

How to cast your vote on election day

There are two aspects to voting in an election: accreditation and ballot casting. First, you need to go through the process of accreditation. This is to ensure that only people who are registered to vote can do so, and that only one vote is cast per person. Second, you need to cast your vote in a designated ballot box. The process for both of these is outlined below. Note that these now take place at the same time, and the process will begin at 0800hrs on election day.

Accreditation

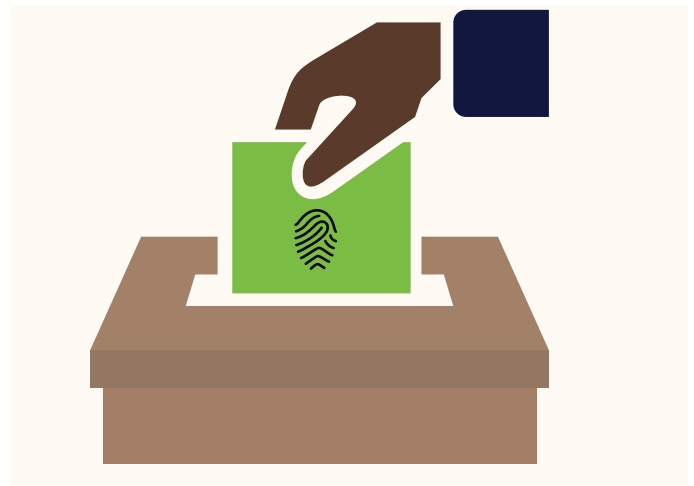
- As a voter, you will need to present your Permanent Voter Card (PVC) to the assigned Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) polling officer for identification. This is to ensure that your face corresponds with the photo on the card.
- Your thumbprint will then also be used to verify if the PVC that you have presented belongs to you, and is registered on the voter register of the polling unit in which you intend to vote. Note that if there are problems with your identity and registration status, you will be prevented from participating in the election.

Issuance of Ballot paper

- Upon successful accreditation, the Polling Officer will stamp and sign the back of a ballot paper, fold it vertically with the printed side inwards, and then issue the signed, stamped ballot paper to you. You must use only this ballot paper to vote.

After accreditation

- Collect your ballot paper.
- Enter the polling booth alone (or with an assistant of your choice, if you are physically challenged). The polling booth will be stationed in such a way that nobody can see who you vote for.
- Mark the ballot paper in the space provided,



beside the party logo of your choice, with your thumbprint (see How to mark your ballot paper, below).

- Fold the marked ballot paper vertically.
- Put the folded ballot paper into the ballot box in the open view of all present.

- Remain at the polling unit until the votes have been counted and the results announced and posted for all present to see (see The ballot box and vote count, below). This is to prevent electoral fraudsters from manipulating the election's outcome. If you can and it is safe to do so, use your mobile phones or cameras to record the vote counting process, as well as taking a picture of the displayed results sheet.

How to mark your ballot paper

To vote, make a thumbprint in the blank box next to the name and symbol of the party you want to cast your vote for.

If a ballot paper is not marked correctly or damaged, it will be rejected and your vote will not count.

- *Make more than one thumbprint on your ballot paper.*
- *Make a thumbprint that is not clearly next to one name and symbol. Your thumbprint must not be on the line separating the parties on the ballot paper.*
- *Sign or write anything on your ballot paper.*
- *Fold the ballot paper horizontally.*
- *Write your name on the voting paper.*

The ballot box and vote count

- The ballot box will be kept in a place where everybody at the polling unit can see it clearly.
- Before voting begins, agents of political parties and INEC accredited observers present will check that the polling boxes are completely empty.
- At the end of voting, all ballot boxes will be opened in front of INEC-accredited observers, agents of political parties, and the electoral officials present at the unit collation centre.
- All votes cast in the election will be sorted accordingly.
- All votes cast but wrongly marked will be rendered invalid, and consequently will not count. This is why it is important to mark your ballot paper correctly.
- Each of the votes cast in the election will be counted loudly and twice, to avoid errors and cheating.
- After the vote count, polling officials will record



the election result on Form EC.8 and then sign this form. Agents from the different political parties present will countersign the form. Note that each of the party agents is also entitled to a copy of the signed results form.

- Polling officials will then paste the signed election results form outside the polling station.