2018 Voters Roll an Improvement over 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll – ZESN

Harare – 19 July 2018 – The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) has completed its audit of the 2018 Voters' Roll as provided by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) on the 18th of June 2018. Auditing of the 2018 Voters Roll is particularly important given the concerns raised about the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll. ZESN's analysis of the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll found duplicate registrations, under registration of urban and young voters and over registration of rural and older voters.

The objective of the voters roll audit was to provide independent non-partisan information about the quality of the 2018 Voters Roll. This serves to enhance the transparency and accountability of the process.

ZESN's audit of the 2018 Voters Roll had two components: field tests that involved comparing registration information collected from voters with what is on the 2018 Voters Roll; and computer tests that entailed analyzing the 2018 Voters roll for internal consistency and in comparison to the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll and census data.

The 2018 Voters Roll was assessed along three dimensions: Accuracy (the degree to which the voters roll has errors); Currency (the degree to which the voters roll has been updated); and Completeness (the degree to which the voters roll contains all eligible voters).

"Overall, ZESN finds that the 2018 Voters Roll received on the 18th of June is an improvement over the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll" said Andrew Makoni the ZESN's Chairperson.

In terms of accuracy, the audit did not identify anomalies in the 2018 Voters Roll that affected a large percentage of registrants or were they concentrated amongst registrants of a particular area, gender or age. While no voters roll is perfect, a less rushed process would have allowed more time for ZEC to identify and address anomalies.

The 2018 Voters roll is more current than the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll as there is a significant number of new registrants as well as more urban and young registrants and fewer extremely old registrants.

In terms of completeness, the 2018 Voters Roll is more inclusive than the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll which was with generally higher registration rates – though registration rates for urban and young voters remain lower those for rural and older voters.

ZESN was not able assess the impact of the deduplication process itself as the ZEC has not provided an electronic copy of the 2018 Preliminary Voters Roll or the Exclusion List. In the interest of transparency ZESN encourages the ZEC to release these documents to interested stakeholders.

It is also evident that the ZEC continues to make revisions to the 2018 Voters Roll. For example, there are 11,344 more registrants on the List of Polling Stations released by ZEC

on 07 July 2018 than on the 2018 Voters Roll. ZESN calls on the ZEC to provide political parties and observer groups with the version of the Voters Roll that will be issued to polling stations and used on Election Day.

ZESN remains committed to promoting credible elections and will continue monitoring electoral processes and the environment.

PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE
ZESN Chairperson Mr. Andrew Makoni: +263772234891
ZESN Director Mrs Rindai Chipfunde Vava: +263712415902
zesn2011@zesn.net, info@zesn.net
**Facebook:** Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)
Twitter handle:@ZESN1
Website: *www.zesn.org.zw*

ZESN Field Tests of the 2018 Voters Roll

Methodology

ZESN conducted a list-to-people and a people-to-list test on the 2018 Voters Roll as provided by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) on 16 June 2018. In the case of the list-to-people test, ZESN identified individuals at random on the 2018 Voters Roll and then deployed enumerators to locate the sampled individuals and verify their registration details. For the people-to-list test, the same enumerators selected people at random from local communities and collected their registration details which were then verified against what is contained in the 2018 Voters Roll.
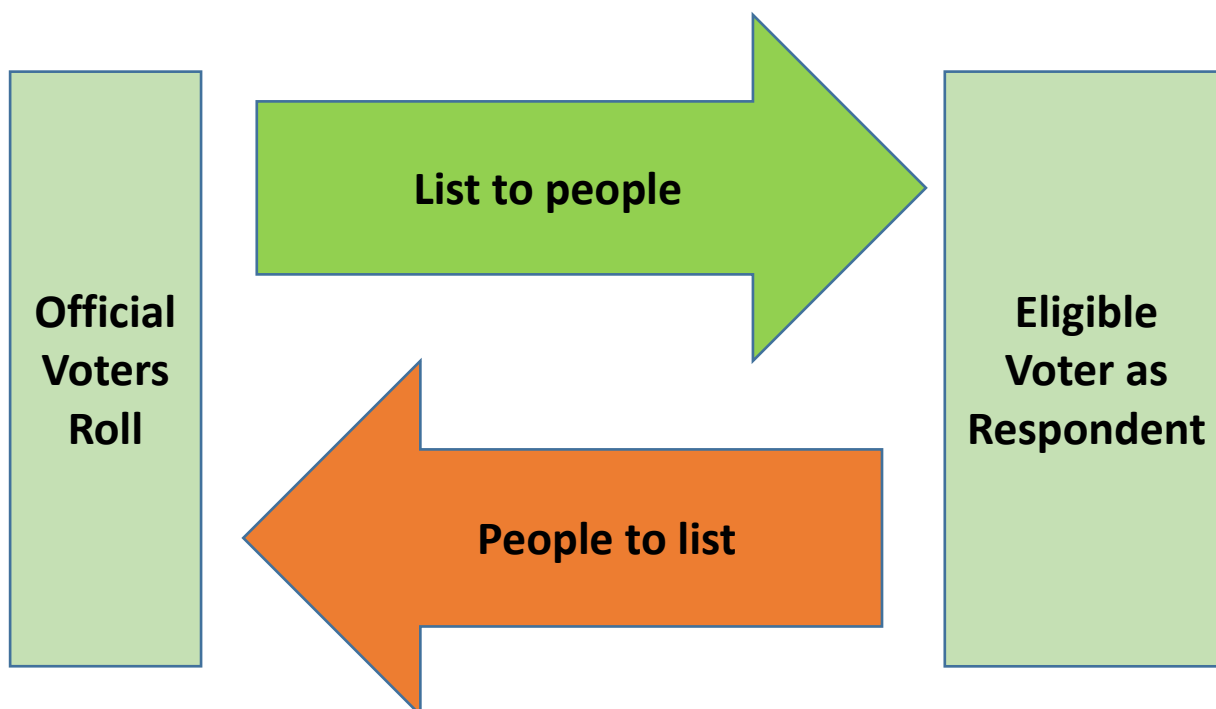
Sampling

For the list-to-people test a nationally representative sample of 1,200 individuals was selected at random from the 2018 Voters Roll. The sample was designed to be representative by province.

Table 1.	Distribution of Registrants on the 2018 Voters and of Sampled Individuals for the List-to-People Test by Province			
Province	**Registrants**	**Percent Registrants**	**Sampled Individuals**	**Percent Sampled Individuals**
Bulawayo	258,690	5%	55	5%
Harare	900,300	16%	190	16%
Manicaland	733,293	13%	155	13%
Mash Central	531,864	9%	112	9%
Mash East	633,126	11%	134	11%
Mash West	644,974	11%	136	11%
Masvingo	617,204	11%	130	11%
Mat North	338,851	6%	71	6%

Table 1.	Distribution of Registrants on the 2018 Voters and of Sampled Individuals for the List-to-People Test by Province			
Province	**Registrants**	**Percent Registrants**	**Sampled Individuals**	**Percent Sampled Individuals**
Mat South	264,160	5%	56	5%
Midlands	761,474	13%	161	13%
Total	5,683,936		1,200	

Source: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)

To ensure that the list-to-people sample was representative in terms of gender 54% of individuals selected were women and 46% were men. The list-to-people sample was also stratified by urban/rural with 67% of sampled names selected from rural areas and 33% selected from urban areas.

List to People Sample Coverage
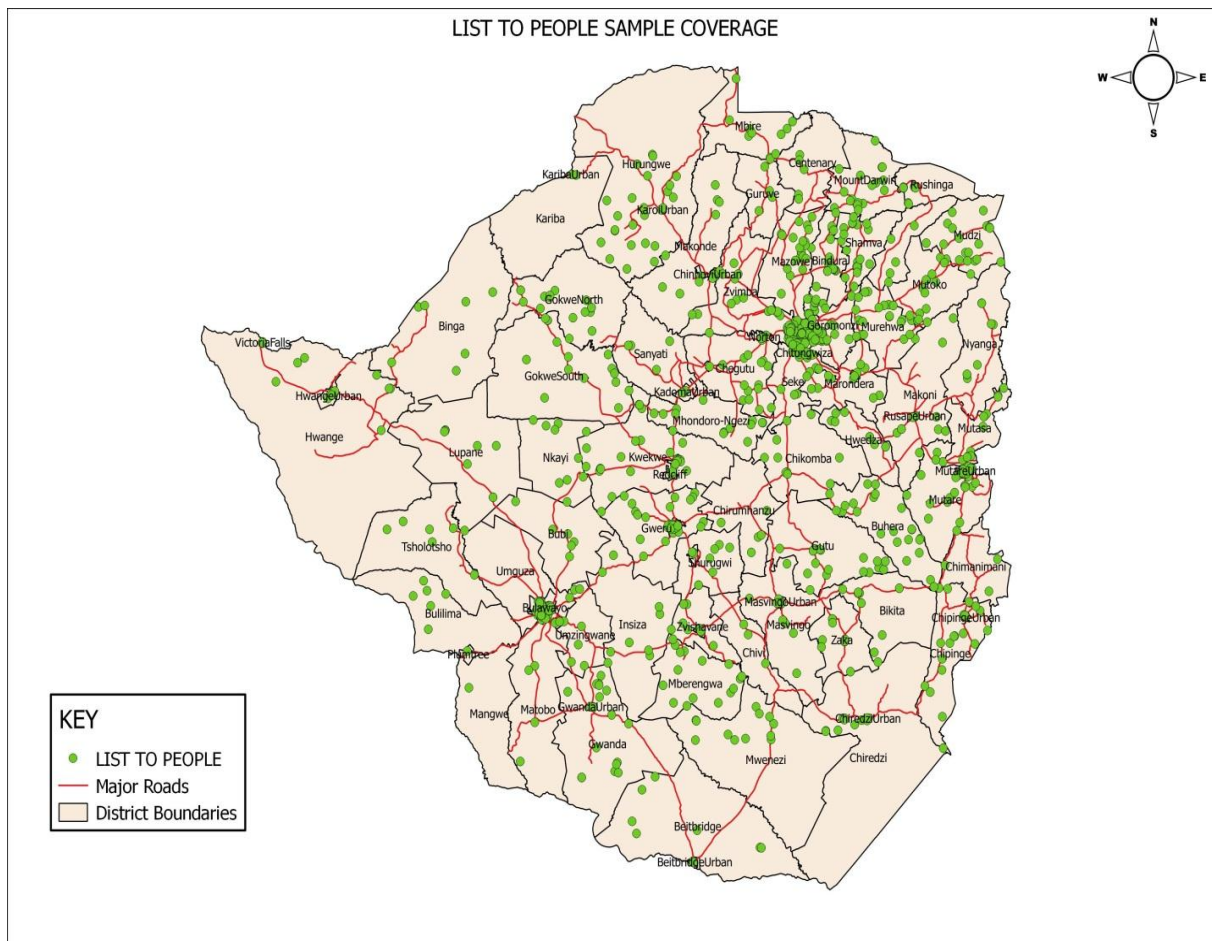
For the people-to-list sample 193 enumeration areas across the country were selected at random. For each sampled enumeration area, enumerators were instructed to identify eight individuals for the people-to-list using the lucky draw method. For the people-to-list enumerators were instructed to identify 50% female and 50% male respondents. In total, the people-to-list sample should have included 1,544 respondents of whom 722 were women and 722 were men.

In reality, the enumerators were able to conduct a total of 1,518 interviews for the people-to-list test of which 55% of the respondents were women and 45% were men.

Table 2.	Distribution of Registrants on the 2018 Voters and of Sampled Individuals for the People-to-List Test by Province			
Province	Registrants	Percent Registrants	Sampled Individuals	Percent Sampled Individuals
Bulawayo	258,690	5%	90	6%
Harare	900,300	16%	300	20%
Manicaland	733,293	13%	191	13%
Mash Central	531,864	9%	138	9%
Mash East	633,126	11%	168	11%
Mash West	644,974	11%	150	10%
Masvingo	617,204	11%	170	11%
Mat North	338,851	6%	60	4%
Mat South	264,160	5%	81	5%
Midlands	761,474	13%	170	11%
Total	5,683,936		1,518	

Source: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)

People to List Sample Coverage
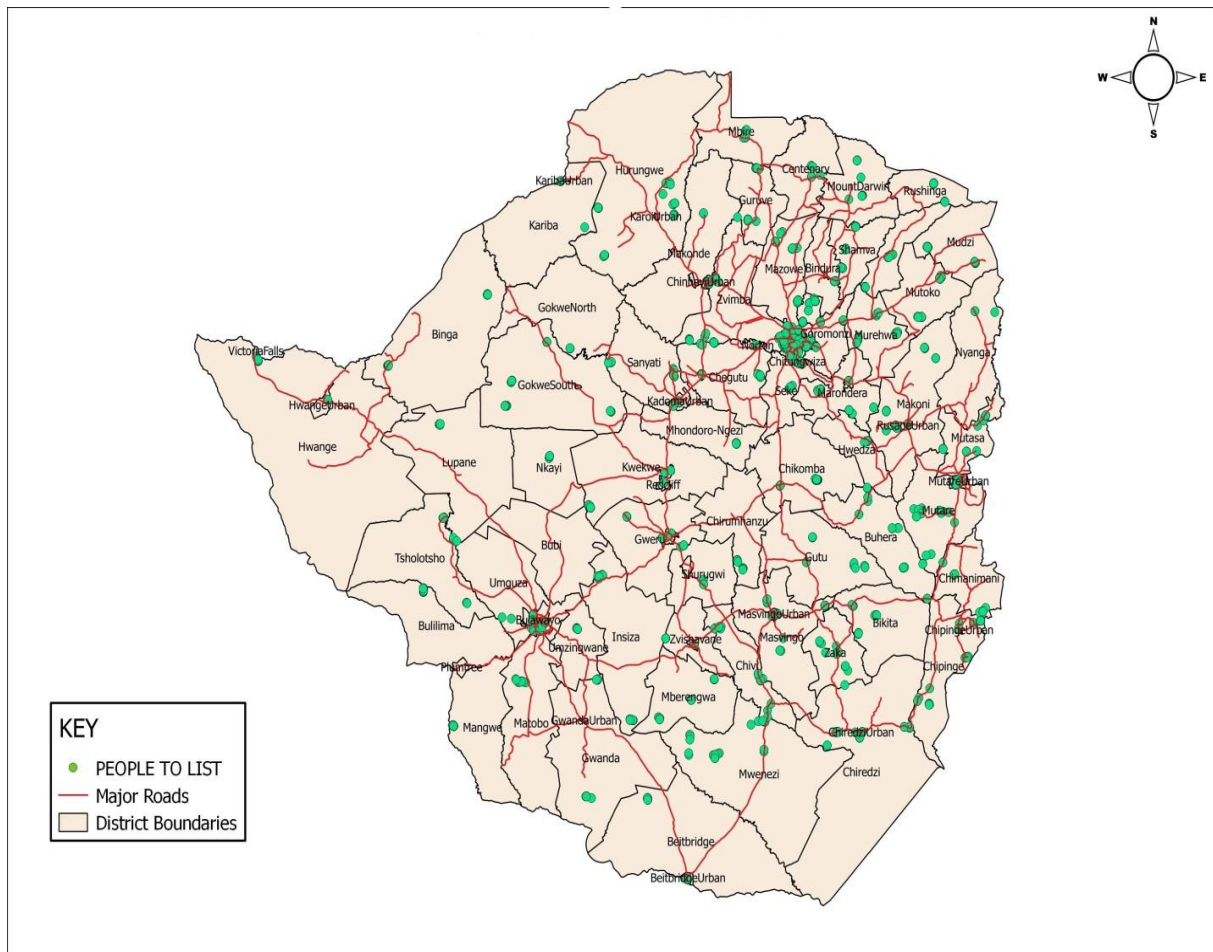
Constraints

The field tests faced significant challenges in terms of the time available to recruit, train, and deploy enumerators as well as to collect, clean and analyze the data. Further, conduct the field tests during the campaign period presented additional challenges as it was not always possible to conduct the field tests as planned due to political activities in sampled enumeration areas. Finally, as has been documented by the Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI) focus groups and the Afrobarometer survey, the widespread practice of unauthorized person's requesting registration information from registered voters made some individuals weary of sharing information with ZESN's enumerators making data collection more challenging.

List-to-People Test Findings

In total, ZESN's enumerators were able to successfully locate 1,063 (89%) of the 1,200 sampled individuals from the 2018 Voters Roll.

Of the 1,063 individuals sampled from the 2018 Voters Roll who were located, their surname, forenames, surname and forenames together, their gender, their National ID number, their date of birth, and their assigned ward from the 2018 Voters Roll were compared against the information that they provided to the ZESN enumerators. For each type of seven types of identifying data, the information on the 2018 Voters Roll matched that provided by the individual in over 95% of the cases. The highest percentages were for gender and ward which matched for 100% of the individuals and the lowest was for date of birth which matched for 91.8%.

Chart 1: Percentage of Located Sampled Individuals for the List-to-People Test whose Registration Details Matched the 2018 Final Voters Register by Type of Detail
(n = 1,063)
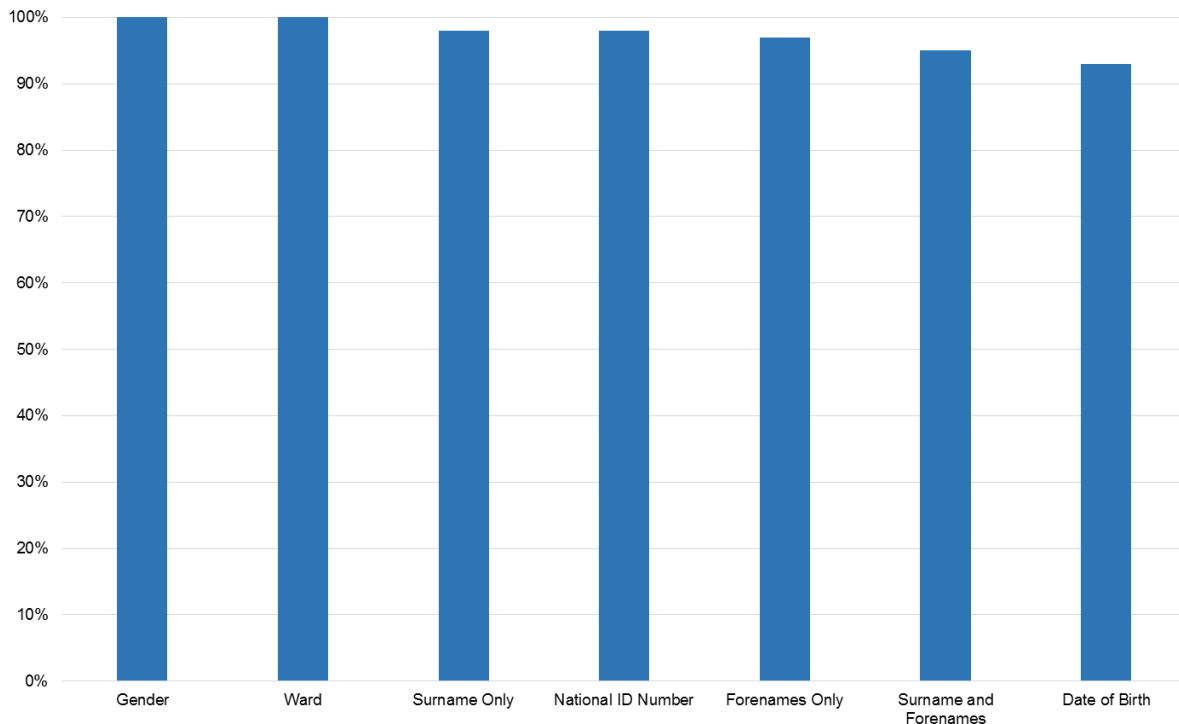
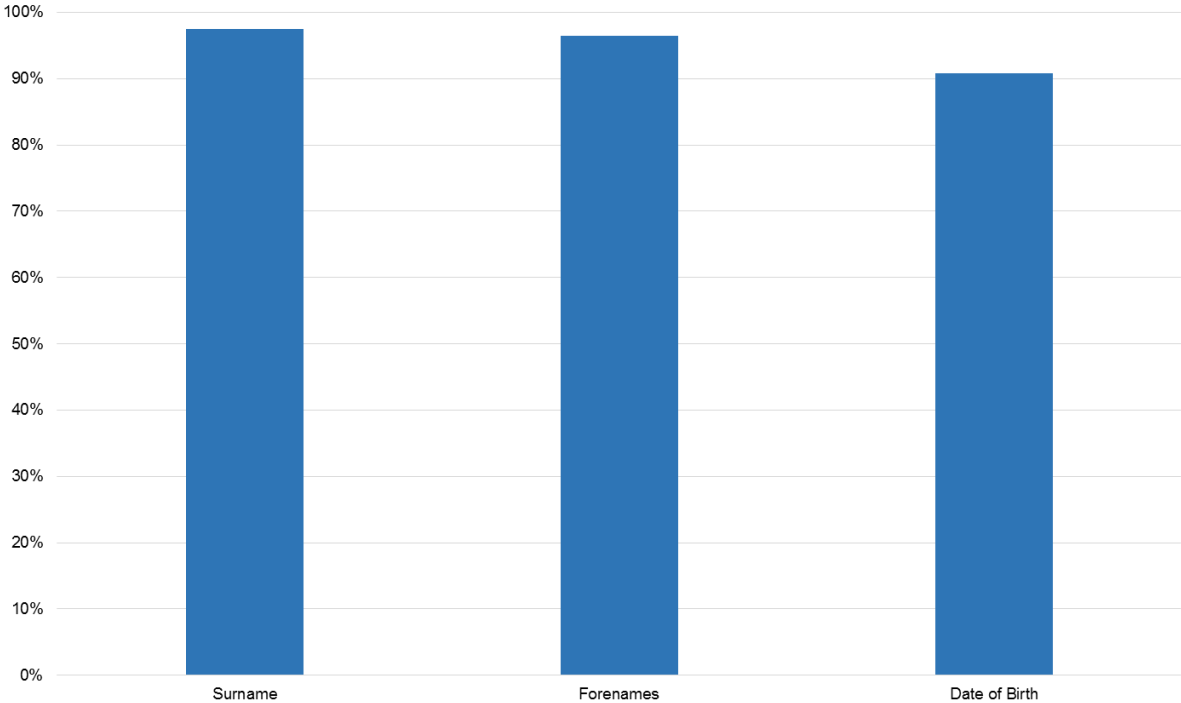Source: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)

In those cases where the information did not match exactly, the vast majority of the time the differences were only minor ones for surname, forenames, and National ID number.

People-to-List Test Findings

In total, ZESN enumerators interviewed 1,518 individuals for the people-to-list test. Of these, 1,182 indicated that they were registered to vote. ZESN was able to verify the registration of 1,043 (88%) of the 1,182 who indicated that they were registered to vote. However, of the 139 individuals who ZESN could not verify their registration some may not be registered to vote since many respondents did not have their registration slips with them proving that they were registered when they were interviewed.

For the 1,043 individuals from the people-to-list test found on the 2018 Voters Roll, the surname, forenames, and date of birth the provided when interviewed was compared to the information on the 2018 Voters roll. For 97.4% the surname matched, for 96.5% the forenames matched, and for 90.8% the date of birth matched.

Chart 2: Percentage of Sampled Individuals for the People-to-List Test whose Registration Details Matched the 2018 Final Voters Register by Type of Detail (n = 1,043)

Source: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)

ZESN Computer Tests of the 2018 Voters Roll

The findings of the computer test of the 2018 Voters Roll are based on using statistical software to analyze the internal integrity of the 2018 Voters Roll and to compare the 2018 Voters Roll to the 2018 Preliminary Voters Roll as well as official census data.

Accuracy

Complete Registration Data: All 5,683,936 (100%) registrants have all six pieces of identifying information and all seven pieces of information specifying the registrant's polling station.

Incorrect ID Numbers: Two registrants have National ID Numbers that are too long (15 rather than 14 characters)

Registrants Too Old or Too Young: There are: one registrant who will not be 18 by 30 July 2018, three born in the 1800's, 944 registrants who are 100 years old or older.

Duplicate National ID Numbers: 81 registrants (less than 0.01%) have duplicate National ID Numbers.

Duplicate Identifying Information: 4,693 (0.8%) registrants have the same surname, forenames, gender, and date of birth as another registrant.

Different Registration Information: Of the 3,213,780 matched registrants on both the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll and 2018 Voters Roll, 126,689 (4%) had different dates of birth, 107,603 (3%) had different surnames, 29,456 (0.9%) had different genders on the two voters rolls.

Registrants with the Same Address Assigned to Different Wards: 263,998 (5%) of registrants registered at addresses for which there are registrants are assigned to different wards. All registrants with the same address should be assigned to the same ward.

Currency

-205,164 (-4%) registrants are on the 2018 Voters Roll than the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll.

2,470,156 (43%) of registrants on the 2018 Voters Roll are likely new first time registrant as their National ID is not included in the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll.

3,213,780 (53%) of registrants on the 2018 Voters Roll are likely existing registrants as their National ID is not included in the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll.

2,676,395 (45%) registrants on the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll could not be matched by National ID Number to the 2018 Voters Roll and therefore are likely to no longer be registered.

Overall, rural registration decreased by -436,457 (-10%) while urban registration increased by 230,218 (14%).

For the rural areas of seven of the eight non-metropolitican provinces saw a decrease in registrants. Rural registration for Mashonaland West increased by 1% and Mashonaland Central only decreased by 2% while all other rural areas of the non-metropolitian provinces had a decrease of -8% or more.

Table 3:	Rural Registrants on the 2103 Preliminary Voters Roll and 2018 Voters Roll by Province					
Rural/Urban	**2013 PVR**	**2018 FVR**	**2013 PVR Percent**	**2018 FVR Percent**	**Absolute Change**	**Percent Change**
Bulawayo						
Harare						
Manicaland	673,577	604,334	16%	16%	-69,243	-10%
Mash Central	516,549	508,255	12%	13%	-8,294	-2%
Mash East	624,787	569,512	15%	15%	-55,275	-9%
Mash West	482,927	489,121	11%	13%	6,194	1%
Masvingo	679,739	558,703	16%	15%	-121,036	-18%
Mat North	330,681	294,738	8%	8%	-35,943	-11%
Mat South	328,904	225,313	8%	6%	-103,591	-31%
Midlands	604,731	555,462	14%	15%	-49,269	-8%
Total	4,241,895	3,805,438			-436,457	-10%

Source: Zimbabwe Electoral Support Network (ZESN)

The urban areas in all the provinces except for Bulawayo increased registrants by 12% or more. Bulawayo had a decrease in registrants of -14%. Much of the increase for Harare province was concentrated in Epworth and Harare South Constituencies. These two constituencies increased by a total of 76,406 (36,583 and 39,823 respectively) accounting for 69% of the increase in registrants from Harare province.

Table 4:	Urban Registrants on the 2103 Preliminary Voters Roll and 2018 Voters Roll by Province					
Rural/Urban	**2013 PVR**	**2018 FVR**	**2013 PVR Percent**	**2018 FVR Percent**	**Absolute Change**	**Percent Change**
Bulawayo	300,743	258,690	18%	14%	-42,053	-14%
Harare	788,959	900,300	48%	48%	111,341	14%
Manicaland	96,460	128,959	6%	7%	32,499	34%
Mash Central	21,159	23,609	1%	1%	2,450	12%
Mash East	39,354	63,614	2%	3%	24,260	62%
Mash West	126,805	155,853	8%	8%	29,048	23%
Masvingo	47,961	58,501	3%	3%	10,540	22%
Mat North	31,469	44,113	2%	2%	12,644	40%
Mat South	23,050	38,847	1%	2%	15,797	69%
Midlands	172,320	206,012	10%	11%	33,692	20%
Total	1,648,280	1,878,498			230,218	14%

Source: Zimbabwe Electoral Support Network (ZESN)

Women registrants increased from 52% to 54% of all registrants.

Table 5:	Registrants on the 2103 Preliminary Voters Roll and 2018 Voters Roll by Gender					
Gender	2013 PVR	2018 FVR	2013 PVR Percent	2018 FVR Percent	Absolute Change	Percent Change
Female	3,059,196	3,067,512	52%	54%	8,316	0%
Male	2,830,970	2,616,424	48%	46%	-214,546	-8%
Unknown	7	0			-7	-100%
Total	5,890,173	5,683,936			-206,237	-4%

Source: Zimbabwe Electoral Support Network (ZESN)

The number of registrants 18 to 22 who became eligible to vote since the 2013 harmonized elections increased by 523,190 (372%) while those 23 to 27 who became eligible since the 2008 elections increased by 341,215 (83%). All other age groups saw a decrease in the number of registrants. The number of registrants 98 and older decreased by -33,306 (-94%).

Chart 3: Number of Registrants on the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll and the 2018 Final Voters Roll by Age Group
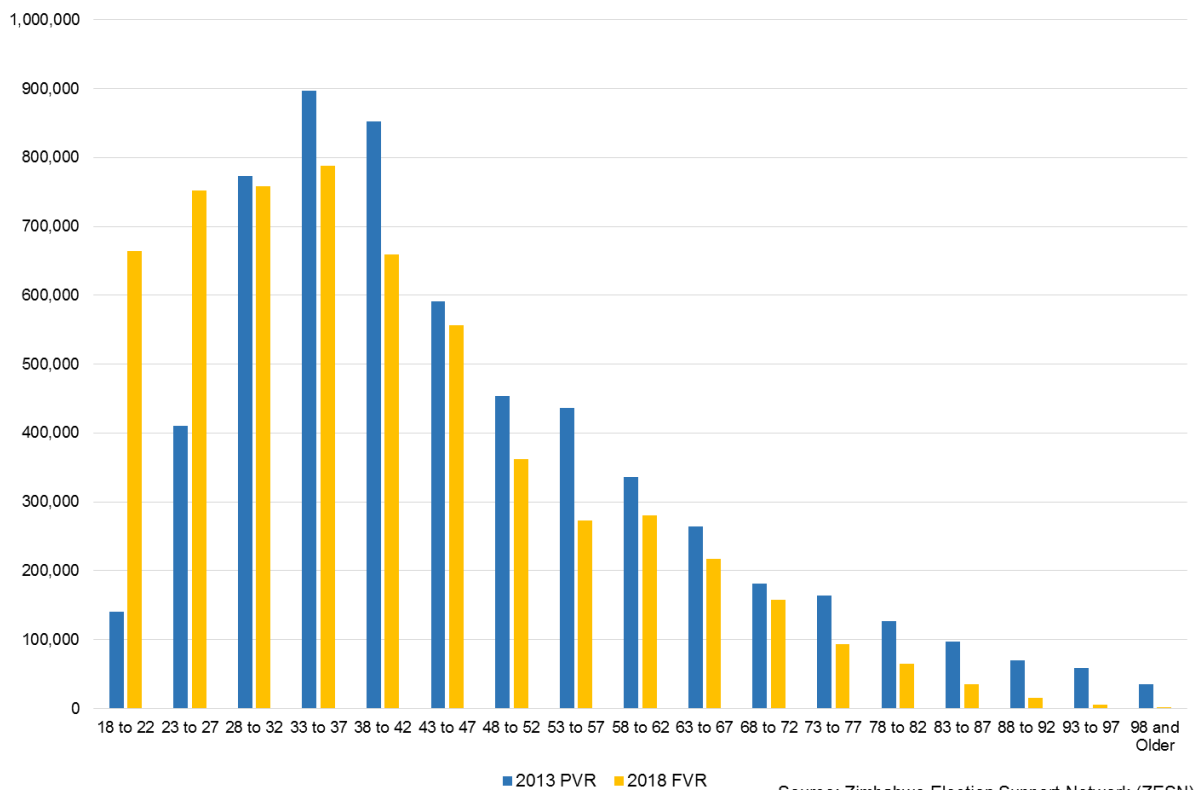
Source: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)

Completeness

Completeness is determined by comparing the 2018 Voters Roll with official census data, the same data used by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

The overall registration rate fell from 86% for the 2013 Preliminary Voter Roll to 79% for the 2018 Voters Roll. However, this was to be expected as the 2018 biometric voter registration created an entirely new voter roll thereby removing any suspect registrants from the previous voters roll.

Registration rates for Bulawayo and Harare (63% and 67% respectively) are lower than the average for the eight non-metropolitan provinces (83%)

Table 6: Registration Rates for the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll and 2018 Voters Roll by Province						
Province	Estimated Eligible 2013	Actual Registrants 2013	2013 Registration Rate	Estimated Eligible 2018	Actual Registrants 2018	2018 Registration Rate
Bulawayo	389,520	300,743	77%	409,389	258,690	63%
Harare	1,280,499	788,959	62%	1,345,818	900,300	67%
Eight Non-Metropolitan	5,203,491	4,800,473	92%	5,468,921	4,524,946	83%
Manicaland	868,462	770,037	89%	912,762	733,293	80%
Mash Central	590,174	537,708	91%	620,279	531,864	86%
Mash East	700,079	664,141	95%	735,790	633,126	86%
Mash West	793,917	609,732	77%	834,414	644,974	77%
Masvingo	717,704	727,700	101%	754,314	617,204	82%
Mat North	370,683	362,150	98%	389,592	338,851	87%
Mat South	339,279	351,954	104%	356,586	264,160	74%
Midlands	823,193	777,051	94%	865,185	761,474	88%
Total	**6,873,510**	**5,890,175**	**86%**	**7,224,128**	**5,683,936**	**79%**

Registration rates for women were largely unchanged. The registration rate for women on the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll was 80% and for the 2018 Voters Roll was 79%.

Rural registration rates fell from 97% to 83% while urban registration rates rose from 66% to 72%. The gap between urban and rural registration rates decreased from 31% to 11%, but a gap remains.

Table 7: Registration Rates for the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll and 2018 Voters Roll by Rural/Urban						
Rural/Urban	Estimated Eligible 2013	Actual Registrants 2013	2013 Registration Rate	Estimated Eligible 2018	Actual Registrants 2018	2018 Registration Rate
Rural	4,376,029	4,241,895	97%	4,599,251	3,805,438	83%
Urban	2,497,481	1,648,280	66%	2,624,877	1,878,498	72%
Total	6,873,510	5,890,175	86%	7,224,128	5,683,936	79%

Registration rates for younger voters 18 to 32 increased from 38% to 59% while the registration rate for older voters 33 and older decreased from 137% to 100%.

Table 8: Registration Rates for the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll and 2018 Voters Roll by Age Group						
Province	Estimated Eligible 2013	Actual Registrants 2013	2013 Registration Rate	Estimated Eligible 2018	Actual Registrants 2018	2018 Registration Rate
18 to 22	1,283,451	140,740	11%	1,348,919	663,930	49%
23 to 27	1,157,443	410,799	35%	1,216,484	752,014	62%
28 to 32	1,064,986	772,893	73%	1,119,311	758,452	68%

Table 8:	Registration Rates for the 2013 Preliminary Voters Roll and 2018 Voters Roll by Age Group					
Province	Estimated Eligible 2013	Actual Registrants 2013	2013 Registration Rate	Estimated Eligible 2018	Actual Registrants 2018	2018 Registration Rate
33 to 37	778,128	897,250	115%	817,821	788,370	96%
38 to 42	633,489	852,324	135%	665,804	658,896	99%
43 to 47	383,441	590,690	154%	403,001	556,398	138%
48 to 52	365,669	453,648	124%	384,321	361,748	94%
53 to 57	302,205	435,898	144%	317,621	272,633	86%
58 to 62	262,357	335,831	128%	275,739	280,488	102%
63 to 67	194,370	264,837	136%	204,285	217,259	106%
68 to 72	147,757	182,001	123%	155,294	157,287	101%
73 to 77	101,520	164,230	162%	106,699	93,133	87%
78 to 82	85,250	127,275	149%	89,599	64,964	73%
83 to 87	39,957	97,606	244%	41,995	35,274	84%
88 to 92	27,800	70,177	252%	29,218	15,335	52%
93 to 97	8,640	58,431	676%	9,080	5,519	61%
98 and Older	9,107	35,541	390%	9,572	2,235	23%
18 to 32	**3,505,880**	**1,324,432**	**38%**	**3,684,715**	**2,174,396**	**59%**
33 and Older	**3,339,690**	**4,565,739**	**137%**	**3,510,048**	**3,509,539**	**100%**

Source: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)

Chart 4: Estimated Eligible Registrants from Census Data and Acutal Registrants from the 2018 Final Voters Roll by Age Group with Registration Rate

Source: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)