

SSSC Election Voter Vetting Process

Concerns from the Global Sangat

Initially, when the SSSC was overseeing voter registration, they intermittently sent confirmations to recommenders and voters. Concerns were expressed about this both at the time it was noticed, and again once the information was handed over to Armanino. Concern was also expressed to the SSSC lawyers as to whether all of the voter registration data collected by the SSSC would successfully be transferred to Armanino. The SSSC attorneys said **everything will remain on the SSSC server - nothing will be lost.**

However, Armanino did not receive all the new voter data from the SSSC, as early on when some people inquired whether their application had been received, they were told their application had been lost and they were requested to reapply.

So, the question remains—has this happened for other voters who have not been as diligent to check on their voter status, or who have inquired but not gotten a reply? It is very problematic that we have no way of knowing if there are other voters whose applications have been lost in the transfer to Armanino, or since then.

If other registrations have not been received, those people are not in the system to be vetted and receive their voting credentials. The only way they will know that the system messed up is when others get a link to vote, and they do not. It is doubtful they would have enough time to follow up and correct the situation at that point. Will Armanino even answer their email, look on the server, find their 3 recommendations, vet them and send them a link to vote before the voting closes on Nov 5th?

So far, we have not received any response from Lewis Roca or Armanino when we submitted lists of people who had registered to vote and requested confirmation from Armanino that they received the registration of everyone on the list. When individuals have emailed Armanino directly, requesting confirmation Armanino has responded that they received the inquiry, but do not have time to investigate the status of every voter.

The only alternative this leaves is for everyone who registered, but has not gotten confirmation, write Armanino regarding their status. This undoubtedly will gum up the Armanino system even more, but something has to be done. Simply notifying every person who has registered, that their information has been received, will alleviate the pressure on Armanino and address the concerns of the voter applicants.

We request the following:

1. That no later than October 4th, Armanino sends an email to all new voters who registered either through the SSSC website or Survey Monkey, to acknowledge that their application has been received, and they are in receipt of all three of their recommendations, and if not which one(s) are missing.
2. That no later than October 11th, Armanino notifies all new voter applicants that they have been approved to vote, or if not, notifies them about what they need to do to complete their application. This hopefully will give new voters time to amend their applications and have them approved in time to receive a link to vote.

An additional concern regarding the voter vetting process is that at the Khalsa Council meeting on September 24, 2022, when a Sangat member questioned how it would be determined whether potential voters have been a part of our Dharmic Path for at least seven years (a requirement for voters to be approved), two SSSC board members responded that it would be confirmed because all recommenders of voter applicants have to know the people they are recommending for seven years.

Actually, nowhere in the “2022 New Voter Application Process for New Voters” or the “2022 Recommendation Process for those writing recommendations for voters” on the SSSC Election website pages, says anything about recommenders having to know the people they recommend for seven years.

This is alarming, that SSSC board members are making erroneous statements about the election requirements, and particularly this late in the process, after all of the recommendation letters have been submitted.

Question: what were the instructions the SSSC gave to Armanino about the requirements of the recommenders?

Members of our Sangat have been trying to reach Lewis Roca, the SSSC attorney, and the representative at Armanino, to address our concerns. We are still working on it.

For the voters out there, if you wish to inquire about the status of your registration, contact “Armanino Election Support” at: SSSC_Election@armaninoLLP.com and you can cc Darshan Singh who is tracking the communications that are sent to them.