

2021 Local Government Elections

Electoral System

2021



SOUTH AFRICA

Legal Framework

- Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 108 of 1996
- Electoral Commission Act, 51 of 1996
- Electoral Act, 73 of 1998
- Municipal Electoral Act, 27 of 2000
- Municipal Structures Act, 117 of 1998

Electoral System

- Electoral System for Local Government
 - Constitution, section 157(2), allows for a mixed electoral system of proportional representation combined with ward representation (first-past-the-post).
 - Municipal Structures Act, 117 of 1998, describes the system.

Municipal structures

- 8 Metropolitan Councils
- 205 Local Councils
- 44 District Councils
- 4 468 Wards (based on the 2020 demarcation of the Municipal Demarcation Board - MDB)

Note: The voting district count is expected to be more than 23 000 based on the effect of the wards. In NPE 2019, 22 024 voting districts were used.

Number of available seats

- Number of seats for all councils
 - The total number of seats is determined in terms of the Municipal Structures Act, 117 of 1998.
- Metro and local councils
 - The total number of seats is divided equally between ward (1st ballot) and PR (2nd ballot).
 - In the case of an uneven number, ward seats will be one more than the PR seats.
- District councils
 - The total seats number of seats are split as follows:
 - 40% to be directly elected (3rd ballot).
 - 60% to be appointed from within the local councils comprising the district council.

Ballots


- In **metro councils**, each voter receives two (2) ballots – a ward and proportional (PR) ballot.
- On the ward ballot voters vote for a candidate, and on the PR for a party.







METRO COUNCILS

WARD

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









| | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|---|--------------------------|
| Frazenburg, Yvonne Destemona | ANC |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jacobs, Maureen | SDM |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Jegels, Henry | VF PLUS |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kekana, Lee-Ann Mallissa | DA |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Nonnies, Eric Thulani | EFF |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Petu, Brian Thando | ATM |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

PARTY PROPORTIONAL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
EC101 - DR. BEYERS NAUDE
LOCAL COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
EC101 - DR. BEYERS NAUDE
LOCAL COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

 VOTE

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|---|--------------------------|
| Patriotic Alliance | PA |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Service Delivery Movement | SDM |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vryheidsfront Plus | VF PLUS |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African National Congress | ANC |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African Transformation Movement | ATM |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Compatriots of South Africa | CSA |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Democratic Alliance | DA |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic Freedom Fighters | EFF |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Ballots

- In **local councils**, each voter receives three (3) ballots – a ward, proportional (PR) ballot for the local municipality, and another proportional (PR) ballot to elect 40% of representatives to the **district council**.







LOCAL COUNCILS

WARD

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WARD 21001001 CANDIDATE VOTE

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DISTRICT COUNCILS 40%

PROPORTIONAL

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

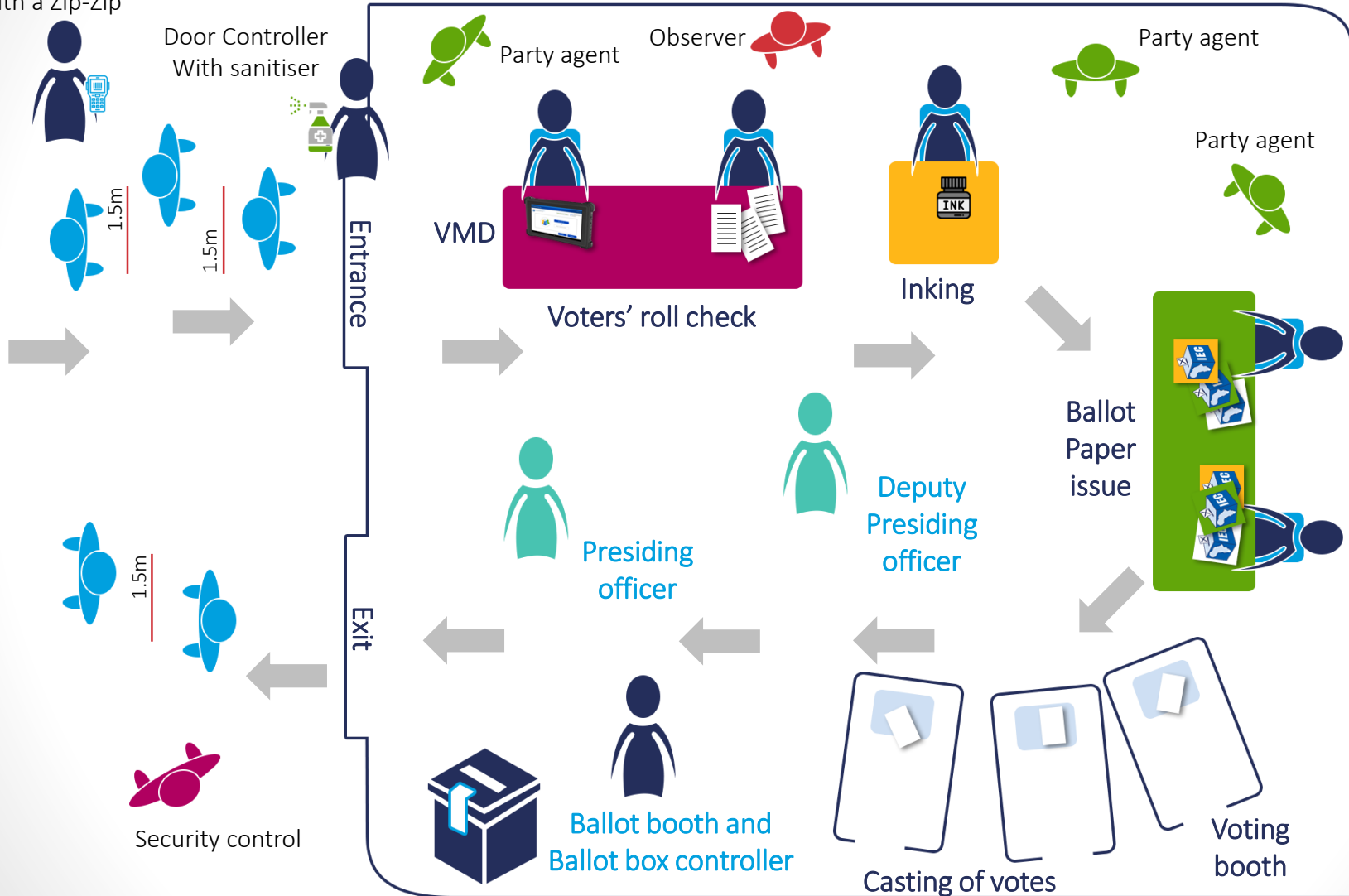
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION 2021
DC10 - SARAH BAARTMAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL PARTY VOTE

VOTE

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|---|--------------------------|
| Service Delivery Movement | SDM |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vryheidsfront Plus | VF PLUS |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African National Congress | ANC |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| African Transformation Movement | ATM |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Compatriots of South Africa | CSA |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Democratic Alliance | DA |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic Freedom Fighters | EFF |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Good | GOOD |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

LGE2021 – Voting Process

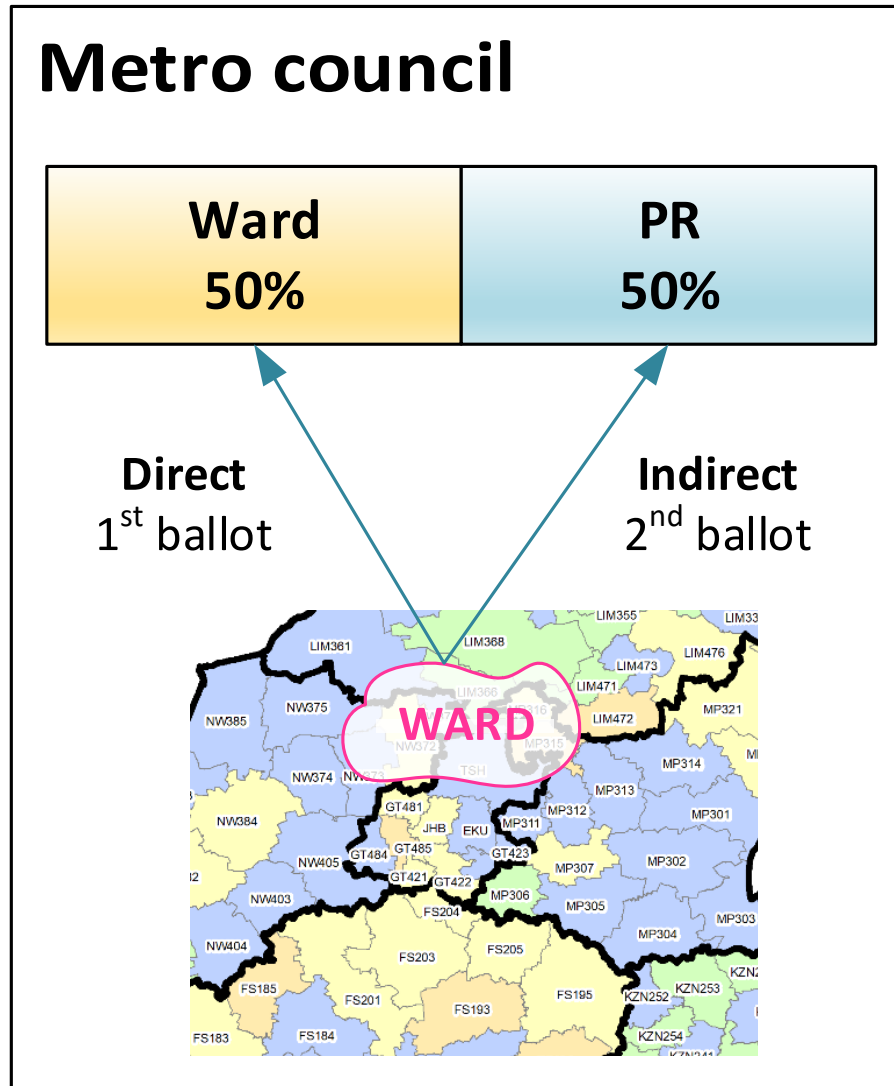
Queue Walker
with a Zip-Zip



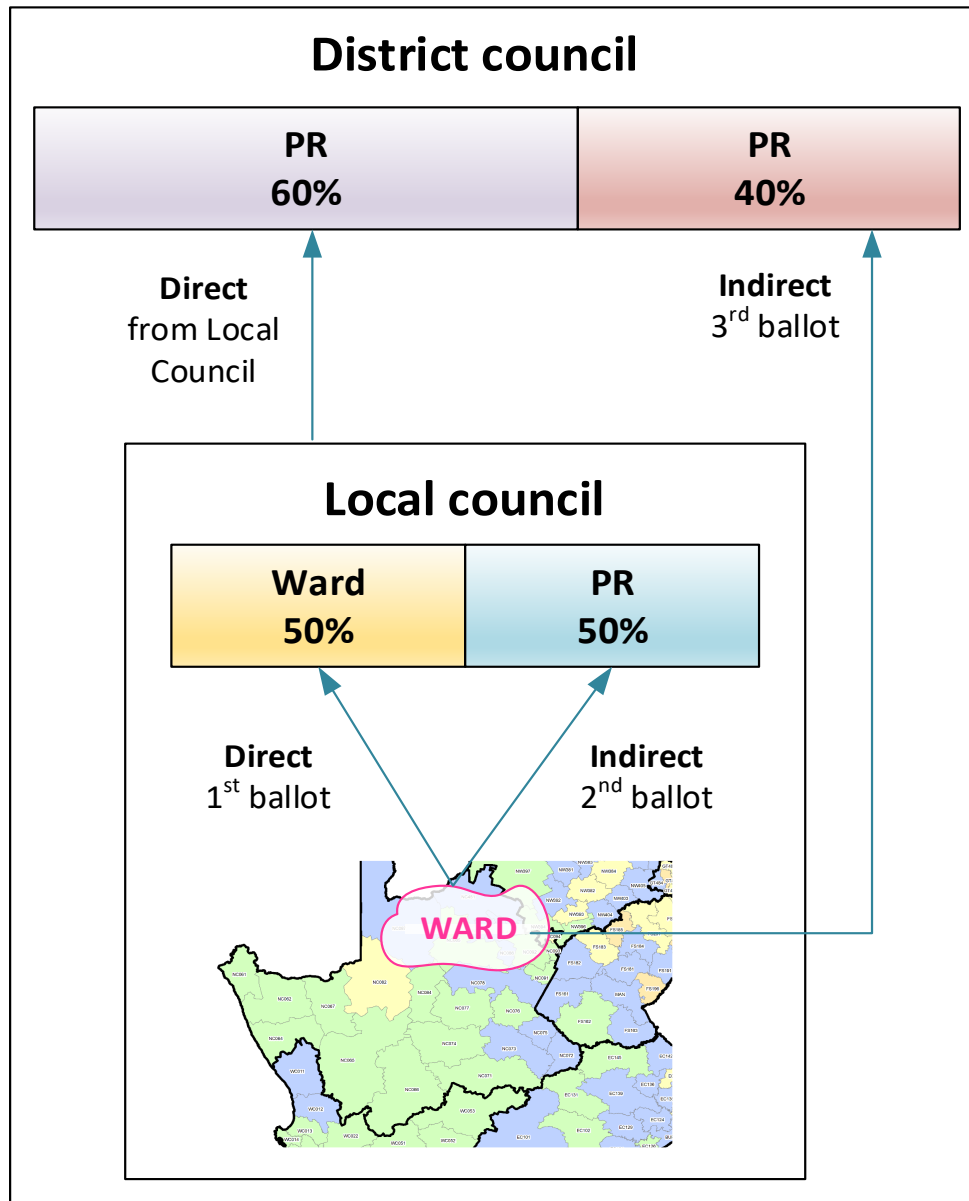
Results process



Metro council seats



Local and district council seats



Seat Calculation - Metro and local councils

High level overview of seat calculation

50% of council seats

STEP 1
Aggregate ward seats
(first-past-the-post)



100% of council seats

STEP 2
Calculate total overall seats
(using a quota)

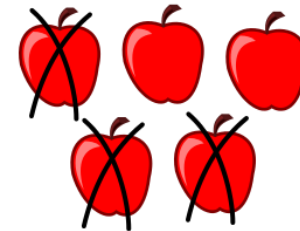
$$\text{Quota} = \frac{\text{Total Valid Votes (Ward + PR)}}{\text{Total Seats - Independents}} + 1$$



$$\text{Total Party Seats} = \frac{\text{Party Valid Votes (W+PR)}}{\text{Quota}}$$

50% of council seats

STEP 3
Calculate PR seats
(Total seats - ward seats)



$$5 - 3 = 2$$

Seat Calculation - Metro and local councils

- Schedule 1 of Municipal Structures Act, 117 of 1998 describes the seat allocation process.
 - The total seats for a municipality is divided 50/50 between ward and PR.
 - **Step 1** - aggregate the number of **ward seats** won by parties and independents in the municipality.
 - The person with the most votes (on the ward ballot) wins the ward, i.e. first-past-the post.

Seat Calculation - Metro and local councils

- **Step 2** - Determine the **total overall seats** for each party in the municipality (excluding independents) as follows:
 - Calculate a **quota** and dividing the number of valid votes for all parties (ward and PR) by the total number of seats (ward and PR) in the municipality minus seats won by independents. The result, plus one, disregarding fractions, is the quota.
 - Divide the valid votes for each party (ward and PR) by the quota to get the initial allocation.
 - Any remaining seats are allocated in order of the highest remainder to get the total number of seats for each party.

Seat Calculation - Metro and local councils

- **Step 3** – Determine the number of **proportional list seats (PR)** by subtracting the total number of ward seats won by a party from the total seats won by a party

Seat Allocation for Metro and Local Councils

1 EXAMPLE

Registered voters: 50,000
 Number of seats available: 21*
 Valid votes cast (ward & PR): 42,000
 Votes for all parties (ward & PR): 35,000
 Votes for independents (ward): 7,000

* The number of available seats is determined and published in terms of the Local Government Structures Act (117 of 1998)

2 Local Councils consist of:

21 council seats = 50% Ward Councillors
 = 50% PR Councillors

11 Ward Councillors (rounded up)

10 PR Councillors

Ward Elections

Ward elections are decided by the most number of votes per candidate.

3 11 Ward candidates = 7 From parties + 4 Independents

4
 Party A: 1
 Party B: 2
 Party C: 2
 Party D: 1
 Party E: 1

PR Elections

5 5 Parties submitted lists

All party votes (Ward & PR)

Party A: 5,300
 Party B: 7,700
 Party C: 8,900
 Party D: 8,100
 Party E: 5,000

35,000

6 Quota formula

Votes for all parties (incl. wards)
 $\frac{35,000}{21 - 4} + 1$
 All seats Independents

$\frac{35,000}{17} + 1$
 Quota = 2,059
 NB: Disregard fractions

7 Total party seats

21 seats - 4 Independent seats = 17 party seats

| | | 1st allocation | Remainder | Rank | 2nd allocation | Final allocation |
|----------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------|----------------|------------------|
| Party A: | $\frac{5,300}{2,059} = 2.57$ | 2 | 0.57 | 3 | 1 | 2 + 1 = 3 |
| Party B: | $\frac{7,700}{2,059} = 3.74$ | 3 | 0.74 | 2 | 1 | 3 + 1 = 4 |
| Party C: | $\frac{8,900}{2,059} = 4.32$ | 4 | 0.32 | | 0 | 4 + 0 = 4 |
| Party D: | $\frac{8,100}{2,059} = 3.93$ | 3 | 0.93 | 1 | 1 | 3 + 1 = 4 |
| Party E: | $\frac{5,000}{2,059} = 2.43$ | 2 | 0.43 | | 0 | 2 + 0 = 2 |
| | | 14 | | | | 17 |

1st allocation: Ignore fractions = 14 seats
 2nd allocation: 17 seats - 14 (1st allocation) = 3 seats remaining
 1 additional seat for each of 3 parties with highest remainders
 Final allocation: 1st allocation + 2nd allocation

8 PR list seats

Total party seats - Ward seats

Party A: 3 - 1 = 2
 Party B: 4 - 2 = 2
 Party C: 4 - 2 = 2
 Party D: 4 - 1 = 3
 Party E: 2 - 1 = 1

10 PR seats

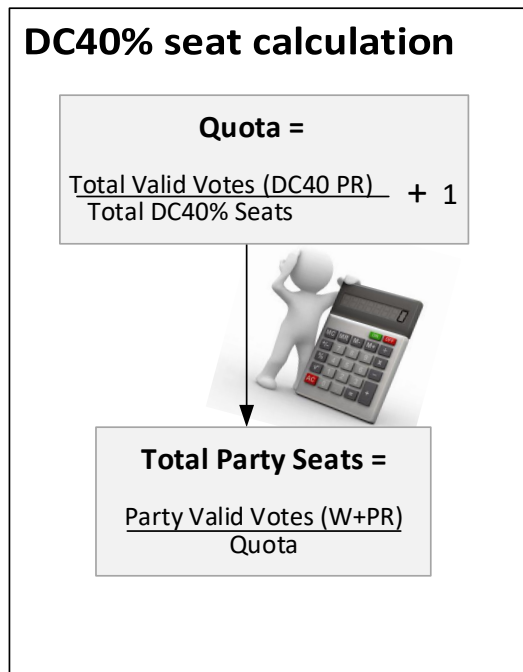
Final results for example council

| Independents | Party A | Party B | Party C | Party D | Party E | 21 councillors |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Ward: 4 PR: N/A | Ward: 1 PR: 2 | Ward: 2 PR: 2 | Ward: 2 PR: 2 | Ward: 1 PR: 3 | Ward: 1 PR: 1 | Ward: 11 PR: 10 |

The calculations for seat allocation are described in Schedule 1 of the Local Government Structures Act (117 of 1998)

Seat Calculation – District Councils 40%

- Schedule 2 of Municipal Structures Act, 117 of 1998
 - The DC 40% seats are calculated by determining a **quota**, i.e. total valid votes DC40% divided by number of DC40% seats, plus one disregarding fractions.
 - The valid DC40% votes for each party is then divided by the quota for the first allocation. Any remaining seats are awarded in the order of highest remainder.



Seat Calculation – District Councils 60%

- Schedule 2 of Municipal Structures Act, 117 of 1998
 - The DC 60% seats are calculated by determining a **quota**, i.e. total number of councillors in the local council divided by the number of DC60% seats, plus one disregarding fractions.
 - The valid DC60% votes for each list of candidates submitted is then divided by the quota for the first allocation. Any remaining seats are awarded in the order of highest remainder.

