FIJIAN ELECTIONS OFFICE

- This version of the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 has been re-formatted and annotated to include amendments that were passed by Parliament on Friday 6 November 2026.
- It is provided for guidance only, the official versions of the Act and Amendment Acts are respectively published on https://www.laws.gov.fj/#/acts/DisplayAct/2486 and https://www.parliament.gov.fj/acts/ .
- While FEO has striven for accuracy, FEO takes no responsibility for any reliance on this version. FEO welcomes notification of any potential error identified.

GOVERNMENT OF FIJI

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ELECTORAL (REGISTRATION OF VOTERS) ACT 2012

(ACT No. 54 of 2012)

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ELECTORAL ACT 2014 (ACT No. 54 of 2012)

IN exercise of the powers vested in me as the President of the Republic of Fiji and the Commander in Chief of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces by virtue of the Executive Authority of Fiji Act 2009, I hereby make the following Act -

TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

PART 1-PRELIMINARY

Short title and commencement

1. This Act may be cited as the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 and shall come into force on 29th June, 2012.

Interpretation

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

"corrupt electoral practice" has the meaning given to it under section 2 of the Electoral Act 2014;

"Corrupt Electoral Practices List" means the Corrupt Electoral Practices List under section 19G;

"election" has the meaning given in section 2 of the Electoral Act, 2014;

"Fijian Elections Office" has the meaning given in section 2 of the Electoral Act, 2014;

"illegal electoral practice" has the meaning given to it under section 135A(2) of the Electoral Act 2014;

"mental disorder" has the same meaning under the Mental Health Act 2010;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for Elections;

"National Register of Voters" means a register of persons entitled to vote at an election and includes an electronic register;

"Permanent Secretary" in the Act is deleted and substituted with Supervisor of Elections;

“polling day” has the meaning given in section 2 of the Electoral Act, 2014;

“publish” means to produce and make available to the public, including electronically;

"qualified person" means a person who has the right to be registered as a voter;

"registration officer" means any officer appointed by the Supervisor to register qualified persons in the National Register of Voters;

"registration period" means -
(a) in respect of the election held for the first time immediately upon the commencement of this Act - the period from and including the date of commencement of this Act to and including the writ day for that election; and

(b) in respect of any other election - the period from and including the date of the official announcement of the election results of any previous election to and including the writ day for the following election;

"repealed Act" means the Electoral Act 1998;

"residential address" means the address where a person lives, including the province and division, provided however that he or she has lived there for a period of at least three (3) months immediately before registration;

“Supervisor” means the Supervisor of Elections appointed under section 76 of the Constitution;

"voter" means a qualified person whose name has been entered in the National Register of Voters;

“voter card” means an identification card assigned to a person on the registration of the person as a voter, containing the full name, photograph, date of birth, residential address, voter number, polling venue and any other information as required by the Supervisor.

"voter number" means a unique identification number assigned to every voter under section 10;

"writ" means a formal written order made by the President of the Republic of Fiji for an election; and

"writ day" in respect of an election, means the day of the issue of the writ for that election.

PART 2 - REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Registration of voters

3. (1) Every citizen who satisfies the requirements of section 55 of the Constitution has the right to be registered as a voter.

(3) The Supervisor shall, at least once a year, publish a notice in a daily newspaper and broadcast a notice over the radio, calling upon every qualified person who has not been registered as a voter to apply for registration.

Application for registration

4. - (1) A qualified person may apply for registration as a voter in the National Register of Voters within the registration period.

(2) An application for registration as a voter shall be made to a registration officer and the application shall have recorded the applicant's –
(a) full name as specified on the applicant's birth certificate;;
(b) residential address;
(c) occupation;
(d) date of birth;
(e) gender;
(f) form of identification acceptable to the registration officer;
(g) thumbprints;
(h) facial photograph;
(i)birth certificate; and
(j) such other particulars as may be approved and published by the Supervisor.

(2A) The application for the registration must be made in the form approved by the Electoral Commission.

(2B) For the purposes of subsection (2)(a), if an applicant's name on his or her birth certificate is not in the English alphabet, the applicant's name on his or her certificate of registration or certificate of naturalization, as the case may be, is deemed to be the applicant's name on his or her birth certificate.

(3) The Supervisor or a registration officer may reject an application that is not completed in accordance with this section.

(4) Any person who applies on more than one occasion to be registered as a voter commits an offence which is an illegal electoral practice.

(5) Subsection (4) shall not apply to any person who may be required to re-register as a voter for the purpose of correcting any mistake or omission in the particulars of registration of that person, or for the purpose of providing a replacement voter identification card in respect to that person.

(6) At the time of registration, the applicant must select a polling venue closest to their residence.

(7) If the applicant is unable to select a polling venue closest to their residence, the Supervisor may assign a polling venue closest to the applicant's residence.

Change of residential address

5. - (1) A registered voter who changes his or her residential address shall, within three (3) months from the date of the change of residential address, notify the Supervisor of his or her new residential address.

(2) Any person who fails to comply with this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of $100.

Effect of failure to notify change of residential address

6. - (1) A registered voter who has changed his or her residential address shall not be disqualified from voting at an election by reason only that he or she has not given notice of the change of residential address as required by section 5.

(2) Subsection (1) shall apply for a period of six (6) months from the date when the registered voter changed his or her residential address, after which the voter shall not vote at an election.

Effect of registration

7. Any qualified person who has applied in accordance with this Part for registration as a voter and whose application has not been rejected, shall be a registered voter from the date his or her name is entered in the National Register of Voters under section 10.

PART 3 - NATIONAL REGISTER OF VOTERS

Establishment of the National Register of Voters

8. This section establishes the National Register of Voters.

Form of the National Register of Voters

9. The National Register of Voters shall include the full name, closest polling venue, residential address, occupation, if any, date of birth, gender, facial photograph and voter number of each voter arranged alphabetically according to a voter's last name.

Preparation of the National Register of Voters

10.-(1) Every person applying under section 4 (1) shall have a voter number assigned to him or her and, upon the registration of the person as a voter, shall be entered in the National Register of Voters with the other particulars of the person specified in section 9.

(2) The Supervisor may, before entering any person's name in the National Register of Voters, make any such enquiries as shall be necessary to satisfy himself or herself that the applicant is qualified to be registered as a voter.

(3) The Supervisor must issue every person entered in the National Register of Voters with a voter card.

(4) All voter cards are the property of the Fijian Elections Office.

(5) If a person finds another person's voter card, the first-mentioned person must, as soon as practicable, return the voter card to the Fijian Elections Office.

Manipulation of the National Register of Voters and its database

10A. Any person who without the authority of the Supervisor alters, interferes or manipulates any information obtained in the National Register of Voters or in any database of the National Register of Voters by any means whatsoever commits an offence which is a corrupt electoral practice.

Information about a voter to be made available to the voter

11. The Supervisor must ensure that any information in the National Register of Voters about any person is made available to that person through such means as the Supervisor deems necessary or convenient to enable that person to verify any information about him or her in the National Register of Voters.

Publication of the National Register of Voters

11A.-(1) The Supervisor must publish the National Register of Voters in the form and manner approved by the Electoral Commission.

(2) Any political party may, on the payment of such fee as approved by the Supervisor, obtain a copy of the National Register of Voters.

Revision of the National Register of Voters

12. (1) The Supervisor may revise the National Register of Voters to -

(a) correct any mistake or omission in the particulars of the registration of a person;

(b) on the application of a person who is a registered voter, record a change in the person's name, residential address, postal address or occupation, or any other particulars contained in the National Register of Voters in respect of that person;

(c) remove from the National Register of Voters the name of any person whom the Supervisor has good reason to believe -

(i) is dead;

(ii) no longer satisfies the requirements of section 55 of the Constitution; or

(v) is otherwise disqualified from registration in the National Register of Voters;

(d) remove a superfluous entry, if the same person is registered more than once in the National Register of Voters;

(e) remove the name of every person who, on an inquiry made at the last residential address for that person of which the Supervisor was notified under this Act, cannot be found;

(f) remove the name of any person who has been entered on the Corrupt Electoral Practices List or has otherwise been disqualified from registration as a voter under a law relating to electoral offences;

(g) reinstate the name of every person whose disqualification has expired or has been removed;

(h) reinstate any name removed by mistake, clerical error or false information;

(i) if the name of a street or any other part of a residential address that appears on the National Register of Voters is changed, substitute the changed name or other part of the address.—; and

(j) remove any registration obtained by fraudulent means or by providing incorrect details required by the Supervisor to successfully register an eligible voter.

(2) Any revision of the National Register of Voters under subsection (1) maybe made at anytime prior to the closure of the National Register of Voters under section 19.

Removal from the National Register of Voters

13.—(1) If a person's name and other information are to be removed from the National Register of Voters, the Supervisor must first notify the person by sending a notice of the proposed removal to the person's last known residential address.

(2) The person must, within 14 days from the date the notice is sent, provide a written response to the Supervisor, which must set out the reasons as to why the person's name and other information are to remain on the National Register of Voters.

(3) If the Supervisor is dissatisfied with the reasons provided under subsection (2) or if the person fails to provide a written response, the Supervisor may remove the person's name and other information from the National Register of Voters.

(4) The Supervisor must, for the purpose of notifying persons whose names and other information have been removed from the National Register of Voters, publish a notice listing the names of all such persons annually.

(5) A notice published under subsection (4) must also list the voter number of each person whose name has been removed from the National Register of Voters.".

Objections

16.-(1) A person whose name appears on the National Register of Voters may make an objection to the inclusion of the name of any other person on the National Register of Voters.

(2) An objection made under subsection (1) must-

(a) identify the full name as it appears on the National Register of Voters, including the residential address, occupation, if any, gender and voter number of-
  (i) the objector; and
  (ii) the registered voter concerned.
(b) set out the grounds of the objection;
(c) set out the facts giving rise to the objection;
(d) contain a statutory declaration by the objector stating that the objector has made a conscientious effort to determine that the facts are true to the best of his or her knowledge and belief;
(e) be delivered in the form and manner approved by the Supervisor.

(3) The Supervisor must not accept any objection made after the issue of the writ.

(4) On receiving an objection under this section, the Supervisor must make such enquiries as he or she may deem necessary.

(5) If-

(a) an objection does not comply with subsection (2); or
(b) the Supervisor deems that the objection is frivolous,

the Supervisor must, subject to subsection (6), dismiss the objection and notify the objector and the voter in writing of his or her decision, including the reason for the decision.

(6) The Supervisor must not dismiss an objection solely on the ground that the objection does not comply with subsection (2) (a) if the Supervisor is satisfied with the identity of the objector and the voter.

(7) If an objection is not dismissed under subsection (5), the Supervisor must-

(a) send a notice by registered post or by personal service requiring the voter to respond to the objection; and
(b) state the time within which the voter must respond to the objection, either in person or in writing.

(8) If the voter does not respond to the objection within the time allowed, the Supervisor must proceed to deal with the objection and may either dismiss or uphold the objection.

(9) If an objection is upheld, the Supervisor must notify the objector and the voter in writing and the voter's name and other information must be removed from the National Register of Voters and, if the objection is upheld in the period between the date fixed for the closure of the National Register of Voters and the first polling day, the name and other information of the voter must be removed from the National Register of Voters and entered in the list of post-register deletions.

Settling objections

17. The Supervisor must either uphold or dismiss an objection within 7 days from the date the objection is delivered to him or her.

Review of decision of the Supervisor on objection

18.-(1) If the objector or the voter is dissatisfied with the decision of the Supervisor on an objection, the objector or the voter must, within 2 days from the date of receipt of the Supervisor's decision, apply in writing to the Electoral Commission for a review of the decision.

(2) An application for the review under subsection (1) must state the reason for the application.

(3) On receipt of an application under subsection (1), the Electoral Commission must give written notice of the application to the Supervisor and to either the objector or the voter who is not the applicant.

(4) The Electoral Commission must, within 3 days of the receipt of an application, review the decision in question and make a decision in writing either-

(a) affirming the decision; or

(b) setting aside the decision and making a decision in substitution of it.

(5) The consideration and adjudication of an application by the Electoral Commission must respect the fundamental principle of due process, including the right to a fair hearing, at which relevant evidence in support and in response to the application may be submitted.

(6) The Electoral Commission must notify the objector, the voter and the Supervisor in writing of its decision, including the reason for the decision.

(7) The decision of the Electoral Commission under this section is final and is not subject to any further appeal to, or review by, any court, tribunal or any other adjudicating body.

Date of closure of the National Register of voters

19. The National Register of Voters shall be closed at the time specified in the writ and no name shall be entered into it after such day until the beginning of the following registration period.

False or invalid document in connection with registration

19A. A registration officer may take possession of any document produced to the registration officer in connection with the registration of a person if the registration officer reasonably suspects that the document is false or invalid.

Assistance of State and State agencies

19B. The State and all State agencies must provide, on a timely basis and to the extent of their capacity, any information, material and human resource assistance as requested by the Fijian Elections Office in the conduct of their duties and functions.

Non-disclosure of information

19C.-(1) At the time of registration, the registration officer or any person employed by the Fijian Elections Office must not disclose any information in relation to the registration of a person to any other person unless the disclosure is required by a court of law or under any other written law.

(2) Any registration officer or any person employed by the Fijian Elections Office who contravenes this section commits an offence which is an illegal electoral practice.

Security features of voter card

19D.-(1) The Supervisor must ensure that there are adequate security features incorporated into the design and printing of a voter card.

(2) The Supervisor may upgrade the security features incorporated into the design and printing of a voter card.

(3) The Supervisor may require a voter to have his or her voter card replaced following an upgrade of the security features incorporated into the design and printing of a voter card.

Replacement of voter card

19E.-(1) A voter who damaged, misplaced or had his or her voter card stolen may apply to the Supervisor for the replacement of his or her voter card.

(2) A voter who is required by the Supervisor to have his or her voter card replaced under section 19D (3) must apply to the Supervisor for the replacement of his or her voter card.

Breach of official duty

19F. Any registration officer or person employed by the Fijian Elections Office who contravenes a provision of this Act or direction given to him or her under this Act commits an offence which is an illegal electoral practice.

Corrupt Electoral Practices List

19G.- (1) Where the Supervisor is satisfied that a person who is registered or who applies for registration as a voter has, within the immediate preceding period of 4 years-

(a) been convicted of a corrupt electoral practice under any electoral law or a category A offence under the Electoral (Local Government Elections) Regulations 2026; or

(b) been reported by the Court of Disputed Returns on the trial of an election petition as guilty of a corrupt electoral practice under any electoral law or a category A offence under the Electoral (Local Government Elections) Regulations 2026,

the Supervisor must enter the name, voter number, residence, and description of that person if necessary, and particulars of the conviction or report, on the Corrupt Electoral Practices List.

(2) The Supervisor must remove the name of a person from the Corrupt Electoral Practices List at the expiration of 4 years from the date of the conviction or report under subsection (1).

PART 4 - MISCELLANEOUS

Regulations

20. The Minister may make Regulations to give effect to the provisions of this Act.

Power to summon

21. The Supervisor shall have the power to summon any person for the purposes of exercising his or her powers conferred by or duties conferred under section 12.

Delegation of powers

22. The Supervisor may delegate any of his or her powers under this Act to an officer of the Fijian Elections Office.

Repeal and savings

23. - (1) The Electoral Act 1998 is hereby repealed.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a political party registered under the repealed Act will continue as a registered party until such time further laws are made in this respect pertaining to the registration of political parties.

Consequential amendments

24. - (1) This Act shall have effect notwithstanding any provision of any written law, and accordingly, to the extent that there is any inconsistency between this Act and any

other written law, this Act shall prevail.

(2) The State Services Act 2009 is amended -
(a) in section 4 by inserting the following new subsection after subsection (8) –

"(9) Until such time as the members of the Electoral Commission are appointed by the President under this section, the functions of the Electoral Commission shall be performed, and the powers of the Electoral Commission shall be exercised by the Minister responsible for Elections.";

(b) in section 5 by -

(i) inserting the words "office of" after "The" in subsection (2); and
(ii) inserting the following new subsection after subsection (4) - ,

"(5) Until such time as the Supervisor of Elections is appointed by the President under this section, the functions of the office of Supervisor of Elections shall be performed, and the powers of the office of Supervisor of Elections shall be exercised by the Supervisor responsible for Elections."

GIVEN under my hand this 28th day of June 2012.

EPELI NAILATIKAU
President of the Republic of Fiji