

YOUR GUIDE TO SPECIAL VOTES

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

To make sure that everyone's vote counts, if you are a registered voter and you cannot vote at your voting station on election day, you can apply for a special vote. This allows you to cast your vote on specific days before everyone else does on election day.

CAN ANYONE GET A SPECIAL VOTE?

By law, if you are a registered voter, you can apply for a special vote if you:



can't travel to your voting station because you are physically infirm, disabled or pregnant.

In this case you can apply to vote at your home.



can't vote at your voting station on election day.

In this case you will only be able to cast a special vote on specific days before general voting at the voting station where you are registered.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SPECIAL VOTE?

Once the election date has been officially proclaimed, the Electoral Commission will publish the dates when you can apply for a special vote.



During this period, visit www.elections.org to complete your application online

or send an SMS to 32249 and complete your application for a special vote on your phone.



To complete your application manually, you can download the MEC35 form at www.elections.org.za

or collect an application form from your local Electoral Commission office.



If you have completed your application manually, the special vote application form needs to be hand delivered to your local

Electoral Commission office. If you cannot deliver the form, someone else can deliver it for you.

Once we have your application, we will send you an SMS to let you know if your special vote has been approved or not. To check the status of your special vote application, you can send an **SMS to 32711** or visit **www.elections.org.za**.

To apply for a special vote you need to be a registered voter and have a green, bar-coded ID book, smartcard ID or a valid temporary identity certificate.

To find out if you are registered and where your local Electoral Commission office is:

- Check your voter registration status online at www.elections.org.za.
- SMS your ID number to 32810.
- Make an appointment to visit your local Electoral Commission office (NOT the national or provincial offices).
- To find out where your local office is, visit www.elections.org.za or call 0800 11 8000.



SOUTH AFRICA

IF MY SPECIAL VOTE APPLICATION IS SUCCESSFUL...



WHEN DO I VOTE?

Special votes are cast a day or two before the election. Once the election date has been proclaimed, the Election Timetable will be published and will contain the dates for special votes. These dates will also be available on the website - www.elections.org.za. You will only be able to cast your special vote on the dates so designated in terms of the Election Timetable.



WHERE DO I VOTE?

If your application has been approved to be visited at your home to cast a special vote, election officials will visit you where you are living and allow you to vote. Please remember, this address has to be within the voting district where you are registered. If you can't vote on voting day, you will vote at the voting station where you are registered when special voting begins.

What happens when I vote?



1. Hand your ID, TIC or Smartcard to the official.



6. You will mark the ballots in secret.



2. Home Visit
Your name will be marked off the list of approved special voters.

Voting Station
Your name will be marked off both the list and the voter's roll with 'SV' to indicate that you have cast a special vote.

or



7. You will place and seal the ballots in the smaller unmarked envelope.



8. The smaller unmarked envelope is placed in the bigger envelope that is then marked with your name, ID number and voting district number.



3. Your thumbnail will be marked with ink.



9. Home Visit
Election officials take the envelope and place it in a secure box file so that special votes cannot be tampered with.

Voting Station
Place the envelope with your ballots in the ballot box.

or



4. Your ID book will be stamped.

5. You will be given two or three ballot papers. Envelopes will be used to make sure that your vote is kept secret.



10. Your vote will be counted with all other votes once counting begins.



About the Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is an independent, impartial institution established by Chapter 9 of the Constitution. It manages national, provincial and municipal elections. It makes sure these elections are credible, free and fair.

National Office

Tel: 012 622 5700
info@elections.org.za
www.elections.org.za

Contact Centre: 0800 11 8000 (during elections)

Follow us:  

Contact Provincial Offices

Eastern Cape: 043 709 4200
Free State: 051 401 5000
Gauteng: 011 644 7400
KwaZulu-Natal: 031 279 2200
Limpopo: 015 283 9100
Mpumalanga: 013 762 0640
North West: 018 391 0800/5
Northern Cape: 053 838 5000
Western Cape: 021 910 5700