



**Electoral Commission  
of Namibia**

# NAMIBIA VOTES 2024

## PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### POLLING

##### 1. What is a Presidential or National Assembly election?

An election process in which citizens of a country elect their leaders through regular voting. In Namibia, national elections (Presidential and National Assembly elections) are held after every five years.

##### 2. Who can vote in 2024 national elections?

Only voters who registered during the 2024 General Registration of Voters (GRV) will be able to vote in 2024 national elections.

##### 3. What am I voting for in the upcoming election?

At the upcoming national elections in November 2024 registered voters will elect the President of the country and Members of the National Assembly.

##### 4. When will the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly elections be conducted?

The Presidential and National Assembly elections will be conducted on the 27 November 2024.

##### 5. Is November 27 a public holiday?

In terms of Section 64(6) of the Electoral Act No. 5 of 2014, any day determined as a day for an election of the President or National Assembly is a public holiday.

##### 6. What time do polling stations open and close?

Polling stations will open at 07h00 and close at 21h00.

##### 7. What will happen if my voters card got damaged or lost after the 2024 General Registration of Voters?

All registered voters whose voters card are lost or damaged will have an opportunity to apply for a duplicate voter registration card at designated venues countrywide from **18 to 26 November 2024**.

##### 8. What are the requirements to apply for a duplicate voter registration card?

A voter is required to make a declaration at any police station as a requirement to apply for a duplicate voter registration card and must apply in person.

##### 9. What will happen if I find myself outside my constituency on voting day?

For the purpose of the Presidential and National Assembly elections a voter may vote at any polling station in any

constituency, irrespective of the constituency where a voter is registered.

##### 10. What do I need to show at a polling station to demonstrate eligibility to vote?

Voters must present their valid voter registration card issued by the Electoral Commission of Namibia during the General Registration of Voters in 2024.

##### 11. How will I vote?

Each voter will be provided with two ballot papers, one ballot paper to cast a vote for a Presidential Candidate (*blue ballot paper*) of his or her choice and another ballot paper for the political party (*yellow ballot paper*) of his or her choice for the members of the National Assembly.

##### 12. What happens if I mark the ballot paper wrongly?

As a voter, you can request the Presiding Officer to issue you with a new ballot paper after which he or she will mark the wrongly marked ballot as "spoilt".

##### 13. What is the difference between a spoilt and rejected ballot paper?

A *spoilt ballot paper* is described in Section 102 of the Electoral Act. A ballot paper becomes spoilt when a voter realizes that he or she made a mistake or wrongly marked the ballot. A spoilt ballot paper is not cast in the ballot box, but returned to the Presiding Officer whom must mark the ballot with the word "*spoilt*" diagonal and place the ballot in an envelope marked "*Spoiled Ballot Paper*".

A *rejected ballot paper* on the other hand is provided for in terms of Section 105(3) of the Electoral Act, which provides that a Presiding must reject a ballot paper when it;

- does not bear the official (ECN) secret mark and the Presiding Officer have reasonable grounds to believe that it has not been officially issued to a voter;
- is unmarked;
- is impossible to determine with certainty for which political party or candidate as the case may be the ballot is recorded (i.e. the ballot contains more than one mark or voting for more than one party or candidate or it contains any writing or mark which reveals the identity of the voter).

##### 14. What is voting?

Voting refers to the process of choosing representatives by casting a ballot, a document used by people to formally express their preference. A voter is issued with a ballot on which the voter is expected to mark the ballot with a cross (X) in the space provided next to the candidate or party of his or her choice on the ballot paper. This process determines the winner of an election.

##### 15. How long will it take to vote?

On average, it should take about five to seven minutes for a voter to complete all the necessary steps and exit a polling station.

##### 16. What are the voting procedure at Polling stations?

###### In steps:

At polling stations, voters form a queue outside a polling station and is allowed entrance one by one. The following steps summarizes the voting process in a polling station:

- Step 1: Each voter is checked for traces of visible and invisible ink.
- Step 2: The voter eligibility is verified against the Voter Register.
- Step 3: The voter is marked with indelible and invisible ink.

- Step 4: The voter receives ballot papers for both the Presidential and National Assembly elections at the same time.
- Step 5: The voter enters a voting booth to mark their ballots papers for both elections in secret.
- Step 6: The voter cast the ballot papers in the designated ballot boxes for the Presidential election and the National Assembly election.
- Step 7: The Voter leaves the polling station.

#### 17. Can I go to vote in my party attire?

Party regalia/colors are prohibited inside polling stations. Campaign materials such as posters, banners, party flags and billboards must be only stationed at least 500 meters away from polling stations.

#### 18. What measures are in place to prevent double voting?

The use of both visible and invisible ink is part of measures instituted to prevent double voting. In addition, the voter is scanned and marked on the electronic voters register as being voted as a means to guard against double voting, provided the polling station have network connectivity. Irrespective of whether there is network connectivity, double voting can still be detected once the voter verification device data is uploaded to the central server.

Double voting is an offence and is punishable in terms of the Electoral Act.

#### 19. Is it possible that someone else can find out whom you have voted for?

No. The Secrecy of a Ballot is protected, with exception of the blind who are assisted, in the first instance, by a relative, friend or presiding officer. However, it is important to note that elections officials take an Oath of Secrecy to prevent them from disclosing any confidential information including the choice of the voter.

Undue influence is an offence and is punishable in terms of the Electoral Act.

#### 20. How does assisted voting work?

Section 103 of the Electoral Act stipulates that a presiding officer or polling officer may assist or instruct a voter in the manner of voting at a polling station. Section 103 2 (c) further indicates that a voter can also be accompanied by any other person of their choice to vote on their behalf, or who can request the presiding officer to assist the voter or vote on their behalf.

#### 21. How many voters can one person assist at a polling station?

There are no restrictions but the Commission may issue directives to limit the number of voters to be assisted by members of the public. The ECN recommends that one individual should not be allowed to assist more than 10 people who are unable to vote on their own.

#### 22. Can party agents assist voters in polling stations?

No, party agents are not allowed to assist voters in polling stations.

#### 23. What are the functions of party election agents in a polling station?

The election agent is a representative and observer of a registered political party or candidate by whom he/she was appointed. Their role is to observe that correct procedures are followed during the voting and counting process in elections. The party agents are governed by a Code of Conduct.

#### 24. If I have a valid voters card issued by the ECN but my name does not appear on the voters register on polling day, will I be allowed to vote?

Yes, when a voter's name does not to appear on both the Voter Verification Device and soft copy of the voters' register, **BUT** the voter is in possession of a valid Voter Registration Card (VRC), the Voter Verification Officer shall bring it to the attention of the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer must verify the VRC before instructing the Voter Verification Officer to complete **Elect 27** and allow the voter to vote.

#### 25. If my voter card is lost or damaged a day after the closing of the period of issuing duplicate voter registration cards, will I get the opportunity to get assistance to enable me to vote on voting day?

Unfortunately, the Electoral Act 5 of 2014 do not allow the issuance of any duplicate voter registration cards on the day determined as a polling day. Such a voter would not be able to apply for a duplicate voter registration card.

#### 26. If I registered inside the country during the GRV but I find myself in a mission during the period of 1-30 November 2024, will I be able to cast my vote at any established Namibian Diplomatic Mission on the 13 November 2024?

The Electoral Act 5 of 2014, do not prohibit persons whom find themselves outside the country during this period to vote at any Namibian Diplomatic Mission.

#### 27. What is special voting?

To ensure no eligible voter is excluded, arrangements are made for voters including those at sea or abroad to cast their ballots on November 13, 2024, at designated locations such as Walvis Bay, Lüderitz, Oranjemund, and Namibian Foreign Missions, as per Section 64(2)(a-c) of the Electoral Act (Act No. 5 of 2014).

Additionally, members of the Namibian Defence and Police Force and Correctional Services whom will be on duty November 27, 2024, is entitled vote on November 13, 2024.

#### 28. What are election observers?

Election Observers are persons who have been accredited by the Commission to enter and observe polling at the polling stations/counting venue/verification centres. An Observer may represent a local / foreign organization or country.

The Observer, observes the proceedings at the polling station and may not give instructions or interfere with the voting process in any way.

#### 29. Is there special treatment for the elderly, persons with disabilities, expectant women and nursing mothers at polling stations?

Yes, special provision is made for the elderly, Persons with Disabilities, nursing and expecting women to get priority in the queue at the polling station.

#### 30. Are cellphones allowed in the polling station?

No. The use of cellphones are not permitted in the polling station and voters are not allowed to take photos in a polling station.

#### 31. Can a voter refuse to get inked?

No. In terms of Section 100 (13) of the Electoral Act 5 of 2014, if a voter refuses that the prescribed identification mark be applied to his or her finger or fingers, the voter may not be issued with a ballot paper and will thus not be permitted to vote.

## COUNTING OF VOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

### 1. When does the counting process commence?

The counting of votes commences immediately after the close of the polling station.

### 2. How are votes counted?

Votes are counted through a manual counting of each ballot paper which is allocated to a party or candidate in accordance with the ballot cast by voters at a polling station.

Firstly, ballot papers are sorted to determine the eligibility of the ballot, i.e. if the voter have clearly marked the ballot and the Presiding Officer can with certainty determine for which candidate/political party the ballot is cast. Any ballot paper for which no certainty can be determined will be rejected as provided for in terms of the Electoral Act.

Secondly, ballot papers are stacked in bundles per political party/candidate.

Thirdly, the total ballot papers cast for each political party/candidate is counted and allocated as such.

### 3. How is the winner for the Presidential elections determined?

In terms of Article 28(2) of the Namibian Constitution, the President of Namibia is elected through direct, universal, and equal suffrage. The election uses a plurality system where the winning candidate must secure more than fifty percent of the votes. If no candidate achieves this majority in the initial round, a second round is held with the top two candidates from the first ballot. The candidate who receives the most votes in this second round will be elected.

### 4. How are seats in the National Assembly allocated to parties?

The National Assembly elections utilize a proportional representation system based on party lists. Each political party must submit a list of not less than thirty-two (32) and not more than ninety-six (96) candidates. The seats are allocated based on the quota of valid votes per seat as outlined in Article 46(1)(a).

To determine the number of seats a political party receives in the National Assembly, the total votes cast for that party are divided by the quota of votes required per seat. **For example**, with 824,929 votes and 96 seats available, the quota is calculated as 824,929 divided by 96, which equals 8,593 votes per seat. The number of seats each party receives is determined by dividing their total votes by the quota, with any surplus votes potentially influencing seat allocation in subsequent rounds.

## POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

### 1. Are political parties allowed to campaign on polling day?

A political party or candidate may not campaign, from midnight, 24 hours before polling day in any election or referendum until polling stations are closed.

On polling day, no party or candidate may convene or hold a public gathering of any kind or canvas for votes at polling stations.

### 2. Are political parties allowed to buy votes or coerce and intimidate voters into voting for them?

No. Vote buying, coercion and intimidation of voters is an electoral offense and a threat to the integrity of elections and punishable in terms of the Electoral Act. Such actions and activities should be reported to the nearest Police Station.

