

# The Ballot

A WEEKLY UPDATE ON ELECTIONS

Series 1, Issue 23, 25th October, 2024



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## Ondo Guber: We'll provide hotlines for media to enhance accurate reporting – INEC

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has announced plans to provide dedicated telephone hotlines for media practitioners covering the upcoming November 16 governorship election in Ondo State, aimed at enabling journalists to verify information before reporting. The Head of Department, Electoral Operations at INEC, Amosa Lamidi, disclosed this initiative during a media workshop in Akure, stating that the hotlines would be shared with news personnel ahead of election day. Represented by Mr. Tope Onojobi, Lamidi also assured that a situation room would be set up to receive calls and provide real-time support for journalists on election coverage.

Read more:

<https://dailypost.ng/2024/10/24/ondo-guber-well-provide-hotlines-for-media-to-enhance-accurate-reporting-inec/>

## Ondo Guber: INEC Holds Mock Accreditation Nov 6

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has scheduled a mock accreditation exercise for the upcoming Ondo State governorship election, set to take place on Wednesday, November 6. According to a statement by INEC's National Commissioner and Chairman of the Information and Voter Education Committee, Sam Olumekun, the mock accreditation will run from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at designated polling units across the state.

Read more: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2024/10/24/ondo-guber-inec-holds-mock-accreditation-nov-6/>





## INEC Begins PVC Distribution For Ondo Governorship Election

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has successfully distributed 55,859 Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) in preparation for the Ondo State governorship election on November 16, 2024. Sam Olumekun, INEC's National Commissioner and Chairman of the Information and Voter Education Committee, announced on Tuesday that the PVC collection took place across all 203 wards in the state over five days as part of the Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise. Olumekun added that PVCs will now be available for collection at INEC's local government offices for continued access.

Read more: <https://independent.ng/inec-begins-pvc-distribution-for-ondo-governorship-election/>

## LG autonomy: FG plans sanctions against defaulting states

Read more: <https://punchng.com/lg-autonomy-fg-plans-sanctions-against-defaulting-states/>

## Constitution Amendment: Reps panel sets up seven subcommittees, names members

The House of Representatives Constitution Review Committee (CRC) has established seven subcommittees to lead the ongoing constitutional review process. These subcommittees, made up of lawmakers and consultants, will address specific thematic areas within the constitution, Deputy Speaker and CRC Chairman Ben Kalu announced during a committee meeting on Tuesday. The key areas for review include local government affairs, judicial reforms, electoral matters, security architecture, gender issues, devolution of power, and human rights.

Read more: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/747921-constitution-amendment-reps-panel-sets-up-seven-subcommittees-names-members.html>



## CSOs Reject Court Order On Kano LG Polls

The Nigerian Democracy Working Group, a coalition of civil society organizations, scholars, democracy advocates, and entrepreneurs from across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, has rejected the Federal High Court ruling in Kano that prohibits Prof. Sani Malumfashi, Chairman of the Kano State Independent Electoral Commission, from conducting the upcoming local government election. Despite the court's decision, the Kano State House of Assembly has confirmed that the election will go ahead on Saturday, October 26, 2024, as scheduled. In response, the group announced plans to file a petition against Justice Simeon Amobeda, condemning the ruling as a threat to democratic integrity, according to a statement by Dr. Vincent Okpara Innocent, the group's convener, and Dr. Idris A. Mohammed, co-convener.

Read more: <https://leadership.ng/csos-reject-court-order-on-kano-lg-polls/>

The Federal Government has announced plans to review state laws governing local government elections and investigate delays by some states in conducting these polls. Speaking in Ekiti on Tuesday, the Attorney General of the Federation, Mr. Lateef Fagbemi, emphasized the government's commitment to enforcing the Supreme Court ruling on local government autonomy. Currently, 164 local government areas across eight states—including Ondo, Osun, Katsina, Cross River, Nasarawa, Abia, Ogun, and Zamfara—have yet to hold their elections.





## Court sacks Kano electoral commission chair, five others over political ties

Four days before the Kano Local Government Areas election, a Federal High Court has removed Prof. Sani Malumfashi from his position as chairman of the Kano State Independent Electoral Commission, citing his affiliation as a card-carrying member of a political party. The ruling was delivered by Judge Simon Amobeda on Tuesday in response to a suit filed by Aminu Aliyu Tiga and the All Progressives Congress. Defendants in the case include the Kano State Independent Electoral Commission, the Kano State House of Assembly, and other state and federal security agencies.

Read more: <https://punchng.com/court-sacks-kano-electoral-commission-chair-five-others-over-political-ties/>

## BREAKING: Ex-INEC Chair, Prof. Humphrey Nwosu, Dies At 83

Read more: <https://leadership.ng/breaking-ex-inec-chair-prof-humphrey-nwosu-dies-at-83/>

Professor Humphrey Nwosu, former Chairman of Nigeria's National Electoral Commission (NEC), now known as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), has passed away at the age of 82. Nwosu, who was born on October 2, 1941, died in a Virginia hospital in the United States. Appointed by then-military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida, Nwosu is remembered for his role in overseeing Nigeria's historic June 12, 1993 election.



## Hon Amoka Inaugurates Ward Councilors, Introduces Community Special Assistants To Drive Grassroots Dev't In Okehi

In his said efforts towards grassroots empowerment and effective governance, Hon. Monday Amoka Eneji, the Executive Chairman of Okehi Local Government Area, has sworn in 11 ward councilors. The inauguration underscores his commitment to enhancing the well-being of citizens in Okehi LGA. Fresh off his victory in the October 19 local government elections, Hon. Eneji pledged to continue building on the progress set by Governor Ahmed Usman Ododo, whose leadership has been instrumental in transforming Kogi State.



Read more: <https://kogireports.com/hon-amoka-inaugurates-ward-councilors-introduces-community-special-assistants-to-drive-grassroots-devt-in-okehi/>



## Cross River PDP rejects 30-day notice for local council election

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Cross River State has rejected the 30-day notice issued by the state government for the upcoming local council election. In a statement on Tuesday in Calabar, PDP State Chairman Venatius Ikem demanded a 90-day notice instead, criticizing the Cross River State Independent Electoral Commission (CROSIEC) for setting what he described as an inadequate timeline. Ikem argued that many governors are rushing to conduct council elections to meet the Supreme Court's October deadline, which mandates that only democratically elected local governments are eligible for monthly allocations.

Read more: <https://www.ripplesnigeria.com/cross-river-pdp-rejects-30-day-notice-for-local-council-election/>

**NEW PUBLICATION**



Index for Assessing the Integrity of Local Government Elections in Nigeria | 4

**of the Local Election Index Tool**

A comprehensive tool designed to evaluate the quality of local government elections, assesses key electoral aspects, provides insights into key areas for improvement, and advocates for measures to address these issues. The tool covers various aspects of the electoral process, including voter registration, campaigning, polling, and the administration of elections. It is designed to be used by a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society organizations, government agencies, and international partners.

**Electoral Integrity Index**

The Index is a comprehensive and qualitative method. The Index is designed to provide insights into the quality of local government elections in Nigeria. It is a comprehensive and qualitative method. The Index is designed to provide insights into the quality of local government elections in Nigeria. It is a comprehensive and qualitative method.

The Index is well-calibrated for local government elections, targeting the specific purpose of the evaluation.

**Local Government Elections Integrity Index**



Index for Assessing the Integrity of Local Government Elections in Nigeria | 5

**Local Government Election Assessment Index (LGEAI)**

Period	Sections	Questions
Pre-election	A. Electoral Context	1. The previous election that brought in the incumbent administration was credible and transparent.
		2. Incumbent administration performed well in governance.
Election Day	1. Electoral Laws	3. Citizens experienced freedom under the incumbent administration.
		4. The tenure of the incumbent was characterised by relative peace and security.
		5. The opposition party was not suppressed by the incumbent administration.
		6. The Opposition party did not boycott the last LGA elections in the state.
		7. There were few violations during the last LGA elections.
		8. There was a high voter turnout in the last election.
		9. Citizens expressed satisfaction with the last election.
		10. Election guidelines complied with the provisions of the Electoral Act.
Election Day	2. Electoral Procedures	1. Electoral laws were fair to smaller parties and candidates.
		2. Electoral laws did not favour the governing party or parties.
		3. Election laws did not restrict the rights of, i.e., disenfranchised citizens.
		4. Election procedures are consistent with the state electoral law.
		5. Electoral rules and procedures are clearly spelt out.
		6. Election regulations were accessible to all stakeholders.
		7. Election regulations and voting procedures were widely publicised.
		8. Election regulations and voting procedures were widely publicised.

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**“The Local Government Elections Integrity Index”** is developed as a tool to systematically assess key aspects of local government elections in Nigeria.



Book of General Abacha. Fresh elections were held in December 1998 as part of the Abacha transition programme. Arafat headed into office as the first elected president of Nigeria since the end of military rule.

In the Republic, local government elections originally scheduled for 2002 were postponed, officially attributed to legislative challenges but widely believed to be politically motivated. After the terms of local councils expired in May 2003, many local government areas (LGAs) remained in power until the end of the year. In March 2004, during the period of military rule, a new set of local government elections were held. These elections were widely regarded as free and fair.

The general elections of 2003 and subsequent local elections were held in a context of military rule. Critics, including the International Commission on Jurists (ICJ), have argued that state governments play a significant role in undermining the integrity of local government elections. The ICJ has also expressed concern over the use of non-democratic methods to resolve local government disputes.

**Judgement on Local Government Elections**

In July 2004, aimed at ending the financial autonomy of local governments, the Supreme Court (SC) ruled that state governments play a significant role in undermining the integrity of local government elections. The Court also directed state governments to ensure that local government elections are held in a free and fair manner.

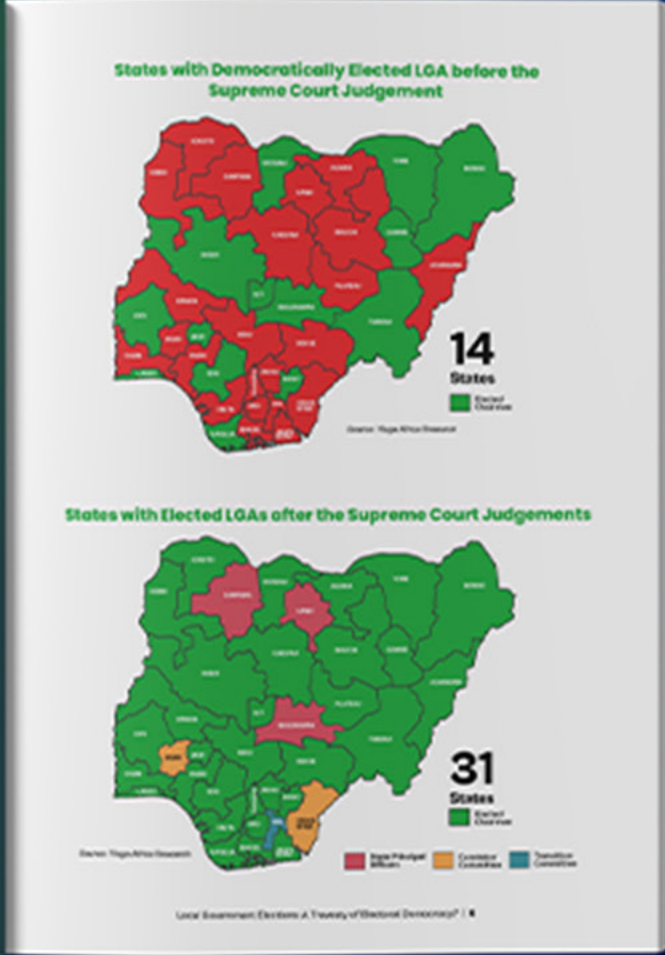
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**Local Government Elections: A travesty of Electoral Democracy?**

Preliminary Report on recent Local Government Elections

October 2024

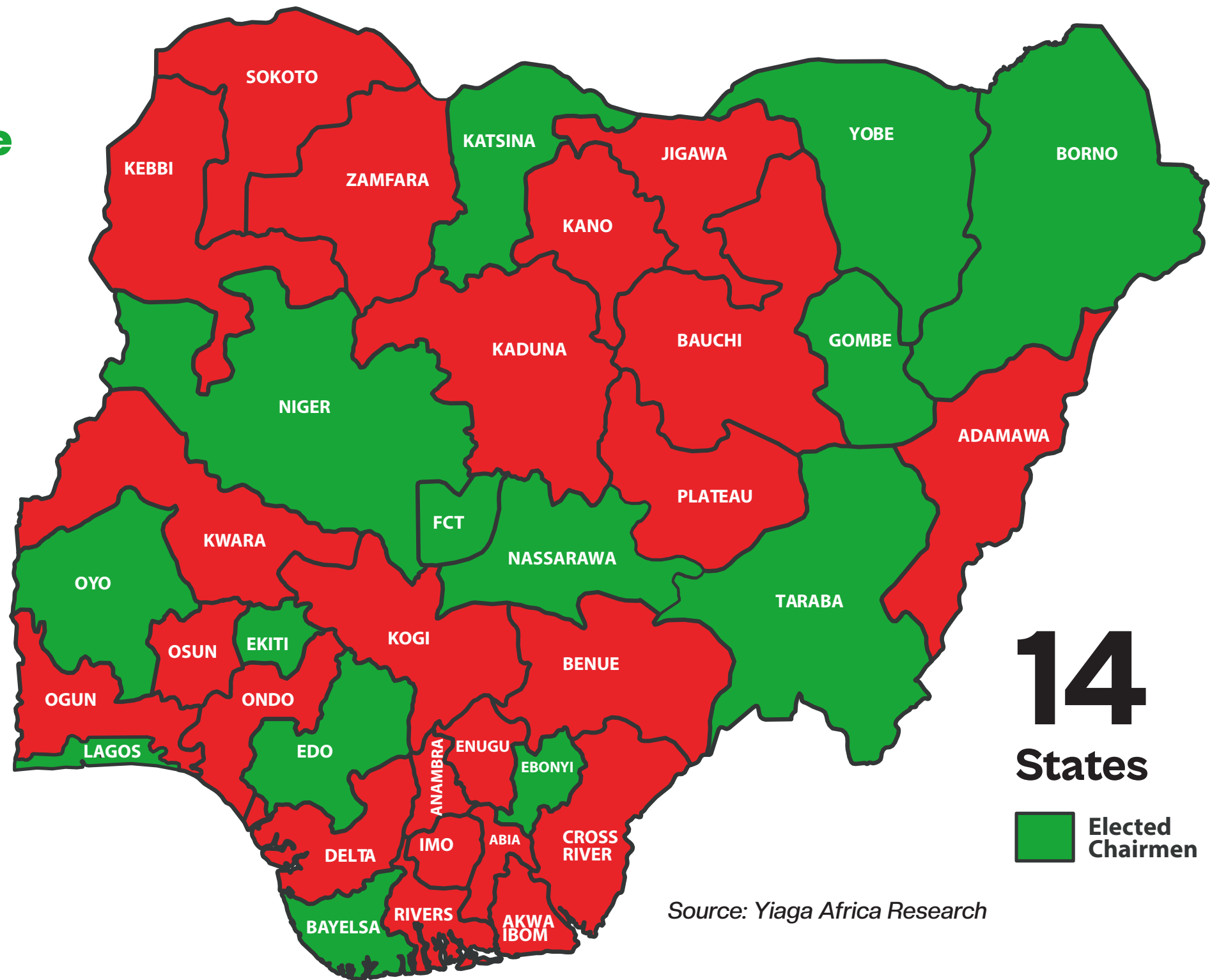


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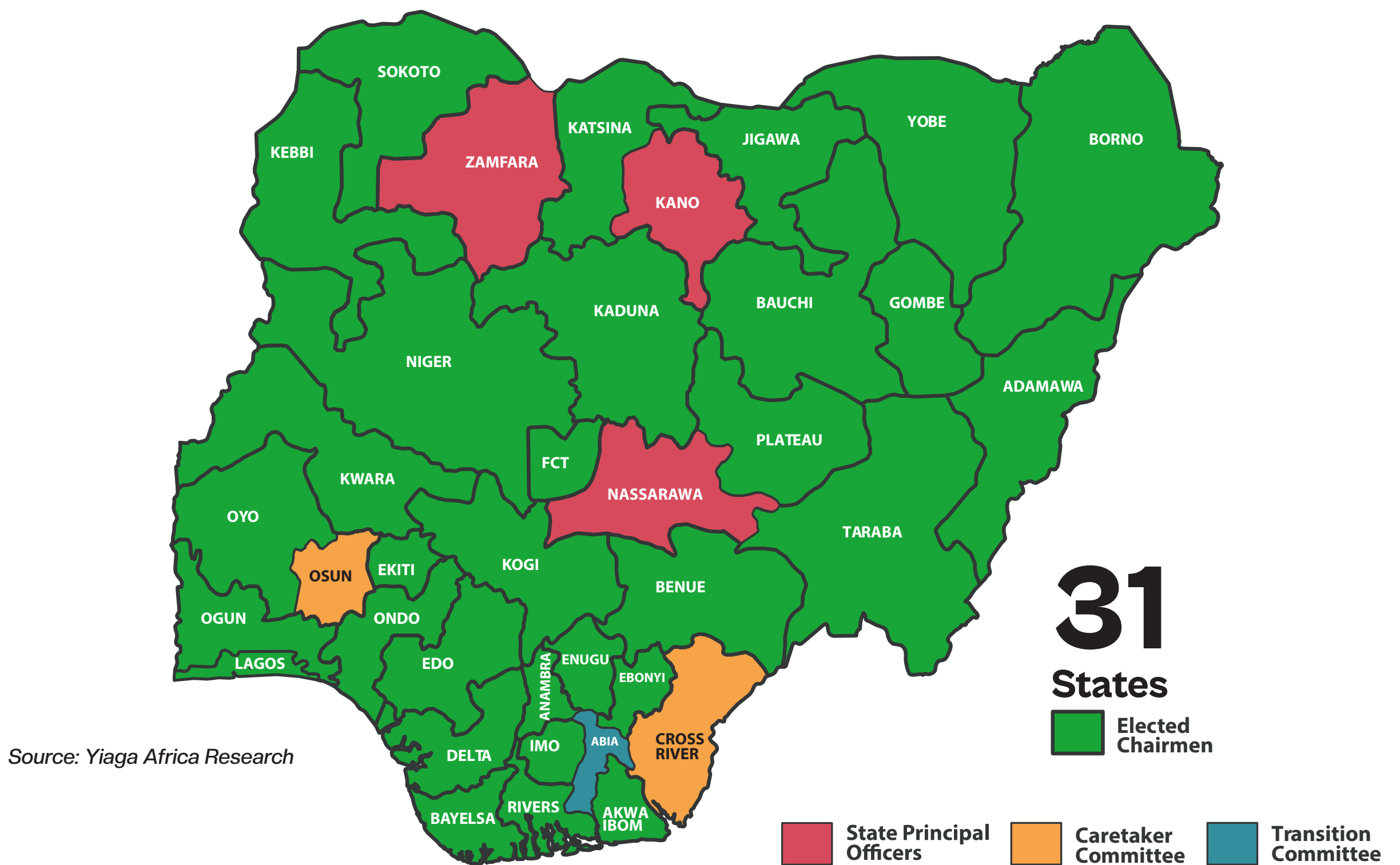


**“Local Government Elections: A Travesty of Electoral Democracy?”** is designed to explain the current debacle over local government elections in Nigeria and highlight major issues in the public and policy discourse around the problems. The aim is to provide ingredients for discourse on local government elections in Nigeria.

## States with Democratically Elected LGA before the Supreme Court Judgement



## States with Elected LGAs after the Supreme Court Judgements



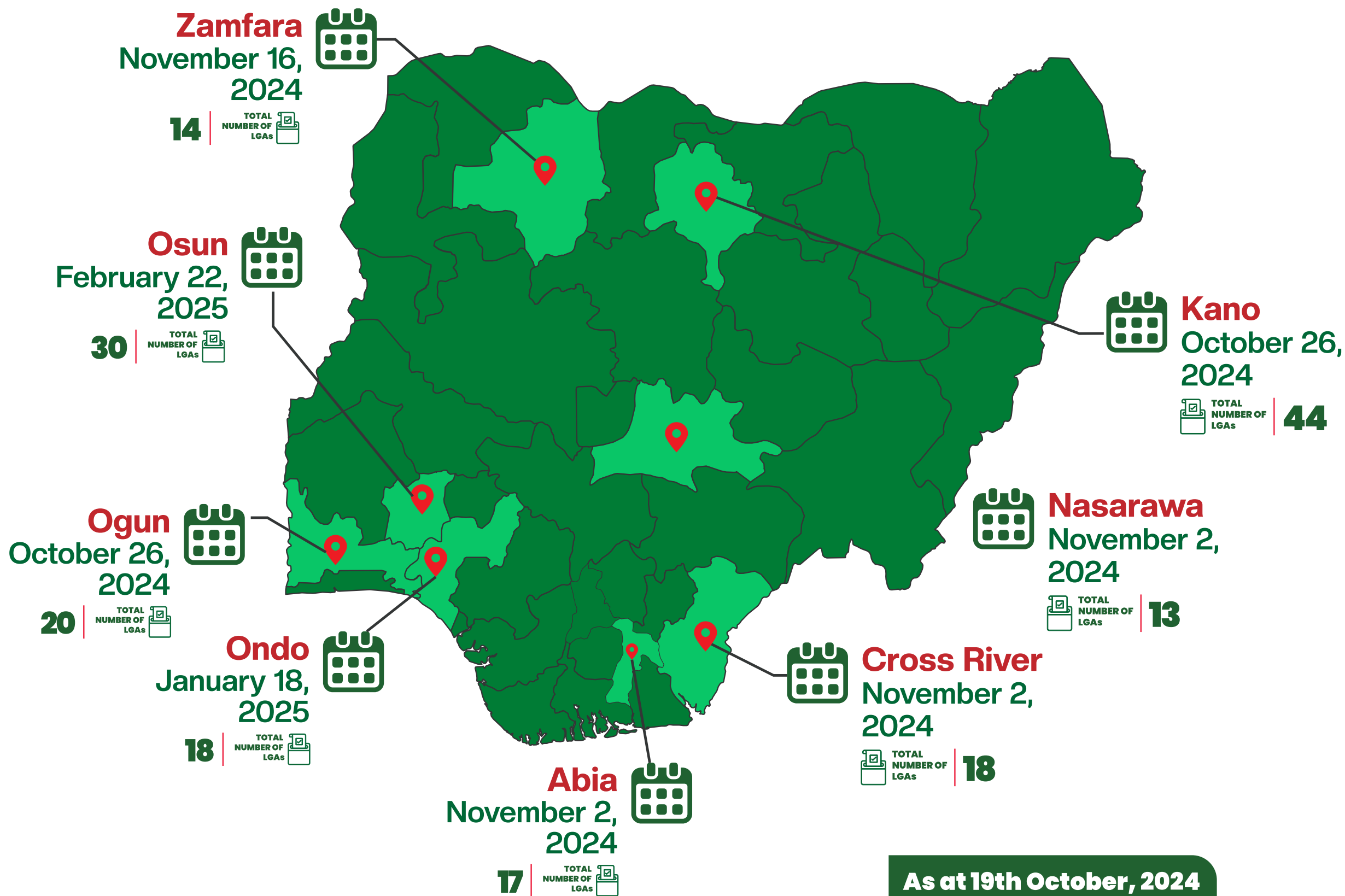
# Upcoming Local Government Elections



 **TOTAL NUMBER OF STATES** | **8**

 **TOTAL NUMBER OF LGAs** | **174**

 **TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS** | **20,269,207**



## Countdown to Off-Cycle Governorship Elections 2024

# 22 DAYS TO Ondo State Elections 16th November, 2024