

## Seat calculation

### National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures

All calculations are contained in Schedule 1A of the Electoral Act, 73 of 1998

#### National Assembly

There are 400 seats in the National Assembly seats which are distributed as follows:



The seat calculation is done in the following manner:

1. Using a quota system (which is explained in the example), each party's overall allocation of the 400 seats is determined on a proportional basis. Refer to step 1 of the example.
2. The 200 *regional list seats* are determined for each region using a quota based on the number of seats allocated to the region. Refer to step 2 of the example.
3. The 200 *national 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.

#### EXAMPLE

<b>Number of seats available:</b>	400
<b>Registered voters:</b>	26 000 000
<b>Valid votes cast (nationally):</b>	18 700 000

#### CALCULATION

##### 1. Overall national calculation (400 seats) - Total Party seats

###### Valid party votes – national

Party A	2 398 000
Party B	4 965 000
Party C	9 800 000
Party D	47 000
Party E	1 490 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 700 000</b>

###### Quota formula

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

$$\text{Quota} = \frac{18\,700\,000}{(400 + 1)} + 1$$

**Quota = 46 634 (National)**

*Answer disregarding fractions*

Party	Valid votes	Votes divided by quota	1st allocation	Remainder	Rank	2nd allocation	Final allocation
Party A	2 398 000	$\frac{2\,398\,000}{46\,634} = 51.422$	51	0.368	0	0	51
Party B	4 965 000	$\frac{4\,965\,000}{46\,634} = 106.467$	106	0.181	0	0	106
Party C	9 800 000	$\frac{9\,800\,000}{46\,634} = 210.147$	210	0.341	0	0	210
Party D	47 000	$\frac{47\,000}{46\,634} = 1.008$	1	0.346	0	0	1
Party E	1 490 000	$\frac{1\,490\,000}{46\,634} = 31.951$	31	0.763	1	1	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>18 700 000</b>		<b>399</b>				<b>400</b>

**1<sup>st</sup> allocation:** Ignore fractions = 399 seats

**2<sup>nd</sup> allocation:** 400 - 399 (1<sup>st</sup> allocation) = 1 seat remaining and then allocated according to the highest remainder

**NOTE** If there are more than 5 seats to allocate after the first allocation, 5 is done according to highest remainder and then a **3<sup>rd</sup> allocation** is done for remaining seats based on highest average of votes per seat

**Final allocation** = 1<sup>st</sup> allocation + 2<sup>nd</sup> allocation + 3<sup>rd</sup> allocation (if applicable)

## 2. Regional list seat calculations

Before an election, the 200 regional seats are divided between the regions based on the registered population in each. For example:

Eastern Cape	25	Mpumalanga	15
Free State	11	North West	13
Gauteng	48	Northern Cape	5
KwaZulu-Natal	41	Western Cape	23
Limpopo	19		

For each region the following calculation is done - example **Gauteng**:

### Valid party votes

Party A	1 350 000
Party B	935 000
Party C	3 560 000
Party D	45 000
Party E	490 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 380 000</b>

(Gauteng region)

### Quota formula

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

$$\frac{6\,380\,000}{(48 + 1)} + 1$$

**Quota = 130 205**  
(Gauteng region)

*Answer disregarding fractions*

Party	Valid votes	Votes divided by quota	1st allocation	Remainder	Rank	2nd allocation	Final allocation
Party A	1 350 000	$\frac{1\,350\,000}{130\,205} = 10.368$	10	0.368		0	10
Party B	935 000	$\frac{935\,000}{130\,205} = 7.181$	7	0.181		0	7
Party C	3 560 000	$\frac{3\,560\,000}{130\,205} = 27.341$	27	0.341		0	27
Party D	45 000	$\frac{45\,000}{130\,205} = 0.346$	0	0.346		0	0
Party E	490 000	$\frac{490\,000}{130\,205} = 3.763$	3	0.763	1	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 380 000</b>		<b>47</b>				<b>48</b>

**1<sup>st</sup> allocation:** Ignore fractions = 47 seats

**2<sup>nd</sup> allocation:** 48 - 47 (1<sup>st</sup> allocation) = 1 seat remaining and then allocated according to the highest remainder

**Final allocation** = 1<sup>st</sup> allocation + 2<sup>nd</sup> allocation

## 3. National list seats

National list seats are calculated by **subtracting** all the **regional list seats** for a party from the **total party seats** for that party.

Party	Total party seats 400 (A)	Regional seats 200 (B)	Proportional seats 200 (A - B)
Party A	51	50	1
Party B	106	29	77
Party C	210	97	113
Party D	1	0	1
Party E	32	24	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>

## Provincial legislatures

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:

Eastern Cape	63
Free State	30
Gauteng	73
KwaZulu-Natal	80
Limpopo	49
Mpumalanga	30
North West	30
Northern Cape	30
Western Cape	42