



# GUIDELINES FOR THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS ON MAYORAL, WARD AND PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION COUNCILLORS CANDIDATE NOMINATION AND SELECTION

## 1. PREAMBLE

These Guidelines are adopted in furtherance of the revolutionary mandate of the Economic Freedom Fighters (“EFF”) to capture state power at a local government level and advance the struggle for Economic Freedom in Our Lifetime.

For the 2026 Local Government Elections (“LGE”), the EFF will field Mayoral candidates in metros and other strategic municipalities and cities across various provinces.

These Guidelines constitute a binding internal regulatory framework governing the nomination, vetting, selection, and confirmation of Mayoral Candidates, Ward Councillor Candidates and Proportional Representation (“PR”) Lists for the 2026 LGE.

These Guidelines are informed by the lived realities of the African working class and are designed to ensure that municipal governance is placed in the hands of disciplined, ethical, and community-rooted revolutionaries, capable of dismantling corruption, patronage, and administrative decay in municipalities.

## 2. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of these Guidelines is to:

- 2.1. Ensure that all internal electoral processes of the EFF are democratic, transparent, fair, and revolutionary in character;
- 2.2. Align the candidate selection process with the prescripts of the Constitution and electoral legislation;
- 2.3. Guarantee that only fit, proper, and ideologically grounded members are deployed as Public Representatives;
- 2.4. Prevent the infiltration of opportunists, corrupt elements, and counter-revolutionary forces within municipal governance structures;
- 2.5. Advance the EFF’s programme of economic freedom, land justice, and service delivery for the poor.

## 3. LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- 3.1. Local Government Elections operate within a structured legislative framework which regulates the formation, functioning and governance of municipalities.
- 3.2. These Guidelines must be read and implemented in strict compliance with:
  - 3.2.1. **The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996** – which establishes the local government system, provides for the election of Municipal Councils and sets out the eligibility criteria of Municipal Councillors;

- 3.2.2. **Local Government: Municipal Structures Act No 117 of 1998** – which regulates the types of municipal executive systems, establishment of ward committees and electoral arrangements at the Municipal level;
  - 3.2.3. **Electoral Commission Act No 73 of 1998** – which regulates the establishment of a voters’ roll, voter eligibility, general elections conduct and administrative oversight by the Independent Electoral Commission;
  - 3.2.4. **Local Government: Municipal Systems Act No 32 of 2000** – which regulates defining the municipalities, community participation mechanisms, performance management, code of conduct of Councillors and governing post-elections strategy; and the
  - 3.2.5. **Municipal Finance Management Act No 56 of 2003** – which regulates Municipal budgeting processes, finance standards, oversight of Municipal expenditure and accountability of Municipal Managers and Chief Financial Officers.
- 3.3. In the event of any inconsistency, national legislation shall prevail, and these Guidelines shall be interpreted to ensure compliance with electoral law, including candidate eligibility, nomination procedures, and submission requirements to the Independent Electoral Commission (“IEC”).

#### 4. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 4.1. The implementation of these Guidelines is to advance the following:
  - 4.1.1. Economic Freedom;
  - 4.1.2. Land Redistribution;
  - 4.1.3. Gender Parity (minimum 50% representation);
  - 4.1.4. Youth Leadership and Generational Renewal; and
  - 4.1.5. Zero Tolerance for Corruption and Patronage.

#### 5. KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THESE GUIDELINES:

For purposes of these guidelines, it is important to clarify the meaning of every concept to ensure consistency and to guide leaders and members of the EFF at all levels.

- 5.1. **MEMBER:** Any South African citizen, not limited to any worker, peasant, revolutionary element or employed person, who has reached the age of 18 and who accepts the Constitution of EFF or any person who comes from the African continent or in the diaspora, who joins a branch of the organisation and works



actively in it, carrying out the organisation's decisions, observes its discipline and pays membership dues may apply to be a member of the EFF.

- 5.2. **CENTRAL COMMAND TEAM (CCT):** The Central Command Team is made up of six (6) elected Officials, sixty (60) additional members, the Provincial Chairpersons and Secretaries, and the President and Secretary General of the EFF Youth Command.
- 5.3. **PROVINCIAL COMMAND TEAM (PCT):** The PCT is made up of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary and the Treasurer, twenty (20) additional members elected at the PPA, and the Provincial Chairperson and Secretary of the EFF Youth Command.
- 5.4. **SUB-REGION:** A sub-region is defined in terms of Section 22 (1) and (2) of the EFF Constitution, which states that *“for the purpose of the EFF, sub-regions are demarcated alongside Municipalities or Zones in Metropolitan Municipalities or on demarcation as decided by the CCT”* and *“the CCT may from time to time alter the number or boundaries of sub-regions.”*
- 5.5. **SUB-REGIONAL COMMAND TEAM (SRCT):** An SRCT is made up of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and fifteen (15) additional members elected at the SRPA.
- 5.6. **BRANCH:** A branch is the most basic unit of the EFF and is constituted of a minimum of 200 paid-up members who are registered to vote and come from all the Voting Districts of that specific ward; it has gone to a BPA, has a functional Branch Command Team and is approved by the CCT.
- 5.7. **VOTING DISTRICT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE:** A Voting District Co-ordinating Committee must be made up of ten (10) members registered to vote within the same voting district to oversee the work of the EFF in that specific Voting District.
- 5.8. **BRANCH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY (BPA):** A BPA is an assembly held by each branch every two (2) years at a ward level in a formula decided and communicated by the CCT. It receives a political report from the Chairperson, an organisational report from the Secretary, and a financial report from the Treasurer. It adopts a programme of action, and resolutions and elects a Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer and ten (10) additional members.
- 5.9. **BRANCH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (BGA):** A BGA is a meeting of all branch members and shall meet every three (3) months. It convenes every three months to receive reports on the state of the organisation, fill vacancies and deal with any other issues that affect the branch and its membership.

**5.10. BRANCH COMMAND TEAM (BCT):** The BCT of the EFF is made up of an elected Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer and ten (10) additional members, who hold office for two (2) years and meet fortnightly.

## **6. CANDIDATE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The following criteria are a prerequisite for the nominations of Mayoral, Ward and PR Councillor Candidates:

### **6.1. SOCIAL STANDING**

An EFF candidate must have a presence in their community. A candidate must satisfy or fall under the following categories:

- Professional (Business, Legal, Management, etc);
- Traditional Leader (King, Chief, Headman, Regent, etc);
- Pastor, Church Leader;
- Leader of a recognisable community-based organisation;
- A recognised community activist; or
- Disciplined, loyal and active ground force with the ability to mobilise the community.

### **6.2. ETHICAL AND PUBLIC IMAGE STANDARDS**

An EFF Candidate must have the following:

- A clean criminal record; and
- A clean organisational record;

An EFF Candidate must be a respectable member of the community with an excellent social standing and must uphold the following Public Image standards:

- No history of Gender Based Violence, child and women abuse in the community or within their family; and
- No reputation for substance abuse, particularly drug abuse.

### **6.3. EDUCATION**

An EFF Candidate must have a minimum qualification of matric or equivalent. These areas are favourable, with regard to post-matric qualifications, and are inclusive but not limited to the following:

- Public Administration;
- Governance;
- Political Science;
- Engineering;
- Health; and
- Law.

## **6.4. SKILLS**

An EFF Candidate must possess skills, which include but are not limited to the following:

- Computer Literacy; and
- Basic administration.

## **6.5. BASIC EFF STANDARDS**

An EFF Candidate must have a full understanding of:

- EFF Constitution; and
- Code of Conduct for all EFF Caucuses and Public Representatives.

## **7. CANDIDATE NOMINATION**

- 7.1.** Only Branches in Good Standing may nominate candidates. The Office of the Secretary General will issue a directive on which branches are in good standing and must convene a BGA to nominate a candidate.
- 7.2.** This nomination process will run concurrently with the mass voter registration campaign. Any Branch that fails to meet the target of the mass voter registration campaign within the stipulated timeframe will have its candidate automatically disqualified.
- 7.3.** An SRCT meeting attended by the PCT and CCT Deployees will deploy members of the SRCT, PCT, CCT or any member of the EFF in good standing to preside over the Branch General Assemblies to nominate candidates. The nominated Candidates must be registered voters in that specific WARD.
- 7.4.** Wards that are not launched and not in good standing do not qualify to nominate a candidate.
- 7.5.** The Sub-Regional Secretary/Coordinator must be the only person authorised to write the letter of deployment to all Branches and Wards for the nomination of Councillor candidates.
- 7.6.** The Sub-Regional Secretary/Coordinator shall be permitted to deploy any member of the EFF who does not come from the convening branch to preside over the BGA if the designated deployee is objectively not reachable.
- 7.7.** Branches must nominate and elect one candidate.
- 7.8.** The Secretary of the Branch or Ward Coordinator must inform all branch members 72 hours before the meeting of the date, time and venue of the BGA.

7.9. Any individual who joins the organisation after the commencement of the candidate nomination process, which is the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2026, shall not be eligible for nomination as a candidate.

## 8. VOTING PROCESS

For BGA, the deployee must ensure that the FOLLOWING IS STRICTLY ADHERED TO:

- 8.1 TWO COPIES of the attendance register approved by the Secretary General;
- 8.2 A quorum of 50%+1 (physical presence) of the branch membership that appears on the approved attendance register;
- 8.3 Democratic election BY SHOW OF HANDS;
- 8.4 A branch must nominate and elect one (1) candidate;
- 8.5 A minimum of five (5) members of the Voting District Co-ordinating Committee from all voting districts of that specific branch are in attendance; failure to adhere to this will disqualify the branch.
- 8.6 A branch will have two opportunities to convene meetings to nominate a candidate; if the branch fails to quorate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt to convene a meeting to nominate a candidate, the branch will be disqualified from nominating a candidate.

**ATTENDANCE REGISTERS FOR ALL BRANCH GENERAL ASSEMBLIES WILL BE VERIFIED AND PRINTED FROM THE EFF HEAD OFFICE MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM. ONCE PRINTED, NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO MAKE ALTERATIONS TO THE ATTENDANCE REGISTER.**

- 8.7 **For BPA/BGA, a presiding deployee must take a video during the nomination, voting, counting and announcement of the candidate, which will be used as part of the audit requirements and as evidence in case of a dispute.**
- 8.8 **As part of the audit requirement, the non-submission of a conclusive video of the BGA process to nominate a candidate will lead to the branch failing the audit.**
- 8.9 In the case of a dispute, where there is no video submission of the BGA process to nominate a candidate, the dispute will be upheld.
- 8.10 Branches are required, after concluding the nomination process and receiving successful audit outcomes, to convene a community meeting where the nominated candidate will be presented for community engagement and endorsement. The report on that community meeting must be submitted to the Office of the Secretary General.



8.11 Every candidate that is nominated from the branches, following the community meeting, must, in addition, submit a list of newly registered voters that is double the number of votes the organisation received in the previous election.

8.12 All nominations must comply with the IEC submission requirements under the Municipal Electoral Act.

## **9. ADMINISTRATION AND REPORTING**

9.1. The BGA reports must clearly state the number of people who attended the meeting with their original signatures, the candidates nominated with their ID Number, VD Name, Gender and voting outcomes. The report must also indicate the names, surnames, ID numbers, and contact details of all VDCC members and be signed by the Branch Chairperson and Secretary.

9.2. The BGA report must be submitted with the nominated candidates' CVs and profiles.

9.3. The Deployee must submit the BGA reports to the Office of the Secretary General within 12 hours.

9.4. Branches that fail to comply in terms of the BGA Guidelines may result in the nullification of the nomination process, and the Branch will be convened by the SRCT, PCT and CCT Deployees to select Candidates.

## **10. COMMITTEES**

### **10.1. CANDIDATE VETTING AND SELECTION COMMITTEE**

10.1.1. The Vetting and Selection Committee will be composed of the EFF National Officials who will be responsible for conducting background checks, verifying credentials, criminal records, activism experience and social media screening of all candidates that have been nominated from the BGA.

10.1.2. The vetting and selection will include rigorous investigation of current and historical negative social media posts.

10.1.3. The Vetting and Selection Committee will comply with principles of administrative justice and fairness, and the committee may confirm or reject the candidate or refer the matter back to the Branch.

10.1.4. The Officials reserve the right to invite any member to form part of the committee.

- 10.1.5. The Vetting and Selection Committee will have the sole responsibility of electing the candidates who will stand as Mayoral Candidates for various municipalities.
- 10.1.6. The Vetting and Selection Committee will be the final structure that approves the candidate list for submission to the IEC.

## **10.2. DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE**

- 10.2.1. The CCT must establish a dispute resolution committee consisting of a minimum of two (2) Officials and four (4) members of the CCT.
- 10.2.2. EFF Members who are aggrieved by the process of selection of candidates must lodge their disputes within 24 hours of the BGA outcome.
- 10.2.3. The disputes must be submitted in writing to the Chairperson of the Committee, who will ensure a fair, transparent and expeditious dispute resolution process, to the following details:

**EMAIL:** [candidatedisputes@effonline.org](mailto:candidatedisputes@effonline.org)

**WHATSAPP:** 081 710 4196

- 10.2.4. Disputes lodged after 24 hours of the BGA outcome will not be resolved.
- 10.2.5. The Dispute Resolution Committee will be the final arbiter on matters of disputes and will communicate the final outcomes to affected members and the EFF Structures.

## **10.3. SPECIAL NATIONAL DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (SNDC)**

- 10.3.1. The CCT will establish a Special National Disciplinary Committee (“**SNDC**”) to swiftly deal with misconduct and violations of the Guidelines and disruptions of assemblies.
- 10.3.2. The CCT shall put in place security protocols for the BGAs, and any member who violates these protocols shall be subjected to a disciplinary process.
- 10.3.3. The SNDC shall constitute a disciplinary hearing of all members who violate the Constitution, Revolutionary Code of Discipline and Guidelines within 48 hours of the violation.
- 10.3.4. EFF Members who engage in misconduct and/or violate the Constitution, Revolutionary Code of Discipline and Rules of these Guidelines will be summarily suspended from all organisational activities.

## **11. PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION LISTS**

**11.1.** For the purpose of contesting the elections, Sub-Regional Conveners will be appointed as list holders in the PR Lists for all municipalities.

**11.2.** The EFF members designated as PR Councillors will be those coming from wards that received the majority vote. The Central Command Team will oversee the final selection of PR Councillors to ensure appropriate geographic representation, gender parity, youth representation, skills and governance capacity.

**11.3.** The Public Representative and District Lists for Local Government Elections will be fully submitted after the elections, and this will be informed by the number of votes each Ward received.

## **12. ENFORCEMENT AND SANCTIONS**

**12.1.** Non-compliance may result in:

12.1.1. Disqualification of candidates;

12.1.2. Nullification of BGAs;

12.1.3. Disciplinary proceedings.

**12.2.** All candidates must adhere to:

12.2.1. EFF Constitution;

12.2.2. Revolutionary Code of Discipline;

12.2.3. Applicable electoral laws.

## **13. KEY DATES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE GUIDELINES**

- Nomination of Candidates: 1 May 2026 – 30 June 2026;
- Vetting and Selection: 1 July 2026 – 30 August 2026; and
- Submission of Candidates to IEC: TBC.

## **14. CODE OF CONDUCT AND GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**14.1.** The EFF is an organisation that is rooted in high discipline and good conduct. It is a movement that appreciates that discipline is a critical and the most important weapon in the struggle for radical economic revolution. Without discipline, we will not be able to defend, rebuild and advance the struggle for economic freedom.

**14.2.** During this period, no member of the EFF should be suspended or expelled without the knowledge and approval of the Vetting and Selection Committee, and no structure of the EFF shall be disbanded or dissolved without the knowledge and approval of the Vetting and Selection Committee.

**14.3.** The following should constitute wrongful lobbying practices and unacceptable ways of influencing the candidate nomination and election processes:

- a. Raising and using funds and other resources to campaign for nomination;
- b. Distributing money to EFF members and structures as part of a campaign for candidate nomination;
- c. Production of t-shirts, posters and other paraphernalia to promote a particular candidate;
- d. Promising positions or other incentives or threatening to withhold such, as a means of gaining support;
- e. Using the media to promote a particular candidate and to spread malicious rumours, falsehoods, or allegations against those with whom you disagree;
- f. Leaking confidential information to the media, secret interaction with journalists with the intention to get them to write stories on internal organisational issues or communicating internal decisions or processes to the media without due authorisation;
- g. Negative campaigning, which relates to attacks on the integrity of other fighters both within the structures of the movement and in other forums;
- h. Suppressing honest and legitimate debate about the calibre of candidates in formal meetings of the movement;
- i. Manipulating membership figures or engaging in fraudulent membership recruitment practices;
- j. Misleading the audit team that assemblies achieved quorum even when they did not reach quorum;
- k. Collecting signatures of members from their homes for the purposes of the BGAs and presenting a picture that they attended the meeting, while they did not;
- l. Allowing structures or individuals to condone the violation of constitutional provisions and/or regulations and/or failing to report such violations when they occur;
- m. Using the offices, resources and staff of the EFF or any state institutions or company as machinery to promote a particular candidate;
- n. Using violence, intimidation and threats to coerce/FORCE those who hold a different view;
- o. Convening meetings to discuss candidate nomination under the false pretext that they are organised constitutional structural meetings;
- p. Production and distribution of documents and pamphlets not approved by the structures of the organisation will not be allowed;
- q. Using social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, WhatsApp and WhatsApp Channel, Twitter (now X), Instagram, or TikTok to promote a particular candidate will not be allowed; and
- r. No EFF member from the CCT, PCT and SRCT is permitted to create the perception that their lobbying is a decision of the upper structures.

## 15. CONCLUSION

The Organisation and all its members must during this process exercise maximum discipline and restraint. All branches of the EFF are encouraged to ensure they nominate credible individuals with presence in their communities and have the capacity of mobilisation with the potential to win the wards. Fighters are encouraged not to be inward looking during this process but do everything within their means to ensure that the organisation after the 2026 LGE will be in a position to ***Defend, Rebuild and Advance the Struggle for Economic Freedom.***

In the struggle for economic freedom,



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**SECRETARY GENERAL  
CMSR. MARSHALL DLAMINI**

Date signed: 30 March 2026