

Election Board Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara

Guru Nanak Marg, Saddington Street, Gravesend Kent DA12 1AG

Presidential Election Candidates Code of Conduct 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is a quick reference guide to the Code of Conduct for Candidates. It should be read in conjunction with the full Code of Conduct.

During the campaign you should

- ❖ Show respect to all electors, this includes other candidates, and any officials working with the Election Board.
- ❖ Focus your campaign on your policies and what improvements you will make for the benefit of the 'Sangat'.
- ❖ Put your name or your Agent's name in every leaflet, poster etc. to make it clear that the message is from you and/or your campaign team.
- ❖ Encourage people to support you as their preferred choice.

You should NOT

- ❖ Make false or derogatory statements about other candidates.
- ❖ Offer any incentives to individuals in order to gain their support.
- ❖ Encourage any wrongdoing on the part of any elector during the campaign and on election day.
- ❖ Bring or attempt to bring undue influence on electors by using or encouraging threatening or intimidating tactics during the campaign.

Please read and understand the Code of Conduct. If you have any questions please contact any member of the Election Board who will be happy to explain the contents in more detail.

Parts of this notice have been referenced from UK parliamentary Election Guidance.

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In this document, we use 'you' to refer to the candidate. We use 'must' when we refer to a specific requirement. We use 'should' for items we consider to be minimum good practice, but which are not legal or regulatory requirements.

You can start campaigning at any time. You do not have to wait until you are validly nominated to declare that you will run for election, ask people to support you or publish campaign material.

When does a person officially become a candidate?

You can become a candidate on the date that you submit your registration form and nomination papers along with your deposit of £250.00

Once you have officially become a candidate, you are entitled to a copy of the register of electors a date to supply you with this will be set by Election Board. **DATE TO BE ADVISED**

During the campaign, you may...

Encourage people who are not on the electoral register to apply for registration. The deadline for registering to vote in time for the election is 30th July 2017 2pm.

During the campaign, you should...

Make sure your supporters follow our code of conduct on handling applications – this will help them to avoid situations where their honesty or integrity could be questioned.

Make sure your supporters are courteous when dealing with other candidates and their supporters.

During the campaign, you must not...

Knowingly make a false statement about the personal character of another candidate.

Harass or threaten any member of The Election Board

Pay canvassers. Canvassing means trying to persuade an elector to vote for or against a particular candidate or party.

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Use of the electoral register

Once you officially become a candidate, you are entitled to receive a copy of the electoral register. The date will be set by your Election Board **DATE TO BE ADVISED**

You can use the register to

Complete your nomination form

Help you campaign

You must not release to any person any details that appear on the full register and not on the open register.

Pass copies on to anyone outside your campaign (except for certain data processing companies)

If you have supplied a copy of the register to campaign workers, they must also comply with the requirements above.

Campaign publicity dos and don'ts

You must:

Comply with planning rules relating to advertising hoardings and large banners – you should ask the relevant local authority for advice.

Make sure that outdoor posters are removed promptly after the election – you must do this within one week of the close of the poll.

You must not:

Produce material that looks like the poll cards sent to voters by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

Using imprints

What is an imprint?

An imprint should be added to all campaign material and, in the case of printed material, must be added by law, to show who is responsible for its production. It helps to ensure that the campaign is transparent. What do you need to include?

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On printed material, such as leaflets and posters, you must include the name and address of:

- The printer
- The promoter
- Any person on behalf of whom the material is being published (and who is not the promoter) the promoter is the person who has authorised the material to be published. If the promoter is acting on behalf of a group or organisation, the group or organisation's name and address must also be included.

You can use either home or office addresses. If you are putting an advert in a newspaper, your advert does not need to include the printer's details. However, the advert must contain the name and address of the promoter and any person on behalf of whom the advert is being published. If the promoter and the person on behalf of whom the advert is being published are the same, their name and address need only be included once.

Example of an imprint

A standard imprint for independent candidates should look like this:

Printed by [printer's name and address].

Promoted by [agent's name] of [agent's address], on behalf of [candidate's name] of [candidate's address].

In all cases, you must make sure that the imprint lists all the promoters and organisations involved.

Where do you put the imprint?

If your material is single-sided – such as a window poster– you must put the imprint on the face of the document. If it is multi-sided, you must put it on the first or last page. Websites and other electronic material

You should also put an imprint on electronic material, such as websites and emails. The imprint should include the name and address of the promoter and the organisation on whose behalf it has been produced.

Polling day do's and don'ts

You and your agents should:

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Comply with requests by polling station staff or the Election Board about campaigning near polling station.

You or your agents must not:

Campaign near polling stations in a way that could be seen by voters as aggressive or intimidating (for example, large groups of supporters carrying banners, or vehicles with loudspeakers or heavily branded with campaign material).

Breach the requirements on secrecy of the ballot. This is an essential part of any modern democracy and breaches are taken seriously.

List of offences

You should be aware of a number of electoral and non-electoral offences, and should seek your own legal advice where necessary.

Bribery

The offence of bribery includes where someone directly or indirectly gives any money or procures any office to or for any voter, in order to induce any voter to vote or not vote.

Treating

A person is guilty of treating if either before, during or after an election they directly or indirectly give or provide any food, drink, entertainment or provision to corruptly influence any voter to vote or refrain from voting. Treating requires a corrupt intent - it does not apply to ordinary hospitality.

Undue influence

A person is guilty of undue influence if they directly or indirectly make use of or threaten to make use of force, violence or restraint, or inflict or threaten to inflict injury, damage, harm or loss upon or against any person in order to induce or compel that person to vote or refrain from voting. A person may also be guilty of undue influence if they impede or prevent any voter from freely exercising their right to vote – even where the attempt is unsuccessful.

Undue influence doesn't exclusively relate to physical access to the polling station. For example, a leaflet that threatens to make use of force in order to induce a voter to vote in a particular way could also be undue influence.

Personation

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Personation is defined as an individual voting as someone else either by post or in person at a polling station, as an elector or as a proxy. This offence applies if the person that is being personated is living, dead or fictitious. Aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the offence of personation is also an offence.

False statements must not be made

About a candidate's personal character or conduct

It is an offence to make or publish a false statement of fact about the personal character or conduct of a candidate in order to affect the return of a candidate at an election.

False statements that are not about a candidate's personal character or conduct are not illegal under electoral law, but could be considered as libel or slander.

It is also an illegal practice to make a false statement of a candidate's withdrawal in order to promote or procure the election of another candidate.

In nomination papers

It is an offence to provide a false statement on a nomination paper, which you know to be false. For example, if you know you are disqualified from election you must not sign the consent to nomination.

False registration information

It is an offence to supply false information on a registration or application form. False information includes a false signature.

False application to vote

A person is guilty of an offence if they apply to vote or to gain a vote to which they are not entitled or to deprive someone else of their vote.

Multiple voting offences

There are various offences regarding multiple voting, including voting in person or by post as an elector or proxy knowing that you are subject to a legal incapacity to vote and inducing or procuring another to commit the offence. Breaches of the secrecy of the ballot

Everyone involved in the election process or attending certain proceedings must maintain the secrecy of the ballot.

Campaign publicity material

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Certain offences relate specifically to election campaign publicity material. Printed election campaign publicity material must contain an imprint, not resemble a poll card and not contain a false statement of fact as to the personal character or conduct of a candidate.

Racial hatred

Under the Public Order Act 1986, it is an offence to publish or distribute threatening, abusive or insulting material that is intended to stir up racial hatred or which is likely to stir up racial hatred.

Reporting allegations of electoral fraud

If you are concerned that electoral fraud may have been committed, you should first speak to the members of the Election Board.

They may be able to explain whether or not electoral fraud has been committed, and can refer your concerns to the police if necessary. They can also provide you with the details of the police contact for the relevant police force so that you can report the allegation yourself. If you have evidence that an electoral offence has been committed you should contact the police immediately. You should be prepared to give them a statement and substantiate your allegation.

Candidates signature.....

Print name.....

Date.....

By signing this document you are agreeing to abide by the rules contained within this document.

Witnessed by Election Board Member.....

Signature of Election Board Member.....

Date.....

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