

Saint Lucia

Background	Name of EMB:	Saint Lucia Electoral Commission
	Status:	Permanent
Establishment of the EMB	Number of commissioners:	Three commissioners
	Number of full-time EMB staff:	Seventy-two staff, permanently employed.
	Constitutional and/or legislative provisions for establishment of the EMB:	The Electoral Commission is protected under the Saint Lucia Constitution, which gives the commission the authority to regulate its operations and to ensure that there is no interference from political operators.
	EMB's mandate:	<p>Responsible for conducting or supervising referenda and elections to any elective body or office established by the constitution, and any other elections as prescribed by an act of parliament and, in particular, for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the continuous registration of citizens as voters; • the regular revision of the voters' list; • the regulation of the process by which parties nominate candidates for elections; • the settlement of electoral disputes, including disputes relating to or arising from nominations, but excluding petitions and disputes subsequent to the declaration of election results; • voter education; • the facilitation of the observation, monitoring and evaluation of elections; • to ensure compliance with the Elections Act in relation to nomination of candidates and all electoral matters.
	EMB model:	Independent

<p>Appointment, tenure and removals</p>	<p>Provisions for the appointment of commissioners and senior staff:</p>	<p>Commissioners are appointed on the basis of one recommendation from the leader of the opposition, one by the prime minister and the chairperson, appointed by the Governor-General of his or her own volition. All other appointments are carried out by the Electoral Commission, with the exception of the chief elections officer, where the commission makes a recommendation to the Governor-General after that person has been interviewed by the commission.</p>
<p>Political status:</p>	<p>Chair/commissioner qualifications:</p>	<p>Totally independent The chairperson must be qualified to hold office as a Supreme Court judge, i.e. he or she must be a judge, lawyer or academic in the legal field of not less than 15 years' standing.</p>
<p>Tenure of commissioners and senior staff:</p>	<p>Provisions for the removal of commissioners and senior staff:</p>	<p>Commissioners are appointed for a five-year renewable term or until the first sitting of parliament after a general election. Commissioners can only be removed by the Governor-General on a recommendation by a tribunal established for the purpose, and only on five grounds: serious violation of the constitution, gross misconduct, physical or mental incapacity, incompetence or bankruptcy. Senior staff are subject to the commission's disciplinary process, set out under the Elections Act.</p>
<p>Funding arrangements</p>	<p>Setting and control of EMB's budget:</p>	<p>Whereas the EMB presents a budget estimate to the Office of The Prime Minister, it has no control over the allocations or disbursements. All payments are made by the Treasury.</p>
<p>Financial autonomy:</p>	<p>Legal provisions for financial autonomy:</p>	<p>Clearance from the Treasury is required under the Public Finance Management Act. None specified</p>
<p>Electoral system</p>	<p>Number of chambers/houses within the legislature:</p>	<p>Bicameral</p>
<p>Voting system:</p>	<p>Amendments to electoral laws:</p>	<p>Mixed member The legislative authority is wholly vested in parliament, with the limited exception that the commission can make regulations, although these still have to be adopted by parliament. The commission participates in law making, just like any other body.</p>

	Drafting of electoral regulations:	The EMB does have the authority to draft and adopt electoral regulations, which are forwarded to parliament for adoption.
Electoral disputes	Electoral dispute resolution mechanisms:	Disputes are settled at two stages: pre-poll disputes are determined by the commission and the courts, while post-poll disputes are the exclusive mandate of the judiciary.
Other issues:		
Secretariat	Administrative autonomy:	The EMB does have the power to create, promote or abolish staff posts.
	Women in senior positions:	The EMB has two female commissioners and five other women as heads of department.
	Structure:	The commissioners are the policy organ of the commission. The Secretariat is headed by a CEO (who is also the commission secretary), who is assisted by one deputy – in charge of operations. There are three directorates: Administration Section (including the Civic & Voter Education Unit); the Registration Section (including the Data Control Unit and Filing/ Verification Unit), and the Management Information Systems (MIS) Unit.