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**2023**



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# **What You Need to Know About the Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi 2023 Governorship Elections**

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**Data Digest**



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**Data Digest**

# Background

The Kogi, Bayelsa and Imo governorship elections are three out of the eight off-season elections that are currently conducted in Nigeria. The Kogi off-season election resulted from a court decision invalidating the results of the 2007 gubernatorial election and ordering that a fresh election be conducted on March 29, 2008 months after the inauguration of the then Governor. The court decision changed the electoral cycle of the state with the fresh election conducted outside the usual electoral cycle for the general elections in Nigeria. Similarly in Bayelsa state, the court ruled and ordered for a fresh election to be conducted in 2008, invalidating the 2007 gubernatorial election. The subsequent gubernatorial elections in both states were held between November and December months after general elections (2011, 2015 and 2109) to correspond with the constitutional requirement of governorship elections holding “not earlier than 150 days but not later than 30 days to the date of expiration of office” of the incumbent governor. In 2019 Imo state became one of the states with off-cycle governorship election with the Supreme Court ruling of January 2020 months after the inauguration of the then Governor. The Supreme Court’s decision invalidated the outcome of the 2019 Imo governorship election with a new winner declared. Accordingly, Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi states will be holding their governorship election on Saturday November 11th 2023, the first off-season governorship elections post the 2023 general elections and the first off-cycle election to be held in Imo State.

The three states, like other states in Nigeria, are divided into three distinct senatorial districts. Bayelsa boasts Bayelsa Central, Bayelsa East, and Bayelsa West Senatorial Districts. In Imo State, the divisions consist of Imo East, Imo North, and Imo West Senatorial Districts. Similarly, Kogi State is demarcated into Kogi Central, Kogi East, and Kogi West Senatorial Districts. These Senatorial districts determine representation in the Senate and have also subtly established an unwritten practice of rotational representation for the office of the Governor within various states. Whilst the Kogi 2023 election will be transitional because the tenure of the incumbent governor will be expiring, the incumbents

in Bayelsa and Imo would be seeking a second term in office.

The leading candidates in Bayelsa state encompass the incumbent Governor, Senator Douye Diri of the PDP; Chief Timipre Sylva of the APC; and Engr. Udengs Eradiri of LP (as reported by Vanguard on August 10, 2023). Chief Timipre Sylva hails from Bayelsa East Senatorial District, while both Senator Douye Diri and Engr. Udengs Eradir hail from Bayelsa Central Senatorial District.

In the case of Imo State, the electoral contest primarily revolves around three leading candidates: the incumbent Governor, Senator Hope Uzodimma, representing the All Progressives Congress (APC); Senator Athan Achonu of the Labour Party (LP); and Senator Samuel Anyanwu, representing the People's Democratic Party (PDP). Concretely, Senator Samuel Anyanwu originates from the Imo East Senatorial District, Senator Athan Achonu from the Imo North Senatorial District, and Senator Hope Uzodimma from the Imo West Senatorial District.

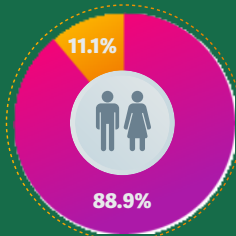
In Kogi State, the incumbent Governor has completed his two terms and is not a direct contender. The foremost candidates in the governorship race include Usman Ododo of the APC, Senator Dino Melaye of the PDP, Admiral Jibrin Usman of the Accord Party (AP), Murtala Ajaka of the Social Democratic Party (SDP), and Leke Abejide of the African Democratic Congress (ADC). Notably, this competition has been described as a five-horse race, reflecting the popularity of these candidates (according to NDR on September 13, 2022). Also, the PDP and ADC candidates represent Kogi West Senatorial district, while the SDP, LP, and AP contenders originate from Kogi East Senatorial district. The APC candidate hails from Kogi Central Senatorial district. It is significant to mention that the candidates of AP, SDP, and ADC previously belonged to the PDP and APC but defected after the political party primaries to pursue their aspirations in the gubernatorial race.

This document contains an in-depth quantitative analysis of the statistics relevant to the 2023 off-cycle election. Which includes an analysis of the candidates in the election in each state, the list of political parties in the current and past elections, political parties representation in both the National and State Assemblies and voter registration.

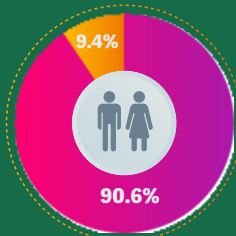
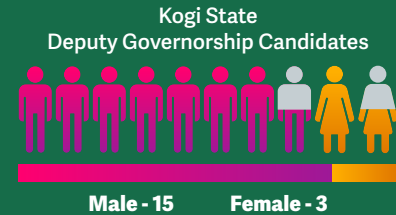
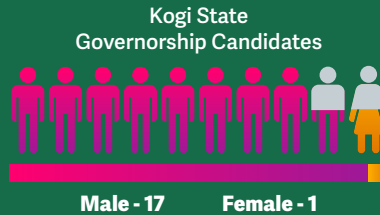
# **An Analysis of the Political Parties and Governorship Candidates in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi state**

In Bayelsa state, of the 18 registered political parties in the country, 16 political parties are contesting for the 2023 governorship elections. 17 political parties are contesting for the Imo state 2023 governorship elections. While all 18 political parties are contesting in the Kogi governorship elections. The contest is a male-dominated race with Kogi and Bayelsa states having only 1 female candidate each. Bayelsa has only 2 female deputy candidates. While Imo and Kogi have 2 and 3 deputy candidates, respectively.

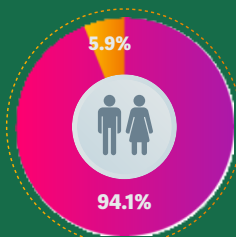
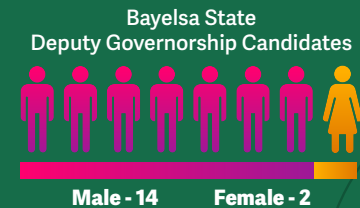
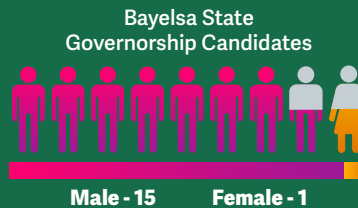
# Gender Distribution of 2023 Governorship Candidates and their Running Mates



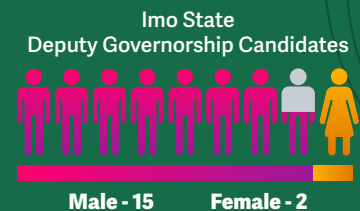
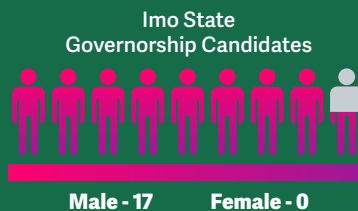
Total Percentage of Male and Female Candidates (Governor + Deputy Governor)



Total Percentage of Male and Female Candidates (Governor + Deputy Governor)



Total Percentage of Male and Female Candidates (Governor + Deputy Governor)



**Indicators:** Represents 2 Males each      Represents 2 Females each

In the 2019 elections with about 90 political parties registered, 45 candidates contested for the governorship election in Bayelsa. While 70 and 23 parties contested for Imo and Kogi state governorship elections, respectively. Each of the states had at least three female candidates and deputy candidates. Imo had the highest number of candidates contesting, it also had the highest number of female candidates and deputies, as shown below.

## I. Gender Distribution of 2019 Governorship Candidates and their Running Mates



Governorship

Male - 20

Female - 3

Deputy Governorship

Male - 20

Female - 3



Governorship

Male - 42

Female - 3

Deputy Governorship

Male - 31

Female - 14



Governorship

Male - 66

Female - 4

Deputy Governorship

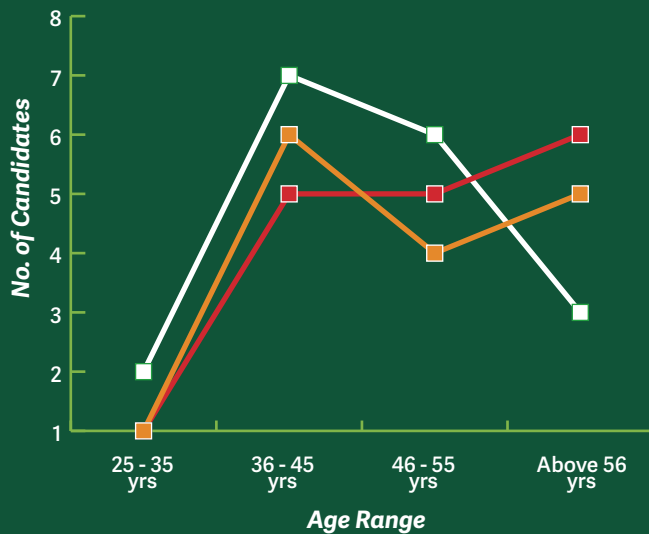
Male - 47

Female - 23

## II. Age Distribution of the 2023 Governorship Candidates and their Running Mates

To contest for the office of the Governor, the Constitution provides that the age of eligibility is 35 years old. While each state has a candidate below the age of eligibility, the youngest candidates within the required constitutional age include: Out of the 16 candidates vying for the 2023 governorship position in Bayelsa state, 6 candidates are between the ages of 36 - 45, Similarly, of 17 candidates in the 2023 Imo governorship race, 5 candidates are between the ages of 36 - 45, while 7 candidates are between the ages of 36 - 45 in the Kogi governorship race.

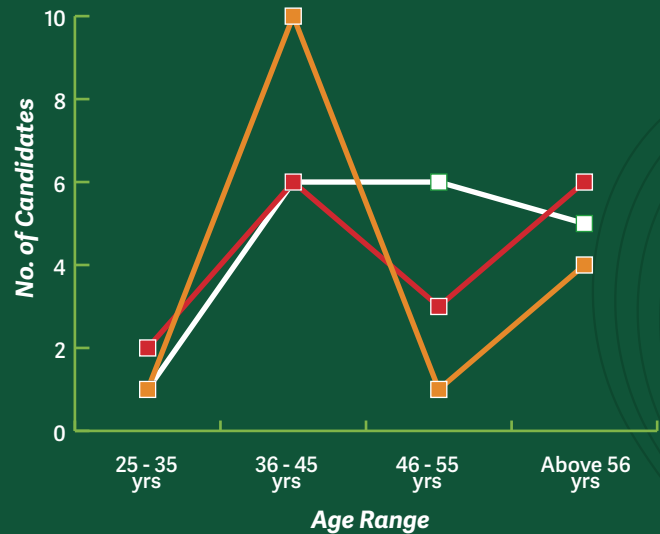
**Governorship Candidates**



Total no. of Candidates



**Deputy Governorship Candidates**



Total no. of Candidates

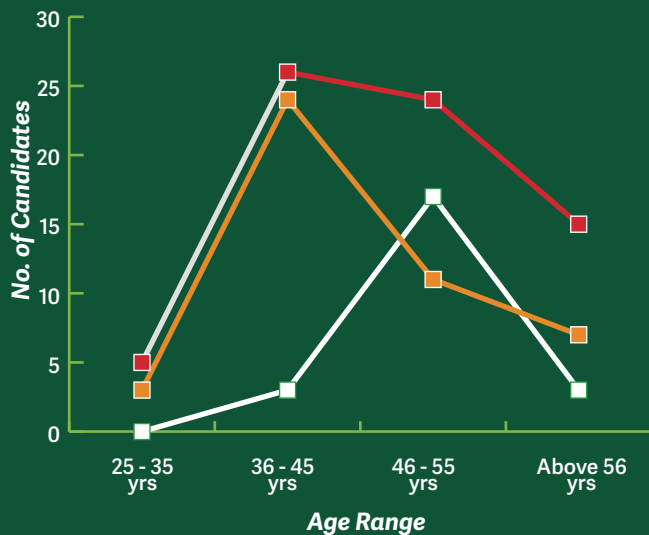




### III. Age Distribution of the 2019 Governorship Candidates and their Running Mates

Out of the 45 candidates who contested for the 2019 governorship position in Bayelsa state, 3 were youth between the ages of 30 - 35, 24 were between the ages of 36 - 45, 11 were between 46 - 55 and 7 were above 56 years. Similarly, of 70 candidates in the 2019 Imo governorship race, 5 were youth between the ages of 30 - 35, 26 were between the ages of 36 - 45, 24 were between 46 - 55 and 15 were above 56 years. Out of the 23 candidates in the Kogi 2019 governorship race no youth between the ages of 30 - 35 contested. 3 contestants were between the ages of 36 - 45, 17 were between 46 - 55 and 3 were above 56 years respectively.

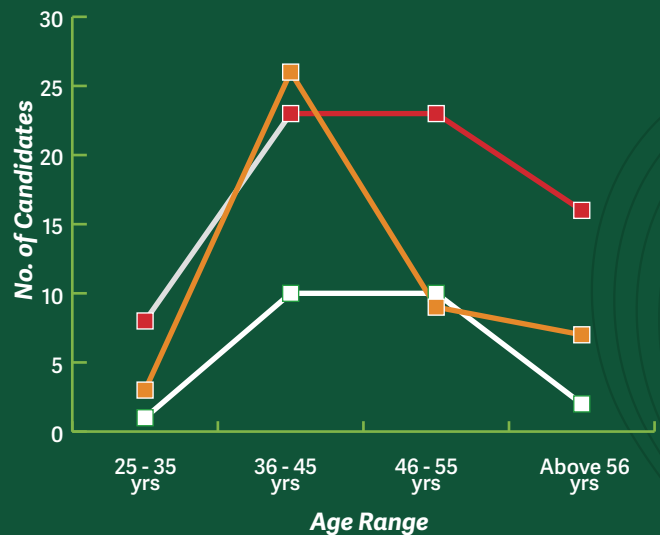
**Governorship Candidates**



Total no. of Candidates

Bayelsa - 45 Imo - 70 Kogi - 23

**Deputy Governorship Candidates**



Total no. of Candidates

Bayelsa - 45 Imo - 70 Kogi - 23

## **IV. Political Parties that Contested in the 2019 Governorship Election in each state**

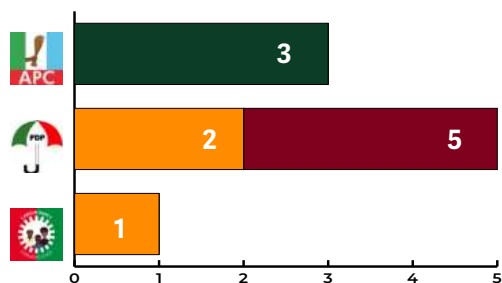
For the 2019 off-cycle Governorship elections, 70 political parties participated in Imo, 45 in Bayelsa state and 25 in Kogi state respectively. For the 2023 off-cycle governorship elections, 18 political parties are contesting in Imo, 16 in Bayelsa state and 17 in Kogi state respectively. In Imo state, 16 of the 70 political parties that contested in 2019 are contesting in 2023. The political parties are: A, AA, AAC, ADC, ADP, APC, APGA, APM, LP, NNPP, NRM, PDP, PRP, SDP, YPP, ZLP. While in Bayelsa state, out of the 45 political parties that contested in 2019, 12 political parties are contesting in 2023. These political parties are A, ADP, APP, APC, APGA, APM, LP, NRM, NNPP, PDP, PRP and ZLP. In addition, 12 political parties (A, ADP, AAC, ADC, ADP, APC, APGA, APM, PDP, SDP, YPP, ZLP) out of the 25 political parties that contested in 2019 are contesting in 2023.

After the 2019 elections, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) de-registered some political parties for their inability to fulfil the constitutional requirements for political parties under Section 225A of the 1999 constitution. This section sets the conditions for the registration of political parties. One of the requirements is that a party must win at least 25% of votes cast in one state of the federation in a presidential election or 25% of the votes cast in one local government area in a governorship election. The de-registration of some political parties reduced the number of existing political parties from 92 to 18 in Nigeria.

# V. Party Affiliation of the members of NASS and States Assemblies in each of the states and the implications to the coming elections

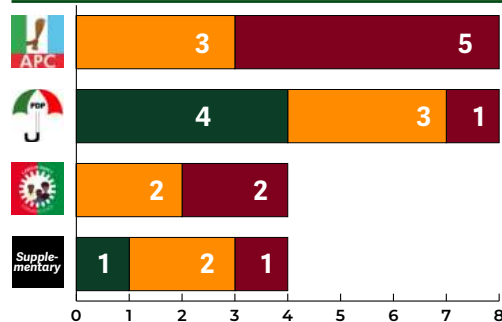
To assess the popularity of the political parties in the state. A qualitative analysis of the political representation of the states in both the State and National Assemblies was conducted. Results of the analysis showed that 3 political parties, APC, PDP and LP represent the states (Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi) in the Senate. The same parties represent Bayelsa and Imo states in the House of Representatives. While the APC, PDP and ADC are representing Kogi state in the House of Representatives.

**Party Distribution of House of Senators in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi States**



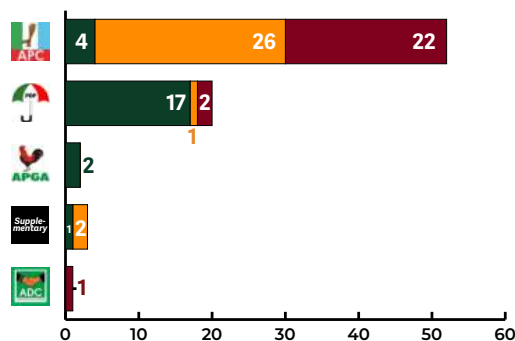
Source: INEC-<https://inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/LIST-OF-SENATORS-ELECT-FEB-2023.pdf>

**Party Distribution of House of Representatives Members in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi States**



Source: INEC-[https://inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/LIST-OF-MEMBERS-ELECT-OF-THE-HOUSE-OF-REPRESENTATIVES.FEB\\_2023.pdf](https://inecnigeria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/LIST-OF-MEMBERS-ELECT-OF-THE-HOUSE-OF-REPRESENTATIVES.FEB_2023.pdf)

**Party Distribution of Members of State House of Assembly in Bayelsa, Imo and Kogi States**



Source:

Daily Trust:

<https://dailytrust.com/pdp-secures-17-seats-apc-4-apga-2-in-bayelsa-assembly/>

Vanguard:

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2023/03/apc-wins-25-of-27-house-of-assembly-seats-in-imo/>

The Cable:

<https://www.thecable.ng/apc-wins-22-of-25-kogi-assembly-seats>

Bayelsa State
  Imo State
  Kogi State

The implications of the above party distribution of parliamentarians for the coming elections across the states lie in the following:

01

**Political Campaign Funding:** Political parties that have more members represented in the National Assembly will have an edge in the area of funding campaigns of their candidates. They can easily raise funds for proper campaigns.

**Perceived Legitimacy and Mandate:** Having a majority in the parliament is often seen as a mandate from the voters and this can be an added advantage to the party in the coming elections.

02

03

**Broader Voter Base:** Political parties with a Majority of members in parliament tend to have a larger voter base due to their established presence. This provides them with a built-in support system and a broader demographic appeal. The APC and PDP have this comparative advantage.

**Stronger Organisational Structure:** Political parties with Majority members in the parliament typically have a well-established organisational structure with a wide network of volunteers, activists, and supporters. This enables them to efficiently mobilise resources and manpower during elections. The PDP, APC and LP has this advantage across the three states in respect to the coming off-cycle elections

04

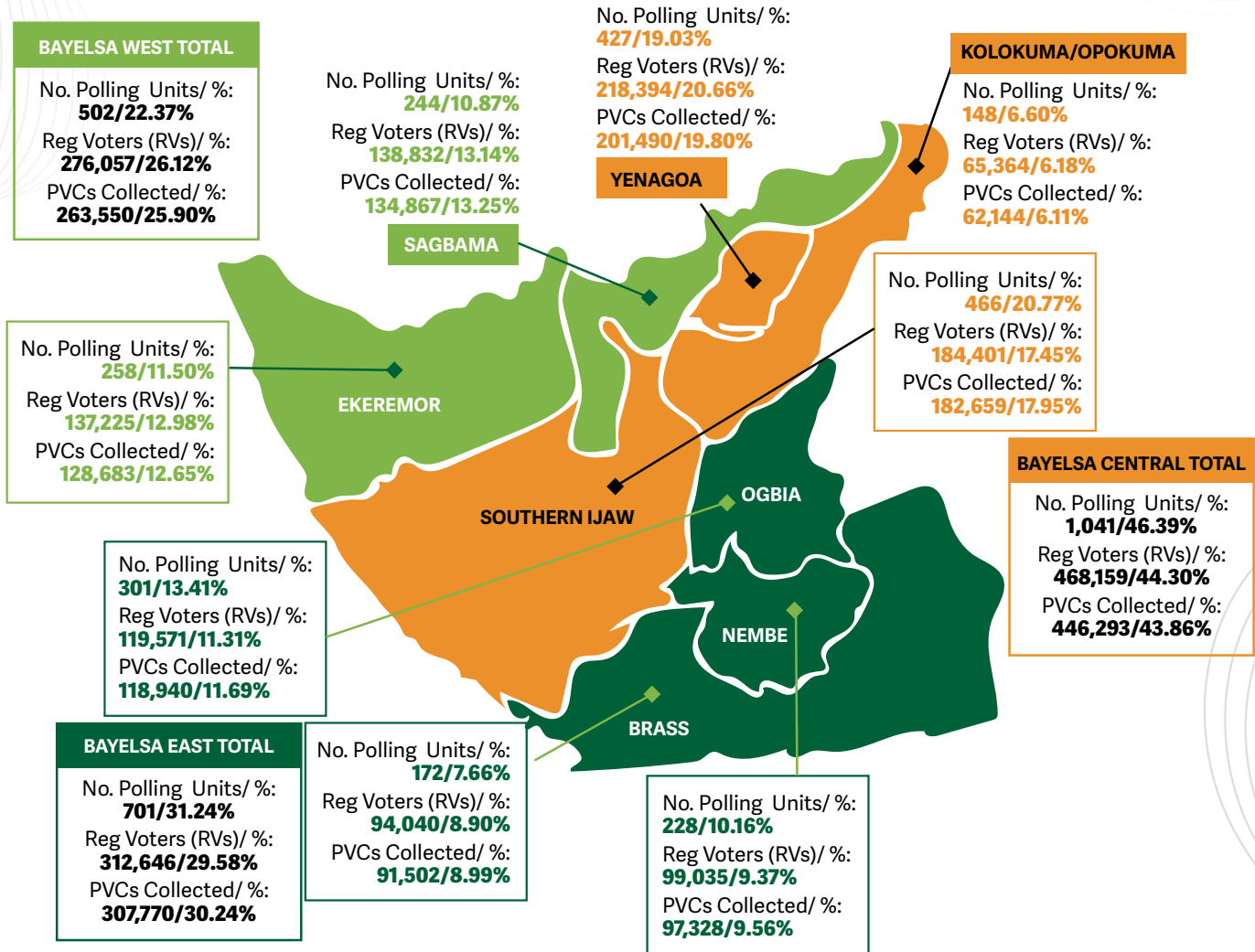
## 2. Analysis of the Polling Units and Registered Voters in the States

Currently, there are 2,244 polling units across the 8 LGAs in Bayelsa state. In Bayelsa state, Southern Ijaw LGA has the highest number of polling units (20.77%), followed by Yenagoa LGA (19.03%). Kolokuma/Opokuma (6.60%) and Brass LGA (7.66%) have the least number of polling units. An analysis of the distribution of polling units by Senatorial Districts showed that in Bayelsa state, Bayelsa Central has the highest number of polling units, 1,041(46.39%), while Bayelsa West 502 (22.37%) has the least number of polling units.

Imo state has a total of 4,758 polling units with LGAs like Mbaitoli (6.03% of the PUs) and Owerri West (5.28% of the PUs) having the highest number of polling units. Whilst Onuimo (2.04%) and Nwangele (2.37%) LGA have the least number of polling units. The result of analysis by senatorial districts showed that Imo East has the highest number of polling units, 2,005 (42.14%), and Imo North (17.78%) has the least number of polling units.

In Kogi state, there are 3,508 polling units with LGAs like: Dekina (10.03% of the PUs) and Ankpa LGA (8.32% of the PUs) having the highest number of polling units and LGAs like, Mopa Moro (1.51%) and Ogori Magongo (1.91%) having the least number of polling units. In addition, Kogi East senatorial district has the highest number of polling units; 1,714 (48.86%) and Kogi West has the least number of polling units; 892 (25.43%).

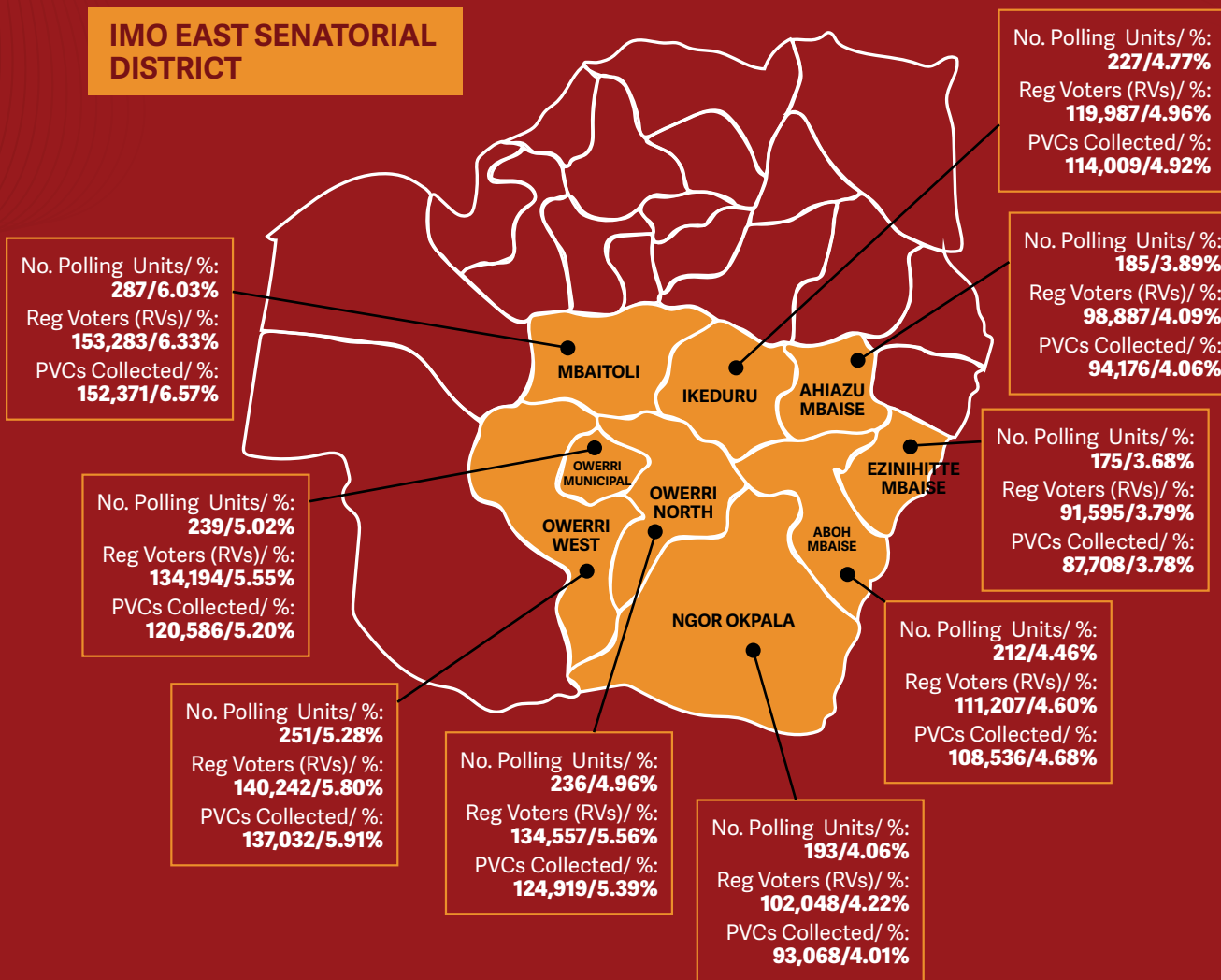
# Bayelsa Polling Units and Registered Voters by Senatorial Districts



Grand Total No. of Polling Units	Grand Total Reg. voters (RVs)	Grand Total No. of PVCs Collected
<b>2,244</b>	<b>1,056,862</b>	<b>1,017,613</b>

# Imo Polling Units and Registered Voters by Senatorial Districts

## IMO EAST SENATORIAL DISTRICT



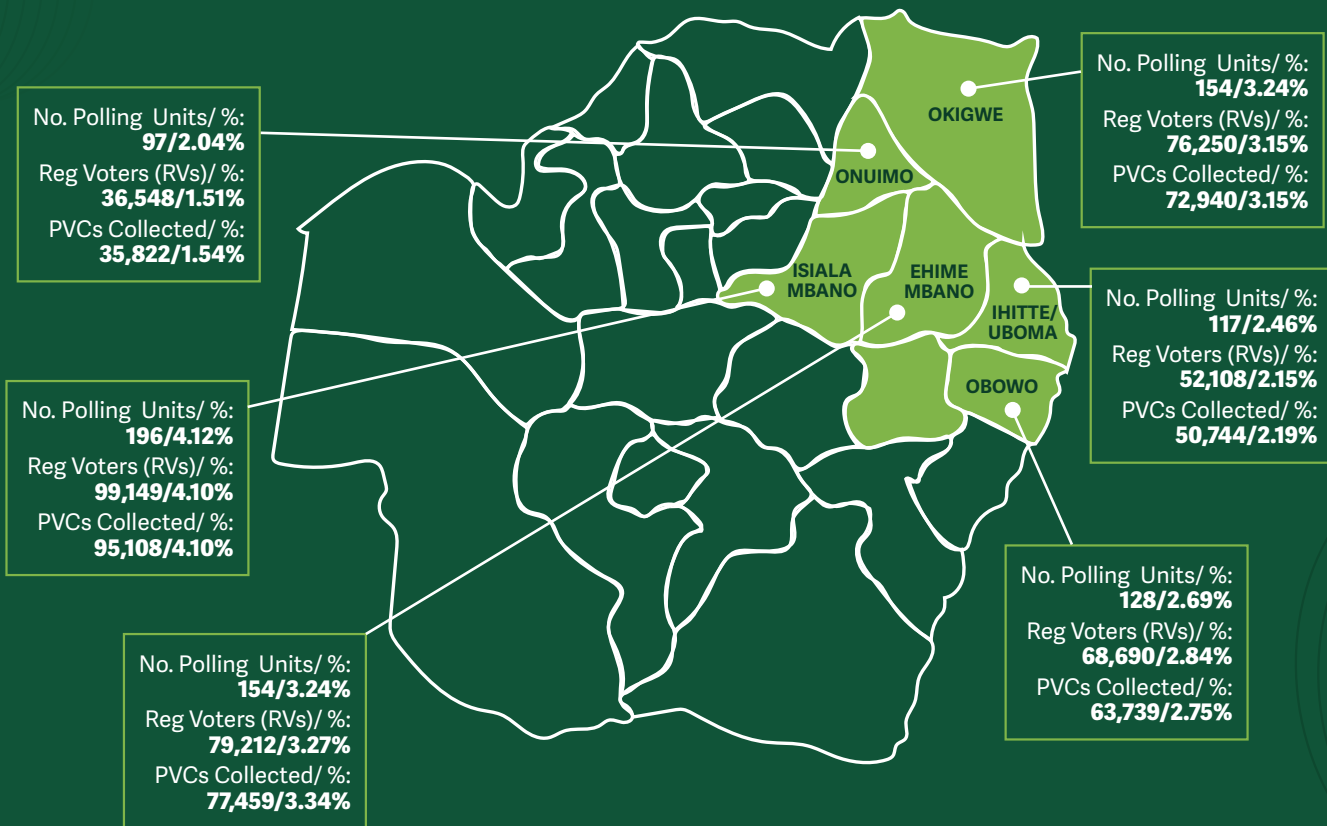
Total No. of Polling Units  
**2,005**  
(42.14%)

Total No. of Reg. voters (RVs)  
**1,086,000**  
(44.88%)

Total No. of PVCs Collected  
**1,032,405**  
(44.52%)

# Imo Polling Units and Registered Voters by Senatorial Districts

## IMO NORTH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

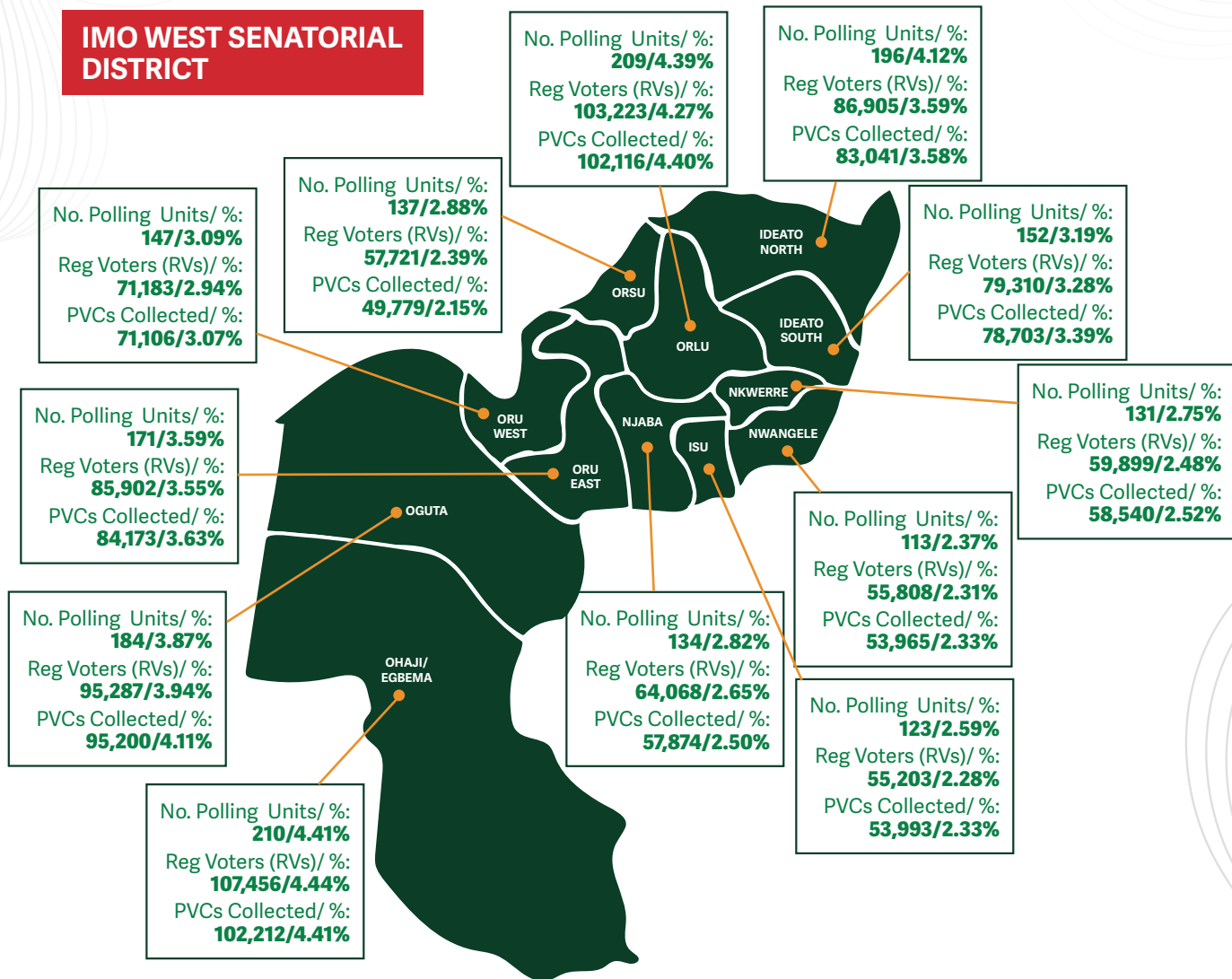


Total No. of Polling Units <b>846</b> (17.78%)	Total No. of Reg. voters (RVs) <b>411,957</b> (17.02%)	Total No. of PVCs Collected <b>395,812</b> (17.07%)
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# Imo Polling Units and Registered Voters by Senatorial Districts

## IMO WEST SENATORIAL DISTRICT



Total No. of  
Polling Units

**1,907**  
(40.08%)

Total No. of  
Reg. voters (RVs)

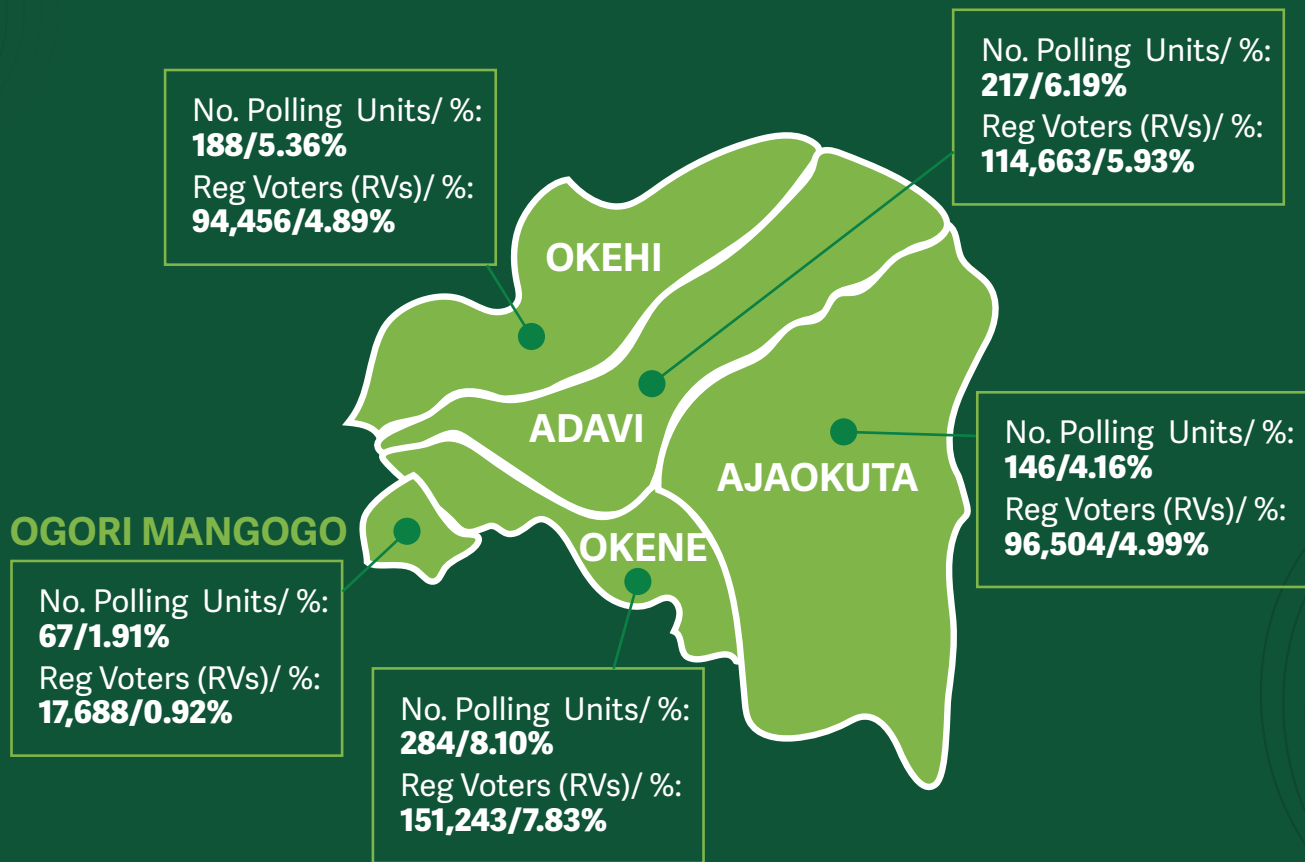
**921,965**  
(38.10%)

Total No. of  
PVCs Collected

**890,702**  
(38.41%)

# Kogi Polling Units and Registered Voters by Senatorial Districts

## KOGI CENTRAL



## OGORI MANGOGO

No. Polling Units / %:  
**67 / 1.91%**  
Reg Voters (RVs) / %:  
**17,688 / 0.92%**

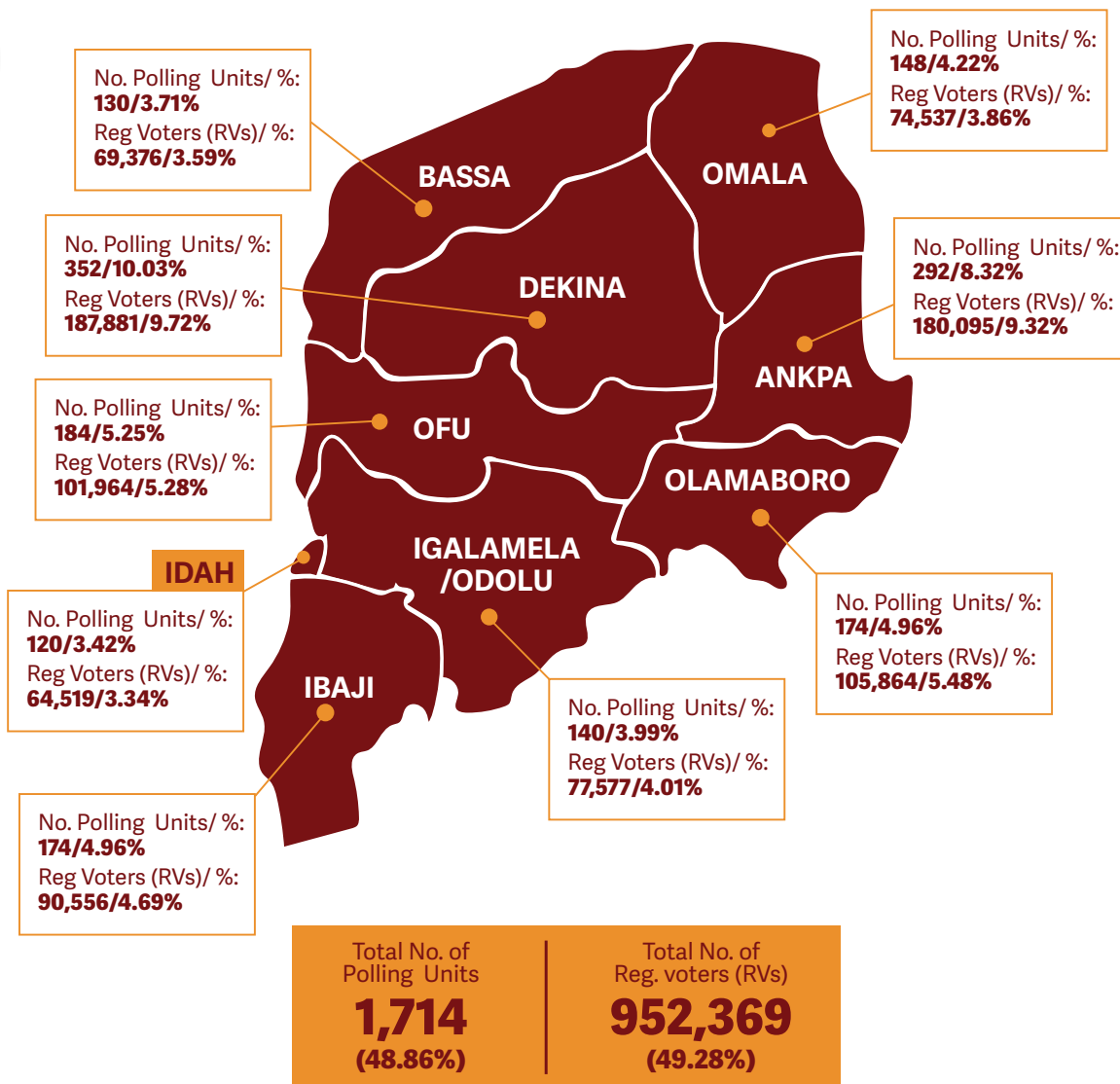
No. Polling Units / %:  
**284 / 8.10%**  
Reg Voters (RVs) / %:  
**151,243 / 7.83%**

Total No. of  
Polling Units  
**902**  
(25.71%)

Total No. of  
Reg. voters (RVs)  
**474,554**  
(24.55%)

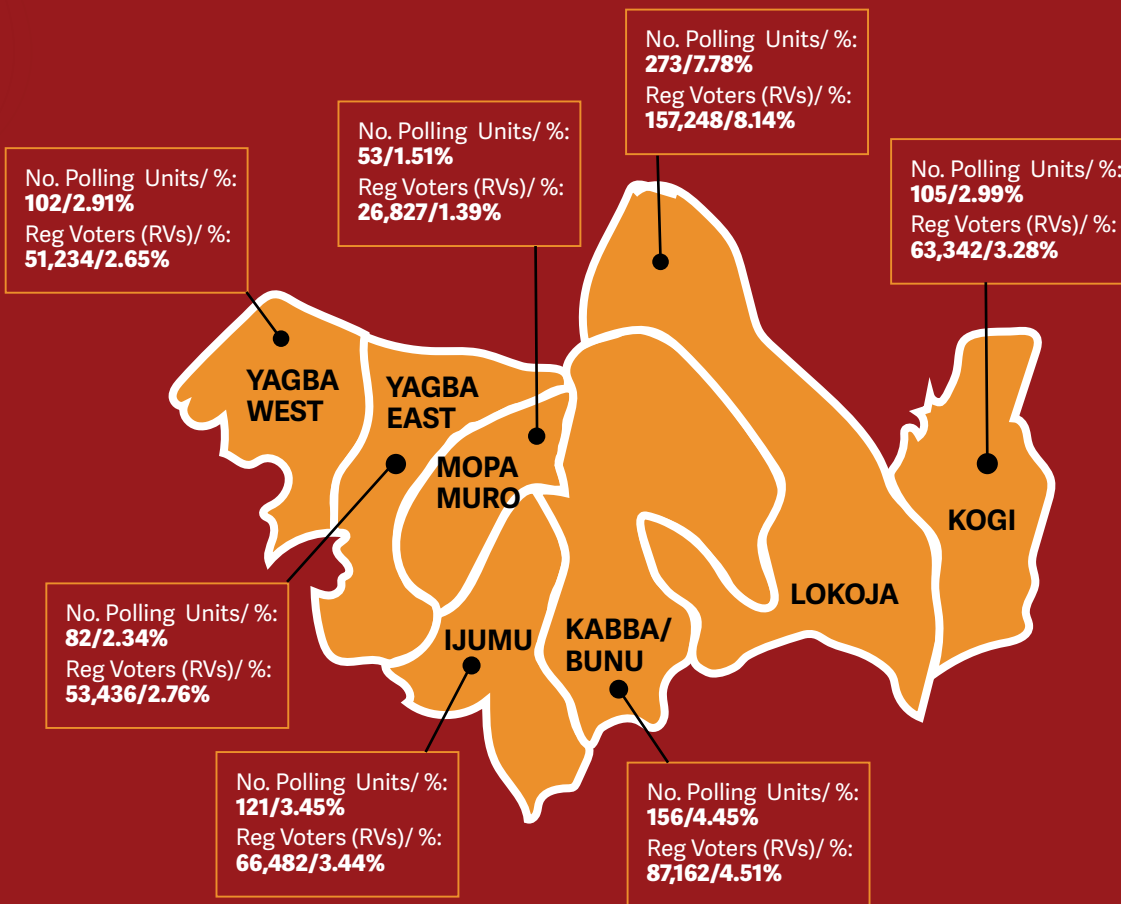
# Kogi Polling Units and Registered Voters by Senatorial Districts

## KOGI EAST



# Kogi Polling Units and Registered Voters by Senatorial Districts

## KOGI WEST



Total No. of  
Polling Units

**892**  
(25.43%)

Total No. of  
Reg. voters (RVs)

**505,731**  
(26.17%)

### 3. Analysis of the Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) Collection Rate and Zero Polling Units in the States

Of the 1,056,862 registered voters in Bayelsa state, 2318919 (95.83%), registered voters have collected their Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs). The senatorial district with the highest number of PVCs collected is Bayelsa central (43.86%). While Bayelsa West Senatorial district has the least (25.90%) percentage of PVCs collection rate. The analysis by LGA showed that Yenagoa has the highest (19.80%) PVCs collection rate, followed by Southern Ijaw (17.95%) LGA. However, Kolokuma/Opokuma (6.11%) and Brass (8.99%) LGA have the least PVCs collection rate.

In Imo state, 2318919 (95.83%) out of the 2,419,922 registered voters, collected their PVCs. Notably, the highest number of PVCs collected were from Imo East (44.52%), followed by Imo West, at 38.41% and Imo North at 17.07%. Mbaitoli (6.57%) and Owerri West (5.91%) LGA have the highest number of PVCs collected. At the same time, Onuimo LGA (1.44%) and Nwangele (2.33%) have the least number of PVCs collected.

In Kogi state, 1,833,160 (94.85%) of the 1,932,654 registered voters collected their PVCs. Kogi East senatorial district has the highest (49.28%) number of registered, followed by Kogi West (26.17%) then Kogi Central (24.55%). Likewise, Dekina (10.03%) and Ankpa LGA (8.32%) have the highest number of registered voters in Kogi state. Nonetheless, Ogori Mangogo (1.91%) and Mopa Moro (1.51%) have the least number of registered voters. In addition, Dekina (10.03%) and Ankpa LGA (8.32%) have the highest number of registered voters in Kogi and Ogori Mangogo (1.91%) and Mopa Moro (1.51%) have the least number of registered voters.

# Analysis of Polling Units (Polling Units with Zero Voters) Where Election will not Hold on November 11th, 2023.

In the build up to the 2023 general elections, INEC created additional 56,872 Polling Units to its initial 119,974 PUs in the 36 States and FCT, as a means to increase voter access to polling units on election day. This therefore, increased the number of polling units in the country to 176,846. However, 240 of these newly created Polling Units, spread across 28 states and FCT the country, are without a single registered voter. They range from one polling unit to 12 polling units in each of the state and the FCT, except for Imo and Taraba state with 38 and 34 polling units respectively. Importantly, elections will not hold in two polling units in Bayelsa state and 38 polling units in Imo state, come November 11th. Nonetheless, elections will hold in all polling units in Kogi state, as the state has no polling unit without a single registered voter.

## List of Polling Units with Zero Voters in Bayelsa State

S/N	STATE	LGA	REGISTRATION AREA	POLLING UNIT	DELIMITATION	TOTAL NO. OF PUS
1	BAYELSA	EKEREMOR	OYIAKIRI IV	OPEN SPACE TENBIRI	06-02-05-010	0
2	BAYELSA	SOUTHERN IJAW	EAST BOMO I	IMGBELE/IKELIBIRI PRIMARY SCHOOL II	06-07-12-031	0

## List of Polling Units with Zero Voters in Imo State

S/N	STATE	LGA	REGISTRATION AREA	POLLING UNIT	DELIMITATION	TOTAL NO. OF PUS
1	IMO	ABOH MBAISE	NGURU-AHIATO	UMUAGWUKWU HALL	16-01-02-015	0
2	IMO	ABOH MBAISE	NGURU-NWENKWO	UMUESHIOCHA HALL	16-01-03-017	0
3	IMO	ABOH MBAISE	NGURU-NWEKE	UMUGBALA HALL	16-01-04-019	0
4	IMO	ABOH MBAISE	UMUHU	AGWU/LODGE SQUARE	16-01-10-012	0
5	IMO	AHIAZU MBAISE	OKIRIKA NWENKWO	NDINWAKWU HALL	16-02-05-017	0
6	IMO	EZINIHITTE MBAISE	IHITTE	GROUP SCHOOL IHITTE 2	16-04-10-014	0
7	IMO	IDEATO NORTH	NDI IHEME ARONDIZUOGU	EKE MARKET SQUARE NDIANICHUNO	16-05-06-021	0
8	IMO	IDEATO NORTH	NDI IHEME ARONDIZUOGU	UKWUDARA UMUAKEME UNO HALL NDIKEMEUNO	16-05-06-023	0
9	IMO	ISIALA MBANO	OSUAMA/ANARA	NDIOMA UMUOLUWE VILL. HALL	16-09-07-030	0
10	IMO	ISU	EKWE II	AMAUKWU UMUDURUEHI SQ.	16-10-08-015	0
11	IMO	NJABA	NKUME	TIMBER MKT UMUEZEALAKU	16-13-06-017	0

## List of Polling Units with Zero Voters in Imo State

12	IMO	OHAJI EGBEMA	EGBEMA 'A'	IYIOKA FARM SETTLEMENT IYIOKA	16-18-03-027	0
13	IMO	OHAJI EGBEMA	UMUAGWO	AMANGBA SQUARE	16-18-11-018	0
14	IMO	OHAJI EGBEMA	UMUAGWO	UMUOGBUANU VILLAGE HALL	16-18-11-022	0
15	IMO	OHAJI EGBEMA	UMUAGWO	UKWUEGBU SQUARE	16-18-11-023	0
16	IMO	OHAJI EGBEMA	UMUAGWO	MGBABO ATO UMUNGUMA	16-18-11-024	0
17	IMO	ORLU	OHAFOR/ OKPORO/ UMUTANZE	NATIONAL PRIMARY SCH., OBOR	16-21-01-019	0
18	IMO	ORLU	OHAEKE/OKPORO	UMUONYIA HALL	16-21-02-014	0
19	IMO	ORLU	OKWUA BALA/ IHIOMA	AGE GROUP HALL, OKWUABALA	16-21-04-013	0
20	IMO	ORLU	ORLU/MGBEE/ ORLU GOVT. STATION	AMAIGWE UMUOKALA SQUARE	16-21-13-016	0
21	IMO	ORLU	ORLU/MGBEE/ ORLU GOVT. STATION	MGBABANO SQUARE	16-21-13-017	0
22	IMO	ORSU	UMUHU OKABIA	OFEKE OKABIA PRY SCH. AMANWUKWA	16-22-01-014	0
23	IMO	ORSU	EBENATOR	UMUENWURUM TOWN HALL	16-22-02-018	0



### List of Polling Units with Zero Voters in Imo State

24	IMO	ORSU	OKWUFURUAKU	OZURU MARKET SQUARE	16-22-03-011	0
25	IMO	ORSU	OKWUAMARAIHIE II	OGBORO TOWN UNION HALL UBAHAEZE	16-22-05-006	0
26	IMO	ORSU	ORSU IHITEUKWA	UBAHANGWU VILL. SQUARE HALL (ETITI ORSU)	16-22-07-014	0
27	IMO	ORSU	ORSU IHITEUKWA	OBOM-UDA HALL	16-22-07-015	0
28	IMO	ORSU	IHITENANSA	MIGRANT FARMERS PRY. SCH. UMUEZENYI AMADIABA	16-22-08-023	0
29	IMO	ORU EAST	AWO-OMAMMA I	AMA DAVID MARKET SQUARE	16-23-01-016	0
30	IMO	ORU EAST	AWO-OMAMMA II	AMA UGWERU VILLAGE SQUARE	16-23-02-015	0
31	IMO	ORU EAST	AWO-OMAMMA II	EKE NKIKA MARKET SQUARE	16-23-02-018	0
32	IMO	ORU EAST	AWO-OMAMMA III	UMUOKWE HEALTH CENTRE	16-23-03-011	0
33	IMO	ORU EAST	AWO-OMAMMA IV	AMA UKWU UMUDARAKU COMM. SQUARE	16-23-04-013	0

### List of Polling Units with Zero Voters in Imo State

34	IMO	ORU EAST	AWO-OMAMMA IV	AMA NWABUEZE AJARA	16-23-04-014	0
35	IMO	OWERRI MUNICIPAL	AZUZI I	BESIDE CHRIST CONSOLATION CHURCH SAM MBAKWE RD.	16-25-05-022	0
36	IMO	OWERRI NORTH	EMII	UMUJOGUDUGU SQ	16-26-04-020	0
37	IMO	OWERRI NORTH	ORJI	FRONT OF CENIMA HALL	16-26-07-029	0
38	IMO	OWERRI NORTH	IHITTA-OHA	UMUOFOR NWAGU SQ	16-26-08-026	0

# **4. Assessing Logistics Deployment in the 2019 Governorship Election in Kogi and Bayelsa states.**

The central focus of electoral management revolves around the organisation and administration of facilities that facilitate the participation of all eligible voters in the voting process. Voting, as an activity, typically occurs across various geographically dispersed locations and must be efficiently organised and executed within stringent time constraints, all while upholding the highest standards of integrity, security, and professionalism. An essential qualification in electoral management is the adept deployment of election logistics. In any electoral context, specific key aspects demand attention, encompassing voting preparations, voting sites, as well as the requisite materials and equipment.

According to the #WatchingtheVote (WTV) - Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) observation report, in Bayelsa state, only 24% of polling units were operational at 7:30 am, and this figure increased to 56% of polling units by 12:30 pm, covering the entire state. However, it is important to note that the opening rates varied among different Local Government Areas (LGAs). The report further details that the opening rates were as follows: 23% of polling units were operational by 9 am; 18% opened between 9 am and 10 am; 15% commenced operations between 10 am and 12 noon; 12% remained unopened at 12 noon; and 33% had not reported. In terms of staffing, all opened polling units had an average of 4 polling officials present, with 2 among them being women. Moreover, Card Readers were observed in 83% of polling units, the register of voters was visible in 82% of open polling units, while indelible ink (marker pen) was used in 79% of operational polling units.

Furthermore, an official stamp was present in 82% of active polling units, voting cubicles were provided in 79% of polling units, ink pads (inside the voting cubicle) were found in 82% of operational polling units, Governorship Ballot boxes were available in 82% of active polling units, Polling unit booklets were distributed in 80% of operational polling units. The Braille Ballot guides and posters for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) (Poster EC 30E) were present in 28% and 68% of operational polling units, respectively.

The observation report for Kogi state indicated that only 52% of polling units were operational at 7:30 am. By 9:00 am, 79% of polling units had commenced the accreditation and voting process. Crucial election materials such as the register of voters, indelible ink (marker pen), official stamp, voting cubicles, ink pads (inside the voting cubicle), Governorship Ballot boxes, and Polling unit booklets were available in 99% of polling units. Additionally, the Braille Ballot guides and PWD posters (Poster EC 30E) were present in 50% and 88% of operational polling units, respectively.

# About Yiaga Africa's Watching the Vote (#WTV) and its Deployment

Yiaga Africa #WTV recruited, trained, and deployed 28 long-term citizen observers (LTOs) and deployed them across the 27 LGAs of Imo State to systematically observe the pre-election environment in their various local governments. The observation also includes monitoring early warning signs of electoral violence that may influence the election outcome in the State. The WTV will also be deploying 600 stationary observers in Imo and Kogi state. 300 stationary observers per state and about 50 roving observers in all.

Yiaga Africa Watching The Vote is a citizen-led election observation initiative aimed at enhancing the integrity of elections in Nigeria using technological tools like SMS and evidence-based research methodologies to further election observation. The initiative is designed to promote credible elections and boost citizens' confidence in the electoral process through citizen's observation of electoral activities in the electoral cycle. Yiaga Africa is enhancing the quality of democracy in Nigeria using the WTV as a platform for promoting cutting edge electoral policies, credible elections, civic participation and democratic consolidation.



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