

Ward By-Elections Participation



What is a by-election?

A ward by-election takes place as a result of the death, resignation or expulsion of a ward councillor or the dissolution of a Municipal Council. When there is a ward vacancy in your area, it means you have an opportunity to:

- elect a new ward councillor or
- to stand as a candidate to be elected as a new ward councillor of your area.



Why take part in a by-election?

- Municipalities are the closest sphere of government to communities. Ward councillors represent their communities in Municipal Councils hence it's important to participate in their election.
- Municipalities are responsible for service delivery to communities, which includes water, electricity, sanitation, refuse and waste removal, roads and many others.
- Your participation enables you to choose the ward councillor who will represent your interests and those of your community in your local municipality.
- Voting in by-elections gives you the opportunity to take part in the decision-making process that affects the quality of your life and that of your community.
- Is the best way to make your voice heard and make a positive input on the issues that concern you. Your power is in your vote.
- Participation in elections comes with the responsibility of being a citizen. If citizens don't vote in elections it is impossible to formulate a democratic government.



Who can participate in a by-election?

- All voters residing and registered in the ward with a by-election.
- To contest,
 - **As an Independent Candidate** - you must be a registered voter in the municipality and have support of at least 50 registered voters in the ward.
 - **As a Party Candidate** – you must be a registered voter in the municipality and contest through a registered political party.
- You can apply to register to vote at the local IEC office in the municipality where the by-election is taking place, or online at registertovote.elections.org.za, or during the registration weekend at the voting station in your area. **Note that it is a criminal offence to register where you do not reside.**
- To check your registration status, SMS your ID number to 32810 (R1 per SMS) or visit the IEC voter portal at registertovote.elections.org.za 24/7.



Where do I vote during a by-election?

- At the voting station where you are registered to vote on a date communicated by the Electoral Commission (IEC).
- You have to come in person with your ID document between 7am and 9pm
- **Remember, in by-elections you can only vote where you are registered to vote.**



What if I forget who my ward councillor is after the by-election?

No problem – Just SMS your ID number to 32245 (R1 per SMS) or visit <https://www.elections.org.za/pw/Voter/Who-Is-My-Ward-Councillor>

While by-elections, by their very nature only affect a local area, their importance, as an act of strengthening the South African democracy, cannot be reduced. These elections are a confirmation that the fundamental values of the South African Constitution continue to hold fast and democracy continues to thrive and prosper.

<p>To register Online scan the QR code</p>	<p>Join our WhatsApp community scan the QR code</p>
	
<p>OR Visit Registertovote.elections.org.za</p>	<p>OR WhatsApp 060 088 0000</p>

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.

  @IECSouthAfrica



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