

Sanatan Dharma Temple and Cultural Center (SDTCC)
(Kent Hindu Temple)
2017 Board of Directors' Election Rules

1. As decided by the current SDTCC Board of Directors, 2017 Election shall take place on Sunday, 27th August 2017 at the SDTCC Premises in Kent, WA
2. The voting time will be from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.
3. As per By-Law Article 6(3) each voter must be a member for the year 2017 and should have paid his/her dues and submitted signed membership form at least 14 days prior to the Election Day (i.e. by 14th Aug 2017(extended by one day due to Krishna Janamashtami on 8/14).
4. All candidates for the Board of Directors (BOD) must be members of the General Body, nominated by a general body member, and accept the nomination on the official form circulated by the Election Committee.
5. Any General body member in good standing may nominate any number of general body members for the Board, provided the nominee signs his/her acceptance on the nomination form.
6. Nomination form is available from the Election Committee Members. The form is also available on the Temple Website and hard copies are available at the Temple premises.
7. Nominees for the Board, while accepting their nomination shall sign a statement that they have read and will follow SDTCC Constitution and By-Laws; and 2017 BOD Election Rules.
8. As a rule in the By-Laws Article 6 (8a), only one member from an extended family (examples: no two brothers, no husband and wife) may be nominated for the Board. If two or more nomination forms are received and such known relationship(s) exists, the Election Committee will contact the parties involved to sort the matter out among themselves. If no resolution can be reached, a coin toss (or similar process) will be used to determine the nominee from amongst the choices.
9. All completed Nomination Forms can be hand delivered/faxed/scanned-emailed to either of the Election Committee members latest by 12:00 pm on Sunday, 27th August 2017. On the Election Day, the nomination form must be hand delivered.
10. The submission of the nomination form is public information. The election committee will keep the current board members and other nominees informed about the new nomination form submittals ASAP but no later than 8:00 pm (for nomination received by 5:00 pm that day) by e-mail.

11. All nominees must be present at the temple(s) no later than 12:00 pm on the day of election, Sunday, 27th August 2017. The election committee will inform them in-person about all the nominees.
12. The nomination process will close at 12:00 pm on Sunday, 27th August 2017.
13. If a candidate wishes to withdraw, he/she must fill withdrawal form and inform one of the Election Committee members by 12:30 pm on 27th August 2017.
14. All final nominees will be introduced to the SDTCC General Membership by the Election Committee at 1:30 pm on 27th August 2017.
15. There are 8 Board positions available for this election. If 8 or less candidates accept a nomination, then they will be announced as Board Members - Elected uncontested and the physical voting will not take place.
16. As mentioned in No. 15 above, if less than 8 members contest the election then all standing for the election will be declared elected and the remaining positions will be considered Vacancies as per By-Laws Article 4(4). The 2017-18 Board members may fill, by a two-third majority vote of directors present and voting, the remaining vacant Board member positions from the general body of members.
17. No canvassing is allowed at SDTCC premises during 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm on 27th August 2017 while voting is taking place.
18. Each Individual membership has one vote. Each family membership has two votes, but no more than one vote can be cast by one person.
19. Each voter must be present in person to cast a vote.
20. Each voting member will cast one ballot form.
21. Each voter may select up to 8 names on the ballot form.
22. The ballot form will be signed by all the Election Committee members present. The vote will be cast in private and the ballot form will be put in an unmarked envelope provided by the Election Committee before inserting into the ballot box.
23. If more than 8 names are checked, the ballot form will be termed invalid for all the names selected.
24. Corrections/Edits in selection of names will be deemed invalid and the vote is not counted for those names. Rest of the name selections without any corrections will be deemed valid and counted on the ballot form.

25. The election shall be run within the framework of the By-Laws and Constitution of the SDTCC.
26. The election shall be conducted by the Rules set by the Election Committee as per By-Laws Article 6(8b).
27. All the nominees or one representative per nominee have the option to be present during the vote counting process (and may verify any vote if required).
28. Voting results will be promptly announced upon completion of all voting formalities (counting, verifying, etc.) after the election.
29. Only winners' names in alphabetical order will be announced when the voting results have been finalized, and the number of votes received will not be announced. The election committee will not release vote count to any one outside the committee.
30. The 8 candidates with the highest votes will be declared as elected Board members.
31. In case of a tie of votes (for the 8th) the following process will be done - either a coin toss if 2 participants are involved or names drawn randomly from a hat if choice is to be made from amongst more than 2 participants.
32. Any nominee contesting the election, who attempts to create fictitious rules that are not in the Constitution, By-laws or Election Rules, whether to benefit himself/herself, disrupt the election, or to intimidate other contestants and voters shall be barred from the election by the Election Committee.
33. The Election Committee shall make the final determination in any dispute in respect to the election process.
34. The first Board Meeting will be called at the convenience of the elected members. A suggested date is 3rd September 2017. However, this meeting shall take place within two weeks of the date of announcement of the election results. The new Board members (2017-2018) will assume their roles officially on that date.
35. The Election Committee shall initiate the first Board meeting by introducing the newly elected Board members to the Board and then request the President (2016-2017) to preside over the Board meeting. The President (2016-2017) shall facilitate the first Board meeting where the Board members will elect the new President and Vice-president (per Article 3(4) (5)). After the election of the President and Vice-president (2017-2018) by the Board members, the new President will preside over the Board meeting. The new President, in consultation with the Board, will appoint the new Secretary, Treasurer, and other Board Positions (per Article 3 (6)).
36. The Election Committee will be automatically dissolved after the conclusion of the first Board meeting, unless a specific request is made by the Board for any help needed by them regarding the election process.