



Aggregation and Announcement of Results

There are several steps before the Final Results of the Southern Sudan Referendum are announced officially by the SSRC Board of Commissioners. The first step - the counting of ballots at the Referendum Center and announcement of Results for the Center – is presented in a separate fact sheet. This fact sheet describes the further steps of the process to determine the results of the referendum.

Transportation and storage of materials

The Chief of the Referendum Center packs the materials carefully and according to SSRC instructions. Ballots, both used and unused, are placed in a ballot box, along with other sensitive materials such as the ink, the official stamp and the Final Referendum Register. The box is sealed with the numbered security seals.

The sealed ballot boxes will be stored safely at the County Subcommittees in the South and at the State Referendum Committees in the North. They will be only opened upon order from the SSRC or Southern Sudan Referendum Bureau (SSRB) in case additional checks / investigations are needed.

The Results Forms are put into tamper-evident bags, one for the County Subcommittee (south Only), one for the State Committee, one for the Data Center (Juba or Khartoum).

Results Forms and other sensitive materials will at all times be transported with police escort. Observers are allowed to travel with the materials, using their own transportation (not in SSRC vehicles).

Aggregating results at different levels

Only the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission and its offices (Referendum Center, county, state, country, Southern Sudan) can make official results announcements for the level/geographical area of the office making the announcement.

In Southern Sudan the County Subcommittees aggregate the provisional results from all Referendum

Centers in each county, display them for public view, declare “Results for the County” and send them to the State High Committee along with the Result Forms from the Referendum Centers in the county. The State High Committees add up provisional results from all counties in the state, display them for public view and declare “Results for the State”. These are sent in tamper-evident bags to the Data Center in Juba, as are the originals of the Result Forms from the counties and all the Referendum Centers in the South.

In the North, materials are sent from Referendum Centers to the State Referendum Committees. At this level provisional results are aggregated, displayed for public view and declared as “Results for the Referendum Committee”. (There are 17 such SRCs in the North.) The state level results and the originals of the Result Forms from all the Referendum Centers in the North are forwarded to the Data Center in Khartoum immediately.

In the eight countries outside Sudan where voting takes place, Result Forms from all polling stations are summed up at the Country Office, displayed for public view and declared as preliminary “Results for the Country”. Result forms are scanned to a secure server from which they can be downloaded by the Data Centers in Khartoum and Juba. Original result forms are sent to the Data Centers in Khartoum and Juba immediately.

Procedures at the Data Centers in Khartoum and Juba

The staff at the Data Center will open the tamper-evident bags with the original Result Forms from all the Referendum Centers in Southern and Northern Sudan, respectively, and enter the results into an electronic database. There will be an automatic verification of the data entered for internal consistency and against voter registration figures.

Results from any Referendum Center that do not pass the accuracy checks are set aside for investigation. Investigations may require opening the ballot boxes with the ballot papers and the Final Referendum



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Registers inside. Observers will be invited to witness such checking of these so-called sensitive materials.

When the checks do not help to clarify detected inaccurate or incomplete data, the SSRC may decide to exclude the Referendum Center result from the consolidation.

All verified and checked results will be sent to the SSRC Chairperson for approval. Following such approval, the Data Center will produce the following reports:

- Progressive Consolidated Results, which consist of the totals for the two options, total of invalid ballots and total of unmarked ballots of all the approved Referendum Center results. These results will clearly state the number of Centers the progressive result is based on and the percentage of total Referendum Centers that this represents.
- Results by Referendum Center (number of votes for the two options, invalid ballots and unmarked ballots). This will allow voters and observers to confirm that the results produced by the Data Center correspond to the results displayed at the Referendum Center.

Announcement of Preliminary Results

The above mentioned reports will be posted on the SSRC website and announced at coordinated press briefings in Khartoum and Juba. After all Referendum Center results from Southern Sudan have been entered at the Data Center in Juba, verified and either approved or excluded by the SSRB, the SSRB will declare "Results for Southern Sudan."

When all results from Referendum Centers in North Sudan and Out-of-Country Voting have been entered at the Data Center in Khartoum, verified and either approved or excluded by the SSRC, the SSRC will declare them as "Results for Other Locations."

Once the Data Center in Khartoum has received the Results for Southern Sudan, the Data Center in Khartoum will aggregate the results for Southern

Sudan and for Other Locations. The SSRC then declares the consolidated result as the Preliminary Results for the Referendum.

The Preliminary Results for the Referendum will include:

- totals for each of the two options, total of invalid ballots and total of unmarked ballots;
- the total number of voters, the total number of registered voters and the turnout figure;
- a statement on whether the turnout has met the threshold of at least 60 percent (60%) and the option that has secured a simple majority of 50 percent plus one (50% + 1) of the total number of valid votes.

Appeal against Preliminary Results

Within three days from the Declaration of Referendum Preliminary Results, voters in Northern Sudan may submit an appeal against the Preliminary Results of the Referendum Center in which they voted to the National Supreme Court, while voters in Southern Sudan can appeal to the Supreme Court of Southern Sudan. The courts must dispose of the appeals within a period of one week from the date of receipt.

Preparation and declaration of Referendum Final Results

If no appeals are submitted to the courts, the Referendum Final Results will be the same as the Preliminary Results and will be announced within 48 hours after the closing of the appeal period.

If appeals are submitted, the SSRC will consider the decisions of the National Supreme Court, consult with the SSRC Deputy Chairperson for decisions of the Supreme Court of Southern Sudan, and take into account the decisions of both Courts for the preparation of the Referendum Final Results. The Data Center in Khartoum will then prepare the Declaration of Referendum Final Results to be announced by the SSRC on 14 February 2011.



مفوضية استفتاء جنوب السودان
Southern Sudan Referendum Commission

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