

The Way We Were

Year: 1994

Country's population (rounded): 41 million

Number of whites: 6 million (15 percent)

Baseline: Eligible/Registered to vote: 22.6 million

Voted: 19.7 million (87 percent voter turn-out)

Attrition: 2.9 million (13 percent of registered voters)

Year: 2014

Country's population (rounded): 54 million

Number of whites: 4.9 million (9 percent)

Eligible to vote: 32 million

Un-registered voters: 7 million (22 percent of Electorate)

Registered to vote: 25 million (78 percent of Electorate)

Voted: 18.6 million (73 percent voter turn-out)

Attrition: 6.4 million voters (27 percent of registered voters)

Year: 2019

Country's population (rounded): 58 million

Number of whites: 4.6 million (8 percent)

Eligible to vote: 37 million

Un-registered voters: 10 million (27 percent of Electorate)

Registered to vote: 27 million (73 percent of Electorate)

Voted: unknown

Attrition: unknown

Here are some observations on the trending:

1. In absolute terms, the number of whites has dropped from 6 million to 4.6 million.
2. Because of the rise in overall population (from 41 – 57 million), the white segment of the population has dropped even faster as a percentage – from 15% to 8 percent)
3. At the baseline in 1994, there was no apparent difference between “eligible” and the number who registered)
4. Eligibility and Voter Registration have parted ways – with 10 million eligible voters not even registering to vote in 2019
5. As a percentage of the total number of eligible voters, 27 percent have not even registered to vote in 2019. That is basically one out of every four citizens.
6. The flip side of this is that the number of registered voters *as a percentage* is shrinking – down to 73 percent this year.
7. This means that at most, 27 million people can vote this week. This is the most ever, but relatively few are voting for the first time. Most have voted before.
8. However, voter turn-out has also been slipping from the heady days of 1994. It could sink to 65 percent of registered voters this time, at a consistent rate of shrinkage. That would mean that only 17.5 million citizens cast their votes – *less than in 2014!*
9. Declining voter registration cannot be blamed on whites for the simple reason that its size (10 million) far exceeds the total number of whites in the country (4.6 million). This is very much a black and a youth phenomenon.

General Trending

The same people who decided last time will decide again this time. They are getting older and younger people do not share their optimism in Democracy, so they are opting out.

The people who will be most affected – for the longest period - by decisions are the youngest among us. Yet they are being alienated from the process.

The ANC's inclination to crush its Youth League has caused a plethora of splinter parties to appear, starting with the EFF. This kept the old guard in power. Control of succession planning has been totally lost.

So those who want to vote for the future – not for the past – are likely to abandon the ANC.