



# National Electoral Commission (NEC)

OAU Drive, Tower Hill  
Freetown-Sierra Leone



## ELECTORAL CALENDAR FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS 2018

### Presidential, Parliamentary, Paramount Chief Members of Parliament (PCMP) and Local Councils

NO	DATE	ACTIVITY	COMMENTS/LEGAL PROVISIONS
<b>BOUNDARY DELIMITATION: MARCH 2016 – MAY 2017(Section 38(1 to 7) of the 1991 Constitution)</b>			
1.	March 2016	Release of Provisional census figures by SSL	
2.	May 2016	Receipt of Letter from Parliament on number of seats in Parliament	Letter received from Clerk of Parliament dated 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2016 prescribed 132 seats.
3.	May – December 2016	Delimitation of constituencies and wards	
4.	December 2016 – July 2017	Submission of bills on new constituencies and wards to Parliament	Extended to July 2017 due to the de-amalgamation and re-districting processes.
<b>DECLARATION OF DATE FOR ELECTIONS: FEBRUARY 2017</b>			
5.	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Public notice on date for elections	Section 43 of the Constitution and Section 43(2) of the Public Elections Act <sup>1</sup> (PEA) of 2012 for Presidential elections; Section 87 (1) of the Constitution and Section 57 of the PEA <sup>2</sup> for general elections; and Section 103 of the PEA for the Local Council elections  Section 76 (1b) of the 1991 Constitution <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The vacancy to be filled by a presidential election shall be declared by the Electoral Commission by proclamation made after consultation with the President.

<sup>2</sup> The time for a general election of the ordinary members of parliament shall be appointed by proclamation made by the President after consultation with the Electoral Commission.

<sup>3</sup> No person shall be qualified for election as a Member of Parliament— if he is a member of any Commission established under this Constitution, or a member of the Armed Forces of the Republic, or a public officer, or an employee of a Public Corporation established by an Act of Parliament, or has been such a member, officer or employee within twelve months prior to the date on which he seeks to be elected to Parliament;

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<b>VOTER REGISTRATION: MARCH – SEPTEMBER 2017</b>			
6.	February 2017	Public notice on voter registration	Section 22 of the PEA Declaration of intention to compile voter register.
7.	20 <sup>th</sup> March – 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2017 (6 weeks)	Field Data Capture	NEC asked Parliament for an enlargement of time from 15 to 42 days (Sec. 164 of the PEA)
8.	May – June 2017	Data processing, de-duplication and adjudication	
9.	July – August 2017	Printing of PVR , Exhibition, Inquiry and corrections	
10.	Sept. 2017	Printing of Final Voter Register and distribution of voter ID Cards	<i>“The registration of voters, updating and revision of the voters register shall be conducted not later than six months before an election or referendum, as the case may be”.</i> (Section 17 of the PEA of 2012).
<b>VILLAGE HEAD ELECTIONS: SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2017</b>			
11.	October - November 2017	Village Head Elections	The last village head elections were conducted on 29 <sup>th</sup> June, 2013 and Village Heads were sworn into office on 30 <sup>th</sup> September, 2013. <i>“Subject to this Order, the head of a village or town shall hold office for four years”.</i> (Section 8 of the Western Area Rural District Council (Establishment) Order, 2005 of Statutory Instrument No. 16 as amended)
<b>NOMINATION: LOCAL COUNCILS, PARAMOUNT CHIEF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, ORDINARY MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT &amp; PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS</b>			
12.	December 2017	Declaration of nomination periods	<i>“When a time is appointed for a general election, the Electoral Commission shall, by Government Notice, require that nominations of candidates be delivered to the Electoral Commission or the Returning Officer designated by the</i>

			<i>Commission before four o'clock in the afternoon of the day specified in the Government Notice, which shall not be more than sixty and not less than thirty days before the day appointed for voting in the elections".</i> (Section 59 of the PEA)
13.	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2017	Dissolution of Local Councils	The last Local Council Elections were held on 17 November, 2012. Councillors, Mayors and Chairpersons were sworn in December 2012.  <b>NOTE: Local Council Elections have been postponed from December 2016 to the next general elections (The Local Government Act, 2016 {Amendment}).</b>

14.	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 (12 days)	Nomination Period for Local Council Elections	<i>"A person shall present himself for nomination for election to a local council either as a Chairperson or as a Councillor"</i> (Section 104 of the PEA). Section 60 – 97 and Section 105 of the PEA also applies to local councils.
15.	7 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Dissolution of Parliament	<i>"Parliament shall stand dissolved at the expiration of a period of five years commencing from the date of its first sitting after a general election"</i> (Section 85 (1) of the 1991 Constitution. <b>Date of first sitting of parliament was 7th Dec. 2012.</b>
16.	17 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2018 (10 days)	Nomination period for Presidential and Parliamentary elections (including Paramount Chief Members of Parliament)	<i>"A general election of the Members of Parliament shall be held not earlier than thirty days and not later than ninety days after any dissolution of Parliament: <b>Provided that nominations for such elections shall in no case be closed within fourteen days after dissolution"</b>.</i> (Section 87(1) of the 1991 Constitution and Section 59 of the PEA).

	27 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> January, 2018	Objections, appeals to NEC & publication of final list of candidates	Nomination Period includes: Training, submissions, objections, appeals to NEC & publication of final list of candidates  NEC headquarters for Presidential elections and District offices for Parliamentary elections.
17	4 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2018 (22days)	Campaign period for PCMP Elections	

18.	<b>27<sup>th</sup> February 2018</b>	<b>Polling Day for PCMP Elections</b>	
19.	4 <sup>th</sup> February –5 <sup>th</sup> March 2018 (30 days)	Campaign Period for Presidential, Parliamentary & Local Council Elections	<i>“The Electoral Commission shall, after the close of nominations and after consultation with registered political parties and candidates contesting elections, determine and declare by Government Notice the period when campaigning by candidates and political parties may begin and end”.</i> (Section 148(1) of the PEA 2012)
20.	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Cooling Off (No Campaign)	
<b>21.</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> March 2018</b>	<b>Polling Day for Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Council Elections</b>	Section 84(2) of the 1991 Constitution <sup>4</sup>
22.	24 <sup>th</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	Possible Presidential Run-off	Possible run-off between the two candidates with the highest number (s) of votes polled in the 1st round within 14 days of the announcement of certified results of the previous elections (as per section sec. 42 subsection 2 (e & f) of the 1991

<sup>4</sup> There shall be a session of Parliament not later than 28 days from the holding of an election of MPs. Thus from 7<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 is exactly 28 days.

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