

Justice Ranjit Singh (Retd.),
Chairperson

High-Powered Election Committee
Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh



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PROCEEDINGS OF THE HIGH-POWERED ELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE BAR COUNCIL OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA, HELD TODAY i.e. 29.11.2025 CHAIRED BY THE HON'BLE CHAIRMAN MR. JUSTICE RANJIT SINGH (RETD), JUDGE PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT.

In the meeting held today, the High-Powered Election Committee took the following decisions to ensure free and fair election of the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana, Chandigarh.

1. Rule 6 of Bar Council of India Rules concerning Electoral Roll, disqualification of membership and vacation of office, provides that if or any reason the election of State Bar Council is postponed beyond the date of expiry of term of its member, the preliminary or the final electoral roll shall be revised so as to include therein the names of the Advocates enrolled upto 75 clear days before the date of election.

Following the above noted rule, the Committee decides that cut-off date for purpose of electoral roll is required to be prepared by including the names of those advocates who have been enrolled upto 75 clear days before the date of the Election. In this case election to the Bar Council is to take place on 29.01.2026 and 30.01.2026 and as per the above said Rule the names of those advocates only are to be included who have been enrolled upto to 75 clear days before the date of elections i.e. upto 15.11.2025. Accordingly the cut off date for preparation of electoral roll to the Bar Council election is fixed as 15.11.2025. for fresh enrolment

2. The office of the Bar Council has confirmed before the Committee that directions issued by the Committee for Return of vehicle, cook, driver etc. as issued on 26.11.2025 have been fully complied with.
3. The Committee has minutely examined the issue of appointment of Assistant Returning Officer (AROs) detailed by Bar Council. During the meeting held on 26.11.2025 certain members had raised apprehension about the independence of certain individuals to act as AROs. The Committee after due deliberation has decided to dispense with the appointment of Assistant Returning Officers and may consider appointment of independent persons to act either as Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) or observers. From today onwards, the persons detailed as AROs vide order dated 8.11.2025 shall not act in the capacity as Assistant Returning Officer in any manner.
4. In its meeting held on 26.11.2025, the Committee had decided to permit Chairman Bar Council to sign the enrollment certificates but had debarred him from issuing any certificate to any newly enrolled advocates. Even the other office bearers or member Bar Council were also debarred from issuing any such certificates to the newly enrolled advocates. In continuation of this, the Committee has decided that the enrollment Committee may continue to process the enrollment forms of newly submitted persons for enrollment and such certificates can further be processed for obtaining signatures of the Chairman of Bar Council. It is made clear that the members of the enrollment Committee may come to the premises of the Bar Council from 3:00 to 05:00 PM only. It is further clarified that the office of the Bar Council shall take the forms approved by the enrollment Committee for signatures of the Chairman of the Bar council at his residence premises situated in Chandigarh after seeking his convenience.
5. In continuation of the decision taken by the Committee on 26.11.2025, the Committee has decided to make the following Code of Conduct for Election to the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana.


- a) Offering or accepting anything either in cash or in kind for casting vote in favour of any candidate shall be treated to be a serious corrupt practice.
- b) Taking shelter of mal-practice, using hate speech or anti-national or anti-institutional speech, using offensive or defamatory words or threatening words against any Judge, Bar Council or any candidate or making false or vague or bold allegation with an intent to damage the reputation or image of any candidate or Member shall be treated as a serious misconduct and corrupt practice.
- c) Any offensive or defamatory or provocative message or statement or video or audio or speech made viral on social, electronic or print media may be material and substantive evidence to attract the provisions of these Rules.
- d) Any such offensive/defamatory message or statement or video or audio or speech or threat on any media (social, electronic or print) may disqualify a candidate from contesting as a Member of State Bar Council.
- e) The Central Election Tribunal/Committee may also debar such persons from contesting the next election or if the charges are very serious, he/she may be debarred from contesting any election of any Bar Council in future by the Central Election Tribunal/Committee.

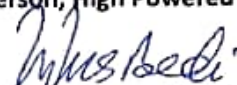
(f) Flashing/publishing any fake news or propaganda making any dirty or threatening statement with ulterior motive to malign image of anybody or with intent to gain any cheap popularity or for any illegal self- gain or threatening to a voter either resist from voting or to vote in particular candidate shall also amount to misconduct which may result in cancellation of a candidature in election or even removal of a member from State Bar Council.

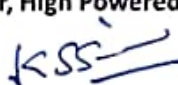
Above acts of misconduct are illustrative and not exhaustive or any unethical act or misconduct considered as such by the Committee may also attract action.

Any violation of the above said Code of Conduct shall result in cancellation of the candidature of such person or such member may also be removed from the Bar Council even after the result of Election.

6. The Committee has received a report that verification forms in bulk are being received where even it is noticed that the forms are filled in same handwriting, a sum of Rs. 350/- which is required to be paid by an individual himself is also being remitted in bulk. This practice is considered not in consonance with holding of an election in free, fair and independent manner. The Committee would decide the fate of such forms received in bulk after getting a proper report from the office about the number of forms submitted in the office and the source of bulk payment.
7. The office is also directed to get touch with the Election Commission of Punjab and Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh for conduct of election. The office is also directed to decide the number of booths required to be set up for the election of Bar Council. Further progress in this regard shall be placed before this Committee in the next meeting.
8. The Committee has decided to authorize Addl. Secretary of Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana to issue identity cards to the Advocate instead of the Secretary during the period of elections.


Justice Ranjit Singh (Retd)
Judge Punjab & Haryana High Court
Chairperson, High Powered Election Committee Phase III-C


Justice M. M. S. BEDI (Retd)
Judge Punjab & Haryana High Court
Member, High Powered Election Committee Phase III-C


Mr. Kuljeet Singh Sidhu, Sr. Advocate
Punjab & Haryana High Court
Member, High Powered Election Committee Phase III-C