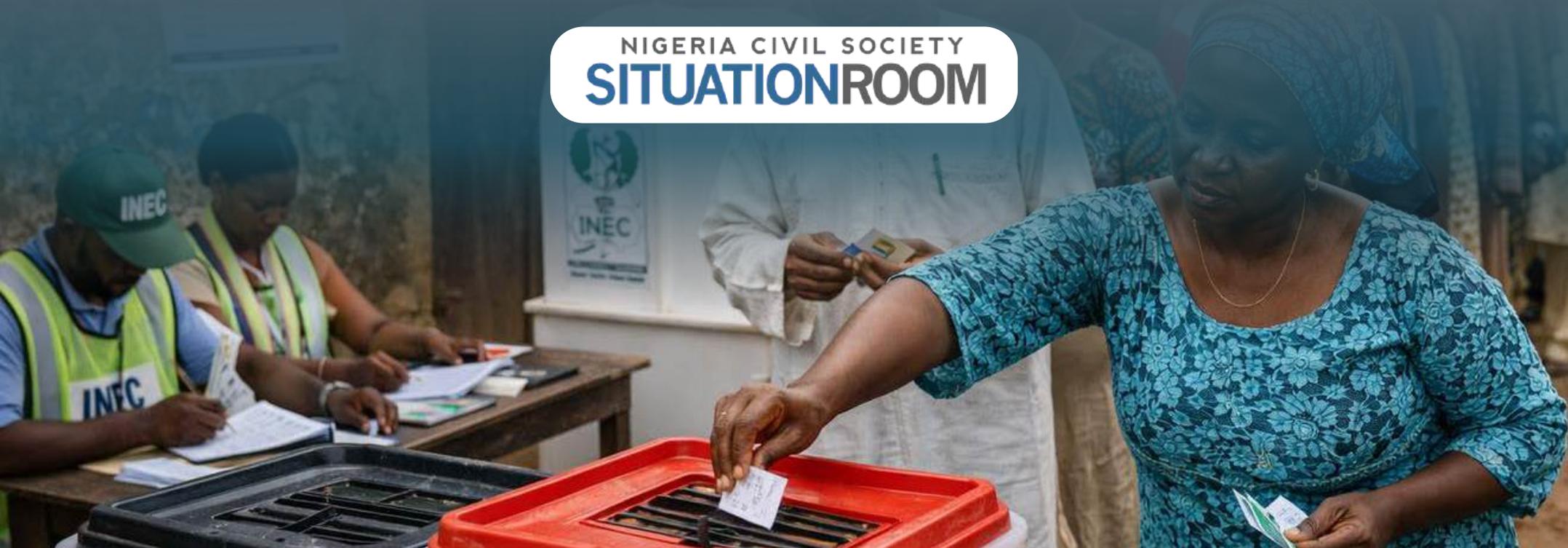




WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2026 FCT AREA COUNCIL ELECTIONS

NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY
SITUATIONROOM



The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has fixed Saturday, 21st February 2026 as the date for the FCT Area Council Elections. Voting will take place across all polling units in the FCT.



The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) is divided into six Area Councils: Abaji Area Council, Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), Bwari Area Council, Gwagwalada Area Council, Kuje Area Council, and Kwali Area Council. These councils are the equivalent of Local Government Areas in other States and serve as the foundational level of grassroots governance in the FCT.

**A total of 68 elective positions will be contested:
6 Chairmanship Seats (one for each Area Council) and 62 Councillorship Seats (one for each ward across the councils).**



KEY FACTS TO KNOW

ABOUT THE FCT AREA COUNCIL ELECTIONS

17 Political Parties fielded 637 candidates for the FCT Area Council Elections to fill 68 elective positions. There are 65 candidates (60 male and 5 female) contesting for the 6 Chairmanship positions, 65 candidates (52 male and 13 female) contesting for Vice-Chairmanship positions, and 507 candidates (460 male and 47 female) for the 62 Councillorship positions in the 2026 FCT Area Council Elections. No Persons with Disabilities are contesting.



65
CHAIRMANSHIP
CANDIDATES



60
MALE



5
FEMALE



0
PWD



65
VICE
CHAIRMANSHIP
CANDIDATES



52
MALE



13
FEMALE



0
PWD



507
COUNCILLORSHIP
CANDIDATES



460
MALE



47
FEMALE



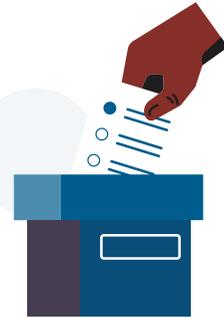
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PWD

Who can contest for an election to the Area Council?

According to Section 101 of the Electoral Act 2022, a person shall be qualified to contest for an election to the Area Council if he or she:



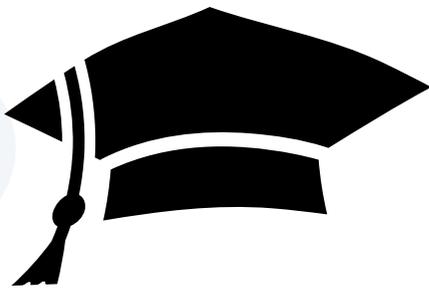
is a citizen of Nigeria



is registered as a voter



has attained the age of 25 years for Councillor and 30 years for Chairman and Vice Chairman



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

When is the Election?

On Saturday, 21st February 2026. Voting begins at 8:30 am.

Who will conduct the election?

The FCT Area Council elections will be conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Who can vote in the election?

Registered voters who live in the FCT and are registered to vote in any of the polling units under the Area Council.

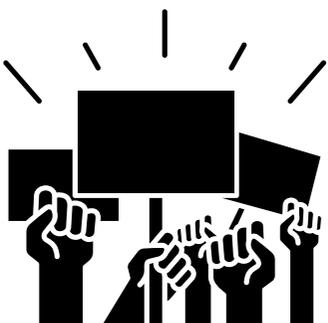
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FCT AREA COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The FCT Area Council elections are notable because they are the only Local Government-level elections in Nigeria conducted by INEC, unlike most other States where local elections are run by State Electoral Commissions.

These elections are seen as a test of grassroots democracy in the Nation's capital, with attention on gender representation, youth participation, and party competitiveness.

Because Area Council officials are closer to the people, they are more accessible and answerable to the people, citizens can easily monitor projects, and misuse of public funds is easier to question.

Wards are recognised as electoral Constituencies, each electing a Councillor. This ensures community-level representation, gives every ward a direct voice in governance, and makes governance responsive to local needs.



WHY CITIZEN PARTICIPATION MATTERS

The credibility of elections in Nigeria does not depend only on INEC, Political Parties and Election Observers, but also on active, informed, and vigilant citizens.



In the FCT Area Council elections, citizen engagement will promote transparency, accountability, and peaceful democratic outcomes at the grassroots level.

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 Area Council Chairpersons and Councillors and how their decisions affect local 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.

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 SituationRoomNg
Use trusted citizen reporting platforms like the Situation Room App.

Here's how to do it:



Download the Situation Room App from your Playstore or App store

On the homepage, click report and fill the form

Click submit report and you're good to go!

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 elected Area Council officials after elections.
Engage in budget tracking, town halls, stakeholder and community meetings.
Demand transparency and delivery of campaign promises.

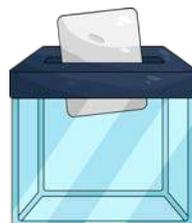
Use Lawful Channels for Complaints

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.



Democracy works best when citizens participate actively, responsibly, and peacefully.



Your vote, voice, and vigilance are essential to credible FCT Area Council elections.