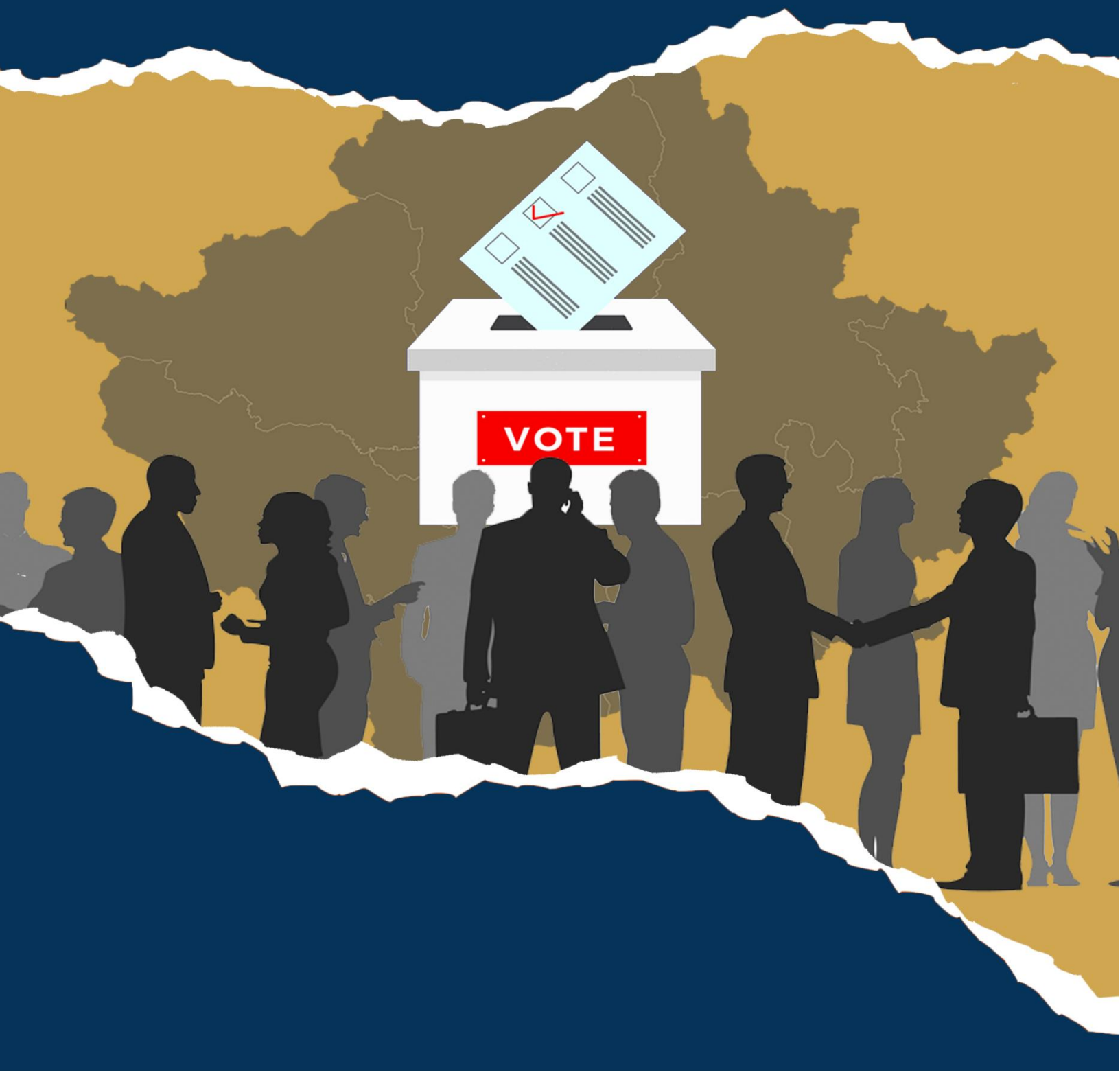


Integrity of Candidates for Mayor in the **2025** **Local Elections**



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ABOUT KLI

KLI, Kosovo Law Institute, is a non-governmental and non-profit organization of public policy, a think tank specialized in the justice sector.

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List of acronyms

KLI	-	Kosovo Law Institute
LVV	-	Vetëvendosje Movement
PDK	-	Democratic Party of Kosovo
CEC	-	Central Election Commission
ECAP	-	Election Complaints and Appeals Panel
Office	-	Office for Registration, Certification and Financial Oversight of Political Entities
LS	-	Serb List
DS	-	Serb Democracy
ECtHR	-	European Court of Human Rights

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1. Executive summary

The Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) has continuously advocated for the decriminalization of politics, emphasizing that individuals with legal issues, regardless of whether they face formal legal restrictions, should not be included on electoral lists or hold certain public positions. Legal issues include both active indictments of final criminal convictions. As KLI has consistently stated, the call to prevent individuals with ongoing legal problems from running for office does not undermine the presumption of innocence; rather, it aims to send a positive message, that as long as a candidate's legal issues remain unresolved, political parties should refrain from nominating such individuals.

On October 12, 2025, local elections will be held across Kosovo's 28 municipalities. For these elections, the Central Election Commission (CEC) has certified 93 political entities, including 32 political parties, 32 citizens' initiatives, 2 coalitions and 27 independent candidates. As in previous election cycles, KLI, based on its data collected through court monitoring, has in this report presented the list of mayoral candidates who have legal issues.

According to KLI's monitoring data, out of 206 mayoral candidates, eight (8) – or 3.9% - have legal problems. Among them, four (4) candidates face active indictment, for which they have already been convicted by first-instance courts, through these verdicts have either been returned for retrial or have not yet become final. In addition, five (5) candidates have final convictions from past cases.

The candidates identified by KLI as having legal issues include four (4) candidates from two political parties, three (3) from the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) and one (1) from Vetëvendosje (LVV). Furthermore, three (3) candidates represent citizens' initiatives: the Democratic Union of Prizren, Srpska Narodna SLoga and Initiative Democracy, while one (1) is an independent candidate.

Geographically, these candidates are spread across seven (7) municipalities. The mayoral candidates identified as having legal issues in the October 12, 2025 elections have been accused in 12 cases, involving a total of 10 different criminal offenses.

Compared to the 2021 local elections, KLI notes progress in reducing the overall number of candidates with legal issues, the number of those facing active indictment, and the number of municipalities where such candidates are competing. Progress is also noted regarding the number of political parties including such candidates in their lists: in 2021, four (4) political parties were identified whereas in 2025, only two (2) have been presented candidates with legal issues, and one independent candidate has also been identified, both categories being formally treated as political entities.

On the other hand, KLI observes a regression regarding the number of candidates with final convictions.

2. Local elections 2025

Local Election in the Republic of Kosovo are held every four years.¹ Since the declaration of independence on February 17, 2008, the Republic of Kosovo has held four (4) regular local elections.

On June 9, 2025, the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani, set October 12, 2025, as the date for the regular local elections.²

For these elections, which will be held across 38 municipalities for the republic of Kosovo, the Central Election Commission (CEC) has certified 93 political entities, including 32 political parties, 32 citizens' initiatives, 2 coalitions and 27 independent candidates.³

2.1.Certification process

During the certification process for mayoral candidates and municipal assembly members for these elections, controversies arose regarding the certification or non-certification of certain political entities and their candidates. These debates primarily concerned the certification of candidates from two political entities representing the Serb community in Kosovo, namely, the Serb List (Lista Srpska-LS) and Serb Democracy (Demokracija Srpska-DS).⁴

At the Central Election Commission (CEC) meeting held on August 1, 2025, the Office for Registration, Certification and Financial Oversight of Political Entities (the Office) recommended that ECE certify both political entities and their candidates for mayoral and municipal assembly positions.

However, following this recommendation, CEC members, particularly representatives from the ruling party, raised serious concerns about the alleged involvement of LS candidates in Serbia's parallel structures in Kosovo, asserting that the LS "serves as an extended arm of the Serbian President, Aleksandar Vučić. Meanwhile, regarding DS candidate Aleksandar Arsenijević, it was claimed that he was wanted by the law enforcement authorities of the Republic of Kosovo."⁵

¹ Law No.03/L-072 on Local Election in the Republic of Kosovo, article 4.2.

² "President Osmani set 12 October 2025, for regular local elections to be held". June 9, 2025. (See: <https://president-ksgov.net/presidentja-osmani-ka-caktuar-12-tetorin-e-vitit-2025-date-te-mbaitjes-se-zgjedhjeve-te-rregullta-lokale/>).

³ "Over 2 million people are eligible to vote in the October 12 elections." Radio Evropa e Lirë. September 6, 2025. (See: <https://www.evropaelire.org/a/kqz-certifikon-listen-e-votuesve-per-zgjedhjet-e-12-tetorit/33523448.html>).

⁴ "CEC does not certify the Serb List for October Local Elections". Radio Evropa e Lirë. August 21, 2025. (See: <https://www.evropaelire.org/a/lvv-kunder-lista-serbe-certifikim/33509559.html>)

⁵ Ibid.

On the other hand, some members noted that the verification of candidates lists had already passed through several institutions, none of which had raised any objections. They emphasized that they would abstain from voting until official action was taken by the security institutions.⁶

Meanwhile, representatives of the Vetëvendosja Movement (LVV) within the CEC presented documents which, according to them, supported their claims regarding the candidates of the two political entities. However, in the absence of consensus, the vote on certification failed in both cases, with 2 votes in favour, 2 against and 7 abstentions.⁷

Regarding this decision, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) assessed that it contradicts the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, the applicable legislation, and international standards. The Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo, through Article 22, establishes that the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) applies directly and has supremacy over domestic law. Furthermore, the right to free elections is guaranteed by Article 3 of Protocol No.1 to this Convention.

According to the jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), the first condition for restricting a political entity from participating in elections is that such a restriction must be prescribed by law.⁸ In relation to this criterion, the Law No. 08/L-228 on General Elections does not clearly define the criteria or procedures for prohibiting a political entity from participating in elections. The only relevant provision, Article 16 of the same law, does not provide a legal basis for non-certification, as occurred in this case.

According to the Venice Commission, political party cannot be held responsible for the isolated actions of its members, especially when those actions are contrary to the party's statute or official activities. Therefore, actions or statements, whether online or offline, by individual members that do not officially represent the party should be attributed solely to those individuals. The same principle applies to individual conduct not authorized by the party within its political, public, or organizational activities. In such cases, appropriate civil or criminal sanctions may be imposed on those individuals. Moreover, the Venice Commission emphasizes that the dissolution or exclusion of a political party cannot be justified merely because the party failed to distance itself from the actions or statements of its leaders or members.⁹

Meanwhile, other documents of the ECtHR and the Venice Commission outline a set of criteria and procedures that must be followed in such situations, criteria which, in this particular case, were

⁶ "CEC Does Not Certify the Serb List for the October Local Elections". Dukagjini. 21 August 2025. (See: <https://www.dukagjini.com/kqz-nuk-e-certifikon-listen-serbe-per-zgjedhjet-lokale-te-tetorit/>).

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ "CASE OF DICLE AND SADAK v. TURKEY (Application no. 48621/07)". European Court of Human Rights. Paragraph 87. Strasbourg, 16 June 2015. (See: [https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{"itemid":\["001-155626"\]}](https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#{)).

⁹ "Joint Guidelines of the Venice Commission and OSCE/ODIHR on Political Party Regulation, adopted by the Venice Commission at its 125th Plenary online session (11-12 December 2020)". Këshilli i Evropës. Paragrafët 117-118. Strasbourg, 14 December 2020. (See: [https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD\(2020\)032-e](https://www.venice.coe.int/webforms/documents/?pdf=CDL-AD(2020)032-e)).

not observed. This the KLI found that the CEC failed to comply with the Constitution, domestic legislation, international standards and established judicial practice.

Furthermore, regarding the CEC's attempt to deny certification to the two political entities, international partners expressed disappointment and described such actions as highly concerning.¹⁰

On August 22, 2025, in a joint statement, the Embassies of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States, together with the European Union Office in Kosovo, voiced their concern over attempts by political actors to limit competition among political parties representing non-majority communities ahead of October 12 local elections. The statement emphasized that *“any such action to exclude certain communities undermines democratic principles and erodes trust in Kosovo's institutions”*. It further stressed that all procedures must be conducted strictly in accordance with the rules and mandate of the Central Election Commission (CEC).¹¹

That same day, in a separate statement, the European Union expressed disappointment over the non-certification of the two Kosovo Serb political entities, expressing regret over the stance taken by Vetëvendosje during the certification process. The EU statement underlined that the inclusive character of local elections is crucial for the future relationship between Kosovo and the European, and called on responsible institutions to ensure that the entire certification process, including any potential appeals, is carried out fully in line with the Constitution of Kosovo, the Law on General Elections and the principles of the Rule of Law.¹²

A few weeks later, on 12 September 2025, the U.S. Embassy in Kosovo announced in a statement that the United States has indefinitely suspended the planned Strategic Dialogue with Kosovo due to concerns over the action of the incumbent government. The statement explained that this decision stemmed from worries about the government's conduct, which had increased tensions and instability, thereby limiting the United States' ability to work productively with Kosovo on shared priorities.¹³

Meanwhile, regarding the attempt not to certify the Serb List, on September 23, 2025, it was reported that the U.S. State Department had described this as a concrete attempt to prevent the citizens of Kosovo, particularly Kosovo Serbs, from choosing their representatives, both in a

¹⁰ “Statement by Quint and the EU on the registration of parties for Local Elections, August 22, 2025”. Ambasada e Shteteve të Bashkuara në Kosovë. 22 August 2025. (See: https://xk.usembassy.gov/st_22082025/); “Kosovo: Statement by the Spokesperson on the certification of political parties for local elections”. European Union. 22 August 2025. (See: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/kosovo-statement-spokesperson-certification-political-parties-local-elections_en?utm_)

¹¹ “Statement by Quint and the EU on the registration of parties for Local Elections, August 22, 2025”. U.S. Embassy in Kosovo. 22 August 2025. (See: https://xk.usembassy.gov/st_22082025/)

¹² “Kosovo: Statement by the Spokesperson on the certification of political parties for local elections”. European Union. 22 August 2025. (See: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/kosovo-statement-spokesperson-certification-political-parties-local-elections_en?utm_).

¹³ “Embassy Pristina Statement Announcing Suspension of Strategic Dialogue with Kosovo, September 12, 2025”. U.S. Embassy in Kosovo. 12 September 2025. (See: https://xk.usembassy.gov/st_9122025/).

general sense and in leadership positions within institutions.¹⁴ Their attempt to obstruct the participation of the Serb List in the elections was also cited as one of the reasons behind the decision to suspend the planned Strategic Dialogue with Kosovo.¹⁵

The Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP) reviewed the appeals submitted by the two political entities, and through its decisions of August 23¹⁶ and August 29¹⁷, 2025, ordered the CEC to certify them. In its rulings, ECAP found, among other things, that the CEC has failed to provide any reasoning for rejecting the Office's recommendation to certify the political entities in question. The decisions further stated that the CEC's response to the appeal lacked any relevance that could justify a different outcome from that determined by ECAP. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court, rejected the appeals filed by the CEC, thereby upholding ECAP's decision.

It is worth recalling that a similar situation occurred during the 2025 general elections, when there was again an attempt not to certify the Serb List (LS). At that time as well, ECAP ruled in favour of certification, and the LVV appeal against the decision was rejected by the Supreme Court. Consequently, a clear legal standard has now been established: a political entity cannot be denied certification in this manner.¹⁸

3. Decriminalisation of politics

KLI has consistently advocated for the decriminalization of politics, meaning that individuals with legal issues should not appear on electoral lists or hold certain public positions. Legal issues include active indictments or final criminal convictions.

In August 2021, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) published a report on the integrity of candidates running in the October 2021 local elections. At that time, based on a ruling by the Constitutional Court, the rule applied that no person could run for the position of Mayor or as a member of a Municipal Assembly if, in the previous three (3) years, they had been found guilty, regardless of the type of sentence. This Constitutional Court ruling was issued in the context of interpreting Law No. 03/L-073 on General Elections of the Republic of Kosovo.¹⁹

¹⁴ " U.S. State Department Official: Kurti Crossed the "Red Line" with Attempt to Block the Serb List ". KOHA. 23 September 2025. (See: <https://www.koha.net/arberi/zyrtari-i-dash-it-kurti-shkeli-vijen-e-kuqe-me-perpjekjen-per-bllokim-te-listes-serbe>)

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Decision of the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP) (A.nr.3/2025). (See: <https://smaa.rks-gov.net/documents/48254.pdf>).

¹⁷ Decision of the Election Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP) (A.nr.3/2025). (See: <https://smaa.rks-gov.net/documents/48262.pdf>).

¹⁸ Kosovo Law Institute, FOL Movement and Initiative for Progress. "Integrity of candidates, rule of law and good governance". Page 10. (See: <https://kli-ks.org/integriteti-i-kandidateve-sundimi-i-ligjit-dhe-qeverisja-e-mire/>).

¹⁹ Kosovo Law Institute. "Integrity of Mayoral Candidates – Analysis of Mayoral Candidates with Legal Issues)". Page 6-7. Pristina, August 2021. (See: <https://kli-ks.org/integriteti-i-kandidateve-per-kryetare-te-komunave/>)

After that period, the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, through political consensus, adopted the new Law No. 08/L-228 on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo. This law raised the legal threshold that prevents candidacy. According to this law, a person cannot run for office if they *“have been convicted in the past three (3) years by a final court decision for a criminal offense, with one or more years of effective imprisonment”*.²⁰

In consolidated democracies, the public sphere serves as a primary means for society to distinguish crime from politics. In any democratic society, high-ranking state officials, politicians and all those holding public responsibility are subject to ethical norms established by society. Accordingly, any official under criminal investigation is generally expected by the public to resign from public duties. Ethical codes, monitored by the public function so effectively that it is rare for resignation to be demanded; officials under investigation usually resign immediately once suspicions regarding their links to crime become public. While ethical codes do not guarantee the complete separation of politics from crime, they at least create perception of functioning political and social system.²¹

For this reason, regardless of legal restrictions, it is crucial that political parties do not nominate individuals with legal problems. Legal problems include active indictments of criminal convictions, which do not necessarily prevent candidacy.

Preventing individuals with legal problems from running for office does not violate the principle of presumption of innocence. Under the Constitution and the law, every person is considered innocent until proven guilty by a final court decision. Nevertheless, a positive message must be sent to the public: as long as legal problems remain unresolved, political parties should refrain from nominating such individuals.

Beyond the legal aspect, it is equally important for political parties to adopt internal rules to uphold this standard, ensuring that individuals with current or past legal issues are not allowed to tune for office, even if their candidacy is legally permissible for a given position.

4. Candidates with legal issues

Put of 206 mayoral candidates certified by the CEC, KLI found that 8 candidates²² have integrity issues, which under the current law, do not restrict their right to run in municipal elections. Expressed as a percentage, this means that 3.9% of mayoral candidates are individuals with legal problems, either in the form of active indictment or past criminal convictions.

²⁰ Law No. 08/L-228 on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, Article 30.2.2.1.

²¹ Kosovo Law Institute. “Decriminalization of Politics in Kosovo.” p. 9. Prishtina, October 21, 2018. (See: <https://kli-ks.org/dekriminalizimi-i-politikes-ne-kosove/>).

²² Note: Sami Lushtaku has both an active indictment and final convictions..

5. Candidates with active indictments

KLI has identified a total of 4 candidates running in the October 12, 2025 elections who face active indictments. These 4 candidates have been convicted by first-instance courts: 1 of them is undergoing retrial, for 2 others the judgement has not yet been issued, and 1 case is being handled by the Court of Appeals. Below, KLI present the mayoral candidates with active indictments:

Candidate	Political entity	Procedural stage	Cases	Criminal offence	Year of indictment	Municipality
Erden Atiq ²³	LVV	Convicted at first instance; Case at the Court of Appeals	1	Destruction, Damage, or Removal of Public Installations	2017	North Mitrovica
Sami Lushtaku ²⁴	PDK	Convicted at first instance; Retrial	1	Organized crime related to the criminal offense of obstruction of investigation or official procedure	2016	Skenderaj
Shkumbin Demalija ²⁵	Democracy Initiative	Convicted at First Instance; Judgment Not Yet Issued	1	Abuse of official position or authority	2018	Deçan

²³ " The Accused Does Not Declare Regarding Guilt for Interrupting the Broadcast of the Assembly Session on RTK in September 2016." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, September 16, 2021. (See: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/nuk-deklarohet-rreth-fajesise-i-akuzuari-se-ne%CC%88-shtator-te%CC%88-2016-e%CC%88s-nderpreu-transmetimin-e-seances-se%CC%88-kuvendit-ne%CC%88-rtk/>).

²⁴ " Even Today, EULEX-Protected Witnesses Were Not Provided; the Session Against Sami Lushtaku and Others Is Canceled." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, April 28, 2025.. (See: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/as-sot-su-siguruan-deshmitaret-embrojtur-nga-eulex-i-anulohet-seanca-ndaj-sami-lushtakut-dhe-te-tjereve/>).

²⁵ " Former Prime Minister Agim Çeku and 9 Others Sentenced to 1 Year in Prison in the 'Veterans' Case; Nuredin Lushtaku and Smajl Elezaj Acquitted." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, July 14, 2025.. (See: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/ish-kryeministri-agim-ceku-dhe-9-te-tjeret-denohen-me-nga-1-vit-burgim-ne-rastin-veteranet-nuredin-lushtaku-dhe-smajl-elezaj-lirohen-nga-akuza/>).

Shukri Buja ²⁶	PDK	Convicted at first instance; Judgement not yet issued	1	Abuse of official position or authority	2018	Lipjan
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Table 1. Candidates with active indictments.

6. Candidates with criminal convictions

KLI has identified 5 candidates who have final criminal convictions. These candidates, along with the offences for which they were found guilty and sentenced imposed, are presented in the table below:

Candidate	Political entity	Cases	Criminal offence	Year	Municipality	Sentence
Arbër Emini ²⁷	Independent candidate	1	From Abuse of official position or authority, reclassified as the criminal offense of "Fraud"	2023	Klllokot	Fine of 200 euros and 90 days of suspended imprisonment; 9 months of suspended imprisonment and a fine of 200 euros
Sami Lushtaku ²⁸	PDK	3	Threats; Unauthorized Ownership, Control, or Possession of Weapons; Escape of a Person Deprived of Liberty	2021 2019	Skenderaj	Fine: 2,000 euros; Fine: 1,700 euros; Fine: 12,000

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ "Apeli kthen në rigjykim rastin e ish-zyrtarit komunal të dënuar për korrupsion". Betimi për Drejtësi. 17 tetor 2022. (Shih linkun: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/apeli-kthen-ne-rigjykim-rastin-e-ish-zyrtarit-komunal-te-denuar-per-korrupsion/>).

²⁸ "Apeli vërteton dënimet me gjobë ndaj Dardan Gashit, Endrit Shalës, Sami Lushtakut e të tjerëve për gjuajtjen me armë në odën e Fatmir Limajt". Betimi për Drejtësi. 30 korrik 2019. (Shih linkun <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/apeli-verteton-denimet-me-gjobe-ndaj-dardan-gashit-endrit-shales-sami-lushtakut-e-te-tjereve-per-gjuajtjen-me-arme-ne-oden-e-fatmir-limajt/>); "Apeli ia vërteton Sami Lushtakut dënimin me 2 mijë euro gjobë për kanosjen e avokatit Gazmend Halilaj". Betimi për Drejtësi. 1 qershor 2021. (Shih linkun [Apeli ia vërteton Sami Lushtakut dënimin me 2 mijë euro gjobë për kanosjen e avokatit Gazmend Halilaj - Betimi për Drejtësi](https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/apeli-ia-verteton-sami-lushtakut-denimin-me-2-mijë-euro-gjobe-per-kanosjen-e-avokatit-gazmend-halilaj-betimi-per-drejtesi/)); "Arratisja nga QKUK", Apeli e lë në fuqi dënimin për Sami Lushtakun kurse e kthen në rigjykim rastin për dy të akuzuar". Betimi për Drejtësi. 6 nëntor 2020. (Shih linkun [Arratisja nga QKUK, Apeli e lë në fuqi dënimin për Sami Lushtakun kurse e kthen në rigjykim rastin për dy të akuzuar - Betimi për Drejtësi](https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/arratisja-nga-qkuk-apeli-e-le-ne-fuqi-denimin-per-sami-lushtakun-kurse-e-kthen-ne-rigjykim-rastin-per-dy-te-akuzuar-betimi-per-drejtesi/)).

				2020		
Sokol Bashota ²⁹	PDK	1	Failure to report or false reporting of assets, income, gifts, other material benefits, or financial obligations	2021	Klina	6 months of suspended imprisonment and a 1,200-euro fine
Srećko Sparić ³⁰	Srpska Narodna Sloga	1	Abuse of official position or authority	2017	Klllokot	10 months of suspended imprisonment
Zafir Berisha ³¹	Democratic Union of Prizren	2	Attack on a Public Official; Removal or Damage of Official Seals or Signs	2024 2015	Prizren	6 months of imprisonment – substituted with a fine of 1,500 euros; Fine: 140 euros

Table 2. Candidates with final convictions.

7. Candidates with legal issues according to municipality

KLI found that, out of 38 municipalities in Kosovo, 7 municipalities have candidates who currently have or have had legal issues. Specifically, these candidates come from the municipalities of Skenderajm Lipjan, Deçan, Klllokot, Klina, Prizren and North Mitrovica.

8. Candidates with legal issues by political party

KLI found that, out of 93 entities certified for these local elections, 6 of them include candidates with legal issues. Among these, 2 are political parties, 3 are citizens' initiatives and 1 is an independent candidate. Below is a table presenting the names of the political entities and the number of candidates on their lists who have legal issues:

²⁹ "Sentenced for Corruption, Former Mayor of Klinë and Former Deputy Mayor Pay the Fine." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, October 16, 2021. (See: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/u-denuan-per-korrupsion-ish-kryetari-i-klines-dhe-ish-nenkryetari-paguajne-gjoben/>).

³⁰ "Mayor of Klllokot, Srećko Spasić, Sentenced to 10 Months of Suspended Imprisonment for Abuse of Official Duty." *Betimi për Drejtësi*, October 26, 2016 (See: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/kryetari-i-kllokotit-srecko-spasic-denohet-me-10-muaj-burg-me-kusht-per-keqperdorim-te-detyres-zyrtare/>).

³¹ "'Kush je ti që më shënon gjobë he robt...' , zafir berisha dënohet me 1 mijë e 500 euro për sulmin ndaj zyrtarit policor". *Betimi për Drejtësi*. 9 January 2024. (See: <https://betimiperdrejtesi.com/kush-je-ti-qe-me-shenon-gjobe-he-robt-zafir-berisha-denohet-me-1-mije-e-500-euro-per-sulmin-ndaj-zyrtarit-policor/>); "Criminalized Politics." Kosovo Law Institute. p. 293. December 2020. (See: <https://kli-ks.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/1.-RAPORTI-PDF-WORD-Politike-e-kriminalizuar-1.pdf>).

Political entity	No. of candidate
Arbër Emini (<i>independent candidate</i>)	1
Democratic Union of Prizren	1
Vetëvendosje Movement - LVV	1
Democratic Party of Kosovo – PDK	3
Democracy Initiative	1
Srpska Narodna Sloga	1

Table 3. List of political entities and the number of candidates with legal issues.

In this context, KLI found that the other entities not listed in the table above did not have any candidates with legal issues, based on KLI monitoring.

9. Candidates with legal issues by criminal offence

KLI found that mayoral candidates in the October 12, 2025 election who have legal issues were accused in 12 cases, involving a total of 10 different criminal offences.

Of the total cases, 4 relate to official corruption and offenses against official duty, and 1 case involves organized crime. Additionally, one case each involves the criminal offenses of fraud, unauthorized possession of weapons, threats, attack on a public official, escape of a person deprived of liberty, removal or damage of official seals or signs, and destruction, damage, or removal of public installations.

10. Comparison with previous elections

In the table below, KLI compares the findings from the October 17, 2021 local elections with the October 12, 2025 local elections, assessing progress and regression in this area.

Issue	Local elections 2021	Local election 2025	Progress/Regress
No. of candidates with legal issues	10	8	Progress
No. of candidates with active indictments	9	4	Progress

No. of candidates with criminal convictions	2	5	Regress
No. of municipalities in which candidates with legal issues are running	9	7	Progress
No. of political parties including candidates with legal issues	4	2	Progress
No. of political entities including candidates with legal issues	4	6 ³²	Regress

Table 4: Comparison of the 2021 Local Elections with the 2025 Local Elections

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³² Note: One of them is an independent candidate..