

HUF 10,000 and meat for a vote, illegally transporting voters and harassing volunteers combatting electoral fraud – a few events from the morning of the general election

Complaints sent to organizations such as the volunteers of the Clear Vote (Tiszta Szavazás) program and the Hungarian Civic Liberties Union (HCLU) called attention to multiple attempts at electoral fraud. A video shows individuals offering HUF 10,000 for a vote, while meat was on offer at Makó. In the latter settlement, volunteers of Clean Vote were being filmed and threatened with having their counter destroyed, as the perpetrators shouted “Everyone should vote for Fidesz!” The police did their job here. In Nagykálló, the local priest shouted at activists. In Gyöngyös, the car of volunteers was pounded. In Hortobágy, the local self-government was condemned for transporting voters.

HUF 10,000 for a vote in Onga (Borsod County)

A volunteer of Clean Vote sent us a video showing locals discuss being paid HUF 10,000 for their vote in Onga, which is in the 6th electoral district in Borsod county – the video [uploaded to the website](#) of Clean Vote makes this very clear.

The video was shot in the small store near the local community center. The locals speak about purchasing votes as a regular practice.

In the video, we can hear someone saying they are handing out HUF 10,000 for the vote. The money is given to voters if they prove via a photo taken with their phone that they put their “X” in the expected spot(s).

The lawyers of the HCLU, a member of the Clean Vote coalition, submitted a complaint to the Electoral Commission for a breach of the law on electoral order.

The video can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/tisztaszavazas/videos/369540398514978/>

https://youtu.be/NWd3c4_7HrU

Meat for a vote in Makó

In Makó (Csongrád-Csanád county, 4th electoral district), the volunteers of Clean Vote experienced interesting things in the morning. The events raise suspicions of vote purchasing. In front of the polling stations at Tulipán street and Királyhegyesi street, volunteers saw 2-3 suspicious cars stopping regularly at the stations. Afterwards, people wanting to vote got out of the cars, and after they cast their ballot, they were taken to the property under Betlen street 11. with the same cars. Local voters say the property was the final destination of the rides because there “*they gave them five portions of meat from the most recent pig slaughter for a vote in the correct spot.*” The volunteers went to the property, where they saw people cooking and others coming and going frequently, but they were not allowed to enter after being told that it is a non-public, “*private event.*”

Since the electoral law specifies that buying votes is illegal even if the payment is *in-kind* (e.g., food), and the event also raises suspicions of a breach to the well-intentioned exercise of the right to vote, the witnesses decided to call the police to the polling station at Tulipán street and file a legal complaint. The police arrived at the scene but they directed the witnesses to the local electoral commission, stating they are not authorized to act in this case. The election law expert of the HCLU said that the Penal Code does

not only state that buying votes for money is illegal but that buying votes for any material benefit (e.g., food) is illegal, too.

The law on electoral process also states that similar actions also impeach upon the well-intentioned and orderly exercise of rights and breach the fairness of the election.

Our activists were harassed in front of the polling booth, they were filmed and the harassers wanted to kick their counter, while the perpetrators were shouting “Everyone should vote for Fidesz!” The volunteers called the police, who are acting right now.

The witnesses decided to call the police to the polling station at Tulipán street and filed a legal complaint. The police arrived at the scene but they directed the volunteers to the local electoral commission, saying they are not authorized to act in this case. The election law expert of HCLU said that the police’s actions raise problems because they had a duty to act immediately to stop further legal breaches, so the lawyer at the scene turned to the Prosecutors’ Office, who told the police to take action.

Transport “staff” pounding cars, shouting priest, aggressive actions towards volunteers: Clean Vote volunteers were harassed in multiple locations because they were doing their job

In Gyöngyös (Heves county), volunteer “sentinels” were harassed while documenting abuses – namely actions to transport voters, which can be considered electoral fraud –; their car was pounded multiple times. The activists called the police to file a complaint. A similar event occurred in Alsózsolca (Borsod County), where voters were also being transported. Our activists were threatened there, too.

An older woman in Nagykálló reported to our activists working there that she was the victim of an atrocity committed by the local Roman Catholic priest in front of the polling station. The woman was waiting for her to be picked up and taken home. She was standing in front of the station with two others (a civil activist and another voter), when the local priest stopped with his pickup truck and shouted at them, claiming that “there is no electoral fraud in Nagykálló” and asking “what they were thinking.”

The sentinel of the Clean Vote campaign took a video of the priest’s shouts and the statement of the woman quoted. The activist said the priest took photos of their counter and shouted that the volunteers were sent from Pest to Nagykálló pointlessly, as they are not needed.

The municipality, the Farm Maintenance Service and the local electoral commission acted illegally in Hortobágy

The Municipality of Hortobágy announced a regular bus for election day to transport voters on 3 April. The municipality was banned from doing so after the Electoral Commission of the 5th electoral district of Hajdú-Bihar County received a complaint, but the volunteers of Clean Vote still had to report the transportation of voters from the settlement.

A local report said that five people left a crimson van of the Hortobágy Municipality with a “Darányi Ignác Plan” label at the 1st polling station of Hortobágy. After the vote, the van took the voters away.

The scheduled bus should have arrived at the 2nd polling station of Hortobágy at 9:15, but it did not happen.

The district's electoral commission stated in its resolution on 2 April that the local self-government of Hortobágy, the Farm Maintenance Service and the local electoral commission breached the electoral law. After their announcement, the municipality took the announcement concerning the bus down from its website.