

# African Elections Factsheet Series: Tanzania Presidential Elections

In 2020, a significant number of elections are scheduled or have already taken place in Africa with a large number of them occurring in the last quarter of the year. The CIP Africa Program is tracking upcoming Q4 elections through a factsheet series for researchers, policymakers and the general public who are looking for the key facts surrounding these elections.

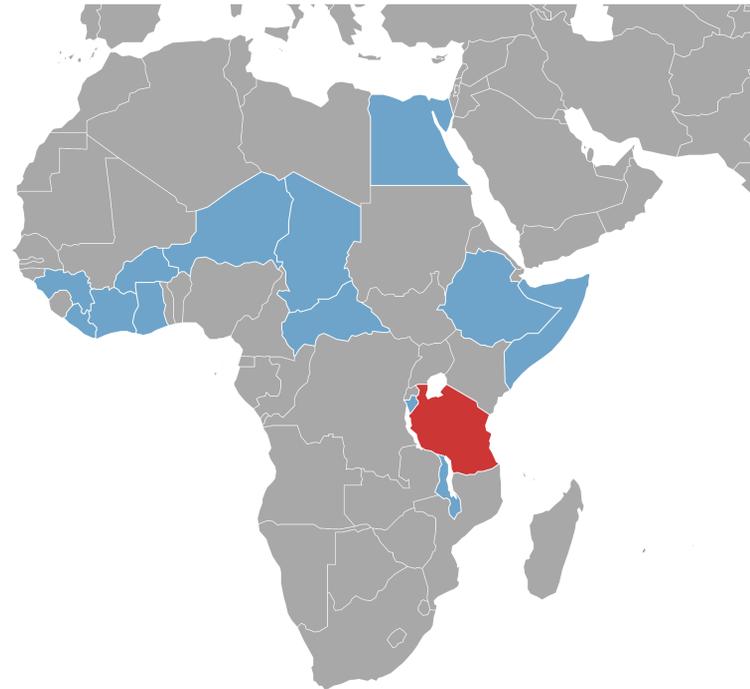
AP Factsheet: 30 October 2020 ([click here for interactive version](#))

## When

- Presidential and parliamentary elections were held on October 28 2020
- More than 29 million people have registered to vote in this election. Polling stations opened at 7am (04:00 GMT) and closed at 4pm (01:00 GMT).
- Following the elections on Wednesday October 28, the election results are expected to be announced within the week.

## 2020 Elections Happening in Africa

Countries in blue all have elections in 2020 while red highlights Tanzania, the focus of this factsheet.



## Ahead of the Elections

- According to Amnesty International, election coverage will be restricted following the new laws requiring international radio and television broadcasters to have licenced local partners to get the regulatory body's permission to air content.
- Ahead of the election, there are reports that social media sites including Instagram, whatsapp and Twitter have been blocked.

## What's been happening since Election Day?

- Opposition leaders have denounced the elections and alleged fraud as of 29 October.
- Results released so far show current President Magufuli and his party, CCM, to be in a strong lead. 17 out of 260 constituencies have released results.
- Zanzibar, the semi-autonomous archipelago, declared CCM candidate Hussein Mwinyi the winner of its election with 76% of the votes. His rival, Maalim Seif Sharif was arrested afterwards for saying the results were rigged and calling for mass protests.

Country	Type of Election	Date	Head of State Term Limit	Head of State Term Length
Burundi	Presidential and Legislative	20 May	2	7 years
Malawi	Presidential	23 June	2	5 years
Seychelles	Presidential	22-24 October (subject to change due to COVID-19)	2	5 years
Tanzania	Presidential and Legislative	28 October	2	5 years
Ivory Coast	Presidential and Legislative	31 October	2	5 years
Guinea	Presidential	18 October	2	5 years
Burkina Faso	Presidential and Legislative	22 November	2	5 years
Ghana	Presidential and Legislative	7 December	2	4 years
Liberia	Parliamentary	8 December	2	6 years
Chad	Parliamentary	13 December	None	5 years
Central African Republic	Presidential and Legislative	27 December	2	5 years
Niger	Presidential and Legislative	27 December	2	5 years
Somalia	Parliamentary	31 December	2	4 years
Egypt	Parliamentary	TBD (originally meant to take place in May 2020)	2	6 years
Ethiopia	Parliamentary	2021 (formerly Aug 29, postponed due to COVID-19)	None	None

## Who is Running?

- Incumbent President John Magufuli, 60, is seeking re-election for a second term among a crowded field of 15 contenders. He is the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party candidate. CCM (formerly known as Tanzania African National Union Party) has ruled the country since its independence from Britain. In the run up to the election, opinion polls have been banned, which make it difficult to predict the outcome, but many analysts believe Magufuli has a strong chance of winning re-election.

*Note: Earlier this year, Magufuli drew international attention for declaring the country of almost 60 million people coronavirus-free. He said prayers had helped eliminate COVID-19 and his government has not released any coronavirus figures since April.*

- Tindu Lissu, 52, is the candidate for the main opposition party Chadema. In 2017, he survived an assassination attempt in the Dodoma, when he was shot 16 times by unknown attackers. Following that, he spent nearly three years in exile, first in neighboring Kenya and then Belgium, where he underwent more than a dozen surgeries.

- Former Foreign Minister Bernard Membe

- Ibrahim Lipumba, an economist turned politician



## Voting System & Constitution

- The president is elected by plurality voting, the candidate who receives the highest number of votes wins
- Presidential terms are limited to five years and renewable once
- According to Vanguard Africa On 23 August 2019, Dezydellius Patrick Mgoya, a self-proclaimed 'peasant farmer,' filed a constitutional petition asking the High Court for their 'proper interpretation' of the provisions of Tanzania's Constitution, which limit the tenure of office of the president.
- Mr. Mgoya claimed that the presidential term limit is inconsistent with the constitutional right to participate in public affairs through elections to public office, in this case the office of the President of the United Republic.
- There are claims that President Magufuli has set out to systematically interfere in free and fair elections. The National Election Commission has been stacked with party loyalists. There are multiple claims that he has also instructed election supervisors, under the pain of summary dismissal, to not declare CCM opponents winners in any future elections.
- In 2016, Magufuli's government banned public rallies. Between January 2016 and July 2020, at least 10 Tanzanian media outlets were banned for periods ranging from one week to indefinitely according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

## US foreign policy toward Tanzania ahead of and during the elections

- The U.S government has put out a statement regarding the Tanzania elections. On 17 September 2020: Congress passed a resolution "urging the Government of Tanzania and all parties to respect human rights and constitutional rights and ensure free and fair elections in October 2020, and recognizing the importance of multi-party democracy in Tanzania." H.Res.1120 Sponsored by Karen Bass
- The U.S Embassy in Tanzania released a statement about the elections.
- Ahead of the elections, Lindu the opposition party candidate made allegations of widespread electoral fraud. The Chairman of the National Electoral Commission denied the allegations.
- The US has noted "credible allegations of significant election-related fraud and intimidation."