

ELECTION COMMISSION

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY™
IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

INTRODUCTION

Article 324 of the Constitution provides power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India to the election commission.

Elections to Panchayat and Municipalities are conducted by the State Election Commission and not the Election Commission of India

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Conditions of service and tenure are determined by President (not parliament as in the case of CAG)

Election Commissioners have equal powers and receive equal salary, allowances and other perquisites as a Supreme Court Judge

In case of difference of opinion, the matter is decided by a majority

REMOVAL

Removal like a supreme court judge

Article 124(4): Supreme Court judge removed by order of President, after address by each House of Parliament. Removal to be supported by majority of total membership of the house which is majority of members not less than 2/3 rds members present and voting Grounds of proven misbehaviour or incapacity

DUTIES AND POWERS

Determine the territorial areas of the electoral constituencies

Prepare and periodically revise electoral rolls/register voters

Notify the dates and schedules of elections and to scrutinise nomination papers

Grant recognition to political parties and allot election symbols

Court for settling disputes relating to election symbols/recognition between political parties

Appoint officers for inquiring into disputes relating to electoral arrangements.

Determine the code of conduct to be observed by the parties during election

Prepare a roster for publicity for political parties' policies on radio and TV

Advise the President on Parliament members' disqualifications

Advise the Governor on State Legislature members' disqualifications

Cancel polls in the event of irregularities

Request President/Governor for requisitioning staff necessary for conducting elections

Supervise the machinery of elections throughout the country to ensure free and fair elections.

Advise the president whether elections can be held in a state under

COMPOSITION

Consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners as decided by the President

President appoints the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners

Chief election commissioner made chairman when other election commissioners are appointed

President appoints regional commissioners as considered necessary to assist the election commission

TERM

Six years/65 years of age; Resign to President

INDEPENDENCE

Removal like a supreme court judge

Service conditions of the chief election commissioner cannot be varied to his disadvantage

Other election commissioner or a regional commissioner cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the chief election commissioner.

STATE ELECTIONS

At the state level, the Election Commission is assisted by the chief electoral officer who is appointed by the chief election commissioner in consultation with the state government

