MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
IEC
SOUTH AFRICA
2021
EVERY VOICE TOGETHER

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2021 REPORT

PR

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TOGETHER

VOTING
STATION

VOTERS
ROLL

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TOGETHER

SOUTH AFRICA

VISION

To be a pre-eminent leader in electoral democracy.

MISSION

The Electoral Commission is an independent constitutional body, which manages the free and fair elections of legislative bodies and institutions through the participation of citizens, political parties, and civil society in deepening electoral democracy.

VALUES

To enable the Electoral Commission to serve the needs of stakeholders, including the electorate, political parties, the media, and permanent and temporary staff members, the organisation subscribes to the following values:

Impartiality – To act free of favour.

Integrity – The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

Accountability – To take responsibility for one's actions.

Transparency – To invite trust by revealing that one has nothing to hide.

Responsiveness – The quality of reacting quickly and positively.

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FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRPERSON

There comes a time in the history of a nation when it is called upon to show resilience in pursuit of a higher goal. Our nation demonstrated amazing resilience in working with the Electoral Commission to defy COVID-19 and its serious attendant problems, and deliver, free, fair and credible 2021 Municipal Elections.

In these elections, 12 million South Africans voted to elect 10 400 councillors. These were the first elections to be held under COVID-19 conditions. The tough conditions set the stage for the most peculiar elections in the 27 years of our electoral democracy.

When the public health emergency was declared, life – as we all know it – changed drastically. It became business unusual for all of us.

We, at the Commission, supported by the majority of political parties, were worried about the impact that COVID-19 would have on our ability, as a country, to hold free and fair elections.

As a responsible body charged with managing elections in South Africa, we asked retired Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke to hold a public inquiry, whose terms of reference were:

- To enquire into, make findings and report on, and make recommendations concerning the likelihood that the Electoral Commission would be able to ensure that the forthcoming 2021 Municipal Elections would be free and fair, given the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the measures promulgated by government to curb the continued spread of the pandemic; and

- To indicate additional measures that the Electoral Commission may be required to implement in order to realise free and fair elections within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Moseneke Inquiry recommended that the elections be postponed until February 2022, subject to the Commission obtaining a court order. Accordingly, the Commission asked the Constitutional Court – the highest court in the land – to grant a declaratory order postponing the elections. The court declined.

Electoral Commission Vice-Chairperson, Janet Love

The court also dismissed a subsequent application by the Democratic Alliance and declared the decision made by the Electoral Commission to re-open the candidate nomination process in the 2021 Municipal Elections to be constitutional, lawful and valid.

These decisions by the Constitutional Court paved the way for us to sharpen our focus and deliver South Africa's first general elections under a national state of disater arising from a pandemic.

As I have stated, times of a crisis on the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic require nations to show resilience. And this, South Africans have shown, and continue to show. These times also require bold and visionary leadership. And this is what the Commission has provided at a time when the country needed it.

The decision of the court meant that we had the shortest time in history – 42 days – to deliver the municipal elections. The short time did not mean that the mandatory processes towards free and fair elections were compromised. The opposite was true.

The election timetable was rolled out and implemented in compliance with prescripts. Our only concern was that we would have wanted two registration weekends instead of one. During that weekend, the Commission registered 1.2 million voters as the first step towards delivering quality, free and fair elections.

This we managed because we were fully prepared. It was my greatest honour to stand before the nation on 4 November 2021 to announce the results and declare that the municipal elections had met the conditions to be declared free and fair.

Among the factors in declaring an election free and fair, the Commission must firstly consider whether the electoral regulations, laws and agreed processes were followed. Secondly, it must consider, where irregularities and breaches occurred, what impact this had on the outcome may have on the election.

We are satisfied that, barring a few incidents, we have delivered quality elections. The Commission is happy that our unique political party liaison committee system is working, as parties used this time-tested system to resolve incidents and complaints.

The fact that the 2021 Municipal Elections were among the most peaceful and violence-free in our country's history points to positive signs that our electoral democracy is indeed maturing. I am also proud that we delivered elections marked by impressive game-changing innovations, which augurs well for the future of our electoral democracy.

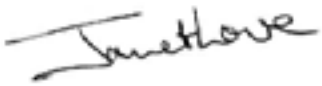
The one major area of concern was the low voter turnout – the lowest since 2011. We note that worries around COVID-19, despite all the measures implemented by the Commission, played a role. However, the Commission pledges to play its part, together with our partners, to encourage more South Africans to participate in future elections.

The Commission expresses its gratitude to all its staff and key stakeholders, without whom this project of national importance would not have been possible.

The partners we thank include the following:

- The National Assembly, the National Council of Provinces and the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs.
- All political parties, their leaders, candidates and their supporters.
- The Minister of Home Affairs, the Honourable Dr Aaron Motsoaledi.
- The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Honourable Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma.
- The Minister of Police, General Bheki Cele, the leadership of the South African Police Service, the security cluster, including the national and provincial Joint Operational and Intelligence Structures, and the thousands of police officers who provided excellent security for the elections
- The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, the Honourable Dr Blade Nzimande.
- The Minister of Basic Education, the Honourable Angie Motshekga, and her entire department.
- The various civil society, business and labour organisations, traditional leaders, religious and faith-based organisations, as well as other groups who participated in many ways to make the elections a success.
- Domestic and SADC observer missions.
- The various service providers, contractors, business partners and other suppliers of the Electoral Commission.
- Strategic partners – Telkom, Eskom, the SABC.
- The Human Sciences Research Council.
- Fellow Commissioners, the Chief Electoral Officer, Simon Mamabolo, as well as the management and staff of the Commission.

Our final and biggest gratitude goes to the South African voters, who continue to demonstrate confidence in our democracy, our country and our Constitution.



Janet Love
Vice-Chairperson
Electoral Commission of South Africa

OVERVIEW BY THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

The Electoral Commission is honoured to present the 2021 Municipal Elections Report, which covers elections that were challenging, exciting and historic.

This report is presented in pursuance of Section 14(3) of the Electoral Commission Act (Act No 51 of 1996) and sets out the activities undertaken during the total electoral cycle for the 2021 Municipal Elections held on 1 November 2021.

These elections were historic in that they were held under conditions imposed by COVID-19. This public health crisis posed many unprecedented challenges in the preparation for and holding of elections. Faced with these challenges, our duty was to preserve the integrity of the Commission, the electoral process, and election outcomes as required in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. We were able to do so with pleasing efficiency, because our focus was on delivering the best elections possible, despite the challenges.

The decision that the Commission took to create a transparent process – chaired by retired Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke – on whether free and fair elections were possible within the COVID-19 context, was a necessity.

We are proud to report that, throughout the disruptions brought about by COVID-19, the Commission continued to function in compliance with prescripts. Therefore, once the legal challenges were dispensed with, it was possible to deliver elections in 42 days – the shortest period in the history of our electoral democracy.

With so many challenges, we experienced inexcusable ills, but they are part of the elections environment. However, delivering, as we did, a registration weekend in 14 days was a major achievement. Equally, delivering an election in 42 days was the second major positive landmark.

For the staff at the Commission, delivering these elections was a big call and it is one that they answered with aplomb. For that, the Commission remains eternally grateful to each one of them.

Electoral Commission Chief Electoral Officer, Simon Mamabolo

In keeping with our constitutional commitment of being inclusive, our electoral engagement had a social consciousness and was thus alive to the fact that we have, among us, those who are infirm or with impaired mobility. Hence, South Africans in special circumstances were offered an opportunity to cast special votes on 30 and 31 October 2021.

Special votes served a twin purpose: on the one hand, they enfranchised people in special circumstances and assisted with the depopulation of voting stations on Elections Day in line with COVID-19 protocols. They also offered the Commission an opportunity to sharpen the proficiency of its operations ahead of Voting Day.

Without a doubt, the 2021 Municipal Elections will go down in history as the most innovative. The use of voter management devices (VMDs) catapulted electoral management in our country to new heights, setting a foundation for future innovations. Yes, operational challenges were encountered, but despite that, the VMDs were a success we can all be proud of.

The Commission deployed 30 387 VMDs, which were centrally connected through an Access Point Network.

This digital connection enabled the strengthening of controls in the voting process. Once ballots had been issued to a voter, voters could not present themselves at another voting station without detection. In use at the voting stations was a live, centrally connected voters' roll. This capability will decisively lay to rest allegations of double voting.

With the VMD, possibilities abound. The prospect of building additional engines and reports will enable the real-time monitoring of the quantities of ballot papers issued and on hand at each voting station. This will remedy the reports of voting stations running out of ballot papers.

Therefore, the introduction of VMDs can only serve to fortify controls in the voting process and enhance the capability to manage the voting process efficiently. The challenges of the moment, as we experienced, should not cloud our desire to exploit digital innovations to improve our electoral programmes. We dare not retard the progress we have made.

Our electoral enterprise is about people and their well-being. So, the views expressed by voters through a survey conveyed by the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) are important.

The HSRC interviewed 12 189 randomly sampled voters in 300 voting stations across the country during different time segments throughout Voting Day. By acceptable standards, this is a representative sample that enables us to make generalisations of the whole voter population.

Some 97% of the sampled voters found the voting procedures inside our voting stations easy to understand, while 94% was satisfied with the ballot papers used in the elections. In other words, the identifiers used in the ballot design were clear and not confusing to voters.

This survey further indicated that 96% was satisfied with the secrecy of the ballot, while 93% was satisfied with the safety and security at voting stations. Some 84% expressed confidence in the accuracy of the counting and tallying processes. Most importantly, 95% experienced the elections as being free and fair.

We are also glad that this survey reflects that 93% of the voters commended the Commission's efforts to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 at the voting stations.

Overall, voters said their lived electoral reality was positive and consistent with their expectations of integrity standards in the voting process.

The people have indeed spoken.

This is a solid foundation on which we will build future electoral operations. The Commission will continue to work with all its stakeholders to improve the voter experience.

I echo the gratitude expressed by the Vice-Chairperson to all stakeholders and our staff for the role they played in delivering good-quality, free and fair municipal elections in South Africa.

Simon Mamabolo
Chief Electoral Officer
Electoral Commission of South Africa

2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS BY NUMBERS

26 204 579
Registered voters
(67.9% of estimated voting age population of 38 million)

55%
14 458 508
Female registered voters

45%
11 746 071
Male registered voters

12 063 709
Votes cast
(46% voter turnout)

Provinces with the highest number of voters

Gauteng (6.2 million)
KwaZulu-Natal (5.4 million)
Eastern Cape (3.3 million)

42
Days in the election timetable

30 387
Voter management devices deployed

586 335
Special votes cast

1 110 330
Approved special votes

4 725
Unique ballot papers printed

72 MILLION
Total ballot papers printed for the 2021 elections

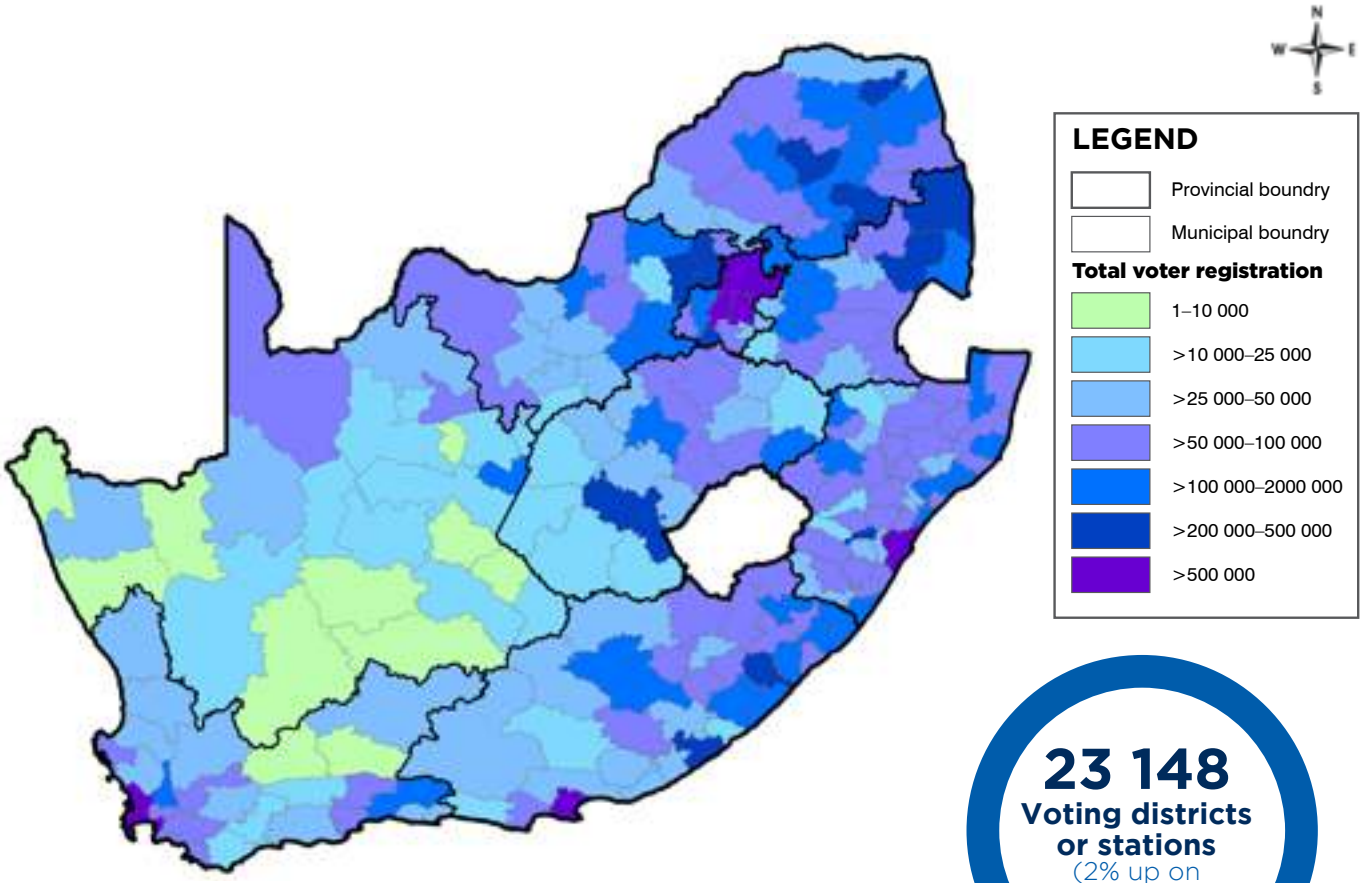
323
The number of registered political parties contesting the elections. (205 in 2016)

195 000
Election officials serving voters

10 400
Elected councillors

95 427
The number of candidates (66 014 in 2016)

Total registered voters per municipality



23 148
Voting districts or stations
(2% up on 22 612 stations in 2016)

8
Metropolitan municipalities

205
Local municipalities

44
District municipalities

Election satisfaction 2021

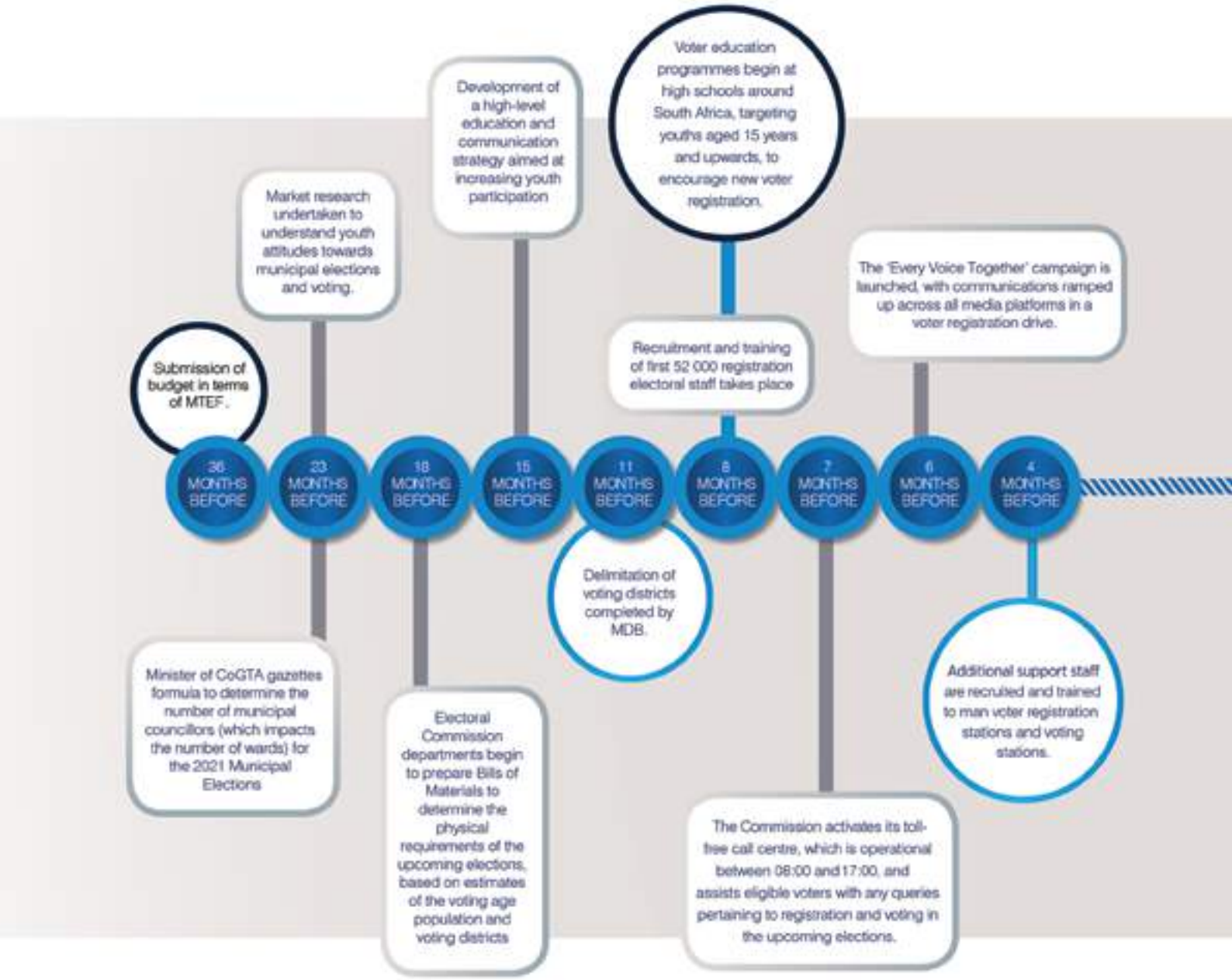
95%
Percentage of voters who experienced elections as free and fair*

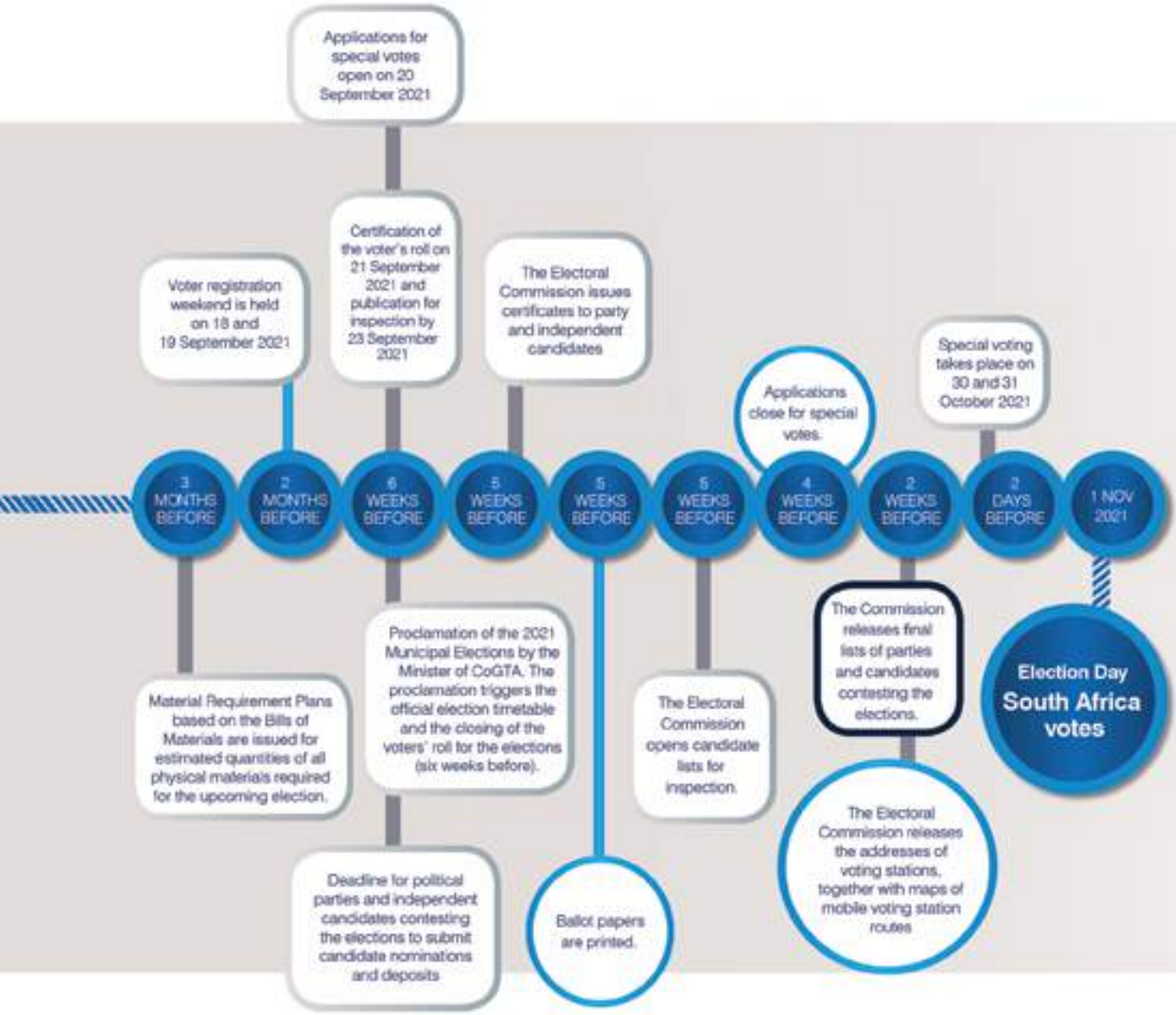
96%
Percentage of voters who were satisfied with the secrecy of the ballot*

93%
Percentage of voters who were satisfied with the COVID-19 measures at voting stations*

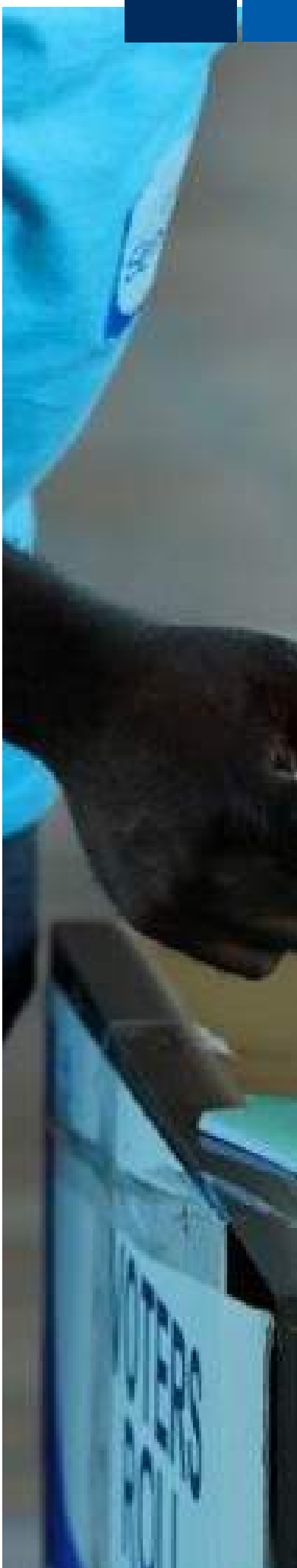
**Source: HSRC Election Satisfaction Survey 2021*

THE ROAD TO THE 2021 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS




Applications for special votes open on 20 September 2021
Certification of the voter's roll on 21 September 2021 and publication for inspection by 23 September 2021
Voter registration weekend is held on 18 and 19 September 2021
The Electoral Commission issues certificates to party and independent candidates
Applications close for special votes.
Special voting takes place on 30 and 31 October 2021
3 MONTHS BEFORE
2 MONTHS BEFORE
6 WEEKS BEFORE
5 WEEKS BEFORE
5 WEEKS BEFORE
5 WEEKS BEFORE
4 WEEKS BEFORE
2 WEEKS BEFORE
2 DAYS BEFORE
1 NOV 2021
The Commission releases final lists of parties and candidates contesting the elections.
Proclamation of the 2021 Municipal Elections by the Minister of CoGTA. The proclamation triggers the official election timetable and the closing of the voters' roll for the elections (six weeks before).
Election Day
South Africa votes
Material Requirement Plans based on the Bills of Materials are issued for estimated quantities of all physical materials required for the upcoming election.
The Electoral Commission opens candidate lists for inspection.
The Electoral Commission releases the addresses of voting stations, together with maps of mobile voting station routes
Deadline for political parties and independent candidates contesting the elections to submit candidate nominations and deposits
Ballot papers are printed.

PREPARING FOR THE ELECTIONS



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PREPARING FOR THE ELECTIONS

1. Free, Fair and Safe Municipal Elections in the Time of COVID-19

There is currently a global outbreak of a respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus, which has now been detected in over 200 countries and territories internationally, including South Africa. The virus has been named SARS-CoV-2 and the disease it causes has been named the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19).

In March 2020, the World Health Organization publicly characterised COVID-19 as a pandemic, which means a global outbreak of disease. The first case of COVID-19 in South Africa was confirmed by the Minister of Health on 5 March 2020.

Since then, more than 350 million people across the globe have tested positive for COVID-19 and approximately six million of these have died from complications related to the disease.

The global pandemic has had unprecedented consequences for public health systems and resulted in a staggering number of deaths globally. South Africa is no exception.

As at the end of February 2022, approximately 3.6 million persons in South Africa had tested positive for the disease, and nearly 100 000 of these have succumbed to the disease.

During the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa, between the period of March 2020 and June 2021, the Electoral Commission successfully approached the Electoral Court to postpone the holding of 187 by-elections after the prescribed 90-day period.

The pandemic raised the question of the possibility of holding constitutionally compliant municipal elections in the conditions to which the global COVID-19 pandemic has given rise. There are three constitutional requirements that the Commission must meet in arranging and managing constitutionally compliant municipal elections.

First, the Commission must hold elections regularly. Section 159(2) of the Constitution required that the municipal elections had to have been held within 90 days of the expiry of the municipal councils' five-year term of office. Accordingly, South Africa's sixth municipal elections had to take place before 1 November 2021, this being the outer date of the 90-day period.

Second, the Commission must hold elections that are free and fair. This means, inter alia, that every person who is entitled to vote has the opportunity to do so and faces no unreasonable restrictions or burdens; that political parties and candidates have the ability to compete on equal terms, and without undue hindrance or obstacle; that every adult citizen can freely contest elections and seek public office through canvassing, advertising, and the like; and that voters have access to reliable information about parties and candidates.

Third, the Commission must organise elections in a manner that respects, protects, promotes and fulfils constitutional rights to life, physical and psychological integrity, and access to healthcare.

Deputy Chief Justice, Dikgang Moseneke

Moseneke Inquiry into Free and Fair Elections in the Time of COVID-19

Given the state of the COVID-19 pandemic, the declaration of a national state of disaster, and the regulations put in place to protect the public, the Commission commissioned an inquiry into the prospects of holding constitutionally compliant municipal elections during the COVID-19 pandemic. It appointed former Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke to conduct the inquiry.

Along with his extensive experience in the Constitutional Court, Justice Moseneke is the former Deputy Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission, which conducted the first democratic elections in South Africa in 1994.

At the time, Chairperson Glen Mashinini indicated that the Commission was confident that the special COVID-19 protocols and measures to be put in place for the elections would provide adequate safeguards. These measures had been tested in over 150 by-elections conducted over the previous six months. The measures also took into consideration the experiences of several other countries in conducting elections successfully during the pandemic.

Justice Moseneke held an urgent, thorough and wide ranging inquiry. He invited and heard submissions from numerous interested parties, stakeholders, experts and the general public, considering medical and scientific expert evidence, legal considerations and comparative best practice.

In the interests of transparency, the Electoral Commission facilitated the creation of a special website for the inquiry – available at *https://www.elections.org.za/freeandfair/* – which provided information on Justice Moseneke's inquiry team members and invited submissions to the inquiry. It also facilitated the live streaming of five days of oral presentations and served as a repository of all submissions received, media statements issued and, ultimately, its final report.

In total, over several weeks in June and July 2021, the inquiry received the following submissions:

- Around 3 000 submissions from the public by email and WhatsApp text messages and voice notes.
- Nearly 100 written submissions from interested parties including the Electoral Commission, ministers and government departments, medical experts, electoral monitoring bodies, political parties, civil society and independent entities.
- 22 oral submissions by invitation from the inquiry from the pool of written submissions received.

Adoption of Inquiry Report

The Electoral Commission received the final report of the Inquiry into Ensuring Free and Fair Elections during COVID-19 from former Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke on 20 July 2021, and the Commission authorised its immediate release.

Justice Moseneke's central conclusion was that the forthcoming municipal elections could not be held in October 2021 in a manner that is free and fair, and without infringing the rights to life, bodily and psychological integrity and access to healthcare, as required by the Constitution and related legislation.

The conclusion of the report was as follows:

> *Having considered all the submissions of stakeholders, applicable law, research on electoral practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the related science, we conclude that it is not reasonably possible or likely that the Local Government Elections scheduled for the month of October 2021 will be held in a free and fair manner, as required by the peremptory provisions of the Constitution and related legislation.*
> *We find that the scheduled elections are likely to be free and fair if they were to be held no later than the end of February 2022. We have also made recommendations on how free, fair and safe elections may be held in February 2022.*
> *Should the Commission accept and seek to implement the outcome of this inquiry, it is self-evident that it must approach, with deliberate speed, a court of competent jurisdiction to seek a just and equitable order to defer the local government elections to no later than February 2022 and on such terms the court may grant.*

The Commission accepted and adopted the final inquiry report. It accepted the rationale and the central thesis of the report that greater immunity through mass vaccination is a desirable precondition for a safe, free and fair election.

On 3 August 2021, in the absence of a court order on the deferral of municipal elections, the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, proclaimed 27 October 2021 as the election date. The Commission appreciated the constitutional and statutory obligation of the Minister to do so. In line with electoral prescripts, this date had been determined following consultation with the Commission.

The proclamation triggered the requirement for the Commission to publish an election timetable. Another legal consequence of the proclamation was to close the voters' roll. Proclamation of the election date also resulted in the opening of the candidate nomination process.

While the Commission prepared for elections on 27 October 2021, it launched an application in the Constitutional Court. The application raised weighty matters involving the balancing of rights enshrined in the Constitution. The apex court was, thus, the suitable judicial forum to consider the application.

The court application was an extraordinary one. The issues at the core of the application had bearing on the political rights of citizens, as well as the right to life, bodily and psychological integrity, and access to health. The application was launched on an urgent basis because there was a need for certainty on the preparations for the municipal elections.

The nature of the relief sought by the Commission was largely predicated on the impossibility to perform a constitutional obligation, which is the conduct of constitutionally compliant elections of municipal councils by 1 November 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures that the government had instituted to curb the spread of the virus.

Constitutional Court Order for Elections by 1 November 2021

On 3 September 2021, the Constitutional Court handed down an order in which it dismissed an application by the Commission to defer the general Municipal Elections scheduled for 27 October 2021.

In its judgment, the Constitutional Court ordered that the Commission ensure that it prepares for an election to be held by 1 November 2021. The full reasons and judgment were to follow.

Because the voters' roll was unsealed by the order of the Court, the Commission needed to make several decisions.

The first was to determine whether to proceed with a voter registration weekend ahead of the general election. A registration weekend was considered necessary and was accordingly scheduled for the weekend of 18 to 19 September 2021.

The Commission was of the view that, although held in less-than-ideal circumstances, a registration weekend was crucial in improving the chances of the elections being constitutionally compliant by allowing new voters to register, and those registered a chance to update their details on the voters' roll.

The Commission again held a consultative meeting with the Minister of CoGTA. In line with the orders of the Court, the Commission advised the Minister that it would be proceeding with a registration weekend on 18 and 19 September. This meant that the Minister could, on 20 September 2021, proclaim the new election date. This proclamation again caused the voters' roll to be closed for purposes of the 2021 Municipal Elections.

The Commission also decided on the need to set a new deadline for candidate nominations. The scheme of the Municipal Electoral Act is that the voter registration deadline is intended to precede the candidate nomination deadline. It was therefore necessary to allow political parties and independent candidates an opportunity to nominate candidates after the registration weekend and after the voters' roll had closed.

Candidates first have to be enrolled as voters before their nomination; this is a generally accepted electoral management practice.

The amendments were permitted by the Constitutional Court's order, which made clear that the Commission is entitled to "publish such amendments to the current timetable as may be reasonably necessary".

At a meeting of the National Party Liaison Commission on 6 September 2021, it was clear that there were different interpretations among parties as to whether the order of the Constitutional Court permitted the Commission to re-open candidate nominations. The Commission took advice on the matter and was of the view that amending the timetable to re-open nominations was reasonably necessary for the circumstances where a general voter registration event was held.

Following the proclamation of the new election date on 20 September 2021, the Commission published an amended election timetable truncated to 42 days, which provided condensed timelines reasonably necessary to meet the deadline for the conduct of general elections on 1 November 2021.

The Commission assured South African citizens that it would spare no effort to deliver a credible process guided by the prescripts and electoral jurisprudence arising from the country's courts.

2. Legal Framework and Litigation

The Electoral Commission is one of six independent Chapter 9 institutions created by the Constitution to support constitutional democracy in South Africa. As such, it is "independent, and subject only to the Constitution and the law". The founding values of the Constitution require the Electoral Commission to promote enfranchisement and participation. The Commission is also required to be impartial and to exercise its powers and perform its functions without fear, favour or prejudice.

Legislation

Several statutes define the structure, powers and duties of the Commission, and corresponding regulations that provide for the administration and all other issues related to national, provincial and municipal elections.

The Constitution requires that the Electoral Commission:

- Manages elections of national and provincial municipal legislative bodies per national legislation;
- Ensures that those elections are free and fair; and
- Declares the result of those elections within a period that must be prescribed by the national legislation and is as short as reasonably possible.

The 2021 Municipal Elections were conducted in terms of the Constitution and the following statutes, as well as the regulations issued by the Commission:

- **Electoral Commission Act**

  The Electoral Commission Act, Act No 51 of 1996, expands on the establishment of an Electoral Commission to manage national, provincial and municipal elections. It details the composition of the Commission, the creation of an administrative structure, and the powers, duties and functions of the Commission.

- **Electoral Act**

  The Electoral Act, Act No 73 of 1998, provides further regulations regarding the operation of national, provincial and municipal elections. It provides for the registration of voters, and the compilation of the voters' rolls to be used in any election.

- **Local Government: Municipal Structures Act**

  The Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, Act No 117 of 1998, deals with the establishment, management and functions of the various municipalities, as well as the seat calculation formulas (conversion of votes into council seats).

- **Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act and Regulations**

  The Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act, Act No 27 of 2000, regulates the election conduct in the municipal sphere of government and matters connected thereto.

- **Electoral Laws Amendment Act 2021**

  In the discharge of its obligations to continually review electoral legislation and propose electoral legislation, and make recommendations in connection therewith, the Commission sponsored the Electoral Laws Amendment Bill, 2020, through Parliament. The Bill was passed as the Electoral Laws Amendment Act, Act No 4 of 2021, and came into effect on 27 August 2021.

The key elements of the Electoral Laws Amendment Act, Act No 4 of 2021, included the following:

Amendments to the:

- Electoral Commission Act, 1996, to insert certain definitions; to streamline the provisions for the registration of political parties; to provide for the registration of parties in respect of particular provinces, districts and metropolitan municipalities, and to repeal provisions relating to the registration of parties in respect of particular local municipalities; and to repeal obsolete provisions;
- Electoral Act, 1998, to insert certain definitions; to amend the provisions regarding public access to the voters' roll; to update references to repealed legislation; to amend provisions allowing voters to vote in voting districts where they are not registered; to amend provisions relating to the submission of lists of candidates; to amend provisions relating to special votes in elections for the National Assembly; to authorise the Commission to prescribe a different voting method; to amend provisions relating to the procedure concerning provisional results and voting materials; to provide for the limited applicability of the Code; and to amend Schedule 3; and

- Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act, 2000, to insert and delete certain definitions; to amend the requirements for parties contesting elections by way of party lists and for ward candidates to contest elections; to authorise the Commission to prescribe a different voting procedure for those voters whose names appear on the voters' roll without addresses; to authorise the Commission to prescribe a different voting method; and to amend provisions relating to the effect of certain irregularities.

3. Voting District Delimitation

While the work of the Commission may appear to culminate in a single Election Day, preparations for municipal elections begin several months before the Election Day is officially proclaimed and eventually takes place.

The Electoral Act of 1998 requires the Electoral Commission to compile and maintain a national common voters' roll. Voters are required to register to vote in a voting district (VD) of a ward in which they are "ordinarily resident", that is, the place to which a voter returns after a temporary absence. Each VD is serviced by one voting station. Voters are required to register and then vote in the VD in which they are registered. On Voting Day, a voter will find their name only on the unique VD portion of the national voters' roll at their voting station. Voters are required to register in a VD of a ward of ordinary residence for four main reasons:

1. To ensure that voters have convenient access to voting stations and do not have to travel too far or wait for too long in queues to vote.
2. To ensure that voters do not vote more than once in an election.
3. To ensure that, in an election with territorial boundaries, only voters who are residents within those boundaries participate.
4. To assist the Electoral Commission with the efficient administrative planning of elections.

While the Electoral Commission is responsible for the delimitation of VD boundaries to maintain the national voters' roll, the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) is responsible for demarcating and delimiting political boundaries, which include (outer) municipal and ward boundaries.

Re-demarcation of Municipal Boundaries and Wards

The MDB is responsible for re-delimiting ward boundaries in South Africa ahead of municipal elections. The MDB changed the number and geography of wards used in the 2016 Municipal Elections for the 2021 Municipal Elections owing to the increase in the number of registered voters.

The MDB handed the final set of wards for the 2021 Municipal Elections to the Electoral Commission in December 2020. The MDB was originally scheduled to hand over the final wards to the Electoral Commission in August 2020, but was delayed following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdown restrictions.

In preparation for voter registration for the 2021 Municipal Elections, the Electoral Commission adjusted its network of VDs that were split by re-delimited wards to the new wards before voter registration could commence. Registered voters in split VDs needed to be re-registered into their new VDs and wards before the close of the voters' roll for the 2021 Municipal Elections.

Table 1: Change in the number of municipal wards in municipal elections: 2000 to 2021

Province	Number of wards 2000	Wards 2006 (% change)	Wards 2011 (% change)	Wards 2016 (% change)	Wards 2021 (% change)
Eastern Cape	601	636 (6)	715 (12)	705 (-1)	710 (0,7)
Free State	291	300 (3)	317 (5)	309 (-2)	319 (3)
Gauteng	446	423 (-5)	508 (20)	529 (4)	529 (0)
KwaZulu-Natal	748	771 (3)	828 (7)	870 (5)	901 (3)
Mpumalanga	401	365 (-9)	402 (10)	400 (-0,4)	400 (0)
Northern Cape	173	174 (0,6)	194 (11)	204 (5)	232 (13)
Limpopo	437	513 (17)	543 (5)	566 (4)	568 (0,3)
North West	327	365 (12)	383 (4)	407 (6)	403 (-0,9)
Western Cape	330	348 (5)	387 (11)	402 (3)	406 (0,9)
TOTAL	**3 754**	**3 895 (4)**	**4 277 (9)**	**4 392 (2)**	**4 468 (1)**

Re-delimitation of Voting District Boundaries

The national common voters' roll used in the 2021 Municipal Elections contained 23 148 VDs, which were serviced by 23 148 voting stations.

An increase in the number of VDs between general elections translates into improved voter access to voting stations. The increase in the number of VDs also results in a general decrease in the average number of registered voters per VD, which further translates to a reduction in the time voters need to wait in queues at voting stations on Voting Day.

The number of VDs for the 2021 Municipal Elections represented an increase of 2% (536 VDs) compared with the 2016 Municipal Elections (see Table 2).

Moreover, the number of VDs in the 2021 Municipal Elections was a substantial 54% (8 160 VDs) increase in relation to the 2000 Municipal Elections.

Table 2: Change in the number of voting districts: 2000 to 2021

Province	Number of VDs: 2000	Number of VDs: 2006 (% change)	Number of VDs: 2011(% change)	Number of VDs: 2016 (% change)	Number of VDs: 2021 (% change)
Eastern Cape	3 087	4 368 (41)	4 560 (4)	4 699 (3)	4 809 (2)
Free State	1 061	1 186 (11)	1 320 (11)	1 531 (15)	1 564 (2)
Gauteng	1 979	2 172 (9)	2 480 (14)	2 716 (9)	2 815 (3)
KwaZulu-Natal	3 336	4 064 (21)	4 358 (7)	4 792 (9)	4 940 (3)
Mpumalanga	1 023	1 259 (23)	1 565 (24)	1 744 (11)	1 786 (2)
Northern Cape	396	621 (56)	655 (5)	710 (8)	728 (2)
Limpopo	1 796	2 274 (26)	2 781 (22)	3 111 (11)	3 186 (2)
North West	1 020	1 488 (45)	1 570 (5)	1 723 (9)	1 743 (1)
Western Cape	1 290	1 441 (11)	1 570 (8)	1 586 (1)	1 577 (-0,5)
TOTAL	**14 988**	**18 873 (25)**	**20 859 (10)**	**22 612 (8)**	**23 148 (2)**

The average number of registered voters per VD or voting station (measuring voting station densities) has steadily declined from 1 232 in the 2000 Municipal Elections to 874 in the 2021 Municipal Elections. The introduction of voting centres with multiple streams since the 2011 Municipal Elections has improved this metric without an increase in the number of VDs and voting stations. Voting station density is indicative of the time that registered voters are required to wait in queues at voting stations on Voting Day.

Together with the general increase in the number of VDs ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections, certain VD boundaries were also re-delimited to better match changes in human settlement patterns that had occurred since the National and Provincial Elections in 2019. Changes in human settlement patterns include urbanisation, intra-urban migration, and the associated growth of informal settlements on urban peripheries.

Maps showing the VD boundaries and voting stations that were used in an election are presented to Municipal Party Liaison Committee (MPLC) members who sign off on maps, indicating that they have been consulted by the Electoral Commission. To further ensure transparency, legislation requires that the Chief Electoral Officer makes a copy of the map of each voting district available for inspection. Any person may inspect a copy of a map of a voting district.

4. Voting Station Planning and Logistics

The primary infrastructure required to support an election is the extensive network of voting stations. Each of the 23 148 voting stations for the 2021 Municipal Elections was inspected in advance to confirm the availability of key infrastructure and facilities, including electricity, telecommunications, water, sanitation, furniture and disability-friendly access. Where necessary, temporary infrastructure was procured for the duration of the election event.

Table 3: Types of voting stations used during the 2021 Municipal Elections

Province	Voting districts	Permanent voting stations	Schools	Temporary voting stations	Mobile voting stations
Eastern Cape	4 809	4 680	3 625	118	11
Free State	1 564	1 385	677	179	0
Gauteng	2 815	2 544	1 461	271	0
KwaZulu-Natal	4 940	4 779	3 499	154	7
Limpopo	3 186	3 034	2 412	152	0
Mpumalanga	1 786	1 702	1 086	73	11
North West	1 743	1 608	968	134	1
Northern Cape	728	721	221	7	0
Western Cape	1 577	1 540	677	37	0
Total	**23 148**	**21 993**	**14 626**	**4 392 (2)**	**4 468 (1)**

The Electoral Commission made a concerted effort to reduce the use of temporary facilities, as these have security and other implications for election officials and election materials, and also tend to impact negatively on the experience of voters. The use of temporary facilities was reduced by 24.74% since the 2014 National and Provincial Elections. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which had a significant impact on the 2021 Municipal Elections, some venues were not available, and there was an increase in temporary infrastructure utilised during the election period by 7.55%, as evidenced in Table 4.

Table 4: Percentage change in the use of temporary voting facilities between the 2014 National and Provincial Elections and the 2021 Municipal Elections

Province	NPE 2014	LGE 2016	NPE 2019	LGE 2021	Percentage change (NPE 2014 to LGE 2021)	Percentage change (NPE 2019 to LGE 2021)
Eastern Cape	174	161	119	118	-32.18	-0.84
Free State	212	189	148	179	-15.57	20.95
Gauteng	455	327	295	271	-40.44	-8.14
KwaZulu-Natal	167	133	116	154	-7.78	32.76
Limpopo	202	145	138	152	-24.75	10.14
Mpumalanga	76	82	65	73	-3.95	12.31
North West	120	115	126	134	11.67	6.35
Northern Cape	28	26	4	7	-75.00	75.00
Western Cape	61	50	35	37	-39.34	5.71
Total	**1 495**	**1 228**	**1 046**	**1 125**	**-24.74**	**7.55**

The majority of venues are schools, and to stabilise and improve the voting station network, the Electoral Commission formed long-term strategic partnerships with public and private bodies such as the Department of Basic Education, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, Eskom, and the GSM network operators Vodacom, MTN and Cell C. Initiatives involving these partners are aimed at improving the infrastructure situation at these voting stations by prioritising them for infrastructure improvement.

5. Civic and Voter Education, and Research

The Commission's mandate to deliver and manage regular free and fair elections includes working to ensure that not only do more citizens register to vote, but that they also vote on Election Day.

Participation of all sectors of the population is essential to the conduct of democratic elections. In this regard, the Commission ensures that the South African public, in its diversity, as well as groups who may be at risk of further discrimination and marginalisation due to their disability, socio-economic, ethnicity, gender or health status, can fully claim and enjoy voting rights.

Civic and democracy education (CDE) refers to ongoing dialogue and discourse about broad concepts of a democratic society and citizen participation, with a broad focus on the Constitution, human rights and democracy. Civic education takes place continually in schools, universities, non-formal education locations, and in partnership with civil society organisations. It may also involve improving election-related conditions before each election cycle to create a climate that is conducive to free and fair elections.

Voter education generally takes place concerning a specific election and includes information such as the official date and times; the type of election and an election timetable; the location of voting stations; identification and registration requirements; and the actual process of voting (balloting education).

Non-partisan voter education also covers explanations of basic information such as roles, rights and responsibilities of voters; the importance of voting and the casting of special votes; and explanations about the electoral system and seat allocation – how the number of votes determines the composition of representative elected bodies.

Key Education Programmes

Continuous CDE encourages active and informed citizens and meaningful public participation, not only before, but also after and between elections.

The Commission's programme is dynamic and research-driven and is benchmarked against national, regional and international legislative and pedagogical frameworks with built-in monitoring and evaluation measures for impact and effectiveness. As with electoral management bodies the world over, efforts are ongoing to improve monitoring and evaluation.

Schools Democracy Programme

One of the greatest challenges for the Electoral Commission has been to get the youth to register and vote. The largest proportion of unregistered voters is found among the youngest age cohort (16- to 19-years), affirming the focus on youth during registration and voting periods. According to the 2015 Voter Participation Survey (VPS), very few South Africans (15%) are aware that they can register to vote from the age of 16.

Accordingly, initiatives such as the Schools Democracy Programme (SDP) set out to address the profound challenge of increasing the youth vote and ensuring a culture of voting among youth. The objectives of the programme are to entrench registration, voting and active participation as fundamental civic responsibilities. This is to encourage, educate and empower learners to understand and participate in the democratic processes of the country and, ultimately, to assist in deepening constitutional democracy in general. The SDP is a joint endeavour between the Electoral Commission and the Department of Basic Education.

Ahead of elections, the SDP ran in schools countrywide from April to June 2021. The timing was intended to coincide with Freedom Day on 27 April when South Africa celebrates the anniversary of its first democratic elections. The programme was extended for three months for the first time to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the movement and gathering of people.

Table 5: Districts, schools and learners reached in the 2021 Schools Democracy Programme

Province	DBE districts	Schools reached	Learners reached
Eastern Cape	23	267	19 105
Free State	5	35	2 488
Gauteng	15	100	7 403
KwaZulu-Natal	12	241	2 185
Limpopo	5	231	14 968
Mpumalanga	4	75	10 329
Northern Cape	5	127	8 431
North West	4	187	4 241
Western Cape	8	120	6 210
Total	**81**	**1383**	**75 360**

In general, the project was a success as it was implemented across all nine provinces under the limitations of COVID-19 lockdown regulations. The SDP reached a total of 1 383 schools and 75 360 learners. SDP events were also combined with registration drives and resulted in a total of 5 239 voter registrations.

Encouraging young people to register and vote in elections is a critical component to ensuring the continued credibility of future elections. It shows that a history of voting has a clear and positive impact on voting intention. Campaigns that successfully target youth electoral participation create citizens that will return to the voting booth again and again.

UNDP Collaboration

The Electoral Commission once again partnered with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the Democracy on Stage project, where four edutainment shows were showcased in four provinces: Limpopo, Mpumalanga, North West and Gauteng. The street theatre shows aimed to galvanise youth interest and participation in elections. The shows were recorded for use in youth civic education sessions and will be used for various other digital platforms utilised by the Electoral Commission for civic education.

Table 6: Reach of the Democracy on Stage partnership with the United Nations Development Programme

Province	Recommended areas	Date	Audience
Mpumalanga	Middleburg	12 October 2021	400
Limpopo	Bela-Bela	11 October 2021	250
North West	Rustenburg	19 October 2021	510
Gauteng	Tshwane	21 October 2021	200

Outreach Staff for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Ahead of every election, the Electoral Commission recruits staff to act as Municipal Outreach Coordinators (MOCs) to intensify community face-to-face voter education campaigns aimed at educating South African citizens about their civic and political rights and responsibilities through structured CDE programmes. A total of 350 MOCs were appointed countrywide from 1 June until the end of November 2021.

The MOCs were spread across all nine provinces to specifically conduct voter education and disseminate information about the 2021 Municipal Elections to the general public to encourage overall participation; to work in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders such as the Department of Basic Education (schools), the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (universities and technical and vocational education and training colleges), non-governmental organisations, and traditional leaders; and to conduct CDE on community radio stations and on SABC Radio.

Table 7: The Electoral Commission's dedicated educational capacity for community mobilisation in the 2021 Municipal Elections

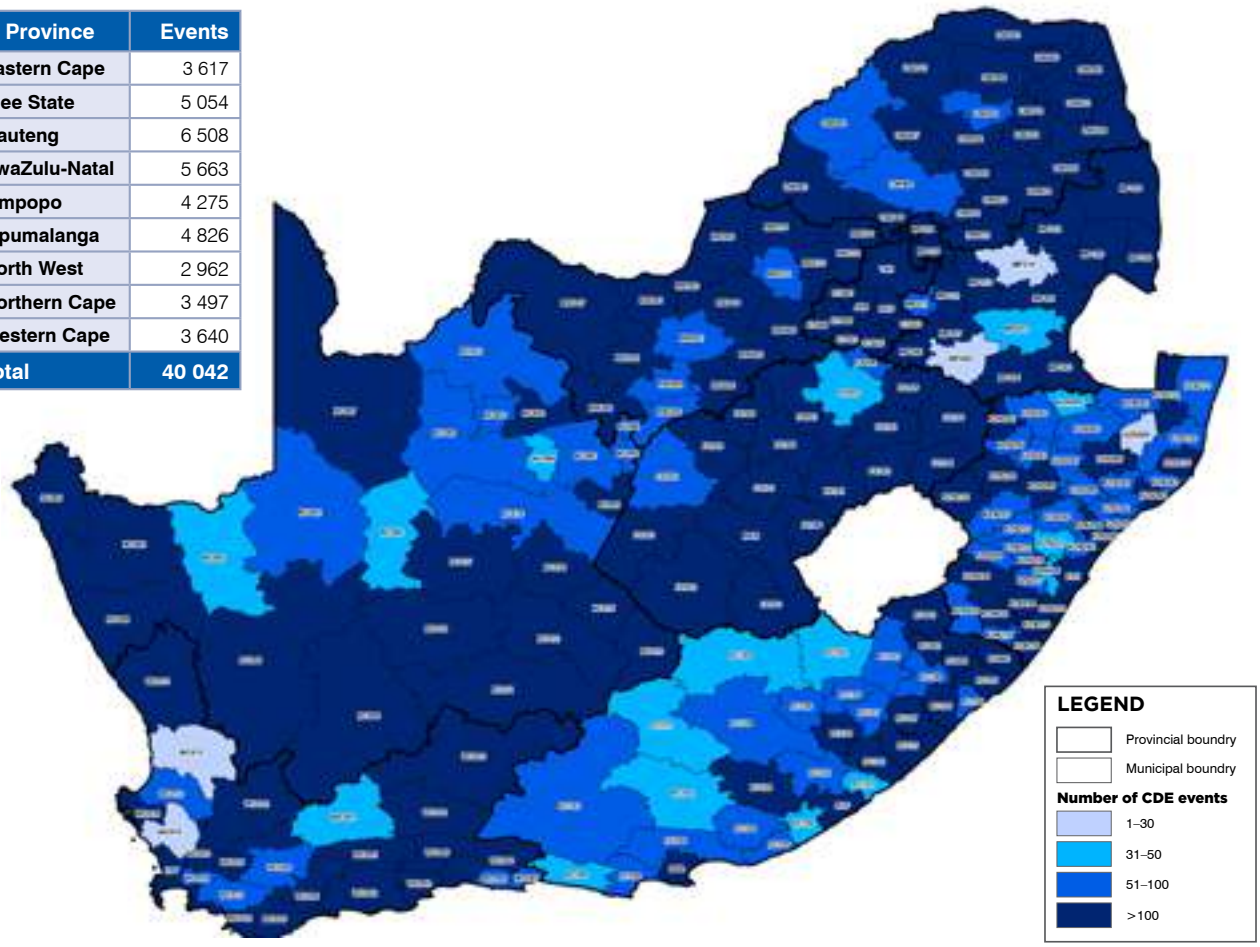
Province	Number of municipalities	Number of wards	Allocation
Eastern Cape	39	705	53
Free State	23	309	31
Gauteng	11	529	32
KwaZulu-Natal	54	870	62
Limpopo	27	566	39
Mpumalanga	20	400	25
North West	22	407	32
Northern Cape	31	204	36
Western Cape	30	402	40
Total			**350**

This project was adversely impacted by the different COVID-19 alert level lockdown regulations, which restricted the movement and physical gathering of people. However, as a build-up to voter registration and Election Day, there was an increase in the number of CDE events. A total of 40 042 CDE events were conducted in 2021.

The use of alternative non-contact CDE methods also boosted activity. These include the use of community radio, loud hailing, the production and dissemination of video animations, audio material and social media toolkits, which were published online and distributed through stakeholders and partners.

Figure 1: A visual representation of the frequency of the Electoral Commission's civic and democracy education events held nationwide ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections

Province	Events
Eastern Cape	3 617
Free State	5 054
Gauteng	6 508
KwaZulu-Natal	5 663
Limpopo	4 275
Mpumalanga	4 826
North West	2 962
Northern Cape	3 497
Western Cape	3 640
Total	**40 042**



Digital CDE Campaign

In May 2021, the Electoral Commission started preparing for the roll-out of a major digital campaign that focuses on educating and preparing the electorate to register and participate in the elections. This migration to digital channels was, in part, a response to COVID-19 and the limitations it placed on face-to-face interactions.

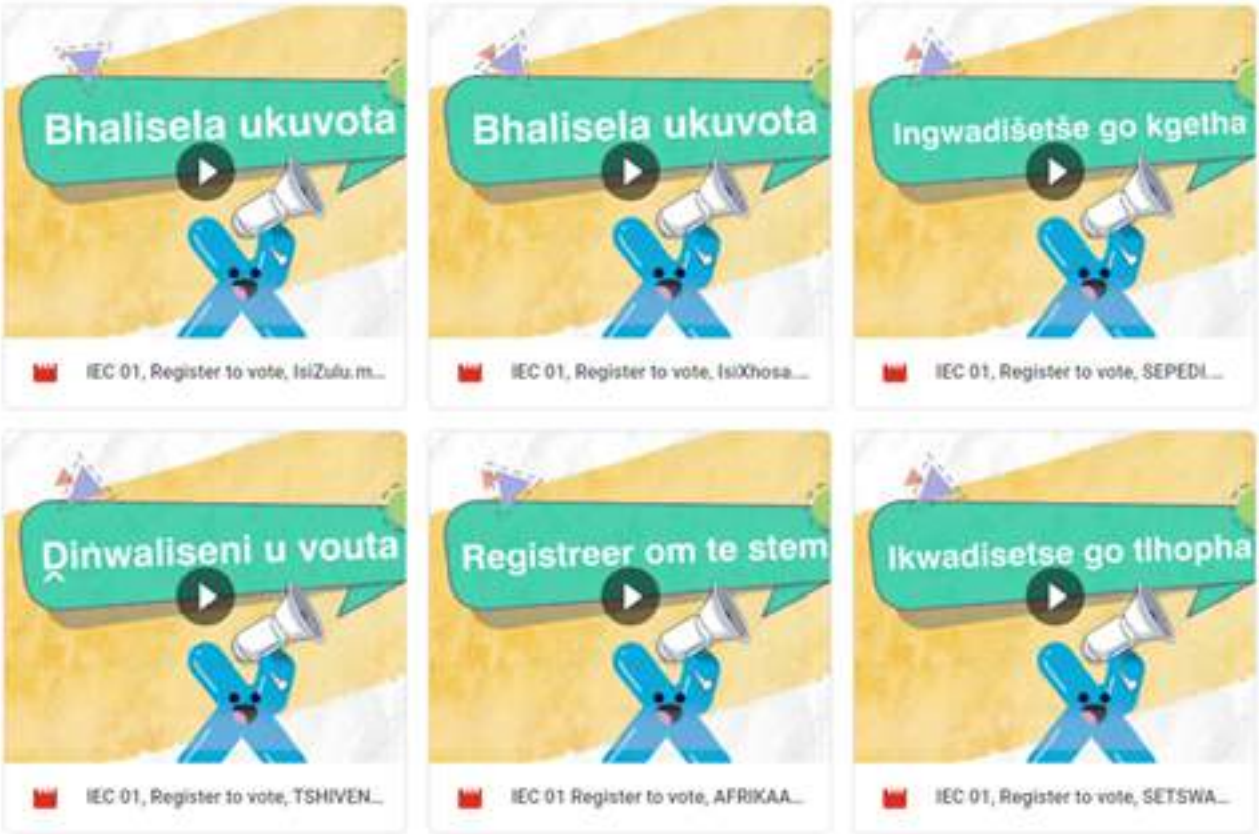
The target audience for this campaign included the youth as major users of social and digital media platforms, women and the general public. In particular, this campaign aimed to motivate and inspire citizens to act by registering to vote and subsequently voting, using storytelling expertise to create content that people would find relatable, easy to understand and enlightening on electoral matters.

The content was strategically designed to cover the following topics:

- What is the Electoral Commission?
- Register to vote
- Online voter registration
- COVID-19 safety protocols
- Voter management devices
- Free and fair elections
- Special votes
- Electoral fraud and offences
- Electoral code of conduct
- Voting in municipal elections
- Voting process
- Political Party Funding Act
- Digital disinformation.

Animation videos, social media toolkits, and loud hailer audios were produced and shared on various social media platforms as a means of driving the digital communication campaign for the 2021 Municipal Elections. The animation videos and social media content featured a fun character named Vota, who represented voters.

Most of the digital material was produced in all 11 official languages to cater for different sectors of the population. Some of the animations also enjoyed television broadcast across the SABC channels, eNCA and eTV, Newzroom Afrika, and some DStv channels in the lead up to the 2021 elections.



Vota animation series produced in all 11 official languages

A total of 14 million people were reached during the television broadcasts, with viewers exposed to the voter education messages an average of four times. Significantly, the percentage reach achieved against the youth or young adult target market was at a level similar to that achieved with the broader population.

Table 8: 2021 Municipal Elections CDE television animation campaign successes

LGE 2021 TV CAMPAIGN SUCCESSES							
	Age 18+ (35 761 000)	Reach %	Reach '000s	Duplicated viewers '000s	No. of spots	Average frequency	GRPs
TV	6 Oct – 24 Oct	34,4	12 302	41 209	269	3,4	115,3
	28 Oct – 1 Nov	19,6	7 145	16 268	51	2,3	45,6
	28 Oct – 1 Nov	39,3	14 054	57 477	320	4,1	160,9
	Age 18-35 (16 758 000)						
	6 Oct – 24 Oct	30	5 027	15 113	269	3.0	90,3
	28 Oct – 1 Nov	17,1	2 866	6 845	51	2,4	41
	28 Oct – 1 Nov	35,2	5 899	21 959	320	3,7	131,3

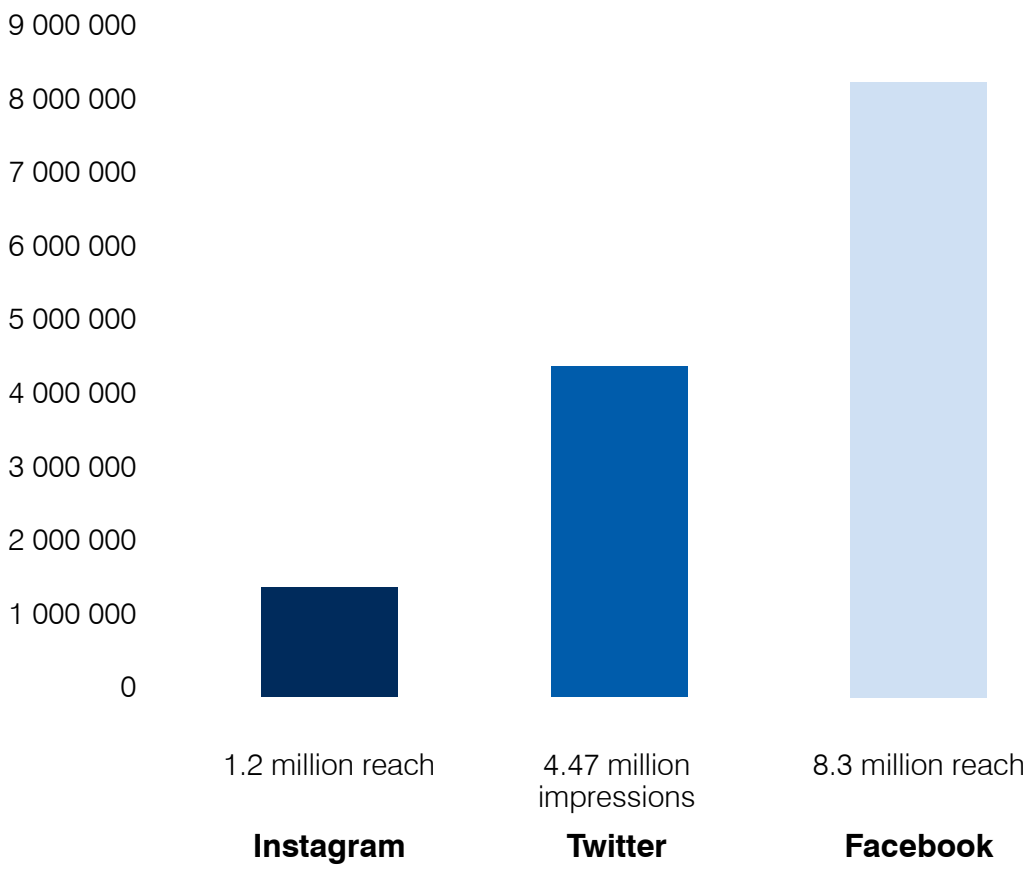
**Source: TAMS*

A total of 14 million people were reached with an opportunity to be exposed to the voter education messages on average four times.

Significantly the percentage reach achieved against the youth/young adult target market was at a level similar to that achieved against the broader population.

During the CDE social media campaign, which ran from 5 October to 5 November 2021, Facebook evidenced the greatest reach at 8.3 million, followed by Twitter with a reach of 4.4 million. In third place was Instagram with a reach of 1.2 million.

Figure 2: 2021 Municipal Elections CDE social media reach 5 – October to 5 November 2021



According to the HSRC's 2021 Election Satisfaction Survey, 48% of voters who were interviewed in these elections perceived social media as a useful source of information, while 50% perceived the Electoral Commission's communication campaign as a useful source of information. Between 5 October and 5 November 2021, the Electoral Commission had a social media reach of almost 14 million on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram combined, as presented in Figure 2.

WhatsApp for Business

In July 2021, to better interact with voters during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Electoral Commission launched a business WhatsApp platform on the number 060 088 0000. Members of the public could access electoral processes information and download fact sheets and other CDE information to their phones using the WhatsApp number.

It comes with the benefit of sharing safely and being able to securely message the electorate directly via the WhatsApp messaging platform to mitigate the risk of disinformation. In the period leading up to the September 2021 voter registration weekend, the chatbot attracted 7 738 active users and 8 870 total users, with over 50 000 total messages. During Election Week, from 26 October to 1 November 2021, the chatbot reached 10 720 active users and 27 000 total users, with over 209 000 messages in total.

Table 9: Electoral Commission's WhatsApp platform analytics for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Period	Active users	Engage
14 Sept 2021 – 20 Sept 2021	7 738	50 723 total messages
31 Aug 2021 – 29 Sept 2021	10 559	69 683 total messages
29 Sept 2021 – 22 Oct 2021	2 010	113 484 total messages
26 Oct 2021 – 1 Nov 2021	10 720	209 640 total messages
30 Oct 2021 – 5 Nov 2021	9 718	231 209 total messages

**Source: Turn.io*

The Electoral Commission launched a WhatsApp account ahead of the 2021 elections; yet another avenue for engagement with the voting public. Below are social media graphics that were widely shared across its social media platforms to guide users as to their use.

Social Media Partnership

For the first time since the Electoral Commission started managing elections in 1999, it formed a strategic partnership with a social media-based platform to broaden its reach to the youth to engage and educate them about the importance of participating in elections.

The Electoral Commission partnered with The Agenda Network to produce a four-part series of civic and democracy education "discussion shows", which were published weekly on The Agenda Network's Facebook and YouTube platforms in October 2021 in the lead-up to the 2021 elections. The four Electoral Commission-sponsored episodes reached over 168 000 people, and generated over 168 600 impressions and 62 534 views combined by the end of November 2021. The four episodes were published on The Agenda Network Facebook and YouTube platforms per theme as follows:

- 8 October 2021: Youth Participation in Elections.
- 13 October 2021: COVID-19 and Elections.
- 20 October 2021: Local Government Electoral Systems.
- 26 October 2021: Why Voting Matters.

Community Radio Project

The 2021 Municipal Elections community radio project started in June 2021 in most provinces and intensified as Election Day approached, particularly in September and October 2021. Radio activity included the following:

- Eastern Cape: 29 radio stations, three programmes per month and 167 radio slots aired.
- Free State: Four radio stations, two programmes per month and one radio slot aired.
- Gauteng: 28 radio stations, one programme per month and 112 radio slots aired.
- KwaZulu-Natal: 32 radio stations, one programme per month and 160 radio slots aired.
- Limpopo: 30 radio stations, one programme per month and 90 radio slots aired.
- Mpumalanga: 15 radio stations, two programmes per month and 56 radio slots aired.
- Northern Cape: Seven radio stations, one programme per month and 21 radio slots aired.
- North West: 13 radio stations, one programme per month and 26 radio slots aired.
- Western Cape: 23 radio stations, one programme per month and 46 radio slots aired.

Table 10: Electoral Commission's community radio programmes ahead of registration in September 2021

Province	Programmes over Registration Week 12 – 19 September 2021
Eastern Cape	26
Free State	4
Gauteng	5
KwaZulu-Natal	31
Limpopo	29
Mpumalanga	9
Northern Cape	7
North West	13
Western Cape	18

Partnership with SABC Education

Increased visibility of the Electoral Commission and its outreach programmes is one of the key components of the vision of the Commission. Through its partnership with SABC Education, the Electoral Commission can run mass multimedia civic and voter education campaigns with maximum reach to the general public and the electorate. These campaigns provide wall-to-wall coverage and generate high listenership and viewership figures. Through the development of innovative and customised electoral democracy content, they provide citizens with the means to discuss, debate and educate themselves about key electoral matters.

Television is the most common medium through which South Africans are accessing political content. Both radio and television are best suited to reaching the widest possible audiences to disseminate information and deepen discourse around issues of democracy.

The latest VPS reveals that television and radio are potent vehicles for voter education and remain the preferred sources of information on elections and the Electoral Commission's role in promoting constitutional democracy. During the election period, attention was focused on the production of programming for the municipal elections. Programmes included:

a) Public radio: 13 x 24-minute episodes across public broadcasting service stations, targeting the general public and youth
   (i) Civic Matters – 13 stations
   (ii) Youth ke Yona – 18 stations
b) Television: Daily Thetha show, featuring six 46-minute slots that ran from 4 October to 8 November 2021. The show featured an election matters theme every Monday on SABC 1's flagship mid-morning live talk show aimed at the youth.

Daily Thetha 1 November 2021 Election Day live cross-over to Bhisho

Daily Thetha 1 November 2021 Election Day live cross-over to Kwa-Mashu

Daily Thetha 1 November 2021 Election Day live cross-over to Sophiatown

Electoral Commission representatives on the special election edition Daily Thetha shows in October 2021

Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs

South Africa is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Accordingly, the Electoral Commission focuses on removing barriers to participation for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and those with special needs. The Commission regularly engages with organisations such as the South African National Council for the Blind (SANCB) and the Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA), which allows these representative organisations to give specialised feedback to the Commission about their experiences and expectations of the electoral process.

The Commission produces PWD-specific material in Braille, large font and sign language, and is conducting training to institutionalise the use of the universal ballot template (or UBT) (see the section on ballot papers for more details) for special votes; and to facilitate the equitable participation of visually impaired persons (VIPs) in voting processes and the right to a secret ballot.

On 1 June 2021, the Electoral Commission held a national briefing on the 2021 Municipal Elections with organisations working with the deaf and blind communities. After the national engagement with this sector, similar briefing meetings were conducted in most provinces.

On 13 September, CDE-relevant materials were shared with the sector, which included audio for the blind and visually impaired and animation videos with subtitles, social media toolkits and fact sheets for the deaf. The materials were also shared with the broader disability sector. The material covered:

- Register to vote – why it matters, online voter registration;
- COVID-19 safety during elections;
- The Electoral Code of Conduct;
- Free and fair elections;
- Voting in municipal elections; and
- The voting process flow.

On 17 September 2021 and 8 October 2021, follow-up virtual meetings were held with the deaf and blind communities respectively to finalise aspects of collaboration for the 2021 Municipal Elections.

According to the HSRC's 2021 Election Satisfaction Survey, a large majority of voters felt the Electoral Commission considered the needs of the elderly (91%) and persons with disabilities (84%). Just over three-quarters felt the institution considered the needs of pregnant women, women with babies, and the partially sighted and blind. The Electoral Commission will continue to explore different avenues to improve universal access to voting stations.

The Universal Ballot Template

Working together with the South African National Council for the Blind, the Electoral Commission developed a voting aid known as the UBT to assist persons with disabilities and special needs to have an independent and secret vote during elections.

The UBT is suitable for use by blind and partially sighted people, low-vision users, people who are dyslexic, the elderly, people with low literacy, and people with motor and nervous conditions that do not allow for a steady hand. UBTs can be used for all elections, including national and provincial elections, municipal elections, and by-elections. The UBT is used at voting stations, and for home visits for special votes.

The UBT is a casing made of cardboard into which a ballot paper is inserted. However, the UBT is not a Braille ballot paper. The instructions on the use of the UBT appear in raised print on the back of the template. The right front of the template has a flap with cut-out windows numbered in Braille and in large, raised white print. When the ballot paper is inserted into the template, each window aligns to a particular candidate or party and the voter is free to make his or her secret and independent mark accurately.

Plastic UBTs were first used in the 2011 Municipal Elections, but the ever-increasing number of parties contesting the elections requires the Electoral Commission to create a special cardboard ballot template that can be amended to accommodate as many candidates as there are on the longest ballot paper.

Education and Stakeholder Engagement

Keeping voters and political parties informed about both the electoral process and the work of the Commission encourages stakeholder engagement and creates an electoral environment based on transparency and civic responsibility.

The Electoral Commission uses several educational and interactive communication structures and platforms to create a bridge between the complex legal framework that enshrines and governs its mandate and operations, and the act of voting. This includes CDE (encompassing voter and balloting education); research and knowledge management; communications, public relations, media liaison; and stakeholder engagement.

These channels facilitate informed discourse around the Constitutional concept of the franchise, as well as the rights and powers of both political parties or candidates and voters – and the responsibilities and processes of the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commission's CDE initiatives play a pivotal role in the electoral process. Such education is imperative to ensuring free and fair elections. Each year, the Electoral Commission conducts thousands of CDE events with civil society organisations (CSOs), faith-based organisations (FBOs), traditional leadership structures, schools and tertiary education institutions.

It has partnered with the Department of Basic Education, the SABC, organisations representing visually impaired persons such as Blind SA and SANCB, DeafSA, the National Community Radio Forum and various others to help spread the message of democracy. However, democracy education is not only our responsibility; it is also the responsibility of all political parties to educate their members and, ultimately, South Africans to arm themselves with the knowledge needed to be active citizens.

The Electoral Commission has held national and provincial briefing meetings on the 2021 Municipal Elections with a variety of stakeholders, including business and agricultural sectors, trade unions, FBO, CSOs, women and youth organisations, persons with disabilities, universities and TVET colleges, among others. Various relevant CDE materials were continuously shared with these sectors. The key message with youth was to encourage them to use online voter registration platforms, which were launched in June 2021, to register to vote in the 2021 Municipal Elections.

North West provincial stakeholder engagement with persons with disabilities on 14 September 2021

Electoral Research

The Electoral Commission's portfolio of longitudinal cross-sectional surveys and ad hoc studies conducted by the HSRC during the election period included:

1. The Voter Participation Survey, which enables the Electoral Commission to get a broad view of the socio-political landscape ahead of a general election.
2. The Election Satisfaction Survey, with the main aim of determining the operational efficiency of the Electoral Commission on each Election Day.
3. Pressing issues in the electoral environment, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, hence the Elections and COVID-19 Online Voter Participation Survey 2021.

These research studies have the common intention of:

- Examining the behaviour, attitudes and disposition of the Commission's key stakeholders towards democracy and electoral processes and activities to produce insights to guide operational planning and efficiency in all areas of the Commission's work.
- Understanding dynamics among the electorate and key stakeholders over time.
- Influencing change and innovation in the conduct of electoral activities on an ongoing basis.

The ultimate aim of electoral research is to mitigate election vulnerabilities, strengthen electoral operating systems, and enhance electoral integrity and transparency.

These surveys were nationally representative and have been conducted in a similar format for national and provincial, as well as municipal, elections for more than a decade.

Voter Participation Survey

The intention of the Voter Participation Survey series is to inform and guide the Electoral Commission in its plans, policies and practices by evaluating voting behaviour in South Africa and ascertaining people's interests in and perceptions of forthcoming elections, and how these have been changing over time.

The VPS 2021 was a qualitative study conducted nationally by the HSRC through face-to-face interviews. It was nationally representative of those aged 16 years and older in private households across the nine provinces. A total of 500 small area layers were selected using the Census 2011 Framework.

The VPS 2021 provided important insights ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections, with the added interest around an election that takes place during a global pandemic. The survey insights are discussed on page 89, together with the Election Satisfaction Survey 2021.

Election Satisfaction Survey

The HSRC carried out the Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) on the day of the election to determine opinions and perceptions of voters regarding the freedom and fairness of the electoral process and to assess the operational efficiency of the Electoral Commission in managing the municipal elections.

The HSRC sampled 12 229 voters from 300 voting stations across the country. An interim ESS assessment report overwhelmingly determined that the 2021 Municipal Elections were free and fair. The HSRC said that voters provided an overwhelmingly positive evaluation of the management performance of the Electoral Commission and its officials at voting stations.

See page 89 for more highlights of the ESS 2021.

Elections and COVID-19 Online Voter Participation Survey

Given the constraints of conducting face-to-face, random probability surveys during the COVID-19 lockdown, an online public opinion survey was undertaken by the HSRC and shared with the Electoral Commission to understand South Africans' views on planned electoral registration and participation in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The online survey was conducted from 6 to 24 July 2021 with 5 650 questionnaires completed at a time when the third wave of infections was occurring, and the President had moved the country back to Level 4 lockdown restrictions.

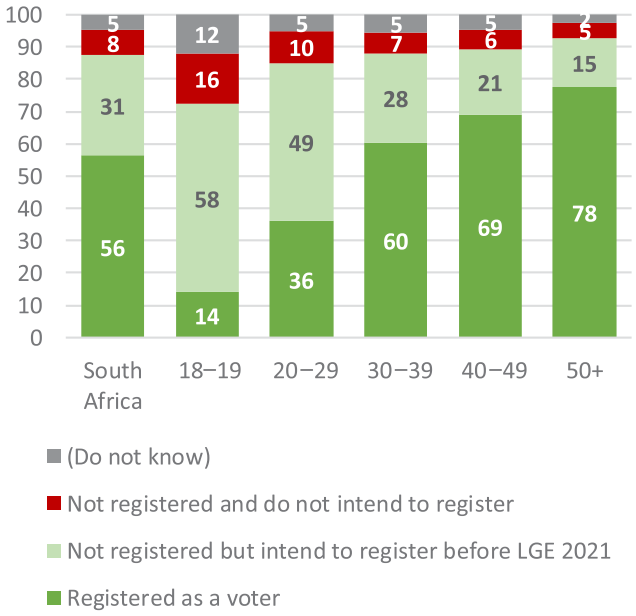
The survey collected data from South African citizens aged 18 years and older, using the #datafree Moya Messenger platform hosted by Datafree (formerly biNu). Moya Messenger app users were able to access the online survey link to complete the Online Voter Participation Survey. The data was weighted to align with Statistics South Africa's demographic estimates based on age, population group and education, using the 2016 Community Survey. This allows the survey data to be broadly indicative of the attitudes and behaviour of the South African population.

The survey questionnaire consisted of 48 questions, which were structured around voter registration, voting and electoral attitudes, coronavirus experiences and beliefs, as well as a set of questions focusing on background information about the survey respondents. Most of the survey questions were pre-coded in format, although three open-ended questions were included to capture self-provided reasons for voting intention, as well as suggestions for the Commission to consider in encouraging registration and electoral turnout in the context of the 2021 Municipal Elections. As such, the intermediate findings from this survey provided key insights into voter registration, voting intention, the political mood and electoral attitudes, views on COVID-19 and elections, as well as general coronavirus attitudes. Some of the key findings from this survey include the following:

Voter Registration
Self-reported Registration and Intention to Register

Figure 3 shows that 56% of the voting-age public (95% confidence interval: 54% to 59%) reported being registered to vote. Close to a third (31%) were unregistered, but expressed a clear intention to register before the upcoming election. Slightly less than a tenth (8%) were unregistered and did not intend to register, while 5% were uncertain. Importantly, while registration remains low among 18–19- and 20–29-year-olds, large shares voiced a clear intention to register (58% and 49% respectively).

Figure 3: Self-reported registration – national and by age group (%)



Source: HSRC (2021) Online Voter Participation Survey: Elections and COVID-19

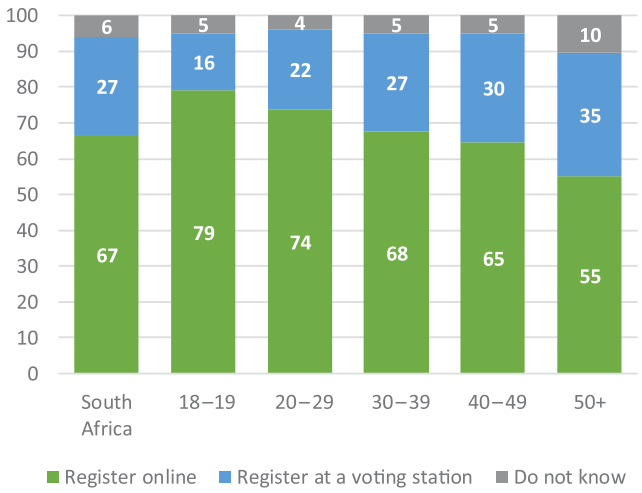
Reasons for Registration Hesitancy

What are the dominant reasons why voters expressed hesitancy or uncertainty regarding registration? Among those who did not intend to register, general disinterest in voting was more prevalent (38%), while COVID-19 concerns and lack of knowledge about where to register were marginally lower. In particular, concern over the risk of COVID-19 infection was mentioned by a fifth (20%). Less commonly mentioned reasons included political intimidation (11%), and lack of awareness of where or how to register (both 8%). Access to registration sites and area-based crime were nominally mentioned. Most of the other reasons supplied vary by a few percentage points.

Preferred Mode of Registration

In response to the question, 'If you were to register today to vote in an upcoming election, which of the following methods of registration would you prefer?', two-thirds (67%) were in favour of registering online, compared to 27% who preferred registering at a voting station, and 6% who were uncertain, therefore, underlining the Electoral Commission's efforts to promote online voter registration during various CDE initiatives from 2022.

Figure 4: Preferred mode of registration, national and by age group (%)



Source: HSRC (2021) Online Voter Participation Survey: Elections and COVID-19

Voting and Electoral Attitudes
Intention to Vote in the 2021 Municipal Elections

The survey participants expressed a fairly resolute intention to vote in the 2021 Municipal Elections. On aggregate, 68% of the voting-age public (VAP) said that they would definitely vote, while a further 14% were less certain, indicating they would probably vote. Conversely, 9% reported they would probably or definitely not vote. The remainder were either uncertain (6%) or refused to disclose their intention (3%).

Voting is seen by many ordinary people as a civically beneficial behaviour and, consequently, a behaviour that they would want to be associated with. However, COVID-19 also emerged as a possible reason why people will not participate, with some participants stating, "COVID-19 makes me doubt going out" and "[I] don't want to expose myself to COVID-19".

Table 11: Intention to vote in the 2021 Municipal Elections by registration (%)

	% of VAP	% Registered population	% Intending to register	% Not intending to register
Definitely vote	68	75	73	16
Probably vote	14	12	18	7
Probably not vote	3	2	1	13
Definitely not vote	6	4	1	46
Don't know	6	5	5	11
Refuse to say	3	2	2	8
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Probably/definitely vote	**82**	**87**	**90**	**23**
Probably/definitely not vote	**9**	**6**	**3**	**59**

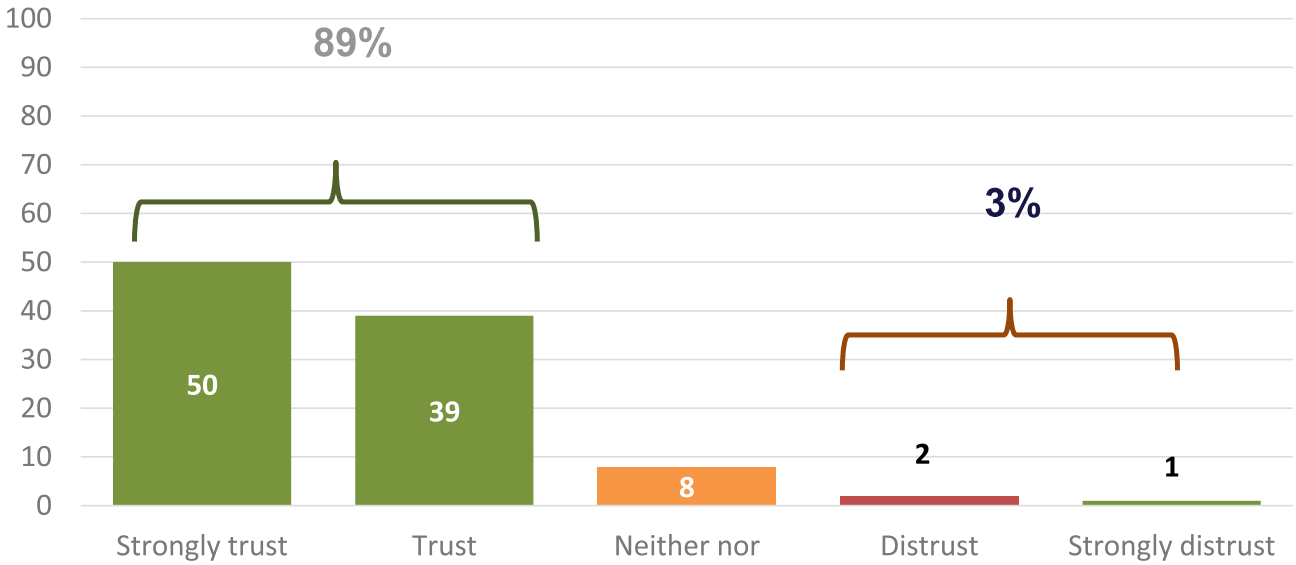
Source: HSRC (2021) Online Voter Participation Survey: Elections and COVID-19

Trust in the Electoral Commission

Voters were asked to rate their level of trust or distrust in the Electoral Commission, and 89% of the voting public indicated that they **strongly trusted** or **trusted** the Electoral Commission.

Only 3% strongly distrusted or distrusted the Electoral Commission, while the remaining 8% neither trusted nor distrusted the Electoral Commission.

Figure 5: Trust in the Electoral Commission ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections



Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) 2003–2021

Coronavirus-related Attitudes
Perceived Risk of Holding Elections During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Apart from threatening the health of our population and disrupting major sections of the economy, COVID-19 also challenged democratic elections worldwide. The fear of becoming infected with the virus caused the selective participation of voters and resulted in certain voters (more specifically those with higher health risks, such as the elderly and vulnerable voters) abstaining from voting, according to the Elections and COVID-19 Online Voter Participation Survey 2021.

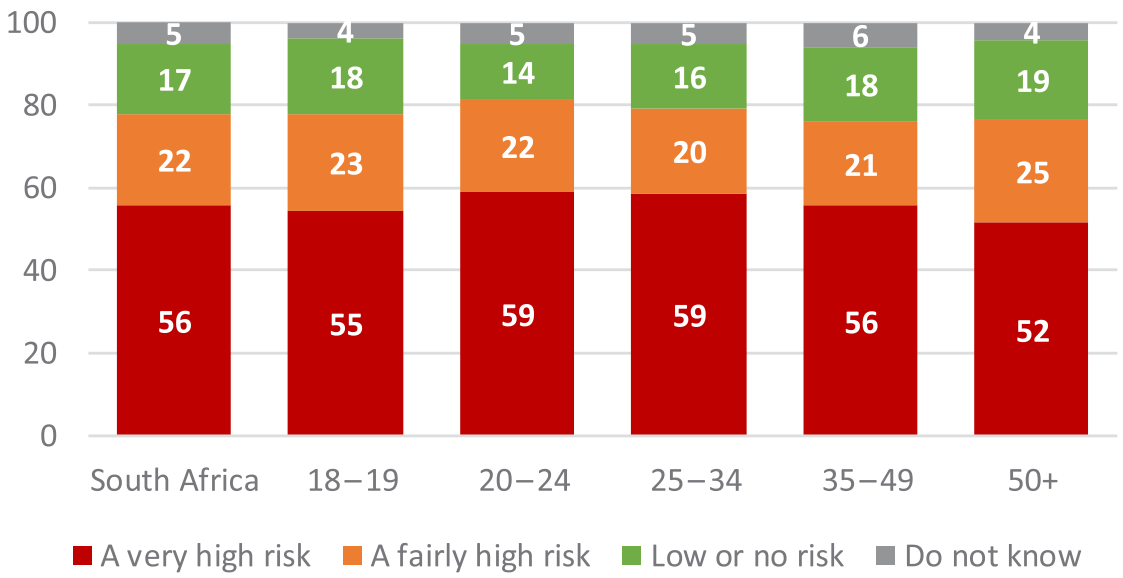
COVID-19 and Electoral Participation

COVID-19 is regarded as a salient risk associated with holding the 2021 Elections. Therefore, to determine the potential impact of COVID-19 on the 2021 Municipal Elections voter turnout, participants were asked, "To what extent do you think that holding local government elections during the current COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa represents a health risk to voters?".

As can be seen from Figure 6, the vast majority of South Africans (78%) agreed that COVID-19 represents a significant health risk (56% a very high risk and 22% a fairly high risk). The majority of South Africans, therefore, appreciate the health associated with an election during a pandemic, with 56% believing it to be a high risk, 22% moderate risk, and 17% a low risk to voters. However, voters and potential voters were more likely to be inclined to want to vote if they felt that the Commission will ensure their safety.

Another COVID-19 variable that influenced intention to vote was a belief that the government is faring well in its handling of the pandemic. This again suggests that evaluations of institutional performance, including responses to the pandemic, matter for decisions relating to electoral participation.

Figure 6: The perceived risk associated with holding Municipal Elections during the COVID-19 pandemic by age (%)

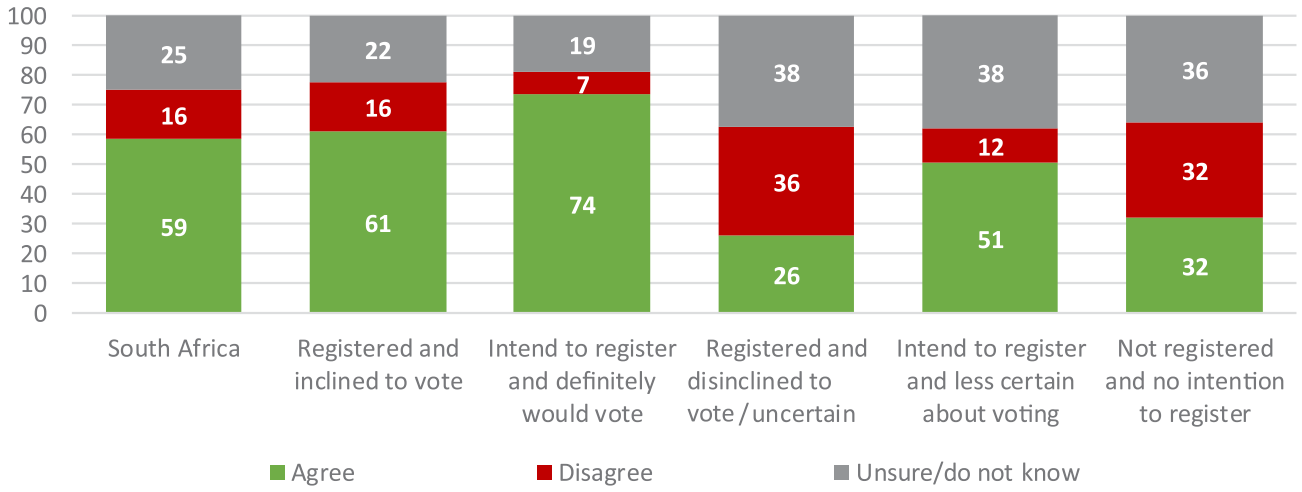


Source: HSRC (2021) Online Voter Participation Survey: Elections and COVID-19

Confidence in Electoral Commission's Ability to Ensure the Safety of Voters

As was established in Figure 6, a large share of South Africans (almost eight in 10) was concerned that COVID-19 posed a health risk. Despite this, a large contingent (59%) of South Africans had faith that the Electoral Commission would ensure the safety of voters during the 2021 Municipal Elections. A much smaller proportion (16%) held the opposite view and felt that the Commission would not be able to ensure the safety of voters. When disaggregated by age, it was evident that a greater proportion of older voters (those 50 years and above) were concerned that the Commission would not be able to ensure voters were safe during elections. Hence, the Electoral Commission reinforced messages that older citizens will be safe at the voting station. Unsurprisingly, 92% of South African voters who participated in ESS 2021 agreed that the Electoral Commission did enough to protect voters from COVID-19.

Figure 7: Agreement that the Electoral Commission did enough to protect voters from COVID-19

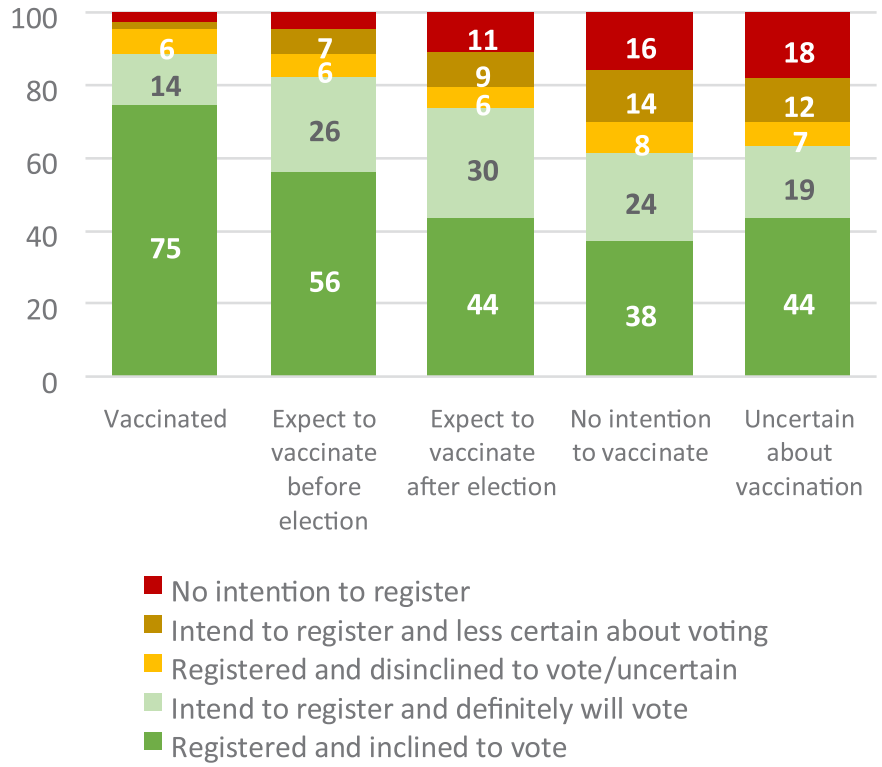


Source: HSRC 2021 Election Satisfaction Survey

COVID-19 Vaccination

Not being vaccinated might deter people from wanting to vote due to the health risk. Figure 8 shows that of those vaccinated South Africans, 75% are inclined to vote, and a further 56% who are inclined to vote believe they will be vaccinated before the elections. Interestingly, a great proportion of those who are registered and intend to vote and those who intend to register and vote, believe they will be vaccinated by election time. Those who are unsure about whether they will vote or those who will not vote tend to have greater proportions who believe they will not be vaccinated. Vaccination status potentially, therefore, had a bearing on voting intention.

Figure 8: Vaccinations and intention to vote



Source: Online Voter Participation Survey: Elections and COVID-19, 2021

6. Communications: Media and Public Awareness

In an election year, a key priority of the Electoral Commission is to galvanise the nation and build awareness of an impending election to reach every eligible citizen and encourage them to register and vote on Voting Day.

Communication plays a vital role in promoting electoral democracy through providing information, facilitating education, creating awareness and encouraging action in support of the objectives of the Electoral Commission.

The Electoral Commission's election campaigns engage the full spectrum of the communications function, including internal and external communications, advertising, media relations and reputation management, events management, stakeholder relations, branding, the provision of an up-to-date website and contact centre, and the production of publications across traditional and new digital media channels.

Every Voice Together Campaign

EVERY VOICE TOGETHER
REGISTER TO VOTE
17-18 JULY 2021 8AM-5PM
FOR MORE INFO VISIT ELECTIONS.ORG.ZA

ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION OPEN
FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT ELECTIONS.ORG.ZA
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
IEC
2021
EVERY VOICE TOGETHER

EVERY VOICE TOGETHER
PUT AN X FOR YOUR COMMUNITY
1 NOV • 7AM-9PM
FOR MORE INFO VISIT ELECTIONS.ORG.ZA
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
2021

EVERY VOICE TOGETHER
SPECIAL VOTE APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN
20 SEPT-4 OCT • 8AM-5PM
FOR MORE INFO VISIT ELECTIONS.ORG.ZA
2021

Campaign Overview

Informing and engaging South African citizens and stakeholders in our electoral democracy have never been more challenging than in 2021, given the uncertainties associated with conducting general elections during a global pandemic.

In June 2020, the Electoral Commission developed and implemented a comprehensive communications strategy. This began with market research aimed at understanding the environment and attitude of voters (especially young voters) towards local elections and voting in general. The insights gained and findings were used to develop a communications strategy.

From this strategy document, the creative concept for the 2021 Municipal Elections was born with the slogan *Every Voice Together.*

The rationale for this campaign was to inspire more South Africans, particularly the youth, to make their voices heard in the 2021 Elections. There is little that is greater than the sentiment of home, our community, where we are from and belong.

Every Voice Together embodies the sentiment and spirit of communities coming together, and the power that we have in numbers because the actual work starts within our communities, the possibilities of every 'X', every voice in every community coming together at the ballot box. Hence the tagline, *Put an X for your community. Every voice together.*

The advertisement spending for the campaign entailed 33% spent on television placement, 22% on radio, 17% on out-of-home, including street-pole posters, 6% on print, and 19% on digital advertising, which included social media.

The election campaign was launched on 9 June 2021 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg. In line with the restrictions on gatherings under the Adjusted Alert Level 2 Regulations then in force, this was a hybrid event limited to 150 attendees. Guests were limited to leaders of political parties, government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, and the media. The event was broadcast live on various news channels and online platforms.

The campaign rolled out over two phases across all channels nationwide. The first phase entailed a voter registration campaign ahead of the registration weekend, initially planned for 17 to18 July 2021, but then postponed to 18 to 19 September 2021. The second phase rolled out ahead of Election Day on 1 November 2021.

Campaign Highlights

The Electoral Commission's registration drive and voting campaign were broadcast on the following media platforms:

- Television

  Among the key creative products of the three-month campaign were two 30-second television adverts, one each for registration and voting, featuring a diverse range of interesting local characters en route to registering and voting, which was broadcast on all major SABC channels, eTV and eNCA, and selected DStv channels.

  The registration campaign advertisements flighted from 10 to 19 September 2021 and reached nearly 19 million viewers. The voting campaign advertisements flighted from 12 October to 1 November 2021 and reached approximately 18 million viewers.

- Radio

  The television adverts were supported by radio adverts in all 11 official languages, which featured across all 18 SABC radio stations, 11 commercial stations, and community and regional radio stations from 14 to 18 September 2021. This radio campaign reached over 31 million listeners.

  For the election campaign, commercial and community radio adverts ran from 18 to 22 October 2021. Together they reached a total of 28 million listeners.

- Street-pole posters

  To further reinforce the voter registration messaging, the Electoral Commission produced 185 000 posters in all 11 official languages, which were distributed and erected throughout South Africa ahead of the September 2021 registration weekend.

Field workers erecting street-pole posters ahead of the Registration Weekend

- Print

  The print strategy focused on the placement of various sizes of print advertisements in mainstream weekly and daily newspapers (11 in total for registration) and community newspapers (58 for registration) across all nine provinces during the registration and voting campaigns.

- Out-of-home activation

  The Electoral Commission pursued various formats, sizes and platforms in its out-of home activation for the registration campaign. The approach was to have various touchpoints and destinations where the Commission could reach as wide an audience as possible across all nine provinces. Touchpoints included major arterials, township exit and entry points, commuter nodes, and sites deep in the townships. During the registration campaign, 100 billboards, 260 street-pole, 81 murals, and 56 bus-back advertisements were activated.

- Digital campaign

Digital and social media were once again key channels for communication in the 2021 Municipal Elections campaign. Newer communication technologies have increased the possibilities relating to how people send and receive information. The Commission has not been oblivious to the shift from traditional media to digital and social media as a source of news and information, especially among the youth. In addition, as COVID-19 protocols increasingly restricted people to their homes, digital and social media gained greater use in the 2021 elections.

The social media campaign kicked off with a registration event and saw organic and promoted content on its social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and digital banner advertising and home-page takeovers on South Africa's major news sites such as News24 and IOL. The campaign focused on motivating eligible voters to register to vote, and educating them about the importance of municipal elections, sharing details of registration processes, and key registration weekend dates.

The following were the key reach of the digital campaign, as per information sourced from individual platforms and the Electoral Commission's media buying service provider:

- The initial awareness launch in July 2021 recorded over 16.6 million impressions across key local content, news and lifestyle websites, Please Call Me's and SMSs.
- A registration campaign in September 2021 recorded over 26.7 million impressions across key local content, news and lifestyle websites, Please Call Me's and SMSs.
- An election campaign in October/November 2021 recorded a significant level of exposure and engagement in a short timeframe, with over 60 million impressions and over 1 million engagements, largely across key news (News24 and IOL) and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Vodacom and Wi-Fi banner adverts.

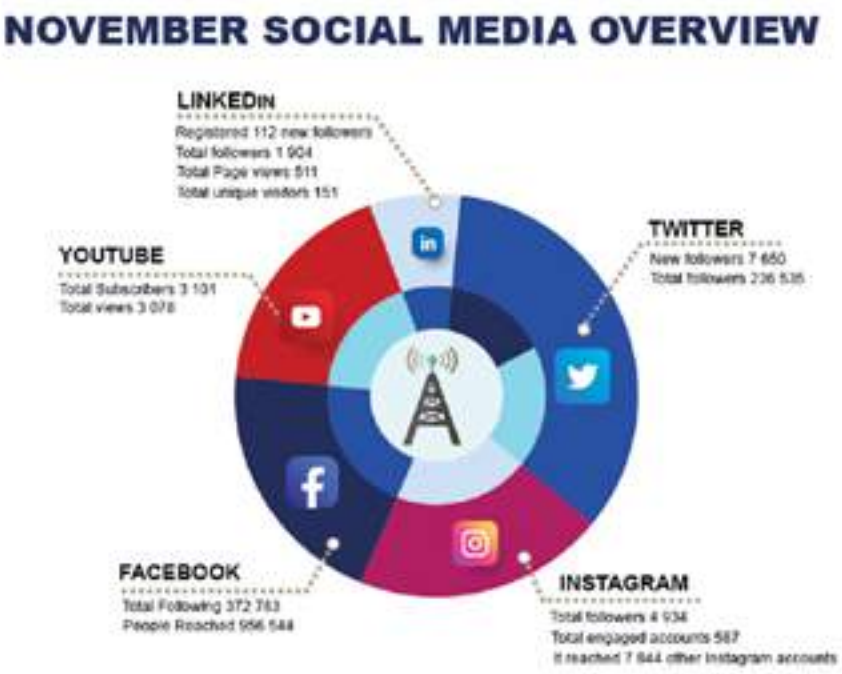
Social media content created for the 2021 Municipal Elections in respect of registration, special voting and voting

The impact of the social media strategy was significant. Between June and November 2021, the Electoral Commission enjoyed the following engagement on key social media platforms:

a) A young, highly engaged Twitter following of nearly 240 000 followers. Engagement rates peaked at around 3.4%, with a predominantly male following, aged 24 to 35 and 35 to 44 years old.
b) A highly engaged Facebook following of some 370 000 followers, with a 53% male following, and more than half of all followers aged 25 to 34 and 35 to 44.
c) The Electoral Commission's fledgling presence on the Instagram photo-sharing platform hovered just under the 5 000 mark, while its presence on LinkedIn grew by over 70% to over 1 900 followers.
d) A fun collaboration with TikTok, which has about 9 million South African users (mostly youth), saw the platform flighting an information page for its South African users with information on the 2021 Municipal Elections registration weekend and Voting Day between June and November, and a redirect to the Electoral Commission's website for more information on the said event.

User-generated content from voters on Election Day, 1 November, during the 2021 Municipal Elections

Figure 9: The Electoral Commission's social media pages and their performance as at November 2021, the month of the 2021 Municipal Elections



Media Relations and Events Management

Throughout the election campaign, the Electoral Commission dealt with thousands of media enquiries and interview requests from a pool of over 1 000 journalists and facilitated their accreditation for the 10 Results Operations Centres (one national and nine provincial).

The communications team also disseminated over 40 media statements, and hosted 25 media briefings and a national media training workshop, among other major events.

Key events hosted during the election period included:

- Launch of *Every Voice Together* campaign on 9 June 2021

  The launch of the 2021 Municipal Elections campaign took place at the Sandton Convention Centre, with a maximum of 150 guests and a sizeable media presence physically and online.

Launch of the 'Every Voice Together' 2021 Municipal Elections campaign in June 2021

- National Code of Conduct event, together with Ballot Paper Draw

  This event was held at Nasrec in Johannesburg, followed by provincial Code of Conduct pledge ceremonies in nine provinces and approximately 200 local offices. The event saw political leaders pledging to uphold the Electoral Code of Conduct as they entered the electioneering period.

The signing of the Pledge to the Electoral Code of Conduct for the 2021 Municipal Elections

- Launch of the national and provincial Results Operations Centres (ROCs) from 26 to 29 October 2021

  The launch of the national ROC took place on 26 October 2021 at the Tshwane Events Centre in Tshwane. As with the previous two election events and in compliance with COVID-19 restrictions, the venue was booked for the maximum number of guests permissible, i.e. 300 guests, and the event was live-streamed on the Commission's social media platforms.

  Among the guests were representatives of political parties, Chapter 9 institutions, government officials, members of Parliament, members of the diplomatic corps, sponsors such as Telkom and the SABC, the judiciary, the Municipal

Demarcation Board, and South African Local Government Association (SALGA), members of the Commission and senior management, and the media.

The one-hour programme also incorporated an audio-visual production, as well as the guided walkabout tour of officials to showcase the ROC facilities. The event was broadcast live on national television stations.

- Announcement of the election results on 4 November 2021

  Following Election Day on 1 November 2021, the Commission hosted a live broadcast event to announce the results of the 2021 Municipal Elections on 4 November 2021.

Announcement of the 2021 Municipal Elections results on 4 November 2021, four days after the elections

Media Monitoring

As part of its communications and reputation management function, the Electoral Commission ensures that coverage of its activities is widely tracked, and any disinformation corrected immediately.

Over the final voter registration period from 28 August to 20 September 2021, the Electoral Commission received 7 757 media mentions across all channels, which resulted in a total advertisement value of R501 836 435.

Media mentions were broken down as follows:

- Online – 2 114 (27%)
- Print – 1 139 (15%)
- Broadcast – 4 504 (58%)
- Total: 7 757 (100%)

In terms of sentiment, most of the coverage was neutral (95%) with 4% of the coverage positive and the remaining 1% negative.

Over the election period from October to November 2021, the Electoral Commission received 7 507 media mentions across all channels, which resulted in a total ad value of R590 172 269.

Media mentions were broken down as follows:

- Online – 2 676 (36%)
- Print – 1 275 (17%)
- Broadcast – 3 556 (47%)
- Total: 7 507 (100%)

In terms of sentiment, positive coverage accounted for 6%, negative coverage was 21%, and neutral coverage accounted for 73% of coverage.

Contact Centre

The growing demands on the organisation to provide its various stakeholders with information on elections at their convenience, particularly the 2021 Municipal Elections, motivated the Electoral Commission to once again establish an integrated in-bound contact centre.

Following an intensive training period for over 100 contact centre agents, the contact centre went live in May 2021 with operational hours from 08:00 to 17:00 weekdays, offering extended hours during the registration weekend and in the week immediately before registration and voting weeks (07:00 to 19:00).

The contact centre was operational until the end of November, following the conclusion of the 2021 Municipal Elections and the announcement of the results in early November 2021.

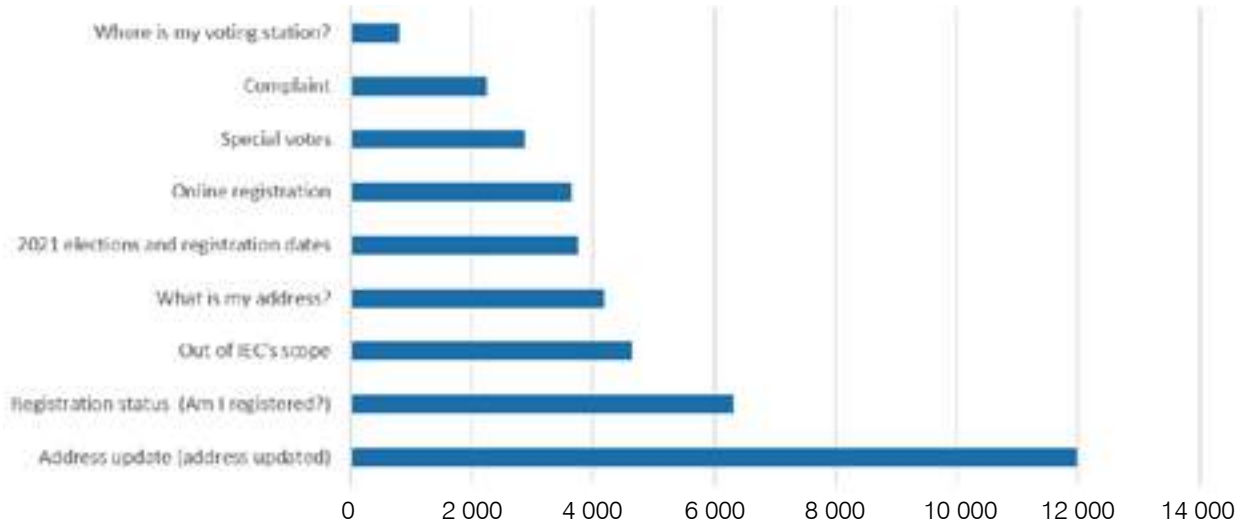
Popular social media channels were again incorporated into the contact centre function, allowing the Electoral Commission to reach South Africans, especially young, unregistered voters, in a more integrated and accessible way.

The contact centre was divided into a traditional call centre, accessed through a toll-free number, 0800 11 8000, and interactive internet-based communication tools, including social media applications such as Facebook and Twitter, and the Electoral Commission's general email address: info@elections.org.za.

Below are highlights from the 2021 contact centre and a graph showing the call volumes by type of call:

- Total number of calls received: 49 269 (57 871 in 2019 National and Provincial Elections).
- Total number of calls answered 42 084 (77% service level).
- Auto-attendant (Interactive Voice Response) assisted 30 956 callers to check their registration status, and 8 270 callers to listen to Frequently Asked Questions.
- Responses to 16 668 emails, the posting of 2 961 tweets, and a response to a similar number of Facebook queries.
- Top languages for calls received were English (62% or 30 786 calls), Afrikaans (12% or 6 118 calls) and isiZulu (11% or 5 541 calls).
- The top three queries were regarding address updates (24% or 11 979 calls), registration status (10% or 4 919 calls), and 'what is my address?' (8% or 4 173 calls).

Figure 10: Top 10 calls by query category to the 2021 Municipal Elections contact centre



7. Stakeholder Engagement

In preparation for an election, the Commission engages with stakeholders both locally and internationally to ensure there is a clear understanding of the mandate, the roles and responsibilities of the Electoral Commission, the elections taking place in the country, the Commission's preparation for elections, and to ensure all stakeholders are aligned to the objectives of the Electoral Commission.

These engagements also provide the Commission with an opportunity to learn about the concerns and challenges facing voters and other relevant participants in electoral democracy.

Stakeholder management takes place nationally as well as provincially. During the period leading up to the 2021 Municipal Elections, some of these engagements took place virtually in line with COVID-19 restrictions.

The Electoral Commission had interactions with representatives from the following sectors:

- Disability sector
- Business sector
- Agricultural sector
- Civil society organisations
- Faith-based organisations
- Traditional leaders
- Members of the diplomatic corps
- Members of the media
- Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs
- Retired members of the judiciary, among others

The main purpose of these engagements was to ensure that all stakeholders understood the complexities of municipal elections, their importance in the lives of ordinary citizens in South Africa, and how they differed from national and provincial elections.

The engagements with stakeholders proved to be a success and ensured the participation of all the sectors in the 2021 Municipal Elections, and also reassured voters and the country of the Electoral Commission's readiness for these elections.

The Electoral Commission appreciates the role international stakeholders play in electoral democracy in South Africa. As a result, the Commission held a special session together with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation to brief members of the diplomatic corps in South Africa on preparations for the 2021 Municipal Elections and their role on Election Day. This engagement, in particular, was intended to enhance the transparency of electoral processes in South Africa and to reassure the international community of the readiness of the Electoral Commission and the country to hold free and fair elections.

The Electoral Commission also held several engagements with international organisations such as the UNDP to conclude partnerships that were valuable in the preparations for the 2021 Elections. These partnerships were in respect of:

- Strengthening capacity of domestic observers in South Africa.
- Enhancing innovations for the 2021 Municipal Elections in South Africa.
- Enhanced research and knowledge management related to electoral democracy.
- Enhanced regional and international role of the Electoral Commission in global electoral networks.
- Gender mainstreaming and enhancing the role of the youth in electoral processes in South Africa.

SADC-ECF observers pictured at the National Results Operations Centre in Tshwane in the week of the 2021 Municipal Elections

8. Information and Communication Technology

Information and communication technology (ICT) continues to play a critical role in supporting electoral processes. The following continuous support services are at the core of the Electoral Commission's ICT capability and provide the foundation for all other ICT activities, such as:

- Stable applications to support and enable all business processes.
- Tightly integrated systems aimed at ensuring a seamless flow of information across the different systems.
- A stable and secure ICT infrastructure, and a stable network at both wide area network (WAN) and local area network (LAN) levels, and at the data centre.
- Scalable network and background server capacity, with the required capability of supporting increased election activity and network traffic.
- The management of risks, disaster recovery and business continuity processes.
- Integrated online self-service facilities for citizen engagement through the internet using websites, mobile applications, SMS and social media.
- Ensuring that the Electoral Commission can take advantage of and fully utilise all available and relevant technologies in the ICT market.
- Stable and effective open data platforms, which provide an integrated technology-enabled platform for all stakeholders through the Application Program Interface (API).
- A secure platform with controlled and restricted access, and intrusion prevention mechanisms in place.

Specific projects are undertaken in accordance with the changing and evolving business requirements in the various functional areas. During election preparations, the number of projects escalates, and additional resources are sourced to service the additional workload. In addition, several maintenance and business support processes are executed to effectively support all relevant business processes in the Electoral Commission.

2021 Municipal Elections Systems

During the preparations for the 2021 Municipal Elections, many exciting projects were undertaken using new technology in many instances.

Key innovations ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections included the following:

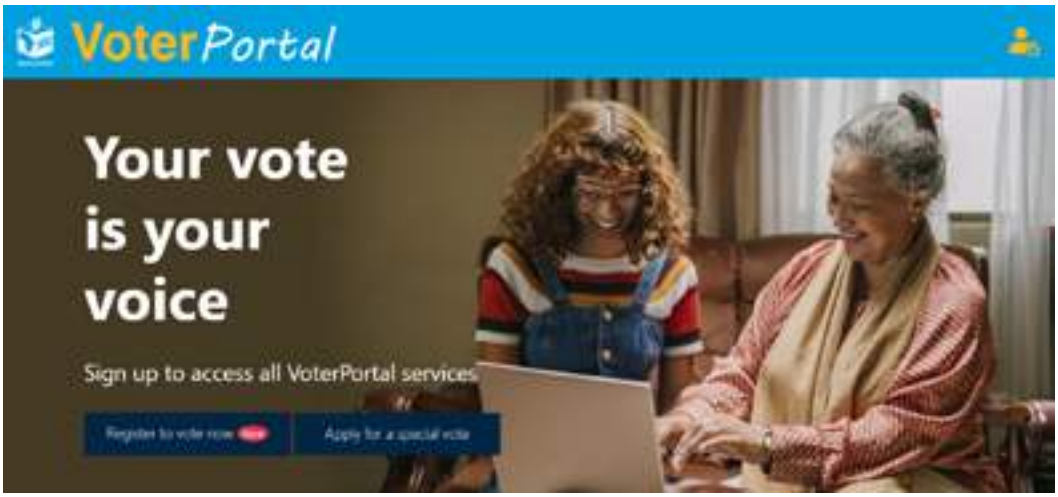
1. New VMDs were procured ahead of the elections. New generation technology using a mobile framework allowed for enhanced voter registration and monitoring of voter participation in real time. All the applications have supporting internal systems where the data is received once it is processed, these systems are indicated in brackets. The following applications, based on a mobile framework, were developed:

   - Registration (Voter Registration System) – to capture an address or place of residence during registration and to verify the address against ward boundaries.
   - Voters' roll (Voting Station Monitoring) – to mark voters as having voted on the central voters' roll and update voter turnout figures on an internal system.
   - Staff attendance (Electoral Staff System) – to record staff at voting stations and feed information to the internal system for payment.
   - Ballot paper tracking (Tracking System) – to track ballot papers from production to the voting station.
   - Voting station monitoring (Voting Station Monitoring) – to easily report on whether stations are open or closed.

To support the devices and applications, a mobile device management (MDM) system, as well as an access point network (APN), was put in place.

2. An online registration system (registertovote.elections.org.za), using progressive web application technology, was built. It processed 549 663 successful applications between its inception on 5 July 2021 and the date of closure of the voters' roll. The applicant can either create a profile or simply register directly. A copy of the person's identity number (ID) is uploaded for verification and, based on the voter address provided, a voting station (district) is assigned.

   ID auto verification: With new legislation allowing online remote voter registration, valid personal identity became key to process registrations. Manual visual verification of documents was not an option as it would create bottlenecks. A computer vision API was intergrated into the voter portal, facilitating ID image analysis and ID validation, thereby making the online voter registration process instantaneous.



3. A revamped public website for improved navigation and communications was developed and successfully deployed.
4. A public reporting application for disinformation on social media was developed in association with Media Monitoring Africa. This module will form part of a larger Electoral Justice system.
5. Introduction of e-Learning modules for the training of election staff.
6. Introduction of e-Recruitment for internal staff appointments, as well as those of electoral staff.
7. Enhancements to the Online Candidate Nomination system used successfully by parties during the previous two general elections and by-elections.
8. Introduction of a new and revamped Voter Registration System.
9. Introduction of an Online Observer Application system, which allowed election observer entities to apply and be approved online.
10. Enhancements to the Local Government (Municipal) Elections Results system, as well as the introduction of a module to deal with the Local Council to District Council Elections, which occur in the two weeks after the elections.
11 Introduction of an internal dashboard with information on key election systems and processes for the entire organisation to view at a glance.

A wide range of other activities in support of the various business processes was also undertaken by the various teams in ICT.

Addresses on the Voters' Roll, Delimitation, Voter Registration and Continuous Support

Following the programmes of address sourcing, geospatial processing and address assignment to voters without addresses, the focus shifted to the maintenance of addresses on the voters' roll as preparations for the 2021 Municipal Elections got underway.

Despite a lack of certainty due to COVID-19 restrictions, the following map products were produced using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology and delivered as planned:

- Over 4 500 A1-sized delimitation working maps.
- About 70 000 A3-sized voter registration maps. Unlike in previous elections, these maps had to include physical addresses. With the size remaining the same at A3, the creation, production, printing and quality assurance of the 2021 voter registration maps under tight timelines proved challenging, but they were still delivered as expected.
- Almost 5 000 A3-sized targeted communication registration maps.
- About 250 A1- and A0-sized municipal orientation maps.
- 4 468 A1-sized final ward maps.

Several GIS system improvements were also implemented ahead of the elections:

- VS Finder: COVID-19 testing sites were geo-processed and integrated into the internal Voting Station Finder. Electoral Commission staff were able to use their addresses and locate the nearest COVID-19 testing site. This provided additional help in facilitating the return to the office, following the first hard lockdown.
- Electoral Commission Custom Base Map: With Google confirming that it will not be rolling out house numbers/physical addresses on the standard Google base map, the GIS team went on to create a new layer of addresses/NAD overlaid on an already customised Google base map. This helped tremendously in areas where Google does not have addresses.
- GIS APIs: Being the key drivers on all Electoral Commission systems consuming maps, the GIS APIs have been revamped and disaggregated to provide dedicated mapping services to both internal and external applications such as the VRS, OnlineDelim, the VMD and the voter portal.

By-election support was provided in respect of registration maps, the quality assurance of voters' roll addresses, verifying the correctness of registered voters, locating addresses with the by-election ward, as well as the movement of voters in terms of Section 12 of the Electoral Act, Act No 73 of 1998. Results-capturing processes were also supported to ensure that capturing took place timeously.

2021 Municipal Elections Activities

Once the elections were proclaimed, support was provided for various election processes, including candidate nomination and ballot paper production through applicable systems and technical business process support.

The establishment of 10 ROCs across the country required the following IT operations activities:

- 1 360 workstations were distributed to the national and the nine provincial ROCs.
- 54 results capturing sites (RCS) were established at local offices countrywide.
- 273 workstations were distributed to the 54 results capturing sites.
- 108 printers were distributed to various ROCs.
- 1 980 network cables were utilised for results capturing sites and provincial and national ROCs.
- 90 fibre network cables were utilised at the national ROC.
- 20 Aruba switches were utilised at the national ROC and 28 in the provincial results centres. Another 52 Cisco switches were utilised at the provincial results centres. All switches were 24-port switches.
- Telkom installed a metro internet data line for the provincial results centres. All provincial ROCs were 6 Mbps.
- Telkom installed two 30 Mbps lines at the national ROC for connectivity and redundancy purposes.
- Telkom installed data lines for the SABC at ROCs. The bandwidth was 50 Mbps for provincial ROCs. The bandwidth for the national ROC was 400 Mbps. This was to link the SABC head office with provincial ROCs.
- A metro internet line was installed to divert call centre traffic.
- Upgraded bandwidth at Municipal Electoral Office (MEO) and Provincial Electoral Office (PEO) sites using fibre, microwave and the new Vsat technology to a targeted average of 10 Mbps
- 41 technical support personnel appointed and deployed to complement the IT Operations in providing support on the Desktop Support team, the Services Desk and providing onsite support at the ROCs.
- 141 LTE devices were deployed as backup and fail-over capacity to sites where connectivity was problematic.

Other election-related activities included the following:

- IT audits that consisted of vulnerability scans and penetration tests against the Electoral Commission's infrastructure and applications were performed by three different organisations.

This was to establish the security posture of the Electoral Commission and identify areas of improvement and hardening in time for the elections. As a result of the audits, the security environment was improved to better mitigate cybersecurity risks.

- It is normal practice to host the website at an internet service provider (ISP) to take advantage of the flexibility in terms of capacity at the hosting site. The website was hosted at an ISP as an external service provider and consisted of 18 virtual servers for APIs, 24 virtual servers for the websites, and one virtual server for maps. The Electoral Commission provided two physical servers for databases.
- Intrusion detection and management virtual servers were also deployed. New firewalls were deployed at the national office and at some of the provincial electoral offices.
- The internet line from the ISP was configured and the capacity was increased to 500 Mbps.
- The national ROC had redundant firewalls installed and a direct line to the internet.
- At the National Results Operations Centre (NROC), there were two virtual servers for APIs, two virtual servers for Web, two physical servers for maps, and two physical servers for database. The virtual machines were hosted on a cluster of three physical hosts. There were also two AD servers (one physical and one virtual) and a utility server.
- Provincial Results Operations Centres (PROC) deployed nine physical servers that were used for AD and DNS.
- Back-up capacity was increased to accommodate extra resource requirements.
- Storage Area Network (SAN) capacity was also increased to accommodate extra resources requirement brought about by new automation projects mentioned above.
- Load balancers were deployed within the data centres to bring in elements of redundancy, high availability and automatic failover, where possible.

During the elections results period, between 30 November and 2 December 2021, ICT business systems, GIS and IT operations support were provided at the various ROCs.

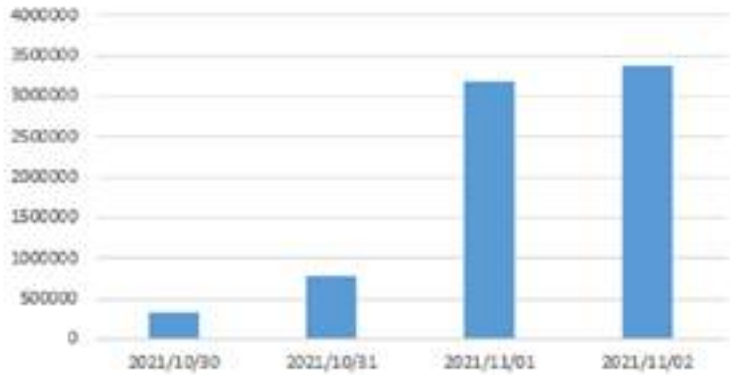
Information was disseminated nationally and internationally to all stakeholders through several supported ICT platforms. The volume of traffic can be summarised as follows:

1. Website page views – 7 665 097
2. API enquiries – 10 741 604
3. SMS enquiries – 179 131

This is detailed as follows:

Website Page Views

Day Index	Pageviews
2021/10/30	332 370
2021/10/31	778 111
2021/11/01	3 188 192
2021/11/02	3 366 424
TOTAL	*7 665 097*



Page	Pageviews
Election Results dashboard	2 431 89
Home	1 318 86
Am I Registered	854 72
RegisterToVote - VoterPortal page	326 52
2021 Municipal Elections page	298 71
How to vote page	130 65
LGE ballots page	117 66
MyIEC login	80 99
Other	2 105 06
TOTAL	*7 665 09*

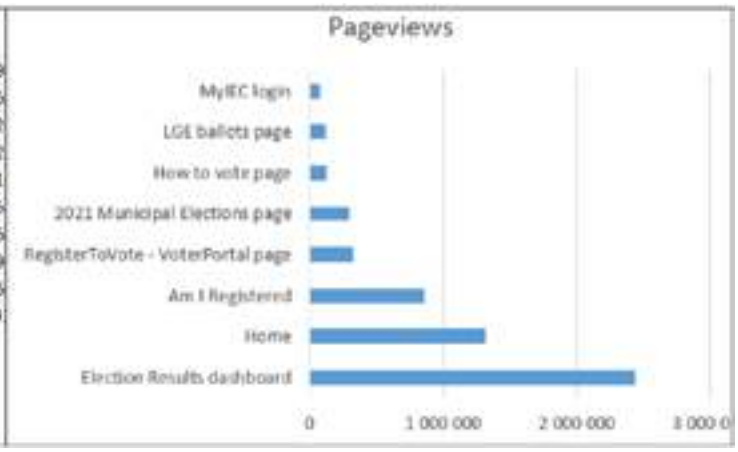


Figure 11: Website page views during the 2021 Municipal Elections results period

Where Google could identify identities and age groups, the following statistics were collected.

Demographics

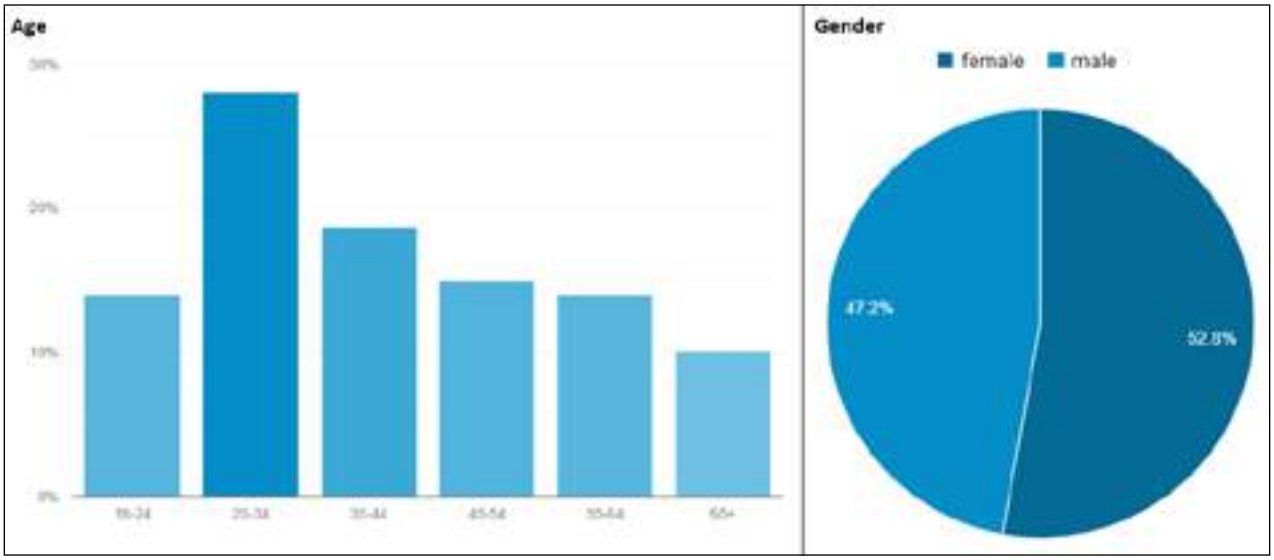


Figure 12: Website user demographics (audience) in the 2021 Municipal Elections results period

Most of the users were from South Africa, followed by the United States and the United Kingdom.

Country	% Users
South Africa	97,20%
United States	0,50%
United Kingdom	0,33%
Australia	0,11%
Germany	0,09%
Netherlands	0,09%
New Zealand	0,09%
Canada	0,07%
Namibia	0,06%
Zimbabwe	0,05%

Figure 13: Website users by country during the 2021 Municipal Elections results period

Most of the users access the sites from mobile devices.

Device category	% Users
Mobile	83,21%
Desktop	15,55%
Tablet	1,24%

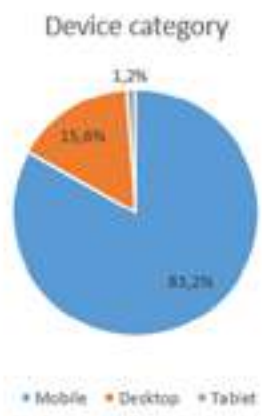
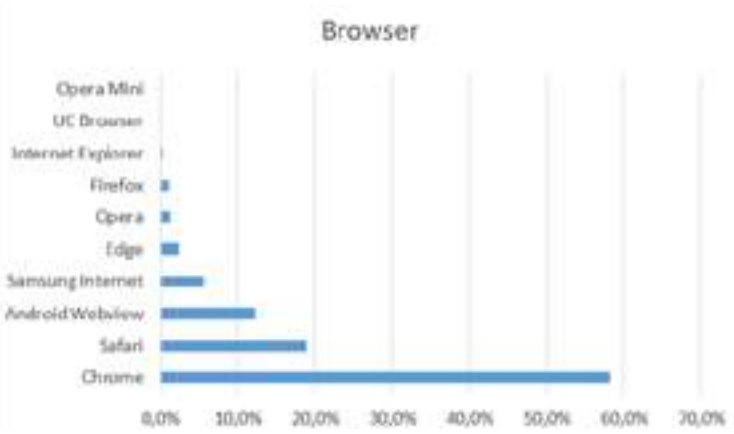


Figure 13A: Website users by device

Browser	% Users
Chrome	58,3%
Safari	19,0%
Android Webview	12,1%
Samsung Internet	5,7%
Edge	2,4%
Opera	1,3%
Firefox	1,1%
Internet Explorer	0,3%
UC Browser	0,1%
Opera Mini	0,1%



Devices	% Users
Samsung SM-A260F Galaxy A2 Core	23,2%
Not set	22,6%
Apple iPhone	20,6%
Samsung SM-A325F Galaxy A32	20,5%
Samsung SM-A315F Galaxy A31	19,3%
Samsung SM-J410F Galaxy J4 Core	16,1%
Samsung SM-A307FN Galaxy A30s	15,7%
Huawei MAR-LX1A P30 Lite	14,4%
Huawei JNY-LX1 nova 7i	2,6%
Huawei MAR-LX1M P30 Lite	2,2%

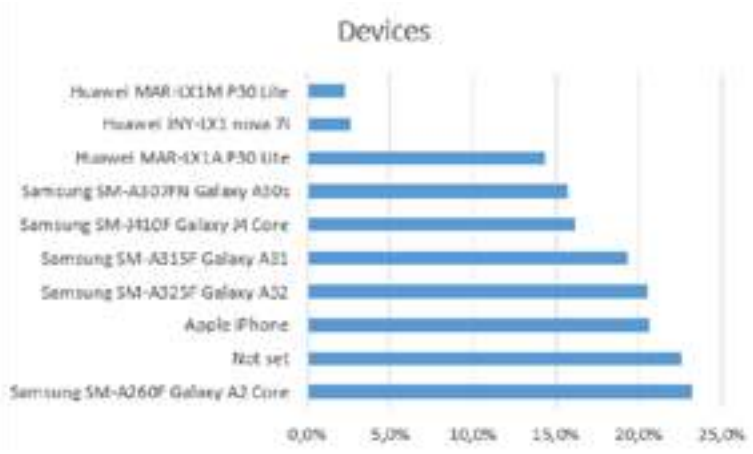


Figure 13B: Website users by device

SMS

Some 179 131 SMS requests were sent to the 32810 line.

API Requests

- Total of 10 741 604
- 107 633 from the Electoral Commission's mobile application
- 3 472 046 from Times Media
- 214 154 from Mail & Guardian
- 157 809 from Daily Maverick
- 6 503 from political parties
- 6 784 459 from other media houses.

In the week after elections, 3 to 10 November 2021, the average hits was still very high, as is evident from the information below:

- API requests – average of 75 915 per day.
- 2021 Municipal Elections results dashboard page views – average of 291 124 per day.
- All website page views – average of 513 118 per day.

Similar to previous years, an electronic Atlas of Results will be published containing different geographical representations of the election results.

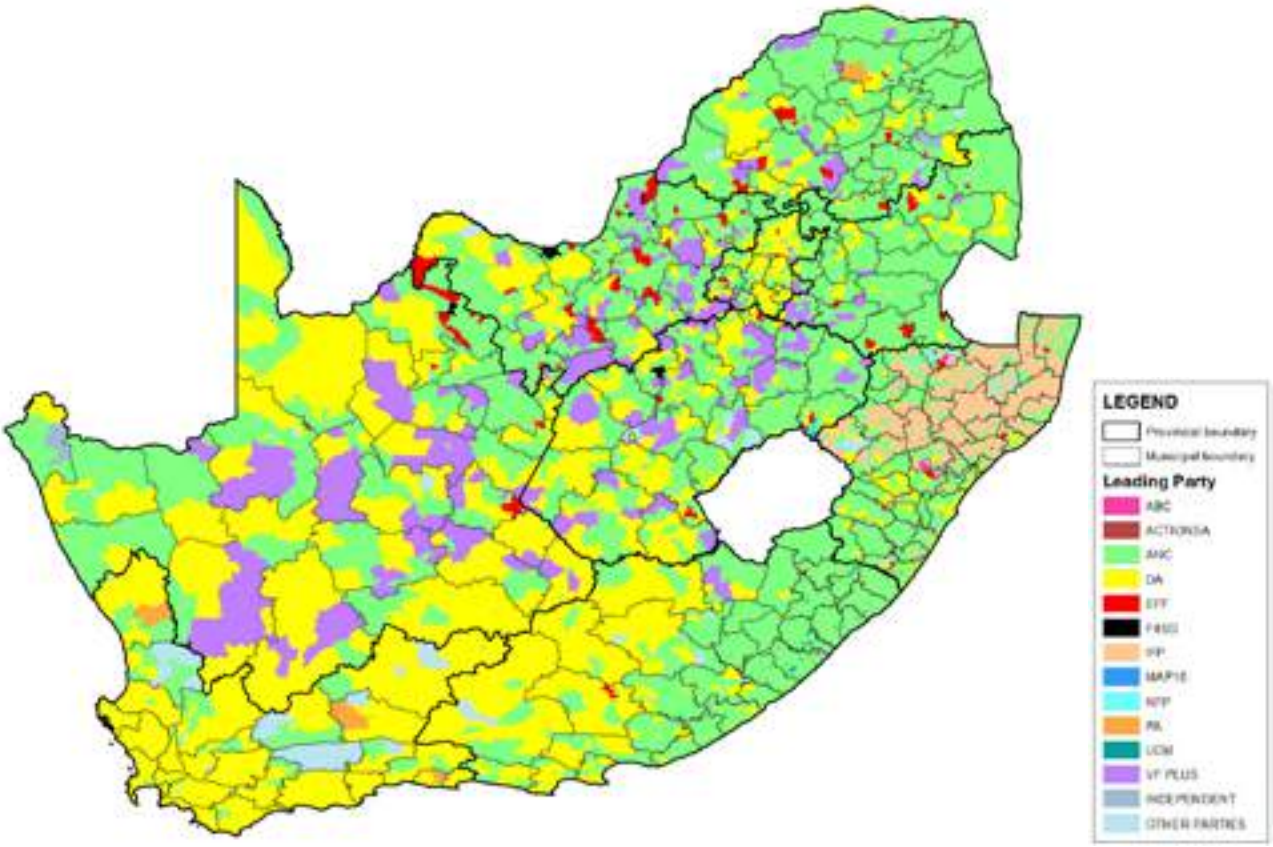
The Atlas features themes such as voting district delimitation (e.g. the geography of new voting districts), voter registration (e.g. the total number of registrations by the municipality), voters' roll (e.g. voters' roll age and gender analyses), political party results (e.g. leading party, party support, lead/lag analysis and party support variance), and voter participation (e.g. voter participation by age, gender and time).

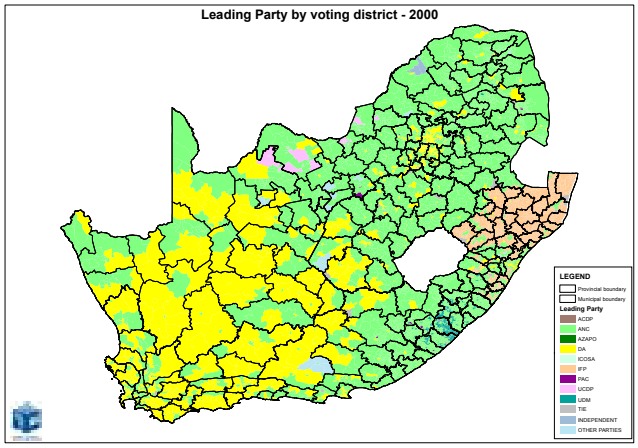
The Atlas of Results is a unique publication in the electoral domain worldwide. It condenses masses of information and is the definitive publication used by political parties to analyse their electoral performance (i.e. challenges and opportunities across the country) and future electoral strategy. It provides different stakeholders with trend analysis and is an authoritative source for political analysts, political scientists and post graduate students.

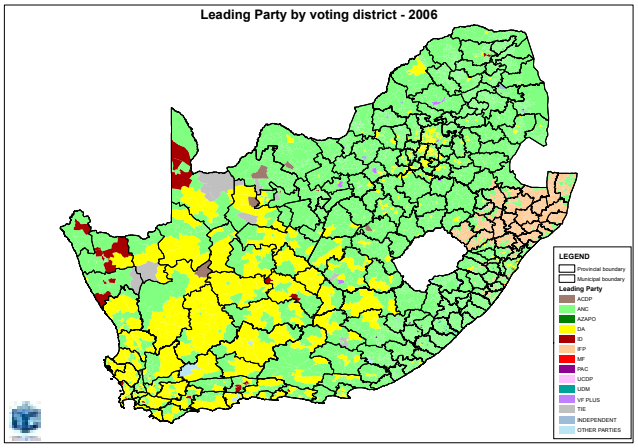
On the following page is the leading party map for the 2021 Municipal Elections, followed by a map containing the same information for the previous election years, i.e. 2000, 2006, 2011 and 2016. The changes in the political landscape can be seen with colour variation over election periods.

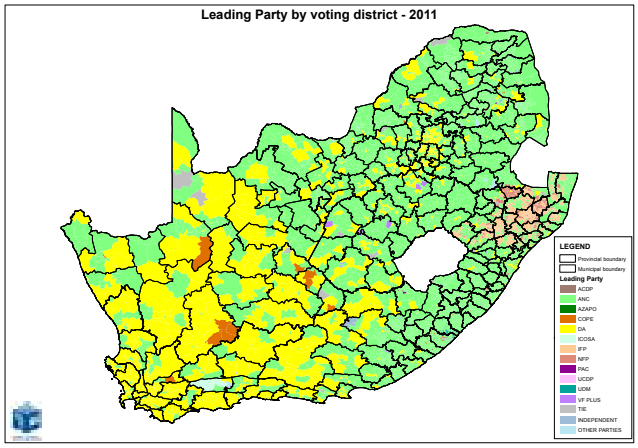
Map: Just some of the many thousands of maps produced by the Electoral Commission's GIS and Mapping Department. These maps illustrate South Africa's leading party by voting district following the 2021 Municipal Elections

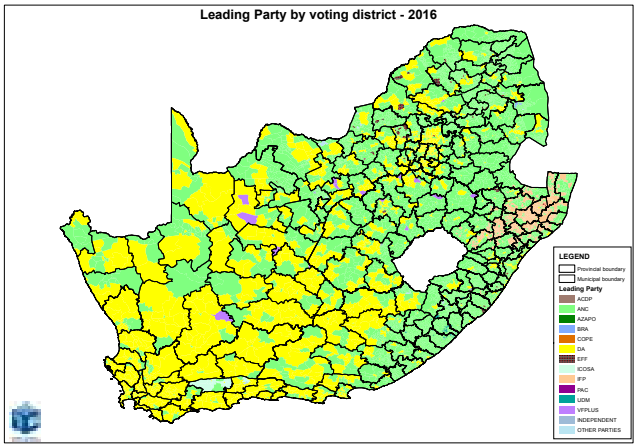
Leading Party by Voting Disctrict 2000 – 2016











Projects

In addition to the activities listed above, other ICT projects undertaken were as follows:

Project Name	System/Project Description	Enhancements
DR test	Disaster recovery test	Annual DR test was performed successfully.
Data centre capacity upgrade	Upgraded storage and backup infrastructure.	Following an infrastructure capacity review, increased storage back-up, server and virtualisation capacity to meet the increased operational demands and provide for elections capacity requirements.
Network capacity upgrades	Upgraded network capacity.	Following a network review, identified potential capacity constraints and vulnerabilities: Increased bandwidth in selected areas such as internet connectivity, backhaul to the national office, DRP line, and selected PEO and MEO sites.
Call centre support	Support and enablement of call centre processes.	Provided network connectivity, systems and infrastructure to enable operations at the Election Call Centre and continued to provide operational support.
Firewalls at the Provincial Electoral Offices	Firewalls were rolled out at the Provincial Electoral Offices.	This provided perimeter security and segmentation at the PEO.

General ICT Maintenance Activities

These activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

a) By-elections support, which includes supporting pre-by-elections voter registration activities, address capture support and investigations, and generating ballot papers and certified voters' rolls for by-elections. On By-election Day, support is provided for the capturing of results and scanning of results slips. The support is concluded with the generation of payment files and reimbursements.
b) Ad hoc data requests: Requests from outside parties are frequently made to the relevant line function departments for information on various election statistics. Once approved, this information is investigated, interpreted and consolidated by the appropriate ICT team, depending on the nature of the request.
c) System investigations and impact analyses regarding new systems, potential changes or enhancements required by line function departments: After discussions and/or investigations, project charters are compiled for line functions to capture their requirements and provide the basis for further action.
d) SAP stack maintenance and SAP GRC support pack upgrades are performed.
e) Daily system checks in all environments to ensure that all systems are available and stable before the start of business: This includes servers, switches, SAN devices and provincial UPSes.
f) Backing up all systems according to the schedules set by the organisation and removing tapes off-site weekly.
g) Security monitoring the ICT infrastructure, which includes malicious code and virus propagation, operating system vulnerabilities and exploits, user activity monitoring, network analysis and monitoring, daily audit and operational tasks.
h) Monitoring all LAN and WAN activity daily to ensure the provision of high availability and adequate capacity.
i) Maintaining a disaster recovery site of all business-critical systems.
j) Monthly maintenance weekends where patches and updates are deployed, and systems are refreshed.

Introduction of the New Voter Management Device

Since 1998, the Electoral Commission has used portable devices at voting stations to support the process of voter registration. This has traditionally taken the form of a programmable barcode scanning unit (PBSU), which scanned the details contained in the barcode of the South African national ID and saved the details to internal memory.

The zip-zips, as the PBSU was known, was purpose-built for the Electoral Commission in 2007. When in

use at a voting station, they recorded the barcode of a unique voting district map, thereby linking it to the specific voting station, and also scanned and recorded the IDs of voters. The PBSU printed a receipt in the form of an adhesive label with the time of the ID scanning to provide the voter evidence of the transaction. The zip-zips have reached the end of their useful technological lifespan.

Furthermore, the elementary approaches around voter registration and election management requirements used to date, such as that of scanning an ID and recording the data, became outdated and were no longer adequate to respond to challenges and future requirements for voter and election management.

Within this context, Municipal Elections 2021 marked the introduction of the new VMDs. A fleet of 40 000 new smart devices was acquired to meet the following revised business and election requirements:

- Scanning various types of barcodes
- Pinpointing, identifying and recording address locations of voters applying to register.
- Storage of the complete national voters' roll details.
- Storage of substantial mapping data.
- Capturing data during voter registration and voting.
- Transmission of data in real time to a central point and the immediate communication of a transaction to the voter.

The VMDs deployed for registration and the elections had real-time capabilities (as GSM connectivity is available to almost all of the voting stations, barring 100 voting stations where no GSM coverage was available), GPS location functions, two-dimensional scanning, and the ability to capture the address during the registration process through search or mapping functionalities.

An applicant's voting district was determined through the address provided and was not linked to the voting station visited. This allowed for increased flexibility in the registration process as voters could apply for registration even outside their home voting district.

In addition, the device had connectivity to the central servers and confirmation of registration was communicated to the applicant immediately, which improved the voter experience of the registration process.

Like the zip-zips, the VMDs have applications dealing with voter participation and electoral staff attendance, as well as voter registration.

However, the VMD offers additional applications that serve as a live voters' roll, which is intended to prevent perceptions that some voters can vote more than once.

In contrast to the approach used in the past, all VMD applications were developed in-house to ensure continuity and control. The capabilities of the new device also allowed for the development of other applications, which enhanced security measures in time for the 2021 Municipal Elections. This included a ballot paper tracking application that tracked and traced the ballot papers from the printer to the voting station.

The landing page of the applications on the Voter Management Device for the 2021 Municipal Elections

VMD Applications

A mobile framework was used for the development of the applications that were required for the elections and enabled the use of the device hardware to have real-time (online) transactions for the first time since using electronic devices.

The applications, totalling five on Election Day, were developed in a phased approach to coincide with the period of use in the electoral cycle, as follows:

1. Registration – used not only to capture the ID number of the person as was done previously, but also the address and other contact details.
2. Electoral staff attendance – used to confirm attendance of staff appointed, and also do real-time replacements where required.
3. Voters' roll – for the previous device, this application recorded voter participation only, but was expanded to include marking a person issued with ballot papers on the central voters' roll to prevent any attempts at fraudulent voting.
4. Ballot paper tracking – used to track ballot papers from various printing facilities to provincial warehouses, municipal offices and, on Election Day, to the voting station.

5. Voting station monitoring – used to indicate whether a voting station was open in the morning and closed in the evening.

As devices were received, the available applications were loaded, along with the minimum data required. The applications were adapted to seamlessly switch between an online mode, where there is 3G/4G or better connectivity, and an offline mode for the areas with no or problematic connectivity.

For the offline mode to function properly, delimitation and staff attendance data was loaded on all devices. These data sets were small enough to be deployed with the applications using the third-party MDM software and did not require any manual intervention.

Transferring Data to the National Data Centre

During field operations, the devices were able to connect to the national data centre primarily using the APN network, but also secure Wi-Fi connections or GSM.

Whether the devices were operating online or offline, each transaction was saved into a local, encrypted file on the device. Once the device was connected and online, the transaction was transferred and processed into the appropriate central database(s), and confirmation was immediately sent to the applicant. Once confirmation was received from the central database that the transaction had been committed, the local file entry was removed. If not connected, the transactions remained on the device until connectivity could be established.

After field operations, all devices (whether operating online or offline) were switched on at the respective municipal electoral offices to ensure that all data has been transferred.

Table 12: VMD transaction statistics for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Number of real-time voter participation transactions processed during the 2021 Municipal Elections	22 215 692
Number of real-time voter registration transactions processed during the 2021 Municipal Elections registration weekend (18 and 19 September 2021)	1 988 295
Number of VMDs used during the 2021 Municipal Elections	30 389
Number of VMDs used during the 2021 elections registration weekend (18 and 19 September 2021)	32 939

VMD Reporting

Reports for the tracking of data and device management were designed and developed taking advantage not only of the new features of the device, but also those provided by the MDM software.

The MDM reports included where devices are used, clearing data remotely if required, the operating system and virus software versions, and blacklisting should a device be stolen or lost.

Existing and new reports were designed and developed to allow for reporting of the data received from the VMDs. Reports, such as the following, were developed:

- Registration file/record(s) reconciliation
- Voter participation file/record(s) reconciliation
- ESS attendance register reconciliation
- VMD tracking report
- Blacklisted devices.

Hardware and Security Requirements

The existing hardware was expanded to allow for the concurrent activity generated by the 40 000 VMDs.

Security requirements were broken down into three key areas:

- Securely storing information locally on the device, primarily through encryption.
- Transporting information from the device back to the Electoral Commission's national office in a secure manner via the APN and other mechanisms.
- Securing the back-end used by the device against different attack vectors.

9. Voter Registration and Voters' Roll

Voter Registration Weekend

In preparation for the 2021 Municipal Elections, the Electoral Commission held one general registration weekend. On 18 and 19 September 2021, 23 148 voting stations were opened nationwide to allow eligible citizens to apply for registration (new registration) or to update their registration details in cases where they had changed their places of ordinary residence (VD move). Some voters also took the opportunity to re-register even if their details had not changed (same VD – re-registration).

Table 13: Registration Weekend Activity in September 2021

Province	New registrations	Re-registration same VD	Re-registration VD move	Total
Eastern Cape	50 537	102 002	87 975	240 514
Free State	17 891	45 587	33 195	96 673
Gauteng	76 393	84 801	154 088	315 282
KwaZulu-Natal	99 739	120 235	136 410	356 384
Limpopo	62 275	77 646	75 839	215 760
Mpumalanga	31 444	38 389	45 901	115 734
North West	31 026	69 485	50 919	151 430
Northern Cape	17 193	24 145	21 993	63 331
Western Cape	46 700	33 271	75 930	155 901
Total	**433 198**	**595 561**	**682 250**	**1 711 009**

Over this weekend, some 1.7 million citizens visited their voting stations to register to vote or to update their registration details. Of the total 1.7 million registered voters, 433 198 new voters were added to the voters' roll, while re-registration in different voting districts accounted for 1 277 811 voters. There were 595 561 re-registrations in the same voting district. Total registration activity over the general registration weekend amounted to 1 711 009 voters.

The voters' roll for the 2021 Municipal Elections was closed on 20 September 2021 when the election was re-proclaimed by the Minister of CoGTA.

Electronic copies of the voters' roll were then made available for inspection at all local, provincial and national offices of the Electoral Commission from 21 to 23 September 2021. Copies were also provided to represented political parties.

In terms of the election timetable, interested persons were allowed three days to object to the inclusion or exclusion of any person on a segment of the voters' roll or the correctness of any person's registration details.

In terms of the newly enacted Electoral Laws Amendment Act, this was the only opportunity to raise an objection based on the correctness, or otherwise, of a voter's details on the voters' roll. Some 109 objections to the voters' roll were received and decided upon by members of the Commission. The voters' roll was subsequently certified on 26 September 2021 and was made available to participating political parties and independent candidates.

On certification of the voters' roll for the 2021 Municipal Elections, 26 204 579 voters were registered.

Online Registration

The amendment of the Electoral Act, 1998, made it possible for the Electoral Commission to make strides towards the introduction of online registration. Since its inception in July 2021, the online registration portal has processed 549 663 applications. This digital channel provides voters with convenience of use in terms of time and place of application. It will become an anchor mechanism of registration in the future.

Proclamation and Election Timetable

The Minister for CoGTA published a proclamation setting the election date of 1 November 2021. This proclamation was published on 20 September 2021.

Such a proclamation set a single day for the election. The setting of the Election Day and its subsequent proclamation was published after consultation with the Commission.

The timetable provides electoral milestones, due dates and times for the performance of certain functions, such as the certification of the voters' roll, submission of candidate lists, close of special voting applicants, objections to candidates, and so forth. The election timetable for the 2021 Municipal Elections was published on 20 September 2021. (See Annexure 1b for the election timetable)

Certification of the Voters' Roll

In terms of Section 6(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act, and consistent with the provisions of the election timetable, the CEO certified the voters' roll on 26 September 2021.

The following are facts about the certified voters' roll for the 2021 Municipal Elections:

- 26 204 579 million eligible South Africans registered to vote in the election.
- The registered population represented 67.9% of the total voting-age population of 38 573 897, based on the estimated Voting Age Population data provided by Statistics South Africa.
- Females represented 55% of the total registered population.
- The voters' roll recorded a net decrease of 128 784 voters (or -0.5%) since the 2016 elections.
- The voters' roll has grown by 44.2% since its establishment in 1999 when it recorded 18 172 751 voters.
- The biggest age category on the voters' roll is the 30 to 39 band with 6 757 793 persons, representing 25.79% of the registered population.
- The second-biggest age category on the voters' roll is the 40 to 49 band with 5 668 429 persons, representing 21.63% of the registered population.

10. Political Parties and Candidates

Political Parties

Political parties are key stakeholders in an election. A political party intending to contest an election must be registered with the Electoral Commission in terms of Section 15 of the Electoral Commission Act. Before the proclamation of the 2021 Municipal Elections, a political party could only elect to register on a national or municipal level. However, the legislation has since been amended to allow political parties to register as follows:

a) National, to participate in all elections of the national and provincial legislatures and municipal councils, subject to the additional requirements to contest.
b) A particular province, to participate in elections for that provincial legislature and for all the municipal councils in that province.
c) A particular metropolitan municipality, to participate only in elections for that metro council.
d) A particular district municipality, to participate only in elections for that district council and for the local councils falling within the area of that district municipality.

In the lead up to the 2021 Elections, 508 political parties were enlisted on the party register. However, only 323 political parties contested the elections. Of the total contesting parties, 175 parties were registered nationally and, thus, could contest any municipality in the country, and 148 parties had municipal registration and were, therefore, eligible to contest only in the respective municipality of registration.

A total of 185 parties did not contest the 2021 Municipal Elections.

Table 14: Registered parties vs contested vs represented vs unrepresented vs never contested in the 2021 Municipal Elections

Party Status	National	Municipal
Registered	508	
	300	208
Contested	323	
	175	148
Represented	167	
	91	76
Unrepresented	341	
	209	132
Did not contest	185	
	125	60

Table 15: Parties contesting proportional representation (PR) lists for municipal elections 2000–2021 and the percentage change

Election	Number of Parties Contesting PR Lists	Percentage change
2000	79	N/A
2006	97	23%
2011	121	25%
2016	203	68%
2021	323	59%

Table 16: A comparison of the number of registered political parties for the 2016 and 2021 Municipal Elections

Province	Number of Parties	
	2016 Municipal Elections	2021 Municipal Elections
Eastern Cape	40	58
Free State	27	50
Gauteng	43	87
KwaZulu-Natal	37	78
Limpopo	54	69
Mpumalanga	33	55
North West	31	49
Northern Cape	18	36
Western Cape	76	95
Total	**359***	**577***

**This cumulative number represents parties registered across the provinces, so includes duplication where parties are registered in more than one province. Some 508 unique parties were registered in the 2021 Municipal Elections, and 345 in the 2016 Municipal Elections.*

Candidate Nomination

A record number of 95 440 candidates contested the 2021 Municipal Elections. There were 34 321 proportional representation and 59 570 ward candidates, as well as 1 549 independents. As indicated in Table 16, this represented an increase of 31 884 candidates (50% increase) when compared with 63 556 candidates that contested the 2016 Municipal Elections. A record of 99 139 candidates initially submitted to contest the 2021 Municipal Elections. Of those submitted, 3 699 candidates were disqualified for various reasons.

Table 17: Comparison of contesting candidates for municipal elections 2011–2021

Election	Party PR	Party Ward	Independent	Total	% Change for Total
2011	23 303	29 700	754	53 757	+19%
2016	26 695	36 006	855	63 556	+18%
2021	34 321	59 570	1 549	95 440	+50%

Table 18: Parties contesting the 2021 Municipal Elections

Election	Number of Parties Contesting PR Lists	Percentage Increase
2011	121	25%
2016	200	65%
2021	323	62%
2016	203	68%
2021	323	59%

It is evident from Table 19 that the provinces of KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng and Western Cape accounted for the greatest number of candidates in the 2021 Municpal Elections. The Northern Cape and Free State featured the lowest number of candidates in the elections.

Table 19: Contesting candidates for the 2021 Municipal Elections by province

Provincial Breakdown of Candidates by Type				
Province	**PR**	**Ward**	**Independent**	**Total**
Eastern Cape	4 562	6 432	243	11 237
Free State	2 288	3 471	134	5 893
Gauteng	5 136	11 780	170	17 086
KwaZulu-Natal	7 358	13 762	334	21 454
Limpopo	4 421	6 965	231	11 617
Mpumalanga	2 375	3 569	130	6 074
North West	2 450	4 090	150	6 690
Northern Cape	1 213	1 671	72	2 956
Western Cape	4 518	7 830	85	12 433
Total	**34 321**	**59 570**	**1 549**	**95 440**

In terms of age, the average age of candidates was 44 years. This was the same as in 2016. The youngest candidates were two 18-year-old first-time voters, the first of whom stood for election on the PR list and Ward 79800017 in the City of Johannesburg in Gauteng. The other candidate also stood for election on the PR list in the City of Johannesburg.

The oldest candidate was 93 years old and stood for election on the PR list in eThekwini and Ward 59500033 in KwaZulu-Natal.

Consistent with a well-entrenched trend, there is a narrow gender gap in candidates on PR lists. In ward elections, almost two-thirds of the candidates are male, and one-third are female. The gender imbalance is even more pronounced among independent candidates, where males dominate at 87%, compared with 13% female candidates.

Table 20: Candidates' average gender for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Candidate Type	Percentage Male	Percentage Female
PR lists	55%	45%
Ward candidates	65%	35%
Independent candidates	87%	13%
Total average	62%	38%

The 2021 Municipal Elections saw the continued use of the online candidate nomination system (OCNS). The benefits of the OCNS for parties and independent candidates can be summarised as follows:

- Parties had better control over the capturing of nominated candidates.
- Contestants (political parties and independent candidates) did not have to physically appear at every municipal office.
- Contestants were able to confirm the eligibility of candidates at the point of capture.
- Acceptance of nomination was generated by the system and only needed to be signed by the candidate before being scanned back into the system.
- Capturing could commence before the opening of nominations. The final submission of candidates could, however, only be made once the election was proclaimed.
- A facility to upload the candidate list from an Excel spreadsheet was provided to prevent parties from duplicating effort.
- Reports generated by the OCNS would enable monitoring of the process of candidate nomination by parties and independent candidates.
- Election deposits were calculated by the OCNS based on the indication of which municipalities or wards were to be contested.
- Payment could be made electronically through an online payment gateway.

The OCNS was designed as a response to the many challenges emanating from candidate nominations in previous municipal elections. Parties were generally satisfied with the efficacy of the system.

An amendment to the Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act, 2000, required parties to file signed Acceptance of Nomination notices and copies of ID and only submit these upon request by the Commission. This greatly reduced the number of candidates disqualified due to the non-submission of documents.

Given allegations of parties and candidates being locked out of the OCNS during capturing, the Electoral Commission will be investigating technology to monitor the system to verify such allegations. This is necessary for strengthening the credibility of the candidate nomination process.

Party Liaison Committees

One of the functions of the Electoral Commission is to establish and maintain liaisons and cooperation with parties.

To facilitate such liaison and cooperation, the Commission established Party Liaison Committees (PLCs) in terms of Regulations on Party Liaison Committees, 1998. These committees serve as vehicles for consultation and cooperation between the Electoral Commission and registered political parties on electoral matters in a transparent manner.

In addition, the committees serve as valuable conflict-resolution forums. The following are among the issues discussed at PLCs:

- Amendment to legislation: when the Commission is considering any changes to legislation, the National PLC (NPLC) is consulted.
- Delimitation: Municipal PLCs were consulted on the boundaries of voting districts and the location of voting stations.
- Recruitment of Presiding Officers: The names of recruited Presiding Officers were placed before PLCs and political parties were given ample opportunity to submit written objections to a proposed Presiding Officer.
- COVID-19: Conducting voter registration and elections amidst a pandemic and lockdown regulations.
- Possible postponement of the 2021 Municipal Elections.
- In terms of Section 11 of the Municipal Electoral Act, the Commission must compile an election timetable for municipal elections and must publish the election timetable after consultation with the NPLC. On 20 September 2021, the Minister of CoGTA proclaimed the municipal elections. The election timetable was published in the Government Gazette on 20 September 2021.

In the build-up to the 2021 Municipal Elections, the following organisations had engagements with the NPLC:

- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Health
- Information Regulator
- Google
- Facebook
- TikTok
- Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster
- Human Sciences Research Council
- Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
- Municipal Demarcation Board
- South African National Editors Forum
- National Joint Operations and Intelligence Structure

- South African Broadcasting Corporation
- Independent Communications Authority of South Africa

In terms of the Regulation on Party Liaison Committees, 1998, only registered and represented parties may attend PLC meetings. In preparation for the 2021 Municipal Elections, the Electoral Commission co-opted registered, but unrepresented parties in terms of Regulation 4 of the Regulation on Party Liaison Committees, 1998.

Unlike in previous elections, where PLCs held face-to-face meetings, such meetings were conducted online – mostly through Zoom and Skype for Business – during the 2021 Municipal Elections period in compliance with COVID-19 regulations.

PLCs across the country continued to meet at the ROCs on Election Day and during the results capturing process to discuss electoral matters that required resolution before the declaration of results.

A total of 1 590 PLC meetings were held across the national, provincial and municipal spheres between 1 April and 30 November 2021; this being the period of heightened activity in respect of the preparation and conduct of the 2021 Municipal Elections.

Political Party Funding in the Context of the 2021 Municipal Elections
Promulgation of the Political Party Funding Act

On 1 April 2021, a little over six months before the country hosted the 2021 Municipal Elections, new legislation enacted to provide for and regulate the public and private funding of political parties came into effect. The Political Party Funding Act, among others, provided for the creation of two funds to systematically and regularly provide funding to political parties represented in the national and/or provincial legislatures.

The legislation also provided for the prohibition of certain donations made directly to political parties, the regulation of disclosure of donations accepted by parties, as well as the definition of powers and duties of the Electoral Commission, which is the institution charged with the overall responsibility of administering the legislation.

Critical Functions of the Electoral Commission: Political Party Funding and Disclosure

Among many and varied functions defined in the legislation, two were most critical in the run-up to the 2021 elections: the timely release of political party funding to qualifying political parties, and the publication of political party donation disclosures.

The former was particularly focal as it was necessary to enable the parties to finance their electioneering programmes and, therefore, adequately prepare for the forthcoming elections. The latter was critical as the legislation is founded on the principles of transparency and openness in the funding of political parties and is thus of greater interest to the electorate.

By the time the municipal elections were held on 1 November 2021, the Commission had successfully processed three quarterly payments for qualifying political parties. These were in terms of the payment schedule that the Commission had proclaimed at the start of the financial year. Most significantly, the Commission fast-tracked the release of the third quarterly payment (October 2021) to avail the much-needed financial resources to the political parties in time for the November elections.

Fourteen of the 15 represented political parties were paid their third quarterly allocation in the period just before the November 2021 elections. The combined value of payments for the quarter was R42 505 302.52. The only political party that did not receive its allocation was the African Independent Congress, which did not comply with the legislative requirements.

Overall, a total amount of R127 243 242.82, covering allocation for the first three quarters of the financial year 2021/22, was disbursed to qualifying represented political parties by the time the elections were held.

Concerning the publication of political party financial disclosures, the Commission, guided by specific provisions in the Political Party Funding Act issued the first-ever disclosure report on 9 September 2021. This publication, which was the first of its kind for the country since the attainment of democracy, evoked vast and numerous debates among various players, ranging from media houses, political commentators and civil society organisations to members of the general public. Debate ranged from the value of donations, and parties that made declarations and those that did not, to donations from foreign sources and overall compliance by parties.

The implementation of the Political Party Funding Act in the period leading up to the 2021 Municipal Elections proved a major success. Despite the elections being held in six months or so from the date of implementation, the Commission was successful in ensuring that the implementation of the Act did not in any way impede the successful hosting of the elections, but rather contributed positively to the process.

11. Recruitment and Training of Staff

The Electoral Commission introduced its newly developed e-recruitment system to assist with the large-scale recruitment of various categories of electoral staff. The system was well received. It was, however, not used to the exclusion of the traditional recruitment processes as it was the first time that it had been used for the main election event. It is envisaged that the system will increasingly be utilised as the only method of recruitment henceforth.

Registration Weekend Staff

Various categories of election staff were recruited at the municipal local level to assist with the registration weekend in September 2021, as well as to conduct the 2021 Municipal Elections at 23 148 voting stations countrywide. For the registration weekend, approximately 49 476 electoral staff members were recruited.

Table 21: Recruitment numbers for the 2021 Municipal Elections registration weekend in September 2021

Province	Recruitment Numbers
Eastern Cape	9 956
Free State	3 128
Gauteng	6 550
KwaZulu-Natal	11 137
Limpopo	6 501
Mpumalanga	3 614
Northern Cape	1 451
North West	3 844
Western Cape	3 295
TOTAL	**49 476**

Table 22: Registration staff by cultural group for the 2021 Municipal Elections registration weekend in September 2021

Cultural Groups

Province	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
Eastern Cape	9 682	267	0	7	9 956
Free State	3 086	38	0	4	3 128
Gauteng	6 320	179	20	31	6 550
KwaZulu-Natal	10 854	41	235	7	11 137
Limpopo	6 488	6	0	7	6 501
Mpumalanga	3 590	20	0	4	3 614
North West	3 782	47	1	14	3 844
Northern Cape	668	746	2	35	1 451
Western Cape	1 203	2 005	7	80	3 295
Total	**45 673**	**3 349**	**265**	**189**	**49 476**

Provision was also made for area managers who mainly fulfil coordination, monitoring and logistical roles. The total number of appointed area managers was 4 896. They were appointed for the full electoral cycle, including the registration weekend and the election.

Table 23: Statistics on distribution of area managers by province and cultural groups for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Area Managers by Province and Cultural Groups

Province	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
Eastern Cape	742	29	0	2	773
Free State	351	3	0	1	355
Gauteng	536	28	2	14	580
KwaZulu-Natal	983	6	15	1	1 005
Limpopo	608	0	0	1	609
Mpumalanga	409	2	0	1	412
North West	396	10	1	11	418
Northern Cape	98	131	0	3	232
Western Cape	171	311	2	28	512
Total	**4 294**	**520**	**20**	**62**	**4 896**

A total of 347 staff members were appointed to assist with the data capturing of special votes applications, while additional provision was made for 215 general administrative assistants to assist with the capturing and scanning of results.

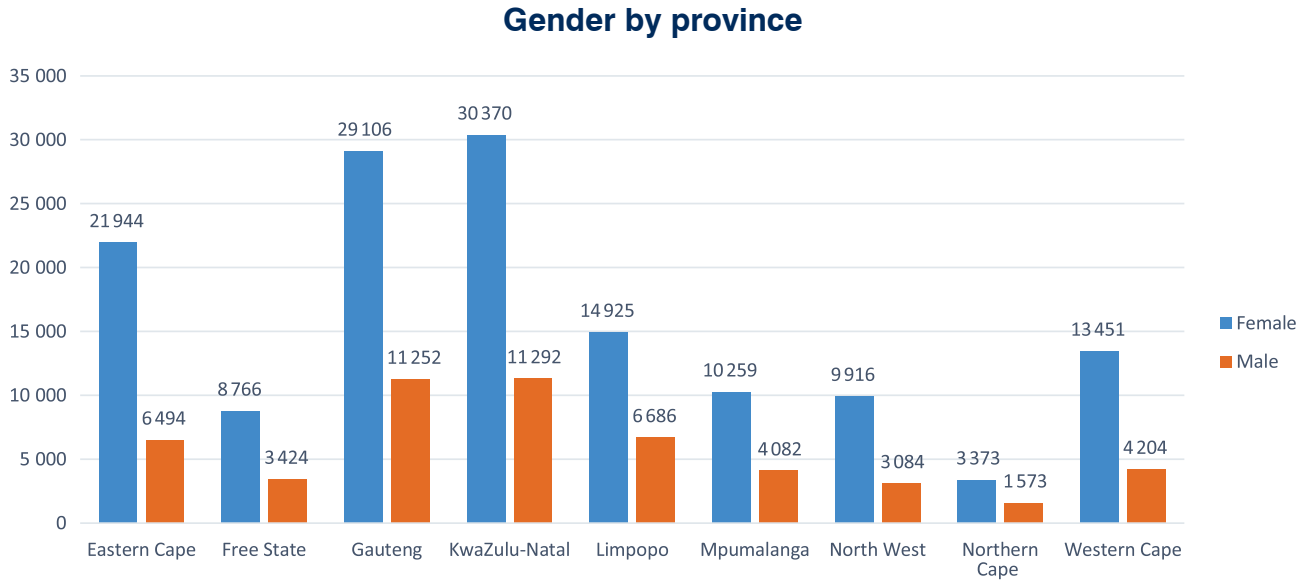
In line with the approved recruitment criteria, in the drafting of advertisements, consideration was given to gender, citizenship, employment status, voter registration status, language, age, disability, prior electoral experience and literacy. Emphasis was furthermore placed on knowledge and familiarity with modern technology for the management of the newly introduced VMDs.

The recruitment and selection process of registration staff was done locally according to the specified guidelines, as well as via the e-recruitment system.

Voting Staff

Various categories of election staff were recruited at the municipal and local level to assist with the registration weekend in September 2021, as well as to conduct the 2021 Municipal Elections at 23 148 voting stations countrywide. For the Voting Days, approximately approximately 194 200 electoral staff members were recruited.

Figure 14: Statistics on the gender breakdown of electoral staff in the 2021 Municipal Elections



Persons with a high party-political profile or office bearers of a political party are not qualified to serve as election officers. The names of Presiding Officers (PO) and Deputy Presiding Officers (DPO) were submitted to the local PLCs, where political parties had the opportunity to raise substantive objections to the appointment of any individual.

Details of the 194 505 staff were captured on the customised ESS business application, and POs and DPOs were mostly drawn from the existing pool of staff who gained experience during previous elections. The appointment was furthermore subjected to the successful completion and passing of training assessments.

Table 24: Statistics on electoral staff recruited for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Province	November 2021
Eastern Cape	28 442
Free State	12 190
Gauteng	40 661
KwaZulu-Natal	41 662
Limpopo	21 611
Mpumalanga	14 341
Northern Cape	4 946
North West	13 000
Western Cape	17 655
TOTAL	**194 201**

Table 25: Statistics on electoral staff recruited for the 2021 Municipal Elections by cultural group

Province	African	Coloured	Indian	White	Total
Eastern Cape	27 417	999	0	22	28 438
Free State	12 009	169	0	12	12 190
Gauteng	39 216	957	69	116	40 358
KwaZulu-Natal	40 528	175	926	33	41 662
Limpopo	21 569	32	0	10	21 611
Mpumalanga	14 271	63	1	6	14 341
North West	12 820	146	3	31	13 000
Northern Cape	2 450	2 423	7	66	4 946
Western Cape	7 499	9 766	32	358	17 655
Total	**177 779**	**14 730**	**1 038**	**654**	**194 201**

Figure 15: Statistics on the age breakdown of electoral staff in the 2021 Municipal Elections

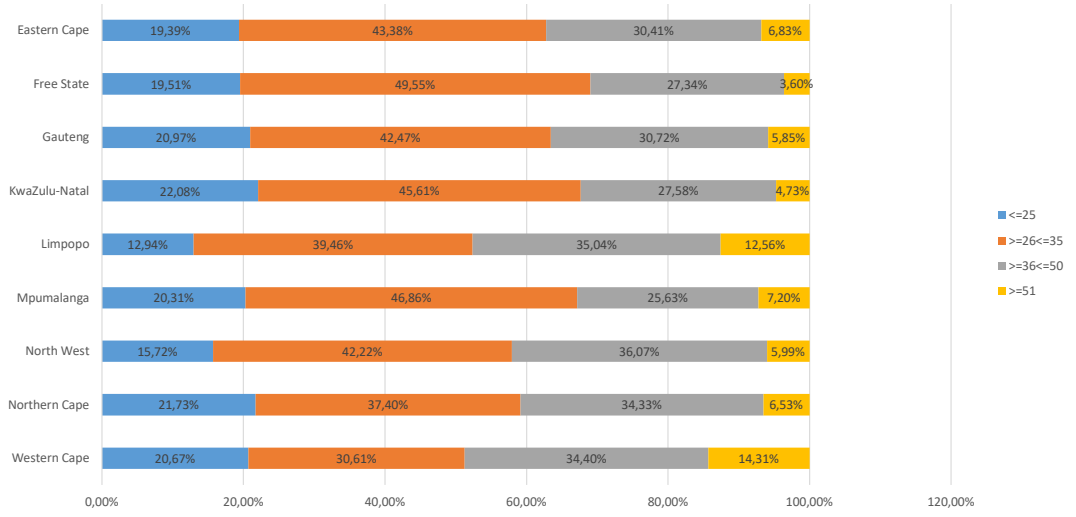


Figure 16: Statistics on electoral staff recruited for the 2021 Municipal Elections by employment status per province

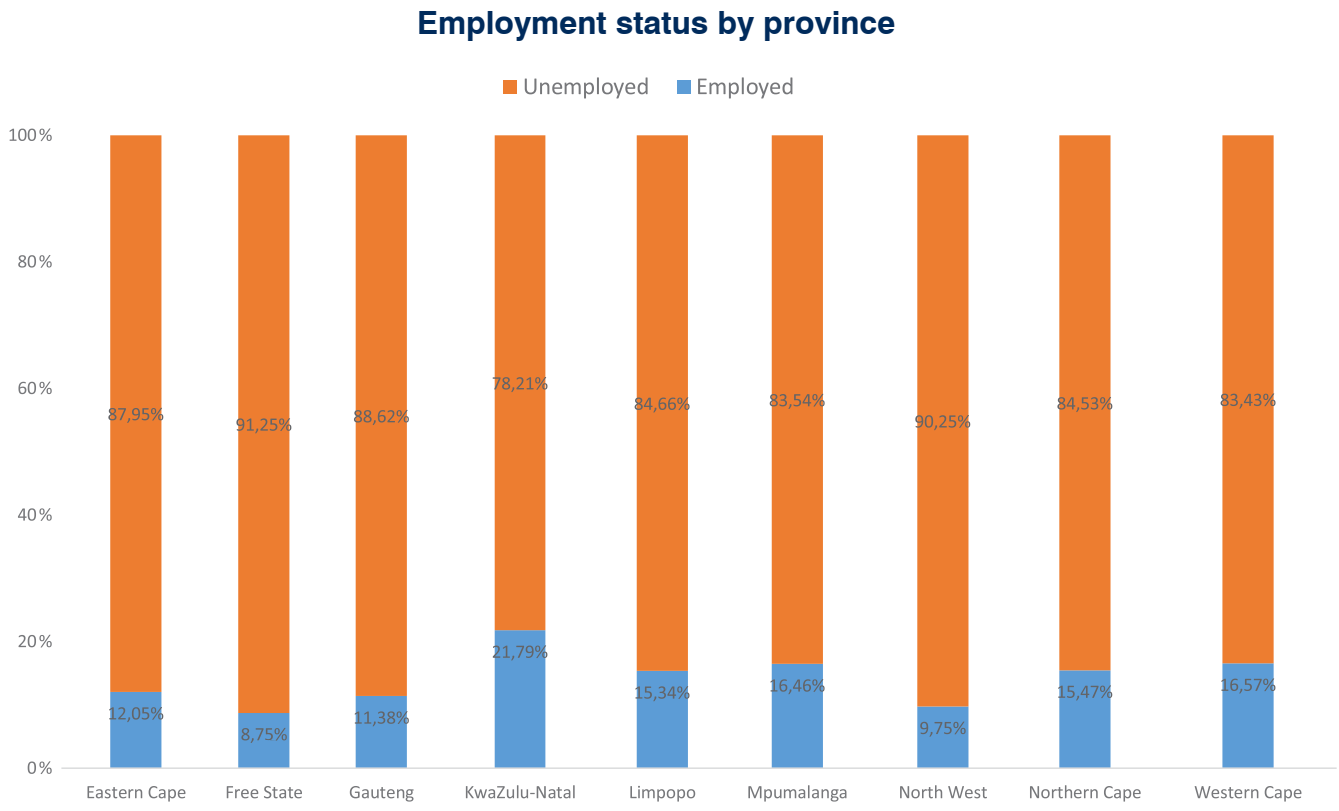


Table 26: Statistics on electoral staff recruited for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Male voting officers	52 177	27%
Female voting officers	142 328	73%
Unemployed	165 717	85%
Employed	28 788	15%
Teachers	8 746	4%
Non-teachers	185 759	96%
Age breakdown:		
<25	38 104	20%
>25 <35	82 646	42%
>36 <50	59 658	31%
>51	14 097	7%

Payment of Electoral Staff

Recruited staff received a basic honorarium to assist with travel expenditure to attend training events, to conduct the registration event, to work on special Voting Days, and/or on Election Day, and to undertake the counting of the ballots. The ESS was again used to facilitate payment after the completion of the counting of votes. In terms of legislative requirements, staff had to be paid via the official payroll to determine the correct statutory deductions per person.

The payment was done through electronic transfer into verified bank accounts. This resulted in the payment of most of the electoral staff approximately two months after the event. A small percentage of payments were hindered due to the delayed or incorrect provision of banking details, and the delayed finalisation of the required payment documentation.

Human Resource Development

The COVID-19 pandemic happened as the Electoral Commission was already in the process of introducing a digital learning platform for both permanent members of staff and voting station staff. As the Electoral Commission utilises internal capacity to train the trainers and voting station staff, it is imperative that all trainers at national and provincial levels obtain uniformed and standardised training content. The introduction of e-learning is one of the mediums in which training was conducted, over and above the classroom approach. Since elections carry both an aspect of theory and practice, a combination of both methodologies is necessary. For the first time in the history of the Electoral Commission, interactive e-learning content was made available on a digital platform.

Material Development

The availability of well-written and user-friendly training material is a cornerstone in ensuring that the voting station staff are efficient and knowledgeable. The training material is used during training sessions and is also provided at the voting station level as a form of reference by electoral staff. To enhance the transparency of the electoral processes, all training materials are shared with stakeholders, including political parties.

In preparation for the 2021 Municipal Elections, two training modules and two election diaries were developed for the registration event.

Table 27: Training materials developed for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Registration training material	Election training material
Module 1: Introduction to the Electoral Commission	Module 3: Special Voting
Module 2: Registration Guide	Module 4: Voting
Registration Diary	Module 5: Counting
Area Manager Diary and Poster Pack	Area Manager, Voting Station and Voting Centre Diaries
	Election Poster Pack

Training Model

Considering the large number of voting station staff that need to be trained, the Electoral Commission is still utilising the cascading model and has since also introduced an e-learning platform where learners can learn at their own pace. The train-the-trainer approach starts at a national level and culminates with the training of voting station staff at a local level.

Trainers are equipped with various training techniques to disseminate information to trainees in a simple, easy-to-understand manner. The assessment of the three key voting station staff members, Presiding Officer, Deputy Presiding Officer and Voter's Roll Officer/ Voter Management Device Operator, is conducted. They must all attain a minimum of 80% to be declared competent and considered for appointment.

In developing training materials, COVID-19 protocols were considered to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both the electoral staff and the electorate.

Training of election officials on the voter management device in progress

Voter Management Device

The introduction of the VMD was another critical milestone of the Electoral Commission in improving its services to the electorate openly and transparently. Operating training manuals and demonstration videos were also developed for training on the utilisation of the new device. To this end, voting station staff were extensively trained on the utilisation of the device, and both a written operating manual and technical support were provided during training, as well as on registration and Election Days.

Electoral Commission CEO, Simon Mamabolo (centre), in the field assisting staff during the voter management device dry-run ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections.

Training of Electoral Staff

All applicants for the electoral staff positions were encouraged to complete Module 1 on the e-learning platform and pass the assessments to be considered for appointment.

Effective election training is always a combination of the theoretical content and the practical aspect where the application of such knowledge must be performed and assessed. The blended training approach was adopted for the registration training, where training was conducted through e-learning (online training) and contact sessions, with the latter in line with COVID-19 protocols. All staff had to complete an assessment and attain a satisfactory performance to be eligible for appointment. Trainees were afforded two opportunities to do the assessment. Thereafter, the system would be closed.

The e-learning election training modules were finalised before the elections, and electoral staff members who had completed the training were encouraged to access the courses for continuous learning to sharpen their knowledge and skills.

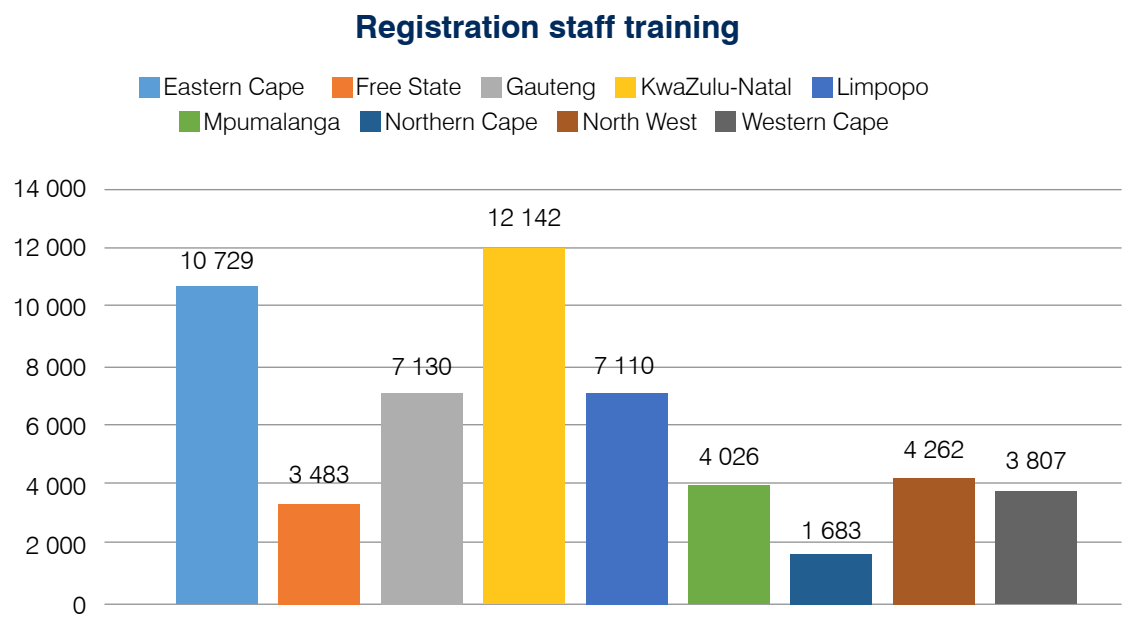
Table 28: Number of staff who accessed e-learning training modules in the 2021 Municipal Elections

e-Learning: Moodle reports

	Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4	Module 5
Enrolled	24 394	24 347	24 341	24 378	24 385

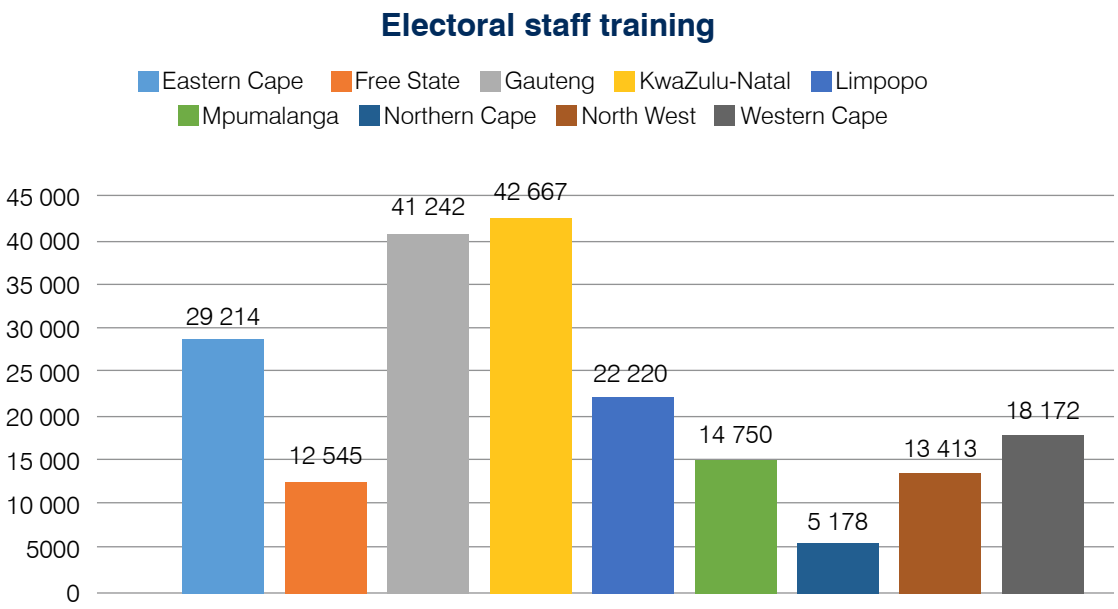
A total of 54 372 registration staff members were trained for the registration event as indicated in Figure 17.

Figure 17: Registration staff trained for the 2021 Municipal Elections by province



The traditional contact sessions were used in areas where the e-learning platform could not be accessed due to the country's digital divide. A total of 199 401 staff members were trained for the election event as depicted in Figure 18.

Figure 18: Electoral staff trained for the 2021 Municipal Elections by province



Training of Other Stakeholders

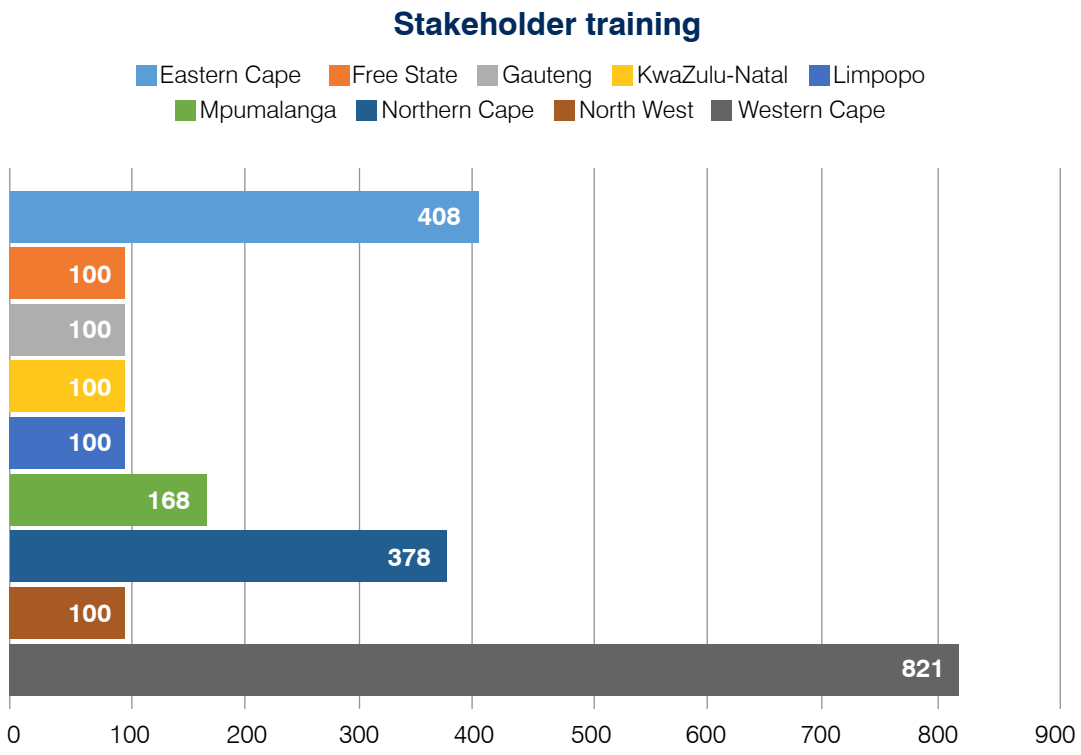
Representatives of political parties participating in the elections were trained at a local level. The train-the-trainer approach was used where members were expected to train their party agents.

All other stakeholders who requested training, as well as those who will be participating in the election in one way or another, were also trained at a local level. The purpose of these training sessions is to enhance the transparency of the electoral processes and promote and abide by the rules of a democratic election.

The number of political party agents and other stakeholders trained per province is indicated in Figure 19.

The Electoral Commission training political party representatives on voting station processes, including the new voter management device ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections

Figure 19: Stakeholders trained for the 2021 Municipal Elections by province



Call Centre Staff Training

The introduction of the VMD was another critical means to provide information on or before both the registration and election events, the Electoral Commission once again established a contact centre. Contact centre agents are appointed and trained to ensure they can aid members of the public and respond to any election-related queries. These agents receive the same training that is provided to voting station staff to ensure consistency.

DELIVERING THE ELECTIONS

Ballot
Box
Ballot
Box

DELIVERING THE ELECTIONS

12. Infrastructure and Logistics

The conclusion of the candidate nomination process culminated in the approval and production of ballot papers. All electoral supplies are also distributed to various warehouses and prepared for eventual delivery to a point of service, which is a voting station.

Ballot Papers

For the 2021 Municipal Elections, approximately 72.8 million ballot papers were produced to serve 26 204 579 million voters. The ballot papers were printed in South Africa on standard 80 gsm bond paper, in full colour and with security features built into the ballot design. Approximately 650 tons of locally sourced paper was used.

The technical specifications of the ballot papers were drawn up and milestones were put in place in advance. The final design of the ballot papers only took place in the weeks before the election once the candidates and political parties had been confirmed.

Following the certification of the voters' roll, the number of registered voters within the demarcated voting districts was used to confirm the total number of ballot papers required and the specific ballot requirements of each voting station.

Ballots were produced in booklets of 100 ballot papers, and each voting station was allocated a sufficient number of ballot books to service every registered voter. As part of the technical and security specifications of the ballot design, the ballots were serially numbered on the counterfoils to improve controls and accuracy of counting. Each ballot was detached from the counterfoil when issued to the voter. The highly developed ballot design also incorporated secret security features to prevent copying and other fraud-related risks.

The packaging of ballot papers required special labelling and distribution management to ensure the correct ballots were delivered at the right place at the right time and in the correct quantities. The printers delivered the ballot papers directly to the Electoral Commission's warehouses under security escort.

Printing of the 72.8 million ballot papers was shared between six printing presses/sites in the Gauteng, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces. Quality assurers and monitors appointed by the Electoral Commission closely managed and monitored the number, allocation, printing, quality, finishing, distribution and verification of ballot papers at every step. The ballot paper quality monitors were present at all the printing sites until the last ballot was printed.

The ballot paper design used for the 2021 Municipal Elections was first introduced during the 2019 National and Provincial Elections, based on the outcome of research conducted by the HSRC. The research proposed enhancements in the re-ordering of the sequence of party identifiers on the ballot paper as follows: (in the case of a ward ballot) the candidate's name first, followed by the party abbreviation/acronym (where one has been registered), with a logo of the party or photograph (in case of an independent candidate) last. These enhancements are easily observed when compared to the 2016 Municipal Elections ballots.

Additionally, the study recommended the separation of political parties that may have similar identifiers to avoid voters inadvertently miscasting their ballots.

There were three different types of ballot papers involved in the 2021 Municipal Elections:

- **Ward ballot paper (with a brown/white background)** – every voter received a ward ballot paper. All candidates contesting a ward seat in the council appeared on this ballot.
- **District Council PR ballot paper (with a green background)** – in local municipalities, a district council (DC) must be constituted. Every voter in a local municipality (non-metro) received a DC PR ballot paper. All political parties registered to contest the elections within a DC area appeared on this ballot. The ballot showed the party name, official abbreviation and logo. No individual's name appeared.
- **PR Council ballot paper (with a yellow background)** – every municipality (be it a metro or a local municipality) received a PR Council ballot paper. All political parties registered to contest seats in a PR Council appeared on this ballot. The ballot showed the party name, official abbreviation and logo. No individual's name appeared.

2021 Municipal Elections ballot design
Ward ballot paper

2021 Municipal Elections ballot design
District Council PR ballot paper

2021 Municipal Elections ballot design
PR Council ballot paper

Table 29: Unique ballot papers printed for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Ballot Type	Number Printed
Ward ballots	4 468
DC ballots	44
Metro Council ballots	8
Local Council ballots	205
Total	**4 725**

Table 30: Total ballot papers printed for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Ballot Type	Number Printed
Ward ballots	27 909 500
PR ballots	27 909 500
DC ballots	17 023 700
Total ballots printed	**72 842 700**

The shortest ballot paper printed for the 2021 Municipal Elections was the ward ballot for Eastern Cape 102 – Blue Crane Route, with three candidates. The longest ballot paper printed was the City of Johannesburg's PR ballot, with 54 parties.

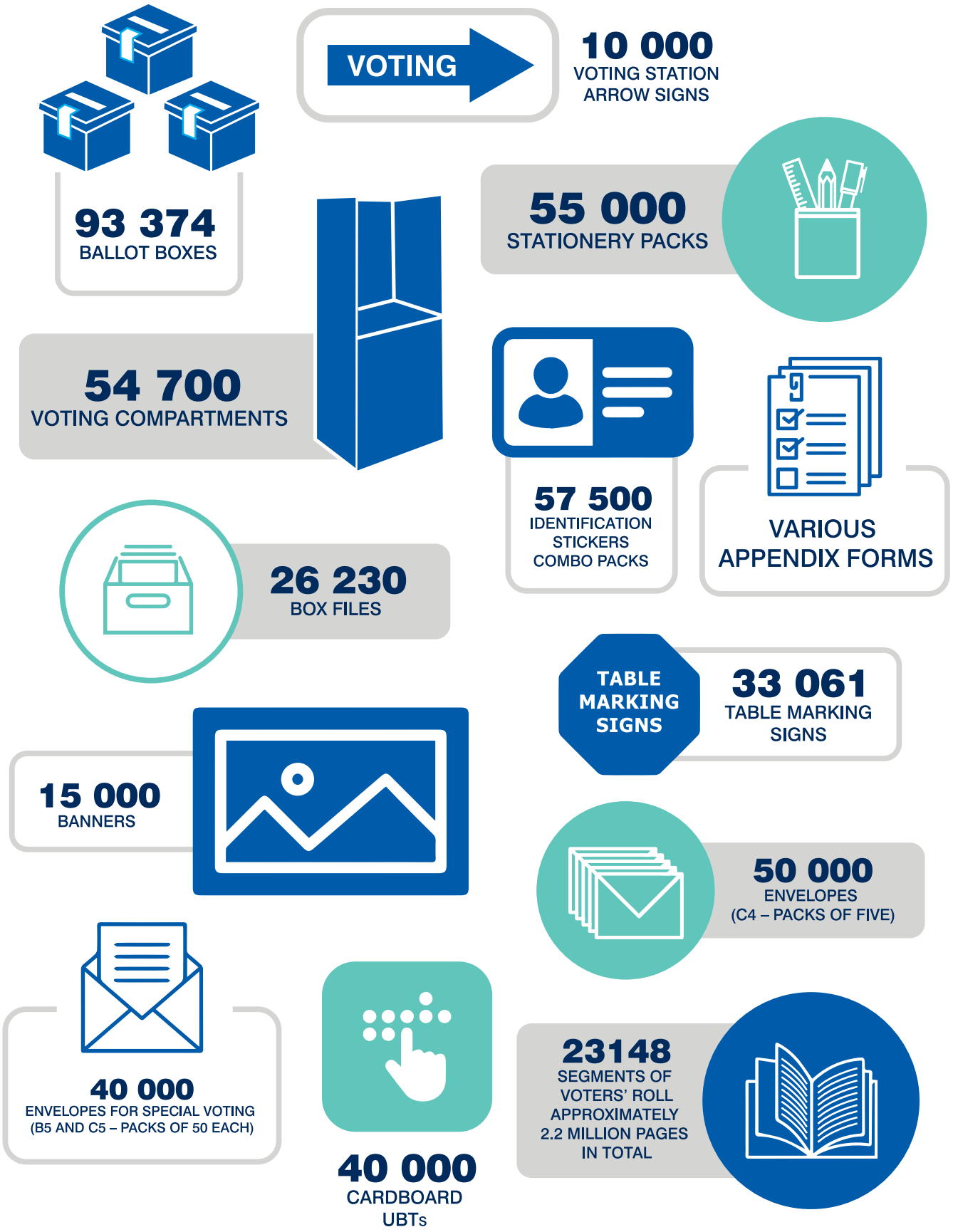
Once the ballot papers had been printed, packaged and labelled, they were securely dispatched to the nine provincial warehouses from which they were delivered to the respective Municipal Electoral Office's storage facilities, and later dispatched to the 23 148 voting stations established for the 2021 Municipal Elections.

Ballot Boxes, PPEs and other Election Materials

Planning for the production of election materials – including ballot papers – began 18 months before the election when the Commission's Logistics and Infrastructure Department began preparing a Bill of Materials (BoM) detailing all the different physical items required for use at voting stations during the elections.

The Electoral Commission, as is common practice, made use of recyclable cardboard ballot boxes, cardboard voting booths, and cardboard tables and chairs. These items are relatively inexpensive to produce, economical to transport and do not require high-volume storage after the elections.

The final BoM used at voting stations on Voting Day contained 52 items, which included general electoral items, security materials, and personal protective equipment (PPE), among others. These general items included the following:



Security materials were handled separately from the mainstream general electoral material deliveries. These items, designed and applied to ensure and protect the integrity of the voting process, included:

Personal protective equipment was only recently added to the existing BoM, as a response to the call to reduce exposure to COVID-19.

To mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, the following PPE was procured and used during the 2021 Municipal Election events:

30 000
DISPOSABLE FACE MASKS

111 502
DISPOSABLE ISOLATION GOWNS

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE
1.5 m

376 200
SOCIAL DISTANCE MARKERS

110 000
BIOHAZARD BAGS

67 000
HAND SANITISER SPRAYS, 500 ML

102 211
HAND SANITISER SPRAYS, 100 ML

15 332
PLASTIC APRONS

40 000
DISPOSABLE SANITISER WIPES, 5 LITRE

170 000
ZIPLOCK BAGS

The Electoral Commission's e-procurement system, VotaQuotes, was used extensively to procure electoral supplies and materials. This system offers a transparent method of competitive bidding for suppliers and yielded good results overall.

The Electoral Commission established a well-defined distribution network between its suppliers and the nine provincial warehouses. A long-term service provider is contracted to provide the necessary vehicles and resources for transporting materials between sites and to support the Electoral Commission with various warehouse services (e.g. forklifts) since the organisation does not own trucks or heavy equipment. A secondary distribution network was established to service the 290 municipal areas during the election period.

Distribution costs were contained by having suppliers deliver bulk materials directly to provincial warehouses in pre-determined quantities. Handling costs for the Electoral Commission were minimised by the careful design of material parcels and packages. As far as possible, items were pre-packed at the point of production for direct use at the voting station.

A secondary distribution network using localised service providers was established to service the voting stations within the 290 municipal areas during the election period, using the most practical and cost-effective means of transport available in each area.

Upon completion of the election process, all electoral materials and valuable equipment were returned to the Electoral Commission's storage sites. Transport for this process was contracted. The sealed ballot boxes containing used ballot papers were included in this rollback, and these will be securely stored for the legally prescribed period, after which secure disposal will take place.

13. Litigation

The Electoral Commission anticipated that the 2021 Municipal Elections would be fiercely contested and, as a result, would require stringent enforcement of the Electoral Code of Conduct.

The Directorate for Electoral Offences was mandated to do the following:

- Investigate all complaints of alleged transgressions of prohibited conduct and provisions of the Electoral Code of Conduct.
- Obtain statements, affidavits, documents and other evidentiary proof, and evaluate these to verify the veracity of the complaints and/or infringements.
- Compile a file with all the relevant information and evidence concerning every complaint, and make recommendations to the Chief Electoral Officer, on a case-by-case basis, whether the alleged transgressions should be referred to the Electoral Court or other law enforcement authorities for further investigation.
- Monitor the nature of the transgressions and compile a report on them.

The Electoral Commission received a substantial number of complaints in respect of alleged transgressions of the Code of Conduct. Overall, 54 complaints were received relating to campaigning, the content of election posters, and alleged intimidation. The Electoral Commission responded to all complainants, thereby resolving the majority (47) of the complaints. Seven complaints were referred to the Electoral Commission's external panel of attorneys for investigation and recommendations. The Electoral Commission finalised all the complaints before the 2021 Municipal Elections.

In the 2019 elections, a significant court case subsequently emerged from the Code of Conduct complaints. This case arose when the Good Party lodged a complaint against the Democratic Alliance (DA), in which the Good Party alleged that the DA had violated Item 9(1)(b) of the Electoral Code of Conduct by making a false statement that it had "fired" the Good Party's member, Ms Patricia de Lille.

The Electoral Commission made an adverse finding against the DA, in which it directed the DA to cease and desist from making any further false statements concerning Ms de Lille being "fired from the DA" and to issue an apology to Ms de Lille for the publication of this false statement.

The DA approached the Electoral Court to review this adverse finding made by the Electoral Commission. On 19 June 2019, the Electoral Court found that the Electoral Commission had no power or authority to adjudicate an issue that is not administrative in nature (as required by Section 5(1)(o) of the Electoral Commission Act), nor did the Electoral Commission have the power or authority to issue or prescribe a remedy for such violations of the Code of Conduct.

The Electoral Commission then lodged an appeal with the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) against the judgment made by the Electoral Court and anticipates the court's directive with respect to its powers to adjudicate on matters that are not administrative.

Judgment was received on 23 July 2021, and the court dismissed the appeal.

The SCA concurred with the finding of the Electoral Court and held that the Commission indeed had no power under Section 190 of the Constitution or Section 5(1) (o) of the Electoral Commission Act (ECA) to make a finding that the Code has been contravened or to take remedial action under it, as the DA's guidelines fell outside the confines of Section 5(1)(o) of the ECA. Furthermore, the SCA held that the decision of the Commission violated the principle of legality.

It further held that the Commission had no power under the Constitution, the Electoral Act or the Electoral Commission Act to make a finding that the Electoral Act or the Code had been contravened, or to impose a sanction for such contravention. At best, the Commission is empowered in terms of Section 103A of the Electoral Act to resolve a complaint about an infringement of the Code through conciliation.

14. Voting: Special Voting, Election Day and Voter Participation

Special Voting Days took place on the two days preceding Election Day, on the weekend of 30 and 31 October 2021. This was a marked change from most previous elections in South Africa, when Voting Days were held on a Wednesday, with special Voting Days on the preceding Monday and Tuesday.

Voters who were registered in metropolitan municipalities received two ballot papers at their voting stations: one to vote for a candidate to represent their ward and a second PR ballot to vote for a party to represent them in the municipal council. Voters registered in local council municipalities received three ballot papers: one for the ward, a second PR ballot for a party in the local council, and a third PR ballot for a party for the district council (DC 40% PR).

The different types of ballots were due to the mixed-member proportional electoral system that applies to municipal council elections (which combine PR and first-past-the-post systems).

On Election Day (1 November 2021), voting stations opened at 07:00 and closed at 21:00. Approximately 90% of voting stations had opened by the start of voting at 07:00, with the balance opening by 09:00. By the close of voting at 21;00, any voter standing in the queue within the boundaries of a voting station was allowed to vote.

The 2021 Municipal Elections were administered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Accordingly, health and safety controls were introduced at voting stations to minimise the spread of the virus. These controls included the following:

- All people inside voting stations were required to wear face coverings.
- Before entering voting stations, the hands of voters and officials were sanitised.
- All people inside voting stations were required to maintain a distance of 1,5 m from each other.
- Standard pens containing indelible ink to mark the finger of voters after voting were replaced with disposable cotton buds and liquid indelible ink.
- Voting officials were supplied with protective equipment, including masks and hand sanitisers.

Registered voters were allowed to vote by bringing their South African ID or smartcard to the voting station at which they were registered to vote. The voter's ID or card was scanned using a PBSU, which indicated whether the voter was registered to vote at that voting station and the sequence number of the voter on that VD segment of the voters' roll. A voter registered in another VD segment of the voters' roll would be re-directed to the correct voting station by a voting official.

Before the voter's name was marked off the paper copy of the voters' roll, the identity card or document of the voter was scanned using the VMD to determine whether the voter had already voted in the same election. This was facilitated by a real-time digital link to a computer server hosting the national voters' roll.

In addition and following the ruling of the Constitutional Court on 14 June 2016 relating to the Tlokwe by-elections, registered voters for whom the Commission did not have an address recorded on the voters' roll were required to provide their residential address to an election official. The details of the addresses of registered voters were recorded on the VMD.

Thereafter, the voter's left thumbnail was marked with indelible ink. Voters then received the relevant number and types of ballot papers that had been stamped on the back for authentication purposes, and voters proceeded to vote in secret.

In keeping with amendments to the law, voters who appeared on the certified voters' roll without an address were allowed to provide their address details on Voting Days. The VMD Voters' Roll Application required election officials to capture the details of voters without an address on the voters' roll before they could be allowed to vote. A total of 311 687 voter addresses were duly added to the voters' roll on Election Day in this manner.

Special Voting

Special voting in municipal elections was introduced in 2011 – ten years ago. The law provides for two categories of special voters: those who cannot travel to the voting station due to physical infirmity or disability, and those who can visit the voting station but who cannot do so on Voting Day. The election timetable for the 2021 Municipal Elections set aside 30 and 31 October 2021 for both types of special votes.

A voter who intended to cast a special vote was required to apply for a special vote between

20 September and 4 October 2021. Ahead of the previous municipal elections in 2016, the Municipal Electoral Act was amended to broaden how registered voters were able to apply for a special vote to include online and mobile telephone SMS applications, along with the existing method of applying in person (or causing an application to be delivered) at the Municipal Electoral Office responsible for the voting district where the voter was registered to vote.

In the 2021 Municipal Elections, the Electoral Commission received 1 147 759 applications for special votes, which represented 4% of the total number of registered voters. The number of special vote applications increased by 54% compared with the 2016 Municipal Elections (741 721 special vote applications). Of the 1 147 759 special vote applications received in the 2021 elections, 3% of the applications were declined. Accordingly, 1 110 330 special vote applications were approved for the 2021 Municipal Elections. Special vote applications were declined because applicants were not registered to vote or owing to the physical address of an applicant who applied for a home visit not being located in the same VD in which the applicant was registered to vote.

All special vote applicants were notified of the outcome of their application by way of a paper printout from the MEO on application, mobile telephone text message, or email, and applicants could check the outcome of their application on the Electoral Commission's website.

Of the 1 110 330 approved special vote applications, 586 335 special votes were cast on 30 and 31 October 2021. This represented a 52% special voter turnout, compared with a 56% special voter turnout in the 2016 Municipal Elections and 70% special voter turnout in 2011.

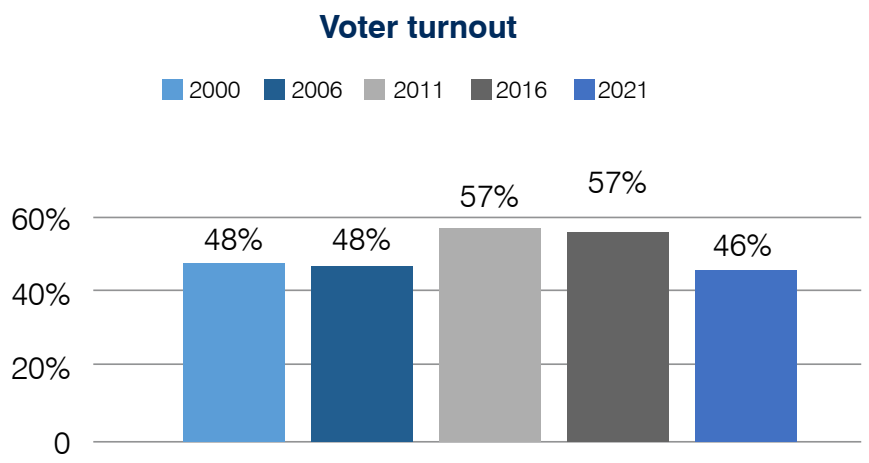
There is a reported phenomenon where voters are not aware of having applied for special votes. This means that electoral contestants apply on behalf of voters without authorisation. This matter requires resolution for the future.

Turnout and Participation

A total of 12 063 886 out of 26 204 579 registered voters voted in the 2021 Municipal Elections and 98 589 MEC 7 votes were cast. An MEC 7 vote is a vote cast when a voter's name does not appear on the VD segment of the voters' roll, yet the voter has proof of having applied to register as a voter in the VD in question before the date of proclamation. Consequently, the voter is deemed to be a registered voter in the VD in question and is provided with an MEC 7 vote. The number of MEC 7 votes cast was 98 589 in the 2021 Municipal Elections, compared with 55 893 in 2016, 54 655 in 2011, and 146 535 in 2006.

Voter turnout in the 2021 Municipal Elections was 45.87% – a marked decrease compared with previous municipal elections – as demonstrated in Figure 20.

Figure 20: Voter turnout (percentage) in the 2000 to 2021 Municipal Elections



The percentage of ballots that were regarded as being spoilt in the 2021 Municipal Elections stood at 1.92%, compared with 2016 (1.83%), 2011 (1.89%), 2006 (1.83%) and 2000 (2.36%).

The HSRC's voter satisfaction survey for the 2021 Municipal Elections revealed that 93% of voters found the voting procedures inside the voting station easy to very easy to understand (96% in 2016). The survey also found that 96% of voters were satisfied with the secrecy of the vote (97% in 2016), while 95% of voters believed that the 2021 Municipal Elections were free and fair (96% in 2016).

During the 2021 Municipal Elections, the HSRC found that voters were much more inclined to want to vote "if they feel the Commission will ensure their safety". The perception of the majority of voters was favourable that the Commission "will do enough to ensure the safety of voters".

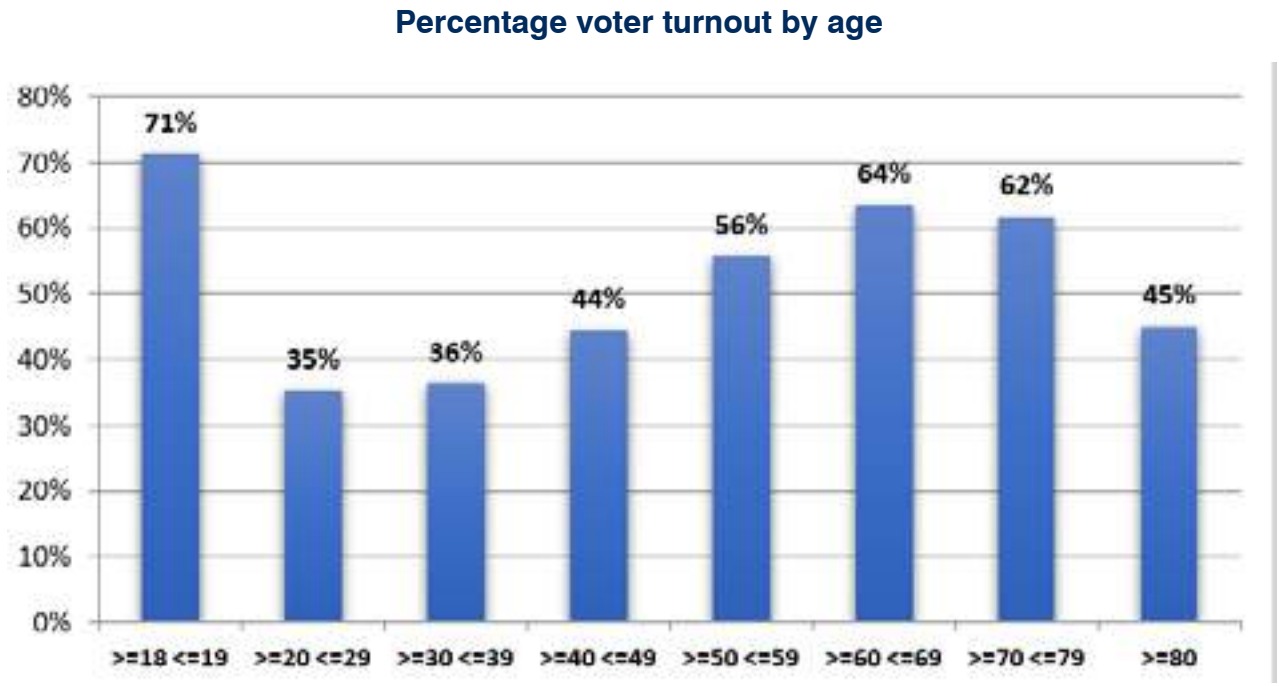
In addition, the domestic and international media, political parties, and domestic and international election observers judged the 2021 Municipal Elections to be free and fair.

As indicated on Election Day, election officials at voting stations scanned the IDs or cards of registered voters using the zip-zip machine and the VMD. This has three purposes:

1. To indicate to voting officials if the registered voter is registered to vote and their sequence number on the voters' roll;
2. To determine whether the voter has voted in the same elections; and,
3. To collect demographic information on voters who participated in the elections.

The results of this demographic information collected revealed encouraging levels of participation among registered voters aged 18 and 19, and in the 60- to 79-year age bands.

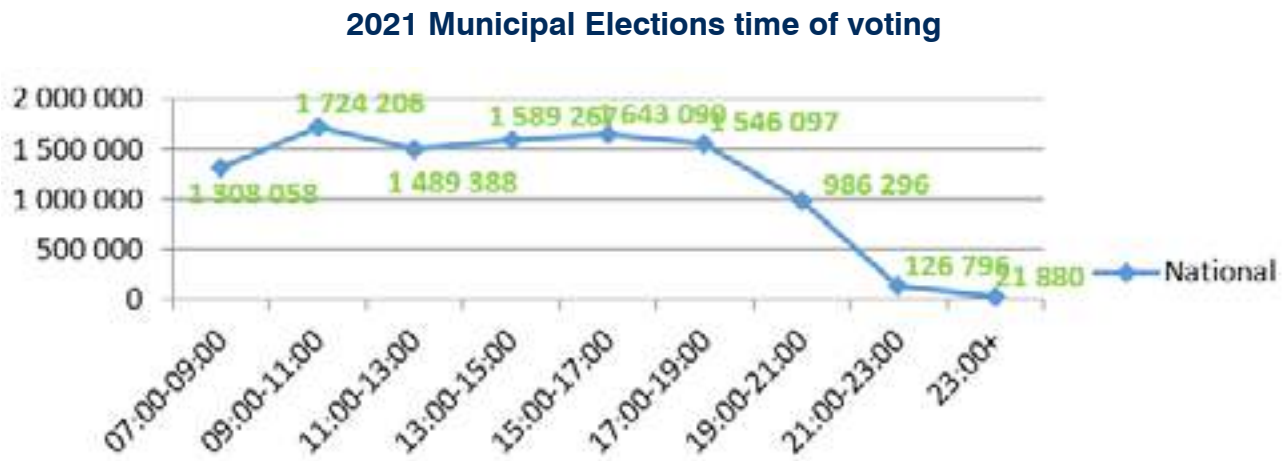
Figure 21: Voter turnout by age in the 2021 Municipal Elections



2021 Municipal Elections – Voter Turnout by Gender

In the 2021 Municipal Elections, the level of participation of registered voters who are women (58%) was also notably higher than that of men (42%), especially considering that 55% of registered voters are women and 45% are men. The profile of voters by gender was identical in the 2016 Municipal Elections.

Figure 22: Time of voting in the 2021 Municipal Elections



In the 2021 Municipal Elections, there was a relatively even spread of voters presenting themselves to vote at their voting stations on Election Day, which is a marked difference compared to the 2016 Municipal Elections when almost two out of every three registered voters that voted on Voting Day had done so by 11:00.

15. Digital Disinformation Reporting: A Multi-stakeholder Partnership to Combat Disinformation

Disinformation through digital platforms continues to manifest as one of the greatest threats to the freeness, fairness and credibility of elections the world over.

Disinformation is defined as false, inaccurate or misleading information designed to intentionally cause harm. Within an election context, this includes false information intended to unduly affect participation in, and the outcome of, elections.

In mitigation of this threat during the 2021 Municipal Elections, the Electoral Commission once again partnered with Media Monitoring Africa (MMA) and major social media platforms.

The Electoral Commission and MMA, which in 2019 launched a joint action to deal with disinformation, arranged with Google, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok in advance of the 2021 elections to work in support of its efforts to end the scourge of disinformation.

The partnerships were important because disinformation poses a threat to the exercise of various rights and to the access of constitutional protections, including freedom of expression, access to credible information, and the freedom to make informed political choices. Moreover, disinformation goes against the Electoral Code of Conduct and electoral laws.

The Electoral Commission and MMA used Real411 (available at www.real411.com), a system developed by the MMA, as a key component of their respective and combined efforts to deal with disinformation and misinformation.

The Commission and MMA also used separate software, known as PADRE (also available at www.real411.com), to identify and eliminate misinformation and disinformation contained in advertisements published in all media.

The social media platforms appointed persons or teams during the election period to prioritise referrals from the Commission. Actions taken by the platforms are in terms of their respective policies and may include the removal of the content, the publication of an advisory warning, and/or the delisting of the post.

Concerning advertising content by contestants, PADRE enabled all stakeholders to make use of this transparent repository of political advertisements. All political advertisements, including those targeted at individuals or specific groups using online media, should have been available through the repository. The purpose of the repository was to increase transparency and enable the verification of the authenticity of any political advertisement.

The digital disinformation-reporting platform formed part of the work of the Electoral Commission's Directorate of Electoral Offences, which was first established ahead of the 2016 Municipal Elections to investigate alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct and prohibited conduct as contained in the Electoral Act.

The Commission's Directorate operates when the election timetable has been proclaimed. It consists of a panel of independent attorneys appointed to investigate complaints and make recommendations for possible further action to the Commission.

The appointment of external legal capacity is designed to safeguard the independence and the integrity of the Electoral Commission concerning the investigation of such complaints.

Given the power and speed of social media, the cooperation with online platforms helped to enable the rapid submission and consideration of any complaints received concerning alleged disinformation.

Complaints were once again considered by a panel of relevant experts, including those with expertise in media law, social and digital media. They then made recommendations for possible further action for the consideration of the Commission.

Such action could include:

- Referring the matter to the Electoral Court.
- Referring the matter to social media platforms to act upon in terms of their respective policies and undertakings.
- Issuing media statements to alert the public and correct the disinformation.

In addition to the online reporting platform, the initiative also included the respective disinformation-related policies of the different platforms and information to help educate voters about the dangers of disinformation and to spot fake news. The partners also continued to use their policies and mechanisms to counter disinformation as a contribution to the collective effort to eradicate falsehoods.

The Real411 project ran for six weeks from mid-September to 8 November 2021. During this period, 42 complaints reported to the Real411 system were elections complaints.

Further factors that may have contributed to the lower levels include that municipal elections tend to receive fewer media coverage generally and this, combined with the tight deadlines and focus on COVID-19, helped to provide lower levels of complaints.

The most common platform to be reported was Twitter (43%), followed by other websites and platforms (26%).

Table 31: Real411 complaints by the platform in the 2021 Municipal Elections

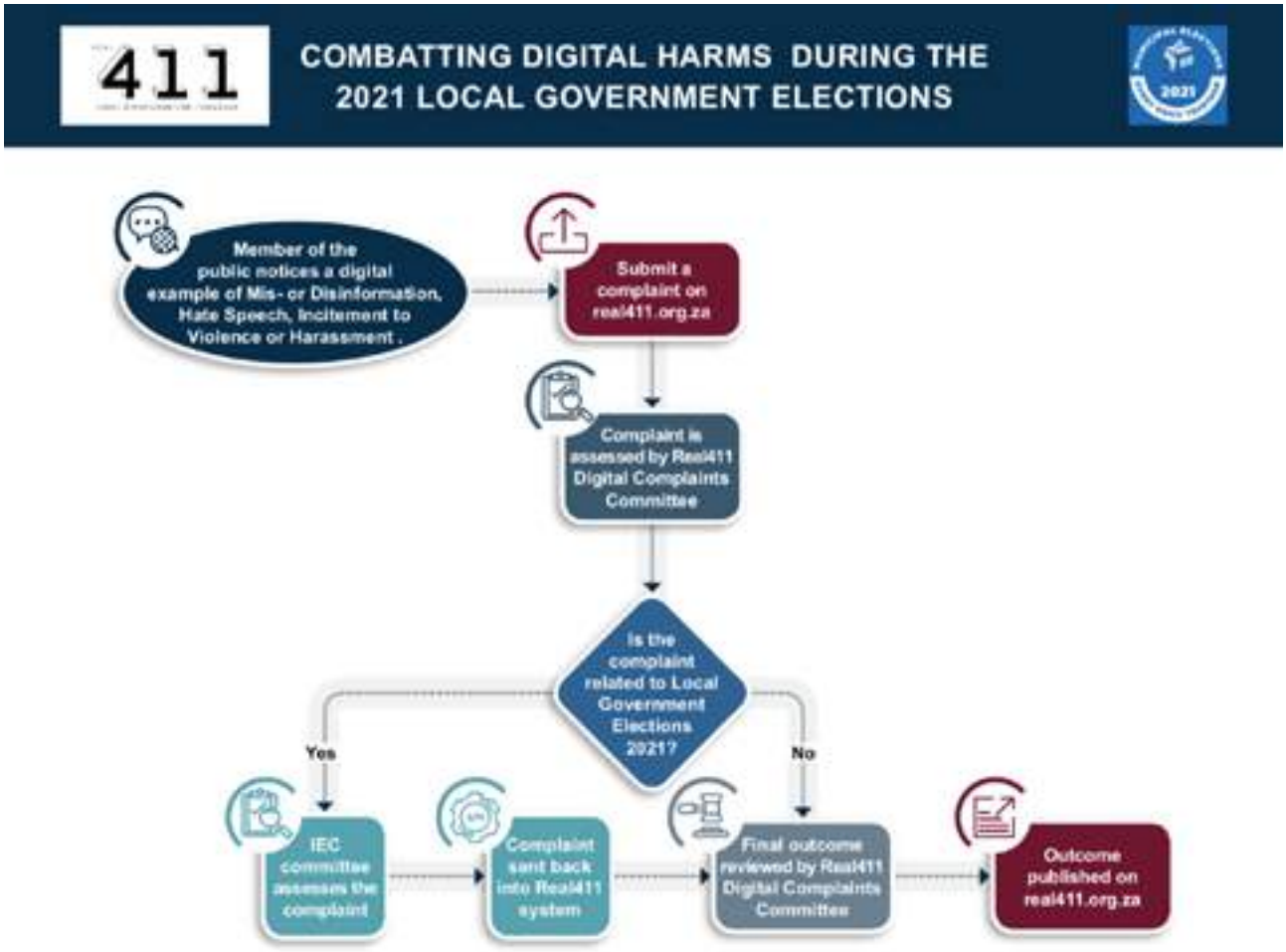
Platform	Count	Percentage Platforms
Facebook	5	12%
Other websites or platforms	11	26%
Twitter	18	43%
WhatsApp	8	19%
Total	**42**	

Table 32: Real411 complaints by resolution in the 2021 Municipal Elections

Complaint status	Count	Percentage
Total elections complaints	42	100%
Total complaints with insufficient information or not relevant	8	19%
Total resolved	34	81%
Total determined to require further investigation by platforms	16	47%
Other complaint types related to elections	2	6%

Of all complaints submitted, 81% required full assessment through the system; 19% of the complaints submitted did not have sufficient information, for example, a complaint would be submitted without an image or link to be assessed.

Roughly half of the complaints that could not be assessed in the Real411 system were about registration issues that were experienced by voters. Of the rest of the complaints, nearly half, or 47%, were found to meet the criteria for disinformation and so met the requirements for them to be sent to the platform for further investigation and action.



16. Observers

Election observation is conducted in terms of section 41 of the Municipal Electoral Act. According to the Act, any organisation may apply to the Commission to observe an election. The Commission may accredit an applicant to observe an election after considering the application and any other information submitted by the applicant.

The Commission is required to determine whether the accreditation of the applicant will promote conditions conducive to a free and fair election; and whether the persons appointed by the applicant will:

1. Observe the elections impartially and independently of any registered party or candidate contesting the elections;
2. Be competent and professional in observing the elections; and
3. Subscribe to a Code that governs observers.

To ensure a smooth application process, the Commission developed and implemented an Observer Application Online System. The system simplified the application process and assisted in facilitating applications for the accreditation of observers. Consequently, the Commission received and processed 139 applications for accreditation, of which 100 were approved. Of these organisations, only two were international organisations – the Electoral Commissions Forum of the Southern African Development Community region and the Association of African Election Authorities.

This is the highest number of applications that the Commission has had to accredit for municipal elections to date. This was an encouraging development in that there were more observers present than before, thereby enhancing the transparency of the elections.

Following the elections on 1 November 2021, accredited organisations submitted their reports. The reports were generally positive and complimentary of the work the Commission had put in place in the preparation for these elections.

The reports also identified areas in which the Commission could improve and, accordingly, made recommendations to ameliorate those areas. The following are some of the issues raised in the reports:

- Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the political landscape was level and conducive, and the Electoral Commission provided balanced media and regular updates.
- Although the use of VMDs at the voting stations was innovative, the devices were not working properly at some voting stations.
- In addition to the above, some voting station staff struggled with the use of the devices.
- some voters were turned away from some voting stations due to their names not appearing on the voters' roll.
- Load-shedding during voting in some areas was highlighted as a concern.

Positive feedback was received on the efficiency of the results collation process, the resolution of the objections, the state-of-the-art NROC and, in general, the peaceful conduct of political parties and their supporters during the period leading up to the elections and on Election Day.

17. Counting, Capturing and Auditing of Results

The Commission is committed to ensuring that there is transparency in the counting process to parties, candidates, observers, the media and the public. For this reason, the Commission has invested substantial resources in this aspect of its work.

The counting of votes took place immediately after the close of voting at each voting station where votes were cast. Counting occurred in the presence of party agents and accredited observers. Results slips were completed by counting officers in the presence of party agents and observers, and party agents were allowed to sign the completed results slips, as well as take a photographic image of the completed results slips.

To enhance the credibility and transparency of the count, the Electoral Commission established 10 election ROCs: one at a national level, and one in each of the nine provinces. The results centres aimed to provide a national record of the results, and a focal point for the media, political parties contesting the elections, and other electoral stakeholders.

Furthermore, the Commission introduced the following measures to enhance the transparency and credibility of the counting and results process:

- Results systems were audited by independent external information technology auditors and tested extensively. Political parties were invited to second their IT specialists to do the same.
- The results system was designed with automated quality checks to ensure that anomalies were investigated and corrected before results were publicly released.
- The recorded results were audited by external independent auditors (BDO Advisory Services) at the municipal electoral offices where the election results were recorded on the municipal election results system.
- Election results slips were scanned at municipal electoral offices. The scanned images of all results slips were available to political parties and Electoral Commission officials at the national and provincial results centres. Being able to view the scanned image of results slips enabled the further verification of results as recorded on the results system.
- Political party and media representatives at the results centres were able to access the municipal election results system to monitor the recording and verification of results and to monitor the performance of political parties.

Furthermore, during the counting and recording of the results, senior officials of the Commission conducted regular meetings with political party representatives at the ROCs to explain the process and respond to questions and complaints openly and promptly.

Final Results

In terms of the law, the Commission is required to declare the results of elections within seven days after such elections.

By the evening of 2 November 2021 (24 hours after voting stations were closed), 60% of the results slips had been captured, audited and scanned. By the evening of 3 November 2021 (48 hours after voting closed), 99% of results slips had been captured, audited and scanned. The final results of the 2021 Municipal Elections were available within 72 hours of the close of voting.

The Electoral Commission announced the results of the 2021 Municipal Elections at a function at the national results operations centre on 4 November 2021. The results were published in the Government Gazette on 9 November 2021, which served to declare the designated councillors elected.

The election of district councils occurred partly on 1 November 2021 (40% of district councillors are elected on a proportional representation basis by voters), and partly within 14 days (by 23 November 2021) after the publication of the elected councillors in the Government Gazette. The remaining 60% of district council seats were filled by representatives elected from and by the local councils.

The national results summary for the 2021 Municipal Elections can be viewed in Annexure III on page 103.

CLOSING THE ELECTIONS

IEC
SOUTH AFRICA
Ballot Box

CLOSING THE ELECTIONS

18. Research: Election Satisfaction Survey

The Election Satisfaction Survey 2021 was conducted on Election Day, 1 November 2021, to determine opinions and perceptions of voters regarding the freeness and fairness of the electoral process, and to assess the operational efficiency of the Electoral Commission in managing the municipal elections.

Some of the key findings, which are analysed in comparison with the VPS 2021, included the following:

Reported Barrier to Voter Registration

According to the VPS 2021, the main barrier to voter registration was political disinterest, which has consistently been the main reason for not intending to vote since 2005. Exactly 65% of South Africans who participated in this survey cited political disinterest as their reason for not registering to vote in the 2021 Municipal Elections. See Table 33.

Table 33: Reason for not registering to vote in the 2021 Municipal Elections

	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021
Political disinterest	74	71	74	67	70	78	65
Administrative barriers	5	12	3	8	5	4	6
Have not yet got round to it	14	5	5	2	3	4	6
Political intimidation	0	3	3	1	2	1	2
Religious reasons	1	2	2	2	1	2	2
High crime rate in my area	6	0	1	0	1	1	2
Other	0	7	10	19	17	5	12

Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) 2011-2021

Reasons for Not Intending to Vote

Similarly, 77% of South Africans who participated in this survey cited political disinterest and disillusion as their reasons for not intending to vote. Perhaps this explains why the voter turnout in the 2021 Municipal Elections was a mere 46%, which was the lowest in the history of our democratic local government dispensation.

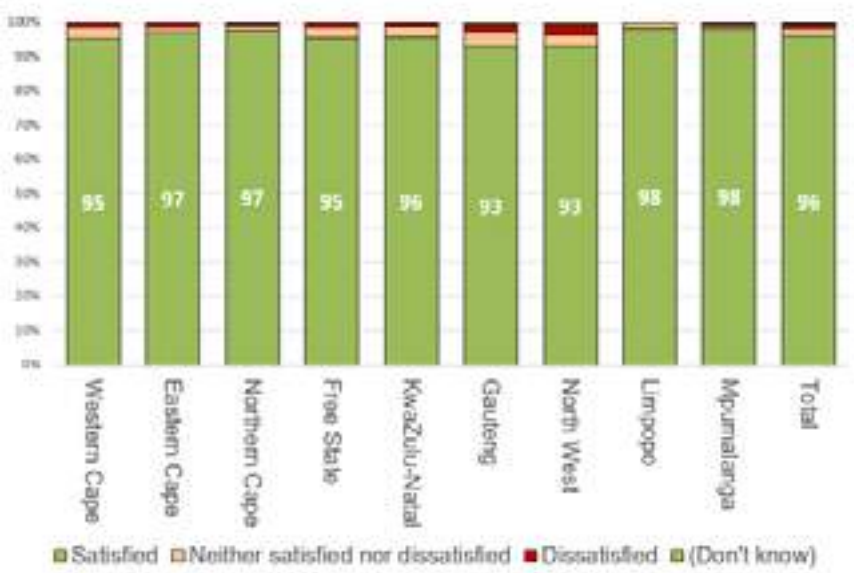
Table 34: Barriers to voting in the 2021 Municipal Elections

	2008	2013	2018	2021
Administrative barriers	**21**	**17**	**15**	**12**
Not registered	14	13	10	9
Do not possess necessary documents to register	6	3	3	3
Polling station too far away	0	0	1	0
Very long queues	0	0	0	1
Do not know where to vote	1	0	1	0
Disinterest and disillusionment	**71**	**71**	**79**	**77**
Not interested	48	49	58	48
My vote would not make a difference	9	8	8	16
Disillusionment with politics	5	5	4	3
Not interested in any of the existing political parties	8	9	7	7
Too much effort required	1	1	0	1
Only one party could win	1	0	0	0
Intimidation	0	0	1	0
My employer would not allow me to vote	0	0	0	0
Individual barriers	**1**	**1**	**2**	**1**
I am away from home	1	0	1	1
Other	**6**	**12**	**4**	**10**
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Satisfaction with the Quality of Service Provided by the Electoral Commission in Past Elections

According to the ESS 2021, an overwhelming 96% of voters indicated that they were satisfied with the quality of service that election officials provided to them during voting in the 2021 Municipal Elections, with Gauteng and the North West provinces sitting at the bottom of this graph at 93%, while Limpopo and Mpumalanga topped all provinces at 98%.

Figure 23: Satisfaction with quality of service provided by Electoral Commission in past elections

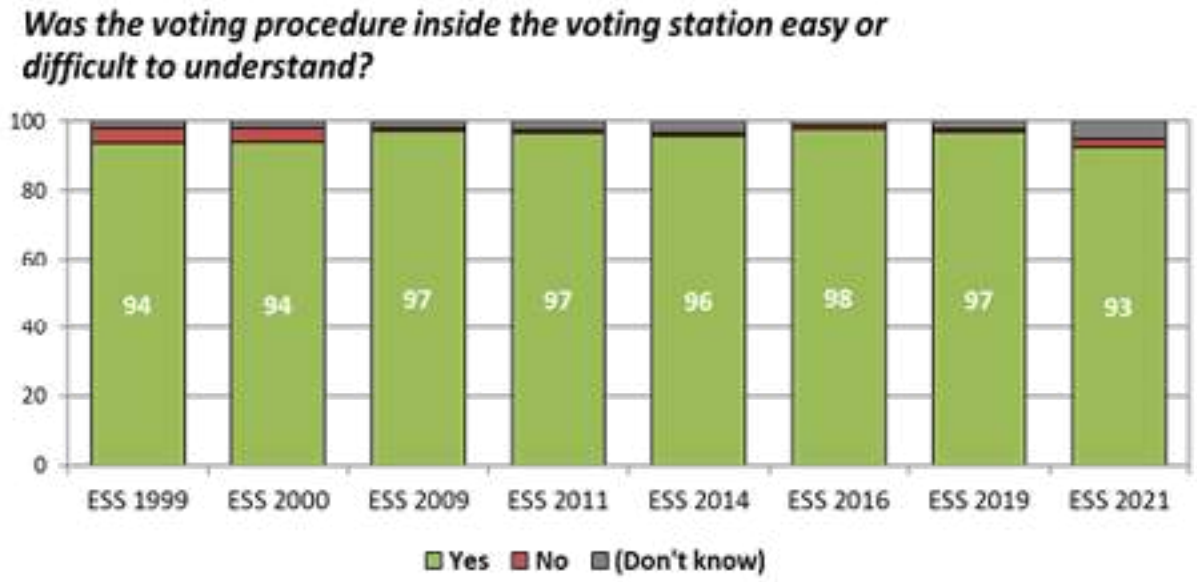


Source: HSRC, 2021 Municipal Elections: Elections Satisfaction Survey

Procedure Inside Voting Station Easy to Understand

A vast majority (93%) found the voting procedures inside the voting station easy to understand (67% very easy; 27% easy). This trends broadly with similar patterns in 2009 and 2011, while the share saying procedures were "very easy" fell slightly in 2014 and 2016.

Figure 24: Procedure inside voting station easy to understand during the 2021 Municipal Elections

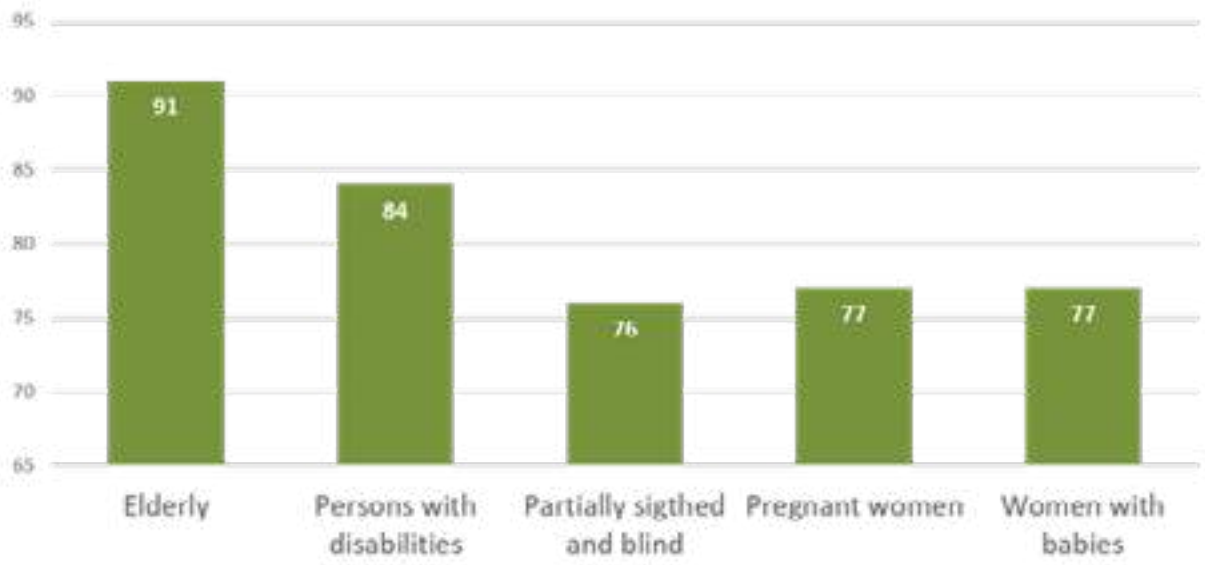


Source: 2021 Municipal Elections: Elections Satisfaction Survey

Considering Voters with Special Needs

Cited in the HSRC, according to the 2021 Municipal Elections Satisfaction Survey, a large majority of voters felt the Electoral Commission considered the needs of the elderly (91%), and persons with disabilities (84%). Just over three quarters felt the institution considered the needs of pregnant women, women with babies, and the partially sighted and blind.

Figure 25: Satisfaction with consideration of voters with special needs during the 2021 Municipal Elections



Source: ESS 2011, 2014 and 2016

Freeness and Fairness of the 2021 Municipal Elections

An overwhelming 94% of South African voters who took part in this ESS for the 2021 Municipal Elections indicated that they found the election procedures to be fair, while 95% of them found the procedures to also be free. This means that the voting public was overwhelmingly confident that the 2021 Municipal Elections were both free and fair. As with previous national and provincial, as well as municipal elections, voters provided an overwhelmingly positive evaluation of the management performance of the Electoral Commission and the conduct of officials at voting stations. These voter evaluations point firmly to the continued integrity of elections in the country.

19. Legal Challenges and Objections

To ensure that elections are free and fair, and in the interests of transparency and accountability, Section 65 of the Municipal Electoral Act provides for a formalised process whereby an interested party may lodge any objection that is material to the result of an election with the Commission. The Commission has a corresponding obligation to consider and determine objections.

Objections can concern any aspect of the voting or counting process, any alleged unlawful interference with or obstruction of election activities or processes at a voting station, or interference, influencing, intimidation or obstruction of voters at a voting station.

Although Section 65 objections should be lodged by no later than 17:00 on the second day after voting, the Commission resolved to investigate and decide all objections, even those that were lodged after 3 November 2021.

In total, 220 Section 65 objections were lodged with the Commission – 211 objections were rejected, seven objections were upheld, and two objections were partially upheld.

Litigation Concerning the Section-65 Objections

There were 10 litigation matters as a result of the 2021 Elections. Six of these matters have been finalised. In two of these matters, the Electoral Court issued court orders in favour of the applicants.

In one of the matters, the court dismissed the application, and in the other three matters, the applicants withdrew the court applications upon the Commission, filing its answering affidavits.

20. Financing the 2021 Municipal Elections

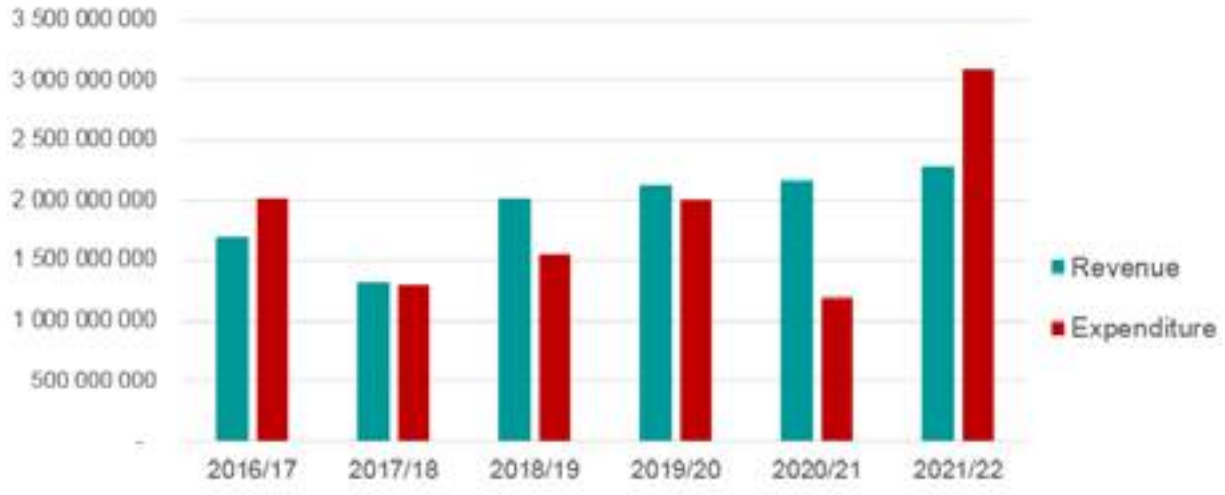
The primary source of funding of the Electoral Commission is the fiscus through an annual parliamentary allocation. Additional annual revenue is realised from sundry income, mainly through interest earned from the short-term investment of the parliamentary allocation. The 2021 Municipal Elections were delivered amid the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the pandemic, additional election costs due to the requirement for PPE and various other safety measures were necessitated.

The Electoral Commission was allocated an adjusted budget of R2,1 billion for the 2020/21 financial year and R2,25 billion for the 2021/22 financial year. The adjusted budget of 2021/22 is inclusive of an additional allocation of R40 million received for the procurement of PPE for the 2021 Municipal Elections.

The annual budget of the Electoral Commission caters for administrative costs (including the remuneration of permanent staff, office rentals, and other ongoing costs of equipment and services), as well as costs relating to specific electoral events and activities such as voter registration activities and the Election Days.

Expenditure is significantly influenced by the election cycle, peaking in the run-up to elections and decreasing again in non-election cycles. Figure 26 illustrates the Electoral Commission's revenue and expenditure trends over the past five years, as well as the 2021/22 adjusted budget and preliminary expenditure. It should be noted that, due to delays caused by COVID-19 in the 2020/21 financial year, a national voter registration event that was planned, as well as the procurement of the VMDs, was deferred to the 2021/22 financial year. The expenditure for 2020/21 was, therefore, lower than the revenue, but expenditure increased significantly in 2021/22. National Treasury approved rolling over the relevant portion of the parliamentary allocation to 2021/22.

Figure 26: Comparison of the Electoral Commission's revenue and expenditure 2016/17 – 2021/22

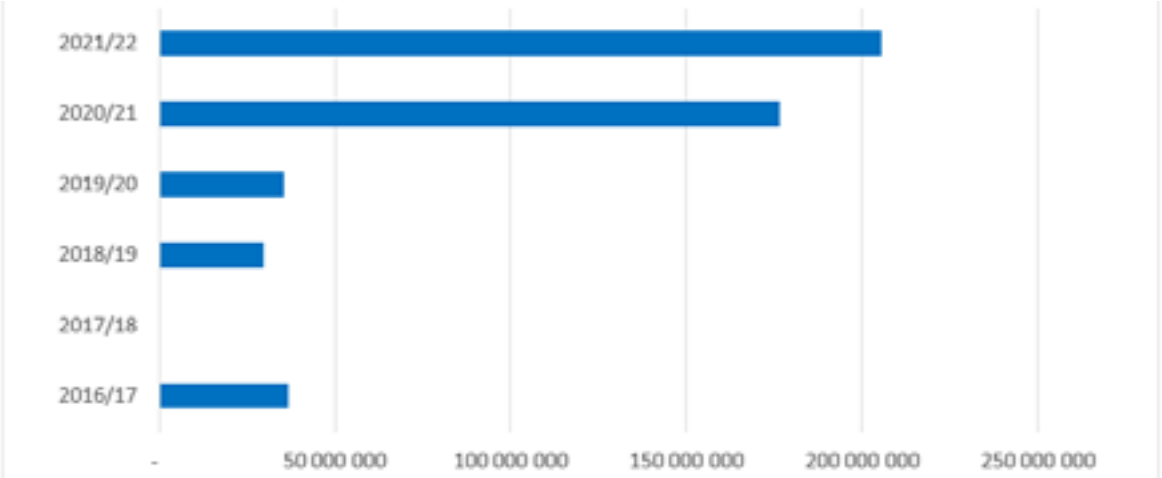


As indicated, the Electoral Commission held one nationwide voter registration event on 18 and 19 September 2021. Expenditure in 2021/22 is significantly higher than in past years as both the voter registration event and the election were held in one financial year. These events have historically occurred across two financial years. The 2021/22 financial year also includes investment in new VMDs, amounting to R546 million.

Budget Cuts Imposed by National Treasury

Budget cuts imposed by National Treasury ahead of the 2021 elections amounted to R176,5 million in the 2020/21 financial year and R205,5 million in the 2021/22 financial year. Although these cuts resulted in a second national registration event that was planned ahead of the 2021 Municipal Elections not being possible, as well as other cost-saving measures being necessitated, the Electoral Commission managed to deliver on its mandate. Figure 27 illustrates budget cuts over the past six years.

Figure 27: Electoral Commission budget cuts 2016/17 – 2021/22



Election Expenditure

A precise costing of an election is difficult as total expenditure comprises both fixed and variable costs. The fixed portion (cost of administration) is utilised for the usual day-to-day functioning of the Electoral Commission and is inclusive of permanent staff salaries, permanent office rentals, and other related goods and services. This is an annual cost, irrespective of whether any election-related events are held.

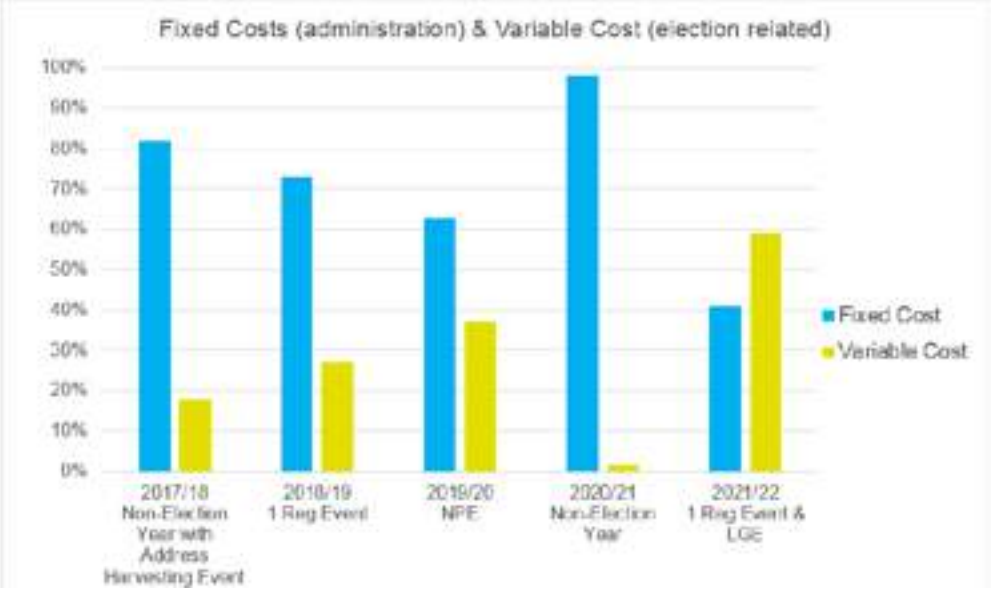
Variable costs are costs that are directly related to conducting registration and electoral events and are inclusive of additional staffing costs for temporary and fixed-term staff brought on to boost capacity ahead of and during elections, election material (ballot paper printing, transportation and security), communication, education and other outreach activities, voting station rental costs, the training of staff and party agents, the ROC, and other related costs. The total cost of any election is rarely contained within a single financial year, as planning and preparations usually commence within 18 to 24 months from the election date.

Fixed and Variable Costs Related to 2021 Municipal Elections

Figure 28 illustrates the proportion of fixed and variable (election-related) costs since 2018/19. The Electoral Commission incurred approximately 41% fixed costs and 59% variable costs for the 2021 Municipal Elections (based on preliminary figures).

The variable cost for 2021/22 includes the procurement of the new VMD. It is evident from Figure 28 that a non-election year (2020/21) mainly comprises fixed costs and the variable costs fluctuate depending on the level of registration and election activity taking place in a given financial year.

Figure 28: Fixed and variable costs for elections between 2017/18 and 2021/22



Key Election Cost Drivers for the 2021 Municipal Elections

The key cost drivers for variable costs can be differentiated between core costs and integrity costs. Core costs are those associated with conducting key election operations (such as logistics and staff costs), whereas integrity costs are generally associated with measures taken to secure the integrity of elections (such as security arrangements for registration and voting stations, tamper-resistant electoral materials, voter education campaigns, ICT business systems and communication campaigns). A decrease in integrity costs is an indication of a more stable electoral process.

The cost drivers making up core and integrity costs are listed in Figure 29.

Figure 29: Core cost drivers and integrity costs for 2019 and 2021 Municipal Elections

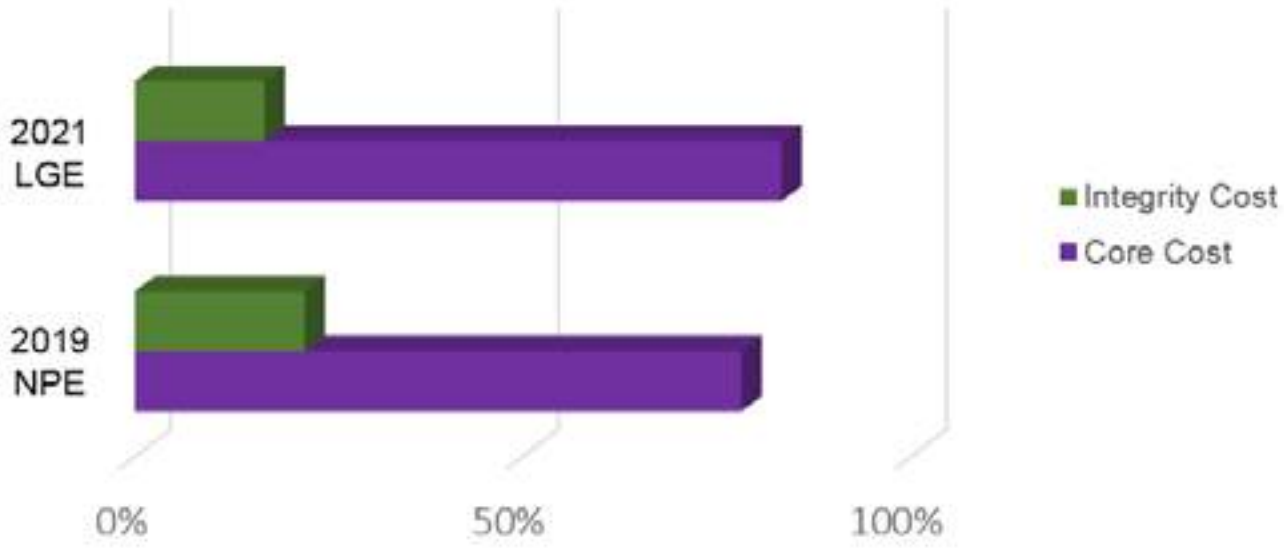
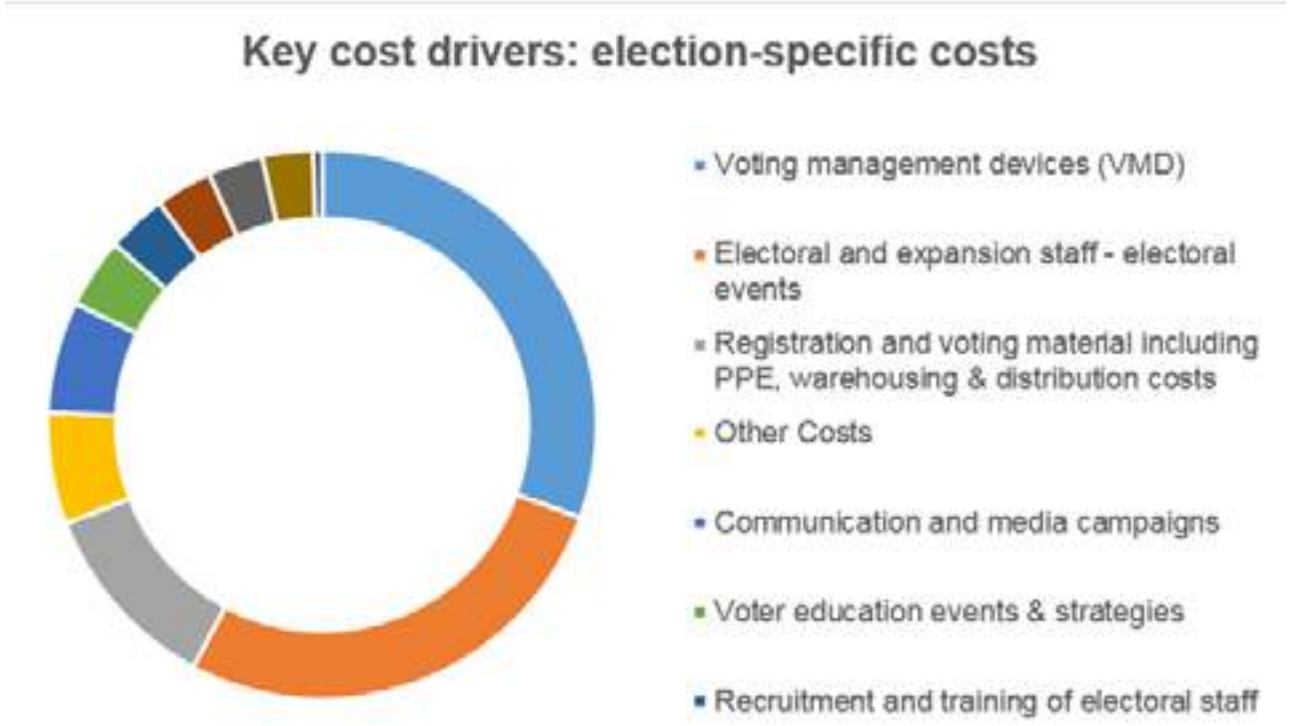


Figure 30: Key election cost drivers for the 2021 Municipal Elections spend



IEC
SOUTH AFRICA

ANNEXURES

IEC
SOUTH AFRICA

ANNEXURES

I.a. Gazetted Election Timetable

b. Amended Election Timetable

II. Sample Ballot Papers

III. National Results Summary for the 2021 Municipal Elections

IV. Maps illustrating ward winners for the 2021 Municipal Elections

V. Abbreviations and Acronyms

I.a. Gazetted Election Timetable

STAATSKOERANT, 20 SEPTEMBER 2021 No. 45189 3

GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

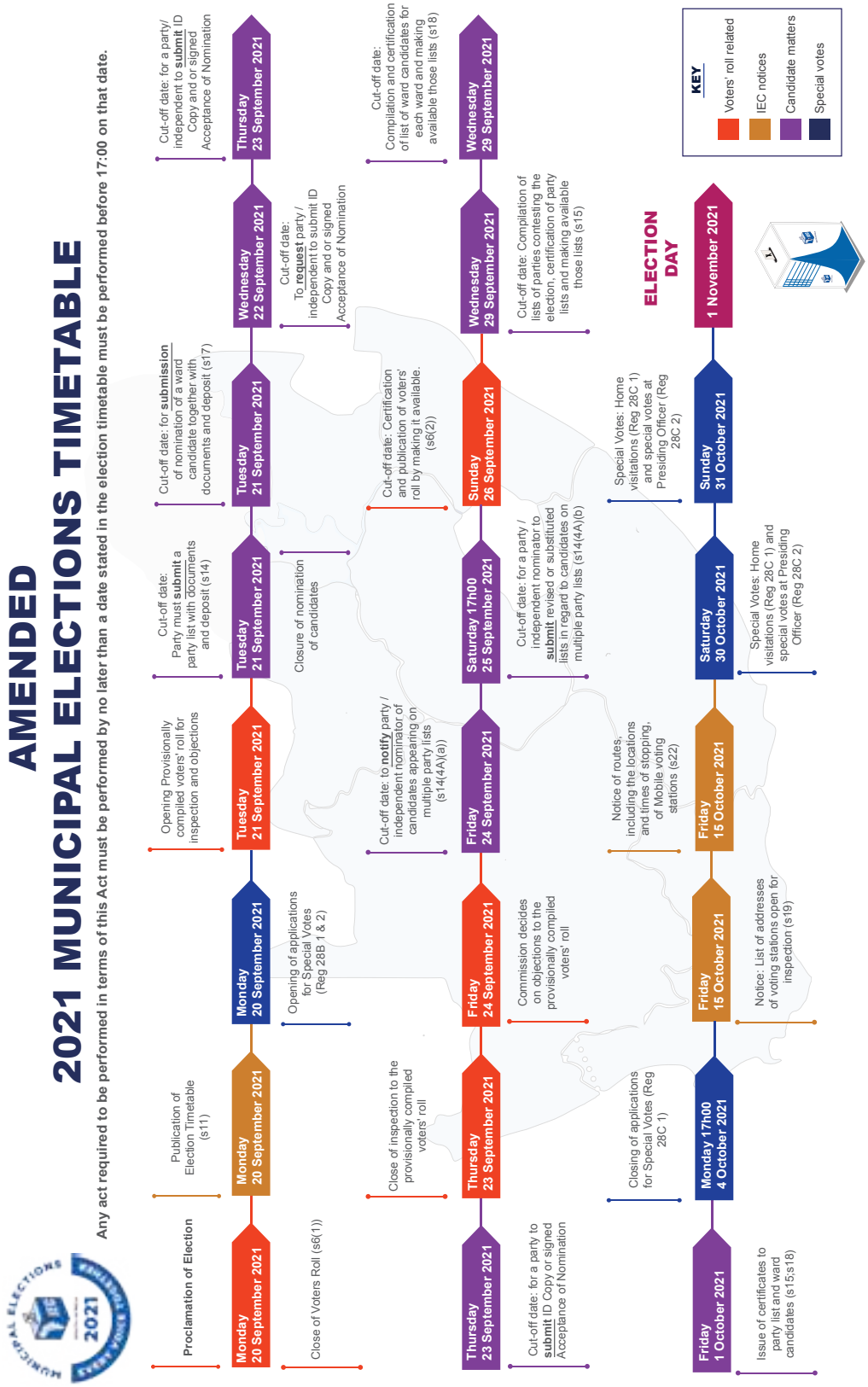
NO. 568 20 September 2021

ELECTORAL COMMISSSION

AMENDED ELECTION TIMETABLE

The Electoral Commission published an election timetable in Government Gazette 44937, dated the 04 August 2021. The Electoral Commission hereby publishes an amended election timetable that will now be applicable to the 2021 municipal elections.

I.b. Amended Election Timetable



II. Sample Ballot Papers

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
EC101 - DR. BEYERS NAUDE
WARD 21001001 CANDIDATE VOTE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
EC101 - DR. BEYERS NAUDE
WARD 21001001 CANDIDATE VOTE

		VOTE
Fraxenburg, Yvonne Dezemone	ANC	
Jacobs, Maureen	SDM	
Jugelis, Henry	VF PLUS	
Kekana, Lee-Ann Melissa	DA	
Nannies, Eric Thulani	EFF	
Petu, Brian Thando	ATM	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
DC10 - SARAH BAARTMAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
DC10 - SARAH BAARTMAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

		VOTE
Service Delivery Movement	SDM	
Vryheidsfront Plus	VF PLUS	
African National Congress	ANC	
African Transformation Movement	ATM	
Compatriots of South Africa	CSA	
Democratic Alliance	DA	
Economic Freedom Fighters	EFF	
Good	GOOD	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
MAN - MANGAUNG
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
MAN - MANGAUNG
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

		VOTE
International Party	INTP	
Mangaung Community Forum	MCF	
National Freedom Party	NFP	
Patriotic Alliance	PA	
South African Royal Kingdoms Organisation	SARKO	
The Organic Humanity Movement	OHM	
United Christian Democratic Party	UCDP	
United Independent Movement	UIM	
United Residents Front	URF	
Vryheidsfront Plus	VF PLUS	
African Christian Democratic Party	ACDP	
African Independent Congress	AIC	
African Transformation Movement	ATM	
African National Congress	ANC	
Africa's New Dawn	ANDSA	
Afrikan Alliance of Social Democrats	AASD	
Agency for New Agenda	ANA	
African People's Convention	APC	
Botshabelo Unemployed Movement	BUM	
Congress of the People	COPE	
Democratic Alliance	DA	
Economic Freedom Fighters	EFF	
Forum 4 Service Delivery	F4SD	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
BUF - BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
BUF - BUFFALO CITY
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

		VOTE
National Freedom Party	NFP	
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania	PAC	
Patriotic Alliance	PA	
Progressive Community Movement	PCM	
The Organic Humanity Movement	OHM	
United Democratic Movement	UDM	
United Independent Movement	UIM	
Vryheidsfront Plus	VF PLUS	
Abantu Batho Congress	ABC	
Africa Restoration Alliance	ARA	
African Christian Democratic Party	ACDP	
African Independent Congress	AIC	
African Multicultural Economic Congress	AMEC	
African National Congress	ANC	
African Transformation Movement	ATM	
Al Jama-ah	ALJAMA	
Arusha Economic Coalition	ARECO	
African People's Convention	APC	
Batho Pele Movement	BPM	
Civic Independent	CI	
Congress of the People	COPE	
Democratic Alliance	DA	
Economic Freedom Fighters	EFF	
God Save Africa	G.S.A.	
Good	GOOD	
Independent South African National Civic Organisation	ISANCO	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
ETH - ETHEKWINI
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
ETH - ETHEKWINI
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

✓ VOTE ☒

Inkatha Freedom Party	IFP	
International Party	INTP	
Justice and Employment Party	JEP	
KZN Independence	KZNI	
Minorities of South Africa	MOSA	
Minority Front	MF	
National Freedom Party	NFP	
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania	PAC	
Patriotic Alliance	PA	
People's Freedom Party	PFP	
People's Revolutionary Movement	PRM	
Spectrum National Party	SNP	
The Organic Humanity Movement	OHM	
Truly Alliance	TA	
United Christian Democratic Party	UCDP	
United Cultural Movement	UCM	
United Independent Movement	UIM	
Vryheidsfront Plus	VF PLUS	
Abantu Batho Congress	ABC	
Academic Congress Union	ACU	
ActionSA		
Active Citizens Coalition	ACC	
Activists Movement of South Africa	AMSA	
Advanced Dynamic Alliance	ADA	
Africa Restoration Alliance	ARA	
African Basic Republicans	ABR	
African Christian Democratic Party	ACDP	
African Democratic Change	ADEC	
African Federal Convention	AFCO	
African Freedom Revolution	AFR	
African Independent Congress	AIC	
African Montungwa Community	AC	
African National Congress	ANC	
African People First	APF	
African People's Movement	APEMO	
African Transformation Movement	ATM	
Al Jama-ah	ALJAMA	
Allied Movement for Change	AMAC	
Azanian People's Organisation	AZAPO	
African People's Convention	APC	
Black First Land First	BLF	
Congress of the People	COPE	
Democratic Alliance	DA	
Democratic Liberal Congress	DLC	
Democratic People's Congress	DPC	
Economic Freedom Fighters	EFF	
Forum 4 Service Delivery	F4SD	
God Save Africa	G.S.A.	
Good	GOOD	
Independent People's Party	IPP	

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
TSH - CITY OF TSHWANE
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
TSH - CITY OF TSHWANE
METROPOLITAN COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

✓ VOTE ☒

Inkatha Freedom Party	IFP	
National Freedom Party	NFP	
Pan Africanist Congress of Azania	PAC	
Party of Action	POA	
Patriotic Alliance	PA	
Poetano Revelation Party	PRP	
Republican Conference of Tshwane	RC	
South African Royal Kingdoms Organisation	SARKO	
Spectrum National Party	SNP	
The Organic Humanity Movement	OHM	
The People's Voice	V	
United Christian Democratic Party	UCDP	
United Cultural Movement	UCM	
United Democratic Movement	UDM	
United Independent Movement	UIM	
Vryheidsfront Plus	VF PLUS	
Abantu Batho Congress	ABC	
ActionSA		
Activists Movement of South Africa	AMSA	
Africa Restoration Alliance	ARA	
African Christian Democratic Party	ACDP	
African Covenant	ACO	
African Independent Congress	AIC	
African Mandate Congress	AMCO	
African National Congress	ANC	
African Transformation Movement	ATM	
Agang South Africa	AGANG SA	
Agency for New Agenda	ANA	
Al Jama-ah	ALJAMA	
Arusha Economic Coalition	ARECO	
Azanian People's Organisation	AZAPO	
African People's Convention	APC	
Black First Land First	BLF	
Bolshevika Party of South Africa	BPSA	
Christian Democratic Party	CDP	
Concern	CONCERN	
Congress of the People	COPE	
Defenders of the People	DOP	
Democratic Alliance	DA	
Democratic Artists Party	DAP	
Economic Emancipation Forum	ECOFORUM	
Economic Freedom Fighters	EFF	
Federal Party SA	FPSA	
Forum 4 Service Delivery	F4SD	
God Save Africa	G.S.A.	
Good	GOOD	

III. National Results Summary for the 2021 Municipal Elections

Results Summary - All Ballots

Printed on: 2022/02/04 09:20:02

Electoral Event:	LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
Province:	All Provinces
Municipality:	All Municipalities
Ward:	All Wards
Voting District:	All Voting Districts
Registered Population:	26 204 579
MEC7 Votes:	98 589

Party Name	Ward		PR		Total (Ward + PR)		DC 40%		Total - All Ballots (Ward + PR + DC 40%)	
	Total Valid Votes	% Total Valid Votes	Total Valid Votes	% Total Valid Votes	Total Valid Votes	% Total Valid Votes	Total Valid Votes	% Total Valid Votes	Total Valid Votes	% Total Valid Votes
ABAHLALI BASE MKHANYAKUDE MOVEMENT	1 042	0,01%	1 113	0,01%	2 155	0,01%	1 197	0,02%	3 352	0,01%
ABAHLALY BAAHI	202	0,00%	419	0,00%	621	0,00%	-	-	621	0,00%
ABANTU BATHO CONGRESS	38 983	0,33%	39 223	0,33%	78 206	0,33%	31 253	0,44%	109 459	0,36%
ABANTU INTEGRITY MOVEMENT	2 758	0,02%	2 914	0,02%	5 672	0,02%	-	-	5 672	0,02%
ABLE LEADERSHIP	3 368	0,03%	3 957	0,03%	7 325	0,03%	3 404	0,05%	10 729	0,04%
ACADEMIC CONGRESS UNION	1 471	0,01%	3 939	0,03%	5 410	0,02%	3 903	0,05%	9 313	0,03%
ACTIONSA	241 738	2,06%	306 167	2,61%	547 905	2,33%	8 816	0,12%	556 721	1,82%
ACTIVE CITIZENS COALITION	8 025	0,07%	6 239	0,05%	14 264	0,06%	-	-	14 264	0,05%
ACTIVE MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE	339	0,00%	149	0,00%	488	0,00%	-	-	488	0,00%
ACTIVE NATION AGAINST CORRUPTION	334	0,00%	179	0,00%	513	0,00%	326	0,00%	839	0,00%
ACTIVE UNITED FRONT	2 004	0,02%	1 983	0,02%	3 987	0,02%	2 007	0,03%	5 994	0,02%
ACTIVISTS MOVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA	1 940	0,02%	1 988	0,02%	3 928	0,02%	789	0,01%	4 717	0,02%
ADVANCED DYNAMIC ALLIANCE	486	0,00%	481	0,00%	967	0,00%	-	-	967	0,00%
ADVIESKANTOOR	857	0,01%	824	0,01%	1 681	0,01%	-	-	1 681	0,01%
AFRICA RESTORATION ALLIANCE	12 628	0,11%	10 005	0,09%	22 633	0,10%	3 265	0,05%	25 898	0,08%
AFRICAN AMBASSADORS OF SOUTH AFRICA	849	0,01%	703	0,01%	1 552	0,01%	-	-	1 552	0,01%
AFRICAN BASIC REPUBLICANS	-	-	272	0,00%	272	0,00%	-	-	272	0,00%
AFRICAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY	92 345	0,79%	93 068	0,79%	185 413	0,79%	32 239	0,45%	217 652	0,71%
AFRICAN CONTENT MOVEMENT	1 679	0,01%	2 225	0,02%	3 904	0,02%	2 405	0,03%	6 309	0,02%
AFRICAN COVENANT	692	0,01%	516	0,00%	1 208	0,01%	200	0,00%	1 408	0,00%
AFRICAN DEMOCRATIC CHANGE	6 441	0,05%	5 661	0,05%	12 102	0,05%	2 039	0,03%	14 141	0,05%
AFRICAN DEMOCRATS	607	0,01%	978	0,01%	1 585	0,01%	1 656	0,02%	3 241	0,01%
AFRICAN ECONOMIC TRANSFORMERS	103	0,00%	274	0,00%	377	0,00%	-	-	377	0,00%
AFRICAN FEDERAL CONVENTION	124	0,00%	378	0,00%	502	0,00%	-	-	502	0,00%
AFRICAN FREEDOM PARTY	490	0,00%	349	0,00%	839	0,00%	772	0,01%	1 611	0,01%
AFRICAN FREEDOM REVOLUTION	2 989	0,03%	3 701	0,03%	6 690	0,03%	2 165	0,03%	8 855	0,03%
AFRICAN HEART CONGRESS	4 341	0,04%	3 938	0,03%	8 279	0,04%	-	-	8 279	0,03%
AFRICAN INDEPENDENT CONGRESS	42 401	0,36%	73 034	0,62%	115 435	0,49%	31 244	0,44%	146 679	0,48%
AFRICAN INDEPENDENT PEOPLE'S	3 440	0,03%	4 254	0,04%	7 694	0,03%	4 275	0,06%	11 969	0,04%
AFRICAN ISLAMIC MOVEMENT	432	0,00%	580	0,00%	1 012	0,00%	-	-	1 012	0,00%
AFRICAN MANDATE CONGRESS	677	0,01%	1 244	0,01%	1 921	0,01%	-	-	1 921	0,01%
AFRICAN MANTUNGWA COMMUNITY	1 963	0,02%	2 035	0,02%	3 998	0,02%	1 744	0,02%	5 742	0,02%
AFRICAN MULTICULTURAL ECONOMIC	368	0,00%	695	0,01%	1 063	0,00%	-	-	1 063	0,00%
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS	5 292 136	45,05%	5 407 164	46,14%	10 699 300	45,59%	3 838 037	53,84%	14 537 337	47,52%
AFRICAN PEOPLE FIRST	1 424	0,01%	2 722	0,02%	4 146	0,02%	423	0,01%	4 569	0,01%
AFRICAN PEOPLE'S CONVENTION	22 787	0,19%	21 277	0,18%	44 064	0,19%	14 294	0,20%	58 358	0,19%
AFRICAN PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT	14 032	0,12%	13 333	0,11%	27 365	0,12%	12 661	0,18%	40 026	0,13%
AFRICAN PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST PARTY	356	0,00%	358	0,00%	714	0,00%	425	0,01%	1 139	0,00%
AFRICAN PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT	170	0,00%	810	0,01%	980	0,00%	-	-	980	0,00%
AFRICAN SECURITY CONGRESS	216	0,00%	1 296	0,01%	1 512	0,01%	-	-	1 512	0,00%
AFRICAN TRANSFORMATION MOVEMENT	63 531	0,54%	70 903	0,60%	134 434	0,57%	55 509	0,78%	189 943	0,62%
AFRICAN UNIFIED MOVEMENT	433	0,00%	455	0,00%	888	0,00%	743	0,01%	1 631	0,01%
AFRICAN VOICE	90	0,00%	105	0,00%	195	0,00%	-	-	195	0,00%
AFRICAN VOICE PROGRESSIVE PARTY	4 008	0,03%	3 917	0,03%	7 925	0,03%	3 978	0,06%	11 903	0,04%
AFRICA'S NEW DAWN	402	0,00%	399	0,00%	801	0,00%	-	-	801	0,00%
AFRIKAN ALLIANCE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS	3 086	0,03%	2 423	0,02%	5 509	0,02%	-	-	5 509	0,02%
AGANG SOUTH AFRICA	5	0,00%	1 564	0,01%	1 569	0,01%	-	-	1 569	0,01%
AGENCY FOR NEW AGENDA	530	0,00%	1 552	0,01%	2 082	0,01%	-	-	2 082	0,01%
AGENDA TO CITIZENRY GOVERNORS	1 092	0,01%	910	0,01%	2 002	0,01%	-	-	2 002	0,01%
AL JAMA-AH	29 486	0,25%	25 908	0,22%	55 394	0,24%	5 884	0,08%	61 278	0,20%
ALL UNEMPLOYMENT LABOUR ALLIANCE	2 168	0,02%	3 042	0,03%	5 210	0,02%	3 081	0,04%	8 291	0,03%
ALLIANCE FOR TRANSFORMATION FOR ALL	287	0,00%	614	0,01%	901	0,00%	-	-	901	0,00%
ALLIED MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE	1 663	0,01%	1 276	0,01%	2 939	0,01%	1 122	0,02%	4 061	0,01%
ALTERNATIVE AFRICAN ALLEGIANCE	136	0,00%	114	0,00%	250	0,00%	168	0,00%	418	0,00%
AMALGAMATED RAINBOW MOVEMENT	195	0,00%	252	0,00%	447	0,00%	-	-	447	0,00%
ANSWER FOR COMMUNITY	468	0,00%	441	0,00%	909	0,00%	481	0,01%	1 390	0,00%
ARE AGENG AFRIKA	45	0,00%	58	0,00%	103	0,00%	-	-	103	0,00%
ARONA	540	0,00%	1 603	0,01%	2 143	0,01%	1 601	0,02%	3 744	0,01%
ARUSHA ECONOMIC COALITION	483	0,00%	1 022	0,01%	1 505	0,01%	-	-	1 505	0,00%
AZANIA RESIDENT PARTY	1 154	0,01%	1 174	0,01%	2 328	0,01%	1 540	0,02%	3 868	0,01%
AZANIAN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY	3 777	0,03%	4 498	0,04%	8 275	0,04%	4 127	0,06%	12 402	0,04%
AZANIAN PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION	6 720	0,06%	6 853	0,06%	13 573	0,06%	4 171	0,06%	17 744	0,06%
BANA BA THARI	560	0,00%	578	0,00%	1 138	0,00%	-	-	1 138	0,00%
BATHO BA QETILE	189	0,00%	180	0,00%	369	0,00%	256	0,00%	625	0,00%
BATHO PELE MOVEMENT	2 680	0,02%	2 393	0,02%	5 073	0,02%	2 451	0,03%	7 524	0,02%
BATHO PELE PARTY	117	0,00%	203	0,00%	320	0,00%	391	0,01%	711	0,00%
BELABELA COMMUNITY REVOLUTION	94	0,00%	113	0,00%	207	0,00%	-	-	207	0,00%
BETTER RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	2 772	0,02%	2 763	0,02%	5 535	0,02%	2 919	0,04%	8 454	0,03%

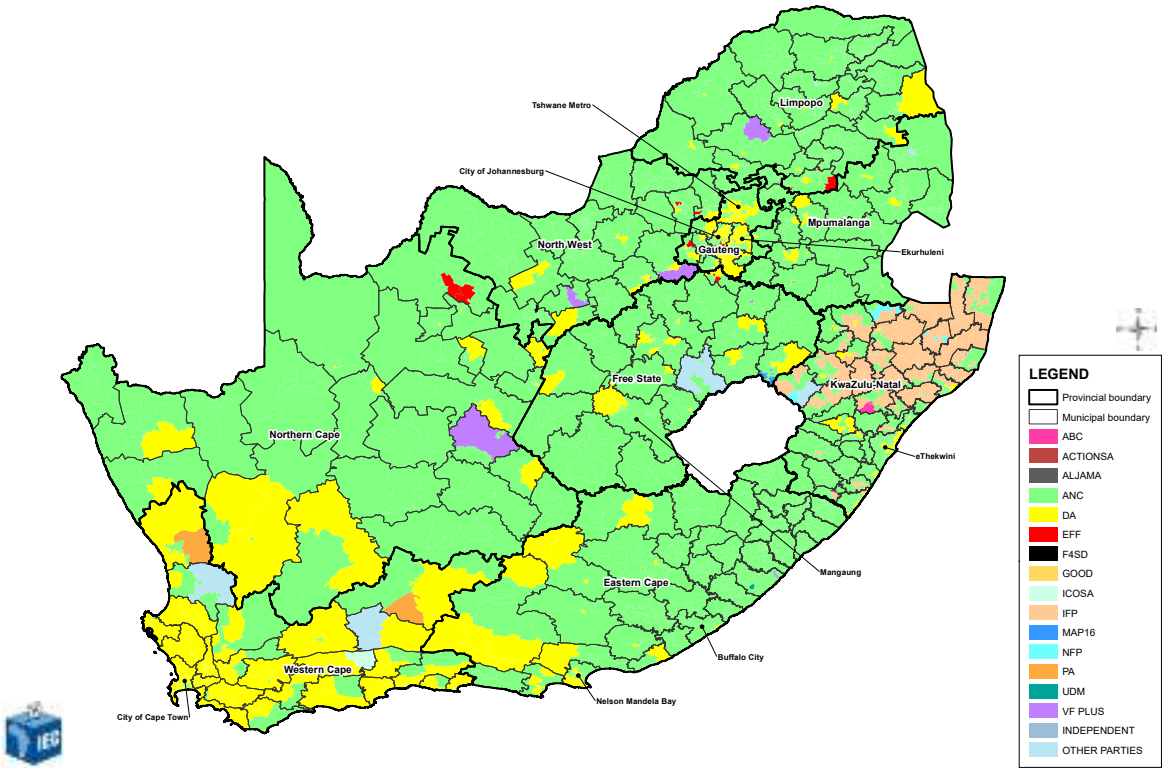
BITOU CONCERNED RESIDENTS	91	0,00%	100	0,00%	191	0,00%	-	-	191	0,00%
BLACK AND WHITE PARTY	54	0,00%	114	0,00%	168	0,00%	-	-	168	0,00%
BLACK FIRST LAND FIRST	3 445	0,03%	4 692	0,04%	8 137	0,03%	665	0,01%	8 802	0,03%
BOLSHEVIKS PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA	3 265	0,03%	3 304	0,03%	6 569	0,03%	2 802	0,04%	9 371	0,03%
BOTHO COMMUNITY MOVEMENT	470	0,00%	433	0,00%	903	0,00%	451	0,01%	1 354	0,00%
BOTSHABELO UNEMPLOYED MOVEMENT	208	0,00%	244	0,00%	452	0,00%	-	-	452	0,00%
BREEDEVALLEI ONAFHANKLIK	3 793	0,03%	3 903	0,03%	7 696	0,03%	3 800	0,05%	11 496	0,04%
BUSHBUCKRIDGE LOCALS MOVEMENT	732	0,01%	847	0,01%	1 579	0,01%	1 099	0,02%	2 678	0,01%
CAPE COLOURED CONGRESS	28 494	0,24%	26 757	0,23%	55 251	0,24%	-	-	55 251	0,18%
CAPE INDEPENDENCE PARTY / KAAPSE	7 828	0,07%	7 792	0,07%	15 620	0,07%	2 817	0,04%	18 437	0,06%
CAPE MUSLIM CONGRESS	3 232	0,03%	3 334	0,03%	6 566	0,03%	-	-	6 566	0,02%
CAPRICORN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY	1 589	0,01%	994	0,01%	2 583	0,01%	-	-	2 583	0,01%
CEDERBERG FIRST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	4 138	0,04%	4 003	0,03%	8 141	0,03%	3 897	0,05%	12 038	0,04%
CHANGE	1 217	0,01%	667	0,01%	1 884	0,01%	-	-	1 884	0,01%
CHRISTIAN AMBASSADORS POLITICAL PARTY	9	0,00%	-	-	9	0,00%	250	0,00%	259	0,00%
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY	741	0,01%	614	0,01%	1 355	0,01%	-	-	1 355	0,00%
CHRISTIANS OF SOUTH AFRICA	198	0,00%	171	0,00%	369	0,00%	225	0,00%	594	0,00%
CITIZENS RIGHTS PROTECTION UNITY	76	0,00%	71	0,00%	147	0,00%	-	-	147	0,00%
CIVIC INDEPENDENT	4 310	0,04%	4 709	0,04%	9 019	0,04%	4 370	0,06%	13 389	0,04%
CIVIC MOVEMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA	59	0,00%	151	0,00%	210	0,00%	-	-	210	0,00%
CIVIC VOICE	341	0,00%	300	0,00%	641	0,00%	-	-	641	0,00%
CIVIC WARRIORS	3 239	0,03%	3 800	0,03%	7 039	0,03%	3 243	0,05%	10 282	0,03%
COMMUNITY FREEDOM PARTY	780	0,01%	604	0,01%	1 384	0,01%	626	0,01%	2 010	0,01%
COMMUNITY PARTY	63	0,00%	60	0,00%	123	0,00%	-	-	123	0,00%
COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION	2 330	0,02%	3 084	0,03%	5 414	0,02%	2 969	0,04%	8 383	0,03%
COMPATRIOTS OF SOUTH AFRICA	1 602	0,01%	1 751	0,01%	3 353	0,01%	1 822	0,03%	5 175	0,02%
CONCERN	748	0,01%	568	0,00%	1 316	0,01%	-	-	1 316	0,00%
CONCERNED DRAKENSTEIN RESIDENTS	2 922	0,02%	2 717	0,02%	5 639	0,02%	-	-	5 639	0,02%
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNITY	40	0,00%	29	0,00%	69	0,00%	-	-	69	0,00%
CONGRESS OF THE PEOPLE	21 014	0,18%	26 510	0,23%	47 524	0,20%	15 047	0,21%	62 571	0,20%
CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE 1ST MOVEMENT	1 160	0,01%	1 295	0,01%	2 455	0,01%	-	-	2 455	0,01%
DECENT POLITICAL PARTY	328	0,00%	251	0,00%	579	0,00%	-	-	579	0,00%
DEFENDERS OF THE PEOPLE	13 972	0,12%	13 546	0,12%	27 518	0,12%	4 176	0,06%	31 694	0,10%
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE	2 533 034	21,56%	2 549 713	21,75%	5 082 747	21,66%	995 877	13,97%	6 078 624	19,87%
DEMOCRATIC ARTISTS PARTY	522	0,00%	1 803	0,02%	2 325	0,01%	479	0,01%	2 804	0,01%
DEMOCRATIC ASSOCIATION OF WITZENBERG	155	0,00%	132	0,00%	287	0,00%	-	-	287	0,00%
DEMOCRATIC COMMUNITY MOVEMENT	979	0,01%	987	0,01%	1 966	0,01%	1 214	0,02%	3 180	0,01%
DEMOCRATIC EQUALITY EMPOWERMENT	32	0,00%	-	-	32	0,00%	-	-	32	0,00%
DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM ALLIANCE	49	0,00%	152	0,00%	201	0,00%	-	-	201	0,00%
DEMOCRATIC INDEPENDENT PARTY	1 967	0,02%	1 678	0,01%	3 645	0,02%	-	-	3 645	0,01%
DEMOCRATIC LABOUR PARTY	219	0,00%	807	0,01%	1 026	0,00%	-	-	1 026	0,00%
DEMOCRATIC LIBERAL CONGRESS	4 739	0,04%	3 439	0,03%	8 178	0,03%	-	-	8 178	0,03%
DEMOCRATIC NEW CIVIC ASSOCIATION	371	0,00%	364	0,00%	735	0,00%	681	0,01%	1 416	0,00%
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S ALTERNATIVE	1 331	0,01%	728	0,01%	2 059	0,01%	-	-	2 059	0,01%
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S CONGRESS	381	0,00%	432	0,00%	813	0,00%	-	-	813	0,00%
DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT	567	0,00%	562	0,00%	1 129	0,00%	-	-	1 129	0,00%
DEMOCRATIC UNION PLUS	271	0,00%	424	0,00%	695	0,00%	121	0,00%	816	0,00%
DENNILTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	351	0,00%	330	0,00%	681	0,00%	-	-	681	0,00%
DEVELOPMENT OF JOBS IN VRYHEID	215	0,00%	193	0,00%	408	0,00%	-	-	408	0,00%
DEVOTED CITIZENS OF MSUNDUZI	579	0,00%	933	0,01%	1 512	0,01%	1 083	0,02%	2 595	0,01%
DIENSLEWERINGS PARTY	1 540	0,01%	1 472	0,01%	3 012	0,01%	1 446	0,02%	4 458	0,01%
DIKGATLONG INDEPENDED FORUM	505	0,00%	709	0,01%	1 214	0,01%	843	0,01%	2 057	0,01%
DIKGATLONG SERVICE DELIVERY FORUM	322	0,00%	332	0,00%	654	0,00%	-	-	654	0,00%
DIKWANKWETLA PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA	3 131	0,03%	3 760	0,03%	6 891	0,03%	3 861	0,05%	10 752	0,04%
DISABILITY AND OLDER PERSON POLITICAL	354	0,00%	516	0,00%	870	0,00%	552	0,01%	1 422	0,00%
DISRUPT PARTY	279	0,00%	152	0,00%	431	0,00%	-	-	431	0,00%
DRAKENSBERG CONCERNED RESIDENTS	122	0,00%	-	-	122	0,00%	-	-	122	0,00%
EASTERN CAPE MOVEMENT	32	0,00%	99	0,00%	131	0,00%	-	-	131	0,00%
ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION FORUM	2 143	0,02%	1 212	0,01%	3 355	0,01%	-	-	3 355	0,01%
ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS	1 194 144	10,17%	1 225 628	10,46%	2 419 772	10,31%	804 399	11,28%	3 224 171	10,54%
ECONOMIC LIBERATION CONGRESS	476	0,00%	319	0,00%	795	0,00%	532	0,01%	1 327	0,00%
EDEN UNITED PEOPLE'S PARTY	64	0,00%	51	0,00%	115	0,00%	-	-	115	0,00%
EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL	303	0,00%	336	0,00%	639	0,00%	-	-	639	0,00%
FEDERAL PARTY SA	366	0,00%	329	0,00%	695	0,00%	-	-	695	0,00%
FORUM 4 SERVICE DELIVERY	23 589	0,20%	29 573	0,25%	53 162	0,23%	28 798	0,40%	81 960	0,27%
FORUM FOR DEMOCRATS	733	0,01%	603	0,01%	1 336	0,01%	600	0,01%	1 936	0,01%
FRANCES BAARD DISTRICT FORUM	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 076	0,03%	2 076	0,01%
FREE DEMOCRATS	-	-	108	0,00%	108	0,00%	-	-	108	0,00%
FUTURE GENERATION CONGRESS	223	0,00%	190	0,00%	413	0,00%	-	-	413	0,00%
GAMAGARA COMMUNITY FORUM	1 556	0,01%	1 503	0,01%	3 059	0,01%	-	-	3 059	0,01%
GAZA MOVEMENT FOR CHANGE	431	0,00%	543	0,00%	974	0,00%	-	-	974	0,00%
GAZA YOUTH REVOLUTION	54	0,00%	76	0,00%	130	0,00%	-	-	130	0,00%
GAZANKULU LIBERATION CONGRESS	274	0,00%	440	0,00%	714	0,00%	578	0,01%	1 292	0,00%
GOD SAVE AFRICA	657	0,01%	2 542	0,02%	3 199	0,01%	1 266	0,02%	4 465	0,01%
GOOD	75 985	0,65%	74 186	0,63%	150 171	0,64%	35 206	0,49%	185 377	0,61%
HESSEQUA PEOPLES MOVEMENT	265	0,00%	285	0,00%	550	0,00%	-	-	550	0,00%
HIS LORDSHIP TO SAVE AND LEAD PARTY	95	0,00%	60	0,00%	155	0,00%	-	-	155	0,00%
HOPE FOR THE FUTURE	3 992	0,03%	3 976	0,03%	7 968	0,03%	4 051	0,06%	12 019	0,04%
HUMAN DIGNITY RESTORATION	81	0,00%	-	-	81	0,00%	-	-	81	0,00%
IKEMELENG FREE STATE	390	0,00%	431	0,00%	821	0,00%	587	0,01%	1 408	0,00%
IKHWEZI POLITICAL MOVEMENT	610	0,01%	645	0,01%	1 255	0,01%	694	0,01%	1 949	0,01%
INDEPENDENT	406 135	3,46%	-	-	406 135	1,73%	-	-	406 135	1,33%
INDEPENDENT ALLIANCE	6 571	0,06%	6 545	0,06%	13 116	0,06%	5 891	0,08%	19 007	0,06%
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS MOVEMENT	2 960	0,03%	3 026	0,03%	5 986	0,03%	-	-	5 986	0,02%
INDEPENDENT CIVIC MOVEMENT	101	0,00%	160	0,00%	261	0,00%	-	-	261	0,00%
INDEPENDENT CIVIC ORGANISATION OF SOUTH	10 600	0,09%	10 677	0,09%	21 277	0,09%	9 775	0,14%	31 052	0,10%
INDEPENDENT PARTY	170	0,00%	119	0,00%	289	0,00%	-	-	289	0,00%
INDEPENDENT PEOPLE'S PARTY	848	0,01%	1 906	0,02%	2 754	0,01%	-	-	2 754	0,01%
INDEPENDENT RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION OF	5 393	0,05%	2 537	0,02%	7 930	0,03%	-	-	7 930	0,03%
INDEPENDENT SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL	12 164	0,10%	17 053	0,15%	29 217	0,12%	17 556	0,25%	46 773	0,15%

INDEPENDENTS FOR COMMUNITIES	648	0,01%	990	0,01%	1 638	0,01%	-	-	1 638	0,01%
INGUBO YESKHETHU PARTY	641	0,01%	990	0,01%	1 631	0,01%	-	-	1 631	0,01%
INKATHA FREEDOM PARTY	638 856	5,44%	685 411	5,85%	1 324 267	5,64%	591 265	8,29%	1 915 532	6,26%
INTERNATIONAL PARTY	24	0,00%	847	0,01%	871	0,00%	-	-	871	0,00%
INTERNATIONAL REVELATION CONGRESS	3 292	0,03%	4 999	0,04%	8 291	0,04%	2 645	0,04%	10 936	0,04%
IQELA LENTSANGO - DAGGA PARTY	420	0,00%	902	0,01%	1 322	0,01%	-	-	1 322	0,00%
JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT PARTY	7 717	0,07%	9 644	0,08%	17 361	0,07%	7 906	0,11%	25 267	0,08%
KAAP AGULHAS CIVIC ORGANISASIE	159	0,00%	192	0,00%	351	0,00%	229	0,00%	580	0,00%
KANNALAND INDEPENDENT PARTY	657	0,01%	686	0,01%	1 343	0,01%	788	0,01%	2 131	0,01%
KAREEBERG CIVIC MOVEMENT	825	0,01%	871	0,01%	1 696	0,01%	1 048	0,01%	2 744	0,01%
KAROO DEMOCRATIC FORCE	1 948	0,02%	2 083	0,02%	4 031	0,02%	2 149	0,03%	6 180	0,02%
KAROO GEMEENSKAP PARTY	1 566	0,01%	1 622	0,01%	3 188	0,01%	1 661	0,02%	4 849	0,02%
KAROO ONTWIKKELINGS PARTY	243	0,00%	262	0,00%	505	0,00%	286	0,00%	791	0,00%
KATEKANI ECONOMIC POWER	129	0,00%	141	0,00%	270	0,00%	-	-	270	0,00%
KHOI-SAN HEAVENLY PARTY	-	-	269	0,00%	269	0,00%	-	-	269	0,00%
KHOISAN KINGDOM AND ALL PEOPLE	38	0,00%	-	-	38	0,00%	-	-	38	0,00%
KHOI-SAN KINGDOM OF RSA	50	0,00%	-	-	50	0,00%	-	-	50	0,00%
KHOISAN REVOLUTION	1 745	0,01%	2 129	0,02%	3 874	0,02%	2 320	0,03%	6 194	0,02%
KHOISAN UNITED MOVEMENT	70	0,00%	79	0,00%	149	0,00%	274	0,00%	423	0,00%
KHOWA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	175	0,00%	269	0,00%	444	0,00%	-	-	444	0,00%
KINGDOM COVENANT DEMOCRATIC PARTY	381	0,00%	1 484	0,01%	1 865	0,01%	1 689	0,02%	3 554	0,01%
KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOUR	832	0,01%	880	0,01%	1 712	0,01%	935	0,01%	2 647	0,01%
KNYSNA INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT	1 901	0,02%	1 797	0,02%	3 698	0,02%	1 703	0,02%	5 401	0,02%
KNYSNA SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY	28	0,00%	-	-	28	0,00%	-	-	28	0,00%
KNYSNA UNITY CONGRESS	160	0,00%	185	0,00%	345	0,00%	-	-	345	0,00%
KONSERWATIEWE PARTY/CONSERVATIVE	123	0,00%	82	0,00%	205	0,00%	230	0,00%	435	0,00%
KZN INDEPENDENCE	2 297	0,02%	4 370	0,04%	6 667	0,03%	1 743	0,02%	8 410	0,03%
LAND PARTY	3 286	0,03%	3 354	0,03%	6 640	0,03%	2 852	0,04%	9 492	0,03%
LANGERBERG INDEPENDENT PARTY	307	0,00%	395	0,00%	702	0,00%	-	-	702	0,00%
LEBOWAKGOMO CIVIC ORGANIZATION	264	0,00%	436	0,00%	700	0,00%	-	-	700	0,00%
LEIHLO LA SETJHABA RAINBOW	174	0,00%	194	0,00%	368	0,00%	323	0,00%	691	0,00%
LEKWA COMMUNITY FORUM	4 251	0,04%	4 674	0,04%	8 925	0,04%	-	-	8 925	0,03%
LEPHALALE RESIDENTS PARTY	277	0,00%	516	0,00%	793	0,00%	-	-	793	0,00%
LIMPOPO RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	445	0,00%	451	0,00%	896	0,00%	541	0,01%	1 437	0,00%
MAGOSHI SWARANANG MOVEMENT	992	0,01%	1 273	0,01%	2 265	0,01%	1 141	0,02%	3 406	0,01%
MAKANA CITIZENS FRONT	3 277	0,03%	3 396	0,03%	6 673	0,03%	-	-	6 673	0,02%
MAKANA INDEPENDENT NEW DEAL	330	0,00%	371	0,00%	701	0,00%	-	-	701	0,00%
MALAMULELE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	150	0,00%	249	0,00%	399	0,00%	364	0,01%	763	0,00%
MALETSWAI CIVIC ASSOCIATION	1 147	0,01%	1 237	0,01%	2 384	0,01%	1 303	0,02%	3 687	0,01%
MANDELA BAY COMMUNITY MOVEMENT	131	0,00%	401	0,00%	532	0,00%	-	-	532	0,00%
MANGAUNG COMMUNITY FORUM	27	0,00%	366	0,00%	393	0,00%	-	-	393	0,00%
MAPSIXTEEN CIVIC MOVEMENT	22 970	0,20%	22 627	0,19%	45 597	0,19%	22 905	0,32%	68 502	0,22%
MERAFONG AGENTS OF CHANGE	1 218	0,01%	1 356	0,01%	2 574	0,01%	-	-	2 574	0,01%
METSIMAHOLO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	418	0,00%	492	0,00%	910	0,00%	615	0,01%	1 525	0,00%
METSIMAHOLO PROGRESSIVE PEOPLE FORUM	91	0,00%	166	0,00%	257	0,00%	154	0,00%	411	0,00%
MIDDELBURG AND HENDRINA RESIDENTS	4 955	0,04%	5 382	0,05%	10 337	0,04%	-	-	10 337	0,03%
MINORITIES OF SOUTH AFRICA	3 084	0,03%	2 226	0,02%	5 310	0,02%	-	-	5 310	0,02%
MINORITY FRONT	4 028	0,03%	4 276	0,04%	8 304	0,04%	-	-	8 304	0,03%
MOGALAKWENA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	125	0,00%	477	0,00%	602	0,00%	-	-	602	0,00%
MOPANI INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT	2 912	0,02%	2 546	0,02%	5 458	0,02%	2 771	0,04%	8 229	0,03%
MOQHAKA COMMUNITY FORUM	1 797	0,02%	2 231	0,02%	4 028	0,02%	2 183	0,03%	6 211	0,02%
MORETELE INDEPENDENT CIVIC	637	0,01%	774	0,01%	1 411	0,01%	1 160	0,02%	2 571	0,01%
MORETELE PEOPLES PARTY	465	0,00%	582	0,00%	1 047	0,00%	941	0,01%	1 988	0,01%
MOVEMENT DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS	131	0,00%	190	0,00%	321	0,00%	321	0,00%	642	0,00%
MOVEMENT FOR AFRICAN CONVENTION	237	0,00%	338	0,00%	575	0,00%	-	-	575	0,00%
MOVEMENT FOR TOTAL LIBERATION	222	0,00%	232	0,00%	454	0,00%	306	0,00%	760	0,00%
MPUMALANGA PARTY	1 471	0,01%	1 624	0,01%	3 095	0,01%	1 605	0,02%	4 700	0,02%
MTHATHA RATEPAYERS AND RESIDENTS	555	0,00%	811	0,01%	1 366	0,01%	-	-	1 366	0,00%
NALA COMMUNITY FORUM	1 432	0,01%	1 495	0,01%	2 927	0,01%	-	-	2 927	0,01%
NAMAKWA CIVIC MOVEMENT	4 909	0,04%	5 159	0,04%	10 068	0,04%	5 093	0,07%	15 161	0,05%
NATIONAL COMMUNIST CONGRESS	773	0,01%	751	0,01%	1 524	0,01%	773	0,01%	2 297	0,01%
NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION	300	0,00%	296	0,00%	596	0,00%	325	0,00%	921	0,00%
NATIONAL ECONOMIC FIGHTERS	754	0,01%	784	0,01%	1 538	0,01%	936	0,01%	2 474	0,01%
NATIONAL FREEDOM PARTY	56 957	0,48%	61 073	0,52%	118 030	0,50%	52 592	0,74%	170 622	0,56%
NATIONAL INDEPENDENT PARTY	1 899	0,02%	1 995	0,02%	3 894	0,02%	2 125	0,03%	6 019	0,02%
NATIONAL PEOPLES AMBASSADORS	1 387	0,01%	1 570	0,01%	2 957	0,01%	1 706	0,02%	4 663	0,02%
NATIONAL PEOPLE'S FRONT	1 988	0,02%	2 297	0,02%	4 285	0,02%	700	0,01%	4 985	0,02%
NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM PARTY	127	0,00%	167	0,00%	294	0,00%	201	0,00%	495	0,00%
NEW HORIZON MOVEMENT	2 003	0,02%	1 913	0,02%	3 916	0,02%	2 044	0,03%	5 960	0,02%
NGWATHE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	751	0,01%	738	0,01%	1 489	0,01%	-	-	1 489	0,00%
NORTHERN ALLIANCE	5 726	0,05%	5 499	0,05%	11 225	0,05%	-	-	11 225	0,04%
ONE MOVEMENT FOR CAPE TOWN	804	0,01%	1 173	0,01%	1 977	0,01%	-	-	1 977	0,01%
OUDTSHOORN GEMEENSKAP INISIATIEF	1 188	0,01%	1 248	0,01%	2 436	0,01%	1 346	0,02%	3 782	0,01%
OUR CITY MATTERS	67	0,00%	336	0,00%	403	0,00%	395	0,01%	798	0,00%
OUR NATION	289	0,00%	299	0,00%	588	0,00%	-	-	588	0,00%
PAN AFRICANIST CONGRESS OF AZANIA	23 959	0,20%	32 256	0,28%	56 215	0,24%	12 613	0,18%	68 828	0,22%
PARTY OF ACTION	1 942	0,02%	2 603	0,02%	4 545	0,02%	-	-	4 545	0,01%
PATRIOTIC ALLIANCE	112 112	0,95%	114 747	0,98%	226 859	0,97%	38 402	0,54%	265 261	0,87%
PATRIOTIC FRONT OF AZANIA	584	0,00%	725	0,01%	1 309	0,01%	283	0,00%	1 592	0,01%
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT	1 751	0,01%	1 997	0,02%	3 748	0,02%	1 722	0,02%	5 470	0,02%
PEOPLE'S FREEDOM PARTY	4 079	0,03%	3 755	0,03%	7 834	0,03%	1 101	0,02%	8 935	0,03%
PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT	2 552	0,02%	2 753	0,02%	5 305	0,02%	432	0,01%	5 737	0,02%
PHOKWANE SERVICE DELIVERY FORUM	498	0,00%	571	0,00%	1 069	0,00%	-	-	1 069	0,00%
PLAASLIKE BESORGDE INWONERS	6 631	0,06%	6 486	0,06%	13 117	0,06%	6 446	0,09%	19 563	0,06%
PLETT DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS	1 335	0,01%	1 219	0,01%	2 554	0,01%	-	-	2 554	0,01%
POELANO REVELATION PARTY	8	0,00%	142	0,00%	150	0,00%	-	-	150	0,00%
PONGOLA PEOPLE'S PARTY	100	0,00%	138	0,00%	238	0,00%	-	-	238	0,00%
POWER OF AFRICANS UNITY	1 824	0,02%	2 869	0,02%	4 693	0,02%	1 039	0,01%	5 732	0,02%
PROGRESSIVE CHANGE	151	0,00%	158	0,00%	309	0,00%	207	0,00%	516	0,00%
PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY MOVEMENT	264	0,00%	229	0,00%	493	0,00%	-	-	493	0,00%

PROGRESSIVE FRONT OF SOUTH AFRICA	92	0,00%	140	0,00%	232	0,00%	506	0,01%	738	0,00%
PROPHETIC MOVEMENT ARMY	148	0,00%	168	0,00%	316	0,00%	218	0,00%	534	0,00%
RANDFONTEIN PEOPLES PARTY	574	0,00%	756	0,01%	1 330	0,01%	854	0,01%	2 184	0,01%
REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE OF TSHWANE	1 700	0,01%	869	0,01%	2 569	0,01%	-	-	2 569	0,01%
REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRATIC PATRIOTS	76	0,00%	58	0,00%	134	0,00%	-	-	134	0,00%
RISE UP AFRICA / TSOGA AFRICA	24	0,00%	77	0,00%	101	0,00%	-	-	101	0,00%
ROYAL LOYAL PROGRESS	746	0,01%	584	0,00%	1 330	0,01%	442	0,01%	1 772	0,01%
SAKHISIZWE CONVENTION	24	0,00%	-	-	24	0,00%	-	-	24	0,00%
SAKHISIZWE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT	276	0,00%	249	0,00%	525	0,00%	-	-	525	0,00%
SAVE MADIBENG	2 971	0,03%	3 180	0,03%	6 151	0,03%	3 320	0,05%	9 471	0,03%
SAVE TSANTSABANE COALITION	1 609	0,01%	1 817	0,02%	3 426	0,01%	1 811	0,03%	5 237	0,02%
SAYCO GONDWE CIVIC MOVEMENT	175	0,00%	238	0,00%	413	0,00%	-	-	413	0,00%
SERVICE DELIVERY MOVEMENT	192	0,00%	220	0,00%	412	0,00%	770	0,01%	1 182	0,00%
SERVICE FOR ALL	30	0,00%	65	0,00%	95	0,00%	-	-	95	0,00%
SETSOTO SERVICE DELIVERY FORUM	5 597	0,05%	5 542	0,05%	11 139	0,05%	5 605	0,08%	16 744	0,05%
SHOSHOLOZA PROGRESSIVE PARTY	348	0,00%	150	0,00%	498	0,00%	-	-	498	0,00%
SINDAWONYE PROGRESSIVE PARTY	1 095	0,01%	1 326	0,01%	2 421	0,01%	1 612	0,02%	4 033	0,01%
SINGUKUKHANYA KWEZWE CHRISTIAN PARTY	217	0,00%	216	0,00%	433	0,00%	-	-	433	0,00%
SIYATHEMBA COMMUNITY MOVEMENT	3 111	0,03%	3 494	0,03%	6 605	0,03%	3 905	0,05%	10 510	0,03%
SIZWE UMMAH NATION	625	0,01%	481	0,00%	1 106	0,00%	-	-	1 106	0,00%
SOCIALIST AGENDA OF DISPOSSESSED	2 021	0,02%	2 517	0,02%	4 538	0,02%	2 519	0,04%	7 057	0,02%
SOCIALIST CIVIC MOVEMENT	49	0,00%	129	0,00%	178	0,00%	-	-	178	0,00%
SOCIALIST ECONOMIC FREEDOM MOVEMENT	580	0,00%	504	0,00%	1 084	0,00%	-	-	1 084	0,00%
SOCIALIST PARTY OF SOUTH AFRICA	1 952	0,02%	2 200	0,02%	4 152	0,02%	2 410	0,03%	6 562	0,02%
SOCIALIST REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS PARTY	1 851	0,02%	1 806	0,02%	3 657	0,02%	1 787	0,03%	5 444	0,02%
SOL- PLAATJIE SERVICE DELIVERY FORUM	2 645	0,02%	2 923	0,02%	5 568	0,02%	-	-	5 568	0,02%
SOUTH AFRICA MY HOME RESIDENTS	1 686	0,01%	1 715	0,01%	3 401	0,01%	2 177	0,03%	5 578	0,02%
SOUTH AFRICA VUKA MOVEMENT	284	0,00%	235	0,00%	519	0,00%	-	-	519	0,00%
SOUTH AFRICAN MAINTENANCE AND ESTATE	2 234	0,02%	2 074	0,02%	4 308	0,02%	2 063	0,03%	6 371	0,02%
SOUTH AFRICAN PEOPLES MOVEMENT	27	0,00%	92	0,00%	119	0,00%	-	-	119	0,00%
SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL ASSOCIATION	648	0,01%	786	0,01%	1 434	0,01%	-	-	1 434	0,00%
SOUTH AFRICAN RELIGIOUS CIVIC	278	0,00%	256	0,00%	534	0,00%	-	-	534	0,00%
SOUTH AFRICAN ROYAL KINGDOMS	2 602	0,02%	3 454	0,03%	6 056	0,03%	1 030	0,01%	7 086	0,02%
SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY ORGANISATION	21	0,00%	200	0,00%	221	0,00%	546	0,01%	767	0,00%
SOUTH AFRICAN UNITED NATIONAL	109	0,00%	40	0,00%	149	0,00%	-	-	149	0,00%
SPECTRUM NATIONAL PARTY	2 469	0,02%	2 508	0,02%	4 977	0,02%	545	0,01%	5 522	0,02%
STERKSPRUIT CIVIC ASSOCIATION	1 061	0,01%	1 221	0,01%	2 282	0,01%	1 651	0,02%	3 933	0,01%
SUID - KAAP SAAMSTAAN	423	0,00%	387	0,00%	810	0,00%	-	-	810	0,00%
TEAM SUGAR SOUTH AFRICA	8 896	0,08%	9 365	0,08%	18 261	0,08%	9 461	0,13%	27 722	0,09%
THABAZIMBI FORUM FOR SERVICE DELIVERY	604	0,01%	665	0,01%	1 269	0,01%	-	-	1 269	0,00%
THABAZIMBI RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	2 031	0,02%	2 077	0,02%	4 108	0,02%	2 154	0,03%	6 262	0,02%
THE GREENS	517	0,00%	694	0,01%	1 211	0,01%	-	-	1 211	0,00%
THE INDEPENDENTS	3 033	0,03%	4 196	0,04%	7 229	0,03%	4 857	0,07%	12 086	0,04%
THE NATIONALS OF SOUTH AFRICA	491	0,00%	526	0,00%	1 017	0,00%	-	-	1 017	0,00%
THE ORGANIC HUMANITY MOVEMENT	3 642	0,03%	3 309	0,03%	6 951	0,03%	-	-	6 951	0,02%
THE PEOPLE'S AGENDA	241	0,00%	192	0,00%	433	0,00%	-	-	433	0,00%
THE PEOPLE'S VOICE	407	0,00%	401	0,00%	808	0,00%	162	0,00%	970	0,00%
TIKWANA YOUTH POWER	669	0,01%	668	0,01%	1 337	0,01%	788	0,01%	2 125	0,01%
TRANSFORMATIVE YOUTH MOVEMENT	589	0,01%	537	0,00%	1 126	0,00%	-	-	1 126	0,00%
TRANSFORMING DRAKENSTEIN COMMUNITY	159	0,00%	159	0,00%	318	0,00%	206	0,00%	524	0,00%
TRULY ALLIANCE	1 822	0,02%	1 871	0,02%	3 693	0,02%	-	-	3 693	0,01%
TSOGANG CIVIC MOVEMENT	9 095	0,08%	9 842	0,08%	18 937	0,08%	9 677	0,14%	28 614	0,09%
UMNOTHO DEMOCRATIC FRONT	5	0,00%	26	0,00%	31	0,00%	-	-	31	0,00%
UMSOBOMVU RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	2 738	0,02%	2 753	0,02%	5 491	0,02%	2 851	0,04%	8 342	0,03%
UNEMPLOYMENT MOVEMENT SA	58	0,00%	70	0,00%	128	0,00%	-	-	128	0,00%
UNITED CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY	7 804	0,07%	10 885	0,09%	18 689	0,08%	7 636	0,11%	26 325	0,09%
UNITED COMMUNITY FRONT	276	0,00%	236	0,00%	512	0,00%	-	-	512	0,00%
UNITED CULTURAL MOVEMENT	848	0,01%	1 189	0,01%	2 037	0,01%	640	0,01%	2 677	0,01%
UNITED DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT	50 906	0,43%	60 295	0,51%	111 201	0,47%	46 508	0,65%	157 709	0,52%
UNITED FRONT OF THE EASTERN CAPE	539	0,00%	585	0,00%	1 124	0,00%	-	-	1 124	0,00%
UNITED INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT	14 355	0,12%	15 796	0,13%	30 151	0,13%	1 038	0,01%	31 189	0,10%
UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY SOUTH AFRICA	278	0,00%	553	0,00%	831	0,00%	-	-	831	0,00%
UNITED RESIDENTS FRONT	214	0,00%	171	0,00%	385	0,00%	437	0,01%	822	0,00%
UNITED SOUTH AFRICA	577	0,00%	554	0,00%	1 131	0,00%	-	-	1 131	0,00%
US THE PEOPLE	144	0,00%	519	0,00%	663	0,00%	-	-	663	0,00%
VAAL ALTERNATIVE ALLIANCE LEKGOTLA	1 234	0,01%	1 039	0,01%	2 273	0,01%	1 310	0,02%	3 583	0,01%
VOTER'S INDEPENDENT PARTY - SA	1	0,00%	-	-	1	0,00%	-	-	1	0,00%
VRYHEIDSFRONT PLUS	276 226	2,35%	273 651	2,33%	549 877	2,34%	161 062	2,26%	710 939	2,32%
WESTERN PROVINCE PARTY	998	0,01%	898	0,01%	1 896	0,01%	900	0,01%	2 796	0,01%
WITZENBERG AKSIE	740	0,01%	754	0,01%	1 494	0,01%	811	0,01%	2 305	0,01%
WITZENBERG ONAFHANKLIKE DEMOKRATIESE	183	0,00%	175	0,00%	358	0,00%	-	-	358	0,00%
WITZENBERG PARTY	373	0,00%	405	0,00%	778	0,00%	519	0,01%	1 297	0,00%
XIMOKO PARTY	804	0,01%	1 959	0,02%	2 763	0,01%	2 072	0,03%	4 835	0,02%
YOUNG PEOPLES PARTY	58	0,00%	86	0,00%	144	0,00%	-	-	144	0,00%
YOUTH INDEPENDENCE PARTY AND YOUTH	197	0,00%	203	0,00%	400	0,00%	192	0,00%	592	0,00%
ZULU ROYAL PROPERTY	1	0,00%	-	-	1	0,00%	-	-	1	0,00%
Total Valid Votes	**11 746 622**	**100,00%**	**11 720 198**	**100,00%**	**23 466 820**	**100,00%**	**7 128 275**	**100,00%**	**30 595 095**	**100,00%**
Total Spoilt Votes	**196 291**		**229 644**		**425 935**		**171 720**		**597 655**	
Total Votes Cast	**11 942 913**		**11 949 842**		**23 892 755**		**7 299 995**		**31 192 750**	
Total Voter Turnout					**12 063 709**					

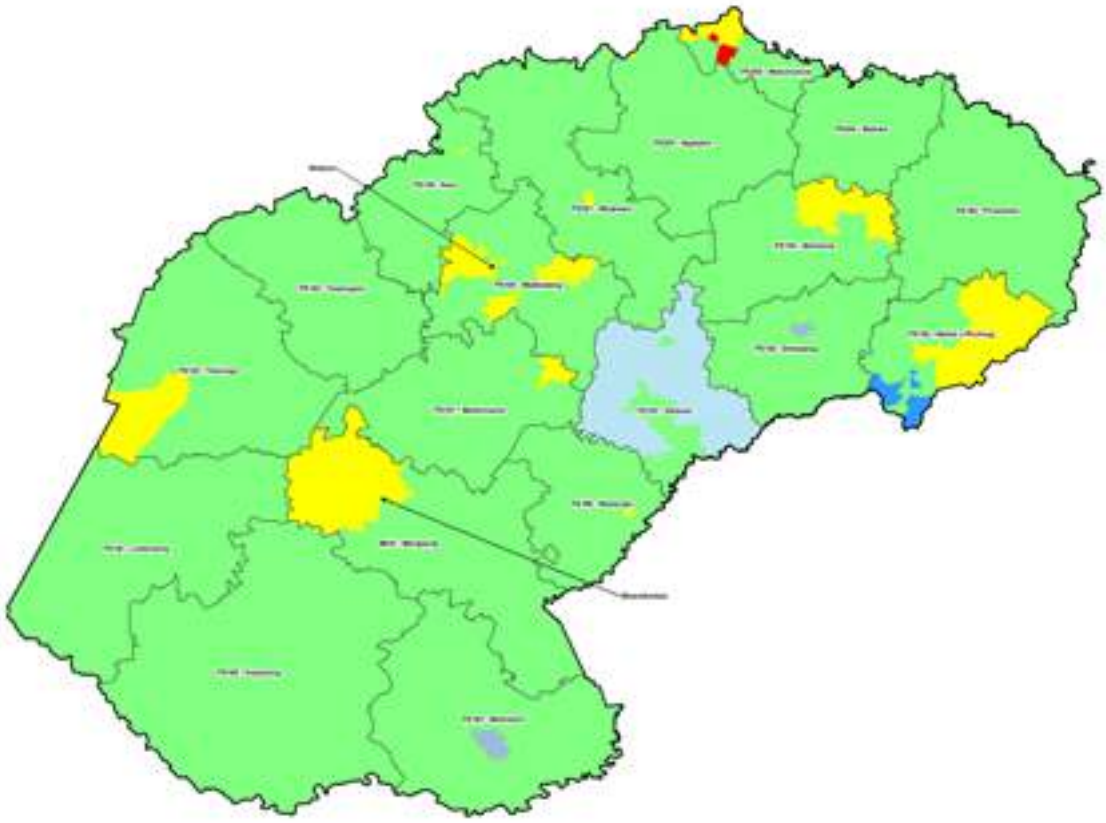
IV. Maps illustrating ward winners for the 2021 Municipal Elections (as at January 2022)

Leading Party by ward (PR and ward) in the 2021 Municipal Elections

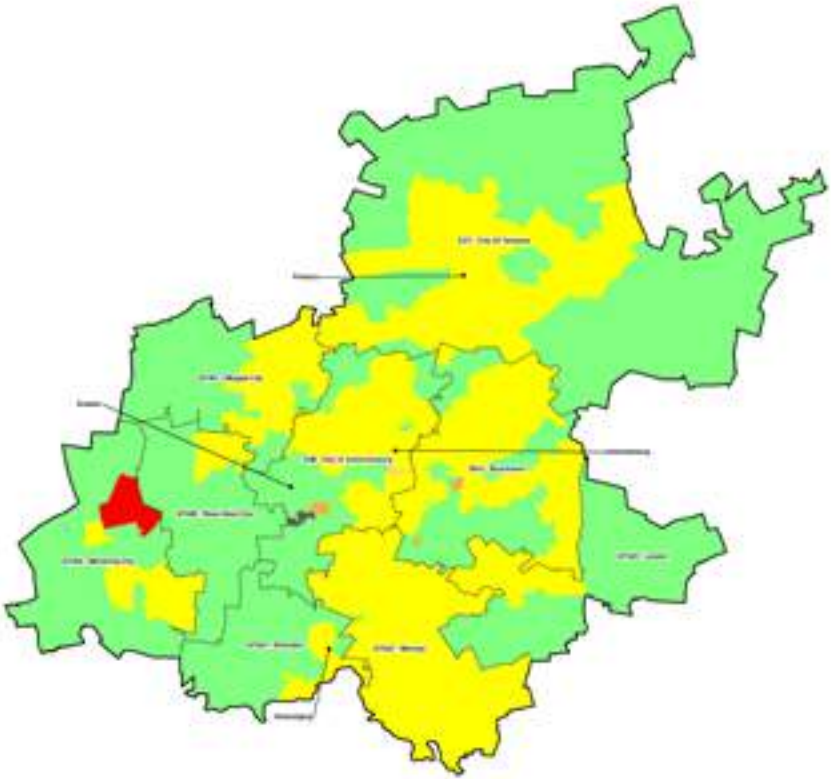


Ward winners: Eastern Cape

Ward winners: Free State

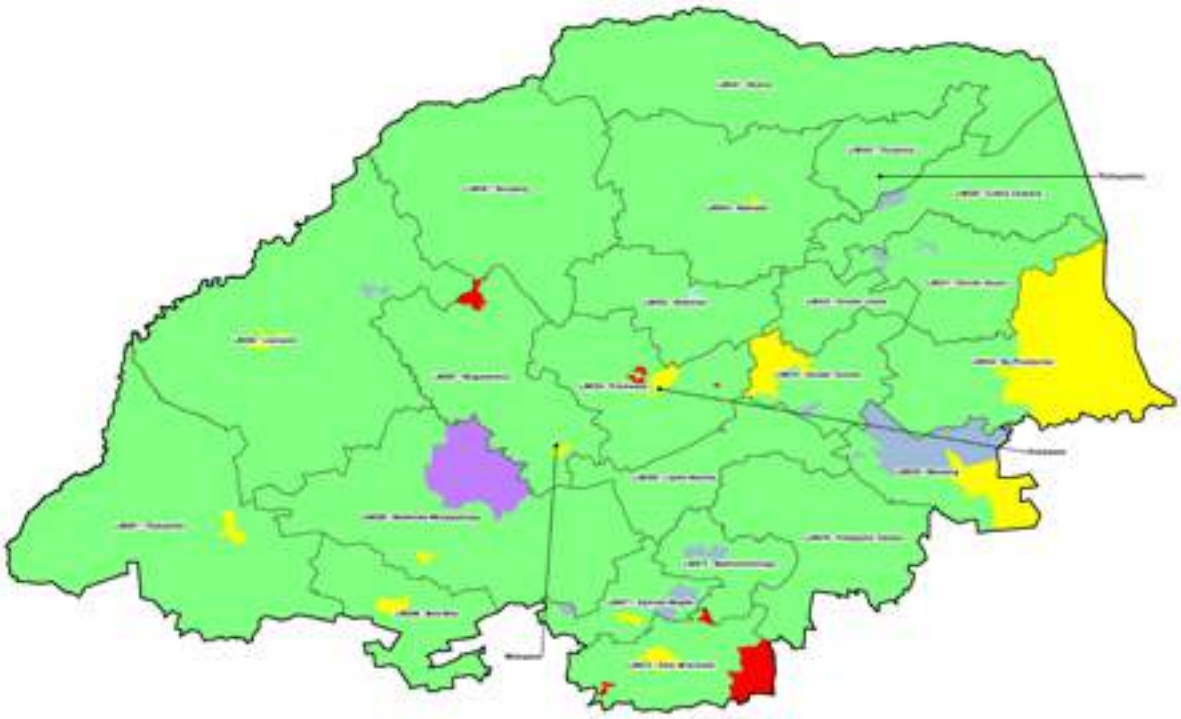


Ward winners: Gauteng

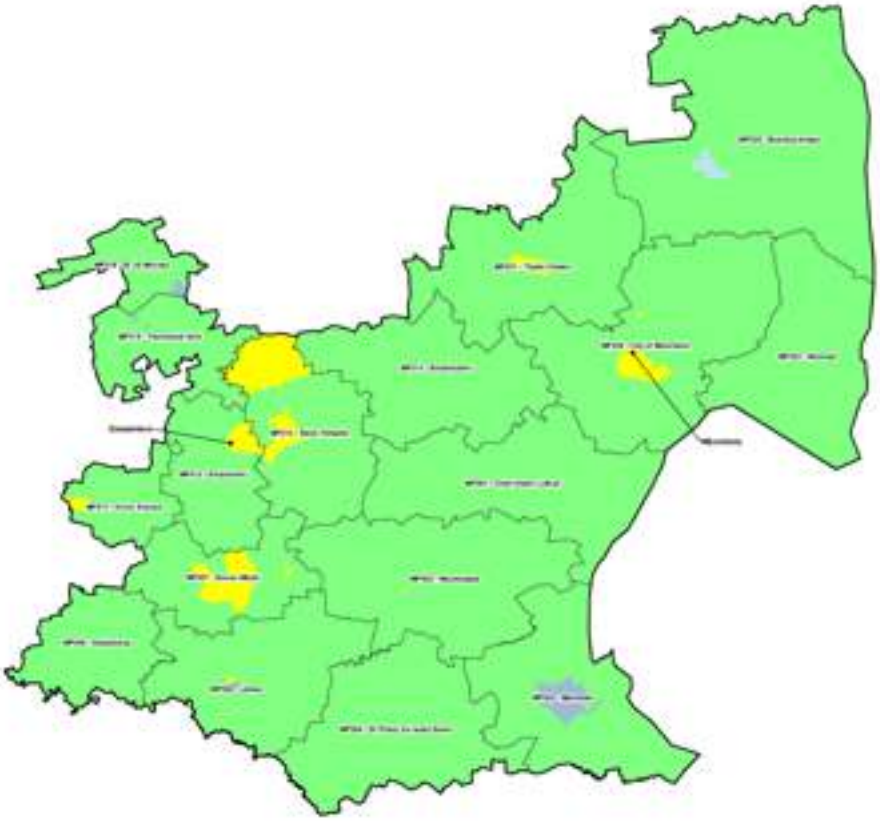


Ward winners: KwaZulu-Natal

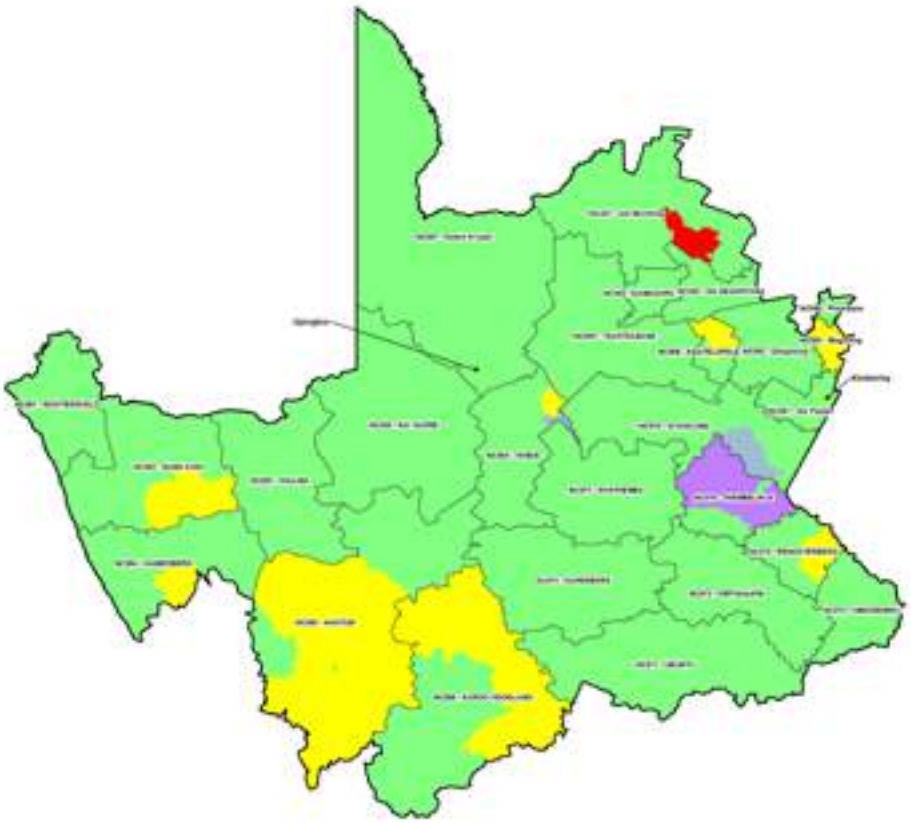
Ward winners: Limpopo



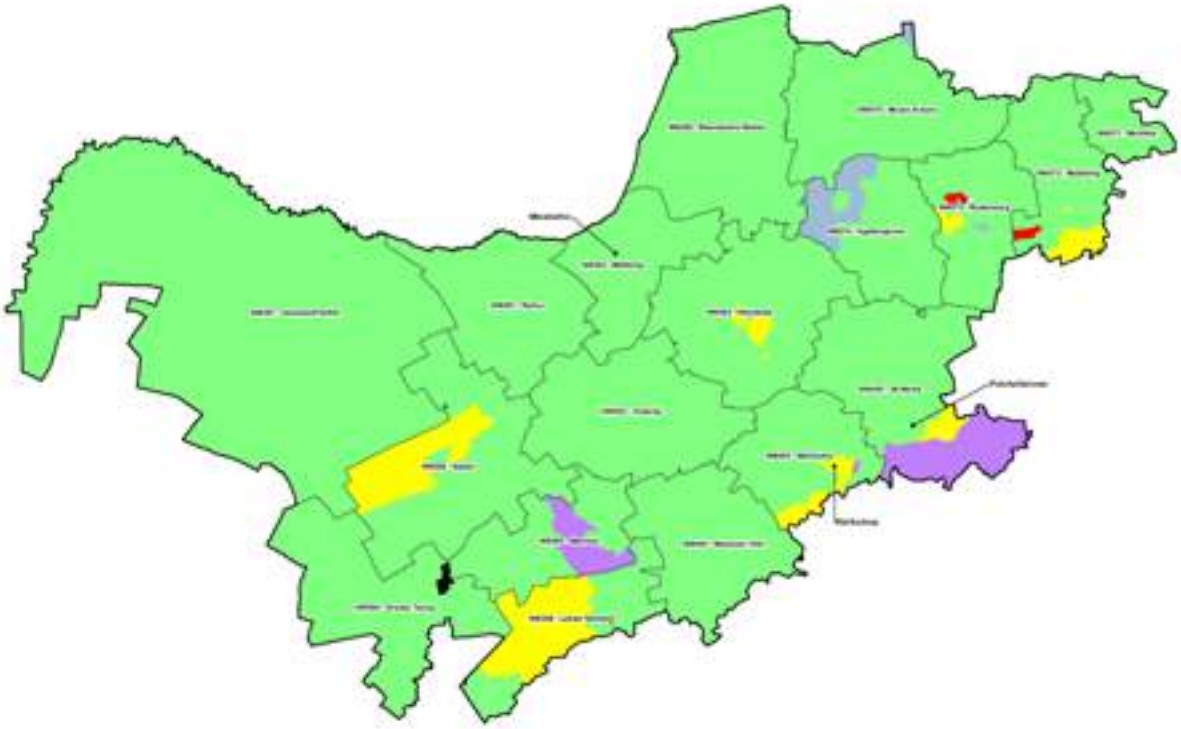
Ward winners: Mpumalanga



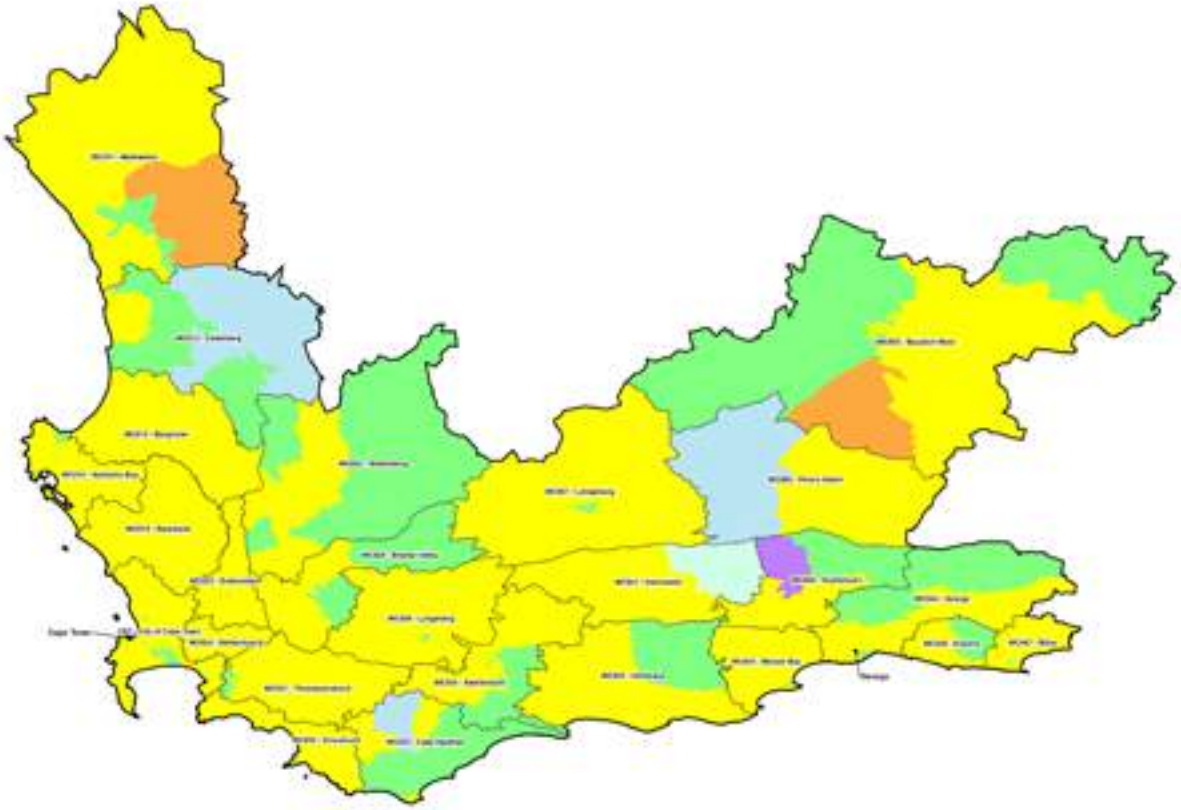
Ward winners: Northern Cape



Ward winners: North West



Ward winners: Western Cape



V. Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
API	Application Program Interface
APN	Access Point Network
BoM	Bill of Materials
CDE	Civic and Democracy Education
CEO	Chief Electoral Officer
CoGTA	Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
COMMISSION	The Electoral Commission established in section 3(1) of the Electoral Commission Act, Act No 51 of 1996
COVID-19	Coronavirus 2019
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DA	Democratic Alliance
DC	District Council
DCEO	Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
DeafSA	Deaf Federation of South Africa
DHA	Department of Home Affairs
DNS	Domain Name System
DPO	Deputy Presiding Officer
ECA	Electoral Commission Act
ESS	Election Satisfaction Survey
FBO	Faith-based Organisation
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HSRC	Human Sciences Research Council
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ID	Identity Document
IEC	(Independent) Electoral Commission
ISP	Internet Service Provider
LAN	Local Area Network
LGE	Local Government Elections
MDB	Municipal Demarcation Board
MDM	Mobile Device Management
MEO	Municipal Electoral Officer
MMA	Media Monitoring Africa
MOC	Municipal Outreach Coordinator
MPLC	Municipal Party Liason Committee
MTEF	Medium-term Expenditure Framework
NATJOINTS	National Joint Operational and Intelligence Structure
NPE	National and Provincial Elections
NPLC	National Party Liaison Committee
NROC	National Results Operation Centre
OCNS	Online Candidate Nomination System
PBSU	Programmable Barcode Scanning Unit

V. Abbreviations and Acronyms (continued)

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
PEO	Provincial Electoral Office
PLC	Party Liaison Committee
PO	Presiding Officer
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PR	Proportional Representation
PROC	Provincial Results Operations Centre
PWD	People with Disabilities
RCS	Results Capturing Site
ROC	Results Operations Centre
SABC	South African Broadcasting Corporation
SALGA	South African Local Government Association
SAN	Storage Area Network
SANCB	South African National Council for the Blind
SCA	Supreme Court of Appeal
SDP	Schools Democracy Programme
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UBT	Universal Ballot Template
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VAP	Voting-age Public
VD	Voting District
VIP	Visually Impaired Person
VMD	Voter Management Device
VPS	Voter Participation Survey
WAN	Wireless Area Network

EVERY
VOICE
TOGETHER

VOTING
STATION

VOTERS
ROLL

EVERY
VOICE
TOGETHER

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

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