

**Election Matter**  
**Urgent/Time Bound**



**राज्य निर्वाचन आयोग हिमाचल प्रदेश**

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION HIMACHAL PRADESH**

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No. SEC. (F)-2-6/ 2021-2045 Dated the

11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

To

The Returning Officer-cum-  
Deputy Commissioner  
District Shimla Himachal Pradesh.

**SUBJECT: DIRECTIONS REGARDING CONDUCT OF GENERAL  
ELECTIONS TO MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS SHIMLA.**

Sir,

In continuation to this Commission letter No. SEC. (F)-2-6/ 2021-  
dated 05.04.2023 and apropos discussion held in the meeting with Deputy  
Commissioner and Superintendent of Police district Shimla on 10.04.2023, the State  
Election Commission hereby issues following additional directions for the conduct of  
elections to Municipal Corporation Shimla scheduled to be held on 02.05.2023:-

**Filing of Nomination:-**

The venue fixed for filing of nomination, scrutiny and symbol  
allocation should have sufficient space to perform these functions. In order to avoid  
overcrowding, a contesting candidate shall be allowed to enter in the office of  
Assistant Returning Officer with maximum of four persons including the candidate.  
Only one vehicle in the convoy of the contesting candidate shall be allowed to come  
within periphery of 100 meters of Returning Officer/ Assistant Returning Officer's  
office and to ensure adherence to these instructions required police personnel be  
deployed. These facts may be brought into the notice of Political Parties and  
candidates in advance.

### **Carrying of Polled EVMs:-**

The Returning Officer shall chalk out a detailed route map/movement plan in advance for taking of EVMs for poll and carrying of polled EVMs to the strong room. The copy of the route map shall be provided to the Sector Officer, Presiding Officer of every polling party and Superintendent of Police Shimla. The Sector Officers and Presiding Officers shall be directed to adhere to the route map issued by the Returning Officer strictly. No polling party shall transport the polled EVMs in personal vehicles. The Security personnel deputed with the polling party shall ensure that polled EVMs are transported only in authorised vehicles deputed for the purpose and under no circumstances transportation route and movement plan shall be violated without prior permission of Returning Officer. Strict action will be initiated for non-compliance of these instructions.

### **Security of Strong Room:-**

Conduct of elections involves elaborate security arrangement, which include not only the security of polling stations and polling materials, but also security of the Strong Room. To ensure this, a two layer security arrangements will be made at the Strong Room. Outer layer will consist of Police personnel from the local police force and inner layer shall consist of State Armed Police force. A conducive atmosphere for free and fair elections shall be maintained.

### **Sale of liquor during elections:-**

Section 30-I of the Act *ibid* provides that liquor or other substances of a like nature shall not be sold, given or distributed during the forty eight hour ending with the hour fixed for the conclusion of poll on the day of poll in the Municipal areas. The dates for closing of liquor vends shall be notified by the Returning Officer according to the notification of election programme issued by the Commission. This ban will also be enforced on the day of counting. Besides, the Commission is of the considered view that in order to conduct elections in free fair, independent and credible manner, it is just and proper to keep vigil on the sale and transportation of liquor in the city during enforcement of Model Code of Conduct.

**Restriction on carrying of Mobile phone inside Polling Station:-**

In order to maintain secrecy of vote, the Commission has decided to impose complete restriction on carrying of Mobile phone inside polling station. It will be responsibility of the security personnel that no elector enters the polling station with mobile phone. Requisite arrangements to this end may be put in place at each polling station by the Returning Officer.

**Use of Liquor and cash for inducement of electors by contesting candidates:-**

All forms of intimidation, threat, influence and bribing of electors must be prevented in the interest of free and fair elections. Distribution of cash or any item of bribe for influencing electors are crimes under Section 171B and 171C of Indian Penal Code and also corrupt practices under Section 21 of the HP Municipal Corporation Act, 1994. Therefore for maintaining purity of elections, the Returning Officer should form flying squads/barriers for random checking of vehicles/people.

**Awareness campaign for Maximum participation of electors:-**

In order to ensure maximum participation of electors in the electoral process a publicity campaign be initiated through print and electronic media, by installing banners & hoardings in the Municipal areas.

The aforesaid directions / guidelines may be adhered to strictly in order to ensure free, fair and smooth conduct of elections to Municipal Corporation Shimla.

By Order  
State Election Commissioner  
Himachal Pradesh

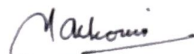
No. SEC. (F)-2--6/ 2021-2046-74 Dated the

11<sup>th</sup> April, 2023

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. The Secretary to H.E. the Governor of H.P.
2. The Principal Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, H.P.
3. All the Special / Sr. Private Secretaries to the Cabinet Ministers / Chief Parliamentary Secretaries to the Govt. of H.P.
4. The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of H.P.
5. The Principal Secretary (UD) to the Government of HP.
6. All the Principal Secretaries/Secretaries to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh.

7. The Deputy Commissioner Kangra with the request to adhere to these instructions where ever applicable for the ensuing by-elections to Ward No.2 , Palampur Upperla of Municipal Corporation Palampur.
8. The Superintendent of Police Shimla H.P.
9. The Superintendent of Police Kangra HP.
10. Director Urban Development Department, Shimla-2.
11. The Commissioners, Municipal Corporation Shimla and Palampur HP.
12. Sub-Divisional Officers (C) Shimla (Urban)( Rural) and Palampur.
13. Assistant District Election Officer-cum-District Panchayat Officer for information and necessary action.
14. E- Gazette. /Guard File.



Secretary  
State Election Commission  
Himachal Pradesh.