



FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
ON THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

SEPTEMBER 2022, EDITION

Making your vote count... Consolidating our democracy



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FOREWORD

INEC has continued to work relentlessly to consolidate Nigeria's democracy through several efforts that empowers the Nigerian citizen to understand, participate and make informed decisions in the electoral process. As a core mandate of the Commission, we strive to provide citizens with correct and adequate information that will improve their awareness and participation in the electoral process.

The Commission has for several years, published Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the electoral process. However, following the passage of the Electoral Act 2022, several activities, guidelines, processes and procedures guiding the entire electoral landscape in Nigeria has undergone roust modification. It is only appropriate that citizens, political parties and all stakeholders are brought up to speed as to the impact of the changes on their roles, rights and responsibilities in the electoral process.

This booklet is an updated quick reference guide on the electoral process covering issues such as the structure and functions of INEC; Political Party Membership, Candidature and Campaign; Voter Registration, Transfer of Registration and Replacement of PVC; Qualification and Disqualification to Contest Elections and conditions and process of Recall; Election Day activities; Electoral Offences and Petitions.

The basic facts in this FAQ provide comprehensive answers to many of the question relating to elections and the electoral process in Nigeria. I therefore recommend it to all electoral stakeholders and the general public as a source of useful information on the Nigerian electoral system.

Professor Mahmood Yakubu

Chairman, INEC.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The laws and processes governing our elections are constantly evolving to consolidate and strengthen Nigeria's democracy. These changes necessitate a periodic review of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) booklet, which contains valuable information that enhances the participation of the voting public in the electoral process. Against the backdrop of the passage of the Electoral Act 2022, it is necessary that the FAQs booklet is subjected to further reviews and update.

A number of people have been resourceful and instrumental to the review of this edition. Special thanks go to the Honourable Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Mahmood Yakubu and other members of the Commission for their invaluable advice towards the update of the pamphlet.

The useful insights of members of the Information and Voter Education Committee (IVEC), Mrs. May Agbamuche - Mbu, Mohammed Kudu Haruna, Baba Bila, Maj. Gen Modibo Alkali (rtd) mni, Prof. Kunle Ajayi must be commended. We wish to express appreciation to the staff of the Voter Education, Publicity (VEP) Department for their contributions toward the production of this booklet. Words of commendation will be appropriate for persons who particularly contributed to the development, review and update of its content. We appreciate the Director VEP, Ayodele V.

Aluko and Deputy Director, Voter Education Mary Nkem for their individual and collective efforts in actualizing this production. The contributions of the Director Legal Drafting and Clearance, Mrs O. O. Babalola, Deputy Director Gender, Ndidi Okafor are highly appreciated. The efforts of Deputy Director, Inclusivity, Victoria Eta-Messi as well as the Barristers Tairu, Omale, Gyang Kingsley and Bekeme in the document are recognised and appreciated.

We also wish to thank other staff of VEP, namely, Robinson Ekeanyanwu, Ebenezer Eniola Oladapo Daniel Mabadeje and Precious Akpanenang for their contributions.

We are optimistic that this booklet will be immensely useful to our electorate. We welcome your comments and the INEC Citizens Contact Centre (ICCC) remains available to answer further questions or enquiries.

Festus Okoye Esq

National Commissioner & Chairman,

Information & Voter Education Committee, INEC.

August, 2022.

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STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF INEC

1.Q. How many Election Management Bodies (EMBs) do we have in Nigeria?

Ans. There are thirty seven (37) EMBs in Nigeria; i.e. Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and thirty six (36) States Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs).

2. Q. What does the acronym “INEC” stand for?

Ans. Independent National Electoral Commission.

3. Q. What does the acronym “SIEC” stand for?

Ans. State Independent Electoral Commission. Each State established a SIEC to conduct its Local Government elections while the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) conducts the Area Council elections in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Each State Independent Electoral Commission operates independently.

4. Q. When was the Commission established and how?

Ans. The Commission was established on 5th August, 1998 by Decree (Act) No. 17 of the same year by the Federal Military Government.

5. Q. Where can I find the law establishing INEC?

Ans. Section 153 (1) (F) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

6. Q. What is the Mission Statement of INEC?

Ans. It is "to serve as an independent and effective Election Management Body (EMB) committed to the conduct of free, fair and credible elections for sustainable democracy in Nigeria".

7. Q. What is the Vision of INEC?

Ans. It is "to be one of the best Election Management Bodies in the world that meets the aspirations of the Nigerian people".

8. Q. What are the values of the Commission?

Ans. The values of the Commission are as Follows:

i. Autonomy:

INEC shall carry out all its functions independently, free from external control and influence.

ii. Transparency:

INEC shall display openness and transparency in all its activities and in its relationship with all stakeholders.

iii. Integrity:

INEC shall maintain truthfulness and honesty in all its dealings at all times.

- iv. **Credibility:**
INEC shall ensure that no action or activity is taken in support of any candidate or political party.
- v. **Impartiality:**
INEC shall ensure the creation of a level playing field for all political actors.
- vi. **Dedication.**
INEC shall be committed to providing quality electoral services efficiently and effectively, guided by best international practices and standards.
- vii. **Equity:**
INEC shall ensure fairness and justice in dealing with all stakeholders.
- viii. **Excellence:**
INEC shall be committed to the promotion of merit and professionalism as the basis for all its actions.
- ix. **Team work:**
INEC shall create a conducive environment that promotes teamwork among its staff at all levels.

9. Q. What are the functions of INEC?

Ans.

- (a) Conduct elections to elective offices (President, Governors, National and state Houses of Assembly and Area Council Elections, Abuja) except those of Local Government Areas of the thirty six (36) States of the Federation;
- (b) Compile and maintain the register of voters and issue Voters' Cards;

- (c) Conduct any referendum required in line with the 1999 Constitution or any other Act of the National Assembly;
- (d) Delimit electoral constituencies;
- (e) Register and de-register political parties;
- (f) Monitor the organisation and operations of all political parties;
- (g) Arrange for annual examination and auditing of the finances of political parties;
- (h) Monitor the campaigns of political parties;
- (i) Carry out recall proceedings where voters can remove an elected representative in the State or National Assembly from office if they are not satisfied with the representative's performance;
- (j) Provide rules and guidelines for its operations and the operation and conduct of political parties;
- (k) Promote knowledge of sound democratic processes;
- (l) Conduct voter and civic education;
- (m) Ensure that all Electoral Commissioners, Electoral and Returning Officers take and subscribe to oaths of office prescribed by law; delegate any of its powers to any Resident Electoral Commissioner; and carry out such other functions as may be conferred upon it by an Act of the National Assembly;
- (n) Train the electoral personnel;
- (o) Conduct electoral research and documentation;

- (p) Provide the Register of Voters for Local Government election and other technical assistance to SIECs when required.
- (q) Prosecute Electoral offenders.

10. Q. How many persons make up the Commission?

Ans. The Commission is made up of thirteen (13) Members: the Chairman and twelve (12) National Commissioners (two per geo-political zone). The current members of the Commission are:

Prof. Mahmood Yakubu	-	Chairman
Festus Okoye Esq.	-	Member
Mallam Mohammed K. Haruna		"
Mrs. May Agbamuche-Mbu		"
Prof. Kunle C. Ajayi		"
Prof. Muhammad Sani Kallah	OON	"
Dr. Baba Bila		"
Prof. Sani Muhammad Adam	SAN	"
Prof. Abdullahi Abdu Zuru		"
Mr. Ken. Nnamdi Ukeagu		"
Major General Abubakar Alkali	(Rtd)	"
Prof. Rhoda Gumus		"
Xiii Mr. Sam Olumekun		"

11. Q. How are the members of the Commission appointed?

Ans. The members of the Commission are appointed by the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria following consultation with the Council of States and subsequent confirmation by the Senate.

12. Q. What is the tenure of members of the Commission?

Ans. Members of the Commission are required to serve for a specified tenure of five (5) years from the date of appointment and renewable for another five (5) years.

13. Q. Can the Chairman and National Commissioners be removed or sacked from office?

Ans. Yes. As stipulated in Section 157(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the INEC Chairman and the Commissioners can be removed from office by the President acting on an address supported by two-thirds majority of the Senate praying that he/she be so removed for the following reason(s):

- ◆ Inability to discharge the functions of the office;
- ◆ Misconduct.

14. Q. What is the Role of Chairman of INEC?

Ans: The Chairman of INEC is the Chairman of the Commission and the Chief Electoral Commissioner of the Federation responsible for the collation and declaration of result in the presidential election. He chairs the meetings of the Commission.

15. Q. What does the acronym "REC" stand for?

Ans. REC stands for Resident Electoral Commissioner. They are also appointed by the President. A REC is in charge of the affairs of the Commission in each of the 36 (thirty six) states and the FCT.

16. Q. Where are INEC Offices located?

Ans. INEC Headquarters is located at Plot 436, Zambezi Crescent, Maitama District, Abuja and it has offices in the 36 State capitals and the FCT as well as in the Headquarters of the 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs)/Area Councils of the Federation.

17. Q. What is the Administrative Structure of INEC?

Ans. The Secretary, appointed by the Commission, heads the Secretariat while Directors head the Departments and Directorates at the Headquarters. The Secretariat at the state level is headed by Administrative Secretaries and comprises directing staff and other categories of staff. There are Heads of Departments (HODs) at States and FCT, while the Electoral Officers (EOs) head the LGA Offices and are assisted by three Assistant Electoral Officers (AEOs).

18. Q. What is TEI?

Ans. The Electoral Institute

19. Q. What is the composition of The Electoral Institute?

Ans. The institute (TEI) is an organ of the Independent National Electoral Commission, headed by a Director-General who is assisted by an Administrative Secretary.

20. Q. What are the functions of The Electoral Institute?

Ans. The Institute is responsible for:

- ◆ Training of permanent and ad-hoc staff for elections;
- ◆ Facilitating capacity building and professionalism of the Commission's staff through training and manpower development;
- ◆ Carrying out electoral research and documentation.

The institute was set up in June, 2005.

21. Q. Where is the TEI located?

Ans. The TEI is located at the Central Business District, Abuja.

22. Q. What are the categories of officials recruited by INEC as Ad Hoc staff for elections?

Ans.

- i. Serving National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Members;
- ii. Ex-NYSC Members (if there are not enough NYSC Members);
- iii. Students of Federal Tertiary Institutions (where there are not enough NYSC Members);
- iv. Staff of Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs);
- v. Federal University Vice Chancellors and academic staff.

23. Q. What is EADR?

Ans. The acronym EADR stands for Electoral Alternative Dispute Resolution. It is a Division under Litigation and Prosecution Department in the Commission that facilitates the voluntary settlement of disputes between political parties (inter party disputes), members (intra- party dispute) as well as between Political parties and INEC other than through litigation.

24. Q. What is ICCES?

Ans. Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security.

25. Q. What are the roles/functions of ICCES?

Ans. The following are the roles of ICCES:

- i. Coordinates the design of an election security management for INEC;
- ii. Develops locally focused plans for providing security before, during and after elections;
- iii. Harmonizes the training , deployment and action of security personnel on election duties;
- iv. Advises INEC State Offices on rapid response to security threats around elections, including voter registration;
- v. Ensures a reduction in transaction costs to INEC in dealing with individual security agencies on issues of elections;
- vi. Assesses existing security threats across the States that have implication for elections and produces a Red, Amber and Green electoral security map which is regularly updated;
- vii. Evaluates the performance of security agencies on election duties and recommends improvements and sanctions, where necessary;
- viii. Coordinates the deployment of security personnel on election duty.

26. Q. What is the composition of ICCES?

Ans. The following make up the membership of ICCES:

NATIONAL LEVEL:

- i. The Hon. Chairman as co-chair and National Commissioners, (INEC)
- ii. The National Security Adviser, (NSA) as co-chair

- iii. The Secretary, INEC
- iv. The Inspector-General of Police
- v. The Chairman, Police Service Commission
- vi. The Director General, Department of State Services (DSS)
- vii. The Chief of Army Staff
- viii. The Chief of Naval Staff
- ix. The Chief of Air Staff
- x. The Commandant General, NSCDC
- xi. The Chief of Defence Intelligence Agency, DIA
- xii. The Comptroller General, Nigeria Correctional Service
- xiii. The Corps Marshal, FRSC
- xiv. The Chairman/Chief Executive, NDLEA
- xv. The Director General, NIA
- xvi. The Comptroller General, Nig. Customs Services
- xvii. The Director General, NYSC
- xviii. The Hon Minister, Fed. Min. of Interior
- xix. The Comptroller General, Fed. Fire Service
- xx. The Hon. Minister, Min. of Police Affairs
- xxi. The Chairman, EFCC
- xxii. The Chairman, ICPC
- xxiii. The Director General, NOA
- xxiv. The Comptroller General, Nig. Immigration Serv.
- xxv. The National Coordinator Presidential Task Force on COVID, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation as co-opted member.

The Committee is also replicated at state and Local Government Area levels.

27. Q. What does the acronym NICVEP stand for?

Ans. National Inter-Agency Committee on Voter Education and Publicity and NICVEP exists at the National, States and LGAs.

28. Q. What is the composition of NICVEP at the various levels?

Ans. The Membership of NICVEP at the various levels is drawn from the following organisations:

NATIONAL LEVEL:

- i. Independent National Electoral Commission
- ii. National Orientation Agency
- iii. Federal Ministry of Information
- iv. Federal Ministry of Women Affairs
- v. Federal Ministry of Communications
- vi. Federal Ministry of Education
- vii. National Broadcasting Commission
- viii. Nigerian Communication Commission
- ix. Nigerian Television Authority
- x. Federal Radio Corp. of Nigeria
- xi. News Agency of Nigeria
- xii. Guild of Editors
- xiii. Nigerian Labour Congress
- xiv. Nigerian Union of Journalists
- xv. Federal Ministry of Youths and Sports Dev.

STATE LEVEL:

- i. INEC with REC as Chairperson
 - ii. State Ministry of Information
 - iii. State Ministry of Women Affairs
 - iv. National Orientation Agency
 - v. State Broadcasting Corporations (Radio/TV)
- Other relevant Agencies.

LGA LEVEL:

- i. INEC with Electoral Officer as Chairperson
- ii. Chief Mobilisation Officer, NOA
- iii. Local Govt. Information Officer

29. Q. What are the Objectives of establishing NICVEP?

Ans. The objectives of NICVEP are as follows:

- i. To ensure inter-agency cooperation in voter education;
- ii. To promote public/private partnership on voter education;
- iii. To ensure proper coordination and monitoring of voter education messages and materials;
- iv. To mainstream gender and disability issues in voter education.

30. Q. Does INEC partner with any group or person on voter education?

Ans. Yes. INEC collaborates with the following groups on voter education:

- i. Political parties;
- ii. Development Partners (International Foundation for

Electoral Systems (IFES), Development Alternative Inc. (DAI), United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), International Republican Institute (IRI), African Union (AU), European Union (EU), Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), Youth Initiative for Advocacy, Growth and Advancement (YIAGA) Africa, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), etc);

- iii. NICVEP Members;
- iv. Traditional rulers;
- v. Religious leaders;
- vi. INEC Youth Ambassadors;
- vii. NGOs/CSOs/CBOs;
- viii. Other stakeholders;
- ix. Campus Voter Education Ambassadors (Volunteers);
- x. Trade Union
- xi. Professional Groups.

31. Q. How does INEC partner with stakeholders on voter education?

Ans. The Commission organizes quarterly stakeholders' meetings and seminars to sensitise members on the various aspects of the electoral process, i.e. procedure as well as other information necessary to enable them take necessary steps as well as make informed choices such as; what is the event? When and where is it taking place? Who is to participate? Why the need for participation as well as how to participate?

32. Q. Through which media does INEC engage the public?

Ans. The Commission engages with the public through the following online platforms and telephones:

- ◆ Facebook – www.facebook.com/inecnigeria
- ◆ Twitter – www.twitter.com/inecnigeria
- ◆ Instagram – @inecnigeria
- ◆ Email – iccc@inec.gov.ng
- ◆ Website – www.inecnigeria.org
- ◆ INEC Vanity Number 070022554632
- ◆ INEC Short Code 4632
- ◆ Relevant stakeholders' fora
- ◆ Office – 2nd floor, ICT Building, INEC HQ, Maitama, Abuja.

33.Q. How can a person get information from INEC?

Ans.

- i. Visit to any of the INEC Offices nationwide;
- ii. Enquiries from ICCC;
- iii. From the website : www.inecnigeria.org;
- iv. Apply for Certified True Copy (CTC);
- v. Apply under the Freedom Of Information (FOI) Act.

34. Q. What are the functions of the ICCC?

Ans. INEC engages the public directly through the INEC Citizens Contact Centre (ICCC) to enhance transparency and participation in the electoral process. The centre offers the public constant access to the Commission with enquiries and exchange of information as it:

- i. Covers all Commission's events and upload in real time on all social media platforms;
- ii. Surfs the internet daily to pick out content relating to INEC for necessary action;
- iii. Receives complaints from citizens and also provide feedback via the Commission's hotlines and social media platforms;
- iv. Sends INEC's Notices, Statements, Clarifications, rebuttals on the website and all social media platforms;
- v. Complements the INEC Situation Room staff during elections;
- vi. Conducts online voter education on INEC social media platforms and the INEC website.

35. Q. What are the media/tools employed by the Commission in promoting political participation of the various groups?

Ans. The Commission uses the following media/tools:

- i. Advocacy visits;
- ii. Market outreaches;
- iii. Sensitization workshops;
- iv. Mass Media (Printed materials, jingles, etc);
- v. Road Shows;
- vi. Stakeholders Fora;
- vii. Information Kit on various elections;
- viii. INEC Website and Social Media Platforms (i.e. Twitter, Facebook, Instagram);

- ix. Advertorials;
- x. Press conferences and press releases;
- xi. Summits;
- xii. Community Theatre/Dance/Music concert.



POLITICAL PARTY MEMBERSHIP/ CANDIDATURE/ CAMPAIGN

1. Q. What is a political association?

Ans. A political association is an organization or association of persons seeking registration as a political party.

2. Q. What is a Political Party?

Ans. A Political Party is an association legally registered by INEC, which is entitled to sponsor candidates to contest for elections and canvass for votes.

3. Q. How can one identify a political party?

Ans. A political party can be identified by its name, logo, acronym or symbol.

4. Q. Can a Political Party use the Coat of Arms of the Federation or the picture of a person as its symbol?

Ans. No. Section 79, sub-section (4), paragraphs (a-c) of the Electoral Act, 2022 prohibits the use of the Coat of Arms or photograph of a person living or dead.

5. Q. Do political parties need to be registered and by whom?

Ans. Yes. Political parties need to be registered by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The Commission is empowered to register Political Parties if they meet the required conditions:

6. Q. What are the requirements for registration of political parties?

Ans. The following are the requirement for the registration of political parties:

- i. The names and addresses of its national officers must be registered with INEC;
- ii. Its governing body must have members from at least two third states of Nigeria (ie from at least 24 states);
- iii. Every citizen of Nigeria must be free to join the association irrespective of place of origin, birth, ethnicity, sex or religion;
- iv. Provision of the minutes of the meeting of members of its National Executive Committee indicating approval and adoption of the name, constitution, manifesto and symbol/logo of the proposed political party;
- v. A copy of its Constitution must be registered with the Commission;
- vi. The name and symbol or logo of the association must not contain any ethnic or religious representation/idea;
- vii. The headquarters of the association must be situated in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;

- viii. Its constitution must stipulate holding of regular elections for its executive and governing bodies;
- ix. The name, acronym or logo must not be the same as used by any other political party

7. Q. When can an association submit an application for registration as a political party to the Commission?

Ans. Section 75, sub-section (1) of the Electoral Act 2022, stipulates that any political association seeking registration as a political party must submit its application not later than 12 months before a General Election.

8. Q. What is a Political Party manifesto?

Ans. A manifesto is a written document that contains what the party stands for, how it intends to govern if it wins an election and how it intends to improve the welfare of the people.

9. Q. How many political parties do we have in Nigeria?

Ans. There are 18 registered Political Parties in Nigeria as at 1st November, 2022.

10. Q. What are the names and acronyms of the registered Political Parties?

Ans. The names and acronyms of the registered Political Parties as at 1st November, 2022 are:

1. Accord (A)
2. Action Alliance (AA)
3. Action Democratic Party (ADP)
4. Action Peoples Party (APP)
5. African Action Congress (AAC)

6. African Democratic Congress (ADC)
7. All Progressives Congress (APC)
8. All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA)
9. Allied Peoples Movement (APM)
10. Boot Party (BP)
11. Labour Party (LP)
12. National Rescue Movement (NRM)
13. New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP)
14. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP)
15. Peoples Redemption Party (PRP)
16. Social Democratic Party (SDP)
17. Young Progressive Party (YPP)
18. Zenith Labour Party (ZLP)

11. Q. What are the roles of political parties?

Ans. The roles of political parties are as follows:

- i. Formulating policy and vision of the party for the country;
- ii. Promoting parties' ideals/ideology;
- iii. Enlightening and mobilizing its members/supporters to register and or vote;
- iv. Defending the interests of its members and its ideals;
- v. Selecting and sponsoring candidates for elective posts;
- vi. Conducting election campaigns;

- vii. Monitoring the performance of their elected representatives;
- viii. Mediating the relationship between citizens and their government;
- ix. Providing channels through which people hold their elected party officials accountable for their actions in government.

12. Q. Can a Political Party be de-registered?

Ans. Yes. With the amendment to the constitution, (new section 225A), an existing Political Party can be de-registered on the ground of breach of any of the requirements for its registration or failure to win 25% of votes cast in 1 state of the federation in a Presidential Election or 25% (Governorship election), 25% in Ward (Area Council election in the FCT), or one seat in the National or State Houses of Assembly election.

13. Q. Is party membership open to all?

Ans. Yes. Membership of a Political Party is open to all adult citizens of Nigeria, male or female (including Persons with Disabilities) who are 18 years and above. (Section 40 of the Electoral Act, 2022)

14. Q. What is Political Party Convention?

Ans. A convention is a gathering where a political party:

- i. Elects its national officers and/or the presidential candidate for the party;
- ii. Amends the party's constitution when necessary;
- iii. Reviews, ratifies, overturns or alters any decision

taken by any of its constituent bodies, units or officials of the party; and

- iv. Appoints external auditors to audit the party's account;
- v. Resolves disputes;
- vi. Establishes any Committee to deal with specific issues;
- vii. Takes decisions on the running or future direction of the party.

15. Q. What is a Party Congress?

Ans. A party congress is a gathering where a political party elects its State, LGA and Ward party officials.

16. Q. What is Party Primary?

Ans. A political party primary is a process of electing candidates that will represent the party in an election.

17. Q. Why do Political Parties Conduct Primaries?

Ans. To enable them to democratically elect candidates who will represent the political parties at the various elective posts during elections.

18. Q. What is nomination?

Ans. Nomination is the process of selecting a candidate for elective post by political parties through valid primary whereby certain number of registered voters in the constituency endorse the candidate's nomination in a prescribed form

19. Q. To whom do political parties submit the names of sponsored candidates?

Ans. The lists of nominated candidates for an election are submitted to the INEC Headquarters via a designated online portal (INEC Candidate Nomination Portal (www.icnp.inecnigeria.org)) within a stipulated period.

20. Q. Is there a time limit for political parties to submit their list of candidates to INEC?

Ans. Yes. Political Parties must submit their lists of candidates in accordance with the INEC Time table and schedule of activities not later than one hundred and eighty (180) days before the date appointed for a General Election. Section 29 (1) of the Electoral Act 2022.

21. Q. Can anyone contest for election without being a member of a political party?

Ans: No. The Electoral Act, 2022 and the 1999 Constitution do not provide for Independent Candidates. You must be a member of a Political Party and be sponsored by that party to be eligible to contest any election.

22.Q. Can Trade Unions, professional or other groups or associations like the Nigerian Labour Congress, Nigerian Bar Association, Town Unions, Religious Groups, etc sponsor or canvass for votes for candidates for elections in Nigeria?

Ans. No, they cannot. Only registered Political Parties can do so. The Nigerian Constitution prohibits any group or association that is not a political party from sponsoring candidates, campaigning or canvassing for votes.

23. Q. Can a woman contest for any elective post?

Ans. Yes. A woman is free to vie for any elective post provided she meets the required qualifications.

24. Q. Can corporate bodies contribute money to Political parties?

Ans. No. Corporate bodies are not permitted by law to contribute money to political parties or candidates.

25.Q. Is there a limit to the amount of money an individual can donate to any political party or candidate?

Ans. Yes. According to Section 88 Sub-section (8) of the Electoral Act 2022, no individual shall donate more than N50,000,000 (Fifty Million Naira) to any candidate. However, Section 87(1) empowers INEC to place a limit on how much an individual can contribute to a party or candidate.

26.Q. Is there a limit to what a candidate can spend for an election?

Ans. Yes. Section 88(2) - (7) of the Electoral Act 2022 provides that:

- i. A presidential candidate can spend a maximum amount of N5,000,000,000 (Five Billion Naira);
- ii. A governorship candidate can spend a maximum amount of N1,000,000,000 (One Billion Naira);
- iii. A senatorial candidate can spend a maximum amount of N100,000,000 (One Hundred Million Naira);
- iv. A House of Representative candidate can spend maximum amount of N70,000,000 (Seventy Million Naira);
- v. For State Assembly election, a candidate can spend a maximum of N30,000,000 (Thirty Million Naira);

- vi. Chairmanship election to an Area Council, the maximum a candidate can spend is N30,000,000 (Thirty Million Naira);
- vii. A Councillorship candidate can spend a maximum amount of N5,000,000 (Five Million Naira).

27.Q. Can individual candidates submit their list to INEC?

Ans. No. Only political parties are permitted by law to submit lists of candidates to INEC.

28.Q. Can INEC refuse to accept a party's list or disqualify any candidate?

Ans. Yes. INEC can refuse to accept a party's list if it fails to comply with the provisions in section 29(1) and 84(13) of the Electoral Act, 2022. Only a court of law can disqualify a candidate.

29.Q. When and why does INEC display the final list of candidates?

Ans. The Commission shall, at least 150 days before the date of election, publish by displaying at relevant offices of the Commission (Headquarters, state or LGA) and on Commission's website, a statement of the full names and addresses of all candidates standing nominated. The action is a statutory requirement that enable political parties/candidates scrutinize the list for any error, omission or dispute. Section 32(1-2).

30. Q. Who can complain after display of list of candidates for an election?

Ans. Any registered political party or candidate can complain to the Commission for necessary action.

31.Q. What can an aspirant who won the party primaries, but whose name was not submitted to INEC as the candidate for his party do?

Ans. This is an intra - party affair. He /she may apply for the Certified True Copy (CTC) of the INEC Report of the primaries from the Commission as evidence. Candidate should seek redress at the Federal High Court within 14 days of the occurrence of the event.

32. Q. Can a candidate be changed or substituted by the party?

Ans. Yes. However, a candidate can only be changed or substituted in case of death or voluntary withdrawal by the candidate within a stipulated time.

33. Q. How can a candidate withdraw from an election?

Ans. Section 31 of the Electoral Act, 2022 stipulates that a candidate can withdraw from an election through a written notification signed by the candidate and delivered to the political party that nominated him/her for onward conveyance to the Commission not later than Ninety (90) days to the election.

34. Q. How can a candidate that has withdrawn be replaced?

Ans. The party must notify the Commission of the withdrawal of the candidate, conduct a fresh primary and submit the name(s) of the new candidate within 14 days.

35. Q. What happens when a candidate dies before an election?

Ans. The Political Party is required to notify the Commission, conduct fresh primary election and submit the name of

the winner to the Commission within the stipulated time (i.e 14 days before the election). (Section 34 Subsection 1 of Electoral Act, 2022)

However, if after the time for submission of nomination and before the commencement of the poll, a nominated candidate dies, the Commission shall stop the poll in which the deceased candidate was to participate and shall appoint some other convenient day for the election.

36.Q. What happens when a candidate dies after the commencement of election but before the announcement of the final result and declaration of a winner?

Ans. The Commission shall, being satisfied of the fact of the death, suspend the election for a period not more than 21 days;

- ◆ In the case of National/State Houses of Assembly, the election shall start afresh and the political party whose candidate died may, if it intends to continue to participate in the election, conduct a fresh primary within 14 days of the death of its candidate and submit the new candidate to INEC to replace the dead candidate;
- ◆ In the case of Presidential or governorship or FCT Area Council Elections, the running mate shall continue with the election and nominate a new running mate. (Section 34 Sub-section 3 (a-b) of the Electoral Act, 2022)

37. Q. What happens if only one candidate is nominated for an election at the close of nomination?

Ans. The time for nomination will be extended by seven (7) days and if after the extension, only one candidate remains duly nominated, he/she shall be declared unopposed and elected in the case of legislative positions while for executive positions, i.e. Chairman of Area Council, Governorship or Presidential election, the law requires that a poll be held where the electorate vote 'Yes' or 'No' (for or against).

38.Q. What happens when the majority vote "NO"?

Ans. When the majority vote "NO (i.e where the only candidate fails to be elected), there shall be a fresh nomination.

39.Q. Is there a period fixed for campaign by political parties during elections?

Ans. Political Parties are only permitted to commence campaigns in public one hundred and fifty (150) days before election and end twenty four (24) hours to the day of election.

40. Q. Can anyone arrange for private security at a campaign?

Ans. No. It is an offence to use private security during campaigns. It is the duty of the Commissioner of Police of a state to provide security. A Political Party must notify the police ahead of such rallies.

41. Q. Can anyone use masquerades for a campaign rally?

Ans: No. It is an offence to do so.

42. Q. Can a candidate use abusive language on an opponent during Campaigns?

Ans. No. Only decent language, devoid of abusive words is allowed during campaigns.

43.Q. Can a candidate or political party be denied access to the media?

Ans. It is an offence punishable by law to deny any candidate or party access to the media. If such happens, the candidate should notify INEC and the Nigerian Broadcasting Commission, (NBC) stating the media house involved for further action.



VOTER REGISTRATION/ CVR/ TRANSFER/ REPLACEMENT OF PVC:

1. Q. What is the meaning of CVR?

Ans. Continuous Voter Registration.

2. Q. What is Voter Registration?

Ans. Voter Registration is the process of recording and compiling details such as names, age, fingerprints, address and photographs of people eligible to vote into the register of voters.

3. Q. What is biometric voter registration?

Ans. Biometric voter registration is a process that involves the capturing of voters' unique personal/physical details, i.e. name, address, fingerprints and photograph and thereafter, issuing a voter's card to the registrant as evidence of registration.

4. Q. Who are those qualified to register during the CVR?

Ans.

- i. Nigerian citizens who have just turned eighteen (18) years.
- ii. Nigerian citizens who are eighteen (18) years and above, who are ordinarily resident, work in, originate from the Local Government Area Council or Ward covered by the registration centre and have not registered before;
- iii. Nigerian citizens who had registered but whose names or details are not in the biometric Register of Voters. This can be discovered during display of the register/distribution of PVCs or via the link <https://voters.inecnigeria.org>; and
- iv. Those who have had any issues of failed verification of PVC or fingerprints or facial authentication.

5. Q. Where can a person register to become a voter?

Ans. At INEC designated centre or online portal (cvr.gov.ng or cvr.inecnigeria.org) to pre-register and select a convenient date when he/she will go to the INEC State or LGA office to complete the registration (biometrics capture) or visit any INEC designated centre nearest to him/her during the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) for in-person registration.

6. Q. When is CVR done?

Ans. CVR is done at any period stipulated by the Commission.

7. Q. Why is CVR done?

Ans. CVR is done for the following reasons:

- i. To include the names and other details of persons who turned eighteen years of age after the last registration exercise into the register of voters;
- ii. To compile and include in the register of voters names and details of persons who had not registered previously;
- iii. To compile and include in the register of voters names and other details of those who had registered BUT whose names and other details are not contained in the register of voters.
- iv. To replace lost or damaged Permanent Voter Card (PVC).
- v. To transfer/update/review registration.

8. Q. What is the equipment currently used for registration of voters?

Ans. Currently, the Commission deploys the INEC Voter Enrolment Device (IVED) for registration of voters. The device captures both fingerprints and facials of intending registrants besides other personal particulars..

9. Q. Can any eligible registrant be prevented from registering, e.g. husband stopping wife or father preventing child?

Ans. No. by the provision of Section 29 (8) of the Electoral Act 2022, It is an offence to prevent any eligible registrant from registering and on conviction, the offence attracts a fine of N10,000,000 (Ten Million Naira)

10. Q. What is the procedure for carrying out Continuous Voter Registration Exercise?

Ans.

- i. You can either pre-register online, book a date to go to any state or LGA INEC office to complete the registration by biometric capture or appear in person at any INEC designated registration centre closest to you;
- ii. Queue up in an orderly manner;
- iii. The registration/update officer shall demand from the applicant information necessary to ascertain whether he/she is qualified to be registered;
- iv. The registration officer enters the details into the system as well as the manual register;
- v. The registration officer takes a photograph of the applicant and captures his/her fingerprints.
- vi. The applicant is issued with a temporary voter's card, TVC/slip;
- vii. He/she is asked to return during claims and objections to confirm his/her details in the displayed Preliminary Register of Voters (PRV).

Note: Currently, the Commission uses the INEC Voter Enrolment Device (IVED) for CVR. All the voter's details are stored in the IVED and no longer in the PVC.

11. Q. What am I to bring along during the CVR?

Ans. You are required by Section 10(2) to bring along any of the following:

- i. Birth certificate;
- ii. National Identity Card;
- iii. International Passport;
- iv. Driver's license;
- v. Any other document that could prove the identity, age and nationality of the applicant.

12. Q. What if I cannot find my Temporary Voter's Card?

Ans. Verify your name on the distribution list during the PVC collection or at your INEC LGA Office. If your name is on the register, you will be required to fill an attestation form to enable you collect your PVC.

13. Q. Who is a voter?

Ans. A voter is a person who has a legal right to vote in an election and/or be voted for in a particular election.

Note: He/she must be in possession of PVC and his/her name must be in the Register of Voters.

14. Q. What are the rights of a voter?

Ans. The rights of a voter include:

- i. Right to a Permanent Voter's Card (PVC);
- ii. Right to recall a member of National Assembly or State House of Assembly in the constituency where he/she registered;
- iii. Right to secrecy of ballot;
- iv. Right to vote for a candidate of his/her choice.

15. Q. What are the responsibilities of a voter?

Ans. Every right comes with a responsibility. It is the responsibility of a voter to:

- i. Come out to vote on Election Day;
- ii. Behave in an orderly manner before, during and after the election;
- iii. Obey all electoral Laws and regulations;
- iv. Report incidences of malpractices, electoral fraud and violence to the relevant authority
- v. Encourage others to act in similar fashion.

16. Q. What are the requirements to register as a voter?

Ans. A person shall be qualified to be registered as a voter if he/she:

- i. is a citizen of Nigeria;
- ii. has attained the age of eighteen (18) years and above and has not registered;
- iii. is ordinarily resident, works in, originates from the LGA, council, ward covered by the registration centre;

- iv. presents himself to the registration officers of the Commission for registration as a voter;
- v. Is not subject to any incapacity to vote under any law in Nigeria.

17. Q. How many times can an individual register?

Ans. An individual can register only once and only at one centre.

18.Q. Can I register at a centre other than the one so designated by INEC?

Ans. No. It is an offence to carry out registration at a centre or place not designated by INEC.

19. Q. Can a person register for someone else i.e registration by proxy?

Ans. No. Each person intending to register as a voter must appear in person before registration officials at designated centres. There is no registration by proxy.

20. Q. Is there a cut-off date for registration as a voter for an election?

Ans. By the provisions of Section 9(6) of the Electoral Act 2022, registration of voters and the update or review of the voters' list to be used for general election must stop not later than ninety (90) days before any election.

21. Q. How can I know that my name is in the register of voters?

Ans:

- i. You should check for your name during the display of voters' register:

- ii. Check the INEC website or
- iii. click on Voters.inecnigeria.org

22. Q. What is PVC?

Ans. Permanent Voter's Card.

23. Q. What information are on the PVC?

Ans. The information on the PVC include name, age, address, occupation and photograph of voter as well as polling unit delimitation details.

24. Q. What do I need to have to collect my Permanent Voter's Card?

Ans. You need to present your Temporary Voter's Card/ registration slip to the INEC Officials in order to collect your PVC.

25. Q. What is the meaning of PRV?

Ans. Preliminary Register of Voters. It is a register that contains the names and other details of registrants who have just been registered.

26. Q. What is Display of Register?

Ans. It is a process of making the register available to the public (exhibition) for scrutiny and necessary corrections (claims and/or objections). This exercise is done before the publication of the final register to be used for general election.

27. Q. What are claims and objections?

Ans. A claim is a process of alerting the Commission during the display of the Preliminary Register of Voters that the

name of a person who had registered to vote has been omitted from the register, is not properly spelt or any other particular is incorrect (e.g gender, date of birth or address);

Objection is to disagree with the Commission on the inclusion in the Preliminary Register of Voters of the name of a person on the ground that he/she is not qualified or entitled to be registered, is registered in another place or is dead.

28 Q. What can a person do if his/her details e.g name, sex or age is wrongly spelt or entered in the register of voters'?

Ans. The person will be issued a form by the Commission to be filled within the stipulated period stating the complaint and requesting necessary correction to be made or visit the CVR Online portal (cvr.inecnigeria.org) and follow the directives/instructions to correct such errors.

29. Q. What is the purpose of the PRV?

Ans. A copy of the PRV is displayed to enable the public study (scrutinize) the register during which any objection or complaint in relation to the names omitted or included in the voters' register or any necessary correction is raised or filed.

30. Q. How many days can the PRV be displayed for claims and objections?

Ans. Seven (7) days (Section 19(1) of Electoral Act, 2022).

31. Q. What can a person do if his/her voter's card is lost or damaged?

Ans. The person should visit the CVR Online portal www.cvr.inecnigeria.org and follow the directives/ instructions for replacement of lost/damaged PVC or apply to the Electoral Officer of his/her LGA/Area Council for a replacement of the lost PVC. To replace damaged PVC, the person should present the damaged PVC alongside the application (to Electoral Officer of his/her LGA) as evidence. This must be done not later than ninety (90) days i.e (during the CVR) before the election (Section 18(1) of Electoral Act, 2022).

32. Q. How can I prevent my PVC from being damaged or lost?

Ans. The PVC is fairly flexible. To avoid loss or damage to PVC:

- i. Keep it safe and only come out with it on Election Day to cast your vote;
- ii. Don't sit on it as this can lead to the destruction;
- iii. Keep it away from direct sunlight, heat, water or wet surface;
- iv. Do not bend or fold it.

33. Q. Can a person have more than one voter's card?

Ans. No. You can only have one valid voter's card at a time as it is an offence to have more than one card. (Section 16 sub-section 2 of the Electoral Act 2022). During transfer or replacement of damaged voter's card, the old one will be retrieved from you before a new one is issued. A voter whose card is lost or damaged will be issued another voter's card with the word REPLACEMENT printed on it.

34. Q. Can a person transfer or move his registration or voting point from one point to another?

Ans. Yes, he/she can apply online through www.cvr.inecnigeria.org or apply to INEC through the INEC LGA office for such transfer. In both stated options, it will be allowed if the Resident Electoral Commissioner is satisfied of his/her new residence. This must be done not later than ninety (90) days i.e (during the CVR) before the election.

35. Q. Is it possible to transfer a voter's registration from one state to another or one area within a state to another?

Ans. Yes, you can apply online through www.cvr.inecnigeria.org or visit the nearest INEC designated centre. Such application is subject to approval by Resident Electoral Commissioner of the state. This must be done not later than ninety (90) days i.e (during the CVR) before the election.

36. Q. What is the procedure for transfer of voter registration?

Ans. A voter's registration can be transferred through the following steps:

- ◆ Apply online through www.cvr.inecnigeria.org

OR

- ◆ Apply to INEC's Resident Electoral Commissioner through the Electoral Officer of your LGA/Area Council (The location where you want to be transferred to) not later than 90 days before election.
- ◆ A photocopy of the applicant's voter's card must be attached to the application;

- ◆ The application should contain the current address of the applicant as this will assist in allocating the Polling Unit nearest to him/her i.e. Write an application for transfer to the Resident Electoral Commissioner.
- ◆ If the Resident Electoral Commissioner is satisfied that the applicant is currently resident in the area, he/she shall approve the application and direct that the applicant's details be transferred to his/her new location.
- ◆ The HOD ICT on receiving the approved application shall:
 - i. Effect the transfer on the server;
 - ii. Issue applicant with a Temporary Voter's Card (TVC)/ slip and later print PVC ;
 - iii. Forward printed PVC to electoral officer for collection.
 - iv. The Electoral Officer (EO) of the applicant's LGA on receiving the approval shall:
 - v. Assign the applicant to the nearest Polling Unit to his/ her new residence;
 - vi. Enter the applicant's details in the transferred voters' list;
 - vii. Subsequently issue the applicant with new PVC while the old one will be retrieved.

For any enquiries Call INEC on xxxxxxxxxxxx

This must be done not later than ninety (90) days i.e (during the CVR exercise) before the election (Section 18(1) of Electoral Act, 2022).

37. Q. After a person's registration has been transferred, can he/she still vote in his/her former Polling Unit?

Ans. No. After the transfer, the name will be deleted from the register of voter in his/her former polling unit. He/she can only vote in his/her new polling unit.

38. Q. Why can't a voter vote anywhere he/she finds herself on Election Day?

Ans. The law says that a person can only vote where he/she registered or at the polling unit where his/her name is in the register of voters.



QUALIFICATIONS/ DISQUALIFICATIONS TO CONTEST ELECTION AND RECALL OF ELECTED OFFICERS

1. Q. What are the qualifications for a person to contest for the following offices?

Ans.

- (a). Area Council election in the FCT?
 - i. One must be a citizen of Nigeria.
 - ii. One must be registered as a voter.
 - iii. One must have attained the age of twenty five (25) years for Councillor and thirty (30) years for Chairman/Vice Chairman.
 - iv. One must be educated to up at least School Certificate level or its equivalent.
 - v. One must be a member of a political party and be sponsored by it.

(b) Member of House of Assembly?

- i. One must be a Nigerian;
- ii. One must have attained the age of twenty five (25) years; (new amendment to Section 106 (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended);
- iii. One must have been educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent;
- iv. One must be a member of a political party and be sponsored by it.

(c) Member of the National Assembly?

- i. One must be a citizen of Nigeria;
- ii. must have attained the age of thirty (35) years for Senate; and twenty five (25) years for the House of Representatives. (Section 65 (1) (a-b) of the 1999 Constitution as amended);
- iii. One must have been educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent;
- iv. One must be a member of a political party and be sponsored by it.

(d) Office of the Governor of a state?

- i. One must be a Nigerian by birth;
- ii. One must have attained the age of thirty five (35) years (Section 177 (b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended);
- iii. One must be a member of a political party and be sponsored by it;

iv. One must have been educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent.

(e). Office of President?

- i. One must be a Nigerian by birth;
- ii. One must have attained the age of thirty five (35) years (new amendment to Section 131(b) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended);
- iii. One must have been educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent;
- iv. One must be a member of a political party and be sponsored by that political party.

2. Q. Can a person be disqualified from contesting election?

Ans. Yes. A person can be disqualified from contesting election if he/she:

- i. Is a person employed in the public service of the Federation, State or Local Government and has not resigned, withdrawn or retired from such employment at least thirty (30) days before the date of the election; (Section 102(f) Electoral Act 2022)
- ii. has acquired the citizenship of another country;
- iii. has been adjudged to be a lunatic or of unsound mind by any law in force;
- iv. is under a death sentence imposed on him/her by a competent court of law or tribunal in Nigeria, or sentence of imprisonment or fine for any offence involving dishonesty or fraud or any other offence;

- v. is declared an undischarged bankrupt;
- vi. is within the period of less than ten (10) years before the date of the election, been convicted and sentenced for an offence involving dishonesty
- vii. is a member of a secret society; or
- viii. Has presented a forged certificate(s) to the Commission (INEC).

3. Q. Should a person be a registered voter to contest in an election?

Ans. Yes, though not a constitutional requirement. It is a civic responsibility to be registered as a voter.

4. Q. What is a recall?

Ans. Recall is a procedure by which voters can remove a member of National Assembly or State House of Assembly in the constituency where he/she registered.

5. Q. What is a referendum in a recall?

Ans. A referendum in a recall is a direct vote that determines the question of whether the constituents wish to recall (remove) an elected member of an Area Council, State Houses of Assembly or National Assembly.

6. Q. Who can recall an elected member?

Ans. A member can be recalled by more than one half of the registered voters in his/her constituency presenting a petition to the Chairman of INEC.

7. Q. What can the electorate do if they are not satisfied with the performance of their representatives?

Ans. The electorate not satisfied with the performance of their representatives can present a petition to the Chairman of INEC for the recall of such representatives. (Please note that this process is only applicable to legislators). The petition for recall must be signed by more than one half (50% + 1) of the total number of registered voters in that constituency (Section 113(a) Electoral Act 2022)

8. Q. What are the steps or procedure involved in recalling a representative?

Ans. On receipt of a petition by the Chairman of the Commission for the recall of a member of National or State Assembly signed by more than one half of the total number of persons registered to vote in that member's constituency alleging their loss of confidence in that member, the Commission shall within ninety (90) days of the receipt of the petition ensure that:

- ◆ The petition for recall presented is signed and arranged according to polling units, wards, LGA and constituency;
- ◆ The Commission shall cross check that the signatories appear on the voters register;
- ◆ The Commission shall notify the member sought to be recalled, stating the fact of the receipt of the petition for his/her recall;
- ◆ The Commission shall issue a public notice or announcement stating the date, time and location of verification;
- ◆ The Commission shall verify the signatories to the petition at the designated location;

- ◆ If more than one half (50% + 1) of the signatories are verified, the Commission goes ahead to fix a date for a referendum on whether the member should be recalled or not;
- ◆ The member is recalled when more than half of the voters vote “yes” to recalling the member.
- ◆ It is to be noted that while the petition should be presented by more than half of the Registered Voters, in a referendum, the yardstick is the majority.
- ◆ If the number verified is less than one half of the registered voters in that constituency, the Commission shall write to the petitioners stating that the petition did not meet the minimum requirements and is therefore dismissed.

9. Q. What happens when a member is recalled?

Ans. The Chairman of the Commission is obliged to send a Certificate of Recall to the Presiding Officer – Senate President or Speaker of the House notifying him/her that the member has been recalled.

10.Q. Can a Governor of a State or President of Nigeria be recalled?

Ans. No. The recall procedure does not apply to a Governor or President. In the case of a Governor or President, he/she can only be removed by impeachment process embarked upon by two thirds of the members of the House of Assembly and National Assembly respectively.



ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

1. Q. What is an Election?

Ans. An Election is a process where people vote for preferred candidates or political parties as their representatives in government. This also includes referendum.

2. Q. What do you mean by 'General Election'?

Ans. Elections conducted in electoral constituencies across the country to elect political parties and candidates into executive and legislative positions.

3.Q. What is a bye-election?

Ans. It is an election to replace a Member of the Legislature occasioned by death, resignation, recall or taking up another public office or position.

4.Q. What is a run-off election?

Ans. It is an election conducted when the first election fails to produce a clear winner. This can happen when the

candidate with the highest votes does not have the required vote spread in the State/Federation, i.e. he/she has not scored at least 25% of the valid votes cast in at least 2/3 (two-third) of the LGA of the state (for Governor) or at least 25% of the valid votes cast in at least 2/3 (two-third) of the States of the federation in the case of the President. This election shall be between the two (2) candidates with the highest votes. The candidate with the majority votes shall be declared the winner.

5. Q. What is re-run election?

Ans. It is an election where the first election was annulled for sundry reason(s) by a competent Electoral Tribunal or Court of Law.

6. Q. What are the factors responsible for inconclusive elections?

Ans. The under listed are the factors responsible for inconclusive election:

Postponement election due to:

- i. Natural disasters or other emergencies;
- ii. Violence, threats or breakdown of Law and Order;
- iii. Over voting – where votes cast exceed the number of accredited voters in the Polling Unit. The result of such election is cancelled Section 51 (2) of the Electoral Act, 2022;
- iv. Other malpractices;
- v. Where in elections into executive positions (President or Governor), a candidate fails to have the required spread of scoring at least 25% of the votes cast in at

least two thirds of the States (for President) or LGAs (in the case of Governor) apart from scoring the majority of lawful votes cast at the election.

7. Q. Has there been any inconclusive elections in Nigeria to date?

Ans. Yes, several. The following are examples of such elections:

- i. 1999 - Rivers State Governorship Election
- ii. 2011 - Imo Governorship Election
- iii. 2014 - Anambra Governorship Election
- iv. 2019 - Bauchi Governorship Election
- v. Just to mention a few.

8. Q. What is the legal basis for declaring any election inconclusive?

Ans. Sections 47(3) of the Electoral Act, 2022 states that where a smart card reader or any other technological device deployed for accreditation of voters fails to function in any polling unit and such device is not replaced, the election in that unit shall be cancelled and another election shall be scheduled within 24 hours if the Commission is satisfied that the result of the election in that polling unit will substantially affect the final result of the whole election and declaration of a winner in the constituency concerned. It could also occur due to natural disasters or other emergencies, the Commission shall postpone the election. Similarly, Section 51 (2- 3) provides that where the number of votes cast in a unit or area exceeds the total number of accredited voters, the result

will be voided and no return shall be made unless the voided result will not affect the overall outcome of the election in the Constituency.

9. Q. Can the result generated from an election in which some polling units were cancelled be declared?

Ans. Yes, provided that the result (s) from the affected area(s) will not affect the overall outcome of the election. Section 51(4) of the Electoral Act 2022 stipulates that declaration may be made if and When the total number of PVCs collected in units where the results are cancelled or where the elections are postponed are not sufficient to cause a change in the final outcome of the election in the affected constituency, the result generated from such an election can be declared. However, if the PVCs collected in the affected areas where election did not hold are sufficient to cause a change the overall outcome of the election, such result of such election will not be declared.

10. Q. What is a Polling Unit?

Ans: A Polling Unit is a public place, enclosure, booth or shade recognised by INEC where registered voters cast their votes on Election Day.

11. Q. How many Polling Units are there in Nigeria?

Ans. There are currently 176,846 polling units in Nigeria.

12. Q. Who is allowed in a Polling Unit on Election Day?

Ans. Those allowed in a voting point or polling unit are:

- i. Poll officials assigned to that polling unit;
- ii. Registered voters in that polling unit;

- iii. Security Agents;
- iv. Accredited Poll Agents or Candidates;
- v. INEC Monitors/Supervisors;
- vi. Accredited Observers (domestic and foreign);
- vii. Accredited Journalists;
- viii. Poll/party agents of the parties participating in the election.

13. Q. Is INEC responsible for the provision of security for personnel and materials during elections?

Ans. No. it is the responsibility of the security agencies such as Police, Civil Defence and Directorate of State Security Services and other ICSS members to provide security during elections. The Commission only requests for their deployment from the Heads of such Agencies.

14. Q. Who is in charge of the Polling Unit during elections?

Ans: The Presiding Officer (PO). He/she oversees a polling unit and conducts election there. He/she is supported by other election officials.

15. Q. Are security personnel allowed to carry arms to the polling units?

Ans. No. Security personnel are not permitted to carry arms to polling units.

16. Q. Are military personnel allowed at Polling Area on Election Day?

Ans. No. Members of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force) are not allowed within the polling area on Election Day. They may be strategically located near the

polling areas for some security reasons and necessary intervention when. They may also be involved in securing the distribution of materials and protection of election officials (Section 27(3)) of the Electoral Act, 2022.

17. Q. What is the duty of a Supervisory Presiding Officer?

Ans. He/she is responsible for the supervision of elections in a cluster of polling units/stations and liaises between the Electoral Officer and a number of Presiding Officers (POs) and Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs) under his/her supervision in all matters affecting the election, especially in the distribution, collection and retrieval of election materials. The SPOs also conduct refresher training for the poll officials within his/her registration area on the eve of the election at the RAC.

18. Q. What does "APO" stand for?

Ans. Assistant Presiding Officer.

19. Q. How many APOs work at a polling unit on Election Day?

Ans. Three APOs work in each polling unit on Election Day i.e. APO I, APO II and APO III.

20. Q. What are the duties of APOs?

Ans. APOs work under the supervision of the Presiding Officer. They assist him/her in the conduct of elections in the polling unit.

21. Q. When were the categories of the 2019 General Election conducted in Nigeria?

Ans. The two categories of the 2019 General Election were held on Saturday, 23rd February and Saturday, 2nd

March, 2019 for Presidential /National Assembly and Governorship/State Houses of Assembly, respectively.

22. Q. What dates will the 2023 general elections be conducted?

Ans. The dates for the various elective posts for the 2023 general elections are as follows:

Presidential and National Assembly elections will be conducted on Saturday, 25th February, 2023 while the Governorship and State Houses of Assembly elections will be conducted on Saturday, 11th March, 2023.

23. Q. Can a Polling Unit be located in army/police barracks, palaces, markets, private houses or places of worship like Church, Mosque, Temple or Shrine?

Ans. No. Polling Units cannot be located in private residences or worship places. Rather, Polling Units are located at public places, though it may be in front of such buildings – outside the premises

24. Q. Who is a Party Agent?

Ans. A party agent is that person representing a political party or candidate at the polling unit, distribution point or collation centre on Election Day and who is so accredited by INEC for that purpose.

25. Q. Are party agents allowed at the polling units and collation centres?

Ans. Yes. Election officials shall allow each party to be represented by one agent at a time in polling units and collation centres provided they are accredited by the Commission. To be accredited, the party must submit the

names of the agents, photographs and other particulars not later than fourteen (14) days before the election to INEC.

26. Q. How many agents can a Political Party have at a polling unit on Election Day?

Ans. Only one accredited party agent per political party participating or sponsoring candidate(s) in the election is allowed at a polling unit on Election Day.

27. Q. What are the main responsibilities of the party agents?

Ans. Their responsibilities are:

- (i) To represent the interest of their Parties and Candidates to ensure that proper procedure, laws and regulations are complied with;
- (ii) To observe the process of collection and distribution of election materials and record same by audio visual means if he/she so wishes;
- (iii) To observe the polling and counting of ballots as well as the collation and declaration of results on behalf of their parties;
- (iv) To call the attention of the poll officials to any irregularity;
- (v) To sign the result sheet if they so desire;
- (vi) To testify in Courts/Tribunals in case of election petitions or litigations.

28. Q. Can a party agent demand for a recount of votes when the Presiding Officer has already completed the counting process?

Ans. Yes. A party agent present at a polling unit may demand to have the votes recounted, but only once.

29. Q. What can an agent or voter do where INEC officials are not following the correct procedure?

Ans. The agent/voter shall call the attention of the officials to any irregularities without interfering with the process and report to his/her party.

30. Q. What do I need to present in order to vote on Election Day?

Ans. To be allowed to vote, you must have your permanent voter's card (PVC) and come with it to the polling unit.

31. Q. Can a voter vote for more than one candidate at any election?

Ans. No. No voter shall vote for more than one candidate or record more than one vote in favour of any candidate at any election.

32. Q. Can a Nigerian living outside the country vote at any election in Nigeria?

Ans. No. presently, a Nigerian living outside the country cannot vote at any election unless he/she is physically present at the polling unit where he/she is registered.

Note: Diaspora voting is not yet part of our law.

33. Q. What are the steps involved in the conduct of election?

Ans. Reading/explaining the Voters' Code of Conduct, Accreditation, Voting, Sorting of ballots, Counting, Announcing the votes scored by each party, transmission of scanned image of the polling unit result, Collation and Declaration of results.

34. Q. When does election start and end on Election Day?

Ans. This is as announced by INEC before the election. Currently, it starts at 8.30am and closes at 2.30pm. However, voters on the queue on or before 2.30pm shall be accredited to vote.

35. Q. What is accreditation?

Ans. Accreditation is the process of identifying voters who are qualified to vote.

36. Q. Why are voters accredited?

Ans:

- (i) To check unauthorized and multiple voting;
- (ii). To stop impersonation as only the owners of voter's card can vote;
- (iii). To ascertain if the voter has previously voted in the election;
- (iv). To ensure that only those who are registered or have their names enlisted in the register of voters for that polling unit actually vote.

37. Q. What are the procedures for accreditation?

Ans.

- i. The voters queue up in an orderly manner;

- ii. The Poll Officials use the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) machine to read (verify) the Permanent Voters Card (PVC) presented and authenticate the voter using the fingerprints or his/her facials in order to confirm that his/her name is in the register of voters in that unit and that he/she is the rightful owner of the card;
- iii. The officials then cross check the name in the register and tick on the left side of the register after the confirmation;
- iv. Indelible ink is applied on the appropriate finger of the voter's left hand;
- v. If the voter's fingerprint is not authenticated, the voter's facials must be recognised/authenticated and vice versa. If both fail to be authenticated, he/she will NOT be allowed to vote.

38. Q. Can there be separate queues for men and women?

Ans. Yes. Where culture does not allow men and women to mix up in a queue, separate queues are formed for men and women.

39. Q. Can I send a representative with my voter's card to be accredited and vote on my behalf?

Ans. No. Accreditation or Voting by proxy is not allowed. You must be physically present at the polling unit before you can be accredited to vote.

40.Q. Can anyone be accredited to vote after the time stipulated to join the queue?

Ans. Yes, but only if you are already on the queue as at the

closing time for accreditation. Any voter who comes after close of accreditation/voting (which is presently 2:30pm) will not be allowed to vote.

41. Q. Is there any way to prove or ascertain that a person has been accredited?

Ans. Yes. The poll officials will apply indelible ink at the appropriate finger of your left hand after accreditation. The BVAS also takes record of each person who submits him/herself for accreditation.

42. Q. What is the full meaning of BVAS?

Ans. Bimodal Voter Accreditation System.

43. Q. What is Bimodal Voter Accreditation System?

Ans. It is an electronic device used to verify a voter, authenticate the fingerprints and facials during accreditation.

The BVAS does the following:

- i. Eliminates multiple accreditation
- ii. Eliminates impersonation during accreditation
- iii. Increases public confidence in the outcome of elections
- iv. Eliminates the use of incident form
- v. It will be used to transmit scanned polling unit results in real time on Election Day to the INEC Results Viewing Portal (IREV) for public view.

44. Q. When was the BVAS introduced into the electoral process in Nigeria?

Ans. The use of BVAS was introduced in the Nasarawa Central Constituency bye-election held on Saturday 8th August, 2020,.

45. Q. Has the BVAS been used in the subsequent Elections?

Ans. Yes. It has been used in several bye-elections, beginning with the the Itsoko South Constituency I bye-election in Delta state, and other bye-elections afterwards, the 2020 Anambra State Governorship election, the 2021 Area Council Election in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and the 2021 Ekiti and Osun states Governorship elections. The BVAS has been deployed in subsequent elections to date.

46. Q. What method of voting is being used in Nigeria currently?

Ans. Re-Modified Open Secret Ballot System.

47. Q. What is the open secret ballot system?

Ans. It is a system in which the voter thumbprints/fingerprints or makes his/her choice on the ballot paper in secret and drops it in the ballot box (casts his vote) in the full view of all present.

48. Q. What are the requirements for a person to cast his/her vote?

Ans. Each person wishing to vote must:

- (i) Have been registered at the polling unit where he/she intends to cast his/her vote;
- (ii) Have his/her Permanent Voter's Card;
- (iii) Present himself/herself to the Presiding Officer at the polling unit;

- (iv) The person's name must be in the Register of Voters of that polling unit;
- (v) Be accredited by BVAS.

49. Q . What is the voting procedure?

Ans.

- a. Appear in person at the unit where you registered at the stipulated time – presently between 8.30am and 2.30pm with your permanent voter's card;
- b. A Voter Code of Conduct is read to all voters by the Presiding Officer (pertaining to strict compliance to COVID-19 protocols and overall conduct of voters);
- c. Accreditation/voting commences at 8.30am. Voters are expected to queue up in an orderly manner;
- d. BVAS is used to verify PVC presented by a voter and authenticate voter's fingerprints and (or) his/her facials;
- e. The voter is issued with ballot paper(s) and directed to a cubicle to make his/her choice by thumb/finger printing against their preferred party/candidate on the ballot paper in secret, and thereafter dropping it (them) into the ballot box in the full view of all present;
- f. Where the voter's PVC is read but his/her fingerprint or facial is not authenticated, he/she will NOT be allowed to proceed to vote;
- g. Accreditation and voting close at 2.30 pm. A Security Personnel is required to stand behind the last person on the queue to prevent any other person joining.

However, everyone on the queue as at 2.30 pm shall be attended to.

- h. When the last voter on the queue has voted, the ballots are sorted, counted and the votes scored by each contesting party/candidate as well as the rejected/spoilt ballots;

The results are announced and filled into the result sheet;

- i. The result is also entered into form EC 60E and pasted at the polling unit;
- j. The image of the results from the Polling Units are transmitted electronically to the INEC Election Result Viewing (IREV) portal and thereafter the hard copies are taken to the Registration Area Collation Centre for summation.

50. Q. What are the benefits/importance of IREV?

Ans. In order to enhance transparency, INEC has provided an online results viewing portal (IREV).

The IREV does the followings:

- i. Results are uploaded from polling units in real time.
- ii. Helps to eliminate the falsification of results at polling unit level to collation centre.

51. Q. What is the procedure for accessing IREV?

Ans. You can access the INEC Results Viewing portal by clicking on (www.inecelectionsresults.ng) to view results of all polling units in real time before they are declared at the end of an election by INEC.

52. Q. When can the public monitor the IReV portal to view polling units results on Election Day?

Ans. The public can monitor polling unit results in real time on Election Day at the close of poll and as soon as such results are being uploaded to the portal.

53. Q. Where are collation and declaration of Election Results made?

Ans. Collation and declaration of election results are made at the following levels depending on the type of election

- i. Registration Area – RA (Ward) (Collation for all Elections and declaration for Councillorship Election in the FCT)
- ii. Local Government Area LGA (Collation for all Elections and declaration for Chairmanship Election in the FCT)
- iii. State Constituency (Collation and Declaration of State House of Assembly Elections).
- iv. Governorship (Collation and Declaration for Governorship Elections)
- v. Federal Constituency (Collation and Declaration of House of Representatives Elections)
- vi. Senatorial District (Collation and Declaration for Senatorial District Elections.
- vii. Presidential (Collation and Declaration for Presidential Election)

54. Q. What is a rejected ballot?

Ans. A rejected ballot is a ballot where the choice of the voter is not clear e.g. if the thumbprint is between two parties'

symbols, is not in a box near any party or the ballot paper is not thumb printed at all. Such ballot will be rejected and not counted for any party or candidate. A ballot will also be rejected, when it is not stamped and signed by the presiding officer.

55. Q. Can I vote if my voter's card is missing?

Ans. No. You cannot vote unless you produce a permanent voter's card. If your PVC is missing, then apply for replacement via the online portal (cvr.inecnigeria.org) or to the Resident Electoral Commissioner/Electoral Officer of your State/LGA not later than ninety (90) days before election.

Note: This process can only take place during the CVR.

56. Q. Can I use my party or work I.D card, ATM card, national I.D card or international passport to vote during an election?

Ans. No. As stipulated in the Electoral Act, you can only use a valid permanent voter's card to vote.

57. Q. Can I tell or show a party agent, poll official or anyone else the candidate or party I want to vote for or who I voted for?

Ans. No. Your choice should be known to you only.

58. Q. Must ballot papers be stamped, signed and dated by the Presiding Officer to make them count, i.e. valid?

Ans. Yes. The Presiding Officer must do so before issuance.

Failure by a Presiding Officer to stamp, sign and date the back of any ballot paper renders it invalid. Anyone not so stamped, signed and dated will not be counted as valid.

59.Q. Can I write my name on the ballot paper for easy identification?

Ans. No. Where a voter makes any writing or mark on a ballot paper by which he may be identified, such ballot shall be rejected.

60. Q. Can the election process commence even when no party agents are present in the polling units?

Ans. Yes. Poll officials can commence the election process even when no party agents are present in the polling unit.

61. Q. What happens when the total votes cast at an election are higher than the number of accredited or registered voters in a Polling Unit?

Ans. The result of the election in that unit will be cancelled. If the total number of PVCs collected in the affected area are enough to cause a change in the final outcome of the election, there shall be a supplementary election in the affected area(s).

62.Q. What happens when results or accreditation data transferred to the IReV portal vary with that transferred manually?

Ans. Where there is disparity in the number of accredited voters in the IReV and result transmitted manually, the data in the BVAS will over ride.

63. Q. Can a voter wait behind in the polling unit for the result after voting?

Ans. Yes. But he/she must be orderly and well behaved;

otherwise he/she could be ejected by security agents. The law prohibits loitering and other disruptive activities within three hundred (300) meters radius of the polling unit.

64. Q. What happens after the sorting and counting of the ballots?

Ans. The Presiding Officer announces the score of each of the political parties/candidates who contested in the election and writes the scores in the result sheet.

65. Q. Is there a special form or paper to write the results of election at polling units?

Ans. Yes. It is known as form EC8A. All results from polling units must be entered in this form issued by the Commission.

66. Q. If a party agent refuses to counter sign the result sheet, does it invalidate the result of the poll?

Ans. No. Refusal of any party agent to countersign form EC 8A will not invalidate the result of the poll.

67. Q. Who declares election result and when is this done?

Ans. The result of an election is declared by an election official known as the Returning Officer (RO) after collating all the results of the Constituency/Senatorial District, etc.

68. Q. Can a media house declare or announce the result before the Returning Officer?

Ans. No, only the Returning Officer appointed by INEC is permitted by law to declare the result of an election; though anyone can publish this result as announced.

69. Q. What is the meaning of “Return” in an election?

Ans. Return means the declaration by a returning officer of a candidate in an election under the Electoral Act as being the winner of that election.

70. Q. When results have been announced and a return made, can the result be reviewed by the Commission or the government or anyone else?

Ans. Yes, one of the innovations in the Electoral Act, 2022 is that the Commission can review the result within seven (7) days, provided that the said declaration & return was not made voluntarily or was made contrary to the provision of the law, regulations, guidelines and manual for the election (Section 65 (1)).

71. Q. What is the meaning of ‘Margin of Lead’?

Ans. It is the gap in the scores of two leading candidates in an election

72. Q. When is the Margin of Lead Principle deployed in an election?

Ans. The Margin of Lead Principle is deployed when the results of an election is voided in some areas or where election could not hold in some areas due to sundry reasons.

73. Q. How is the Margin of Lead determined?

Ans. Currently, the Margin of Lead is based on the total number of PVCs collected in the affected Polling Unit(s). Where the margin between the two leading candidates in an election is not more than the total number of PVCs collected in the affected polling unit(s) where elections are not held or election results cancelled, the Returning

Officer shall not declare the winner until elections are held in the affected polling unit(s) and the results collated into the relevant forms. However, if the Margin is less than the number of PVCs collected in the affected areas, the Returning Officer shall declare the winner of the election

74. Q Are Collation Officers allowed to make or receive phone calls while on duty?

Ans. No. Collation Officers are not allowed to make or receive telephone calls during collation of results.

75. Q Who are the stakeholders in an election?

Ans. The stakeholders in an election are:

- i. All persons, groups or agencies that have interest or stake in the process and include:
- ii. Voters;
- iii. INEC Officials (Permanent and Ad Hoc Staff) on election duty;
- iv. Security Agents;
- v. Political parties, their candidates and accredited party agents;
- vi. The media;
- vii. Domestic and International Observers;
- viii. Relevant MDAs (National Human Rights Commission, National Orientation Agency, etc);
- ix. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs);
- x. Traditional Rulers;

- xi. Religious Leaders;
- xii. Women Group;
- xiii. Development Partners;
- xiv. International/Regional Groups (AU, UN, ECOWAS);
- xv. International Community;
- xvi. Ordinary Citizens;
- xvii. Nigerians abroad;
- xviii. Person With Disabilities.

76. Q. What are the roles of stakeholders in the electoral process?

Ans. Stakeholders are the watch dog of the society. They share a common objective of making positive contributions towards strengthening democracy and promoting citizens' participation in the electoral process.

77. Q. Who are Election Observers?

Ans. Election Observers are persons appointed by their respective organizations and accredited by INEC to observe the entire election process (distribution of election materials, accreditation process, voting, sorting and counting of ballots, collation of results and declaration of results) or any part thereof. There are two types of election observers i.e. Domestic and International Observers.

78. Q. Can an election observer interfere with the conduct of elections?

Ans. No. Observers are not permitted to interfere with the conduct of elections.

They are only permitted to observe the process and to call the attention of officials to any irregularity without interfering with the process.

79. Q. Is it lawful for election observers to handle election materials?

Ans. No. It is unlawful for election observers to handle election materials.

80. Q. Can an observer wear the badge or symbol of any political party on Election Day?

Ans. No. Election observers are not allowed to wear the badge or symbol of any political party. Observers shall comply with lawful directives issued by, or under the authority of INEC or its officials, including a directive to leave the Polling Unit or the Collation Centre if required to do so.

81. Q. Who are Election Monitors?

Ans. Election monitors are officials of INEC deployed by the Commission to oversee the conduct of elections.

82. Q. Can election monitors interfere with the conduct of elections?

Ans. Yes. Election monitors are staff of the Commission and can interfere with the process of the conduct of elections, when it is noticed that poll officials are not adhering to the approved procedures.

83. Q. Are Journalists allowed to interfere with the election process?

Ans. No. Journalists are not permitted to interfere with the election process.



GENDER MAINSTREAMING & INCLUSIVITY

1. Q. Does INEC have a Gender Policy?

Ans. Yes, it is aimed at creating platforms for equal access and participation of men and women in the electoral process.

2. Q. What does the acronym PWD stand for?

Ans. Person with Disability

3. Q. How does INEC promote inclusivity?

Ans. The Commission promotes inclusivity through targeted programmes and activities to ensure mainstreaming of Persons with Disability, Youths and Women, IDPs to strengthen their participation in the electoral process. The department in charge is Gender & Inclusivity.

4. Q. What is Braille Ballot Guide?

Ans. It is an envelope like leaflet made of durable plastic (Jacket) that has cut-out-holes that enable persons with

visual impairment/blind to vote independently.

5. Q. Is accreditation compulsory for persons with disabilities?

Ans. Yes. Persons with Disabilities who intend to vote in any election must be accredited like every other voter before they can be allowed to vote.

6. Q. Are Persons with Disabilities given priority voting on Election Day?

Ans. Yes. All Persons with Disabilities who present themselves at the polling unit on Election Day will be given priority to vote.

7. Q. Can blind people vote? If so, how?

Ans. Yes. A voter who is blind or visually impaired will be issued a Braille Ballot Guide. This will enable the blind/visually impaired voter cast his/her vote independently. However, they are allowed to come to the polling unit with a person of their choice to assist them if they so wish.

Please Note: INEC Staff and Party Agents are not allowed to assist them.

8. Q. What is the name of the form used in collecting disaggregated data at the polling unit on Election Day?

Ans. The form is called Form EC40H. The purpose of collecting the data is to enable the Commission plan adequately in procurement of relevant election materials required by the various groups at the right locations on Election Day.

9. Q. What are the assistive materials provided by the Commission on Election Day to assist Persons with Disabilities in voting?

Ans.

- i. The Braille Ballot Guide
- ii. Magnifying Glasses

Poster EC30 Persons with Disabilities (form with written information/pictorials meant for the deaf/hearing impaired persons on election procedure).

Braille Jackets with acronyms of political parties in braille to enable user vote unassisted

10. Q. How can the assistive materials provided by the Commission be used on Election Day?

Ans.

- i. The Braille Ballot Guide is issued to the visually impaired/blind voters on Election Day to enable them cast independent votes.
- ii. Magnifying glasses enable persons with albinism or visual impairment see the inscriptions on the ballot paper clearly.
- iii. Poster EC30 PWD is a poster with pictorials/information on it, pasted at every polling unit/centre to enable voters with hearing impairment read/understand the voting procedures on Election Day.

11. Q. Does the Commission engage Sign Language Interpreters on Election Day?

Ans. Yes. The Commission engages Sign Language Interpreters at the final collation and declaration of results on Election Day to enable the hearing impaired/deaf understand and follow proceedings. The Commission also engages

them during TV programmes as well as well as major programmes and activities.

12. Q. Does INEC have a framework for Persons with Disabilities?

Ans. Yes. The Framework on Access and Participation of PWDs in the electoral process is a document aimed at the inclusion of PWDs in all aspects of the electoral process, as well as reducing the barriers they face as voters, aspirants, candidates, party officials and staff within the Commission.

13. Q. Does the Commission have a Disability Desk?

Ans. Yes. There are Disability Desk Officers in the Commission's Headquarters, State Offices and the FCT.

14. Q. Can a Person with Disability vie for any elective position?

Ans. Yes. Any Person with Disability who has the interest and also meets the required qualifications can contest for any elective position.

15. Q. Can Persons with Disabilities vote on Election Day?

Ans. Yes. Persons with Disabilities who present themselves at the polling unit on Election Day will be allowed to vote.

16. Q. Can a Person with Disability observe an election?

Ans. Yes, provided he/she is appointed by an organisation and accredited by the Commission.

17. Q. Can Persons with Disability register as voters?

Ans. Yes. Any Person with Disability who is a Nigerian citizen and has attained the age of 18 years is entitled to be registered as a voter.

18. Q. Can a voter who has no fingers or toes be allowed to vote?

Ans. Yes. A voter who has no fingers or toes can be allowed to vote on Election Day. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) captures the face of the voter for accreditation.

Please Note: That a voter who has no finger or toe can be assisted by any person of his/her choice to mark the ballot paper (Section 54 (1) of the Electoral Act 2022

19. Q Who are IDP Voters?

Ans. They are Internally Displaced Persons who are qualified Nigerian Voters, relocated either temporarily or permanently from their usual place of abode as a result of conflict, insecurity or other natural or man-made emergencies and so are unable to vote in their normal delimitation/polling locations.

20. Q . Are all IDP voters permitted to Vote?

Ans. Yes but they are classified into two categories on the basis of location namely, Intra-state and Interstate.

Intra-state IDP Voting involves those who are internally displaced within a state and are hosted in locations other than where they are originally registered but within the same state; in this case, such persons can vote or participate in all elections, while, Interstate IDP Voting involves those who are internally

displaced but hosted in state other than their original state of residence and in this case, such persons can only vote or participate in Presidential Election.

21. Q. Can Internally Displaced Persons be registered as voters during Continuous Voter Registration Exercise?

Ans. Yes. INEC offices are to undertake Continuous Voter Registration to cover IDPs at their various locations.

22. Q Where are IDP Voting Centres Located?

Ans. INEC will in consultation with stakeholders establish IDP Voting Centres at approved IDP camps where displaced persons will vote during elections.

23. Q. Are IDP voters required to use the Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) to vote?

Ans. Yes. Voting at IDP centres shall be with the use of PVC only as is applicable in all Polling Units nationwide.

24. Q. How can an IDP voter collect his/her PVC?

Ans. The Commission at state level makes arrangement for collection of PVCs at the IDP camps and other designated points which would be publicly disclosed.

25. Q Will the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System successfully read an IDP voter's PVC?

Ans. Yes, the Commission will configure the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System at RA level in the case of intra-state IDP voting and to the state level in the case of interstate IDP voting respectively.

26. Q Will Security Agents be present around IDP Voting centres during elections?

Ans. Yes, INEC will collaborate with security agencies and Inter-Agency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES) in developing special security arrangements targeted at IDP voting operations, IDP camps & voting centres.



ELECTORAL OFFENCES

1. Q. What is an electoral offence?

Ans. Conducts or omissions which affect electoral activities negatively and are therefore prohibited by law.

2. Q. What constitutes an electoral offence?

Ans. Any conduct or omission prohibited by the Electoral Act, 2022 for which there is punishment for breach. The following constitute the various electoral offences:

◆ **Pre-election day offences:**

Ans. These include:

1. Multiple registration;
2. Under-age registration;
3. Impersonation;
4. Breach of public peace during campaigns;

5. Double nomination;
6. Disorderly behaviour at party rallies; amongst others.
7. Election Day Offences:
8. Campaigning on Election Day
9. Vote buying/selling;
10. Impersonation;
11. Multiple voting;
12. Under-age voting;
13. Disruption of election process;
14. Prevention of voters from exercising their rights;
15. Snatching of ballot box or election materials;
16. Destruction of election materials;
17. Stuffing of ballot box and vote padding;
18. Dereliction of duty
19. Violating the rule of secrecy of vote;
20. Inducement of voters or officials;
21. Harassment and molestation of election officials or other stakeholders;
22. Disenfranchisement of voters; amongst others.
23. Post-election day offences
24. Destruction/alteration of election materials to be used as evidence for election dispute resolution;

25. Intimidation and Bribery of Election Petition Tribunal Judges;

26. Disruption of public peace over the outcome of election; amongst others.

3. Q. Are there penalties for committing any of the above offences?

Ans. Yes. If tried and found guilty, you may be jailed, fined or face both.

4. Q. Can a political party or anyone without proper authority print ballot paper or what is capable of being used as ballot paper or result sheet at any election?

Ans. No. It is an offence to do so. Anyone who commits this offence is liable on conviction to a fine of N50,000,000 (Fifty Million Naira only) or imprisonment not less than ten (10) years or both.

5. Q. Can a person vote more than once?

Ans. No. No voter is allowed to vote more than once in any particular election. If you are caught, you may be fined or sent to jail.

6. Q. Is it an offence for an aspirant to conspire with an accountant to falsify a document relating to his expenditure at an election?

Ans. Yes. It is an offence liable to a fine of N3,000,000 (three million naira) or three (3) years imprisonment or both on conviction (Section 88(11), Electoral Act, 2022)

7. Q. What is the punishment for a person who registers more than once?

Ans. The punishment for anyone who registers more than once and is liable on conviction is a fine of N1,000,000 (One Million Naira) or imprisonment to a term of twelve (12) months or both

8. Q. What happens when a political party presents to the Commission a candidate who does not meet the required qualification for the post being sought for?

Ans. It is an offence for a political party to submit to the Commission a name of someone who is not qualified. The political party on conviction is liable to a maximum fine of N10,000,000 (Ten Million Naira).

9. Q. What happens to the election if he wins?

Ans. The result of such election will be nullified by the court if found guilty.

10. Q. Is it legal to induce or bribe a voter to vote for someone?

Ans. No. The offender is liable to a fine of N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) or twelve (12) months imprisonment, or both (Section 121 (a – d) Electoral Act, 2022)

11. Q. Can a person sell his or her voter's card to someone else?

Ans. No. Any person who is in unlawful possession of any voter's card, sells, attempts to sell, buys or attempts to buy any voter's card whether owned by him or not, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding N1,000,000.00 (One Million Naira) or 12 months imprisonment or both. Section 117 (a-d) of the Electoral Act, 2022.

12. Q. Is it allowed for anyone to go to the polling unit with

any party poster, banner, flag, badge or symbol on Election Day?

Ans. No. It is an offence to do so.

13. Q. Is snatching of ballot box or election materials an offence?

Ans. Yes. Snatching and destruction of any election material attracts twenty (24) months imprisonment (Section 126(4) of the Electoral Act, 2022.

14. Q. Is it wrong to collect money to vote for a candidate or refrain from voting?

Ans. Yes. It is an offence to give or collect money to vote. Both the giver and the receiver are liable on conviction. Section 121 of the Electoral Act, 2022.

15. Q. Is the use of thugs allowed for political activities?

Ans. No. Use of thugs for political activities is an offence. It attracts a fine of N500, 000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) or three (3) years imprisonment, or both. Section 128 (a-d) of the Electoral Act 2022.

16. Q. Are there punishments for falsifying or hiding of financial information by a political Party?

Ans. Yes. Any Political Party that holds back information regarding their finances and activities from the Independent National Election Commission shall be liable on conviction to a fine of N1,000, 000 (One Million Naira) or imprisonment for a term of three years.

17. Q. Can any INEC Official collect money or gift in doing his/her job?

Ans. No. It is an offence to do so. He/she is liable on conviction to a maximum fine of N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand

Naira) or imprisonment for twelve (12) months or both. Section 121(4) of the Electoral Act 2022.

18. Q. Can a Returning Officer deliver false Certificate of Return knowing same to be false?

Ans. No. It is an offence punishable on conviction by law i.e three (3) years imprisonment without an option of fine. Section 129 (5) of the Electoral Act 2022.

19. Q. Can someone borrow or use another person's voter's card to vote?

Ans. No. It is an offence with maximum fine of N1,000,000 (One Million Naira) or twelve (12) months imprisonment or both on conviction. Section 117 (a-b) of the Electoral Act 2022.



ELECTION PETITIONS

1. Q. How can the outcome of an election be challenged?

Ans. The outcome of an election can only be challenged through an election petition.

2. Q. Who can challenge the outcome of an election?

Ans. It is only a candidate or political party who contested an election that can challenge the outcome of that election.

3. Q. Where can an election results be challenged?

Ans. Election results can be challenged as follows:

- I. Presidential – Court of Appeal;
- II. Governorship – Governorship Election Petition Tribunal;
- III. National and State Houses of Assembly - National and State Houses of Assembly Election Tribunal;
- IV. Area Council Election - Area Council Election Tribunal.

4. Q. On what grounds can the outcome of an election be questioned?

Ans.

- (a) A person whose election is questioned was at the time of the election not qualified to contest the election;
- (b) That the election was invalid by reason of corrupt practices or non-compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act;
- (c) That the respondent was not duly elected by majority of lawful votes cast at the election.

5. Q. Is there a time limit for filing of election petitions?

Ans.

Yes. An election petition shall be filed not later than twenty (21) days after the date of the declaration of the result of the election. For Presidential, Governorship, National and State Houses of Assembly, Section 285(5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) and Section 132(7) of the Electoral Act, 2022 for Area Council Elections.

6. Q. Is there a time limit for the hearing and determination of petitions?

Ans.

Yes. Within 240 days from the Tribunals to the highest appellate courts (180 days for the Election Petition Tribunal and 60 days for the Appeal).

Section 132 (8-9) of the Electoral Act, 2022.

7. Q. Is there a right of appeal?

Ans.

Yes. Appeals from the Court of Appeal for Presidential elections go to the Supreme Court, while those from National and State Assemblies go to the Court of Appeal,

which is the final court for these. For petitions arising out of Governorship Elections, further appeals go to the Supreme Court. For the Area Council Election Tribunal, appeal goes to Area Council Election Appeal Tribunal which is final.

BASIC FACTS ON THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION

What is the event?

2023 General Election.

When to vote:

Dates of Elections:

- ◆ Saturday 25th February, 2023 – National Elections
- ◆ Presidential Election
- ◆ National Assembly (Senatorial and
- ◆ House of Representatives Elections).
- ◆ Saturday 11th March , 2023 – State Elections
- ◆ Governorship Election (for 28 states)

Note: Off cycle Governorship elections for Anambra, Bayelsa, Edo, Ekiti, Imo, Kogi Ondo and Osun States will not be held on the day.

- ◆ State Houses of Assembly Election.

Time of Voting:

8:30am to 2:30pm (voters on the queue at 2:30pm will be allowed to vote).

Who is eligible to Vote?

Only persons with Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs) and whose names and other details are contained in the Register of Voters will be allowed to vote.

Where to vote (Venues for the Elections):

Polling Unit where you registered or your name is enlisted in the Register of Voters.

Why should citizens vote?

Citizens need to participate in election (vote) to elect leaders that will deliver good governance (dividend of democracy)

How to vote:

Continuous accreditation and voting method will be employed during the elections. The Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) will be used to verify PVC and authenticate fingerprints or face of prospective voters.

What are the Legal Framework for the conduct of election in Nigeria?

They are:

- I. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended);
- II. The Electoral Act 2022; and
- III. The Regulations and Guidelines issued by the Commission.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ACRONYMS

(Terms, acronyms and definitions)

PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
Hearing Impairment	Deaf voters
Physically Challenged	A voter on wheel chair or clutches
IVED	INEC Voter Enrolment Device
BVAS	Bimodal Voter Accreditation System
NICVEP	National Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Voter Education and Publicity
IReV	INEC Result Viewing portal
APO I & II	Assistant Presiding Officer I & II
SIEC	State Independent Electoral Commission
ICCES	Inter-agency Consultative Committee on Election Security
ICCC	INEC Citizens Contact Centre
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
PVC	Permanent Voter Card
PU	Polling Unit

EO	Electoral Officer
REC	Resident Electoral Commissioner
RAC	Registration Area Centre
LGA	Local Government Area
EMB	Election Management Body
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
AEOs	Assistant Electoral Officers
CBOs	Community Based Organisations
FBOs	Faith Based Organisations
CVR	Continuous Voter Registration
RO	Returning Officer

INEC CITIZENS CONTACT CENTRE (ICCC)

FOR ALL YOUR ENQUIRIES, COMPLAINTS AND SUGGESTIONS

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Correct Thumbprinting of Ballot Paper





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To check if your name
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