

VOTING in the local government elections

1 November 2021



Why is voting important?

Voting is a serious responsibility that all South African citizens should participate in. Voting is the most significant way in which ordinary people can hold their elected representatives accountable. If you choose not to vote, you are giving up a vital opportunity to participate in building South Africa.

Is my vote secret?

Your vote is secret and nobody can force you to vote for them, or force you to tell them who you voted for. You cannot be forced to tell anyone who you voted for, or to prove who you voted for.

Nobody can force you to vote for someone even if:

- ✓ They provide you with transport, food, shelter, clothing or money.
- ✓ They are your partner, family member, friend, employer or colleague.

Remember, because there is no way for anyone to check to see who you have voted for, you cannot be punished or rewarded for your vote.

Important Dates in 2021:

1st November: Voting day



SOUTH AFRICA



FOUNDATION FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

Who can vote?

- ✓ Only South African citizens can vote – permanent residents or foreign nationals cannot vote.
- ✓ You must have registered to vote, and you must vote at the voting station where you registered.
- ✓ You must be 18 years or older when the election date is proclaimed.
- ✓ If you meet the above requirements you should vote, however voting is not compulsory and you will not be penalised if you register, but do not vote.

Registering to vote:

- ✓ Only South African citizens who are 16 years or older may register to vote (note, you can only vote from age 18).
- ✓ You must bring your original green, bar-coded ID book; smartcard ID; or valid Temporary Identity Certificate – no copies are accepted. If you lose your ID, etc. you must use the Temporary Identity Certificate from the Department of Home Affairs to register or vote.
- ✓ You must register in person, you cannot register online or via email.
- ✓ Register to vote at your local IEC office either on the Registration Weekend (17th – 18th July 2021) or at your local IEC office during office hours – *it can take up to seven days working days for you to be registered so don't leave it to the last moment.* Please phone first to make an appointment.

How can I check to see if I registered?

- ✓ SMS your ID number to 32810 (R 1 per SMS) to see if you are registered.
- ✓ Download the IEC's mobile app and enter your ID number.
- ✓ Check on the IEC's website: <https://www.lections.org.za/pw/Voter/Voter-Information>
- ✓ Check at your local IEC office during office hours.

NB: If you change your home address you will need to re-register, or if your voting district boundaries have changed (the IEC will inform you), you need to re-register.

Where can I vote?

- ✓ You must vote at the voting station where you are registered.
- ✓ You must vote in person – please observe all Covid-19 related restrictions including mask or face cover and social distancing. If you do not have a mask of face covering you will be refused entry into the voting station.

- ✓ Check the IEC's website to find your voting station: <http://maps.elections.org.za/vsfinder/>

Contact the Provincial IEC Offices for more information about your voting / registration station

Provincial IEC Offices

Eastern Cape

Phone: (043) 709 4200
Fax: (043) 743 4784

Address:
The Mansions, 14 Ganteaume Crescent Quigney, East London

Free State

Phone: (051) 401 5000
Fax: (051) 430 4845

Address:
197 Nelson Mandela Avenue, Collage Acre Building, 1st Floor, Bloemfontein

Gauteng

Phone: (011) 644 7400
Fax: (011) 644 7448

Address:
1st Floor, Old Trafford 4, The Isle of Houghton, Houghton Estate, 36 Boundary Road, Parktown, Johannesburg

KwaZulu-Natal

Phone: (031) 279 2200
Fax: (031) 279 2226

Address:
Westville Civic Centre Main Building, William Leister Drive, Westville, Durban

Mpumalanga

Phone: (013) 762 0640
Fax: (013) 753 2564

Address:
23 Roodt Street, Nelspruit, Mbombela

Northern Cape

Phone: (053) 838 5000
Fax: (053) 831 8095

Address:
Block 4, Mornridge Offices, Cnr. Kekewich & Memorial Road, Mornridge Park, Kimberley

Limpopo

Phone: (015) 283 9100
Fax: (015) 297 2506

Address:
5 Dimitri Crescent, Platinum Park, Bendor, Polokwane

North West

Phone: (018) 391-0800
Fax: (018) 391-0851/5

Address:
Protea Office Park, 103 Sekame Road, Mahikeng

Western Cape

Phone: (021) 910 5700
Fax: (021) 910 4965

Address:
The Bridge, 1st Floor, Unit 4, 304 Durban Road, Belville, Cape Town

Who can I vote for?

You must vote for a political party that is registered in your municipality.

There are 606 political parties currently registered in South Africa; 295 at the National Level and 311 at the Municipal Level. Each municipality may have different political parties that you can vote for, including parties that may be less well known.

Check the IEC website for contact details of a political party that is registered in your municipality:

<https://www.elections.org.za/pw/Parties-And-Candidates/Party-Contact-Information>

You can SMS the IEC to find out who your local ward councillor is by SMSing your ID number to 32245 (R1 per SMS).

How do I vote if I am a person with a disability, or have special needs?

You can vote using the Universal Ballot Template (UBT) if you are:

- ✓ Blind and partially-sighted people
- ✓ Low-vision users
- ✓ People who are dyslexic
- ✓ The elderly
- ✓ People with low literacy
- ✓ People with motor and nervous conditions which do not allow for a steady hand

The UBT ensures a free and secret vote.

For more information on the UBT:

<https://www.elections.org.za/pw/Voter/Voting-Aid-For-Voters-With-Disabilities>

What if I can't make it to the voting station to vote on voting day?

If you are a registered voter who can't vote at your voting station on Election Day, you can apply for a special vote. *By law, special votes can only be cast on the dates specified in the election timetable and no exceptions can be made.*

You can only apply for a special vote if you:

- ✓ Can't travel to your voting station because you are physically infirm, disabled or pregnant, or
- ✓ Can't vote at your voting station on Election Day.

Contact the IEC for more information and for assistance in applying for a special vote:

IEC National office contact number: +27(12) 622-5700

For more information:

<https://www.elections.org.za/pw/SpecialVotes/About-Special-Vote>

How can I vote if I am not in South Africa on Election Day?

- ✓ You must be a South African citizen
- ✓ You must be registered to vote
- ✓ You must inform the Electoral Commission of your intention to vote outside of the country using the VEC 10 form
- ✓ You can only vote abroad on the official election day

For more information visit the IEC's website:

<https://www.elections.org.za/pw/VotingAbroad/About-Voting-Abroad>

What if my name on my ID does not match my name on the voters roll?

- ✓ The IEC uses your ID number and checks it against the National Population Register (NPR). If you change your name with the Department of Home Affairs (if you get married and decide to change your name for example), your name will be changed on the NPR. Please contact the DHA to ensure that your correct details are reflected on your ID and the NPR: 0800 60 11 90

Can I campaign for a political party, put up political posters or wear my party's colours or clothing when voting?

- ✓ No, you are not allowed to place party posters in registration or voting stations.
- ✓ If you are a Registration Supervisor or IEC staff you CANNOT wear any political party's colours.
- ✓ One registered party agent is allowed inside each registration station and they may wear their party colours, but they cannot talk/canvass in the station.
- ✓ Members of the public can wear anything.

How do I report electoral fraud?

If you hear or see something that you believe could be electoral fraud (including fraudulent posts on social media), you can report it to the IEC:

<https://www.elections.org.za/pw/Voter/Report-Electoral-Fraud>

If you hear or see something that could be electoral fraud while you are at the voting / registration station please report it to the Presiding Officer. If you suspect a party or candidate has breached the Electoral Code of Conduct you can report it to the Electoral Court – the Secretary of the Electoral Court can be contacted through 051 412 7400.

Penalties for conviction of electoral fraud range from a fine to up to 10 years in prison.

What about Covid-19 regulations and voting?

The IEC has published guidelines for registering and voting safely during the Covid-19 pandemic. At this time, you must vote in person and you must wear a mask. If you do not have a mask or face cover election officials will refuse you entry to the voting station and you will not be able to register, update your address or vote.





REGISTERING & VOTING SAFELY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Not sure what to expect when visiting your voting station during the Covid-19 pandemic?
Welcome to our guide to the new registration and voting process.

- 1. Wear a mask when you register and vote**, as per lockdown regulations for all persons in public places. If you don't have a mask or face cover, the [election officials will refuse you entry to the voting station](#) and you will not be able to register, or update your address, or vote.
- 2. Keep a distance of 1.5 m** from fellow voters, election officials, party agents and observers at all times while at your voting station.
- 3. Wait your turn** before entering the voting station as only a [limited number of people](#) may be gathered inside the venue at the same time.
- 4. Liquid sanitiser will be sprayed on your hands** by an election official [before you enter and leave the voting station](#).
- 5. We care for the safety of our election officials.** They will be provided with [masks and face shields](#) to wear in line with government regulations.
- 6. Bring your own pen** for filling in forms and marking ballots at the voting station. In any event, election officials will be [sanitising all pens](#) at the voting station after each use.
- 7. When inking your thumbnail**, election officials [will check that it is dry before applying the ink](#), and will ask you to wait a moment before you move on to ensure that the ink has dried before your hands are sanitised on departing the voting station.
- 8. All voting station surfaces will be wiped with 70% alcohol disinfectant before and after use.**
- 9. Say if it's not okay.** Politely speak up if people are too close to you, or if anyone's behavior makes you feel uncomfortable. [Keep yourself and others safe.](#)

Have any further concerns or questions? Find us on
info@elections.org.za | [@IECSouthAfrica](https://www.facebook.com/IECSouthAfrica) | www.elections.org.za

Source: <https://www.elections.org.za/ieconline/Documents/Registering%20and%20Voting%20Safely%20During%20the%20Covid-19%20Pandemic%20Factsheet.pdf>