



SOUTH AFRICA

How to Contest By-Elections

By-elections can be contested by an independent candidate or registered party as follows:

Independent candidates requirements:

- Nomination signed by the Nominator and Acceptance of Nomination form also signed by Independent Ward Candidate with signatures of at least 50 voters whose name appear on the voters' roll of any of the voting districts in the ward in which the independent candidate is standing (download [Appendix 6: Nomination, Acceptance of Nomination and List of Supporters of Independent Ward Candidate](#) (PDF)).
- A copy of the page of the candidate's identity document (ID) on which the candidate's photo, name and ID number appear.
- Payment or Proof of payment of the election deposit paid either by **direct bank deposit, electronic funds transfer or via payment gateway(only applicable when using the Online Candidate Nomination System (OCNS))**.
- An A5-size Head and Shoulder photograph of the independent ward candidate.

Registered parties can contest:

- Nomination Form (Appendix 7) submitted by authorized party representative.
- Acceptance of Nomination Form – signed by candidate (Appendix 9).
- Copy of candidate's ID page.

Electoral Commission

Ensuring Free and Fair Elections

Commissioners: Mr M. Moepya (Chairperson) | Ms JY Love (Vice-Chairperson) | Mr VG Mashinini | Dr NP Masuku | Judge D Pillay
National Office: Election House, Riverside Office Park, 1303 Heuwel Avenue, Centurion, 0157 | P/Bag X112, Centurion, 0046
info@elections.org.za | www.elections.org.za
Tel (+27) 12 622 5700

By-elections deposits - R1,000 per ward election in respect of an independent ward candidate and for a ward candidate nominated by a party who is not contesting an election of a relevant municipal council by way of a party list.

Submission of Candidates - Political parties and independent candidates have the following options for submitting their candidates:

- **Manually at a local office of the Electoral Commission** – political parties and independent candidates may submit their candidate nomination documents at the local office of the IEC for a specific metropolitan, local or district municipality before the cut-off time and date on the election timetable. The IEC will publish address details of local offices for each municipality.
- **Online submissions using the Online Candidate Nomination System (OCNS)** – political parties and independent candidates may generate an invoice, pay, capture and submit candidates online at www.elections.org.za before the cut-off time and date on the election timetable. Parties and independent candidates must first apply for access before using the OCNS.

Deadlines - Once the election date has been proclaimed, the Electoral Commission (IEC) publishes an election timetable with deadlines that candidates and parties must meet.

While by-elections, by their very nature, are small, their importance, as an act of strengthening the South African democracy, cannot be reduced. These elections are a confirmation that the fundamental values of the South African Constitution continue to hold fast and democracy continues to thrive and prosper.

Queries

Any queries maybe directed to:

Kgosietsile Tshoke or Kgopedi Molefe

Tel: (012) 622 5292/5200

Email: tshokek@elections.org.za or molefekj@elections.org.za