

## Dominica

<b>Background</b>	<b>Name of EMB:</b>	Electoral Office of Dominica
	<b>Status:</b>	Permanent
<b>Establishment of the EMB</b>	<b>Number of commissioners:</b>	Five
	<b>Number of full-time EMB staff:</b>	Four
	<b>Constitutional and/or legislative provisions for establishment of the EMB:</b>	Section 56 (3) of the Constitution of Dominica establishes the Electoral Commission; Section 87 of the Constitution creates the post of Chief Elections Officer; and Section 26 of the Registration of Electors Act Chap. 2:03 establishes the Electoral Office.
	<b>EMB's mandate:</b>	The Electoral Commission and the Electoral Office are responsible for the registration of all qualified electors and conducting of national and local authorities elections in Dominica.
	<b>EMB model:</b>	Mixed
	<b>What standards are established in the constitution or other legislation for democratic legitimacy?</b>	The standards are laid out in the Constitution, Registration of Electors Act and the House of Assembly (Elections) Act.
	<b>Provisions for the appointment of commissioners:</b>	Commissioners are appointed by the president on the advice of the Prime Minister and the opposition leader, and the Chair is appointed by the President on his or her own judgement.
<b>Appointment, tenure and removals</b>	<b>Political status of commissioners:</b>	Commissioners are appointed based on party affiliation.
	<b>Chair qualifications:</b>	The Chair has to have been a lawyer for not less than seven years.
	<b>Commissioner qualifications:</b>	The Commissioner shall not be a member of the House of Assembly or a public officer.
	<b>Tenure of chair and commissioners:</b>	The term of office of the Commission shall be when the House of Assembly first meets after the dissolution of Parliament after appointment, and can be renewed.
	<b>Provisions for the removal of commissioners:</b>	Commissioners can only be removed by the President on the recommendation of a tribunal, appointed by the President, consisting of judges selected by the Chief Justice. Sections (6), (7) and (8) of the Constitution refer.
	<b>Provisions for the appointment of EMB senior staff:</b>	The Chief Elections Officer is appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Electoral Commission. (Section 87 (1) of the Constitution.)

	<b>Tenure of EMB senior staff:</b>	The chief elections officer can serve up to the age prescribed by parliament in accordance with the Constitution.
	<b>Provisions for the removal of EMB senior staff:</b>	The Chief Elections Officer can be removed from office by the President on the recommendations of a tribunal, appointed by the President, consisting of judges selected by the Chief Justice.
<b>Funding arrangements</b>	<b>Setting and control of EMB's budget:</b>	The Chief Elections Officer sets and controls the budget.
	<b>Financial autonomy:</b>	The budget of the Electoral Office is approved by Parliament through the Ministry of Finance, which determines and controls the release of the budget.
	<b>Legal provisions for financial autonomy:</b>	The national budget is the responsibility of the Minister for Finance in accordance with Section 78 (1) of the Constitution.
<b>Electoral system</b>	<b>Number of chambers/houses within the legislature:</b>	Unicameral
	<b>Voting system:</b>	The voting system in Dominica is majoritarian for one chamber.
	<b>Amendments to electoral laws:</b>	All proposed bills, regulations or amendments shall be referred to the Electoral Commission and chief elections officer for comments prior to introductions to the House of Assembly.
	<b>Drafting of electoral regulations:</b>	The Electoral Commission can make recommendations of regulations for submission to the Attorney-General for parliamentary approval.
<b>Electoral disputes</b>	<b>Electoral dispute resolution mechanisms:</b>	All disputes and petitions are presented to the High Court for determination.
<b>Other issues:</b>		
<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>Administrative autonomy:</b>	All staff posts are created and abolished by the Cabinet on the recommendations of the Government Personnel Department; however, the chief elections officer should be consulted for appointments and promotions.
	<b>Women in senior positions:</b>	There is only one senior position in the Electoral Office and this is currently held by a man. From March 1995 to March 2012, the position was held by two women for a single eight-year period each.
	<b>Administrative structure:</b>	The size of the staff of the Electoral Office presently limits it to one department handling all the functions mandated by law. These functions include the registration of electors, managing the elector's lists and conducting all elections in Dominica.