

# **General Election to the House of Commons**

## **Abstract**

The aim of this thesis is to analyze the electoral process of general elections to the House of Commons of the British Parliament. The text analyzes the problematics of the two basic questions. The first question is, in regards to the scope, more comprehensive, and it is an analysis of the aforementioned general elections. The second area of the matters relates closely to the first area and concerns the referendum on changing the electoral system in 2011.

The text is logically structured into four chapters, which are usually further divided into subsections. The first chapter is devoted purely to the British Parliament in general, spanning from their historical origins to today's modern appearance. It also includes a brief specification of both of the Houses, including their composition and a scope of work. The second chapter is discussing the matter of general elections, the introduction to this chapter is devoted to applied electoral system. This system is based on the principle of "first past the post", which belongs to the "family" of majority electoral systems. The specifics of the application of the system are mentioned, pointing out the benefits and so-called system errors that the system entails. Next subsection discusses the systematics of election legislation. In relation to this, it is important to emphasize that there is no single electoral law that would clearly regulate the entire electoral process. Legislation has a multiplicity of repeating provision clutters and can be seen as considerably complex. The law "*Representation of the People Act 1983*" can be considered as a basic source of electoral arrangements. Classification of the law is divided into three main sections; the right to vote and an execution of this right, legislation of electoral campaigns and legal proceedings related to elections. Legal regulation of the remaining institutions is fragmented within numerous constituent laws. These institutes are discussed in further subsections and are linked to relevant legislation.

The third chapter deals with the actual voting, assessing the results of the elections and the possibility of judicial review of elections. Alternative voting methods, which are in practice often used among British citizens, are also mentioned. In connection to the judicial review of elections, the thesis emphasizes the circumstances under which such persons may bring an action to the High Court. In recent years, it is a frequently used tool to challenge the legitimacy of the election results. The last chapter discusses the circumstances that led to the referendum on changing the electoral system in 2011. The potential benefits that would be

provided by an alternative model of voting are stated. It also explains reasons why, in a referendum, 67.9% voters voted against changing of the electoral system. Finally, it is emphasized that even though 60% of eligible voters are still interested in pursuing the electoral reform, it will be not possible during this government's term given the outcome of the May general elections.