

Seat calculation

National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures

All calculations are contained in Schedule 1A of the Electoral Act, 73 of 1998

National Assembly

There are 400 seats in the National Assembly seats which are distributed as follows:



The seat calculation is done in the following manner:

- Using a quota system (which is explained in the example), each party's overall allocation of the 400 seats is determined on a proportional basis. Refer to step 1 of the example.
- The 200 *regional list seats* are determined for each region using a quota based on the number of seats allocated to the region. Refer to step 2 of the example.
- The 200 *national list seats* are determined by subtracting the total number of regional seats for a party from the overall allocation for that party. Refer to step 3 of the example.

EXAMPLE

Number of seats available:	400
Registered voters:	26 000 000
Valid votes cast (nationally):	18 700 000

CALCULATION

1. Overall national calculation (400 seats) - Total Party seats

Valid party votes – national

Party A	2 398 000
Party B	4 965 000
Party C	9 800 000
Party D	47 000
Party E	1 490 000
Total	18 700 000

Quota formula

$$Q = \frac{\text{Total Valid Votes}}{(\text{Seats} + 1)} + 1$$

$$\frac{18\,700\,000}{(400 + 1)} + 1$$

Quota = 46 634
(National)

Answer disregarding fractions

Party	Valid votes	Votes divided by quota	1st allocation	Remainder	Rank	2nd allocation	Final allocation
Party A	2 398 000	$\frac{2\,398\,000}{46\,634} = 51.422$	51	0.422	0	0	51
Party B	4 965 000	$\frac{4\,965\,000}{46\,634} = 106.467$	106	0.467	0	0	106
Party C	9 800 000	$\frac{9\,800\,000}{46\,634} = 210.147$	210	0.147	0	0	210
Party D	47 000	$\frac{47\,000}{46\,634} = 1.008$	1	0.008	0	0	1
Party E	1 490 000	$\frac{1\,490\,000}{46\,634} = 31.951$	31	0.951	1	1	32
Total	18 700 000		399				400

1st allocation: Ignore fractions = 399 seats

2nd allocation: 400 - 399 (1st allocation) = 1 seat remaining and then allocated according to the highest remainder

NOTE If there are more than 5 seats to allocate after the first allocation, 5 is done according to highest remainder and then a **3rd allocation** is done for remaining seats based on highest average of votes per seat

Final allocation = 1st allocation + 2nd allocation + 3rd allocation (if applicable)

2. Regional list seat calculations

Before an election, the 200 regional seats are divided between the regions based on the registered population in each. For example:

Eastern Cape	25	Mpumalanga	15
Free State	11	North West	13
Gauteng	48	Northern Cape	5
KwaZulu-Natal	41	Western Cape	23
Limpopo	19		

For each region the following calculation is done - example **Gauteng**:

Valid party votes

Party A	1 350 000
Party B	935 000
Party C	3 560 000
Party D	45 000
Party E	490 000
Total	6 380 000

(Gauteng region)

Quota formula

$$Q = \frac{\text{Total Valid Votes}}{(\text{Seats} + 1)} + 1$$

$$\frac{6\,380\,000}{(48 + 1)} + 1$$

Quota = 130 205
(Gauteng region)

Answer disregarding fractions

Party	Valid votes	Votes divided by quota	1st allocation	Remainder	Rank	2nd allocation	Final allocation
Party A	1 350 000	$\frac{1\,350\,000}{130\,205} = 10.368$	10	0.368		0	10
Party B	935 000	$\frac{935\,000}{130\,205} = 7.181$	7	0.181		0	7
Party C	3 560 000	$\frac{3\,560\,000}{130\,205} = 27.341$	27	0.341		0	27
Party D	45 000	$\frac{45\,000}{130\,205} = 0.346$	0	0.346		0	0
Party E	490 000	$\frac{490\,000}{130\,205} = 3.763$	3	0.763	1	1	4
Total	6 380 000		47				48

1st allocation: Ignore fractions = 47 seats

2nd allocation: 48 - 47 (1st allocation) = 1 seat remaining and then allocated according to the highest remainder

Final allocation = 1st allocation + 2nd allocation

3. National list seats

National list seats are calculated by **subtracting** all the **regional list seats** for a party from the **total party seats** for that party.

Party	Total party seats 400 (A)	Regional list seats 200 (B)	National list seats 200 (A - B)
Party A	51	50	1
Party B	106	29	77
Party C	210	97	113
Party D	1	0	1
Party E	32	24	8
Total	400	200	200

Provincial legislatures

Calculations for the provincial legislatures follows *the same process as the regional calculations* using the respective provincial legislature seats. The number of seats per province are as follows:

Eastern Cape	63
Free State	30
Gauteng	73
KwaZulu-Natal	80
Limpopo	49
Mpumalanga	30
North West	33
Northern Cape	30
Western Cape	42