

FIJIAN ELECTIONS OFFICE

**VOTER
INFORMATION
GUIDE**



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Message from the Chairman of the Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission has the responsibility to conduct free and fair elections to enable the people of Fiji to elect a government of their choice on 17 September 2014.

I am very pleased to report that the Supervisor of Elections and his team at the Fijian Elections Office are working very hard towards that goal.

So far the Fijian Elections Office has focused on voter registration and now they will be engaging on voter education programme. The 2014 Voter Information Guide is one aspect of that programme.

The 2014 Voter Information Guide provides all Fijians information on the 2014 general election in an easy step by step way and explains who can vote, how they can vote, when they can vote, where they can vote and what happens to their vote.

As Chair of the Electoral Commission I join with the Supervisor of Elections to urge all Fijians to read the Guide, discuss its contents widely and become fully aware of the process so that you can confidently cast your vote on the polling day.

It is important to ensure that your vote is properly cast to be valid and is not wasted by being declared invalid due to lack of understanding of the process.

I sincerely hope all Fijians will take advantage of the Guide and ensure their vote counts on 17 September, 2014.

Chen Bunn Young
Chairman Electoral Commission

Message from the Supervisor of Elections

Dear fellow voter,

It is my pleasure to introduce the Fijian Elections Office's Voter Information Guide for the 2014 General Election. This booklet is designed to teach you – registered Fijian voters – about Fiji's electoral system.

It includes information about how voting works, how votes will be counted and how seats in Parliament will be allocated to Political Parties and Independent Candidates on the basis of the number of votes each receives.

Fiji's Constitution says that every Fijian citizen over the age of 18 has the right to vote. It is our goal at the Fijian Elections Office to ensure that every person who chooses to exercise this right is equipped with all the information they need to do so.

By the time polling day comes around on September 17th, we want every voter to be confident about how the system works and how their vote will be counted.

Therefore, I ask that you take the time to read through this Guide so that you are well prepared when you go to vote. Discuss it with your friends and family and help others if necessary.

It's particularly important to carefully read the section about how to mark your ballot paper so that your vote is counted as valid.

This booklet is part of a larger voter education campaign that involves teams of Civic Trainers who will be travelling around Fiji in the coming weeks to conduct workshops in local communities and villages. I recommend that you read this Guide before you attend a workshop so that you can prepare questions on topics that may still be confusing to you.

The Fijian Election Office's mission is to conduct free and fair elections. In order to do that, we need to maintain the trust and confidence of the Fijian people and I believe this requires being open, honest and approachable.

If you have questions or would like more information, feel free to get in touch with us by calling on 3316225, e-mailing to fjielectionsoffice@gmail.com or visiting our website, www.electionsfiji.gov.fj.

I hope that you find this Guide useful and that it helps prepare you for our historic election in September.

Mohammed Saneem
Supervisor of Elections



**YOU MUST BE REGISTERED
TO VOTE IN THE 2014
GENERAL ELECTION**

REGISTRATION

Before you can vote, you need to make sure your name is on the voter list: - this is the list of all eligible citizens who are registered to vote in the 2014 General Election.

Who can register?

- Any person who is a Fijian citizen
- Any person over the age of 18 years by 4 August 2014

How do I register?

- Visit a Voter Information Centre near you
- Take with you either your birth certificate, passport, FNPF, driving licence, Social Welfare card or work ID with a photograph
- **Registration closes on 4th August, 2014**

What do you do if you have lost your Voter ID Card?

Visit your nearest Voter Information Centre for a replacement

What if I have changed my address?

Take with you, your voter ID card to the nearest Voter Information Centre and have your details changed

Can I register even though I'm not 18?

Fijian citizens who turn 18 years before 4th August can register to vote.

AT THE VOTER INFORMATION CENTRE

You can:

- Check your voter registration details
- Amend your voter registration details
- Replace your lost voter ID cards

Voter Info Centre	Location
Suva	59 - 63 Upper High Street, Toorak
Suva	Government Service Centre (Old Fiji Visitors Bureau)
Nausori	Ground Floor, Hermon Plaza (inside Government Service Centre)
Navua	Provincial Administrator's Office, Navua Town
Korovou	Social Welfare Office, Korovou Town
Nadi	Nadi International Airport (Inside International Check-In Area)
Lautoka	Level 1, Rajendra Prasad Foodtown Building, Westfield (inside Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry)
Sigatoka	Provincial Administrator's Office
Ba	District Office, Koronubu House
Tavua	District Office
Rakiraki	Provincial Administrator's Office, Cokova Crescent, Vaileka
Kadavu	Provincial Administrator's Office, Vunisea Government Station
Levuka	Provincial Administrator's Office, Beach Road
Labasa	Ground Floor, Namuka House
Taveuni	District Office, Waiyevo
Savusavu	Provincial Administrator's Office
Nabouwalu	Provincial Administrator's Office
Seaqaqa	District Office

VOTING

Voting Options

There are three ways you can vote:

Pre - Poll Voting

Eligibility

- In remote areas and locations where voter numbers are low such as parts of Lau Group, Lomaiviti Group; and
- Voters in disciplined forces, persons in health & nursing facilities or in remand or prison

Postal Voting

Eligibility

- Will be available to overseas registered voters and to others that meet a strict criteria
- Applications must be received by the Supervisor of Elections no later than 6.00pm on 27 August 2014

Polling Day

Eligibility

- In person on 17th September

What if I have special needs?

Voters can seek assistance from the Presiding Officer at the Polling Station. Another election official will ensure the Presiding Officer marks the paper in the way that the voter has directed

Am I allowed to go to the voting screen to see how my grandmother is voting?

No, only one person at a time is allowed at the voting screen except in the case of a person who requires the assistance of a Presiding Officer

What if I make a mistake?

You can ask for a replacement ballot paper. Each person can get a replacement ballot only once

Where do I vote?

You will vote at the polling station at the venue assigned to you

Where is my Polling Station?

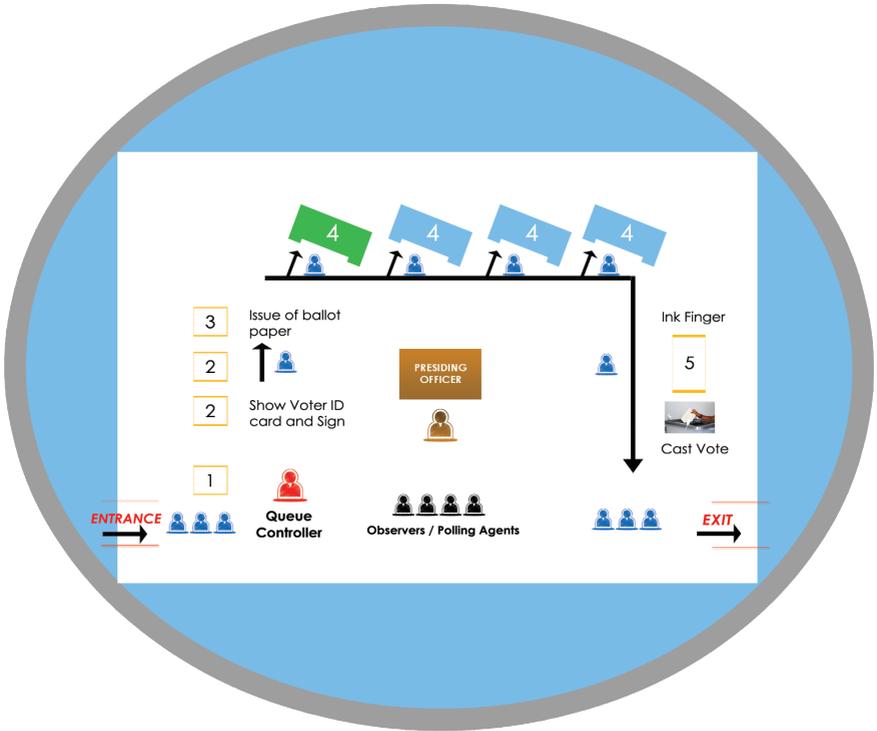
After it is announced, you can check your polling station by:

- Sending a free SMS with your Voter ID card number to 545 for Vodafone or Digicel
- Visit www.electionsfiji.gov.fj

At a Polling Venue

- Voting starts at 7:30am and finishes at 6:00pm
- When you arrive at a Polling Venue, you will be directed to your polling station

Inside a Polling Station



You

1

Hand out Voter Instruction Booklet and check finger

2

Verify ID & eligibility, Voter signs

3

Issue of Ballot paper



Voting booths for people with special needs



Voting booths

5

Ink Finger



Cast Vote



Presiding Officer



Voter flow



Queue Controller



Observers / Polling Agents

Voting at a Polling Station

Step 1

When you enter a Polling Station, your finger will be checked for ink and you will be given a Voter Instruction Booklet



Step 2

Voter signs beside his/her name on the Voter List



Step 3

After the voter signs on the Voter List, he/she will be issued with a ballot paper which he/she will take to the voting screen



Step 4

Use the Voter Instruction Booklet to find the number of the candidate you would like to vote for



Step 5

Circle or Tick or Cross the number of the candidate of your choice

Circle

Tick

Cross

105	106	107	108	109		105	106	107	108	109		105	106	107	108	109
110	111	112	113	114		110	111	112	113	114		110	111	112	113	114
115	116	117	118	119	OR	115	116	✓	118	119	OR	115	116	X	118	119
120	121	122	123	124		120	121	122	123	124		120	121	122	123	124
125	126	127	128	129		125	126	127	128	129		125	126	127	128	129

DO NOT: Circle, Tick or Cross more than one number

Disclaimer: The numbers shown above are for illustrations only

Example of marking the Ballot Paper

The three ways of marking the ballot paper is shown below



OR



OR



Circle

Tick

Cross

Step 6

Voter will dip his/her index finger or little finger of the left hand in indelible ink before placing the ballot paper in the ballot box



Step 7

Drop the ballot paper in the ballot box



THE COUNT

- Begins after close of Polls at 6:00pm
- Counting will be done in the polling stations in the presence of accredited party agents and observers
- Polling agents may object to a ballot paper and the Presiding Officer will consider the objection and decide on it
- Votes will be counted and results will be displayed at all polling stations
- Results from the polling stations will be sent to Suva

Results and Allocation of seats

Step 1

Total votes for all candidates will be counted and totalled

Step 2

Votes received by each candidate for a party will then be listed in descending order and the total for the party will be established. Total vote for the Independent Candidate will be recorded from step 1 above

Step 3

Determining the 5% threshold

To win a seat in the Parliament, an Independent Candidate or a party will be required to meet the 5% threshold

Total number of votes cast x 0.05 = threshold

Example: **500,000 x 0.05 = 25,000**

Therefore, in the above example Political Parties and Independent Candidates who received less than 25,000 votes will not qualify for a seat in the Parliament and their votes will be excluded from Step 4 below

Step 4

Determining the number of seats

- Put the total for the parties and Independent Candidates in a table
- Divide the total by quotient i.e by 1, 2, 3, 4... up to the total number of candidates in the party, or by 1 for the Independent Candidate

- Highlight the top 50 quotients after the above is done
- Count the number of quotients per party and Independent Candidate to determine the number of seats for each party and Independent Candidate

Step 5

Allocate seats to the candidates in order of the votes they receive allowing the highest vote getter first priority, the second highest vote getter second priority and so on until all 50 seats are allocated

IMPORTANT DATES

4th August

Writ is issued by the President

Close of roll

Nomination of candidates begins

18th August

Nominations close

25th August

National Candidates List is published

27th August

Close of Postal Vote Applications

Early September

Pre - polling commences

17th September

Election Day (Public Holiday, Voting)