



# India Temple Association

25 East Taunton Avenue ♦ Berlin, NJ 08009 ♦ (856) 768-3134

[www.indiatemple.org](http://www.indiatemple.org)

## **AMENDMENT VOTE NOTICE & BALLOT**

Dear ITA Members / General Body,

The ITA hopes that you are keeping safe and remain healthy during this challenging time. 2020 has been a very disruptive year. ITA has had to adapt in many ways to continue to serve our community. Like many other organizations, the ITA's governance documents did not contemplate a pandemic where the Temple would have to be closed and in person gatherings would create significant health risks to members, particularly our most active- the elderly. Because of these unforeseen circumstances, many Trustees will be unable to meet the event participation requirement in delineated in Article II, Section 2. (b) of the By-Laws and few Trustee candidates will be able to meet Committee Participation requirements outlined in Article II Section 4 of the By-Laws to stand for election. As such, the ITA leadership is asking the General Body to approve the Amendments on the following page which waive the event participation requirement for Trustees; "freeze" the aging of Trustee, Advisory Board and Core Executive Committee terms; and postpone the ITA elections to 2021. ITA Leadership believes that securing these changes are in the best interest of maintaining continuity of ITA services and programs.

The ITA Election Committee is charged with conducting and overseeing all Trustee Elections and votes put to the General Body. The Election Committee is always comprised of one Trustee, one Advisory Board Member and usually one community member. This year's committee consists of Govind Modi (AB), Samir Patel (Trustee), and Lalit Patel (community member). Because of the limitations of public gatherings and associated health risk, the ITA Election Committee has decided that the Vote to approve these changes will be conducted via mail and/or email. The specific instructions can be found on the top of the ballot which is on the third page of this document. For the proposed Amendments to be approved, 67% of votes must be cast in favor of the change and at least 10% of the General Body must vote. We strongly encourage you to participate this voting process. Votes must be mailed or emailed by September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If you have any questions, please contact Election Committee Members (below).

Sincerely,

ITA Election Committee

Govind Modi, Advisory Board (856) 649-6332

Lalit Patel, Community Member (609) 841-4888

Samir Patel, Trustee (201) 657-8661

# 2020 Proposed By-Law and Constitution Amendments

## Proposed Amendment #1: By-Laws Amendment

The **bold** and **underlined** sentence be added to Article II Section 2(b).

b. Contribution: BOT members are expected to contribute to the ITA by providing expertise (legal, marketing, etc.), contacts that may be helpful in providing expertise, and time. BOT members should attend BOT meetings and actively participate in decision making process of the BOT and their respective committees. BOT members are also expected to volunteer at least 4 ITA events and contribute to ITA programs. **In a year where a pandemic, natural disaster or Act of God, results in a four month or greater closure of the ITA's primary place of worship, the above Trustee event participation requirement will be waived."**

## Proposed Amendment #2: By-Laws Amendment

Following addition Section would be added to Article IX.

**10. Due to the COVID-19 impact on the operation of the ITA in 2020, the terms of all Trustees, Advisory Board members and Core Executive Committee members shall not age for the passage of the 2020 year. For example, a Trustee whose 3-year term commenced on January 1, 2020 and would have terminate on December 31, 2022, will now have their term terminate on December 31, 2023. Furthermore, the election of Advisory Board Trustees, General Body Trustees, President and Core Executive Committee will be deferred for one year.**

## Proposed Amendment #3: Constitution

The bolded and underlined sentence below will be stricken from Article IV of the ITA Constitution.

The Board of Trustees shall consist of a maximum of twenty-four (24) elected members. **Eight** ~~**(8) Trustees shall be elected every year for a three (3) year term.**~~ Trustee eligibility and election procedure shall be defined in the By-Laws of the Association. The Board of Trustees shall direct all the policies of the Association. The role and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees will be defined in the By-Laws of the Association.

# 2020 Constitution and Bylaws Amendment Approval Ballot

You are being asked to approve and ratify the proposed amendments to the By-Laws and Constitution.

## Voting Instructions

1. Print this page.
2. Contact Govind Modi (856) 649-6332, Lalit Patel (609) 841-4888, Naylesh Shah (856) 625-4332 or email [electioncom@indiatemple.org](mailto:electioncom@indiatemple.org) to secure your Family Member ID for this vote. You may be asked to verify your membership details. If emailing, you must email from email account ITA has on file.
3. Enter your Family Member ID into the boxes at the bottom of page (One digit per box). A ballot without a correct Family Member Voter ID will be discarded.
4. Each Voting Member should fill out Voter Information and Vote using ink pen.
5. Do not submit a ballot with any writing crossed out.
6. Any additional comments on this form will be disregarded.
7. Submit this Ballot by Mail OR email by **September 27, 2020** (as validated by postmark or email timestamp)
  - a. Submission by Mail: mail ITA Election Committee at 25 E Taunton Ave. Berlin, NJ 08009
  - b. Submission by email: email picture or PDF of Ballot to [electioncom@indiatemple.org](mailto:electioncom@indiatemple.org) from the email that ITA has on file for you. Full ballot should be visible.
8. Once submitted the Ballot may not be cancelled or rescinded.

## Voter # 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Place an "X" in the box that corresponds to your vote.

**Yes, I APPROVE the proposed amendments on the preceding page.**

**No, I DO NOT approve of the amendments on the preceding page.**

## Voter #2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Place an "X" in the box that corresponds to your vote.

**Yes, I APPROVE the proposed amendments on the preceding page.**

**No, I DO NOT approve of the amendments on the preceding page.**

**FAMILY MEMBER ID**