

### Step 5:

#### Compiling and sharing the final report

The panel will compile a report from the exercise and share it with the public, the political parties and the media.

### Step 6:

#### Follow up procedures

The public can use the recommendations from the social vetting reports to follow up and demand action on the findings of the vetting forums, processes and final reports.

Citizens can also submit the final reports to relevant authorities to conduct further investigations and institute civil or criminal proceedings (where necessary) against the person adversely mentioned.

### After a leader is elected into office, how can citizens ensure that they exercise their mandate as per the constitution?

Once leaders get into office, citizens can conduct social audit on them based on their performance and behavior.

### What are grounds for recall of elected leaders?

- Violating Chapter 6 of the constitution
- Mismanagement of public resources
- Conviction for an offence under the Elections Act



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# SOCIAL VETTING



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**What is social vetting?** This is when citizens investigate election candidates to decide if they are suitable to hold a public office. It looks at:

- finances of the candidate
- personal character, conduct, and behaviour
- previous news articles about the candidate.

### **Why is it important to vet leaders before they occupy public office?**

It ensures that people without integrity do not get into leadership positions. If the wrong people get into leadership positions, the citizens lose out on the opportunity for progress and development.



### **What right do citizens have to conduct social vetting?**

The constitution gives Kenyans the right to conduct social vetting:

**Article 1:** All Sovereign power belongs to the people. Public officials are employees of the citizens, so the citizen must have the final say.

**Article 10:** Citizens have the right to participate in the entire process of selecting public officers.

**Article 35:** Every citizen has the right to access information held by the state or another person needed to exercise or protect any right or fundamental freedom. Citizens therefore have the right to access any information about a candidate that will enable them to make informed choices as to whom they allow to be in charge of their affairs.

**Chapter 6:** all leaders must be people who:

- have personal integrity
- serve selflessly based solely on the public interest, demonstrated by:
  - honesty in the execution of public duties
  - declaring any interest that may conflict with public duties

### **Who can be vetted?**

Any election candidate can undergo social vetting.



### **How can citizens engage in social vetting?**

Social vetting can be done by following steps:

#### **Step 1:**

##### **Forming the social vetting structures.**

CSOs and CBOs start by educating citizens on the importance social vetting.

#### **Step 2:**

##### **Composing the vetting panel.**

Citizens at the grassroots elect 5-7 representatives from their village to form the vetting panel. The members must be of good standing, have technical expertise, and be politically neutral.

#### **Step 3:**

##### **Data collection and verification**

The panel decides how activities relating to the social vetting will be conducted.

It then confidentially collects information about the candidate and prepares a report.

The candidate will be called to respond confidentially to the issues raised from the data collected.

#### **Step 4:**

##### **Conducting public hearing**

The panel must notify the public that there will be a social vetting public hearing.

At the public hearing, the candidate being vetted gets an opportunity to:

- address the issues raised in the draft report
- answer questions from members of the public
- share their manifestos with members of the public.