



government  
communications

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## VOTER REGISTRATION KEY MESSAGES

### **BRIEF:**

In 2019 South Africa will hold its sixth democratic national and provincial elections. A vital part of any democracy is to guarantee that voting takes place in an atmosphere which is considered free and fair.

There are currently close to 26 million registered voters in South Africa. A credible and up-to-date voters' role is vital to ensure free and fair elections. The IEC will therefore host a voter registration drive on the weekend of 26 and 27 January 2019 to capture the addresses of voters and to register new ones. This is also an opportunity for people to update their details if they have changed their address since the last election.

It is important that the correct addresses are captured so that the credibility of the voters' role is beyond reproach. We must ensure that people vote in the districts where they reside.

Over 22 000 voting stations will be open nationwide so voters can check, update and confirm their address details.

You are eligible to register to vote if you are:

- A South African citizen and are registered to vote;
- At least 18 years old; and
- In possession of a green bar-coded ID book, smart ID card or temporary identity certificate.

| KEY MESSAGES  | SUPPORTING STATEMENTS  |
|---|--|
| <p><b><i>Register to vote.</i></b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 22 000 voting stations will be open on Saturday 26 January and Sunday 27 January 2019 from 08h00 to 17h00.</li> <li>• This will allow new voters to register and existing voters to update and check their registration details.</li> <li>• Remember to bring your smart ID card, green barcoded ID document or a valid temporary ID certificate.</li> <li>• A registration weekend is also being planned for voters living abroad at South Africa's 120 High Commissions, embassies and consulates.</li> <li>• The IEC will announce dates once final arrangements have been concluded with the Department of International Relations and Cooperation.</li> <li>• Voter registration will also be conducted in January in Correctional Centres around the country to allow prisoners to exercise their right to vote.</li> </ul>                         |
| <p><b><i>An accurate voter's role is essential for free and fair elections.</i></b></p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since October 2017 the IEC has embarked on a process to collect 3 million missing addresses and 4 million part-addresses that are not available on the voters' roll.</li> <li>• This forms part of the on-going drive to ensure the voters' roll is ready for the elections in line with the 2016 order of the Constitutional Court.</li> <li>• On the weekend of 26 and 27 January 2019 you can confirm or verify your address details at one of the over 22 000 voting stations countrywide.</li> <li>• It is vital that the correct addresses are captured so that the credibility of the voters' role is beyond reproach.</li> <li>• An up-to-date and accurate voters role will help ensure free, fair and credible elections.</li> <li>• Over the past two years the Electoral Commission has added over 13 million addresses to the voters' roll.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b><i>Many people sacrificed their lives for your right to vote, register now.</i></b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is important that those who qualify to vote register so they can vote in next year's general elections.</li> <li>• This right to vote is a central part of any democracy.</li> <li>• It is a right which thousands of men and women fought and died for.</li> <li>• We owe to them to make sure that our voices are heard on the future direction of the country.</li> </ul>   |

| KEY MESSAGES  | SUPPORTING STATEMENTS  |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a voter, you have to choose which political party can best serve your needs and improve your life.</li> </ul>  |
| <b><i>Every vote counts.</i></b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our democracy depends on active citizens to renew it and make it stronger.</li> <li>The elections are an opportunity for all South Africans, especially the youth to use their vote to help move our country forward.</li> <li>Young people should register to vote because policies being voted on will impact the rest of their lives.</li> <li>With your vote, you can influence which policies are implemented and how decisions are made.</li> <li>Your vote can ensure that those in power prioritise issues facing young people including the creation of jobs.</li> </ul>   |
| <b><i>Together we can build on the achievements of the past 24 years.</i></b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building the country we want to live in requires South Africa to have regular, free and fair elections every five years.</li> <li>In 2019 millions of South Africans will once again get an opportunity to build on the gains we have made since 1994.</li> <li>Since 1994 government has consistently worked on improving the lives of all South Africans.</li> <li>We have advanced peoples' socioeconomic rights such as housing, water, education, social development and healthcare to all.</li> <li>However more still needs to be done to address the triple challenge of unemployment, inequality and poverty.</li> </ul> |
| <b><i>Our democracy has benefitted young people.</i></b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Over the last 24 years government has created many opportunities for the economic, social and cultural development of young people.</li> <li>We have instituted pro-youth policies and created institutional capacity dedicated to the development and prosperity of young people.</li> <li>The National Youth Policy 2015-2019 is government's response to the needs, interests and aspirations of young people.</li> <li>The policy aims to ensure that all young women and men are given meaningful opportunities to reach their full potential, both as individuals and as active participants in society.</li> </ul>         |