



Timeline of Somaliland Elections

The following elections, referenda and voter registrations took place in Somaliland from 2001 – 2017

A chronology of key electoral events

- 31st December, 2001 constitutional referendum
 - 15th December, 2002 first local council elections
 - 14th April, 2003 first Presidential Election
 - 29th September, 2005 first parliamentary elections
 - Oct – Mar 2008/9, first biometric voter registration (fingerprint)
 - 26th June, 2010, second presidential election
 - 28th November 2012, second local council elections
 - Jan – Sept 2016, second biometric voter registration (iris Biometric system)
 - 17 November 2017 Third Presidential Election
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ELECTION RESULTS

2001 – Constitutional Referendum

On 31st May 2001, Somaliland held constitutional referenda at which 97% of the voters approved the constitution and 3% rejected it

- **Total Votes - 1,187, 833**
- **Valid Votes - 1,183,242**
- **Invalid Votes - 4,591**
- **YES Votes - 1,148,940**
- **NO Votes - 34,302**

2012 Local Council Elections

The first National Elections on multiparty system was held on December 15, 2002. Six political associations contested and then three of them qualified as The National Political Parties.

- **Total votes cast 440,067**

2003 Presidential Election

On April 14, 2003 Somaliland held its first Presidential elections contested by three political parties.

The Somaliland National Electoral Commission was appointed and successfully implement Somaliland's first two free and fair elections within four months (the Local Council Elections, in December 2002, and the Presidential elections, in April 2003).

- **Total votes - 488,680**

2005 House of Representative Elections

On September 25, 2005 the people of Somaliland directly elected the House of Representatives for the first time by popular vote, in which 246 candidates participated from Six electoral Regions and contested on 82 Seats.

- **Total votes - 670,328**

2008 -2009 Voter registration

After 2005 Parliamentary elections, political stakeholders agreed to establish the first Voter Registry.

- **Close to 1.29 million voters registered in a period of four months.**

2010 Presidential Election

On June 26, 2010 Somaliland held its Second Presidential Elections.

This was a historic moment of crossing the critical threshold in the democratization process by holding the second Presidential Election and witnessing the peaceful transfer of power from the incumbent president to the leader of the opposition.

- **The total number of votes cast was 538,246.**

2012 Local Council Elections

The Somaliland parliament amended the local council election laws to allow new political associations to participate in the 2012 Election. Nearly 15 Associations were registered and, after vetting them only Five Associations qualified to participate in the 2012 election, along with the existing two political parties.

2,368 candidates contested 379 seats

2016 Iris Biometric Voter Registration

- The first Somaliland biometric Voter Registration activity was carried in 2008/2009 in order to eliminate the problem of multiple voting that occurred on a few occasions during the previous elections.
- The 2010 presidential election was held on the 2008/2009 Voter Registration data but was scrutinized and subjected to rigorous cleansing in order to obtain viable data to hold the election on.
- In order to eliminate and not repeat the same mistakes of the past, NEC decided to change the VR system and opted out for the Iris Biometric Voter Registration System as fool- proof to resist and eliminate multiple voting.
- The current Iris Biometric Voter Registration collected and utilized for the holding of the new 2017 Presidential election in the country proved the best way to safeguard against the threat of multiple voting of nomadic population with no fixed address
- Therefore: Somaliland National Electoral Commission (NEC) conducted successful and transparently voter registration making use of Iris Biometric Voter Registration

National Total			
District	Total Registrants	Total Valid	Total Duplicate
Total All Country	907,528	873,442	34,086

Note: The Final Voter List of the Presidential Election conducted in November 13, 2017 contained **704,087** Valid Voters out of the total Valid Voters registered which was **873,442** because more than 169,355 voters didn't collect their Voter ID Card during distribution period

2017 Third Presidential Elections

- Presidential elections were held in Somaliland on 13 November 2017, the third direct presidential election since 2010. This election happened within all the 6 regions in the country

Regions	6
District	21
Polling Stations	1642
Cancelled polling stations	5
Not voting Polling stations	1
Not able to conduct the election	4

- **Total number of Voters=704,198**
- **Total votes cast =565,617**

International Observers.

Sixty international observers from over 27 countries were deployed across Somaliland to observe the elections. Seventeen of the 21 election districts in Somaliland were visited by observers, with 335 of the 1,624 polling stations attended. The report of the Development Planning Unit of University College London concluded that "Throughout the election period, Somalilanders demonstrated their support for the rule of law and constitutional process, voting peacefully and in significant numbers and the mission applauds this ongoing commitment to peaceful participation in an impressively open electoral system.

ELECTION REPORTS from International observers – attachment

1. 2001 Somaliland constitutional referendum report by IRI
 2. 2002 Local council election - Domestic observers report by CONSONGO
 3. 2003 Presidential election report by Norwegian Mission - NORDERM
 4. 2003 Presidential election report by South Africa Mission
 5. 2005 Parliamentary pre-election report by IRI
 6. 2005 Parliamentary international election observers' report by Progressio
 7. 2010 Presidential domestic election observers' Report by SONSAF
 8. 2010 Presidential international election observer's report by Progressio
 9. 2012 Local council election -Pre-election report by Progressio
 10. 2012 Local council election – International election observers' report by Progressio
 11. 2012 Local council election - Domestic election observers' report by SONSAF
(<https://www.progressio.org.uk/sites/progressio.org.uk/files/Swerves-on-the-road-2013.pdf>)
 12. 2016 Biometric Voter Registrations **Progressio**
(https://www.progressio.org.uk/sites/progressio.org.uk/files/progressio_voter_registration_process_in_somaliland_final_170317.pdf)
 13. Domestic election observers' report on the 2017 presidential elections
(<file:///C:/Users/NEC6/Downloads/somaliland-decides---domestic-election-observers-report-on-the-2017-presidential-elections.pdf>)
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