

# COUNTING AND RESULTS

## NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS

Counting of ballots normally takes place at the voting station where the votes are cast. Party agents, independent 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 facedown and checked for the Electoral Commission security stamp. Stamped ballots are considered valid. Unstamped ballots are invalid and are not counted toward the results.

#### 3 SORT



All valid ballot papers are grouped according to colours representing the type of election (National, Regional and Provincial). The ballots are sorted into piles according to votes for each party and each 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.



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# 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 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

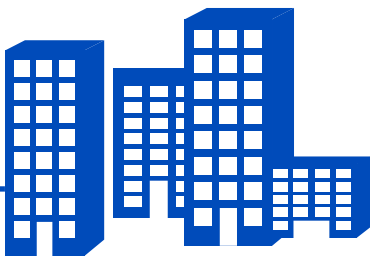


The results centres are there for political party representatives and independents to monitor the voting, counting and results process. Parties and independents have the opportunity to raise objections to any alleged irregularities. Other stakeholders present include the media and observers.

## 8 FINAL RESULTS



The final results and seat allocation for the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures Elections are announced by the Electoral Commission within 7 days of the election.



## Contact the Electoral Commission

[www.elections.org.za](http://www.elections.org.za) | [info@elections.org.za](mailto: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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