



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS KEY MESSAGES

BRIEF:

The Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) has announced its readiness to host the seventh democratic national and provincial elections this year. The elections which will be held under the theme "It's your democracy, own it" and it gives all citizens aged 18 and older the opportunity to elect public representatives.

This year's elections will be historic as independent candidates will, for the first time, be able to contest for seats at the national and provincial elections.

In the build up to this year's elections, the Electoral Commission of South Africa is holding voter registration weekends to allow all eligible voters to register to vote. The IEC held its first voter registration weekend on 18-19 November 2023 where over 2.9 million South Africans registered.

Eligible citizens registering for the first time were 568 374 while voters who re-registered in the same voting district numbered 1.4 million, and those who re-registered in different voting districts were 929 564.

The Electoral Commission has for the first time enabled an online registration facility to allow South Africans outside the country to easily register for the 2024 National Elections. Citizens living outside the country who are eligible to vote can register to vote during the overseas voter registration weekend on 26, 27, and 28 January 2024. The next voter registration is on 3 – 4 February 2024.

You are eligible to register to vote if you are:

- A South African citizen;
- At least 16 years and older (you can only vote from age 18); and
- In possession of a green bar-coded ID book, smart ID card or valid temporary identity certificate.

Those with access to internet do not have to wait for the registration weekend but can register online at <https://registertovote.elections.org.za>.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<p><i>The right to vote was hard won.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to vote remains precious; it is a culmination of years of sacrifice and struggle for our freedom. • Our struggle for freedom secured the right for every South African to be an active participant in our democratic system. • There are many who fought for our freedom but never had the opportunity to live in a democratic South Africa. • By voting or registering to vote, we choose to honour those who gave up their lives for the treasured right to cast our vote. • Voting puts the power in your hands and is a way for every eligible citizen to use their voice to bring about change. • By taking action, and registering to vote you can only strengthen and bolster our democracy. • Our democracy is based on the will of the people and your vote is central to the success of a well-functioning democracy.
<p><i>Take the first step, register to vote!</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government encourages all South Africans to exercise their democratic right by taking the first step and registering to vote. • In order to register to vote you must be registered within the voting district where you reside. • We appeal to the youth, especially those who are eligible to vote for the first time, to register on voter registration weekend announced by the IEC. • You are eligible to register to vote if you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A South African citizen ○ At least 16 years and older (you can only vote from age 18) ○ In possession of a green bar-coded ID book, smart ID card or temporary identity certificate. • You can also register at your local IEC office or online at https://registertovote.elections.org.za. • Let us go out in our millions to register to vote and celebrate our hard won right to vote.
<p><i>Our overseas voter registration takes place this weekend.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Africans living outside the country can register for the 2024 National Elections during a special two-day voter registration weekend between 26 and 28 January 2024. • In countries where the weekend is a Saturday and Sunday, the registration event will take place on 27 January and 28 January 2024. • In countries where Friday and Saturday are weekends, the two special days designated will be 26 January and 27 January 2024. • Citizens living abroad must register as voters either online or in person at their nearest South African mission.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South African missions in Israel, Sudan and the Ukraine have been temporarily closed due to security concerns and will therefore not be able to register citizens in person. • Let our spirit of democracy resonate across borders by registering to vote either online or in person at your South African mission.
<p><i>Citizens living abroad can for the first time register online to cast their vote.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Electoral Commission has enabled an online registration facility for the first time to allow South Africans outside the country to easily register for the 2024 National Elections • South Africans abroad can register online by visiting the IEC website at www.elections.org.za. • Navigate to the 'Register to vote abroad' menu item on the website and fill out the online registration form. • The form requires personal details, contact information and the selection of the South African mission abroad where the citizen intends to vote. • Upload the necessary supporting documents such as copies of the South African identity document and passport. • After submission, a confirmation email acknowledging the registration will be issued. • Over 18 469 citizens living in 101 countries around the world have already registered to vote using the newly launched online registration portal system.
<p><i>Safe and peaceful elections is our priority.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several security measures have been put in place to ensure safe and peaceful elections. • We call on all to respect the right to vote and warn those who aim to disrupt the elections or intimidate voters that they will face the full might of the law. • Security personnel deployments at voting stations will act decisively against anyone found to intimidate, incite or perpetrate violent acts during the elections. • Although all plans are in place to ensure a peaceful and free and fair election, it is also incumbent on citizens to play their part. • Together we can ensure that voter registration takes place in a peaceful and tolerant political manner. • By working together, we can maintain our track record of being a model democratic nation.

KEY MESSAGES	SUPPORTING STATEMENTS
<p><i>Together we can ensure a better tomorrow for all.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today we can proudly say that South Africa is a significantly different country from the one we inherited from the apartheid state in 1994. • While we still have much to do in reversing the entrenched legacy of apartheid’s distorted policies, the overall trend is one of progress. • As a relatively young nation, we have made strong inroads into transforming the lives of millions of South Africans for the better. • The 2022 Census affirms how our society continues to grow and improve in various ways. • We have also upheld independent and democratic institutions created to safeguard our rights along with deepening our vibrant and robust constitutional democracy. • We have held six successful national and provincial elections as we transformed the lives of people through the provision of basic services. • Our accomplishments since 1994 should serve as a timeless reminder of what we can achieve when we work in unison.