

Citizens' Participation in Elections in Nigeria: To What Extent Do Citizens Participation Influence Elections Outcomes in Nigeria

Chinonye Austin Ekwujuru MPA¹, Ugonna Obi-Emeruwa PhD^{2*}

¹Department of Political Science, Faculty of Liberal Arts Auburn University, AL, USA

²Department of Public Policy and Public Administration African University of Science and Technology, Abuja, Nigeria

*Corresponding Author

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.47772/IJRISS.2026.10200034>

Received: 20 January 2026; Accepted: 26 January 2026; Published: 23 February 2026

ABSTRACT

This study examines the relationship between citizens' participation and election outcomes in Nigeria, aiming to determine the extent to which citizens' engagement affects electoral results. With the 2027 general elections on the horizon, the research seeks to provide insights into how increased participation can shape future electoral processes and outcomes. The study adopts a quantitative research approach, utilizing primary data from a survey conducted by Afrobarometer in December 2023, which included 1,398 observations. Secondary data were sourced from government reports, media, and Non-governmental Organizations (NGO) publications to contextualize and support the findings. The methodology involved statistical analysis to examine the correlation between citizens' participation and election outcomes, focusing on variables such as representation, accountability, and the credibility of elections. The research findings reveal a positive correlation between citizens' participation and its influence on election outcomes in Nigeria. Specifically, higher levels of citizen engagement were associated with elections that better reflect voter preferences, ensure accountability, and enhance the credibility of electoral processes. Based on these findings, the study recommends policy formulations that create an enabling environment for increased citizen participation in the 2027 elections, i.e., reviewing and strengthening the 2022 amended Electoral Act to ensure free and fair elections, revising civic education curricula to foster awareness of participatory democracy among younger generations, and leveraging technology to improve voter accessibility and trust in the electoral system..

Keywords: Citizens' participation, Election, Electoral outcomes, Democratic Governance, Nigeria, Political Participation

INTRODUCTION

Elections are the cornerstone of every democracy. It is a civic responsibility that allows citizens exercise their sovereignty and right to elect or remove their leaders through a democratic process. It gives citizens the power to influence outcomes of elections (Blais, 2019). In several democracies of the world, elections are not perfect. In most case, elections are characterized by electoral misconducts such as voter inducement, violence, fake news, widespread rigging, harassment of electorates and prolonged post-election court cases (Birch, 2020). In some democracies, elections outcomes do not reflect the will of the people, which makes it near impossible for voters to elect or remove their representatives from office (Zhu, 2023).

In Nigeria, the case is not different. The nation is confronted with several electoral challenges stemming from the lack of trust in electoral commissions to conduct free, fair and credible elections, to other factors such as culture, ethnicity and religion. Nigeria gained independence from the British empire in 1960. The nation is highly religious, culturally diverse, and the most populous African black nation on earth, covering 356, 668 sq miles (923, 7770 sq kilometers) with an estimated population of 200 million. Nigeria is about the size of California, Nevada and Utah combined. This populated black African nation is located on the west coast of Africa, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean, along Benin and Cameroon. (Olorunnisola & Akanni, 2006).

The nation prides itself with its rich cultural, diverse heritage and youthful population that are actively involved in governance and are politically aware. This large demography is actively on social media with approximately 36.75 million social media users. This figure represents a significant number of the Nigerian population that uses various social media accounts like X, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram, and LinkedIn for citizens mobilization, virtual meetings, town halls, self-reporting, exposing electoral fraud and holding elected officials to account. These active citizens’ engagement influenced the outcome of the 2015 general elections which saw an incumbent president, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan lose his election, to the opposition political party (Ciboh, 2015).

The 2015 and 2019 general elections recorded an active citizens participation in Nigeria’s electoral process. This was a defining moment for the democratic and electoral landscape of Nigeria. It showcased the power of citizens to remove elected officers from office. However, the 2023 elections proved different from the 2015 and 2019 elections in several distinct ways. While the 2015 and 2019 election were adjudged to be free and fair, the 2023 elections was plagued with violence, voter harassments, voter inducements and allegations of systematic tampering of elections materials, voter fraud, and glitches with Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS). The BVAS was designed for both voter accreditation and electronic transmission of results to the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) results viewing (IREV) portal for collation. The BVAS and IReV were designed to enable the citizens opportunity to view polling units results real-time. INEC failed to deliver on their promises and changed the rules in the middle of the exercise denying majority of the citizens their desired outcome (Abutu, 2017 & Dii, 2023).

Although election reforms have been incremental and citizens trust in electoral process is gradually returning courtesy of the reforms undergone by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), with the support from civil society organizations, and other actors (Ojo, 2021). Despite the 2023 electoral challenges, citizens made their voices heard through demonstrations, town hall meetings, media engagements, social media campaigns and litigations at the election petition tribunals. Scholars have argued that the last elections in 2023 did not reflect the will of the people, making citizens demand for accountability and credible electoral process in the next general elections in 2027 (Fasakin, 2023).

More so, despite the level of citizens engagement, most elections in Nigeria have recorded low turnout of voters, resulting to voter apathy, and lack of citizens’ participation in elections.

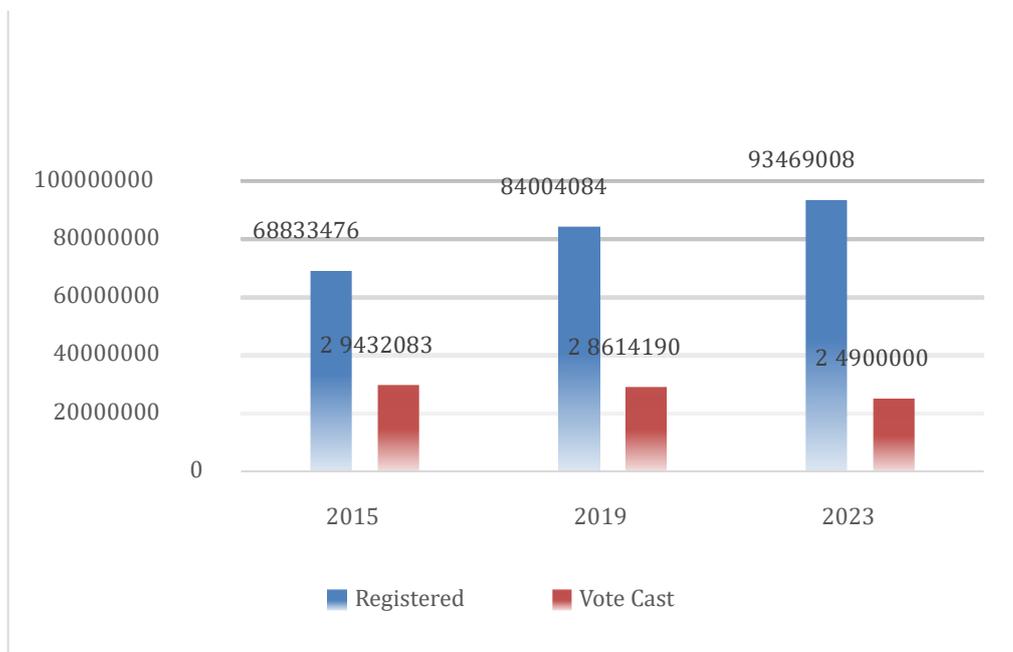


Figure 1.1: Graphic illustration of registered voters and number of votes cast from 2015 to 2023

In 2015, number of registered voters is 68,833,476. In 2019, registered voters stood at 84,004,084, while in 2023, number of registered voters was 93,469,008. This dataset shows that the number of registered voters increased over the years under review (Dataphyte, 2023 & Plus Nigeria, 2019).

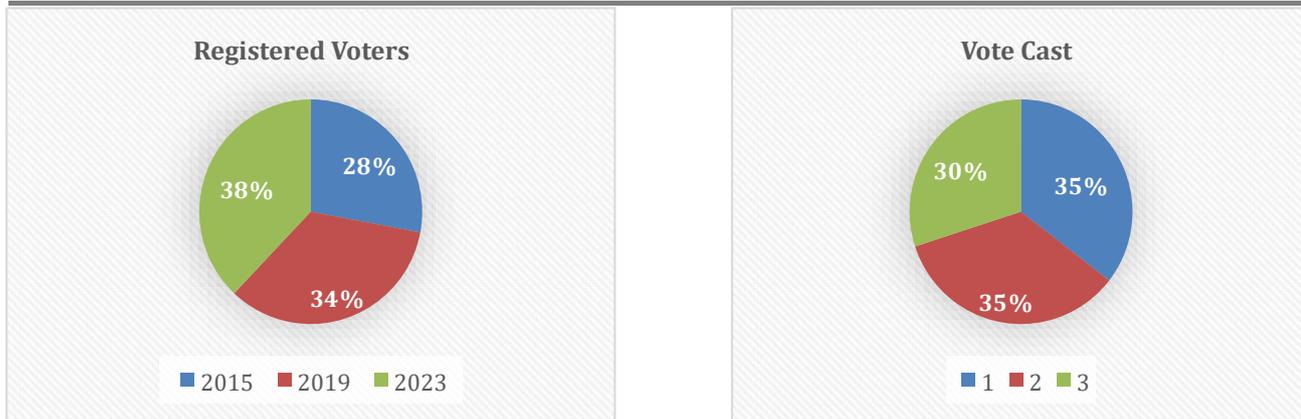


Figure 1.2: Illustrates increased number of registered voters from 2015 to 2023.

Figure 1.3: Illustrates the downward decline of number of voter cast from 2015 to 2023

However, vote cast in 2015 is 29,432,083. In 2019, number of vote cast is 28,614,190, while in 2023 voter cast is 24,900,000. To determine the percentage of voter turnout:

$$\text{Turnout (\%)} = \text{Votes Cast} / \text{Registered Voters} \times 100$$

In 2015 voter turnout is 42.7%, 2019 had 34.75% of voter turnout while in 2023, stands at 26.72% of voter turnout. This shows a downward decline in citizens participation from 2015 to 2023. Poor public image of politicians, media censorship, religious and cultural influence, ethnicity, low level education, poverty among the electorates, political affiliation, self-interest over national interest contributed to the decline of citizens participation. In addition are, insecurity in some part of the country, economic hardship, political motivated violence, lack of trust in the electoral commission, perceived attempt to make Nigeria a one-party state by the ruling political party and money politics.

Other schools of thought have also argued that elections are considered national security issues and that explains the level of importance attached to the process of electing new leaders. The failure to elect a leader could lead to a constitutional crisis which is unknown to law and that explains the importance attached to elections in Nigeria (Albert, 2020, et al). Therefore, election management is closely guarded and most times it might lay the foundation for the exclusion of citizens in the process. Although there are levels of citizens participation that amplifies citizens' voices and concerns. However, many have also argued that while these levels of participation might be restricted, citizens are largely involved in the election of their leaders (Onigiobi, 2020, et al). Therefore, it is based on the above premise that this study seeks to proffer understand on the extent to which citizens participation in election influence elections outcomes in Nigeria. The study discussed in five segments,

Conceptual Review

Citizens' Participation in Elections in Nigeria

The conceptual review of citizens' participation in elections and its influence on election outcomes in Nigeria draws from recent scholarly perspectives, emphasizing the evolving understanding of democratic processes, voter behaviour, and governance. Scholars have extensively debated the role of citizen participation in shaping electoral results, with many asserting that active civic engagement is a cornerstone of democracy.

According to Adejumobi (2023), "citizens' participation serves as both an indicator and determinant of democratic health." He argues that when citizens actively engage in elections, it not only legitimizes the electoral process but also enhances accountability and good governance. This aligns with the findings of this study, which suggests a positive correlation between participation levels and improved election outcomes. Similarly, Okafor and Uzodinma (2024) contend that "the extent to which citizens participate in elections can significantly shape political representation and policy formulation." Their work highlights how low turnout or apathy can lead to skewed electoral results that do not reflect the true will of the people.

In analysing the factors influencing participation, Ibrahim (2025) notes that "structural barriers such as insecurity, lack of trust in institutions, and logistical challenges often hinder meaningful participation." These barriers are particularly relevant in the Nigerian context, where issues like violence during elections and allegations of electoral fraud have historically undermined public confidence. This study's reliance on Afrobarometer data underscores this point, as primary evidence reveals varying degrees of enthusiasm among citizens depending on their perceptions of electoral integrity.

Another critical dimension explored by scholars is the impact of digital tools and technology on participation. Okoro et al. (2026) state that "the integration of digital platforms for voter education and mobilization has revolutionized citizen engagement in Africa." They argue that social media campaigns, mobile applications, and online forums have made it easier for citizens to access information and participate actively. However, they caution that these advancements must be accompanied by robust regulatory frameworks to prevent misinformation and manipulation. This perspective resonates with the study's emphasis on creating enabling environments for participation, particularly ahead of the 2027 elections.

Furthermore, Ezeani (2023) posits that "participation extends beyond voting to include activities such as advocacy, protests, and community organizing." Such forms of engagement, he argues, play a crucial role in holding elected officials accountable and ensuring responsive governance. This broader conceptualization of participation aligns with the study's focus on the long-term implications of citizen involvement, including credible elections and good governance.

Nwankwo (2024) emphasizes the need for inclusive policies that encourage marginalized groups such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities to participate fully. She asserts that "inclusive participation strengthens democratic resilience and promotes equitable development." This view supports the study's recommendation for targeted interventions to enhance accessibility and inclusivity in future elections.

While recent scholarly contributions provided valuable insights into citizens' participation in elections and its influence on outcomes, several gaps remain unaddressed in the existing literature.

One significant gap lies in the limited exploration of contextual factors influencing participation. Although scholars like Adejumobi (2023) and Ibrahim (2025) acknowledge structural barriers such as insecurity and institutional distrust, there is insufficient attention to how regional disparities such as differences between urban and rural areas affect participation levels. For instance, while urban centres may benefit from digital tools for voter mobilization, rural populations often face challenges related to internet access and literacy. This disparity underscores the need for more localized studies that account for geographic and socio-economic variations.

Another notable gap is the lack of emphasis on the role of marginalized groups in electoral processes. While Nwankwo (2024) highlights the importance of inclusivity, few studies delve deeply into the specific mechanisms required to enhance participation among women, youth, and persons with disabilities. There is a paucity of data exploring how targeted policies, such as gender quotas or disability-friendly voting systems, can effectively address systemic exclusions. Addressing this gap could provide actionable recommendations for fostering equitable participation.

Additionally, the impact of misinformation and digital manipulation remains underexplored. While Okoro et al. (2026) discuss the role of technology in mobilizing voters, they caution against misinformation without offering detailed strategies to mitigate its effects. Given the increasing reliance on social media for political discourse, there is a pressing need to examine how false narratives shape voter behaviour and election integrity.

Moreso, there is limited focus on long-term behavioural change in citizen participation. Most studies concentrate on immediate electoral cycles rather than sustained civic engagement beyond voting. Bridging this gap would involve investigating how advocacy, community organizing, and continuous civic education can cultivate a culture of accountability and active citizenship.

METHODOLOGY

This study employs a quantitative research design to investigate the extent to which citizens' participation influences election outcomes in Nigeria. The research design is structured around a survey approach, which aims

to provide empirical evidence on the impact of citizens' participation on election results. Specifically, the study seeks to explore whether elections reflect the views of voters, ensure the removal of unrepresentative leaders, and whether the last general election was perceived as free and fair by the electorate. By capturing the lived experiences of citizens, the methodology provides insights into the nuanced ways in which participation shapes electoral processes.

The population of the study comprises eligible voters in Nigeria, given their direct involvement in the electoral process. The survey data was collected through purposive sampling technique, targeting individuals who participated in past elections and are likely to engage in future ones. The sample size for this study consists of 1,398 observations, sourced from Afrobarometer data collected in December 2023. This dataset serves as the primary source of information, while secondary data was gathered from government reports, NGO publications, and other existing literature to contextualize and support the findings. The triangulation of these data sources enhances the credibility, validity, and reliability of the study.

This method was particularly relevant given the heightened political discourse surrounding the upcoming 2027 elections in Nigeria. Ethical considerations were prioritized throughout the study, with proper citation of all data sources and adherence to ethical research standards.

For data analysis, the study utilizes statistical techniques to examine the relationships between citizens' participation and election outcomes. Descriptive statistics were employed to summarize key trends, while inferential analyses were conducted to assess the significance of these relationships.

RESULTS

The study utilizes survey data collected by Afrobarometer in 2023 using purposive sampling for 1,389 observations. The datasets include variables that points to citizens' participation in election process and election outcomes with emphasis on how citizen participate in elections and the outcome. The dependent variables used in this study as captured in the summary statistics table are representation, accountability and credible elections. The main independent variable is citizens engagement. Below is the summary statistics table showing the summary statistics for the main variables used in this study.

Table 1: Description of Variables

Variable	Description	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
Dependent Variable						
Representation	Do elections ensure Members of Parliament (MPs) reflect views of voters, were 0=Not at all well, 1=Not very well, 2=Fairly well, 3=Very well	1,389	.9676026	.8712268	0	3
Accountability	Do elections ensure voters remove unrepresentative leaders from office, were 0=Not at all well, 1=Not very well, 2=Fairly well, 3=Very well	1,389	.8185745	.8887225	0	3
Credible Elections	Were the last national elections free and fair, were 1=Not free and fair, 2=Free and fair, but with major problems, 3=Free and fair, but with minor problems, 4=Completely free and fair	1,389	2.741541	1.038944	1	4
Independent Variables						
Citizen Engagement	Do citizens attend a community meeting to take action, were 0=No: Would never do this, 1=No: Would if had the chance, 2=Yes: Once or twice, 3=Yes: Several times, 4=Yes: Often	1,389	1.809215	1.472231	0	4

Citizens voices	Do citizens join other citizens to raise an issue and take action, were 0=No: Would never do this, 1=No: Would if had the chance, 2=Yes: Once or twice, 3=Yes: Several times, 4=Yes: Often	1,389	1.75306	1.387547	0	4
Citizens Action	Do citizen attend a demonstration or protest march to take action, were, 0=No: Would never do this, 1=No: But would if had the chance, 2=Yes: Once or twice, 3=Yes: Several times, 4=Yes: Often	1,389	.4701224	.7935303	0	4
Control Variables						
Trust Election Commission	Do citizens trust the national electoral commission, were 0=Not at all and 3=A lot	1,389	.8272138	.8633305	0	3
Media Freedom	Is the Media free to publish vs 2) government control of the media, were, 1=Strongly agree with Statement 1, 2=Agree with Statement 1, 3=Agree with Statement 2, 4=Strongly agree with Statement 2	1,389	2.014399	1.078915	1	4
Economic Condition	Does the country's present economic condition influence citizens choice, were 1=Very bad, 2=Fairly bad, 3=Neither good nor bad, 4=Fairly good, 5=Very good	1,389	1.681066	1.066152	1	5
Multi-Party System	Should citizens reject one-party rule, were 1=Strongly disapprove, 2=Disapprove, 3=Neither approve nor disapprove, 4=Approve, 5=Strongly approve	1,389	1.636429	.8899846	1	5

The first dependent variables on the summary statistics table shows that 97% of elections ensure members of parliament (MPs) reflect views of voters. Where the most common response is “3” (3=Very well). Notably, there is an observable percentage of respondents who are less convinced, by selecting “0” (0=Not at all well). The second variable demonstrates that 82% of elections ensure voters remove unrepresentative leaders from office where the most common response is “3” (3=Very well). There is an observable percentage of respondents who are less convinced, by selecting “0” (0=Not at all well). While the third variable shows that 2.8% the last national elections were free and fair. Where the most common response is “4” (4=Completely free and fair). There is an observable percentage of respondents who are less convinced, by selecting “1” (1=Not free and fair). Whereas the main independent variable points to the fact that 1.8% of citizens attend a community meeting to act. Where the most common response is “4” (4=Yes). There is an observable percentage of respondents who are less convinced, by selecting “0” (0=No: Would never do this).

The summary statistics have outlined the dependent variables as the election outcome, which represents the votes and the will of the people. While the main independent variable is citizens' participation, which measures the extent of citizens participation. However, to ensure that the relationship between citizen participation and election outcomes is not confounded by other factors, the study accounted for other factors that might influence the results. In other to increase the internal validity, the study controlled for: trust in election commission, media freedom, economic condition and multi-party system.

Statistical Analysis:

In analysing the relationship between citizens participation and elections outcomes, this study used Linear regression (Ordinary Least Squares -OLS) because the dependent variables are continuous variables. The outcome (the will of the people) was predicted by citizens participation (level of participation). The regression

model showed that citizens participation was a significant predictor of election outcomes (* $p < 0.1$ ** $p < 0.05$ *** $p < 0.001$). Below is a table showing the summary statistics for the main variables used in this paper

Table 2: Description of regression table

	(1) Representation	(2) Representation	(3) Accountability	(4) Accountability	(5) Credible Elections	(6) Credible Elections
Citizens Engagement	0.0234	0.0280*	0.00396	0.00253	0.0686***	0.0487**
	(0.0159)	(0.0152)	(0.0162)	(0.0160)	(0.0189)	(0.0187)
Trust Election Commission		0.110***		0.123***		0.242***
		(0.0267)		(0.0281)		(0.0328)
Media Freedom		0.0462**		0.0306		0.0151
		(0.0208)		(0.0220)		(0.0256)
Economic Condition		0.200***		0.108***		-0.00560
		(0.0217)		(0.0230)		(0.0267)
Multi Party System		0.0888***		0.0639**		- 0.132***
		(0.0255)		(0.0269)		(0.0314)
_cons	0.925***	0.251***	0.811***	0.365***	2.617***	2.649***
	(0.0370)	(0.0714)	(0.0378)	(0.0754)	(0.0440)	(0.0878)
N	1389	1389	1389	1389	1389	1389
pseudo R-sq						
Standard errors in parentheses						
="* $p < 0.1$	** $p < 0.05$	*** $p < 0.001$ "				

β : This represents how much change in the election's outcome can be explained by a unit change in each independent variable.

The result shows that the coefficient is (β 0.0234) which means that as citizens attend a community meeting to act, elections ensure members of parliament (MPs) reflect the views of voters increased by 2.34%. The p-value

is ($p < 0.05$), which shows that the relationship between the two variables statistically significant with high strong positive correlation.

The results shows that the coefficient is (β 0.00396) which means that as citizens attend a community meeting to act, elections ensure voter remove unrepresented leaders from office increased by 0.4%. The p-value is ($p < 0.001$), which shows that the relationship between the two variables has high statistically significant with high correlation.

The results shows that the coefficient is (β 0.0686) which means that as citizens attend a community meeting to act, the last national elections were free and fair by 69%. The p-value is ($p < 0.001$), which shows that the relationship between the two variables is statistically significant with high positive correlation.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

There are several ways citizens can participate in elections in most cases it can be through conventional or unconventional means. The conventional means looks at using institutional channels of representation in a democracy such as town hall meetings, public hearings, advocacy and campaigns, media engagement, participation in democratic processes and dialogues while the unconventional means can be strike-actions, demonstrations, staging of protests, picketing of government buildings.

This study ran regression on three dependent variables (representation, accountability and credible elections) and one main independent variable. This study ran regression with citizens engagement and representation. The results in this table show that as citizens' attend community meeting to act, members of parliament reflect the views of voters increased by 2.34% showing a high positive correlation between citizens' participation influencing elections outcomes in Nigeria. This study ran a second regression with citizens engagement and accountability and the result show that as citizens' attend community meeting to act, elections ensure voter remove unrepresented leaders from office increased by 0.4% showing a positive correlation between citizens' participation, influence election outcomes in Nigeria.

The study ran a third regression with citizens engagement and credible elections. The results demonstrate that as citizens attend a community meeting to act, the last national elections were free and fair by 69% showing high correlation between citizens' participation influenced the outcome of the last election in Nigeria. The study finds that there is a high positive correlation between the dependent variables and the main independent variables. This result strongly suggests that higher levels of citizens participation influence significantly on election outcomes in Nigeria. When the control; variables were introduced, there was no significant change to the results. When the control variables were introduced to the dependent and independent variables, there was 2.8%, 0.25% 4.9% respectively for the dependent variables. This result speaks to the importance of citizens' participation in elections, reinforcing the statement that when citizens participate in elections, it influences electoral outcomes in Nigeria.

Policy Implications

This study has given rise to policy implications, suggesting that since it has been established that there is a positive correlation between citizens' participation and elections outcomes in Nigeria, the result of this study reinforces the need for policy formulations that provides the enable environment for more citizens to participate in the 2027 elections for improved election outcomes that will deliver credible elections, accountability and good governance. In furtherance, the 2022 amended electoral act should be reviewed to ensure the government conducts free and fair, credible elections in the 2027 general elections were the powers to elect representatives must be the sole prerogative of the citizens. This study further encourages government to revise civic education curriculum for secondary school students to focus on teaching active citizens' participation at the basic levels in other to ingrain the consciousness on the younger generation.

Limitations of the study

The study relied on cross-sectional data, meaning the analysis accounts for a snapshot of the relationship between citizens participation and elections outcomes at a single point in time. This approach does not give room

for examining causal relationships over time. Further research could track changes in citizens participation on elections outcomes over several other elections cycles. Further limitation is the use of self-reported survey datasets. This could introduce social desirability bias to the findings. Respondents might not give account of their true position because of political, cultural or religious factors. Therefore, for future research, a more objective methodology for data collection can be considered.

Other limitations include the unequal distribution of internet connectivity across the urban and rural areas that could limit citizens from participating in the survey thereby limiting the generalizability of the findings across Nigeria. Further research could consider administering the survey online and in-person to account for rural dwellers. Although the study includes 1,389 observations across Nigeria's 36 states, this sample size could be considered small when compared to the country's total population of 200 million. This may limit the generalizability of the findings. Future research can expand the sample to capture the demographic, geographic, ethnic, or socio-economic diversity of the Nigerian population.

CONCLUSION

This study explored a qualitative research approach with the intension of finding empirical evidence that address the extent to which citizens participation influence election outcomes in Nigeria. The study finds that there is a positive correlation between citizens' participation and influence on elections outcomes in Nigeria. The study also finds that as citizens attend community meetings to act; elections ensure MPs reflect the views of the citizens. It further finds that as citizens attend community meetings to act, election ensure voters remove unrepresented leaders from office. It further underscores that as citizens attend community meeting to act, the las election was free and fair. Following the findings above, it's safe to assume that citizens participation can influence the outcome of the 2027 general elections in Nigeria. However, there are other factors that could impact citizens participation and how it influences the outcomes of elections in Nigeria. Further research could interrogate media freedom or economic condition of citizens and how it can influence election outcomes in Nigeria.

Therefore, citizens have the right to hire and fire their leaders through democratic processes. As Nigerians are hopeful and optimistic that the next general elections in February 2027, will deliver the will of the citizens. It's an opportunity to deepen citizens participation in electing who represents them. They expect an enabling environment that allows free and fair, credible elections in Nigeria and system that allows them to hold public officers accountable. Citizens must be allowed to choose their representative and in turn reserves the right to remove unrepresented leaders out of office. However, the Independent Electoral Commission must do everything under its powers to ensure that citizens vote count, and the will of the people prevails.

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations were made:

The government should review the 2022 amended Electoral Act to ensure it provides a framework for conducting free, fair, and credible elections in the 2027 general elections. This includes safeguarding the citizens' power to elect representatives without undue influence or manipulation.

Revise the civic education curriculum for secondary schools to focus on teaching active citizen participation from a young age. This will help instil awareness and understanding of democratic processes among the younger generation, fostering a culture of engagement.

INEC must utilize and maintain reliable electoral technologies like the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) and the INEC Results Viewing (IReV) portal to ensure transparency, real-time results collation, and public trust in the electoral process.

CSOs should design and implement programs that encourage voter registration, education, and turnout. These initiatives can include town hall meetings, media campaigns, and social media engagement to mobilize citizens, particularly in rural areas.

Media organizations should ensure balanced and unbiased reporting during election periods. They need to provide platforms for diverse political voices and fact-check information to combat misinformation and enhance public trust.

Political parties should engage with citizens at all levels (urban and rural) by organizing inclusive dialogues, advocacy campaigns, and public hearings. This ensures that voters feel represented and heard, ultimately influencing positive electoral outcomes.

Development partners should provide technical and financial support to strengthen electoral institutions and processes. This includes funding research, training electoral officials, and supporting initiatives that promote accountability, transparency, and good governance in Nigeria's electoral system.

REFERENCES

1. Abutu, O. P., & Samsu, K. H. K. (2017). 2015 Presidential Election in Nigeria: Reasons Why Incumbent President Good Luck Jonathan Lost to Buhari. *IOSR Journal of Business and Management*, 19(5), 132141.
2. Adejumobi, S. (2000). The challenges of democratic consolidation in Nigeria: Insights from political economy. *African Journal of Political Science*, 5(1), 1-17.
3. Afrobarometer. (2023). Survey data collected in December 2023 with 1,398 observations.
4. Albert, O., Bitrus, M., & Ukata, E. S. (2020). Election and National Security in Nigeria, 1999-2020. *International Journal of Business Management and Economic Review*, 3(6).
5. Birch, S., Daxecker, U., & Höglund, K. (2020). Electoral violence: An introduction. *Journal of Peace Research*, 57(1), 3-14.
6. Blais, A., & Achen, C. H. (2019). Civic duty and voter turnout. *Political Behavior*, 41, 473-497.
7. Bratton, M., & van de Walle, N. (1997). *Democratic experiments in Africa: Regime transitions in comparative perspective*. Cambridge University Press.
8. Ciboh, R. (2015). Adult users' engagement and utilisation of social networks sites in Nigeria. *Online Journal of Communication and Media Technologies*, 5(December 2015-Special Issue), 1-18.
9. Dataphyte. (2023). Nigeria records only 26.72% voter turnout in 2023 election. Retrieved from <https://elections.dataphyte.com/insights/nigeria-records-only-2672-voter-turnout-in-2023-election>.
10. Diamond, L. (2008). The democratic rollback: The resurgence of predatory authoritarianism. *Foreign Affairs*, 87(2), 36-48.
11. Dii, C. T. (2023). Voters' disposition and the outcome of 2023 general elections in Nigeria. *International Journal of Development and Management Review*, 18(1), 1-17.
12. Fasakin, A. (2023). NIGERIA'S 2023 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. *Journal of African Elections*, 97.
13. Joseph, R. (1987). *Democracy and prebendal politics in Nigeria: The rise and fall of the Second Republic*. Cambridge University Press.
14. Nigeria records only 26.72% voter turnout in 2023 election (no date) Dataphyte. Available at: https://elections.dataphyte.com/insights/nigeria-records-only-2672-voter-turnout-in-2023election?utm_source=chatgpt.com (Accessed: 20 April 2025).
15. NigeriaFollow, Nn.A.O. et al. (no date) 2019 election: Only 34.75% of registered voters voted, Pulse Nigeria. Available at: <https://www.pulse.ng/articles/news/politics/2019-election-only-3475-of-registeredvoters-voted-2024081101552134102> (Accessed: 20 April 2025).
16. Ojo, E. O. (2021). Dimensions of electoral reforms in Nigeria. *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Africanos*, 6(11).
17. Olorunnisola, A. A., & Akanni, T. M. (2006). ABOUT NIGERIA Nigeria, the most populous Black nation in the world, is located on the south coast of Africa, occupying a land mass of 355,668 square miles. Comparatively, Nigeria's land mass is equivalent to the entire area of Texas, Michigan, South Carolina, and the District of Columbia combined. *Global Entertainment Media: Content, Audiences, Issues*, 99.
18. Olorunnisola, A. A., & Akanni, T. M. (2006). About Nigeria: Nigeria, the most populous Black nation in the world. *Global Entertainment Media: Content, Audiences, Issues*, 99.
19. Onigiobi, O., Obadiora, A. J., & Oriowo, T. S. (2020). Electioneering in Nigeria: Citizens' knowledge of responsibility and engagement. *Nigerian Journal of Social Studies*, 23(1), 31-50.
20. Ploštajner, Z., & Mendeš, I. (2005). Citizens' participation. How to Improve Development on Local Level, 97-113.

21. Transparency International. (2023). Corruption Perceptions Index 2023: Nigeria. Retrieved from <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023>.
22. Zhu, Y. (2023). Do the Results of Elections Express the Will of the People?. Scholarly Review Journal, (Summer 2023 Pt 2).