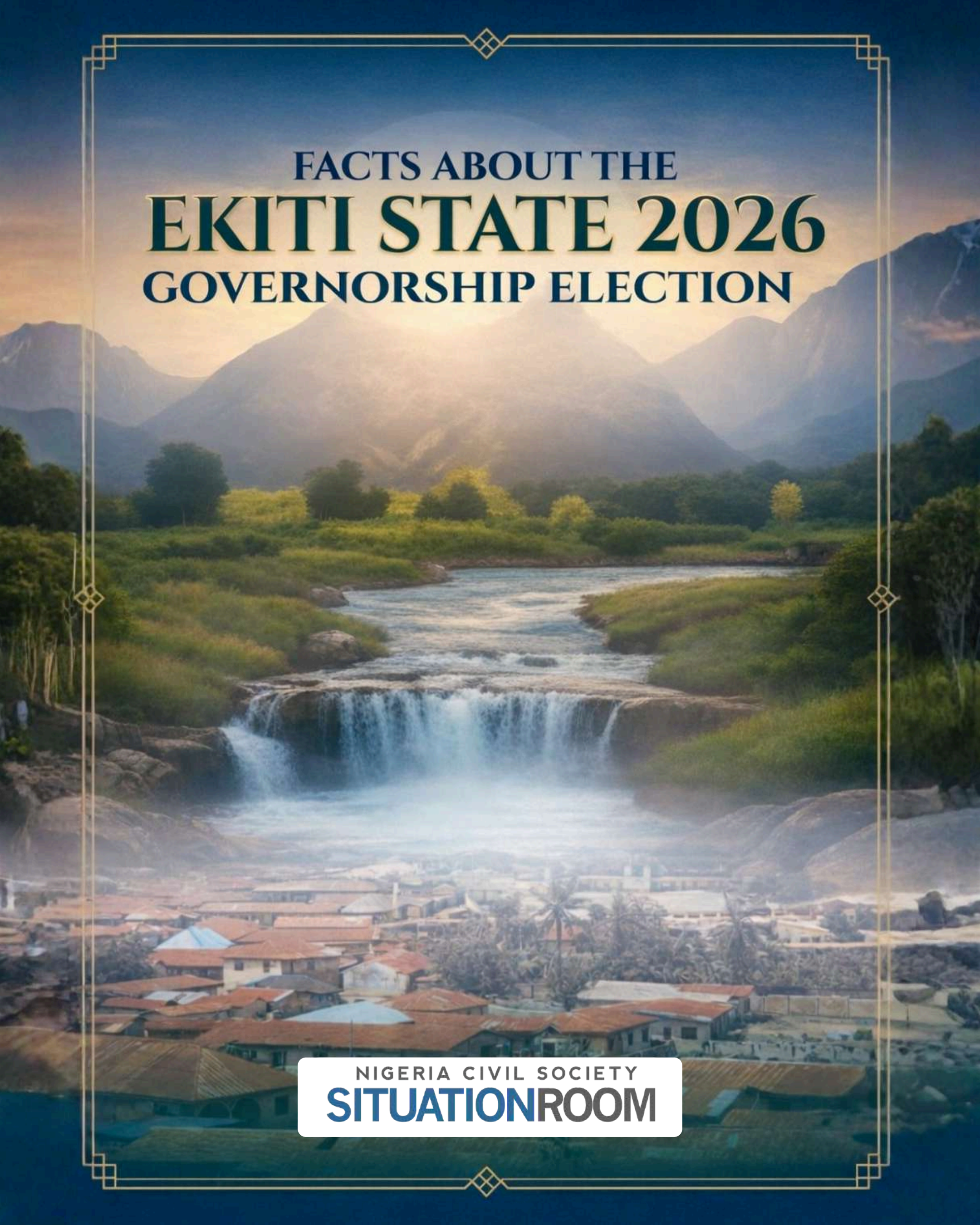
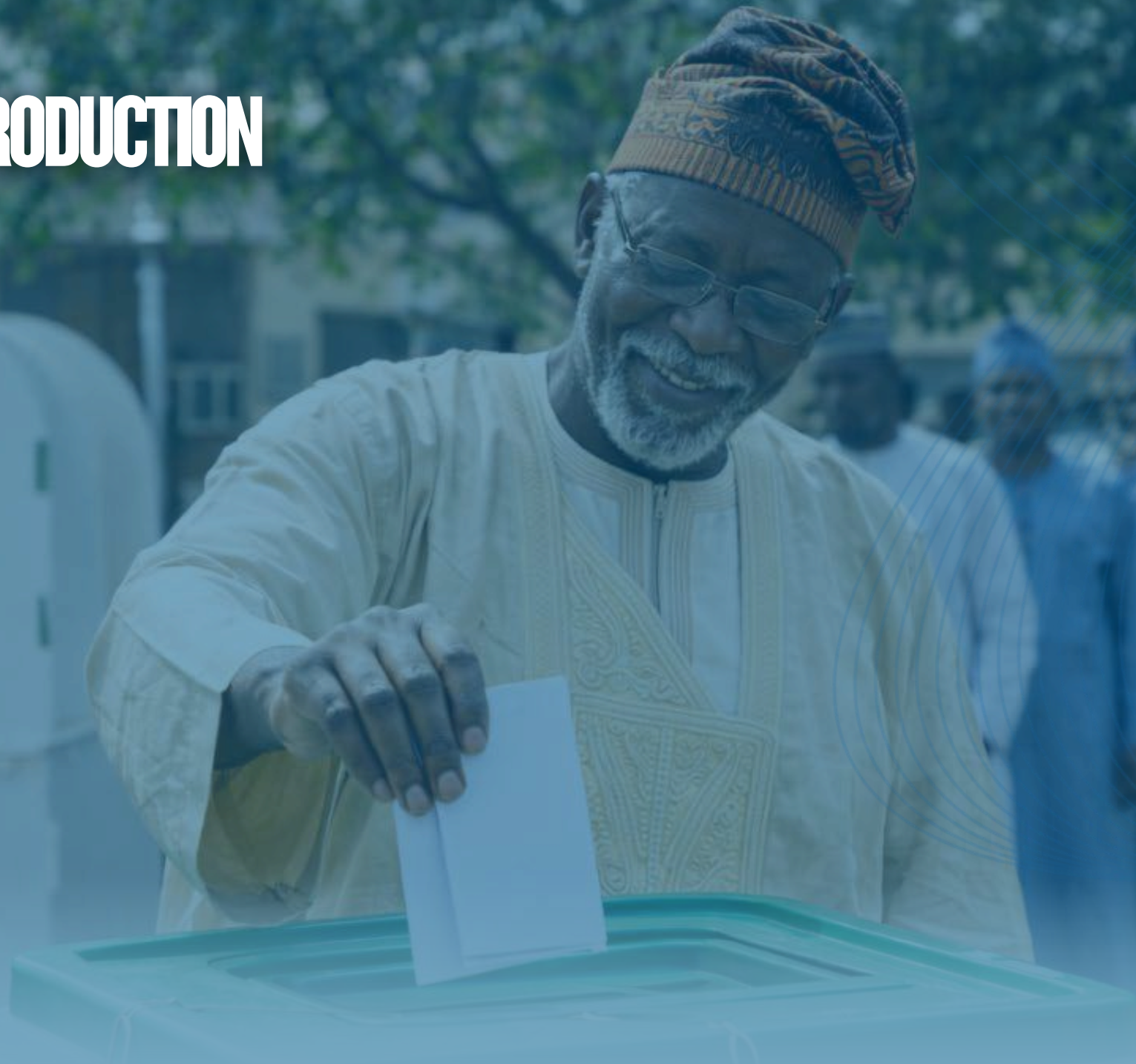




FACTS ABOUT THE EKITI STATE 2026 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY
SITUATIONROOM

INTRODUCTION



Ekiti State has a rich history of democratic governance, with citizens actively participating in shaping leadership since its creation in 1996. Over the past three decades, the State has been guided by thirteen different leaders, reflecting a dynamic political journey from its early military administrators to its current civilian structure.

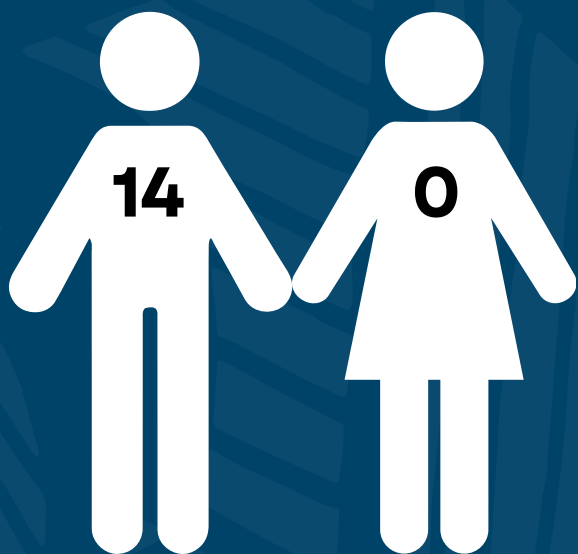
Since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, Ekiti State has seen seven elected Governors take the helm. There have been more than seven administrative cycles due to the State's unique political history, with leaders like Ayodele Fayose and Kayode Fayemi returning to serve two separate, non-consecutive terms.

THE EKITI STATE 2026 GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION

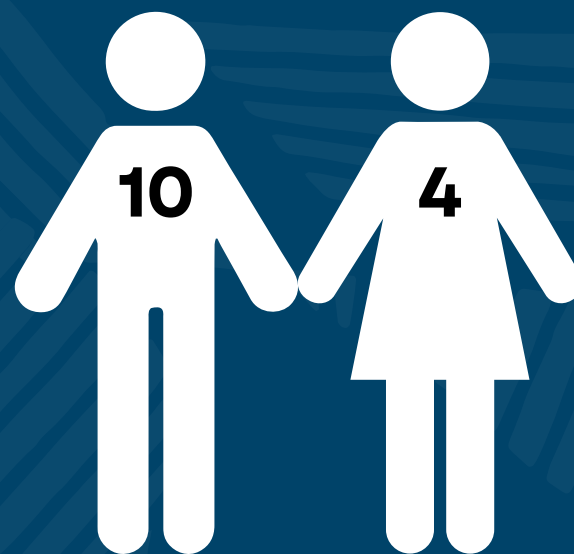
On Saturday, June 20, 2026, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) will conduct the Ekiti State Governorship Election across all 177 Registration Areas/Wards and 2,445 designated polling units in the 16 Local Government Areas of the State.



GOVERNORSHIP CANDIDATES



DEPUTY GOVERNORSHIP CANDIDATES



This year, 14 political parties have produced candidates for the Governorship and Deputy positions.

Out of 14 Governorship candidates, there are zero women while 4 women are stepping up as Deputies.

There are no Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) participating as candidates in this election.

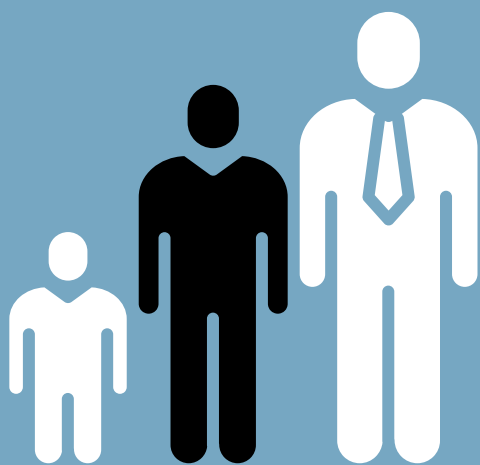


* Polling unit information from INEC as at 25th June 2025.

AGE AGGREGATION

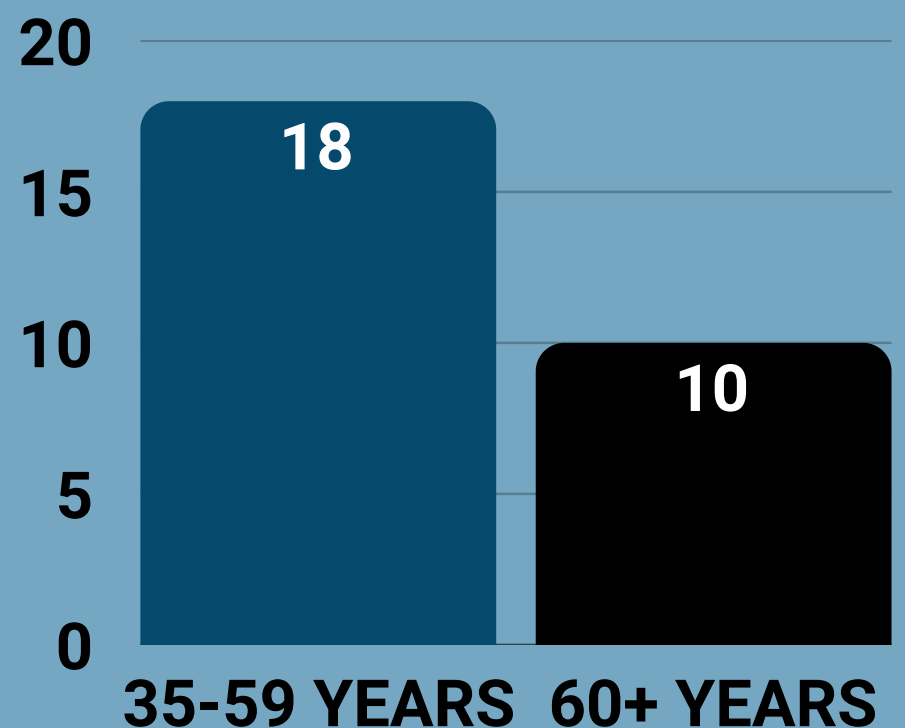


18 candidates, representing 64.29%, fall within the 35–59 years age bracket, while 10 candidates (35.71%) are 60 years and above..



35-59
64.29%

60+
35.71%



WHO CAN CONTEST AS GOVERNOR?

According to Section 177 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended), a person shall be qualified to contest as Governor if he or she:



is a citizen of Nigeria



is registered as a voter



is at least 35 years old



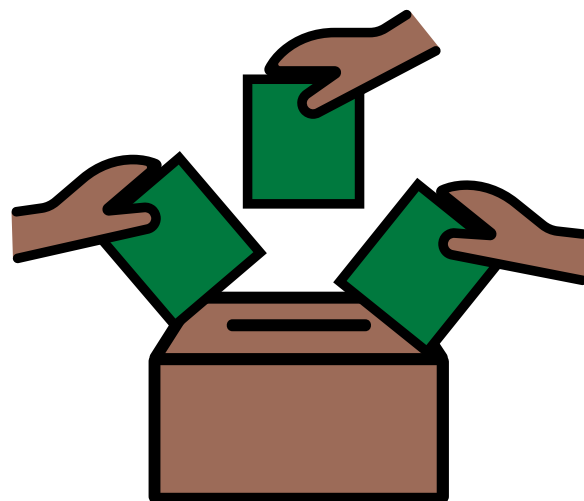
is educated up to at least school certificate level or its equivalent



is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that party

THE PROCESS

Voting begins at 8:30 a.m.
Ensure you know your polling unit before election day and arrive on time to exercise your franchise.



DISQUALIFICATION

Even if a person meets the requirements in Section 177, they can be disqualified under Section 182 if they:

Have been elected to the office of Governor at any two previous elections.

Are under a sentence of death, imprisonment, or a fine for an offence involving dishonesty or fraud.

Are undischarged bankrupts.

Are a member of any secret society.

Have voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a country other than Nigeria (except in cases prescribed by the National Assembly).

Are adjudged to be a lunatic or declared to be of unsound mind.

Have been convicted and sentenced for an offence involving dishonesty within the last 10 years.

Are employed in the public service of the Federation or a State and have not resigned at least 30 days before the election.

Have presented a forged certificate to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).



WHY THIS ELECTION MATTERS

Governorship elections are fundamental to a State's progress, as they determine the leadership and direction necessary to set a comprehensive development agenda and shape policies that impact everyday life. By electing the right leader, voters directly influence the quality of essential services within the State, such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, and job creation, while also ensuring the responsible management of State budgets and resources.

State governments operate in close proximity to the people, allowing these elections to empower leaders who are uniquely positioned to understand and respond to the immediate needs of the inhabitants of the State. Ultimately, participating in the electoral process is a vital opportunity to advocate for representation and inclusion, pushing for a government that reflects and serves diverse groups across gender, youth, and marginalized communities.



WHAT CITIZENS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS?

BEFORE ELECTION

Register and Verify Your Voter Status

Ensure you are registered with INEC and that your Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) is valid.

Verify your name and polling unit on the INEC voters' register.
Report errors or omissions through INEC's designated channels.

Learn About the Election

Understand the roles of Governors and how their decisions affect State governance.

Know the election date, voting hours, and your polling unit.
Familiarise yourself with the voting process and rules.

Engage Political Actors Peacefully

Attend town halls, debates, and campaign events.
Ask candidates questions about local development, service delivery, and accountability.

Reject vote-buying, inducement, and hate speech.

Support Civic Education

Share verified election information within your community.
Help first-time voters, persons with disabilities, women, and youth understand how to vote.

WHAT CITIZENS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS?

ON ELECTION DAY

Vote Responsibly

**Arrive at your polling unit early with your PVC.
Follow instructions from election officials.
Cast your vote freely and secretly, without coercion.**

Promote Peaceful Participation

**Avoid arguments, violence, or provocation at polling units.
Encourage calm and orderly conduct among fellow voters.
Do not interfere with election officials or security personnel.**

Observe and Report Irregularities

**Take note of issues such as late arrival of materials or officials, vote buying or voter intimidation, and disruption of voting or counting.
Report concerns to INEC officials or to the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room.
Use trusted citizen reporting platforms like the Situation Room Electoral Accountability Tracker – SEAT.**



WHAT CITIZENS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS?

AFTER ELECTIONS

Stay and Observe the Process

Citizens are allowed to observe vote counting and result announcement at polling units.
Follow collation updates through official INEC channels.

Demand Accountability

Monitor the work of the elected Governor after elections.
Engage in budget tracking, town halls, stakeholder and community meetings.
Demand transparency and delivery of campaign promises.

Use Lawful Channels for Complaints

If dissatisfied, support peaceful and legal resolution of disputes.
Reject violence and misinformation during post-election periods.

CITIZENS **MUST** AVOID

- **Selling or buying votes.**
- **Spreading false or unverified information.**
- **Inciting violence or hate speech.**
- **Disrupting voting or collation processes.**

These actions undermine the electoral process and democracy.

There are also penalties for electoral offences.



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