

# 2024

## Joint Election

### Information Booklet







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## About this booklet

The Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) is a mandated body responsible for conducting voter registration and elections in the Solomon Islands.

Section 11(c) of the Electoral Act 2018 state one of the Electoral Commission's general functions is to promote public awareness of this Act, including conducting education and information programs.

The Solomon Islands Electoral Commission's Communication and Awareness Team has compiled this voter registration information booklet to enhance the public's knowledge and understanding of the voter registration process to counting.

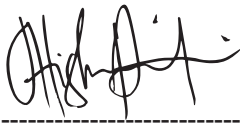
It intends to provide specific Election information in one booklet. It explains important facts and answers frequently asked questions election especially new changes in the Electoral Act that allows the conduct of 2024 Joint Election.

The booklet covers important facts about the law governing conduct of Election in the country. It also explains the Joint Election's nomination, polling and counting process especially the different ballot paper color codes and batch counting methods.

Having all the voter registration-related information in one booklet would serve as a reference book for the public, especially the key electoral stakeholders for use as awareness and for planning purposes.

Information and procedures detailed in this booklet are as the law stands and are subject to changes whenever the law changes.

I would like to advise the public to take time to read the content of this awareness information booklet to help them participate in the voter registration process and election activities in the country.



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Jasper Highwood Anisi  
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER AND COMMISSIONER



## SIEC Core Values and Practices

- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Impartiality
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Responsible
- ◆ Fair
- ◆ Independent
- ◆ Credible
- ◆ Inclusive
- ◆ Sensitive

## Context/Background

The Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (SIEC) is established by the Constitution as an independent body. Its mandate is to facilitate the people's voice through their ballots in the process of an inclusive, free, and fair election.

As a democratic institution, people, are at the heart of the delivery of the democratic process of an election ensuring all eligible voters have access to information that will enable them to participate fully in the process of election and be confident in the choice of leadership they choose.

Elections is the foundation of democracy and is one of the pillars of any democratic society. The Solomon Islands is a democratic country with 50 electoral constituencies represented by single-member seats for the unicameral national parliament. Voters only have one(1) choice, to choose one representative in parliament.

The April 2024 Solomon Islands Joint Elections is historic. It will be the first time that Parliamentary, Provincial Assembly, and Honiara City Council Elections will be held on the same day. The parliamentary election will be for the 50 members of the 12th Parliament, the Provincial Assembly elections will be for 131 members across seven (7) Provincial Assemblies (excluding Choiseul and Western Provincial wards) and the Honiara City Council (HCC) election will be for the 12 elected members. In total, the 2024 April Joint Elections, will have 193 seats being contested.

## Vision and mission

The Electoral Commission is an independent and impartial permanent body established under the Constitution to promote and strengthen democracy in Solomon Islands through the delivery of free and fair elections.

It is an independent organisation that provides excellence in electoral administration that results in strong public confidence.

To provide Solomon Island citizens with high-quality, accessible, professional electoral services through the conduct of impartial and independent elections.



## Introduction

2024 will see the conduct of Joint Elections, with elections being held on the same day for members to the Parliament, Provincial Assembly and Honiara City Council (HCC).

For the first time, voters will be given two ballot papers. Voters will vote for their parliamentary member AND either their provincial or city council representatives on a single voting trip. This will exclude voting for representatives in the Western and Choiseul Provincial Assemblies.

Western and Choiseul provincial assembly's 4-year term will expire in 2028 and will not be part of the Joint Election in 2024.

This information booklet is purposely put together to provide information to the public and interested stakeholders on election processes, key dates, and messages to enable informed participation.

The booklet covers complete information on the role of the SIEC, election processes and the electoral legal frameworks.

One of the objectives of this booklet is to counteract misleading information by providing full access to a complete set of information in one medium.

Our goal is to ensure that we communicate the correct information through all communication platforms available to us at all times, informing and educating the public at large about electoral events in a timely fashion.

Not only that but to work smart to build greater trust in the Commission as a whole, doing that by example.

### About the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission is an independent body established under the Solomon Islands Constitution.

It is the body that administer and manage election matters in a country. Solomon Islands Electoral Commission is the Election Management Body in Solomon Islands.

#### *Its main roles and responsibilities are;*

- ◆ Administer Election
- ◆ Maintain and Supervise the conduct of registration of voters
- ◆ Conduct awareness about its work
- ◆ propose bills and regulations relating to its functions.
- ◆ support the work of the boundary commission
- ◆ It has powers to make and approve regulations and policies relating to what it does.
- ◆ Consult on laws and make regulation relating to election matters in the Solomon Islands



### ***The Electoral Commission is not responsible for;***

- ◆ Registration of Political Parties. Registration of parties is administered by the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties.
- ◆ Delimitation of Constituency Electoral Boundaries. Boundary Delimitation is responsibility of the Constituency Boundary Commission. The Commission only provide support.
- ◆ Delimitation of Ward Boundaries are responsibility of Provincial Governments and Honiara City Councils.

## **The Electoral Commissioners**

The Electoral Commission has 4 Members. They make policy decisions on behalf of the Electoral Commission.

The 4 members are appointed by the Governor General through recommendation from the Judicial and Legal Service Commission.

- ◆ Chairperson
- ◆ 2 other member Commissioners
- ◆ Chief Electoral Officer is a member of the Commission but does not vote in Commission's decisions.

*Who can be appointed as a Commissioner?*

- ◆ Former Governor General
- ◆ Former Speaker
- ◆ Retired Judge
- ◆ Former Member of Parliament
- ◆ A current or a retired head of any religious or Civil Society Organization

## **Solomon Islands Electoral Office (SIEO)**

SIEO is the secretariat of the Commission. It is responsible for the day-to-day operation of Electoral Commission activities. It only reports to the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission for Policy and Legislative Matters.

### ***Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)***

Is the head of the Solomon Islands Electoral Office. He or she manages the performance of its functions, and its staff and formulates regulations for Commission and Government's Approval The position of the CEO is a Constitutional Post and is openly recruited through a competitive process.



SIEC Office (Honiara Head Quarter)			
Office of CEO - EPS	Operations	Cooperate Service	Finance and Accounts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deputy CEO</li> <li>• Legal</li> <li>• Temporary Staff Support</li> </ul> <p>Supported by Technical Advisor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Centre Officers</li> <li>• ICT</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• SEOC</li> <li>• Field Coordination</li> <li>• Warehouse</li> <li>• Temporary Support Staff</li> </ul> <p>Supported by Technical Advisor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HR and Admin</li> <li>• Communications and Awareness</li> <li>• Temporary Support Staff</li> <li>• Non-established Staff               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Driver</li> <li>◦ Cleaner</li> <li>◦ Grounds Man</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Supported by Technical Advisor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Accountant</li> <li>• Temporary Support</li> <li>• Positions</li> </ul> <p>Supported by Technical Advisor</p>

## Provincial Temporary Electoral Offices

Election Officers for provinces, constituencies and wards are established on ad hoc basis. They come into operation whenever there's an election or by election. Office resources are procured and used during the election period only and always form part of a particular Electoral Activity Budget.

ELECTION	REGISTRATION
<p><b>Provincial Administration Field Office</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Election manager</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication and Administrative Officer</li> <li>Provincial Accountant</li> <li>Training Coordinator</li> <li>Voter and Awareness Coordinator</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Constituency Field team</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Returning Officer for Constituencies</b></li> <li><b>Returning Officer for Wards</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Returning Officer</li> <li>Polling Officials Includes               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presiding Officer,</li> <li>Polling Assistant - Ballot Paper Issuer,</li> <li>Polling Assistants – Verification,</li> <li>Polling Assistant – Ballot Box Guard and</li> <li>Queue Controller)</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Counting Officer</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counting Supervisor</li> <li>Counting Officers (usually 6-10 officers, recruited and appointed by the Returning Officer in charge of the Constituency or Ward) counting centre</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Provincial Administration Field Office</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Registration Manager</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communication and Administrative Officer</li> <li>Provincial Accountant</li> <li>Training Coordinator</li> <li>Voter and Awareness Coordinator</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Constituency Field team</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Registration Officer</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assistant Registration Officer</li> <li>Team Leaders,</li> <li>Assistant Registration Officer – Data</li> <li>Assistant Registration Officer – Clerk</li> </ol> </li> </ol>





## Solomon Islands Electorates

The table below presents the number of constituencies and wards for the nine (9) provinces and Honiara City Council.

Provinces and Honiara City Council	No. of Constituencies	No. of Wards
Central	2	13
Choiseul	3	16
Guadalcanal	8	21
Honiara City Council	3	12
Isabel	3	16
Makira-Ulawa	4	20
Malaita	14	33
Rennell-Bellona	1	10
Temotu	3	18
Western	9	26
<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>185</b>

### What is an Election

An election is a democratic process whereby people are allowed to choose their leader in any democratic society through a secret ballot.

#### Importance of Elections

In a democratic society, people are represented by elected leaders. Their representatives make decisions on laws and the economy, health and welfare and the livelihood of citizens.

The vote made on the ballot paper on an election day is made once every four years unless there is a by-election in an electorate within 4 years before you can have a second chance to change that decision within that 4-year.



## ***The vote determines, amongst others:***

- ◆ the quality and standard of the health service we receive;
- ◆ the quality and standard of education receive;
- ◆ the employment opportunities available,
- ◆ the fluctuation of prices of goods and services in the country,
- ◆ quality and the amount of support farmers receive,
- ◆ the reliability of the transport service we receive
- ◆ the peace and safety of its citizen
- ◆ the freedom and sovereignty of its citizen
- ◆ overseas market for your local produce

This is why an election is important as it provides the opportunity for voters to choose their representative in an election. Their elected representative decides on the issues that affect their livelihood.

## **Right and Eligibility to Vote in Solomon Islands**

In the Solomon Islands, every citizen who successfully registered as a voter is eligible to vote except for a pre-registered 17-year-old whose 18th birthday falls after a particular polling day.

## **Right and Eligibility to Contest as Candidate**

### ***Qualification as a Candidate***

<b>National Parliament</b>	<b>Provincial Assemblies</b>	<b>Honiara City Council</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solomon Islands Citizen,</li> <li>- 21 years of age and above, and</li> <li>- Registered as an elector</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solomon Islands Citizen,</li> <li>- 21 years of age and above, and</li> <li>- Registered in the final list of electors constituencies in the relevant province</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solomon Islands Citizen,</li> <li>- 21 years of age and above, and</li> <li>- Registered in the final list of electors constituencies in the relevant Ward</li> </ul>

**Note:** *An eligible person to contest can be disqualified under certain grounds*



# Disqualification as Candidate

National Parliament	Provincial Assembly	Honiara City Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A public Servant, holding or acting in any public office</li> <li>◆ Serving a foreign state, under any acknowledgment of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power or state</li> <li>◆ Undischarged Bankruptcy</li> <li>◆ Certified Insane</li> <li>◆ Under sentence of death or imprisonment term of not more than 6 months or any lieu of a fine imposed by other court</li> <li>◆ Disqualification from member of parliament or being registered as an elector from voting</li> <li>◆ Work or acting in any office where it's function is related to the conduct of election and registration of elector</li> <li>◆ Is also a candidate for the Provincial or Honiara City Election</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A public Servant, holding or acting in any public office</li> <li>◆ Serving a foreign state, under any acknowledgment of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power or state</li> <li>◆ Undischarged Bankruptcy</li> <li>◆ Certified Insane</li> <li>◆ Under sentence of death or imprisonment term of not more than 6 months or any lieu of a fine imposed by other court</li> <li>◆ Disqualification from member of parliament or being registered as an elector from voting</li> <li>◆ Work or acting in any office where it's function is related to the conduct of election and registration of elector</li> <li>◆ Is also a candidate for the Provincial or Honiara City Election</li> <li>◆ Is a member of the National Parliament</li> <li>◆ Holds or acting in any public office or is a Provincial Government Officer</li> <li>◆ Is also a candidate for Parliament Election</li> <li>◆ Is not a registered voter for the province the person seeks to contest</li> <li>◆ Speaker of any Provincial Assembly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ A public Servant, holding or acting in any public office</li> <li>◆ Serving a foreign state, under any acknowledgment of allegiance, obedience or adherence to a foreign power or state</li> <li>◆ Undischarged Bankruptcy</li> <li>◆ Certified Insane</li> <li>◆ Under sentence of death or imprisonment term of not more than 6 months or any lieu of a fine imposed by other court</li> <li>◆ Disqualification from member of parliament or being registered as an elector from voting</li> <li>◆ Work or acting in any office where it's function is related to the conduct of election and registration of elector</li> <li>◆ Disqualified from an election as a member of the National Parliament</li> <li>◆ A member of a provincial assembly</li> <li>◆ Employee of City Council</li> <li>◆ Not a resident of Honiara City for less than 12 months or 1 year</li> <li>◆ Is also a candidate for Parliament Election</li> <li>◆ Is not a registered Voter for the ward the person seeks to contest</li> </ul>



## Joint Election

Holding of Election for members of parliament, provincial assemblies and Honiara city Council at the same time.

### *When does Joint Election held?*

A Joint Election is held within 4 months after a four-year parliamentary term expires. The four year is calculated from the first sitting of a new parliament to its dissolution of a four-year term.

## By-election

A by-election is held to fill a vacant seat at the parliament, provincial assembly, and Honiara city council. It can be held any time within the four-year parliamentary, assembly or council term.

## Electoral Cycle in Solomon Islands

The Electoral Cycle in Solomon Islands is a 4-year cycle. It revolves around the 4-year parliamentary, assembly, and Honiara City Council governing term.

The 4-year term effectively commences when a National Government is formed.

## Election Schedule

Is the timeline in which the Election activities are conducted? It is a 56 days timeline that begins from the date the governor general announces the Election Day.

The current parliamentary house dissolves on the 31st of December 2023. The 56 Election Schedule for the 2024 Joint Election commences on the date the Governor General announces the election day and ends on the Polling Day. The polling day must be within 4 months from the parliamentary dissolution date.

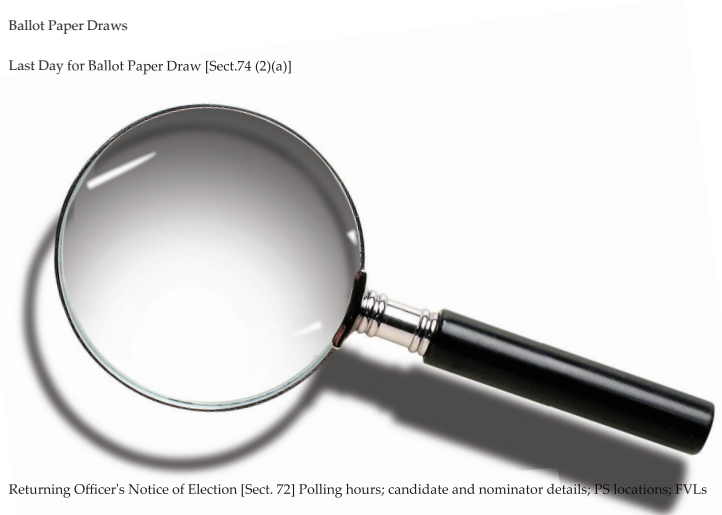


# Election Schedule

## 2024 JOINT ELECTION

### PARLIAMENTARY NATIONAL GENERAL ELECTION SCHEDULE

Option 1	Day	Count Down	Activity
20-Feb-24	Tues		Governor General by Proclamation proclaims Date for Election [Sect. 58 (1)] Start of Campaign [Sect. 62]
21-Feb-24	Wed	56	1
22-Feb-24	Thu	55	2
23-Feb-24	Fri	54	3
24-Feb-24	Sat	53	4
25-Feb-24	Sun	52	5
26-Feb-24	Mon	51	6
27-Feb-24	Tue	50	7
28-Feb-24	Wed	49	8
29-Feb-24	Thu	48	9
1-Mar-24	Fri	47	10
2-Mar-24	Sat	46	11
3-Mar-24	Sun	45	12
4-Mar-24	Mon	44	13
5-Mar-24	Tue	43	14
6-Mar-24	Wed	42	15
7-Mar-24	Thu	41	16
8-Mar-24	Fri	40	17
9-Mar-24	Sat	39	18
10-Mar-24	Sun	38	19
11-Mar-24	Mon	37	20
12-Mar-24	Tue	36	21
13-Mar-24	Wed	35	22
14-Mar-24	Thu	34	23
15-Mar-24	Fri	33	24
16-Mar-24	Sat	32	25
17-Mar-24	Sun	31	26
18-Mar-24	Mon	30	27
19-Mar-24	Tue	29	28
20-Mar-24	Wed	28	29
21-Mar-24	Thu	27	30
22-Mar-24	Fri	26	31
23-Mar-24	Sat	25	32
24-Mar-24	Sun	24	33
25-Mar-24	Mon	23	34
26-Mar-24	Tue	22	35
27-Mar-24	Wed	21	36
28-Mar-24	Thu	20	37
29-Mar-24	Fri	19	38
30-Mar-24	Sat	18	39
31-Mar-24	Sun	17	40
1-Apr-24	Mon	16	41
2-Apr-24	Tue	15	42
3-Apr-24	Wed	14	43
4-Apr-24	Thu	13	44
5-Apr-24	Fri	12	45
6-Apr-24	Sat	11	46
7-Apr-24	Sun	10	47
8-Apr-24	Mon	9	48
9-Apr-24	Tue	8	49
10-Apr-24	Wed	7	50
11-Apr-24	Thu	6	51
12-Apr-24	Fri	5	52
13-Apr-24	Sat	4	53
14-Apr-24	Sun	3	54
15-Apr-24	Mon	2	55
16-Apr-24	Tue	1	56
17-Apr-24	Wednesday		



ELECTION DAY



## Electoral Key Dates

Activity	Date	Legal Reference
<b>Dissolution of Parliament</b>	31 December 2023	Constitution (Amendment) Act 2022
<b>Proclamation of 2024 General Election Published in Gazette</b>	20 February 2024	s.58 Electoral Act
<b>Public First Election Notice in each Ward</b>	21 – 27 February 2024	s.60 Electoral Act
<b>Nomination period</b>	21 February – 6 March 2024	s.59 Electoral Act
<b>Campaign period</b>	21 February – 15 April 2024	s.62 Electoral Act
<b>Publish notice of date and place of candidate draw</b>	6 March 2024	s.74 Electoral Act
<b>Polling and Counting Agent Appointment period</b>	7 March – 7 April 2024	s.68 Electoral Act
<b>Last Day of Withdrawal of Candidature</b>	8 March 2024	s.66(2) Electoral Act
<b>Conduct Candidate Order of Draw</b>	11 March 2024	s.74 Electoral Act
<b>Deadline for ROs to Publish Election Final Notice</b>	3 April 2024	s.72 Electoral Act
<b>Campaign "blackout" period</b>	16 April 2024	
<b>ELECTION DAY</b>	<b>17 April 2024</b>	



# Candidates

## Candidate Nomination

2024 Joint Election

# NOMINATION STEPS

- 1** BE AT THE RIGHT NOMINATION CENTRE
- 2** RETURNING OFFICER WILL CHECK AND MAKE SURE THAT THE CANDIDATE AND NOMINATORS HAVE MET ALL REQUIREMENTS AND CONDITIONS
- 3** PAY YOUR NOMINATION FEE AND YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR RECEIPT
- 4** THE RETURNING OFFICER WILL ENTER YOUR DETAILS INTO THE CANDIDATE NOMINATION SOFTWARE
- 5** AFTER PROCESSING THE CANDIDATE INFORMATION ON THE CANDIDATE NOMINATION SOFTWARE, THE RETURNING OFFICER WILL TAKE A PROPER PHOTO OF THE CANDIDATE
- 6** RETURNING OFFICER PRINTS COPY OF THE NOMINATION FORMS AFTER COMPLETION AND HANDS IT OVER TO THE CANDIDATE FOR VERIFICATION
- 7** NOMINATORS AND CANDIDATE VERIFY AND SIGN COPIES OF THE NOMINATION FORMS
- 8** RETURNING OFFICER SIGNS ALL THE FORMS AND HANDS COPY TO THE CANDIDATE

**HOT LINE**  
8422220 | 7222200

Jalavithi Islands Electoral Office  
Vunavatu Road, P.O. Box 1100,  
Honiara, Solomon Islands  
☎ 721198 📠 721483  
📧 elections@jis.gov.sb 🌐 www.elections.gov.sb  
📍 Solomon Islands Electoral Commission

Candidate Nomination is a process whereby registered voters nominate someone (candidate) on behalf of their constituency to contest in an election as their representative in parliament, Provincial Assembly, or Honiara City Council. Candidates intending to contest in the Parliamentary, Provincial, and Honiara City Council Election must be validly nominated.

In 2019, a total of 331 Candidates contested the 50 Parliamentary seats. For the 2024 Joint Election, a total of 193 seats will be contested.

## Nomination Period

Nomination opens a day after the Governor General Announces the Election Day. It is a period of 14 calendar days inclusive of the start and end date. All nominations must be completed by 4pm on the final date of the nomination period.



## Nomination Place and Timeframe

The commission is responsible for declaring nomination places where nomination will be conducted.

Nomination Centers will be co-located at provincial centers (i.e., in provincial capitals).

## Nomination Requirements

National Parliament	Honiara City Council	Provincial Assembly
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Candidates must physically turn up at nomination Centers with 3 registered nominators</li> <li>- Must complete nomination application from</li> <li>- Take a photo</li> <li>- Sign printed copy of your completed nomination declaring your qualification to be a candidate.</li> <li>- Choose a symbol of choice if nominated as Independent Candidate</li> <li>- Provide Party endorsement from party if nominated by Party Candidate</li> <li>- Pay \$5000 dollars nomination fee</li> <li>- Nominators must be registered in voter in the constituency the candidate seeks to nominate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Candidates must physically turn up at nomination Centers with 3 registered nominators</li> <li>- Must complete nomination application from</li> <li>- Take a photo</li> <li>- Sign a printed copy of your completed nomination declaring your qualification to be a candidate.</li> <li>- Choose a symbol of choice if nominated as Independent Candidate</li> <li>- Provide Party endorsement from party if nominated by Party Candidate</li> <li>- Pay \$2500 nomination fee</li> <li>- Nominators must be registered voter in the councilor ward the candidate seeks to nominate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Candidates must physically turn up at nomination Centers with 3 registered nominators</li> <li>- Must complete nomination application form</li> <li>- Take a photo</li> <li>- Sign printed copy of your completed nomination declaring your qualification to be a candidate.</li> <li>- Choose a symbol of choice if nominated as Independent Candidate</li> <li>- Provide Party endorsement from party if nominated by Party Candidate</li> <li>- Pay \$2500 nomination fee</li> <li>- Nominator must be registered voter in the Provincial Ward the candidate seeks to nominate</li> </ul>

### IMPORTANT NOTE!

- ▶ *A candidate cannot contest for Parliamentary and Provincial Assembly or Honiara City Council at the same time.*
- ▶ *A public servant who has taken absence leave is not deemed as a public servant and must provide proof.*
- ▶ *Choose an independent symbol from the Electoral Commission's list of Symbols.*








- ▶ *If you are contesting as an independent candidate choose the symbol of your choice.*
- ▶ *A person contesting as a party candidate must use the party's symbols under which he/she is contesting.*
- ▶ *Parliamentary Seats have a list of symbols. Candidates contesting parliamentary seats can only choose from the parliament seat list of symbols.*
- ▶ *Provincial and Honiara Seats have a different list of symbols from which they can choose from.*

## ***Nomination Application Form***

Is the form used by nominators to nominate candidates intending to contest in parliamentary, provincial assembly or Honiara City Council.

Three different nomination forms with 3 different color codes

- The Parliamentary nomination form is Orange 
- The Provincial nomination form is Green and 
- The Honiara City Council Election is Yellow 

**NOTE:** *The nomination application form can be considered invalid under the candidates' disqualification grounds on page 3.*

## ***Nomination Center***

A designated place appointed by the Electoral Commission to conduct the nomination of the candidates for Parliamentary, Provincial Assembly, or Honiara City Council.

## ***Nomination Steps***

- ▶ Be at the right nomination center with all nomination required documents
- ▶ The Returning Officer will check and make sure that the candidate and nominator have met all requirements and condition
- ▶ Pay nomination and you will receive your receipts
- ▶ The Returning Officer will enter your details into the candidates' nominations software
- ▶ The Returning Officer will take a photo of the candidate.
- ▶ The Returning Officer prints copies of the completed Nomination.
- ▶ The Candidates and nominations verify the information and sign the forms.
- ▶ Returning Officers sign all the forms and hand the candidates his/her signed



copy.

- ▶ Leave the nomination Centre.

### ***Nomination Pack ( below is the content of your nomination pack)***

- ◆ Voter Awareness Pack
- ◆ Candidate Handbook
- ◆ Campaign Expense Form
- ◆ Voter info booklet
- ◆ Information on Offenses and Penalties
- ◆ Appointment of Polling Agent form
- ◆ Appointment of Counting Agents
- ◆ Election Timeline
- ◆ List of Symbols for parliament, province, and Honiara city council

**NOTE:** *Make sure your nominators are registered voters in the constituency or ward you seek to contest and remember to complete the nomination process before 4 pm on the closing date of the nomination period. So, plan to give enough time to avoid disappointments.*

The final date for nomination is exactly 42 days away from the polling day.

## **Ballot Paper Draw**

The ballot paper is done to determine the position of the candidate on the ballot paper. This is done randomly to fairly place candidates on the ballot paper. All ballot paper draws must be conducted within 7 days from the close of the nomination period.

## **Candidate symbol**

The Electoral Commission has a library of symbols that are pre-selected that are in the electronic nomination system. There are two sets of symbols in the system that are pre-assigned for parliamentary, Provincial, and Honiara City Council.

Independent candidates contesting for parliamentary seats can only choose from its parliamentary pre-assigned list of symbols.

Independent candidates contesting for Provincial and Honiara City Council seats can only choose from its Provincial and Honiara city list of symbols.

Party Candidates must use their party Symbol. Candidates are encouraged to do early nominations to get the chance to choose their most preferred symbol.



## Candidate Withdrawal

A nominated candidate can withdraw his/her candidacy by informing the Returning Officer in writing. Withdrawal must be done no later than 48 hours (2 days) after the close of nomination.

Withdrawal does not guarantee a refund of the nomination fee. The Nomination Fee is non-refundable.

## Death of Candidate

The death of a candidate at the close of the nomination period or before polling day results in the cancellation of the election for the particular constituency or ward. When a candidate dies, the Commission must set a new date for election for that particular constituency or ward.

A new election date will be set and a call for a new nomination will be sent out.

A candidate who has been successfully nominated in the first call for nomination does not need to be renominated.

## Election Campaigning



Election campaigning is a form of activity in which a candidate or a candidate's agent tries to influence the way a voter casts his/her vote.

*It could be in the following forms;*



- ▶ Public gathering or promotional event
- ▶ Publishing a statement or advertisement promoting a candidate or party candidate.
- ▶ Conducting public opinion
- ▶ Publishing any item that imitates a ballot paper that has a picture of a candidate, a symbol, and anything that would promote a candidate.
- ▶ Displaying the name and symbol of a candidate or party
- ▶ Distribution of promotional items such as stickers, wristbands, balloons, or streamers on political party colors
- ▶ Making oral presentations that promote a particular candidate or political party.

## Non-Campaigning Activities

Publishing a community message and publishing news relating to elections in media is not election campaigning.

## Election Campaign period

The election campaign period starts from the day the Governor General declares the Election date and ends 24 hours before polling day. It is 55 days from the date of the Election Announcement up to a day before the Polling Day.

Campaign Blackout begins on the 12th Midnight Monday 15th April 2024, 24 hours before election day.

The campaign period is the same for Parliamentary, Provincial Assembly and Honiara City Council Election

## Digital Campaign Materials

No digital campaign materials will be posted or reshared, reshared, tweet or re-tweeted online on various digital and social media platforms after the campaign blackout.

## Election Compliance

### ***Election Campaign Expense Limit***

A candidate contesting in Parliamentary Election must not spend more than \$500,000 in campaign expenses. A candidate contesting in Provincial Assembly election or Honiara City Council election must not spend more than \$50,000 on campaign expenses. A candidate who exceeds the limit commits an offense with a



penalty of a maximum fine of \$50,000 units or 5 years' imprisonment or both.

### ***Election Campaign Expense Report***

All candidates must file his/her return on election campaign expenses within 90 days after the publication of the election. Failure to do so has a maximum penalty fine of \$20,000 or 2 years imprisonment or both. In addition, a \$100 fine is also charged for each day the offense continues.

### ***Election Expense Account Form***

A special form that was designed and required by law to report all the election campaign expenses can be downloaded from the Electoral Commission Website or can also be obtained at the Electoral Office. It is also included in the candidate nomination pack given to candidates during nomination.

### ***Election Campaign Donation***

Campaign donation is anything that is received in any form of money or material to support election campaign activities. Receiving campaign donations from non-citizens or companies with at least one shareholder who is a non-SI citizen is an offense with a penalty fine of \$50,000 or 5 years imprisonment or both.

## **Vote**

### ***Who can vote?***

Any registered person whose name is on the final voter list used on the polling day.

**Note:** *Even if you have a voter ID card or the yellow receipt of your voter registration application forms, if your name is missing on the final voter list assigned to your polling station, you cannot vote.*

## **What is a Polling Day?**

Polling day is the special day set aside for all registered voters to cast their vote at their assigned Polling Station to elect their political representative. Polling day falls 56 days from the date the Governor General proclaims the Election Date which must be within 4 months from Parliament's Dissolution date.

For the coming 2024 Joint Election, all registered voter will cast two ballot papers on the polling day.

### ***Polling Day Public Holiday***



Election Day is a Public Holiday to allow employees who have registered to exercise their democratic voting right.

## Polling Officials

### Presiding Officer

- ▶ *Polling Station Manager who provides oversight and addresses any issue that arises at the polling station. The presiding Officer can also help with issuing ballot papers during break times.*

### Polling Assistant Officer (1)

- ▶ *Verification Officer - verifies your identity and marks your name as voted on the marked voter list.*

### Polling Assistant (2)

- ▶ *Ballot Paper Issuer Officer - Issues and signs the ballot paper*

### Polling Assistant (3)

- ▶ *Guards the ballot boxes and guides you to cast your ballot paper in the right ballot box.*

### Queue Manager

- ▶ *Controls the queue, guides voters to check their name on the voter list, assess and identify voters needing special assistance. Inform Presiding Officer of voters needing special assistances.*

### Candidate Agents (polling and counting Agents)

*Candidate Agents are candidates' supporters. They are appointed by candidates to watch over polls and counting of votes at the counting center on their behalf.*

- ◆ *Candidates are required to nominate two agents per polling station.*
- ◆ *Candidate must submit names of their appointed candidate agents to the Returning Officer for the Constituency or Ward.*
- ◆ *They are nominated 4 days before the polling day.*
- ◆ *Candidates are not polling Station Officials.*
- ◆ *They are there to ensure accountability of the process. Make sure officials conduct themselves and the processes are thoroughly followed through.*

## Voting Hour

The voting hour now changed from 7am – 4pm and not from 7am - 5pm.

If you're still in the queue by 4 pm, you will be allowed to vote. Any voter who turns up after 4 pm will not be allowed.



The polling station closes early for security and safety reasons to allow ballot boxes to be retrieved to counting centers during daylight hours.

## **Opening of Polling Station**

Polling Officials deploy a day before polling day. They ensure that the polling station is set up before 7 am on polling day.

Before the Polling Station opens, the presiding officer should do the following,

- ▶ *Invite polling officials including the police officers, candidates, observers and voters who are present at the opening to come and witness the sealing of the ballot box*
- ▶ *Position all ballot boxes in the right position.*
- ▶ *The presiding officer must make sure the ballot box is sealed before opening the station and inviting voters to come and vote*
- ▶ *Voting should start at 7:00am sharp.*

## **Security plastic seal**

Plastic Seal is the lock of the ballot box. It has a serial number on and it is used to secure the ballot boxes. On the outside of each ballot box; it has seal openings with a ballot paper slot on-top of the lid where you drop your ballot paper through. Plastic seal is durable and has unique number that can be tracked or traced if there's some suspicion of vote tampering.

## **Sealing the ballot box**

### **Ballot Box Sealing procedures**

- ▶ *When sealing the ballot box, the Presiding Officer must first read aloud the serial number on each seal for everyone to hear*
- ▶ *All agents and those who present and are interested in noting the serial numbers can record them in their notebook.*
- ▶ *The Presiding Officer then thread the security Seal through one of the opening of the ballot box.*
- ▶ *The security seal is then threaded through the opening of the security seal and pull to tight to secure the lid of the ballot box to the box.*
- ▶ *The above procedure is repeated for the remaining 5-7 seals to lock the ballot box.*
- ▶ *These records are useful for reconciliation purposes at the count of votes as vote tampered evident measure.*

These serial numbers are unique and cannot be changed. The ballot box has 7 seal openings on the lid to secure the seals. The Officer must make sure each ballot box

is sealed with at least 5 seals. Any change in the record of the security seal serial number means, something is wrong and it must be investigated to establish the truth about the incident before the votes are counted.

## Types of Ballot Paper and Ballot paper Colours



There are three ordinary ballot papers. The fourth one is called the tendered ballot paper

- ▶ *Parliamentary Ballot paper is white*
- ▶ *Provincial Assembly Ballot paper is Green*
- ▶ *Honiara City Council Ballot paper is Yellow*
- ▶ *Tendered Ballot papers are pink*

**At the Polling Station, you will be given only two ballot papers.**

- ▶ **WHITE BALLOT PAPER** to vote your Parliament Member
- ▶ **GREEN BALLOT PAPER** to vote your Provincial Assembly Member if you are voting in the provinces or
- ▶ **YELLOW BALLOT PAPER** to vote for your Honiara City Council member if you are voting in Honiara.
- ▶ **PINK BALLOT PAPER** if you are casting a tendered ballot paper



# Ballot Paper Structure

**BALLOT PAPER SAMPLE**  
 CANDIDATE OF X XXXX XXXX XXXX  
 PUT A MARK IN THE BOX IF YOUR CHOICE  
**Vote For One Candidate Only**

NAME OF CANDIDATES (POLITICAL PARTY/INDEPENDENT)	PHOTOGRAPH OF CANDIDATES	SYMBOL & COLOUR OF CANDIDATE	MARK
Pink PANTHER Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Yellow SUBMARINE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Green LANTERN Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Red IRONMAN Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Black ADDER Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Grey GOOSE Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Blue WHALE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Orange DENJA Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Purple DINOSAUR Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigo PARTY Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Pine APPLE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Water MELON Party			<input type="checkbox"/>

OFFICIAL MARK

**BALLOT PAPER SAMPLE**  
 CANDIDATE OF X XXXX XXXX XXXX  
 PUT A MARK IN THE BOX IF YOUR CHOICE  
**Vote For One Candidate Only**

NAME OF CANDIDATES (POLITICAL PARTY/INDEPENDENT)	PHOTOGRAPH OF CANDIDATES	SYMBOL & COLOUR OF CANDIDATE	MARK
Pink PANTHER Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Yellow SUBMARINE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Green LANTERN Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Red IRONMAN Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Black ADDER Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Grey GOOSE Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Blue WHALE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Orange DENJA Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Purple DINOSAUR Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigo PARTY Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Pine APPLE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Water MELON Party			<input type="checkbox"/>

OFFICIAL MARK

**BALLOT PAPER SAMPLE**  
 CANDIDATE OF X XXXX XXXX XXXX  
 PUT A MARK IN THE BOX IF YOUR CHOICE  
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Green LANTERN Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Red IRONMAN Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Black ADDER Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Grey GOOSE Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Blue WHALE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Orange DENJA Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Purple DINOSAUR Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigo PARTY Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Pine APPLE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Water MELON Party			<input type="checkbox"/>

OFFICIAL MARK

NAME OF CANDIDATES (POLITICAL PARTY/INDEPENDENT)	PHOTOGRAPH OF CANDIDATES	SYMBOL & COLOUR OF CANDIDATE	MARK
Pink PANTHER Party			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Yellow SUBMARINE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Green LANTERN Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Red IRONMAN Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Black ADDER Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Grey GOOSE Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Blue WHALE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Orange DENJA Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Purple DINOSAUR Independent			<input type="checkbox"/>
Indigo PARTY Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Pine APPLE Party			<input type="checkbox"/>
Water MELON Party			<input type="checkbox"/>

All ballot papers will have the candidate's name on the left-hand side. Next to the name is the candidate's Photo, next is the candidate's symbols and then the mark box where you place the tick (mark) inside beside the symbol of the candidate of your choice.

## The correct way of marking the ballot paper

Place a mark [✓] in the box on the right-hand side of the ballot paper in line with the name, photo, and symbol of your preferred candidate.

In the 2024 Joint Election, each voter will mark two ballot papers. One for the Parliamentary Member, another for the Provincial Assembly Member or City Councilor for those voting in Honiara.





people with disabilities, elderly and anyone with difficulty accessing the polling station will be assisted.

Family members or friends must help those needing assistance to come to the Assisted Voting Bay to be assisted by polling officials to cast their votes.

The Polling Station Queue control will inform the presiding officer of any person waiting at the Assisted Voting Bay and he/she will be helped cast his/her vote.

### ***Assisted Voting Process***

- Come close to the polling station
- Relative or family member or the queue controller help check his/her name on the voter list
- Wait at the Assisted Voting Bay (AVB)
- The presiding officer or the Ballot Paper Issuer will bring the ballot paper to the assisted voter.
- The Presiding Officer/Ballot Paper Issuer help the assisted voter to mark his/her ballot paper (if the voter is unable to mark his/her own ballot paper)
- Mark your ballot papers fold them neatly and give them to the Presiding Officer. If you can't mark the ballot paper for some form of disability, the Presiding Officer will mark your ballot paper in the presence of Police Officer or a witness of your choice, could be a family member of someone you trust.
- The Presiding Officer or the Ballot Paper Issuer will cast your ballot paper for you.

### ***Indelible ink***

It is a special ink that a voter dips his/her left little finger in to show that he/she has voted. Unlike other type of ink, it cannot be easily washed off but is not harmful.

Torn/ wrongly marked my ballot paper

If you accidentally torn or wrongly marked both or any of your two ballot papers, return it to the Polling Assistant- Ballot Paper Issuer and ask for a new one.

Proceed to the voting booth; make sure to be careful this time. Mark your ballot paper, fold it neatly drop it in the ballot box and leave.

**Note:** *Torn or wrongly marked ballot paper is a spoilt ballot. Do not cast it in the ballot box.*



## Locating your Polling Station

Check the voter list on the SIEC website at [www.siec.gov](http://www.siec.gov). Also check your polling station, the voter list will be pinned up a week before Election Day, or check the voter list at the nearest polling station.

If you can't still find your name, call the SIEC hotline on Phone: **7222200** to check for your polling station. Officers should be able to help you locate your polling station.

### *Impersonation*

Pretending to be someone else and voting on his/her behalf or pretending to be an electoral official in actions or words. This is an Electoral Offence.

If you turn up at the polling station and have found that someone has pretended to be you and voted in your name, follow the voting steps,

1. The Polling Assistant will ask some questions to be sure that you are not attempting to vote twice  
*(The Officer will inspect your finger to make sure you have not voted yet.)*
2. If the Officer is certain that, you have not yet voted.
3. He or she will ask you to ink your finger.
4. He or she will give info the presiding officer to issue you a tendered ballot paper.
5. Ballot Paper Issuer will give your two pink-tendered ballot papers, one for your national member, and another one for your provincial member or Honiara Councilor if you are voting in Honiara.
6. Proceed to mark your ballot papers in the voting boot BUT, DO NOT cast in the ballot boxes.
7. RETURN your ballot papers to the Polling Assistant (Ballot Paper Issuer) to seal it in a separate envelope

### *Invalid Votes*

An invalid vote is a ballot paper that;

- Is without an official mark or initial of the Polling Assistant – Ballot paper Issuer or Presiding Officer.
- Is with any writing or mark that identifies the elector who cast the vote
- Does not clearly show the intention of the voter



## **Rejected Vote**

It is an invalid vote that is rejected by the Returning Officer during the counting of votes. Rejected votes are not counted.

## **Protested Vote**

A vote that is cast by a voter suspected of impersonation and therefore openly protested against by a candidate agent inside the polling station. In such circumstances, the Presiding Officer or the Ballot Paper Issuer must put a note 'protested against for impersonation' against the name of the person on special form. On the same form, the Polling Assistant records the voters personal voter details.

## **Close of Poll**

The poll closes at 4pm on Election Day. At 3:45pm the Presiding Officer will remind voters of remaining voting minutes and invite anyone who has not yet voted to do so before the close of poll.

At 4pm the voting stops. If there are voters still in the queue, the queue controller will ensure that no one joins after 4pm and voting continues until everyone who are in the queue by 4pm to cast their vote.

*Anyone who turns up after 4pm will not be allowed to vote.*

## **Sealing Ballot paper Slot**

After the voting has stopped, the Presiding Officer sealed the ballot paper slot. Before he/she seals the ballot paper slot on the lid of the ballot box, he/she will invite all the candidate agents, police, observers and whoever is at the polling station at closing hour to move close to witness the sealing. The Presiding Officer will read out the security seal serial number for everyone's noting before putting it on and securing it tightly.

## **Packing of Polling Materials**

All polling materials that were used during the polling day will be packed according to classified categories.

All sensitive materials go into designated packings according to a specific instruction. All non-sensitive will pack will also go into their designated packing according to specific instruction.



All packed materials will be picked up by the Returning Officer accompanied by Police transport all materials to the counting center.

## Counting

2024 Joint Elections **BATCHING AND COUNTING PROCESS**

- 1** RECEIPT OF POLLING STATION MATERIALS AT THE COUNTING CENTER
- 2** SORTING OF BALLOT BOXES INTO BATCHES
- 3** VERIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION - SECURITY SEAL SERIAL NUMBER CHECKED AGAINST ACTIVITY TABLE FORM - VOTER'S NAME, BATCH BALLOT BOX NUMBER, RECORD OF BALLOT PAPER ACCOUNT NUMBER, AND VOTER LIST CHECKED. THIS IS DONE FOR EVERY POLLING STATION IN EACH BATCH.
- 4** VOTES FROM EACH BALLOT BOX IN ONE BATCH ARE MIXED TOGETHER
- 5** SORTING OF BALLOT PAPER BY CANDIDATE. THIS IS WHERE INFORMAL VOTES ARE PICKED UP.
- 6** ACTUAL COUNTING OF AMALGAMATED VOTE
- 7** REPEAT STEPS 1 - 6 FOR THE REST OF THE BATCHES
- 8** TALLY TOTAL VOTES RECEIVED BY EACH CANDIDATE PER BATCH
- 9** DECLARATION OF ELECTION RESULT. CANDIDATE WHO RECEIVES HIGHEST NUMBER OF VOTES FOR ALL BATCHES DECLARED WINNER

## Counting Centre

Solomon Islands Electoral Commission appoints centers for counting of votes. All Counting Centres will be at Provincial Headquarters.

## Counting Venue

Are the physical building and space where votes are actually counted. There may be more than one counting venues within one center depending on number of constituencies and the availability of suitable facilities.

The Returning Officer decided on venue based on certain criteria. Two of the main criteria are Security and space



For this Joint-Election, counting for both the Provincial Assembly and Parliamentary Election will be at Provincial Centers. Counting Model will depend on the availability of space.

### ***At the Counting Centre***

The following people are allowed in the Counting Centre

- ▶ Provincial Election Manager
- ▶ Returning Officer and their Assistant for the relevant constituency
- ▶ Appointed Counting Supervisor and counting Officers.
- ▶ Counting agents assigned to the counting Centre
- ▶ Police officers who are on duty at the counting Centre
- ▶ Any person who is accredited by the Electoral Commission to monitor and observe the election,
- ▶ Accredited Election Observers
- ▶ Accredited Media
- ▶ Electoral Staff
- ▶ Anyone who is permitted by the Returning Officer.

### ***Batching***

Batching is simply grouping of polling stations into batches in which counting of vote is done accordingly.

### ***Batch Counting Method***

Batch counting is a 'vote' counting method that is done in group of polling stations called batches. One batch is made up of several number of ballot boxes from polling stations within a constituency. Usually in a batch there are 2-5 ballot boxes from different polling station within a ward or constituency.

The estimated votes per batch is 1500 votes at maximum, therefore batches are determined by voter population pre-assigned to a polling station.

For example, in Batch 1 we have Polling Station A with 500 voters, polling station C with 400 voters and Polling station F has 450 voters. Total votes in Batch 1 is 1400 votes which is still within the 1500 max votes estimates per batch.

Total number of Batch per Constituency or Ward depend on number of Polling Stations within a Constituency or Ward and its pre-assigned voter population. Batching is done by the Solomon Island Electoral Commission. In a Constituency of 30 Polling stations will have 5 to 6 batches of 5-6 polling station in one batch.





## ***Constituencies and Wards will have separate batches.***

During counting, votes inside these ballot boxes in one batch are mixed before votes are counted.

### ***Counting votes***

Before votes are counted, the following steps are followed

1. First, ballot boxes are transported from storage to Counting Centre
2. Ballot boxes are checked.
3. Ballot boxes are then grouped into batches. There are 2-6 polling stations in one batch. Batching gives an average of 4-6 batches per constituency. This includes ballot boxes from pre-poll voting. Ballot boxes in each batch are then verified and checked. Make sure security seal serial numbers are matched with those recorded on the security seal form at the polling station.
4. The returning officer reconciles all the polling station records on a reconciliation form at the counting Centre.
5. If there is no irregularity in the polling station recordings; Security Seals on the ballot boxes are cut open. Votes in each ballot box are counted to verify the records.
6. Verification is done for all ballot boxes within a single batch before votes inside each batch are mixed.

### ***Counting Style***

This is how actual votes are counted.

1. Votes are verified by counting all votes in each ballot box by counting and holding the ballot papers facing down. This is to reconcile total votes cast at the polling station with the record on the ballot paper account form.
2. If no further inconsistency, votes in all the ballot boxes in each batch are mixed together before sorting.
3. Votes are sorted to candidates according to people's choice.
4. Votes are counted and tied together in bundles of 10.
5. Third and final count is done bundle of 10 votes.
6. Total votes won per candidates are tallied per batch.
7. After all batches are counted, sum of all votes per batch is determined and the winner with more votes declare winner.

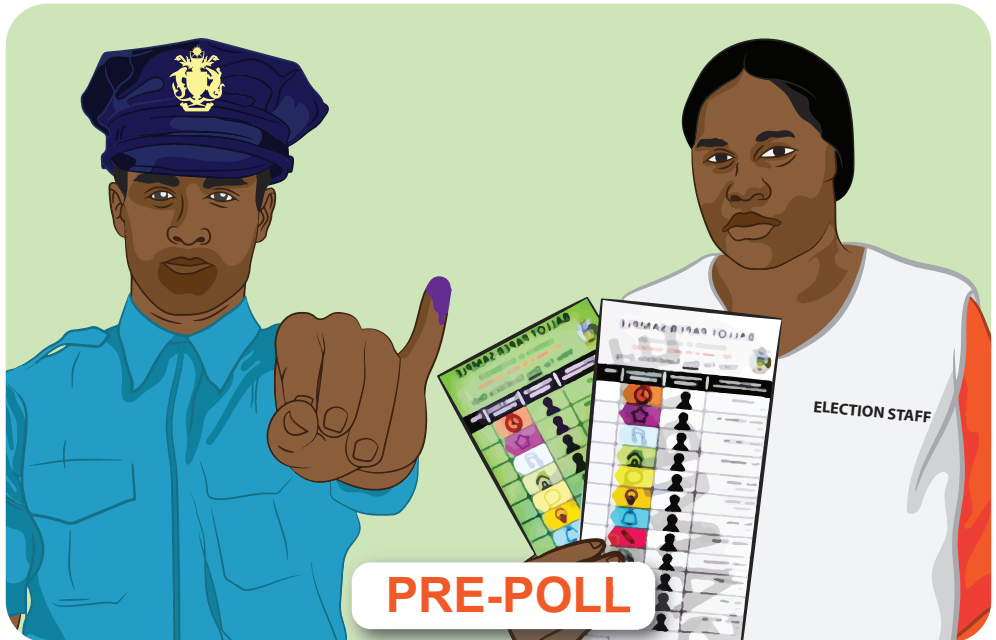
Returning Officer Declares the candidate with the majority of votes for the constituency or ward.



## Vote Tie

The returning officer will first order a recount. If the count results remain the same, he/she must report it to the Electoral Commission. The Commission then advises the Governor General to call for a fresh election for that particular constituency.

## Pre-poll



Pre-poll is early voting or voting before the polling day.

### *Pre-Poll Categories*

- ❖ Election Officials
- ❖ Police Officers

There is a provision in the law that allows other categories of voters which includes anyone who can genuinely justify their circumstances such as media and essential service providers such as nurses, doctors, and sailors and fire servicemen who are



on duty during election day but for this 2024 joint election it will not be implemented.

### ***Pre-Poll Eligibility***

Voters who will engage in election official duties during polling day which only includes police officers, senior field election officers and Electoral Commission staff.

### ***Pre-poll Officials***

Pre-poll Officials are appointed by the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission. Usually, Election Managers are appointed as Returning Officers for pre-polling for each province

### ***Pre-polling Station***

Pre-polling stations are also appointed by the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission.

### ***Pre-Polling Period***

The Solomon Islands Electoral Commission appoints a pre-poll application period. Pre-poll application is open 7 days before the actual pre-polling day (s)

### ***Pre-Poll voting List***

The pre-poll voting list is an extract from the final voters list. It will consist of all the names of voters who have applied to vote through the pre-poll voting option. If you have applied to vote by pre-poll your name will be extracted from your polling station list in your constituency and will be included in the pre-poll voting list.

The electoral Commission will extract names of pre-poll applications by removing them from the main list and creating a pre-poll voting list to be used during the pre-poll voting.

If you have applied for pre-poll, your name is removed from your usual place of voting in your home constituency in which you have registered in.

### ***Pre-poll day (s)***

Pre-poll day can be a day or more depending on the number of applications to vote by pre-poll. The Electoral Commission appoints the pre-poll day (s).

### ***Pre-poll Voting steps***

1. *be at the Pre-Poll station*
2. *check for which pre-poll station your constituency was assigned to.*

3. *check your name on the pre-poll voter list pinned up at your pre-poll station*
4. *join the voting queue if there is any.*
5. *tell the officer your name and your village name. If your name is found, your name will be marked as voted.*
6. *ink your finger. Wipe your inked finger with the paper towel provided.*
7. *proceed to the Polling Assistant – Ballot Paper Issuer to receive your ballot paper.*
8. *receive your WHITE Ballot Paper. (there is no provincial or councilor’s ballot by pre-poll)*
9. *the Polling Assistant- Ballot Paper Issuer should also give you a voting envelope with the name of your constituency pre-labeled on it.*
10. *check to make sure that the PA Ballot Paper Issuer puts his/her initial on both of your ballot papers in the official mark box at the bottom righthand corner of the ballot paper.*
11. *Proceed to the voting booth*
12. *Mark your ballot paper. Place it in the voting envelop and sealed it.*
13. *Place your voting envelop in the Ballot Box with the Orange lid (No provincial and Councilor’s ballot by pre-poll)*
14. *Leave the pre-poll station.*

**Note:** *Pre-poll is only for Parliamentary Election.*

## Out of Constituency/Absentee Voting

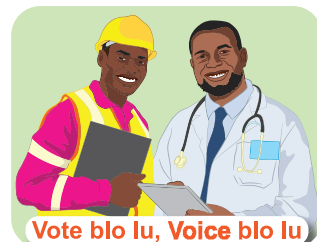
Voting from anywhere else other than your assigned polling station on an election day. This voting service is not yet available until such time the commission has the full capacity to implement it.

- ❖ This includes physically casting a vote at an assigned polling station from Overseas
- ❖ Sick voters in admission in the hospital on Election Day
- ❖ For any other reason is away from his physical polling station on a polling day

Although the law allows voting out of constituency through pre-poll voting option, Electoral Commission decides on who is eligible.

## Employees Voting Right

*Employees have the right to vote on election day.*





## Employers Duty to Release Electors

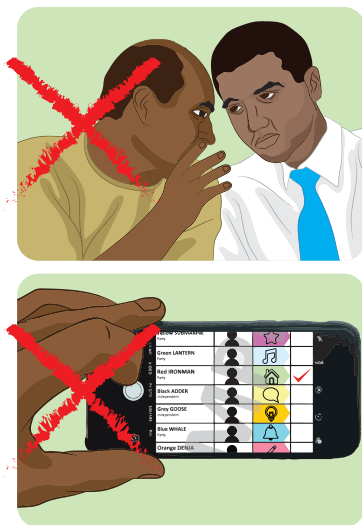
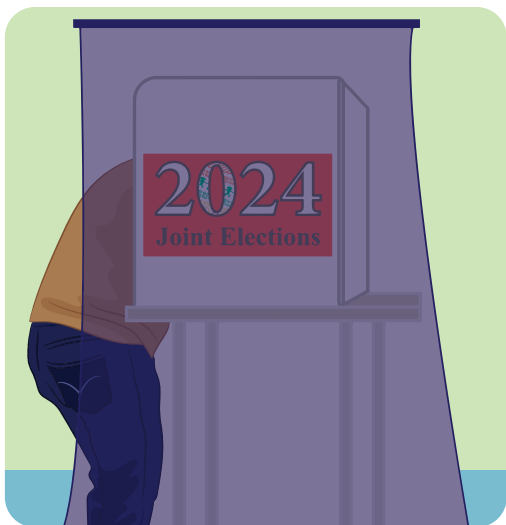
Every eligible voter who has registered to vote has the right to vote in an election to choose his/her representative in parliament, provincial assembly or Honiara City Council during the election day. It is a legal duty for employer's to release their employee to vote during the polling day.

**Note:** *Employees are advice to consult their Human Resource Department and make prior arrangement if they will require extra leave days for travelling to vote.*

The employers duty to release employees under the Electoral Act only covers Polling days. Polling day is a public Holiday and employers' release of employees must on full paid salary.

Any employer who prohibits its employees from voting on an election day commits an election offense with a penalty fine of \$10,000.

## Vote Secrecy



Your vote is secret and you must not show or tell anyone who you voted for. Do not take a photo of your ballot as proof of whom you have voted.

There are number of ways that SIEO maintain vote secrecy.

1. Ballot boxes are secured with security plastic seals with serial numbers on.



- The number on each seal is unique and cannot be easily broken.
2. You marked your ballot alone in a private voting booth
  3. Serial numbers on the ballot papers are removed
  4. Record on Ballot paper account form
  5. Votes are mixed before counting
  6. A special designed form called 'record of security seal serial number form' used to record and keep track on each seal used to secure the ballot box and the ballot paper slot in the lids at each polling station. Record of Security Seal Serial numbers must be signed against by the Presiding Officers and other several witnesses.
  7. Police are always in escort of votes/ballot boxes from polling stations to counting centers.
  8. All stationery and ballot papers issued and used on polling day are accounted for.
  9. Before votes are counted at the counting centers, ballot boxes and security seals are verified and all votes are mixed, and sorted to candidates before the counting begins.
  10. All election materials are under the custody of the Electoral Commission and should be burnt 6 months after the declaration of election results.

## Election Disputes and Resolution



## Election Disputes and Resolution



## ***Election Complaints***

Three (3) ways Complaints can be forwarded to the Commission. The commission when required appoints a tribunal consisting of two-member Panel who investigate and make decision on the complaint. Each type of complaint is dealt with differently.

### ***General Complaint***

General Complaint refers to any complaint relating to Commission's decisions, or actions and inaction of Election Officials and Processes during the election up to Polling Day. These types of complaints and issues are submitted to the Electoral Commission in writing..

This does not include complaints raised during the counting of votes at the counting center. Complaints raised through this mechanism must be dealt with at least within 3 days.

### ***Complaint relating to Counting of Votes***

Any complaint raised during the counting of votes is dealt with by the Returning Officer. All complaints must be brought to the attention of the Returning Officer during the counting of votes. Whatever decision made by the Returning Officer on such a complaint can only be questioned or challenged through an Election petition in court.

### ***Complaints on polling day***

These are complaints relating to issues that arise during polling day. These types of complaints or issues must be brought to the attention of the presiding officer in charge on polling day immediately.

## **Complaint through Petition**

### ***Election Petition***

Petition to the Court in which a person complains that an election of a member of parliament was invalid. An aggrieved elector or candidate is eligible to file an election petition.

### ***Timeframe for submission of Election Petition***

All election petitions must be filed to the court within 30 days from the date of the Election Results Declaration.



## Deferring Election

The Solomon Islands Electoral Commission has the power to defer the Election or part of the Election for unforeseen circumstances.

Examples

- ▶ Cyclone
- ▶ Pandemic

## Access to the Final Voter List



The Voter list is accessible to anyone who wants it. It can be accessed in hard copy, electronic copy, or viewed online.

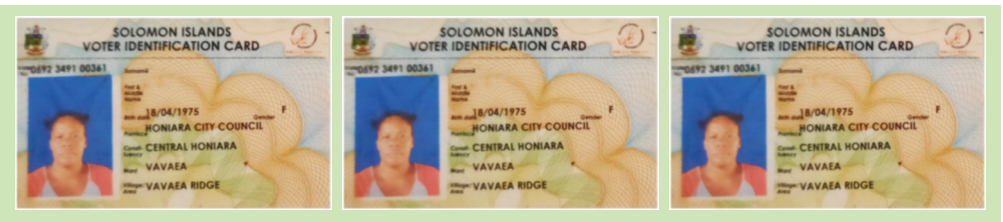
Ways you can access the final voter list

- ❖ It can be paid for at the National Treasury at the Ministry of Finance. A receipt is then brought to the Electoral Commission for printing or downloaded in a flash drive for you (Note: extra charge for a flash drive for electronic copies.)
- ❖ It can be accessed for the village, Polling station, ward, or constituency listing
- ❖ During Election, the voter list is pinned up in every polling station a week before the polling day for people to check their names.
- ❖ It can also be viewed on the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission at [www.siec.gov.sb](http://www.siec.gov.sb)
- ❖ Or Call up the SIEC hotline – 7222200 for officers to check your name for you.





# Voter ID card



The Electoral Commission at the moment is not issuing voter ID cards however it can issue a verification note to confirm your details in the biometric voter registration database. That note is acceptable by many companies and financial institutions for identification purposes.

# Election Offense

## ELECTORAL OFFENCES & PENALTIES

HEMI WRONG FO IU ASKEM OR TEKEM BRIBE FROM ENI WAN FO VOTE	OFFENCE - Electoral Act 2018	PENALTY
<p><b>ELECTION BRIBERY</b> (Section 126)</p> <p>It is an offence for candidates to buy vote OR voters soliciting the sale of their votes for any kind of benefit from a candidate.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PENALTY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>\$150,000</b> <b>15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT</b> <b>OR BOTH</b> </p>	<p><b>INTERFERING WITH BALLOT PAPERS AND BALLOT BOXES</b> (Section 122)</p> <p>A person commits an offence if the person without lawful authority: removes a ballot paper from a polling station; or forges a ballot paper; or defaces a ballot paper completed by another person; or destroys a ballot paper; or supplies a ballot paper to another person; or destroys, takes, opens or interferes with a ballot box or packet of ballot papers</p>	<p> <b>\$50,000</b></p> <p> <b>5 years imprisonment</b></p> <p> <b>OR BOTH</b></p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>SCHOOL FEE ROOFING IRON MONEY SOLAR PANEL BAG OF RICE BUILDING MATERIALS</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>SELLING YOUR VOTER I.D CARD</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>ASKING FOR BENEFITS FROM CANDIDATES</p> </div> </div>	<p><b>INTERFERING WITH VOTING</b> (Section 121)</p> <p>It is an offence if one interferes with a person casting his/her vote; attempt to obtain info as to who the voter will or has voted for; entering the voting booth while another person is inside; obstruct and delays voting at an election; or (b) vote in a particular way at an election</p>	<p> <b>\$50,000</b></p> <p> <b>5 years imprisonment</b></p> <p> <b>OR BOTH</b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NO ENI WAN GAREM RAIT FO FOSIM NARA WAN FO VOTE FO ENI CANDIDATE</b></p>	<p><b>FRAUDULENT VOTING</b> (Section 120)</p> <p>It is an offence to vote more than once; impersonate an elector for the purpose of voting; voting knowing you are not entitled to vote; induce and ineligible person to vote</p>	<p> <b>\$50,000</b></p> <p> <b>5 years imprisonment</b></p> <p> <b>OR BOTH</b></p>
<p><b>UNDUE INFLUENCE</b> (Section 127)</p> <p>It is an offence if a person directly or indirectly, by violence, intimidation, threat or physical restraint, attempts to influence another person to: (a) vote or refrain from proceeding or access to polling station</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PENALTY</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>\$50,000</b> <b>5 years imprisonment</b> <b>OR BOTH</b> </p>	<p><b>MISLEADING INFORMATION</b> (Section 113)</p> <p>Giving misleading information or document to election official</p>	<p> <b>\$50,000</b></p> <p> <b>5 years imprisonment</b></p> <p> <b>OR BOTH</b></p>
<p><b>DUTY OF EMPLOYERS TO RELEASE VOTERS</b> (Section 116)</p> <p>An employer who does not release a voter to cast his/her vote on Election day commits an offence</p>	<p><b>PROTECTION OF REGISTER</b> (Section 115)</p> <p>Alteration of the Register of Voters without proper authorization is an offence</p>	<p> <b>\$10,000</b></p> <p> <b>5 years imprisonment</b></p> <p> <b>OR BOTH</b></p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELECTION BRIBERY</li> <li>• UNDUE INFLUENCE</li> <li>• FRAUDULENT VOTING</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><b>ADDITIONAL PENALTY</b></p> <p><b>5 YEARS BAN</b></p> </div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <p><b>FROM VOTING, AND BEING ELECTED AS AN MP</b></p> </div> </div>		
<p style="font-size: small; text-align: center;"> <span style="float: right;">             Vavaea Ridge, P.O. Box 1200, Honiara, Solomon Islands              Tel   211986 Fax   22463 Email   info@stec.gov.sb www.stec.gov.sb           </span> </p>		



### **What is the 'provision of misleading information' and what are its penalties?**

*Provision of misleading information means; providing information to an election official knowingly that, the information is misleading or untrue. Its maximum penalty is a fine of \$50,000 or five years of imprisonment or both.*

### **What is meant by 'confidentiality of information'?**

*Disclosing of confidential information by an electoral official acting in office, that infringes on a voter's secrecy of vote. It carries a maximum penalty of \$50,000- or five-years imprisonment or both.*

### **What is 'protection of the register' and what are the penalties?**

*Anyone who edit or alter information on the voters list without official authorization commits an offense with a penalty of \$50,000 fine or five years imprisonment or both.*

### **What is 'duty of any employer to release elector'?**

*Any employer who prohibits its employer from voting commits an offense with a maximum penalty fine of \$10,000.*

### **What is the Failure to comply with the direction of the Act?**

*A person who fails to comply with directions or requirements from an election official commits an election offense with a maximum penalty of \$20,000 or 2 years imprisonment or both.*

### **What is meant by 'obstructing or threatening electoral official'?**

*Anyone who prevents, blocks or threatens an election official on official duty commits an offense with a maximum penalty of \$20,000 fine or five years imprisonment or both.*

### **What is meant by 'impersonation'?**

*Pretending or impersonating an election official by words or conduct is an offence with a penalty of \$20,000 fine or 2 years imprisonment or both.*

### **What is 'fraudulent voting'?**

*Voting more than once; impersonate an elector for the purpose of voting; voting knowing you are not entitled to vote; induce and ineligible person to vote: Penalty - \$50,000 or 5 years imprisonment or both.*

### **What is 'Interfering with vote'?**

*To interferes with a person casting his/her vote; attempt to obtain info as to who the voter will or has voted for; entering the voting booth while another person is inside; obstruct and delays proceeding or access to polling station: Penalty - \$50,000 or 5-years imprisonment or both.*



### **What is 'Interfering with a ballot paper and ballot boxes'?**

A person commits an offence if a person without lawful authority: removes a ballot paper from a polling station; or forges a ballot paper; or defaces a ballot paper completed by another person; or destroys a ballot paper; or supplies a ballot paper to another person; or destroys, takes, opens or interferes with a ballot box or packet of ballot papers. **Penalty - \$50,000- or 5-years imprisonment or both.**

### **What is 'display or distribution of false materials'?**

It is an offence if a person displays, publishes or distributes material (or causes a material to be displayed, published or distributed), and the material falsely appears to have been issued by the Commission, the CEO or an electoral official: **penalties - \$20,000- or 2-years imprisonment, or both.**

### **What is 'Election Campaigning outside campaign period'?**

The election campaign period starts from the date the Governor General declares the election to 24 hours before the polling day. Any person who engages in an election campaign activity outside the election campaign period commits an offence which carries a maximum penalty of **\$20,000- or 2-years imprisonment, or both**

### **What is 'exceeding the campaign expenditure limit'?**

A candidate that spends more than \$500,000 in campaign expenses commits an offence. A candidate who fails to file his/her return within 90 days after the publication of the election result commit an offence: **Penalty - \$20,000- or 2-years imprisonment or both...\$100 for each day the offence continues.**

### **What is meant by 'campaign donation'?**

Campaign donations received in any form of money or material to support election campaign activities. Receiving campaign donations from non-citizens or companies with at least one shareholder a non-SI citizen commits is an offense with a **penalty fine of \$50,000 and / 5 years of imprisonment.**

### **What is 'election bribery'?**

Election bribery performed when a candidate buys votes with money or any form material; or voters solicits the sale of their votes for any kind of benefit from a candidate: **Penalty - \$150,000- or 15-years imprisonment or both**

### **What is 'undue influence'?**

Undue influence is when a person directly or indirectly, by violence, intimidation, threat or physical restraint, attempts to influence another person to: (a) vote or refrain from voting at an election; or (b) vote in a particular way at an election: **Penalty - \$50,000- or 5-years imprisonment or both.**

### **What is 'inciting a boycott'?**

Inciting a boycott is when a person who has customary authority or religious



*influence over a group of people.*

*The person commits an offence if the person issues or causes to be issued a direction that, having regard to the nature and extent of the person's authority or to a probable consequence of non-compliance with the direction is likely to cause a group of persons to refrain from voting in an election.*

**Penalty: \$30,000- or 3-years imprisonment, or both.**

### **What is 'effect of certain offenses'?**

*If you are convicted against any of the following offences, i.e.*

- i) fraudulent voting;*
- ii) election bribery; or*
- iii) undue influence,*

You are disqualified from the date of conviction from being

- a) registered as an elector;*
- b) from voting in an election; or*
- c) from being elected as a Member of Parliament for 5 years.*

This penalty is in addition to the penalties imposed upon a person if one is convicted for

- i) fraudulent voting;*
- ii) election bribery*
- iii) undue influence*

### **Prosecuting Election related offences**

The Electoral Commission is not a law enforcement institution or prosecutor and therefore, does not arrest or prosecute offenders. It is the role of the police as law enforcers of the country. However, any breach of electoral laws especially ones relating to election officials' misconduct can be reported or brought to the attention of the SIEO to verify and response appropriately or refer to police for further investigation.

After the election, all the elected members of parliament engaged in lobbying rallying support of members to form the government. A leader is elected amongst the rallying party to be the Prime Minister. The Prime minister appoints Ministers amongst its rally party.





## **Solomon Islands Electoral Office**

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| Solomon Islands Electoral Commission