

## Frequently Asked Questions Overseas (NRI) Electors

Q1. Who is an overseas (NRI) elector? Can an NRI settled in foreign land become an elector of electoral roll in India?

Ans.- An overseas elector is a person who is a citizen of India and who has not acquired citizenship of any other country and is otherwise eligible to be registered as a voter and who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise is eligible to be registered as a voter in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located. According to the provisions of Section 20A of the Representation of People Act, 1950, an NRI settled in foreign land can become an elector in electoral roll in India.

Q2. Who is eligible to be registered as a voter?

Ans.- Every Indian citizen who has attained the age of 18 years on the qualifying date i.e. first day of January of the year of revision of electoral roll, unless otherwise disqualified, is eligible to be registered as a voter in the roll of the part/polling area of the constituency where he is ordinarily resident.

Q3. What is the relevant date for determining the age of 18 years? Can I get myself registered as a voter on the day when I have completed 18 years of age?

Ans.- According to Section 14 (b) of the Representation of People Act, 1950 the relevant date (qualifying date) for determining the age of an applicant is the first day of January of the year in which the electoral roll is finally published. For example, if you have completed or are completing 18 years of age on any date from and after 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 but upto to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, you will be eligible for registration as a voter in the elector roll going to be finally published in January, 2014.

Q4. Can a non-citizen of India become a voter in the electoral rolls in India?

Ans.- No. A person who is not a citizen of India is not eligible for registration as a voter in the electoral rolls in India. Even those who have ceased to be citizens of India on

acquiring the citizenship of another country are not eligible to be enrolled in the electoral rolls in India.

Q5. How can an overseas Indian (NRI) get registered / enrolled in the electoral roll?

Ans.- He/she has to file an application for the purpose in prescribed Form 6A before the Electoral Registration Officer / Assistant Electoral Registration Officer of the constituency within which the place of ordinary residence of the applicant in India as given in his/her passport falls. The application accompanied by duly self attested copy of the relevant documents can be filed in person before the concerned Electoral Registration Officer / Assistant Electoral Registration Officer or sent by post addressed to him or can be filed online on website of Chief Electoral Officer of the concerned state or website of Election Commission of India. While filing Form 6A on line, the copy of the passport and copies of other necessary documents like visa should also be uploaded.

Q6. What does a 'passport' mean in above question?

Ans.- 'Passport' means a passport issued by the Indian Government, in which visa endorsement has been made. It doesn't mean necessarily the current passport, since in many cases the current passport may not contain details of the address in India, mentioned in the original passport but may contain the address in foreign land.

Q7. From where Form 6A can be obtained ?

Ans.- It can be downloaded from the website of Chief Electoral Officer of the concerned state or website of Election Commission of India. Form 6A is also available free of cost in Indian Missions in foreign countries. Besides, Booth Level Officers in every polling station area in India have been asked to distribute blank Form 6A to families of overseas Indians in India to send the same to persons living abroad.

Q8. What documents are required to be enclosed with Form 6A?

Ans.- One recent passport size coloured photograph, duly affixed in Form 6A, photo-copies of the relevant pages of the passport containing photograph, his address in India and all other particulars of the applicant and also the page of passport containing the valid visa endorsement.

