



OSUN STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION (OSSIEC)



2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION VOTERS EDUCATION AND ELECTORAL GUIDELINES

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VOTERS EDUCATION AND ELECTORAL GUIDELINES FOR THE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

By virtue of the provisions of Paragraph 3 of Part II Second Schedule to the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended), as well as the provisions of Sections 6 & 22 of the Osun State Independent Electoral Commission (OSSIEC) Law, 2022; and all the powers enabling the Commission in that behalf, the Commission hereby issues the following Guidelines for conduct of the Osun State 2025 Local Government Elections:

1. PREAMBLE

The Osun State Independent Electoral Commission (OSSIEC) was established as the **ONLY** constitutionally recognized Local Government Election Management Body (EMB) in Osun State to perform (*inter-alia*) the following functions:

1. To organize, conduct, undertake and supervise all elections into the offices of Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen and Councillorship seats across all the Local Government Areas within the State.
2. Render such advice as it may consider necessary to the Independent National Electoral Commission on the compilation of Register of Voters.
3. Prescribe guidelines to political parties stipulating the rules and procedures for the conduct of elections into the offices of Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen and Councilors across all the Local Government Areas in the State.
4. Conduct Voter and Civic Education
5. Promote knowledge of sound democratic election processes.
6. Conduct any referendum or plebiscite required to be conducted pursuant to the provisions of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended or any law of Osun State House of Assembly.

2. NATURE OF OSUN STATE 2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

The Osun State 2025 Local Government Elections shall be based on the Presidential System, as such, elections shall be conducted into the offices of the Chairman/Vice-Chairman (jointly) in each of the **Thirty (30)** Local Government Areas in the State while elections shall also be conducted for the Councillorship seat in each of the 332 Wards across all the Local Government Areas in Osun State.

The Local Government Chairmanship and Councillorship elections in Osun State shall be held simultaneously on the said Saturday 22nd February, 2025.

3. NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

Giving notice of election is one of the basic functions of an Election Management Body (EMB). It is the sole responsibility of the Osun State Independent Electoral Commission (OSSIEC) to determine and announce the date for the conduct of 2025 Local Government Elections or bye-elections as the case may be. The notice shall be published in each of the Local Government Area & Ward/Registration Area where election is to be held. In case of a bye-election, the Commission shall, not less than 14 days before the date appointed for the election, publish a notice stating the date of the bye-election.

For the 2025 Local Government Elections in Osun State, the date as announced by the Commission is and remains **Saturday 22nd February, 2025**. The date, timetable/schedule of activities was originally published in the Nigerian Tribune Newspaper of **Monday 19th February, 2024** while an amended Notice/Adjusted Timetable was published in the Nigerian Tribune Newspaper of **Monday 22nd July, 2024**. Note that elections shall be conducted into the offices of the Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen and Councilors in **ONLY** the Thirty (30) constitutionally recognized Local Government Areas in Osun State. (See Appendix 1)

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING

A person shall be eligible to vote in an election if he/she:

- (a) is a citizen of Nigeria
- (b) has attained the age of 18 years
- (c) is ordinarily resident and/or registered as a voter in a polling unit in the Ward/Local Government where he/she intends to vote
- (d) has obtained permanent Voter's Card (PVC) issued by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) which shall be presented at the Polling Unit or Station on the day of election.
- (e) his/her name is contained in the Voters' Register to be used for the election.

5. VOTER'S CARD

The Permanent Voter's Card (PVC) is the only evidence that a voter is duly registered as a voter in the State. The PVC issued by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) is the only valid means of identification to vote at the Local Government Elections. No voter shall hold more than one valid voter's card during the election. A valid voter's card shall contain the following:

- (a) Name
- (b) Sex
- (c) Age
- (d) Date of Birth
- (e) Delimitation Number
- (f) VIN Number
- (g) Date of Issue
- (h) Voter's Photograph

6. A. QUALIFICATION OF A CANDIDATE

A person shall be qualified for an election to which this guideline relates if he/she:

- i. is a citizen of Nigeria
- ii. is a registered voter in a polling unit in the Ward/Local Government Area where he/she intends to contest

- iii. has attained the age of 25 years for Councillorship and 30 years for Chairmanship
- iv. is educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent.
- v. is a member of a registered political party in Nigeria and is sponsored by the political party.

B. DISQUALIFICATION OF A CANDIDATE

A person shall NOT be allowed to contest an election to which this guideline relates if:

- i. he/she is adjudged to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind under any law in force in any part of Nigeria;
- ii. he/she is under a sentence of death imposed on him/her by any competent Court of Law or Tribunal in Nigeria;
- iii. he/she has been dismissed for an offence involving fraud, dishonesty and gross misconduct from the Public or Civil Service of the Federation or of a State or Local Government Area Council office or from any employment in the private sector;
- iv. he/she has been adjudged guilty of treason or treasonable felony by any Court or Tribunal in Nigeria;
- vi. he/she does not possess the minimum qualifications stipulated in **A** above;

Provided that in the case of a person found guilty and sentenced by any court of law or tribunal, no appeal is lying/pending against such sentence.

7. PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATION

PART 1 – CONDUCT OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS:

- a. A registered political party intending to sponsor candidates for elections to which this guideline relates shall hold primary elections for all its aspirants for the respective offices/seats.
- b. The primary elections which shall be monitored by the Commission (upon the political party giving at least 21 days notice before the date to the Commission) may be by way of

affirmation, direct or indirect primaries, in accordance with the constitution of the political party and relevant electoral laws and guidelines.

- c. An aspirant holding a political appointment at any level shall not be eligible to participate at the primary elections of his/her political party unless he/she has resigned his/her appointment before the date of the primary elections.
- d. The political party shall, within the period prescribed in the timetable/schedule of activities issued by the Commission, forward the name of every successful aspirant who emerges as its candidate at any level, to the Commission, in the prescribed form.

PART 2 – CRITERIA FOR NOMINATION

- a. Nomination of a candidate by a political party shall be valid if, in the case of a chairmanship candidate, the said candidate has been nominated by at least 20 persons who must be registered voters in the Local Government Area where he/she intends to contest; and, in the case of councillorship candidate, the said candidate has been nominated by at least 10 persons who must be registered voters in the ward/registration area where he/she intends to contest.
- b. The nomination shall be made in a specified format prescribed by the Commission, (*See Appendix 2*) and will be subscribed to, by the candidate and by the persons nominating him/her and must contain the following particulars:
 - i. The name, address and occupation of the candidate
 - ii. The names, addresses and occupation of the nominators of the candidates and
 - iii. A certification by the candidate that he/she is willing and qualified to stand for the election
- c. The Commission shall provide nomination forms and shall upon payment of prescribed administrative fees supply political parties with such number of nomination forms as may be requested by the political party.
- d. Each nominated candidate shall pay a non-refundable administrative fee for nomination to the Commission which is

~~₦~~500,000.00 in the case of a Chairmanship candidate and ~~₦~~250,000.00 in the case of a Councillorship candidate.

- e. A nominated Vice Chairmanship candidate shall fulfill all conditions for qualification like that of a Chairmanship candidate except that the non-refundable administrative fee for nomination of such vice chairmanship candidate shall be the sum of ~~₦~~200,000.00.
- f. Every political party intending to sponsor candidates for a local government area election shall ensure that the choice of its chairmanship/vice-chairmanship candidates reflects the peculiarities, history, tradition and geographical spread of the local government area.
- g. The nomination form of a candidate shall not be accepted by the Commission unless it is accompanied by all relevant documents of the candidate, as well as a recent Tax Clearance Certificate issued in the personal name of the candidate in the last 2-3 years.
- h. The political party shall deliver the nomination papers subscribed to the place appointed by the Commission not later than the period specified in the timetable/schedule of activities issued by the Commission.
- i. No person shall subscribe as a nominator to more than one nomination form at the same election and if he/she does, his/her signature shall be invalid; however, no account shall be taken of the nomination of a candidate who died before or withdraw before the delivering of the second nomination form.
- j. No person who has subscribed to a nomination form as a nominator may, so long as the candidate stands nominated, withdraw his/her nomination.
- k. Every political party shall, not later than 180 days before the date appointed for the election, deliver to the Commission:
 - Form OSSIEC 001, the personal particulars of the candidate for the elections as supplied by him/her; then,
 - Form OSSIEC 002 Oath Affirmation Form.
 - Form OSSIEC 003, Nomination forms of all candidates, the political party proposes to sponsor at the chairmanship

and councillorship election in each Local Government Area.

- l. No nomination shall be valid unless the non-refundable administrative fee is deposited with the Commission and the candidate produces to any designated officer of the Commission, a receipt or bank teller for the said sum at the time of delivering his/her nomination form.
- m. The Commission shall verify and sort out all forms and other documents submitted by all candidates and thereafter publish the names of all candidates validly nominated.
- n.
 - i. A political party may withdraw the nomination of its candidate by notice in writing signed by both the Chairman and Secretary of the political party and delivered in person to the Commission before the publication of names of candidates by the Commission.
 - ii. A candidate may withdraw his/her candidature by notice in writing signed by him/her and delivered in person to the political party that nominated him/her for the election and the political party shall convey such withdrawal to the Commission before the publication of names of candidates by the Commission.
- o. If after that latest time for the delivery of a nomination forms and before the commencement of the poll, a nominated sole candidate dies, the Commission shall, on being satisfied of the fact of the death countermand the poll and appoint another date for the election.
- p. Where a candidate nominated by a political party to contest for office of Chairman or Councilor dies during the collation but before the announcement of results, the total votes cast for such candidate shall be recorded for the political party that presented him/her for election and the votes shall count for the candidate that such political party may present as a replacement.

8. VOTING PROCEDURES

- a. Election shall be by **OPEN SECRET BALLOT** at the various polling stations or units in the state and the chairmanship and councillorship elections shall be held on the same date throughout the state.

- b. Notwithstanding the provision of paragraph 8(a) above, voting may hold in any other day in a polling station, ward or Local Government area as the Commission may determine provided the circumstance justifies the desire to hold the election on the date originally, fixed for the voting.
- c. The voting at an election shall be conducted in the following manners:
 - i. The Assistant Presiding Officer shall deliver ballot papers to every voter who presents himself/herself at the polling station or unit at which he/she is entitled to vote after satisfying himself/herself that the voter is the person whose name appears on the Voters Register provided he/she has not voted elsewhere.
 - ii. Before delivering of the ballot papers to a voter, the Presiding Officer may direct that the voter be searched for the purpose of ensuring that a ballot paper relating to the election is not in his/her possession and a voter who refuses to be searched shall not be entitled to receive the ballot papers.
 - iii. In order to satisfy the Assistant Presiding Officer (APO) that he/she is entitled to vote, a voter shall produce a Permanent Voters Card properly issued to him/her.
 - iv. Immediately before the APO delivers the ballot paper to a voter:
 - The ballot papers shall be punched/stamped with an official stamp and duly signed
 - The number, name, address and occupation of the voter as stated in the copy of the Voters Register or part of the Voters Register shall be called out
 - The number of the voter in the Voters Register shall be marked on the counterfoil and
 - A mark shall be placed against the number of the voter in the copy of the Voters Register or part of the Voters Register to denote that the ballot papers have been received by the voter (but without showing the serial number of the ballot papers which have been received).

- v. A voter shall, on receiving the duly signed ballot papers, go immediately into the secret compartment or cubicle in the polling station or unit and there, secretly cast his/her vote by placing his/her thumbprint against the party symbol of the candidate of his/her choice;
- vi. A voter shall, after casting his/her vote, put the ballot paper in the ballot box in full view of the Presiding Officer and all others present
- vii. A voter shall, not record more than one vote in favour of a candidate or place on a ballot paper, any writing or mark by which he/she may be identified
- viii. A voter who mistakenly defaces the ballot paper issued to him/her shall promptly report to the Presiding Officer who shall mark the ballot paper as CANCELLED and issue another ballot paper to the voter
- ix. Immediately after casting his/her vote, a voter shall submit to having the fingernail of his left thumb marked with ink sufficiently indelible to leave a mark for a period of approximately ten hours
- x. A voter who suffers from blindness or from any other physical disabilities may be accompanied by a friend or relative as he/she may choose who shall, after informing the Presiding Officer, be permitted in the presence of the affected voter alone to place the voter's thumbprint against the party symbol of the candidate of the voter's choice
- xi. A vote shall not be recorded for a voter unless he/she attends the polling station in person and cast his/her vote
- xii. If at the time a person applies for a ballot paper, or after he has so applied and before he has left the polling station, a Polling Clerk declares to the Presiding Officer that he has reasonable cause to believe that the person has committed the offence of impersonation and undertakes to substantiate the charge in a court of law, the Presiding Officer may order a police officer to arrest that person, and the Presiding Officer's order shall be sufficient authority for the police officer to do so.
- xiii. When the prescribed hour for the closing of the poll has been reached, the Presiding Officer shall declare the poll

closed and no more persons shall be admitted to the polling station or unit, but those persons already inside the polling station or unit shall be permitted to vote.

9. COLLATION OF RESULTS

- a. The Presiding Officer shall, after the close of poll, open the ballot box and empty its contents in the presence of the polling clerk, poll orderly, candidates or their agents and begin to count the votes with the ballot papers kept face down
- b. During the counting of votes all rejected ballot papers shall be put in a special envelope.
- c. The vote scored by each candidate shall be entered in a statement of result form OSSIEC 007, the forms shall be signed and stamped by the Presiding Officer and endorsed by the candidates or their agents, where available, at the polling station or unit.
- d. The Presiding Officer shall give a copy of the statement of result form to the police officer, if any, at the polling station or unit and take the original copy to the Returning Officer at the ward collation centre together with the ballot boxes the relevant envelopes and all other election materials including the stamp, stamp pad and endorsing ink.
- e. The result of the councillorship election shall at ward collation centre be entered in form OSSIEC 008
- f. The Ward Returning Officer shall, after the collation of the results of the Councillorship election from the polling units or stations and after due clearance from the Electoral Officer assigned for that purpose, announce the result of the election and declare the candidate of the political party with highest number of valid votes as winner. The Ward Returning Officer shall sign the form.
- g. The Local Government Returning Officer shall, after the collation of the results of chairmanship election from the ward collation centers compile and add up the results and after due clearance from the Electoral Officer assigned for that purpose, shall eventually announce the results.
- h. In the event of any controversy regarding any result declared by a Ward Returning Officer or Local Government Returning Officer

as the case may be, the decision of the Chief Electoral Commissioner shall be final, and any aggrieved party or candidate may approach the election tribunal for redress (if any).

10. ELECTORAL OFFICERS

- i) Electoral Officers are appointed to co-ordinate and supervise the conduct of elections in each Local Government Areas. The Commission reserves the right to appoint such number of electoral officers who may be designated for each Local Government Area or may be designated as Special Electoral Officers for the purpose of smooth conduct of the elections.
- ii) Electoral Officers from the Commission shall be invited by political parties who wish to participate in the Local Government Election to observe the conduct of its party's primary elections in the affected Local Government Areas.
- iii) For the smooth conduct of the elections, the Commission may also appoint the following Adhoc staff: Local Government Returning Officers, Ward Returning Officers, Supervisory Presiding Officers, Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks, Poll Assistants (orderly) and such Officers as it may deem fit to appoint.
- iv) The general supervision of the conduct of the election in the State is vested in the Commission, as such, all permanent and adhoc staff of the Commission including all electoral officers are answerable to the Commission.

11. CAMPAIGN

Candidates, their supporters and political parties shall campaign peacefully for the elections in conformity with the following guidelines, rules, regulations, etc, which may be issued by the Commission from time to time or in accordance with the provisions of any enactment regulating the conduct of campaigns, rallies and processions:

- (a) Campaigns shall start from the date given in the adjusted timetable of elections and shall end at 12 midnight of 19th February, 2025;
- (b) No campaign shall take place in schools, churches, mosques, or other religious places, military or police barracks or stations,

public offices or such other places the Commission may from time to time determine;

- (c) No candidates shall base his/her campaigns or address on sectional, ethnic or religious sentiments and differences;
- (d) Abusive, derogatory, offensive or insulting languages shall not be used during campaigns;
- (e) Candidates shall be free to campaign within the constituency in which they intend to contest the election and shall notify the police before a rally is held;
- (f) A candidate or political party who contravenes any of the above campaign guidelines or the provision of any enactment relating to campaigns may be disqualified by the Commission from participating at the elections.

12. ELECTORAL OFFENCES

Political parties, candidates and voters are to keep themselves abreast of electoral offences and as such, avoid them at all cost. These include:

a) Treating

No person shall give or accept food, drinks or gift with the intention to influence another person on how to cast his/her votes.

b) Undue Influence

- i. No person shall use threat, intimidation or violence or restrain or refrain person from casting his/her votes
- ii. No person shall by the use of thugs or any other means such as inducing, duress or prevail upon a voter either to vote or refrain from voting at election.

c) Bribery and Corruption

- i. No person shall corruptly give, lend or agree to give any money or valuable consideration to or for a vote.
- ii. No person shall either by himself/herself or on his/her behalf receive, agree or contract for money, loans, office, place or employment for himself/herself, for any other person so as to vote or not to vote during the election.

d) Polling Offences

1. No person shall on the date on which an election is held do any of the following acts or things in a polling station or within a distance of 300 meters of a polling station.
 - i. Canvas for votes;
 - ii. Solicit for the vote of any voter;
 - iii. Persuade any voter not to vote for any particular candidate;
 - iv. Persuade any voter not to vote at the election;
 - v. Shout slogans concerning election;
 - vi. Be in possession of any offensive weapon or wear any dress or have any facial or other decoration which in any event is calculated to intimidate voter;
 - vii. Exhibit wear or tender any notice, symbol, photograph or party card referring to the election;
 - viii. Use any vehicle bearing the color or symbol of a political party by any means whatsoever;
 - ix. Loiter without lawful excuse after voting or after being refused to vote;
 - x. Snatch or destroy any election material, or
 - xi. Blare siren

2. No person shall in the vicinity of a polling unit or collation centre on the day of which an election is held;
 - (a) Convene, hold or attend any public meeting during the hours of the poll as may be prescribed by the Commission.
 - (b) Unless appointed under this law to make official announcement, operate any megaphone, amplifier or public address apparatus; or
 - (c) Wear or carry any badge, poster, banner flag or symbol relating to political party or to the election.

13. ELECTION PETITIONS

- i. The Chief Judge of the State shall establish one or more Local Government Election Tribunals which shall have original

Jurisdiction to hear and determine election petitions.

- ii. The Election Tribunals provided for under the law shall be constituted not later than 21 days before the elections.
- iii. An election petition shall be presented within 21 days after the date of the result of the election is declared.
- iv. An election petition may be presented by one or more of the following persons;
 - (a) A candidate in an election; or
 - (b) A political party which participated in the election
- v. An election may be questioned on any of the following grounds;
 - (a) That a person whose election is questioned was at the time of the election not qualified to contest the election;
 - (b) That the election was invalid by reason of corrupt practice(s) or non-compliance with the provisions of the law; or
 - (c) That the respondent was not duly elected by a majority of lawful votes at the election;
- vi. The petition shall be in numbered paragraphs, specifying the parties to the petition, the right of the petitioner(s) to present the petition, scores of all candidates at the election, the candidate returned at the election and the reliefs sought. The name(s), address(es) and signature(s) of the petitioner(s) shall be subscribed at the foot of the petition, while the solicitor to the petitioner(s) shall endorse same including his address for service within jurisdiction.
- vii. The petition shall be accompanied by:
 - (a) list and statement on oath of each of the witnesses to the petition;
 - (b) copies of all documents intended to be used at the hearing of the petition; provided that any document of the Commission or in custody of the Commission required for the purpose of the petition shall be true copies duly certified by the Commission.
- viii. Any party dissatisfied with the judgment of the Election Tribunal shall have the right to appeal within **21 days** from the day judgment of the Election Tribunal was given to the Local Government Election Appeal Tribunal.

- viii. The conclusion of the Local Government Elections Appeal Tribunal in respect of the Local Government Area Elections conducted under this law shall be final.

14. CONCLUSION

This Guideline is subject to review from time to time as circumstances may require for the purpose of the 2025 Local Government Elections and all matters connected thereto.

Issued by the Osun State Independent Electoral Commission (OSSIEC), this 22nd day of July, 2024.

**Hashim Akintunde Abioye Esq.
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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
OR ENQUIRIES**



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