

GROUND RULES FOR ANS ELECTION 2017-2019

The Election Committee would like to announce the election for ANS Executive Committee for the term 2017 – 2019. The ANS Executive Committee is a body of elected members from the General Assembly, which shall take care of the functions and obligations of the organization on a day to day basis. The General Assembly is a supreme body of ANS. All community members with current membership are the members of the General Assembly.

The Election shall be conducted following the procedures described herein:

1. VOTING TIME AND DATE

a. *Voting Time and Date*: 8:00 AM through 5:00 PM on October 8, 2017. Voters who are already standing in line at 5:00 shall complete the voting. The entrance to the polls shall be closed at 5:00 pm sharp.

2. VOTING:

- a) Voting shall be conducted via secret ballot. Only official ballot forms shall be used. The official ballot forms shall have the names of the candidates and the position sought for every position that is contested. Uncontested positions shall not appear on the ballot form.
- b) The ballot forms shall be distributed by the Election Committee to the voters.
- c) The ballot forms shall be marked by voters to indicate their vote. For every contested position, only one candidate shall be chosen by placing a check mark (✓) inside the box next to the desired candidate's name.
- d) Voters shall fold the ballot paper in half for confidentiality and place it inside the ballot box during the allotted balloting period.
- e) Conditions of Invalidity of Votes:
 - If check mark (✓) is not marked inside the box
 - If marked more than one box is checked for the same position
 - If completely unmarked for either candidate
 - Without Election Committee member's signature verifying the voter
 - Hard to read the marking vote or voter's intent
 - If the marking is 75% inside the box it will be considered valid

- f) Those with a vision problem or unable to read and write shall be assisted by the Election Committee members.

3. CAMPAIGNING

- Candidates and their representatives are not allowed to campaign within the premises of the Election Area – at least in a radius of one mile.
- Election Committee shall be forced to stop the election process if the campaigning requirement is violated.

4. VERIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP AND ISSUANCE OF OFFICIAL BALLOT FORMS

- a) Any member whose membership (annual or life membership) is current (obtained at least one week before the election date, October 1, 2017) and who is above 18 years of age shall have right to vote on the basis of one-person-one-vote.
- b) Voting by proxy shall not be allowed.
- c) Voter's name shall be verified against the Membership list provided by ANS
- d) Voters are requested to present their identification
- e) With regard to family membership, all family members should be together at the time of voting. They should present the home address for verification.
- f) Once the membership is verified, the Official Ballot Form shall be signed by one of the election officials, and then issued to the voter to proceed to cast his/her vote.
- g) Any issues related to membership should be addressed to the existing ANS committee. Their decision will be final and the decision will be forwarded to the Election Committee for implementation.

5. VOTE COUNTING and DECLARATION OF RESULTS

- a) Vote counting shall be done by the Election Committee members along with designated volunteers.
- b) Candidates are requested to appoint their representatives to observe and/or assist in the vote counting.
- c) Candidates' representatives shall have a right to point out the potential invalid conditions of votes. In this case such votes will be tested for their validity by the Election Committee.
- d) Also, candidate's representatives shall request a recounting if the winning margin of votes is less than three.
- e) A declaration of vote counting results will be prepared by those involved in the vote counting.

- f) The Election Committee chair shall make the announcement of election results.

6. RETENTION OF BALLOT PAPERS

- Completed ballot forms will be retained for 30 days from the date of election by the election committee. After that date, ballot papers will be disposed.

7. ELECTION RELATED QUESTIONS

- a. Any complaints, questions, and disputes related to election procedures, ballot forms, vote casting and counting shall be handled by the Election Committee and its decision shall be final.
- b. Election Committee reserves the right to postpone or cancel the election if a conducive environment does not exist for the election.

We request everyone to participate in the election and take part in the democratic process to elect the ANS Executive Committee. We appreciate your cooperation and support to make this important event a success and help to make the entire American-Nepali Community feel proud of it.

(Please Note: Election Committee will reserve the right to add and delete of any rules and regulation as and when required.)

Best Regards,

Sincerely,

ANS Election Committee - 2017-2019

1. Chief Election Commissioner- Dr. Thakur Pudasaini
2. Election Commissioner- Mrs. Nancy Chetry
3. Election Commissioner- Mr. Niranjana Adhikari, *Esg.*
4. Election Commissioner- Mrs. Madhavi Basnet Karki
5. Election Commissioner- Mr. Indra Shrestha