GFSA Newsletter Elections Edition - May 2024

Elections May 29th

On the 29th of May, South Africans will vote in the general elections. GFSA is an expert in our field, but guns aren't the only consideration when voting:

We can't tell you who to vote for, but we can give you a few resources to help you make the decision.

Party Manifestos

Voter Tools

Key Issues:

The 3 ballot system



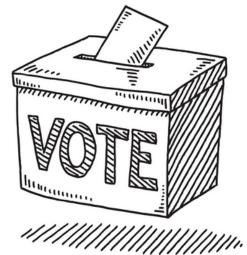
Crime & Safety

Gun Control

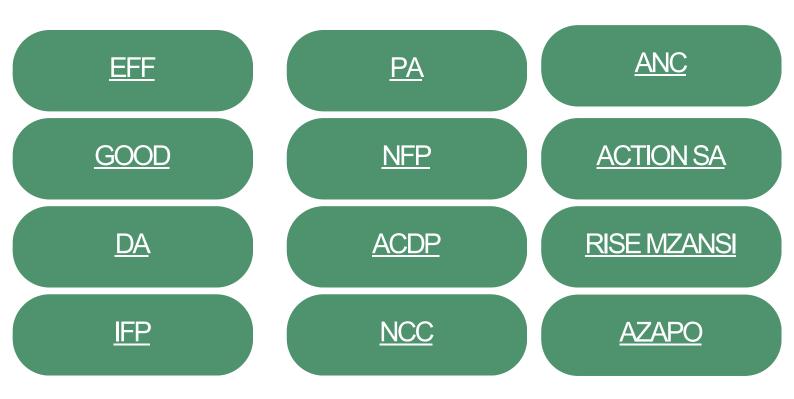
Gun Free South Africa

Keeping South Africa safe by reducing gun violence





Party Manifestos/Websites



*This is by no means a full list of contesting parties

Voter Tools

- The <u>IEC website</u> has an extensive list of resources for any questions voters might have on the process
- The Mail & Guardian voter quiz can help you pick a party
- <u>Yoh, Vote!</u> is a voter's quiz developed by a self-funded, student-led team of six



The 3 ballot system

According to the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), voters will receive:

- A national ballot for the election of the 200 members of the NA, which is only contested by political parties on a closed list basis. This ballot is the same for the whole country.
- A regional ballot for the regional elections of the 200 members of the National Assembly. This ballot will vary from region to region, depending on which parties and independent candidates contest the relevant regional election. Only the names of political parties and independent candidates that have met the requirements to contest each regional election will appear on this ballot.
- A provincial ballot for electing the members of the provincial legislature in each province. It contains the names of the political parties and independent candidates that have met the requirements to contest each provincial election, and will vary from province to province.

Corruption Watch explains more about the 3 ballot system

Ask your party about their position on Crime & Safety

What is their plan to reduce crime, with practical steps?

How will they address police corruption and incompetence?

How will they keep communities safer?



Most political parties don't mention gun control in their election manifestos, even though guns are the leading weapon used in murder and attempted murder. The few parties that do mention guns claim the solution to violent crime is to deal with illegal guns while supporting responsible gun ownership. Are they right?

<u>Check out our election fact sheets on crime and guns here</u>

Questions to consider when voting:

- <u>Does your party have a plan to combat the rising levels of gun</u> <u>violence?</u>
- Do they believe in arming citizens as a form of self defence?
- <u>What is their position on illegal guns, and how do they plan to</u> <u>stop the legal ones getting stolen or misplaced?</u>

