

HUF 10,000 and meat for a vote, illegally transporting voters and harassing volunteers – 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!” Volunteers were attacked in Gyöngyös and Alsózsoltca as well, while voters were being transported to polling stations in an organized manner in Baranya and Hortobágy. Numerous complaints have been filed concerning potential abuses in polling stations.

This is what the Clean Vote revealed on Sunday, but we are expecting complaints until the afternoon of Wednesday, 6 April.

HUF 10,000 (27 EUR) 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. This amount is approximately 10 % of the average income for people working in the public work scheme (HUF 85000 / 230 EUR). The video is [uploaded to the website](#) of Clean Vote.

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

In the video, we can hear someone saying that 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, where the volunteers of Clean Vote were being threatened

In Makó (Csongrád-Csanád county, 4th electoral district), the volunteers of Clean Vote experienced events that raise suspicions of vote buying. In front of two polling stations, volunteers saw 2-3 suspicious cars stopping regularly. After people cast their ballot, they were taken to a nearby property under Bethlen street 11.

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 *“private event.”*

Since the electoral law specifies that buying votes is illegal even if the payment is *in-kind* (e.g., food), and the case raised suspicions of harm done 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.

The “meat for vote” program restarted in the afternoon in Makó, the locals are talking about János Lázár’s pigs

Earlier, we wrote that the volunteers of Clean Vote saw voters being offered meat for a “vote in the correct spot” in Makó, where Péter Márki-Zay and János Lázár are battling for becoming an MP. This is electoral fraud by law. Our sentinels said that multiple cars were transporting individuals between the polling booth and the meat distribution property.

Our activists at the polling station were being harassed already in Makó, they were being filmed, they received threats that their counter would be destroyed by individuals shouting “Everyone should vote for Fidesz.” They also met hostility near the meat distribution property.

After the events, the sentinels called the police, who arrived at the scene and investigated it, which forced vote purchasers to suspend the party.

The party was not over, however.

Clean Vote’s sentinels remained in Makó around polling stations to continue maintaining the fairness of the election. In the afternoon, locals cycling there said that as far as they knew, János Lázár bought the animals that were roasted and the organizers “encouraged” people to vote for him.

As our source said: *“Lázár bought pigs, they are already distributing the meat in Bethlen [street].”* Soon after, the activities were restarted in Bethlen street 11.

Transport “staff” pounding cars, shouting priest, aggressive actions towards Clean Vote volunteers

In **Gyöngyös** (Heves county), volunteers were harassed while documenting suspected irregularities, namely attempts to transport voters in an organized manner; 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.

In **Makó** (Csongrád County), our activists were harassed, individuals wanted to kick their counter, while they shouted “Everyone should vote for Fidesz.” Sentinels called the police in this case, 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 Nagyálló” and asking “what they were thinking.”

In **Nagyálló** the local Roman Catholic priest shouted at our activists and a voter claiming that “there is no electoral fraud in Nagyálló” and asking “what they were thinking.” The priest took photos of their counter and shouted that the volunteers were sent from Pest to Nagyálló pointlessly, as they are not needed.

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 Nagyálló pointlessly, as they are not needed.

The video is available here:

https://youtu.be/u_I-HW0FfI8

<https://www.facebook.com/tisztaszavazas/videos/3143125892637506/>

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.

Numerous reports have been submitted concerning abuses within polling stations

On election day, the recurring characteristic of complaints filed through the legal hotline or the Clean Vote sentinels is that one or two people accompanied individuals into the polling booths.

When is this legal and when is it not?

The majority of these cases are legal, since those with bad eyesight, the blind, or the illiterate might need help.

If someone cannot write an "X" for any reason, they can vote by declaring their intention in front of two vote counters with different affinities.

However, there were multiple reports when the voter was accompanied into the polling booth by a relative or one vote counter. In multiple cases, the same individual accompanied different voters. There were cases when it could be heard that they are giving advice to voters.

Such cases were reported from Budapest, Sarkad, Cigánd and Városnamény. In Magyarcsanak, it is likely that a woman voted in the name of a family of three. The case was recorded officially.

There were reports of open voting, denial to record something officially and denial of requests to record videos at polling stations.

There are reports of people only being given the ballots for ethnic lists and the referendum and not the one for candidates in single-member constituencies, others had to specifically request that they be allowed to cast their votes on these candidates.

There were people who wanted to take the ballot out of the polling station, some even succeeded. Others reported that the voting observation committee's chairman did not allow the member responsible for making official records to do their jobs. In these cases, the volunteers and lawyers of Clean Vote advised that the committee should be forced to take an extraordinary record.

Multiple individuals indicated that the moving polling boxes did not arrive to them.

About Clean Vote

In the Clean Vote program, hundreds of volunteer sentinels, flyer distributors and two dozen layers are ensuring that electoral fraud can be avoided, documented and reported in nine counties.

Clean Vote can be reached on +36-30-722-33-56 via phone or on the jogsegely@tasz.hu e-mail address, where people can request legal aid. More than 20 lawyers were awaiting the calls on election day.