

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECORDING  
OF VOTES AT ELECTIONS TO THE  
STATE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS**

**A. Method of Voting**

1. For the purpose of voting, use only the violet sketch pen supplied by the Returning Officer, which will be handed over to you along with the ballot paper. Do not use any other pen, pencil, ballpoint pen or any other marking instrument, as that will invalidate your ballot paper.
2. Vote by placing the figure "1" in the column marked 'order of preference' provided opposite the name of the candidate whom you choose as your first preference. This figure "1" shall be placed opposite the name of only one candidate.
3. Even if the number of candidates to be elected is more than one, the figure "1" shall be put opposite the name of only one candidate.
4. Indicate your further preferences for the remaining candidates by placing in the column marked "Order of Preference" provided opposite the names of such candidates the subsequent figures 2, 3, 4 etc., in the order of your preference.
5. You have as many preferences as there are contesting candidates irrespective of the number of candidates to be elected. For example, if there are five contesting candidates and only two are to be elected, you can mark preferences from 1 to 5 against the candidates of your choice in order of your preference.
6. Make sure that you put only one figure opposite the name of any candidate and also make sure that the same figure is not put opposite the names of more than one candidate.
7. Preference shall be indicated in figures only, i.e. 1, 2, 3, etc., and shall not be indicated in words, one, two, three, etc.
8. Figures may be marked in the international form of Indian numerals like 1,2,3, etc., or in the Roman form I,II, III, etc., or in the form used in any Indian Language, recognized in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.
9. Do not write your name or any words and do not put your signature or initials on the ballot paper. Also, do not put your thumb impression. These will make your ballot paper invalid.

10. It is not sufficient to put a mark or 'X' against the candidates of your choice to indicate your preferences. Such ballot paper will be rejected. Indicate your preferences only in figures 1, 2, 3, etc., as explained above.
11. To make your ballot paper valid, it is necessary that you should indicate your first preference by placing figure "1" against one of the candidates. The other preferences are optional, i.e., you may or may not indicate the second and subsequent preferences.

## **B. Invalid Ballot Papers**

A ballot paper shall be invalid on which:-

1. First preference for example, figure 1 is not marked;
2. First preference for example, figure 1 is set up opposite the name of more than one candidate;
3. the figure 1 is so placed as to render it doubtful to which candidate it is intended to apply;
4. the figure 1 and some other figure like 2, 3 etc., are also set opposite the name of the same candidate;
5. the preferences are indicated in words instead of in figures;
6. there is any mark or writing by which the elector can be identified; and
7. there is any figure marked otherwise than with the violet sketch pen supplied by the Returning Officer for the purpose of marking such figures.