

TIMELINE FOR BY-ELECTIONS

(CONSTITUENCY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT)



**ELECTION
RESOURCE
CENTRE**

Resourcing for Electoral Excellence

1. WHEN BY-ELECTIONS MUST BE HELD

Within 90 days of the vacancy occurring

(Section 159 - Constitution of Zimbabwe)

Whenever a vacancy occurs in any elective public office, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) must cause an election to be held within ninety days to fill the vacancy.

2. GOVERNMENT GAZETTE PROCLAIMING BY-ELECTIONS

Within 14 days of notification from Speaker of Parliament

(Section 39 (1) - Electoral Act)

The Speaker of Parliament shall notify the President of Zimbabwe and ZEC in writing, as soon as possible after he/she becomes aware of the vacancy.

(Section 39 (2) - Electoral Act)

The President shall, within 14 days of the notification, publish a notice in the Gazette ordering a new election to fill the vacancy.

3. INSPECTION OF VOTERS' ROLL

"Within a reasonable period"

Section 21 (1) - Electoral Act

Every voters' roll and every consolidated roll shall be a public document and open to inspection by the public, free of charge.

Section 21 (3) - Electoral Act

ZEC shall within a reasonable period of time provide any person who requests it and who pays the prescribed fee, with a copy of any voters' roll

4. COPY OF VOTERS' ROLL

"Within a reasonable period"

Section 21(4) - Electoral Act

Within a reasonable period of time after the calling of an election, the Commission shall provide, to every political party that intends to contest the election, and to any accredited observer who requests it, one copy of every voters' roll to be used in the election.

5. CLOSURE OF VOTERS' ROLL

2 days after proclamation of a by-election

(Section 26A - Electoral Act)

No person shall be registered as a voter for the purposes of voting at any election of members of the Parliament no later than the second day following the publication of the proclamation.

6. NOMINATION COURT

14 - 21 days after proclamation of a by-election

(Section 38 (2)(b)(i) - Electoral Act)

Nomination court to receive nominations for constituency and party-list candidates shall sit at least fourteen not more than twenty-one days after the publication of the proclamation.

(Section 46 (18)(a))

Any voter registered on any voters' roll may, before the sitting of the nomination court, inspect any nomination paper lodged with the Constituency Election Officer.

7. CAMPAIGN PERIOD

Between nomination court and 24 hours before polling day

8. VOTER EDUCATION

Within 7 days of proclamation of a by-election

(Section 40D (1))

No later than 1 week after the publication of a proclamation fixing dates of an election, the Commission shall begin a programme of voter education.

9. APPLICATION FOR POSTAL VOTE

Within 14 days after Nomination Court

(Section 73 (2)(c) - Electoral Act)

An application for a postal ballot paper shall be sent to the Chief Elections Officer not later than on the fourteenth day after nomination day.

10. POLLING DAY

30 - 63 days after Nomination Court

(Section 38 (2)(b)(ii) - Electoral Act)

Poll shall take place on a day or days, at least thirty nor more than sixty-three days after the last nomination day.

11. RECOUNT

48 hours after declaration of duly elected

Section 67A - Electoral Act

Within forty-eight hours after a constituency elections officer has declared a candidate to be duly elected, any political party or candidate that contested the election in the ward/constituency concerned may request the Commission to conduct a recount of votes in one or more of the polling stations in the constituency.

12. ELECTION PETITIONS

14 days after declaration of duly elected/recount

(Section 1168 (2) - Electoral Act)

An election petition shall be presented within fourteen days after the end of the period of the election to which it relates.



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