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## LEGAL PRACTICE COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2018

### COUNTING PROCESS

***VOTING PERIOD: 19 SEPTEMBER UNTIL 3 October 2018 (12 midday)***

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#### **The National Forum will ensure the secrecy of the ballots**

The National Forum subscribes to a conviction that successful elections are not only dependent on the voters' turnout but its organisation and management as well. One of the key elements in the proper management of elections is to ensure that the identity of the voter is, as far as possible, protected in order to eliminate any or potential threat of the voters. The National Forum is committed to ensuring that the election of the Legal Practice Council are conducted in such a way that the identity or security of the voters is not compromised.

It is however, worth noting that the need to ensure secret ballots competes with other equally important elements of conducting free and fair elections such as avoiding voting by illegitimate people or multiple voting. To avoid voting by non-practicing legal practitioners or double or multiple voting by legitimate voters the National Forum requires all voters to declare that they are practicing attorneys / advocates and that they have not already voted in this election. In the said declaration one records his names and identity number.

Concerns have been raised that the declaration form has a potential of divulging the identity of the voter and thereby compromise the election process. Voters must be assured that the following measures in place are sufficient to safeguard identity of voters, namely:-

1. All envelopes will be opened by the Referee and the Executive Officer (as delegated by the Chairperson) in the absence of any other person;
2. **Votes casted at a polling station**
  - 2.1 Declaration will be verified by the Referee and the Executive Officer without opening the envelope;
  - 2.2 Envelopes without declaration or whose declaration do not comply with regulation 2(11)(c) will be put aside unopened, in a box marked "invalid declaration"; and
  - 2.3 The ballot papers whose declaration are compliant with the regulation shall be put in a separate ballot box marked "valid declaration". The accompanying declaration shall not be put together with the ballot paper in this box.

3. **Votes casted and delivered to the designated address by mail/docex/courier/hand**
  - 3.1 Envelopes shall be opened by the Referee and the Executive Officer, take out declaration without checking the ballot paper.
    - 3.1.1 Verify the declaration;
    - 3.1.2 If the declaration is valid the ballot paper will be deposited in the box marked “valid declaration”; and
    - 3.1.3 If there is no declaration in the envelope or if the declaration is invalid the ballot paper will be deposited in the “invalid box”
4. The Referee and the Executive Officer shall hand over all the ballot boxes marked “valid declaration” to the scrutineers who will attend to them in accordance to regulation 2(24).

**PLEASE NOTE THAT VOTING STATIONS MUST RECEIVE BALLOT PAPERS SEALED IN A VOTERS PERSONAL ENVELOPE (EXCEPT THE ONE AVAILABLE AT THE STATION) PROVIDED THE VOTER HAS INCLUDED HIS COMPLETED AND SIGNED DECLARATION**

For voting queries please call EISA on 0800 114 373 or email [lpcelections@eisa.org.za](mailto:lpcelections@eisa.org.za)