

## What is the Electoral Code of Conduct?



### The Code is a set of rules on how the parties and candidates must conduct themselves:

- Speak out against political violence and threats against other parties, candidates, the Electoral Commission (IEC), members of the public and the media.
- Let the authorities know about planned marches or rallies.
- Communicate with other political parties and candidates about planned political events.
- Recognise the authority of the IEC.
- Work with the IEC structures and allow them to perform their duties.
- Work with the police in their investigation of election crime and violence; and
- Accept the results of the election or challenge the results in court.



### Why do we need an Electoral Code of Conduct?

The Code is aimed at promoting “conditions that are conducive to free and fair elections” and at creating a climate of tolerance, free political campaigning, and open public debate.



### What are free and fair elections?

#### Elections are free and fair when:

- There are regular elections.
- There are many different political parties or candidates.
- All parties and candidates can carry out their campaigns without fear.
- There is a voters' roll with every registered voter's name on it.
- Voters can take part in elections without fear.
- All citizens can support any political party or candidate of their choice.
- Anyone can form a party or be a candidate if they are eligible to do so.
- There is respect for other people's views and there is open public debate.
- Every registered voter, including persons with disabilities, can vote.
- Elections are open and not influenced by any person or group.
- There is no electoral fraud; and
- All parties and candidates accept the results of the election.



## Duty to the Code of Conduct work?

The Electoral Code of Conduct must be agreed to by:

- Every registered party and candidate before they take part in an election; and every candidate before they are placed on the list of candidates.

Parties and candidates must stick to the code and must:

- Let the public know about the Code;
- Promote the purpose of the Code; and
- Support efforts to educate voters.

Parties and candidates must also inform the public that all people (including women, persons with disabilities, and different language and cultural groups) have the right:

- To be free to express their political beliefs and to support any political party or candidates.
- To join in any political campaigns, marches or public meetings.



## If the Code of Conduct is breached, do the following?

If you suspect that a party or a candidate has breached the Electoral Code of Conduct, you need to report the incident to Electoral Court. The Secretary of the Court can be contacted on the following telephone number: **051 412 7400**.




## How does the Electoral Court punish the breach of the Code of Conduct?

**Political parties or candidates may face the following penalties:**

- a fine;
- to give up the party's election deposit;
- stopped from campaigning in an area;
- have their votes in an area cancelled; or
- have their party registration cancelled.

## Contact the Electoral Commission

[www.elections.org.za](http://www.elections.org.za) | [info@elections.org.za](mailto: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)

