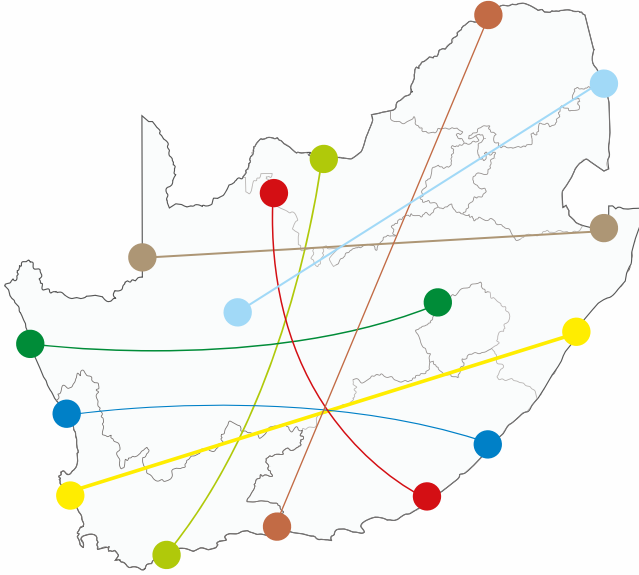


WARD DELIMITATION FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS



mdb
municipal demarcation board



The MDB hands over the final ward boundaries to the IEC.



THE MDB MANDATE

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa provides that if the electoral system for local government includes ward representation, the delimitation of wards must be done by an independent authority appointed in terms of, and operating according to, procedures and criteria prescribed by national legislation.

The Local Government: Municipal Demarcation Act, 1998 (MDA) and the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (MSA) gives effect to this constitutional provision.

The MDA identifies the Municipal Demarcation Board (MDB) as this independent authority. The MBD is a juristic person that performs its functions impartially, and without fear, favour or prejudice. The MSA prescribes the procedures and criteria for ward delimitation.

The Electoral System

Unlike national and provincial elections, a dual electoral system applies to local government elections.

Members of a municipal council are elected in accordance with a system of proportional representation, combined with a system of ward representation based on that municipality's segment of the national common voters roll. The electoral system must result, in general, in proportional representation.

Voters registered on the voters' roll for an election in a municipality vote for a party and for a particular ward councillor of their choice in that municipality.

The purpose of electing a person in a ward as a ward councillor, is to mandate that person to represent the residents in that ward, in the municipal council.

The term of office of municipal councils

The term of office of municipal councils is five years. The term is calculated from the day following the date set for the previous election of all municipal councils.

The election date

The National Minister responsible for local government, after consulting the Electoral Commission, calls and sets a date for an election of all municipal councils. The Minister must publish the date in the Government Gazette. The notice may be published either before or after the term of municipal councils expires.

The next local elections must be held within 90 days after five years counting from the date of the previous elections.

The number of councillors

A Local or District municipality may not have less than three or more than 90 councillors. A Metropolitan municipality may not have more than 270 councillors.

Approximately two years before local elections, the National Minister responsible for local government, publishes formulae for the number of councillors.

The formulae must be published in the Government Gazette, and it is based on the number of registered voters in the municipality's segment of the national common voters' roll on a specific date. This date must also appear in the notice published in the Government Gazette.

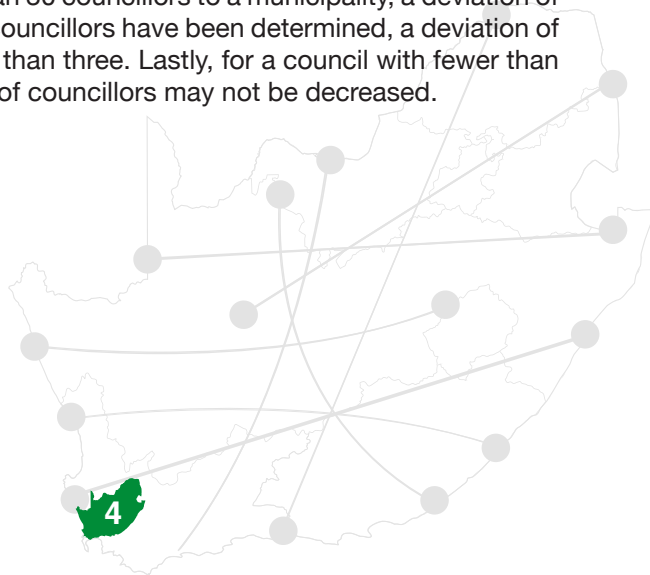
The Minister may determine different formulae for the different categories of municipalities. There are three categories of municipalities. Category A: Metropolitan municipalities; Category B: Local municipalities; and Category C: District municipalities.

The Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for local government in a province may deviate from the number of councillors determined for a municipality in terms of the formula. However, the MEC must first apply certain criteria.

The MEC may increase the number of councillors if extreme distances, a lack of effective communication in the municipality or other exceptional circumstances render it necessary.

The MEC may also decrease the number of councillors if it is necessary to achieve the most effective size for active participation by all councillors at council meetings; good and timely executive and legislative decisions; responsiveness and accountability of councillors, taking into account the possible use of modern communication techniques and facilities; or the optimum use of municipal funds for councillor allowances and administrative support facilities.

If the formula provides more than 30 councillors to a municipality, a deviation of 10% is allowed. If 30 or fewer councillors have been determined, a deviation of 10% is allowed, thus not more than three. Lastly, for a council with fewer than seven councillors, the number of councillors may not be decreased.



The number of wards

Once the number of councillors for each local and metropolitan municipality has been gazetted by MECs, the MDB calculates the number of wards for each municipality.

The number of wards is equal to the number of ward councillors. The number of ward councillors in a Metropolitan or Local council must be equal to half of the number of councillors determined by the MEC. If the number of councillors is an uneven number, the fraction must be rounded off upwards in favour of wards. If a municipality has, for example, 11 councillors, six councillors will be ward councillors. Neither the MDB nor a municipality can increase or decrease the number of wards. The number is dependent on the number of councillors determined by the MEC.

A local municipality with fewer than seven councillors has no wards, and all the councillors must be elected on a proportional representation basis only.

Ward delimitation

Wards are delimited by the MDB. This entails the division of the whole geographic area of a municipality into smaller geographic areas, called wards. Schedule 1 to the Structures Act, 1998 provides for certain procedures and criteria to which the MDB must comply. The MDB must, amongst others, ensure that all wards in a municipality have approximately the same number of voters. The number of registered voters in each ward, may not vary by more than 15% from the norm (average).

The norm is determined by dividing the total number of registered voters on the municipality's segment of the national common voters roll by the number of wards in the municipality.

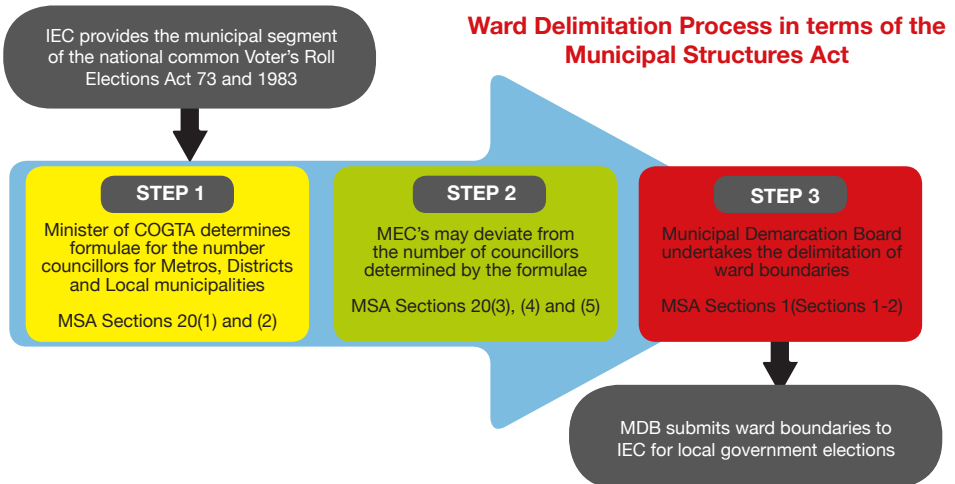
Eg. The norm for a municipality with 30 000 voters, and 10 wards will thus be 3 000 voters. 15% can then be added or deducted which will allow between 2 550 and 3 450 voters per ward in this municipality.

"If the formula provides more than 30 councillors to a municipality, a deviation of 10% is allowed. If 30 or fewer councillors have been determined, a deviation of 10% is allowed, thus not more than three. Lastly, for a council with fewer than seven councillors, the number of councillors may not be decreased."



Towards the local government elections

The process starts with the Minister responsible for local government publishing the formulae for determining the number of councillors. Thereafter, the MECs responsible for local government utilises the formula to determine the number of councillors for all municipalities in their respective provinces. The MDB will take the number of councillors and determine the number of wards. Half the number of councillors determined by the MEC are ward councillors. That means the MDB has to delimit that number of wards.



Consultation Process

The consultations with planning and geographical information management officials from municipalities allows the MDB to configure the draft wards by considering local inputs and addressing geographic barriers.

The intention of the local consultative process is to allow municipalities to show the people in their areas what the MDB is proposing with respect to wards in their municipalities. If they do not agree with the MDB's proposals, they need to work through alternatives, following the rules and guidelines that have been provided to them. The MDB will provide municipalities with draft ward boundaries for consultation purposes. Members of the public will be given time to consider the draft wards.



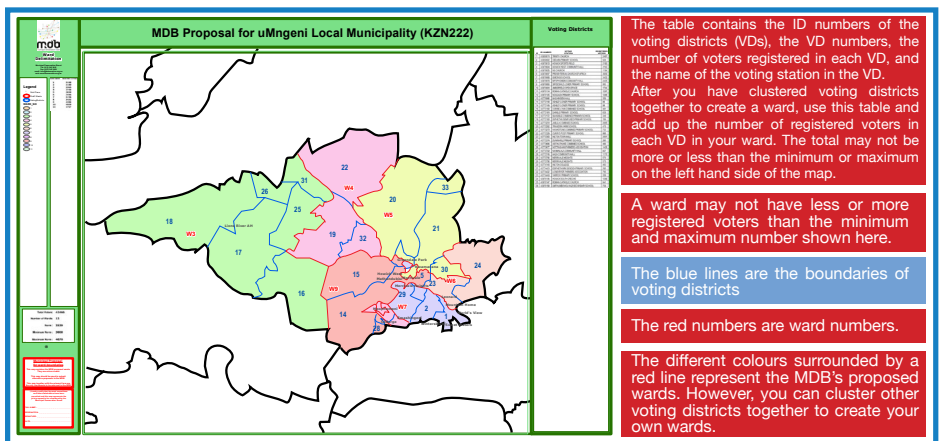
The MDB and the municipalities will convene consultation meetings. These will be open to the public for all to make their inputs.

- When a member of the public or municipality and/or its stakeholders agree with the proposed wards, submit form MDB1.
- When a member of the public or municipality and/or its stakeholders agree with the proposed wards, submit form MDB2.

All inputs will be considered before the MDB publishes the ward boundaries in provincial Gazettes for objections. It is the responsibility any aggrieved person to object within 14 days of publication of the wards.

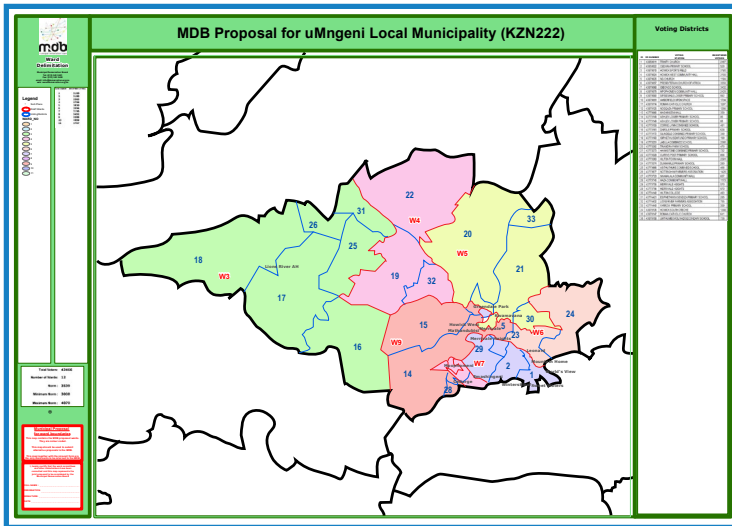
Final ward boundaries will be handed to the IEC. The IEC will then prepare for the local elections.

MDB Proposal for Local Municipalities



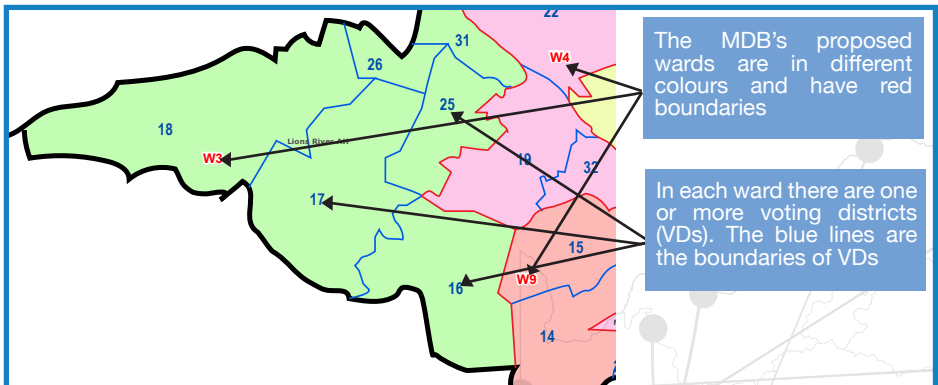
How to make proposals for ward boundaries to the MDB

1. Ensure that you have the map of your municipality. Maps will be available on www.demarcation.org.za. Click on "Ward delimitation" and then the name of the relevant province.

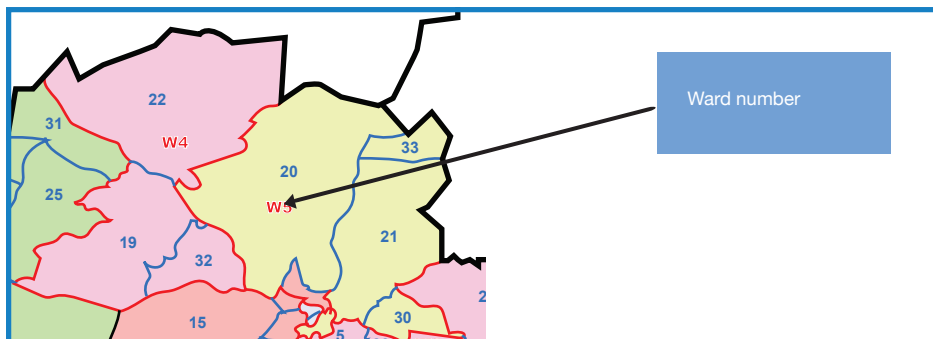


Consultation Process

1. The proposed wards are represented by the different colours and the red line around each colour is the boundary of the ward.
2. The boundaries of the voting districts (VD's) are indicated by the blue lines within a ward.



1. Within each ward you will find a red number, this is the ward number. Within each VD you will find the ID number of the VD. Each ward is represented with a red number whilst the unique ID number of the VD is represented in blue.
2. Each ward is made up of one or more VD's.



3. On the right hand side of the map is a table showing the VD number, the number of registered voters in each VD and the name of the voting station in the VD.

ID	VD NUMBER	REGISTERED VOTERS	VOTING STATION
1	97900016	2480	BOTRIVIER PS
2	97920018	1266	SONSKYN KLEUTERSKOOL GEBOU
3	97920029	1405	BATANSAAL
4	97920041	312	MYDDLETON GEMEENSKAPSAAL
5	97920052	993	CALEDON CC
6	97920010	1342	UITSIG CRECHE
7	97940021	610	EMIL WEBER SS GENADANDAL
8	97950011	2790	VOORSTEKRAAL MORAWIESE KERSAAL

4. On the left hand side of the map is the norm and the minimum and maximum number of voters allowed per ward. In this municipality a ward may not have less than 2 940 registered voters and not more than 3 977 registered voters.

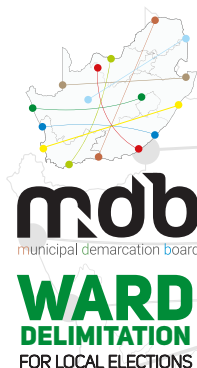
Norm	3 458
Minimum Norm	2 940
Maximum Norm	3 977

5. If you are satisfied with the wards proposed by the MDB on the municipal map, complete form MDB1 and send it to the MDB.
6. If you want to submit your own proposals you can cluster voting districts together to create your own proposed ward. If you want to cluster VDs 31, 32, 29 together as a ward you must determine whether your ward complies with the norm. Use the table on the right hand side of the map and add up the number of voters in the three VDs. If the total number of registered voters is between 2 940 and 3 977, a valid ward has been created. (Please note that the norm, minimum norm and maximum norm will be different for each municipality)
7. If the ward created is valid use a fibre tip pen and draw the ward boundaries following the blue line.
8. A change to the boundaries of one ward may impact on the boundaries of other wards and the number of registered voters in those wards. Therefore the process must be repeated to ensure that all other wards remain within the minimum and maximum number of registered voters.
9. Once the boundaries of all the wards have been drawn and you have checked that the number of registered voters in the proposed wards fall between the minimum and maximum norm, the map with proposals and form MDB2 must be submitted to the MDB.

More information

For more information visit the MDB website www.demarcation.org.za.

Click on “Ward delimitation” and then on the name of the relevant province.





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