### Take back your power. BETHECHANGE Bethe CHANGE Bethe Boss



# HOW?

There are various ways you can take back your control as a citizen of South Africa and participate in our democracy. #activecitizen

The first way is to vote in elections, national and local. No election is too small or insignificant.

Secondly you can support civil society organisations like OUTA and My Vote Counts in making electoral reform a reality in our country, to ensure people in government positions serve us and our best interests.

### What is Electoral Reform? And why should you care?

Electoral reform means a change in a country's electoral system. In this case, a positive change that puts power back into the hands of South African voters, and ensures more accountability of the people in government (meaning: hold them responsible to actually do their jobs).

## So why are OUTA and other civic justice organisations asking for electoral reform?

The current electoral system we have in South Africa is proportional representation. This means when you vote, you vote for a party, NOT an individual. This system puts all the power in the hands of party bosses while disempowering voters. Members of Parliament feel beholden to their parties, rather than to the people who elected them. That's why there is zero accountability. And that's why we feel hopeless and helpless as citizens.

In June 2020, the Constitutional Court ruled that our current Electoral Act is unconstitutional because it prohibits individuals, (separate from political parties), from standing for election at national and provincial levels.

#### So what next?

Parliament is now obliged to change the law! A Bill to allow for the change is now in progress. But parliament is dragging their feet. A change in the system affects their positions of power. They don't care about serving South African citizens, they only care about serving their own (and their party's) interests.

This is why OUTA, My Vote Counts and other civil society organisations are standing up and putting pressure on government to implement electoral reform that WORKS FOR YOU, dear citizen of South Africa. You can help by supporting us, here are ways to help: insert link here or list viable/practical ways to help/support

#### A government that works for YOU.

Imagine having more control over who is in government. Imagine being able to choose people you know and trust to get the work done and build a better South Africa FOR ALL. And imagine being able to hold these people accountable. For real.

This is what Electoral Reform can achieve. So #BeTheBoss. Be the change.

