

# SICE

SISTEMA INTEGRAL DE  
CAPACITACIÓN  
ELECTORAL



LA REGISTRADURÍA  
DEL SIGLO XXI



## FAQ

### ON THE REGISTRATION OF CITIZENS FOR THE TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES ELECTIONS IN 2023

#### What is citizens registration?

It is the act by which the citizen registers before the election official to get included in the electoral roll –if the person it's not already registered– or to change the voting place.

#### When and where the next citizens registration will be?

The territorial authorities elections will take place the next year (2023) and the citizens registration period will start the **Saturday, October 29, 2022**, in all the country registries and in the authorized registration stands. This process will be extended until **August 29 of 2023**, that is to say, two months before the election holding.

## The choosing of which public office and when do elections will take place is applicable to the citizens registration process?

According to the Statutory Law 163 of 1994 the territorial authorities elections will take place the **next October 29, 2023**, the date in which the Colombian citizens living in the country (Colombia) and the foreigners living in Colombia will go to the polling stations to choose the next governors, mayors, lawmakers and councillors or Local Administrative Boards members. The representatives elected will take possession January 1, 2024 to govern during the constitutional period 2024-2027.

## Who is required to do the inscription?

Those citizens that changed their place of residence, whether it be a neighborhood, city, department change or whether they come back to the country; those people that their Colombian Identity Card (*cédula* in Spanish) was issued for the first time before 1988 and haven't registered it yet and those who didn't vote in any of the elections held in the past 34 years, since these citizens currently are not part of the electoral roll.

Likewise, the foreigners that are living in Colombia and has the Identity Card for Foreigners (or *cédula de extranjería* in Spanish) with category of resident, with effective condition and with a staying time of 5 or more years in the country have to register to be able to vote in the specified time and meeting the requirements demanded by law.

## Does *cédula* registration have any cost?

**No.** citizens registration is free.

## The citizens will be identified biometrically when they register the *cédula*?

**Yes.** Citizens can get near the Registry or a mobile registration stand of their locality or place of residence, there they can show the *cédula* (yellow with holograms or digital) and through the systematized registration process the citizen identity will be validated, taking advantage of the biometric authentication which allows the confrontation between the information captured with the information that is in the Archivo Nacional de Identificación (ANI) and others data bases in the National Civil Registry.

## Can a citizen register with a document that is not the *cédula*?

**No.** To make the registration process the person has to show the original yellow *cédula* or the *cédula digital*. Additionally, you must show the Occre by virtue of the provisions of decree 2762 of 1991 in San Andres, Providencia and Santa Catalina Archipelago Department.

For foreigners living in Colombia, in accordance with the provisions of Law 1070 of 2006 the *cédula de extranjería* must be presented with the category of resident.

The proceedings can't be made with passwords, *carnés*, *libreta militar*, driver's license nor with loss of documents complaints.

## The citizens that live overseas can vote in the territorial authorities elections?

**No.** The Colombian citizens that live abroad only can vote in national-level elections like for president or Congress---not for local level---since they are not directly affected by the decisions taken by the unions or local representatives.

## Does the citizens registration for foreigners living in Colombia will be made?

**Yes.** In accordance with provision of Law 1070 of 2006, foreigners that live in Colombia can participate in the territorial authorities elections to choose only mayors, councillors and Local Administrative Boards members. However, they can't participate to choose governor or assembly.

For the registration the foreigners living in Colombia require the face-to-face presentation of who registers, show the *cédula de extranjería* in force with the category of resident issued by the competent authority.

The registrations made by foreigners will be subject to revision and approval of the requirements on the part of Colombia Migration Special Administrative Unit.

## If the citizen just received the *cédula* issued for the first time and hasn't voted yet he/she is required to register?

**Not necessarily**, because every citizen that has obtained the *cédula* after 1988 and is of legal age automatically enters in the electoral roll and is enabled to vote in a polling station near the address provided at the moment of the *cédula* proceeding; in this case the person just have to do the registration process if he/she changed his/her address or place of residence.

It's important to clarify that automatic incorporation of the first time issued *cédulas* for the territorial authorities election in 2023 will be of four (4) months before the election date, that is, the issued until June 19, 2023, in accordance with the current legal regulations.

## How the polling station can be verified to check if is changed or not?

In the National Civil Registry website —[www.registraduria.gov.co](http://www.registraduria.gov.co)— permanently you can find the option “Consulte aquí su lugar de votación”, in which the citizen can introduce the identity document number and the system will tell you if you're part or no of the electoral roll, if it says you're part of the electoral roll it will show you where your polling station is located.

## Can the citizens register the *cédula* on a place other than the place of residence?

**No.** The inscription no matter what have to be made in the place where you live (San Andres or Providence or Santa Catalina, etc.); is a crime provided in article 389 of the Criminal Code if you register in a different place from where you live, since the inscription can be revoked by the National Electoral Council under the terms of article 316 of the Political Constitution and, likewise, represents cause of invalidity of the election to the voices of numeral 7 of article 275 of the CPACA.

## Can the person register the *cédula* even if it is already registered?

**Yes.** In the cases where the citizen changed address or place of residence, whether is neighborhood, city, department or whether he/her has returned to the country.

## Is it possible to allow another person to register the *cédula*?

**No.** *Cédula* registration proceeding is personal, since it requires the owner fingerprint imprinted as an indispensable requirement to validate the registration process.

## If there are too many people registering in a place they can deny a citizen the right to register the *cédula*?

**No.** The National Civil Registry officials have the duty to register all the citizens that attend to register the *cédula*, in the times and terms established by law and in accordance to the guidelines delivered by the National Civil Registry.

## What happens if a person registers the *cédula* several times?

If a citizen performs the registration process with the *cédula* several times, it will only be taken into account the last proceeding, therefore the person shall exercise the right to vote in the polling station registered last time.

## Can the citizen go to a registry and ask to be registered in other city?

**No.** *Cédula* registration requires the face-to-face presentation of the citizen at the place of his/her electoral residence.

