

Immediate/By Spl. Messenger
Presidential Election

**SECRETARIAT OF THE
ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA**
Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001

No. 479/2012 (MISC)-CC&BE

Dated: 11th July, 2012

To

1. The Returning Officer to the Presidential Election
And Secretary General, Rajya Sabha,
Room No. 29, Parliament House,
New Delhi-110001.
2. The Assistant Returning Officers for Presidential Election (Through Chief
Electoral Officers)

**Subject: - Presidential Election 2012-Instructions to electors for recording of
votes at election- regarding.**

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the "Instructions to Electors" for casting of votes at the current Presidential Election and to request you to get the pamphlets printed in the local language(s) and to ensure the distribution of the same to each elector before the day of poll, which is 19th July, 2012, for their information and guidance. A big poster containing all the instructions may also be got printed and affixed near the entrance to the place of poll so that the electors get a clear view of the same just before entering the venue of the poll.

The receipt of the letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

(Dilip K. Varma)
Under Secretary

**Copy to the Chief Electoral Officers of all States, NCT of Delhi and UT of
Puducherry.**

**INSTRUCTIONS TO ELECTORS
FOR RECORDING OF VOTES AT ELECTION TO
THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA**

A. SYSTEM OF ELECTION

1. The system of Election to the office of the President of India is **Proportional Representation by Means of Single Transferable Vote.**
2. In this system, each voter will have only one vote but voter can indicate his preference for as many contesting candidates as he likes in order of his/her preference or choice.

B. METHOD OF VOTING

3. In the ballot paper, you should vote by placing the figure “1” in the column ‘**mark order of preference**’ provided opposite the name of the candidate whom you chose as your **first** preference.
4. This figure “1” shall **be placed opposite the name of only one candidate.**
5. You have as many preferences as there are contesting candidates.
6. Since in the current Presidential Election, there are only two candidates, you may indicate your further preference for the remaining candidate, if you desire, by placing in the column ‘mark order of preference’ provided opposite the names of such candidates the subsequent figure **2** in the order of your preference.
7. Make sure that you put only one figure opposite the name of any candidate and also make sure that the **same figure is not put** opposite the names of more than one candidate.
8. **Preference shall be indicated in figures only, i.e. 1, 2 and shall not be indicated in words, viz. one, two, first preference, second preference, etc.**
9. Figures may be marked in the international form of Indian numerals like 1,2,3, etc. or in Roman form I, II or in the form used in any Indian Language.
10. Make sure that you mark the figures 1, 2 on the ballot paper only with the pen which will be officially supplied to you for the purpose. **DO NOT** use any other pen or your own pen etc. for marking the said figures 1, 2 as it may invalidate your ballot paper.

11. **DO NOT** write your name or any words and do not put your signature or initials on the ballot paper. Also, *do not* put your thumb impression. These will make your ballot paper invalid.

12. **DO NOT PUT** 'tick' mark or 'cross' mark like "✓" or "x" to indicate your preferences. Such ballot paper will be rejected. Indicate your preferences only in figures 1, 2 as explained above.

13. To make your ballot paper valid, it is necessary that you should indicate your first preference by placing figure "1" against one of the candidates. Other preferences are optional, i.e. you may or may not indicate the second preference.

14. **Remember, indicating figure "1" against any one of the candidates is a must and the figure 2 for remaining candidate is only optional i.e. not compulsory.**

C. INVALID BALLOT PAPERS

A ballot paper shall be invalid on which-

- i. the figure 1 is **not** marked;
- ii. the figure 1 is marked opposite the name of **more than one** candidates;
- iii. the figure 1 is so placed as to render it **doubtful** to which candidate it is intended to apply;
- iv. the figure 1 and some other figures like 2,3 etc., are also marked for the same candidate;
- v. the preferences are indicated **in words instead of in figures**;
- vi. there is any mark or writing by which the **elector may be identified**.

D. SECRECY OF VOTE

Make sure that you mark your vote on the ballot paper inside the voting compartment and maintain the secrecy. Any violation of secrecy of vote by you may render your ballot paper invalid.