

Referendum # 2 – Direct Election of Office Bearers

Current Process:

TANTEX office bearer positions including Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer are selected by either nomination or election process by current Executive Committee members.

Proposed process:

TANTEX office bearer positions including Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer are to be directly elected by eligible voting members by general election process. This proposed referendum was passed in the last special general body meeting and the implementation of execution of this change is to be ratified in the upcoming general body.

Process for Implementation:

1. Distribute the bylaw changes and implementation process to the life members along with general body notification for the members understanding and feedback.
2. Incorporate the member's feedback as necessary and present this to the general body to ratify the referendum #2 and make the bylaw (**Table 1**) changes to make it effective immediately after the General body meeting.
3. Inform election committee to provision five additional categories to conduct general elections for Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer along with executive committee category.
4. Adhere to the defined rules and guidelines to implement direct election process and conduct them smoothly.
5. Sample ballot (**Table 2**) to conduct elections for all (EC, OB and BOT) in one effort.

Table 2: Following bylaw changes are needed to implement the general body mandated “**Referendum Vote #2 – Direct election of office bearers**”

S.No.	Article #	Article Title	Section #	Page #	Current	Need Amendment to	Justification
1	XIII	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC)	1, 1.2	27	Out of twenty one (21) EC members the positions of President, Vice-President and President-elect are not elected by the general Election process but by the EC themselves.	Out of twenty one (21) EC members the positions of President and President-elect are not elected by the general Election process.	As motion passed by last general body for the “ referendum Vote #2 – Direct election of office bearers ”, the vice president shall be elected by general election process but not by the EC members.
2	XVI	ELECTION COMMITTEE	12, 12.1	37	The newly elected members of EC will elect, by January 15th, Vice President from preceding year's Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, or Joint Treasurer with at least one year of service in this capacity.	Vice President shall be elected by general election process by January 15th, from a pool of the EC Members who served at least one year at the capacity of Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, or Joint Treasurer role.	As motion passed by last general body for the “ referendum Vote #2 – Direct election of office bearers ”, the vice president shall be elected by general election process but not by the EC members.
3	XVI	ELECTION COMMITTEE	12, 12.2	37	The EC will also elect Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer by January 15th from a pool of EC members who served at least one year on EC, including those who served on EC in past years.	Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer shall be elected by general election process by January 15th from a pool of EC members who served at least one year on EC, including those who served on EC in past years.	As motion passed by last general body for the “ referendum Vote #2 – Direct election of office bearers ”, the Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer shall be elected by

							general election process but not by the EC members.
4	XVI	EC & Office Bearer – Restrictions	13, 13.1	37	EC members who served at least one year on EC, including those who served on EC in past years, are eligible for nomination to the position of Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer or Joint Treasurer but not to the position of President, President-Elect or Vice President.	EC members who served at least one year on EC, including those who served on EC in past years, are eligible for contesting in general elections to the position of Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer or Joint Treasurer but not to the position of President, President-Elect or Vice President.	As motion passed by last general body for the “ referendum Vote #2 – Direct election of office bearers ”, the Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer shall be elected by general election process but not by the nomination process by EC members.

Baseline rules for implementing the **Referendum Vote #2 – Direct election of office bearers** are

1. The eligibility criteria for the Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer positions are as defined in the current bylaws, **Article XVI, Section -6**.
2. Identification of vacancies is determined as per the current bylaws **Article XVI, Section -7**
3. Honor the special provisions for women as defined in **Article XIII, Section – 2**. [One third (1/3) of new openings in the Executive Committee will be reserved for women candidates.]
4. Provision six additional categories in the election process for Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, Joint Treasurer, and Executive Committee
5. As in today's process, EC candidates are eligible to contest for multiple office bearer positions (Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer) if they meet the eligible criteria as defined in the current bylaws, **Article XVI, Section -6**. In such case, it is contesting candidate's responsibility to indicate the order of priority for positions to the Election Committee at the time of nomination.
6. Election committee will be still in-charge for conducting general elections for both ECs and for the Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer positions. The general guidelines for the process of conducting elections is as defined in the current bylaws, **Article XVI. Section 10**
7. Declaration of Winners in the Elections and Installation of New EC & Office Bearers is as defined in the current bylaws, **Article XVI. Section 11 & 12**.
8. The order of the contestant names that appear in the ballot should be randomized when printing the ballots.
9. If an existing EC get elected for any position (Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer) his/her tenure will be based on existing bylaws. The office bearer position term will be for one year whereas executive committee term will be for three years per current bylaws.
10. If an existing executive member is contesting for an office bearer position and is not elected as an office bearer, he/she will continue to be an executive committee member as per previously elected term.
11. The defined process of Vice President → President Elect (the following year) → President (the following year) → ex-officio of the organization (the following year) is as per current constitution and bylaws.

How the Ballot, counting & selection of positions works?

- i) The FY2013 TANTEX direct election is for 6 EC vacant positions. And upon ratification of the referendum # 2 the office bearer direct election is for Vice President, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer positions.
- ii) Vacant Positions are defined in columns and contestant names are defined in rows in the table.
- iii) Check boxes are provided where appropriate (eligibility and candidate interest are taken into account. This will be done by Election Committee).

EC Selection: (4 from general category + 2 from Women Category = 6)

- iv) From general category, top four candidates who receive a majority of the votes cast for EC shall deem to have been elected to the EC the following year.
- v) Similarly from women category, top two candidates who receive a majority of the votes cast for EC shall deem to have been elected to the EC the following year.

VP Selection: (1 from general and Women Category)

- vi) Pick the Top one (highest vote count) candidate contested for VP position from both general and Women Category.
 - Case1:** If that top person is one of the 6 newly elected ECs or in the existing EC contestants, then he/she is declared elected for VP the following year.
 - Case 2:** If top person is neither in the elected ECs nor in the existing EC contestants, then pick the next highest candidate contested for VP position and follow the same process as defined in Case 1. Continue the same until you have the top one who exists in the elected EC candidates.

Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer Selection: (1 per position from general and Women Category)

- vii) Repeat the same process for other office bearer position (Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer, and Joint Treasurer) selection
- viii) Since a single contestant can contest for more than one position, a scenario may occur where that person can get highest votes for two positions. In such case, the selection will be determined based on the candidates priority indicated at the

time of nomination. If not indicated the priority at the time of nomination then it will be defaulted to higher position in the contested positions. (Example: If the candidate gets top votes for Secretary and Jt Secretary then the selection will be defaulted to Secretary).

- ix) If two candidates get the same number of votes for any position, and if the candidate has EC votes, then the EC votes count is considered to determine the selection.
- x) If two candidates get the same number of votes for any position, and if the candidate happens to be existing ECs, then election committee has the discretion to choose probability methods (like toss) for selection process. The same rule is applicable if the scenario occurs between an existing EC and ex-EC.

Table 3: Sample Election Ballot for TANTEX 2013 Elections.

<p>General Category Executive Committee</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>EC</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Candidate C</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate D</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate E</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate F</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate G</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate I</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate J</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate K</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate M</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate N</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Maximum of FOUR (4) boxes need to be checked for this category</p>	Name	EC	Candidate C	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate D	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate F	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate G	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate I	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate J	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate K	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate M	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate N	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Women Category Executive Committee</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>EC</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Candidate P</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate R</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate S</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate T</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate V</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate W</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate X</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Maximum of TWO (2) boxes need to be checked for this category</p>	Name	EC	Candidate P	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate R	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate S	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate T	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate V	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate W	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate X	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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<p>Board of Trustees</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>BOT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Candidate 1</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate 2</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate 3</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> <tr><td>Candidate 4</td><td><input type="checkbox"/></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Maximum of TWO (2) boxes need to be checked for this category</p>	Name	BOT	Candidate 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Candidate 4	<input type="checkbox"/>		<p>Note: If more than the required boxes are checked in a given category that category ballot will be invalidated</p>																												
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Candidate 1	<input type="checkbox"/>																																							
Candidate 2	<input type="checkbox"/>																																							
Candidate 3	<input type="checkbox"/>																																							
Candidate 4	<input type="checkbox"/>																																							

Vice President

Name	Vice President
Candidate A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate B	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate D	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate F	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate H	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate I	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate L	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate Q	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate U	<input type="checkbox"/>

ONLY ONE (1) box need to be checked for this category

Secretary

Name	Secretary
Candidate A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate D	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate F	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate H	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate P	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate Q	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate T	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate V	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate X	<input type="checkbox"/>

ONLY ONE (1) box need to be checked for this category

Jt Secretary

Name	Jt. Secretary
Candidate B	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate D	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate F	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate H	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate L	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate T	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate V	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate X	<input type="checkbox"/>

ONLY ONE (1) box need to be checked for this category

Treasurer

Name	Treasurer
Candidate A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate C	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate E	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate G	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate I	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate K	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate M	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate P	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate X	<input type="checkbox"/>

ONLY ONE (1) box need to be checked for this category

Jt. Treasurer

Name	Jt. Treasurer
Candidate B	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate C	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate F	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate L	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate Q	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate S	<input type="checkbox"/>
Candidate U	<input type="checkbox"/>

ONLY ONE (1) box need to be checked for this category

Note: If more than one box is checked per each category then your vote is invalidated for that category.

