

lead.
influence.
change.

 Women In Public Office
South Africa Programme

Lead politics like a woman.

the prospectus



Empowering Women Leaders in Politics

Are you a woman leader in South Africa preparing to run for elected office or seeking re-election? The Women in Public Office, South Africa Programme is your opportunity to sharpen your leadership skills, build strategic networks and gain the confidence to lead effectively in public office.

With only 100 spots available, we are seeking bold, committed, and visionary women leaders ready to step up and create meaningful change in South Africa's political landscape.

Why apply?

- **Exclusive Political Leadership Training** – Gain access to high-level coaching, expert-led sessions, and strategic campaign development skills.
- **Network & Mentorship** – Connect with influential leaders, experienced politicians, and fellow change-makers.
- **Campaign Readiness** – Learn how to navigate constituency-building, public speaking, governance and ethical leadership.
- **Alumni Support** – Benefit from five years of continued engagement and learning opportunities, and access a strong network of political leaders across Southern Africa.



Who Should Apply?

- Women political leaders aged 18–45 from all nine provinces in South Africa.
- Women actively working in politics – as party members, municipal or district leaders, or independent candidates.
- Women preparing to run in the 2026/27 local government elections or seeking re-election.
- Women committed to transforming governance and championing democracy in South Africa.

Programme Structure & Commitment

Duration: Five months.

Format: Five in-residence seminar weekends (Friday to Sunday) hosted in Johannesburg and one other province.

Cost: A nominal non-refundable enrolment fee which can be waived with financial assistance available for those who qualify.

Travel Requirement: **Some** travel is required to host cities. Attendance at all in-person seminars is mandatory.



Know someone who should apply?

Share this opportunity with your network, political party liaisons, leadership development contacts, and aspiring candidates.

38%

of local municipal councillor positions are held by women.

32%

of local mayoral positions are held by women.

33%

of local municipal councillor positions in the Free State are held by women.

51%

of local municipal councillor positions in KwaZulu-Natal are held by women.

52%

More than 52% of women fear public criticism, harassment and exclusion when running for office.





Featuring Futurelect's
Project YOU
5-year Plan
Framework

Seminars & What to Expect

It is mandatory to attend all five in-residence seminars, from Friday to Sunday. Fellows must commit to attending all seminars without interruption. When applying, shortlisted candidates will receive detailed communication on seminar dates and locations before accepting their place in the programme. Some travel is required.

Seminar 1: Public Narrative – Why Me? Why Us? Why Now?

Introductions and personal exploration of your public purpose. Through a combination of group plenaries, small group discussions and inputs from guest speakers, explore the internal and external drivers of your decision to enter public life.

Seminar 2: Elements of a Public Life

Explore the systems, practicalities, and challenges of a career in the public eye. Explore media management, technology, driving issues for impact, and speechwriting, complemented by deep-dive reflections on the personal and social impact of a career in full view of the public.

Seminar 3: Political Campaigns and Grassroots Organising

Engage with experienced campaigners and political leaders to identify the diverse elements of an election campaign – both as party political and independent candidates.

Seminar 4: Leadership by Design

Explore the realities of moving from activists to political entrepreneurs, from demanding accountability to taking responsibility for improving the lives of the people you serve.

Seminar 5: The Transition and Graduation

The last seminar returns to the personal aspects of a life in public leadership. As an introduction to Futurelect's Alumni Programme, you will have an opportunity to finalise your personal strategy for how you plan to cultivate resilience and manage your public leadership journey.





Project YOU

Take ownership of your personal story and political leadership journey. Focus solely on your leadership objective during the seminars, avoiding distractions from other ideas. Clearly articulate your goal and plan the necessary steps and milestones to achieve it.

The Workbook

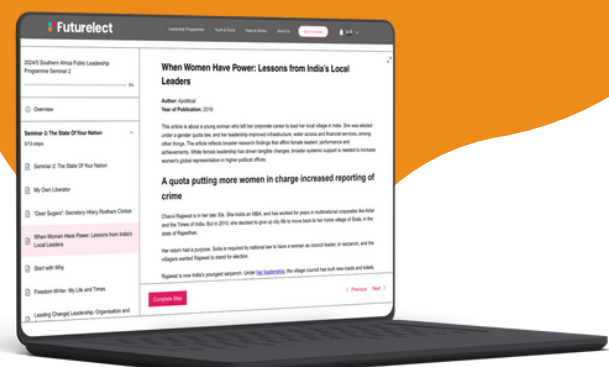
The Project YOU workbook helps you tackle personal and professional challenges. It guides you in defining problems, Setting public service and political leadership goals, and identifying factors that may limit or propel them. The workbook emphasises recognising personal strengths and envisioning future roles.

Project YOU is a dynamic, evolving document that requires ongoing research to understand the current landscape and a strategic plan to support ambitions.



Online Material & e-Learning

Futurelect's online learning portal offers valuable course materials and pre-seminar readings to prepare you for interactive seminars. These expertly curated resources enhance understanding and stimulate discussion, ensuring meaningful participation.



Your Alumni Journey

The Futurelect Alumni Programme begins after graduation and lasts for **five years**.

The mission for this programme is to support you in achieving your political leadership goals.

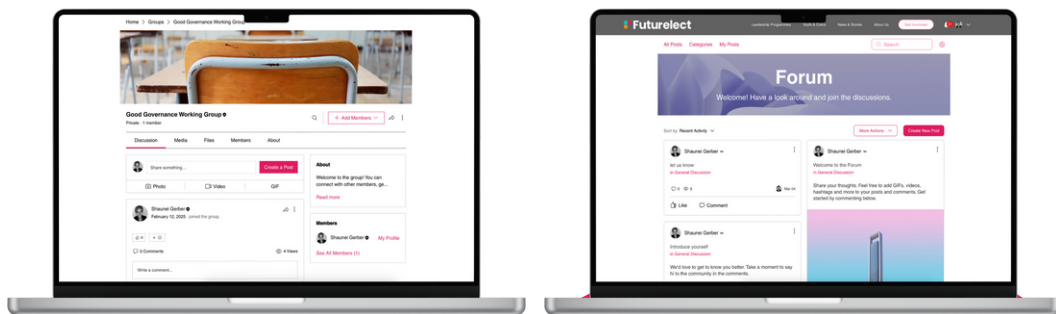
The programme emphasises personal leadership, ethics, and values, featuring high-level mentorship and peer-managed accountability. It builds mutual accountability and ethical standards, creating a supportive community of ethical leadership practitioners.

Seminars, Masterclasses,
and Webinars

Online Social Network
and Discussion Forums

Expert Mentorship
and Ongoing Support

Alumni Governance and
Accountability





Apply Now

Need help?

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www.futurelect.org

