



Polling Sequence

Implications on Sustainability

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International Foundation for Electoral Systems

Polling Models

Single Day

- Lower administrative costs
- Turnout impact
- Integrity costs and benefits

Multiple Day and Staggered Elections

- Convenient for Voters
- Maximize Turnout
- Efficacy dependent on context and environment

Multi Day Elections

Elections held over a number of consecutive days, generally two or maximum three

- voting in two rounds, round one to establish the leading candidates with a second round at a later date to determine the election winner.
- voting conducted on different days for electoral districts in different geographic areas.
- voting for more than one day in a single round election.
- voting, such as early voting or mobile voting stations, being held for more than one day.

Staggered Elections: elections held over several consecutive phases, with one phase that may be held several weeks (or even months away) after the preceding one

Multi Day Elections: Cost and Sustainability Considerations

Security

Voting Station Premises

Material/Equipment Management

Capacity Planning

Staffing

Voter Information

Assessing Costs Across Electoral Systems: Limitations

Country A

- Urbanized, literate
- Large polling stations (1500 – 2000 voters)
- Good transportation systems
- High trust resulting in cheaper cardboard materials for balloting
- No security print on ballots
- Minimal security
- No inking
- Electoral System, for example: TRS, open list PR, STV etc

Country B

- Rural, non-literate
- Poor transport system
- Small polling stations (less than 400)
- Low trust so high impact material clear ballot boxes used
- High security, inking, four color security print ballots
- Electoral System, for example: MMP, AV, FPTP etc

Final Thoughts

- Costs and sustainability can only be assessed against the very specific goals that particular system is designed to address in that very specific context.
- More research needs to be done into the costs of elections across different variables and contexts.
- Direct vs diffused costs.
- Political considerations-- election costs as a consequence political decisions.