

As decided in the 7th Meeting of the High-Powered Election Committee, the members of the High-Powered Election Committee and the Returning Officer met the contesting candidates on February 23, 2026 at 'Uttirna' at 19/1, Thackeray Road, Alipore Police Line, Alipore, Kolkata- 700 027 for a pre-election meeting when the contesting candidates raised certain issues and questions. In the Meeting the candidates were assured that necessary clarification shall be uploaded in the website of the Bar Council of West Bengal.

In addition to the general guidelines of voting, already uploaded in the website of the Bar Council of West Bengal, the following clarifications are hereby provided to clarify the doubts and the issues raised in such meeting.

1. The election shall be conducted on the basis of a single common ballot paper under the statutory method of proportional representation through single transferrable vote.
2. There shall be no stipulation for casting minimum number of votes. In other words, a voter can cast her/his vote for as many candidates of her/his choice upto twenty-three candidates. If any voter casts his vote for more than twenty-three candidates, his ballot paper shall be treated as cancelled.
3. There shall not be separate ballot papers or any separate voting or counting mechanism for women candidates.
4. The ballot paper shall carry a clear identifier in the form of a letter '**W**' in English against the name of every woman candidate.
5. The mandatory women representation shall be 30 % out of which 10 % shall be co-opted and balance shall be through election.
6. Since the total strength of Bar Council of West Bengal is 25 and plus 1 (the Ld. Advocate General for the State of West Bengal), therefore 5 members are to be elected from amongst the women candidates and balance 2 through co-option by the Bar Council of India.
7. Since there are more than 5 contesting women candidates, counting shall be done in the regular process, except that eliminated women candidate(s) would be placed in a separate list.
8. In case of non-inclusion of the name of any voter who objected to the provisional electoral roll on or before 16th January, 2026, either physically or by e-mail, she/he is requested to contact the office of the Bar Council of West Bengal with proof of submission of objection for appropriate action.

9. In case spelling mistakes are found in the ballot papers in respect of preference number(s) of candidates, the effect of such spelling mistakes would be considered at the appropriate stage of counting.
10. Preference numbers in respect of the candidates in the ballot papers cannot be written in numeric. In such case the ballot shall be treated as cancelled.
11. Proposal for installation of CCTV Cameras at the polling booths is under active consideration. Any decision to install CCTV Cameras shall be informed to the Presiding Officers well in advance.
12. The names and mobile numbers of the Presiding Officers are available in the website of the Bar Council of West Bengal.
13. There shall be 83 nos. polling booths during the elections including one polling booth in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
14. The number of valid voters against each polling booth is available in the website of the Bar Council of West Bengal.
15. The total number of valid voters in the 12th elections to the Bar Council of West Bengal is available in the website of Bar Council of West Bengal.
16. During the meeting on 23rd February, 2026 grievances were raised against women representation by some of the contesting candidates. The members of the High-Powered Election Committee are of the view that such objections are directly in conflict with and contrary to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed on November 18, 2025. The candidates are put to notice that any complaint contrary to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court shall be reported to the Hon'ble Supreme Court for appropriate action.