



My Vote Counts' Funding Policy

1 June 2025

Introduction

My Vote Counts (MVC) is an independent non-profit organisation committed to building a democracy in which every person has equal influence over decisions that affect their lives. Our mission, objectives, research, campaigns, and advocacy are guided by a five-year strategy adopted by our Board of Directors. We operate in full compliance with all relevant regulatory requirements in South Africa and publish our audited financial statements annually to uphold our principles of transparency and accountability.

As a non-profit organisation, our ability to carry out our mission relies on support, including financial support, from varied stakeholders. This funding policy outlines the principles and guidelines governing our approach to funding, ensuring that all financial support aligns with our mission and protects our independence and integrity.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to

- **protect organisational independence and integrity:** Safeguard MVC from undue influence that may arise from funding relationships, ensuring our decision-making remains independent and rooted in our mission.
- **promote transparency and accountability:** Ensure openness regarding our financial sources and the principles behind their acceptance.
- **prevent conflicts of interest:** Establish clear guidelines to prevent potential conflicts that may undermine our work.
- **define acceptable funding sources:** Outline the principles guiding acceptable and unacceptable sources of funding to remain consistent with our mission and principles.

Guiding Principles

- **Diverse and varied funding:** We strive for a broad base of funding to avoid over-reliance on any single donor, thereby protecting our independence and sustainability.
- **Alignment with mission and principles:** All funding must align with MVC's mission, principles, and strategic goals. Donations that contradict these will not be accepted.
- **Full disclosure:** We commit to disclosing all funders, along with the amounts received, on our website and in our annual financial statements.
- **Inclusive definition of funding:** We define funding broadly to include not only financial contributions but also in-kind donations. These contributions are subject to the same principles of alignment, transparency, and accountability as monetary donations.

Restrictions on Funding

- **Non-conditional funding:** We do not accept funding that imposes conditions that would impinge upon our independence. Maintaining our freedom to set our positions and agenda is vital to our integrity.



- **Public transparency requirement:** All funding sources will be publicly disclosed. Anonymous funds will not be accepted, as transparency is key to public trust and accountability.
- **Ethical exclusions:** We will not accept funding from
 - o corporations implicated in the Zondo Commission on State Capture: to uphold our principles of democracy and accountability.
 - o entities complicit in historical or ongoing human rights violations: to uphold our commitment to human rights and justice.
 - o for-profit companies intending to use MVC's activities to sell their products or services directly to our stakeholders: to maintain our integrity.

Financial Accountability

- **Due diligence:** Prior to accepting funding, MVC will perform due diligence to ensure no conflicts of interest exist and that accepting the funds would align with the principles and restrictions on funding set out in this policy. This process protects our reputation and ensures alignment with our mission and principles.
- **Grant limits:** We aim for no single grant to exceed 25% of our annual budget unless explicitly approved by the Board and disclosed publicly. This limit reduces dependency on any one funder and preserves our independence while allowing for some Board discretion in response to circumstances that may be out of our control, provided transparency is maintained.
- **Banking requirements:** All funds are to be deposited into MVC's official bank account. No cash donations are accepted to prevent financial mismanagement and maintain accountability.
- **Fundraising register:** A register of all fundraising activities and income sources will be maintained. This practice enhances transparency and allows for proper auditing and monitoring.
- **Handling unacceptable donations:** If funds from an unacceptable source are inadvertently received, the process to return the funds will be initiated within 15 working days of the conclusion of an investigation. If return is not possible, the funds will be donated to an entity whose main purpose and object is aligned to that of MVC. This ensures we remain true to our principles even in unforeseen circumstances.

Implementation

The following steps will be taken to implement this policy:

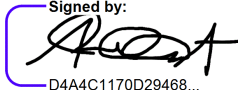






- The Executive Director (ED) will develop a funding plan that identifies potential donors for consideration, ensuring alignment with this policy.
- The ED will inform the Board of any donors that potentially would not adhere to the policy.
- Any staff member, Board member, partner, or member of the public may flag issues with a potential donor or donor partner in terms of this policy. Concerns should be sent in writing to info@myvotecounts.org.za, clearly outlining why accepting funding from the potential donor would violate the guidelines and principles set out in this policy.
- The ED will review all concerns raised at the earliest opportunity and make a recommendation to the Board for final consideration within a reasonable time frame.
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- Final decisions on contested funding sources will be made by the Board and communicated to all relevant stakeholders.



Review and Amendments

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Board to ensure alignment with MVC's mission and principles. Any amendments require Board approval before implementation.

This policy was adopted by the My Vote Counts Board of Directors on 4 June 2025, as signed below.

Amanda Rinquest	<p>Signed by:</p>  <p>D4A4C1170D29468...</p>
Khaya	<p>DocuSigned by:</p>  <p>77B0F360B160446...</p>
Kudrat Virk	<p>Signed by:</p>  <p>18B6A16227C5468...</p>
Minhaj Jeenah	<p>DocuSigned by:</p>  <p>4BBA41F96A194C7...</p>
Tyronne	<p>Signed by:</p>  <p>ABF5199EF1FE456...</p>
Zuki Kota	<p>DocuSigned by:</p>  <p>3A85349D6F324A8...</p>
Trevor	<p>DocuSigned by:</p>  <p>358070898340401...</p>