



BASIC QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS

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Basic qualifications required for submitting nomination Centers that should be taken into account by political parties and independent groups when submitting nominations for Local Authorities Elections (This is only a guideline)

1.Candidates who can submit nominations to contest elections for Local Authorities.

1. Candidates of Political Parties recognized by the Election Commission.
- 2.Candidates of independent groups (individuals cannot submit nominations.)

2. Nomination Period

1. The three and half day nomination period for election shall commence on the fourteenth day after the date of announcement of the nomination period by Returning Officers as per the instructions of the Election Commission, and ends at 12.00 noon on the 17th day from the day of publication of such notice.

3. Details relating to the submission of nominations

3.1The Election Commission shall publish in a Gazette notification all the details relating to the submission of nominations: the number of candidates to be nominated from the first list (the list of names of candidates contesting for each ward)and the second list (the list submitted for the selection of members to be appointed in addition to the members elected from the all wards), the number of female candidates, the number of youth candidates (25%) to contest for each local government institution, the amount of deposits to be made by Recognized Political Parties and Independent Groups in respect of each candidate contesting and in accordance with each Local Authority. (Section 28(2A))

3.2. Deposits

Deposits must be made not later than 12.00 noon on the day immediately preceding the last date for submitting nominations as follows.

1. In the case of a Political Party, deposit of Rs. 1500 per one candidate.
2. In the case of an Independent Group, deposit of Rs. 5000 per one candidate.

4. Basic qualifications required for submitting nominations

4.1. The prospective candidates must have completed 18 (eighteen) years of age on the date on which the revision of the valid electoral register relating to the said election was commenced.

4.2. Must be a citizen of Sri Lanka

4.3. Must be a citizen qualified to have his or her name entered in the electoral register as a voter in the Local Authority area where the election is scheduled to be held (registration is not mandatory). The candidate must be an ordinary citizen in the relevant Local Authority area.

5. Technical issues that should be taken into account when submitting nominations

5.1. Deposits in respect of candidates of Political Party/Group shall be made on or before the last date of receipt of nomination papers (Section 29 the Local Authorities Elections Ordinance)

5.2. During the nomination period, two nomination papers setting out the names of the candidates contesting in each ward (the First List) and**b**) the Additional list (the Second List) should be prepared as a single document and submitted by the Secretary or Authorized Agent of the Party in the case of a Recognized Political Party and by the leader of the Group in the case of any group of persons contesting as an Independent Group (Section 28(5))

5.3. The first list shall be prepared nominating one candidate for each division, and in the case of a Multi Member Ward, candidates equal to the number of members to be elected from that Ward. The number of these candidates should be 60% of the total number of Members scheduled to be elected and returned. (Section 28(2) (a))

The second list shall be prepared nominating candidates for 40% of the total number of Members to be elected, with three more candidates added to the total. (Section 28(2) (b))

5.4. In order to ensure the women's quota, 10% of all total members of the authority in the relevant wards list (the first list) shall consist of women. (Section 28(2)(a))

5.5. 50% of the candidates of the second list shall consist of women candidates. (Section 28(2) (a))

5.6. In order to ensure there's presentation of youth, 25% of candidates in the first list or the second list or both shall consist of youth. (It is not necessary that the number of male and female contestants to be equal) (Section 28(2) (a))

5.7. All candidates should sign the relevant nomination paper expressing their consent for nomination (Section 28(4))

5.8. Every candidate must duly sign, certify and submit the oath or affirmation prescribed in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution (Section 28(4)).

5.9. The nomination papers shall be signed by the Party Secretary in the case of a Political Party, and by the leader of the independent group in the case of an Independent Group, and the signature must be duly certified by a Justice of the Peace or a Notary Public (Section 28(5))

5.10. The age of the youth candidates shall not be less than 18 years of age as at 1st February of the year in which the revision of the valid voter registration was commenced and not more than 35 years of age on the closing date of the nomination period (20 March 2025 in the case of the current election), and the relevant applicant/s should attach a copy of his/her birth certificate or an affidavit confirming the date of birth. (Section 28(4A) and Section 89)

6. Circumstances that may lead to the rejection of nominations of all the candidates whose names appear in the nomination paper,

6.1. Where the prescribed Deposit has not been made (Section 31 (1) (c))

6.2. Being unable to submit nomination papers during the prescribed nomination period (Section 31 (1) (a))

6.3. Where, in the case of a Political Party, the party Secretary or Authorized Agent had not submitted the nomination papers (Section 31 (1) (a))

6.4. Where, in the case of an Independent Group, the leader of the group had not submitted the nomination papers (Section 31 (1) (a))

6.5. Where the minimum number of 10% women's representation has not been included in the first nomination paper (Section 31 (1) (e))

6.6. Where the minimum limit of 50% women's representation has not been included in the second nomination paper (Section 31 (1) (e))

6.7. Where the minimum number of 25% youth representation is not included in the first list or the second list or both (Section 31 (1) (e))

6.8. Where the signature of the secretary in the case of a Recognized Political Party or of the group leader in the case of an Independent Group does not appear on the nomination paper or where such signature has not been duly attested by a Justice of the Peace or a Notary Public (Section 31(1) (a))

7. Factors that may lead to rejection of only the candidate in question

7.1. Where the relevant candidate is a youth and he/ she has failed to produce a certified copy of the birth certificate or a signed affidavit certifying the date of birth or attaching it to the nomination paper. (Section 31(3) (a))

7.2. Where the candidate concerned has not affirmed his/her written consent by signing the nomination paper (Section 31(3) (b))

7.3. Where the contestant has not submitted the official oath or affirmation referred to in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution duly signed and certified, or the rejection of the oath or affirmation so submitted (Section 31(3) (b))

Where the candidate so rejected happens to be a youth or a woman, and the rejection of their nomination, results in reducing the required minimum number of youth or women candidates specified in the Act, the Returning Officers may, on the advice of the Election Commission, reject all the candidates whose names appear in the nomination paper due to the failure to include the minimum number of youth or women candidates, as the case may be.

8. Instances in which a person shall be disqualified

. A few Instances in which a person shall be disqualified from being elected to, or from sitting or holding office as a member of a Local Authority and exercising vote according to the Local Authority Elections Ordinance. (These disqualifications however, do not apply to the rejection of a nomination paper at all.) (Section 9)

8.1. Not being a citizen of Sri Lanka

8.2. Being a person below 18 year of age

8.3. Being an officer such as a judicial officer or a member of the armed forces or a police officer or a Grama Niladhari (rural administrative officer)

- 8.4. Being a Public officer engaged in field activities in the contesting local authority area who has not terminated the service at least one year before the date of the polls.
- 8.5. Being a person holding position of staffs' rank in a government ministry or department or a state corporation.
- 8.6. Being a Member of Parliament, a member of a Provincial Council established under the Constitution or a member of any other Local Authority
- 8.7. Being an officer or employee of the relevant Local Authority or being employed by that authority and receiving remuneration from that authority, or being employed by that authority and not terminated employment for a period of one year preceding the date of the election.
- 8.8. A person holding a contract or agreement with someone for or on behalf of the relevant local authority.
8. 9. Being a person found or declared to be of unsound mind by a law in force in Sri Lanka.
- 8.10. Being a person declared insolvent or bankrupt by law.
- 8.11. Being a person convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding twelve months or having completed such imprisonment within the preceding seven years or being under a death sentence or it being commuted to imprisonment or having completed such imprisonment within the preceding seven years.
- 8.12. Being a person convicted of an offence under the Prevention of Crimes Ordinance and having completed the sentence in whole or serving in part for a term of three months or more or having completed such imprisonment within the preceding five years.
- 8.13. Having the name entered as a candidate on more than one nomination paper for the same election.
8. 14. Having been declared disqualified by a court of law from being elected as a Member of Parliament.

9. Situations that may be challenged after victory

9.1. Where the candidates have failed to submit income and expenditure reports, provision of incorrect information, and receipt of assistance from prohibited sources and exceeding the authorized expenditure limit.

9.2. Where is proved before a court of law that bribes have been offered.

9.3. Where it is proved that the candidates are residents outside the local authority area

9.4. Where it is proved that the election is contested with disqualifications :(public officers, staff officers, field officers and local authority officers or others)

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