



# RESULTS OF THE MONITORING OF THE 2021 LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

GURIA CIVIC CENTRE  
OZURGETI  
2021

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# Introduction

On October 2, 2021, municipal elections were held in Georgia, including in Ozurgeti municipality. According to the law, the pre-election period begins two months before the election. However, the election process did not end in the first round and the second round of elections was held on October 30. Accordingly, from 1 August to 30 October, the pre-election process was monitored within the project, with the aim of assessing the reflection of the identified stakeholder challenges in the pre-election promises. The monitoring report presents the pre-election monitoring results of all the major candidates and political parties whose candidates ran in the municipal council and mayoral elections.

The report was prepared with the support of the American National Democratic Institute (NDI) as part of the Informed Choice project implemented by the Guria Civic Center and Women for Regional Development. The project aims to facilitate a substantive policy discussion based on the specific needs of interest groups among election subjects.



# 1. Monitoring methodology

The monitoring was mainly based on:

- The election campaign of the candidates in the pre-election period, their meetings with the population;
- Debates on local TV;
- Public information disseminated on websites and their personal pages on the social network;
- Video interviews recorded with candidates as part of the project;
- Written answers of candidates to the problematic issues identified as a result of the needs survey.

## 2. Results of the needs assessment survey of vulnerable groups

There were three vulnerable groups selected within the project:

- Adjara community living in Ozurgeti municipality (Nasakirali, Laituri, Naruja)
- Young people living in Ozurgeti
- Urban population living in Ozurgeti

In order to thoroughly study the needs of these groups, the project team analyzed the 2017-2021 budget, introduced information and consulting services, addressed local NGOs to name priority issues for them, and conducted a desk survey.

The following studies were used in desk research:

- Youth Agency Survey - "Survey of Youth Needs, Challenges, Interests and Resources" (2020), which deals with youth involvement in public and cultural life and youth services
- "Survey of Satisfaction of the Population of Georgia with Public Services" (2017), which summarizes the attitudes of Georgian citizens towards public services provided by local municipalities and central government.
- A survey was conducted by the Guria Civic Center in 2020 on the needs of the population.

As a result of the first phase of the research, a focus group discussion guide was developed around the main areas identified and focus groups were conducted in Zoom format directly with the target groups. With the help of the research, both common challenges were identified, which equally concern the representatives of all three groups, as well as specific needs for individual

groups. These challenges require the development of appropriate visions by political actors and their consistent implementation through the active involvement of the public.

## 2.1. Main findings of needs assessment research



Urban residents say that what has been done is largely the result of individual initiatives. Small infrastructure projects such as rehabilitation of one of the central parks (so-called triangular, next to the State Theater), were named as positive changes, however, the issue of water supply to the city remains a problem - water is supplied to Ozurgeti based on a daily schedule.

Traffic is unregulated, there are no public toilets, public spaces are not adapted for wheelchair users. One of the respondents said that they were making sidewalks before the elections, but later they abandoned the work.



According to the representatives of the Adjarian community, basically everything has changed for the better: the road, water management, internet, kindergarten, landfill have been repaired. However, they added that, still, many things remain unregulated, for example, small connecting roads where water and mud get in the way, along with unmanaged outdoor lights. Two respondents pointed out that the central road was repaired in order to move around trees, hence making of the road became necessary to transport those trees.

Residents of all three settlements point out the inconvenience caused by the disruption of internal roads. " They [Government representatives] came here many times and met with locals. They mostly did what they promised us. However, one thing they promised us internal roads and they could not do it for us. " - Middle-aged man, Laituri

When talking directly to them about the problems in the city/village/district, the following common problems are clearly identified:

- Access to water supply - "The mayor came to us and said that there will be tender announced for repairing the road and carried out the water supply projects, that work had to be completed already, but we do not know anything, the money was allocated, and we do not even know where this money went" - Naruja, a middle-aged woman. The issue of water supply by schedule and sewerage system in the city was also mentioned as a problem.
- Malfunction of public transport, and in the case of urban population - the lack of public transport in the city.

The problems named in the focus group are also in line with the "Public Service Satisfaction Survey of the Georgian Population", according to which only 14% in Guria have access to the central sewerage system.



Young people talk about the absence of recreational spaces, squares, sports fields, youth spaces. They say there are no places for young people for socialization and cultural interaction.

"In fact, there are no youth spaces in Ozurgeti. We cannot have cultural interaction. " - a young woman, a resident of the city "We do not have circles for young people in the village - chess, dance, etc. art schools. Parents do not have the means to take their children to the city. " - A young woman, Laituri

The following were also named as important problems:

1. Lack of on-site jobs;
2. Increased migration of young people.

Several respondents cited the issue of the city's borders and the fact that Ozurgeti does not have a master plan as a problem. The issue of stray dogs is also very acute.



There are seven priority issues for all three target groups:

1. Municipal Transport: Lack of Municipal Transport Low access to villages and towns
2. Inaccessible water supply, quality of the drinking water
3. Lack of sewer network, especially in the city area
4. Lack of sports, entertainment, recreation, cultural-educational spaces, low access
5. Disordered traffic (sidewalks, crossings, traffic lights, parking) and internal roads
6. Lack of city master plan
7. An abundance of stray dogs

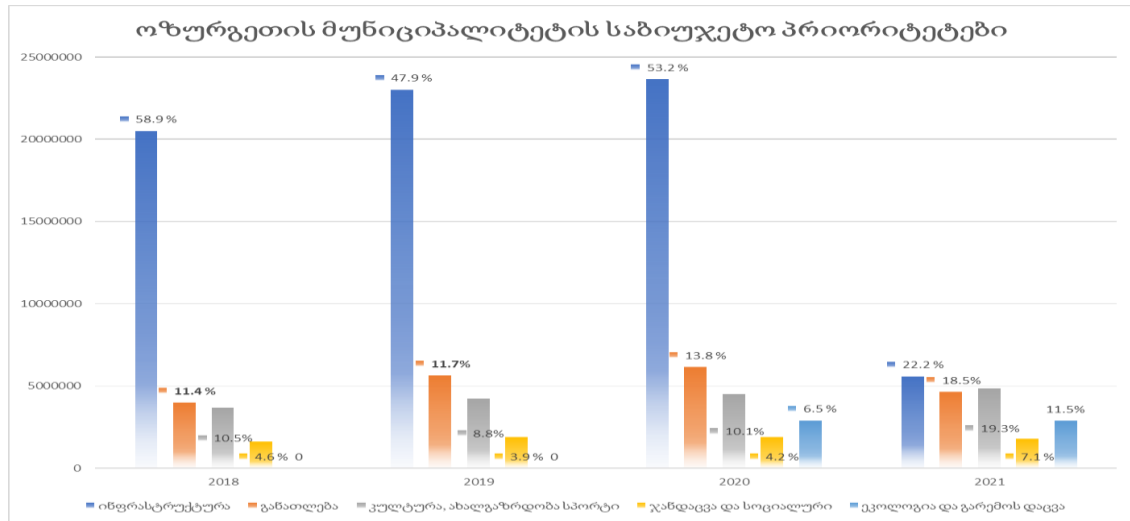
## 2.2. Analysis of the budget of Ozurgeti Municipality for 2017-2021

The analysis of the budget of Ozurgeti Municipality for 2018-2021 shows that every year about half of the municipal budget expenditures are spent on infrastructure. At the same time, the share of infrastructure expenditures in the municipal budget is growing every year. In 2020, infrastructure spending accounted for more than 53% of the budget. Expenditures on all other

budget areas (education; ecology and environmental protection; culture, youth, sports, etc.) are significantly less than the expenditures on infrastructure.

Nevertheless, the attitude of the population towards the improvement of infrastructure is heterogeneous and it varies according to the type of settlement.

**Ozurgeti Municipal Budget Priorities:**



Infrastructure

education

Culture and youth and sport

Environment protection

Healthcare and social services

### 3. Analysis of pre-election promises of mayoral candidates and parties participating in the elections.

During the pre-election campaign, the candidates talked about the 7 challenges that were identified during the needs group research.

#### 3.2. United National Movement mayoral candidate - Irakli Glonti



The candidate focuses mainly on access to drinking water and damaged internal roads. However, nowhere is a specific plan written on how it intends to solve these problems.



The candidate met with the population of Gurianti and drinking water and disorderly internal roads were mentioned as one of the problems.



Responds to the problem we have identified - water supply and drinking water, unregulated internal roads.



The candidate held a meeting in the town of Naruja. The post says that one of the problems of the population is the disorganized internal roads. The candidate says that "solving these problems is not difficult and requires immediate solution!"



Responding to the problem we have identified - disordered internal roads.



The candidate visited the village of Baileti and talked about the problems such as, including drinking water and depreciated roads.



Responds to the problem we have identified - water supply and drinking water, unregulated internal roads.





Responding to the problem we have identified - disorderly internal roads.



The candidate was in Laituri, where he met locals and pointed out damaged road as one of the leading issues and promised the citizens to rehabilitate this road.



Responding to the problem we have identified - damaged internal roads.

### 3.1. For Gakharia-Georgia, mayoral candidate - Gia Tsetskhladze



The candidate's election campaign and promises echoed the following pressing issues identified by our survey:

- Creating spaces for sports activities in the municipality and arranging them, arranging recreational spaces
- Drinking Water
- Inner Roads
- Sewerage System
- Municipal Transport



The candidate met with the population of the village Dzimiti. The village mainly has a problem with drinking water, damaged internal roads and a sports field for young people. According to the candidate, "In case of my victory, I will do my best in all villages and towns, so that after four years people will say that these good deeds were done during Tsetskhladze's mayor cycle."



Responds to the problem we have identified - creating spaces for sports activities in the municipality and arranging them, issues of drinking water and internal roads, sewerage, public squares.



The candidate met with the population of Ivane Javakhishvili Street, where the problem of a disordered sewerage system was identified. The population is also demanding the arrangement of a square named after Zaur Tenieshvili, a soldier killed in the August 2008 war. Tsetskhladze says that his program describes how to solve these problems.



Responds to the problem we have identified - sewerage system, arrangement of recreational spaces



Gia Tsetskhladze met with the population of Naghobilevi village. The problem of drinking water is the most pressing on the ground. Tsetskhladze introduced them to the party program, which talks about roads, drinking water, sewerage and municipal transport. "If I win, I will quickly start working on solving the accumulated problems. It will be: rehabilitation of internal roads, problem of drinking water in villages, gasification, drainage canals, access roads to arable lands or increase of production efficiency of agricultural products, citrus, hazelnuts, tea. "



Responds to the problem we have identified - drinking water, sewerage, municipal transport, internal roads.



Meeting in Natanebi, at the meeting, the citizens highlighted the problems of unregulated internal roads, water and employment. "I do not want the people of my city in the 21st century to worry about water, roads and gas." said Mr. Tsetskhladze



Responds to the problem we have identified - drinking water, internal roads.



Tsetskhladze met with the population of Georgiashvili Street. The following problems were identified - disorganized sewage system, depreciated internal roads, dilapidated infrastructure, non-existent outdoor lighting and neglecting wellbeing of the environment.



Responds to the problem we have identified - sewerage, internal roads



The candidate met with the population of Gurianta. The locals here were demanding the construction of a modern type of kindergarten in the village, the arrangement of a sports field and the solution of the drinking water problem.



Responds to the problem we have identified - sports fields, drinking water



The candidate met with the residents of Griboedov Street. Infrastructural problems were also identified: the broken sewerage system, the need to improve the seafront and the repairing of a public square to be safe for children.



Responds to the problem we have identified - sewerage, improvement of the square and recreation area



The candidate met with voters in the village of Meria, where it was noted that the sewerage problem needs to be urgently addressed. There is no entertainment space for children. The mayoral candidate talked about ways to solve their problems and improve their living conditions.



Responds to the problem we have identified - sewerage, public square and sports field amenities.

### 3.3. Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia mayoral candidate - Avtandil Talakvadze



The candidate's election campaign and promises responded to the following acute problems identified by our survey:

- Creating spaces for sports activities in the municipality and arranging them, arranging recreational spaces
- Drinking Water
- Inner Roads
- Sewerage System
- Municipal Transport
- Stray dog issues
- Damaged infrastructure of the main and inner roads

His promises addressed almost every problem that emerged from our research. In the second round, he continued to meet with the population and talk about the 8-point plan.

During the meeting in the village of Bakhvi, the candidate made the following promise-" the village of Bakhvi will have a new football stadium"



Responds to the problem we have identified - sports, entertainment, recreation, cultural and educational spaces.



The candidate presented to the public transport drivers a plan for the development of the transportation system and the renewal of the vehicle fleet.



Responding to the problem we have identified - faulty public transport, traffic schedules and the number of routes fail to meet the needs of the population.



The candidate publishes the following promises on the social network:

- Contemporary transport system and new buses for Ozurgeti
- Arrangement of squares and recreational spaces
- Resolve housing issues
- Solving the perennial problem of stray dogs
- Regulation of sewerage systems



Responds to the following problem we have identified - sports, entertainment, recreation, cultural-educational spaces, faulty public transport, disorganized sewage system, stray dogs.



The candidate met with young people and made following promises:

- Promoting youth employment by funding startup projects
- Vocational education support
- Arrangement of entertainment infrastructure and events
- Sports projects and more involvement in sports



Responds to the problem we have identified - sports, entertainment, recreation, cultural and educational spaces.



The candidate posted a video on the problem of stray dogs and called on residents to join the campaign.



Responds to the problem we have identified - stray dogs

The candidate met with the population of Ureki and presented the election program. He made the following promises:

- Upgrading social and economic infrastructure;
- Solving water supply problems and repairing the drainage system;
- Maintenance of a modern transport system and introduction of new buses;
- Construction of a new school in Ureki;
- Support for entrepreneurial, agricultural and tourism projects - creating jobs;



Responding to the problem we have identified - public transport in the villages and settlements of Ozurgeti Municipality is faulty, the traffic schedule and the number of routes do not meet the needs of the population. Water supply.



A promise was made by the candidate - Ozurgeti will have modern buses and a transport system with updated waiting areas.



Responding to the problem we have identified - public transport in the villages and hamlets of Ozurgeti Municipality is defective, traffic schedule and number of routes can not meet the needs of the population.



The candidate introduced the election program - 8-point plan to the residents of Ozurgeti. He spoke about promoting employment and new jobs, solving housing problems, arranging recreational spaces and modern transport.



Responds to the problem we have identified - arrangement of recreational spaces, municipal transport.



The candidate had meetings in the villages of Ozurgeti municipality. He stated the following promises:

- to solve water supply problems;
- Upgrading of social infrastructure - repair of roads;
- Promoting new projects in the field of agriculture;
- Rehabilitation of historical sites and arrangement of public spaces.



Responds to the problems we have identified - water supply and none paved roads.



The candidate had a meeting with people with disabilities in Ozurgeti, where he presented the social priorities of the election program and future plans:

- Gradual adaptation of the environment and infrastructure;
- Development of support services;
- Opening of an autism center in Ozurgeti;
- Support for rehabilitation and rehabilitation services;
- Promoting employment opportunities.



Responds to the problem we have identified - the regulation of road infrastructure.



A video in support of the candidate was published on the official page of the candidate, in which two football player girls talk about the problem of young people living in Ozurgeti who do not have sports fields. They also note that Talakvadze's priority is to solve the problems of young people and promote a healthy lifestyle.



Responds to the problem we have identified - creating spaces for sports activities in the municipality and arranging them.



The candidate makes a promise that Ozurgeti will have modern buses and a transport system with updated waiting areas.



Responding to the problem we have identified - public transport in the villages and settlements of Ozurgeti Municipality is defective, traffic schedule and number of routes cannot meet the needs of the population. Improvement of road infrastructure.



The candidate publishes a post about meeting with the villagers and says he has submitted his election program and an 8-point plan for Ozurgeti, tailored to the needs of the municipality. Specifically mentioned:



- To solve water supply problems;
- Upgrading of social infrastructure - repairing the roads;
- Promoting new projects in the field of agriculture;
- Rehabilitation of historical sites and arrangement of public spaces.



Responds to the problem we have identified - water supply and drinking water, none paved/damaged roads, arrangement of cultural-educational spaces.



The candidate published a post saying - "I introduced the election program to our fellow citizens in Ozurgeti - an 8-point plan that will meet the needs of today with action. "Promoting employment and new jobs, solving housing problems, arranging recreational spaces and modern transport are leading issues among other tasks, these will be our priorities in the city."



Responds to the problems we have identified such as arrangement of recreational spaces, municipal transport.



The candidate published a post in which he once again talks about his priority issues and plans in the following areas:

- Modern transport to Ozurgeti
- Providing decent housing and step-by-step solution to housing problems
- Solve water supply problems
- Rehabilitation of historical sites in towns and villages and arrangement of squares



Responds to the problem we have identified - water supply and drinking water, arrangement of recreational spaces, municipal transport.



The candidate publishes a post where he talks about his priority issues - arranging public spaces in villages; Promotion of agricultural projects; To solve water supply problems; Infrastructure upgrades in specific areas; Involve young people more in sports, education and entrepreneurship initiatives.



Responds to the problem we have identified - sports, entertainment, recreation, cultural-educational spaces, water supply and drinking water.



The candidate is publishing a post - "I introduced the election program to our fellow citizens in Ozurgeti - the 8-point plan that will meet the needs of today with actions. "Promoting employment and new jobs, solving housing problems, arranging recreational spaces and modern transport - among other tasks, these will be our priorities in the city."



Responds to the problem we have identified - arrangement of recreational spaces and municipal transport.



The candidate publishes a post with the priority issues where he claims and has a specific plans that in case he becomes a mayor he will take care of the following issues:

- Solve water supply problems which are still stressing;
- Public transport issue;
- Housing problems where municipal aid is inefficiently targeted;
- Disorganized social infrastructure;
- Non existent of the consistent migration policy in the municipality.



Responds to the problem we have identified - water supply and drinking water and municipal transportation.

Publishes a post where he talks about sports and youth. He emphasizes that his plan intends to rehabilitate sports fields and arrange new recreational spaces.



Responds to the problem we have identified - sports, entertainment, recreation, cultural and educational spaces.



The candidate publishes a video in support of himself, in which he talks about the problems of young people and that Talakvadze will solve the problem of young people who have sports, entertainment, cultural and educational spaces in Ozurgeti municipality.



Responds to the problem we have identified - sports, entertainment, recreation, cultural and educational spaces.

### 3.5. Independent mayoral candidate - Gocha Dzimistarashvili



Water supply - ,, My main priority is to solve the water problem, which will be solved within 2 years from the day that I'm elected. Everyone will have quality drinking water. A large part of the budget will be spent on solving this problem."

Sewerage - "It is really difficult to solve the sewerage problem and it requires huge sums of money, but it is possible to solve this problem in a part of the city."

Public transport - "Private bus lines will be launched on key streets, but independent entrepreneurs will be financed with a small amount of money to encourage them. For example, they will receive car oil, there will be waiting rooms which will be small in size, low budget but built with quality. Attention will be given to road signs."

General plan - "The plan will be created in about 6 months."



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - general plan, road infrastructure, water supply and sewerage, stray dogs, public transport

### 3.4. Independent mayoral candidate - Konstantine Sharashenidze



The independent mayoral candidate of Ozurgeti municipality spoke about the unhealthy election environment in the first and second rounds of the elections. He also actively talked about bribery of voters by a rival candidate. He also accused the government of deliberate action against him and cited specific examples.

On October 28, a march was held in Ozurgeti in support of the candidate - A video titled "No to violence! No to bribery! No to falsification! " of what Sharashenidze did during his 4 years as mayor in Ozurgeti municipality has been published.

Prior to the first round, during the election period, he mainly spoke and published information about the projects implemented during his mayoral term in Ozurgeti Municipality.



Regarding the promises, the candidate's election promises covered almost all the problems, which were revealed by the results of our research:

- The general plan for the development of the city of Ozurgeti will be prepared and approved
- City streets and sidewalks will be improved, an environment adapted for cycling and pedestrians will be created
- Special attention will be given to the development and popularization of the tourist zones in the municipality
- The city sewerage and sewage network project will be prepared
- The municipality will take care of the stray animal problem
- We will continue to build recreational and sporting areas!
- We will increase accessibility to public transport
- We will arrange youth spaces and support the projects initiated by them
- Under the employment program, local production will be encouraged, an attractive investment environment will be created
- We will construct and maintain water supply systems in the villages



The candidate published a video of what was done in Ozurgeti during his mayoral term and what he will do if he wins:

- The general plan for the development of the city of Ozurgeti will be prepared and approved
- City streets and sidewalks will be improved, an environment adapted for cycling and pedestrians will be created
- Special attention will be given to the development and popularization of the tourist zones in the municipality
- The city sewerage and sewage network project will be prepared
- The municipality will take care of the stray animal problem
- We will continue to build recreational and sporting areas!
- We will increase accessibility to public transport
- We will arrange youth spaces and support the projects initiated by them
- Under the employment program, local production will be encouraged, an attractive investment environment will be created
- We will construct and maintain water supply systems in the villages



The promises respond to the problems we have identified - general plan, road infrastructure, water supply and sewerage, stray dogs, sports fields and recreation areas, public transport, youth cultural-educational spaces.

### 3.7. Party Participating in Sakrebulo Elections - Third Force - Strategy Builder - Candidate Vladimer Vadachkoria



There should be no municipal transport-related NNLE and it should be managed by a private company as it is an emerging field. When it comes to progress and development, it is better for the private sector to think about it than for the municipality.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - regarding municipal transport.



Sewerage has long been a problem in Ozurgeti. Resolving this issue requires uniting parties, people and businesses. It is difficult to talk about the amount of funds needed in advance. The streets of the city, where there is still no clean drinking water, are relatively easy to solve. Wells are often used in villages to solve the water problem, but I do not know how effective this is. After coming to the City Council, I can be actively involved in discussing and resolving similar projects.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - water supply and sewerage.



The problem with dogs is very acute. There is shelter, however, it's help is not enough. We need to create proper conditions for these dogs. We have professionals who can handle this topic.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - stray dogs.



Unfortunately, as a result of prices on tenders falling, the winning company does not pave the roads fully and qualitatively. It is better to pave a certain street from start to end, including its sidewalks and drainage system, so that it won't need repairs every year. It is better to do less and but with quality than to pave many miles and have to repair them every year.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - the improvement of road infrastructure.



A plan is always needed to do anything. Especially when it comes to the city. Parking has been improved. In case of coming to the City Council, I will definitely raise the issue of arranging the Ekadia Forest Park. This recreational space will help local citizens, tourists and will encourage a healthy lifestyle.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - the development of recreational spaces. Ozurgeti Central Library really needs to be renovated and arranged to meet modern standards. Libraries are also needed in the boroughs. This is a necessary space for development.



It is necessary to make bicycle paths for young people. This is possible on some of the streets in Ozurgeti.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - creating youth and educational spaces.

## 3.6. Party participating in the Sakrebulo elections - European Georgia



ევროპული საქართველო  
გოგრაგბა ტაგისუჯღუღუბისთვის



Public transport - "In our opinion, environmentally friendly transport, such as trolleybuses, must operate on the territory of the city and nearby villages. In case of our victory, we will develop municipal transport routes and a plan/schedule. We will identify the winning company that will serve the passengers based on the tender. We will subsidize the interests of vulnerable groups and various social stratification. We will work with banks and various donor organizations to purchase municipal eco-transport. "



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - in connection with municipal transport.



Water supply and sewerage system - "In case of our victory, 75% of the total infrastructure budget for the first 2 years will be fully directed at solving this problem."



The promise responds to the needs we have identified - water supply and sewerage.



Stray dogs - A special service (with competent staff) will be set up, with the joint cooperation of this service, the mayor and the mayor's representatives in the territorial bodies, it will be possible to register and administer both domestic and stray dogs. Dog houses will be set up for stray dogs.



The promise responds to the needs we have identified - stray dogs.



Internal roads and road infrastructure - "A long-term plan will be created, where a schedule of rehabilitation of internal roads will be planned, taking priorities into account."





The promise responds to the needs we have identified - to improve road infrastructure.



General plan - "To create the most important document that develops the city and the municipality in general, we will hire local and invited experts and specialists on the very first day in case of our victory. In a short period of time we will compile, present it to the public and authorize the General Plan for developing Ozurgeti."



The promise responds to the needs we have identified - the need to create a General Plan.



Recreational, sports and cultural-educational Spaces - „On this issue, we believe that the public park, square, sports field, etc. Culture and leisure facilities should not be located in the city area alone. We think that the city should be expanded and we should place the above-mentioned facilities in the administrative and gathering places of different villages. Sanctions will be stricter on dog rights violators."



The promise responds to the needs we have identified - recreational, sports and cultural-educational spaces.

### 3.7. Party Participating in Sakrebulo Elections - Girchi More Freedom - Candidate Zura Kutidze



Girchi - More Freedom perceives the upcoming self-government elections as a referendum that should result in the early elections and would like to work with a new coalition government to develop a fundamentally changed system of the government. Setting up a country where the role of the state is

minimized, where there is aloof government and municipalities solve their problems locally. We do not think that the City Council should work on some specific plan that would eliminate the transport policy, we say that it should be done by the private sector, while the self-government is obliged to buy the best product from the already existing free market. We see the same problems with water supply or sewerage systems. This field is also fully monopolized. There are no other provider companies we could choose from.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - municipal transport, water supply and sewerage.



On top of a large number of children deprived of care in the municipality, when there are many families who do not have money for food or housing, it is unreasonable to spend money or the human resources on stray animals. Arranging and caring for an adapted living environment for animals is the prerogative of fully charitable organizations and civil society. For the removal/euthanasia/sterilization of aggressive and publicly dangerous animals from the streets, the municipality should cooperate with private companies that will emerge if there is a free business environment.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - stray dogs.



The fundamental rights are human life, freedom and property. For "More Freedom" team there are no more valuable commandments than this trinity. We believe, human property is as inviolable as his life and freedom. We promise to do our best to free the construction sector from all regulations and never to have a pre-construction framework, which we will call the "Gene Plan". We promise to do our best to free the construction sector from all regulations and never to have a pre-construction framework, which we will call the "General Plan".



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - the general plan.

### 3.8. Party participating in the Sakrebulo elections Ana Dolidze - for the people Candidate Vano Gogolashvili



The party representative talks about increasing access to social services and answers the questions sent by the Guria Civic Center as follows:" There is one answer to all the above questions: the political party" Ana Dolidze - for the people "In case of entering the City Council, we will discuss in detail the expenditure part of the Ozurgeti budget, We will set priorities (in which infrastructure projects will by no means be brought to the forefront, because they are mainly a source of so-called "financial misappropriation" and are less focused on the real public good of the people); It will be related to the strengthening of the rural population, the creation of jobs, and all this will be done with the broad involvement of various representatives of the society and even the parties that are not in the City Council, publicly and transparently.

### 3.9. Party participating in the Sakrebulo elections - Lelo - candidate Togo Chelidze



Municipal transport should serve all administrative units of Ozurgeti, both in the city and in the village. Transport should be adapted as well as adjusted to school and kindergarten curriculum. The type and quantity of transport should be determined taking into account the size of the administrative units and the number of inhabitants; It is difficult to predict the budget without proper research. In the first stage, the municipality should study the current situation, determine what are the needs and what the budget should be. the self-government cannot create a full-fledged public transport system at once, although a plan must be drawn up within a specific, reasonable timeframe and should be implemented in consecutive stages.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - municipal transport.



In the conditions of scarce financial resources the municipality cannot create a water supply, filtering and sewerage systems. The United Water Company and the Ministry of Regional Development are primarily responsible for these issues. In Zugdidi, for example, the construction of water supply and sewerage system was completed in 2021, which was fully financed from the central budget. The municipality should work with the center to obtain funding for the construction of such systems.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - water supply and sanitation.



"An animal shelter will not solve the problem. The way to solve the problem is to account for all the stray dogs, their sterilization, vaccination. The group of people responsible for solving the problem should be identified, a plan for stopping the uncontrolled situation of the stray dogs should be developed, the budget should be calculated and then it should be implemented.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - stray animals.



The crucial part is manage and account for the execution of the infrastructural works, the quality control and the submission of the project after it is officially certified to make sure that the specific road or building has been fulfilled according to the standards and norms. Without a general plan, the development of a municipality would be impossible. Given the scarce local financial resources, the municipality must obtain external funding to develop a general plan.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - road infrastructure improvement and general plan.



First of all, a standard for the development of green recreational spaces should be developed, it should become part of the general plan and new spaces should be arranged only after that. Recreational spaces should be within walking distance for residents of all settlements of all administrative units of the municipality.



The promises respond to the needs we have identified - the arrangement of recreational spaces and the general plan.

## 4. Monitoring the second round of municipal elections

The project team asked seven questions to the majoritarian candidates of the Georgian Dream and the United National Movement in Naruja-Laituri and asked them if they had a specific plan on how to solve the seven most acute problems in Ozurgeti municipality and what is the situation in the majoritarian constituency in this regard.

### 4.1. Giorgi Chaganava - "Georgian Dream"



**Public transport** - "Modern municipal transport is one of the priorities of our team's 8-point plan. It is planned to purchase new buses that will facilitate the movement of the population, will serve all the precincts in my majoritarian constituency and will run according to the established schedule. "



**Sewage system** - "There is no sewerage system in villages and towns. As for the treatment plant, this problem was not even on the agenda of the previous convocation. In case of my election, I promise the people of Ozurgeti that I will raise the issue of construction of the treatment plant at the City Council session. "



**Water supply** - "This problem has been solved in my majoritarian constituency, water is supplied to the population on a 24-hour schedule. I see my role in solving this problem as follows - I will support all the projects submitted for water supply. "



**Stray dogs** - "The problem of stray dogs is acute both in my majoritarian constituency and in the municipality as a whole. "Our team is planning to set up a modern shelter for stray animals and the team has a comprehensive plan to address this issue."



**Internal Roads and Traffic** - "Strategy for the regulation of local roads is one of the priority issues included in the 8-point plan of the team. It is planned to improve the internal roads, to regulate the traffic. "



**General plan** - "General plan is necessary for the development, broadening, regulation and protection of recreational and public spaces in Ozurgeti. "In case, if I win in the elections, establishing general plan for Ozurgeti will be my priority.



**Recreational, sports and cultural-educational spaces** - "Young people are worried about this problem in the constituency where I am running. I promise the youth that both central and mini-stadiums in both boroughs will be organized according to precincts. "Sport, recreation and establishing a healthy lifestyle are the goals of our team."

## 4.2. Raindi Dumbadze - "United National Movement"



Public transport - "I think, first of all, we should start by increasing the number of vehicles that will be maintained and adapted, and the traffic route should be accessible to all villages or settlements in Ozurgeti municipality. In addition, in order to increase the frequency of traffic schedules, I think it is possible to create a bus system that will be accessible to any segment, overall, all these steps will eliminate the problem."



Sewage system - "Due to the complexity and extent of the problem, it is difficult to name a specific time, when / for what year the plan will be implemented, however, the lack of sewerage network, as well as treatment plant, is alarming and complies significant problem for the population and environment. The first steps should be taken soon and all the resources that will help to solve this problem should be accumulated."



Water supply - "There is a lot to be done to implement efficient water systems, which will require a large amount of money. "I will support all villages in Ozurgeti Municipality to receive clean drinking water and a 24-hour water supply schedule."



Stray Dogs - Ozurgeti Municipality does not have a sufficient number of shelters to isolate and care for stray animals. I think that effective steps should be taken to solve this problem, for which the municipality should take responsibility. First, mass sterilization/castration of street animals should be carried out. It is also necessary to register them, there must be a chipping obligation, this will allow us to know the exact statistics, after which it will be easy to build a certain number of shelters and provide appropriate care / maintenance. Also, the awareness of the population should be increased and it should not be easy to leave the animal on the street. The population should have more responsibilities, which can be achieved by imposing a fine if the animal is thrown out of the house.



Internal Roads and Traffic - "It is almost impossible to get to my constituency by ambulance on time due to an internal road conditions. First of all, the internal roads must be regulated, which will also regulate the traffic. With the regulation of the internal roads, it is necessary to make outdoor lights on the street, to move at night so that it is no longer an obstacle for both pedestrians and traffic. In case of my victory, I will definitely raise this issue at the City Council session."



General plan - "Ozurgeti has a well-planned and well-established city structure, street network and its own unique character, which can be better presented and developed if there is a general plan. I consider it necessary to have a general plan, as it is the most important document, which in turn is a legitimate instrument for stable, long-term and sustainable development. In addition, it ensures the balance of private and public interests and the reduction of risks and arbitrariness of individual decision-making, the establishment of public order, the rational and efficient use of land, etc."



Recreational, sports and cultural-educational spaces - "There are no recreational and cultural-educational spaces in my majoritarian constituency in particular. Also, there is no sports field in some areas, that is, it is disorganized and is not used for its intended purpose. "I think it is necessary to arrange

recreation zones, educational centers and football mini-pitches in the areas where there are none, and to rehabilitated the existing and disordered pitches."

## 5. Conclusion

In Ozurgeti Municipality, the 2021 local self-government elections were characterized by a high degree of polarization and tension. The activities carried out by the Guria Civic Center and partner organizations facilitated the possibility of conducting a pre-election campaign based on a substantive discussion in a public space. For this purpose, the candidates' answers about the 7 most urgent necessities of the population were published in the local press and social networks. The video footage of the pre-election meeting between the mayoral candidates was posted on local television as well as on the Internet, video addresses of the candidates were recorded and shared.

The activities of the projects made a significant contribution to the tense pre-election process and made it more subject-oriented, as evidenced by the results of the pre-election meetings and monitoring of social networks by the candidates. All seven acute issues identified under the project were reflected in the pre-election programs of the candidates of all three parties and the elected mayor in Ozurgeti Municipality.

Based on the mentioned monitoring report and its results, a voter monitoring form was created (see the appendix) which is based on the following resources:

- Answers to 7 public questions submitted by candidates;
- Results of candidates' pre-election campaign monitoring (press, social networks, meetings with voters)
- Pre-election meeting between candidates and civil society, on TV format;
- Video addresses of candidates.

The monitoring form covers all the issues that will be effectively monitored by civil society over the next four years. Also, based on the promises of the elected mayor, a "Table of Promises of the Mayor of Ozurgeti Municipality, Avtandil Talakvadze" was prepared, which will be published and distributed to the population, as well as disseminated through social networks and print media.

# Appendices

## Table of the Promises of the Mayor of Ozurgeti Municipality - Avtandil Talakvadze

Mark the completed promises in **green**, if there is a discussion on the issue - mark it **yellow** and if the promise was completely ignored mark it **red**.

New buses were imported for the municipality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bus stops are rehabilitated	<input type="checkbox"/>
During the 4 year period, 3-5 million GEL was spent on improving public transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working on the treatment of the sewerage and waste has started	<input type="checkbox"/>
A project on the sewerage infrastructure is prepared	<input type="checkbox"/>
The following villages have the central water management systems: Meria, SHroma, Konchkati, Dzimiti	<input type="checkbox"/>
A new shelter for the stray dogs is functioning	<input type="checkbox"/>
There is a hot line	<input type="checkbox"/>
There are municipal regulations on abandoning the dogs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Taking in stray dogs is encouraged	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road projects are backed up by the social, economical and geographical arguments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pedestrians' security is protected	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cycling tracks are marked on the roads	<input type="checkbox"/>
General plan of the city is prepared	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport and recreation spaces are available for everybody	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Monitoring Table of the promises was prepared with the support of the American National Democratic Institute (NDI) as part of the Informed Choice project implemented by the Guria Civic Center and Women for Regional Development. The project aims to facilitate a substantive policy discussion based on the specific needs of interest groups among election subjects.





## Monitoring Form for Voters



<b>Infrastructure</b>			
Construction of sewerage infrastructure, including the arrangement of the treatment plant	Arrangement of sewerage systems, including in villages, using modern innovative methods	Drinking water supply and control of ongoing projects in Ozurgeti, settlements and resort areas	
Arrange new water supply infrastructure where this is possible and cost-effective	Access to drinking water for both urban and rural residents	Repairing internal roads damaged by heavy vehicles and monitoring them	
Rehabilitation of reservoirs with water pumping systems	Regulation of internal roads, based on the relevant conclusions of specialists instead of party interests	Arrangement of sewerage systems with the following priority - city, towns, and resorts	
Utilization of technical water resource	Arranging a bicycle lane on the bank of the river Bzhuzhi	Controlling the efficiency of spending the funds allocated on internal roads	
Arranging wells with a simple suction system			
Paving the roads fairly and with social, economic and geographical arguments			
Arranging moto and bicycle lanes			
Regulation of traffic			
Providing decent housing and step-by-step solution to housing problems			
<b>Transport</b>			
Purchase of new buses	Cheap, comfortable, and affordable municipal transport in all villages	Comfortable and cheap means of transport in all administrative-territorial units.	
Rehabilitation of public transport stops	Creating a new municipal transport system including employing existing service providers	Full upgrade of the damaged public-transport system	

Installation of information boards		5-6 million allocated to improve transport services	
Development of private and public partnerships in the field of transport			
3-5 million allocated in 4 years to solve transportation problems			
<b>Environmental protection and safety</b>			
Arranging a shelter for stray animals in inter-municipal cooperation	Massive sterilization/castration and vaccination of animals (on rabies)	Protecting the city's large and small rivers from the discharge of sewage liquid waste	
Upgrading and adapting regulations on stray animals	Arranging a rehabilitation shelter for aggressive and diseased animals	Build a shelter for homeless animals that meets modern requirements	
Encouraging adopting stray dogs and encouraging the population to take care of them		Information campaign on homeless animals	
Establish a hotline for stray animals		Establishment of a special service for the management of stray animals	
Reducing road accidents			
<b>Local Economic Development and General Plan</b>			
Prepare and approve the city general plan	Creating a modern general plan with the involvement of local and foreign specialists	To approve the general plan through public discussion and active communication with the public	
Supporting entrepreneurial, agricultural and tourism projects, creating new jobs	Supporting investments and agricultural development projects		
Promoting youth employment by funding startup projects			
Supporting new projects in the field of agriculture			
Promoting employment opportunities			
Sales of rural products and promotion of small farm optimization			
<b>Sports, culture, youth affairs</b>			
Recreational and sports spaces in urban areas and village centers for all generations	Restoration of the tennis court	New recreational spaces with special priority for apartment buildings	
New football stadium in the village of Bakhvi	Well-kept amusement parks and public squares in every village, town, and district of the city	Innovative sports, recreational and cultural institutions, rehabilitation of the old ones	

Support for vocational education	Proper conditions for engaging youth in the sports lifestyle		
Rehabilitation of historical sites in towns and villages and arrangement of squares	Library with modern architecture and equipment		
More participation of the new generation in the process of local governance	Technology Park for youth		
Rehabilitation of sports fields and social clubs			
More support for sports coaches			
Making new recreational spaces			
Encouraging healthy lifestyle			
<b>6. Social services and healthcare</b>			
Gradual adaptation of the environment and infrastructure	Identify target groups and develop policies tailored to them	In the field of transport services - preferential tariffs for the socially vulnerable and pensioners	
Development of social support services			
Opening of an autism center in Ozurgeti			
Support for rehabilitation services			