

PRESS RELEASE: March 26, 2006

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center:
700 Cedar Road
Jenkintown, PA 19046
Tel: 215-663-1166
Fax: 215-663-8572
E-mail: contact@ukrainiancenterphila.org
Website: www.ukrainiancenterphila.org

UECC Press Committee:
E-mail [Andrea Porytko-Zharovsky –
philaukrcenterpress@yahoo.com](mailto:Andrea.Porytko-Zharovsky@philaukrcenterpress@yahoo.com)

PHILADELPHIA UKRAINIANS VOTE IN UKRAINE'S PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS IN NEW YORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jenkintown, PA – March 26, 2006. The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center (UECC) organized two buses for Philadelphia Ukrainians to travel to New York City on March 26, 2006 to vote and take part in Ukraine's parliamentary elections. The March 26 elections were the first major national referendum on President Viktor Yushchenko and the ideals of the Orange Revolution that brought him to power in early 2005.

The elections were all-encompassing and held on a massive scale. In addition to selecting a new 450-seat parliament, voters needed to choose their local, municipal representatives. Mayoral races were decided throughout Ukraine, as will the shape of oblast, district, village, and city councils. In the parliamentary elections, 45 parties were vying for seats, of which only six-to nine are believed to have a legitimate chance of passing the 3 percent threshold for parliamentary representation.

The Consulate General of Ukraine, which is on 49th Street between Second and Third avenues, is the polling place for more than 8,000 Ukrainian citizens who live in New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The consulate was set up in exactly the same fashion as polling sites in Ukraine. Voters seeking information about the 45 parties could read large wall posters that explained each party's platform. Voters presented their passports to election workers, who issued them a ballot. Voters filled out the ballots inside booths concealed by curtains. They then dropped the ballots in clear plastic containers.

The Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, founded in 1980, is a non-profit organization whose objective is to preserve and promote awareness of Ukrainian heritage

throughout the Philadelphia community. The UECC is located at 700 Cedar Road in Jenkintown, PA 19046 and can be reached at 215-663-1166 or e-mail at contact@ukrainiancenterphila.org. Please visit our website www.ukrainiancenterphila.org for photographs of this event.

Andrea Porytko-Zharovsky, UECC Press Committee