



# Building Trust in the Electoral Process Through Robust Identity Management



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# Presentation Outline

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- Electoral Act and the Voters' Roll
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# Constitution and Voters' Roll

- The founding provision of the Constitution, Act 108 of 1996, state that RSA is one sovereign, democratic state based, *inter alia*
  - **Universal adult suffrage**
  - **A national common voters roll**
  - Regular elections
  - A multiparty system of democratic government to ensure accountability, responsive and openness
- Therefore all elections must be based on a national common voters' roll
- A person's name may appear only once on the voters' roll



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# Electoral Act and Voters Roll

- Electoral Act, 107 of 1998, provides for a **SA Citizen** over the age of 16 to apply for registration, where they are ordinarily resident
- Inclusion on voters' roll at age 18
- the Act provides for the creation geographic, administrative entities called voting districts,
- Each voting district is serviced by one voting station
- Voting districts are determined in accordance with specified guidelines



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# Voters' Roll - Delimitation

- The various voting district segments combine to form the national common voters' roll, with each person appearing on only one segment.
- Guidelines in the Act include:
  - Radius of the voting district;
  - Availability of transport and communication facilities in the area;
  - Ensuring that physical features (e.g. rivers, mountains) do not impede access to the voting station;
  - Number of eligible voters;
  - Easy access to the voting station venue.



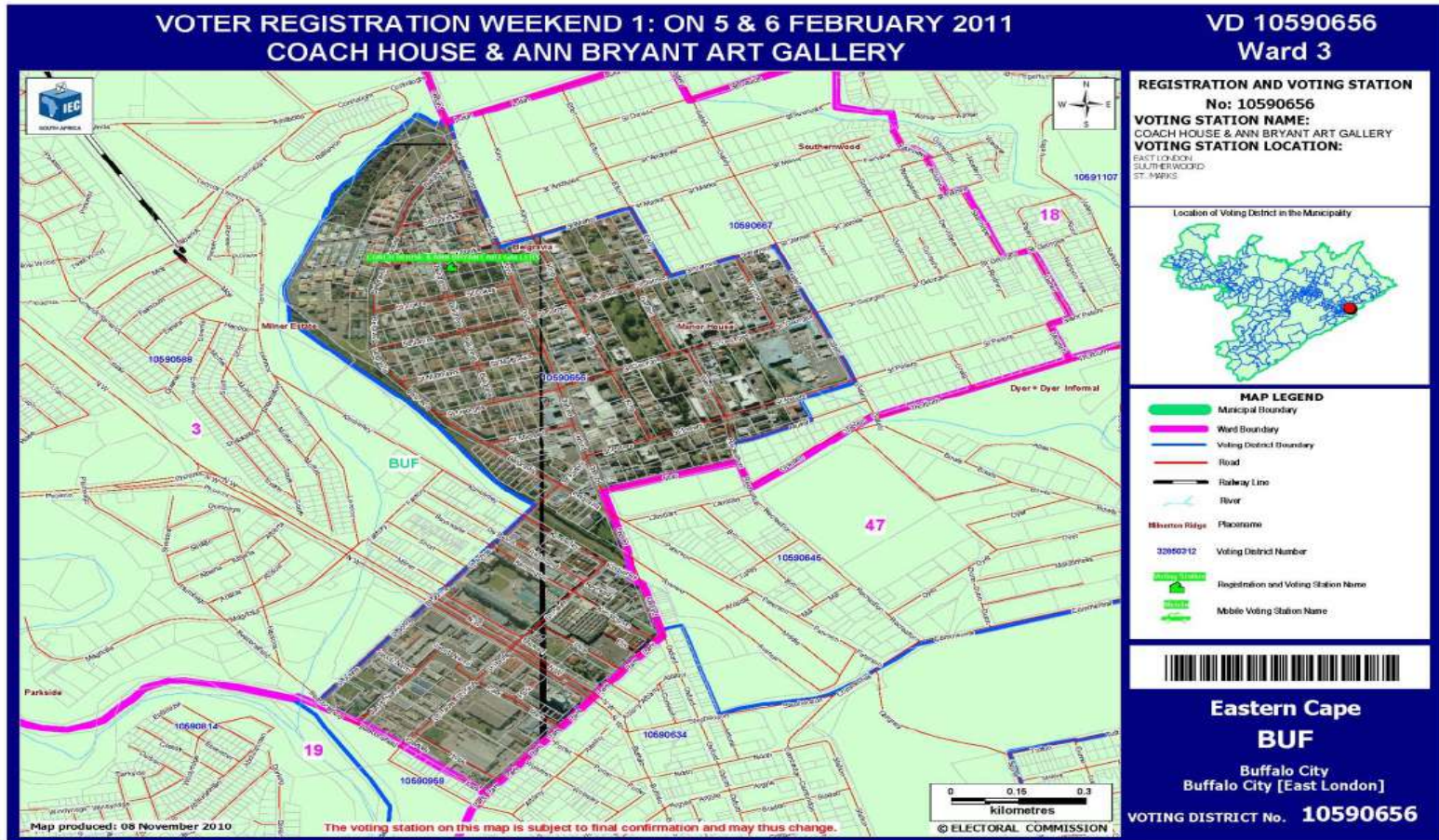
# Voters' Roll - Delimitation

- Using the guidelines and business rules, the delimitation process is as follows:
  - Using the GIS, voting district boundaries determined and working maps produced for each ward (A0/A1) with background information, current voting station etc.
  - Maps are sent to municipal offices for confirmation and sign-off by party liaison committees and then returned to national office.
  - At national office requested amendments are evaluated and, once approved, implemented on the spatial database (GIS);
  - GPS locations for identified voting stations are recorded on the Voting Station Operation (VSO) system.
  - Bar-coded voting district maps are produced in A3 for use during the registration process.





# Barcoded Voting District map



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# Voters' Roll - Registration

- Specialised barcode scanners (called “Zip-Zips”) are used to register voters.
- In 1998, when the first voters' roll had to be created, the use of these devices enabled the Commission to register 18.1 million voters accurately in the 6 days of the first general registration drive
- The devices also ensure that prospective voters, irrespective of place of residence (urban/rural), level of education or socio economic status, receive the same level of service from the Commission with respect to registration.





# Voters' Roll – Zip-Zip



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# Voters' Roll - Registration

- Registration Process:
  - Using the Zip-Zip, the barcode on voting district map is scanned first to create a spatial reference for registrations in the voting district.
  - The barcode in the identity document (ID) of an applicant is then scanned. The ID number is a 13-digit number, containing info regarding birth date, gender, citizenship and a check digit to verify that the number is authentic.
  - Two receipts are printed on labels; one affixed to the ID of the applicant and the second on the form (REC1) which they completed with the personal and address details.
  - The Zip-Zips are then docked at the municipal office and the files containing the scanned ID numbers transferred to national office via the wide area network (WAN).
  - Files are processed using the Voter Registration System.



# Voters' Roll - Registration

- Registration process (continued):
  - **Using the ID number, the name and surname and status of the person is then extracted from the National Population Register (NPR)**
  - Persons can check whether their registration has been successful via SMS or the Commission's web-site ("Am I registered?") or via the mobile application.
  - In the case of two registration weekends, an inspection voters' roll is produced after the first weekend, so that persons can verify their inclusion on the roll during the second weekend.
  - An application will be unsuccessful if, for example, the person is not a South African citizen, or the ID number not found on the population register.
  - A voters' roll can be produced within a week of a registration weekend



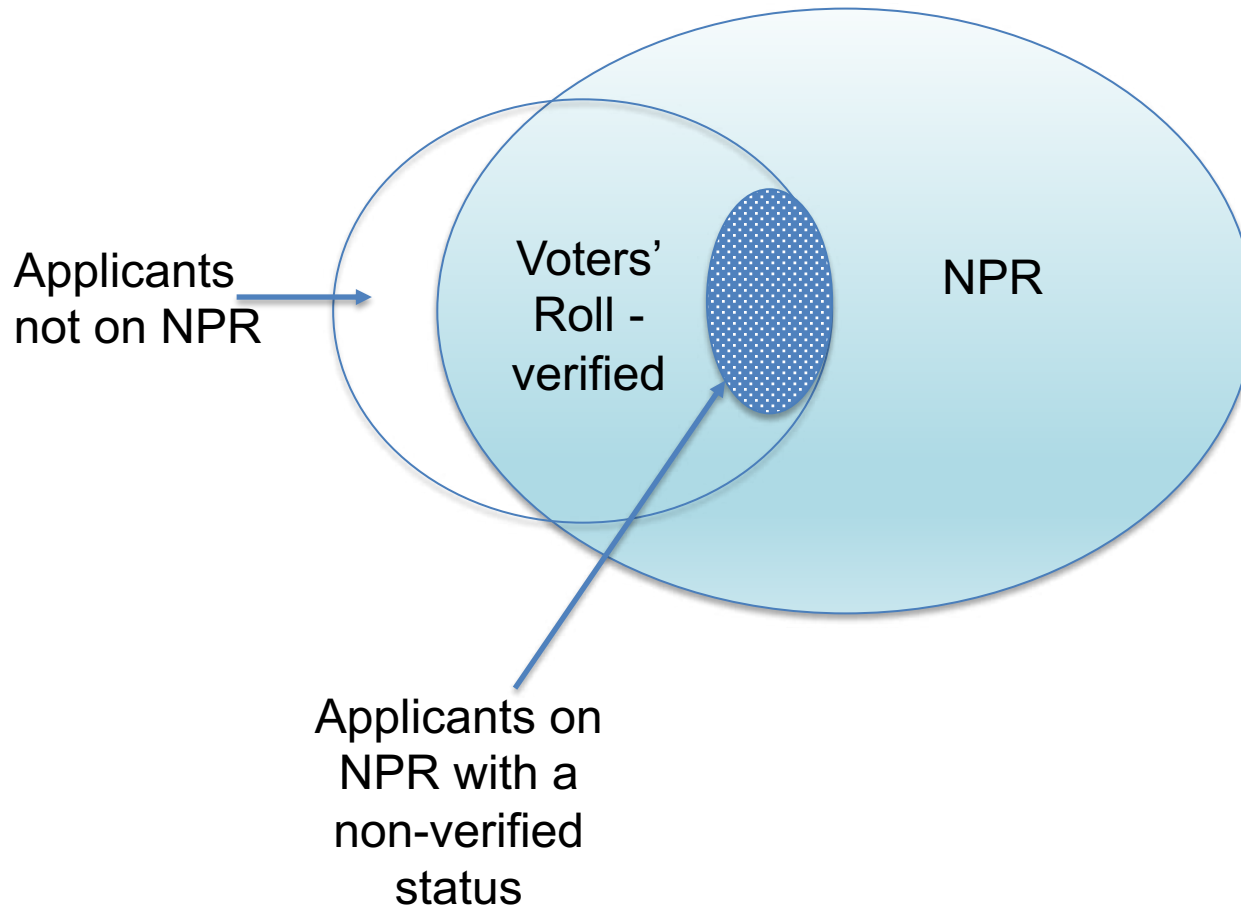
# Voters' Roll – National Population Register

- A National Population Register is maintained by the Department of Home Affairs
- Changes to the NPR are received on a monthly basis and used to keep the Voters' Roll up to date and check applications from registration against
- Any citizen with a verified status, who applies for registration, will be included on the Voters' Roll
- Similarly, a person who is not on the NPR or have a deceased or non South African status will be included on the rejected section of the Voters' Roll



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# Voters' Roll and National Population Register





# Benefits of Using the National Population Register

- Constitutional and Legal Requirements for the Voters' Roll
- Confirmation of citizenship of voter registration applicants
- The law does not enfranchise permanent residents
- Confirmation of age eligibility
- Uniqueness of the ID Number: each citizen ID number is unique
- NPR facilitates one person one vote



# Benefits of Using the National Population Register

- Speed in producing the voters roll which can be produced in a matter weeks
- Avoidance of duplication between the civil registry department and the election management body
- **Political manipulation?** Electoral Commission should have final decisions regarding their data requirements and establish standards to be adhered to, including data verification procedures



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# Voters' Roll – Challenges and Improvements

- The process of capturing details from the REC1 form (particularly the address) became the subject of a court case in December 2015.
- The issue largely is due to the fragmented process where the registration record is received immediately, with the capturing and scanning of the form following only at another stage.
- In order to improve this, stricter controls have been adopted with respect to addresses and in cases where no addresses have been supplied, external addresses are sourced and verified against the voting district of registration.
- An online verification of addresses has been implemented.



# Voters' Roll – Challenges and Improvements

- Create secure profile
- Add or edit address using search, typing or a map
- Confirm address – at this point a link is established to the correct voting district
- If voting district of registration is different from address voting district – advise voter of a move and if accepted, apply the move

The screenshot shows the 'My Address' page on the IEC website. It features three options for submitting an address:

- Option 1: Select your address from the search list** - Includes a search input field and a 'Search' button. Example: '7041 belthaya cres, centurion, south africa'.
- Option 2: Insert/update your address** - A form with fields for: Flat number (e.g., 102), Complex name (e.g., CRESCENT GARDENS PETERMARITZBURG C), Number (e.g., Street no. or house no. or Shop house no. or farm no.), Street name (e.g., 113 LOOP STREET), Suburb (e.g., PETERMARITZBURG CENTRAL), Tribal authority (e.g., Tribal area or admin area in which the village is found), and Town (e.g., PETERMARITZBURG). A 'Confirm Address' button is at the bottom.
- Option 3: Use map to locate your address** - Includes a 'Use map to locate address' button.

At the bottom, there is a 'Submit your address' section with a 'Back' button.

# Voters' Roll – Challenges and Improvements

- The Electoral Commission is also investigating a new registration device which will capture the address at the same time as the registration is taking place.
- The new devices will enable:
  - Recording the registration (similar to current device) with a printed receipt
  - Capture the applicant's address and relate to the correct voting district
  - Immediate transmission of data (where connectivity available) or docking at the various offices





# Contemporary Considerations

- Voters already update addresses online, next phase is to create an online registration portal with sufficient safeguards. This will be facilitated by the capability in the smart card identity document
- Recent elections have necessitated a need to have an online mechanism to confirm if the voter has not previously voted in the same election
- The use of the NPR facilitates biometric validation in instances of identity disputes or theft. However the present electoral framework does not provide for voter authentication at the voting station



# Voters' Roll – Summary

- The elements which enable a comprehensive, maintained voters' roll are:
  - Properly defined geographical units (voting districts and stations)
  - Access to National Population Register which is regularly maintained.
  - Device for recording the registration details.



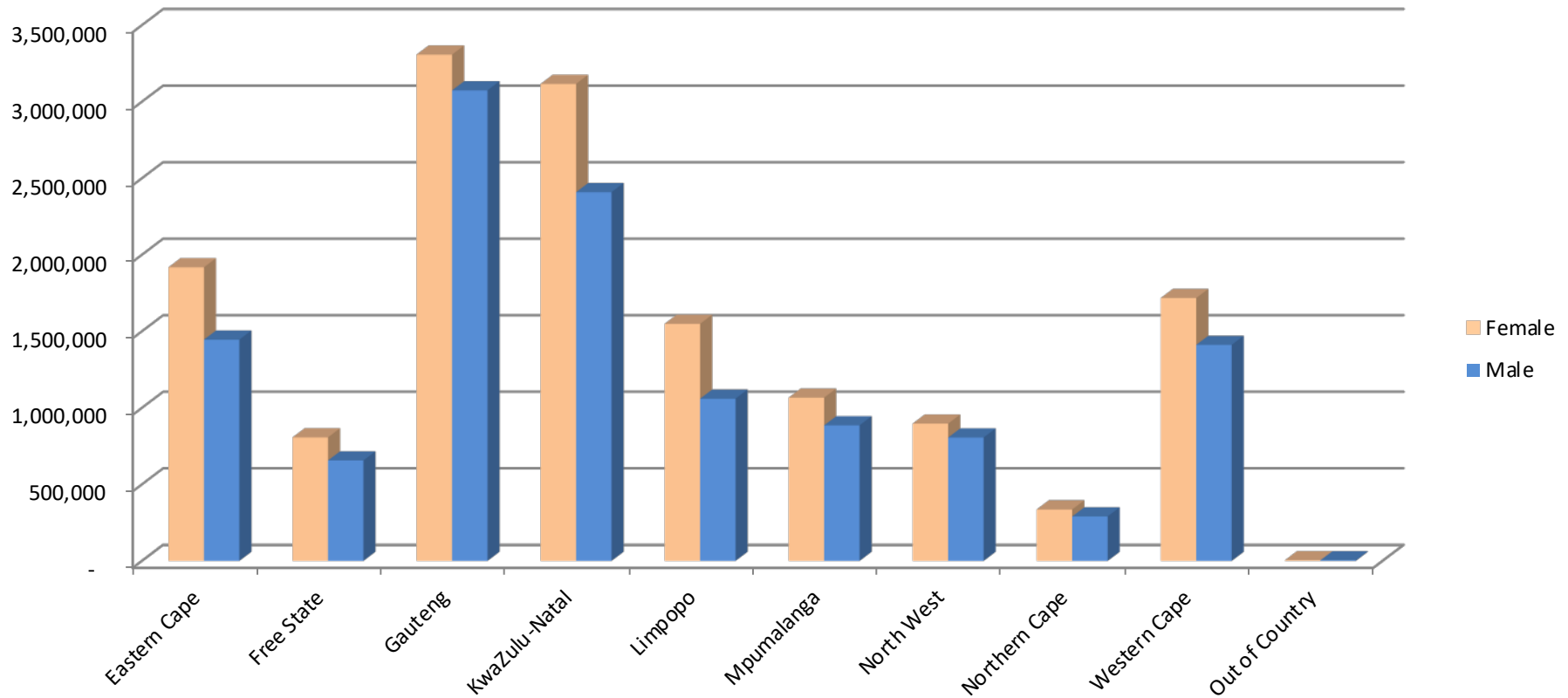
# NPE 2019 Certified Voters' Roll: 18 March 2019

Province	Female	% of Prov Total	Male	% of Prov Total	Prov Total	% of Total
Eastern Cape	1,917,868	57.03%	1,445,293	42.97%	<b>3,363,161</b>	12.57%
Free State	806,532	55.15%	655,976	44.85%	<b>1,462,508</b>	5.47%
Gauteng	3,307,353	51.83%	3,073,867	48.17%	<b>6,381,220</b>	23.85%
KwaZulu-Natal	3,115,942	56.40%	2,408,724	43.60%	<b>5,524,666</b>	20.65%
Limpopo	1,548,805	59.38%	1,059,655	40.62%	<b>2,608,460</b>	9.75%
Mpumalanga	1,066,410	54.64%	885,366	45.36%	<b>1,951,776</b>	7.29%
North West	896,851	52.67%	805,877	47.33%	<b>1,702,728</b>	6.36%
Northern Cape	336,075	53.65%	290,396	46.35%	<b>626,471</b>	2.34%
Western Cape	1,717,237	54.89%	1,411,330	45.11%	<b>3,128,567</b>	11.69%
Out of Country	3,666	51.69%	3,426	48.31%	<b>7,092</b>	0.03%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,716,739</b>	<b>55.00%</b>	<b>12,039,910</b>	<b>45.00%</b>	<b>26,756,649</b>	



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# Voters' Roll Breakdown by gender and province



# Transparency in the Results Collation Process





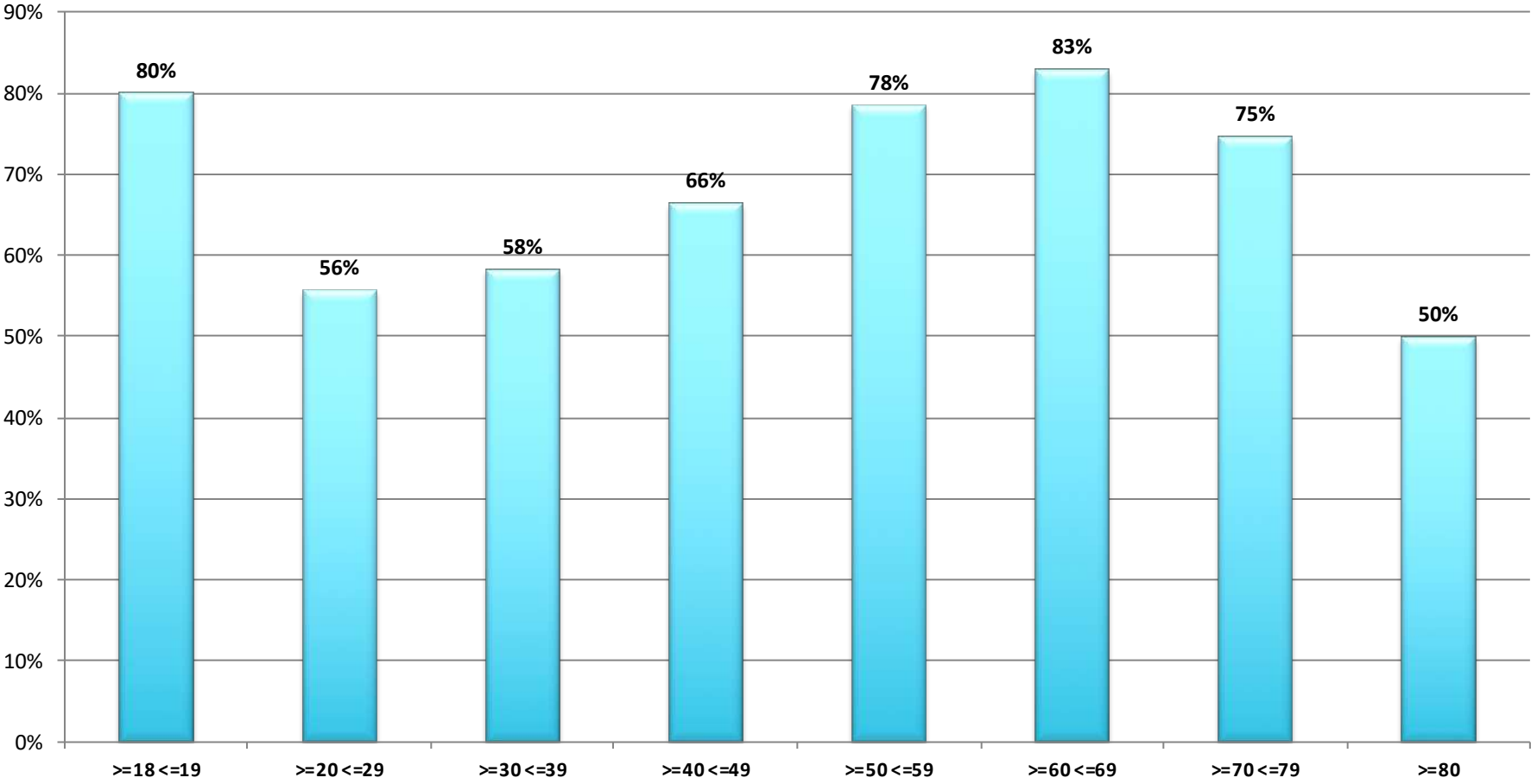
## Voter Participation - Age breakdown

Age	Voters' Roll (A)	VP - Total Received	VP - Adjusted (B)	% Turnout by Age (A/B)
>=18 <=19	341,186	196,495	272,955	80%
>=20 <=29	5,299,144	2,124,986	2,951,862	56%
>=30 <=39	6,685,439	2,803,313	3,894,141	58%
>=40 <=49	5,480,336	2,621,102	3,641,028	66%
>=50 <=59	4,228,558	2,389,316	3,319,049	78%
>=60 <=69	2,737,553	1,633,630	2,269,310	83%
>=70 <=79	1,336,946	718,051	997,460	75%
>=80	647,487	232,866	323,479	50%
Total	26,756,649	12,719,759	17,669,283	66%



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# Percentage age segmented voter turnout



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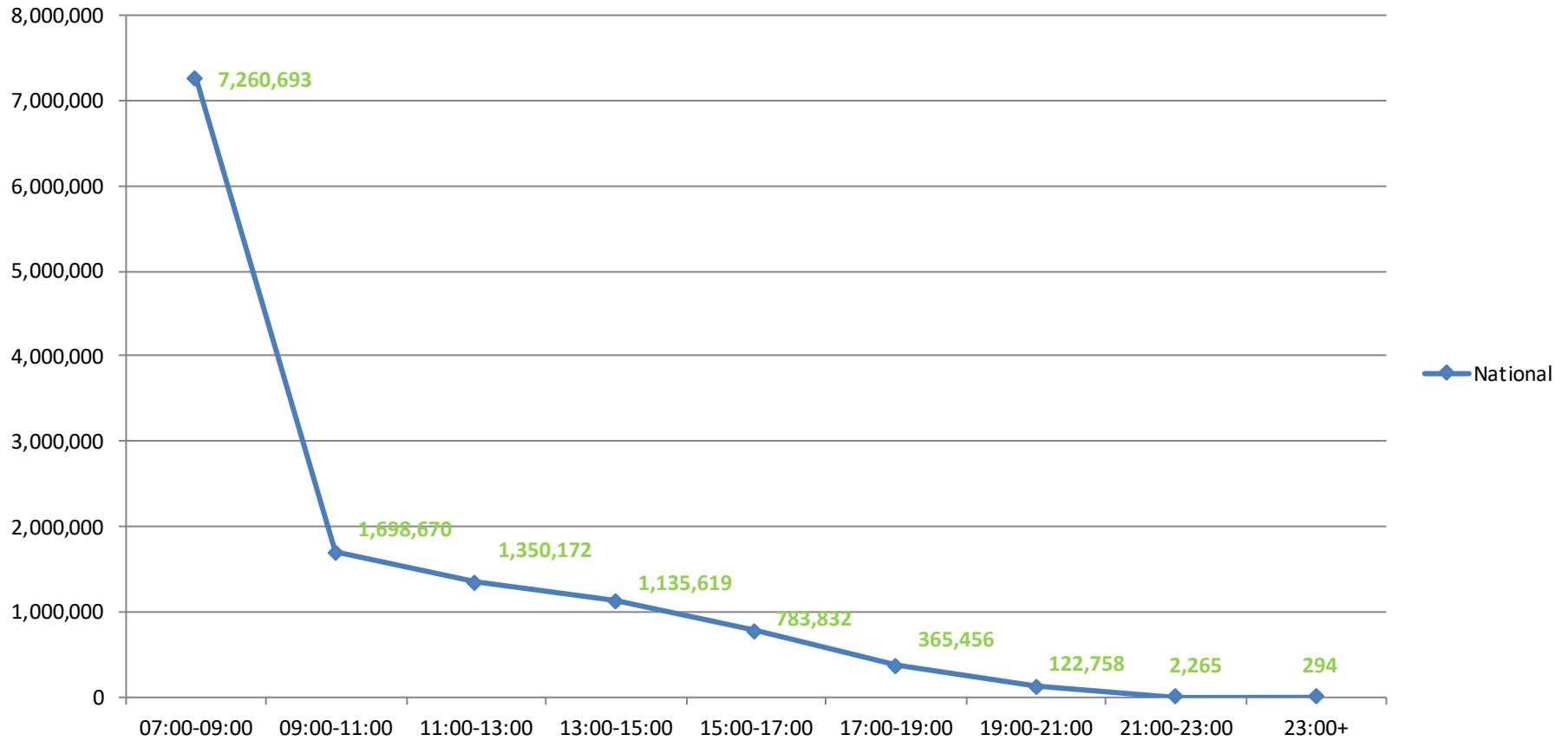
# Voter Participation - Gender breakdown

Gender	Voters' Roll (A)	% Registered by Gender	VP - Total Received	VP - Adjusted (B)	% Vote by Gender (B)	% Turnout by Gender (B/A)
Female	14,716,739	55%	7,288,761	10,124,970	57%	69%
Male	12,039,910	45%	5,430,998	7,544,313	43%	63%
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,756,649</b>		<b>12,719,759</b>	<b>17,669,283</b>		<b>66%</b>



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# Voter Participation by time



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