

Electoral Fraud and Offences



Electoral fraud refers to illegal interference with the process of an election through deliberate wrongdoing.

Electoral fraud is a crime. Do not do the following:

- Do not get someone to give false information when registering to vote.
- Do not provide false information when registering as a voter.
- Do not register to vote or vote using the name of another person (living or dead).
- Do not register to vote in a voting district in which you do not reside.
- Do not vote in an election when you are not allowed to vote.
- Do not vote in a voting station where you are not allowed to vote.
- Do not vote more than once in an election.
- Do not pretend to be one of the following:
 - an official of the Electoral Commission
 - a representative of a registered political party
 - a candidate in an election
 - an accredited (qualified) observer
 - an accredited (qualified) voter education official

It is an electoral offence to force anybody to do the following:

- To register to vote or *not* to register to vote
- To vote or *not* to vote in an election
- To support or *not* to support a political party or candidate
- To vote or *not* to vote for a political party or candidate
- To attend or *not* to attend a political event or rally of a political party
- To interfere with the fairness or independence of the Electoral Commission or any officer of the Electoral Commission



The following behaviour is illegal. Do not:

- prevent someone from speaking to other voters;
- prevent a political event or rally from being held when you do not have the right to do so;
- bribe or influence an official of the Electoral Commission while they are doing their duty;
- misinform the Electoral Commission when you are asked to provide a statement;
- publish false information about an election that may disrupt, prevent or influence the election results;
- publish false information that may create anger or fear and could change the election results;
- interfere with a voter's right to secrecy when he or she is voting;
- give information about voting or the counting of votes when you are not allowed to;
- interfere with any voting materials;
- make, produce or supply election materials when by law you are not allowed to;
- remove, hide or destroy election materials when by law you are not allowed to;
- damage or remove election posters, billboards or placards – this is not allowed from the date that an election is proclaimed (announced) until the election results have been given out by the Electoral Commission;
- use the voters' roll or election materials for purposes other than the election;
- prevent the Electoral Commission from doing their duties in running the election; or
- try to harm the honesty and dignity of the Electoral Commission.

What happens if you commit electoral fraud or any of the offences listed?

- You may be fined.
- You may be sent to prison for up to ten years.

For more information contact the IEC

National office

Tel: 012 622 5700 Fax: 012 622 5784

IEC call centre

0800 11 8000 (during the election)

SMS your ID number to 32810 to check if and where you are registered.

Online

iec@elections.org.za www.facebook.com/IECSouthAfrica www.twitter.com/IECSouthAfrica
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