

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

The first and foremost duty of the State Election Commission is to supervise, direct and control of, the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Panchayats and Municipalities, in accordance with Article 243 K and 243 ZA of the Constitution of India. As the Chairman of the State Delimitation Commission, the State Election Commissioner plays a vital role in the works connected with delimitation of the wards or constituencies of Local Self Government Institutions in Kerala.

In addition to the above, the State Election Commissioner is vested with the following powers conferred by the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994, the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994 and the Kerala Local Authority (Prohibition of Defection) Act 1999:

- i) to determine wards/constituencies reserved for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe or Women.
- ii) to determine the seats of President, Vice President, Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Mayor, Deputy Mayor - reserved for SC, ST or Women.
- iii) to conduct the election of President/Vice President of Panchayats, Chairperson/ Deputy Chairperson of Municipalities, and Mayor/Deputy Mayor of Municipal Corporations.
- iv) to conduct the election of members of District Planning Committees.
- v) To conduct election to various Standing Committees in the Local Self Government Institutions.
- vi) to scrutinise the election expenses /accounts submitted by the candidates, who contested in the election to Local Self Government Institutions, and to disqualify the candidates who failed to submit accounts of election expenses or spent more than the prescribed limit. [According to the Kerala Panchayat Raj (Conduct of Election) Rules, 1995/ Kerala Municipality (Conduct of Election) Rule, 1995) the expenditure of a candidate should not exceed Rs. 10,000 to a constituency in a Grama Panchayat, Rs. 30,000 in a Block Panchayat, Rs. 60,000 in a District Panchayat, Rs.30,000 in a Municipality and Rs. 60,000/- in a Municipal Corporation]
- vii) to decide the disqualification of elected members in accordance with the provisions of the Kerala Panchayat Raj Act, 1994 and the Kerala Municipality Act, 1994.
- viii) to decide disputes on the question of resignation of Member/Councillor, President/Vice President, Chairperson/Deputy Chairperson, Mayor/Deputy Mayor of Local Self Government Institutions.
- ix) to decide whether a member of a local authority has become subject to a disqualification under the provisions of the Kerala Local Authority (Prohibition of Defection) Act, 1999.
- x) to conduct meeting in local bodies to discuss and decide on the motion of no- confidence against President/Vice President of Panchayat and Chairperson/ Deputy Chairperson of Municipalities and Mayor / Deputy Mayor of Municipal Corporations and Chairman of Standing Committees.