



Ward By-Elections Participation



What is a by-election?

- By-election is an election that takes place in a municipal ward between general municipal elections which are held every five years.
- When there is a ward vacancy in your area, it means you have an opportunity to:
 - ✓ elect a new ward councillor or
 - ✓ to stand as a candidate to be elected as a ward councillor of your area.



What causes a by-election?

- By-election takes place as a result of the death, resignation or expulsion of a ward councillor or the dissolution of a Municipal Council.



Why take part in a by-election?



- Municipalities are the closest sphere of government to communities. Ward councillors represent their communities in Municipal Councils hence it's important to participate in their election.



- Municipalities are responsible for service delivery to communities, which includes water, electricity, sanitation, refuse and waste removal, roads and many others.



- Your participation enables you to choose the ward councillor who will represent your interests and those of your community in your local municipality.



- Voting in by-elections gives you the opportunity to take part in the decision-making process that affects the quality of your life and that of your community.



- Is the best way to make your voice heard and make a positive input on the issues that concern you. Your power is in your vote.



- Participation in elections comes with the responsibility of being a citizen. If citizens don't vote in elections it is impossible to formulate a democratic government.



REGISTER ONLINE **24/7** AS A VOTER
registertovote.elections.org.za



Who can participate in a by-election?

All voters residing and registered in the ward with a by-election, including those who turned 18 years after the municipal elections.



• To contest:

- ✓ **As an Independent Candidate** - you must be a registered voter in the municipality and have support of at least 50 registered voters in the ward.
- ✓ **As a Party Candidate** – you must be a registered voter in the municipality and contest through a registered political party.



• You can apply to register to vote at the local IEC office in the municipality where by-election is taking place, or online at registertovote.elections.org.za, or during the registration weekend at the voting station in your area. **Note that it is a criminal offence to register where you do not reside.**



• To check your registration status, SMS your ID number to 32810 (R1.50 per SMS) or visit the IEC voter portal at registertovote.elections.org.za 24/7.



Where do I vote during a by-election?

At the voting station where you are registered to vote on a date communicated by the Electoral Commission (IEC):

- You have to come in person between 7am and 9pm.
- Have a South African green barcoded identity document (ID), a smart ID card or a valid temporary ID certificate.

Remember, in by-elections you can only vote where you are registered to vote.



What if I forget who my ward councillor is after the by-election?

No problem – Just SMS your ID number to 32245 (R1.50 per SMS) or visit <https://www.elections.org.za/pw/Voter/Who-Is-My-Ward-Councillor>.



Remember

While by-elections affect only a specific local area, their importance in strengthening South Africa's democracy cannot be understated. They serve as a clear confirmation that the fundamental values of the South African Constitution remain steadfast, ensuring that our democracy continues to thrive and prosper.

Contact the Electoral Commission

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

WhatsApp “Hi” to 060 088 0000 for more information

     @IECSouthAfrica

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

