

ASSYRIAN ELECTORAL SYSTEM



INTRODUCTION

For the last 26 centuries, there has never been a worldwide elected Assyrian leadership. During the modern history of Assyrians, leadership was either through religious figures or a single-party system. Assyrians who are elected in a foreign government system have a limited capability to help Assyrians and their help is solely restricted to their own jurisdiction. Therefore, their help is not extended to Assyrians worldwide. Since we desperately need solutions for our various difficult problems worldwide, electing Assyrian leadership worldwide is a must. The Assyrian nation has too much to lose by not electing a global Assyrian leader.

With written or verbal approval or disapproval, the Assyrian people can express their opinions about the past and the current Assyrian leadership. The Assyrian nation needs a dynamic process that reaches the stateless, scattered, and endangered Assyrians. The process to modernize, democratize, enhance, and put into practice the way the Assyrian people express their opinions about their leaders is ultimately through vote casting.

The miscommunication between the current Assyrian leaders and the Assyrian people created a "vacuum." In order to fill this vacuum, Assyrians need to have an election to elect an Assyrian leadership worldwide. Being the Assyrian people's choice, elected Assyrian leadership will work together with the Assyrian people to overcome so many obstacles. An Assyrian Election will put Assyrians in touch with the elected leadership.

The road to a prosperous Assyrian nation is to put democracy to practice and call for the Assyrian Election worldwide. The Assyrian Election is the right formula for the Assyrian unity and will most definitely improve the national standards of the Assyrians worldwide.

The Assyrian Election is a giant step toward building a strong trust between the Assyrian people and the Assyrian leadership. The Assyrian Election is essential to protect the next generation of Assyrians. What system is better than the Assyrian Election system which unites our stateless, scattered and endangered nation?

This pamphlet shows an Assyrian Electoral System which lays down the Assyrian Election Procedures and Rules (AEPR).

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ASSYRIAN ELECTION PROCEDURES AND RULES (AEPR)

ARTICLE A (CANDIDATES):

I) Requirements and Qualifications:

1. Candidate can run for either office of an Assyrian President or office of an Assyrian Ambassador office but not for both offices.
2. Election will be held every 5 years.
3. One Assyrian President will be elected.
4. There will be one elected Assyrian Ambassador for his/her own country of residence if the Assyrian population in that country is more than 1,000. The Assyrian Ambassador of the closest country that has a population of more than 1,000 Assyrians will represent the country that has a population of less than 1,000 Assyrians. See Figure 1.
5. Both parents of the Assyrian President must be of Assyrian decent.
6. At least one parent of the Assyrian Ambassador must be of Assyrian decent.
7. Candidate running for presidency must be a partisan of an Assyrian political party. However, a non-partisan of an Assyrian political party can run if he/she collects at least 300 signatures from Assyrians age 18 or older.
8. Candidate running for the Ambassador's office can be a partisan or a non-partisan of an Assyrian political party.
9. President or Ambassador must be able to read and write in the language of the country of his/her residence.
10. The President or the Ambassador must have at least a post-secondary degree.
11. Candidate may campaign at his/her own desecration.
12. Minimum age of the candidate running for Assyrian president is 35.
13. Minimum age of the candidate running for Assyrian Ambassador is 25.
14. Candidate running for President or Ambassador must fill and submit the Assyrian Candidate Registration Form (Form 1) no later than March 10th of the election year.
15. In each country, election registration fees for each running candidate is equal to the total estimated election expenses over the number of the running candidates. After the election, copies of receipts of all election expenses must be provided to each running candidate. An equal distribution refund must be issued to each running candidate if the total estimated election expenses exceed the total registration fees.
16. The Assyrian President will have the role of a sole and a supreme communicator when meeting with non-Assyrians or Assyrians. The Assyrian Ambassador(s) who accompany the Assyrian President will take the role of an advisor(s) to the Assyrian President. However, decision making and requesting requires a vote.

II) Duties:

1. Assyrian President is a delegate and a representative of the Assyrian nation to the United Nations and communicates with the elected Assyrian Ambassadors to solve Assyrian problems worldwide.
2. Assyrian Ambassador is a delegate and a representative of the Assyrian nation of his/her country of residence and works with the elected Assyrian President and other elected Assyrian ambassadors across the globe.
3. Any issue will be put to vote and will pass only if it received the majority votes (votes that are more than the minority votes by at least one vote) of the elected leadership.
4. Voting on any subject matter can proceed only if at least two thirds of the elected leadership are willing to vote.
5. Elected Assyrian President and each elected Assyrian Ambassador has a single vote. However, the Assyrian President would have the privilege of deciding the outcome to his favor if the voting on a matter comes to a tie.
6. The President and worldwide ambassadors must physically meet at least once a year in a location, they voted for. Forms of communication would be via telephone, e-mails, post-mail, videoconferencing, or in person.
7. If the current President or the current Ambassador dies or resigns, all elected leadership members will vote to elect a new President or a new Ambassador. The new President or new Ambassador will be elected by majority votes (votes that are more than the minority votes by at least one vote). In case of tie in the votes of either the President or the Ambassador, the younger President or the older Ambassador will be declared a winner.
8. The Assyrian President or Assyrian Ambassador may assemble his/her own personnel. However, the Ambassador's personnel are not allowed to be present at any meeting with the President or with any other Ambassador.
9. A motion of impeachment must be initiated, if any elected member of the Assyrian leadership, on behalf of the Assyrian nation, takes an action that was not passed by majority votes (votes that are more than the minority votes by at least one vote) of the elected Assyrian leadership. Impeachment is effective immediately if passed by majority votes (votes that are more than the minority votes by at least one vote) of the elected Assyrian leadership.

ARTICLE B (VOTERS):

1. Voter has at least one parent of Assyrian decent.
2. Minimum voting age is 18.
3. Every vote is cast in person or via fax.
4. In person voter must show official and valid personal identification card (i.e. driving license, passport, or citizenship document) of his/her country of residence with full name and date of birth.
5. Fax voter must fax a sheet that includes the following:
 - a) A copy of a valid personal identification card (i.e. driving license, passport, or citizenship document) of his/her country of residence with full name and date of birth; and
 - b) Vote casting names of Assyrian President and Assyrian Ambassador.
6. Every vote is cast in secret.
7. Voter may entrust another Assyrian to fill in the ballot if the voter is illiterate or physically disabled to write.
8. Voter must cast two different votes, one for the Assyrian Ambassador for his/her country of residence and one for the worldwide Assyrian President.

ARTICLE C (BALLOTS):

1. Assyrian Election Institution (AEI) stamp must be present at the back of the ballot.
2. In-person voter must fold the filled ballot at the designated line. See Form 2.
3. Cut-off time for the ballot submissions is 19:00 (local time) of the third Sunday of the month of April of the election year.
4. A board will be used for counting the ballots.
5. Ballots will not count if each of the following present:
 - a) Ballot is a duplicate;
 - b) Ballot is not stamped by AEI; and
 - c) Any section in the Ballot is not filled.
6. In case of tie in counting the ballots, the younger President or the older Ambassador will be declared a winner.

ARTICLE D (POLLING PLACES):

1. No more than seven ballot boxes must be at any polling place.
2. No more than three polling places must be in each town or city.
3. Addresses and fax numbers of the polling places must be available at least one month prior to the first day of the election.
4. Polling places will be open for the ballot distribution and casting on the third week in April, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, from 9 AM to 7 PM.
5. At each polling place, there will be information about each running candidate. This information is extracted from the Assyrian Candidate Registration Form of the candidate. See Form 3.

ARTICLE E (WATCHERS):

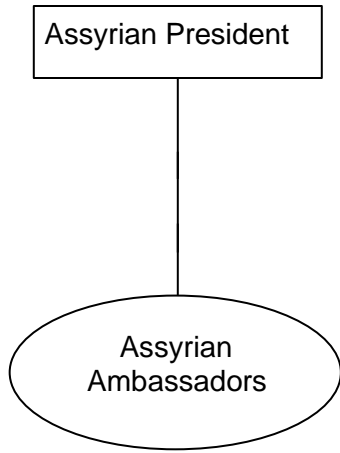
1. Watcher's minimum age is 21.
2. Watcher has at least one parent of Assyrian decent.
3. Each registered candidate can appoint one watcher to each polling place. However, only one watcher from each political party/organization can be appointed to each polling place.
4. Up to seven watchers can be appointed to each polling place. Only seven appointed watchers would be selected by lottery if the appointed watchers were more than seven. If the polling place has seven watchers: one watcher will distribute ballots during the vote casting period, three watchers will check ballots and monitor all ballot boxes, two watchers will collect vote casting sheets from a fax machine and transfer them to ballot boxes, and one watcher will be elected by the seven watchers to be the manager of that polling place.
5. Running candidate cannot be a watcher.
6. Before the voter can cast his/her vote, the watcher must check if the voter's ballot has the following:
 - a) Personal identification information of the voter as described in Article B4; and
 - b) AEI stamp.
7. Watchers assigned to a polling place must be present at the time of opening of the polling place.
8. Watcher must not express any view on any subject that is likely to be a political issue in the election.
9. Watcher must not communicate with any voter on a matter of significance to influence the voter.

10. Watcher must not wear, carry nor display any obvious partisan symbols or colors.
11. Watchers will count the ballots from 7 PM to midnight of the third Sunday in April. No person beside the watchers can stay or enter the polling place during ballots counting.
12. Two watchers from different organizations shall read the name of the candidate selected on the ballot and a third watcher shall mark the candidate name on the board with suitable counting method.
13. Immediately after counting the ballot ends, watchers must return ballots to the ballot boxes.
14. Using instant print cameras, three instant clear photos must be attached to the board showing the ballot counting results. Watchers assigned to that polling place must write their names and signatures at the back of each of the three photos. Within 24 hours after the election, these photos and ballot boxes must be returned to the Assyrian Election Institute or to the official representative of this institution.

ARTICLE F (AMENDMENTS):

Before the first Assyrian election, an amendment to any article in the AEPR can only be made through an Assyrian public referendum of all adult (age 18 and older) Assyrians worldwide. After the first Assyrian election, the elected Assyrian leadership through votes can amend any article in AEPR.

Figure 1 (Elected Assyrian Leadership Structure)



Form 1



ASSYRIAN ELECTION INSTITUTE
ASSYRIAN CANDIDATE REGISTRATION FORM

*Full Name of the Candidate: _____

*Date of Birth: _____

Assyrian President

Assyrian Ambassador

Partisan

Non-Partisan

P.O. Box Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Legal Country of Resident: _____

Paid Election Registration Fees: _____

** State five problems facing the Assyrian Nation and how you would solve them during your five-year term in office:

I agree on AEPR

Signature: _____

* Must show official and valid personal identification card which lists full name and date of birth

** If more space needed attach a sheet to this form

Assyrian Election Institute (AEI):

Assyrian Election Institute (AEI) is fully committed to implement a fair and constructive Assyrian election. AEI is solely by Assyrians for Assyrians. AEI a politically neutral institute, legitimate and democratic in nature and in parallel with the code of conduct of any of the world's democratic entities. The Assyrian electoral system of the AEI is a first-past-the-post type majority electoral system in which the candidate who receives more votes than any other candidate wins the election.