



## Urgent Message from the President of India Association of Long Island



Dear IALI Members,

I hope you all are doing well in the pandemic environment as this has changed how we conduct our business. What we do not know is how much this will impact our daily lives going forward. I am writing this letter for an important item, as many members have expressed concerns over By Laws and Election manual of IALI.

As you know organizations such as ours, along with our society, can change drastically over time and as the organization grows original By-laws may not work for the organization. The By-laws are often extremely detailed, but they may not be comprehensive when an organization first develops them.

If you did not know this already, the unfortunate fact of the matter is that the Executive Council, the members of which are elected by you, is on the brink of becoming an ineffective body because IALI's essential By-laws are non-functional in the current environment. Our Executive Council was designed to be the primary decision maker for decisions regarding our nonprofit's operations, and its members. They are also responsible for overseeing its management and modification of By-laws. As a result, the Executive Council should approve any decision involving significant financial, legal, or tax issues, or any major program-related matters.

Since 2004, many attempts have been made by Executive Council members to modify By-laws to address general membership's concerns but all attempts were in vain due to the currently existing requirement that a favorable **vote of two thirds (2/3) of the general membership** is needed to approve anything. The inefficiency of this process hinders our most valuable asset to IALI's continued functioning and growth, which is its Executive Council.

Accordingly, we are proposing to change IALI's By-laws and Election Manual for smooth functioning of our organization, and we're counting on your support and vote to approve it.

Rest assured, voting "yes" to changes will no doubt be for the benefit of IALI and its future. The revised By-laws will place our Executive Council Members in a better position to be closer to IALI members by streamlining our strategies and decision-making, create the strength we need in all aspects of IALI's functioning, and accelerate our progress to deliver promotion of our heritage and cultural programs to our community.

It is a tough time for the India Association of Long Island but we have been through tough times before.

Please review the Revised By-laws and Election Manual available at the link 2020. Revised By-laws are available at: <http://ialinewyork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/India-Association-of-Long-Island-By-Laws->

[6-18-2020.pdf](http://6-18-2020.pdf) and 2020 Revised Election Manual is available at : <http://ialineويورك.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/IALI-Election-Manual-6-17-2020.pdf> **Voting instructions are enclosed.**

**Votes are in the mail and we urge every member to cast their vote**

### **Mail Voting instructions**

Please mark your vote which is at the bottom of this page and return back to us in the postage paid enclosed envelope.

- Mark (✓) or (X) in the box following YES or NO
- Place the complete vote in the envelope, write your name & signature and seal the envelope.
- Only Votes post marked by **August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020** will be accepted
- Votes are not transferable, so please use the provided stamped envelope only for mailing. The code number is to identify the voter and the ID in no way will disclose the confidentiality of your vote

Please note that the vote/s will be counted 12 noon on **August 22, 2020** at IALI Center 92 E Old Country Road, Hicksville, NY 11801. Due to state & local regulations only Executive Council members will be present and limited numbers of member will be allowed to observe the counting. Voting Results will be shared with members on IALI website, on IALI bulletin board WhatsApp group and in IALI's monthly newspaper.

A General Body Meeting will be held via ZOOM (given COVID-19 situation) to discuss the proposed By-laws and Election Manual changes on **August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. Technology has made remote collaboration easier, and we're more likely to attain the required 2/3 of votes from our members through this virtual meeting. Majority of us have smartphones, iPads and computers enabling us to connect and Vote.

Please simply click on the meeting link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89641003732> Webinar ID: **896 4100 3732** and join right in from your phone, tablet, or desktop.

[Please tear the Vote at this perforation and mail back your choice in postage paid return envelope](#)

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**India Association of Long Island**

**Please Note: Two votes for family membership and one vote for single member**

**Agree with proposed changes in By-laws and Election Manual**

1) Yes ( ) No ( )  
2) Yes ( ) No ( )

Sincerely,

Shashi Malik  
IALI President 2020