



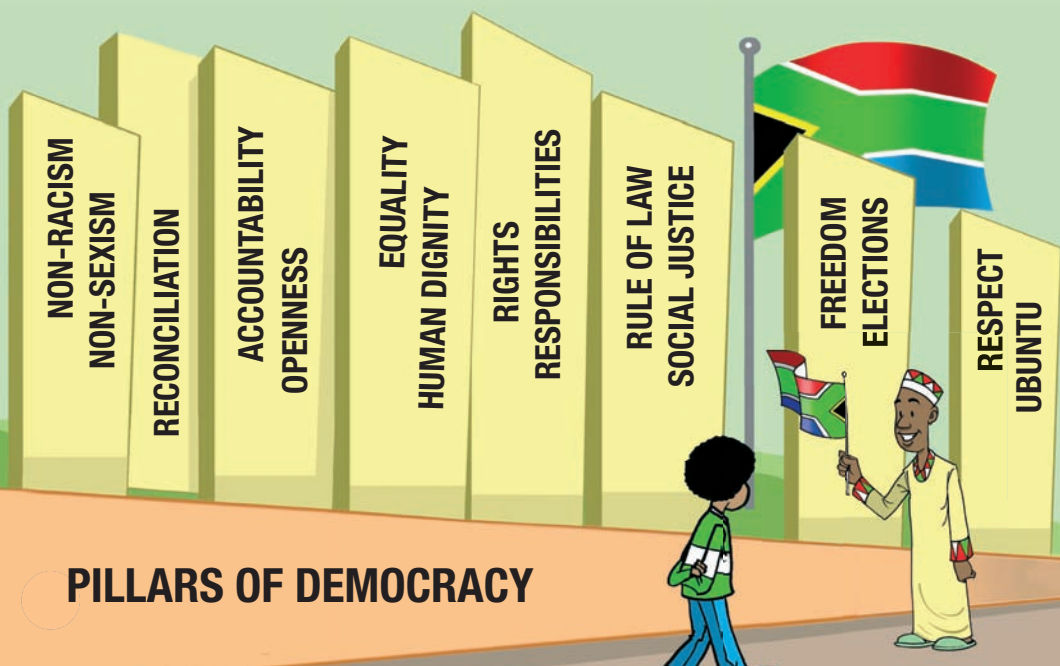
What is Democracy?



Democracy allows people to freely participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Elections allow people to freely choose their representatives and hold them accountable for their decisions and the laws they pass.

Choose your leaders. Take part in your country's decisions!



PILLARS OF DEMOCRACY

What makes a democracy?

- Regular elections, a multiparty system and a common voters' roll
- Accountability, openness and transparency
- The protection of human rights and the promotion of responsibilities
- Citizen participation
- Economic freedom
- Political tolerance

When are elections free and fair?

- 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.



Understanding Local Government

Who makes the laws and policies in our country?

There are three levels of government in South Africa's democracy.



1

National Government

- Makes and implements laws and policies for the whole country.
- Consists of:
 - Parliament led by the Speaker
 - National Government led by the President and Ministers

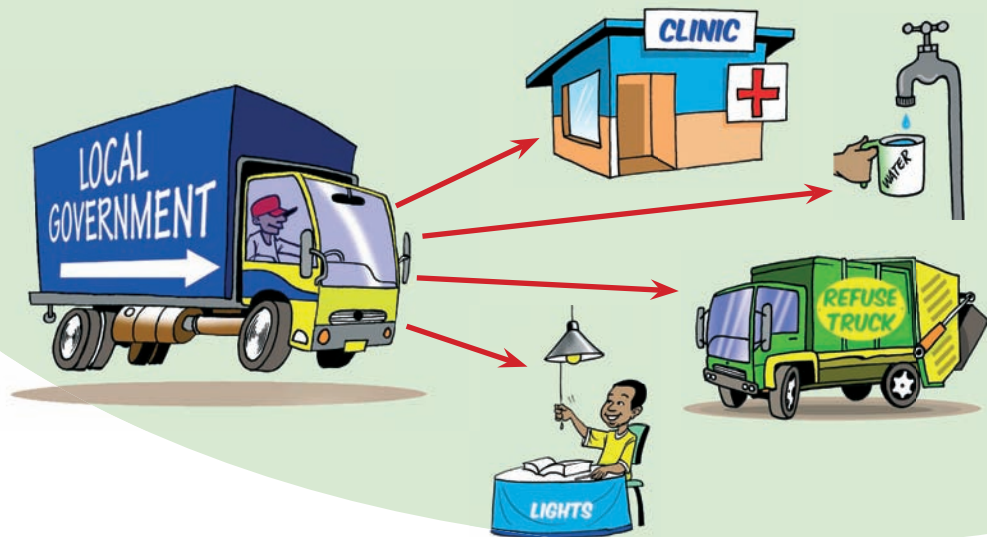
2

Provincial Government

- Makes and implements laws and policies that affect the province only.
- Consists of:
 - Legislature led by the Speaker
 - Provincial Government led by the Premier and Members of the Executive Council (MECs)



2



Local Government

- Makes and implements bylaws.
- Consists of:
 - Councils with legislative and executive authority
 - Led by the Speaker, Mayor and Ward Councillors

The Constitution (s152) sets out the most important functions of Local Government. The aims of Local Government are to:

- provide a democratic and accountable government for local communities
- make sure there is provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner
- promote social and economic development
- promote a safe and healthy environment
- encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in Local Government



Understanding Local Government



Local Government
is made up of
three categories of
municipalities.

Category A

Metropolitan Councils (Metros)

- Metros are divided into wards and managed by a Metropolitan Council.
- They occur in high-density areas.
- They have exclusive executive and legislative powers – they do not share powers with the District Councils.
- There are eight Metros: Ekurhuleni, City of Johannesburg, City of Tshwane, Nelson Mandela Bay, eThekweni, City of Cape Town, Buffalo City and Mangaung.



Category B



Local Councils

- Areas that fall outside the eight Metros are divided into Local Municipalities.
- They occur in smaller cities and towns.
- They share executive and legislative powers with the District Councils within the geographic areas they fall into.
- There are 226 Local Municipalities in the country and each is broken into wards.

Category C



District Councils

- There are 44 District Councils that co-ordinate development and delivery. They consist of a number of Local Municipalities (usually 4 – 6) that make up one district.
- They share executive and legislative powers with Local Councils within their geographic borders.



Municipal Elections

In Municipal Elections you vote for:

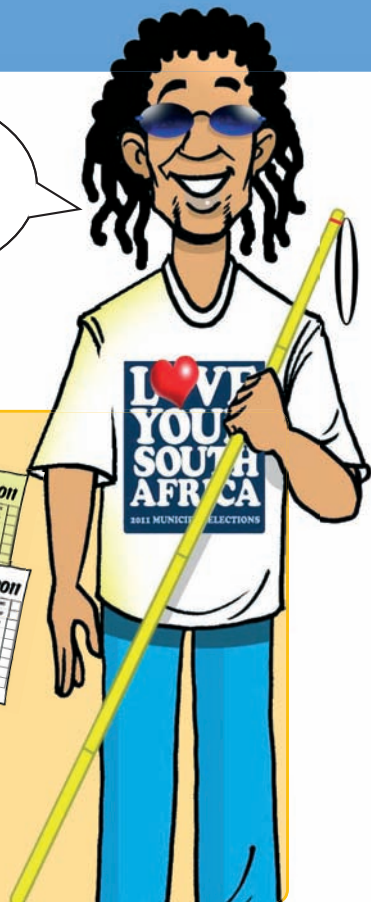
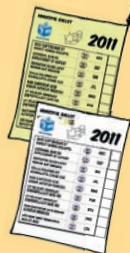
- a political party through the Proportional Representation (PR) system; and
- the ward candidate of your choice.

How does voting work in Local Government?

Metropolitan Councils (Metros) (2 ballot papers)

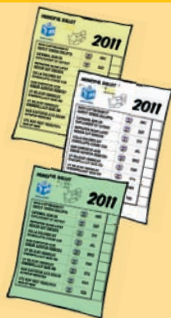
- The yellow one is a PR ballot. You vote for a political party.
- The white one is for the Ward Elections (Ward). You vote for a person to represent your ward.

Half the councillors are elected through a PR ballot, where you vote for a party. Half are elected as ward councillors, who can represent a political party or be independent candidates.



Local and District Councils (3 ballot papers)

- The yellow one is a PR ballot. You vote for a political party.
- The white one is for the Ward Elections (Ward). You vote for a person to represent your ward.
- The green one is a PR ballot for the District Council. You vote for a political party.





Who can vote?

To vote in the Municipal Elections you must:

- Be a South African citizen
- Be 18 or older on voting day
- Have a South African, green, bar-coded ID or a valid temporary ID certificate (TIC)
- Be registered on the voters' roll

How do I check if I am registered?

To check if you are registered at the right place and your information is correct, you can:

- Send an SMS with your ID number to 32810 (R1 per SMS sent or received)
- Go to www.elections.org.za or mobi.elections.org.za
- Phone the IEC call centre 0800 11 8000 (free from a landline)
- Inspect the voters' roll at your Municipal Electoral Office during office hours

In this Municipal Election, you can only vote at the voting station at which you are registered.

About Voting

When do voting stations open and close?

- They open at 7am (morning).
- They close at 7pm (evening). You can vote as long as you are inside the boundary of the voting station at 7pm.

Things to remember



- Take your ID with you when you go to vote.
- You can only vote once.
- Your vote is your secret.
- No weapons are allowed in the voting station. The South African Police Service may search you.



Special Votes

Special voting takes place in the Municipal Elections for the first time this year. You must **apply** in person from 15 April to 3 May 2011 at the Municipal Electoral Office (MEO). An application for special voting can also be made on your behalf.

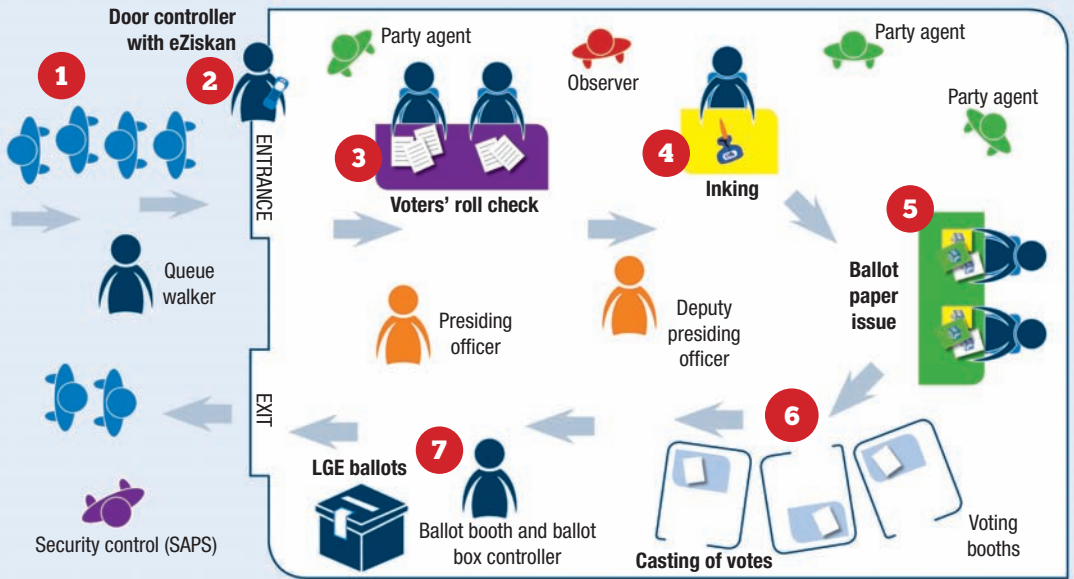
There are two categories:

1. Any registered voter who is unable to vote at their voting station on Election Day may apply for a special vote.
 - You will only be able to cast a special vote at the voting station where you are registered to vote.
 - Voting stations will be open for special voting on 16 May 2011.
2. Any registered voter who is physically infirm or disabled and is unable to travel to his or her voting station may apply for a home visit.
 - Home visits will take place on 16 and 17 May 2011.


- To apply for a special vote, get a form from your MEO office. Fill in the form and return it to the same office. You can also download a form from www.elections.org.za.
- All applications need to be approved.
- For more information, and for contact details of the MEO offices, go to www.elections.org.za or call 0800 11 8000.



The Voting Process



ENSURING FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

 Party agents: monitor & observe; they can object if there are irregularities

 Observers: monitor & observe

 SAPS: maintain law & order

Follow the numbers. They are the same as in the voting station above.

1

In the queue: An election official will check your ID to make sure that you are registered. He or she will also allow disabled, pregnant, infirm or elderly voters to move to the front.



2

At the door: An election official will scan your ID with the eZiskan (zip-zip) machine to check whether you are on the voters' roll. The scan will give you a slip showing your sequence number on the voters' roll.

3

Voters' roll check: Hand your slip to the voters' roll officer, who will check the photo in your ID. He or she will find your name on the voters' roll and draw a line through it so that you can't vote again.

4

At the inking table: An election official will make a small mark on the nail of your left thumb with ink. It will stay on your thumb for a few days. This is compulsory and proves that you've voted. If it's not possible to mark your left thumb, you will be marked in some other way.

5

At the ballot paper table: You will be given 2 or 3 ballot papers, depending on the category of your municipality (read more about this on pages 4 – 5). Each ballot paper will have an official stamp on the back.

6/7

You are now ready to vote:
See the next page on how to make your mark!

Assisted voting

- Anyone with a disability can choose someone who is over 18 to assist them. This cannot be a political party agent (party agent).
- Anyone who cannot read or write can only be assisted by the Presiding Officer. Two party agents must also be present.



How to make your Mark on the Ballot

6

Voting booths: An election official will show you where there is an open voting booth. You will be alone in the booth to make your mark. **Your vote is your secret.**

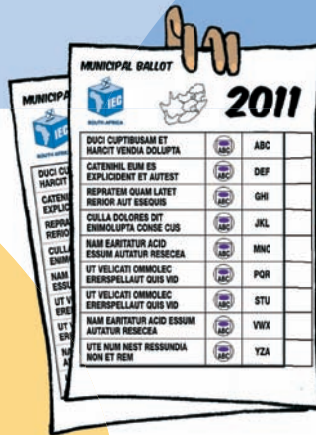
The following appears on the ballot papers:

The PR ballot paper (for Metropolitan, Local and District Councils):

- Full names of each political party
- Party logo or symbol
- Abbreviated name of party
- Empty box where you mark the party of your choice

The Ward ballot paper:

- Full names of candidates
- Party logo or symbol
- Abbreviated name of party
- Independent ward candidates (IND) may have a photo
- Empty box where you mark the candidate of your choice

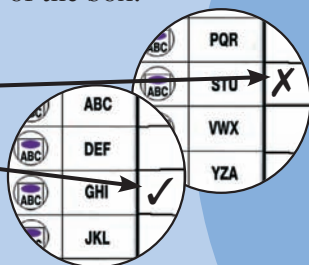


Making your mark

- Make your mark in the box next to the party or individual candidate of your choice.
- Be careful not to let your mark touch any of the walls of the box.
- Make only one mark on the ballot paper.

It is best to make a cross like this:

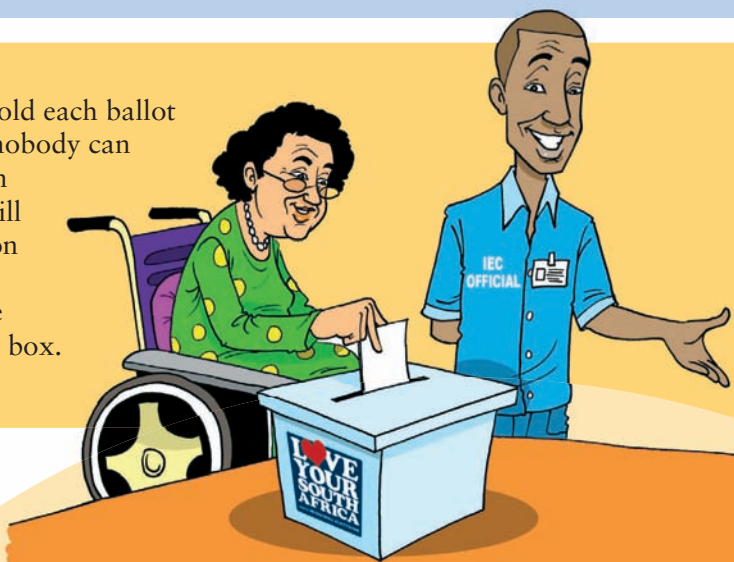
You can also make a tick like this:



- Any mark is acceptable as long as it clearly shows who you are voting for.
- This helps the voting officials to confirm who you are voting for when they count the votes.
- If you have made a mistake, do not put your ballot paper in the box. Notify the election official who will cancel the ballot. You will be given a new one.

7

The ballot box: Fold each ballot paper in half, so nobody can see your mark. An election official will check the stamp on the back of each ballot. Then place them in the ballot box.



Counting the votes

This takes place immediately after the voting station has closed. The results are posted outside each voting station. The final results are determined by the Commission and announced by the Municipal Electoral Officer.

The Electoral Commission (IEC)

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

The IEC is
independent without
fear or favour.



How to contact the IEC

Election House
Riverside Office Park
1303 Heuwel Avenue
Centurion
P/Bag X112
Centurion, 0046

Tel: 012 622 5700
Fax: 012 622 5784
Email: iec@elections.org.za
webmaster@elections.org.za
www.elections.org.za
Call centre: 0800 11 8000

IEC provincial details:

- 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