



Karnataka Ward Samiti Balaga

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"For Immediate Press Release"

Karnataka Ward Samiti Balaga submits demand on formation and strengthening of Ward Committees in Karnataka to political parties' Election Manifesto Committees

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act (74th CAA), 1994 empowered the City Governments/Urban Local Bodies by providing a basic framework for decentralization of powers and authorities. Article 243S calls for the creation of Ward Committees in municipalities with a population of three lakhs or more and ensures civic participation in Urban Local Bodies from almost three decades. Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act, 1964 and Section 13 of the Karnataka Municipal Corporation Act (KMC), 1976 mandates the formation of Ward Committees. In 2019, the Government of Karnataka issued rules and regulations for all the 11 Municipal Corporations including Bengaluru to the form Ward Committees.

On 16th April, 2023, Karnataka Ward Samiti Balaga held a state-level meeting on Sunday to discuss on strengthening Ward Committees and planned to submit a proposal letter to the political parties and candidates for inclusion of the Ward committees in their election manifesto for the **upcoming Legislative Assembly elections in Karnataka**. The discussion involved the participation of Ward Samiti Balaga leaders from across the 11 cities of Karnataka.

In pursuant to this, on 19th April, 2023, a Press meet was scheduled by the Karnataka Ward Samiti Balaga to propose to submit the request letter to the Political parties' election manifesto committees and candidates. In tandem to this, the Karnataka Ward Samiti Balaga submitted the request letter to **Prof. K E Radhakrishna, KPCC Election Manifesto Co-chairman; Prof. M V Rajeev Gowda, Bengaluru KPCC Manifesto In-Charge; K A Thippeswamy, JD(S) Election Manifesto Chairman, and Mr. Sanchit Sawhney, State General Secretary AAP Karnataka and they assured to include the proposals in their Election Manifesto.**

The ward committees, provide the much needed coordination platform for various government agencies delivering different services in the cities. They also provide a helping hand to the government to implement various welfare schemes and initiatives in a transparent and effective manner. Except a few stray examples, ward committees have largely remained on paper in Karnataka. Therefore, the people are looking forward to the new government to be elected to be pro-people and respect the constitutional mandate by forming ward committees in all the 11 city corporations as well as other towns and cities in Karnataka, and take appropriate measures to strengthen and institutionalise them." said **Santosh Nargund, Head of Civic Partnership, Janaagraha**

Proposals given by Karnataka Ward Samiti Balaga –

1. Bengaluru Municipal Corporation elections to be held immediately.

2. Under the aegis of Urban Development Department (UDD), appropriate rules and regulations should be implemented to form the council within one month of elections in all the Municipal Corporation cities including Bengaluru.
3. Within one month of the Council Formation, the process of forming Ward Committees should be initiated through the rules and regulations given by UDD.
4. Transparency should be ensured during the selection process of Ward Committee Members and appropriate guidelines needs to be published for regular and effective conduct of Ward Committee Meetings.
5. To implement the Ward Development Plans through Ward Committees, appropriate funds should be reserved in the city budgets

We are optimistic and hopeful that the citizens' request to form Ward Committees across the 11 Municipal Corporation cities of Karnataka will be considered as a priority in their election manifesto.

Please contact for further information

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