

The ACDP Responds to My Vote Counts

The ACDP is on record, saying that we will enter into cooperative governance or coalition agreements only once the election results have been finalised. While polls and surveys are predictive in essence, they can never predetermine an election outcome with 100% accuracy. Once elections results have been announced, the NEC meets to determine the direction of the ACDP, in municipalities where the ACDP may play a meaningful role in executing good governance and service delivery.

Please answer each question separately and provide links to any adopted policies, resolutions, manifestos or previous public statements on which your answer relies.

1. What specific principles and values will your party use to determine whether another party is an acceptable coalition partner?

The ACDP will not enter into a coalition simply for the sake of acquiring political power or positions. Any coalition must be based on clearly defined principles, shared values and a commitment to serve the public interest.

Since its establishment in 1993 and entry into the democratic political arena, the ACDP has sought to maintain a consistent record of principled political conduct. Unlike parties that have faced allegations and findings relating to corruption, bribery, maladministration and poor governance, the ACDP's participation in cooperative governance structures and coalitions has been guided by accountability and responsible stewardship. We intend to preserve that standard.

Our first consideration will therefore be integrity. A prospective coalition partner must demonstrate a commitment to ethical leadership, clean governance and zero tolerance for corruption, fraud, bribery and the abuse of public resources.

Secondly, the ACDP will assess whether a party respects the rule of law, constitutional governance and democratic accountability. Coalition partners must accept that public representatives and officials are accountable to the law and ultimately to the people they serve.

Thirdly, we will look for a commitment to competence and meritocracy. Positions in government and municipalities must not be used as rewards for political loyalty. Appointments must be based on qualifications, competence, experience and integrity.

The ACDP's Judaeo-Christian worldview informs our commitment to honesty, justice, accountability, transparency, responsibility and service to others. In practical governance, these principles translate into participatory decision-making, consensus building, responsiveness, equitable and inclusive service delivery, and effective and efficient use of public resources.

We will therefore seek coalition partners who can demonstrate, not merely promise, these values. There must also be mechanisms to ensure transparency, monitor performance and hold all coalition partners accountable.

For the ACDP, principled cooperation is possible, but compromise on integrity, good governance and accountability is not. A coalition must be a partnership in service of the public—not an arrangement for sharing positions or protecting political interests.

2. Which of your party's policies or manifesto commitments will be non-negotiable in any coalition agreement?

Broadly speaking, the ACDP's commitment to its Christian worldview and its core principles would be non-negotiable in any coalition agreement. We believe that political cooperation should never require a party to abandon the principles on which it was elected or to compromise matters of conscience and integrity.

Our second non-negotiable is good governance. Any coalition in which we participate must be founded on transparency, accountability, ethical leadership, sound financial management and respect for the rule of law. Public office must be understood as a responsibility to serve communities, rather than as an opportunity for political patronage or personal enrichment.

Thirdly, effective and reliable service delivery would be essential. Communities cannot be expected to accept the continued deterioration of basic municipal services. A coalition agreement must commit the participating parties to measurable improvements in water, electricity, sanitation, roads, refuse removal, infrastructure maintenance and other essential services. Budgets must follow these priorities, with clear targets and consequences where commitments are not met.

Fourthly, we would insist on competent, principled and accountable leadership and administration. Appointments to political and senior administrative positions must be based on integrity, qualifications, experience and the ability to perform the functions required—not political loyalty, factional interests or patronage.

Finally, coalition governance must include clear accountability mechanisms. Agreements must specify responsibilities, measurable outcomes, reporting requirements and mechanisms to address breaches.

For the ACDP, coalition does not mean abandoning principle. It means finding common ground to advance the public interest while remaining faithful to the values and commitments on which we sought the voters' mandate.

3. Which political parties, if any, has your party ruled out as coalition partners after the 2026 local government elections?

ANC, EFF, MKP, Al Jama-ah

4. Will your party commit to publishing every coalition agreement it enters, including any amendment, side agreement or confidence-and-supply agreements, within seven days of signature?

Yes