

# MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS



**KZN**



DEMOCRACY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

# Welcome to

## Your guide to the Municipal Elections

Besides National and Provincial Elections, voters take part every 5 years in Municipal Elections. There are 3 types of Municipal Councils namely, Metropolitan, Local and District Councils. For Metropolitan Municipalities, there are 2 types of elections in each ward, that is, Metropolitan Council Ward and Metropolitan Proportional Representation. In all local municipalities other than metropolitan municipalities, there are 3 types of elections in each ward: local council ward, local council proportional representation and district council proportional representation.

**Is democracy working for you?** Now is your chance to have your say by voting for the parties and candidates of your choice. But democracy is about more than voting. There are many ways to get involved. *Read on to find out more!*

**DEMOCRACY  
MEANS  
GOVERNMENT  
BY THE  
PEOPLE**



# Your municipal council is here to serve you

**In any society where people live together, communities have to work out ways to make decisions.**

In small communities, or in community-based organisations, it is possible for every person to participate in decision-making. Where every person has a direct say in governing the community or running the organisation, we call this **direct democracy**.

But with a population of millions of people, direct democracy is impossible. Instead, we use the **indirect democracy** in which a representative is elected by each community. This person's job is to **represent** the community in the local government and to look after the interests of the community.

In South Africa, these local representatives are called **councillors**. They sit on the **municipal councils**.

When we elect a councillor, we give him or her the authority to represent us. This authority is called a **mandate**.



# Municipalities, v

**In order for democracy to work in South Africa, the country has been divided up into hundreds of democratic units, each represented by a number of elected councillors.**

These units are called **local municipalities**, and each local municipality is divided into a number of **wards**. The ward is the smallest democratic unit in local government. Each ward is represented by an elected **councillor**. The councillor is elected every five years by the people who live in the ward.

The councillors sit on the local council. This is the body responsible for local government. They work hand in hand with **municipal officials** who are not elected but are employees of the municipality. Together, the councillors and officials run the municipality.

In addition to local municipalities, there are two other kinds of municipalities: **district municipalities** and **metropolitan municipalities**.

District municipalities are big areas, in which there are sometimes a number of local municipalities. Metropolitan municipalities are big urban centres. Ethekewini Municipality is the only metropolitan municipality in KwaZulu-Natal.

## VOTING DISTRICTS

Each **ward** is divided into a number of **voting districts**. There are more than 17 000 voting districts in South Africa.

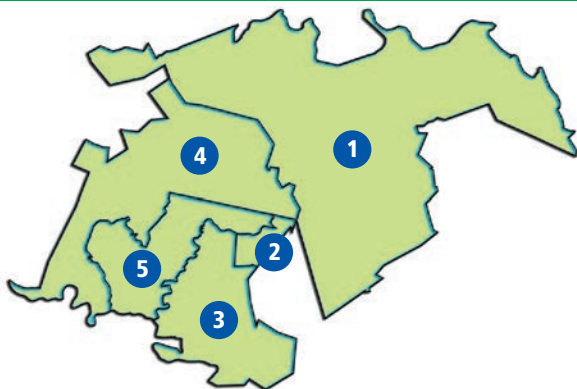
**Municipalities raise funds through property rates, services like water and electricity, and traffic fines!**



# , wards & councillors

## EXAMPLE

### Wards in the Ezingoleni Municipality



Each ward is represented by a Local Councillor.

When you go to vote, you have to vote in the voting district where you are registered.

### PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

Under the system of proportional representation, you get one vote for the party of your choice. The party that receives the highest number of votes gets the highest number of seats on the council. For example, if a party gets 60% of the vote, it will get 60% of the seats on the council. Councillors are appointed by the parties from a list called the party list.

# Choosing your candidate

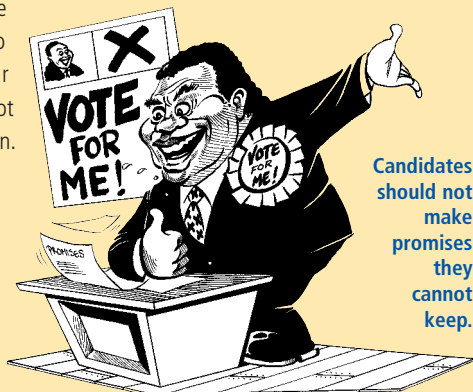
## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS?

Councillors who are elected to represent communities have a special responsibility to do their jobs properly. They have to be **accountable** to the people who elect them. If they don't keep their promises, or if they are lazy or corrupt, they should be voted out of office.

Candidates are expected to submit a **programme of action**. This is an outline of what they hope to achieve over the next five years. They should **report back** to their voters at regular intervals and have a **duty to keep them informed** of the policies of the municipal council and of the political parties they represent.

In the run-up to the elections, there will be many political meetings and rallies. Here you will have the chance to ask the candidates questions. If candidates have failed in the past to live up to their promises, do not vote for them again.

**Remember,  
your vote  
is powerful!**

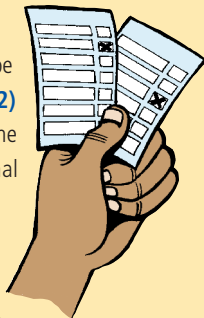


**Candidates  
should not  
make  
promises  
they  
cannot  
keep.**

# How many votes do you have?

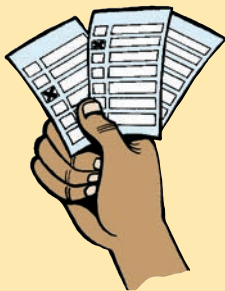
## ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

If you live in the Ethekewini Municipality, you will be given **two (2) ballots** and you will have **two (2) votes**: one for your **ward councillor**, and one for the **political party** of your choice (proportional representation).



## ELSEWHERE IN KWAZULU-NATAL

If you live anywhere else in KwaZulu-Natal, you will be given **three (3) ballots**, and you will have **three (3) votes**: one for your **ward councillor**, one for your **district councillor**, and one for the **political party** of your choice (proportional representation).



## CODE OF CONDUCT

The Municipal Systems Act sets out a **Code of Conduct** for elected councillors to make sure that councillors properly represent their communities and report back to them.

The Code of Conduct should be referred to if you wish to lay a complaint against a councillor who acts unethically or illegally.

# Democracy is about more than just voting!

Democracy is not just about voting in the municipal, provincial or national elections. Democracy demands more of citizens.

Citizens of a democracy are expected to know what's going on in their communities, and in the country at large. This means reading the newspaper, watching the news on television or listening to current affairs programmes on the radio, and talking to your family and neighbours about political choices.

**An informed voter is an empowered voter.** There are many ways to become informed and empowered at the local community level. The beauty of democracy is that it allows for the **participation of the ordinary person** at the local level.

## GET INVOLVED IN DEMOCRACY!



Follow the news on TV or radio.



Read the newspapers.



Discuss it with family and friends.



## PARTICIPATING IN DEMOCRACY

Democracy is all about decision-making. In a family, in a community, in a village or town, decisions are being made all the time. Democracy gives us ways to make sure that everybody can participate (indirectly) in decision-making.

## INTEREST GROUPS

At the local level, there are many opportunities to get involved, such as **civic associations**, **community-based organisations** or **development forums**. These kinds of interest groups are often asked to participate in local government initiatives.

## WARD COMMITTEES

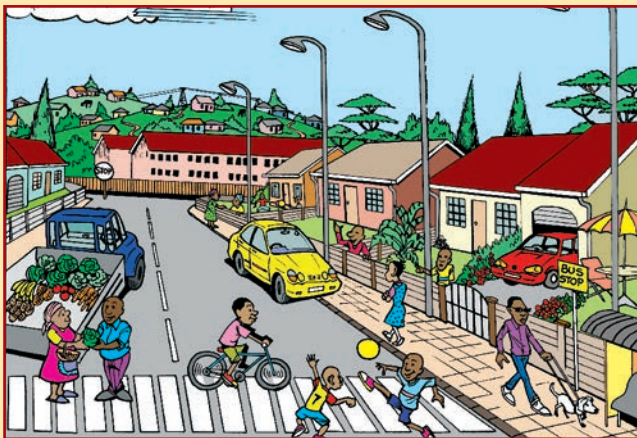
Councils are expected to form ward committees, made up of democratically elected community members, to assist councillors in their work with communities. Ward committee members are an important link between communities and government.



Discuss it with family and friends.

Attend meetings and rallies and get involved!

# Democracy at work



## THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN (IDP)

Wouldn't it be great if everyone lived in neat and tidy residential areas with lots of trees, excellent services and easy access to schools and shopping areas. Well, it is possible! Your municipal council has a duty to develop an Integrated Development Plan (IDP) that meets the needs of all the people in your community. The IDP should cover all the important things in life: housing, basic services, health, education, job creation and business development, sport, culture and recreation.

The IDP begins with a vision of how the future should be. All the activities of your municipality should be directed towards that vision. Find out more about your municipality's IDP.

**Knowledge is power!**

# Registering to vote and updating your particulars

In order to vote, you must first be registered to vote. If you are not already registered, you must register at the **voter registration station** in the district where you live. These stations are usually situated in offices at or near your local municipality.

Once you are registered there, your name and details go onto the **National Common Voters' Roll**. The voters' roll contains the names and details of millions and millions of voters. It has to be continuously updated because people's details, particularly their residential addresses, change all the time.

If you **change your address** from one voting district to another, it is your responsibility as a voter to **update your particulars** on the Voters' Roll. You can do this by visiting the voter registration station in the voting district where you live. Don't forget to take your ID!

## HAVE YOU GOT YOUR BARCODED ID BOOK?

**Your barcoded ID is the most important document in your life!**

Life is so much easier with a barcoded ID book, and it's so easy to get one! Just go to your nearest Home Affairs office. All you need are two photos of yourself and your identity number (from your birth certificate or old ID). The Department of Home Affairs will immediately issue you with a Temporary ID. They will send you your barcoded ID when it is ready. You can register to vote with a temporary ID, but you cannot use it to vote. Don't delay! Make sure you have your barcoded ID book before Voting Day!



# Frequently asked questions

**I WANT TO REGISTER TO VOTE. MUST I WAIT FOR THE IEC OFFICIALS TO COME TO OUR AREA? OR CAN I DO IT MYSELF?**



You can do it yourself. Every Municipality has an IEC office. Go there to register. Or check your details online using the Internet. The IEC's web site address is [www.elections.org.za](http://www.elections.org.za)

**MY PHYSICAL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED. WHAT MUST I DO?**



Go to the IEC office in the Municipality building nearest you and apply for an update of your registration particulars. Bring your barcoded ID and your new address details.

**I'VE LOST MY ID, BUT I WANT TO VOTE. WHAT CAN I DO?**



Go to the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and apply for a Temporary Identity Certificate (TIC). This will be accepted for registration.

**I'M NOT SURE WHETHER MY PARTICULARS ARE UP TO DATE ON THE VOTERS' ROLL. WHERE CAN I CHECK THEM?**



You can check them at any electoral office around the country. But be sure to do this before the closure of the Voters' Roll. The Voters' Roll closes approximately 60 days before the date of the election.

## about voter education

**I'M ONLY 17 YEARS OLD. CAN I REGISTER NOW OR MUST I WAIT UNTIL I'M 18?**



Yes, you can register provided you have a bar-coded South African ID. But you will only be able to vote once you turn 18.

**I HAVE PERMANENT RESIDENCE STATUS AND I VOTED IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS. BUT I DON'T HAVE A BAR-CODED ID. CAN I VOTE?**



No, only South African citizens with a bar-coded ID may register and vote. But if you are a naturalised South African citizen, you can apply for a bar-coded ID.

**I GOT MARRIED AND TOOK MY HUSBAND'S SURNAME. DO I HAVE TO UPDATE MY PARTICULARS ON THE VOTERS' ROLL?**



No. If your marriage is registered at the Department of Home Affairs, your new particulars will automatically be updated on the voters' roll.

**CAN I UPDATE MY PARTICULARS ON VOTING DAY?**



No. The Voters' Roll is closed for election purposes on the day that the President announces the election date. This will be two months before the elections. The Voters' Roll will be opened again after the election has taken place. So go and update your particulars while there is still time.

# The

- 1** At every polling station there are IEC officials to help you.
- 2** Show your barcoded ID book. An IEC official will check your ID number against the Voters' Roll.
- 3** An IEC official will cross your name off the Voters' Roll.
- 4** An IEC official will mark your thumb with indelible ink to ensure that you cannot vote again.
- 5** If you live in a local municipality you will be given three (3) ballot papers:
  1. Party of your choice (proportional representation)
  2. Ward councillor
  3. District councillorIf you live in the Ethekwin Metro, you will have two (2) votes, one for your Ward councillor, and one for the political party of your choice (proportional representation).
- 6** Blind people can vote. The blind person may be accompanied by a relative. The IEC officials will ensure that the blind person's vote is free and fair.
- 7** An IEC official will direct you to the polling booth.
- 8** Proportional representation: you will make your mark on the ballot paper next to the party of your choice. When you have made your mark, fold the ballot paper.
- 9** Place your District Councillor Ballot in the correct box.
- 10** Place your Ward Councillor Ballot in the correct box.
- 11** Place your Political Party Ballot (proportional representation) in the correct box.

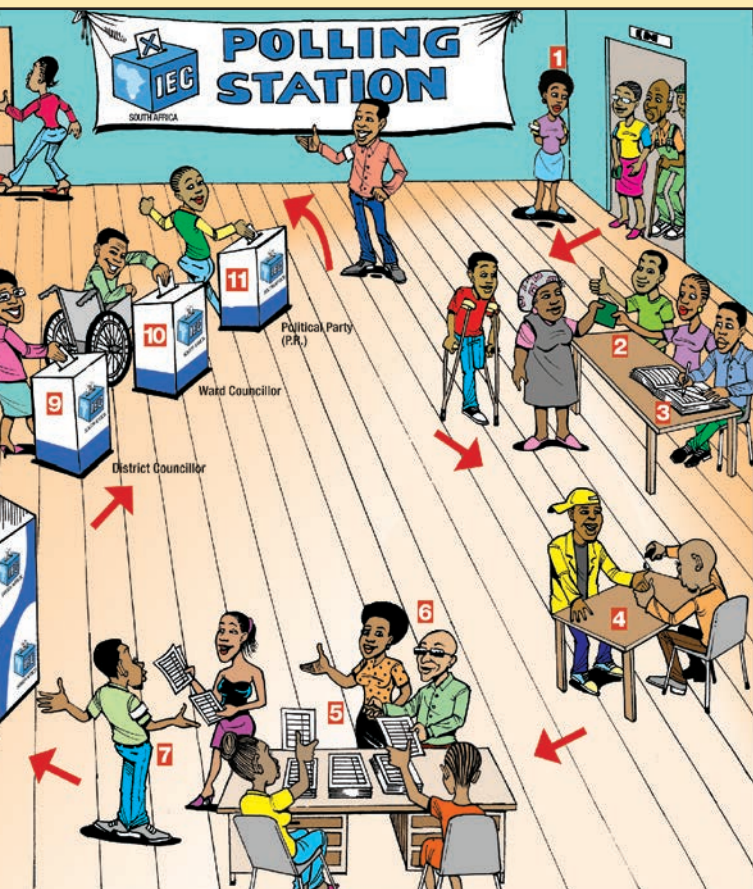
Make your way to the exit.

**IF YOU NEED HELP:** IEC officials will be on hand at all times to assist you.

**VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES:** Voters with disabilities will receive special attention from the IEC.



# The voting process



# REGISTER TO VOTE

AT THE IEC  
OFFICE IN YOUR  
MUNICIPALITY



ENQUIRE AT YOUR LOCAL  
MUNICIPAL OFFICE

OR CALL TOLL FREE  
0800 11 8000



Don't forget your  
barcoded ID!

CHECK YOUR DETAILS AT  
[WWW.ELECTIONS.ORG.ZA](http://WWW.ELECTIONS.ORG.ZA)

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