



Voter registration for the Southern Sudan referendum

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is responsible for voter registration?

The Southern Sudan Referendum Act of 2009 states that the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) shall develop regulations; issue a timeline for referendum voter registration; determine registration centres; develop, approve and keep the referendum register; and issue registration cards.

What is the referendum register?

The referendum register is a list prepared by the Commission that includes the names of persons eligible to vote in the Southern Sudan referendum.

Who is eligible to register?

According to the Referendum Act, eligible voters must be:

- Southern Sudanese;
- 18 years or older at the time of registration;
- Of sound mind.

Who can say they are Southern Sudanese?

A person is Southern Sudanese by birth **OR** by residence.

A Southern Sudanese by birth has one or both parents belonging to one of the indigenous communities residing in Southern Sudan on or before 1 January 1956, OR whose ancestry is traceable to one of the ethnic communities in Southern Sudan.

A Southern Sudanese by residence is a person who has been a permanent resident in Southern Sudan, without interruption, since 1 January 1956, OR who has/had parents or grandparents residing permanently, without interruption, in Southern Sudan since 1 January 1956.

How do voters prove their identity?

The identity of the voter shall be proved by presenting an identity card, or a certificate issued by the local government

authority of the county, or an identity document issued by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

If a registrant has no identity document, an oral testimony from the concerned chief will be accepted. In many registration centres, “concerned chiefs” (also referred to as identifiers) will be present to help registration staff identify people and establish their eligibility. Identifiers include religious leaders, sultans or chiefs of villages, headmasters/mistresses.

When and where is registration conducted?

Registration will take place from 15 November to 1 December at registration centres (RCs). These may be buildings or open areas. Referendum centres have been established throughout Southern Sudan, in locations in North Sudan and in eight countries outside Sudan – Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Australia, Britain, United States, Canada and Egypt. Voters will vote in the same RC where they have registered. The same locations will be used to display the preliminary referendum register.

What are the conditions for registration and participation in the referendum?

Registration in the Referendum Register is a basic right and is an individual responsibility of all those who satisfy the following required, legal conditions:

- Eligibility (as explained above);
- Possession a written or oral proof of identity;
- Registration in person at the nearest RC;
- Has not registered at any other RC.

The identification document may also be a certificate authenticated by the administrative unit in the county or by the concerned local or traditional authorities, as the case may be.

The regulations shall determine the means and methods of registration and the period for objections.

What is the Exhibition and Objections period?

At the end of the registration period, the Preliminary Referendum Register (PRR) is displayed at each RC for a total of seven days. This is called the Exhibition and Objections period. During the seven-day period, any registered voter may submit a written request to correct errors regarding his/her registration details, or object to the registration of another person (ask for the deletion of registrants who are deemed ineligible to participate in the referendum).

At the end of the Exhibition and Objections period, a Consideration Committee at each Referendum Centre will have 5 days to decide upon all requests. Their decisions will be publicly displayed by posting lists of all corrections and deletions. Any person who is prejudiced by the decision issued by the committee can appeal to the competent court within seven days.

What is the Final Referendum Register?

During the registration period, the names of all eligible voters will be recorded by hand in the Registration Book. The Final Referendum Register (FRR) to be used for polling at each RC comprises the original of this book, plus the lists of corrections and deletions approved by the Consideration Committee during the Exhibition and Objections period and including any relevant court decisions concerning this particular RC (originals).

The SSRC is mandated to make the FRR public. The FRR published for public inspection will exist only in hardcopy – in the south at the Southern Sudan State High Committees' offices and in the north at the State Referendum Committees' offices. It will consist of the copies of the above mentioned documents (registration book, lists of corrections and deletions, court decisions).

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