



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Mzansi, You Are the Boss” – Defend Our Democracy Urges South Africans to Register to Vote This Weekend

JOHANNESBURG — Power does not belong to politicians once every five years; it belongs to the people every single day. On **Wednesday, 4 November 2026**, South Africans will head to the polls for the Local Government Elections. To have a voice in the future of your community, you must ensure your name is on the national voters' roll.

Defend Our Democracy (DOD) issues an urgent call to all eligible citizens, both young and old, to participate in the final station-based **Voter Registration Weekend on 1–2 August 2026**, or to continue utilizing the online registration platform.

Why Local Elections Matter

Local government is the frontline of our democracy. It is the space where critical decisions regarding water, electricity, housing, roads, and everyday community services are made. Your local ward councillor directly impacts the quality of life in your neighbourhood. By registering and casting your ballot, you hold local leadership accountable and demand that service delivery meets your community's needs.

Check Your Ward: Re-demarcation Warning

DOD reminds voters that numerous voting districts and wards have been re-demarcated ahead of this election cycle. Consequently, your historical polling station may have changed. It is vital to verify your registration details and confirm your correct voting station now to prevent any confusion or delays on Election Day.

Condemning Political Violence

Democracy cannot thrive under fear. DOD strongly condemns the violence, intimidation, and tragic loss of life that marred the previous registration cycle across Gauteng, the Western Cape, and the Eastern Cape. We call on law enforcement agencies to swiftly arrest perpetrators and ensure a secure, free, and fair environment for all citizens.

Become an Election Observer

Safeguarding our vote requires active citizenship. DOD invites organizations and individuals to join the **#ElectionWatch2026** campaign by volunteering as independent election observers to protect transparency and electoral fairness.



- **Verify Your Registration:** Check your status online via the [Electoral Commission of South Africa \(IEC\)](#).
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 - **Sign Up as an Observer:** Complete the DOD Observer Volunteer Form.
<https://forms.gle/RG6CRE4Axet4uDgC6>
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