

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE UNITED STATES

August 13, 2020

To all Local Spiritual Assemblies

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Each year, members of Local Spiritual Assemblies have the privilege of casting their ballots for their respective Regional Bahá'í Council, with the voting period occurring several weeks prior to the Day of the Covenant—this year falling on November 25—to allow for the announcement of the election results to be made on that auspicious day. The National Spiritual Assembly has considered the timeline and logistics for this year's balloting process in light of the unusual circumstances created by the pandemic, and has decided that no election meetings to cast ballots for Regional Councils are required. Assembly members may cast their ballots for Council membership over the period of **Monday, October 12 through Sunday, October 18**.

The National Assembly further determined that members of an Assembly will have the opportunity to cast ballots through an online voting platform, the Online Balloting System (OBS). This user-friendly platform facilitates the casting of electronic ballots as well as the tallying of votes, including those received by mail or other means. In order to participate in the online voting, **Assembly members must have a valid email address on file at the Bahá'í National Center (email addresses can be updated online through <https://www.bahai.us/community/myprofile>).**

Paper ballots will still be accepted to accommodate those members preferring to mail their ballots to the Chief Teller; a ballot template in PDF format, from which additional copies can be printed as needed, will also be shared by email in future correspondence. Ballots mailed to the Chief Teller should be postmarked by October 19. In an effort to conserve the Bahá'í Funds, paper ballots will be provided from the National Center only to Assemblies and Assembly members on an as-needed basis, based in large part on the results obtained from a recent survey on the balloting needs of each community.

Resources designed for your use throughout the balloting process—such as downloadable ballots, current Council membership, and Persian and Spanish translations of balloting guidance and voter instructions—will be available on the Bahá'í national website (bahai.us→Menu→Elections→Regional Bahá'í Council Elections). Please check this site regularly as materials will be posted there throughout the coming months.

Be assured of our abiding love and of our prayers that the Blessed Beauty may guide and sustain you in your efforts to fulfill this sacred task.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,



Kenneth E. Bowers
Secretary

cc: Continental Counselors residing
in the United States
Regional Bahá'í Councils