

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

In the Municipal Elections, we choose representatives and political parties who represent us in a municipal council. Elected councillors are responsible for improving communities and delivering services to everyone living in their area. They also promulgate and oversee the implementation of by-laws.

WHY ARE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS SO IMPORTANT?



1. Locally elected councillors are in a good position to understand the communities and to find out their needs.

2. This is our chance to choose the people and parties who we feel can develop and support our communities and provide services like electricity, water, sanitation, transport and refuse removal.

HOW DOES LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORK?

Local government is made up of three different types of municipalities, which are run by councils.



Metropolitan Council Municipalities (Metros)

Metros are in cities and areas where a lot of people live. There are eight Metros: Ekurhuleni, City of Johannesburg, City of Tshwane, Nelson Mandela Bay, eThekweni, City of Cape Town, Buffalo City and Mangaung.



Local Council Municipalities

These are the areas outside of the eight Metros and are in smaller cities and towns.



District Council Municipalities

These consist of a few Local Council Municipalities that make up one district. There are usually between four to six local municipalities in a District Council.

WHO CAN VOTE IN THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS?

To vote in Municipal Elections you must:

1. Be a South African citizen;
2. Be 18 or older on voting day;
3. Have a green, bar-coded South African ID, a valid temporary ID certificate (TIC), or a smart identity card;
4. Be registered on the voters' roll;
5. You need to register where you live and vote where you are registered to vote.

To check if you are registered:

- Send an SMS with your ID number to 32810 (R1 per SMS sent or received).
- Go to www.elections.org.za or mobi.elections.org.za.
- Phone the Electoral Commission Contact Centre at 0800 11 8000 (only operational during the election period).
- Inspect the voters' roll at your local Electoral Commission office during office hours.



SOUTH AFRICA

HOW ARE YOU REPRESENTED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

IF YOU LIVE IN THE SMALLER CITIES AND TOWNS

- The smaller cities and towns across South Africa are divided into WARDS.
- Each ward is represented on a LOCAL COUNCIL.
- Each Local Council is, in turn, represented on a DISTRICT COUNCIL.



IF YOU LIVE IN THE BIG CITIES

- The large cities across South Africa are also divided into WARDS.
- Each ward is, in turn, represented on the METROPOLITAN COUNCIL (METRO).



HOW DO YOU VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS?

IF YOU LIVE IN A LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, YOU WILL HAVE THREE BALLOT PAPERS:



Yellow ballot - you vote for a political party to represent you on the Local Council.



Grey and White ballot - you vote for a person who is either from a political party or is an independent candidate to represent your ward on the Local Council.



Green Ballot - you vote for a political party to represent you on the District Council.

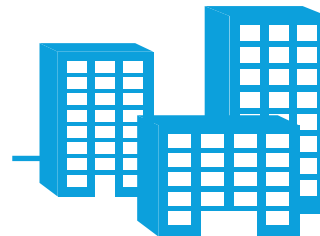
IF YOU LIVE IN A METRO, YOU WILL HAVE TWO BALLOT PAPERS:



Yellow ballot - you vote for a political party to represent you on the Metropolitan Council.



Grey and White ballot - you vote for a person who is either from a political party or is an independent candidate to represent your ward on the Metropolitan Council.



About the Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is an independent, impartial institution established by Chapter 9 of the Constitution. It manages national, provincial and municipal elections. It makes sure these elections are credible, free and fair.

National Office

Tel: 012 622 5700
info@elections.org.za
www.elections.org.za

Contact Centre: 0800 11 8000 (during elections)

Contact Provincial Offices

Eastern Cape: 043 709 4200
Free State: 051 401 5000
Gauteng: 011 644 7400
KwaZulu-Natal: 031 279 2200
Limpopo: 015 283 9100
Mpumalanga: 013 762 0640
North West: 018 391 0800/5
Northern Cape: 053 838 5000
Western Cape: 021 910 5700

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