



Free and Fair Elections



WHAT MAKES OUR ELECTIONS FREE AND FAIR?



There are clear laws governing elections

The right for South Africans to participate in free and fair elections is set out in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. The Electoral Act (73 of 1998) outlines the provisions governing national and provincial elections. The Municipal Electoral Act (27 of 2000) outlines the provisions governing municipal elections. The Acts also list the behaviours that are illegal before and during an election.



Your vote is kept secret

Voters can take part in elections without the fear of others knowing who they voted for.



Elections are held regularly

South Africans vote in both national and provincial elections, and in municipal elections. Each are held every five years.



You have choices

There are many political parties and independent candidates to choose from. Anyone can form a party or be a candidate in an election and you can support any of them.



Everyone who is registered to vote can vote

If you aren't able to be in your voting district on election day, you can apply for a special vote that allows you to vote in your voting station before the election.



Parties and candidates can campaign without fear

There is respect for other people's views and open public debates.



All political parties and independent candidates accept the final outcome of the election

Anyone is allowed to object to the declared results of the election. The Electoral Commission investigates these and makes a decision. If anyone is not satisfied with that decision, they can take it to the Electoral Court which can pass judgement on all election disputes.



There is a code of conduct that everyone must follow during elections

All political parties and candidates taking part in elections have to sign and accept the Electoral Code of Conduct that sets out the rules for a free and fair election.

Among other things, political parties and candidates agree to:

- Speak out against political violence and threats against other parties, the Electoral Commission, members of the public and the media;
- Communicate with the authorities and other political parties about planned political events;
- Work with the Electoral Commission to allow it to perform its duties; and
- Accept the results of the election or challenge the results in court.

It is illegal for anyone to:

- Prevent someone else from speaking to other voters;
- Interfere with a voter's right to secrecy when he or she is voting;
- Use intimidating language which provokes violence;
- Offer any reward to a person to vote for a party;
- Remove or destroy posters of parties;
- Bribe or influence an official of the Electoral Commission while they are doing their duty; and
- Prevent the Electoral Commission from doing its duties in running the election.

IF ANYONE BREAKS THE LAWS GOVERNING ELECTIONS, THEY CAN BE FINED OR SENT TO PRISON FOR UP TO TEN YEARS. POLITICAL PARTIES AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES THAT BREAK THESE LAWS CAN BE FINED AND STOPPED FROM WORKING IN AN AREA. THEY CAN ALSO HAVE THEIR VOTES IN AN AREA CANCELLED.

Contact the Electoral Commission

www.elections.org.za | info@elections.org.za | 0800 11 8000

 WhatsApp "Hi" to 0600 88 0000 for more information

      @IECSouthAfrica

SMS your ID number to 32810 to check if and where you are registered (R1.00 per SMS)

