

Gujarati Samaj of Baltimore



Constitution Committee

Final Report
September 29, 2013
Manu Shah

Agenda

- Thanks to ...
- The Past
- The Task
- The Method
- The Results

Thank you

A heartfelt thanks to all the members of the
Constitution Committee:

Shailesh Patel

Payesh Jhaveri

Manu Shah

Nilesh Desai

Kanu Patel

The Past

- GSB established 1974
- First constitution ratified 1975
- Few small amendments ratified in 1995-2006
 - Could not find any documented amendments

The Task

- Preserve the existing constitution to the extent possible
- Address issues, perceived gaps and shortcomings
- Update constitution to reflect 35 plus years of change and current operations
- Maintain a deliberate process and transparency

The Methods

- Reviewed bylaws of 15 like-minded organizations including GSMW and Tampa
- Incorporated ideas from other organizations
- Addressed all concerns brought to our attention
- Created a living, breathing document subject to change
- Not intended to be a document written in stone

The Results

- Engage more people with
 - More Board of Trustees positions
 - Past Presidents Advisory Council
- Preserve institutional knowledge through
 - Past Presidents' Advisory Council
- Look Forward
 - Provide opportunities to more people to take on leadership positions

The Results

Cover Page		Added
Table of Contents		Added
Preamble		Added
Article I – Name		No material change
Article II – Membership		Clarified membership categories, added honorary membership, acknowledge donations greater than \$2,500, termination clause and made membership non-transferable and non-assignable
Article III – Meetings	Moved from Article II Original Article III dealing with Affiliate Membership removed in its entirety	No material change from contents moved from Article II

The Results

Article IV – Officers

Increased the number of elected positions from 5 to 6. More clearly defined the role and composition of the Nominating Committee, more clearly defined the qualifications to run for elected positions
Codified fiscal year and tenure for elected positions to two years
Added a clause on compensation and loans

Article V – Duties of the Officers

Added a new article to more clearly define the duties of the Elected Officers.

Article VI – Administration and Financial Control

Existing Article V

Kept those sections relevant to Administration and Financial Control only. Moved other sections to appropriate Articles.

The Results

Article VII – Amendment to Bylaws	Added new Article
Article VIII – Dissolution	Added new Article
Article XI – Rules of Procedure	Added new Article
Article X - Adoption	Added new Article Added Signature Block Added Constitution Committee Members names

Advisory Committee

- Draft Constitution Reviewed By Five Past Presidents
 - Vishnu Desai
 - Yogesh Mehta
 - Gaurang Patel
 - Bhupendra Thakkar
 - Jitesh Parikh

Acknowledgements

- Constitution Committee:
 - Shailesh Patel – Chair
 - Manu Shah
 - Payesh Jhaveri
 - Nilesh Desai
 - Kanu Patel

Questions?

- Motion – To approve made by Jaykant Parekh
- Second – Parimal Dalal
- Approval – Approved without objections.