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Local Authorities Election – 2024 Elpitiya Pradeshiya Sabha Election – 2024

Granting of leave to private sector employees to enable them to cast their votes at national elections without, loss of pay or their private leave.

In terms of Section 84 A (1) of the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance, the leave necessary to employee for the purpose of voting should be afforded by their respective employers. This should necessarily be implemented at the Local Authorities election, which is to be held on 26.10.2024 also.

2. Paragraph 12.3 of the Chapter XII of the Establishment Code, which is for the special leave of the public sector officers also states that a public officer should be granted a special paid leave, minimum period of two hours, or such a continuous period as he may deem necessary, to enable him to cast his vote at the Local Authorities Election.

3. However, since there have been several complaints from the private sector employees that they have not been granted leave to exercise their franchise at previously held elections as there is no methodology of granting special leave stipulated by a written order, Hon. Chairman and Commissioners/officers of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Secretary to the Ministry of Labor / Commissioner General and officers of Labor Department were convened for lengthy discussions with the Commissioner of Elections and officers of the Department of Elections, relating to the Presidential Election 2015, and according to the said discussions following table was prepared based on the distance and the time and was decided as suitable for the use by private sector employers to grant leave to their employees to cast their votes and was published.


Distance to be travelled from the place of work to the polling station to cast his/ her vote	Minimum period of leave to be granted
40 km or less	½ day
40 – 100 km	1 day
100 – 150 km	1 ½ days
Above 150km	2 days

The minimum period to be granted is suggested in the above table. But there can be several occasions where three days leave as may be deemed necessary to be granted to employees who will need three days to travel from their places of work to the prescribed polling station and to return.

4. The Election Commission expects and kindly requests from all employers to consider the table in above paragraph 3 and the aforesaid matters and grant special leave to their employees to cast their votes in this election too, which is to be held on 26, October 2024.

5. Every employee should request their leave in writing and every employer should prepare and exhibit a document, including the persons applied for the special leave and the period of leave granted to them.

6. The employers are once again kindly requested to follow the aforesaid recommendations and to grant sufficient period of leave to their employees for them to cast their votes and **it is also kindly emphasized that it is the responsibility of every employee to obtain minimum leave sufficient to travel to and from their polling station for the purpose of casting their votes, without interrupting the functioning of the institution.**


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Commissioner General of Elections