

Trustees Elections 2025

2025 Board of Trustees Elections

Voting Instructions

VOTING RULES, PROCEDURES AND CURRICULA VITAE

1. Only principal (main) members of the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) who are active and in good standing as of 01 June 2025 are eligible to participate in the process of electing members of the Board of Trustees. Suspended members, as well as spouses, children and any other dependants are not allowed to vote.
2. The candidates' summarised Curricula Vitae (biographies) and photos can be viewed in the attached CV Booklet.
3. A principal (main) member is entitled to vote for no more than three (3) candidates from the list appearing on the attached ballot paper. Should you wish to vote for fewer candidates, your vote will still be considered in the determination of the election outcome. Voting for more than three (3) candidates will, however, result in your vote being spoilt/invalid.
4. Every vote matters in this election. In keeping with the registered Scheme Rules, the three (3) candidates who receive the most votes, in descending order, shall be appointed as Member Trustees. Members are encouraged to vote to ensure a Board of their choice.
5. The election process is independently managed by The Elexions Agency (Pty) Ltd.

Option 1: Ballot Paper Voting

6. BALLOT PAPER VOTING RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Only original ballot papers issued by the Returning Officer (The Elexions Agency (Pty) Ltd) may be used for voting. Providing other members with photocopies of the ballot papers sent to you is strictly prohibited, as it is meant for YOU only!
- b. Members using the ballot paper will be required to comply with the instructions on the ballot paper. The instructions are as follows:
 - i. Ballot papers must be marked using an ink pen, with an (X) or (✓) inside the box opposite the name of your preferred candidate(s).
 - ii. To authenticate a ballot paper, a principal member must complete his/her GEMS membership number AND ID Number in the space provided on the last page of the ballot paper in the counterfoil / tear-off section. Member information will be protected at all times.
 - iii. Please do not tear off this section. It is for OFFICE USE ONLY. This counterfoil / tear-off slip will be removed by The Elexions Agency (Pty) Ltd before the counting of the votes to ensure the secrecy of each vote.
 - iv. A ballot paper that is not duly completed will be disregarded in determining the election outcome.

- c. A self-addressed and postage-paid return envelope (Ballot Envelope) has been provided with this voting package.
- d. A marked ballot paper must be returned inside the provided Ballot Envelope to The Returning Officer (The Elexions Agency (Pty) Ltd) on or before midday on 06 September 2025. Ballot papers received after the closing date and time will be disregarded in determining the election outcome.
- e. Ballot papers may also be returned by:
 - i. **Post** the ballot paper to The Returning Officer, GEMS 2025 Board of Trustees' Election, P O Box 3318, Houghton, 2041;
 - ii. Depositing your ballot paper in the **ballot box** at any of the GEMS Regional Walk-In Centres;
 - iii. **Emailing** your scanned ballot paper to GEMS2025@elexionsagency.co.za;
 - iv. **Fax** to 0866 784 123; or
 - v. **Hand delivery** to The Elexions Agency (Pty) Ltd offices, 1st Floor, 138 Jan Smuts Avenue, Rosebank, 2196.
- f. Ballot papers returned to any other address other than those supplied above will be disregarded. **Do not send your ballot paper to enquiries@gems.gov.za**
- g. If a member spoils or loses the pre-paid ballot envelope, s/he must use any envelope and mail the sealed envelope together with the duly marked ballot paper to: The Returning Officer, GEMS 2025 Board of Trustees Election, P O Box 3318, Houghton, 2041.
- h. Do not cut or deface (damage) your ballot paper. When folded, the ballot paper fits into the ballot envelope provided to you.

Option 2: Online (Website) Voting

7. ONLINE VOTING (WEBSITE) RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

Website Voting: An email will be sent to your registered email address with the Scheme. Members who receive an email can click on the link in the email and follow the instructions provided by doing the following:

- a. Enter your Username by typing your **ID Number**, followed by your **GEMS Membership Number**, which will act as your unique password.
- b. Enter your **Unique Ballot Paper Number** in the field requesting your validating code. The unique Ballot Paper Number can be found in the email and SMS or ballot paper sent to you.
- c. This will give you access to the online voting platform where you can view the biographies of all the candidates and voting instructions.

- d. Once ready, you may click on “Vote” and choose no more than three (3) candidates of your choice by clicking the names of the candidate(s) you wish to vote for.
- e. Click “Submit” once you are satisfied with your choice.
- f. A confirmation will appear on the screen confirming that your vote has been successfully submitted.
- g. Should you enter incorrect details, the system will inform you, and you will have to re-enter each number carefully and correctly.
- h. Members with smartphones may visit the GEMS website to view candidates and voting instructions at: <http://gems.gov.za/GEMSElections/candidates>.

Option 3: USSD Voting

8. USSD VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:

- a. Should you choose this option, please note that only mobile numbers already registered with the Scheme will be able to use this mode of voting. Please make sure read the voting instructions and have your Unique Ballot Paper Number with you (which can be found in the email and SMS sent to you or ballot paper posted to you) together with your smart ID card / green barcoded ID and your GEMS membership card in hand to validate your details when voting.
- b. With your ballot paper in hand, dial *134*7777#. The following prompts will pop up on your screen:
 - i. Enter your Unique Ballot Paper Number followed by your GEMS membership number. Should these numbers be correct, you will proceed to the next step.
 - ii. Should any or one of the above numbers be entered incorrectly, you will be prompted to re-enter that number.
 - iii. If the above numbers have been entered correctly and you have been successfully authenticated, your next screen will be:
 - “Enter the candidate number for your first vote.” You will be required to “Confirm” or “Cancel”.
 - If “Confirm” is chosen and you want to vote for a second candidate, you will be required to choose “Vote Again” and follow the prompts until you have voted for the three (3) candidates of your choice.
 - Should you wish to vote for fewer than three (3) candidates, you can select “Exit” after submitting your votes. For each vote you submit, you will receive a confirmation via SMS with a reference.

- Should you try to vote for a fourth candidate, the following will appear on your screen: “You have already voted for your three (3) candidates. Thank you for participating in the GEMS 2025 BoT Elections”.

Option 4: Regional Walk-in Centre Voting

9. GEMS REGIONAL WALK-IN CENTRE VOTING STATIONS

- This option pertains to members wishing to vote at any of the eighteen (18) GEMS Regional Walk-In Centre Voting Stations around the country. If you opt for this voting method, you will be required to:
 - Bring your ID card or green barcoded ID AND your GEMS membership card. The GEMS membership card must always be accompanied by any legal form of identification.
 - On arrival at the voting station and upon producing your ID and/or GEMS membership card, your details will be verified against the electronic Voters' Roll.
 - Should your name appear, your details will be recorded in the manual Ballot Issue Form. You will then be handed your colour-coded ballot paper with a Unique Ballot Paper Number that will be marked accordingly.
 - You will be shown to a voting booth to vote for up to three (3) candidate(s) of your choice in secret.
 - Once you have finished voting, please deposit your marked ballot paper in the marked ballot box and exit the voting station.
- Voting at GEMS Regional Walk-in Centres will be conducted between 18 and 30 August 2025.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ELECTIONS AGENCY ELECTORAL STAFF, WEARING WHITE BIBS WITH THE ELECTIONS AGENCY LOGO, WILL BE MANAGING THESE VOTING STATIONS.

Option 5: Voting at Identified Government Departments

10. GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS BLITZ

- Voting at Government Departments will be conducted between 11 and 29 August 2025 at random, but based on notification **by the Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC) via GEMS / and confirmation by the Client Liaison Consultants and HR.**
- These pop-up voting stations will be arranged two days in advance of the actual voting station being set up. Members will be notified via Human Resources upon confirmation.

- c. On arrival at the voting station:
 - i. You will be required to produce your ID and/or GEMS membership card, and your details will be written in the GEMS Ballot Issue Register.
 - ii. You will be handed a colour-coded ballot paper with a unique ballot paper number.
 - iii. You will be required to complete the counterfoil slip in full and vote for a maximum of three (3) candidates of your choice.
- d. Once you have finished voting, deposit your marked ballot paper in the marked ballot box and exit the voting area.

DOCUMENTS MAY BE VIEWED FROM WHATSAPP AS FOLLOWS

Save the number 068 763 3983 and send a “Hi” message to interact and receive relevant documents.

VOTE COUNTING AND RESULTS DECLARATION

Ballot papers will be counted at The Elexions Agency identified venue and independently audited by A2A Kopano Inc., of auditors appointed by GEMS. The online and USSD votes will be counted automatically as you vote. All the valid votes by means of the five voting options will be consolidated to produce an outcome. **No results will be announced at the counting station.**

THE ELECTIONS REPORT

The Election Report and audit report will be submitted to the Board of Trustees of GEMS for consideration. If the Board is satisfied that the election was in keeping with the registered Rules of GEMS:

1. The Principal Officer of GEMS will notify the successful candidates in writing of the election outcome.
2. The announcement of the results remains the prerogative of the Board.

VOTING ENDS AT 12H00 MIDDAY ON 06 September 2025

DISCLAIMER: GEMS has made provision for a voting period of 60 days for the receipt and return of mail to and from members from 07 July to 06 September 2025. Should you not have received your email, SMS or postal pack, kindly contact The Elexions Agency urgently on 0860 866 335, visit www.gems.gov.za, or email GEMS2025@elexionsagency.co.za. GEMS cannot be held responsible for delays in receiving your voting pack via post.

**These elections are independently conducted
by The Elexions Agency.**



For election related queries contact the Returning Officer at GEMS2025@elexionsagency.co.za or call 0860 866 335 or save the WhatsApp bot number 068 763 3983 and send a “Hi” message to receive / view or download information on the election.

For medical aid related queries, contact GEMS directly at 0800 00 4367 or enquiries@gems.gov.za

These elections are managed and conducted by independent elections management company, The Elexions Agency