

HTA Election Committee Report
Prepared for
Election Process and the Results of Election for 2009 BODs
Hindu Temple of Arizona

Date of the Election: Dec. 7, 2008

Location: Hindu Temple of Arizona, 3019 N Hayden Road, Scottsdale, AZ

Election Committee members: Debashis Panda, Jagdish Sharma and Varinder Narang (chair)

Background: The election committee was formed by the board of the Hindu Temple of Arizona to conduct the election of 6 directors to serve two year terms on the board starting in January 2009. The members of the election committee had agreed to carry out this task on a voluntary basis. The rules/processes used in previous elections was provided to the election committee by the board to form the baseline for this election. Election committee reviewed 2007 process and introduced minor changes to further clarify & simply the process without altering the core intent of the Election process.

Hindu Temple of Arizona formed a nomination committee, chaired by Mr. Subhash Arora, to invite nominations from volunteers to serve on the board and if acceptable to place their names on the ballot. The nomination committee also provided a preliminary sample of the ballot with the names of these candidates (see attachment 1). However, the nomination committee, in accordance with the constitution bylaws of the Hindu temple of Arizona, also invited nominations from the floor at the members meeting.

Nomination committee presented the overview of the nomination process and list of nominated candidates. The additional details are captured in the NC report. At that time, NC chair declared that one of the nominated candidates, Mr. Navin Kuber, representing West region has requested (via email) to withdraw his candidacy.

As required by the HTA constitution, NC opened the floor for seek floor nomination. No additional candidates were nominated from floor.

The Election Process (attachment #2):

Anil Gupta, treasure of the board of the Hindu Temple of Arizona, provided a copy of the membership list to verify the eligibility of the members wishing to cast their vote.

The official ballot (attachment 1) contained the instructions for marking the ballot and what would invalidate a part of or the entire ballot. Based on past practice, the election committee was asked to only declare the winners of the election without releasing the actual vote count for the candidates.

The list of the names of the candidates on the ballot provided by the nomination committee were written on a large white sheet (2'X3') and displayed for general body review. Each nominated candidate was invited to speak for 1 minute to present their goal/vision/motivation to serve HTA administration.

The Results:

Due to the fact that there were 6 open seats to fill for 2009 HTA BODs and only 6 contesting candidates remaining after the withdrawal of one (Mr. Kuber), the election was a "no contest" and hence, no formal voting was conducted. All candidates were elected "UNANIMOUSLY".

The following candidates from each region were elected to “unanimously”

East: Bhibhuti Panda
West: Jitendar Kabra
North: Asha Jain and Ashok Verma
South: Ravi Sharma and Anil Gupta

Concluding Remarks:

There were no additional candidates, other than 6 candidates presented by nomination committee to contest the election. Therefore, no voting took place and candidates were declared winners unanimously. The members of the election committee express its appreciation to the board of directors, nomination committee members and support volunteers for their cooperation during the election process. We congratulate the winners and wish them well in carrying out their duties in the service of the Hindu Temple of Arizona.



Attachment 1

**Hindu Temple of Arizona
(2008 Official Ballot for Election of 2009 Board of Directors)**

Ballot Number	Signature with date of two Election Officers (blue ink)	1. 2.
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Instructions:

1. Please check to make sure **total of 6 candidates at the maximum.**
2. Select the number of candidates by region based on Number of Openings for the region. Select your **ONE** floater candidate from any one region.
3. Write in candidates are allowed only from floor nominations posted by Nominations Committee.
4. Each voter shall have to submit the form separately (For example Self and spouse).
5. Corrections on the ballot will disqualify the ballot. If necessary, before casting vote request replacement ballot from Election Committee upon return of your corrected/damaged ballot. Ballot will be replaced ONCE only.

Number of Openings by region: East – 1; West – 1; North – 1: South – 2

<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>
1. Bibhuti Panda <input type="checkbox"/> 2. 3. 4. <u>Select Minimum 1 and Maximum 2 Candidate</u>	1. Jitendra Kabra <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Navin Kuber ** <input type="checkbox"/> 3. 4. <u>Select Minimum 1 and Maximum 2 Candidates</u>
<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>
1. Ashok Verma <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Asha Jain <input type="checkbox"/> 3. 4. <u>Select Minimum 1 and Maximum 2 Candidates</u>	1. Anil Gupta <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Ravi Sharma <input type="checkbox"/> 3. 4. <u>Select Minimum 2 and Maximum 3 Candidates</u>

** **Candidate who withdrew the nomination**

15.0 Election Procedure:

Hindu Temple of Arizona

Election process guidelines :

7. The voter needs to vote for a total of 6 candidates as described in steps below. Only those candidates who are properly nominated are eligible to contest.
8. There is 1 opening from North, 2 from South, 1 from East and 1 from West region of India. The 6th (floater) candidate can be selected from any region (East, West, North and South).
9. Please place check marks against the name of candidates from each region of India (East, West, North and South). Hand-written names of the Floor nominee's on the ballot paper are acceptable. Also place a check mark next to their name. Minor spelling errors in first and/or last names of nominees are acceptable. E.g, Ram Verma in place of Rama Verma is acceptable. However Ram Verma in place of Ramesh Verma is not acceptable.
10. Ballot will be disqualified in the following conditions:
 - a. If more than one floater is chosen.
 - b. There are votes for more than 6 candidates on a ballot.
 - c. There are corrections made on the ballot.
 - d. There are any write-in names on a ballot who were not nominated.
 - e. If floor nominee's region is not correctly marked on the ballot
 - f. First and last name(s) of floor nominee's are not written on the ballot
11. Proxy votes are not be allowed.
12. Candidates nominated during the "floor nomination" will not have their names printed on the ballot. Their names will be hand written by the voters. Displays of the names of all nominees will be placed in the voting area.
13. Each family member can get a maximum of 2 ballots for self and spouse provided each one is present at the time of voting. Each business member will get only 1 ballot per membership.
14. Errors on ballots can be corrected only by requesting a replacement ballot from an Election Committee member. Replacement ballots will be issued if needed to voters only ONE time. Voter must return the erroneous ballots before a new one can be issued
15. If there is a tie for any position, election committee will recount the ballots.
16. If there is tie after recount, election committee will use flip of the coin to pick the winner.
17. Regional seats will be filled first with the highest number of votes within the region. Floater seat will be decided with the highest number of votes from the remaining candidates.
18. All results will be approved by election committee and announced at the AGM meeting. The ballots boxes will be sealed and will remain with one of the Election Committee members for one week and destroyed after that, unless directed by HTA secretary.
19. Number of votes received by each candidate will not be disclosed.

Preparing for the Election:

1. Obtain members list, which are eligible to vote, from HTA Board. The eligible members list shall be as of Oct. 31st, 2008
2. Obtain copy of HTA Constitution and Bylaws from HTA Secretary.
3. Obtain a list of previous HTA Board members and Executive Committee members from HTA Secretary.
4. Nomination committee to determine the eligibility of the nominees.
5. Describe ballot by region and voting procedures.
6. Prepare a chart of Nominations by region for all nominees. Ensure it is clear who is seeking elections.
7. Prepare the ballot and ballot boxes before the elections day as required. The nominations received prior to cutoff date are pre-printed on the ballot. Floor nominations need to be manually added to the ballot by voters.

Procedure on Election Day:

1. Election committee operates as an independent body and has authority to make all decisions on the elections day regarding running the meeting, tallying and declaring the results.
2. HTA Board opens the General Body meeting once the quorum is established for the meeting
3. Nominations committee chairperson is invited to announce the names of the candidates. Nominations Committee Chairperson opens the floor for additional nominations. Floor nominations need to be duly proposed and seconded and documented in Meeting Minutes. All candidates must be present or should have submitted a letter to Committee in advance in case they can not be present.
4. Nominating Committee will assist in getting the floor nominations, checking the eligibility and making sure that the candidates fill out the nomination forms. Records kept by HTA Treasurer are considered official records to resolve any disputes with eligibility of members for seeking election or for voting.
5. Once all the nominations are in or the specified time for nominations has elapsed, the nominations process will be closed. Nominations committee chairperson announces the names of all eligible candidates and writes them on a flip chart or other media.
6. Share the following questions that voters are interested in – Past contribution and experience with HTA activities, motivation, resourcefulness, skills and ability to support HTA needs, vision and priorities. Ask all nominated candidates to make a 1 minute speech addressing on their reasons to contest an election and suitability for the position. Keep time.
7. Set up the voting area with required items including a display of all nominated candidates.
8. Share the voting process with the attendees.
9. Start the voting process. Voting will occur during the designated time period. Any eligible voter in queue at the end of voting period will be allowed to vote.
10. Verify the identification and check from the eligibility list if they are eligible to vote.
11. Handover official ballot to the eligible voters. Treasurer will resolve any eligibility disputes.
12. Answer any procedural questions from the voters and assist in the voting process.
13. Election committee will close the voting and count all votes. No observers will be allowed.
14. Check the validity of all ballots; count the number of votes for each candidate. Tally the results and determine the winners.
15. HTA secretary invites EC chair during AGM meeting to announce the voting results. DO NOT disclose how many votes any candidates received.
16. Close the meeting
17. Document the results, write election meeting minutes and forward it to HTA Secretary for posting on the Temple bulletin board. Submit Nomination Forms to Secretary for Record Keeping.