

MY ELECTION BUDDY



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2023 ELECTION DATES

**Presidential &
National Assembly
Election**

**Saturday,
25th Feb, 2023**

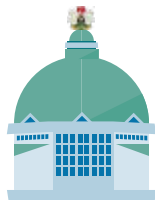
**Governorship &
State Assembly
Election**

**Saturday,
11th March, 2023**



1

**Presidential
Election**



469

**National Assembly
Elections**



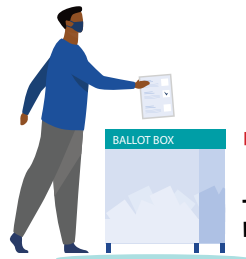
28

**Governorship
Elections**



993

**State Assembly
Elections**



176,846

**TOTAL NUMBER OF
POLLING UNITS**



774

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
AREA**

What is a PVC ?

The Permanent Voters Card (PVC) is the card issued to registered voters, empowering them to vote during elections.





Start Date

**Monday,
12th Dec 2022**

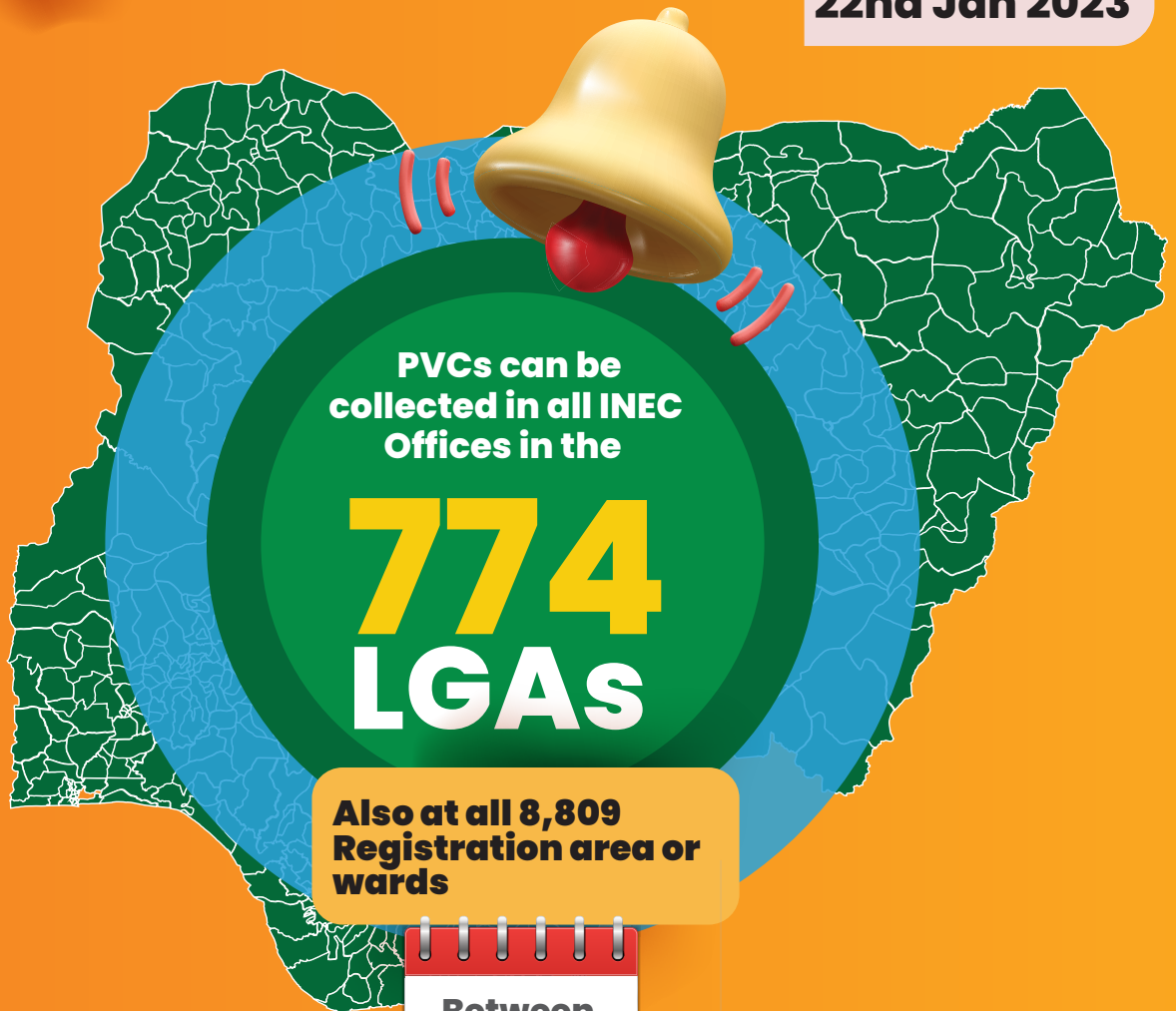
End Date

**Sunday,
22nd Jan 2023**



How to collect your PVC?

INEC has announced dates for the nationwide PVC collection exercise. All registered voters who are yet to collect their PVCs including those who applied for transfers and replacement of PVCs can collect their PVCs.



PVCs can be collected in all INEC Offices in the

**774
LGAs**

**Also at all 8,809
Registration area or
wards**

**Between
6TH - 15TH
January**



How to locate the PVC collection center in your **Local Government Area & Ward**

Kindly send **ONLY** the name of
your **State** and **LGA or Ward** to
09062830860 or **09062830861**
to get the address of your INEC
Office.

Example: LAGOS IKEJA

Also check the INEC website for the LGA PVC collection
centers <https://inecnigeria.org/inec-lga-offices/>



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Shield the Card from fire

Shield the Card from water



Don't manhandle the Card, to avoid breakage

Don't deface the Card



Do not sell the PVC or disclose your Voter Identification Number (VIN)



How to keep your PVC Safe

- No PVC, No Accreditation**
- No Accreditation, No Voting**

How is a voter accredited to vote in Nigeria?

Accreditation is the process of verifying that a person is eligible to vote in a polling unit.

Accreditation is used to achieve four major goals;

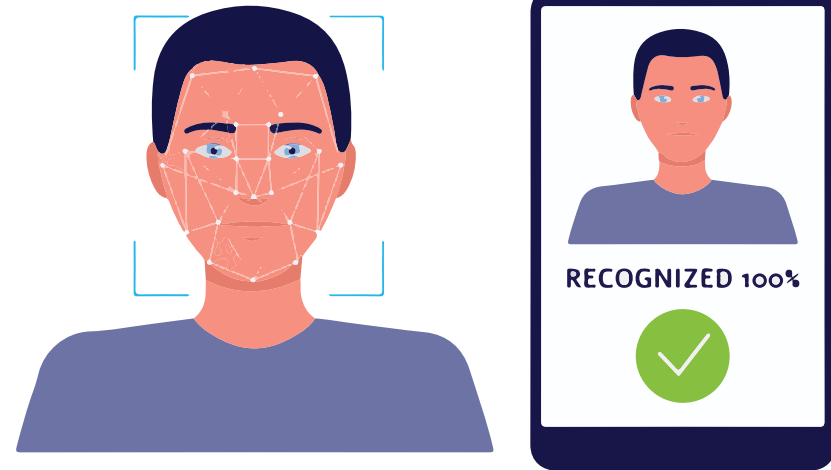
- 1** Check whether the name of person intending to vote is on the voter register for that polling unit
- 2** An INEC official verify the identity of a voter using fingerprint and facial identity
- 3** An INEC Official Verify the person presenting a PVC is the person whose name appears appear on the card.
- 4** The voter is in the right polling unit where he/she has been assigned to vote.



Why is Voter Accreditation important?

Accreditation of voters prevents multiple voting, voting by proxy and it ensures only qualified person vote. In other words, voter accreditation prevents election rigging and manipulation.

Procedure for voter accreditation



1

On election day, ensure you show up at the polling unit on your PVC

2

When you arrive at the polling unit, a presiding officer will verify or authenticate your particulars such as fingerprints or facial identity with the use of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (also known as BVAS).

3

Once you are accredited, you will be issued a ballot to cast your vote



Where a voter's fingerprint and face cannot be matched with the details in the BVAS after three trials, the voter shall not be allowed to vote.

There shall be no INCIDENT FORMS for manual accreditation of voters.

How to locate your Polling Units



To locate your polling unit before election day visit



www.inecnigeria.org/elections/polling-units/



**OR SCAN
THE QR CODE**



A polling unit is where a voter can vote or register to vote. Your polling unit is indicated on your Permanent Voters' Card.

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What is the BVAS

BVAS is the acronym for Bimodal Voter Accreditation System. It is a technological device introduced by INEC in 2021 to promote credible elections and prevent election rigging. It replaced the Smart Card Reader.



The Electoral Act 2022 gives INEC the power to use any technological device for election. The BVAS is the technological device prescribed by INEC for voter accreditation. The BVAS is used for three major activities;

During voter registration, it serves as a voter enrolment device used to register voters

On election day, it is used to accredit voters before voting

It is used to upload and transit election results on election day.



How the BVAS works

- The BVAS reads the PVCs and authenticates voters' biometrics (fingerprints and facial recognition) before voting.
- To read the PVC, it can scan the barcode or QR code on the PVC or the Voter's Register, or the presiding officer can input the last six digits of the intending voter's Voter Identification Number (VIN) or the intending voter's last name. This is to verify the genuineness of the PVCs and accredit voters to vote.
- Beyond accreditation, the BVAS is also used to upload Polling Unit results to the INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) in real time, in the course of an election.
- To do this, the BVAS is used to capture the results after the conclusion of the election at a polling unit and immediately transmit them to the Portal that is accessible to the public.
- **The BVAS doesn't require internet connectivity to function. As long as the battery is charged and the device is configured properly it can function optimally. Internet connectivity is only required for transmission of results**



What will INEC do if a BVAS fails to function on election day?

Assuming the BVAS fails to function at your polling unit, there's a provision for such occurrence in the 2022 Electoral Act and INEC guidelines. This is how the situation will be managed.

Where the BVAS deployed to your polling unit malfunctions continuously, accreditation and voting will be suspended until a new BVAS is provided by INEC.

Where a BVAS is replaced in the middle of an election, the data of accredited voters in the faulty BVAS shall be merged with the data in the replacement BVAS to calculate the number of accredited voters.

Where the new or replacement BVAS is not available by 2:30pm, the election shall be cancelled and the accreditation and voting shall continue the following day. The law gives INEC 24hrs to continue with the election.

However, if the result in the polling unit or units where a BVAS malfunctions and a replacement was not provided will not substantially affect the final result of the whole election, INEC will go ahead and declare a winner without conducting election in those polling units.



How are election results collated and transmitted in Nigeria?



Collation of results is the process of tabulating or adding up votes cast in an election while transmission of election results is the process of transferring or conveying election results from one point to another.

The 2022 Electoral Act provides for two modes of collation and transmission of results. The first is manual and the second mode is electronic.



The manual procedure involves four steps namely;



Counting of ballot papers;



Recording of results on specific form (EC8A);



Endorsement of EC8A by candidates/polling agents; and



Physical delivery to collation centres.



the second mode entails a 2-step electronic procedure from PUs involving



Recording of accreditation data; and



Direct transmission of results.

In the event of dispute over the manual/physical PU results at collation level, the electronically-transmitted result shall be used to resolve it.

So, what does this mean?

After an election and votes have been recorded on the result sheet at the polling unit, the Presiding Officer should do two things:



Use the BVAS to take a clear image of the result sheet (EC8A) and transmit the image for purposes of collation (this goes to the IReV).



Deliver by hand, the hard copy of EC8A and the BVAS to the Registration Area (RA) Collation Officer.



The Collation Officer, with the support of the RATECH, will have access to the IReV. He or she will compare the electronically transmitted results and number of accredited voters with what is recorded in the manually delivered result for collation

Different levels of collation of election results

Collation of election results takes place at different levels depending on the type of election. What are those levels?

1



Registration Area

RA/Ward (Collation for all elections), including that of Councillor in the case of the FCT;

2



Local Government Area

LGA/Area Council (Collation for all elections), including that of Chairman in the case of the FCT;

3



State Constituency

Collation and Declaration of State House of Assembly Elections;

4



Federal Constituency

Collation and Declaration of House of Representatives Elections;

5



Senatorial District

Collation and Declaration of Senatorial election are carried out here

6



State Level

for Governorship election

7



National Level

Collation of the Presidential election

So, in summary, using the example of the 2023 presidential election, the results in each polling unit are collated and moved to the ward level, then to the local government, from the LGA to the state level and finally to the National Collation Centre, where a winner will be announced.

How is a **winner** determined in a Presidential election?

There are two types of elections holding in February and March 2023

1. Legislative Elections

National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly

2. Executive Elections

Presidential and Governorship election

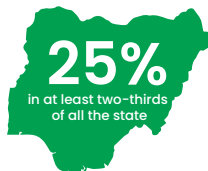
The legal requirement for declaring a winner in these two types of election are different. INEC cannot announce a winner if these legal requirements are not fulfilled.

For legislative elections, winners emerge through Simple Majority. Any candidate with the highest number of votes is declared a winner.

For executive election like Presidential election, the Constitution sets two major criteria for determining a winner of a Presidential election.



1. A presidential candidate must secure the highest number of votes cast at the election



2. He/she must secure not less than 25% of votes cast in at least two-thirds of all the state of the federation and FCT



None of the current Presidential candidates running in the 2023 election will be declared a winner if he/she doesn't secure majority of votes cast on February 25th 2023 and 25% of the votes in 24 out of the 36 states.



What if a candidate does not secure this threshold, what happens?

INEC must conduct a second election, known as a "run-off" within 21 days from the date of the declaration of result in the first election.

Conditions for conducting a Presidential run-off election?

A run off is a voting system used to elect a single winner. Of course, the ultimate goal in an election is for a winner to emerge.

For the Presidential Election, for instance, not all 18 registered political parties sponsoring candidates will participate in the run-off election. Only two candidates will be on the ballot.



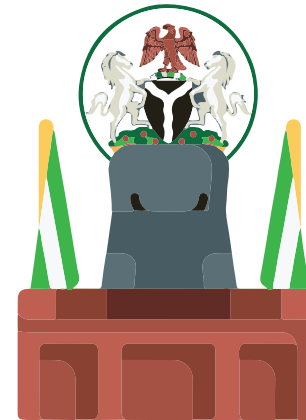
Who will make it to the ballot in a run-off election?

1. The first will be the presidential candidate who secured the highest number of lawful votes.
2. The second is the one among the remaining candidates, who has a majority of votes in the highest number of states,
3. Where there is more than one candidate with majority of the votes in the highest number of states, the one with the highest total number of votes will be the second candidate for the election.
4. Victory in a run-off election is by simple majority.



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How a winner emerges in a governorship election?



There are two conditions a candidate vying for the governorship office must fulfill.

1



First, he or she **must have the highest number of votes cast at the election or what you can also call the majority of votes.**

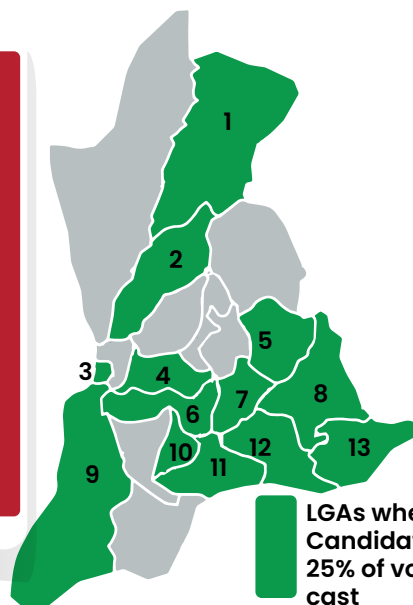
2

However, it's not enough to declare a governorship candidate winner because he or she polled the highest number of votes – which brings us to the next condition, **The candidate is expected to have a spread. He or she must garner not less than one-quarter of all the votes cast in each of at least two-thirds of all the local government Areas in the state.**



So for instance

In a state with 20 local government areas, a governorship candidate will only be declared the winner if he or she has polled the highest number of votes, and garnered 25% of votes cast in each of at least 13 of the 20 local governments in the state.



Well, it's possible that after the first round of election no candidate meets the requirements of the majority of votes cast and the electoral two-thirds.

21

DAYS LIMIT

In that case, a run-off election will be organized by the commission within 21 days in line with the provisions of Section 179 of the 1999 Constitution, as amended.

Types of election result sheet used to record votes



The types of election results sheet include;

- 1 Form EC8A**
is the result sheet for recording polling unit level results. It's the most important result sheet because it is the first results where election results are recorded.
- 2 Form EC8B**
is for results collation at ward level. All the results on the EC8A are entered into the EC8B
- 3 Form EC8C**
is for results collation at the LGA level. Results on the EC8B are recorded on the EC8C
- 4 Form EC8D**
is for results collation at the State, Constituency and senatorial district level. Results on the EC8C are entered into the EC8D.
- 5 Form EC8E**
is the declaration of election results form.
- 6 Form EC60E**
is for recording polling unit results and mandatorily posting at the polling unit. It is often referred to as the People's Results sheet.

Result sheets are the papers on which the number of votes for each party/candidate are recorded, collated or tallied and then snapped and uploaded to the INEC Election Results Viewing portal.

Contents of an election result sheet

especially the Form EC8A which is the statement of results of election from the polling unit. The Form EC8A contains the following vital information;

This is an important information you need to prevent forgery of election results. On election day, insist election results must be recorded on the authentic result sheet provided by INEC and posted at your polling unit

- 1 The name and code of the State, Local government, Ward and Polling unit
- 2 Number of the registered voters for the polling unit
- 3 Number of accredited voters
- 4 Number of ballot papers issued to the polling unit
- 5 Number of unused ballot papers
- 6 Number of spoiled ballot papers
- 7 Number of rejected ballots
- 8 Total number of valid votes
- 9 Total number of used ballot papers
- 10 Names of political parties and votes scored
- 11 Signature of party agents
- 12 Signature of presiding officer

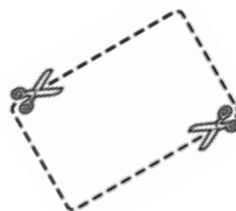
What is the format of ballot papers in Nigerian elections?

Ballot papers are the papers on which voters indicate which party/candidate they are voting for when they cast their votes. INEC usually prints the logo of political parties on the ballot papers as stated in section 42 (1) of the Electoral Act –

- 1 All ballot papers are numbered serially with differentiating colors for each office
- 2 The symbol of logos of the political parties are arranged in alphabetical order. There are no names or images of candidates on the ballot paper
- 3 A space is provided like a box for a voter to thumbprint.
- 4 Each ballot paper has a counterfoil for recording receipt of the ballot paper. In other words, each ballot paper is detached from a counterfoil to keep records of the ballot used in the polling unit.



BALLOT PAPER	
Party Logo	Finger Print
Party A	
Party B	
Party C	



- ✓ To avoid election rigging, the ballot papers carry security features to distinguish it from fake ballot papers. On election day, the ballot paper must be stamped and signed by the INEC official at the polling unit.
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the logos of their preferred political party as they will be required to thumb print against the logo on election day. Thumbprint rightly in the box to prevent your vote from being rejected.
- ✓ To prevent exclusion political parties are required by the Electoral Act 2022 to inspect their logos on ballot papers. INEC is required to invite political parties not later than 20 days to an election to inspect their logos on ballot papers. The political parties shall within two (2) days of the inspection, approve or disapprove in writing, its logo on the ballot paper.
- ✓ Any Political Party that fails to approve or approve its logo in writing within two the inspection, shall not complain of ul exclusion as regards its identity; political party that fails to comply invitation by the Commission under subsection (3) shall be deemed to have approved its logo on samples of electoral materials proposed to be used for an election.



What is the new definition of Overvoting?



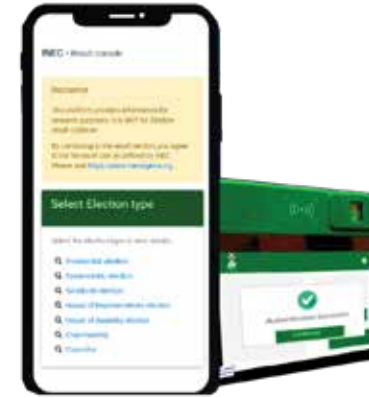
One Man, One Vote, One Women, One Vote, One Youth, One vote is not a mere saying. It is deeply rooted in the heart of credible elections. For elections to be credible voters must vote once for their preferred candidate. It is illegal to vote more than once in an election.

In the past, Overvoting occurs where the number of votes cast in a polling unit exceed the number of registered voters. With the introduction of electronic accreditation using Smartcard reader and now BVAS, overvoting can no longer be determined by the number of registered voters but accredited voters.

In the new electoral law, overvoting occurs where the number of votes cast at an election in any polling unit exceed the total number of accredited voters in that polling unit. The Presiding Officer will be required to cancel the result of the polling unit where overvoting occurs.

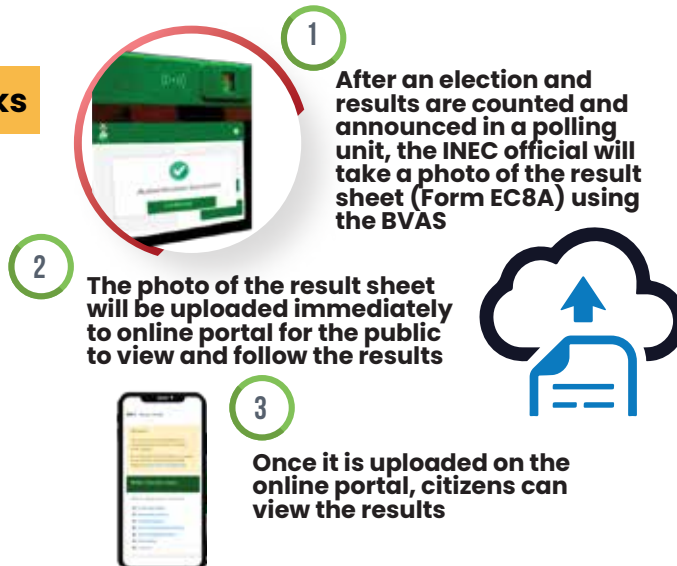
Where the result of an election is cancelled due to overvoting, the election shall be inconclusive until another election is conducted in the affected polling unit provided the result of that polling unit will substantially affect the final results.

What is INEC Election Results Viewing Portal (IRev) and how to use it?



The INEC Result Viewing Portal (IREV) is an online web portal where polling unit level results are uploaded to allow citizens to view copies of election results as compiled and recorded at polling units upon the conclusion of voting at an election. The portal promotes transparency and credibility of the electoral process

How it works



How to use it

To access the real-time results of an election through the IREV portal, here is the procedure:

- Visit www.inecelectionresults.ng and log in, or create an account.
- To create an account, a person must have an email address
- Once an account has been created, choose the election, and download the election results for the polling unit
- As the election progresses, the portal is updated with new information on results across polling units.

You can also follow election results on election day on the Election Results Analysis Dashboard (ERAD) www.erad.ng provided by Yiaga Africa and Channels TV. The ERAD will analyze the polling-unit level results from the IREV portal and display them for public viewing in near real-time.



What kind of emergencies will lead to postponement and suspension of elections?

It is challenging to hold elections under circumstances where the safety and security of INEC officials, voters and election materials are not guaranteed. Where there is no peace, elections cannot hold.

Nigeria's electoral act creates two scenarios and what INEC can do in cases of emergencies

Before elections

INEC can postpone elections in any part of the country where there is reason to believe that a serious breach of peace is likely to occur or where a natural disaster or other emergencies will make the conduct of election impossible. INEC can postpone elections and appoint a new date for holding the election provided the reason for the postponement meets two conditions;

- **The reason is cogent**
- **The reason must be verifiable**

During elections

Where election has commenced and there is reason to believe or there has been substantial disruption of election in a polling unit or constituency and it is impossible to continue with the election due to threat to peace, INEC can suspend the election and appoint a date for the continuation of the election



Where election has been postponed or suspended due to emergencies, a winner shall not be declared until election has been conducted in the area affected by the emergency.

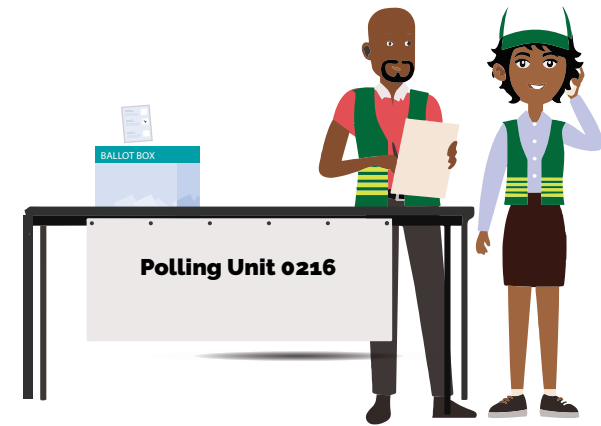
In a case where election has been suspended due to the substantial disruption, INEC can declare a winner if the result of the election will not be affected by voting in the area or areas where the disruption that warranted the suspension occurred.

What is the Margin of Lead Principle and how it is applied?

The Margin of Lead is difference between the votes scored by the winning candidate and second-place candidate. Margin of Lead measures the competitive nature of an election as well as the strength of a candidate or political party.

For any election to be conclusive, the margin of lead between the two leading candidates in an election must not be less than the total number of total number of voters who collected their Permanent Voters' Cards (PVCs) in Polling Units where elections are postponed, voided or not held.

If the total number of voters who collected their PVCs in polling units where elections are postponed, voided or not held exceed the margin of lead between the two leading candidates, INEC will not declare a winner until supplementary election is conducted in the affected polling units. This is the Margin of Lead Principle. The reason is simple. It is assumed that the results from those polling will affect the margin of lead if the number of registered voters who collected their PVCs vote.



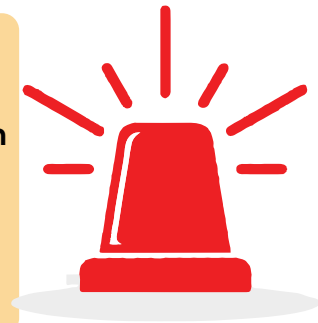
For instance, if candidate A is leading candidate B with 100 votes and elections was postponed, cancelled or election didn't hold in 5 Polling units with a total of 150 voters who collected their PVCs, then the Margin of lead principle will apply and no winner shall be announced until a supplementary election is held in those 5 polling units.

There are several conditions that will warrant the postponement, voiding, or cancelation of an election. They include non-deployment at the Polling Unit (PU) by INEC, failure of BVAS to accredit any voter in the PU, or electoral violence resulting in disruption of the voting process.

Cases where violent disruption may not lead to inconclusive election

Based on INEC's guidelines, not all disruptions will lead to supplementary elections. INEC has outlined additional procedures for determining where supplementary election may not hold despite violent disruption of election. These procedures aim to ensure elections are concluded to avoid manipulation during supplementary elections.

1 Where INEC determines that violent disruptions occurred in a substantial number of Polling Units in a constituency before the announcement of result, a fresh date for election in the affected Polling Units may be announced by INEC, provided that further supplementary election may not hold in the case of persistent disruptions and violence.



2 Where a violent disruption occurs after announcement of results and ballot papers and result sheets are destroyed, the collation officer or returning officer will regenerate the affected results from electronically transmitted results, or results from the IReV Portal or duplicate hardcopies, fill new replacement result sheets with the approval of the Resident Electoral Commissioner and proceed with collation of result.



3 Where result sheets are snatched or destroyed before they arrive at Collation Centres, the collation officer or returning officer will regenerate the affected results from electronically transmitted results, or results from the IReV Portal or Duplicate Hardcopies, fill new replacement result sheets with the approval of the Resident Electoral Commissioner and proceed with collation of result.



4 Where balloting materials are still available or remaining after disruption at any stage of the election, INEC will proceed with available materials and conclude that stage of the election. However, where materials are inadequate, a new date will be announced by INEC to conclude the election.



What is the maximum amount of cash an individual can donate to a candidate or party?

Under the 2022 Electoral Act,



The maximum financial donation or other assets that an individual or group of individuals and organizations can donate to a party or aspirant is pegged at 50 million Naira.

Parties are also not allowed to accept or keep anonymous contributions. A political party shall not accept any monetary or other contribution which is more than N50,000,000 except it identifies and discloses the source of the contribution to INEC.



INEC has the power to place limitation on the amount of money an individual can contribute to a candidate or political party. An individual who exceeds the limit imposed by INEC commits an offence and could be slammed a fine of N10million and forfeiture of the amount donated.

Contribution to candidates by an individual or organization shall be from 150 days allowed for campaigns to Election Day.

while contribution to aspirants by an individual or entity shall be from the date notice of election is published to the conclusion of Party Primaries.

150
Days
Campaign
Duration



500K
Fine

OR

9 Months
imprisonment



A person who knowingly donates more than N50 million to a party's campaign can be fined up to N500,000 or imprisoned for nine months, or both, if found guilty.

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What are the limits on campaign expenses for candidates?



PRESIDENTIAL
5 BILLION



GOVERNORSHIP
1 BILLION



SENATE
100 MILLION



HOUSE OF REPS
70 MILLION



STATE ASSEMBLY AND
CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE FCT
30 MILLION

For a councillorship election for an area council in the FCT, the maximum amount of election expenses to be incurred by a candidate must not exceed N5,000,000.

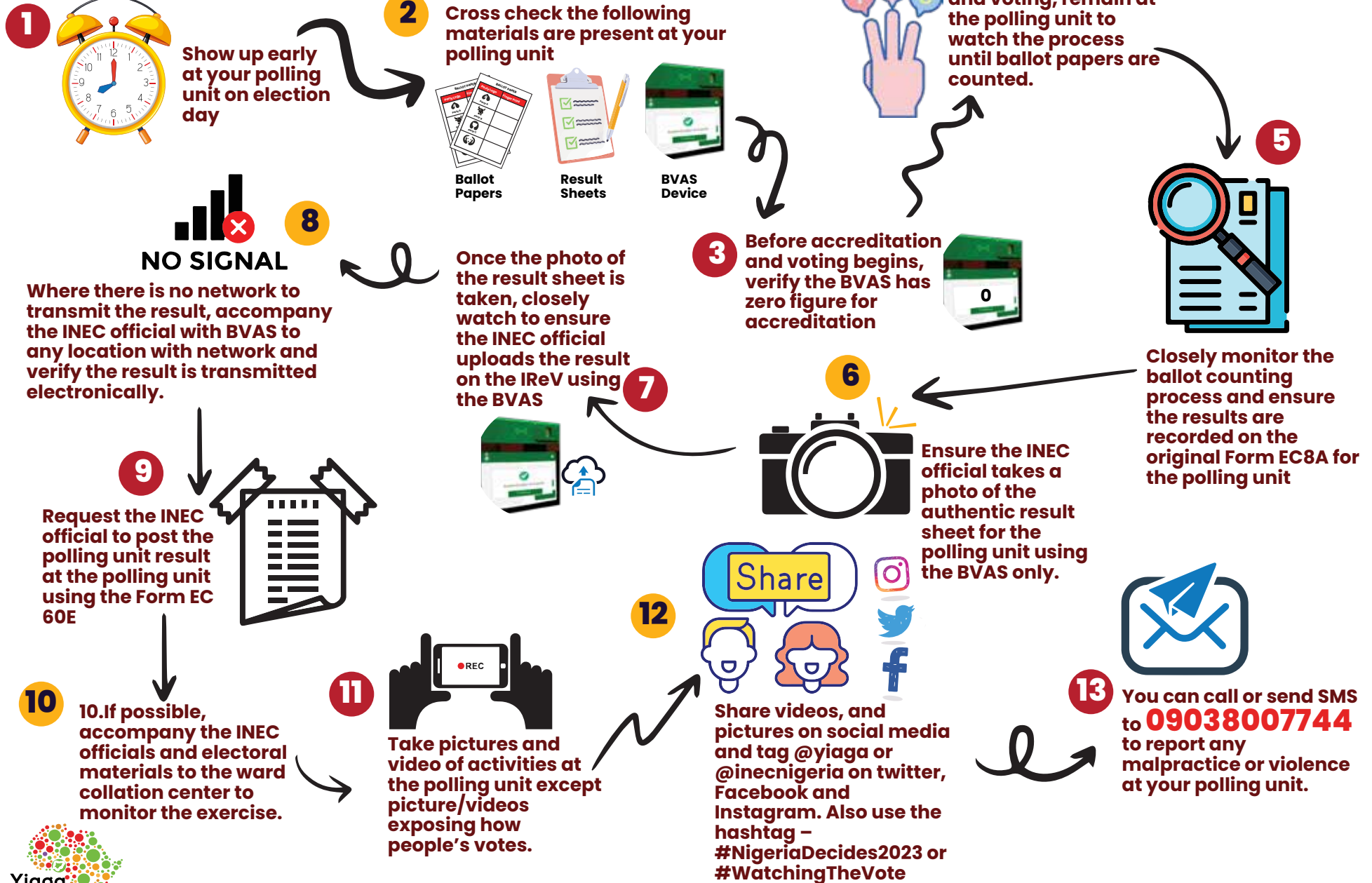


A candidate who knowingly acts against this law by exceeding the stated amounts, will incur a fine of 1% of the amount permitted as the limit of campaign expenditures, or imprisonment for a term not more than 12 months, or both.

How to prevent election rigging in your polling unit



How to prevent election rigging in your polling unit





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