

# Seat calculation for the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures

Allocation of seats to political parties that participate in South Africa's National and Provincial elections are determined using quota calculations i.e. a fixed, limited amount or number that is officially allowed. In this instance, in line with Schedule 1A of the Electoral Act, 73 of 1998.

## National Assembly

STEP 1

200 Regional (same as provinces, but referred to as regional to distinguish from provincial legislatures)

200 National Proportional (PR) Seats (Parties only)

9 Orange = parties and independent candidates

1 Blue = national ballot

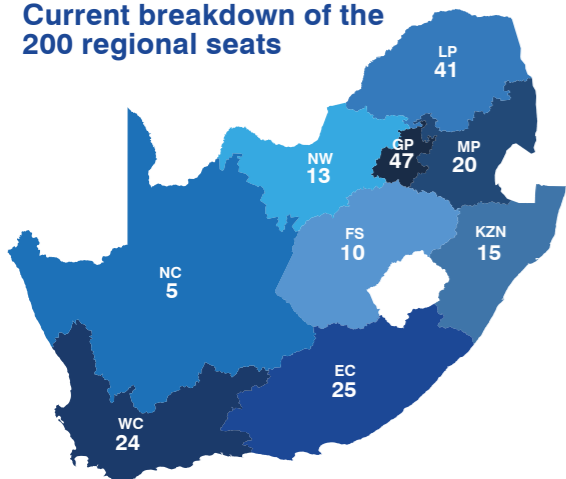
The seat calculation is done in the following manner and sequence:

**Step 1** - The 200 regional list seats are determined for each region using a quota based on the number of seats allocated to the region and the valid votes cast on the regional ballot. Seats for parties and independents are then calculated using the quota. Refer to step 1 of the example.

**Step 2** - The overall allocation for parties out of the 400 seats is then determined using a quota based on the valid votes across all regions, plus the valid votes on the national ballot. Seats for the parties are then calculated using the quota using. Refer to step 2 of the example.

**Step 3** - The 200 national PR list seats are determined by subtracting the total number of regional seats for a party from the overall allocation for that party. Refer to step 3 of the example.

### Current breakdown of the 200 regional seats



STEP 1.1

Apply quota to determine quota of votes per seat (Western Cape i.e. 24 seats used as an example below)

Total Valid Votes	780 000
Party A	780 000
Party B	35 000
Party C	1 360 000
Party D	490 000
Independent A	104 500
Total	2 769 500

Quota (Q) formula  

$$Q = \frac{\text{Total Valid Votes (Region)}}{\text{Total Seats} + 1}$$

The result, plus 1, disregarding fractions is the quota of votes per seat

From the example:  

$$Q = \frac{2\,769\,500}{24 + 1} = 110\,780.00 + 1,$$
  
 disregarding fractions  
 Quota = 110 781

STEP 1.2

Divide valid votes for each and independent by the quota and perform the calculation below

Party	Valid votes	Votes divided by quota	1st allocation	Remainder	Rank	2nd allocation	Final allocation
Party A	780 000	$\frac{780\,000}{110\,781} = 7.041$	7	0.041		0	7
Party B	35 000	$\frac{35\,000}{110\,781} = 0.316$	0	0.316		0	0
Party C	1 360 000	$\frac{1\,360\,000}{110\,781} = 12.276$	12	0.276		0	12
Party D	490 000	$\frac{490\,000}{110\,781} = 4.423$	4	0.423		0	4
Independent 1	104 500	$\frac{104\,500}{110\,781} = 0.943$	0,943		1	1	1
Total	2 769 500		23				24

Remaining seat allocated to the highest remainder after 1st allocation i.e. Independent 1

STEP 2

National (overall) calculation out of 400 – Parties only

STEP 2.1

Determine quota of votes per seat using both national and regional votes for parties as shown in the example on the right.

Total Valid Votes (National + Regional for Parties )	
Party A	10 309 000
Party B	658 000
Party C	20 547 000
Party D	5 959 000
Party E	164 000
Party F	50 500
Total	37 687 500

Quota (Q) formula  

$$Q = \frac{\text{Total Valid Votes (N+R)}}{(\text{Total Seats} + 1) - \text{Ind Seats}}$$

The result, plus 1, disregarding fractions is the quota of votes per seat

From the example:  

$$Q = \frac{37\,687\,500}{(400+1) - 1} = 94\,218.75 + 1,$$
  
 disregarding fractions  
 Quota = 94 219

STEP 2.2

Divide valid votes for each party by the quota and perform the calculation as shown below

Party	Valid votes (Reg + Nat)	Votes divided by quota	1st allocation	Remainder	Rank	2nd allocation	3rd* allocation	Final allocation
Party A	10 309 000	$\frac{10\,309\,000}{94\,219} = 109.415$	109	0.415	0	0	N/A	109
Party B	658 000	$\frac{658\,000}{94\,219} = 6.984$	6	1	1	1	N/A	7
Party C	20 547 000	$\frac{20\,547\,000}{94\,219} = 218.077$	218	0.077	0	0	N/A	218
Party D	5 959 000	$\frac{5\,959\,000}{94\,219} = 63.246$	63	0.246	0	0	N/A	63
Party E	164 000	$\frac{164\,000}{94\,219} = 1.741$	1	1	2	1	N/A	2
Party F	50 500	$\frac{50\,500}{94\,219} = 0.536$	0	0.536	0	0	N/A	0
Independent 1								1
Total	37 687 500		397			2		400

If there are more than 5 seats to allocate after the first round, the next 5 are done according to highest remainder after which a third allocation is done based on the highest average of votes per seat for remaining seats. In this example, the third round is not applicable.

STEP 3

**National PR List Seats**  
 National PR list seats are calculated by subtracting all the regional list seats for a party from the total party seats for that party. Please note that Independent 1 does not participate in steps 2 & 3, but that the seat won is shown to complete the scenario.

Party	Total party seats 400 (A)	Regional list seats 200 (B)	National list seats 200 (A - B)
Party A	109	78	31
Party B	7	0	7
Party C	218	121	97
Party D	63	0	63
Party E	2	0	2
Party F	0	0	0
Independent 1	1	1	
Total	400	200	200

### PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION

Calculations for the provincial legislatures follows the same process as the regional calculations using the respective provincial legislature seats. The number of seats per province are as follows and 1 pink ballot paper will be used.

