

**Presidential Election/Immediate**  
By Special Messenger/Speed Post/Camp Bag



**भारत निर्वाचन आयोग**  
**Election Commission of India**

निर्वाचन भवन  
NIRVACHAN SADAN  
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ASHOKA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001

No. 481/LET/ECI/FUNC/P.E.-BIEN/2017

Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017

To,

1. The Returning Officer for the Presidential Election and Secretary General, Lok Sabha, Parliament House, New Delhi.
2. The Assistant Returning Officer for Presidential Election (Through Chief Electoral Officer).

**Sub: Presidential Election, 2017 – Maintenance of Secrecy of voting.**

Sir,

I am directed to invite your attention to the provisions of clause (3) of Article 55 of the Constitution of India, which, inter alia, lays down that voting at the Presidential Election shall be by secret ballot. The members of the Electoral College voting at the election are, therefore, required to maintain secrecy with regard to the manner in which they vote at the election. For this purpose, sub-rule (2) of rule 18 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election Rules, 1974, has prescribed the following voting procedure which an elector should observe:

“(2) An elector on receiving the ballot paper shall forthwith-

- (a) proceed to one of the voting compartments;
- (b) record his vote in accordance with sub-rule (2) of rule 17;
- (c) fold the ballot paper so as to conceal his vote;
- (d) insert the folded ballot paper into the ballot box; and
- (e) quit the place of polling”

2. **The votes on the ballot paper should be marked only with the pen provided for this purpose by the RO/ARO, and no other pen should be used.**

3. It shall be ensured that after recording his vote, the voter folds the ballot paper inside the voting compartment itself, so as to conceal his vote and that in no circumstances is he allowed to exhibit the marked ballot paper to any other person present within the place of polling.

4. For further ensuring the secrecy of the ballot, It may be so arranged that the ballot papers are issued to the voters at the beginning of the poll at random and not in strict order of their serial numbers, commencing from serial No. 1. At the end of the poll, however, the ballot papers issued should be in continuous consecutive serial numbers from one to the last number of the ballot paper issued to the electors.

5. The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged

Yours faithfully,

  
(VARINDER KUMAR)  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY