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## **RECORD RISE IN VOTE-BUYING REPORTS TRIGGERS NATIONWIDE POLICE RAIDS ACROSS BULGARIA**

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*Acting Interior Ministry Secretary General Georgi Kandev has reported that police operations against vote buying in Bulgaria have so far led to the seizure of around 1 million euros, alongside thousands of inspections and a sharp rise in citizen alerts ahead of the elections.*

We are already at 1 million euros. Operations are continuing in several cities, and there will be no pause before or after the elections, Kandev said in a video message shared via the Facebook profile of caretaker Prime Minister Andrey Gyurov. He added that law enforcement would continue targeting all cartels, old and new, stressing that those involved in vote buying are under constant surveillance.

According to Kandev, the Interior Ministry has recorded 1,740 reports related to the upcoming elections, compared with 418 during the 2024 vote, marking a 310% increase in signals from citizens. He described this as evidence of growing public engagement and trust in law enforcement efforts.

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