

Abstract of the doctoral thesis

Local referendum as a form of direct democracy in a municipality

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Democracy exercised directly reflects the idea of local self-government to the greatest extent. One of the fullest and most recognizable forms of direct democracy is the local referendum. Although in the Polish legal system a local referendum can be called an institution of an established character, there is no current position describing this issue. The above was the basis for the creation of a comprehensive study, the subject of which is the title "Local referendum as a form of direct democracy in a municipality". The dissertation, as the first work on a local referendum at the commune level, also refers to the latest legal changes and legislative proposals.

In the dissertation, the author notices the growing awareness of civil society and the increasing role of forms of democracy exercised directly by citizens. The dissertation should be the basis for reconsidering the institution of direct democracy, which is the referendum.

As part of the dissertation, legal aspects were juxtaposed with dynamic social changes and the development of technology, which nowadays may favor decision-making by the general public in a remote manner. The thesis is verified in the work, according to which the members of self-government communities have the optimal possibility of exercising direct democracy in the commune through the institution of referendum.

In order to verify the thesis put forward in a multi-faceted way, the author of the dissertation adopted a four-chapter structure of the work. Each of the chapters is used to verify individual research hypotheses in the following aspects: historical, forms of exercising power in a democratic state, place of referendum in the legal system and analysis of regulations regarding the organization of a municipal referendum.

In particular, the following methods were used in the work: dogmatic and legal, historical, hermeneutical, structural analysis and economic operation of law.

The dissertation covers the legal status as of May 25, 2023.