crimes of small (part 1) and medium (part 2) severity.

The crime is described in the part 1 points out at intentional socially dangerous acts that are included in the category of crimes of small gravity. The main object of criminal encroachment is the constitutional right of a citizen to exercise his electoral right.

The crime's harm to society is implied in the form of action by giving the material goods in exchange for a vote in favour of a particular candidate. Active criminal behaviour is possible, in particular, in buying the votes and violating the electoral right. Passive criminal behaviour can find expression, for example, in failure to ensure the secrecy of the vote.

From the analysis of part 1 of the given article, the issue of specifying and defining the subject of criminal liability is appearing. It has to be changed by identifying who is going to be finally responsible for a crime since the will of the person conducting vote buying is clear which is making another one in favour of a particular person i.e. a candidate, or it will be implemented by the representative of the candidate or by the candidate itself. Therefore, if it can be proved that a candidate actively participated through intermediary in the vote buying, thus he/she is the one who should be responsible. Thus, it means that a person who is buying the votes acts not in his/her own interest but in the interest of a candidate. The final beneficiary will be a candidate, while a person who buys votes is just an intermediary person, therefore his/her liability should be reconsidered if he proves the connection with a candidate so that for instance if he/she had an audio-video message from a candidate where he is asking for to conduct vote buying, there should be the decreased liability for that person and candidate himself should be considered under criminal investigation.

According to point 1 of the Article 75 of the Criminal Code, circumstances aggravating punishment will be a crime commission by a group of persons or by a group of persons in preliminary collusion. Therefore, if we have a person who is being seized under 1 part of the article 192 of the Criminal Code is going to be implementing the will of the candidate, therefore logically the candidate is supposed to be under the investigation itself.

There was a case during the last parliamentary elections when vote buying person was caught by the police and put in jail upon the order of the prosecutor's office. That person was telling that he has been representing one political party and the representatives of that party were refusing the linkage with that person. Therefore, it also highlights the problem of proving the connection of vote buyer with a party which can result, if it will be proven, in the cancelation of the whole list of candidates. At

the same time, analysis of the given case might put in front of us another question concerning the special acts targeting the candidate's popularity and his reputation. There would be a risk for a candidate withdrawal for vote buying according to part 2 of the article 46 of the law "On Elections", where it is stated that the registration of the candidate is subject to the cancellation if the fact of the vote buying has been found and proved. Although there is a risk that the opposition party might intentionally commit a vote buying in favour of the opponent candidate, who will not know that. It can be used in a way to dismiss the opposing side and make harm for a political struggle.

We believe that this provision needs to be adjusted, namely, it is necessary to exclude one of the two parts of the article under consideration to reduce the risk of using gaps in the legislation by unscrupulous participants in the electoral process.

This crime under article 192 is a deliberate crime. The type of prosecution is public, and therefore criminal prosecution is carried out regardless of the filing in an application. There is no way to cancel the criminal proceeding due to the fact of reconciliation of the parties.

### Is it required to prove the *intention* to influence voting?

In most countries, the regulation only bans the giving or promising of gifts when the *intention* is to influence if or how someone votes. The most common wording is or translates into banning the giving of gifts "in order to" influence voting behaviour, with alternative wordings being to ban gifts given "with the object to", "for the purpose of" or "with the intention to". A number of countries also bans the provision of gifts to reward someone for having voted in a particular manner.

Some wordings can be more difficult to enforce. The Georgian provision banning gifts given "in return of voting for any candidate or abstain from voting" can be interpreted to mean that a violation has only occurred if it can be proven that a person actually voted in a certain way, something made impossible by the secrecy of the vote.

There is an alternative approach, which is to ignore the intention of the supplier and simply ban the giving of gifts, regardless of why this is done. This approach is sometimes referred to as banning "treating".<sup>7</sup> It is used in just over 10% of the 141 countries analysed.

Such provisions are especially common in the Former Soviet Union countries. An example is Armenia, where "candidates, political parties, [and] alliances of political parties" are banned from promising or giving "money, food, securities, goods... or services" to voters during the campaign period. The ban is extended to charitable organisations with connections to electoral contestants.

Apart from the "traditional" ban on vote buying discussed above, Georgian legislation includes a ban on electoral subjects giving or promising "money, gifts and other material possessions" to voters from the "moment of publication of the relevant legal act that announces the elections until the publication of the final results of the elections". Legal amendments in 2012 also banned political parties from giving gifts to citizens at any time, although they may give "...gifts of low value for holiday celebrations annually. The total cost shall not exceed GEL 5000."<sup>8</sup>

The Russian regulations are less clear. The law states that parties and candidates and their representatives, and also by other persons "shall not influence voters" by giving them gifts. It is not

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<sup>7</sup> The use of the term "treating" in the context of vote buying dates back to the 1695 Corrupt Practices Act in the UK. However, it should be noted that in that act, as well as in all current legislation where the term is explicitly used, there is a direct provision connected the giving of gifts to the intention of influencing voters.

<sup>8</sup> GEL 5,000 is the equivalent of around USD 1,500 as of November 2020.

clear if this should be interpreted to mean that only *proven* influence is banned, if gifts with the *intention* of having such influence is banned, or if the ban extends to any gifts that *may* influence voters).

In the Kyrgyz Republic's legislation as well as in other Post-Soviet countries the term "treating" as such is not included; therefore, law does not regulate an influence on the voters. The only wording about "treatment" can be found in the "Law on Elections" in article 28 where it is written that candidates and affiliated list of persons are prohibited to conduct charitable activities during the period of elections.

Also, it should be noted that it is allowed to distribute the *"printed campaign materials, badges, T-shirts, hats, scarves containing symbols of the political party that has nominated the list of candidates, the image of the candidate by the list approved by the Central Election Commission"*.

In the Kyrgyz Republic, the term "treatment" can be introduced in a long-term perspective (one-two years before the elections) as an opportunity to get the electorate and influence voters in the future perspective by indirect indication of the expressed name of a candidate or a political party and even by asking people to support in the elections in exchange of their activities. The political parties are conducting big events with donations without any limits in monetary value, which is in contradiction with non-vote buying principles, so as a result it can be found that a huge amount of money was already spent at the preparatory phase before the elections. These events or activities can also be used as a good opportunity for money laundering and other corruption risks due to the absence of the limits in the monetary value on that spending and there is no accountability of that spending.

Currently, there are no monitoring and observation mechanisms at this stage of elections and activities of political parties before the elections period.

Despite the well-established practice, which is spread all over the country, it is still not prohibited act when an appointment is being made especially with the intention to influence the voting process in some region. For instance, a representative of the authority in order to get profit from a political party appoints a special famous person from the region where the rating of a political party is low, so that appointed to high governmental position person obliged to provide the support from his voting district in favour of the interested political party or candidate. It can be considered as an abuse of state resources and vote buying because the influence and "treatment" will be of course used by that official, especially with state resources, which will be presented in a way, so that the goods that were provided by this official are made with the support of a candidate or a political party. Therefore, it can be considered as an abuse of state resources and if it will be clearly expressed that people from that area should support a candidate or a political party in exchange of their votes, it should be considered as vote buying.

Unfortunately, such cases are happening in the Kyrgyz Republic each time close to the elections. In the article 28 of the law "On Elections" a liability must be specified if "charitable activity" takes place directly pointing out either a political party or a person who implemented that prohibited acts. During the last elections, there was a scandal and a legal error was revealed in that case.

The case happened during the pandemic crisis when one of the members of the political party on July 4 engaged in charitable activities by supporting a group of foreign doctors who came to provide services as experts on COVID-19. That candidate paid for the entire group's expenses, accommodation and medicines, afterwards he shared it in the social media and the popular social media groups and mass media shared it. The key point, in this case, is that the elections were

appointed on July 2, therefore the actions of the candidate were against the rules established in the law of “Elections” art. 28 part 2 which prohibits charitable activities by candidates and affiliated persons during the electoral period.

A civil society organization filed a claim pointing out at the violation of the law, however the Central Election Commission refused to proceed with that claim, stating that there was no violation of the law since the candidate blamed for violation of the law was not identified by that date and his nomination was held only on August 17, which means that he did not violate the law on Elections.

The majority of candidates who participated in the elections used the “treatment” method to get votes. It demonstrated the gap in the relevant legislation. Due to the pandemic situation when people were suffering and fighting for their lives, the level of “treatment” was extremely high and all candidates used this opportunity to use their funds to get more votes through their charitable activities with the intention to get a seat in the parliament.

This case clearly highlights the problem of the legislation in that part - no clear specification on the subject of regulation, no identification of the influence on the voters, or “treatment”. Therefore, we suggest improving this article by indicating the subject of prohibition – prohibit to conduct such acts by “any person and political parties who are willing to run in the elections”.

Also in the second part, there is a list of persons who cannot be involved in charitable activities, but there might be a person who is not specified in that list implementing the charitable activities on behalf of a candidate. Therefore, it is difficult to identify the clear connection with the candidate. This issue might bring questions to the candidates and might create a collision situation.

According to the article 192 of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, the intention of that crime is to influence the results of the election, expressed in the exchange of material goods with voters as the main goal. Therefore, the crime will be ended from the moment of giving the material value, money, goods to a voter or from the moment when vote buyer will offer the assistance in obtaining any position or will provide any other benefits to the voter. The intention in vote buying does not need to be proved since it will be a finished act of crime after offering the money or other goods to voters, even if the voter has refused to take the money, it is still being considered as a vote buying.

Vote buying is always accompanied by an attempt by representatives of political parties to "control" the voting process of the voter at the polling station and determine his choice. There were cases when the voter even had to present an “evidence base”, i.e. take a picture on the phone of the choice.

In Kazakhstan, there is a similar provision where the giving of goods as well as “conduct of lotteries [and] charitable actions” are considered as “inadequate pre-election campaign”. An exception is however made for the distribution of “printed and illustrative materials, badges, flags and the tags specially produced for the election campaign”.

Regulations of this kind exist also in other parts of the world. Similar provisions exist in Cape Verde and East Timor, where the giving of gifts to voters are banned during the campaign periods, including if such provision is masked as compensation for travel costs etc. In Lebanon, candidates are also banned from making donations to “charitable association or social or cultural or family or religious or

others, or youth club and all other run public institutions” (though an exception is made if the candidate has been making such donations for at least three years).<sup>9</sup>

More general provisions against giving money or benefits, even if not done to influence voting behaviour, exist in countries such as Bolivia, Brazil, Moldova, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Yemen.

The advantage with banning treating is clear –penalties can be imposed without having to prove the intention that the supplier had, which can be difficult to do in court of law. If this approach is adopted, it is necessary to limit it to certain stakeholders (most reasonably political parties and candidates and persons acting on their behalf (as necessary also blocs, coalitions and lists). It will most likely be necessary to combine a provision of this kind with a “traditional” ban on vote buying, as the latter can be extended to all actors, reducing the chances of electoral stakeholders to bypass regulations by using third parties.

Unfortunately, while provisions of this kind are arguably easier to enforce than those requiring proving the intention of the giver, they have not always proven effective. This is for example the case in Ukraine, where there are ample cases of gift giving that blatantly violate the legal provisions, but where no sanctions have been imposed.

#### *Are promises of gifts included?*

The majority of countries ban not only the giving of gifts but also the promise to do so (65% of the countries analysed here). Exceptions include Latvia, New Zealand, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and arguably also Portugal and Slovenia. Banning the promise to give something in the same way as the giving of the thing is reasonable, since actors may otherwise get away with promising benefits that are then delivered at a later date (for example after the elections).

A potential problem arises in the grey zone between promises of gifts that constitute vote buying and electoral promises, especially when the latter relates to the provision of social services or other development of a particular community. It is a common and normally accepted practice that candidates and political parties promise to bring development to a particular community, which can include specific items such as building a school or repairing a road. A practice of this kind is especially common where individual politicians represent at particular locality and geographically delimited electorate (as with single-member-district electoral systems as compared with list systems). At what point does this go from being an electoral promise to vote buying?

One factor can be if the party or candidate provides or promises to provide such services from private funds that would normally fall under the purview of public entities. Provisions specifically banning such promises or gifts exist in Georgia and Russia. However, also if the cost is borne by public funds the promise or provision can amount to vote buying (here the difference between vote buying and the abuse of state resources becomes blurred). Georgian law also excludes from the ban “political and electoral promises that are related to future distribution of budget funds and future implementation of state policy”.

Promises of gifts or any other material benefits for voting are not included in the Kyrgyzstani’s legislation which is a clear gap. This issue increases the risk of vote-buying cases. Consequentially, a practice to give great promises to the population is a widespread activity during the election campaign. For instance, the majority of parties or candidates who are running in the elections are

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<sup>9</sup> The private provision of basic services that would normally be the responsibility of the state is particularly common in Lebanon, where the state largely collapsed during the civil war.

actually promising real material goods in exchange of their support like building schools, or even the real monetary value for their votes. One political party actually promised to give 50,000 KGS for the birth of a child as a present to families and it was presented in the marketing materials as commercial banners or billboards.

The only close indication of the promises can be partly found in the part 1 of the article 192 that mentions promising the assistance in obtaining any position or providence of any other benefit.

In terms of more clear and efficient impact of the article, we believe that there must be a deeper content of the article, by indication not only factual material goods which are given to a voter at a time before voting, but also the article should stipulate prohibition of giving a word on the future material or immaterial benefits which promised to a voter after the elections. Due to the psychological influence, a voter might trust the candidate or its representatives; he/she will use his active voting right in his favour, which should be classified as vote buying.

Careful discussions are needed in each country where vote buying is an issue where the line between electoral promises and vote buying should be drawn (this distinction may not always be determined explicitly in legislation but evolve through court decisions).

#### What is the *definition of the gifts that parties are not allowed to give or promise?*

It is common to use a general definition such as “something of value” or “pecuniary advantage”. A term used in many Anglo-Saxon systems is “valuable consideration”. Specific examples of banned items are also given in some countries. Money is mentioned in 50 countries, while 37 countries mention employment or office, and 12 countries make direct reference to loans.<sup>10</sup>

The legislation in some countries states specifically that not certain gifts that should *not* be seen as denoting vote buying. For example, Samoa somewhat vaguely excludes “any money paid or agreed to be paid for or on account of any legal expenses incurred in good faith at or concerning an election”. Romania excludes “Goods with a symbolic value, bearing the signs of a party”. In Ukraine, where the giving of gifts is banned regardless of the intention, an exception is made for items “containing visual names, symbols, flags of a political party whose value does not exceed the size established by law”.

While giving specific examples can be of value in illustrating what the lawmaker intends to include, a general statement will in most cases be sufficient. Where gift-giving/treating is banned, it is reasonable to make an exception for campaign materials of limited value.

In the Kyrgyz Republic according to the article 28 part 3 of the Law on Elections the following list of actions considered as gifts related to vote-buying: “to pay money; hand over gifts and other material values; conduct a preferential sale of goods; distribute any goods free of charge, provide services free of charge or on preferential terms”. *The charitable activities by candidates and affiliated persons are prohibited under part 4 of that article.*

Therefore, it is an exhaustive list of actions and as indicated services and preferential sale of goods are considered as vote-buying which is a broader understanding of the vote-buying instruments.

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<sup>10</sup> Nine countries each make reference to goods and services. Botswana uses an unusually limited definition of the gifts included in the vote buying regulation, effectively only including the provision of employment.

Another significant problem in the procedure of conducting the fair election process arises in the lack of mechanisms of monitoring and law enforcement of indirect vote buying by using the political wealth or even official position in state service.

There is no clear indication of the influence to vote buying by government representatives in the legislation, therefore there is a lack of a legal framework in that issue. The majority of cases of indirect vote buying are happening in the Kyrgyz Republic by the state authorities and not only by providing the material values but providing the state positions in exchange of support in elections with many votes. This problem highlights the shortcomings in the legal system and in the implementation of the laws since there are some regulations that are too general and wide but not exactly focusing on the issue itself. In order to solve that problem as the first stage, it should be overcome through legal amendments prohibiting a support from any of the candidates and government officials by any means and especially pointing out the vote buying prohibition and greater responsibility for that activity conducted by a government official.

Also, there is an interesting indirect vote buying made by the leaders of the state. For example, ex-presidents of KR are always granting with the valuable gifts the civil servants, journalists, and a list of other people who can influence the population right before an election, which as a result makes the opponents loyal to a president who represent the state authority. State party which is based on the presidential power is always strong and holds a key position in a political area of the state.

#### Are the provisions against vote buying limited to a certain time period?

In most countries, the ban on giving gifts to influence voters does not specify a particular time – it is valid at any time. However, there are some countries that limit the regulation against vote buying to pre-electoral periods.

This is normal for systems where treating is banned, where it may be seen as impractical to ban the political parties giving gifts at any time. However, such limits also exist in some systems that only ban gifts intended to influence voting behaviour, for example in Lithuania and Nigeria.

Table 2, Examples of countries where ban on vote buying limited to a certain time

Country	Legal provision
Georgia	From the moment of publication of the relevant legal act that announces the elections until the publication of the final results of the elections, it is prohibited to: a) Electoral subjects/candidates of becoming electoral subjects and their representatives personally or through other persons to give money, gifts and other material possessions (irrespective of their price), to sell at a preferential price, distribute or disseminate any goods free of charge (except for the agitation material as prescribed by this Law)...
Iraq	During the election campaign it is prohibited for any candidates to provide gifts, donations or other kind of assistance which aims at influencing the voting
Jordan	it's not allowed for any candidates to provide gift, contributions, money, or any other benefits during the campaign including money in exchange for votes
Lithuania	During the political campaign of elections to the Seimas, i.e. from announcement of the date of elections to the Seimas until the end of the period of election campaign as set out by this Law, as well as on the election day it shall be prohibited to directly or indirectly buy votes, to induce by offering gifts or other rewards a voter or a person eligible to vote to attend or not to attend elections and (or) to vote for or against one or another person to be nominated, a candidate or a list of candidates...
Nigeria	A person who— (a) corruptly by himself or by any other person at any time after the date of an election has been announced, directly or indirectly gives or provides or pays money to or for any person for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other

	person to vote or refrain from voting at such election, or on account of such person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting at such election...
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According to the article 192 of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic, the period is defined in general when elections are to be conducted “during the conduct of elections”, therefore the period is specified, but the wording is not giving then a clear sense of what is going to be considered “during the conduct of elections”. Whether it is a voting day or the whole period from the beginning of appointment of the date of the elections until the elections will be finished.

According to the article 28 part 3 of the Law “on Elections” it is prohibited to conduct a vote-buying from the moment of the appointing the elections.

It is considered a risk for increased using of vote buying before the appointment of the elections. The structure and the wording of the article is expressing it the way, which does not demonstrate the prohibition of the vote buying in general, but only after the appointment of the elections. In addition, there is no period indication in terms of the end of that period, just the beginning of the prohibition time, which is illogical and unclear. There is no regulation against vote buying in pre-electoral period.

Nevertheless, in part 4 of that article, it is defined that the terms for the engagement in charitable actions should be banned “*from the moment of calling the elections and until the publication of the election results*”.

It is difficult to see why bans against vote buying should be limited to certain periods – the negative impact of such activities would apply at any time. Admittedly, limiting the provision to pre-electoral periods can reduce the burden on the institution set to oversee the provision (and in some countries this institution is not permanent but is created at a time before each election).

However, these considerations do not seem to outweigh the importance of stopping vote buying at all times. If necessary, a provision banning vote buying can be included in legislation regulating political parties, to complement the regulations of the electoral process.

#### Does the ban include the *receipt* of banned gifts (vote selling)?

Most countries that ban the buying of votes do not ban the selling of votes, in other words the receipt of gifts in return for voting in a certain way or not voting at all (receiving *promises* of gifts can hardly be regulated). However, around 30% of the 141 countries analysed here also ban the receipts of such gifts, or vote selling. These include older democracies such as Canada, Denmark, France and Germany, but also many newer democracies such as Bulgaria, Kenya, Poland and Romania.

There are valid arguments both for and against banning the selling of votes. As the trading of votes for benefits is the issue that regulations of this kind are trying to address, it makes sense to ban both sides of such transactions. Doing so can reduce the willingness of voters to receive gifts, and so reduce the problem of vote buying.

However, voters may in some circumstances feel compelled to receive gifts offered to them by influential politicians or dominant political parties. Perhaps more importantly, the willingness of voters to report instances of vote buying is likely to be reduced if they may themselves face penalties

for receiving such gifts. In Honduras for example, the minimum penalty for vote selling is four years' imprisonment.

In rare cases, there is also an explicit ban against voters *seeking gifts* from a political party or candidate (directly or indirectly) in return for their vote. This is primarily used in older democracies, such as Australia, Finland, France, Switzerland and the United States, though also in Cameroon, Fiji, Lesotho, Namibia and Serbia. Such an approach seems reasonable, as it relates not to the passive receipt of benefits by voters, but to them actively seeking such benefits, and in doing so arguably undermining the democratic process.

Recently in Kyrgyzstan on July 24, 2020, the responsibility for the vote selling was first introduced in the Code on Violations in the article 42<sup>3</sup> "*Receipt of monetary funds and material values by a voter (referendum participant)*". The subject under the article will be a voter, the object is the active electoral right of an individual voter which is protected by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic. The objective side of offense involves active actions in receiving the monetary funds and material values in exchange of his active electoral right in favour of the candidate for whom a representative or a candidate himself provides that monetary funds or material values. The subjective side of the violation is in the form of the direct intent to receive material profit in exchange for his vote.

*Article 42<sup>3</sup>. Receipt of monetary funds and material values by a voter (referendum participant)*

Receipt by a voter (referendum participant) personally or through an intermediary of monetary funds and (or) material values for the exercise of his active electoral right in favour of the vote buying person or the persons he represents entails punishment in the form of a fine of the 1st category.

A person who has committed an action provided for by this article shall be released from liability if he voluntarily informs about the receipt of funds and material values during the preparation and conduct of elections and referendums.

According to the article 27 of the Code on Violations the size of fine of the 1st category: for individuals - 10 calculated indicators (1,000 KGS);

The subject under the article will be a voter; the object is the active electoral right of an individual voter, which is protected by the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic. The objective side of offense involves active actions in receiving the monetary funds and material values in exchange of his active electoral right in favour of the candidate for whom a representative or a candidate himself provides that monetary funds or material values. The subjective side of the violation is in the form of the direct intent to receive material profit in exchange for his vote.

This article was firstly introduced in 2020<sup>th</sup> and it should have been an effective tool to refrain people from selling their votes, as a person can be liable for selling their votes and pay a fine with a registration of violation. However, unfortunately, the implementation of the article faced problems in practice due to the absence of monitoring mechanisms and absence of mechanisms for proving the fact. For now, it remains a very difficult issue.

As it was previously noted the person who has committed such violation "shall be released from liability if he voluntarily informs about the receipt of funds and material values" - that was supposed

to be an effective measure to prevent and react to the facts of vote buying, but due to the mentality and common understanding, unfortunately, such facts were not found. The number of the people that was selling votes was very high, which showed the ineffectiveness of the police officers and the Central Election Commission to properly react to each case of vote buying. It showed the problem of the mechanisms of realization of anti-vote selling measures. Unfortunately, there is no data that shows the full picture of vote selling. There were no cases reported about it in the list of violations.

### Sanctions against vote buying

In the Kyrgyz Republic according to the Criminal Code's article 192, vote buying is "punished with a category IV fine" which amounts from 180,000 to 220,000 KGS. Nevertheless, in the 2 part of the article, there are indicated circumstances aggravating the sanctions with the fine in the amount ranging from 220,000 to 260,000 KGS or imprisonment up to two years and six months.

As it was highlighted above, the implementation of the article 192 of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic faces difficulties in law enforcement due to the practical opportunities and lack of control mechanisms and problems in realization of the obligations on the monitoring and observation by the police officers at the voting points.

In practice, we have observed criminal negligence of the law enforcement bodies concerning the detection and investigation of the vote buying processes during the last parliamentary elections on October 4, 2020. There were cases when the negligence of police officers was video recorded but there was no reaction to that fact from the law enforcement bodies, which led to the serious mass vote buying in most of the polling stations. The police officers, which were found negligent, had to bear the responsibility under the Criminal Code's article 331 "negligence", but none of the cases was registered.

According to the law on elections if the fact of vote buying is proven, it can be the basis for the cancellation of the candidate or the list of candidates who are participating in elections. Mechanism of realization of that provision lacks the effectiveness, while law enforcement will face the barrier of the non-fulfilment due to the terms of the court proceeding of the vote buying act.

The provision had a goal to exclude a candidate or a list of candidates for vote buying cases, but the facts according to the criminal procedural code have to be proven and judged by the court, which in reality is implemented over a long period (approximately 1 year). Thus, the cancellation of the candidate or the list of candidates can be held only after the judge's verdict, which means that the timeframe will overpass, and the elections would be over with the finalized results of elections. None of the cases was held in accordance with the law, there was no implementation of the norms of the law on cancellation of the candidates.

According to the statistics, which was provided on the website of the Central Election Commission – only 85 cases of vote buying were registered in the country and only five cases were directed to further investigation, out of which only three cases are currently being considered in the courts. The statistics shows the need to reform and work out the mechanisms of the increasing effectiveness of law-enforcement realization to counteract the vote buying.

Information about the sanctions connected to vote buying are not available for all countries in the study. However, information is available about sanctions in 59 countries worldwide.

Out of these, the available sanctions are:

Table 3, Available sanctions against vote buying

Sanctions available	Number of countries
Fine only	3
Prison only	12
Fine or prison	13
Fine and prison	21
Fine and/or prison	9
Fine/prison and loss of civil liberties	3

The table above shows that a compulsory combination of fines and prison is the most common form of sanction, with few countries limiting sanctions to fines only. Interesting, only in Cambodia,

Madagascar and Panama do the legal sanctioning provisions include those found guilty losing civil liberties, including being struck from the candidates list in Cambodia and being unable to hold public office in the other two countries. Sanctions of these kinds may prove effective deterrents to vote buying activities, assuming that reliable approaches to investigate vote buying accusations are in place, and that appeal opportunities exist to secure the rule of law and guard against biased enforcement for political purposes. To sanction a candidate or political party, it should be required to prove that they were involved in the vote buying activity personally or through formally identified agents, not simply that they benefited from vote buying efforts. However, widespread vote buying could be sufficient to rule that an electoral contest must be redone.

Table 4, Detailed information about sanctioning provisions

Country	fine	And/ or	prison	comment
Angola	250,000-1.5 million Kz	and	2-8 years	
Australia	50 penalty units	And/ or	2 years	50 penalty units is the equivalent of USD 8,200 in Nov. 2020
Belgium	€50-500	and	8 days-1 month	
Benin	2-5 million francs	and	1-5 years	
Bosnia & Herzegovina	1,000.00 KM to 10,000.00 KM			
Burundi	40,000 to 400, 000 francs	and/ or	1-3 years	
Cape Verde			Max 1 year	Same penalty for vote selling
Cambodia	5-25 million riels			Also deleted from voter list and from the list of candidates
Chad	0.5-1 million franc CFA	and	1 years	
Chile			Yes, not specified	Same penalty for vote selling

Colombia	133.3-750 minimum wages	and	4-7.5 years	
Comoros	10,000-100,000 franc	and	8-15 months	
Costa Rica			2-12 months	
Croatia	Yes, not specified	or	Max 1 year	
Denmark	Yes, not specified	or	Max 2 years	
Dominican Republic	5,000-20,000 RD	and	Max 2 years	
East Timor	\$500 to \$1,000	or	1-2 years	Vote selling carries fine of \$250-500 or prison 6 months to 1 year
El Salvador			4-6 years	
Fiji	\$10,000	and	2 years	
Finland	Yes, not specified	or	Max 1 year	
France	€15,000	and	2 years	
Georgia			Max 1 year	
Germany	Yes, not specified	or	Max 5 years	Same penalty for vote selling
Greece	Yes, not defined	Or	Max 2 years	
Guinea-Bissau			2-8 years	
Honduras			4-6 years	Same penalty for vote selling
Hungary			Max 3 years	
Israel			Max 5 years	
Japan	Max 500,000 Yen	Or	3-5 years	
Korea, South	Max 10 million Won	or	Max 5 years	
Kyrgyz Republic	220000-260000 soms	Or	Max 2 years 6 month	
Latvia	Max 60 times minimum wage	Or	Max 3 years	
Libya	Max 5,000 LYD	and	Max 1 year	
Liechtenstein			Max 1 year	
Luxemburg	€251-2,000	and	8 days-1 month	
Madagascar	Twice the amount involved in the transactions	and		Also loses civil rights and right to hold public office for 5 to 10 years
Mali	100,000-1 million francs	and	1-5 years	
Mexico	Yes, not specified	and	6 months-3 years	
Monaco	Yes, not specified	and	3 months-3 years	
Morocco	5,000 to 20,000 Dirhams	And/or	6 months-1 year	
Mozambique	6-12 minimum salaries	and	Max 1 year	
Namibia	Max R20,000	And/or	Max 5 years	
Nauru	200 pounds	Or	1 year	

Netherlands	Yes, not specified			Specified as "third-category fine"
Nicaragua			6-12 months	
Nigeria	N100,000	And/ or	1 year	
Palau	Max \$1,000	And/ or	Max 1 year	If carried out by an "internal observer", prison 2-7 years
Panama			6 months-3 years	Also loses civil rights and right to hold public office for 1 to 3 years
Paraguay	3 minimum wages	and	1-2 years	
Poland	10,000-50,000 złotych			
Portugal	Yes, not specified	Or	Max 1 year	
Romania			6 months-5 years	
Senegal	20,000 to 200,000 CFA	and	3 months-2 years	
Serbia	Yes, not specified	Or	Max 3 years	
Slovenia	Yes, not specified	Or	Max 1 year	
Sweden			Max 6 months	Concerns all attempts to unduly influence the vote
Syria	10,000-25,000 lier	And	10 days and 3 months	
Taiwan	1-10 million NTD	And	3-10 years	
Togo	100,000 -1 million CFA	And	1-5 years	
Turkey			1-3 years	
Uganda	72 currency points	And/ or	Max 3 years	
US	Yes, not specified	And/ or	Max 1 year	Max 2 years if the act was "wilful"
Zimbabwe	Yes, not specified	And/ or	Max 2 years	Specified as "level 7"

The table above shows that vote buying is normally seen as a very serious crime, with most countries including imprisonment as a compulsory or optional penalty. While the sanction is fairly mild in countries such as Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Sweden, it is especially strict in Fiji, Honduras, Japan and Taiwan (including imprisonment of at least two years). Where information is available about the sanction against vote selling, it is normally on par with that for vote buying. Sanctions other than fines and imprisonment are rare, though in Madagascar and Panama anyone convicted of such crimes temporarily lose their civil rights and the right to hold office. In Cambodia, vote buyers face being deleted from the voter register and lose the candidacies for election.

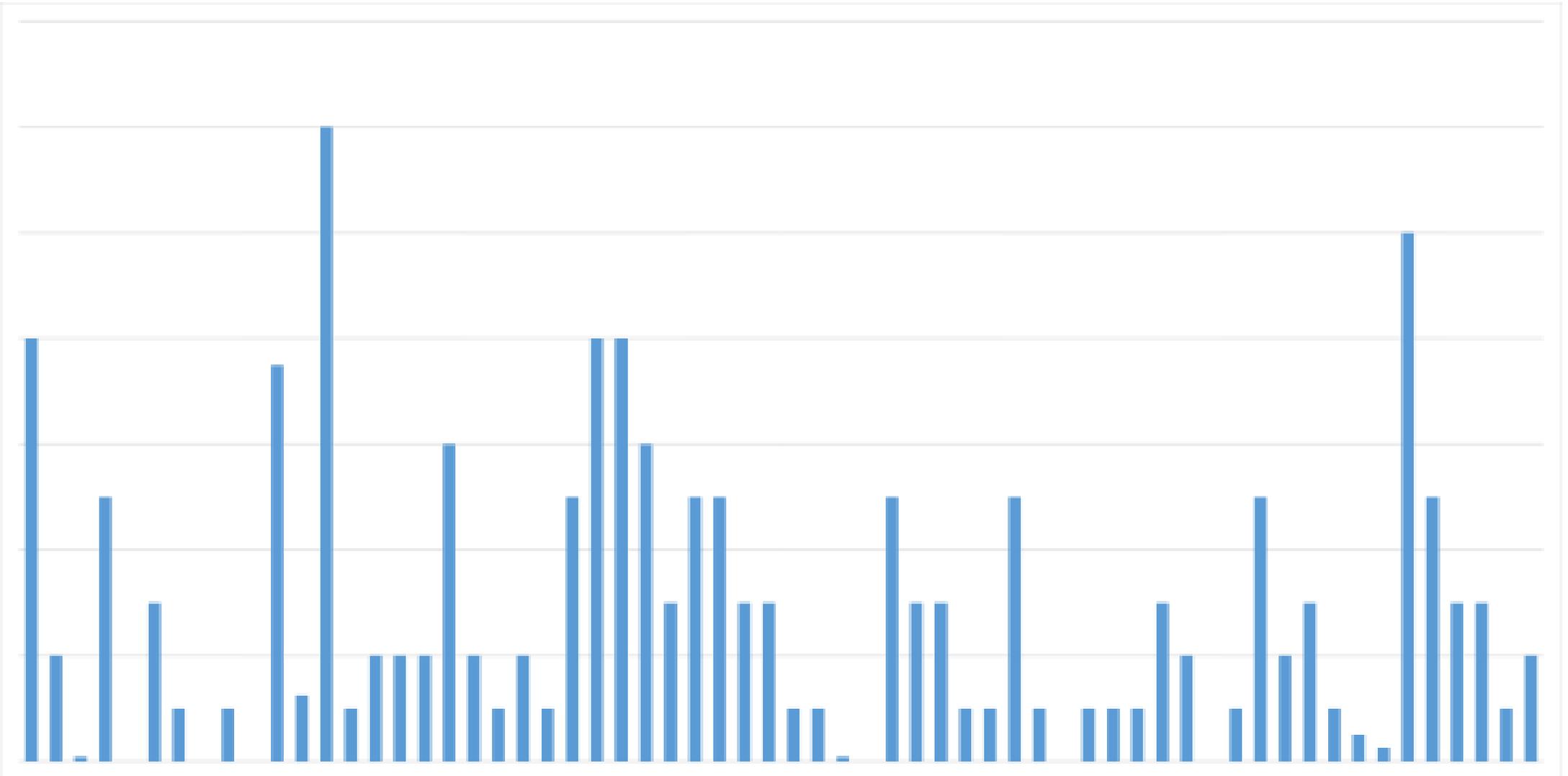
Strict sanctions send a clear message that vote buying (and selling) is not acceptable, and can serve a preventative role. However, given the political nature of these activities (as with other violations relating to political finance), courts may be reluctant to impose sanctions if they are too strict.

Sanctions that people know will not be imposed are unlikely to deter anyone from engaging in vote buying or selling.

It is reasonable to have a wide range of sanctions available, given that vote buying can vary very significantly. A case where a service given to one person could be considered just on the wrong side of the grey zone should carry a milder sanction than wide-spread and well organised vote buying involving a large number of individuals. In Namibia, for example, sanctions can vary from small fines (no minimum amount is stated) to imprisonment for five years. The maximum prison sentence that can be imposed in different countries is shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure SEQ Figure \\* ARABIC 1, Maximum prison sentence for vote buying in different countries



## Conclusions from the international review

At one level, there are significant commonalities in how vote buying is banned in most countries. In general, the provision bans the giving or promise to give something of value to a voter in order to influence if and how this person votes. The selling of votes is not normally penalised. There are however significant variations regarding key factors, most of which are discussed above.

It must be recognised that vote buying has proven a very difficult problem to deal with in many countries. What ultimately removes vote buying from the electoral process is often not so much formal regulations as a reduction in poverty and political maturity among voters leading them to refuse to sell their votes. As long as there is a supply of votes for sale, there is likely to be a demand. Reducing and removing the supply of votes for sale requires an in-depth understanding of the nature of vote buying in each country, and imaginative approaches to engage voters. Posters telling people not to sell their votes are unlikely to work.

This is not to say that formal regulations against vote buying are not important. The imposition of penalties against the buying of votes (and perhaps also the selling of votes) can illustrate that such behaviour is not acceptable in the country, and can help to build the popular rejection of vote selling. How the ban against vote buying is worded can play a role in this. One factor is whether gift-giving by political parties and candidates is banned, even if it cannot be proven that such gifts were given with the intention of influencing voters. Such a ban on “treating” is easier to enforce than the traditional ban on gifts given in order to influence voters (though such a ban should arguably be used as well). The sanctioning provision should also be considered, with sanctions that are strict enough to be dissuasive, but not so strict that courts will hesitate to impose them.<sup>11</sup>

It is necessary to have patience in combating vote buying. While the United Kingdom has few problems with vote buying today, it should be noted that its first regulation on this matter was put in place 325 years ago.

Finally, it is not possible to determine the most suitable sanction against vote buying in any country without considering the most common forms of vote buying in use, and popular attitudes towards vote buying.

## Considerations for Kyrgyzstan

Overall Kyrgyzstan made a long way in the formation of electoral system with its successes and failures. Even though it gained independence only 29 years ago, Kyrgyzstan is a unique and young country with a vision and struggle for democratic development. As one of the key values of democracy, voting process is becoming a very important aspect and it influences each citizen on a personal level. All the upheavals and revolutions in Kyrgyzstan were happening after the conduct of unfair elections when the population was frustrated and deceived, which resulted in the will of population to hold free and fair election.

Since 2017, certain steps have been outlined to counter vote-buying in Kyrgyzstan. In particular, amendments to the Criminal Code, Misconduct code, Code on violations, the Criminal Procedure Code, Law on Elections providing for the transfer of cases of vote buying to the category of cases of private-public prosecution, specifying the subject composition, increasing sanctions for vote buying.

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<sup>11</sup> Some forms of vote buying are more difficult to regulate and control than others. Few of the regulations analysed effectively address non-transactional communal vote buying, where support may be given to a larger community on the implicit understanding that voting for the giver will ensure further support in the future. Such activities may be very difficult to address through law.

At the same time, criminal liability and political liability under electoral legislation have been differentiated.

One major problem, which is a barrier to fair elections, is vote buying. The vote-buying problem has been discussed and the ways to solve that issue have been raised for many years in Kyrgyzstan, from the first criminalization of that act in the 1997 Criminal Code until the last amendments to legislation in July 2020.

Big efforts were made to reduce and combat vote-buying cases, which can be found in the current legal normative base of Kyrgyzstan. However, there is still a list of issues to solve the problem of vote buying. Thus, the list of recommendations is presented to assist in combating vote-buying problem.

Identification and specification of the subject under the article 192 part 1, which is lacking law enforcement in terms of bringing to the liability. In addition, there is a need to conduct special fast court proceedings in cases of vote buying. Due to the mechanisms of implementation, the issue takes time and it seems logical to conduct such activities in shortened terms if there is clear evidence like video materials etc. to conduct court proceedings before the announcement of the results.

Another question that can be relevant is that political parties having seats in the parliament nominate some members of the Central Election Commission. Some members are connected with some political parties. In accordance with international practice, to increase transparency and impartiality of the CEC, the formation of the members can be discussed further. To eliminate conflict of interest within the collegial body, a code of conduct might be a way for improvement.

The CEC is a collegial body and the majority of votes of 12 members, who are elected by the Jogorku Kenesh as follows, takes all decisions: one-third of the composition - on the proposal of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic; one-third by the parliamentary majority; one-third by the parliamentary opposition. In practice, there is a high influence of President and of parliamentary majority. Eight members of CEC are considered "presidential". In order to avoid claims of being non-impartial towards particular parties, the CEC has to refrain from unequal treatment. Otherwise, the CEC can also be accused of supporting parties involved in vote buying and abuse of state resources. As a suggestion, the formation of the members' board can be formed on a proportional basis. For instance, six political parties are in the parliament, therefore each political party can promote two persons for that position which in sum will be 12 members of CEC on equal presentation and at least eight members can support the decisions of CEC board.

This practice showed that despite obvious vote-buying cases, the procedure of combating that problem is very bureaucratic and complicated. As ways forward could be improvement of the law enforcement mechanisms of monitoring and observation of the electoral process by the police officers, electoral commissions, and authorities in order to prevent vote buying facts and the problem of non-fulfilment of their duties in prevention and investigation of vote buying facts.

Vote buying ban has to be unlimited in the period and the limits for the political parties have to be introduced in a monetary value of their spending on the charitable activity at least one year before the elections with the goal to reduce the influence on the voters. This kind of regulation exists in the majority of states, however such a norm is not included in Kyrgyzstan's legislation and it should be introduced in order to limit the amount of influence of political parties to the voters.

Also because the time limitation in the legislation on the prohibition of the vote buying is written and expressed as "only during the elections" that raises a risk of vote buying before the election period which should be considered as vote buying as well. Therefore, the suggestion is to eliminate the time



limit in the Criminal Code and in the Law on Elections on the vote buying or vote selling which will make the basis to prevent vote buying.

Include the promises of the material values, services in exchange for votes as a vote buying in Criminal Code's article 192 and in the law "on Elections". Such activity is widespread in Kyrgyzstan and it should be considered as vote buying because such promises will have a clear intention of exchanging the material or other benefits for the votes, therefore it appears as a form of vote buying.

Strengthen campaigns against the sale of votes - from the president of the country, civic activists, etc., to events on social networks, as well as call on citizens to resist vote buying.

Conduct work on training civic activists on monitoring of the electoral process and monitoring methods on the process of vote buying.

Preventing voter buying is a basis for holding fair, democratic elections, which in general will be the key to the development of the state.

## About IFES

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) supports citizens' right to participate in free and fair elections. Our independent expertise strengthens electoral systems and builds local capacity to deliver sustainable solutions.

As the global leader in democracy promotion, we advance good governance and democratic rights by:

- Providing technical assistance to election officials
- Empowering the underrepresented to participate in the political process
- Applying field-based research to improve the electoral cycle

Since 1987, IFES has worked in over 145 countries – from developing democracies, to mature democracies.

IFES has supported transparency and accountability regarding money in politics for over a decade. A natural complement to IFES' work to aid democratic and electoral processes, political finance assistance can increase public confidence in the political system and reduce political corruption.

IFES' work with political finance covers all continents and has so far involved work in over 45 countries, including assistance to parliaments, election management bodies, political parties, civil society and media.

For more information, see [www.IFES.org](http://www.IFES.org).

## Appendix, the regulation against vote buying in 141 countries

Country	Law	Gift-giving banned?	Receipt banned?	Promises banned?	Comment
Angola	Art 193, "Aquele que, para persuadir alguém a votar ou a deixar de votar em determinada candidatura, oferecer ou prometer emprego público ou privado ou qualquer vantagem patrimonial a um ou mais eleitores, ainda que por interposta pessoa, mesmo que as coisas oferecidas ou prometidas sejam dissimuladas a título de ajuda pecuniária para custear despesas de qualquer natureza, é punido com pena de prisão de dois a oito anos e multa de Kz: 250.000,00 a Kz: 1.500.000.00." ( <u>Lei Orgânica sobre as Eleições Gerais, Ley 36/2011</u> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or promising public or private employment of pecuniary advantage, covers every person
Antigua and Barbuda	Section 29: "(29)(1) A person is guilty of a corrupt practice if he is found guilty by a court of competent jurisdiction of bribery. (2) A person is guilty of bribery if he, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf (a) gives any money or procures any office to or for any voter or to or for any other person on behalf of any voter or to; or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting; (b) corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting; or (c) makes any such gift or procurement as aforesaid to or for any other person in order to induce that person to procure the return of any person at an election or the vote of any voter, or (d) if upon or in consequence of any such gift or procurement as aforesaid he procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure the return of any person at an election or the vote of any person at an election or the vote of any voter. (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) references to giving money shall, include references to giving, lending, agreeing to give or lend, offering, promising, or promising to procure or to endeavour to procure any office, place or employment. (4) A person is guilty of bribery if he advances or pays or causes to be paid any money to or to the use of any other person with the intent that the money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at an election or knowingly pays or causes to be paid any money to any person in discharge or payment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election. (5) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not be extended or be construed to extend to any money paid or agreed to be paid for or on account of legal expenses incurred in good faith at or concerning an election. (6) A voter is guilty of bribery if before or during an election he directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf receives, agrees to or contracts for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration, office, place or employment for himself or for any other person for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting. (7) A person is guilty of bribery if after an election he directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other to vote or refrain from voting. (8) In this section, the expression "voter" includes any person who has or claims to have a right to vote either as an elector or as proxy. 29A. (1) A person is guilty of corrupt practice if he is guilty of treating. (2) A person shall be guilty of treating if he corruptly, by himself or by any other person either before, during or after an election, directly or indirectly gives or provides, or pays wholly or in part the expenses of giving or providing, any meat, drink, entertainment or provision to or for any person — (a) for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting; or (b) on account of that person or any other person, having voted or refrained from voting, or being about to vote or refrain from voting. (3) Every elector or proxy for an elector who corruptly accepts or takes any such meat, drink, entertainment or provision shall also be guilty of treating. 29B. (1) A person shall be guilty of a corrupt practice if he is guilty of undue influence. (2) A person shall be guilty of undue influence — (a) if he directly or	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving or promising "money or [the procurement of] any office" or "money or valuable consideration" to "induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting", covers all persons. Unusually detailed provisions.

	indirectly, by himself or any other person on his behalf, makes use of or threatens to inflict, by himself or by any other person, any temporal or spiritual injury, damage, harm or loss upon or against any person in order to induce or compel that person to vote or refrain from voting, or on account of that person having voted or refrained from voting; or (b) if by abduction, duress or any fraudulent device or contrivance, he impedes or prevents the free exercise of the franchise of any elector or proxy for an elector, or thereby compels, induces or prevails upon an elector or proxy for an elector either to vote or to refrain from voting." <b>(Representation of the People (Amendment) Act 2001)</b>				
Armenia	Art 18 (7), (page 14) "During election campaigns as well as the day preceding the voting and on the voting day, candidates, political parties, alliances of political parties shall be prohibited from giving (promising) in person or via someone else on their behalf, or in any other manner, gratuitously or on preferential conditions -- money, food, securities, goods to electors or from providing (promising) services to them. Charitable organisations whose names may resemble (be associated with) the names of political parties, alliances of political parties, and the names of candidates may not, during the election campaign, carry out charity activities for communities where elections are held in which those candidates, political parties, alliances of political parties or candidates nominated thereby are running." <b>(Electoral Code of Armenia, 2011)</b>	Yes	No	Yes	Giving or promising "money, food, securities, goods" or services is banned for parties, candidates, alliances and related charitable organisations, also indirectly
Australia	Art 326, "(1) A person shall not ask for, receive or obtain, or offer or agree to ask for, or receive or obtain, any property or benefit of any kind, whether for the same or any other person, on an understanding that: (a) any vote of the first-mentioned person; (b) any candidature of the first-mentioned person; (c) any support of, or opposition to, a candidate, a group of candidates or a political party by the first-mentioned person; (d) the doing of any act or thing by the first-mentioned person the purpose of which is, or the effect of which is likely to be, to influence the preferences set out in the vote of an elector; or (e) the order in which the names of candidates nominated for election to the Senate whose names are included in a group in accordance with section 168 appear on a ballot paper; will, in any manner, be influenced or affected. Penalty: \$5,000 or imprisonment for 2 years, or both. (2) A person shall not, with the intention of influencing or affecting: (a) any vote of another person; (b) any candidature of another person; or (c) any support of, or opposition to, a candidate, a group of candidates or a political party by another person; (d) the doing of any act or thing by another person the purpose of which is, or the effect of which is likely to be, to influence the preferences set out in the vote of an elector; or (e) the order in which the names of candidates for election to the Senate whose names are included in a group in accordance with section 168 appear on a ballot paper; give or confer, or promise or offer to give or confer, any property or benefit of any kind to that other person or to a third person. Penalty: \$5,000 or imprisonment for 2 years, or both. (3) This section does not apply in relation to a declaration of public policy or a promise of public action." <b>(Commonwealth Electoral Act, 1918)</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Giving, offering, receiving or requesting "any property or benefit of any kind" is banned if this is done on the understanding that the voters' activities (specified) will be "influenced or affected". Ban covers any person
Azerbaijan	Art 88, (88.4.5), (page 123) "88.4. Candidates, registered candidates, political parties, blocs of political parties, referendum campaign groups, their agents, and other persons and organizations who participate directly in a preelection campaign shall be prohibited from : 88.4.5. influencing voters during the pre-election campaign by promising them securities, money and other goods and services based on grounds that contradict legislation." <b>(Election Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2003)</b>	No?	No	Yes	Promising (not giving?) "securities, money and other goods and services" is banned if it is "on grounds that contradict legislation", I banned for parties, candidates etc and "other persons"
Bahamas	"96. The following persons shall be guilty of an offence against this Act- (a) every person who shall, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, give, lend, or agree to give or lend, or shall offer, promise or promise to procure, or to endeavor to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any voter, or to or for any person on behalf of	No	Yes	Yes	Ban to give, offer or receive "any money of valuable consideration" to "induce any voter to

	any voter, or to or for any person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or shall do any such act as aforesaid on account of any such voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election" <b>(Parliamentary Elections Act, 1992)</b>				vote or refrain from voting". Covers every person.
Bangladesh	Article 73, Clause 2B (page 25): "a person is guilty of corrupt practice (...) if he (...) is guilty of bribery, personation or undue influence" <b>(Representation of the People Order, 1972 (as amended up to October 2008))</b>	No	No	No?	A general ban on bribery is used without further detail, for every person
Belarus	Article 49. Responsibility for Violation of Requirements of the Present Code Persons preventing by violence, threats, fraud, bribery or in any other way the citizen of the Republic of Belarus from his/her right to participate or not to participate in elections, referendum, voting on recall of a Deputy, to elect and to be elected President of the Republic of Belarus, Deputy of the Chamber of Representatives, Deputy of local Council of Deputies, to conduct pre-electoral campaign, agitation on referendum, hindering with the work of commissions at elections of the President of the Republic of Belarus, electoral commissions, commissions on referendum, commissions on holding of voting on recall of a Deputy, engaged in agitation on the day of elections, referendum, voting on recall of a Deputy[...], shall bear responsibility established by the legislation of the Republic of Belarus. <b>(Electoral Code of the Republic of Belarus, No. 370-Z, 2000)</b>	No	No	No?	A general ban on bribery is used without further detail, for every person
Belgium	"Art. 181. Sera puni d'un emprisonnement de huit jours à un mois et d'une amende de cinquante à cinq cents euros ou d'une de ces peines seulement, quiconque aura, directement ou indirectement, même sous forme de pari, donné, offert ou promis soit de l'argent, des valeurs ou avantages quelconques, soit des secours, sous la condition d'obtenir soit un suffrage, soit l'abstention de voter, soit la procuration prévue à l'article 147bis, ou en subordonnant les avantages décrits au résultat de l'élection. Seront punis des mêmes peines, ceux qui auront accepté les offres ou promesses. Art.182. Seront punis des peines portées en l'article précédent, ceux qui, sous les conditions y énoncées, auront fait ou accepté l'offre ou la promesse d'emplois publics ou privés. Art. 183. Sera puni des mêmes peines, quiconque, pour déterminer un électeur à s'abstenir de voter ou pour influencer son vote, aura usé à son égard de voies de fait, de violences ou de menaces, ou lui aura fait craindre de perdre son emploi ou d'exposer à un dommage sa personne, sa famille ou sa fortune. Art.184. Sera puni d'une amende de vingt-six à deux cents euros, celui qui, sous prétexte d'indemnité de voyage ou de séjour, aura donné, offert ou promis aux électeurs une somme d'argent ou des valeurs quelconques. La même peine sera appliquée à ceux qui, à l'occasion d'une élection, auront donné, offert ou promis aux électeurs des comestibles ou des boissons. La même peine sera appliquée aussi à l'électeur qui aura accepté des dons, offres ou promesses. Les aubergistes, débitants de boissons ou autres commerçants ne seront pas recevables à réclamer en justice le paiement des dépenses de consommation faites à l'occasion des élections. Art. 185. Seront punis comme auteurs des délits prévus par les quatre articles précédents, ceux qui auront fourni des fonds pour les commettre, sachant la destination qu'ils devaient recevoir, ou qui auront donné mandat de faire, en leur nom, les offres, promesses ou menaces. Art. 186. Dans les cas prévus par les cinq articles précédents, si le coupable est fonctionnaire public, le maximum de la peine sera prononcé et l'emprisonnement, ainsi que l'amende, pourront être portés au double. Art. 187. Tout membre ou employé d'une commission d'assistance ou d'un comité de charité, tout membre ou employé d'une administration charitable publique qui aura soit directement, soit indirectement, offert, promis ou donné des secours permanents, temporaires ou extraordinaires à un ou plusieurs indigents, sous la condition d'obtenir un suffrage ou l'abstention de voter, sera puni d'un emprisonnement de huit jours à un mois et d'une amende de cinquante à cinq cents euros. Il en sera de même desdits membres ou employés qui auront refusé ou suspendu tout octroi de ces secours par le motif que l'indigent n'aurait pas consenti à laisser influencer son vote ou à s'abstenir de voter. Quiconque réclamera des secours ou une augmentation de secours, sous la menace de voter dans un sens déterminé,	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving money, security or any benefit to obtain a vote or refrain from voting. Betting explicitly banned in this situation.

	sera puni d'un emprisonnement de huit jours à trois mois." (Article 181-187) <b>(Code Electoral/Algemeen Kieswetboek)</b>				
Belize	"32.-(1) The following persons shall be deemed guilty of bribery within the meaning of this Act- (a) every person who, directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of that voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election" <b>(Representation of the People Act, 1978)</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving "any money or valuable consideration" to "induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting", for every person.
Benin	Art 121, Paragraph 1 (page 43) "Anyone, who by gifts or donations in cash or in kind, by promises of gifts, favors, public or private employments or other benefits, has influenced or attempts to influence the vote of one or more voters either directly or through a third person by the same means, to determine or attempt to determine one or more voters to abstain from voting, shall be punished by one (01) year to five (05) years imprisonment and a fine of two millions (2,000,000) to five millions (5,000,000) francs." <b>(Loi Electorale, Loi No. 2010-33, 2010 (Electoral Law Act))</b>	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering "gifts or donations in cash or in kind" to influence how a voter votes, or to abstain, covers every person
Bhutan	Chapter 21, Section 518 (page 171): "A person shall be guilty of offences of corrupt practices, if he/she: (a) Offers any gift or promises any gratification, with the object of inducing a person to stand or not to stand, or to withdraw or not to withdraw from being a candidate, or to vote or refrain from voting at an election; or (b) Receives or agrees to receive, any gratification for himself/herself, or on behalf of any other person, for having voted or refrained from voting, or for standing or not standing, or for withdrawing or not withdrawing from being a candidate." <b>(Election Act of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008)</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving "any gift or ... gratification" to vote or abstain, covers every person
Bolivia	"Art. 119. (PROHIBICIONES). I. Está prohibida la propaganda electoral, tanto en actos públicos de campaña como a través de medios de comunicación, que: [...] f) Implice el ofrecimiento de dinero o prebenda de cualquier naturaleza. [...]" <b>(Ley del Régimen Electoral, Ley No. 026, June 30 2010)</b>	Yes	No	Yes	Ban on offering (not giving?) money or favours of any kind. The intention must not be proven
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Art 19.9.g, "A political entity shall be fined in the amount from 1,000.00 KM to 10,000.00 KM for violation if it: ... g) promises any financial rewards with the purpose of gaining the support of voters or threatens the supporters of other political parties, coalitions, independent candidates' lists and independent candidates (Article 7.3 paragraph (1) sub-paragraph 4);" <b>(Election Law of BiH, Official Gazette of BiH, 23/01, 7/02, 9/02, 20/02, 25/02 (Correction), 25/02, 4/04, 20/04, 25/05, 77/05, 11/06, 24/06, 33/08, 37/08, 32/10)</b>	No	No	Yes	Ban on offering (not giving?) "any financial rewards" to gain the support of voters, covers political parties only
Botswana	Electoral Act 94 (b) " The following persons shall be guilty of bribery - Any person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by other person on his behalf gives or procures, or agrees to give or procure, or offers, or promises or promises to procure or endeavour to procure, any office, place or employment to or for any voter, or to or for any other person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting, at any election." <b>(Electoral Act, Chapter 02:09)</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving "any office, place or employment" to "induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting". Unusually limited supply definition. Similarities with wording to Bahamas and Belize
Brazil	Art. 23. "[...] § 5o Ficam vedadas quaisquer doações em dinheiro, bem como de troféus, prêmios, ajudas de qualquer espécie feitas por candidato, entre o registro e a eleição, a pessoas físicas ou jurídicas. [...]" Art. 39. "[...] § 6o É vedada na campanha eleitoral a confecção, utilização, distribuição por comitê, candidato, ou com a sua autorização, de camisetas, chaveiros, bonés, canetas, brindes, cestas básicas ou quaisquer outros bens ou materiais que possam proporcionar vantagem ao eleitor. [...]" <b>(Lei das Eleições No. 9.504, de 30 de setembro de 1997 (2010), (Electoral Law))</b>	Yes	No	No	Ban on making cash donations or giving anything else of value between registration and elections, as well as providing T-shirts, keychains, hats etc.

Bulgaria	Campaign Materials Article 134. (1) During the election campaign, the candidates, the parties, the coalitions of parties and the nomination committees may prepare and circulate posters, advertisements, messages and other campaign materials. Each item of campaign material shall mandatorily identify the issuer. (2) Each item of campaign material shall contain a statement that vote buying and selling is a criminal offence, and the said statement shall occupy not less than 10 per cent of the face space of the campaign material and shall be boxed. In the audio and audiovisual materials, this statement shall be contained as an unambiguous and understandable message ( <b>Election Code of Bulgaria</b> )	No	Yes	No?	All campaign materials must include message that vote buying and selling is an offence. No further information available.
Burundi	Article 33 "Commercial advertising practices, donations and gifts in cash or in kind for purposes of propaganda to influence or attempt to influence the vote during the election campaign is prohibited." Article 225 "Shall be punished with imprisonment from one to three years and a fine of 40,000 to 400, 000 francs or one of these penalties, any person who, through donations or gifts, in cash or in kind, promises of gifts, favors, public or private employment or other benefits, will influence or attempt to influence the vote of one or more voters, either directly or through a third party." Article 229 "Shall be punished with imprisonment from six months to five years and a fine of 40,000 to 200,000 francs or one of these penalties, one who, by assault, violence or threats against an elector, making him worry about losing his job or exposing his person, family or fortune to some dangers, has determined or attempts to determine his vote." ( <b>Loi Portant Code Electoral, 2005</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on any person giving or offering "donations or gifts, in cash or in kind, promises of gifts, favors, public or private employment or other benefits" to "influence or attempt to influence the vote" or a person, also indirectly
Cambodia	Art 124, "Regardless of any possible criminal penalty, his/her name shall be deleted from the voter list and from the list of candidates of political parties running in the election, and his/her candidacy shall be cancelled by the National Election Committee, and/or shall be fined from five million (5,000,000) to twenty-five million (25,000,000) riels, any person or political party that... - buys votes by offering material or monetary incentives." ( <b>Law on Elections of Members of the National Assembly, 1997</b> )	No?	No	Yes	Ban on offering (not giving?) "material or monetary incentives" to "buy votes". Unusually vague definition of the punishable intention
Cameroon	Article 111 "Are liable to the penalties provided by section 122 of the penal code: - Those who by donation, gifts, favors, promises to grant public or private employment or other benefits made, to influence the vote of one or more voters, to get their votes either directly or through a third party; - Those who, directly or through a third party accept or solicit donations, gifts, favors or benefits from candidates...; - Those who, by assault, violence or threats against an elector, either by raising fears of job loss, to expose himself, his family or wealth to damage, so to influence his vote." ( <b>Loi No. 92/010 du 17 Septembre 1992 fixant les conditions d'election et de suppléance a la Présidence de la République</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering, receiving or requesting "donation, gifts, favors, promises to grant public or private employment or other benefits" try to influence the vote.
Canada	"481. (1) Every person is guilty of an offence who, during an election period, directly or indirectly offers a bribe to influence an elector to vote or refrain from voting or to vote or refrain from voting for a particular candidate. Accepting bribe (2) Every elector is guilty of an offence who, during an election period, accepts or agrees to accept a bribe that is offered in the circumstances described in subsection (1)." Source: Section 481 ( <b>Canada Elections Act, 2000</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on offering (not giving?) or receiving a bribe (not defined) to "influence an elector to vote or refrain from voting or to vote or refrain from voting for a particular candidate"
Cape Verde	Article 311, Paragraph 1, 2 "Anyone who offers promise or grant or public or private employment or any other thing or an advantage to one or more voters or, in accordance with these, or by a third person, even when the thing used or advantage, or promised are disguised as a monetary compensation given to the voter for travel expenses or subsistence payments or food or drinks or the pretext of the election campaign expenses, shall be punished with imprisonment up to one year. The same penalty will be applied to any voter who accept the benefits of the preceding paragraph." ( <b>Código Eleitoral, Lei No. 56/VII/2010</b> )	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving gift of various kinds, including food or drink. No intention needs be proven.
Chad	Article 91, Paragraph 1 "Anyone who by gift or donation in cash or in kind, by promises of gifts, favors or other benefits, will influence or attempt to influence the vote of one or more voters or of an electoral college either directly or indirectly; anyone who will determine or tries to determine one	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering "gift or donation in cash or in

	or more voters or an electoral college to abstain, vote, shall be punished by imprisonment for one (1) year to five years and a fine of five hundred thousand (500,000) to one million (1,000,000) francs CFA." ( <b>Code Electoral, No. 003/2009, 2009</b> )				kind, by promises of gifts, favors or other benefits" to "influence or attempt to influence the vote"
Chile	Artículo 137.- "El que solicitare votos por paga, dádiva o promesa de dinero u otra recompensa o cohechare en cualquier forma a un elector, sufrirá la pena de presidio menor en su grado mínimo a medio. Se presumirá que incurre en esta conducta el que acompañare a un elector hasta dentro del radio de veinte metros alrededor de una Mesa, salvo que se trate de discapacitados que hubieren optado por ser asistidos en el acto de votar, con excepción de los casos de delito flagrante. Igual pena sufrirá la persona que vendiere su voto o sufragare por dinero u otra dádiva. Se presumirá que ha incurrido en esta conducta el elector que, en el acto de sufragar, sea sorprendido empleando cualquier procedimiento o medio encaminado a dejar constancia de la preferencia que pueda señalar o haya señalado en la cédula." ( <b>Ley No. 18700, Orgánica sobre votaciones populares y escrutinios (September 2009) (Voting and Counting Law)</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or other reward to seek votes.
Colombia	Artículo 390 "El que prometa, pague o entregue dinero o dádiva a un ciudadano o a un extranjero habilitado por la ley para que consigne su voto en favor de determinado candidato, partido o corriente política, vote en blanco, o se abstenga de hacerlo. El ciudadano que cometa este delito incurrirá en prisión de cuarenta y ocho (48) a noventa (90) meses y multa de 133,3 a 750 salarios mínimos legales mensuales vigentes." ( <b>Código Penal Colombiano, Ley 1142 de 2007 (Penal Code)</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or gift to influence a voter
Comoros	Art 80, "Seront punis d'une peine de prison de huit à quinze mois et d'une amende de 10.000 FC à 100.000 FC ceux qui par des dons ou libéralités en argent ou en nature, par des promesses de libéralités, de faveurs de distinctions honorifiques, d'emplois publics ou privés ou d'autres avantages particuliers faits à des individus ou à des collectivités, communes ou villages en vue d'influencer le vote d'un ou de plusieurs électeurs, auront obtenu ou tenté d'obtenir leur suffrage, soit directement soit par l'entremise d'un tiers, ou ceux qui auront par les même moyens déterminés ou tenté de déterminer un ou des électeurs à s'abstenir de voter." ( <b>Election Code for Constitutional Referendum, 2001</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering gifts in cash or in-kind or benefits to influence the vote. Explicitly bans such attempts to influence not only individuals but also "communities, towns and villages".
Costa Rica	ARTÍCULO 279.- "Delito contra la libre determinación del votante. Se impondrá pena de prisión de dos a doce meses a quien, por medio de dádivas, promesas de dádivas, violencia y/o amenazas, trate de inducir o induzca a una persona a adherirse a una candidatura, a votar en determinado sentido o a abstenerse de hacerlo." ( <b>Código Electoral, Ley No. 8765, August 2009 (Electoral Law)</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering gifts to induce how or if someone votes, includes all persons
Cote d'Ivoire	Article 5 "The signatories reject the use of fraudulent maneuvers, of all means which are intended to prevent the voter to make an informed and independent choice, of the purchase of consciences, of any other operation that corrupt the integrity, quality and transparency of the electoral process." ( <b>Code de bonne conduite des partis politiques, des regroupements, des forces politiques et des candidats aux elections en Cote d'Ivoire</b> )	No	No	No	Different wording from most others. This is a rejection of the "purchase of conscience", not further defined.
Croatia	Art 116, "Whoever, by force, serious threat, bribery or in some other illegal way influences a voter to vote for or against a certain candidate in elections, or to vote for or against the recall of a candidate, or to vote for or against a certain proposal in a referendum, or not to vote at all, shall be punished by a fine or by imprisonment not exceeding one year" ( <b>Criminal Code, No 110/1997</b> )	No	No	No?	Ban on using bribery (not further defined) to influence someone's vote or not to vote, includes everyone
Denmark	"Med bøde eller fængsel indtil 2 år straffes den, som ved de i § 116 omhandlede valg eller stemmeafgivninger 1) uberettiget skaffer sig eller andre adgang til at deltage i afstemningen, 2) ved ulovlig tvang (§ 260), ved frihedsberøvelse eller ved misbrug af overordnelsesforhold søger at formå nogen til at stemme på en bestemt måde eller til at undlade at stemme, 3) ved svig bevirker, at nogen mod sin hensigt afholder sig fra at stemme, eller at hans stemmeafgivning bliver ugyldig eller virker anderledes end tilsigtet, 4) yder, lover eller tilbyder formuefordel for at påvirke nogen til at stemme	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering and receiving pecuniary advantage to influence someone to vote in a certain way or to abstain

	på en vis måde eller til at unklade at stemme, 5) modtager, fordrer eller lader sig tilsige formuefordel for at stemme på en vis måde eller for at unklade at stemme." (§ 117)" ( <b>Straffeloven, 1930</b> )				
Dominica	Article 55. " The following persons shall be deemed guilty of bribery within the meaning of this Act: (a) Every person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises or promises to procure or endeavour to procure any money or valuable [...] to or for any elector, or to or for any person on behalf of any elector, or to or for any other person in order to induce any elector to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as mentioned above on account of any elector having voted or refrained from voting at any election." ( <b>House of Assembly (Elections) Act, No. 14, 1951</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering "any money or valuable" to "vote or refrain from voting", for all persons.
Dominican Republic	Art. 171(b6) "Serán castigados con la pena del mínimo de reclusión, es decir dos (2) años de reclusión y multa de RD\$5,000.00 a RD\$20,000.00: 6. Los que sobornaren, en cualquier forma y por cualquier medio, a un elector para inducirle a votar de una manera determinada". ( <b>Ley Electoral No. 275-97 y sus modificaciones, República Dominicana (Electoral Law)</b> )	No	No	No	General ban on influencing voters through bribery
East Timor	Art 51, "1. A person who offers, promises or actually gives public or private employment or another benefit or advantage, in connection with an election, to one or more voters or, by agreement with the voters, to a third party, even where such benefits are masked as cash compensation given to the voter or under the pretext of expenditure with the electoral campaign, shall be punished with a 1- to 2-year prison term or a fine penalty of \$500 to \$1,000. 2. A voter who accepts any of the benefits contemplated under item 1 above shall be punished with a 6-month to 1-year prison term or a fine penalty of \$250 to \$500." ( <b>Law on the Election of Suco Chiefs and Suco Councils, 2004</b> )	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ban on offering, giving or receiving various benefits. No intention needs be proven.
Ecuador	Art. 204.- "Las candidatas y candidatos y las organizaciones políticas no podrán entregar donaciones, dádivas o regalos a las ciudadanas y ciudadanos." ( <b>Ley orgánica electoral y de organizaciones políticas de la República del Ecuador, Código de la Democracia (April 2009) (Electoral law)</b> )	Yes	No	No	Candidates and political parties cannot give grants, gifts and donations to citizens.
El Salvador	Art. 75.- "Pierden los derechos de ciudadano: [...] 3º. Los que compren o vendan votos en las elecciones; [...]" ( <b>Constitución de la República de El Salvador, Decreto Constitucional No. 38, May 2009 (Constitution)</b> ) Art. 295.- "Será sancionado con pena de prisión de cuatro a seis años, si el fraude electoral fuere cometido con cualquiera de las siguientes circunstancias: [...] b) El que pagare dinero o especie o por medio de ofertas de beneficios particulares recibidas o prometidas, para inducir a un elector a votar por determinado partido o candidato o para abstenerse de votar o anular su voto; [...] h) El que coaccionare a un elector para votar a favor de algún candidato o violare el secreto del voto del elector. [...]" ( <b>Código Penal, Decreto No. 1030, May 2011 (Penal Code)</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving cash or in-kind gifts to influence a voter
Ethiopia	Art 102.7.a, "7/ No person shall a/ give bribe in relation to election or political activity;" ( <b>Political Parties Registration Proclamation, 2008</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on giving bribes in relation to elections, not further defined
Fiji	Article 130, Section 1 and 2: "A person who asks for, receives or obtains, or offers or agrees to ask for, or to receive or obtain, any property or benefit of any kind, whether for the same or any other person, on an understanding that- (a) any vote of the first mentioned person; (b) any candidature of the first mentioned person; (c) any support of, or opposition to, a candidate or a political party by the first mentioned person; or (d) the doing of any act or thing by the first mentioned person the purpose of which is, or the effect of which is likely to be, to influence the preferences set out in the vote of a voter, will, in any way, be influenced or affected, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 2 years. (2) A person who, in order to influence or affect- (a) any vote of another person; (b) any candidature of another person; (c) any support of, or opposition to, a candidate or a political party by another person; or (d) the doing of any act or thing by another person the purpose of which is, or the effect of which is likely to be, to influence the preferences set out in the vote of a voter, gives or confers, or promises or offers to give or confer directly or through any other person, any property or benefit of any kind to that other person or to a third	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering, requesting or receiving property or benefit of any kind to influence how someone votes

	party, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of \$10,000 and to imprisonment for 2 years." ( <b>Electoral Act, 1998</b> )				
Finland	Art 2, "Den som 1) utlovar, erbjuder eller ger någon en belöning eller en annan förmån för att förmå någon att rösta på ett visst sätt eller avstå från att rösta vid ett allmänt val eller en allmän omröstning eller 2) kräver en belöning eller någon annan förmån för att rösta eller avstå från att rösta vid ett allmänt val eller en allmän omröstning, skall för röstköp dömas till böter eller fängelse i högst ett år." ( <b>Strafflag, 1989</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or requesting reward or benefit to influence if and how someone votes
France	"Quiconque, par des dons ou libéralités en argent ou en nature, par des promesses de libéralités, de faveurs, d'emplois publics ou privés ou d'autres avantages particuliers, faits en vue d'influencer le vote d'un ou de plusieurs électeurs aura obtenu ou tenté d'obtenir leur suffrage, soit directement, soit par l'entremise d'un tiers, quiconque, par les mêmes moyens, aura déterminé ou tenté de déterminer un ou plusieurs d'entre eux à s'abstenir, sera puni de deux ans d'emprisonnement et d'une amende de 15 000 euros. Seront punis des mêmes peines ceux qui auront agréé ou sollicité les mêmes dons, libéralités ou promesses." (Article L106) "Quiconque, en vue d'influencer le vote d'un collège électoral ou d'une fraction de ce collège, aura fait des dons ou libéralités, des promesses de libéralités ou de faveurs administratives, soit à une commune, soit à une collectivité quelconque de citoyens, sera puni d'un emprisonnement de deux ans et d'une amende de 15 000 euros." (Article L108) ( <b>Code Electoral</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or requesting employment or benefits to influence if and how someone votes
Gambia	Article 117, Paragraph 1 "A person is guilty of bribery if he (a) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lend agrees to give or lands, offers, promises, or promises to procure or endeavour to produce any money or valuable consideration to or for any other person in order to induce any person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting or does any such act on account of such voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election; (b) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives or procures or agrees to give or procure or offers, promises or promises to procure or endeavour to procure any office, place or employment to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting or does any such act on account of such voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election; (c) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes any gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement to or for any person in order to induce such person to procure or to endeavour to procure the return of any person at any election or the vote of any voter at any election; (d) upon or in consequence of any gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement, procures or engages or promises or endeavours to procure the return of any person at any election or the vote of any voter at any election; (e) advances or pays or causes to be advanced or paid any money to or for the use of any other person with the intent that such money, or any part thereof, shall be expended in bribery at any election or who knowingly pays or causes to be paid money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election; (f) before or during any election, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives, agrees or contracts for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration, office, place or employment for himself or for any other person for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting at any election; or (g) after any election, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any such election." ( <b>Elections Decree 78, 1996</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving money or valuable consideration if and how someone votes
Georgia	Art 73 (9), (page 66) "From the moment of publication of the relevant legal act that announces the elections until the publication of the final results of the elections, it is prohibited to: a) Electoral subjects/candidates of becoming electoral subjects and their representatives personally or through other persons to give money, gifts and other material possessions (irrespective of their price), to sell at a preferential price, distribute or disseminate any goods free of charge (except for the agitation material as prescribed by this Law), also to motivate Georgian citizens by promising to give funds, securities and to render other material valuables (regardless of their price); b) Using private personal funds and/or the pre-election campaign funds by a	Yes	No	Yes	Two provisions. First bans the giving of gifts from electoral subjects to citizens after elections have been announced, intention need not be proven.

	<p>physical or a legal person for the purposes of performing such works or providing such services (except for works and services defined under the Georgian law on public procurement), which according to the Georgian legislation fall into the competence of Georgian State and/or local self-government bodies." (<b>Election Code of Georgia, 2001</b>)</p> <p>Art 164 superscript 1, "1. Vote Buying "From the moment of publication of the relevant legal act that announces the elections until the publication of the final results of the elections, it is prohibited to give money, gifts and other material possessions, to sell them at a preferential price, distribute or disseminate any goods free of charge, performing or providing services for free, promising to give funds, , securities and to render other material valuables in return of voting for any candidate or abstain from voting, except for the agitation material as prescribed by Election Code, - -shall be punishable by imprisonment up to one year." (<b>Criminal Code of Georgia, 1999</b>)</p>				Second provision bans the giving or offering of money or material possessions or services to influence if and how someone votes. This relates to all persons.
Germany	"Whosoever undertakes to buy or sell a vote for an election or ballot in the European Parliament or in a parliament of the Federation, the member states, municipalities or municipal associations, shall be liable to imprisonment of not more than five years or a fine." (Chapter 4, Section 108e) ( <b>Criminal Code, 1998</b> )	No	Yes	No	Ban on buying or selling a vote, not further defined
Ghana	Article 33 (1) "A person commits the offence of bribery - (a) if he directly or acting through another person - (i) gives money or obtains an office for a voter in order to induce the voter to vote or refrain from voting; or (ii) corruptly does such an act on account of a voter having voted or refrained from voting; or (iii) makes a gift or provides something of value to a voter to induce the voter to vote in a certain way or to obtain the election of a candidate; or (b) if he advances or pays money or causes money to be paid to or for the use of a person with the intent that the money or part of it shall be expended in bribery at an election, or knowingly pays money or causes money to be paid to a person in discharge or repayment of money wholly or in part expended in bribery at an election; or (c) if before or during an election he directly or indirectly, by himself or through another person acting on his behalf, receives, agrees or contracts for money, gift, a loan or valuable consideration or an office, place or employment for himself or for another person for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting; or (d) if after an election he directly or through another person receives money or valuable consideration on account of a person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced another person to vote or to refrain from voting." Article 34 "A person commits the offence of treating - (a) if he corruptly either himself or through another person, before, during or after an election gives or provides or pays wholly or in part the expenses of giving or providing meat, drink, entertainment or provision to or for any person - 39 (i) for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or another person to vote or refrain from voting; or (ii) on account of that person or another person having voted or refrained from voting or being about to vote or refrain from voting; or (b) if he corruptly accepts or takes any meat, drink, entertainment or provision offered in the circumstances for the purposes mentioned in paragraph (a) of this section." ( <b>PNDCL 284 Representation of the People Law, 1992</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving money or office, gift or something of value to influence if or how someone votes or have voted. Also bans treating, but this is again connected to the "purpose of corruptly influencing that person or another person to vote or refrain from voting".
Greece	"[T]he Greek penal legislation contains a provision in the penal code (art.165: Bribery during the Elections) that criminalizes offering gifts (of any kind) to voters with the aim to change the electoral result. The penalty is imprisonment up to two years and fines. Additionally, during the Electoral period there come Presidential Decrees that mirror penal legislation and sometimes change the penalties of the penal code. The mirror recent Electoral Legislation of the article 165 of the penal code is the Presidential Decree 96/2007 which provides for the same act of bribery (with the aim to influence the result of the elections) the penalty of imprisonment for at least three months up to three years and as supplementary a monetary penalty (art. 114 par. 1 of the Decree)." ( <b>Expert input provided by Maria Archimandritou, Assistant Professor School of Law Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 31 August 2011</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on offering and giving gifts to voters with the aim of changing the electoral result
Grenada	"66. The following persons shall be deemed guilty of bribery within the meaning of this Ordinance:--- (1) Every person who, directly or indirectly, by	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or

	himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavor to procure any money or valuable consideration to or for any elector, or to or for any person on behalf of any elector, or to or for any other person in order to induce any elector to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any elector having voted or refrained from voting at any election" Source: Section 66 ( <b>Electoral law, 1958</b> )				valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes
Guinea	Article 53 "Is prohibited and may be punished, by action of the Prosecution, the penalties for trading of influence: - Donations and gifts in cash or in kind as well as promises of gifts or administrative favors made to a person, a group of persons or any local constituency for propaganda for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the voting..." ( <b>Loi organique N0 91/012/CTRN portant Code Electoral, Modifie par Loi organique L/2010/.../CNT du 22 avril 2010</b> )	No	NO	Yes	Ban on giving or offering gifts in cash or in-kind to influence the voting
Guinea-Bissau	Art 165, "Aquele que, para persuadir alguém a votar ou a deixar de votar em qualquer lista, Partido, Coligação de Partidos ou Candidatos, oferecer ou prometer emprego público ou privado ou qualquer vantagem patrimonial a um ou mais eleitores por acordo com uma outra interposta pessoa, mesmo que as coisas oferecidas ou prometidas forem dissimuladas a título de ajuda pecuniária para custear despesa de qualquer natureza é punido com pena de prisão de dois a oito anos" ( <b>Lei Eleitoral Para Presidente da República e Assembleia Nacional Popular, Lei No. 3/98, 1998</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering employment of pecuniary advantage to influence if and how someone votes
Guyana	"131. The following persons shall be deemed to be guilty of the corrupt practice of bribery: (a) every person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf – (i) gives or agrees to give; or (ii) lends or agrees to lend; or (iii) offers or promises; or (iv) promises to procure or promises to endeavor to procure – any money or valuable consideration to or for any elector, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any elector to vote or to refrain from voting [...]" Source: Section 131 ( <b>Representation of the People Act, Chapter 1:03</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or valuable consideration to influence how if and how someone votes
Honduras	ARTÍCULO 212. "OTROS DELITOS ELECTORALES. Serán penados con reclusión de cuatro (4) a seis (6) años, quienes incurran en los actos siguientes: [...] 16) Comprar o vender el voto; [...]" ( <b>Lev electoral y de las organizaciones políticas, Decreto 44-2004, 2009 (Electoral Law)</b> )	No	No	No?	Ban on buying votes, not further defined
Hungary	Art 211.e, [Anyone who] "obstructs any voter from participating in the election or plebiscite by force, threat of force or deception, or makes any attempt to influence such person by offering financial benefits... commits a felony and shall be punishable with imprisonment of up to three years."	No	No	Yes	Ban on offering (not giving?) financial benefits to influence a voter
Iceland	Art 117, ["Banned election propaganda and election sabotage" include:] "To offer anyone money or advantages in order to have an effect on whether they cast a vote or for whom they cast a vote, to deprive a person or to threaten a person with the deprivation of his or her job or advantages for the same purpose, to promise money or advantages to a person if an election turns out this way or that way, to make it difficult for others to go to a polling session or to a pre-election polling station, as well as to apply coercive measures in connection with elections." ( <b>Act on Parliamentary Elections to the Althing, No. 24/2000, 2000</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on offering (not giving?) money or advantages to influence if and how someone votes
Iran	Chapter 7, Article 66, Clause 1: "In addition to the offences stipulated in this law, commitment of the followings shall be considered as offence: 1. Buying and purchase of vote" ( <b>Elections Act of Islamic Consultative Assembly (1999)</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on buying votes, not further defined
Iraq	"During the election campaign it is prohibited for any candidates to provide gifts, donations or other kind of assistance which aims at influencing the voting" Article 27 ( <b>Election Law</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on candidates giving "gifts, donations or other kind of assistance" to influence voting
Ireland	"(1) A person shall not, in relation to an election— (a) give valuable consideration to induce a voter to vote, or to procure the election of any person or the vote of any voter, or on account of a voter having voted, or (b) procure, by means of, or in consequence of, valuable consideration, the election of any person or the vote of any voter, or (c) withdraw or refrain from withdrawing, in consequence of any valuable consideration, from being a candidate, or (d) induce, by means of, or in consequence of, valuable consideration, any person to withdraw or to refrain from withdrawing from	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes or has voted.

	being a candidate, or (e) receive, agree or contract to receive, valuable consideration for voting or agreeing to vote. (2) A person who contravenes sub-article (1) shall be guilty of an offence. (3) A person who aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of an offence under this article shall be guilty of an offence. (4) In this article— "give", "induce" and "procure" include agreeing or promising or attempting to give, induce or procure, as the case may be, and whether directly or indirectly; "valuable consideration" includes the giving, lending or agreeing to give or lend, or the offer or promise to procure or to attempt to procure, any money, money's worth or valuable security or any valuable consideration or any office, place or employment to or for any person; "vote" includes voting in a particular way or refraining from voting." (Part XV, Section 96) ( <b><u>Local Elections Regulations, 1995</u></b> )				
Israel	[p. 122-123. "Vote buying" is defined as using actual money, a favor worth money or other benefits and services to bribe a person to change his vote or abstain from voting. The maximum penalty is 5 years in prison.]. Description, not direct quote. ( <b><u>Law: Elections for the Knesset (1969)</u></b> )	No	No	No	Ban on giving money or benefit to influence if and how someone votes.
Jamaica	"91 Bribery and treating (1) The following persons shall be deemed guilty of bribery within the meaning of this Act- (a) every person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any voter or to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of such voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election;" Source: Article 91 (N.B the article continues to list offences of bribery) ( <b><u>Representation of the People Act, 1965</u></b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes
Japan	Art 221-222, Vote buying is punished by imprisonment with or without work for not more than 3-5 years or a fine of not more than 500,000 yen. [description, not direct quote] ( <b><u>Public Offices Election Act, 1950 (as amended by Act No. 35 of 2011)</u></b> )	No	No	No	Ban on vote buying, not further defined
Jordan	Art 20.a"it's not allowed for any candidates to provide gift, contributions, money, or any other benefits during the campaign including money in exchange for votes" ( <b><u>Election Law for Parliament, 2010</u></b> )	No	No	No	Ban on candidates giving "gift, contributions, money, or any other benefits" during campaign in exchange for votes
Kazakhstan	Art 27 (9) "Conduct of the pre-election campaign accompanied by granting to voters of goods, services, securities free of charge or on favorable terms as well as conduct of lotteries, charitable actions, payment of money or promise to provide the latter shall be considered as inadequate pre-election campaign, except for free distribution of the printed and illustrative materials, badges, flags and the tags specially produced for the election campaign. Conduct of inadequate pre-election campaigns shall be forbidden." ( <b><u>Constitutional Act of the Republic of Kazakhstan, On Elections in the Republic of Kazakhstan, 1995</u></b> )Kazakhstan	Yes	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering during campaigns "goods, services, securities free of charge or on favorable terms" or holding "lotteries, charitable actions, payment of money or promise to provide the latter", apart from "free distribution of the printed and illustrative materials, badges, flags and the tags specially produced for the election campaign"
Kenya <sup>12</sup>	10. Every person shall be guilty of the offence of bribery who— (a) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving , offering or receiving rewards to influence

<sup>12</sup> The provision regarding Kenya is not taken from the International IDEA political finance database.

	<p>elector or voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any elector or voter or to or for any other person, in order to induce any elector or voter to give or refrain from giving his vote, whether to a particular candidate or not, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of such elector or voter having given or refrained from giving his vote at any election, whether to a particular candidate or not; or (b) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives or procures, or agrees to give or procure, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any office, place or employment to or for any elector or voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any elector or voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce such elector or voter to give or refrain from giving his vote, whether to a particular candidate or not, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any elector or voter having so given or refrained from giving his vote at any election; or (c) directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement, or agreement as aforesaid to or for any person in order to induce such person to procure or endeavour to procure the election of any person, or the vote of any elector or voter at any election; (d) upon or in consequence of any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement, procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure, the election of any person, or the vote of any elector or voter at an election; or (e) advances or pays or causes to be paid any money to, or to the use of, any other person with the intent that such money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at any election or who knowingly pays or causes to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any such election; or (f) being an elector or voter, before or during any election directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives, agrees, or contracts for any money, gift, loan, or valuable consideration, office, place or employment, for himself or for any other person, for giving or agreeing to give or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from giving his vote, whether to a particular candidate or not, at any such election; or (g) after any election, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having given or refrained from giving or having induced any other person to give or to refrain from giving, his vote, whether to a particular candidate or not, at any such election; or (h) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, on account of and as payment for voting or for having voted or for agreeing or having agreed to vote for any candidate at an election, or on account of and as payment for his having assisted or agreed to assist any candidate at an election, applies to such candidate, or to his agent or agents, for the gift or loan of any money or valuable consideration, or for the promise of the gift or loan of any money or valuable consideration or for any office, place or employment or for the promise of any office, place or employment; or (i) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any person on his behalf, in order to induce any other person to agree to be nominated as a candidate or to refrain from becoming a candidate or to withdraw if he has become a candidate, gives or procures any office, place or employment, or agrees to give or procure or offers or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure any office, place or employment, to or for such other person, or gives or lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure any money or valuable consideration to or for any person or to or for such other person, or to or for any person on behalf of such other person. <b>Election Offences Act 2009</b></p>				<p>if or how someone votes.</p>
<p>Korea, South</p>	<p>Art 230, "(1) Any person who falls under any of the following subparagraphs shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than five years or by a fine not exceeding ten million won: 1. A person who offers, manifests an intention to offer, or promises to offer money, goods, transportation, banquet, other property interest, or public or private post to any elector (including an elector who is eligible to enter the electoral register or overseas electoral</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Ban on giving or offering "money, goods, transportation, banquet, other</p>

	register, etc. before preparation of the electoral register or overseas electoral register, etc.; hereafter the same shall apply in this Chapter), or election campaign manager, chief of the election campaign liaison office, election campaign worker, accountant in charge, election campaign speechmaker (including a speechmaker who gives a speech or interview under Article 79 (1) and (2), and the one who gives a speech or debates as provided in Articles 81 (1), 82 (1) or 82-2 (1) and (2); hereafter the same shall apply in this Chapter), or witness (referring to a voting witness, absentee voting witness and ballot-counting witness; hereafter the same shall apply in this Chapter) of another political party or candidate (including a preliminary candidate), with the intention of making another person cast his vote or not cast his vote, or making himself elected or making another person elected or not elected;" ( <b>Public Official Election Act, 1994 (as amended by Act No. 11070 of 2011)</b> )				property interest, or public or private post" to influence if and how someone votes
Kyrgyzstan	Art 47 (1) In accordance with laws of the Kyrgyz Republic, the following persons shall bear criminal, administrative, or other liability: 1) those interfering with the free implementation by citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic of their right to elect and be elected by means of violence, deceit, threat, forgery, or other means, or violating the secrecy of voting, or of a citizen's right to become familiarized with the electoral register, or forcing citizens to sign or preventing them from putting down their signatures in support of a candidate, as well as those participating in forgery of signatures or voters' bribery [...] ( <b>Constitutional Law of the Kyrgyz Republic, On elections of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and deputies of Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, 2011</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on bribing voters, no further information
Latvia	Section 90. Hindrance of the Exercise of Voting rights and the Right to Participate in Referendums For a person who knowingly commits hindrance of the unrestricted exercise of the right to elect representatives, the right to be elected, or the right to freely participate in a national referendum organised in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Latvia, by the use of violence, fraud, threats, payoffs, or other unlawful means, the applicable punishment is deprivation of liberty for a term not exceeding three years or community service, or a fine not exceeding sixty times the minimum monthly wage. ( <b>The Criminal Law</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on making "payoffs" hinder voters from freely exercise their right to vote
Lebanon	It's consider prohibited during the election campaign, the commitment, the expenditure that include providing or paying money to voters, and it's included but not limited to indirect or cash assistance to individual or charitable association or social or cultural or family or religious or others, or youth club and all other run public institutions Article 59 ( <b>Parliamentary Elections Law, No. 25, 2008</b> )	Yes	No	No	Ban on providing money to voters, directly or indirectly, during election campaigns. No mention of intention
Lesotho	Art 163 (2) "A person commits an offence of bribery if - (a) a person seeks or receives a benefit, personally or for another person, in order to influence the person's electoral conduct; (b) a person offers, promises or gives any benefit to any person in order to influence the persons elections conduct; or ...." ( <b>National Assembly Electoral Act, 2011</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering, receiving and requesting a benefit to influence a person's "electoral conduct"
Liberia	Art 10.4.c [The definition of bribery includes] "After close of campaign, and on the day of an election, anyone who offers money or receiver [sic] money or valuable consideration for the purpose of influencing the voterr [sic] to vote or not to vote, for a particular candidate" ( <b>The New Elections Law, 1986</b> )	No	Yes	Yes?	Ban on giving, offering or receiving money to influence how someone votes, though only after the close of the election campaign
Libya	Art 35, "The following actions will result in a prison sentence that does not exceed one (1) year and a financial fine that does not exceed five thousand Libyan Dinars (5,000 LYD):... 2. Offering and/or pledging to personally benefit a voter in exchange for influencing their vote." ( <b>Law No. 4 of 2012, the General National Congress election</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering personal benefit to influence someone's vote
Liechtenstein	Article 265: "§ 265 Bestechung bei einer Wahl oder Abstimmung 1) Wer einem Wahl- oder Stimmberechtigten ein Entgelt anbietet, verspricht oder gewährt, damit er in einem bestimmten Sinn oder damit er nicht oder nicht in einem bestimmten Sinn wähle oder stimme, ist mit Freiheitsstrafe bis zu	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering voters and advantage to influence their vote.

	einem Jahr zu bestrafen. 2) Ebenso ist ein Wahl- oder Stimmberechtigter zu bestrafen, der dafür, dass er in einem bestimmten Sinn, oder dafür, dass er nicht oder nicht in einem bestimmten Sinn wähle oder stimme, ein Entgelt fordert, annimmt oder sich versprechen lässt." ( <b>Strafgesetzbuch (StGB), 1987 (Penal Code)</b> )				
Lithuania	"1. During the political campaign of elections to the Seimas, i.e. from announcement of the date of elections to the Seimas until the end of the period of election campaign as set out by this Law, as well as on the election day it shall be prohibited to directly or indirectly buy votes, to induce by offering gifts or other rewards a voter or a person eligible to vote to attend or not to attend elections and (or) to vote for or against one or another person to be nominated, a candidate or a list of candidates, as well as to promise to reward the voters for voting after the elections, by having a purpose to affect the will of voters regarding particular political parties or candidates, or persons to be nominated, and thus hinder citizens from implementing their right to vote. 2. Production or distribution free of charge of printed matter (a programme, biography of a political party or candidate, or a person to be nominated, or other leaflets, calendars, postcards, stickers of information character) and pins intended for propagating a political party or candidate, or a person to be nominated shall not be considered as bribery of voters. 3. The Central Electoral Commission shall, in the manner prescribed by it, examine and evaluate the facts of bribery of voters or persons eligible to vote. The Central Electoral Commission shall announce the established facts of bribery in the Internet together with a pledge of the candidate who has violated this Article to adhere to the prohibition to bribe voters and persons eligible to vote. After the recognition of the facts of bribery of voters and persons entitled to vote as a grave violation of this Law, the consequences defined in this Law and other laws shall arise." (Chapter 1, Article 5, 1-3§) ( <b>Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Elections to the Seimas, 1992</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on offering (not giving?) gifts or other rewards to influence if and how someone votes. Specifically mentioned that the distribution of campaign materials (examples included) should not be seen as vote buying
Luxemburg	"Est puni d'une amende de 251 à 2.000 euros et d'un emprisonnement de huit jours à un mois ou de l'une de ces peines seulement, quiconque, pour déterminer un électeur à s'abstenir de voter ou à remettre un bulletin de vote nul, ou pour influencer son vote ou pour l'empêcher ou lui défendre de se porter candidat, a usé à son égard de voies de fait, de violences ou de menaces, ou lui a fait craindre de perdre son emploi ou d'exposer à un dommage sa personne, sa famille ou sa fortune. Pendant le mois qui précède le jour des élections européennes, législatives et communales ainsi que pendant le déroulement de celles-ci, la publication, la diffusion et le commentaire de tout sondage d'opinion ayant un rapport direct ou indirect avec ces élections, par quelque moyen que ce soit, sont interdits. Ceux qui ont contrevenu aux dispositions du présent alinéa sont punis d'un emprisonnement de huit jours à un mois et d'une amende de 500 à 12.500 euros" (Article 97) ( <b>Loi Electoral, 2003</b> )	No	No	No?	Ban on bribing voters, not further defined
Latvia	Art 178, "(1) For acts of preventing the elections and voting, violating and abusing the right to vote, violating the voter's freedom of choice, bribing during the elections and voting, destroying electoral documents and committing electoral fraud, shall be punished pursuant to the provisions of the Criminal Code. (2) For the criminal acts of Paragraph 1 of this Article the procedure is urgent." ( <b>Electoral Code (2011)</b> )	No	No	No?	Ban on bribing during elections (not further defined)
Madagascar	Art 151, "Tout vendeur et tout acheteur de suffrage sont condamnés chacun à une amende égale au double de la valeur des choses reçues ou promises. En outre, toute personne qui, à l'occasion d'une élection, a acheté ou vendu un suffrage à un prix quelconque est privée de ses droits civiques et déclarée incapable d'exercer aucune fonction publique ou interdite d'exercer aucun mandat public électif pendant cinq à dix ans." ( <b>Ordonnance No. 2010-003 portant loi organique relative au Code Électoral</b> )	No	Yes	No?	Ban on buying or selling a vote (not further defined)
Malaysia	Sec 10 (c) (page 16) "The following persons shall be deemed guilty of the offence of bribery: (c). every person who, before, during or after an election, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement, or agreement as aforesaid to or for any person in order to induce such person to procure or endeavour to procure the election of any person, or the vote of any elector or voter at any election;" ( <b>Elections Offences Act, 1954</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering "gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement, or agreement as aforesaid" to influence a voter

Maldives	Article 120(a-b): "Bribery in respect of electoral right 120 a. It is an offence to induce the inclination of the exercise of an electoral right for the benefit of a certain party or to offer anything as a gesture of gratitude or gratification or reward for having exercised the electoral right in a certain manner. b. It is an offence for a person to accept anything given as provided in Sub-section a." Article 119(b): "b. Electoral right shall mean the right of a person to stand or not to stand for election as a candidate or to vote or not to vote in an election as may be provided by law and regulations." ( <b>Maldives Penal Code, 1975</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving a reward to influence someone's vote
Mali	Article 72, Paragraph 1 "Advertising practices of a commercial nature, donations and gifts in cash or in kind for the purposes of propaganda to influence or attempt to influence the vote during the election campaign is prohibited." Article 128, Paragraph 1 "Anyone who with donations or gifts in cash or in kind, with promises of gifts, favors, public or private employment or other benefits, will influence or attempt to influence the vote of one or more voters, directly, or through, a third person by the same means, anyone who will determine or will try to determine one or more voters to abstain, shall be punished with one to five years imprisonment and a fine of hundred thousand (100,000) to one million (1,000,000) francs." ( <b>Code portant loi Electoral, No.06-044, 2006</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering gifts in cash or kind to influence the vote
Malta	"The following persons shall be deemed guilty of the offence of bribery: [...] every person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises or promises to procure, or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of such voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election under this Ordinance;" (Article 56 (a)) ( <b>General Elections Law, No. 354, 1991</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes
Marshall Islands	Article 211: "\$211. Bribery. (1) For the purpose of the Elections and Referenda Act, 1980, a person or candidate who, directly or indirectly: (a) gives, lends or agrees to give, lend or offer any money or promise to procure any money or other valuable consideration to or for the purposes of influencing a voter to vote for, or to refrain from voting for, a certain candidate; or (b) accepts or takes any money, offered or promised, in order to influence the outcome of an election, shall be guilty of the offense of 'bribery' and upon conviction, shall be liable..." ( <b>Election Offences Act, 2004</b> )	No	Yes	No	Ban on giving, offering and receiving money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes
Mauritius	Art 64" (1) Any person who— (a) (a) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any elector, or to or for any person on behalf of any elector, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any elector to vote or refrained from voting, or corruptly does any such act on account of any elector having voted or refrained from voting at any election; (b) (b) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives or procures, or agrees to give or procure, or offers, promises or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure any office, place, or employment, to or for any elector, or to or for any person, on behalf of any elector or for any other person, in order to induce such elector to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act on account of any elector having voted or refrained from voting at any election; (c) (c) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement, or agreement as is mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b), to or for any person, in order to induce such person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the return of any person as an elected member of a council or the vote of any elector at any election; (d) (d) upon or in consequence of any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement, procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure, the return of any person as an elected member of a council, or the vote of any elector at any election; (e) (e) advances or pays, or causes to be paid, any money to or to the use of any other person, with the intent that such money or any part thereof, shall be expended in bribery at any election, or who knowingly pays, or causes to be paid, any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money in whole or in part expended in bribery at any election; (f) (f) before or during any election, directly or indirectly, by himself	No	Yes	No	Ban on giving, offering and receiving money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes

	or by any other person on his behalf, receives, agrees or contracts for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration, office, place, or employment, for himself or for any person, for voting or agreeing to vote, or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting at any election; or (g) (g) after any election, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting, or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting, at any election, shall be guilty of bribery under this Act. (2) A person who — (a) (a) corruptly by himself or by any other person, either before, during or after an election, directly or indirectly gives or provides, or pays in whole or in part the expenses of giving or providing, any food, drink, entertainment, or provision to or for any person for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person, or any other person, to vote or refrain from voting at such election; or (b) (b) corruptly accepts or takes any such food, drink, entertainment or provision, shall be guilty of treating under this Act. ". ( <b>Representation of the People Act of 1968</b> )				
Mexico	Art. 403 "Se pondrá una multa de diez a cien días y prisión de seis meses a tres años a quien solicite votos por paga, dádiva, promesa de dinero u otra recompensa durante las campañas electorales o la jornada electoral". ( <b>Código Penal Federal, 1931 (2011) (Federal Criminal Code)</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or reward in return for votes
Micronesia, Federated States of	Section 13: "(2) It shall be unlawful for any person, directly or indirectly, personally or through another, to knowingly commit the following acts: (a) Give, procure, promise or lend or offer to give, procure, promise or lend anything of value for the purpose of inducing or compelling a person to vote or refrain from voting for any particular person or issue, or to sign or refrain from signing a nomination petition" ( <b>Public Law No. 14-76, Revised National Election Act of 2005</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering anything of value to influence if and how someone votes
Moldova	Article 38: "(7) Funds wired to the "Electoral Fund" may not be used for personal interests. Electoral contestants may not offer voters money or gifts, may not distribute goods free of charge, including humanitarian aid or other charity." ( <b>Electoral Code</b> )	Yes	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or gifts, including "humanitarian aid or other charity" by electoral contestants
Monaco	"Art. 69 – Quiconque aura donné, remis ou reçu des deniers, effets ou valeurs quelconques sous la condition soit de donner ou de procurer un suffrage, soit de s'abstenir de voter, sera puni d'un emprisonnement de trois mois à un an et de l'amende prévue au chiffre 2 de l'article 26 du Code pénal ou de l'une de ces deux peines seulement." ( <b>Loi No. 839 sur les Élections Nationales et Communales, modifiée, 2007</b> )	No	Yes	No	Ban on giving or receiving money to influence if and how someone votes
Mongolia	Art 35.18, "A party, coalition, or a candidate, or a party or coalition election campaign body, its staff, aide to candidate, or electioneer is prohibited from taking or conducting the following actions or activities in the course of the election campaign:....35.18.18.to undertake other actions or activities aimed at buying votes." ( <b>The Law on Election of State Great Hural 2011</b> )	No	No	No?	Ban on buying votes (not further defined)
Morocco	" shall be punished by imprisonment from six months to one year and a fine of 5000 to 20000 Dirhams, or one of the two penalties. the penalty for candidates can given for receiving a vote or group of votes of promises, gift, contribution of cash, promises of hiring them on public institutions, or other benefits intended to influence them to get their votes. election law, article 100 and 102 ( <b>Election Law</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering gifts, employment or other benefits to influence their vote
Mozambique	Law 7/2007, 215 "Anyone who persuades voters to vote or note to a determined party or by promising to offer a public or private employment or other things canvassing to one or more voters, by agreement with a third party, even if the promised assets are dissimulated to a tax indemnification given to the voter for travel expenses, renting or food and drinking bills or with the promise of electoral campaign expenses bribe, will be punished with a penalty up to one year imprisonment of and six to twelve minimum salaries fee." ( <b>Electoral Law, No. 7/2007, 2007</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering employment or "other things" to influence if and how someone votes
Myanmar (Burma)	Sec 66 (a (i)) (page 26) "The Following are malpractices: a. Committing the following offences by Hluttaw candidate himself or his election agent or any person with the approval of one of them: (i). Giving or taking bribes" ( <b>Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law No. 3/2010 of 8 March 2010</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on giving or taking bribes by candidate, election agent or anyone authorised by them.

					The restriction on the persons involved means that voters receiving bribes (vote selling) is not criminalised
Namibia	105 "(1) Any person who, whether himself or herself or through an intermediary and whether directly or indirectly- (a) corruptly gives, lends or procures, or agrees to give, lend or procure, or offers, promises, or promises to procure, or promises to endeavour to procure, any money or any other thing, to or for any voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person- (i) for the purpose of inducing such voter to record or abstain from recording his or her vote in any election; or (ii) on account of the fact that such voter has recorded or abstained from recording his or her vote in any election; or (b) makes any such gift, loan, offer or promise or effect for him or her any such procurement or enters into any such agreement to or for or with any other person for the purpose of inducing such person to vote for any particular political party or candidate; or (c) upon or in consequence of any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement, procures, or engages or promises or endeavours to procure the vote of any voter in the election; or (d) advances or pays, or causes to be advanced or paid, any money, to or for the use of, any other person with the intention that such money, or any part thereof, is to be expended on bribery in the election in question, or who knowingly pays, or causes to be paid, any money or any other person in discharge or repayment of any money which has in full or in part been expended in bribery in that election; or (e) before or during the election in question, receives or negotiates any payment or loan on his or her own behalf or any other person in consideration for his or her voting or his or her agreeing to vote in such election or his or her abstaining from voting, or his or her agreeing to abstain from voting, in such election; or (f) after the election has received any money on account of the fact that any other person- (i) has recorded his or her vote or has abstained from recording his or her vote in such election; or (ii) has induced any further person to record or to abstain from recording his or her vote in such election, shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding R20 000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.". ( <b>Electoral Act, No. 24 of 1992, 1992</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering, receiving or requesting gifts to influence if and how someone votes.
Nauru	Article 103(1): "Bribery Any person who: (1) Gives, confers, or procures, or promises or offers to give or confer, or to procure or attempt to procure, to, upon, or for, any person any property or benefit of any kind on account of anything already done or omitted to be done, or to be afterwards done or omitted to be done, by an elector at an election in the capacity of an elector, or on account of any person acting or joining in a procession during an election, or in order to induce any person to endeavour to procure the return of any person at an election, or the vote of any elector at an election; or [...] is guilty of a misdemeanour, and is liable to imprisonment with hard labour for one year, or to a fine of two hundred pounds." Article 101(1): "Treating Any person who: (1) Corruptly, before, during, or after, an election, provides, or pays in whole or part the expense of providing, any food, drink, or lodging, to or for any person on account of anything already done or omitted to be done, or to be afterwards done or omitted to be done, by an elector at the election in the capacity of an elector [...] is guilty of a misdemeanour, and is liable to imprisonment with hard labour for one year, or to a fine of two hundred pounds." ( <b>Criminal Code, 2006</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering "any property or benefit" to influence if and how someone votes. Also separate ban on treating, by giving "food, drink, or lodging", however this is again related to the behaviour of the voter.
Nepal	Art 7, "No person acting on behalf of any political party or candidate or his or her agent or other person shall, during the period of election, give or agree to give any voter cash or kind as a present, reward, gratification, donation or gift to exercise or refrain from exercising his or her right to vote or for the exercise of or refraining from exercising his or her right to vote; and even the voter shall not receive or agree to receive such cash or kind for himself or herself or any other person for that purpose." ( <b>Election Offences and Punishment Act, No 2, 2007</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving any "cash or kind as a present, reward, gratification, donation or gift" to influence if and how someone votes

Netherlands	Section Z4(1). "A person who, by means of a gift or promise, bribes a voter to give him a proxy authorisation to vote on his behalf shall be liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months or a third-category fine." <b>(Elections Law, No. 28, 1989)</b>	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or promising a bribe (not further defined) to "a proxy authorisation to vote on his behalf"
New Zealand	Art 216.2, "Every person commits the offence of bribery who, directly or indirectly, by himself or herself or by any other person on his or her behalf— (a) gives any money or procures any office to or for any voter, or to or for any other person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting; or (b) corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting; or (c) makes any such gift or procurement as aforesaid to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the return of any person or candidates at an election or the vote of any voter;—" <b>(Electoral Act, No. 87, 1993)</b>	No	No	No	Ban on giving money or office to influence if and how someone votes
Nicaragua	Art. 107 "[...] Se prohíbe el uso de bienes de propiedad del Estado para fines de propaganda política. En las oficinas públicas no podrá hacerse proselitismo políticos". Art 174, "Será sancionado con arresto inmutable de seis a doce meses: 1) El que soborne, amenace, force o ejerza violencia sobre otro, obligándolo a: 1.1 Adherirse a determinada candidatura. 1.2 Votar en determinado sentido. 1.3 Abstenerse de votar. 2) El que dolosamente obstaculice el desarrollo de los actos de inscripción o votación. 3) El que asista armado a los actos de inscripción, votación o de escrutinio, excepto los miembros de la Policía Electoral que estuvieren cumpliendo funciones de su cargo. 4) Quien en forma dolosa extraviare el Acta de escrutinio de la Junta Receptora de Votos. 5) El que se inscriba o vote dos o más veces. 6) El miembro de la Junta Receptora de Votos o cualquier funcionario electoral que realice inscripciones o votaciones fuera del lugar y horas señalados para ello." <b>(Ley Electoral No. 331, 2000 (Electoral Law))</b>	No	No	No?	Bribing voters is banned (no further information)
Niger	Article 60 "Advertising practices of a commercial nature, distributions of money or goods that amount to electoral corruption in disguise, gifts and bequests of money or in kind for the purpose of propaganda to influence or attempt to influence the vote during the election campaign are prohibited." <b>(Ordonnance N0 2010-96 du 26 decembre 2010 portant Code Electoral)</b>	No	No	No	Ban on giving money or goods to influence the vote
Nigeria	Art 130, "A person who— (a) corruptly by himself or by any other person at any time after the date of an election has been announced, directly or indirectly gives or provides or pays money to or for any person for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting at such election, or on account of such person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting at such election; or (b) being a voter, corruptly accepts or takes money or any other inducement during any of the period stated in paragraph (a) of this section, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of N100,000 or 12 months imprisonment or both." <b>(Electoral Act, 2010)</b>	No	Yes	No	Ban on giving or receiving money (for vote sellers also "other inducement") to influence if and how someone votes
Pakistan	Article 79(1-2). "79. Bribery.—A person is guilty of bribery, if he, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf— (1) receives or agrees to receive or contracts for any gratification for voting or refraining from voting, or for being or refraining from being a candidate at, or for withdrawing from, an election; (2), gives, offers or promises any gratification to any person (a) for the purpose of inducing [...] (ii) an elector to vote, or refrain from voting, at an election;..." <b>(The Representation of People Act, 1976)</b>	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving "any gratification" to influence if and how someone votes
Palau	Article 1006. " Every person who shall, directly or indirectly, in any manner: [...] (b) bribe or attempt to bribe any voter in giving his vote, or to deter him from giving it, shall be fined not more than \$1,000.00, or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both." <b>(Voting Rights Act, 23 PNCA, 1981)</b>	No	No	No?	Ban on bribing (not further defined) to influence if and how someone votes
Panama	Art. 392 "Se sancionará con pena de prisión de seis meses a tres años y suspensión de los derechos ciudadanos e inhabilitación para el ejercicio de funciones públicas por uno a tres años a las personas que compren o soliciten voto por pago o promesa de dinero u objetos materiales para el elector". <b>(Código Electoral de Panamá, 2006 (Electoral Law))</b>	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or materials to purchase a vote.

Papua New Guinea	Art 286.h, [illegal practices include] "by force, threat, fraud, misrepresentation, undue influence or in any other manner inducing or attempting to induce another person to vote or fail to vote at an election, or to vote for a particular person at an election;" ( <b>Organic Law on the National and Local-Level Government Elections, 1997</b> )	No	No	No?	Ban on "inducing" a person to influence if or how (s)he votes
Paraguay	Art. 320 "Quienes individualmente ejercieren violencia sobre los electores a fin de que no voten o lo hagan en un sentido determinado o voten contra su voluntad o exigieren la violación del secreto nulo, sufrirán la sanción de seis meses a un año de penitenciaría, más una multa equivalente a trescientos jornales mínimos". Art 321, "Quienes retuvieren los documentos de identidad de los electores el día de las elecciones o exigieren el voto en un sentido determinado, mediante el ofrecimiento o entrega efectiva de dádivas o recompensas, sufrirán la pena de uno a dos años de penitenciaría, más una multa equivalente a trescientos jornales mínimos." ( <b>Ley No. 834/96 que establece el Código Electoral Paraguayo (Electoral Law)</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on giving gifts or rewards to influence how someone votes.
Philippines	Sec 261 (a) (page 80) "Prohibited Acts. - The following shall be guilty of an election offense: (a) Vote-buying and vote-selling. -" ( <b>Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines, 1985</b> )	No	Yes	No?	Ban on vote buying and selling (not further defined)
Poland	Art 497, "§ 1. Kto, w związku z wyborami, zbiera podpisy osób popierających zgłoszenie listy kandydatów lub kandydata, stosując jakąkolwiek formę nacisków zmierzających do uzyskania podpisów - podlega grzywnie od 1 000 do 10 000 złotych. § 2. Tej samej karze podlega, kto zbiera podpisy osób popierających zgłoszenie listy kandydatów lub kandydata na terenie jednostek wojskowych lub innych jednostek organizacyjnych podległych Ministrowi Obrony Narodowej albo oddziałów obrony cywilnej lub skoszarowanych jednostek podległych ministrowi właściwemu do spraw wewnętrznych. § 3. Kto udziela lub przyjmuje korzyść finansową lub osobistą w zamian za zbieranie lub złożenie podpisu pod zgłoszeniem listy kandydatów lub kandydata - podlega grzywnie od 10 000 do 50 000 złotych." ( <b>r. Kodeks wyborczy, Ustawa 112 z dnia 5 stycznia 2011</b> )	No	Yes	No	Ban on giving or receiving personal benefits to influence the signing of a list of candidates
Portugal	Art 341, "1 - Quem, em eleição referida no nº 1 do artigo 338º: a) Mediante artifício fraudulento, levar eleitor a votar, o impedir de votar, ou o levar a votar em certo sentido; ou b) Comprar ou vender voto; é punido com pena de prisão até 1 ano ou com pena de multa até 120 dias. 2 - A tentativa é punível." ( <b>Código Penal Português</b> )	No	Yes	No	Ban on buying and selling votes (not further defined)
Romania	Art 102, "(1) The promise, offering or giving of money, goods, or other benefits for the purpose of making a voter vote or not a certain candidates' list or a certain candidate, as well as their acceptance by such voter shall represent crimes and shall be punishable by prison from 6 months to 5 years. (2) If the action stipulated under paragraph (1) has been committed by an internal observer, the punishment shall be prison from 2 to 7 years. (3) Any attempted action shall be punishable. (4) Goods with a symbolic value, bearing the signs of a party, shall not be included in the category of goods stipulated under paragraph (1)." ( <b>Law on the Elections for the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, 2004</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving "money, goods or other benefits"
Russia	Art 64.2, "...While conducting election campaigning candidates, political parties, electoral blocs, their authorized representatives and agents or other persons and organizations shall not influence voters by promises of money, securities, other things (in particular, depending on the voting results) and by rendering services otherwise than on the basis of decisions of bodies of state power and local self-government taken in accordance with the federal laws" ( <b>Federal Law on the Election of Deputies of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation</b> )	Yes	No	Yes	Ban on candidates, parties, blocs and their representatives (or other persons) promising "money, securities or other things". The statement is that they should not influence voters by doing this, but it is not clear if they must be shown to have done this for the article to apply
Rwanda	Article 36 "During the campaign, practices based on trade, donations and gifts in cash or in kind for the purpose of propaganda to influence or attempt to influence the voting is prohibited..." ( <b>Electoral Code</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on giving cash or in-kind gifts to influence the voting

Saint Lucia	"78. BRIBERY The following persons shall be deemed guilty of bribery within the meaning of this Act— (a) Every person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or herself or by any other person on his or her behalf, gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure any money or valuable consideration to or for any elector, or to or for any other person in order to induce any elector to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act aforesaid on account of any elector having voted or refrained from voting at any election." Source: Article 78 ( <b>Elections Act, Chapter 1.02</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes
Saint Vincent and The Grenadines	"44. (1) The following persons shall be deemed guilty of bribery within the meaning of this Act-. (a)any person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends, agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any voter, or to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election" Source: Article 44 ( <b>Electoral Law</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes.
Samoa	Art 96, "96. Bribery - (1) In this section the terms "elector" and "voter" include any person who has or claims to have a right to vote. (2) Every person is guilty of a corrupt practice who commits the offence of bribery. (3) Every person commits the offence of bribery who, directly or indirectly by himself or herself or by any other person on his or her behalf: (a) Gives any money or procures any office to or for any elector or voter, or to or for any other person on behalf of any elector or voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce any elector or voter to vote or refrain from voting; or (b) Corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any elector or voter having voted or refrained from voting; or (c) Makes any such gift or procurement as aforesaid to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the return of any person at an election or the vote of any elector or voter, or who, upon or in consequence of any such gift or procurement as aforesaid, procures, or engages, promises, or endeavours to procure, the return of any person at any election or the vote of any elector or voter. (4) For the purposes of this section: (a) References to giving money shall include references to giving, lending, agreeing to give or lend, offering, promising, or promising to procure or endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration; (b) References to procuring any office shall include references to giving, procuring, agreeing to give or procure or to endeavour to procure, any office, place, or employment. (5) Every person commits the offence of bribery who: (a) Advances or pays or causes to be paid any money to or to the use of any other person with the intent that that money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at any election; or (b) Knowingly pays or causes to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election. (6) The foregoing provisions of this section shall not extend or be construed to extend to any money paid or agreed to be paid for or on account of any legal expenses incurred in good faith at or concerning an election. (7) An elector or voter commits the offence of bribery if before or during an election he or she directly or indirectly, by himself or herself or by any other person on his or her behalf, receives, or agrees or contracts for, any money, gift, loan, or valuable consideration, office, place, or employment for himself or herself or for any other person for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting. (8) Every person commits the offence of bribery if after an election he or she directly or indirectly, by himself or herself or by any other person on his or her behalf, receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting." ( <b>Electoral Act, 1963</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering and receiving gifts to influence how and if someone votes. An exception is made for "any money paid or agreed to be paid for or on account of any legal expenses incurred in good faith at or concerning an election"
Senegal	Article L.102, Paragraph 1 "Whoever, through donations or gifts in cash or in kind, by promises of gifts, favors, public or private employment or other special advantages, made to influence the vote of one or many voters, obtained or attempted to obtain their votes, either directly or through a third party, shall be punished by three months to two years imprisonment and a fine of 20,000 to 200,000 CFA." Article L.104 "Whoever, in order to influence the vote of an electoral college or a fraction of the college, made donations or gifts, promises of donations or administrative favors either to a municipality,	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering gifts in kind or cash to influence someone's vote

	or any community of citizens shall be punished by imprisonment for three (03) months to two (02) years and a fine of 20,000 to 200,000 FCFA." ( <b>Loi No. 92-16 du 07 fevrier 1992 portant Code Electoral, Edition 2009</b> )				
Serbia	Art 156, "(1) Whoever offers, gives, promises reward, gift or other benefit to another in order to vote or not to vote in elections or referendum for or against a particular person or issue, shall be punished with fine or imprisonment up to three years. (2) The penalty specified in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be imposed on whoever demands or receives a gift or other benefit to vote or not vote in elections or referendum for or against a particular candidate or issue. (3) If the offence specified in paragraph 1 of this Article is committed by a member of an electoral board or other person acting in official capacity in respect of voting, such person shall be punished with imprisonment of three months to five years. (4) A gift or other benefit shall be seized." ( <b>Criminal Code, 2005</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering, receiving and requesting reward to influence if and how someone votes
Seychelles	Political parties (xi) Any attempts to influence voting through money or allurement are election offences. Everyone should be aware of these offences. (xvi) No candidate or party can commit or give covertly or overtly any contribution, grant or favour to any individual, institution, body or organisation until election or referendum day for the purpose of election campaigning and obtaining votes. ( <b>Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Stake Holders</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on giving grant or favour for the purpose of obtaining votes, covers candidates and parties
Sierra Leone	Art 120.1, "(a) Gives, lends, offers, promises, or promises to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for a voter, or to do for any other person, in order to induce a voter to vote or refrain from voting or corruptly does any such act on account of such voter having voted, or refrained from voting at an election under this Act; (b) Gives, procures, agrees to give or procure, offers, promises, or promises to procure or endeavor to procure, any office, place or employment to or for a voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce the voter to vote or refrain from voting or corruptly does any such act on account of a voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election under this Act;" ( <b>Public Elections Act 2012</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes
Singapore	Sec 41 (a,b,c) "Every person who (a) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any elector or voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any elector or voter or to or for any other person, in order to induce any elector or voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act on account of that elector or voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election under this Act; (b) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives or procures, or agrees to give or procure, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any office, place or employment to or for any elector or voter or to or for any person on behalf of any elector or voter, or to or for any other person, in order to induce that elector or voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act on account of that elector or voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election under this Act; (c) directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure or endeavour to procure the return of any person as President, or the vote of any elector or voter at any election under this Act; shall be guilty of the offence of bribery." ( <b>Presidential Election Act</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes
Slovakia	P 4, "The Criminal Code has been amended to criminalize vote-buying, in response to seemingly widely-held perceptions that is a pervasive phenomenon." [Footnote "Criminal Code, Article 336a." ( <b>OSCE/ODIHR (2012) Slovak Republic, Early Parliamentary Elections, 10 March 2012, OSCE/ODIHR Needs Assessment Mission Report</b> )	No?	No	No data	There is a ban on vote buying, but no further information. Note that this ban has apparently been introduced recently.
Slovenia	Art 162, "(1) Whoever, at an election or ballot, compels another person to vote, or not to vote, or to cast a void vote, or to vote in favour of or against a particular proposal by means of force, serious threat, bribery, deception or in any other unlawful manner shall be punished by a fine or sentenced to imprisonment for not more than one year. (2) If the offence under the preceding paragraph is committed by an official through the abuse of his	No	No	No?	Ban against compelling to vote (or vote in favour of someone) through

	function relating to the election or ballot, such an official shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than two years." ( <b>Criminal Code, 2005</b> )				bribery (not further defined)
Solomon Islands	"Persons to be deemed guilty of bribery 71. The following persons shall be deemed to be guilty of bribery within the meaning of this Act— (a) any person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any elector or to or for any person on behalf of any elector, or to or for any other person, in order to induce such elector to vote or to refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any elector having voted or refrained from voting at any election;" ( <b>National Parliament Electoral Provisions Act</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes
South Africa	Art 87, "(1) No person may— (a) compel or unlawfully persuade any person— (i) to register or not to register as a voter; (ii) to vote or not to vote; (iii) to vote or not to vote for any registered party or candidate; (iv) to support or not to support any registered party or candidate; or (v) to attend and participate in, or not to attend and participate in, any political meeting, march, demonstration or other political event;" ( <b>Electoral Act 73, 1998</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on trying to "unlawfully persuade" someone to vote (no further detail)
Sri Lanka	"80. The following persons shall be deemed guilty of the offence of bribery : (a) every person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any elector, or to or for any person on behalf of any elector or to or for any other person, in order to induce any elector to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of such elector having voted or refrained from voting at an election under this Act;" ( <b>Parliament Elections Act. No. 1 of 1981</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes
Sudan	For the purpose of this article someone is a parctioner of the bribe if persons have offered him any: 1. Money, gifts, temptations 2. Opportunities , employment or for preferential treatment 3. Property or instruments or gurantee of shares 4. Contract or preferential treatment in awarding contract 5. Material benefits. Article 87, point A1 and A2 ( <b>Election Law</b> )	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ban on the giving of gifts or preferential treatment. No mention of intention.
Swaziland	Elections Order 1992, Sec 63 (1) & 65 "A person who corruptly by himself or by other person, either before, during or after an election, directly or indirectly gives or provides, or pays wholly or part the expense of giving or providing, any food, drink, entertainment, lodging or provisions to or for a person for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to give or refrain from giving his vote at the election, or on account of that person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting, or being about to vote or refrain from voting at the election, shall be guilty of the offence of treating. A person shall be guilty of the offence who, directly or indirectly, by himself or any other person on his behalf" ( <b>Elections Order, 1992</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on giving "food, drink, entertainment, lodging or provisions" to influence if and how someone votes
Sweden	Chapter 17, Section 8, "A person who, in an election to public office or in connection with some other exercise of suffrage in public matters, attempts to prevent voting or to tamper with its outcome or otherwise improperly influence the vote, shall be sentenced for improper activity at election to a fine or imprisonment for at most six months" ( <b>Penal Code, 1999:36</b> )	No	No	No	There is a general ban on someone trying to "improperly influence" the vote, not further defined
Switzerland	Art 281, "Any person who offers, promises, or gives a voter or arranges for a voter to be given a gift or other advantage in return for voting in a particular way, or in return for signing or refusing to sign a request for a referendum or an initiative, any person who offers, promises, or gives a voter or arranges for a voter to be given a gift or other advantage in return for not participating in an election or vote, and any person who as a voter secures the promise of or arranges for himself to be given such an advantage, shall be liable to a custodial sentence not exceeding three years or to a monetary penalty." ( <b>Swiss Criminal Code, 1937 (Status as of 1 October 2011)</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering, receiving and requesting "a gift or other advantage" to influence how someone votes
Syria	Anyone who tries to buy votes with gifts, direct donations of any kind, or is promised employment in the public or private sector, or any other benefits aimed at influencing the voting direct or indirect gets punished with imprision between 10 days and three months and a ban of 10000 to 25 000 lier. Article 57 ( <b>Election Law</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering gifts or employment to influence voting

Taiwan	Chapter 5, Article 90-1, Paragraph 1: "A person who promises, offers, or gives a bribe or other improper benefit to a qualified voter for refraining from exercising his/her right to vote or for exercising such right in a particular manner shall be punished with imprisonment for not less than three years but not more than ten years and may; in addition thereto, a fine of not less than 1 million but not more than 10 million New Taiwan Dollars." ( <b>The Public Officials Election and Recall Law, 1980</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering a "bribe or other improper benefit" to influence if and how someone votes.
Tanzania	"21.-(1) During the nomination process, election campaign or election, an act of prohibited practice shall be committed by- (a) every person who, before or during the campaign period, directly or indirectly, by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends or agrees to give or to lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavor to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any voter or to or for any person on behalf of any voter or to or for any other person, in order to induce any voter to vote or to refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act, on account of such voter having voted or refrained from voting at any nomination process or election;" ( <b>The Election Expenses Act, 2010</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or promising money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes
Thailand	Art 44, "No candidate nor any person shall commit any act to induce electors to cast a ballot for him or her or other candidate or any political party or to abstain from voting for any candidate or political party by the following means: (1) Providing, giving, offering, promising to give or preparing to give properties or any other benefits which can be calculated in money value to any person; (2) Giving, offering or promising to give money, properties or any other benefits whether directly or indirectly to the community, association, foundation, temple, education institution, asylum or any other institution; (3) Advertising for an election by organizing an entertainment; (4) Treating or promising to treat any person with meals; (5) Deceiving, forcing, threatening, intimidating, slandering or inducing the misunderstanding in the popularity of any candidate or political party." ( <b>Thailand Electoral Law</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or promising benefits to influence if and how someone votes.
Togo	Article 91, Paragraph 1 "For the duration of the campaign, are prohibited: 1 - ... donations and gifts in cash or in kind for the purpose of propaganda to influence or attempt to influence the voting..." Article 157 "Whoever, by donations, gifts in cash or in kind or promises of gifts, will influence or attempt to influence the vote of one or more voters, either directly or through a third party, anyone who by same means will determine or attempt to determine one or more voters to abstain, will be punished by a term of one (01) to five (05) years imprisonment and a fine of one hundred thousand (100,000) to one million (1,000,000) francs CFA." ( <b>Loi No. 2009-018 du 24 aout 2009 portant Code Electoral</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering gifts to influence if and how someone votes
Tonga	"21 Bribery. (1) Every person commits the offence of bribery who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf — (a) gives any money or valuable gift to or for any elector; or to or for any other person on behalf of any elector or to or for any other person, in order to induce any elector to vote or refrain from voting; or" (Subsections b-g specifies other situations as well) (Quoted from Electoral Act, section 21) ( <b>Electoral Act, 1989</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on giving gifts to influence if and how someone votes
Trinidad and Tobago	"96. (1) A person is guilty of corrupt practice who is guilty of bribery. (2) A person is guilty of bribery who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf - (a) gives any money or procures to or for any elector or to or for any other person in order to induce any elector to vote or refrain from voting; (b) corruptly does any act as in paragraph (a) on account of any elector having voted or refrained from voting; or (c) makes any gift or procurement as in paragraph (a) to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the return of any person at an election or the vote of any elector [...]" ( <b>Representation of the People Act, Chapter 2:01 (updated to december 31st 2007)</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on giving gifts to influence if and how someone votes
Turkey	Art 152 [as amended], "Those who provide or promise to provide to one or more voters benefits or valuables or public or private positions or services and benefits in exchange for voting for him/her shall be punishable by prison terms from one year to three years. This provision shall apply even if such benefits promised or provided consists of the travel, food and beverage expenses of voters. A voter who has accepted the above-described benefits or	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving positions, services and benefits to influence if and how someone votes

	promises thereof shall be punishable by the same penalties." ( <b>Law on Basic Provisions on Elections and Vote Registers, Law No. 298, 1961 (as amended)</b> )				
Tuvalu	Art 46, "(1) The following persons shall be deemed to be guilty of bribery within the meaning of this Part of this Ordinance — (a) any person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises, or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any elector or to or for any person on behalf of any elector, or to or for any other person in order to induce such elector to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any elector having voted or refrained from voting at any election; (b) any person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives or procures, or agrees to give or procure or to endeavour to procure, any office, place or employment to or for any elector, or to or for any other person, in order to induce such elector to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any voting at any election; (c) any person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement as aforesaid to or for any person, in order to induce such person to procure, or to endeavour to procure the return of any person as a member of Parliament or the vote of any elector at any election; (d) any person who, upon or in consequence of any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement, procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure the return of any person as a member of Parliament or the vote of any elector at any election; (e) any person who advances or pays, or causes to be paid, any money to or for the use of any other person, with the intent that such money, or any part thereof, shall be expended in bribery at any election, or who knowingly pays or causes to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election; (f) any elector, who, before or during any election, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives, agrees to receive, or contracts for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration, office, place or employment for himself or for any other person, for voting or agreeing to vote, or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting at any election; and (g) any person who, after any election, directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting, or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting at any election: Provided always that this section shall not extend ~or be construed to extend to any money paid or agreed to be paid for or on account of any legal expenses bona fide incurred at or concerning any election." ( <b>Electoral Provisions (Parliament) Ordinance</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving gifts to influence if and how someone votes
Uganda	64. Bribery (1) A person who, either before or during an election with intent, either directly or indirectly to influence another person to vote or to refrain from voting for any candidate, gives or provides or causes to be given or provided any money, gift or other consideration to that other person, commits the offence of bribery and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding seventy two currency points or imprisonment not exceeding three years or both. ( <b>Presidential Elections Act, 2005</b> )	No	No	No	Ban on giving gifts to influence if and how someone votes
Ukraine	Art 74.13, "13. While conducting election campaigning, it shall be prohibited to hand out money or distribute for free or on a preferential basis commodities (except items bearing the visual images of the name, symbol, or flag of a party, provided that the value of such items does not exceed three percent of the minimum salary), services, works, securities, loans, lottery tickets, other tangible assets to voters, establishments, institutions, or organizations. Such election campaigning or handing out money or distribution for free or on a preferential basis of commodities, services, works, securities, loans, lottery tickets, other tangible assets to voters, establishments, institutions, or organizations along with appeals or proposals to vote or not to vote for a particular party or MP candidate or along with mentioning the name of a party or an MP candidate shall be deemed to be indirect bribing of voters." ( <b>Law on Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine</b> )	Yes	No	No	Ban on handing out money or basic commodities , apart from election materials not exceeding 3% of minimum salary.

United Kingdom	Art 113, "A person shall be guilty of bribery if he, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf—(a)gives any money or procures any office to or for any voter or to or for any other person on behalf of any voter or to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or (b)corruptly does any such act as mentioned above on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting, or (c)makes any such gift or procurement as mentioned above to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the return of any person at an election or the vote of any voter, or if upon or in consequence of any such gift or procurement as mentioned above he procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure the return of any person at an election or the vote of any voter..." ( <b>Representation of the People Act, 1983</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering gifts to influence if and how someone votes
United States <sup>13</sup>	"§ 597. Expenditures to influence voting Whoever makes or offers to make an expenditure to any person, either to vote or withhold his vote, or to vote for or against any candidate; and Whoever solicits, accepts, or receives any such expenditure in consideration of his vote or the withholding of his vote— Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both; and if the violation was willful, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than two years, or both." Source: Title 18. Crimes and Criminal Procedure, Chapter 29—Elections and Political Activities, §597 ( <b>United States Code, Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering, receiving or requesting "an expenditure" to influence if and how someone votes.
Uruguay	Art. 191(7) "Son delitos electorales: 7° el ofrecimiento, promesa de un lucro personal, o la dádiva de idéntica especie, destinados a conseguir el voto o la abstención del elector". ( <b>Ley 7.812, Ley de Elecciones, 1925 (Electoral Law)</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on giving or offering personal gain to influence if and how someone votes
Uzbekistan	Art 27 Campaigning, accompanied by providing voters free of charge goods or goods on preferential terms, services (other than information), as well as payment of cash should be prohibited. ( <b>Law on Elections of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 1993</b> )	Yes	No	No	Ban on giving money, goods or services ("other than information") to voters. No mention about intention
Vanuatu	Art 45, "(1) A person commits the offence of bribery – (a) if he directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person – (i) gives any money or procures any office to or for any voter or to or for any other person on behalf of any voter or to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting; (ii) corruptly does any such act on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting; or (iii) makes any such gift or procurement to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the election of any candidate or the vote of any voter; or if upon or in consequence of any such gift or procurement he procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure the election of any candidate or the vote of any voter; (b) if he advances or pays any money or causes any money to be paid to or to the use of any other person with the intent that such money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at any election, or knowingly pays any money or causes any money to be paid to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election; (c) if before or during an election he directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives, agrees or contracts for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration or any office, place or employment for himself or for any other person for voting or agreeing to vote or from refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting; (d) if after an election he directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting. (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section –15 (a) references to giving money include references to giving, lending, agreeing to give or lend, offering, promising and promising to procure or to endeavour to procure any money or valuable consideration; and (b) references to procuring office include references to	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering and receiving money or valuable consideration to influence if and how someone votes

<sup>13</sup> Note that many States in the US use separate electoral legislation with their own provisions against vote buying.

	giving, procuring, agreeing to give or procure, offering, promising and promising to procure or to endeavour to procure any office, place or employment." ( <b>Representation of the People Act</b> )				
Yemen	"political party groups or individuals are not allowed to use any kind of pressure, threats or promises of voters of any kind to benefit direct or indirect" election law, article 52 ( <b>Election Law for Parliament, 2010</b> )	Yes	No	Yes	Ban on political parties, groups or individuals offering (not giving?) any kind of benefit direct or indirect. No mention of intention
Zambia	Electoral Code of Conduct Regulations 2006, 7 (h): "A person shall not – Offer any inducement or reward to any person in consideration of such person:- a. Joining or not joining any party (ii)Attending or not attending any political event; (iii) voting or not voting; or (iv) accepting, refusing or withdrawing such person’s nomination as a candidate in an election; or (v) Surrendering that person’s voter’s card;" ( <b>Electoral Code of Conduct Regulations, 2006</b> )	No	No	Yes	Ban on offering (not giving?) any “inducement or reward” to influence if and how someone votes
Zimbabwe	136 “(1) Subject to subsection (2), any person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or herself or by any other person— (a) gives, lends or procures or agrees to give, lend or procure or offers or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money to or for any person on behalf of a voter, or to or for any other person in order to induce a voter to vote or refrain from voting, or who corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of such voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election; or (b) gives, lends or agrees to give or lend, or offers or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure, any money to or for a voter, or to or for any other person on behalf of a voter, or to or for any other person, for acting or joining in any procession or demonstration before, during or after an election; or (c) makes any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement to or for any person in order to induce such person to procure or to endeavour to procure the return of a candidate at an election or the vote of a voter at an election; or (d) upon or in consequence of any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement, procures or engages or promises or endeavours to procure, the return of a candidate at an election or the vote of a voter at an election; or (e) advances or pays any money to or for the use of any other person, with the intent that such money, or any part thereof, shall be expended in bribery at an election, or who knowingly pays any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at an election; or (f) before or during an election, receives or contracts for any money or loan for himself or herself or for any other person for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting at an election; or (g) after an election receives any money on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting at an election; or (h) conveys or transfers any property or pays any money to any person for the purpose of enabling him or her to be registered as a voter, thereby to influence his or her vote at a future election, or pays any money on behalf of a voter for the purpose of inducing him or her to vote or refrain from voting; shall be guilty of the offence of bribery and liable to a fine not exceeding level seven or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.” ( <b>Electoral Act, 2004</b> )	No	Yes	Yes	Ban on giving, offering or receiving money or property to influence if and how someone votes