



VOTERS ELECTION GUIDE





2023 General Election Dates

The 2023 general election will be the 7th general election since our transition to democracy in 1999.

Presidential Election

February 25, 2023. (Saturday)

National Assembly Election

February 25, 2023. (Saturday)

Governorship Election

March 11, 2023. (Saturday)

State Houses of Assembly Election

March 11, 2023. (Saturday)

PUBLICATION OF OFFICIAL REGISTER OF VOTERS FOR THE ELECTION

January 12, 2023



WHO IS AN ELIGIBLE VOTER?

In Nigeria, a voter is a citizen who is 18 years old and above and is duly registered whose names and details are in the voters' register.

To vote in the elections, one must:

- Be a Nigerian citizen.
- Be 18 years and above.
- Possess a Permanent Voter Card (PVC)
- Be in the Register of Voters, where he/she is assigned to vote.

REMEMBER: Voters who do not possess PVC will not be accredited and, consequently, will be unable to vote.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A VOTER

- Right to vote. However, a voter will only be able to exercise that right if he/she has a valid voter's card, his/her name is on the Register of Voters, and he/she turns up at the polling unit between 8:00 am to 2:00 pm on Election Day.
- Voter has the right to mark their ballot papers (make their choices) in secret.
- A voter has the right to attend the campaigns of Political Parties and Campaigns. This will enable the voter to decide on which candidate to vote for.
- A voter has a right to be informed about the details of the elections, such as the time, date, procedure, etc.



VOTER RESPONSIBILITIES

- It is the duty of every eligible citizen to register and ensure that his or her name is correctly listed on the register of voters in the area where he or she intends to cast his/her vote.
- Responsibility to vote
- Responsibility to conduct oneself in an orderly manner
- Responsibility to keep Permanent Voter Card safe
- Responsibility to enlighten and encourage others about the benefits of participating and voting during elections.

HOW AND WHERE TO COLLECT YOUR PVCs

PVC COLLECTION DATES

All PVCs are ready for collection from **December 12th, 2022 - January 22nd, 2023, 9am - 3pm daily (Monday - Saturday)**

The collection of PVCs will be moved to Registration Areas/Wards from January **6th - 15th January, 2023**. Uncollected PVCs will be moved back to INEC LGA Office until **January 22nd, 2023**. "For further collection to be expunged"

NOTE: you cannot collect PVC on behalf of anyone.

You can also use INEC's PVC Locator (locator.inecnigeria.com), and you can check the status and location of your PVC.





ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

Voting Start And End Time

Polling stations will open for Accreditation and Voting from 8:00 am to 2.00 pm, but voters in the queue before the close of poll at 2:00 pm will be accredited and allowed to vote. For the 2023 election, Accreditation and voting will be done simultaneously.

Vote Counting Start and End Time

Counting votes commences as soon as the polls close, in the presence of observers, party and independent agents, and local citizens. Every election has a time frame for the polling stations to open and close.

Best electoral practices require counting votes to commence as soon as the polls close, and the best scenario involves the votes being counted on the same day.

RESULT COLLATION AND TRANSMISSION BY LAW

Collation and declaration of results are critical stages in the election process. Collation is the tabulation or summation of votes cast at an election. **INEC is the only body empowered by law to count and declare election results.**

DECLARATION OF RESULT

This is the final step in the elections. It is the official announcement of election results by the electoral administrators. The announcement of results is a mandatory legal requirement of the electoral process. Results are collated at different levels depending on the type of election. At each level, there is an announcement of votes scored.



HOW TO VOTE

Remember that you are qualified to vote if registered and your name appears on the voters' register at your polling.

Opening of the Polling Units: 8:00 am

On each Election Day, polling stations will open for Accreditation and Voting from 8:00 am to 2.00 pm. However, voters in the queue before the close of the poll at 2:00 pm will be accredited and allowed to vote.

IMPORTANT: No person will be allowed to vote at a polling unit other than the one where he/she registered and got accredited.

VOTING PROCEDURE:

Voting at the polling unit will be as follows:

1. At the polling unit, join the queue. An INEC official will check if you are at the correct polling unit and confirm that the PVC presented belongs to you.
2. An INEC official will confirm if your PVC is genuine using the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS). You will be asked to place your finger on the card reader.
3. An INEC official will ask for your PVC and confirm that you are listed in the Voters Register. Your name will be ticked, and your finger will be inked to confirm your vote. If your name is not found, you cannot vote.
4. The Presiding officer will stamp, sign and endorse your ballot paper. You will be given the ballot paper rolled with the printed side inwards and directed to the voting cubicle.
5. Stain your finger with the ink given and mark the box for your preferred candidate/party. Roll the ballot paper in the manner you were given and flatten it.
6. Leave the voting cubicle and drop the ballot paper in the ballot box in full view of people at the Polling Unit.
7. Leave the Polling Unit or wait, if you so choose, in an orderly and peaceful manner, to watch the process up to the declaration of the result.

The result of each Polling Unit shall be pasted at the unit for everyone to see.

IMPORTANT: A voter with a disability will be assisted to vote in the polling unit by a person chosen by him/her, other than a poll agent. Where available, visually impaired voters may use Assistive Tactile facilities.

ACCEPTABLE POLLING UNIT BEHAVIOURS

- Early arrival at the polling unit
- Proceed to the polling unit in an orderly queue
- Stand on the appropriate queue created for your gender
- On the Assistant Presiding Officer's (APO)'s instruction, place your finger on Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for authentication
- Release your PVC for inspection upon being authenticated
- Cast your vote
- Leave the voting cubicle and drop the ballot paper in the ballot box
- Leave the polling unit or wait, if you choose, in an orderly and peaceful manner, to watch the process up to the declaration of the result.

UNACCEPTABLE POLLING UNIT BEHAVIOURS

No person shall, on Election Day, do any of the following in the polling environment:

- Campaign for votes, or persuade a voter not to vote for a candidate
- Shout slogans concerning the election or in support of any party
- Be in possession of an offensive weapon or wear any apparel calculated to intimidate voters
- Use a vehicle bearing the colour or symbol of a political party or candidate
- Loiter without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote
- Snatch or destroy any election materials
- Blare siren.
- Telephones and other electronic devices capable of taking pictures are not allowed in voting cubicles. Voters may come to the Polling Unit with telephones and other electronic devices, provided they do not take them to the voting cubicles or take pictures of other voters while voting.



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WHAT IS A BALLOT BOX?

A ballot box is a box into which people put their voting slips when voting



WHAT IS A BALLOT PAPER?

A ballot paper is a piece of paper prepared by INEC to display all contesting parties on which a voter indicates his/her choice or opinion in an election.



WHAT IS THUMBPRINTING?

Thumb printing is an impression made by an inked thumb. In an election, a voter uses his/her thumb to indicate his/her choice of candidate.



VOID, REJECTED OR INVALID VOTES

Void, rejected, or invalid votes are described as when a voter thumb prints on a party's logo instead of the box provided, thumb printing in an unclear manner and casting a blank ballot paper.

Others are smearing ballot papers with ink or squeezing, thumb printing in a manner that makes voters' decisions unclear and writing or signing on a ballot paper.

HOW TO KIT YOURSELF UP FOR VOTING AND POLLING STATION EXPERIENCE

- Wake up and arrive at your polling unit early
- Put on weather friendly clothes
- Friendly shoes
- Face mask

What to bring with you:

- Your PVC (keep it safe)
- Water bottle,
- Light snacks

Be ready to help someone



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