

Procedure for 2008 KOA Elections

- 1) The eligible voter list for Kashmir Overseas Association (KOA) elections will be provided by the secretary of KOA to National Election Committee (NEC) Chair, Autar Mattoo with a copy to KOA Zonal Directors as soon as possible but no later than October 17, 2008. This list will include names of persons/families with their e-mails and of those who opted for postal mail. The KOA zonal directors will independently verify and finalize this voter list for their respective zones and forward it to NEC Chair by October 22, 2008.
- 2) The NEC will invite nominations for the KOA President/Zonal Directors whose positions need to be filled as per KOA's announcements.
- 3) After the nomination process is complete and the candidates have accepted their nominations, the contesting candidates will receive confirmed voter list by November 8, 2008. Each candidate may use a representative to contact membership at large. In that case, the candidate identifies the representative to NEC by November 9, 2008.
- 4) If any KOA member wishes not to be contacted by telephone, the contesting candidate or the representative shall not contact such a person. The voters who do not want to be contacted by telephone should send an e-mail to autarmattoo@hotmail.com
- 5) All the election-related materials will be posted by NEC only. The incumbent zonal directors shall not misuse the information system to further their candidacy.
- 6) The contesting candidates shall not contact NEC by phone during the election process. All communications will be via e-mail.
- 7) The 2008 KOA elections will be held using an electronic/web based system because of its simplicity, ease of counting ballots, little chance of vote tampering, and significantly reduced cost encumbered compared to paper balloting.
- 8) Those dues-paid members (for the year 2008) who do not have e-mail IDs or who cannot or do not wish to use electronic system for balloting will be allowed to send in their ballots by postal mail. The paper ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by NEC. Paper ballots will be signed by at least two NEC members before being mailed to the voters and votes will be considered eligible only when the NEC signatures on the returning ballots are confirmed by the NEC members who initially signed the ballots.
- 9) The contesting candidates or their representatives shall not indulge in trash talk, mud slinging, innuendos or insulting personal attacks or any such activity that would be considered detrimental by NEC to our goal of ensuring an honest and upright election with equal opportunity for all candidates to express their positions and views in an environment of decency and good will.
- 10) If any candidate violates this procedure in any way, the NEC may declare such candidate in violation of this procedure and disqualify such a candidate from the elections.

NEC 2008: Autar Mattoo (Chair), Hira Nakhasi (Member), Sujata Qasba (Member), and Soman Dhar (Ex-Officio Member)