



Jain Society of Greater Detroit, Inc.

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# Constitution

**(Updated 10/28/2020)**

**Please contact [BOT@JSGD.ORG](mailto:BOT@JSGD.ORG) for any questions on Constitution.**

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**VERSION CONTROL**

<b>Version (Date of release)</b>	<b>Change type</b>	<b>Changed sections</b>
9/18/1993	Initial release	Initial release
10/18/2008	Revise grammatical errors	Entire document
06/20/2019	Electronic voting	Article VIII
10/28/2020	Complete update to the document	Article-II(1), III(2,d), IV, IV(2)

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ARTICLE NO. I - NAME

The name of the corporation shall be the “Jain Society of Greater Detroit, Inc.” (“Society”) and shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan.

ARTICLE NO. II - OBJECTIVES

1. To promote, foster and preserve the principles of the Jain religion.
2. To establish and operate a temple for worship and a Jain Center for spiritual, educational and cultural exchange.
3. To provide activities for Youth members of the society.
4. To develop and maintain relationships with the Jain Associations in North America (JAINA), as well as Jain communities in the United States of America, Canada, India and other parts of the world.
5. To celebrate religious, cultural and educational Jain events and festivals.
6. To conduct the affairs of the society in a manner that continues its qualifications as a tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code or any corresponding provisions of any future Internal Revenue law.

ARTICLE NO. III - MEMBERSHIP

1. Eligibility:

Membership is open to those subscribing to the objectives of the society subject to the following:

- a. Individual Membership: Any adult individual (eighteen Years or older}
- b. Family Membership: All individuals living in the same household.
- c. Honorary Membership: The Board of Trustees (BoT) may bestow Honorary Membership in accordance with the Bylaws.

2. Membership privileges:

a. Voting: (“Voting Member”):

Each individual member shall have one vote.

- i. Two adult family members, as specified in the membership application, shall have one vote each.
- ii. Shall have paid all dues prior to voting but not later than June 1 of each year.

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b. Appointment to standing or Ad Hoc committees  
("Appointable Member"):

i. To be appointed, the person must be: ii. An individual or family member; and iii. Current in payment of dues.

c. Election to Board of Trustees or Executive Committee  
("Electable Member"):

To be eligible for election, the person must have been a voting member for at least three (3) consecutive years prior to election.

d. To maintain adequate internal controls and avoid conflict of interest two or more members who are directly connected as spouses or blood relatives (e.g., siblings, parent-child, etc.) shall not be allowed to serve in either the EC or BoT or both during the same calendar term.

ARTICLE NO. IV - ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICES

A Board of Trustees and an Executive Committee shall conduct all the business of the Society. The Board of Trustees is the governing body of the society and is ultimately responsible for all policy determinations and decisions by BoT are final. The Executive

Committee is the operational body and is responsible for all administrative matters of the Society.

1. Board of Trustees:

The Board of Trustees shall consist of the current president of the Executive Committee and six trustees elected by voting members.

**Term of office:** The term of office for Trustees shall be three years and no person shall be eligible to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms but shall be eligible again after one year of non-services as a trustee. Two trustees shall be elected each year.

**Officers of the Board of Trustees:** There shall be four officers: Chairperson, Vice- chairperson, Treasurer and Public Relations Officer. The Treasurer and public Relations Officer shall be elected by a majority of the Board of Trustees, after the election of the chairperson and Vice- chairperson. The Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson (only

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current BoT members are eligible for the Chairperson and Vice- Chairperson) shall be elected by the voting members in the following manner:

The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be nominated from the continuing Board of Trustees, who have the first right of refusal, and are in good standing. In case of refusal by the continuing Board of Trustees for any of these positions, the Nomination Committee shall solicit nomination for these positions from past members of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee Presidents, who are in good standing with their society membership.

**Quorum and voting:** Four members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum. Each member of the Board of Trustees shall have one vote and it shall require a majority vote of the members present to affirmatively take any action.

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### **2. Executive Committee:**

The Executive Committee shall consist of seven members elected by the voting members to serve two years term to specific offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Director – Finance, Director – Public Relations, Director-Facilities, Director-Food Service Coordination.

#### **Term of office:**

A member who has served for three (3) consecutive full terms as an Executive Committee member shall not be eligible for election again to the Executive Committee for one year.

#### **Quorum and voting:**

Four members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. Each member shall have one vote and it shall require a majority vote of the members present to affirmatively take any action.

## **ARTICLE NO. V - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS**

The Board of Trustees must call at least one meeting of the general membership annually.

ARTICLE NO. VI - USE OF SOCIETY FACILITIES

In accordance with the objectives specified in Article II, non-vegetarian food (such as: eggs, fish, fowl, or any meat product) and alcoholic beverages shall not be allowed on the floor of the center housing the temple.

ARTICLE NO. VII - BYLAWS

Bylaws shall be adopted by the general membership. Bylaws shall govern the conduct of the business of the society by the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE NO. VIII - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Amendments to the constitution shall be accomplished only in the following manner:

1. Amendments may be proposed by any member or members by written proposal for amendment to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, who shall forward the proposal to the constitution and Bylaws committee chair.
2. If the Board of Trustees has rejected a proposed Amendment, the proposer(s) may require the proposed Amendment to be submitted to the membership within

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thirty (30) days after receipt of rejection, by presenting to the Board of Trustees a written petition signed by the greater of 50 electable members or 10% of elect able members.

3. The Board of Trustees shall determine whether a proposed Amendment shall be submitted to general membership meeting either through United States Postal Services or by electronic mail (e-mail). Along with mailing a posting will also be done at temple notice board.
4. The following procedure shall be followed for presentation of a proposed amendment at a general membership meeting:
  - a) A general membership meeting shall be called by the Board of Trustees for the purpose of voting on the proposed amendment. Notice of the meeting, along with the proposed amendment and the Board of Trustees' recommendation shall be mailed to each member at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting either through United States Postal Services or by electronic mail (e-mail). Along with mailing a posting will also be done at temple notice board.
  - b) In order to vote on the amendment, there shall be in attendance at the meeting at least 50% of the general membership. For this purpose, general membership shall include members with registered address within 100 miles radius of the Jain Temple in Farmington Hills, Michigan.

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The Board of Trustees chair and the constitution and Bylaws Committee chair shall lead the discussions at the meeting. No substantive changes may be made to the proposed amendment but editorial changes may be made.

- c) The Executive Committee secretary, with the assistance of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall conduct the election. Approval of the amendment shall be by three fourths of the voting members present.
- d) If more than 50% of general membership (Members with a registered address within 100 miles radius of the Jain Temple in Farmington Hills, Michigan.) is not present.
  - (i) Voting would be extended for thirty (30) days.
  - (ii) Members who were not present at the meeting shall be sent ballot along with written proposals received by the Board of Trustee's.
  - (iii) These members will have ten (10) days in which to return the ballots.
  - (iv) At the end of 30 days from meeting these returned votes along with votes from general membership meeting shall be used to evaluate approval requirement as per item (b) above.

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5. The following procedure shall be followed for presentation of a proposed amendment by a mail ballot:

- a) An informational mailing including the proposed amendment and the Board of Trustees recommendation shall be mailed to all members within thirty (30) days prior to the mailing of the ballots either through United States Postal Services or by electronic mail (e-mail). Along with mailing a posting will also be done at temple notice board.
- b) At the conclusion of the 30-day review period, the ballot, along with written questions and suggestions received by the Board of Trustees' responses shall be mailed to each member either through United States Postal Services or by electronic mail (e-mail). Along with mailing a posting will also be done at temple notice board.

Members shall have thirty (30) days in which to return the ballots, after which the Executive Committee secretary shall count the ballots. The approval of the amendment requires (i) that a majority of the voting members return the ballots and (ii) that three fourths of those returning the ballots approve the amendment.

ARTICLE NO. IX - DISSOLUTION

In the event the society is dissolved, the Board of Trustees, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the society, shall distribute all of the remaining assets of the society to an organization or organizations which:

- i. Are organized and operated for objectives related to one or more of the objectives specific in Article II of this Constitution; and
- ii. Are tax-exempt under the appropriate Internal Revenue Code.

Any assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Michigan court of appropriate jurisdiction to such organization or organizations, which subscribe exclusively to Jain Philosophy.

ARTICLE NO. X - DECLARATION OF INDIVISIBILITY:

The Jain Society of Greater Detroit (JSGD) is an indivisible organization. Any group or sector of its members seceding to form a separate organization shall not be entitled to any part of the assets of the Jain Society of Greater Detroit.