THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES ON THE TRANSFORMATION OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

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Abstract: *The Republic of Uzbekistan has undertaken significant reforms to modernize its parliamentary procedures through the adoption of digital technologies. These initiatives aim to improve transparency, efficiency, and public participation in the legislative process. Key developments include the implementation of the "E-Saylov" information system, which automates election commission operations, and the expansion of the "Digital Government" platform to enhance electronic public services. This article examines the transformative impact of these digital tools on parliamentary procedures in Uzbekistan, highlighting achievements and challenges, including cybersecurity and digital inclusivity. It underscores the role of digital innovation in shaping a more transparent and participatory parliamentary democracy.*

Keywords: *Uzbekistan, digital technologies, parliamentary procedures, e-voting, transparency, E-Saylov, digital government, public engagement*

Parliamentary procedures form the fundamental framework through which laws are deliberated, debated, and enacted in any democratic country. In the Republic of Uzbekistan, recent years have witnessed a strong drive to modernize these procedures by leveraging digital technologies. This transformation seeks to increase the efficiency, transparency, and inclusivity of the legislative process in line with the nation's broader digitalization agenda. Historically, Uzbekistan's parliamentary operations, like in many countries, relied heavily on manual, paper-based systems that often limited efficiency and transparency. Recognizing these limitations, the Uzbek government introduced several innovative digital platforms designed to streamline legislative and electoral processes, enhance public access to information, and facilitate greater citizen engagement.

One of the most significant technological advancements is the "E-Saylov" information system, which automates interactions among election commissions, political parties, candidates, observers, and the media. By digitizing and automating around 60 types of interactions, the system reduces human error and bureaucratic delays, while offering voters convenient access to detailed election-related data, including real-time statistics and candidate information. This platform significantly increases transparency and promotes trust in the electoral process. Parallel to electoral modernization, Uzbekistan has expanded its "Digital Government" initiative, aiming to deliver 70% of public services electronically by 2026. This includes launching priority projects that bring e-

services closer to citizens, reducing administrative hurdles, and fostering government accountability.

While digital transformation offers numerous benefits—such as speeding up parliamentary workflows and increasing public scrutiny—it also presents challenges. These include cybersecurity risks, potential digital divides affecting equitable access, and the need to improve digital literacy among citizens and officials. Addressing these challenges is crucial to maximizing the positive impact of digital innovation on Uzbekistan's parliamentary democracy.[1]

This article explores the impact of digital technologies on the transformation of parliamentary procedures in Uzbekistan, focusing on technological advancements, their effects on governance, public engagement, and the challenges encountered in this ongoing digital journey.

Uzbekistan's adoption of the "E-Saylov" system marks a milestone in digitizing parliamentary and electoral processes. This platform automates numerous administrative and procedural tasks associated with elections, from registering candidates and observers to managing voting results. The system's automation reduces manual workloads, decreases the potential for errors, and accelerates electoral operations. Crucially, it also supports transparency by offering comprehensive, real-time election data accessible to the public, helping citizens make informed decisions and increasing trust in the legislative process.

In parallel with electoral digitalization, Uzbekistan's government has aggressively expanded its digital public service infrastructure. The "Digital Government" initiative aims to provide the majority of government services electronically by 2026. This transformation reduces bureaucratic delays, limits corruption risks, and enhances citizen satisfaction. By making services more accessible, especially in remote regions, the initiative fosters inclusivity and strengthens the relationship between the government and its citizens.[2]

Digital tools have notably increased parliamentary transparency in Uzbekistan. Through digital platforms, parliamentary debates, votes, and legislative updates are made more accessible to the public. Furthermore, digital communication channels allow for two-way engagement, enabling citizens to participate more actively in democratic processes. Online petitions, public consultations, and social media outreach help legislators gauge public sentiment and encourage citizen participation in policy-making.

Despite these advances, Uzbekistan faces challenges in fully realizing the benefits of digital transformation. Cybersecurity remains a critical concern due to the sensitive nature of electoral and parliamentary data. Robust safeguards are necessary to prevent data breaches and ensure trust in digital systems. Another challenge is the digital divide; some regions and demographic groups have limited access to internet infrastructure or lack sufficient digital literacy, hindering equitable participation. Therefore, efforts to expand digital infrastructure and provide training are essential to achieving inclusive digital governance.[3] Moreover, maintaining the integrity of parliamentary procedures in

a hybrid or fully digital environment requires continuous adaptation of legal frameworks and operational guidelines to address new vulnerabilities and procedural norms.

The Republic of Uzbekistan's commitment to integrating digital technologies into parliamentary procedures has significantly transformed its legislative landscape. Initiatives such as the "E-Saylov" information system and the expansion of the "Digital Government" platform have not only streamlined parliamentary workflows but have also enhanced transparency and public trust in democratic processes. These digital advancements have enabled faster and more accurate electoral operations, improved access to government services, and fostered greater citizen engagement. By facilitating real-time access to legislative information and enabling interactive communication, Uzbekistan's parliament has moved toward a more open and participatory governance model.

However, the digital transformation journey is not without its challenges. Cybersecurity threats pose risks that must be managed through sophisticated protections and ongoing vigilance. The digital divide remains a barrier to equitable access, necessitating continued investment in infrastructure and digital literacy programs. Furthermore, the evolution of parliamentary procedures must be carefully managed to maintain procedural integrity in increasingly digital and hybrid environments. Looking ahead, Uzbekistan's experience demonstrates the vital role digital technologies play in modernizing parliamentary governance. The country's ongoing efforts highlight a balanced approach: embracing innovation while addressing challenges to ensure that digital transformation contributes to a more transparent, efficient, and inclusive parliamentary democracy. Continued commitment to these goals will be essential for Uzbekistan to fully realize the benefits of digital governance and strengthen its democratic institutions in the years to come.

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