

# Preparations for the 2021 Local Government Elections

February 2021



SOUTH AFRICA

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# Election Date

- Section 159 of the Constitution read with section 24(1) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act provides that a term of a municipal council is 5 years
- Elections must take place within 90 days of expiry of the term
- For the 2021 Local Government Elections that 90 day window starts on **4 August and ends on 1 November 2021**
- General elections are traditionally held on a Wednesday with special votes being cast on the two preceding days
- Minister of COGTA responsible for determination of the date after consultation with the Commission
- Consultation has commenced but not concluded

# Electoral System

- The current electoral system for local government is Mixed-Member Proportional
  - Ward councillors: 50 percent of council
  - Proportional councillors: 50 percent of council
- Voters in metropolitan municipalities will receive two ballot papers (ward and PR)
- Voters in local municipalities will receive three ballot papers (ward, PR for local council; PR for district council)

# Total Municipalities

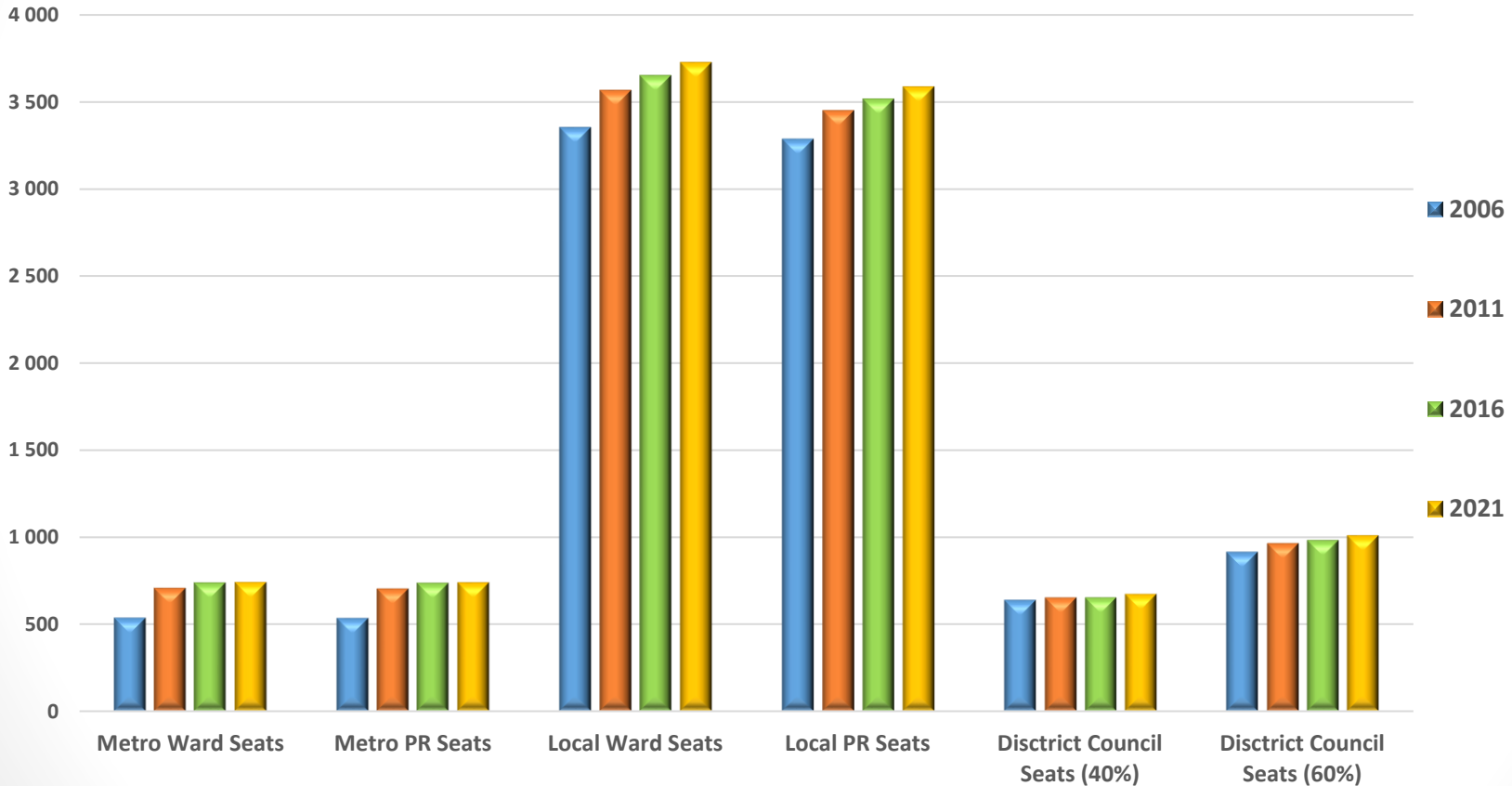
- Number of municipalities remains unchanged from LGE 2016
  - 8 metropolitan municipalities
  - 205 local municipalities
  - 44 district municipalities

# Total Seats in Councils

- The number of councillors to be elected will increase slightly from 2016 to 2021

Seat Type	2006	2011	2016	2021*	% Increase: 2016 to 2021
Metro Ward Seats	538	709	740	742	0.3%
Metro PR Seats	536	706	738	740	0.3%
Local Ward Seats	3 357	3 568	3 652	3727	2.1%
Local PR Seats	3 289	3 451	3 516	3586	2.0%
Disctrict Council Seats (40%)	640	654	655	674	2.9%
Disctrict Council Seats (60%)	917	967	984	1010	2.6%
DMA Seats	20	-	-	-	
<b>Total Seats</b>	<b>9 297</b>	<b>10 055</b>	<b>10 285</b>	<b>10479</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

# Available Seats and Councillors



# Ward Delimitation

- Following the handover of the list of ward boundaries by MDB in September and December 2020, the Electoral Commission is currently updating the VD delimitation in preparation for voter registration
- This phase of work includes:
  - update the delimitation of voting districts in accordance with recent population changes since NPE 2019
  - to adjust VDs that have been split by ward boundaries
  - to identify venues to be used as voting stations and
  - to consult with members of MPLCs on VD boundaries and choice of venues to be used as voting stations for LGE 2021
- This work is scheduled for completion by end of February 2021

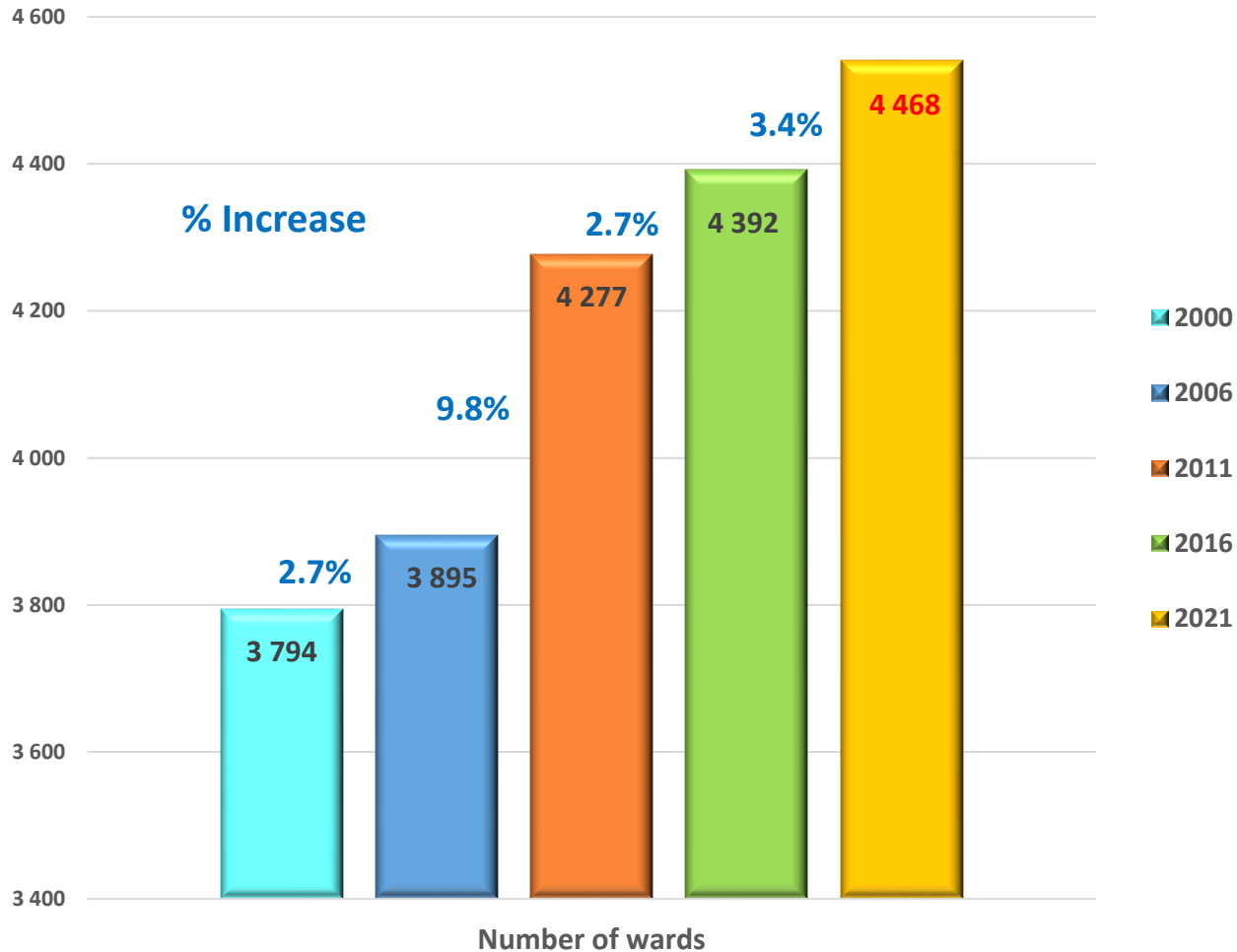


# Final Ward Numbers per Province

## MDB LGE2021 WARDS RECEIVED

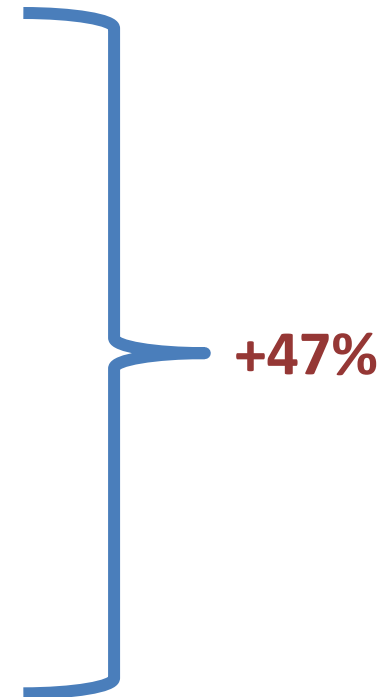
Province	Municipalities	2021 Ward Count
Eastern Cape	33	710
Free State	19	319
Gauteng	9	529
KwaZulu-Natal	44	901
Mpumalanga	17	400
Northern Cape	26	232
Limpopo	22	568
North West	18	403
Western Cape	25	406
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>4 468</b>

# Number of Wards (graph)



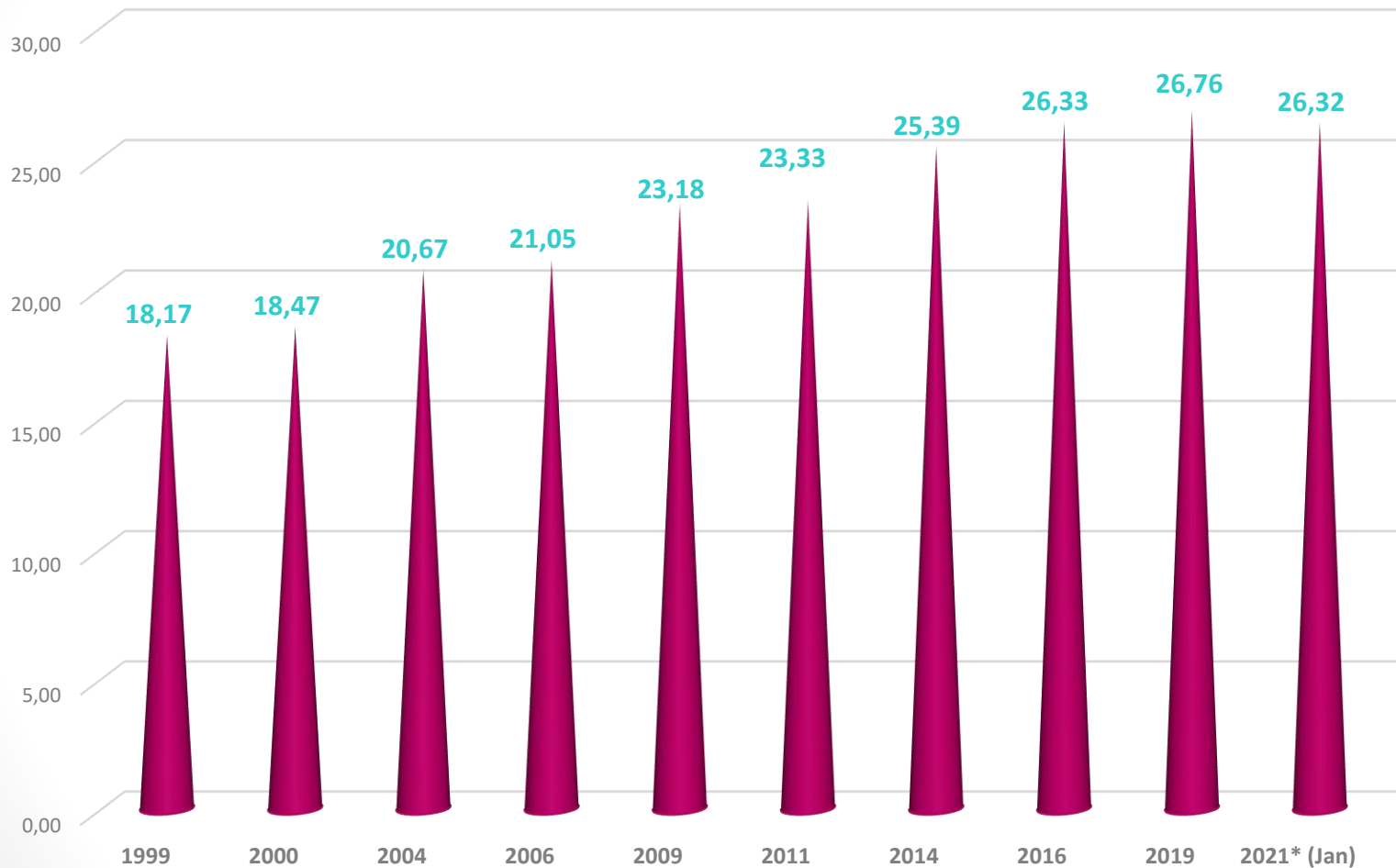
# Voters' Roll Growth: 1999 - 2020

Election Year	Registered Voters (in millions)
1999	18.17
2000	18.47
2004	20.67
2006	21.05
2009	23.18
2011	23.33
2014	25.39
2016	26.33
2019	26.76
2021* (Jan)	26.32



\* The number of registered voters declines between general elections at an average rate of +/- 30 000 per month due to mortality. One nationwide voter registration weekend is planned ahead of LGE 2021

# Voters' Roll Growth: 1999 - 2021



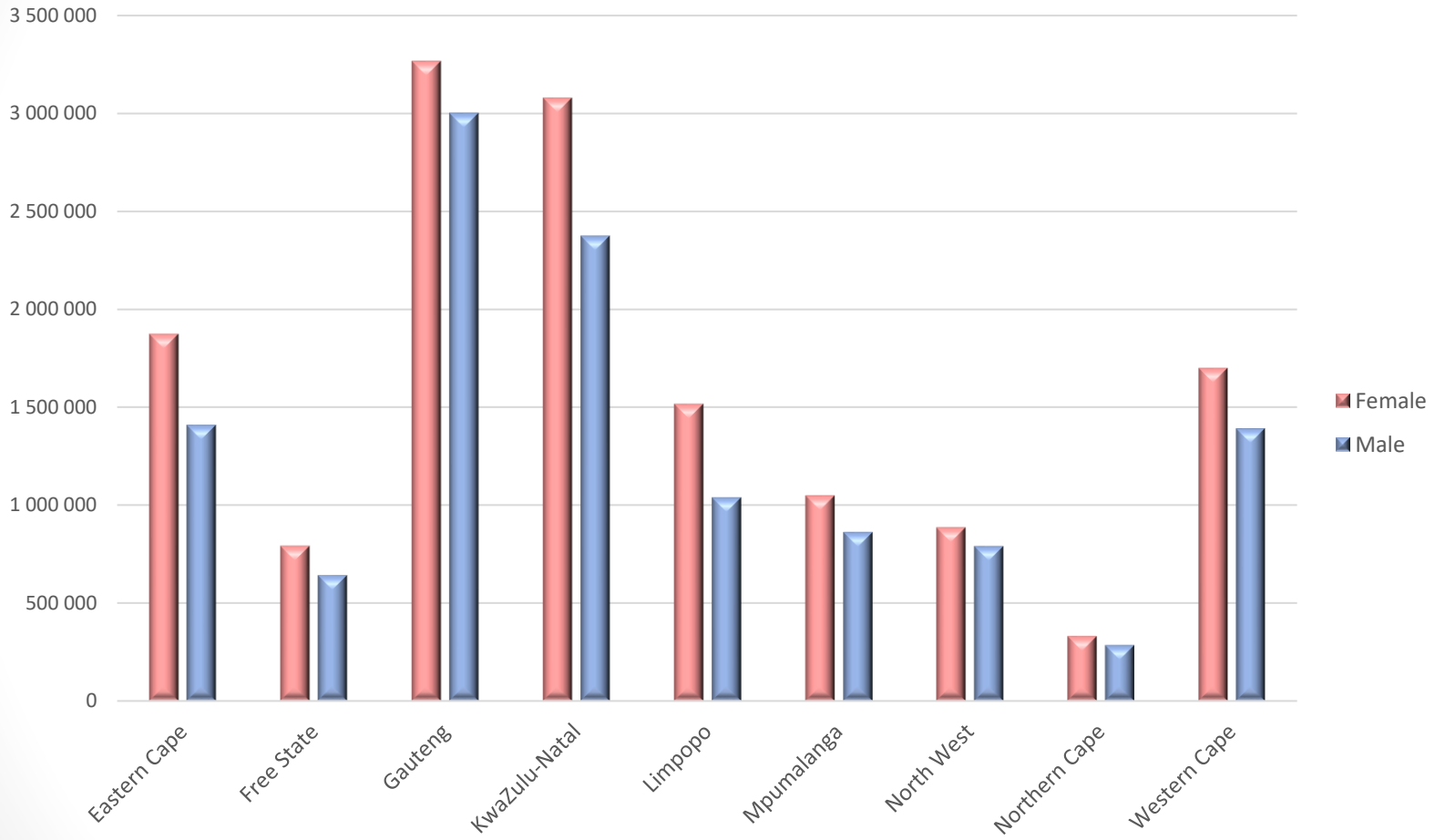
# Voters' Roll by Gender

## January 2021

Province	Female	Male	Total
Eastern Cape	1 875 891	1 410 839	3 286 730
Free State	794 056	642 829	1 436 885
Gauteng	3 267 105	3 002 304	6 269 409
KwaZulu-Natal	3 080 553	2 375 118	5 455 671
Limpopo	1 518 304	1 040 207	2 558 511
Mpumalanga	1 051 689	863 970	1 915 659
North West	887 463	791 819	1 679 282
Northern Cape	332 658	286 669	619 327
Western Cape	1 701 274	1 393 357	3 094 631
<b>Total</b>	<b>14 508 993</b>	<b>11 807 112</b>	<b>26 316 105</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>100%</b>

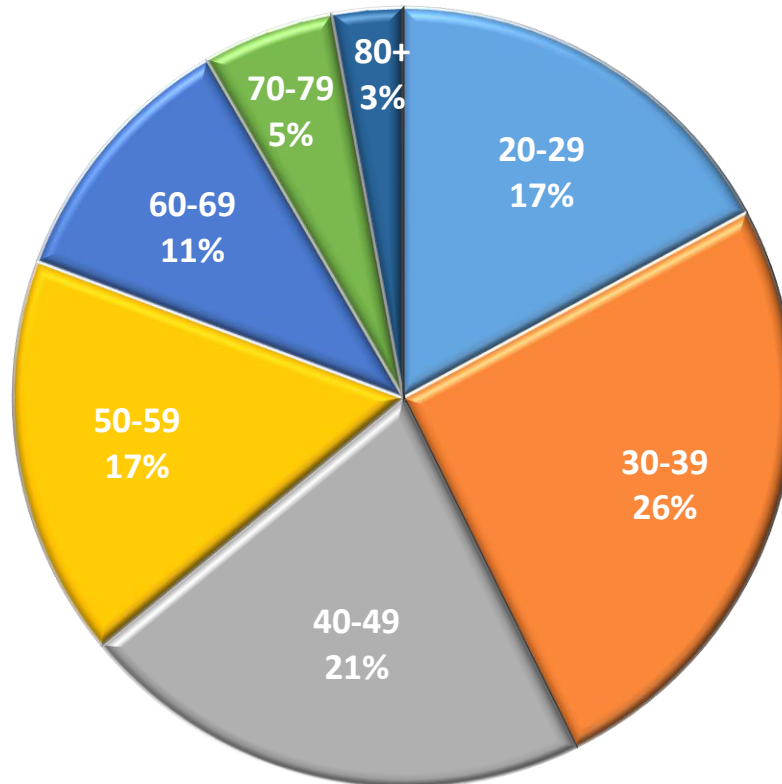
# Voters' Roll by Gender

## January 2021



# Age Band Distribution

January 2021



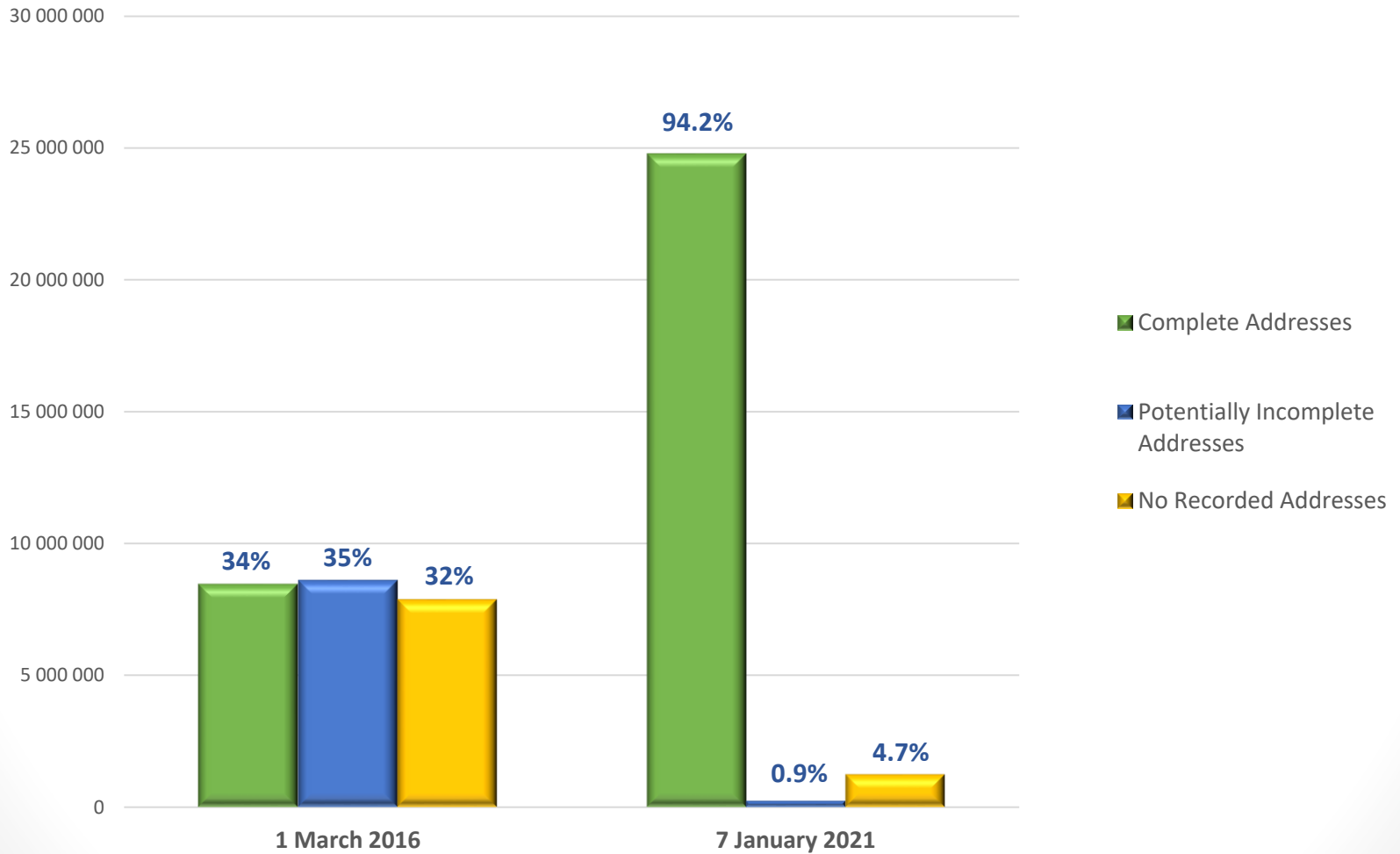
\* The age band for 18 – 19 is excluded due to the fact that it cannot be compared to the 10 year bands.

# Status of Voters' Roll Addresses

Address Category	1 March 2016	%	7 January 2021	%
Complete Addresses	8 468 119	34%	24 779 489	94.2%
Potentially Incomplete Addresses	8 601 195	35%	233 442	0.9%
No Recorded Addresses	7 857 156	32%	1 237 363	4.7%
"REC AS" Addresses	-	-	65 811	0.3%
Total Registered Voters	24 926 470	100%	26 316 105	100%

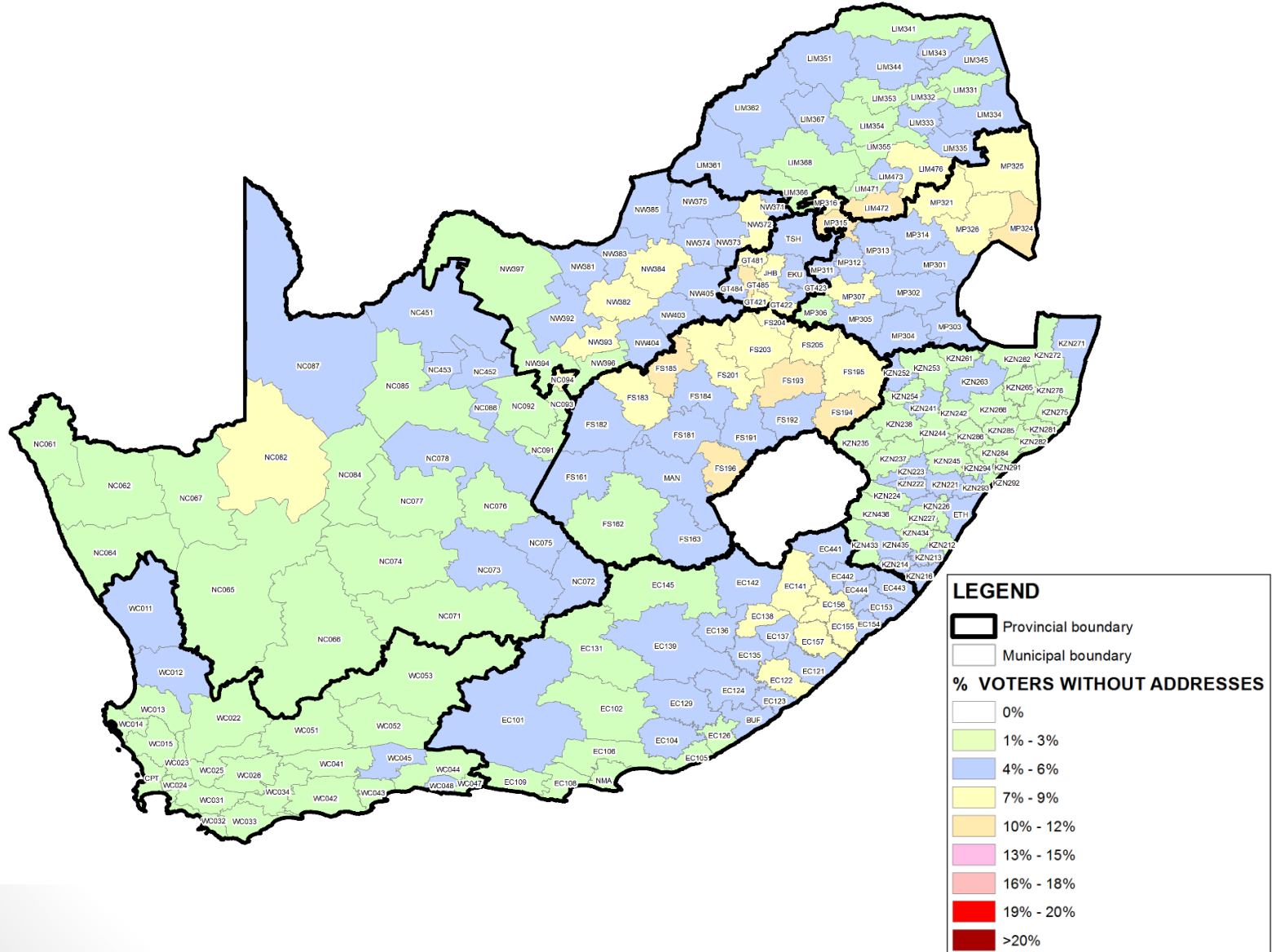


# Voters' Roll Address Progress 2016 - 2021



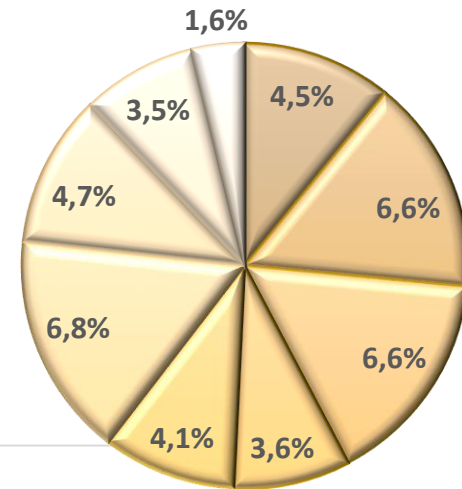
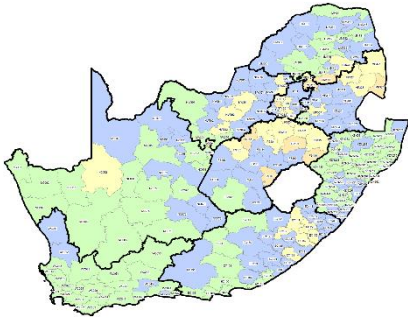
# No Recorded Addresses

by Municipality 7 January 2021

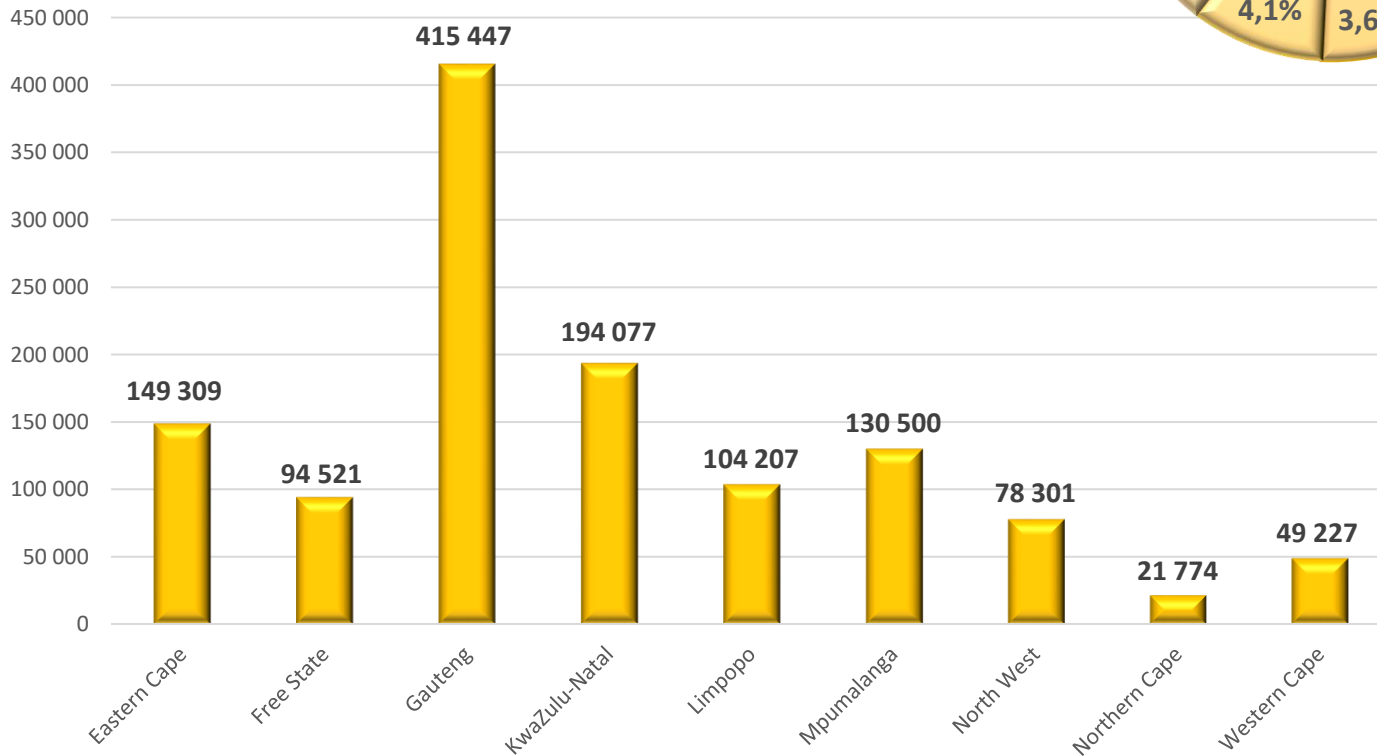


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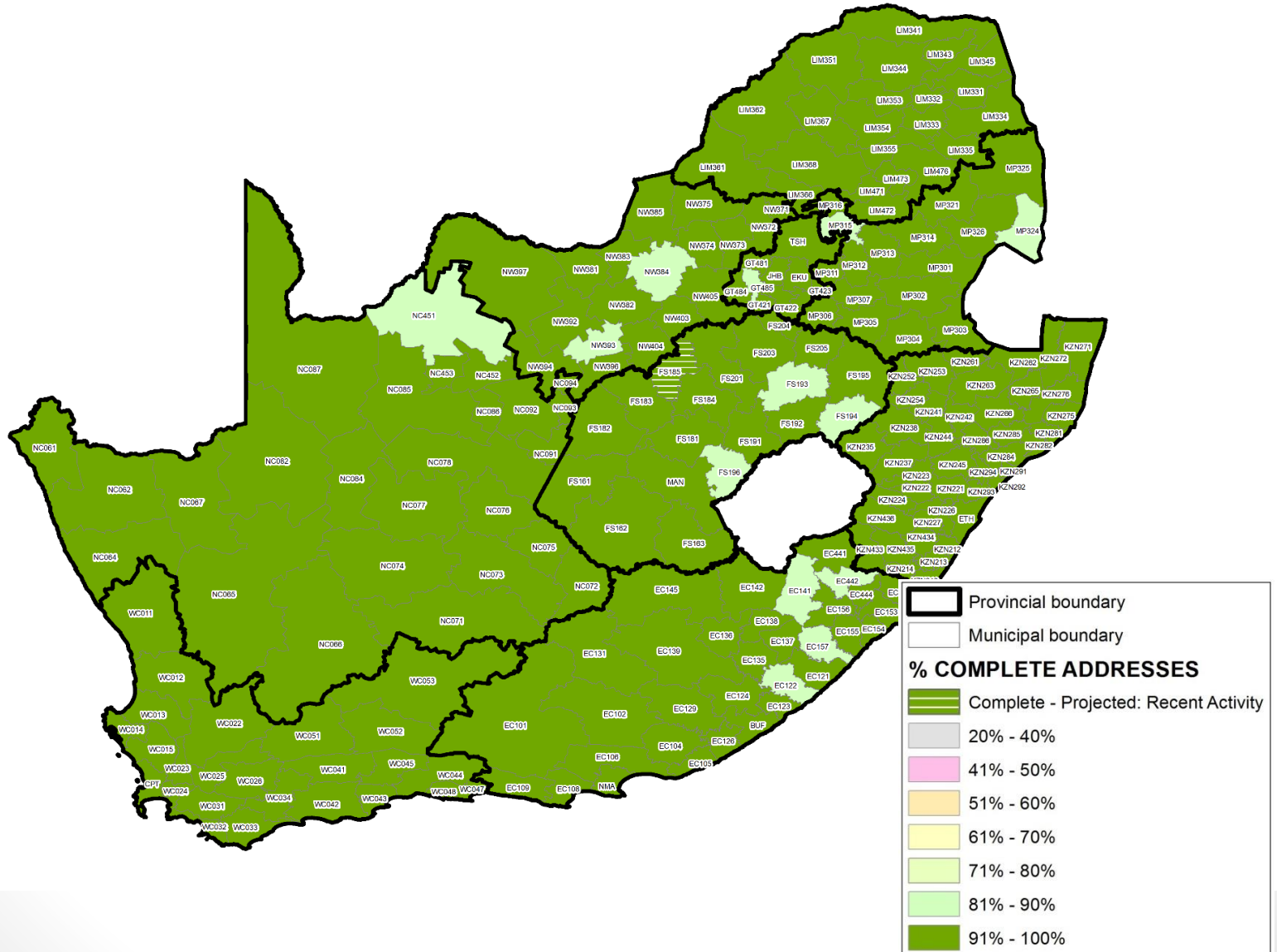


- Eastern Cape
- Free State
- Gauteng
- KwaZulu-Natal
- Limpopo
- Mpumalanga
- North West
- Northern Cape
- Western Cape



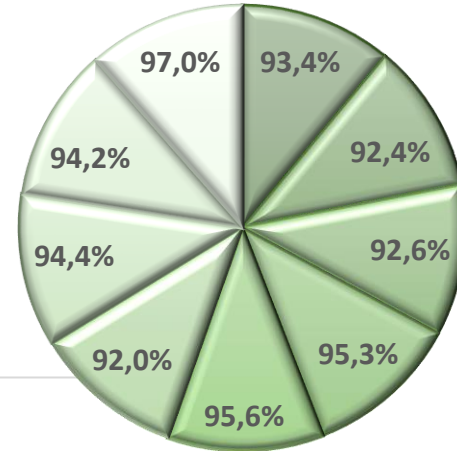
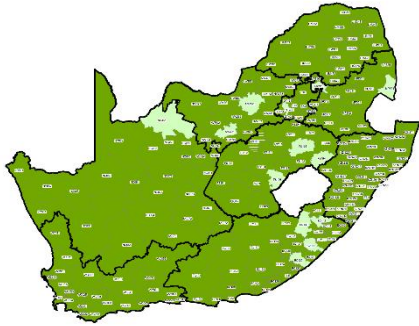
# Complete Addresses

by Municipality 7 January 2021

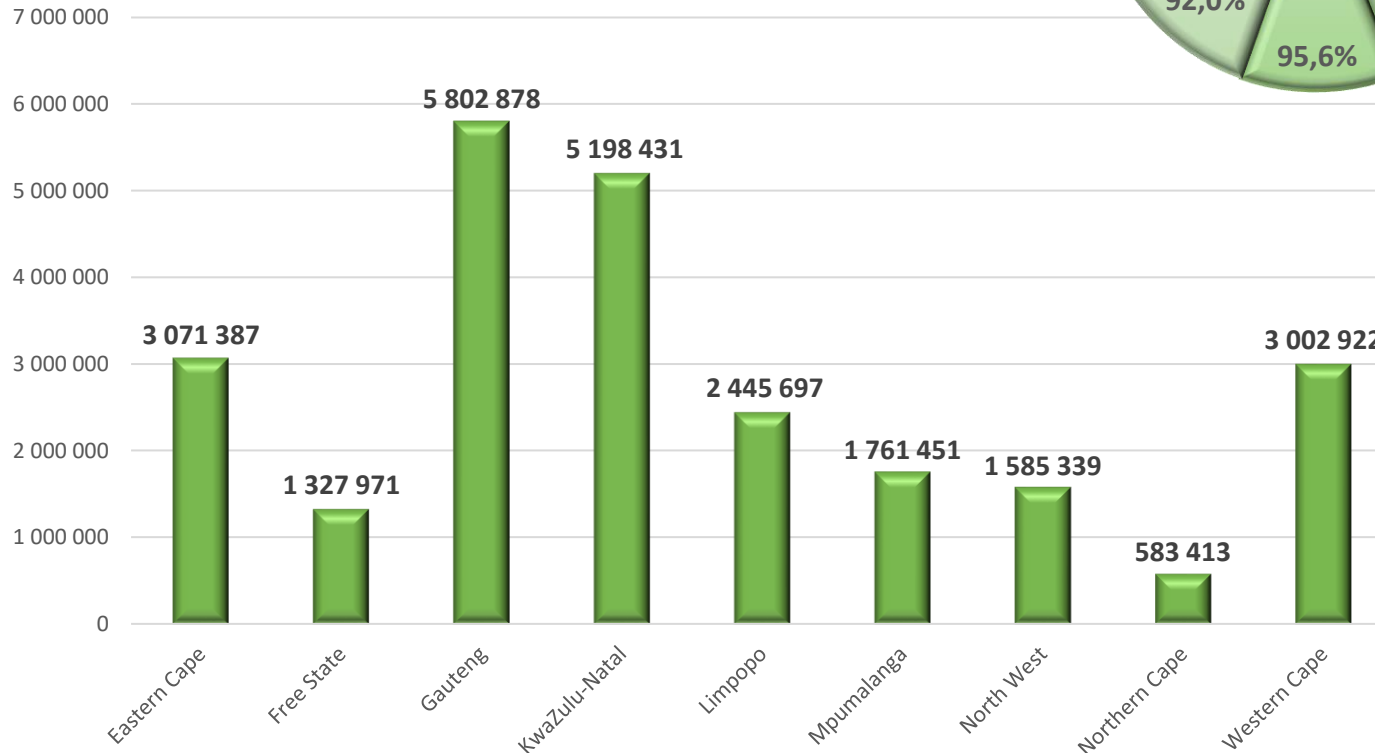


# Complete Addresses

by Municipality 7 January 2021



- Eastern Cape
- Free State
- Gauteng
- KwaZulu-Natal
- Limpopo
- Mpumalanga
- North West
- Northern Cape
- Western Cape



# Access to Private Places

- It is important that all political players are granted **reasonable access** to farms and farmworkers
  - Officers and employees of the Commission
  - Representatives of political parties
- Reasonable notification
- Voting stations on farms
- Voter education

# New Party Funding Act

- Commence date is 1 April 2021
- Donations of R 100 000 to be disclosed
- Dual disclosure requirement
- Online disclosure application
- Maximum donation threshold of R 15 million
- Prohibited donations
- Creation of a Multiparty Democracy Fund
- Quarterly and annual reporting of donations

# Key Challenges for LGE 2021

## 1. Voter registration and turnout

- Turnout in any election is an important part of the credibility of the elections and legitimacy of elected representatives
- Turnout of the past two municipal elections in 2011 and 2016 showed encouraging growth over previous elections
- Turnout for by-elections held in November and December 2020 was largely in-line with by-election trends since 2016
- But the trend of voter turnout around the world is declining and SA saw a 8% decline in turnout in NPE from 2014 to 2019

Local Government Elections	Turnout
2000	48%
2006	48%
2011	57%
2016	58%
2021	??

National and Provincial Elections	Turnout
1999	88%
2004	76%
2009	77%
2014	74%
2019	66%



# Key Challenges cont.

## 2. Reduced resources

- The COVID-19 pandemic has further decimated resources available to government
- At the same time responding to the pandemic requires additional resources – including additional PPE equipment for election staff, sanitizing products for voters, e-learning modules for training
- Electoral Commission has been requested to make budget cuts of R109 million in the current financial year
- Additionally, over the next three years the Electoral Commission is required to cut R744 million from its budget
- These cuts will impact every aspect of the Electoral Commission including people, processes and projects
- Among the direct implications for LGE 2021 is that currently two voter registration weekends are not fully funded – only one voter registration weekend budgeted for
- E-voting pilot cancelled owing to lack of funding
- Limited funding will also severely curtail the ability of the Commission to respond proactively to conflict prevention and resolution including the roll-out of conflict monitoring and mediation programmes in high risk areas

# Key Challenges cont.

## 3. Heightened political contestation and litigation

- Ever-more robust contestation between more and more political parties
- In the previous Local Government Elections we have seen the number of political parties contesting grow from 79 in 2000 to over 200 in 2016
- And the number of contesting candidates has grown over the same period from 30 000 to over 63 000 in 2016
- More candidates = more losers (increase in dissatisfaction over outcome by contestants and their supporters)
- Increasing rhetoric and taunting between parties and their supporters (in both physical and digital spheres)
- Alongside this rise has been an increase in scrutiny of each and every aspect of elections, which has also given rise to increased objections and litigation

# Key Challenges cont.

## 3. Demarcation disputes

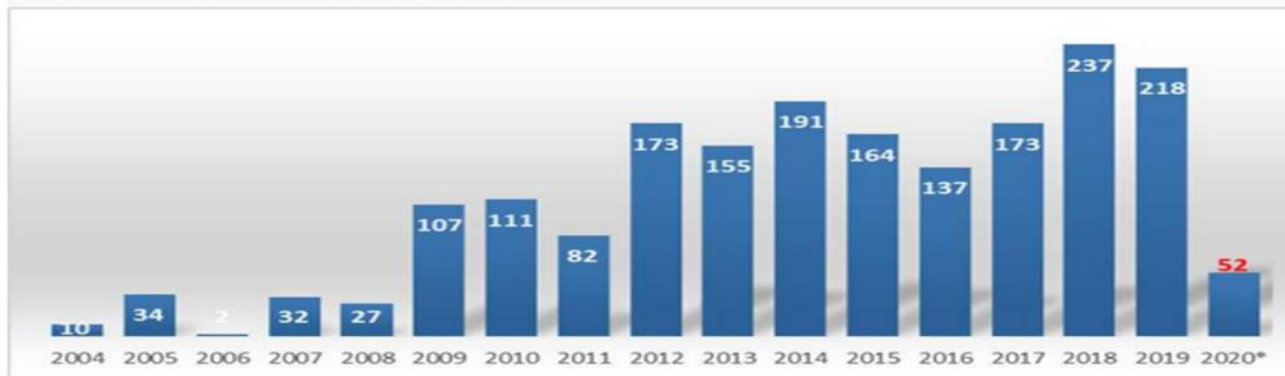
- The Municipal Demarcation Board has finalized the list of ward boundaries for next year's elections
- While no outer boundaries have changed, there is always the potential for some communities to remain aggrieved and to use the high profile of elections to raise the profile of their grievances
- This can pose risks to election events including voter registration, civic education, campaigning by parties, turnout and access to voting stations
- The Electoral Commission fully supports the right of citizens to voice their grievances through peaceful protest but this cannot be at the cost of the rights of other citizens to vote

# Key Challenges cont.

## 4. Social unrest

- Incidents of social unrest – including service delivery protests – also pose risks to the smooth conduct of elections
- Frequently these prevent access to communities and key areas which may hamper electoral preparations and the conducting of elections
- These protests also often target municipal facilities where many of our local offices are located
- Statistics from Municipal IQ show a steady rise in such protests over the past decade – with over 450 incidents reported in 2018 and 2019

Figures 1: S.D. protest activity, per year (2004 –2020\*)



Source: Municipal IQ Municipal Hotspots Monitor (\*January - July)

# Key Challenges cont.

## 5. Political violence/ intra-party conflict

- The process of candidate selection by political parties for local government has also emerged as a source of conflict and violence in some parts of our country
- According to researcher Mary De Haas, around 90 municipal councillors, political party officials and senior municipal officials, have been murdered in KwaZulu-Natal since 2015
- The Eastern Cape, Limpopo, Mpumalanga and North West have not recorded the same numbers of politically-linked attacks but have certainly not been immune to these tragic incidents
- As we approach the Local Government Elections, the Electoral Commission appeals to all contestants, parties and voters to respect human life and the sanctity of the electoral process to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections

# Key Steps: Jan – March 2021

- Continue to monitor COVID-19 developments
- Finalise delimitation and voting stations and conduct targeted communication and registration for new/split VDs
- Conclude procurement of Voter Management Device
- Approval of Electoral Laws Amendment Bill and publication of regulations
- Recruitment and training of voter registration officials
- Finalisation of LGE 2021 voter registration communication and education campaign
- Conclude consultations with Minister of COGTA on election date
- Continue engagements with all key stakeholders

*Thank you*