



RADIO TOOLKIT

LOCAL ELECTIONS

INTRODUCTION TO TOOLKIT

Since the first democratic vote on the 27th of April 1994, community radio stations have been taking root and increasing in numbers across South Africa in urban, peri-urban, and rural areas.

Community media aims to democratize the press and provide print, radio, and television access to all people, as well as localized programming focused on the interests and needs of their audience.

Currently, over 240 community radio stations have an estimated audience of 9 million listeners across the country. You and your station are central to this local government election process and to the

democratic project.

It is the duty of the media to report fully on all aspects of elections so that citizens can exercise their right to make an informed choice. The media also provides a platform for political parties, who have a right to share information about their ideas and policies.

The Children’s Radio Foundation (CRF), in partnership with the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, created this toolkit so you can learn more about local government processes and how to use radio to engage your community around the municipal elections of November 2021.

INTRODUCTION TO RADIO

We know you want to do big and meaningful things in the work you do with youth and your community. So how do you arrive at your goals?

CRF has been working with radio stations for ten years. We believe it’s the best platform to

amplify local voices, to get discussions going that include the entire community, and to initiate important conversations.

Here’s a guide to help you find your way using the radio:

FACTS

<p>Radio is still the <i>MOST POPULAR PLATFORM</i> for people on the African continent to get their news and information.</p>	<p>Radio allows people who don’t often <i>PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS AND DECISION MAKING</i> to do so, including youth, unemployed people and the elderly.</p>
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Radio is EASY TO LEARN	Radio CREATES PICTURES in your mind
Radio REACHES EVERYWHERE : in your room, in the car, taxi, shops and more	Radio is powerful and emotional, and CREATES CONNECTION with the audience
Radio is all about the THE POWER OF VOICES AND STORIES	

South Africa has a range of commercial radio stations, public-service broadcast stations and community stations. Most of the time, they operate very differently because they

have different missions. Here are some of the most common differences between commercial and community stations.

COMMERCIAL RADIO	COMMUNITY RADIO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratings (how many listeners) are very important because most money comes from advertising • Not very flexible with programming • Does not have to represent a particular group or community • Obligated to its shareholders • Main focus is entertainment and current affairs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relies on relationships with funders and the community to keep operating • Much more flexible with programming • Through the legal obligations of its licensing, must represent a particular group or community where it broadcasts • Obligated to its board and community • Must provide educational programmes • Must aim to build civil society

Looking at this table, community radio seems a lot friendlier to approach for the purposes of telling stories. However, there are some commercial stations out there that value

community voices too. So try them both!

Radio is intimate and engaging. You can interact with callers, read text messages,

listen to voice notes and respond to social media feedback in real time. You can play service delivery stories that have been prepared and recorded in advance. You can have live debates and interviews with candidates, community members about the state of service delivery, and what they

would like for the next council to prioritise. With so many options, remember that radio works best when you have a clear plan that accounts for every minute you are on air. This is where your Radio Production Guide will be your best map.

REMOTE REPORTING & BROADCAST

Last year, the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to adjust the way we work in order to ensure the safety of all of our Youth Reporters as they make their voices heard on air.

In April 2020, we launched our Remote Reporting and Broadcast model that brings new ways of doing things that can be relevant to you, even beyond this crisis. It recommends to avoid as much as possible face-to-face interactions from the production and broadcast process and instead relies on smartphone technology to connect with team members and interviewees. For example, all reporting activities like collecting interviews

can be done through briefing the interviewee on the phone and having them send WhatsApp voice notes.

Shows components (including the script read by the presenter(s)) will then be sent directly to a radio station producer who compiles them together and goes to the station to air them in place of the presenters.

Remote reporting and broadcasting have pros and cons. We listed the main ones below to help you decide whether it's right for you and your station.

PROS	CONS
REPORTING	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No exposure in a time of crisis (such as the COVID-19) when you as a reporter, can't go out and interview people without putting yourself and/or them at risk • Flexibility and ability to collect interviews with people who are not located in the immediate environment of the reporters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reliance on smartphones and connectivity to conduct activities, and therefore exclusion of the least connected • Loss of face-to-face human connection during interview

PROS	CONS
BROADCAST	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No exposure to high-risk radio station setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of live interaction with listeners

If you want to know more about the Remote Reporting and Broadcast model, you can read our handbook on the topic here:

<https://childrensradiofoundation.org/covid-19-remote-reporting-broadcast-toolkit/>

INTRODUCTION TO OUTREACH

If you think about the impact your radio shows have on your community, you will realise that your shows inspire conversation and change. Most of the topics you tackle on your shows are complex, and require additional steps and ways of broaching them.

Outreaches are another way of presenting social issues to your community. Outreaches are activities used to mobilise communities for social change. They are a great opportunity to continue conversations started on air - to continue raising awareness on an issue, and to inspire action.

Campaigns are strategic and well planned. They are usually carried out over a number of months (or they require a number of months to plan and execute), and involve partners/ community members. They also require hard work, but the effort is worthwhile because when they are executed well, they can result in great change in your community.

COVID-19 presents new opportunities to engage listeners on various social media

platforms where they are already “hanging out”. Remote outreach events hosted online are suitable for building online communities with local businesses, community-based organisations, as well as young and old people who listen to your show, but do not always engage with the content you broadcast weekly.

You will need to organise outreach events in the forms of live chat sessions, where you can engage with each other in real time. You can keep the campaign going by asking them to like and/or comment on your content. They can also share audio, videos, and images that you can, in turn, share. Radio has become visual, and can now exist on more platforms.

With remote outreach and campaigns, you can build global awareness about local community issues online. Think local, act global! You’ll have opportunities to increase participation, inspire listeners to take action, and market your shows while building your online brand and presence.

THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA DURING ELECTIONS

“A free and fair election is not only about the freedom to vote and the knowledge of how to cast a vote, but also about a participatory process where voters engage in public debate and have adequate information about parties, policies, candidates and the election process itself in order to make informed choices.”

ACE Project

You are part of the media. The media is made up of people like you that educate, inform and entertain audiences about many things. During the election period your role is to inform and educate your listeners about elections. Elections are a fundamental right in a democratic state such as South Africa. Therefore you must make sure that you encourage your listeners to participate in choosing the best candidate that will represent their ward, ensure that basic services such as collection of garbage, provision of water, building roads, and many more are met. Another important duty of the media is to ensure that elections are free, fair and transparent. If you notice something fishy happening in your community, you need to report it to your polling station, or to your local facilitator.

The media plays many important roles in enabling full public participation in elections, including:

- Educating voters on how to exercise their democratic rights.
- Reporting on the development of an election campaign.
- Providing a platform for the political parties and candidates to communicate their message to the electorate.
- Providing a platform for the public to communicate their concerns, opinions, and needs to the parties and candidates, the election management body, the government and other voters, and to interact on these issues.
- Allowing parties and candidates to debate with each other.
- Reporting results and monitoring vote counting.
- Scrutinising the electoral process in order to evaluate the fairness of the process.

Practical tips for the media for election coverage

Reporting on local elections may require different approaches and skill sets, for various reasons:

- Municipal elections use a hybrid system of both parties and independent ward candidates, and the method of voting differs depending on the type of municipality.
- Instead of a single national election, municipal elections comprise hundreds of separate races with different candidates, different contexts, and different core issues of concern to their electorate. For example, service delivery issues are of heightened importance in the context of municipal elections, but service delivery performance can differ widely by municipality. Politically motivated killings are also prevalent during municipal elections, which have become increasingly contested in recent years. A 2017 study found that 66% of councillors and 60% of municipal managers reported being threatened.

INTRODUCTION TO LOCAL ELECTIONS

Democracies need active, informed and responsible citizens - citizens who are willing and able to take responsibility for themselves and their communities and contribute to the political process. In order to be responsible citizens and shape the country we want, we need to understand how local government works and how we can engage with it. Local government is one of the three spheres of government established by the Constitution – the other two are national and provincial government. As it is the sphere of government that is the closest to South African citizens and provides services to communities, it is important to understand what this level of government is all about. When the local government fails at service delivery, the results can be devastating.

[- Corruption Watch](#)

The 2021 South African municipal elections will take place on Monday, 1 November 2021 to elect councils for all district, metropolitan and local municipalities in each of the country's nine provinces. This will be the sixth time under South Africa's democratic dispensation that voters will elect leadership and public representatives at metropolitan, district and local level. This is the chance for citizens to vote for the people who they believe will best look after their service delivery interests such as water and electricity; the maintenance of parks, roads and other public spaces; and the implementation of housing projects drawn up by national and provincial governments.

[- Corruption Watch](#)

Audiences in your community

are dealing with the impacts of poverty and inequality, and facing issues like crime, gender violence and the lack of service delivery daily. Community members have the right to information about political parties and policies in elections, to make an informed choice and understand the impact of national policies at a provincial and municipal level. Community radio stations service citizens in their local area and language, and can often reach them in ways that other media can't. Pre-, mid- and post-election, your reporting and programming at the radio station will be central to your audience accessing and acting on their right to vote.



YOUNG PEOPLE AND ELECTIONS

Exclusion from decision-making, or in debates about key socio-economic and political issues can lead to young people feeling disempowered. For political systems to be representative, all parts of society must be included. In new and emerging democracies, the inclusion of young people in formal political processes is important from the start.

To make a difference in the longer term, it is essential that young people are engaged in formal political processes and have a say in formulating today's and tomorrow's politics. Inclusive political participation is not only a fundamental political and democratic right but also is crucial to building stable and peaceful societies and developing policies that respond to the specific needs of younger generations. For young people to be adequately represented in political institutions, processes, and decision-making, and in particular, in elections, they must know their rights and be given the necessary knowledge and capacity to participate in a meaningful way at all levels. - [Ace Project](#)

South Africa's population is largely made up of young people; those who are below the age of 35 years constitute about 66% of the total population.

For 2021, Statistics South Africa ([Stats SA](#)) estimates the mid-year population at 60.14 million people.

About 28.3% of the population is younger than 15 years (17.04 million) and approximately 9.2% (5.51 million) is 60 years or older.

Of the 26,212,149 million South Africans who have registered to vote:

- 74,668 are male between the ages of 18-19
- 96,430 are females between the ages of 18-19
- 2,016,214 are male between the ages of 20 - 29
- 2,410,776 females between the ages of 20 - 29 ([IEC](#))

According to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), for the 2021 local elections, 26.2million South Africans had registered to vote, with 1.7 million voters registered during the special two-day registration weekend, and 433,198 of those registered for the first time with significant registrations by young people. But when compared with the total eligible voting population of just over 40 million, it shows that more than 13 million South Africans who are eligible to vote have not registered and therefore cannot vote because the voters' roll closed on the 20th of September 2021. The mid-year population estimate by Statistics South Africa published in July 2021 shows South Africa has a population of 60.1 million, with 21.8 million aged between 0 and 19 years.

The high number suggests a few things:

- That the eligible voting pool was substantially reduced by the uncertainty about whether an election would go ahead.
- People are losing faith in electoral politics to change local government.
- First-time young voters do not see value in the process.

- [Daily Maverick](#)

While the Electoral Commission of SA has applauded young South Africans for coming out in their numbers on the weekend to

register to vote, some others considered voting “a futile exercise”. Young persons in the age category 16 to 29 accounted for 402,401

of the new registrations, which is 91%. Here are some of the voices of the 9% that did not register:

“We keep voting, yet the same people remain in power. I have been an avid believer in the democracy that has afforded me the opportunity to be able to exercise my right to vote, but it has seemingly become useless and I am not doing it anymore.”

- Edward Mohale (28), Free State

“Was not a missed opportunity.”

- Lesego Shakung (25), Auckland Park

[News 24](#)

DEFINITIONS

Active citizenship - A citizen who takes an active role in the community’s context, such as in neighborhood security, community policing, or in other social activities. - [IGI GLOBAL](#)

Election - The process through which the citizens of the country select their members of Parliament by voting. In South Africa, parliamentary elections must be held at least every five years. - [ETU](#)

Electorate – All citizens of the country who are legally entitled to vote. - [ETU](#)

Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) - A body that operates independently from the government that registers voters, manages & oversees the election day, counts the votes and releases and announces the election results in line with the electoral act of 1996.

Local government - The sphere of government closest to the people. Many basic services are delivered by local municipalities, and local ward councillors are the politicians closest to communities. - [ETU](#)

Council - A place to ensure the delivery of services that meet the interests and needs of residents, businesses, and organizations, at a cost these groups are willing and able to fund. Council is also the vehicle through which residents express their thoughts and concerns in an effort to create local opportunities or to find solutions to community concerns. At minimum, a municipality is responsible to provide administration, land use planning, emergency measures, policing, road, and garbage collection services to residents. - [Environment and Local Government](#)

Constitution - The most important - or supreme - law of the land. No other law may conflict with it; nor may the government do anything that violates it. - [CONCOURT](#)

Citizen power - When citizens are given full and adequate support to participate in democratic processes, including electing public officials. - [Accord](#)

YOUNG PEOPLE, WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

There is a general sense that traditional politics and representative democracy fails to attract the attention of young people. This is despite knowing that young people, historically, have been at the forefront of bringing about social and political change in pre and post-democracy eras. Yet in the last two decades, young people feel they have been reduced to recipients of decisions rather than shapers of decisions. - [M&G](#)

There is increasing evidence that in the 21st century, youth across the globe are increasingly becoming disenchanted with political processes, and electoral processes in particular. Emerging research on political and civic participation among youth in South Africa points to the fact that youth find formal political processes not only frustrating and alienating, but also less likely to yield desired results. A survey of 36 African countries by [Afrobarometer](#), which measures citizen attitudes on democracy, governance, the economy and civil society, notes that African youth exhibit the lowest levels of political and civic engagement compared with other age groups.

The Mzansi Roar report done by [Ipsos](#) reveals that a third of young South Africans are not interested in politics and voting in the upcoming Local Government Elections. Equally, young people are not attached to political parties. This either shows diminished trust in political parties or there are no political parties that represent the needs of

young South Africans. This does not mean that young people are apathetic about politics, because young people are involved in movements for change worldwide. They are taking to the streets and using online social networks and communities to connect, express their voices and campaign for change. They are protesting against authoritarian regimes, corruption and inequalities. They are fighting for sustainable development and a better future for current and new [generations](#). One of the most prominent acts of youth activism was the 1976 student uprising against the imposition of Afrikaans as a language of instruction at schools. - [Justice newsletter](#)

The most recent example of youth activism is that of the #FeesMustFall student movement that started in late 2015, where University students are protesting against the cost of tertiary education in South Africa.

There is no doubt that young people in South Africa face a myriad of problems. Here are some of the most pressing issues affecting young people in South Africa:

- **High unemployment:** Figures from Statistics South Africa confirmed that the Youth unemployment rate in South Africa increased to 63.3% in the first quarter of 2021 from 63.2% in the fourth quarter of 2020.
- **Poor educational outcomes:** The strong

legacy of apartheid and the consequent correlation between education and wealth have meant that, generally speaking, poorer learners in South Africa perform worse academically. - [UCT](#)

- **Various forms of poverty:** This includes deprivation in multiple dimensions of well-being, which can include low levels of education, poor nutrition and health, a lack of employment, inadequate living standards and high exposure to violence, as well as low wages and income. - [Open saldru](#)
- **Less than ideal mental and physical health, including high rates of HIV:** Currently, the burden of disease among youth is high, with tuberculosis (TB) and

HIV emerging as the leading causes of death among all youth in the country.

- [UCT Child Gauge](#)

Youth in South Africa are not convinced that the government would or could address their concerns. 58% of youth in South Africa view meeting their basic needs (such as finding jobs, income, housing) as more important than voting, and having access to courts, freedom of speech and expression. With the Local Government Elections coming up - all political parties want to make the best of the remaining weeks to rally more support. Young people make up a good deal of new votes. It is valuable to know what you think and feel about politics, political parties and local issues in your community in order to make informed decisions about your participation.

YOUR VOTE YOUR VOICE

Citizens who are willing and able to take responsibility for themselves and their communities and contribute to the political process help themselves develop **a sense of agency**. It also gives them a **voice**: in the life of their communities and society at large.

- [Young Citizens](#)

People's involvement in their local communities and democracy at all levels, from towns to cities to nationwide activity, is called **Active Citizenship**. It involves people working together to make positive differences to the society in which they live. Active citizenship can be as small as a campaign to clean up your street or as big as educating young people about democratic values, skills and participation." - [Open Society Foundation](#)

This process is good for individuals, and essential for strengthening and safeguarding societies and democratic ways of life.

Why should South African citizens vote?

When we vote in an election we choose who should represent us in government. By voting for them, we give them permission to make decisions on our behalf. Voting benefits ordinary people in many ways. When you vote you don't only vote for the political parties and politicians, but you influence your future and that of generations to follow. Political leaders make policies and decisions on issues such as healthcare, electricity, and water and sanitation. They also control how taxpayers' money is spent. Therefore, it's important to think critically about the political party you put into power. You should review their policies and see if they are responsive to your needs. It's also important to consider the personalities of political leaders and think about whether they would obey the law and spend public funds responsibly and not for personal gains. Even if you feel dissatisfied

by the choices offered by political parties, it is still important to vote - even if it means voting for the least poor performing political party! Choosing not to vote doesn't punish the political party or politicians - it just means fewer people vote a winner into power.

- [Civics academy SA](#)

Elections also allow voters to judge governments' performance while they are in power. They can hold the leading party accountable. If voters are dissatisfied with a leading party's performance and feel like the party did not improve life or pass policies for the betterment of the society, they can vote against them and for a party that they believe will do a better job.

Several studies and anecdotal evidence points to many young South Africans saying they will not vote. They argue that their vote will change nothing. What this means is that nothing will change because they did not vote. Beyond voting, citizens should remain

engaged and keep elected leaders on their toes long after election day. Democracy should be an everyday habit that starts with voting. Politicians will not take voters for granted if they fear being outvoted for nonperformance and wrongful behaviour. Every vote must be cast to affirm elected leaders who are accountable and deliver services for their communities, and to punish those who steal from the public purse and are inaccessible to their constituencies. Once we turn our backs on voting, we are, in essence, giving a free licence for looting and destruction in our name. - [News24](#)

Choosing your local government at a council level is where you can start to see real change. People participate in local government firstly by voting in municipal elections and secondly, by exercising their right to be involved in the running of the municipality, being aware of the municipality's plans for development, knowing who their ward councillor is and

how to contact them. These actions will all contribute to the ability of residents to hold municipalities to account in the provision of essential services and development of the local economy, and ensure that taxpayers' money is spent wisely and efficiently. The ward councillor is the direct link between voters and the local government. It's up to him or her to fight for the interests of the community. Before an election, voters are encouraged to get to know the candidates and understand the qualities each will bring, so they are confident in their choice on voting day. Young people especially have a central and monumental role to play in the realization of this universal human right at this time and in this place.

**STRONG
COMMUNITY MEDIA
FOR A STRONG
DEMOCRACY**



WHAT ARE LOCAL ELECTIONS?

INTRODUCTION

Elections are a central feature of democracy. Once every five years, councillors are elected by the people they are meant to serve. In South Africa most people vote for a party as well as a ward councillor to represent their interests at local level. This is the chance for citizens to vote for the people

who they believe will best look after their service delivery interests such as water and electricity; the maintenance of parks, roads and other public spaces; and the implementation of housing projects drawn up by national and provincial governments.

- [Corruption Watch](#)

RIGHTS OF VOTERS

For the elections to express the will of the electorate they must be free and fair. Free means that all South Africans entitled to vote must be registered and allowed to vote and must be free to make their choice. A free election is also an election that you are

confident that whoever you vote for remains a secret. A fair election is one where all voters have an equal opportunity to register, where all votes are counted and where the announced results reflect actual votes totals.

- [Civics Academy SA](#)

WHO CAN VOTE

All South African citizens over the age of 18 who are registered voters will be allowed to vote in the local elections. If you are registered as a voter for national and provincial elections, you may vote in a municipal election and you don't have to register again for municipal elections. On election day, you can only vote at the voting

station in the voting district (VD) where you registered on the voters roll and you must have a bar-code ID. If you lose your ID you can get a temporary replacement ID called a "Temporary Identity Certificate", which can also be used to vote if it has not expired.

- [ETU](#)

VOTER REGISTRATION

To vote you have to be on the voters roll for your voting district. On election day only the roll for that district will be at the voting station. If your name is not there, you will not be able to cast a normal vote.

Anyone who (1) will be 18 years or older on election day and (2) has an identity card, valid temporary identity certificate or green bar-coded identity document, may apply to

the municipal electoral officer for registration as a voter. When registering a voter, the IEC must record all of the following details in the voters' roll:

- a sequence number;
- identity number;
- name; and
- physical address.

A mistake in the voters' roll does not necessarily make that roll invalid. - [Elections Guide](#)

Most voters are already registered from past elections:

- If you are still living in the same voting district where you registered in previous elections, you do not have to register again. The borders of your voting district may have changed and the IEC will inform you with a leaflet if you have to re-register.
- If you have moved, you should change your registration so you can vote at the voting station in your area.
- If you are a registered voter and your ordinary place of residence has changed,

you must apply to the municipal electoral officer to have your registration details changed.

- If a physical disability makes it impossible for you to travel to the office of the municipal electoral officer to register or to change your registration, you may request the IEC to visit you to conduct the registration.

Questions to consider before voting:

- How does this party address the issues affecting my community?
- How does this party address the issues affecting me and my family?
- Do the party's values and policies match my personal ones?

HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKS

INTRODUCTION

No political system is considered complete and democratic if it does not have a system of local government. - [Repository](#)

Many basic services are delivered by local municipalities. Local ward councillors are the politicians closest to communities. Organisations and individuals playing an activist and/or developmental role should understand how local government works and how to influence it. - [ETU](#)

If you know how local government is supposed to work, you will find it easier to identify when it is not working, or when something is wrong.

Section 155 of the constitution provides for three categories of municipalities:

- metropolitan
- district and
- local municipalities.

Municipalities have many functions that affect our daily lives. They fulfill services within the framework of the constitution and national and provincial legislation. Services include electricity, water and sanitation, refuse removal, roads, parks and recreation, community halls and public places, and cemeteries.

HOW DOES EACH MUNICIPALITY GOVERN?

Each municipality has a local council, which is elected during local government elections every 5 years. The municipal council governs the municipality. The council is made up of elected members who adopt policies, make by-laws, raise income and spend funds, and take decisions at council meetings on all matters that fall within its powers and functions.

In terms of the constitution and other laws, the public has the right to participate in municipal decision making. This can be done through ward committees, public participation meetings, submission of representations and proposals, and direct contact with elected council members.

- [CIVICS ACADEMY SA](#)

Government has the responsibility to make policies and laws about the rights and responsibilities of citizens and the delivery of government services. Government collects revenue [income] from taxes and uses this money to provide services and infrastructure that improves the lives of all the people in the country, particularly the poor. - [ETU](#)

The objectives of local government are:

- (a) to provide democratic and accountable government for local communities;
- (b) to ensure the provision of services to communities in a sustainable manner;
- (c) to promote social and economic development;
- (d) to promote a safe and healthy environment; and
- (e) to encourage the involvement of communities and community organisations in the matters of local government.

Local government is regulated by [Chapter 7 of the Constitution](#) and although it has the powers to make and enforce its own laws, local government is still supervised by national and provincial governments.

- [Corruption Watch](#)

SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTITUTION

Constitutions have an effect on how well a country functions, and as a result, the quality of life of its citizens. The state needs a powerful engine to do the things we need it to do. But that power has to be under control. A good constitution keeps the power of the state under public control. It puts the people in the driver's seat - ensuring that the government represents, and is responsible to ordinary citizens. - [International Idea](#)

In a constitutional democracy, the Constitution is the highest law of the country and no person can go against it. Even the

president and Parliament cannot rule and pass laws against it. The Constitution contains the Bill of Rights which states the rights and responsibilities of all citizens.

After the end of apartheid in South Africa, there was a need to establish a democratic system of government that upholds human rights, dignity, freedom and equality of all people. The Constitution explains how the government must be organized and how it must operate and allocate the roles and responsibilities of state institutions. - [Civics Academy SA](#)

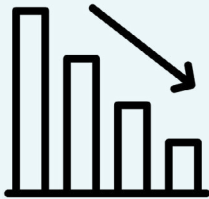
The 1996 Constitution guarantees the democratic rights to freedom of expression, access to information, to form organisations and to meet. It also guarantees the right to vote, the calling of elections every five years and the drawing up of a national voters' roll.

Eligible voters have:

1. **The right to free and fair elections** - The right to information to make your choice, access to registered political parties and candidates, who should be able to hold meetings freely, and given fair amounts of time on radio and television.
2. **The right to vote** - is one of your political rights under the Constitution and your democratic right as a citizen. No one is allowed to stop you from voting.
3. **The right not to vote** - It is also your democratic right not to vote. No one is allowed to force you to vote.
4. **The right to spoil your vote** - You have the democratic right to spoil your ballot paper (voting paper). This is when you deliberately vote for more than one party on the ballot paper, or fill your ballot paper out in a way that a counting officer cannot work out who you are voting for. Some people choose to vote by spoiling their ballot to show there is no political party that represents them.
5. **The right to vote once in your ward** - You have the right to vote once in the voting station at the ward where you are registered with the bar-coded ID.
6. **The right to your own free choice** - Only you can choose which party to vote for. No one is allowed to pay you or threaten you to vote for their party.
7. **The right to a secret vote** - No one can force you to tell who you voted for. Your vote is secret, because your name is not on the ballot paper. No one is allowed to watch you when you go into the voting booth. If you ask for help to vote, and any election official, observer or party agent sees how you vote, they are sworn to secrecy.
8. **The right to get help to vote** - If you are physically or visually challenged, you can choose someone to help you at the voting station. The presiding officer can also help you cast your vote but an observer and, if available, two agents from different parties must be present. Ask for an interpreter if you need help with the translation of any instructions. You may take someone to help you (family or a friend); the person must be 18 years or older, and cannot be a party agent or a candidate.
9. **The right to vote safely** - There will be security at the voting station to ensure a safe voting environment. Alert the police or presiding officer if you feel any threat to your safety.
10. **The right to make a complaint** - If you are unhappy about anything during the elections and at the voting station, such as harassment or intimidation.

DID YOU KNOW? (GLOBAL)

A 2016 UN World Youth report, “Youth Civic Engagement,” revealed that **voter turnout** has **decreased in all democracies** since the 1980s



and that the turnout decline is **concentrated among youth**.

([Ace Project](#))

NEARLY TWO-THIRDS (**65 %**) OF THE **OVERALL AFRICAN POPULATION IS YOUNGER THAN 35**, ACCORDING TO THE 2015 AFROBAROMETER. YET **ONLY 55% OF AFRICAN YOUTH SAID THEY VOTED** IN THEIR LAST NATIONAL ELECTION.



Young people are the **most affected demographic group** in any country’s socio-economic and political developments. By 2019, almost **60% of Africa’s population**



was estimated to be **under the age of 25**, making Africa **the world’s youngest continent**.

([ACCORD](#))

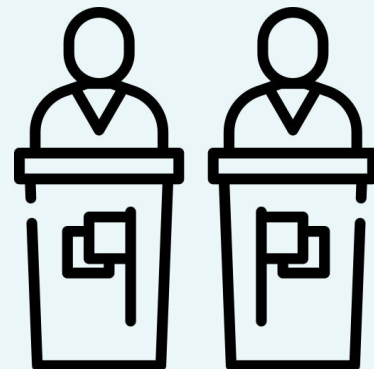
Almost **16 million young Africans** – around 13.4% of the total labour force of 15–24-year-olds – are **unemployed**, more than 40% of young Africans consider their current living situation to be very bad or fairly bad, and **60% of Africans (especially youth)** think that their **governments are doing a very bad or fairly bad job** of addressing the needs of young people.

([ACCORD](#))

The first barrier for youth participation is the **minimum voting age** requirement set for national elections at 18 in most countries, which disenfranchises younger citizens.



The second barrier for youth participation is the **minimum age for eligibility to run for office**, which is often set higher than the age to vote.



DID YOU KNOW? (LOCAL)

A centre for social development in Africa did a study with over 3,000 participants to determine factors influencing voter choice between 2017 to 2020:

When participants were asked who they would vote for if there were a municipal election tomorrow: **51%** said they would vote for the **ANC**, **11%** said the **EFF** and **10%** said the **DA**, while **25% refused to answer, did not know, or would not vote.**

[\(UJ\)](#)



When asked whether they agree with the statement: **Corruption is being dealt with decisively**, **41%** of respondents 'agree/strongly agree' as opposed to **35%** 'disagreeing/strongly

[\(UJ\)](#)

When asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement: **Democratic rights like voting, access to courts, freedom of speech and expression are important**, **61%** said they **agree** or **strongly agree** compared to **20%** who **disagree** or **strongly disagree**.

[\(UJ\)](#)

More than **13 million South Africans** who are eligible to vote have **not registered** and therefore cannot vote because the voters' roll is now closed. This translates to about **one in three eligible voters** in fact being no-voters.



[\(Daily Maverick\)](#)

CASE STUDY

Never before have so many young people been involved in movements for change worldwide. They are taking to the streets and using online social networks and communities to connect, express their voices, and campaign for change. They are protesting against authoritarian regimes, corruption, and inequalities. They are fighting for sustainable development and a better future for current and new generations. - [Ace Project](#)

Here are examples of how other youth are using their voices for change:

Case Studies:

Youth activism from Zambia prior to the general elections

At the center of Zambia's general election, young people turned out at the highest rate than ever before, playing a key role in the elections. - [Restless Development](#)

Vanessa Chisakula is a CIPE Youth Leader, an organisation that advocates for transparency, accountability, fairness, and responsibility in government institutions. In her work, she helped produce ten poetic videos advocating for peace, fairness, and freedom in the electoral process to raise awareness and encourage open participation. Her project involved a write shop, where she selected ten successful participants to develop poetry pieces. The selection criteria considered not only talent, but also gender balance and content knowledge. [Her poem](#) projected her

expectations of the Zambia she wanted to see after the elections. The participation rate of young people in the elections at the local government and parliamentary level has been impressive. The number of first-time voters this year is quite high, which indicates Zambia's youth have both civic knowledge as well as a high level of patriotism. - [CIPE](#)

On Election Day, young people woke up early, stood in long queues for long hours to vote and make their vote count and voice heard. - [Restless Development](#)

A Young activist pushing to lower the voting age to 16

Tyler Okeke, is a youth organizer who advocates for 16 year olds to be eligible to vote. He believes that lowering the voting age could improve Generation Z's turnout at voting polls. His justification for empowering 16 year olds to vote is that, **"Young people in our generation have been extremely involved in politics informally in the form of movements, in the form of organizing protests. Namely, we've been the lifeblood and at the forefront of the Black Lives Matter movement, of the #MeToo movement, of the movement for immigrant justice and environmental justice. And these are all spaces where we have a long history of showing up and showing out and showing that we care. And I think pairing both our civic and outdoor advocacy and grassroots advocacy with the ballot is important to making sure that our action is coordinated in - and on all fronts."** - [NPR](#)



PREPARING FOR THE SHOW

ANGLES

DIFFERENT WAYS TO TALK ABOUT LOCAL ELECTIONS

- Young South Africans are not interested in politics and voting.
- Young people are proud to cast their ballot.
- Young people feel disempowered if they are not included in decision-making or debates about key socio-economic & political issues.
- Youth are making a difference every day in their own lives and in the lives of their community by expressing their voices and campaigning for change.
- Youth do not register to vote because they are lazy and disinterested.
- South Africans do not really understand the importance of local elections.
- Party politics is the only way to create change

CHOOSE AN ANGLE

Young people feel disempowered if they are not included in decision-making or debates about key socio-economic & political issues.

Ways to talk about: Young people feel disempowered if they are not included in decision-making or debates about key socio-economic & political issues

- Why is it important to include young people in decision-making processes around socio-economic & political issues?
- Do you think voting is one way of impacting change?
- What are the top 3 socio-economic & political issues that affect youth today?
- Are there enough youth representatives in South Africa politics?
- What are the barriers faced by young people in voting and politics?

FORMATS



VOX POP



Vox pop aim

To get many opinions on one topic.



Who do you talk to?

Anybody in the community.



Question

Do you think voting can impact change?



AUDIO PROFILE



Audio profile aim

To get a first person account of someone's experience, passion or journey. Audio profiles often aim to inspire.



Who do you talk to?

A young person who wants to register to vote, but cannot due to a specific barrier (for example a young person who is a foreign national and has been living in South Africa as a refugee, or a young person who is not eligible to register or vote because of their age)

A young person who is personally affected by a social or an economic or political issue (for example a young person who lives in a low income household or lives in a community that is underserved due to political incompetence)



AUDIO COMMENTARY



Audio commentary aim

To get people's opinion about a topic that they care deeply about. In this case, to ask young people to share perspectives about local elections and voting.



Who do you talk to?

- A young person
- A youth activist
- A community member

Statement

"It is important to include young people in decision-making processes around socio-economic & political issues."



Questions

- Why is it important to include young people in decision-making processes around socio-economic & political issues?
- What issues do young people need to be involved in when it comes to decision making?
- What role or impact would a young person's voice have when it comes to decision making at different levels of government?
- What are you doing in your community to impact change?
- What message do you have for government officials?
- What message do you have for young people?

HOW TO PRESENT YOUR SHOW



Use your produced radio features, your research and the suggested script and questions to write your own script.

[INTRO:]

Host 1: It's just gone [TIME] and you're just in time for the [NAME OF SHOW] on [RADIO STATION]. My name is [NAME].

Host 2: And my name is [NAME]. On today's show, we will be talking about South Africa's local elections!

Host 1: Yes! That's a very important topic. But also, a complicated one! Where should we begin?

Host 2: It's not complicated at all. Our listeners will be surprised by how it affects our daily lives. How about we begin with defining what local elections are?

Host 1: I am with you on this one!

Host 2: Election is the process through which the citizens of the country select their members of Parliament by voting. And local just refers to local government!

Host 1: And what is local government?

Host 2: It's the sphere of government closest to the people. Many basic services are delivered by local municipalities, and local ward councillors are the politicians closest to communities.

Host 1: Yes! This is the sphere of government that looks after our service delivery interests such as water and electricity; the maintenance of parks, roads and other public spaces; and the implementation of housing projects drawn up by national and provincial governments.

Host 2: That's right. With local elections around the corner, we wanted to share some useful information with our listeners and community members.

Host 1: Yes, we want to ensure that when you cast your vote you're confident about the political party of your choice. We also want to make sure you understand how the government works and how you can influence it.

Host 2: On today's show, we specifically want to talk about whether voting impacts change?

Host 1: Yes, we will be hearing from different voices today!

Host 2: I think that's a great segue to hear from our listeners. We would love to hear from you. Do you think voting is one way of impacting change?

[PRESENT WHO IS BEING INTERVIEWED]
[PLAY THE INTERVIEW]
[ENGAGE AUDIENCE BY ASKING QUESTIONS AND GIVING THEM A CHANCE TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT THEY'VE HEARD]

Host 1: It was good to hear from our listeners. Clearly they have varied opinions about voting!

Host 2: Yes! One thing to note is that if you feel dissatisfied by the choices offered by political parties, it is still important to vote - even if it means voting for the least poor performing political party!

Host 1: Absolutely! Choosing not to vote doesn't punish the political party or politicians - it just means fewer people vote a winner into power.

Host 1: Pheeew! I learnt a lot about local elections and what is on young people's minds! Join us next week on [DAY] at [TIME]. We'll be talking all about [NEXT WEEK'S SHOW TOPIC]. Until then, it's bye from us!