

Republic of the Philippines COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS Intramuros, Manila

IN THE MATTER COMELEC **AMENDMENT** IN RESOLUTION NO. 11117 ON PUBLICATION OF ELECTION IN CONNECTION SURVEYS WITH THE MAY 12, 2025 AND LOCAL NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

OF GARCIA, G.E.M., FEROLINO, A.P., BULAY, R.E., MACEDA, E.F.P. JR., CELIS, N.J., TANGARO-CASINGAL, M.N.S, Commissioner PIPO, N. R.

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promulgated: April 30, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 11138

WHEREAS, under the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) is mandated to enforce and administer all laws and regulations relative to the conduct of an election, plebiscite, referendum, and recall;

WHEREAS, COMELEC Resolution No. 1117, entitled as "Supplemental Rules to Resolution No. 11086, Regarding the Publication of Elections Surveys in connection with the 2025 National and Local Elections and BARMM Parliamentary Elections and Subsequent Elections Thereafter", was promulgated on February 19, 2025, where election surveys conducted and published during election period shall be subject to the regulation of the Commission;

WHEREAS, during the public consultations that followed the promulgation of the said Resolution, the Commission recognizes the need to balance the regulatory functions and the duty of the Commission to ensure fair election practices with the right of the Filipino stakeholders to freedom of speech and expression without prior restraint, the right to participate in public affairs and the right of the Filipino public to information;

WHEREAS, the Commission guarantees equal access to opportunities in public service with compelling interest to protect the voters from being wrongfully influenced by the disinformation and misinformation perpetrated by unscrupulous persons or organizations spreading manipulated and false survey results;

WHEREAS, in the case of Social Weather Station Inc., and Pulse Asia Inc. vs. Commission on Elections¹, the Supreme Court emphasized that:

¹ G.R. No. 208062, April 7. 2015

"To reiterate, the inclusion of published election surveys in a statute that regulates election propaganda and other means through which candidates may shape voter preferences is itself telling of the recognition that published election surveys, too, may influence voter preferences. This inclusion is similarly telling of a recognition that, left unregulated, election surveys can undermine the purposes of ensuring 'fair' elections. These recognitions are embedded in the Fair Election Act; they are not judicial constructs. In adjudicating with these' as bases, this court is merely adhering to the legislative imperative."

NOW THEREFORE, the Commission, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Acts No. 6646, 7166, 9006 and other related laws, has **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES**, to promulgate the following:

Section 1. *Election Surveys*- Election surveys refer to the measurement of opinions and perceptions of the voters as regards a candidate's popularity, qualifications, platforms, or a matter of public discussion in relation to the election, including voters' preference for candidates or publicly discussed issues during the campaign period.

Section 2. Registration and recognition- Any person, whether natural or juridical, candidate, political party, party-list and organization, that conducts and publishes an election survey during election period may register anytime with the Task Force Respect online.

A Certificate of Registration shall be issued by the Commission recognizing the applicant as a duly registered election surveyor. The registration shall be valid, effective, and can be used in all electoral exercises administered by the Commission, unless otherwise, revoked or cancelled for violation of any election rules or laws.

Only those registered with the Commission shall be included in Registry List of Election Surveyors which shall be posted on its official website and other platforms.

Section 3. Publication of the List of Registered Election Surveyors- The Task Force shall maintain a list of all registered election surveyors.

Prior to the start of any election period, the current list shall be published in the Commission's official website. It shall also publish the names of delisted surveyors stating the reasons for delisting.

Section 4. Changes and Updates in the Registration-Election surveyors shall update their registration on or before the second Monday of December every year. When there is a material change in the organization prior to the deadline of its annual updating, the election surveyor must update its registration within thirty (30) days from the date of its occurrence. In such cases, the election surveyor shall no longer comply with the requirements under the preceding paragraph of this section if it falls within the same year.

A material change shall mean to include any change that affects the existence, operations, and composition of the organization.

Section 5. Requirement on election survey publication-During election period, any person who conducts and publishes an election survey must publish the following information:

- a) The name of the person, candidate, party, or organization who commissioned or paid the survey;
- b) The name of the person, polling firm or survey organization who conducted the survey;
- c) The period during which the survey was conducted, the methodology used, including the number of individual respondents and the areas from which they were selected, and the specific questions asked;
- d) The margin of error of the survey;
- e) For each question for which the margin of error is greater than that reported under paragraph (d), the margin of error for that question; and
- f) A mailing address and telephone number, indicating it is an address of telephone number at which the sponsor can be contacted to obtain a written report regarding the survey.

The above requirement shall also apply to any person who only publishes the election survey conducted by another.

The survey together with raw data gathered to support its conclusions shall be available for inspection, copying and verification by the Commission or by a registered political party or a bona fide candidate or by any COMELEC-accredited citizen's arm. A reasonable fee sufficient to cover the costs of inspection, copying and verification may be charged.

Section 6. Submission of Report on published election survey- Any person who shall publish the result of an election survey during election period, regardless whether it was commissioned for or sponsored by the same or by different person and whether for public dissemination or personal use,

shall likewise submit a report to the Commission within seven (7) days from its publication.

However, media and broadcasting entities are not covered by this section when such publication is done in the usual course of its programming or news reporting.

Section 7. Non-application of the Resolution on election surveys not published and conducted by religious and academic institutions- This Resolution shall not apply to election surveys conducted for private use by the sponsor or by an organization, including those conducted by educational and religious institutions. Provided, however, that the election surveys under this section shall not be published, circulated, and disseminated to the public.

Section 8. Disclaimers for Non-Compliant Survey-like Content- The Commission shall require the use of disclaimers to be prominently displayed on survey-like content which does not conform to any recognized scientific methodologies or industry standards. This applies to such materials or contents that, while not technically classified as formal election surveys, may be used to influence public perception.

In addition, all other persons that publish survey results, or content resembling election survey, but who are not duly registered with the Commission shall include a disclaimer in their publications.

Section 9. Creation of a Task Force- For this purpose, a Task Force on the Regulation and Enforcement of Survey Practices for Election Credibility and Transparency or Task Force Respect is hereby created with the following functions and duties, among others:

- a. Monitor the conduct and publication of election surveys during election period;
- Receive appropriate reports regarding election surveys;
- Develop and maintain a Book of Registry for registered and recognized election surveyors;
- facilitate the publication and dissemination of credible election surveys in the Commission's official website and other social media page;
- e. Formulate and recommend to the Commission the adoption of relevant policies and guidelines on election surveys and disclosure data;

Section 10. Authority of the Task Force to conduct investigation and file an election offense- When there is a reasonable ground to believe that the published survey is false, misleading, manipulated, or contains fraudulent data, particularly

those falsely presented as compliant with scientific or industry standards, the Task Force is authorize to conduct fact-finding investigation and if warranted, file *motu proprio* an election offense before the Law Department for violation of this Resolution pursuant to Republic Act 9006.

Section 11. Other Election Offense- Violation of Sections 5,6, and 8 of this Resolution shall constitute an election offense. If the offender is a juridical entity, the officers, employees, and members directly performing or directly controlling duties connected with the offense shall be held liable.

Section 12. Official Social Media Monitoring and Public Engagement- The Task Force, in partnership with the Education Information Department of the Commission and other relevant law enforcement or cybersecurity agencies, shall monitor social media platforms for the unauthorized or deceptive publication of election survey content. The social media accounts of the Commission shall be utilized to issue timely clarifications, warnings, and educational posts in response to misleading or manipulated survey publications. These platforms shall be used to proactively share accurate survey data and promote the public's right to a verified electoral information.

Section 13. Task Force Coordination with the Education and Information Department (EID)- The Task Force shall work closely with the EID to ensure the broad and effective dissemination of information related election surveys. This includes the use of official COMELEC social media pages and traditional media outlets to publish the list of registered surveyors, relevant advisories, reports on delisted or sanctioned surveyors and general guidance to help voters interpret survey data. The Task Force and the EID shall also spearhead public awareness campaigns that promote critical evaluation of published surveys and educate voter on their significance and limitations.

Section 14. Dedicated COMELEC Survey Portal and Public Access- To promote transparency, the Task Force, with the assistance of the EID, shall establish and maintain a dedicated portal within the official COMELEC website where all reported election surveys and corresponding report sheets shall be published. The same platform shall feature official bulletins, validation updates, and public education materials concerning election surveys.

Section 15. Repealing and Separability- All resolutions, rules, and regulations of the Commission or parts thereof, inconsistent with any provision of this Resolution are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly. If for any reason, any part or provision of this Resolution is declared invalid or

unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

Section 16. *Effectivity-* This Resolution shall take effect on the fifth (5th) calendar day following its publication in two (2) daily newspapers of general circulation.

SO ORDERED.

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GEORGE ERWIN M. GARCIA Chairman

AIMEE P. FEROLINO
Commissioner

REY E. BULAY Commissioner

ERNESTO FERDINAND P. MACEDA, JR. Commissioner

NELSON J. CELIS Commissioner

MARIA NORINA S. TANGARO-CASINGAL Commissioner

NOLI R. PIPO Commissioner

CERTIFICATION

APPROVED for publication on April 30, 2025.

Director IV
Office of the Commission Secretary

This Resolution can be verified at this number (02) 85272987; email address comsec@comelec.gov.ph