



**ALL INDIA GEM & JEWELLERY
DOMESTIC COUNCIL (GJC)**

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GUIDANCE OF
CANDIDATES CONTESTING FOR THE VACANT POSITION
OF COMMITTEE OF ADMINISTRATION (“COA”)
ELECTION 2020

I. GENERAL CONDUCT:-

- a. No candidate shall involve in any activity which may create differences or hatred or tension between different classification of members or their background, caste, religion, or group.
- b. Criticism of other candidates, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work. Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the GJC activities of the candidates or representatives of other candidates. Criticism of other candidates or their representatives based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.
- c. All the members are expected to maintain cordial and congenial atmosphere during election campaign.
- d. To maintain harmony amongst members, it is expected that all the candidates and their supporters shall refrain themselves from:-
 - i. criticism of other candidates on their private life;
 - ii. criticism of other candidates on baseless and unverified allegations;
 - iii. any comments on other candidates which are not concerned with the activities of the GJC.
- e. There shall be no appeal to groups, classification of members based on caste or communal feelings for securing votes.
- f. Any places of worship, or GJC premises/ properties shall not be used as forum for election propaganda.
- g. All the candidates shall avoid scrupulously all activities which are “corrupt practices” such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, arranging a congregation of voters/ members on or around a polling facility, or any member's premises, computer/s, networks, system/s being used for voting.
- h. The Returning Officer shall be monitoring the online voting process and a single computer / client / IP address shall not be used for exercising more than ONE VOTE. GJC is conducting elections on a principal of ONE VOTER - ONE VOTE.
- i. The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed home-life shall be respected by all the candidates
- j. Any candidate may resent his professional opinions or activities of the other candidate. However, indulging in any activity, such as approaching any place belonging to a member / individual / candidate for expression of dissent / support / protest shall not be resorted to under any circumstances.
- k. GJC is a trade body, and it's members may be having business /professional / family / social relations therefore the spirit in conducting an election in a brotherly / friendly atmosphere must be maintained by all candidates.
- l. No candidate either himself/herself or through supporter shall make use of any other GJC member's land, building, compound wall etc., without his

permission for conducting election related meetings, display of promotion or canvassing material like posters, banners, pamphlets, brochures etc.

- m. Members seeking votes may contact members directly on one to one basis, no hate propaganda against any individual or organization shall be allowed.
- n. All Candidates shall either themselves or through their representative ensure that they do not create obstructions in any meetings or group gatherings organized by other candidates.
- o. No processions, congregations, group meetings falling in the category of corrupt practices shall be allowed during the period from the date on which the elections are announced, till the date the results are declared.
- p. No COA meetings shall be conducted during the period from the date on which the elections are announced, till the date the results are declared, except emergency meetings warranted by an extraordinary situation, which satisfies the returning officer and election committee. Any COA meeting proposed to be conducted must have a prior approval from Election Committee, with adequate notice period and an agenda thereof to be circulated in advance with prior approval of Election Committee, no other matter except the circulated agenda shall be taken up in such COA.

II. MEETINGS, GATHERINGS, CONGREGATIONS OR PROCESSIONS AND GRIEVANCES:-

- a. A candidate shall ascertain in advance if there is any restriction or restraining order has been passed by returning officer against any candidate / representative / person. If any exemption/modification is required from such order, it shall be applied to the returning officer with the reason of such prayer.
- b. Any grievance or complaint by any candidate or member shall be addressed to returning officer, in due course of time, GJC, returning officer or election committee shall not be responsible for any delay in reporting of a grievance or complaint.
- c. As GJC elections are meant ONLY for GJC MEMBERS as candidates or participants, no third party, or outsider shall be allowed to influence the voting or express their views.
- d. Any candidate desirous on conducting any meeting / canvassing event / electronic material / promotion material must obtain the approval of election committee, at least 2 days in advance. Doing so without an approval could result in disqualification if found to be in the category of corrupt practices.
- e. In order to protect the environment and to promote fair practices amongst candidates and members, all the candidates may use only computer / electronic media for sending messages, canvassing or promotion. However no webinars on any platform shall be directly or indirectly be conducted to canvass or promote candidates. Candidates attending webinars must ensure they do not misuse any such platform to canvass themselves directly or indirectly.

III. POLLING DAYS

All Candidates shall –

- a. Co-operate with the Returning Officer / it's authorized representatives on election duty to ensure peaceful, orderly polling and to ensure complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction.
- b. Refrain from making any communication with Returning Officer/Polling Organizers in relation to their election unless the same if for any grievance or complaint.
- c. In order to protect environment, avoid circulation of paper, slip, sheets, poster, pamphlets brochures to ANY GJC MEMBER, whether voter or representative containing any symbol, name of the candidate or any other material to guide or influence any member or voter to vote for someone;
- d. Not allow unnecessary crowd to be collected near any other member's premises, polling facility or an individual member's computer / network / systems so as to avoid confrontation and tension among members and sympathizers of the candidates.
- e. Ensure that the candidate's premises to be crowd or congregation free, to clarify, no GJC members, in a number excess of 2 shall be present at a candidate's or other GJC member's premises / location. They shall not display any posters, flags, symbols, banners, pamphlets, brochures or any other propaganda material.
- f. Co-operate with the returning officer/ election committee / observers in complying with the restrictions to be imposed during polling day.
- g. Any non-compliance/ violation reported of the above, may result in cancellation / nullification / voiding of votes cast by members reported, and, candidates may face disqualification.

IV. OBSERVERS:-

The candidates or their representatives shall respect the presence of the observer nominated by the Government of India for observing the election process. In case of any specific complaint or problem regarding the conduct of elections or voting process shall be brought to the notice of the returning officer. No change in voter list shall be allowed except communication details.

V. EXISTING COA:-

The COA members having a position at the time of announcement of elections, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign and in particular –

- a. The COA members or the contesting candidates shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and shall not also make use of GJC machinery or personnel / office / staff / employees / executive office during the electioneering work.
- b. GJC transport including authorized air travel, vehicles, machinery and personnel shall not be used for furtherance of the interest of any candidate ;

- c. GJF office and / or member's premises shall not be monopolized by COA or contesting candidates for holding election meetings, and use of any other public place or property in connection with elections.
- d. Promotion / campaigning / soliciting of votes at the cost of GJC in any media and the misuse of GJC sponsored media during the election period for partisan coverage of news and publicity regarding achievements with a view to furthering the prospects of the COA occupying office of the GJC shall be scrupulously avoided.
- e. COA members occupying GJC office and other executive personnel shall not sanction/ approve expenses / payments other than strictly day to day running expenses of GJC office and / or expenses related to election process from the time elections are announced by the election committee;
- f. From the time elections are announced by election committee, COA in occupation of the GJC office and other executive members shall not –
 - i. announce any financial projects / programmes in any form or promises thereof; or
 - ii. make any promise of new projects / programmes / initiatives, having future financial implications for GJC and, or, it's members; or
 - iii. make any ad-hoc appointments in executive office, which may have the effect of influencing the voters in favor of the COA in occupation of GJC office, except for the election work.
- g. COA members in occupation of GJC office shall not enter any polling facility or a member's premises to be used for voting or place of counting except in their capacity as a candidate or voter or authorized agent.

VI. GUIDELINES ON ELECTION MANIFESTOS

- a. All Candidates May desist from making any future commitments in the form of manifestos / agenda / promises / promotion material / pamphlets or brochures, although, the promises in the election manifesto may not be construed as 'corrupt practice'
- b. To spread awareness amongst the members / voters about the contesting candidates, Returning Officer or on his instruction Election Committee shall endeavor to circulate a common document, preferably in electronic format, such as PDF, containing introductions and commitments of all the nominated candidates in an alphabetical order, separately for zones or panels.
- c. The wordings of all the introductions shall be based on the information provided by candidates in their nomination forms. In this process only, relevant, correct, non-maligning, and any information not in contempt or defamation of others shall be only be used in the document.

The declaration of the voting results shall be conducted on Zoom in the presence of all members, candidates and EC's and RO. All the candidates are requested to strictly adhere to the code of conduct during the election process. Any violation of the same may affect the candidature of the contesting candidate. For all legal purposes the English version of the Code of Conduct shall be considered valid.

Bankim Mehta

SD/-
Returning Officer
GJC Elections 2020