

MLC polls for 4 seats today

Karnataka will go for its first polls on Wednesday for four legislative council seats — two each from teachers and graduates constituencies — amid the Covid-19 scare. Voting will take place from 8am to 6pm and voters, who have tested positive for Covid, are allowed to vote in the last one hour. Counting of votes will be on November 3. P4

MLC elections for 4 seats today under Covid cloud

Strict Guidelines For Health Safety In Place At All Polling Stations

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
26/10/20

Bengaluru: Karnataka goes for its first elections on Wednesday for four legislative council seats — two each from teachers and graduates constituencies — amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The retirement of four members of the council necessitated the election, which should have taken place before June 30. However, in the wake of the pandemic, it was postponed indefinitely. Subsequently, the Election Commission in September decided to conduct the elections on October 28.

DANCE OF DEMOCRACY

The polls are taking place for Karnataka South-East Graduates, Karnataka West Graduates, Karnataka North-East Teachers and Bengaluru Teachers constituencies which fell vacant due to the retirement of R Chowda Reddy Thoopalli, SV Sankanur, Sharanappa Mattur and Puttanna respectively.

Forty candidates are trying their luck in four seats. Voting will take place from 8am to 6pm and voters who have tested positive for Covid-19 will be allowed to vote in the last hour.

Voters must wear masks compulsorily and maintain social distancing at polling booths. Thermal scanning of every voter is mandatory. Counting will be on November 2. The results of these elections, in which 2.3 lakh

FIRST PANDEMIC-ERA POLLS IN STATE

COUNCIL SEGMENTS

- ▶ Karnataka West Graduates
- ▶ South-East Graduates
- ▶ North-East Teachers
- ▶ Bengaluru Teachers

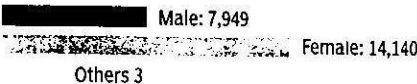


Voters: 74,268

Polling stations: 146
Candidates: 11

Main contestants
SV Sankanur, BJP;
RM Kuberappa, Congress;
and Basavaraj Gurikar,
an independent
supported by JD(S)

BENGALURU TEACHERS



Voters: 22,089

Polling stations: 69
Candidates: 9

Main contestants
Puttanna, BJP; AP Ranganath,
JD(S); and Praveen
Peter, Congress

voters spread over 15 districts will choose their representatives, will have no political significance except the fact that they will help all three major political parties improve their tally in the council.

Currently, the BJP has 27 members in the 75-member house, Congress 28 (excluding chairman), and JD(S) 14. This has left the ruling BJP at the mercy of the opposition. It was evident during the monsoon session last month when Congress and JD(S) together defeated the labour reforms bill (Karna-

taka Industrial Disputes Amendment Bill, 2020).

The results will not reflect the prevailing mood, say political pundits, as these polls are fought mostly on individual relationship of candidates with voters. "Since the electorate is very small in these constituencies, candidates who have better contact with them normally win, irrespective of political affiliations," said a senior BJP leader.

Notwithstanding this view, parties have left no stone unturned to woo voters by taking up active cam-

paigning by roping in all their prominent leaders for electioneering.

Of these four seats, JD(S) had won two (Bengaluru Teachers and South East Graduates seats) last time. The Congress had bagged the North East Teachers constituency and BJP had romped home in the West Graduates seat. All parties have fielded their winning candidates, except Puttanna, who had won the Bengaluru Teachers seat for three consecutive terms on a JD(S) ticket and is now the BJP nominee.

POLLING HOURS



8am to 5pm

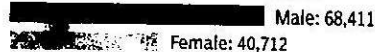
FOR COVID PATIENTS

4pm to 5pm

Counting
Nov 2



SOUTH-EAST GRADUATES

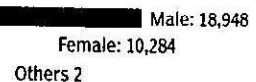


Voters: 1,09,127

Polling stations: 187
Candidates: 15

Main contestants
R Chowdareddy Thoopalli,
JD(S); Ramesh Babu,
Congress; Chidanand
Gowda, BJP; and DT
Srinivas, an independent

NORTH-EAST TEACHERS



Voters: 29,234

Polling stations: 147
Candidates: 5

Main contestants
Sharanappa Mattur, Congress;
Shashil Namoshi, BJP; and
Thimmayya Purle, JD(S)