

Your Democracy, Own It.



WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE?

There are a few very important reasons why you should vote:

- **It is your Constitutional responsibility:** While South Africa does not have compulsory voting like some other countries, our Constitution gives citizens rights along with responsibilities.
 - Chapter 1, Section 3 of the Constitution says that all citizens are equally entitled to the rights, privileges and benefits of citizenship and equally subjected to the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.
 - A key responsibility given to all citizens over 18 years old is to participate in our democracy.
- **Vote to choose who is elected as a public representative in your country. Not voting means that you will not have a say in who is elected to lead your country:**
 - Elections are a chance for ordinary citizens to determine who is elected to lead their country,
 - and what key issues they are going to promote for the next five years.
- **If you do not participate, others are going to choose for you!**
- Democracy and democratic political rights were hard earned rights all over the world, but in South Africa it was the liberty struggles that achieved equality for all.
 - Until just 30 years ago, the majority of South African citizens were denied the right to vote and have any say in how the country was run.
 - Thousands of people died, were beaten, tortured and jailed for demanding the right to vote.

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

