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EXTRAORDINARY

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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL
Government Notifications

**THE CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS TO BE FOLLOWED DURING ELECTION CAMPAIGNING
ACTIVITIES, ISSUED TO THE SECRETARIES/ AUTHORIZED AGENTS OF ALL
POLITICAL PARTIES AND LEADERS OF INDEPENDENT GROUPS CONTESTING THE
LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 76A OF THE
LOCAL AUTHORITIES ELECTIONS ORDINANCE**

Schedule 01 outlines the campaign regulations issued by the Election Commission under Section 76A of the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance, setting out the rules to be followed at the Local Authorities Elections to be held in 06.05.2025.

R. M. A. L. RATHNAYAKE,
Chairman,
Election Commission.

M. A. P. C. PERERA,
Member,
Election Commission.

AMEER FAAIZ,
Member,
Election Commission.

A. SHANMUGANATHAN,
Member,
Election Commission.

Prof. LAKSHMAN DISSANAYAKE,
Member,
Election Commission.

Office of the Election Commission,
Sarana Mawatha,
Rajagiriya,
11th day of March, 2025.



Schedule 01

The Election Commission hereby issues the following regulations restricting campaigning activities for the Local Authorities Elections to be held on 06.05.2025.

Campaigning Methods and Meetings

1. Advertisements, hoardings, posters, cut-outs, flags, banners, welcome arches, drawings, photographs, election symbols, candidate names, distinctive slogans, and clothing or caps promoting candidates or political parties are prohibited in public places.
2. National flags, religious flags, and religious symbols shall not be displayed for the promotion of political parties/ groups, or candidates under any circumstances.
3. Leaflets may be distributed from house to house by a maximum of five (05) individuals to avoid public inconvenience. However, such leaflets cannot be displayed in public. It is mandatory for the address of the printing house and the publisher's details to be printed on the leaflets.
4. For a meeting held in support of a candidate representing a party/ group contesting the election, a poster containing only the details of the venue, date, time, list of speakers, and names of candidates is permitted to be displayed solely within the relevant local government area, beginning seven (07) days prior to the meeting.
5. On the day of the meeting, legally prepared leaflets, notices, drawings, and photographs may be displayed only at the meeting venue, with decorations permitted solely within the meeting premises during the event. In the case of an outdoor venue, decorations are allowed only around the stage and flags, banners, and billboards should not be displayed on highways, roundabouts, or junctions in the area during the meeting. Additionally, loudspeakers should be installed only inside the meeting premises, and their sound should be contained within the premises so as not to disturb areas outside the venue.
6. While candidate campaign posters may be displayed only on the candidate's vehicle approved by the District Election Office, no election-related leaflets, display sheets, notice sheets, drawings, photographs of candidates, symbols or signs may be displayed on any vehicle in which the candidate is not traveling. Flags or banners may only be displayed on vehicles used to transport the Candidate. It is not permissible to display such flags or banners on a large number of vehicles based on the possibility of a candidate traveling in them. Additionally, such items cannot be displayed on trains, Sri Lanka Transport Board buses, private buses, or other private vehicles used for public transportation.
7. Motorcades are prohibited during campaign activities. (While the current legal provisions do not specify a particular number of vehicles, a motorcade is considered as a party/candidate/political promotion involving five or more vehicles moving in succession in a manner that obstructs the general public.)

Campaigning Activities at Notified Campaign Offices

1. Only within the limits of a notified election office premises, one billboard displaying the name and symbol of the party/ the number and symbol of the Independent group, along with the pictures of all candidates if necessary, is permitted, provided it does not exceed 60 square feet. The photograph of the party or group leader may be included only in the central notified office. Additionally, six flags may be displayed within the office premises. No other decorations are allowed, and notices, cutouts, flags, or banners of any kind cannot be displayed across or on the highways, pavements, electric poles, boundary walls, or similar public spaces. Any attempt to misuse this permission will result in the enforcement of the rule that notices and notice boards cannot be displayed in such areas, as per the applicable law.
2. Photographs, voting symbols, slogans, or any other promotional materials of politicians or candidates, other than those of the candidate(s) of the relevant party/ group, shall not be displayed in any office.
3. National flags, religious flags, and religious symbols shall not be displayed in any notified campaign office.

4. Party or candidate promotion boards, flags, banners, photographs, etc., displayed in any notified campaign office must be removed 48 hours before polling day. However, the name board identifying the office may remain displayed at the notified central office and the notified divisional offices. If such offices are located within 500 meters of a polling station, they must be removed entirely.
5. If a candidate's residence is designated as a notified campaign office, it may be decorated in accordance with the restrictions outlined herein.
6. It is also crucial for the political party, group, or representative that has obtained approval to operate temporary sheds as campaign offices to prepare a work plan ensuring 24-hour security for these sheds.
7. There should be no violation of the general laws and election laws of the island at any notified election office.

As per *Gazette* No. 2034/37 dated 01.09.2017, the use of all types of polythene for decorations in political, social, religious, national, cultural, or any other festivals or occasions is strictly prohibited. Accordingly, leaflets, advertisements, drawings, photographs, flags, banners, billboards and arches that are legally prepared as mentioned above must also be produced without the use of polythene. Furthermore the use of polythene in the decoration of meeting venues, notified campaign offices, and all forms of legal campaign activities should be avoided.

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