

Registration open

for constitutionality and nullity

Registration open

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LAW 39 OF 1961

(July 18)

Whereby regulations are enacted for identification cards and other electoral matters

STATUS: In force [[Show](#)]

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Subtype: ORDINARY LAW

The Congress of

Colombia

DECREES:

Article 1. As of January 1, 1962, Colombians who have reached the age of twenty-one (21) may only identify themselves with a laminated citizenship card in all civil, political, administrative, and judicial matters.

Article 2. To obtain a citizenship card, proof of age and personal identity is required. This shall be done with any of the following documents: old citizenship card, military ID card, military identity card, Colombian passport, police ID card, postal identity card, copy of the church baptismal certificate or civil birth or marriage certificate, declared for the last three cases, under oath before the Registrar or his delegate, who is the same person referred to in the document presented. All of this will be recorded on a special form bearing the fingerprint of the interested party, their signature, if they are able to do so, and that of the official issuing the ID card.

Article 3. In the absence of the documents listed in the previous article, the Municipal Registrar or his delegate shall, upon presentation of the applicant's identity card, receive a sworn statement regarding the applicant's age and identity. This procedure shall be recorded on the respective form, and at the bottom of the form, the fingerprint of the interested party shall be taken, along with their signature, if they are able to do so, and that of the official issuing the identity card. Two suitable witnesses shall declare under oath before the Municipal Registrar or his delegate that the statements made by the deponent are true, which shall be recorded on the respective form, which shall be signed by said witnesses and shall include their addresses.

addresses.

Article 4. If, in the opinion of the Municipal Registrar or his delegate, there is any doubt about the age or identity of the person applying for the identity card, without prejudice to preparing it, he shall conduct the corresponding investigation *ex officio*. If the investigation reveals that the age or identity of the person applying for the identity card cannot be verified, the Municipal Registrar shall notify the National Registry so that the corresponding identity card is not issued, stating the reasons on which this decision is based. The documents requested by the Registrar for the investigation are exempt from all taxes.

Paragraph. The investigation referred to in this article shall be conducted in the presence of the interested party, if they appear.

Article 5. Colombian citizens residing abroad may vote for the President of the Republic at the respective embassies, legations, and consulates on the day set by law for such an act.

Such citizens must register in advance with the corresponding official, no later than eight (8) days before election day, by presenting their laminated citizenship card. These registrations shall be used to form a partial list of voters. Polling stations shall operate in the offices of embassies, legations, and consulates.

The diplomatic or consular official shall designate the Colombian citizens residing in the respective place who are to be in charge of receiving the votes, at the rate of two principals and two alternates for each polling station, belonging equally to the traditional parties, the Liberal and the Conservative, who shall count the votes at the corresponding polling station.

Once voting has closed, the votes at each polling station have been counted, and the respective records have been signed, the jurors shall deliver these and other documents used for voting to the corresponding official, who shall immediately send them, in a sealed and stamped envelope, by registered mail, to the Electoral Court of Colombia, so that they may be taken into account in the general count.

Article 6. Citizens residing in the townships and police districts whose ID numbers do not appear on the partial lists of voters for their respective townships, but rather on those of another township or police district in the same municipality or its capital, may vote upon presentation of their ID card issued in the same municipality. They may also do so in the opposite case, that is, when they reside in the municipal capital and their numbers do not appear on these lists but on those of a township or police district of the same municipality.

Paragraph. In this case, the voter shall sign a form that shall also bear the signature of the President of the polling station or whoever acts in his or her stead. If the voter does not know how to sign, his or her fingerprint shall be taken. These forms shall be sent to the Municipal Registrar of Civil Status or his or her delegate with the corresponding voter registration forms, the votes cast in the ballot box, the minutes, and any other relevant documents.

Article 7. In order for a citizen to vote in a municipality other than the one where their laminated ID card appears in the electoral census, they must request, no later than three (3) months before election day, that the Municipal Registrar or their delegate register their new address, for which they shall fill out a special form in triplicate. It shall not be necessary to prove the new residence for electoral purposes, with the requirements set forth in Article 5 of Law 86 of 1961. If the citizen has not requested the change of address three (3) months before the elections, he or she may register by presenting his or her laminated citizenship card to the Municipal Registrar or his or her delegate up to

fifteen (15) days before election day. With these registrations, the Registrar or his delegate shall prepare an additional list of voters to be sent to the National Registry after the elections, so that the respective censuses may be updated with the additions and deletions.

Article 8. Citizenship cards in the possession of Municipal Registrars or their delegates may be delivered at any time, including on election day itself.

Article 9. In order to fulfill the function of receiving votes at the polling stations, keeping the voter registry, and conducting the vote count at the polling stations referred to in Article 23 of Law 89 of 1948, the Municipal Registrar shall appoint four (4) principal and four (4) alternate officials for each polling station, belonging equally to the two traditional political parties, the Liberal and the Conservative.

Article 10. Polling stations shall be distributed in such a way as to avoid crowding of voters.

Article 11. Any kind of oral propaganda on election day in places near the polling stations is prohibited. Information and the distribution of ballots shall be carried out by the parties or political groups at tables or booths located outside the polling stations.

Article 12. The National Government is authorized to allocate the necessary funds in the current budget, as determined by the Electoral Court, and to open the necessary credits or make the necessary transfers in order to properly address the intensification of the national identification card campaign referred to in this Law.

Article 13. In accordance with the foregoing, all provisions contrary to this Law, which shall come into force upon its enactment, are hereby repealed and amended.

Issued in Bogotá, D. E., on July 4, 1961. The

President of the Senate,

JUAN ANTONIO MURILLO V.

The President of the House of Representatives,

LUIS ALFONSO DELGADO.

The Secretary of the Senate,

Manuel Roca Castellanos,

The Secretary of the House of Representatives, in charge,

Alberto Paz Córdoba.

Republic of Colombia - National Government

Bogotá, D.E., July 18, 1961. Publish and
execute.

ALBERTO LLERAS

The Minister of Government,

Augusto Ramírez Moreno.

The Minister of Finance and Public Credit,

Hernando Agudelo Villa.