



**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 2024

## **I. GENERAL CONDUCT:-**

### **a. Non-Discrimination**

No candidate shall engage in any activity that may foster divisions, hatred, or tension among members based on their classification, background, caste, religion or group affiliations.

### **b. Criticism of Candidates**

Any criticism of other candidates shall be strictly limited to their policies, programs, past performance and work. Criticism based on unverified allegations or matters unrelated to the candidate's official capacity or GJC activities shall be avoided. Personal attacks or discussions of private lives that are not relevant to the GJC or the election process are prohibited.

### **c. Cordial Atmosphere**

All members are expected to maintain a cordial, respectful, and professional atmosphere throughout the election campaign.

### **d. Harmonious Conduct**

In the interest of maintaining harmony among members, candidates and their supporters shall refrain from:

- i. Criticizing the private lives of other candidates;
- ii. Making baseless or unverified allegations against other candidates;
- iii. Making any comments about other candidates that are unrelated to the activities of the GJC.

### **e. No Appeal to Caste or Communal Sentiments**

Candidates shall not appeal to any group, classification of members, or individuals based on caste, communal or religious sentiments in order to secure votes.

### **f. No use of Religious or GJC Premises for Election Propoganda**

No place of worship, GJC premises or property shall be used as a forum for election-related activities, including propaganda or canvassing.

### **g. Prohibition of Corrupt Practices**

All candidates shall avoid any forum of corrupt practices, including but not limited to:

- Bribing voters;
- Intimidating or coercing voters;
- Impersonation of voters;

- Organizing or arranging congregations of voters or members at polling facilities or at private premises for election-related activities;
- Misuse of members' computer systems, networks, or device for voting.

#### **h. Online Voting Integrity**

The Returning Officer shall monitor the online voting process. A single computer, IP address shall only be used to cast ONE VOTE. The GJC conducts elections on the principle of **ONE VOTER - ONE VOTE**.

#### **i. Right to Peaceful Home Life**

The right of every individual to peaceful, undisturbed home life shall be respected by all candidates. No candidates shall engage in any activity that disrupts the privacy or peace of any individual or family.

#### **j. Expression of Dissent**

Candidates may express professional opinions or views regarding other candidates, but must refrain from engaging in disruptive actions, such as approaching private properties or any member's premises to express dissent, support, or protest, under any circumstances.

#### **k. Maintaining Professionalism**

As GJC is a trade body, candidates are expected to uphold a professional, brotherly and friendly atmosphere during the election process. Business, professional, familial and social relationships among members should be respected and not exploited for electoral gain.

#### **l. Use of Property for Election Activities**

No candidate, either personally or through their supporters, shall use any GJC member's land, building, compound, walls, or any other property for election-related meetings, promotional display or canvassing materials (e.g. posters, banners, pamphlets, brochures) without the prior written consent of the property owner.

#### **m. Direct Contact and Hate Propaganda**

Candidates may contact members directly on a one-to-one basis to seek votes. However, hate speech, incitement, or propaganda against any individual or organization shall not be tolerated.

#### **n. Non-Interference in other Candidates' Meetings**

All candidates, either personally or through representatives, shall ensure that they do not interfere or create obstacles in meetings or gatherings organized by other candidates.

**o. Prohibition of Processions and Group Meetings**

During the election period, from the announcement of elections until the declaration of results, no processions, congregations, or group meetings that could be construed as corrupt practices shall be permitted.

**p. COA Meetings during Election period**

No COA meetings shall be held from the date on which the elections are announced, until the date results are declared, except in cases of emergency as determined by the RO and Election Committee. Any proposed COA meeting during this period must receive prior approval from the Election Committee. Any proposed COA meeting during this period must receive prior approval from the Election Committee.

Adequate notice, along with an agenda, must be circulated in advance. No business other than the items on the pre-approved agenda shall be discussed at such meetings.

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

**a. Advance Clearance for Restrictions**

A candidate must verify in advance whether any restrictions, prohibitory orders or injunctions have been issued by the Returning Officer regarding any candidate, representative, or individual. If a candidate seeks an exemption or modification from such orders, a formal request must be submitted to the Returning Officer, clearly stating the reasons for the exemption or modification.

**b. Procedure for addressing Grievances or Complaints**

Any grievances or complaints raised by a candidate or a member must be directed to the **Election Committee Convenor** and the **GJC Secretariat** within a reasonable timeframe. The GJC, Returning Officer or Election Committee will not be held liable for any delay in the reporting or resolution of grievances or complaints if such delays occur due to the candidate's or member's failure to report the matter in a timely manner.

**c. Eligibility for Participation**

The GJC Elections are exclusively for GJC MEMBERS who wish to contest or participate. No third party, non-member, or outsider shall be permitted to influence the voting process, interfere in the election, or express opinions regarding candidates or their platforms.

**d. Approval for Meetings, Events, and Promotional Activities**

Candidates wishing to conduct any meetings, canvassing events, or use electronic or promotional materials must obtain prior approval from the **Election Committee**, at least **two (2) days** in advance. Failure to obtain approval may result in disqualification, particularly if the activity is deemed to fall within the category of "corrupt practices" as defined by the GJC Election Rules.

**e. Use of Electronic Media for Canvassing and Promotion**

In the interest of promoting fair election practices and reducing environmental

impact, candidates are encouraged to use **only electronic media** (such as email, social media, and digital platforms) for sending campaign messages, canvassing, and promoting their candidacies. However:

- **Webinars or similar platforms** shall not be used directly or indirectly for the purpose of canvassing or promoting any candidate.
- Candidates attending or participating in webinars or virtual events must ensure that they do not use such platforms to campaign or promote themselves, either overtly or covertly.

### **III. POLLING DAYS**

All Candidates shall:

- a. Cooperate fully with the Returning Officer and/or its authorized representatives on election duty to ensure a peaceful and orderly polling process, and to safeguard the voters' right to exercise their franchise free from any harassment, disruption or obstruction.
- b. Refrain from engaging in any communication with the Returning Officer, Polling Organizers, or election officials regarding the election, except in cases of formal grievances or complaints.
- c. In order to protect the environment, refrain from distributing any paper materials, including slips, sheets, posters, pamphlets, brochures or any other materials containing a candidate's name, symbol, or other content intended to influence or guide any GJC member, whether a voter or a representative, to vote for a particular candidate.
- d. Take all necessary precautions to prevent the gathering of unnecessary crowds near any member's premises, polling facility, or individual member's computer / network / systems in order to avoid potential confrontations and tensions among the members or supporters of competing candidates.
- e. Ensure that the premises of the candidate remain free of excessive gatherings, with no more than two GJC members present at any time at a candidate's or other GJC member's premises. No posters, flags, symbols, banners, pamphlets, brochures or other promotional materials shall be displayed.
- f. Fully cooperate with the Returning Officer, Election Committee and Observers in adhering to any restrictions or instructions imposed during polling day to maintain the integrity of the election process.
- g. Any non-compliance with or violation of the above provisions may result in the cancellation, nullification or voiding of votes cast by members found in violation, and may also subject the candidate to disqualification from the election.

### **IV. OBSERVERS:-**

The candidates and their representatives shall fully respect the authority and presence of the Returning Officer appointed by the GJC to observe and oversee the election process. Any specific complaints or issues concerning

the conduct of the election or the voting process must be promptly brought to the attention of the Returning Officer. No changes shall be made to the voter list, except for updates to communication details.

## **V. EXISTING COA:-**

COA members holding office at the time of the announcement of elections shall take all necessary steps to ensure that no actions are taken that could give rise to complaints of misuse of their official for electioneering purposes. In particular, the following conduct is prohibited:

### **1. Use of Official Position and Resources**

COA members holding office at the time of the announcement of elections shall take all necessary steps to ensure that no actions are taken that could give rise to complaints of misuse of their official position for electioneering purposes. In particular, the following conduct is prohibited:

#### **a. Separation of Official Duties and Election Campaigns**

COA members or contesting candidates shall not combine their official duties or visits with electioneering activities. Additionally, GJC machinery, personnel, office resources, staff and executive officers shall not be utilized for the purposes of election campaigning.

#### **b. Prohibition on use of GJC Transport and Resources**

GJC transport, including authorized air travel, vehicles, machinery, and personnel, shall not be used to further the interests of any candidate during the election period.

#### **c. Restrictions on use of GJC Office and Premises**

GJC offices, member premises, and public spaces shall not be monopolized by COA members or contesting candidates for election meetings, events, or any other election-related purposes.

#### **d. Avoidance of Misuse of Media and Publicity**

Promotion, campaigning, or soliciting votes at the expense of GJC resources, including the use of media sponsored or endorsed by GJC, is strictly prohibited. GJC-funded media outlets must not be used for partisan coverage or to promote the achievements of the COA members in office, with the intent of influencing the election.

#### **e. Control of Financial Expenditures**

COA members in office and executive personnel shall not sanction or approve any expenditures or payments, other than those necessary for the day-to-day operations of the GJC office or expenses directly related to the election process, from the time elections are announced by the Election Committee.

#### **f. Prohibition on Announcements of New Projects or Financial Commitments**

From the time the elections are announced by the Election Committee, COA members in office shall not:

- i. Announce or approve any new financial projects, programs, or promises thereof;

- ii. Make any commitments to new projects, programs, or initiatives that would have future financial implications for GJC or its members;
- iii. Make any ad-hoc appointments in the executive office or other GJC roles that may influence voters in favor of the COA members in office, except for roles directly related to the election process.

**g. Access to Polling and Counting Facilities**

COA members in office shall not enter any polling station, voting facility, or place of counting, except in their capacity as a candidate, voter, or authorized agent.

**VI. GUIDELINES ON ELECTION MANIFESTOS**

- a. All Candidates shall refrain from making any future commitments in the form of manifestos, agendas, promises, promotional materials, pamphlets or brochures. Notwithstanding this, the promises made in a candidate's election manifesto shall not be construed as 'corrupt practices' under applicable laws.
- b. In order to promote transparency and awareness among members and voters regarding the contesting candidates, the Returning Officer, or the Election Committee as directed by the Returning Officer, shall endeavor to circulate a unified document containing introductions and commitments of all nominated candidates. This document will be distributed preferably in an electronic format, such as a PDF, and shall be organized in alphabetical order, with separate sections for different zones or panels where applicable.
- c. The content of the introductory statements for each candidate shall be based solely on the information provided by the candidates in their official nomination forms. Only relevant, accurate, non-defamatory, and lawful information shall be included. The document shall not contain any content that is misleading, harmful, or derogatory toward other individuals, nor shall it include any material that may be construed as contemptuous or defamatory in nature.

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.

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Covenor

Election Committee

GJC Elections 2024