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Fax : 0177-2658071
E-mail : bchp1971@gmail.com
Phone : 2657455 & 2659071

हिमाचल प्रदेश विधिज्ञ परिषद्
BAR COUNCIL OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

High Court Complex, Raveneswood, Shimla-171 001

Ref. No. B.C.H.P. No. 302

Dated 24/2/2026

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR
BAR COUNCIL OF HIMACHAL PRADESH ELECTIONS, 2026

This Model Code of Conduct for the upcoming Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh Elections, 2026 formulated to ensure a free, fair, and transparent electoral process to be followed by all candidates, supporters and Advocates participating in the elections, shall come into force with immediate effect and shall remain in force until the conclusion of the counting process i.e. the election process.

Eligibility & Disqualifications

1. The candidate must hold valid certificates/degrees recognized by the State Government and must not be engaged in any other job or occupation, including working as a handwriting expert or professional witness.
2. A candidate must be a practicing Advocate, not a convict, and must not have any criminal case of a serious nature (punishable with imprisonment of seven years or more) pending against them prior to nine months of the election.
3. The candidate must not have been punished by any Disciplinary Committee of the Himachal Pradesh Bar Council or BCI in the nine months preceding the election, nor be currently suspended or debarred.
4. No person who is not an Advocate on the electoral rolls of the Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh shall be permitted to take part in the



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election process in any capacity (supporter, election or counting agent, etc.).

Corrupt practices & undue influence

5. No Candidate, Supporter, or Advocate shall indulge in the "Corrupt Practices" defined hereunder: -

(i) Any gift, offer or promise of any gratification to any person whom-so-ever, with the object, directly or indirectly of inducing: -

(a) A person to stand or not to stand as, or to withdraw or not to withdraw from being a candidate at an election; or

(b) An elector to vote or refrain from voting at an election, or as a reward to a person for having so stood or not stood or for having withdrawn or not having withdrawn his candidature; and an elector for having voted or refrained from voting;

(ii) The receipt of agreement to receive, any gratification whether as a motive or a reward -

(a) by a person for standing or not standing as, or for withdrawing or not withdrawing from a candidate; or

(b) by any person who-so-ever for himself or any other person for voting or refraining from voting, or inducing or attempting to induce any elector to vote or refrain from voting or any candidate to withdraw or not to withdraw his candidature.



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For the purposes of this clause the term "*gratification*" is not restricted to pecuniary gratification or gratifications estimable in money and it includes all forms of entertainment and all forms of employment for reward.

6. No Candidate, Supporter, or Advocate shall commit "*Undue influence*", that is to say, any direct or indirect interference or attempt to interfere with the free exercise of any electoral right including the issuing or sending of any appeal or manifesto for votes whether direct or indirect."

Provided that a mere intimation of a candidature with a bare request for a vote shall not amount to "*undue influence*".

AND provided further that a candidate or his agent may also orally ask for votes from voters; but on the date of election such requests shall not be made within a radius of 200 yards from the Polling Station. And a candidate may issue a written intimation to his voters announcing his candidature and seeking their votes or their first preference votes, which intimation shall not contain any other publicity or his eulogy. Such written intimation shall also not amount to "*undue influence*."

An attempt so secure from any voter his ballot paper with intent to prevent him from transmitting it directly or with intent to ensure that vote has been cast or is to be cast for a particular candidate shall be deemed to interfere with the free exercise of the electoral right of the said voter.



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7. The hiring or procuring, whether on payment or otherwise of any vehicle or vessel or the use of such vehicle or vessel for the free conveyance of any elector to or from any polling station.
8. No Advocate who may have in the past or is currently holding any office in a Bar Association, Bar Council, or political party or any Association/ organization/ institution shall utilize/ use the said platform or it's name to promote/ felicitate/ propagate any candidate which may be used in any campaign material or social media post. This shall also apply to any platform not associated with legal profession being used for any such activities directly or indirectly by the contesting advocate.
9. An Advocate holding any post in a Bar Association shall not use the Bar Association infrastructure and its funds to either promote his own candidature or of any other candidate who is holding post in a Bar Association to promote his / her candidature in any manner whatsoever.

Digital conduct & misinformation

10. No candidate shall use any platform (including social media) to disseminate patently false, untrue, or misleading information.
11. Candidates shall not circulate synthetically created or AI-manipulated media (deepfakes) intended to deceive voters or damage the reputation of any fellow contestant.
12. The use of mass media (print, electronic, digital) for partisan publicity disguised as news is prohibited.



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13. The candidates shall keep a regular tab on all their social media handles to ensure compliance in this regard.

Physical campaigning, meetings & venues

14. Promotional cards must not exceed the size of 4" x 6". Unsolicited distribution of cards or any propaganda material and/or affixation thereof on the building/walls within the Court premises is strictly prohibited.
15. The promotional cards/vision document or any other kind of informational material should have details of Enrolment number and date of Enrolment with the Himachal Pradesh Bar Council.

Polling day Regulations

16. No canvassing is permitted thirty-six hours before the commencement of polling. No propaganda or canvassing in any manner or form is permitted on the days of election.
17. Except the voters, no one without a valid Identity Card/letter of authority issued by the Election Committee shall enter the Designated Polling Area on the Polling Day and the earmarked sitting area outside the counting station till the conclusion of counting and declaration of results.
18. Hiring vehicles to ferry voters to or from the polling venue is strictly prohibited.
19. No eatables are allowed on polling day; only drinking water may be served.



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20. Use of loudspeakers/ megaphones/sound enhancing acoustic devices or vehicles causing noise nuisance within or outside Court premises/polling station during the campaign period or the day of the election/voting shall remain strictly prohibited.
21. The use of mobile phones, cameras of any kind, and scanners is strictly prohibited within the polling booth and the polling hall by any candidate, supporter, or voter.
22. The candidate and their supporters shall not carry or possess any firearms or other weapons during the campaign period or on the days of polling.

Enforcement

23. Any violation of this Code of Conduct, including but not limited to the use of muscle power, or financial malpractices, constitutes misconduct.
24. Violation of these Rules shall result in disqualification and potential removal from the rolls of the Himachal Pradesh Bar Council.

Secretary

Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh

Approved by
High Powered Election Committee
On 18th February, 2026