



Frequently Asked Questions *about* **RUN-OFF ELECTION RESULTS MANAGEMENT**

Presidential

Run-Off
Election

Sierra Leone
31 March 2018
7am - 5pm

For more information about
the National Electoral
Commission,
please visit:
www.necsl.org

How will the winner of the run-off Presidential election be determined?

Distinct from the first round (7 March) election, in which a winning candidate was required to secure no less than 55 percent of the valid votes, the winner of the run-off (31 March) will be the candidate who receives the higher number of valid votes – even if it is less than 55 percent. This is known as “first past the post” or a “simple majority” system. It is one of the most commonly used systems in the world, and is in accordance with the Constitution of Sierra Leone.

Will results be counted and tallied the same way as they were in the first round?

In the first round, election results were arrived at in two stages. Firstly, ballot papers were counted by the Presiding Officer in every polling station, recorded on a Reconciliation and Results Form (RRF) and sealed inside a tamper-evident bag for secure delivery. Secondly, results recorded on the Forms were entered into an electronic database, which tallied nationwide results.

In the run-off election, Presiding Officers will still count ballots in polling stations, after they have closed. Just as before, these will be sealed into tamper evident envelopes for transport to National Electoral Commission (NEC) District Offices and the NEC Regional Tally Centres.

At the Regional Tally Centres, the envelopes will be opened and the data on the RRF will be data entered into the NEC tally system. When all RRF for a District have been data entered, the District Returning Officer – a permanent NEC official – will certify the result.

When the whole District is processed, the District Returning Officer will order a district summary to be produced and printed. This summary, once checked, accepted and certified by the District Returning Officer, will be copied and shared with the lead agent for each candidate who is present in the centre at the time. The summary will also be posted on the wall of the Regional Tally Centre and at the relevant District Office.

The NEC has established a parallel, separate collation system to collate the regional and national results. When the Regional Returning Officer receives the certified district summary from District Returning Officer, she/he will direct the data entry of those results into the parallel system. From this parallel system, the Regional Returning Officer will generate a regional summary for certification. This regional summary, once certified, will be shared with the lead agent for each candidate who is present in the centre at the time, and posted at the Regional Tally Centre.

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The Regional Returning Officer will physically take the regional result summary to the National Tally Centre. These results will be further data entered into the parallel separate collation system under the supervision of the National Returning Officer or his delegate. A national summary will be generated to stand as the national result for certification and declaration by the National Returning Officer.

How will results be secured while they are being transported from polling stations to District Offices?

Similarly to the first round, party/candidate agents and observers will be able to follow materials as they are in transit – from polling stations and centres, to District Offices, Regional Tally Centre and finally to the National Tally Centre. In addition, materials will now be escorted by the Sierra Leone Police.

What is the role of party agents in Regional Tally Centres?

Based on feedback received after the first election, the NEC has enhanced the access to the process for agents. For example, up to four agents (two from each candidate) will be allowed in tally centres at any one time; tally centres may be rearranged for easier access; the NEC has produced a guide and will offer briefing to agents and more election staff will be available to answer their questions, throughout the process; and agents will receive print-outs of polling station results, once they have been finalized and entered into the tally system.