

# ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

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## NOTIFICATION

Islamabad, 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2015

No.F.4(10)/2015-LGE(P).- In exercise of its powers under Article 218(3) and Article 219 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with Rule 78 of the Punjab Local Governments (Conduct of Elections) Rules, 2013 and all other powers enabling it in that behalf, the Election Commission hereby issues the following **Code of Conduct for Election Observers** which shall be obligatory for all observers, observing Local Government Elections in the Punjab, to follow in letter and spirit:

- (1) Observers shall abide by the laws of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and respect the authority of the Election Commission and its election officials;
- (2) Observers shall respect the sovereignty of Pakistan as well as the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people;
- (3) Observers shall follow instructions issued from the Election Commission and State authorities including security officials and maintain a respectful attitude towards them;
- (4) Observers shall at all times maintain strict political impartiality. They must not exhibit or express any bias in relation to national authorities and institutions, political parties, candidates or in relation to any contentious issue in the election process;
- (5) Observers shall not perform any activity that could be perceived as favouring any political party or candidate, such as wearing or displaying any partisan symbol, banner etc.;
- (6) Observers must not obstruct any element of the election process, including pre-election processes, voting, counting and tabulation of results;
- (7) Observers must always display accreditation Card provided by the Election Commission or an officer authorized by it and must present it to electoral officials as and when required;
- (8) Observers shall ensure that all their observations are impartial, objective and depict the highest standards of accuracy;
- (9) Observer Organizations or groups should ensure that only their authorized persons give comment about the election process;
- (10) Observer Organizations may record and share their findings, methodology and recommendations with the Election Commission of Pakistan;
- (11) Observers shall maintain proper personal behavior and respect for others, including exhibiting sensitivity for the local culture and customs and shall

exercise sound judgment in personal interactions and observe the highest level of professional conduct at all times;

- (12) All Organizations requesting accreditation from the Election Commission of Pakistan shall be responsible for training of their observers about electoral laws and procedures of Local Government Elections in the Punjab, including this Code of Conduct;
- (13) International Observers shall comply with advisories that may be issued by the Government or security agencies to ensure their safety during their stay in Pakistan; and
- (14) If a serious violation is found to have been occurred, the observer concerned may have his/her observer accreditation withdrawn. The authority to determine as to whether any violation has occurred or not rests with the Election Commission of Pakistan.

**By Order of the Election Commission of Pakistan.**


*Fida*  
*Feb. 8. 2015*  
**(Fida Muhammad)**  
Additional Secretary

I. Copy forwarded for information to the:

- (1) Secretary to the President, Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad.
- (2) Secretary to the Prime Minister, Prime Minister's Secretariat, Islamabad.
- (3) Secretary, Establishment Division, Islamabad.
- (4) Secretary, Cabinet Division, Islamabad.
- (5) Secretary, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. of Pakistan, Islamabad.
- (6) Secretary, Ministry of Interior, Government of Pakistan, Islamabad.
- (7) Chief Secretary, Govt. of the Punjab, Lahore.
- (8) Secretary, Local Govt. & Community Development Department, Government of the Punjab, Lahore.

II. Copy forwarded to the Provincial Election Commissioner, Punjab, Lahore for dissemination to all the concerned.

✓ III. Copy also forwarded to all of the officers of ECP Secretariat, Islamabad.



**(Irfan Kausar)**

Deputy Director (LGE-P)