

**STATE ELECTION COMMISSION**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Buddha Bhavan, MG Road, Secunderabad-500003, AP.

**ORDER**

**No. 1374/SEC-B1/2013**

**Date: 20.07.2013**

Sub: State Election Commission - 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats – Restrictions on using photographs of political leaders, etc., on the campaign material by the contesting candidates – Reg.

Ref: SEC Notification No. 757/SEC-B2/2013, dated 03.07.2013.

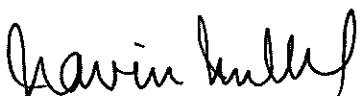
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The ordinary elections to Gram Panchayats are currently underway in pursuance of the Notification issued by the State Election Commission in the reference cited. In all the Gram Panchayats where there is a contest for the office of Sarpanch and Ward members, campaign is taking place. The Gram Panchayat elections are conducted on non-party basis and the candidates are allotted only free symbols that are not reserved to any political party. In conformity with the apolitical spirit contemplated under the statute, the campaign should be conducted without any political overtones. If political overtones are allowed to creep into the campaign process, the spirit of the statute is derailed and the voting public will be swayed by extraneous considerations.

In order to curb the scope for political overtones in the campaign process and to ensure that Gram Panchayat elections are conducted in a free, fair and peaceful manner, the State Election Commission in exercise of the plenary powers conferred on it under Article 243K of the Constitution of India and Section 200 of the A.P. Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, hereby issues the following guidelines.

1. No contesting candidate shall be allowed to use any campaign material such as handbills, flexis, pamphlets, banners, flags, etc., containing names or photographs of any political leaders or national leaders.
2. They shall not print any campaign material claiming that they were having affiliations to any political party or local political functionaries to gain an unfair edge.
3. They shall not distribute any caps, khanduvas, kerchiefs or any such material which can be suggestive of affiliation or support of any political party.
4. The handbills or slips that are used by them for campaigning may contain their name, photograph and symbol. It should not contain any information or photograph, which is suggestive of affiliation to any political party or political persons.

The Collectors & DEAs are requested to ensure that these instructions are strictly followed to ensure free and fair elections. Wide publicity should also be given to make the contesting candidates aware of these instructions.

  
**SECRETARY**

To  
**All the Collectors & DEAs.**  
**All the SPs / SPs (Rural) / CPs (except Hyderabad)**  
**All the District Panchayat Officers.**