

# WHAT IS THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Electoral Commission (IEC) is an independent, impartial institution established by Chapter 9 of the Constitution of South Africa to strengthen constitutional democracy. The Commission manages national, provincial and municipal elections. It makes sure these elections are free, fair and credible through the participation of citizens, political parties and civil society.

## What does the IEC do?

- The IEC manages national, provincial and municipal elections, including referendums.
- It makes sure that elections are free and fair.
- It announces the results of elections within seven days.
- It compiles and updates the national common voters' roll.



## What are the functions of the IEC?

- To promote conditions to ensure free and fair elections
- To compile and update the national common voters' roll
- To compile and update the register of political parties
- To administer elections
- To promote knowledge of electoral voter processes
- To work and partner with key stakeholders
- To review the legislation that applies to elections
- To educate voters



Ensuring free and fair elections

## What makes elections free and fair?

- There is clear legislation governing the election.
- All candidates and parties can campaign without intimidation and restriction.
- Every registered voter can vote, irrespective of race, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
- All citizens can express their political views.
- Elections are conducted, managed and administered impartially and transparently.
- All parties accept the election results.



## What is the structure of the IEC?

- At the head of the IEC is a five-member Commission, one of whom must be a judge.
- The Commissioners are appointed for seven years by the President of South Africa. Their term can be renewed only once.
- The Commissioners appoint a Chief Electoral Officer, who is the head of the administration and is the accounting officer for the Commission. The Chief Electoral Officer appoints employees.



## Where will you find the IEC?

The IEC has a national office in Tswane, Gauteng. It also has provincial electoral offices in each of the nine provinces, and about 250 local offices.



### About the Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is an independent, impartial institution established by Chapter 9 of the Constitution. It manages national, provincial and municipal elections. It makes sure these elections are credible, free and fair.

#### National Office

Tel: 012 622 5700  
info@elections.org.za  
www.elections.org.za  
Contact centre: 0800 11 8000 (during elections)

### Contact Provincial Offices

Eastern Cape: 043 709 4200  
Free State: 051 401 5000  
Gauteng: 011 644 7400  
KwaZulu-Natal: 031 279 2200  
Limpopo: 015 283 9100  
Mpumalanga: 013 754 0200  
North West: 018 391 0800/5  
Northern Cape: 053 838 5000  
Western Cape: 021 910 5700

SMS your ID number to 32810 to check if and where you are registered (R1 per SMS).

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