

# Online Parliament Elections

(DBMS Project 2016-17 under Dr. R. Chowdary C)

## **Motivation:**

Portal for Student Parliament Elections aims at solving many problems. With this system, a student can cast his/her vote online without any difficulty. He/She does not have to be physically present at the polling booth to cast his/her vote. They do not have to wait in long queues outside polling booths in order to cast vote.

Lot of resources could be saved by conducting elections online as it requires less number of staff during the elections, less capital, less effort, easy accessibility. As the system is online, the process will involve very little paperwork thus, saving paper and also reducing human errors while copying and managing the entries of the candidates.

Results of elections could be declared within a short duration, as counting of votes is automated. It also provides the voters a place where they can view the profile and achievements of the candidates before the elections so that it would make their choices easier. A proper list of students can be maintained easily who did not cast their vote online in order to check the ratio of such students and later, the administration may ask for justification by these students for not taking part in the process. As the number of people working for the election will reduce due to the process happening online, the credibility of the elections can be more appreciated.

The advantage of this system would be more appreciated if we realize that it would reduce the workload of the election committee, for instance, the need to print ballot papers is a slow, expensive, inflexible, environmentally hostile process and also last minute changes to the voters list are difficult to accommodate among others.

## **Requirements And Procedure To be Followed:**

### **Pre-Election Process:**

The portal will contain the users of 3 profiles: the Voters, the Candidates and the Administrator. All the voters have to first register to have their names added in the voters' list. A user will fill a registration form and a unique Voter Id and password will be generated which may be mailed to the user. Then, using this unique Id, Roll No. and password, the user can log into his/her account. Before the elections, the users will have an option to register for standing in the elections. He/She will be required to fill up a form which would include his/her CPI, achievements, resume and other details which may prove him/her worthy of standing in elections. These details can be scrutinized by the Administrator who may approve or disapprove the candidature of the student. The user whose request gets approved will be allowed to write his/her manifesto in his/her profile which can be viewed by all other users. A normal user can view the profile of all the candidates standing in the elections which may involve basic information about the candidate and his/her profile picture. This way, the users can make an informed choice about whom to vote for the posts in Students Parliament.

### **During Election Process:**

The Administrator will have the right to start and end the elections. As soon as the Admin starts the election, a timer will initiate itself and will end after 24 hours. The users can login into their accounts on the portal and they can go to the vote link. There, they get to see a list of all the candidates of his/her year standing in the elections. A user can vote only for the candidates of his/her own year. The students who are standing in the elections i.e. the candidates can also vote for the students of his/her own year.

Few rules that need to be implemented during voting are as follows:

- Only those students who have their names in the voters' list shall be allowed to cast their votes.
- Every voter is allowed a maximum number of votes equal to the total number of the seats, for that year, in the parliament. Exceeding this maximum number will lead to disqualification of the vote. These numbers are: 8 for current First Year students, 12 for current Second Year students, 15 for current Third Year, 5 for current Fourth Year IDD/IMD, and 5 for PhD students. Students can vote for fewer candidates than this maximum.
- In particular for current Third Year students, voting is allowed for any 15 candidates irrespective of the class (B. Tech / IDD) of the candidate. Division of seats into 9 & 6 for B. Tech and IDD is not a stipulation for voters.
- Although, seats are reserved for girl candidates, it is not mandatory to vote for a girl candidate, for the vote to qualify for counting.

The student has to select at least one and almost specific number of the candidates as described for his/her year.

After the user selects the candidates to whom he/she may cast his/her votes, a confirmation page will appear in which the student has to confirm the candidates whom the votes will go. After this step, the votes of that student is casted. One user can vote only one time. Once a user has voted, his/her votes will be added to the vote bank where the name of user will not be associated with the name of the candidate he/she voted for in order to maintain the anonymousness of the users. If a user tries to vote again, and go to the vote link, message saying "You have already casted a vote" will appear. This ensures a user can vote not more than once. The Administrator can see the users who have casted the votes but not their votes.

#### **Post-Election Process:**

The Administrator may increase the duration of elections if the users face some technical difficulties. As soon as the elections end, the votes for each candidate will be calculated and generated. The Administrator will be informed if there are some ties i.e., some candidates have same number of votes and not all of them can be selected. In this situation, the Administrator has to decide who are the candidates to be chosen. Based on the profile of the candidate, the Administrator may be finalize the candidates. After the decision of the Administrator, the final list of the results of the elections will be generated year-wise and a link will appear in the users' account. Through this link, every user can view the results of all the years.

#### **Summary:**

In the end, The main aim of this portal is to make the complete process of Parliament Elections online so that one does not have to be physically present at a venue to participate in elections and vote.

**AYUSH SHRIVASTAVA**  
**14075014**  
**CSE B.Tech Part III**