



বাংলাদেশ অ্যাসোসিয়েশন ফর গ্রেটার ক্যানসাস সিটি

Bangladesh Association for Greater Kansas City

CONSTITUTION

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE BANGLADESH ASSOCIATION FOR GREATER KANSAS CITY (BAGKC)

ARTICLE 1

SECTION 1. NAME

The name of the organization shall be the “Bangladesh Association for Greater Kansas City (BAGKC).”

SECTION 2. PURPOSE

BAGKC is organized for the promotion and preservation of Bangladeshi heritage in the Greater Kansas City area within the meaning of the Kansas Not-for-Profit Corporation Act.

Upon the dissolution of this organization, its assets shall be distributed in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas Not-for-Profit Corporation Act.

ARTICLE 2

SECTION 1. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to everyone residing in the States of Kansas and Missouri.

SECTION 2. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

There shall be four classes of membership:

1. General Member: Shall include all registered members.
2. Student Member: Shall include all students enrolled in educational institutions in the States of Kansas and Missouri.
3. Permanent Member: The designation of permanent membership shall no longer be based on a fixed monetary contribution. Instead, the Board of Directors shall have the authority to determine membership rates on an annual basis, applicable to all membership categories, including permanent membership. Permanent Members shall hold lifetime membership and shall not be required to pay annual membership dues.
4. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES & VOTING RIGHTS: Honorary membership shall include individuals designated as such by the Board of Directors. Honorary Members shall not have voting rights and shall not be eligible for election to the Board of Directors.
 - To ensure clarity in voter qualifications, voting rights shall be assigned as follows:
 - Individual Membership: 1 vote
 - Family Membership (including permanent membership): 2 votes (husband and wife)
 - Permanent Membership: 1 vote (if single) or 2 votes (husband and wife, if family)

- Adult children (and their spouse, where applicable) of members in the above categories (a, b, or c) are eligible for separate individual, family, or permanent membership and shall receive the corresponding number of votes.
 - Parent(s) with Legal Residency or Citizenship residing with members in categories a, b, or c above are eligible for separate individual, family, or permanent membership and shall receive the corresponding number of votes.
5. MEMBERSHIP DURATION: All non-permanent memberships shall be valid from January 1 to December 31 of the respective calendar year, regardless of the membership start date. Renewal of membership shall be required annually to maintain active status.

SECTION 3. MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues shall be fixed on a year-to-year basis, as defined in Section 2 of Article 3, in a general meeting by majority decision. Membership shall be automatically canceled due to nonpayment of dues. Dues shall be paid to the treasurer or the membership coordinator.

SECTION 4. RIGHTS OF MEMBERSHIP

All members shall have the following rights:

1. To speak and vote at all General Meetings of the Association.
2. To receive all publications and communications of the Association.
3. To be eligible for election to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 3

SECTION 1. GENERAL POLICY

The establishment of general policy of the Association in the interim between Annual Meetings is delegated by the membership to the Board of Directors (BOD).

The Board of Directors shall consist of up to thirteen (13) elected Directors.

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the governance, management, and administration of the Association and shall exercise all powers of the Association except those specifically reserved to the membership under this Constitution.

The Board of Directors may assign responsibilities among its members as necessary for the effective operation of the Association, including but not limited to administration, finance, membership, communications, cultural affairs, community involvement, and governmental affairs.

SECTION 2. DAY-TO-DAY BUSINESS

The direction of the day-to-day business of the Association is delegated to the Board of Directors.

The fiscal and operating year of BAGKC, hereafter referred to as the “year,” shall be from May 1 through April 30.

SECTION 3. ELECTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors shall consist of up to thirteen (13) Directors elected by the membership.

Directors shall serve a term of two (2) years.

No Director shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. A former Director may seek election again after being out of office for at least one full term.

Only one member from the same family may serve on the Board of Directors at the same time. However, if there are insufficient candidates to fill all available Board positions, this requirement may be waived by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

If a director vacates a position before completion of the term and a replacement cannot be elected through a special election, the remaining Directors may appoint a qualified member to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

The Board of Directors shall operate in accordance with this Constitution and all applicable laws governing nonprofit organizations.

Election Notifications & Membership Requirements

a) Election Notifications & Membership Requirements

- The **Board of Directors** shall issue an election notice at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Business Meeting, together with reminders regarding membership renewal and new membership eligibility for voting.
- At least forty-five (45) days before the Annual Business Meeting, the **Board of Directors** shall publish an interim voter list containing all members whose dues are fully paid as of the publication date.
- A seven (7) day challenge period shall be provided during which members may contest any omission from or inclusion on the interim voter list.
- The final voter list shall be published at least thirty (30) days before the election. Only members appearing on the final voter list shall be eligible to vote or seek election to the Board of Directors.

b) Election Commission Formation & Duties

- The **Board of Directors** shall appoint an Election Commission consisting of no fewer than three (3) members, preferably an odd number, at least forty-five (45) days before the Annual Business Meeting.
- All Election Commission activities shall involve the participation of all Commission members. Decisions shall be documented and shared with the Commission within forty-eight (48) to seventy-two (72) hours.

c) Nomination Submission

- Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by any eligible member. Nominations shall be submitted using the prescribed nomination form no later than twenty-one (21) days before the election.
- Each candidate may contest only one Board of Directors position during a single election.

d) Candidate Eligibility & Voting Rights

- Separate elections shall be conducted for up to 13 (thirteen) Board of Directors positions.
- The 13 (thirteen) Director-at-large positions shall be filled by the candidates receiving the highest number of votes.
- No more than one (1) member from the same family may simultaneously serve on the Board of Directors, except when no other eligible candidate is available.

e) Voting Process & Election Methodology

- Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot listing all certified candidates. Secure electronic voting may be utilized if an approved and reliable platform is available.
- Write-in candidates shall not be permitted.
- If no candidate is nominated for a position, that position shall remain vacant until filled through a subsequent by-election.

f) Vote Counting & Declaration of Results

- The Election Commission, with administrative support from the **Board of Directors**, shall oversee the vote-counting process and announce preliminary election results before adjournment of the Annual Business Meeting whenever practicable.
- A written record of the election results shall be provided to the outgoing Board of Directors before the meeting adjourns.

g) Tie-Breaking & Appeals

- In the event of a tie, the affected candidates shall first be encouraged to reach a mutual agreement. If no agreement is reached, the Election Commission shall determine the

winner by a random method, such as a coin toss or another transparent and impartial process.

- Any candidate may submit a written appeal of the election results within seventy-two (72) hours after the conclusion of voting.

h) Vacancies & By-Elections

- If one or more Board positions remain vacant after the election, the outgoing officeholder(s), if willing and eligible, shall continue to serve in a holdover capacity until a by-election is conducted within sixty (60) days in accordance with these election procedures.
- If vacancies remain after the by-election, the Board of Directors may appoint qualified members by majority vote to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.

i) Election Integrity & Transparency

- The Board of Directors shall ensure that all election procedures are conducted fairly, transparently, and in accordance with this Constitution.
- The Election Commission shall publish the certified final election results within twenty-four (24) hours after completion of the election. Upon publication of the results and resolution of any timely filed appeals, the Election Commission shall be dissolved.

j) Amendments to Election Procedures

The provisions of this Article may be amended only by approval of the general membership in accordance with the amendment procedures established elsewhere in this Constitution. The Board of Directors shall operate in accordance with Article 3, Section 2, and shall not alter constitutional provisions or Board term limits except through duly adopted constitutional amendments.

ARTICLE 4

SECTION 1. ANNUAL MEETINGS

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Association at the end of each fiscal year.

The Board of Directors shall determine the site and arrangements for the meeting, taking into consideration the geographical distribution of the membership.

The Annual Meeting shall include reports from the Board of Directors, reports from special committees, old business, new business, elections when applicable, and any other business deemed necessary.

SECTION 2. GENERAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

The Board of Directors, by majority decision, may call General Business Meetings at any time during the year.

General Members shall be invited to these meetings.

Such meetings may be convened for special matters, including but not limited to constitutional amendments, major policy decisions, or other matters affecting the Association.

General Business Meetings may also be held during cultural events to maximize member participation.

SECTION 3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The Board of Directors shall meet monthly, every other month, or as necessary.

The Board of Directors shall determine the time and place of such meetings.

Most of the sitting Directors shall constitute a quorum for conducting business at Board meetings.

ARTICLE 5

SECTION 1. AMENDMENTS

Any amendment to this Constitution shall follow the procedures below:

1. The proposed amendment must be submitted in writing to the Board of Directors at least forty-five (45) days prior to a General Business Meeting.
2. The proposed amendment shall be made available to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the General Business Meeting.
3. Approval of any amendment shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and voting at the General Business Meeting.

SECTION 2. RATIFICATION

Ratification of this Constitution shall require approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the BAGKC members present and voting at a General Business Meeting of the Association.

Ratification(s):

