

# COUNTING AND RESULTS

## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

COUNTING NORMALLY TAKES PLACE AT THE VOTING STATION WHERE THE VOTES ARE CAST. PARTY AGENTS, INDEPENDENT WARD CANDIDATE AGENTS AND OBSERVERS OVERSEE THE ENTIRE COUNTING AND RESULTS PROCESS AND ARE PRESENT AT ALL TIMES.

### HOW COUNTING WORKS

#### 1 VERIFY



All ballot boxes allocated to a voting station are accounted for. Sealed ballot boxes are opened and emptied.

#### 2 UNFOLD



Each ballot paper is unfolded and checked for the Electoral Commission security stamp. Ballots without stamps are not counted.

#### 3 SORT



All ballot papers are grouped according to colours representing the type of election (District, Local/Metro and Ward). The ballots are sorted into piles according to votes for each party and each ward candidate.

#### 4 COUNT & BUNDLE



The ballots are counted and bundled into packs of 100. The results are counted for each party or candidate.

One of the most important aspects of a working democracy is that citizens have the right to vote and choose their leaders. For this to happen, the elections need to be free and fair.

The Electoral Commission manages national, provincial and municipal elections, including referendums in South Africa. Its most important task is to ensure that these elections are free and fair.

Since 1994 all of South Africa's General Elections have been viewed as free and fair by domestic and international observers.



SOUTH AFRICA

# HOW RESULTS ARE DECLARED

## 5 RECONCILE



The results for the various parties or candidates are reconciled against the number of ballots received and the total number of ballots cast at that voting station.

## 6 SIGN RESULTS SLIPS



Results slips are signed by the counting officer, independent ward candidate agents and party agents. A copy of the results slip is posted on the door of each voting station. The other copy is transported to the local Electoral Commission office where it is scanned and captured in the results system. The results are also verified by independent external auditors.

## 7 RESULTS CENTRES

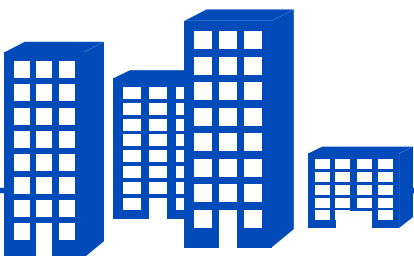


The results centres are there for political party representatives and independents to monitor the voting, counting and results process. Parties have the opportunity to raise objections to any alleged irregularities. Other stakeholders present include the media and observers.

## 8 FINAL RESULTS



The final results and seat allocation for Metro and Local Councils are announced by the Commission within 7 days of the election. District Councils are formed later once the local councils have been constituted and have elected representatives to the District Council.



### 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)

### 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
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