**Summary in English**

The main objective of this dissertation was to disclose the mechanism of constitutional and legal development of the institution of elections in the Russian Federation in interconnection with development of its political system, both on the federal and regional levels.

Another important purpose of the work was to study process of formation of electoral institutions in the Kaliningrad region during development of the Russian Federation, particularly to study of elements of regional legislation in comparison with previous legislative norms, the restoration of historical chronology of elections held in the region, reflecting the applied legislative decisions.

It was investigated the process of functioning of various electoral systems in the region on different stages of its development, the degree of influence of electoral systems applied in the Kaliningrad region to results of elections and to political situation, and current trends in development of political system at the local level.

The purpose of research on this issue is, first of all, an evolution of electoral system of modern Russia, mainly due to changes in political system. Secondly, the processes associated with the transformation of political system and electoral system of Russia, which are reflected in the political and electoral system of the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation. Consequently, this study presents not only the evolution and transformation of the electoral system of elections on the federal level, but also the regional context of observed transformations by way of example of the Kaliningrad region of Russia. The period 1993-2013 covered transition to Russian electoral system after the adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation on December 12, 1993.

The dissertation is dedicated to analysis of functioning of electoral systems in accordance with specific modern scientific concepts, as well as analysis of interdependence and interaction of electoral party and political system in the state. The author paid particular attention to significant changes of electoral legislation and an impact of these changes to a functioning of electoral system of the Russian Federation. It was investigated the historical path of the Russian state and society in the 20th century underwent in connection with transformation of electoral system, electoral procedures and implementation of democratic electoral standards, especially in context of democratization process of foreign standards. At the same time, historical and statistical data of origin and formation of electoral system of the Russian Federation both in the pre-revolutionary period and in the Soviet era were considered. There were analyzed the circumstances of formation and evolution of modern Russian electoral system both at the federal, regional and local levels.

In addition, on the basis of an analysis of mechanisms of functioning of individual types of electoral systems, characteristics and an assessment of their capabilities with regard to ensuring democratic representation were presented.

The structure of the work takes into account both the history and the present of electoral system of the Russian Federation, as well as the context of the Kaliningrad region in the functioning of the Russian electoral system. The first chapter presents theoretical and methodological considerations related to the issue of electoral systems. The second chapter is devoted to the historical experience of Russia and the Soviet Union concerning evolution of electoral system. The third chapter presents the legal and political conditions of the electoral system of modern Russia. In turn, the fourth chapter is devoted to the political consequences of functioning of electoral system in Russia. In the last chapter, the author presents the development of electoral legislation and the functioning of the Russian electoral system at the regional level by way of example of the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation.

It should be emphasized that the question of transformation of electoral system of the Russian Federation after 1993 has a rich literature. Researchers present various aspects of the theory and practical functioning of Russia's electoral system. At the same time, not all aspects of this problem have been fully investigated. These questions, of course, are issues of Russian historical experience related to changes in electoral systems, the evolution of electoral system of modern Russia and the regional context of the Russian electoral system. This justifies the study included in this hearing.

Among the articles about theoretical foundations of electoral systems, particular attention should be paid to the publications of prominent foreign scholars: Karl Popper, David Easton, Gabriel Almond, John Powell, Kaare Stromma, Russell Dalton, Jean Bachler and many others. In addition, broad theoretical basis of electoral systems was presented in the works of Rein Taagepera, Matthew Shugarth and Kathleen Bawn.

A significant contribution to the study of theory and practice of the functioning of a democratic law state and political systems, including the theory of electoral systems, was also made by Polish researchers: Andrzej Antoszewski, Konstantin Adam Voytaschik, Ryszard Herbut, Arkadush Zhukovsky, Krzysztof Skotnicki, Valdemar Jabrowski, Bartlomie Michalak and others scientists.

The theoretical and methodological basis of this research was the classical research methods adopted in political science. The study used the following research methods:

* historical,
* statistical,
* comparative analysis,
* institutional and legal
* system analysis,
* extrapolation method.

The historical method consisted, on the one hand, in development of issue about electoral system’s transformation and on the other hand, in studying the historical experience of exercising of the constitutional rights of citizens regarding to active and passive suffrage.

The statistical method is useful in analyzing the results of elections in the context of different electoral systems on different levels of elections in the Russian Federation. Besides, using of comparative methods was effective in comparing of electoral systems’ types, as well as comparative analysis of election procedures used on different levels of power in Russia.

Institutional and legal method were used, on the one hand, for study of the institutions including to electoral systems of the Russian Federation, and on the other hand, for analysis of legislative acts that constitute the legal basis of the electoral system and electoral institutions in Russia. The database of studies submitted for the purposes of this hearing, is Russian and international legal acts relating to the norms and principles of electoral law. The documents of international importance are legal documents of the United Nations, the European Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States and other organizations.

System analysis was also used as one of the key research methods in political science. The electoral system of the Russian Federation, the political and party system were analyzed.

The extrapolation method was also used. The current and future influence of electoral systems to local elections and to development of political system at the local level was investigated. Author also have analyzed trends of electoral system of the Russian Federation in future.

This research has the hypothesis that the main problem of electoral system of the Russian Federation is the lack of a guarantee of democratic character of state power, even with used full electoral legislation and a balanced electoral system. This is due to a fact that degree of influence of individual electoral systems to political system, order and contents of electoral procedures and the results of elections are very significant, but its impact in practice can be substantially limited by provisions of related legislation, unreasonable administrative interference, selective enforcement and restriction of the passive electoral law of citizens. This can significantly affect to the voting results and to overall transparency and purity of electoral process.

Fundamental importance for further development of democratic institutions in the Russian Federation has development of the political and legal culture of the authorities and citizens, their real ability to be truly law-abiding subjects of the political and electoral process, and the improvement of related legislation that become basic for further development of democratic institutions in the Russian Federation.

Ensuring proper obedience to the law of all participants of electoral procedures, without exception, including governing structures and administrative bodies on all levels of power, is one of the main problems of electoral process’ democratization and formation of legitimate authorities. This issue is also connects to question of ensuring equal rights for certain candidates and political parties participating in elections, as well as the problem of full use of electoral right by election participants. It should be emphasized that these provisions concern constitutional law, that especially protected by the state. In situation of absence of full access to passive electoral rights elections lose their essential significance.

An important task of bringing Russia closer to standards of developed electoral democracy is not only the continuous improvement of legislation, but all-round development of respect to the law and ensuring its unchanged primacy, regardless of any political or other reasons. In this aspect, it is extremely important to study the experience of Western electoral systems - not only in terms of legislative, but also in terms of the systemic implementation of electoral law during the electoral process.

Equally important is the fact that observance of the right of voters to freedom of expression in the modern world is possible only in the context of continuous monitoring, which allows monitoring violations of global democratic electoral standards, regardless of origin of such violations. All these efforts are necessary to achieve the main goal - improving the quality of democratic elections and observing the electoral rights of citizens in the Russian electoral system, which will ensure the fulfillment of constitutional requirements.

The author in the dissertation concludes that influence of different types of electoral systems used on the federal and regional levels of Russia over the past 20 years was relatively insignificant. It is noted that results of practical application of electoral systems in the Russian Federation as part of the electoral law are in the closest relationship with related legislation – about political parties, media, police, administrative responsibility, etc. The aggregate application of all provisions of this legislation by various subjects of electoral legal relations, as well as by third parties participating in campaigns in the elective and pre-election period, has an extremely important regulatory impact on various stages of the electoral process, and indirectly influences to federal policy through the obtained election result.

As a conclusion, it is noted that the positive and negative properties of existing electoral systems are closely interrelated, and their manifestation depends significantly of the combination and conditions in which they are applicable, including public activity, its political system and society.

An analysis of all election campaigns and legislation applied since 1993 in the Kaliningrad region shows that there is considerable inertia in copying in the region of main elements of the electoral system used on federal level. It seems that the existing electoral legislation is too detailed on the federal level regulating of all the main stages of organization and conduct of any election campaign, which indicates significant restrictions of possibilities and diversifying of electoral systems on the level of subjects of the federation.

The Kaliningrad region is not an exception, since the electoral systems in various subjects of the federation are becoming more uniform, without taking into account regional specifics. This unification in most cases predetermines a mirror image on the regional level the main results of elections on the federal level. Accordingly, the degree of influence of the applied electoral system on the political situation in the region can be predicted with high probability and, as a rule, does not fundamentally differ from the federal one.

As one of the conclusions of the thesis, the author supports an idea of adopting the Electoral Code, which has exceptional importance not only for detailed regulation of electoral procedures, but also related legal relations. The activities of all state and public institutions participating in the organization of so important project for democratic state as elections, should be strictly regulated and have a system of clear control over the implementation of this legislation.

In addition, a significant conclusion of the dissertation is the proposal to declare a moratorium for introducing changes to electoral legislation of the Russian Federation for a limited period of time (at least 3-4 years) in order to stabilize the functioning of electoral system, to test in several consecutive election campaigns the innovations introduced during recent years, and then reasonably determine which of them will need further reform.