



THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA

(Set up by an Act of Parliament)

Guwahati (EIRC)

ELECTION CODE OF CONDUCT

For

Compliance by Candidates and their authorized representatives for Election to the Managing Committee of the Guwahati Branch to be held on 23rd February 2019

These codes of conduct of have been formed with the view to maintain a healthy and peaceful atmosphere during the election process for ensuring a free and fair election. These Election Code of Conduct are for candidates and their authorized representatives for required compliance, which is as follows:

- a) Any infrastructure, forum including programmes, by whatever name called, manpower, machinery, facilities, or communication medium – electronic or otherwise, of the Institute, its Regional Council and Branches, Chapters or Study Circle shall not be used in any manner whatsoever by any contesting candidate and/ or their authorized representatives.
- b) No candidate and/ or his authorized representative(s) shall utilize the services of any office bearer of Central Council, Regional Councils, Branches, Chapters or Study Circles, in the latter's official capacity, for campaigning/ canvassing/ electioneering. However, an office bearer can act at his own free will, in his individual capacity. Office bearer, for this purpose, will mean all elected members of the Council, Regional Councils, Branches, Chapters and Convenors and Deputy Convenors of Study Chapters/ Circles.
- c) While there is no bar for participation in an event/ programme organized by the Institute and/ or its organs, as an ordinary participant, that forum/ event shall not be used for publicity/ electioneering in any form whatsoever. This restriction is equally applicable to any Study Circle or Chapters, by whatever name called as also Voluntary Associations/ Societies, by whatever name called, which are run, controlled or managed by/ for and/ or on behalf of Chartered Accountants.
- d) In the event of any invitation being received, by a candidate, from any Govt. Body, Professional Associations (ICSI, ICSol or local bodies) or any other outside agencies such as Industry Associations like CII, FICCI, ASSOCHAM, Chambers of Commerce etc., and voluntary bodies like Rotaries, Non-Government Organizations etc. for participation in any of their events/ programmes etc., in any capacity – professional or otherwise, while there is no bar for participation in such an event/ programme as an ordinary participant, that event/ forum shall not be used for the purpose of publicity/ electioneering in any manner whatsoever. Any attempt made by a speaker or any other person from the dais or floor to draw the attention of participants about the presence or participation or otherwise of a candidate shall be construed as an act of seeking publicity/ electioneering for and/or on behalf of the candidate.

- e) The above restrictions shall be applicable not only for any event/ programme organized by the Institute or any of its organs held within a candidate's own constituency but even outside his/her regional constituency including overseas events/ programmes as well.
- f) There shall be a ban on erection of stall, distribution/ supply of any gift, supply of refreshment(s) to voters, supporters or volunteers of candidates, display of banners, distribution of pamphlets/ letters/ circulars or any other publicity materials including free distribution of books/ calendars/ diaries/ handouts, in physical form or electronically and the like on the election day inside as well as outside the zero tolerance zone. Distribution of visiting cards within the said zero tolerance zone is banned.
- g) There shall be complete ban on wearing or displaying of Placard/s, Badges, T-shirts, Caps or any other display material indicating the Name or Photograph or Serial/Ballot Number of the candidate during the polling day.
- h) There shall be complete ban on intimidation and impersonation of voters, providing transportation to voters and canvassing in any form/mode, excepting one to one communication, 24 hours before the commencement of polling and during the polling day.
- i) Organization of parties for the purpose of electioneering or even participation in any party or providing any form of entertainment, e.g., musical nights and the like, with the direct and/ or indirect involvement of the candidate in any form/manner whatsoever is prohibited. The exception to this prohibition is any function/ event/ programme organized at own residence or office of the candidate himself.
- j) Only one manifesto or circular or support seeking appeal shall be issued by a candidate in relation to the election in the period commencing from the date of issue of final list of nominations to the candidates and the same may be repeated only by the candidate in any form, in part or in full, including SMS. The manifesto or circular or any other similar material issued by the candidates should not contain any appeal on the basis of religion, caste, creed, community, political or spiritual leadership and contain information about himself without making any reference directly or indirectly to any other candidate.
- k) A candidate can maintain/ use a website or other social media/ networking site, like Twitter/ Facebook/Linked-in/WhatsApp, as a part of electioneering or for the purpose of election. The manifesto or circular issued by a candidate can be hosted in the website in full or part. No electioneering through website shall be permitted before 24 hours of commencement of polling. However, the website maintained by a firm/ member for professional capacity shall not be used for any electioneering/canvassing/ propagating purpose.
- l) Bulk SMS can be sent thrice by the candidates or by any of his/her authorised representative or by any member to voters appealing for vote or for any electioneering purpose. However, a candidate is permitted, without any limit, to send one to one SMS from his/her own mobile telephone.
- m) The branch/study circle newsletters published w.e.f. 9th February 2019 till the declaration of results of elections in any form including in electronic mode shall not use any column of any office bearer if the concerned person is a candidate to the elections, nor should it carry the photograph of a candidate.

- n) No candidate shall attend any public function to receive any award during the currency of the Election Code of Conduct. However, this restriction will not be applicable on any award function organised by ICAI Head office or EIRC.
- o)) No candidate shall appear in any talk show or programme organised by any Radio or television channel with effect from 9th February, 2019 to the date of declaration of official results.
- p) Contribution of Articles in Newspapers/Professional Journals/Magazines without photograph and personal contact details including e-mail of candidate shall be permitted. However, there should be no mention about his/her being a candidate for election to the Council or the Regional Council as the case may be.
- q) It is obligatory for each candidate to comply with this Code of Conduct. The candidates, their authorized representatives and members associated with the Election of the branch are hereby required to ensure that the relevant provisions referred to above are not violated in any manner whatsoever. It may be noted that non-adherence to or violation of the Election Code will result in cancellation of nomination at any time before the election and will be reported to ICAI HO for action.
- r) This code of conduct shall remain effective from the Midnight of 8th February, 2019 till the official declaration of Elections Results.

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