



Local government is in a mess. Many local municipalities are bankrupt and unable to deliver services. As a result, citizens are suffering, deprived of their constitutional right to basic services. The prospect of local government elections in six to eight months is doing very little to inspire citizens with hope. Trust in existing political parties – and the system as a whole – is at an all-time low. In many respects, the political party system is the primary reason local government faces the challenge it faces. It has led to corruption, poor service delivery and no accountability. This in turn has led to decreasing participation in democracy in South Africa. Each election fewer and fewer people vote. South Africans are tapping out of the system as they feel it's broken and doesn't serve their needs.

The solution to this is to break up the control political parties have on our municipalities and enable a direct link between citizens and those that represent them in municipal councils. In so doing, we will enable citizens with the values, skills and experience to come together to form governments to rescue the bankrupt, ailing municipalities and set them on the path to service delivery.

In order to do this, residents of municipalities will need to stand as independents in municipal wards in the forthcoming local government elections. While this may result in the election of independents as ward councillors, it doesn't guarantee a citizen-led takeover of a municipality as independents will not be able to benefit from the proportional representation vote.

Section 15A of the Electoral Commission Act of 1996 provides the answer to this. In terms of this provision, an organisation or movement can participate in municipal elections in a *specific municipality*, without being registered as a traditional political party with political party structures. Using this provision, municipal residents can prepare for independent candidates to stand for election in various wards, whilst also registering as a conglomerate of independent candidates to gain the benefit of the PR vote. This will then enable a citizen-led organisation to be able to win control of municipal wards but also an entire municipality, thereby forming a citizen-led government.

In order to make this happen in a specific municipality, we recommend the following process:

1. Residents of a municipality must call together key influencers and community leaders to form a residents steering committee.
2. The Steering Committee must call together a municipal stakeholders meeting including but not limited to a business chamber, farmers union, rate payers association, parents associations and faith based organisations. The Steering Committee would form an association that would need to choose a name e.g. The Ceres Residents Association.
3. The relevant association should then register in terms of S15A of the Electoral Commission Act to contest all wards and the entire municipality.
4. The association should then nominate the top community and ward leaders to stand as ward and PR candidates in the local government election.

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5. A campaign plan must then be developed and executed to ensure the nominees become elected and form a new government that restores power to the people and rescues the municipality.

The One South Africa Movement (OSA) stands ready to support any association both in registering to contest the elections, selecting their candidates, developing their campaign plan and executing the election campaign. Provided an association commits to OSA's Pact (attached hereto as 'Appendix A'), OSA would enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with an association in terms of which, OSA would provide the following support:

1. Assisting the association with registration with the IEC.
2. Developing and rolling out candidate nominations.
3. Developing municipal and ward voter profiles.
4. Developing a campaign strategy and plan, including bespoke messaging.
5. Developing a registration campaign.
6. Developing municipal and ward campaign teams, offering training on:
  - a. How to be an effective candidate.
  - b. How to be an effective councillor.
  - c. Designing, structuring and rolling out a campaign (Earned media, digital, events, field, data management, Get Out the Vote, Election Day management).
  - d. How to conduct a comprehensive canvass.
7. Training relevant individuals on fundraising and providing active support in developing and rolling out a fundraising strategy.
8. Arranging for the OSA Chief Activist and other national leaders to campaign in the municipality. In addition, OSA volunteers and members will be directed to support local campaigns and fulfil campaign roles.
9. Providing ongoing campaign support and infrastructure, including:
  - a. Measurement of key campaign metrics.
  - b. Tracking of voter support in the municipality.
  - c. Preparing for GOTV (Getting Out The Vote) and Election Day.
  - d. Ongoing mentoring and support to key candidates and campaign managers.

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