

INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARIES COMMISSION (IEBC)



A SIMPLE GUIDE TO BIOMETRIC VOTER REGISTRATION (BVR)



The following questions will help you to understand what is involved in registration of voters

1. What is voter registration?

Voter registration is the process of entering details of qualified persons including their National Identity Card or Passport numbers in a register or list of voters

2. What is a register of voters?

This is a list of persons who are registered and entitled to vote. Only people whose names appear in the register of voters may participate in elections or referendum.

3. Who qualifies to register as a voter?

In order to qualify as a voter, one must:

- Be a Kenyan citizen
- Be 18 years old and above

4. Why register as a voter?

Registering as a voter will give you the opportunity to elect leaders for your country at the national and county levels. You can only participate in elections if you are a registered voter. It is your right and duty as a responsible citizen to elect your leaders.

5. Who conducts voter registration in Kenya?

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is mandated by the Constitution and other laws to prepare, maintain and revise the register of voters. It does so through its registration officers.

6. Who is a Registration Officer?

The IEBC employs registration officers to carry out registration of voters in the constituencies. Registration officers are required to:

- Enter correctly the names of all applicants who qualify in the register;
- Remove names of deceased voters from the register; and
- Make any necessary formal corrections concerning names of registered voters or other details in the voters' register.

7. Where can you register as a voter?

You can register as a voter at any designated voter registration within the county assembly ward or the constituency where you wish to vote.

8. When do you register as a voter?

A nationwide voter registration period is usually announced before a general election or a referendum. Registration will take place 8am-5pm daily including weekends. Continuous voter registration is also undertaken at the IEBC constituency offices at any other time except:

- During a period of time as specified by IEBC immediately before the general election date
- In case of a by-election, between the date of the declaration of the vacancy of the seat concerned and the date of such by-election
- In any other case, between the date of the declaration of the vacancy of the seat concerned and the date of such election

9. How do you register as a voter?

A person must present himself/ herself to the Registration Officer or registration clerks

working under him/her in any of designated registration center to be registered as a voter.

10. How will registration be done?

Voter registration will be undertaken using the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) system

11. What is BVR?

BVR stands for Biometric Voter Registration. It is the registration of voters using computers to capture each applicant personal bio-data such as name, age, gender fingerprints and the face. The technology is used to verify the authenticity of voters and to ensure more transparency and credibility in elections.

12. What are BVR key features?

The components of BVR include

- A Laptop
- Finger print scanner /reader
- Camera
- Registration software
- Power back up source
- Photo backdrop

13. What makes BVR more efficient in producing a credible principle register?

The personal information captured by BVR Biometric is unique to each individual and cannot be shared. This helps create a credible register. BVR requires every voter to present him/herself in person at the voting station to ensure only those who are genuinely registered and are physically present on polling day vote.

14. What are the comparative advantages of BVR over manual registration (OMR)?

BVR enjoys the following key advantages over older methods of registration;

- Unique: BVR has been developed around unique characteristics of individuals. It is virtually impossible for two people to share the same biometric data.
- Cannot be shared: Bio-data captured by BVR is unique to an individual and cannot be duplicated or shared (you cannot give a copy of your face or your fingers to someone!). This is unlike in previous registration where National ID or Passport used to identify voter was easy to forge and duplicate.
- Cannot be copied: Biometric features are nearly impossible to forge or spoof. This ensures the biometric being identified is from a live person.
- Cannot be lost: Biometric features of an individual can be lost only in case of serious accident unlike the manual registration where a voter can lose the voters card or national ID card and the card used by imposters to vote.
- Accuracy: BVR directly captures the voters' details into the system. The voter verifies and confirms this before the information is saved. This enhances production of a reliable and credible principle register
- Speed: The solution provides a direct data capture of details and require no more processing of information. This makes it faster in consolidation of voters register unlike older technology that required verification and data processing.
- Quick and Precise: BVR ensures quick and

precise voter identification and it's the cornerstone of any credible election. The system provides the highest voting safety levels and prevents election fraud.

15. Are there other countries besides Kenya who have conducted BVR?

YES! The countries include: Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia, DRC, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Namibia and Mozambique

16. How secure is BVR?

Biometric identification and verification systems have been in use for over 25 years. The methods used for Biometric Voter Registration and identification and are non-invasive and pose no health risks.

17. What are the requirements for one to register as a voter using BVR?

To register as a voter the applicant must present themselves physically at the registration centre with the following identification documents;

- National Identity Card or
- Passport

18. What kind of details will be captured by BVR?

The information to be captured for BVR will include: surname and other names, date of birth, age, gender, finger prints, face photo, and electoral data (constituency, registration centers etc)

19. Can a person lacking essential limbs be registered by BVR?

In the absence of essential limbs BVR provides for exceptions where voters with disability are clearly tagged and the face used for registration and identification.

20. How will BVR be conducted?

All applicants must be physically present at designated registration centers (i.e. regular polling stations) to be registered as voters.

- Registration; The enrolment phase. The following bio-data will be captured: the applicant's full name, date of birth, gender, fingerprints, photo image, electoral unit (polling station, county assembly ward, constituency and county), contacts, registration status, unique Elector's Number, type of identity document (either National Identity Card-ID or Passport), and the identity document.
- Processing: A Central Biometric Server using the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) technology will process voting records to identify duplicate records. The unique records will create the provisional register for each registration/polling center. An exceptional list of multiple registrations and other irregularities in registration process for each registration/polling centers will also be generated.
- A printed provisional voters register and exceptional list will be delivered to registration/polling centers for inspection.

21. Will registered voters be issued with voter's cards?

No. Registered voters will be issued with a registration acknowledgement slip. The registration acknowledgement slip will bear the voter's details.

22. How will BVR-registered voters be identified during voting? What will be different from manual identification process previously used?

BVR is not a voting technology but an identification technology. The voter will be identified on the polling day by an electronic poll-book using the biometric data provided during registration before proceeding to vote. No voter's cards will be issued. All a voter needs is to present his/her National ID and fingerprint to be allowed to vote. In addition to the electronic poll-book, a printed copy of the register will be available at all polling stations.

23. When can one be denied registration?

- When you are adjudged bankrupt;
- When you have been found guilty by an election court or reported to be guilty of any election offence during the preceding five years
- If you are in lawful detention or in lawful custody
- If a competent court declares you to be of unsound mind.

24. What does continuous voter registration involve?

It involves adding the names of applicants and other relevant information for:

- Those who qualify to be registered as voters;
- Registered voters who wish to transfer their vote to other areas where they wish to vote;
- Deleting from the register names of those who have died
- Identifying voters with double/multiple registration
- Change of registration particulars, for example, change of names after marriage
- Correction of errors e.g. miss-pelt names and wrongfully entered National ID card or Passport numbers.

25. How is the register of voters made accurate?

The register of voters is made accurate when the registration officer:

- Enters correctly into the register of voters the details of those who qualify
- Remove the names of deceased voters from the register
- Remove from the register the names of those who may be registered more than once; and
- Remove the names of those who no longer meet the qualifications to be registered as voters.

26. What is the role of a voter in ensuring the register is accurate?

It is the responsibility of each registered

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voter to inspect the register and inform the registration officers of any corrections they wish made in the register of voters on their particulars.

27. What is inspection of the Register of voters?

This is a process whereby voters check or inspect the register of voters so as to ensure that;

- Only qualified persons have been registered;
- Names and particulars of qualified persons are correctly entered in the register;
- Their names have been correctly spelt;
- The National Identity (ID) card or Passport number have been correctly entered
- Names of deceased voters do not appear in the register of voters;
- Double/multiple registered voters do not appear in the register.

28. Is a registered voter allowed to register more than once as a voter?

NO! A person is only allowed to register once as a voter in a constituency or registration centre of his/her choice. The law states it is an offence to register more than once as a voter in more than one registration centre or constituency.

29. What is the penalty for registering more than once?

It is a serious offence to register more than once. Persons who have registered as voters more than once are liable on conviction, to a fine not exceeding One hundred thousand shillings or imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both. Such persons shall be barred from participating in the immediate election and the next that follows. It is safe and wise not to register more than once.

30. What are some of the election offences during registration of voters?

These are actions that violate registration

regulation and rules. An offence is committed when a person registers as a voter in more than one registration centre. Other offences that may be committed during registration of voters include the following:

- Knowingly making any false statement on or in connection with any application to be placed on any register of electors; or
- Without due authority making, preparing, or printing a document or paper resembling or purporting to be a register of voters; or
- Aiding, abetting, counselling or procuring the commission of or attempts to commit any of the offences referred to above.

31. What are the Penalties for committing these offences?

Any person committing any of these offences is liable on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one million shillings or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six years or both.

32. Can a person transfer as a voter to another registration centre or constituency?

YES! A person may transfer as a voter to another registration centre within the constituency or outside the constituency. The person is required to present himself/herself to the particular registration centre or constituency if he/she meets the requirements.

33. How do we share out information on the ABC of Voter Registration?

All Kenyans of goodwill, community leaders, religious leaders, chiefs and assistant chiefs are requested to assist in passing information on voter registration to the public in their areas. This will enable more Kenyans to register as voters, and thereby actively participate in electing their leaders. An informed voter makes a wise choice. Remember, you can only do this if you are a registered voter.

BIOMETRIC VOTER REGISTRATION IS A SIMPLE, INTERESTING AND EASY TO FOLLOW PROCESS AS ILLUSTRATED BELOW:

VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESS

- 1 Present your ID/Passport to clerk.

6 Sign IEBC reference book and take registration slip. Leave registration centre.
- 2 The clerk captures your identity details.

5 Have your passport size photo taken and confirm it is clear.
- 3 Confirm your identity details are correct.

4 A. Place the four fingers of your left hand on the fingerprint reader. B. Place the four fingers of your right hand on the fingerprint reader. C. Place your two thumbs on fingerprint reader.

For more information, please contact IEBC Headquarters, Anniversary Towers, 6th floor, University Way, Nairobi. Tel +254 (020) 2769000, Email: info@iebc.or.ke, www.iebc.or.ke

OR

IEBC Regional Office

OR

The nearest IEBC Constituency Office.

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