

BAHA'I ELECTIONS

If we but turn our gaze to the high qualifications of the members of Bahá'í Assemblies ... we are filled with feelings of unworthiness and dismay, and would feel truly disheartened but for the comforting thought that if we rise to play nobly our part every deficiency in our lives will be more than compensated by the all-conquering spirit of His grace and power. Hence it is incumbent upon the chosen delegates to consider without the least trace of passion and prejudice, and irrespective of any material consideration, the names of only those who can best combine the necessary qualities of unquestioned loyalty, of selfless devotion, of a well-trained mind, of recognized ability and mature experience....

(Shoghi Effendi in "Bahá'í Administration: Selected Messages 1922-1932", p. 88)

716. The electors ... must prayerfully and devotedly and after meditation and reflection elect faithful, sincere, experienced, capable and competent souls who are worthy of membership....

(1 July 1943 to the National Spiritual Assembly of Iran)

(Volume 1, page 317)

Difference of Bahá'í election:

- meditational atmosphere
- no campaigning
- minority to be preferred when tie vote
- different qualities important for membership
- electing a divinely ordained institution, (NOT infallible though)
- Protector of LSA: Abdu'l-Baha

Five qualities we should look for when electing members for Baha'i Assembly:

- unquestioned loyalty
- selfless devotion
- well-trained mind
- recognised ability
- mature experience

Other points:

- meditation and reflection
- chairperson and secretary
- no name of voter on ballot
- nine votes per ballot only
- ballots not to be destroyed, need to send them to NSA including ballots for chairperson and secretary