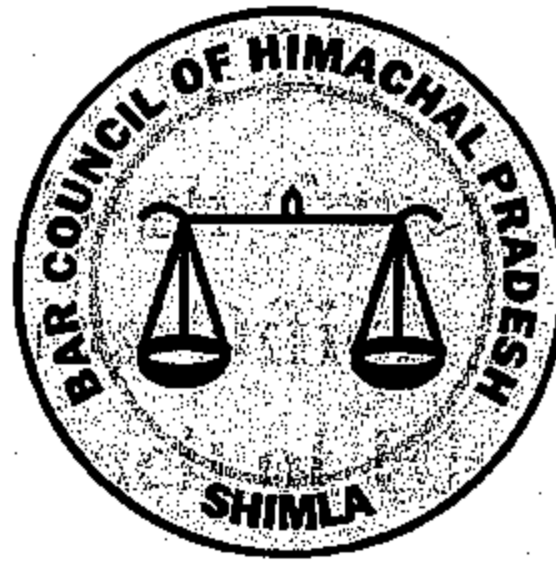


Justice V. K. Sharma (Retd),
Judge, High Court of Himachal Pradesh,
Returning Officer
Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla.



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Ref. BCHP / ELECTION / 622

Dated 10-04-2026

HIMACHAL PRADESH BAR COUNCIL ELECTION -2026

Instructions for the Guidance of the Voters

1. The number of members to be elected:

(i) Total number of seats.	20 Seats
(ii) Number of seats for which election is to be held.	18 Seats
(iii) To be co-opted	02 Seats
(iv) Minimum number of seats that have to be filled from amongst the advocates who have been on the State Roll for at least 10 years.	09 Seats
(v) Minimum number of seats that have to filled from amongst the Women candidates.	04 Seats

2. The voting is by the single transferable preference vote.

3. The mark should be so placed as to indicate clearly and beyond doubt to which candidate he/she is giving his/her vote. If the mark is so placed as to make it doubtful to which candidate the vote has been given, that vote will be invalid.

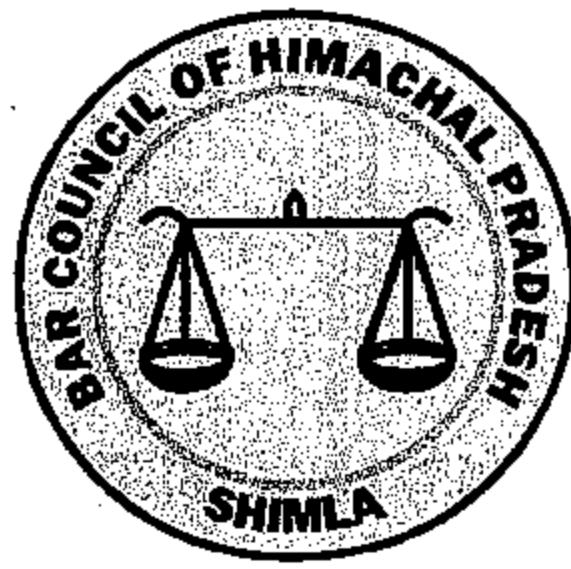
4. Method of Voting;

I. A voter giving his/her vote:-

(a) shall place on his/her ballot paper the figure '1' in the space opposite the name of the candidate whom he/she chooses for his/her first preference; and

(b) may in addition place on his/her ballot paper the figure '2' or the figures '2' and '3' or the figures '2', '3', '4' and so on, in the space opposite the names of the other candidates, in the order of his/her preference. A voter can mark as many preferences as the number of candidates.

Explanation; The marking of first and subsequent preferences mentioned in clauses (a) and (b) may be done either by means of figures in the international form of Indian numerals such as '1', '2' and '3' and so on, OR in Roman numerals such as 'I', 'II'



Ref. BCHP / ELECTION /

Dated

and III' and so on, or it may be done in words in the English language such as 'ONE' 'TWO' and 'THREE' and so on.

Note ; That accordingly, during scrutiny and counting, a ballot paper will not be treated as invalid merely because the voter has indicated preference by writing "ONE/one/One", "two/three" and so on and allied expressions in small letters or mixed case, or by writing numerals such as 1, 2, 3, 4 and so on, in place of the words, or by placing such numerals within ordinary quotation marks or inverted commas, or by using a combination of words and numerals on the same ballot paper, provided always that the marking clearly indicates the voter's intention and does not create any ambiguity.

(II) A voter shall not sign the ballot paper or place any mark thereon, by which he/she can be identified.

5. Ballot paper when invalid;

(a) the "first preference" is not marked; or

(b) the "first preference" is set opposite the names of more than one candidate or is so placed as to render it doubtful to which candidate it is intended to apply; or

(c) the "first preference" and some other "preference" is set opposite the name of the same candidate; or

(d) there is any mark in writing by which the voter can be identified; or

(e) the marking on the ballot paper is not in the numerals or in the words of the English Language as has been specified in the Explanation below 4 (I) above;
or

(f) if there is such effacement, obliteration, erasure, or mutilation as to mark the first preference ambiguous.

6. A voter shall put the ballot paper after voting, into the ballot box.

7. No voter shall be allowed to carry mobile phones and camera inside the polling booth.

8. If during the polling, any candidate or his/her polling agent disputes the identity of a voter, the Polling Officer shall verify his/her identification by way of Identity card issued by the Bar Council or Driving Licence, Passport. E-Card

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Ref. BCHP / ELECTION /

Dated

issued by the Election Commission, Ration Card and any other such authenticated document to his/her satisfaction.

9. All the voters are requested to carry their Identity cards issued by the State Bar Council or the Enrolment Certificate with photograph in original, issued by the State Bar Council so that they may prove their identity as a lawyer and may not face any inconvenience at the time of voting at the polling booth.
10. In case, the photograph of any voter is not found printed on the Electoral Roll, he/she would be required to prove his/her identity by producing (i) original Identity card issued by the State Bar Council; or (ii) original Enrolment Certificate with photograph or (iii) Voter Identity card or (iv) Driving Licence or (v) Passport.

NOTE:

Photostat copy of any of the aforesaid proof of Identity will not be allowed for the purpose of voting by the Polling Officer.

Justice V.K. Sharma, (Retd.)
Judge, High Court of Himachal Pradesh
Returning Officer
Bar Council of Himachal Pradesh
Returning Officer
Bar Council of HP