

MAHARASHTRA MUNICIPALITIES (ELECTION TO SUBJECTS COMMITTEES) RULES, 1966

CONTENTS

1. Short title
2. Definitions
3. Meeting for elections to the Subjects Committee
4. Filling of nomination
5. Scrutiny of nominations
6. Procedure for election
7. Method of voting
8. Scrutiny of ballot papers
9. Arrangement of valid ballot papers in parcels
10. Counting of votes when only one seat is to be filled
11. Ascertainment of quota when more than one seat is to be filled
12. General instructions
13. Candidates with quota elected
14. Transfer of surplus
15. Exclusion of candidates lowest on the poll
16. Filling the last vacancies
17. Provisions for re-counts
18. Declaration of result
19. Filling up resulting or casual vacancies
20. Elections to Standing Committee

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1. Short title :-

These rules may be called the Maharashtra Municipalities (Elections to Subjects Committees) Rules, 1966.

2. Definitions :-

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires,-

- (a) "Act" means the Maharashtra Municipalities Act, 1965;
- (b) "continuing candidate" means any candidate not elected and not excluded from the poll at any given time;
- (c) "count" means-

- (i) all the operations involved in the counting of the first preferences recorded for candidates; or
 - (ii) all the operations involved in the transfer of the surplus of an elected candidate; or
 - (iii) all the operations involved in the transfer of the total value of votes of an excluded candidate;
- (d) "exhausted paper" means a ballot paper on which no further preference is recorded for a continuing candidate, provided that a paper shall also be deemed to have become exhausted whenever-
- (i) the names of two or more candidates, whether continuing or not, are marked with the same figure and are next in order of preference; or
 - (ii) the name of the candidate next in order of preference, whether continuing or not, is marked by a figure not following consecutively after some other figure on the ballot paper or by two or more figures;
- (e) "first preference" means the figure 1 set opposite the name of a candidate; "second preference" means the figure 2 set opposite the name of a candidate; "third preference" means the figure 3 set opposite the name of a candidate, and so on;
- (f) "original vote", in relation to any candidate, means a vote derived from ballot paper on which a first preference is recorded for such candidate;
- (g) "presiding authority" means the President, the Vice-President or any Councillor presiding at the meeting of Council, at which elections to the Subjects Committee or Standing Committee are to be held;
- (h) "Section" means a section of the act.'
- (i) "Subjects Committee" means a Subjects committee of an 'A', 'B', or 'C' Class Council:
- (j) "surplus" means the number by which the value of the votes, original and transferred, of any candidate exceeds the quota;
- (k) "transferred vote", in relation to any candidate, means a vote of the value or the part of the value of which is credited to such candidate and which is derived from a ballot paper on which a

second or a subsequent reference is recorded for such candidate;

(l) "unexhausted paper" means a ballot paper on which a further preference is recorded for a continuing candidate;

(m) Words or expressions used in these rules, but not defined, shall have the meanings, respectively, assigned to them in the Act.

3. Meeting for elections to the Subjects Committee :-

Except for the first elections to the Subjects Committees held under clause (b) of sub-section (2) Section 63 in respect of an "A" or "B" Class Council and under clause (c) of sub-section (4) of Section 65 in respect of "C" Class Council, all subsequent elections to the Subjects Committees shall be held at a special meeting of the Council convened for that purpose on a date not later than one week before the expiry of the term of the members of the Subjects Committees.

4. Filling of nomination :-

(1) Not less-than two hours before the time fixed for the meeting of the Council at which elections to the Subjects Committee or Committees are to be held, any Councillor may deliver to the Chief Officer a nomination paper in the Form 1 [appended to these rules duly filled in and signed by himself as the proposer. The declaration in the Form shall be signed by the candidate.

(2) On receipt of a nomination paper, the Chief Officer shall duly fill in the endorsement in the Form1].

(3) Nothing in this rule shall prevent any candidate from being nominated by more than one nomination paper.

5. Scrutiny of nominations :-

(1) At the commencement of the meeting the presiding authority shall scrutinise the nomination papers delivered to the Chief Officer under the preceding rule and shall record his decision thereon. If any nomination is rejected he shall record in writing a brief statement of his reasons for such rejection. He shall then read out to the meeting the names of candidates, who in his opinion, have been validly nominated, together with

(2) The presiding authority shall not reject any nomination paper on the ground of any defect which is not of a substantial character.

6. Procedure for election :-

(1) If the number of validly nominated candidates who have not withdrawn their candidature is equal to or less than the number of persons to be elected, the presiding authority shall forthwith declare all such candidates to be duly elected, and the remaining persons may be elected at any subsequent meeting.

(2) If the number of validly nominated candidates who have not withdrawn their candidature is more than the number of vacancies to be filled, the Councillors present at the meeting shall proceed to elect the candidates in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

[(3) The election shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, and the voting for the purpose shall be by secret ballot. The presiding authority shall furnish each Councillor present at the meeting with a ballot paper prepared in the following form:-

BALLOT PAPER

The_____Municipal Council

Election to_____Committee

Name of candidates validly nominated and who have not withdrawn their candidature						Order of preference				
1.
2.
3.
4.
etc.

Signature of the
Presiding Authority.

Date

(a) Names of the contesting candidates shall be arranged on the

ballot paper in alphabetical order determined with reference to the names of the candidates having surnames, and names proper of other candidates. The particulars in the ballot paper and the alphabetical order to be followed shall be in such languages as is adopted by the Council under clause (12) of Section 81 for keeping the minutes and proceedings.

(b) The ballot paper shall be signed by the presiding authority.

7. Method of voting :-

(1) Every Councillor shall have only one vote at the election, irrespective of the number of seats to be filled.

(2) Each Councillor in giving his vote-

(a) shall place on his ballot paper the figure 1 in the space opposite the name of the candidate for whom he wishes to vote in the first instance; and

(b) may in addition, place on his ballot paper the figures 2, or the figure 2 and 3, or the figures 2, 3 and 4 and so on, in the space opposite the names of the other candidates in the order of his preference, fold the paper and put it into the ballot box.

(3)

(a) If an elector is unable to read the ballot paper to record his vote thereon in accordance with sub-rule (2) by reason of illiteracy, blindness or other infirmity, the presiding officer shall, on being satisfied about such illiteracy, blindness or infirmity, permit the elector to take with him a companion of not less than twenty-one years of age who is able to read the ballot paper and record the vote thereon on behalf of and in accordance with the wishes of the elector, and if necessary, to fold the ballot paper so as to conceal the vote and insert it into the ballot box:

Provided that, no person shall be permitted to act as the companion of more than one elector at any polling station on the same day;

Provided further that before any person is permitted to act as the companion of an elector on any day under this sub-rule the person shall be required to declare that he will keep secret the vote recorded by him on behalf of the elector and that he has not already acted as the companion of any other elector at any polling

station on that day.

(b) The presiding officer shall keep a record in Form 2 of all such cases under this rule.

(c) The presiding officer shall, when he is so requested by the companion of an elector, explain to him the instrument for the recording of votes.

8. Scrutiny of ballot papers :-

(1) As soon as may be after the voting is over the presiding authority shall, in the presence of the Councillors present, proceed to scrutinise the ballot papers which he deems valid from those which he rejects, endorsing on each of the latter the word "Reject" and the ground of rejection.

(2) A ballot paper shall be invalid on which-

(a) the figure is not marked; or

(b) the figure 1 is set opposite the name of more than one candidate or is so placed as to render it doubtful to which candidate it is intended to apply; or

(c) the figure 1 and some other figure are set opposite the name of the same candidate; or

(d) there is any mark or writing by which the Councillor casting the vote can be identified.

9. Arrangement of valid ballot papers in parcels :-

After rejecting the ballot papers which are invalid, the presiding authority shall-

(a) arrange the remaining ballot papers in parcels according to the first preference recorded for each candidate;

(b) count and record the number of papers in each parcel and the total number; and

(c) credit to each candidate the value of the papers in his parcel.

10. Counting of votes when only one seat is to be filled :-

(1) At any election where only one seat is to be filled, every valid ballot paper shall be deemed to be of the value of 1 at each count, and the quota sufficient to secure the return of a candidate at the election shall be determined as follows:-

(a) add the value credited to all the candidate under clause (c) of Rule 9;

(b) divide the total by 2; and

(c) add 1 to the quotient ignoring the remainder, if any, and the resulting, number is the quota.

(2) If, at the end of the first or any subsequent count, the total value of the ballot papers credited to any candidate is equal to, or greater than the quota or there is only one continuing candidate, that candidate shall be declared elected.

(3) If, at the end of any count, no candidate can be declared elected, the presiding authority shall-

(a) exclude from the poll the candidate who up to that stage has been credited with the lowest value.

(b) examine all the ballot papers in his parcel and sub-parcels, arrange unexhausted papers in sub-parcels according to the next available preferences recorded thereon for the continuing candidates, count the number of papers in each such sub-parcel and credit it to the candidate for whom such preference is recorded transfer the sub-parcel to that candidate, and make a separate sub-parcel of all the exhausted papers; and

(c) See whether any of the continuing candidates has, after such transfer and credit, secured the quota.

(4) If, when a candidate has to be excluded under clause (a) of sub- rule (3), two or more candidates have been credited with the same value and stand lowest on the poll, the candidate for whom the lowest number of original votes are recorded shall be excluded, and if this number also is the same in the case of two or more candidates, the presiding authority shall decide by lot which of them shall be excluded.

11. Ascertainment of quota when more than one seat is to be filled :-

At any election where more than one candidate is to be elected, every valid ballot paper shall be deemed to be the value of 100, and the quota sufficient to secure the return of a candidate at the election shall be determined as follows:-

(a) add the values credited to all the candidates under clause (c) of

Rule 9;

(b) divide the total by a number which exceeds, by 1 the number of vacancies to be filled; and

(c) add 1 to the quotient ignoring the remainder, if any, and the resulting number is the quota.

12. General instructions :-

In carrying out the provisions of Rules 13 to 17, the presiding authority shall disregard all fractions and ignore all preferences recorded for candidates already elected or excluded from the poll.

13. Candidates with quota elected :-

If at the end of any count or at the end of the transfer of any parcel or sub-parcel of an excluded candidate the value of ballot papers credited to a candidate is equal to, or greater than the quota, that candidate shall be declared elected.

14. Transfer of surplus :-

(1) If at the end of any count the value of the ballot papers credited to a candidate is greater than the quota, the surplus shall be transferred, in accordance with the provisions of this rule, to the continuing candidates indicated on the ballot papers of that candidate as being next in order of the preference of the person casting the vote.

(2) If more than one candidate have a surplus, the largest surplus shall be dealt with first and the others in order of magnitude:

Provided that, every surplus arising on first count shall be dealt with before those arising on the second count and so on.

(3) Where there are more surpluses than one to distribute and two or more surpluses are equal, regard shall be had to the original votes of each candidate and the candidate for whom most original votes are recorded, shall have his surplus first distributed; and if the values of their original votes are equal, the presiding authority shall decide by lot which candidate shall have his surplus first distributed.

(4)

(a) If the surplus of any candidate to be transferred arises from original votes only, the presiding authority shall examine all the papers in the parcel belonging to that candidate, divide the

unexhausted papers into sub-parcels according to the next preferences recorded thereon and make a separate sub-parcel of the exhausted papers.

(b) He shall ascertain the value of the papers in each sub-parcel and of all the unexhausted papers.

(c) If the value of the unexhausted papers is equal to or less than the surplus, he shall transfer all the unexhausted papers at the value at which they were received by the candidate whose surplus is being transferred.

(d) If the value of the unexhausted papers is greater than the surplus, he shall transfer the sub-parcels of unexhausted papers, and the value at which each paper shall be transferred shall be ascertained by dividing the surplus by the total number of unexhausted papers.

(5) If the surplus of any candidate to be transferred arises from transferred as well as original votes, the presiding authority shall re-examine all the papers in the sub-parcels last transferred to the candidate, divide the unexhausted papers into sub-parcels according to the next preferences recorded thereon, and then deal with the sub-parcels in the same manner as is provided in the case of sub-parcels referred to in sub- rule (4).

(6) The papers transferred to each candidate shall be added in the form of a sub-parcel to the papers already belonging to such candidate.

(7) All papers in the parcel or sub-parcel of an elected candidate not transferred under this rule shall be set apart as finally dealt with.

15. Exclusion of candidates lowest on the poll :-

(1) If after all surpluses have been transferred as hereinbefore provided, the number of candidates elected is less than the required number, the presiding authority shall exclude from the poll the candidate lowest on the poll and shall distribute his unexhausted papers among the continuing candidates according to the next preferences recorded thereon and any exhausted papers shall be set apart as finally dealt with.

(2) The papers containing original votes of an excluded candidate shall first be transferred, the transfer value of each paper being one

hundred.

(3) The papers containing transferred votes of an excluded candidate shall then be transferred in the order of the transfers in which and at the value at which, he obtained them.

(4) Each of such transfers shall be deemed to be a separate transfer but not a separate count.

(5) If, as a result of the transfer of papers, the value of votes obtained by a candidate is equal to or greater than the quota, the count then proceeding shall be completed but no further papers shall be transferred to him.

(6) The process directed by his rule shall be repeated on the successive exclusions one after another of the candidates lowest on the poll until such vacancy is filled either by the election of a candidate with the quota or as hereinafter provided.

(7) If at any time it becomes necessary to exclude a candidate and two or more candidates have the same value of votes and are the lowest on the poll, regard shall be had to the original votes of each candidate and the candidate for whom lowest original votes are recorded shall be excluded; and if the values of their original votes are equal the candidate with the smallest value at the earliest count at which these candidates had unequal values shall be excluded.

(8) If two or more candidates are lowest on the poll and each has the same value of votes at all counts, the presiding authority shall decide by lot which candidate shall be excluded.

16. Filling the last vacancies :-

(1) When at the end of any count the number of counting candidates is reduced to the number of vacancies remaining unfilled, the continuing candidates shall be declared elected.

(2) When at the end of any count only one vacancy remains unfilled and the value of the papers of some one candidate exceeds the total value of the papers of all the other continuing candidates together with any surplus not transferred, that candidate shall be declared elected.

(3) When at the end of any count only one vacancy remains unfilled and there are only two continuing candidates and each of

them has the same value of votes and no surplus remains capable of transfer; the presiding authority shall decide by lot which of them shall be excluded; and after excluding him in the manner aforesaid declare the other candidate to be elected.

17. Provisions for re-counts :-

(1) Any candidate may, at any time during the counting of the votes, either before the commencement or after the completion of any transfer of votes (whether surplus or otherwise), request the presiding authority to re-examine and recount the papers of all or any candidates (not being papers set aside at any previous transfer as finally dealt with), and the presiding authority shall forthwith re-examine and recount the same accordingly.

(2) The presiding authority may in his discretion recount the votes either once or more than once in any case in which he is not satisfied as to the accuracy of any previous count:

Provide that, nothing in this sub-rule shall make it obligatory on the presiding authority to recount the same votes more than once.

18. Declaration of result :-

The presiding authority shall thereafter prepare a list of all candidates elected on the Subjects Committees, read out the names of all elected members, and shall also cause a copy of the first to be put on the notice board of the Council.

19. Filling up resulting or casual vacancies :-

The foregoing rules shall mutatis mutandis apply to the elections in respect of the resulting vacancies under sub-section (3) of Section 63 or to fill any casual vacancy.

20. Elections to Standing Committee :-

The foregoing rules shall mutatis mutandis apply to the elections in respect of Standing Committee.