

GUYANA ELECTIONS COMMISSION

SAFEGUARDS AIMED AT PREVENTING VOTING BY IMPERSONATION AND OTHER FORMS OF SKULDUGGERY ON ELECTION DAY, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

Identification of the Voter

Before an elector is allowed to vote, he/she will be properly identified as the person he/she claims to be. In order to facilitate this, GECOM has placed electors' photographs alongside their names on Folio matching the names of the electors listed on the Official List of Electors that will be at the Polling Station in the possession of Election Officials and Party Agents.

When an elector goes to the Polling Station to vote, an Election Official will first examine the ID card to confirm that it belongs to the elector. The Election Official will then compare the photograph on the ID card with the photograph alongside the elector's name on the folio to confirm that he/she is the same person. Providing the Official is satisfied that the elector is who he/she is claiming to be, he/she will then be processed for voting. **On the other hand, if any discrepancy is noted, the elector will be subjected to questioning, and possibly, be arrested immediately.**

The Use of Indelible Ink

In the voting process, electors will be required to dip the first joint of their right index finger in the indelible ink. Before electors are allowed to vote, their fingers will be examined for traces of indelible ink. If traces of indelible ink are found on an elector's finger, it will be treated as evidence that he/she has already voted and he/she will not be allowed to vote again. Consequently, the elector will be subjected to questioning, and possibly, be arrested immediately.

Transparent Ballot Boxes

The transparency of the voting process will be buttressed through the use of transparent ballot boxes for the elections. This move will guarantee that the contents of the ballot boxes are always in view of all stakeholders inside the Polling Stations.

Party Agents

On Election Day there will be Political Party Agents at the Polling Stations throughout the voting process to witness the physical identification of voters and the examination of their hands for traces of indelible ink. If a Party Agent has good reason to believe that any person is not the elector he/she claims to be, or that the person has already voted, the Agent can bring this to the notice of the Presiding Officer. This will result in the person being questioned, and possibly, be arrested immediately.

The Presence of Security Personnel from the Guyana Police Force

Ranks from the Guyana Police Force will be present at all Polling Stations throughout Election Day to assist the Presiding Officers in ensuring that the election process is implemented in a lawful and orderly manner. The Police will be invited by the Presiding Officer to take firm action pertaining to the commission of any electoral offence within the boundaries of the Polling station.

Voter Education

GECOM has embarked on an expansive nationwide Civic and Voter Education campaign aimed at informing electors about their rights and responsibilities as voters, and to dissuade them from becoming involved in skulduggery. Emphasis is placed on the reasons why electors should not be involved in the

conduct of electoral offences, as well as the penalties associated with such offences. GECOM is making it known clearly that the Commission and its Secretariat are committed to having persons promptly arrested if they are found to be committing any electoral offence.

Efficient Conduct of the Polls

During the training of the Returning Officers, Presiding Officers and all other levels of Polling Day Staff, emphasis was placed on the need for them to always carry out their respective responsibilities in a manner that will not cast any shadow of doubt on the election process and the emerging results. GECOM has emphasized that Polling Day Staff would be held accountable, even prosecuted, for any irregularity which could result in the outcome of the elections being tarnished.

Absent Electors/Deceased Persons

Deceased persons whose names are on the voters' list cannot and will not present themselves to vote. The photographs on the folio at each Polling Station will preclude anyone from trying to vote in the place of any deceased person. Similarly, in the case of electors who might be out of Guyana on Election Day, other persons will not be allowed to vote on their behalf simply because of the photographs alongside the electors' names in the Folio.

Counting of Ballot at Place of Poll

As provided for by law, ballots cast will be counted at the respective Polling Stations. Each Presiding Officer will sign the Statement of Poll. Each of the Party Agents present will also sign as an attestation that he/she is satisfied with the counting and recording of the votes. Thereafter, the Presiding Officer will (i) publicly declare the results of the elections at his/her Polling Station, (ii) give a signed copy of the results to each Party Agent, and (iii) post the results at a noticeable place outside of the Polling Station. Separate original copies of the Statement of Poll will be sent under Police escort to the Returning Officer and the Chief Election Officer.

Publishing all Statements of Poll on the GECOM Website

Section 83B of the Representation of the People Act, Cap. 1:03 makes it compulsory that on receipt of a certified Statement of Poll, the Returning Officer or Supernumerary Returning Officer must "immediately post an electronic copy of that Statement of Poll on the Commission's website". This will ensure that all stakeholders have access to every Statement of Poll before the tabulation and declaration of the results of the elections.

Local and International Observers

Local and International Observers that have been accredited by GECOM will be monitoring the election process countrywide with a view to contributing to the elections being conducted in accordance with international best practice. International Observers include the European Union Observer Mission, Commonwealth Observer Mission, the Organization of American States (OAS) Observer Mission, CARICOM Observer Mission, and the Carter Centre Observer Mission

Assistance from Political Parties

GECOM calls upon all Political Parties and Civil Society Organizations to appeal to their supporters not to attempt, in any way, to thwart the successful conduct of the elections by trying to vote more than once, or from acting in any manner which could hinder the successful conduct of the elections. In fact, all Political Parties and Civil Society Organizations are urged to caution their supporters that any attempt to so do would result in them being immediately arrested and prosecuted. This could result in them being fined and jailed, and possibly banned from voting at future elections.



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