

African Elections Factsheet Series:

Seychelles, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, CAR, Niger

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: 23 October 2020 ([click here](#) for interactive version)

Seychelles: October 22nd - 24th (Legislative) October 24 (Presidential)



- October 22nd - 24th (Legislative) and October 24th Presidential elections
- The parliamentary elections were supposed to be held in July 2020, but President Faure decided to hold both elections concurrently. This move was supported by the opposition parties.
- Members of parliament (the national assembly) are elected in 2 ways.
- 25 members are directly elected by a single majority vote and the remaining 9 members are nominated by political parties that receive at least 10 percent of the vote.
- The President is elected using a two round system, if no candidate receives a majority in the first round. a second round is held between the top 2 candidates. The President is elected for a 5 year term, renewable once.
- The candidates:
 - Incumbent President Danny Faure of the United Seychelles Party. He was formerly the vice President under President James Michel who stepped down in 2016 about a year into his presidency
 - Wavel Ramkalawan from the Linyon Demokratik Seselwa (LDS) party
 - Alain St Ange from the One Seychelles party.
- To encourage voter participation, the President has declared October 24th a public holiday.
- The opposition party candidate, Wavel Ramkalawan, won the election for the first time in 44 years ousting the incumbent president.

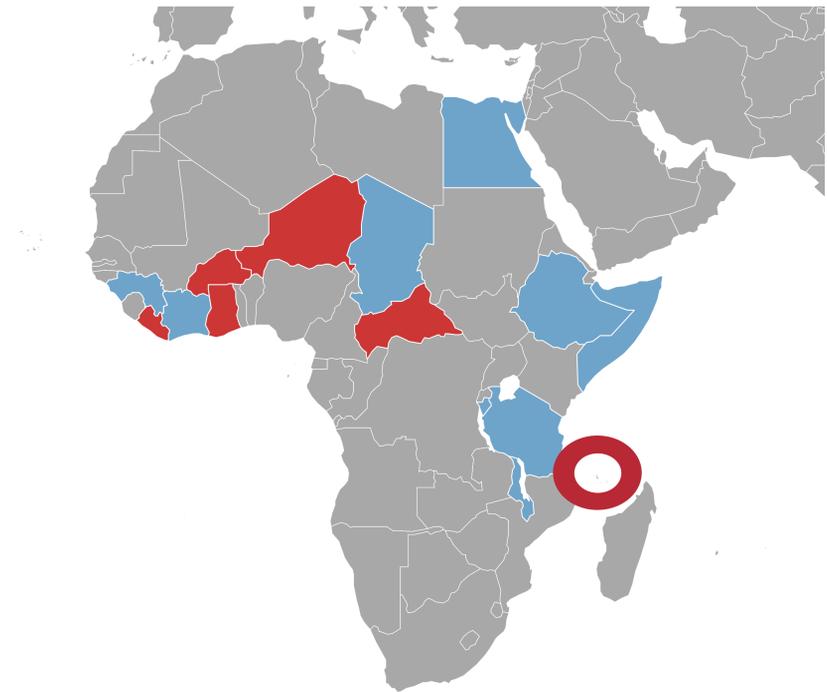
Burkina Faso: November 22 (General Elections)



- November 22 (general elections)
- The President is elected for a 5 year term, renewable once.
- This will be the second general election since an uprising overthrew the former longtime President Blaise Compaore in 2014.
- Due to insecurity the government has decided that voter registration will not take place in about 17 percent of its electoral communes. The excluded communes are in areas that have suffered from ongoing conflict. This translates to about 400,000 people who will be unable to register for the elections.
- The Candidates:
 - President Roch Marc Christain Kabore, who won in 2015, is running for a second term MPP (People's movement for Progress).
 - Zephirin Diabre, president of Union for Progress and Change (UPC). UPC is Burkina Faso's main opposition party.
 - Diabre previously ran for president in 2015 and he came second with 29.65% of the vote.
 - Former Prime Minister Isaac Zida of the Patriotic Movement of Salvation (MPS) is also running for President.
 - Zida has been in exile in Canada since 2016 but his supporters submitted his candidacy stating that he would be back in time for the electoral campaign. He faces an arrest warrant for "desertion in peacetime and refusal to obey". Zida was a former lieutenant- colonel who seized power after the fall of Compaore in 2014.

2020 Elections Happening in Africa

Countries in blue all have elections in 2020 while red highlights Seychelles, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, CAR and Niger the focus countries of this factsheet.



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 and Legislative	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

CIP Africa Program | @CIPPolicyAfrica | Data: EISA and Africa Center for Strategic Studies

Ghana : December 7 (General Elections)



- The president is elected using a two round system, with the run-off election taking place between the top 2 candidates if no one receives 50% of the vote.
- The 275 members of parliament are elected in single member constituencies and are elected by a single majority vote.
- The election is between President Akufo- Addo of the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and John Mahama of the National Democratic Congress (NDC). This would be the third consecutive election between the two candidates
- Akufo- Addo, 76 won the election in 2016 with 53.8 percent of the vote, unseating Mahama.
- Mahama, 61 defeated Akufo- Addo in 2012 with 50.7 percent of the vote.

Liberia: December 8 (Senate Elections)



- 118 contestants are vying for 15 seats. 18 of the contestants are women and 100 are men.

Niger: December 27 (General Elections)



- Members of the national assembly are elected in several ways:
- 158 members are elected to eight multi- member ordinary constituencies that correspond to the country's regions and the capital Niamey
- 8 members are elected from 8 special constituencies to ensure minority representation
- 5 members are elected for 5 single member constituencies for Nigeriens living abroad.
- The president is elected using a two round system, if no candidate receives a majority of the vote the runoff election will be held in February 2021.
- The presidential candidates:
- Mohamed Bazoum of the Nigerien Party for Democracy and Socialism (PDNS). The former interior minister resigned from his post in order to focus on his campaign.
- General Djibo Salou of the Peace Justice Progress Party (PJP), a former Nigeren Army Officer. He led the 2010 military coup that toppled the president Tandja. After the coup he became the head of the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy. He handed over power to the current president Mahasmadou Issoufou who was then elected in 2011 and re-elected in 2016.
- Former President Mahamane Ousmane (in power 1993-1996)
- The definitive list of all candidates running in the Presidential election will be published by December 1.

Central African Republic (CAR): December 27 (General Elections)



- The presidential election is a 2 round system. If no one receives more than 50% of the vote, the runoff election will take place in February, 2021.
- In 2015, the government instituted a 2 term term limit. Each term lasts for a duration of 5 years.
- The government has refused to delay the election despite the fact that voter registration has been pushed back due to insecurity and the coronavirus pandemic.
- The candidates:
- President Faustin- Archange Touadera, of the United Hearts Party (MCU). The 63 year old incumbent, was elected in 2016, with two-thirds of the vote but he struggled to maintain control over a nation wracked by violence.
- Francis Bozize of the National Convergence "Kwa Na Kwa" was president of the Central African Republic from 2003- 2013. In 2013, a rebel coalition made up primarily of the muslim minority toppled Bozize's government plunging the country into violence.