

Objections and Appeals



What is an objection?

An objection is a formal expression of disapproval of the conduct or action of any person witnessed at the voting station during an election. All objections concerning voting should be directed to the Presiding Officer while objections to the voters' roll should be directed to the Commission.



Who can object?

Any interested party including members of the public, independent candidates, and political parties may lodge an objection with the Commission.



When can one object?

Voters, party agents and ward candidates can object:

- a voter being given an incorrect number of ballot papers;
- a voter being refused a ballot paper; or
- the conduct of a voting officer, party agent or any other person

Party agents and ward candidates can object to any irregularity or inaccuracies in the:

- verification procedure;
- sorting of ballot papers; or
- counting of votes or determination of results.



Objections to the voters roll

Any person may object to the Commission in relation to any segment of the voters' roll or a provisionally compiled voters' roll to:

- the exclusion of any person's name from that segment;
- the inclusion of any person's name in that segment; or
- the correction of any person's registration details in that segment.

Voters' roll objections can be lodged at any time before the official proclamation of the election.



Objections concerning voting

At any time before a voter has been handed a ballot paper, an agent or ward candidate may object:

- to that voter being allowed to vote or to vote at the voting station concerned;
- if the voter is refused a ballot paper; or
- to any conduct of an election officer, an agent or any other person present at a voting station.



Objections concerning sorting of ballot papers, counting of votes and determination of results

An agent may object to the Counting Officer for any irregularity concerning:

- the sorting of ballot papers;
- the counting of the votes; and
- determination of election results.



How to object?

Let the Presiding Officer know that you want to make an objection. The Presiding Officer or Counting Officer will give you the relevant form to fill in.



What happens next?

The Presiding Officer or Counting Officer must do the following:

- investigate the objection;
- record the finding on the written objection;
- inform the objector of the decision; and
- keep a record of each objection in the voting station diary.



If the objector is not satisfied with the decision of the Presiding Officer or Counting Officer, one can challenge such a decision by submitting an appeal to the Electoral Commission's National Office in Centurion, in writing, by 21h00 within two days of an election.

Contact the Electoral Commission

www.elections.org.za | info@elections.org.za | 0800 11 8000 (during elections)

WhatsApp 'Hi' to 060 088 0000 to find election information on an interactive menu.

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