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Contents

No.		Gazette No.	Page No.
GENERAL NOTICES • ALGEMENE KENNISGEWINGS			
Electoral Commission / Verkiesingskommissie			
4201	Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act, 2000 (Act No. 27 of 2000): Amendments to the Municipal Electoral Regulations	55548	3

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

NOTICE 4201 OF 2026

AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL ELECTORAL REGULATIONS

The Electoral Commission, acting in terms of section 89 of the Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act, 2000 (Act No. 27 of 2000), hereby amends the Municipal Electoral Regulations, 2000, published under GN R848 in GG 21498 of 22 August 2000, as amended by GN R848 in GG 27957 of 23 August 2005, GN R152 in GG 34045 of 23 February 2011, GN 569 in GG 40020 of 25 May 2016, Proc R35 in GG 45060 of 27 August 2021, GN 7542 in GG 54762 of 29 May 2026, GenN 3977 in GG 54838 of 12 June 2026, to the extent set out in the Schedule below.

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GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE

[ ] Words or phrases in bold type square brackets indicate omissions or deletions from existing enactments; and

_____ Words or phrases underlined with a solid line indicate insertion in existing enactments.

SCHEDULE

Definitions

1. In this Schedule, unless the context indicates otherwise:

1.1. "**the Act**" means the Local Government: Municipal Electoral Act, 2000 (Act No. 27 of 2000);

1.2. "**the Regulations**" means the Municipal Electoral Regulations, 2000, published under GN R848 in GG 21498 of 22 August 2000, as amended by GN R848 in GG 27957 of 23 August 2005, GN R152 in GG 34045 of 23 February 2011, GN 569 in GG 40020 of 25 May 2016, Proc R35 in GG 45060 of 27 August 2021, GN 7542 in GG 54762 of 29 May 2026, GenN 3977 in GG 54838 of 12 June 2026; and

1.3. any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act and/or the Regulations shall have that meaning.

Amendment of Regulation 22

2. Regulation 22 is amended by the substitution for regulation 22 of the following regulation:

"**22 Accreditation of Voter Education Providers**

(1) A natural or juristic person may apply to the Commission for accreditation to provide voter education for an election in terms of section 43(1) of the Act by completing **[an application form substantially similar to Appendix 17 and delivering the completed form, together with any documentation in support of the application, to the Commission at its office in Pretoria]** and submitting an online application for accreditation as a voter education provider on the Commission's official website.

(2) A person completing an online application for accreditation to provide voter education in terms of subregulation (1) must submit the information and documentation contemplated in section 43 of the Act by—

(*a*) providing the information required in the relevant fields for that purpose on the online application form; and

(*b*) uploading the supporting documents required for that purpose on the online application form.".

Amendment of Regulation 24

3. Regulation 24 is amended by the addition of the following subregulation:

"(4) Subject to subregulation (5), once the Commission decides the objections contemplated in subregulation (3), the disputed votes are opened in the presence of agents and the procedure set out in regulation 26, with such changes as may be required by the context, shall be followed.

(5) If the Commission upholds the objection contemplated in subregulation (3), the disputed votes are not counted.".

Amendment of Regulation 28C

4. Regulation 28C is amended —

4.1. by the substitution for paragraph (*c*) of subregulation (3) of the following paragraph:

"(*c*) the voter contemplated in subregulation (1) is allowed to mark the ballot paper or papers in secret and to place and seal them in an unmarked envelope which is in turn placed and sealed in another envelope marked on the outside with the voter's name and identity number**[;]**, and—

(i) the voting officers must take the marked envelope to the office of the presiding officer where a line is drawn through the name of the voter on the list of approved applications for special votes and through the name of the voter on the voters' roll, and the letters SV are marked next to the voter's name;

(ii) in the presence of the agents, the marked envelope is scrutinised and compared with the marked voters' roll and the record of approved applications for special votes; and

(iii) if no irregularity is detected that renders the special vote unacceptable, the marked envelope is opened, the unmarked envelope inside is removed and is placed in a sealed ballot box for special votes in use at the voting station.";

4.2. by the addition after paragraph (*c*) of the following paragraphs:

"(*cA*) in respect of the voter contemplated in subregulation (2), a line is drawn through the name of the voter on the list of approved applications for special votes and through the name of the voter on the voters' roll, and the letters SV are marked next to the voter's name; and

(*cB*) the voter is allowed to enter an empty voting compartment at the voting station, mark and fold the ballot paper or papers in secret, and to place the ballot paper or papers in a sealed ballot box for special votes.";

4.3. by the deletion in subregulation (3) of paragraph (*d*); and

4.4. by the insertion after subregulation (4) of the following subregulation:

"(5) The absence of an agent from any place where proceedings in terms of regulation 28C are being conducted does not invalidate those proceedings.".

Amendment of Regulation 28D

5. Regulation 28D is amended —

5.1. by the substitution for subregulation (1) of the following subregulation:

"(1) After the closing of voting on **[During the course of]** voting day, in the presence of the agents, the ballot box for special votes is opened, **[and each marked envelope is scrutinised and compared with the marked voters' roll and the record of approved applications for special votes]** the unmarked envelopes placed in the ballot box in terms of regulation 28C(3)(*c*)(iii) and the ballot papers placed in the ballot box without envelopes in terms of regulation 28C(3)(*cB*) are removed.";

5.2. by the deletion of subregulation (2); and

5.3. by the substitution for subregulation (3) of the following subregulation:

"(3) **[Once that]** The ordinary ballot box then in use at the voting station is opened for counting, the unmarked envelopes contemplated in subregulation (1) are opened, the ballot papers are removed, mixed with the ballot papers from the ballot boxes and counted together.";

5.4. by the insertion after subregulation (3) of the following subregulation:

"(4) The absence of an agent from any place where proceedings in terms of regulation 28D are being conducted does not invalidate those proceedings.".

Insertion of Regulation 28F

6. The following regulation is hereby inserted in the Regulations:

"**28F Objections material to the determination of the final results**

(1) Notwithstanding the address prescribed in section 65(2), any interested party wishing to lodge an objection in terms of section 65 of the Act in respect of proceedings concerning voting and counting of votes, that is material to the determination of the final result of the election, may do so by serving a written notice on the Commission by e-mail addressed to S65objections@elections.org.za, by not later than 17:00 on the second day after the voting day.

(2) The details of the objection and the aspect of the election contemplated in section 65(2)(*e*) must be set out in a sworn statement or affirmation.".

Deletion of Appendix 17

7. Appendix 17 is hereby deleted in the Regulations.

Short title and Commencement

8. These Regulations are called the 2026 Third Amendment to the Municipal Electoral Regulations, 2000, and shall come into operation on the date of publication in the *Gazette*.

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