

FreeFACTS

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New paradigm for SA as political land shifts

The local government elections held at the beginning of November were historic, as the ANC dropped below 50% for the first time ever in a nation-wide election. Although it was still the biggest-single party in the country and most municipalities across South Africa it lost significant support and the party losing its grip on power on national power is now a distinct possibility.

This edition of *FreeFACTS* looks at the election results from 1 November, with selected comparisons to the previous local government election of 2016.

The key findings of this edition are how the ANC's support has slipped in the country's metros. As an aggregate the ANC's support in the eight metros is now at only 34.9%. The DA is not far behind with 34.3% of all voters in metros supporting that party.

In addition, the ANC was the single biggest party in six of the eight metros, but in only two of those – Buffalo City and Mangaung – did it win an outright majority (with its majority in Mangaung being razor thin).

This edition of *FreeFACT* also gives an overview of aggregate vote shares in the various provinces. Although the ANC is still rock solid in some of the rural provinces, such as Limpopo and the Eastern Cape, it is losing ground fast in other parts of the country, particularly KwaZulu-Natal.

However, one trend that emerged from this election that must be watched is the large and growing proportion of people that voted for a party other than one of the Big Three of the ANC, DA, and EFF.

In 2016 only 11% of voters cast their ballot for a party other than one of the Big Three. In 2021 this had more than doubled, to 22.5%. This was particularly notable in the three provinces with the biggest economies, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Western Cape.

This election could be a watershed moment in South African political history with the ANC's aggregate voting share now lower than 50%. A post-ANC South Africa could be closer than we think.

— **Marius Roodt**

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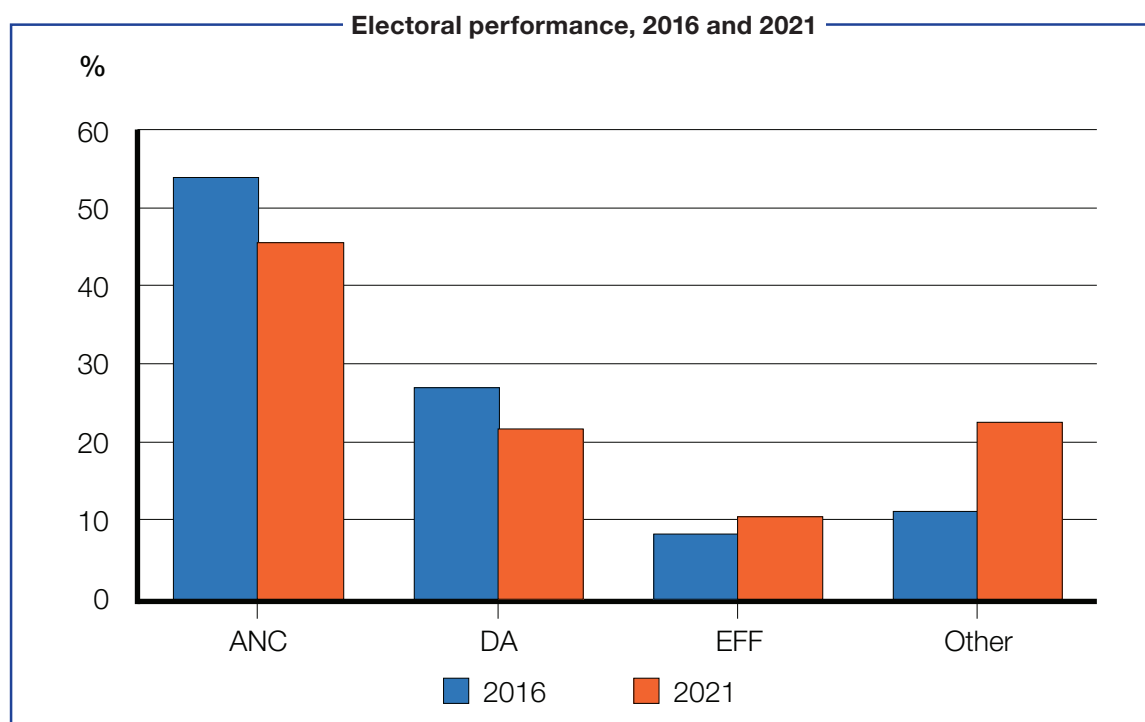
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Local government election results

Local government election results, 2016 and 2021 (selected parties)						
	2016		2021		Change: 2016-2021	
	Votes	Seats	Votes	Seats	Votes	Seats
ANC	53.9%	5 163	45.6%	4 546	-15.4%	-12.0%
DA	26.9%	1 782	21.6%	1 495	-19.7%	-16.1%
EFF	8.2%	761	10.3%	978	25.6%	28.5%
IFP	4.3%	432	5.7%	545	32.6%	26.2%
FF+	0.8%	67	2.3%	221	187.5%	229.9%
ACDP	0.4%	22	0.8%	49	100.0%	122.7%
PA	0.1%	5	1.0%	75	900.0%	1400.0%
ActionSA	N/A	N/A	2.3%	90	N/A	
Other	5.4%	414	10.4%	795	92.6%	92.0%
Total	100.0%	8 646	100.0%	8 794		1.7%

Source: IEC



Local government election results

Local government election results, by province, 2016 and 2021 (selected parties)

	2016				2021			
	ANC	DA	EFF	Others	ANC	DA	EFF	Others
Eastern Cape	65.3%	19.7%	5.2%	9.8%	63.0%	15.3%	7.9%	13.8%
Free State	61.5%	20.4%	9.7%	8.4%	50.6%	18.8%	12.4%	18.2%
Gauteng	45.8%	37.2%	11.4%	5.6%	36.1%	28.7%	11.9%	23.3%
KwaZulu-Natal	57.5%	15.2%	3.5%	23.8%	41.4%	12.9%	8.6%	37.1%*
Limpopo	68.8%	8.1%	16.7%	6.4%	68.3%	5.6%	14.3%	11.8%
Mpumalanga	70.7%	12.9%	9.4%	7.0%	59.3%	11.7%	15.2%	13.8%
North West	59.4%	15.0%	15.5%	10.1%	55.4%	11.4%	16.5%	16.7%
Northern Cape	58.3%	24.9%	8.6%	8.2%	50.6%	20.0%	10.5%	18.9%
Western Cape	26.2%	63.3%	2.8%	7.7%	20.4%	54.3%	3.4%	21.9%

Source: IEC

Note: These results are the aggregate results in each province. They have no bearing on provincial governments (elections to elect provincial governments are held concurrently with national elections) but this does give a snapshot of electoral trends. The key trends are the drop in support for the ANC and DA and the extraordinary growth in the proportion of people who didn't vote for the ANC, DA, or EFF.

* The IFP won 24% in KwaZulu-Natal in 2021

The state of play in the metros, 2016 and 2021 (seat share)

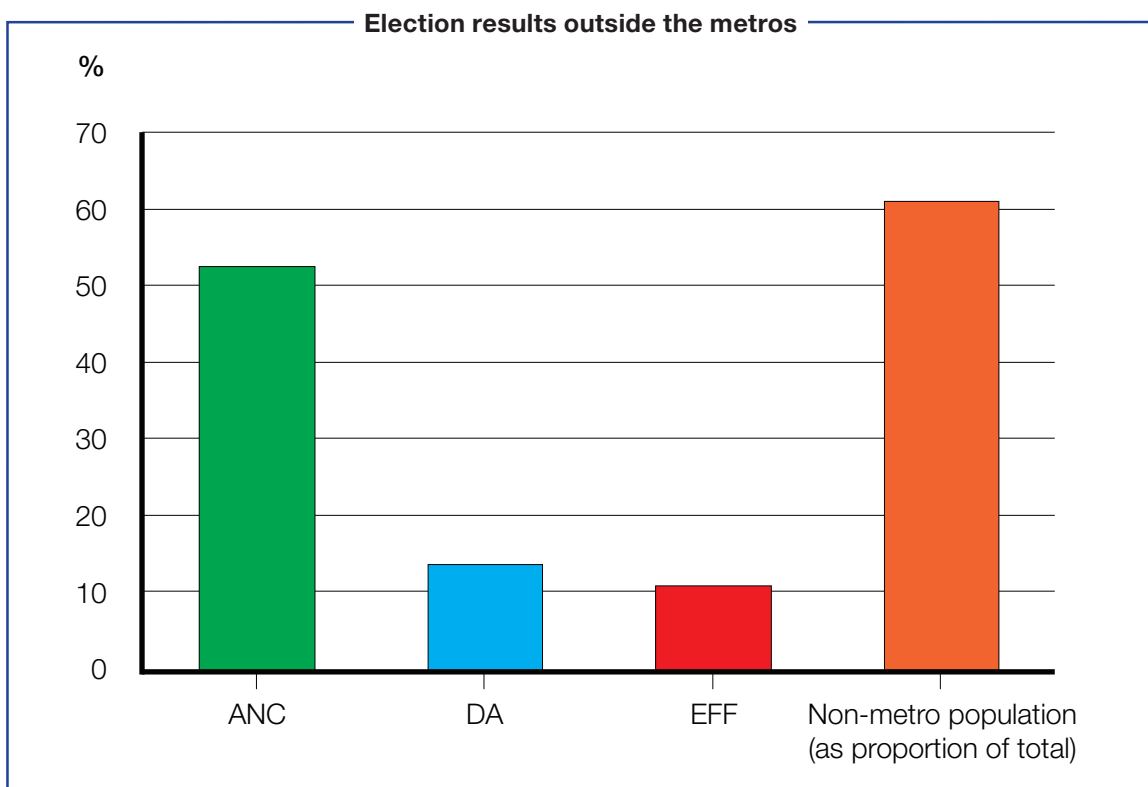
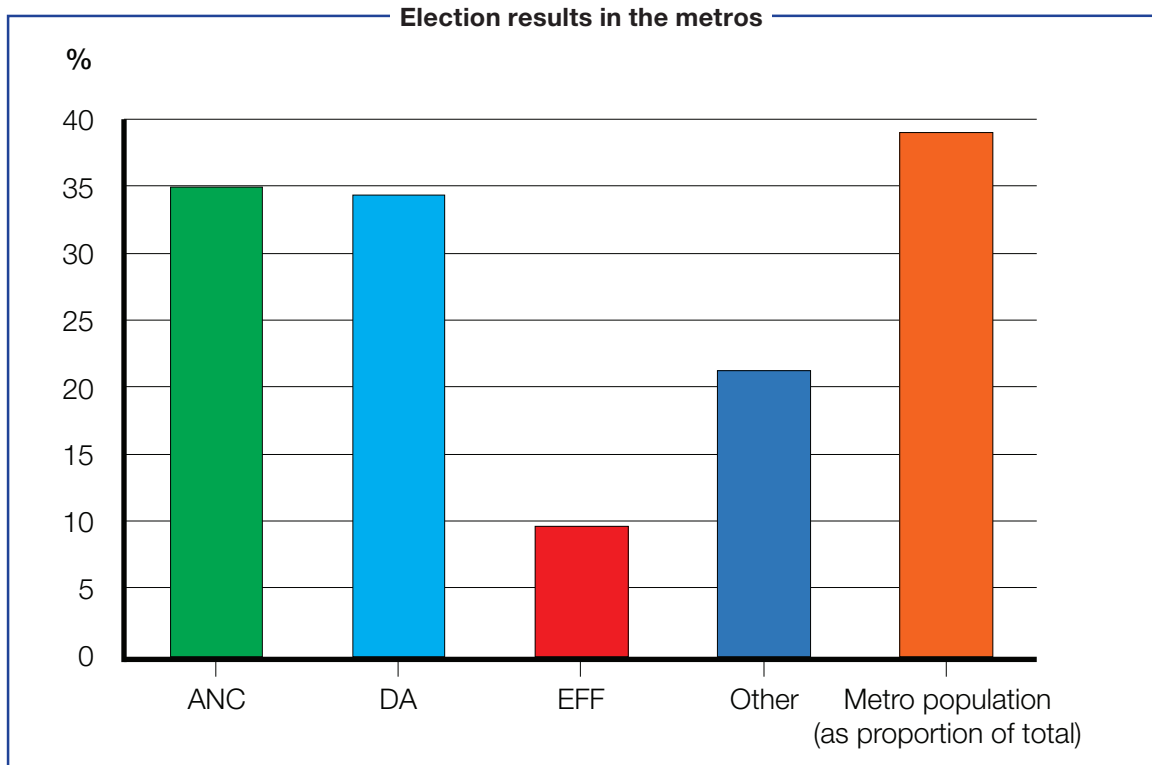
Cape Town			
	2016	2021	Change
ANC	57	43	-14
DA	154	135	-19
EFF	7	10	3
GOOD	-	9	9
ACDP	3	6	3
FF+	1	4	3
Cape Coloured Congress	-	7	7
Other	9	17	8
Total	231		
Nelson Mandela Bay			
	2016	2021	Change
ANC	50	48	-2
DA	57	48	-9
EFF	6	8	2
NA	-	3	3
ACDP	1	2	1
FF+	-	2	2
Other	6	9	3
Total	120		
Buffalo City			
	2016	2021	Change
ANC	60	61	1
DA	24	20	-4
EFF	8	13	5
UDM	1	1	0
PAC	1	1	0
AIC	4	1	-3
Other	2	3	1
Total	100		

Local government election results

The state of play in the metros, 2016 and 2021 (seat share)			
Mangaung			
	2016	2021	Change
ANC	58	51	-7
DA	27	26	-1
EFF	9	12	3
FF+	2	5	3
PA	-	2	2
AASD*	-	2	2
Other	4	3	-1
Total	100	101	1
*Afrikan Alliance of Social Democrats			
eThekweni			
	2016	2021	Change
ANC	126	96	-30
DA	61	58	-3
EFF	8	24	16
IFP	10	16	6
ASA	-	4	4
ACC*	-	2	2
Other	14	22	8
Total	219	222	3
*Active Citizens Coalition			
Ekurhuleni			
	2016	2021	Change
ANC	109	86	-23
DA	77	65	-12
EFF	25	31	6
ASA	-	15	15
FF+	2	8	6
PA	1	4	3
Other	10	15	5
Total	224		
Tshwane			
	2016	2021	Change
ANC	89	75	-14
DA	93	69	-24
EFF	25	23	-2
ASA	-	19	19
FF+	4	17	13
ACDP	1	2	1
Other	2	9	7
Total	214		
Johannesburg			
	2016	2021	Change
ANC	121	91	-30
DA	104	71	-33
EFF	30	29	-1
ASA	-	44	44
PA	1	8	7
FF+	1	4	3
Other	13	23	10
Total	270		

Source: IEC

Local government election results



Local government election results

Control of councils, 2016 and 2021

	2016			2021			Change: 2016-2021		
	Number of councils controlled outright	Number of councils leading	Total	Number of councils controlled outright	Number of councils leading	Total	Number of councils controlled outright	Number of councils leading	Total
ANC	161	15	176	122	45	167	-24.2%	200.0%	-5.1%
DA	19	5	24	12	12	24	-36.8%	140.0%	-
IFP	6	5	11	9	7	16	50.0%	40.0%	45.5%
ICOSA	0	1	1	0	1	1	-	-	-
NFP	0	0	0	0	1	1	-	-	-

Source: IEC