

## Fiji Islands

<b>Background</b>	<b>Name of EMB:</b>	Fijian Elections Office
	<b>Status:</b>	Permanent
	<b>Number of commissioners:</b>	Seven
	<b>Number of full-time EMB staff:</b>	46
<b>Establishment of the EMB</b>	<b>Constitutional and/or legislative provisions for establishment of the EMB:</b>	Established under Section 9 of the Electoral Decree, 2014.
	<b>EMB's mandate:</b>	The mandate of the Fijiian Elections Office is to conduct general and other elections in Fiji as prescribed under Section 154 of the Electoral Decree, 2014, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the continuous registration of voters and the amendments to the voters roll;</li> <li>b. the registration of political parties;</li> <li>c. voter information and education initiatives;</li> <li>d. overseeing compliance with campaign rules and reporting requirements.</li> </ul>
	<b>EMB model:</b>	Independent
	<b>What standards are established in the constitution or other legislation for democratic legitimacy?</b>	Section 23 (3) of the Constitution, 2013, states that every citizen has the right to free, fair and regular elections, whereby the citizens are given the right to have a say in the decision-making process of the country.
<b>Appointment, tenure and removals</b>	<b>Provisions for the appointment of commissioners:</b>	Under Section 75 (7) of the Constitution, the chairperson and the members of the commission are appointed by the President on the advice of the Constitutional Offices Commission. The Supervisor of Elections acts under the direction of the Electoral Commission and under the terms of the 2013 Constitution (Section 76 (4)), the Supervisor of Elections is appointed by the President on the advice of the Constitutional Office Commission following consultation with the Electoral Commission.

	<b>Political status of commissioners:</b>	Appointments are based on qualifications and experience in the respective fields. A person is not qualified to be a member of the Electoral Commission if he/she is a Member of Parliament, the holder of a public office, a member of a local authority and/or a candidate for election to parliament.
	<b>Chair qualifications:</b>	The Chair is someone who is qualified to be a judge.
	<b>Commissioner qualifications:</b>	None specified
	<b>Tenure of chair and commissioners:</b>	Commissioners are appointed for a term of three years and the Supervisor of Elections is appointed for a term of five years and is renewable.
	<b>Provisions for the removal of commissioners:</b>	The Commissioners and the Supervisor of Elections may be removed from office by the President for inability to perform the function of his or her office (whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or any other cause) or for misbehaviour, or may otherwise be removed by giving one month's notice or one month's remuneration in lieu of notice.
	<b>Provisions for the appointment of EMB senior staff:</b>	Senior staff of the Fijian Elections Office are recruited through a merit-based recruitment system through an application, interview and selection process by the human resources department.
	<b>Tenure of EMB senior staff:</b>	The term of office is normally three years and is renewable for another term.
	<b>Provisions for the removal of EMB senior staff:</b>	Under Section 6(4) of the Electoral Decree, 2014, the Supervisor of Elections has the powers to remove or take disciplinary action against any employee of the Fijian Elections Office, in accordance with the standing orders.
<b>Funding arrangements</b>	<b>Setting and control of EMB's budget:</b>	Under Section 15 of the Electoral Decree, 2014, the Fijian Elections Office is allocated sufficient financial resources from the state budget. The Fijian Elections Office submits to Parliament a multi-year budget for each electoral cycle of four years for planning purposes, and submits to Parliament on an annual basis an estimated budget for the following year. The Fijian Elections Office also receives donor funding during election and non-election years.
	<b>Financial autonomy:</b>	Clearance is required from the Ministry of Finance.
	<b>Legal provisions for financial autonomy:</b>	The Fijian Elections Office complies with the Finance Management Act, 2004.

<b>Electoral system</b>	<b>Number of chambers/houses within the legislature:</b>	Unicameral
	<b>Voting system:</b>	Fifty Members of Parliament: open list system of proportional representation.
	<b>Amendments to electoral laws:</b>	The authority for amendments to electoral laws is vested in the parliament. The Fijian Elections Office can make recommendations through the Minister Responsible for Elections.
	<b>Drafting of electoral regulations:</b>	No, the Minister Responsible for Elections has the authority to draft electoral regulations.
<b>Electoral disputes</b>	<b>Electoral dispute resolution mechanisms:</b>	Section 17 and Section 120 of the Electoral Decree, 2014, provide mechanisms for electoral disputes.
<b>Other issues:</b>		
<b>Secretariat</b>	<b>Administrative autonomy:</b>	Yes
	<b>Women in senior positions:</b>	The Electoral Commission has two commissioners who are women. At the Fijian Elections Office, out of the 15 senior-level staff, eight are women.
	<b>Administrative structure:</b>	The Electoral Commission has the overall responsibility to oversee the conduct of elections. The supervisor of elections is the head of the Fijian Elections Office and is assisted by three directorates: Operations; Corporate Services; and Strategic Development and Communications.