

Simplified seat calculation for the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures

All calculations done in terms of Schedule 1A of the Electoral Act, 73 of 1998

National Assembly

There are **400 seats** in the National Assembly seats which are distributed as follows:

- **200** Regional Seats, divided between the regions* based on registered population, prior to the elections. The regions are contested by *parties and independent candidates*.
- **200** National Proportional (PR) seats – *parties only*

*Regions are the same as provinces, but called regions to distinguish the results from those for the Provincial Legislatures.

Results for the National Assembly are determined based on **ten (10) ballot papers** – **one** for each region (containing parties and independent candidates) in **orange** and **one** national ballot (for parties only) in **blue**.

The **seat calculation** is done in the following manner and sequence:

Step 1 - The **200 regional list seats** are determined for **each** region using a quota based on the number of seats allocated to the region and the valid votes cast on the regional ballot. Seats for parties and independents are then calculated using the quota. Refer to step 1 of the example.

Step 2 - The **overall allocation for parties out of the 400 seats** is then determined using a quota based on the valid votes across all regions, plus the valid votes on the national ballot. Seats for the parties are then calculated using the quota using. Refer to step 2 of the example.

Step 3 - The **200 national PR list seats** are determined by subtracting the total number of regional seats for a party from the overall allocation for that party. Refer to step 3 of the example.

STEP 1: Regional list seat calculations

The current breakdown of the **200 regional seats** is as follows:

Eastern Cape	25	Mpumalanga	15
Free State	10	North West	13
Gauteng	47	Northern Cape	5
KwaZulu-Natal	41	Western Cape	24
Limpopo	20		

For *each region* the following calculation is done using a *quota formula* - example Western Cape. The first action is determine a quota of votes per seat.

Total Valid Votes

Party A	780 000
Party B	35 000
Party C	1 360 000
Party D	490 000
Independent A	104 500
Total	2 769 500

Quota (Q) formula

$$Q = \frac{\text{Total Valid Votes (Region)}}{\text{Total Seats} + 1}$$

The result, plus 1, disregarding fractions is the quota of votes per seat

From the example:

$$Q = \frac{2\,769\,500}{24 + 1}$$

= 110 780.00 +1, disregarding fractions

Quota = 110 781

The second step is to divide the valid votes for each party and independent by the quota and perform the calculation as shown in the example below.

Party	Valid votes	Votes divided by quota	1st allocation	Remainder	Rank	2nd allocation	Final allocation
Party A	780 000	$\frac{780\,000}{110\,781} = 7.041$	7	0.041		0	7
Party B	35 000	$\frac{35\,000}{110\,781} = 0.316$	0	0.316		0	0
Party C	1 360 000	$\frac{1\,360\,000}{110\,781} = 12.276$	12	0.276		0	12
Party D	490 000	$\frac{490\,000}{110\,781} = 4.423$	4	0.423		0	4
Independent 1	104 500	$\frac{104\,500}{110\,781} = 0.943$	0	0.943	1	1	1
Total	2 769 500		23				24

1st allocation: Ignore fractions = 23 seats

2nd allocation: 24 - 23 (1st allocation) = one (1) seat remaining and then allocated according to the highest remainder.

Final allocation = 1st allocation + 2nd allocation

STEP 2: National (overall) calculation out of 400 – Parties only

The first action is to determine the quota of votes per seat, using both national and regional votes for parties.

Total Valid Votes (National + Regional for Parties)

Party A	10 309 000
Party B	658 000
Party C	20 547 000
Party D	5 959 000
Party E	164 000
Party F	50 500
Total	37 687 500

Quota (Q) formula

$$Q = \frac{\text{Total Valid Votes (N+R)}}{((\text{Total Seats} + 1) - \text{Ind Seats})}$$

The result, plus 1, disregarding fractions is the quota of votes per seat

From the example:

$$Q = \frac{37\,687\,500}{(400+1) - 1}$$

$$= 94\,218.75 + 1,$$

disregarding fractions

$$\text{Quota} = 94\,219$$

The second step is to divide the valid votes for each party by the quota and perform the calculation as shown in the example below.

Party	Valid votes (Reg + Nat)	Votes divided by quota	1st allocation	Remainder	Rank	2nd allocation	3rd* allocation	Final allocation
Party A	10 309 000	$\frac{10\,309\,000}{94\,219} = 109.415$	109	0.415	0	0	N/A	109
Party B	658 000	$\frac{658\,000}{94\,219} = 6.984$	6	0.984	1	1	N/A	7
Party C	20 547 000	$\frac{20\,547\,000}{94\,219} = 218.077$	218	0.077	0	0	N/A	218
Party D	5 959 000	$\frac{5\,959\,000}{94\,219} = 63.246$	63	0.246	0	0	N/A	63
Party E	164 000	$\frac{164\,000}{94\,219} = 1.741$	1	0.741	2	1	N/A	2
Party F	50 500	$\frac{50\,500}{94\,219} = 0.536$	0	0.536	0	0	N/A	0
Independent 1								1
Total	37 687 500		397			2		400

1st allocation: Ignore fractions = 397 seats allocated plus the one (1) seat to Independent 1, i.e. a total of 398, leaving two (2) seats remaining.

2nd allocation: Allocated to the two (2) highest remainders.

3rd allocation*: If there are more than five (5) seats to allocate after the first round, the next five (5) is done according to *highest remainder* after which a third allocation is done based on the *highest average of votes per seat* for remaining seats. In the example, the third round is not applicable.

Final allocation = 1st allocation + 2nd allocation + 3rd allocation (if applicable)

STEP 3: National PR list seats

National PR list seats are calculated by subtracting all the regional list seats for a party from the total party seats for that party. **Please note** that Independent 1 does not participate in steps 2 & 3, but that the seat won is shown to complete the scenario.

Party	Total party seats 400 (A)	Regional list seats 200 (B)	National list seats 200 (A - B)
Party A	109	78	31
Party B	7	0	7
Party C	218	121	97
Party D	63	0	63
Party E	2	0	2
Party F	0	0	0
Independent 1	1	1	
Total	400	200	200

Provincial legislatures

Calculations for the provincial legislatures follows *the same process as the regional calculations* using the respective provincial legislature seats. The number of seats per province are as follows and **one pink** ballot paper will be used.

Eastern Cape	72
Free State	30
Gauteng	80
KwaZulu-Natal	80
Limpopo	64
Mpumalanga	51
North West	38
Northern Cape	30
Western Cape	42