

VOTER EDUCATION 101:

The Ultimate Youth Survival Guide

**ESSENTIAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE 2027 ELECTIONS
AND EVERYDAY STRATEGIC CIVIC ACTION**

Supported by:



**OWN YOUR VOICE. CLAIM THE FUTURE
FULLY ALIGNED WITH ELECTORAL ACT 2026**

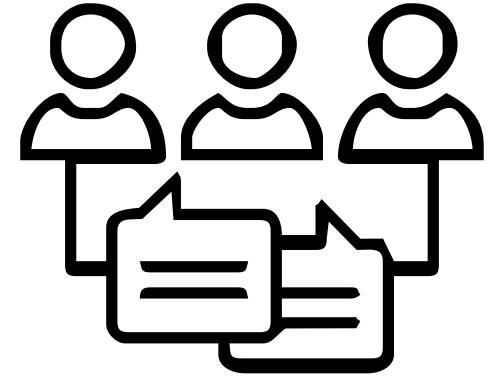


TABLE OF CONTENTS



The Launchpad: Who we are (YAPD4Africa and Kuri'a Initiative).	1
The Catalyst: Why voter education matters for 2027.	2
The Bedrock: Understanding citizenship, rights and responsibilities.	3
The Blueprint: Voter education vs. voter information.	4 - 5
The Registry: How to step-by-step register to vote under the new law.	6
The Shields: Your five core legal rights as a voter.	7
The Hierarchy: Understanding the types of elections in Nigeria.	8
Election Day Mechanics: How voting works and your polling unit guide.	9
Ballot Protection: Making your choice and eliminating invalid ballots.	10
The Accountability Hotline: Reporting Abuse, fraud and disinformation.	11

WHO WE ARE

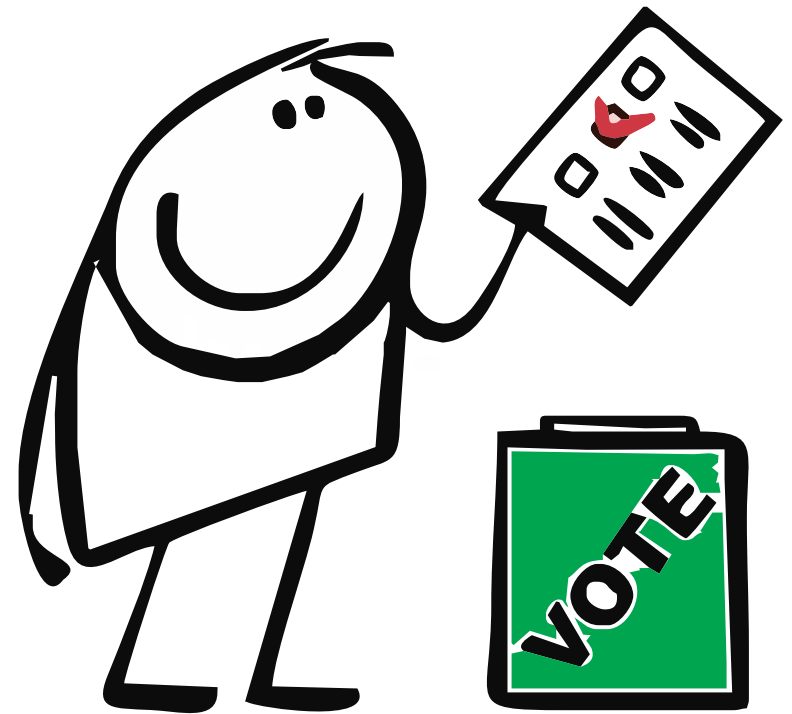


Founded in 2017, Connected Youth for Accountability, Peace and Development Initiative (YAPD4Africa) is a Pan-Africa youth-led civil society organization, whose dedicated mission is to build strong people and sustainable communities in Africa. We are a high-impact organization turning complex policies into actionable tools. We work in the intersection of civic participation, technology innovation, community development and democratic governance at the grassroots.

The Kuri'a Initiative was derived from the Hausa word for "Vote," this is our dynamic campaign arm. It breaks down political language, fights citizen apathy, leverages digital technology and prepares millions of young voters to confidently execute their choices in real-world governance.

WHY VOTER EDUCATION MATTERS FOR 2027

Democracy fails when people only engage on Election Day without a continuous strategy. This guide was built directly to prepare you for the 2027 General Elections under the heavily upgraded legal frameworks. Over 900,000 ballots were declared invalid in 2023. Voter education gives you the technical confidence to navigate modern anti-fraud tools, protect your vote and shift the national focus away from ethnic division and empty promises toward accountability and manifestos.



BEFORE VOTING: UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF AS A CITIZEN



Active civic power starts with your identity and understanding that citizenship is a continuous, mutual contract.

Citizenship 101: Your legal access pass

True citizenship means actively sharing the identity, rights and duties needed to build a stable country. Under the Constitution, you claim this identity via three distinct pathways:

- By Birth: Born in Nigeria, or born anywhere globally to a Nigerian parent.
- By Registration: Fulfilling structural statutory steps, such as marrying a Nigerian citizen.
- By Naturalisation: Living, working and consistently contributing to Nigeria over an extended legal period.

Connecting Citizenship to Good Governance:

Good governance is not a gift from politicians, it is forced into existence by an educated public. When citizens know their legal frameworks, execute daily duties and track local budgets, they shift government focus from basic crisis survival to systemic transparency, rule of law and development.

VOTER EDUCATION: THE DEEP STRATEGY

Voter education is the "Why" of democracy. It provides you with the deep structural knowledge to make informed, lifelong political choices.

Office Demystification: Learning the clear differences between government tiers (e.g., what a Senator does vs. what a Governor controls).

Policy Screening: Evaluating party platforms to verify if candidate promises align with youth needs (jobs, digital rights, tuition and e.t.c).

Electoral Offences: Recognizing what the law explicitly forbids such as vote-selling, double registration and ballot disruption.



VOTER INFORMATION: THE LIVE LOGISTICS

Voter Information is the “Where and When” of democracy. It changes with every election cycle and provides the immediate, time-sensitive facts needed to execute your vote smoothly.

Deadlines and Locations: Knowing exact timeframes for local card collection and pinpointing your specific Polling Unit (PU).

The Voting Interface: Staying updated with modern tracking methods using direct digital links like the official INEC Portal or youth-focused verification platforms like Kuri'a.



REGISTERING TO VOTE UNDER THE NEW 2026 RULES



The Electoral Act 2026 introduces strict changes to voter identification and data cleanliness to prevent fraud. The 3-step registration pipeline as follows:

·Verify Your ID: You must be a Nigerian citizen, at least 18 years old. Under the new law, you must provide one of these three official documents:

- ❖ a. National Identification Number (NIN).
- ❖ b. Nigerian Passport.
- ❖ c. An official birth certificate.

Note: Driver's licenses or other ID cards are no longer accepted.

a. Pre-Register Online: Visit the official INEC Online Portal to upload your credentials and secure a local biometrics appointment slot.

b. Finalize Biometrics: Visit your designated INEC State or LGA center in person to complete fingerprint scans and facial capture.

YOUR RIGHTS AS A VOTER: THE 5 DEMOCRATIC SHIELDS



Knowing your legal protections means standing firm against any form of intimidation on Election Day:

- ❖ Information: Your right to access accurate, timely and unbiased election data.
- ❖ Freedom: Your right to join or attend any political campaign safely without fear of violence.
- ❖ Secrecy: Your right to mark your ballot paper in complete privacy.
- ❖ Accessibility: Your right to receive priority assistance if you are pregnant, elderly or a Person with a Disability (PWD).
- ❖ Justice: Your right to formally challenge errors or omissions on the posted voter registers.

Types of Elections in Nigeria:

Nigeria's democratic layout features distinct tiers across general, local and specialized procedures:

- Presidential and National Assembly: Electing the President, Senators, and House of Representative members. (Under the new 2026 frameworks, timelines have been compressed, meaning these general polls can take place as early as January 2027 due to a reduced 300-day notice window).
- Gubernatorial and State Assembly: Choosing state governors and local state house lawmakers.
- Local Government Elections: Run independently by State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs) for LGA Chairmen and Councillors.
- Off-Cycle Elections: Staggered governorship elections operating on unique calendars due to specific court rulings.
- Bye-Elections: Rapid windows triggered to fill sudden vacancies caused by deaths, resignations or tribunal recall orders.

ELECTION DAY MECHANICS

Election Day is when your training meets action. Here is exactly how the process rolls out step by step under the “No Accreditation, No Voting” framework:

ARRIVAL:

Arrive early (8:30AM) with your original PVC to your polling unit.

QUEUE and CHECK:

Priority lines given to PWDs, pregnant women and senior citizens.



BVAS HUB:

Fingerprint and facial verification via the bi-modal tech unit.

ISSUANCE:

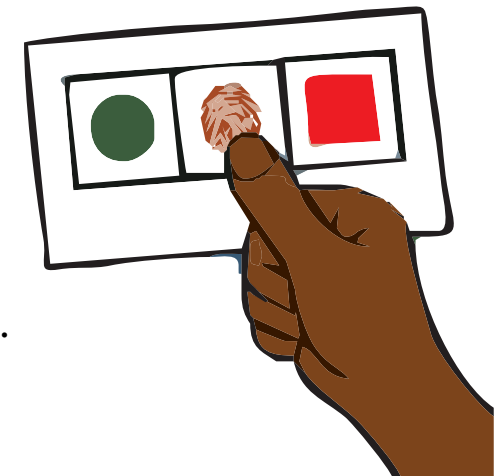
Receive a stamped, signed and officially endorsed ballot paper.

SECRET CHOICE:

Step into the private cubicle; mark your chosen party logo box cleanly.

PUBLIC CAST:

Drop your folded paper into the transparent box in public view.

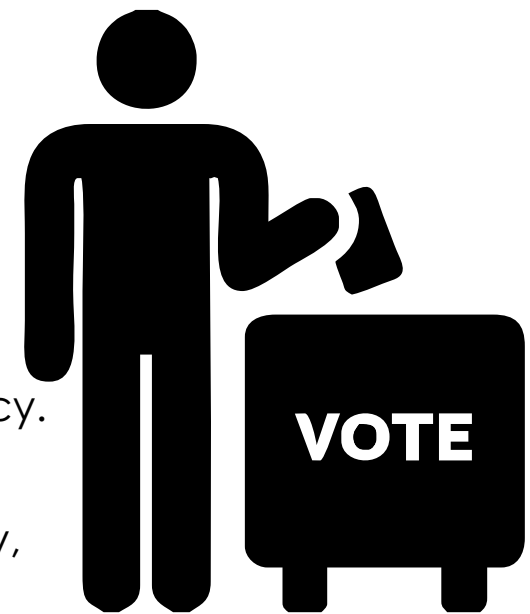


MAKING YOUR CHOICE AND CASTING YOUR VOTE

Nigeria uses the Re-Modified Open Secret Ballot System. Your thumbprint is made in absolute secret inside a private cubicle, but your folded paper is dropped into the ballot box in open view to guarantee process transparency.

The Invalid Ballot Prevention Sheet. To ensure your vote is counted completely, avoid these four terminal errors:

1. Never write words, add signatures or leave names anywhere on the ballot slip.
2. Do not leave the paper completely blank or place multiple thumbprints.
3. Ensure your thumbprint stays completely inside the white borders of your chosen party box.
4. Verify that the Presiding Officer stamps and signs the back of your ballot before handing it to you.

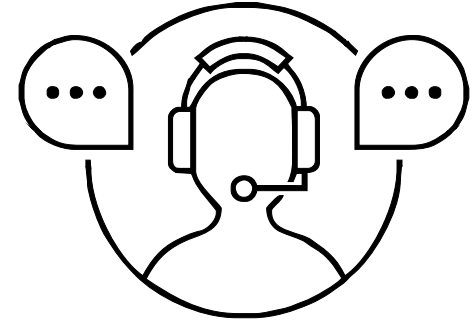


OPERATIONAL TIMING AND EARLY VOTING REALITIES

- ❖ Official Timeline: Accreditation and voting begin concurrently at 8:30 a.m. and close at 2:30 p.m.
- ❖ The Queue Rule: If you are physically standing in the voting queue before 2:30 p.m., the law guarantees that you must be accredited and allowed to cast your vote. Do not leave the line.
- ❖ Early Voting Clarity: Under the current Nigerian framework, there is no general early voting system or mail-in option prior to Election Day. Everyone must appear physically at their registered Polling Unit on the designated date.



THE ELECTORAL PROTECTION HOTLINE



If you witness instances of electoral violence, ballot fraud, intimidation or the coordinated spread of online disinformation, do not remain silent. Use these direct pathways to document and report incidents instantly:

Direct INEC Channels:

a .CALL-INEC Hotline: 070022554632.

b. INEC Citizens Contact Centre Email: iccc@inec.gov.ng

YAPD4Africa Internal Monitoring Hub:

a. Kuri'a AI Monitor Portal: Submit incident geo-tags, pictures or fake news links directly to the automated reporting bot via the tracking dashboard at



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