



STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Report on the Review of the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Amendment Bill (Bill No. 30 of 2026)



PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI
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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD



The Electoral (Registration of Voters) Amendment Bill 2026 was referred to the Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights to scrutinise and return a report of its findings to Parliament.

The Bill seeks to amend the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 to align with the proposed amendments under the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026 and to strengthen the legal framework governing voter registration and electoral integrity in Fiji.

In undertaking its scrutiny of the Bill, the Committee carefully considered the proposed amendments and their implications for the administration of elections and the maintenance of the National Register of Voters. The Committee noted that the Bill introduces new definitions related to corrupt and illegal electoral practices, updates terminology to ensure consistency with the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, and establishes a Corrupt Electoral Practices List to regulate voter registration eligibility for persons convicted of serious electoral offences.

The Committee further observed that the Bill seeks to strengthen accountability within the electoral system by ensuring that persons found guilty of corrupt electoral practices may be removed from the National Register of Voters for a specified period. The proposed amendments also provide greater consistency across Fiji's electoral laws and support the effective administration of voter registration processes.

As part of the review, the Committee conducted public consultation in targeted areas to gather opinions and feedback from the public. The Committee received support and commendation on the introduction of the Bill, from majority of the public that had participated in the public consultation. However, like most activities that impact the lives of the people of a country, there will also be other suggestions that are based on the premise of making improvements.

Consideration was also given to the impact of the Bill on Fiji's efforts in meeting its targets of the sustainable development goals (SDG).

The Committee acknowledges the concerns raised by the submitters and has deliberated at length on concerns raised. The Committee is confident that all issues raised have been addressed and that certain recommendations have been reflected in the amendment Bill.

I would like to thank the Honourable Members of the Justice, Law and Human Rights Committee for their deliberations and input; Hon. Faiyaz Koya (Deputy Chairperson),

Hon. Jone Usamate, Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu, Hon. Sachida Nand and Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu.

I, on behalf of the Committee, commend the *Electoral (Registration of Voters) Amendment (Bill No. 30 of 2026)* to the Parliament and seek support of all the members of this August house for the Bill.



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HON. RATU RAKUITA VAKALALABURE
CHAIRPERSON

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights ('Committee') is established under Section 70 of the *Constitution of the Republic of Fiji* and Standing Order 109 of the *Standing Orders of the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji*. The Committee consists of the following Members:



Hon. Ratu Rakuita
Vakalalabure
(Chairperson)



Hon. Faiyaz Koya
(Deputy Chairperson)



Hon. Jone Usamate
(Member)



Hon. Sachida Nand
(Member)



Hon. Ratu Isikeli
Tuiwailevu
(Member)



Hon. Ratu Josaia
Niudamu
(Member)

COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT

Supporting the Committee in its work is a group of dedicated Parliament Officers who make-up the Committee Secretariat and are appointed and delegated by the Secretary-General to Parliament pursuant to Standing Order 15 (3)(i). The Secretariat team is made of the following Parliament officers:

- Mr. Jackson Cakacaka – Senior Committee Clerk
- Ms. Alumita Cabealawa – Deputy Committee Clerk
- Mr. Jeke Rokotuiloma – Assistant Committee Clerk

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law and Human Rights, referred to as the (“Committee”), was assigned the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Amendment Bill 2026 for review on 21 August 2026. The Bill was referred to the Committee in accordance with SO 51, which tasked the Committee with the examination of the Bill and the responsibility to report on its findings in a subsequent Parliament Sitting.

1.2 Procedure and Program

The Committee has conducted a thorough review of the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Amendment Bill (Bill No. 30 of 2026). This report outlines the findings, observations, and recommendations of the Committee regarding the Bill.

The Committee examined the Bill in detail, reviewing each clause and engaging in deliberations. Following this, the Committee invited the responsible Ministry to provide a briefing on the objectives and intentions behind the proposed legislations. To ensure transparency and inclusivity, the Committee then opened the process to public participation by calling for submissions from citizens and other stakeholders, which was advertised through Parliament’s official social media platforms.

The Committee was mindful of the provisions on Standing Order 111(1)(a) and ensured that its meetings were open to the public and the media, except during such deliberations and discussions to develop and finalise the Committee’s observations and this Report.

1.3 Committee Remit

The Standing Committee on Justice, Law, and Human Rights, in accordance with Standing Order 109 of Parliament's Standing Orders, is tasked with several duties. As outlined in Standing Order 110, these include scrutinizing each Bill referred to it by Parliament and review any subordinate legislation presented in Parliament that falls under its purview.

2.0 ELECTORAL (REGISTRATION OF VOTERS) BILL (BILL NO. 30 of 2026)

2.1 Introduction

The Electoral (Registration of Voters) Amendment Bill 2026 (Bill No. 30 of 2026) was introduced in Parliament to amend the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 and ensure consistency with the reforms proposed under the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026. The Bill forms part of the Government's broader efforts to strengthen Fiji's electoral framework by enhancing the integrity of voter registration processes and harmonising electoral legislation.

3.0 COMMITTEE'S DELIBERATION AND ANALYSIS OF THE BILL

3.1 Initial Reading of the Bill and Deliberation by the Committee

During its clause-by-clause review of the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Amendment Bill, the Committee observed that the Bill seeks to amend the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 to align to amendments proposed under the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026.

The Committee noted that the Bill proposes several key amendments, including the introduction of new definitions relating to corrupt and illegal electoral practices, the alignment of legislative terminology with the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, and the reclassification of certain offences as illegal electoral practices. It also provides for the removal of individuals who have been disqualified from registration as voters due to convictions for corrupt electoral practices or other electoral offences.

Committee also noted a significant feature of the Bill is the establishment of a Corrupt Electoral Practices List, which will contain the details of persons convicted of corrupt electoral practices or reported by the Court of Disputed Returns as having committed such practices. The Bill further provides that an individual's name must be removed from the list after four years from the date of conviction or report.

The Committee's consideration of the Bill focused on whether the proposed amendments would promote greater accountability, transparency and public confidence in Fiji's electoral system while ensuring that voter registration requirements remain fair, clear and consistent with existing electoral laws.

3.2 Bill Summary

By way of consensus, the Committee agreed that it would be prudent to include the necessary issues that the proposed law intends to address. This would readily give the reader of this Report with the aforementioned information regarding the Bill, which is summarized below;

Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the short title and commencement. If passed by Parliament, the amending legislation will come into force on a date or dates appointed by the Minister by notice in the Gazette.

Clause 2 of the Bill amends section 2 of the Act to introduce the definition of new key terms as a result of amendments made to the Electoral Act 2014 and which consequentially affect offence provisions in the Act.

Clause 3 of the Bill amends section 3 of the Act to be consistent with terminology used in the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji.

Clause 4 of the Bill amends section 4 of the Act to categorise the offence under section 4(4) as an illegal electoral practice.

Clause 5 of the Bill amends section 12 of the Act to include the removal of persons who have been listed under the Corrupt Electoral Practices List or those that have been disqualified from being registered as a voter, from the National Register of Voters.

Clause 6 of the Bill amends section 19C of the Act to categorise the offence under section 19C(2) as an illegal electoral practice.

Clause 7 of the Bill amends section 19F of the Act to categorise the offence under section 19F as an illegal electoral practice.

Clause 8 of the Bill amends the Act by inserting a new section 19G to provide for the Corrupt Electoral Practices List which names all persons convicted of a corrupt electoral practice or have been reported by the Court of Disputed Returns as guilty of a corrupt electoral practice under an electoral law or a category A offence under the Electoral (Local Government Elections) Regulations 2026. A name entered must be removed after 4 years from the date of conviction or report made, as applicable.

3.3 In-depth Analysis of the Clauses of the Bill

The Committee then held extensive discussions on the Clauses and identified certain provisions that merit proper consideration. These discussions resulted in the identification of issues, which the Committee placed as priority issues to be further discussed and deliberated on with the drafter of the Bill.

1. Replacement of the Term “Mental Disorder” with “Unsound Mind” (Clauses 3 and 5)

The Bill replaces references to "mental disorder" with the term "unsound mind" to align the Act with the terminology used in the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji.

The Committee noted that the amendment provides consistency between electoral legislation and constitutional provisions. However, the Committee considers that the term “unsound mind” should be applied carefully and consistently. Clarification was sought regarding the criteria for determining when a person falls within this category. The Committee further noted the importance of ensuring that the provision is implemented in a manner consistent with the rights and political participation of persons with disabilities.

2. Removal of Disqualified Persons from the National Register of Voters (Clause 5)

The Bill amends section 12 of the Act to provide for the removal of any person whose name appears on the Corrupt Electoral Practices List or who is otherwise disqualified from voting under electoral legislation.

The Committee considers that this amendment supports the maintenance of an accurate and legally compliant National Register of Voters by ensuring that only eligible persons remain registered. It also strengthens electoral integrity by preventing disqualified individuals from participating in elections.

Despite these benefits, the Committee noted that the removal process should be administered transparently and be accompanied by appropriate notification procedures. The Committee further considers that affected individuals should have access to review or appeal mechanisms where necessary, particularly in circumstances involving administrative errors that may result in the inadvertent removal of eligible voters.

3. Introduction of the Corrupt Electoral Practices List (Clause 8)

The Bill introduces a new section 19G which establishes a Corrupt Electoral Practices List to be maintained by the Supervisor of Elections. Under this provision, the names of registered voters or applicants for voter registration who have, within the preceding four years, either been convicted of a corrupt electoral practice or been reported by the Court of Disputed Returns as guilty of a corrupt electoral practice, must be entered on the List.

The Committee noted that this amendment seeks to strengthen the integrity of Fiji's electoral system by preventing persons found guilty of serious electoral misconduct from participating in the electoral process for a prescribed period. The provision serves as a deterrent against electoral offences such as bribery, undue influence, vote-buying and other corrupt practices, while reinforcing public confidence in the administration of elections.

However, the Committee further noted that the amendment results in a restriction of an individual's electoral rights for a period of four years. Consideration should therefore be given to whether the duration of disqualification is proportionate to the nature and severity of the electoral offence committed.

4. Four-Year Disqualification Period

The proposed section 19G provides that an individual's name will remain on the Corrupt Electoral Practices List for four years, after which the Supervisor of Elections must remove the person's name from the List.

The Committee noted that the proposed provision establishes a clear and finite period of disqualification, providing certainty for both electoral administrators and affected individuals. The amendment also allows an opportunity for individuals to re-enter the electoral process following the completion of their disqualification period.

However, the Committee observed that, depending on the timing of elections, an individual may be prevented from participating in more than one electoral event during the four-year period. Clarification was sought regarding the commencement of the disqualification period, particularly where an appeal against conviction or findings of the Court of Disputed Returns remains pending.

5. Consequential Alignment with the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026

The Bill introduces and incorporates definitions such as “corrupt electoral practice” and “illegal electoral practice” to align the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 with broader electoral reforms proposed under the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026.

The Committee considered that aligning definitions across electoral legislation will improve legislative consistency and facilitate the effective administration of electoral laws. The amendments establish a clear connection between electoral offences and their consequences for voter registration and eligibility.

However, the Committee noted that amendments to electoral offence provisions in the future may have consequential effects on voter eligibility. Public awareness and voter education initiatives may therefore be necessary to ensure that voters and electoral officials understand the operation and implications of the new legislative framework.

Comparison of the Electoral Registration of Voters Act 2012 vs Amendment Bill 2026

Act	Bill
[ERV 2] Interpretation 2 In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires— election has the meaning given in section 2 of the Electoral Act 2014; [def subst Act 10 of 2021 s 2, opn 7 June 2021] Fijian Elections Office has the meaning given in section 2 of the Electoral Act 2014; [def insrt Act 10 of 2021 s 2, opn 7 June 2021] list of post-register deletions [def rep Decree 9 of 2014 s 2, opn 28 Mar 2014] list of post-register registrations [def rep Decree 9 of 2014 s 2, opn 28 Mar 2014] mental disorder has the same meaning under the Mental Health Act 2010; Minister means the Minister responsible for elections; National Register of Voters means a register of persons entitled to vote at an election and includes an electronic register; Permanent Secretary [def rep Decree 9 of 2014 s 2, opn 28 Mar 2014] polling day has the meaning given in section 2 of the Electoral Act 2014; [def subst Act 10 of 2021 s 2, opn 7 June 2021] publish means to produce and make available to the public, including electronically; [def insrt Act 10 of 2021 s 2, opn 7 June 2021] qualified person means a person who has the right to be registered as a voter; registration officer means any officer appointed by the Supervisor to register qualified persons in the National Register of Voters; [def am Decree 9 of 2014 s 5, opn 28 Mar 2014] registration period means— - in respect of the election held for the first time immediately upon the commencement of this Act, the period from and including the date of commencement of this Act to and including the writ day for that election; and - in respect of any other election, the period from and including the date of the official announcement of the election results of any previous election to and including the writ day for the following election; repealed Act means the Electoral Act 1998; residential address means the address where a person lives;	Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting the following new definitions— “corrupt electoral practice” has the meaning given to it under section 2 of the Electoral Act 2014; “Corrupt Electoral Practices List” means the Corrupt Electoral Practices List under section 19G;” and “illegal electoral practice” has the meaning given to it under section 135A(2) of the Electoral Act 2014;
[ERV 3] Registration of voters 3 (1) Subject to subsection (2), a person who— - has reached the age of 18 years; and - is a citizen of Fiji, shall have the right to be registered as a voter. (2) Any person who, during the registration period, is— - serving a sentence of imprisonment of 12 months or longer imposed by a court in Fiji or by a court of another country; or - under a law in force in Fiji, adjudged or declared to have a mental disorder, shall not have the right to be or shall cease to have the right to be registered as a voter unless the circumstances in paragraphs (a) and (b) cease to exist. (3) The Supervisor shall, at least once a year, publish a notice in a daily newspaper and broadcast a notice over the radio, calling upon every qualified person who has not been registered as a voter to apply for registration. [def rep Decree 9 of 2014 s 5, opn 28 Mar 2014]	Section 3(2)(b) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “have a mental disorder” and substituting “be of unsound mind”.

[ERV 4] Application for registration

4 (1) A qualified person may apply for registration as a voter in the National Register of Voters within the registration period.

(2) An application for registration as a voter shall be made to a registration officer and the application shall have recorded the applicant's—

- (a) full name;
- (b) residential address;
- (c) occupation;
- (d) date of birth;
- (e) gender;
- (f) form of identification acceptable to the registration officer;
- (g) thumbprints;
- (h) facial photograph; and
- (i) [Repealed]
- (j) such other particulars as may be approved and published by the Supervisor.

[subs (2) am Act 40 of 2021 s 3, opn 6 Oct 2021; Act 19 of 2023 s 2, opn 11 Aug 2023]

(2A) The application for registration must be made in the form approved by the Electoral Commission.

[subs (2A) insrt Act 10 of 2021 s 3, opn 7 June 2021]

(2B) For the purpose of subsection (2), the name of an applicant who is a Fiji citizen by registration or naturalisation that is on his or her certificate of registration or certificate of naturalisation, as the case may be, shall be accepted as the name of the applicant.

[subs (2B) subst Act 19 of 2023 s 2, opn 11 Aug 2023]

(3) The Supervisor or a registration officer may reject an application that is not completed in accordance with this section.

[subs (3) am Decree 9 of 2014 s 5, opn 28 Mar 2014]

(4) Any person who applies on more than one occasion to be registered as a voter shall be guilty of an offence and liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or both.

Section 4(4) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “*shall be guilty of an offence and liable upon conviction to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding 5 years, or both*” and substituting “*commits an offence which is an illegal electoral practice*”.

[ERV 12] Revision of the National Register of Voters

12 (1) The Supervisor may revise the National Register of Voters to—

- (a) correct any mistake or omission in the particulars of the registration of a person;
- (b) on the application of a person who is a registered voter, record a change in the person's name, residential address, postal address or occupation, or any other particulars contained in the National Register of Voters in respect of that person;
- (c) remove from the National Register of Voters the name of any person whom the Supervisor has good reason to believe—
 - (i) is dead;
 - (ii) has ceased to be a citizen of Fiji;
 - (iii) has been adjudged or otherwise declared to have a mental disorder under any law in force in Fiji;
 - (iv) is serving a sentence of imprisonment for a term of 12 months or more; or
 - (v) is otherwise disqualified from registration in the National Register of Voters;
- (d) remove a superfluous entry, if the same person is registered more than once in the National Register of Voters;
- (e) remove the name of every person who, on an inquiry made at the last residential address for that person of which the Supervisor was notified under this Act, cannot be found;
- (f) remove the name of every person who has been disqualified from voting by an order of a court under this Act;
- (g) reinstate the name of every person whose disqualification has expired or has been removed;
- (h) reinstate any name removed by mistake, clerical error or false information;
- (i) if the name of a street or any other part of a residential address that appears on the National Register of Voters is changed, substitute the changed name or other part of the address; and
- (j) remove any registration obtained by fraudulent means or by providing incorrect details required by the Supervisor to successfully register an eligible voter.

[subs (1) am Decree 9 of 2014 s 5, opn 28 Mar 2014; Act 10 of 2021 s 7, opn 7 June 2021]

(2) Any revision of the National Register of Voters under subsection (1) may be made at any time prior to the closure of the National Register of Voters under section 19.

Section 12(1) of the Principal Act is amended by—

- (a) in paragraph (c)(iii), deleting “have a mental disorder” and substituting “be of unsound mind”; and
- (b) deleting paragraph (f) and substituting the following—

“(f) remove the name of any person who has been entered on the Corrupt Electoral Practices List or has otherwise been disqualified from registration as a voter under a law relating to electoral offences;”.

[ERV 19C] Non-disclosure of information 19C (1) At the time of registration, the registration officer or any person employed by the Fijian Elections Office must not disclose any information in relation to the registration of a person to any other person unless the disclosure is required by a court of law or under any other written law. (2) Any registration officer or any person employed by the Fijian Elections Office who contravenes this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years. [s 19C insrt Act 10 of 2021 s 11, opn 7 June 2021]	Section 19C(2) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “<i>and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years</i>” and substituting “<i>which is an illegal electoral practice</i>”.
[ERV 19F] Breach of official duty 19F Any registration officer or person employed by the Fijian Elections Office who contravenes a provision of this Act or direction given to him or her under this Act commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or both. [s 19F insrt Act 10 of 2021 s 11, opn 7 June 2021]	Section 19F of the Principal Act is amended by deleting “<i>and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$50,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 10 years or both</i>” and substituting “<i>which is an illegal electoral practice</i>”.
“Corrupt Electoral Practices List” 19G.—(1) Where the Supervisor is satisfied that a person who is registered or who applies for registration as a voter has, within the immediate preceding period of 4 years— (a) been convicted of a corrupt electoral practice under any electoral law or a category A offence under the Electoral (Local Government Elections) Regulations 2026; or (b) been reported by the Court of Disputed Returns on the trial of an election petition as guilty of a corrupt electoral practice under any electoral law or a category A offence under the Electoral (Local Government Elections) Regulations 2026, the Supervisor must enter the name, voter number, residence, and description of that person if necessary, and particulars of the conviction or report, on the Corrupt Electoral Practices List. (2) The Supervisor must remove the name of a person from the Corrupt Electoral Practices List at the expiration of 4 years from the date of the conviction or report under subsection (1).”.	The Principal Act is amended after section 19F by inserting the following new section— 19G

3.4 Submission received via public consultation

All the submissions received during the public consultation were considered and deliberated on extensively. The main points and issues noted from the submissions are summarised below.

National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD)

NCPD supported provisions relating to corrupt and illegal electoral practices but recommended that persons with disabilities accused of such offences be provided with appropriate legal and communication support. The Council raised concerns about replacing the term "mental disorder" with "unsound mind" and recommended further clarification to ensure that persons with psychosocial, intellectual or cognitive disabilities were not unfairly deprived of their voting rights. It also supported reforms to the National Register of Voters and advocated for accessible voter registration processes that provided reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities.

Fiji Women's Rights Movement

FWRM expressed concern over the replacement of the term "mental disorder" with "unsound mind", arguing that the terminology was inconsistent with international disability rights standards and could potentially lead to unjust exclusion from voter registration. The organisation recommended that any restriction on voting rights be based on clear legal criteria and not solely on disability or mental health status. FWRM also raised concerns about provisions allowing the removal of voters from the register and the establishment of a Corrupt Electoral Practices List, stressing the importance of due process, privacy protections, notification requirements, opportunities for review, and ensuring that no individual was penalised solely on the basis of allegations without a legally established finding.

People's Star Network

PSN supported strong penalties for serious electoral corruption but recommended safeguards for privacy and due process in relation to the proposed Corrupt Electoral Practices List. It questioned the publication of voter numbers and residential information, called for clearer appeal rights, and sought clarification on how disqualification periods would operate when both Court of Disputed Returns findings and criminal convictions arose from the same conduct.

A significant aspect of the submission focused on political-party registration. Drawing from its own experience as a proposed political party, PSN highlighted practical challenges associated with meeting the 5,000-member registration threshold. It recommended introducing a limited cure period for minor verification shortfalls, allowing secure electronic membership submissions, establishing batch verification processes, and providing clearer public guidance on registration requirements. The submission also sought legislative clarification regarding applications lodged before the issuance of a writ but still pending when an election is called.

University of Fiji

The submission acknowledged the importance of strengthening electoral integrity but raised concerns about the creation of the Corrupt Electoral Practices List (CEPL), which could result in removal from the National Register of Voters for up to four years. It argued that offences resulting in voter disqualification should be clearly prescribed in primary legislation rather than subsidiary legislation. The University also questioned the broadening of grounds for voter disqualification, the removal of imprisonment penalties for breaches of official duty by electoral officials, and the absence of provisions requiring immediate reinstatement to the voter register where convictions are subsequently overturned. It recommended greater legislative clarity, procedural safeguards, and coordination with Bill No. 29.

Mosmi Bhim

Remove Restrictions on Election Education Activities

The submitter recommended removing provisions restricting election-related educational activities by NGOs and tertiary institutions that receive foreign funding. The Submitter argued that civic education, public forums and elections-related discussions are educational activities rather than campaign activities and should not be prohibited simply because they receive foreign donor support.

Retain Costing of Election Promises

The submitter opposed the removal of provisions requiring political parties to explain how campaign promises with financial implications would be funded and implemented. It was argued that retaining these requirements would promote accountability and transparency and discourage unrealistic election promises.

Remove “Unsound Mind” Disqualification

The submission strongly opposed the proposed amendment replacing the term “mental disorder” with “unsound mind” in the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act. It was argued that the phrase “unsound mind” is vague and subjective, creating potential for abuse and unjust deprivation of voting rights. It was further recommended removing restrictions on voting by persons with mental disabilities where they are capable of living independently and participating in society.

A copy of the oral and written submission can be obtained from the online “Appendices” of the Report, which can be accessed via the Parliament website: www.parliament.gov.fj

3.6 Sustainable Development Goals Impact Analysis

The Committee noted that the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026 contributes primarily to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by strengthening democratic governance, promoting transparent and accountable electoral processes, and enhancing civic participation through a more inclusive electoral system. The Bill also supports SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by reducing barriers to electoral participation for persons with disabilities and voters requiring postal voting arrangements.

The Committee further noted that the Electoral (Amendment) Bill 2026 supports SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by promoting equal access to electoral participation for all eligible voters and candidates, regardless of gender. The Bill strengthens democratic processes, expands opportunities for voter participation through measures such as postal voting, and removes barriers that may limit the participation of marginalized groups in elections. These measures contribute towards ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership and decision-making in political and public life.

In this regard, the Committee following its review of the Bill, fulfilled its obligation as prescribed under Section 110(2) of the Standing Orders of Parliament.

3.7 Outcome of Review

Proposed Amendment

Clause 3: The Committee recommends that the term “*unsound mind*” be deleted and substituted with “*persons with psychosocial disabilities*” to align the terminology used in the Bill with that adopted under the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*. The Committee considered that this amendment would promote a more respectful, inclusive and rights-based approach, while ensuring consistency with contemporary human rights standards and internationally accepted language.

Following thorough deliberations and a detailed review of the Electoral (Registration of Voters) (Amendment) Bill 2026, the Committee was satisfied that the Bill adequately achieves its intended objectives of aligning the Electoral (Registration of Voters) Act 2012 with the proposed amendments under the Electoral legislation. The Committee noted that the amendments are largely consequential and administrative in nature, including the introduction of updated electoral offence terminology, alignment of legislative language with the Constitution, and provisions relating to the Corrupt Electoral Practices List. Accordingly, the Committee is of the view that with minor amendments sufficiently fulfills the objectives and policy intent of the proposed legislation.

4.0 CONCLUSION

As highlighted above in its deliberations, the Committee has conducted extensive public consultations and consulted independent legal experts in the Solicitor-General's Office for the purpose of improving the current draft Bill.

At the conclusion of the review, the Committee believes that the current context are adequate for achieving the objectives of the **Electoral (Registration of Voters) Amendment Bill**.

The Committee through this report commends the *Electoral (Registration of Voters) Amendment Bill (Bill No. 30 of 2026)* to the Parliament.

MEMBER'S SIGNATURES



.....
Hon. Ratu Rakuita Vakalalabure
(Chairperson)



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Hon. Jone Usamate
(Member)



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Hon. Ratu Josaia Niudamu
(Member)



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Hon. Sachida Nand
(Member)



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Hon. Ratu Isikeli Tuiwailevu
(Member)

DATE: 29/09/2026