

Solomon Islands

<p>Background</p>	<p>Name of EMB: Status: Number of commissioners: Number of full-time EMB staff:</p>	<p>Solomon Islands Electoral Commission Permanent Three commissioners, including the chairperson. The Office of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission, comprising 12 permanent staff, is the Secretariat arm to the commission.</p>
<p>Establishment of the EMB</p>	<p>Constitutional and/or legislative provisions for establishment of the EMB:</p>	<p>The Electoral Commission is established under Section 57 of the Solomon Islands Constitution. The Office of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission (OSIEC), as headed by a chief electoral officer, is the administrative arm to the commission and is set up under the provisions of the Public Service Act and Regulations. The Electoral Law, the National Parliament (Electoral) Provisions Act, is the substantive law that codifies the elections.</p>
<p>EMB's mandate:</p>	<p>EMB's mandate:</p>	<p><i>Functions of the Electoral Commission:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The Electoral Commission shall have general responsibility for, and shall supervise, the registration of electors for the election of Members of Parliament and the conduct of elections of such members and the commission shall have such powers and other functions relating to such registration and such elections as may be prescribed.</i> <i>Every proposed Bill and every proposed regulation or other instrument having the force of law relating to the registration of electors for the election of Members of Parliament or to the election of such members shall be referred to the Electoral Commission at such time as shall give them sufficient opportunity to make comments thereon before the Bill is introduced in parliament or, as the case may be, the regulation or other instrument is made.</i> <i>The Electoral Commission may make such reports to the Governor-General concerning the matters under their supervision, or any draft Bill or instrument that is referred to them, as they may think fit, and if the commission so request in any such report other than a report on a draft Bill or instrument that report shall be laid before parliament.</i>

	EMB model:	Mixed
	What standards are established in the constitution or other legislation for democratic legitimacy?	None specified
Appointment, tenure and removals	Provisions for the appointment of commissioners:	With respect to commissioners, the chief electoral officer endorses to the Legal and Judicial Commission proposed applications for commissioner; thereafter applicants are interviewed and appointed. The Governor-General then holds the appointment as made in the Gazette.
	Political status of commissioners:	Mixed system.
	Chair qualifications:	Any current speaker to parliament.
	Commissioner qualifications:	Seniority
	Tenure of chair and commissioners:	Four years
	Provisions for the removal of commissioners:	None specified
	Provisions for the appointment of EMB senior staff:	Recruitment and appointment of EMB staff is carried out through the Public Service Act and Regulations.
	Tenure of EMB senior staff:	None specified
	Provisions for the removal of EMB senior staff:	Disqualifications and removal are also carried out by the Public Service.
Funding arrangements	Setting and control of EMB's budget:	The Office of the Solomon Islands Electoral Commission administratively sets up its budget through the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Finance. Funds are also set up by and through donor partners.
	Financial autonomy:	No, clearance must be sought from the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Finance (the Public Finance Act).
	Legal provisions for financial autonomy:	Financial autonomy is non-existent. The OSIEC is subjected to follow the Public Finance Act.

<p>Electoral system</p>	<p>Number of chambers/houses within the legislature: Voting system:</p>	<p>Unicameral</p>
	<p>Amendments to electoral laws: Drafting of electoral regulations:</p>	<p>The unicameral (one house) parliament of the Solomon Islands consists of 50 electoral constituencies. One member is elected for each constituency under a first-past-the-post voting system. That is, a candidate will be successfully elected when he or she secures a simple majority of the votes (i.e. the most votes). To vote in a constituency, a person must be registered as an elector for that constituency. Registered electors may only vote at the polling station assigned to them by the returning officer. After receiving a ballot paper from the presiding officer at their respective polling station, the elector must retire to a voting screen, mark one box on the ballot paper corresponding to the candidate of their choice, and insert the marked ballot paper into the ballot box prior to leaving the polling station. The Electoral Commission administers the electoral system through the Office of the Electoral Commission, electoral managers, returning officers, presiding officers and other electoral support staff. The authority is vested in parliament, with the exception of enacting electoral regulations (although Parliament still has to adopt). The Electoral Commission participates in reforms and law-making processes. Yes. Unlike amending the Electoral Act, the regulations are drafted and signed by the minister responsible. All drafting of electoral laws is carried out through and with the Attorney-General's Chambers.</p>
<p>Electoral disputes</p>	<p>Electoral dispute resolution mechanisms:</p>	<p>All electoral disputes are resolved post-poll, by way of petition through the High Court of Solomon Islands.</p>

<p>Other issues:</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>Administrative autonomy: Yes, the EMB does have the power to create, promote or abolish staff posts.</p> <p>Women in senior positions: At the commission level, of the three commissioners, one is a woman. At the Secretariat, two of the five senior-level posts are held by women.</p> <p>Administrative structure: The commissioners are at the policy level of the overall structure. The Secretariat/office is the administrative arm, headed by the chief electoral officer. The commission is structured according to operations and corporate services. There are seven units: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Voter Registration and Electoral Operations 2. Media and Awareness 3. Research and Policy 4. ICT and Data Management 5. Training 6. Finance and Budget and 7. Human Resource Management There is an election manager in each of the ten provinces; and a returning/ registration officer in each of the 50 constituencies.</p>
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