

**Invitation From The Sikh Gurdwara San Jose For
General Body Meeting at 2:00 PM on Sunday,
February 23, 2025**

Sikh Gurdwara San Jose (California)
3636 Gurdwara Ave
San Jose, CA 95148

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Respected members of the Sikh Gurdwara San Jose,
Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh,

This notice is for registered member of General Body of Sikh Gurdwara San Jose. As per the Bylaws of the Gurdwara Sahib, your attendance at the General Body meeting is essential to either approve or disapprove the following three agenda items. These are very important for the functioning and progress of the Gurdwara Sahib.

1. "Bylaws Amendment- 'Article VI Section 12':
"Election Committee Formation, Process, Procedures and Responsibilities Resolution"

Description: To develop and adhere to the process to achieve shared, transparent, generally acceptable fair elections.

Purpose / Benefits: Minimizes disputes arising out of disagreements about the election process. Agreed by the Current Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, Sadh Sangat Slate, and presumably by the Sangat. UNITES our community.

Details: The Gurdwara Bylaws were written in 1980s. Even though some changes were made in the subsequent years, many important details about the election procedure are not defined. Recently members of the Current Parbandhak committee and the Sadh Sangat Slate from the 2019 election met and came to an agreement to implement the following modification to the Article VI, section 12 of the Gurdwara Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI

Section 12. Election Committee Formation, Process, Procedures and Responsibilities Resolution.

The Parbandhak Committee will (i) announce the election of the Parbandhak Committee members and (ii) accept all candidate application forms. The qualifications are (i) the candidate must be a member of the General Body (ii) in good standing (iii) must fill out the agreed application form and (iv) must pay a fee if applicable. The candidate is qualified if all requirements (i-iv) are met. The Election Committee (EC) will be formed constituting 3 representatives appointed by the incumbent Parbandhak Committee and 3 representatives collectively appointed by the opposition candidates according to a pro-rata vote. All the EC members must be members of the General Body in good standing, must not have any felony judgement against them (this exempts traffic related violations), shall submit a completed background disclosure form and take an Oath of neutrality before Sri Guru Granth Sahib before starting their duties on the EC.

The primary role of the EC is to independently conduct the elections, including (i) assuring the election follows a fair process (ii) registering and validating the membership list (iii) preparing the final voter list and providing it to the candidates (iv) conducting a candidates forum (v) preparing ballots (vi) sending by mail the election related information and ballots to the General Body (vii) ensuring that election arrangements are fair and complete to serve the general body members (viii) providing security (ix) conducting the election; and (x) announcing the results from the Gurdwara Stage.

Each EC member shall be entitled to one vote. The EC's decisions will be by majority vote. In case of an impasse, the EC shall with consensus develop and execute a neutral tie breaking mechanism without resorting to judicial intervention.

The EC will operate as a subcommittee of the Parbandhak Committee, following the Bylaws, which state that data security and responsibility for fair election ultimately lie with the Parbandhak Committee. Thirty days after the announcement of the election results, the Election Committee will automatically dissolve. This process will be adhered to for all future elections of the Sikh Gurdwara San Jose." The Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee requests that you either approve or disapprove the Bylaws Amendment- 'Article VI Section 12'- "Election Committee Formation, Process, Procedures and Responsibilities Resolution"

2. "Phase III Construction"

Description: To build second story halls on the North Hall and the South Hall of Gurdwara Sahib.

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Purpose / Benefits: To meet major need for increasing weddings on Saturdays, To meet the additional space requirements for Guru Nanak Khalsa school on Sundays, To conduct more religious programs, To meet the future needs for the growing community.

Details: There is big demand for holding weddings in the Gurdwara Sahib on the Saturdays. Presently we have to refuse many of these due to lack of space. There is also need for more space to hold classes of the Guru Nanak Khalsa School students on Sundays. Presently nearly 200 students sit on floor of the north hall, divided into classes of 10-12 students next to each other. Due to the proximity of other classes and the noise, the quality of teaching is reduced.

To solve these issues, the Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee proposes to build second story halls on the North Hall and the South Hall of the Gurdwara Sahib.

During the weekdays and Saturdays, these will be used for the Gurdwara programs and weddings etc. On Sundays these will be available for use by the school. This project is called "Phase III Construction".

Present Bylaws, do not allow the Parbandhak Committee to do any real estate development work that may cost more than \$250,000. For projects, where the cost will be more than \$250,000, approval of the majority of the General Body is required. The Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee requests you to either Approve or Disapprove the "Phase III Construction"

3. "Supplemental Solar" Description: To install additional solar system to meet the increased need for the electricity.

Purpose / Benefits: It will be a Gurdwara Sahib's asset. Presently our Gurdwara Sahib has to pay PG&E \$12000 - \$16,000 every month for the additional power required. This money will be saved.

Details: Gurdwara Sahib has a solar system that provides electricity for its use. This system was installed in 2011 and its efficiency has decreased over time. In addition, Gurdwara Sahib is holding many more programs every year now in comparison to 2011 and this has caused a significant increase in the use of electricity. Our present solar system cannot meet needs of our Gurdwara Sahib and we have to pay PG&E for the additional power required.

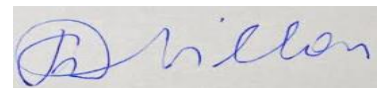
To solve this issue The Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee proposes to install additional Solar system And this will save Gurdwara Sahib nearly \$150,000 or more every year in the PG&E bill. This project is called "Supplemental Solar". The Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee requests you to either approve or disapprove the "Supplemental Solar".

You are invited to give your approval or disapproval of these three agenda items at the Gurdwara General Body Meeting at Sikh Gurdwara San Jose on Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 2:00 PM in the main hall of the Gurdwara Sahib. For this, please bring a Government issued Photo ID with you. If you do not have a Government issued ID from US that has your current address information, bring a copy of a recently received letter from any Government department which shows your current residential address. For Photo ID, you may bring your Foreign or US passport. After verifying your membership status, you will be allowed to enter the meeting in the main hall.

I will also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support for the Gurdwara Sahib. Thanks to your help we have successfully negotiated the difficulties imposed by the Pandemic in the years 2020-22. Not only did we keep the Gurdwara programs running online and in person, we added to them. Our Guru Nanak Khalsa School continued its operations online. In addition, we provided help to the neighboring community and honored the frontline workers.

As the year 2024 comes to an end, I wish you and your families a very happy Holiday season and a Very happy New year. May Waheguru's blessings be upon all of us and peace may prevail in the world.

Please bring this letter with You to the meeting.



Bhupindar (Bob) Singh Dhillon
President, Sikh Gurdwara San Jose