

# Election Snapshot: Nigeria's 2015 Presidential Election

International Republican Institute

Falls Short: Incidents of irregularities are systematic and widespread, to the extent that election completely lacks integrity and legitimacy. Value 0  
Needs Improvement: Election irregularities or deficiencies are common, and integrity and legitimacy of the election is limited. Value 1  
Adequate: Generally, election held according to legal framework and international standards. Where deficiencies or irregularities exist, they are isolated cases and do not call into question the integrity and legitimacy of the election. Value 2  
Optimal: Election held according to legal framework and international standards. There were no deficiencies or irregularities observed. Value 3

Indicators & Criteria		Value 0-3	Source of Evidence
<b>1. Electoral Laws, Guidelines &amp; Processes</b>			
1.1	Electoral laws and guidelines mandated an inclusive electoral process.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
1.2	Electoral laws and guidelines mandated a credible electoral process.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
1.3	Election commission/administering body was independent from outside influence to ensure the freedom and credibility of elections.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
1.4	Electoral laws and guidelines were published for public access.	3	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
1.5	Voter registration rolls were verified.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
1.6	Dispute resolution and appeals processes were established prior to the campaign period.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
1.7	Dispute resolution and appeals processes were publicized prior to the campaign period.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
1.8	Reported violations of campaign regulations were independently investigated and resolved in a timely manner.	0	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
<b>2. Electoral Environment</b>			
2.1	Media provided equitable access to all candidates.	1	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement; Briefings with stakeholders
2.2	The campaign period was free of violence.	0	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
2.3	Election Day was free of violence.	1.5	Accreditation Questionnaire A2, C7; Opening Questionnaire A2; Voting Questionnaire A2, C6; Closing Questionnaire A2; Media Reports
2.4	Campaign messaging was free from hate speech and provocation that encouraged the intimidation of voters on the basis of ethnic, religious and/or regional identity.	0	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement

2.5	There were no recorded instances of voters facing intimidation or discrimination in the run up to elections.	1	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
<b>3. Electoral Integrity</b>			
3.1	Voters were not offered material or monetary incentives in exchange for their vote.	2	Accreditation Questionnaire A6, C20; Voting Questionnaire A6, C18
3.2	Voting procedures were publicized in advance.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
3.3	There were no incidents of electoral irregularities at the polling units.	2	Accreditation Questionnaire C5, C19, C20; Opening Questionnaire A14, A15, A16; Voting Questionnaire C14, C18; Closing Questionnaire B18; B19
3.4	Actions of security personnel were in line with their role as outlined in electoral law and electoral procedures.	3	Accreditation Questionnaire A5, C11; Opening Questionnaire A6, A15; Voting Questionnaire A5, C18; Closing Questionnaire A5, B18
3.5	There was no unauthorized campaigning during the election.	2	Accreditation Questionnaire A1, B4, C20; Opening Questionnaire A1, A15; Voting Questionnaire A1, B4, C18; Closing Questionnaire A1, B18
<b>4. Voter Empowerment</b>			
4.1	Voters received information to register in elections.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
4.2	Voters received information to participate in elections.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
4.3	Voters received information on how to register and participate in elections within a fixed timeline.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
4.4	Public received information about the electoral system and how winners are determined.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
4.5	Voters received instructions at the polling unit on properly marking their ballot paper.	2	Opening Questionnaire A8
4.6	Campaign timeframe sufficient for voters to consider the array of candidates and their positions in the election.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
<b>5. Freedom to Campaign</b>			
5.1	Eligible candidates were able to register their candidacy without barriers.	1	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
5.2	Candidates/parties did not face harassment from government authorities during their campaigns.	1	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
5.3	All parties and candidates were free to campaign without harassment from other parties.	0	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
5.4	Campaign timeframe provided space for candidates to communicate their message to voters.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement

## 6. Women & Youth Participation

6.1	Parties encouraged women participation in party campaigning.	1	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
6.2	Parties encouraged youth participation in party campaigning.	1	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
6.3	Women participated in campaign activities in the lead up to the election.	1	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
6.4	Youth participated in campaign activities in the lead up to the election.	1	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
6.5	Women served as election officials on Election Day.	2.5	Accreditation Questionnaire C9, C10; Opening Questionnaire A5; Voting Questionnaire C8, C9; Closing Questionnaire A4
6.6	Youth served as election officials on Election Day.	3	Accreditation Questionnaire C8; Opening Questionnaire A4; Voting Questionnaire C7; Closing Questionnaire A3
6.7	Youth participated in the voting process.	2	Accreditation Questionnaire C12; Voting Questionnaire C11
6.8	Women participated in the voting process.	2.5	Accreditation Questionnaire C13; Voting Questionnaire C12

## 7. Freedom to Participate

7.1	There were no instances of harassment, intimidation or discrimination against potential voters in the run-up to elections.	1.5	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
7.2	Potential voters did not face intimidation or discrimination at polling units.	2	Accreditation Questionnaire A4, C20; Opening Questionnaire A15; Voting Questionnaire A4, C18; Closing Questionnaire B18
7.3	Voters were able to queue and vote without interference from persons seeking to influence the vote.	2.5	Opening Questionnaire A3; Voting Questionnaire A5, C2, C14, C18

## 8. Election Day Logistics

8.1	Accommodations were made to allow persons with disabilities to participate in elections.	1	Accreditation Questionnaire A4; Voting Questionnaire A4, B6
8.2	Electoral officials execute their duties on Election Day in accordance with electoral law and procedures.	2	Accreditation Questionnaire C19, C20; Opening Questionnaire A15, A16; Voting Questionnaire C17, C18; Closing Questionnaire B18
8.3	Polling units receive all election materials on time.	0	Accreditation Questionnaire B1; Voting Questionnaire B1
8.4	Polling units have all election materials	2	Accreditation Questionnaire B2; Opening Questionnaire A13; Voting Questionnaire B2
8.5	Party agents were allowed to observe Election Day processes.	2.5	Accreditation Questionnaire C11, D2; Opening Questionnaire A6, B2; Voting Questionnaire C10, D2; Closing Questionnaire A5, C2
8.6	Independent observers (local and international) were allowed to observe Election Day processes.	3	Accreditation Questionnaire C11, D1, D2; Opening Questionnaire A6, B1, B2; Voting Questionnaire C10, D1, D2; Closing Questionnaire A5, C1, C2
8.7	Voters were accredited according to electoral law and procedures.	2	Accreditation Questionnaire C5, C6, C14, C15, C16, C17, C18, C19, C20
8.8	Measures were taken to prevent duplicate voting.	2.5	Accreditation Questionnaire C14, C16, C17, C18; Voting Questionnaire C13, C15, C16
8.9	Ballot papers and boxes were monitored and sealed to prevent tampering during voting.	2	Opening Questionnaire A9, A10; Closing Questionnaires B2, B8
8.10	Polling units opened on schedule according to election procedures.	1	Accreditation Questionnaire C1; Opening Questionnaire A7; Voting Questionnaire C1; Closing Questionnaire B1
8.11	Elections held nationwide.	2	Media Reports

## 9. Counting & Tabulation Process

9.1	Vote counting procedures were communicated to the public prior to Election Day.	2	Pre-Election Assessment and Statement
9.2	Invalid (unused, spoilt, rejected) ballots were inventoried.	2	Closing Questionnaire B6, B7, B10, B11
9.3	Vote tallying was checked by multiple officials.	2	Closing Questionnaire A3
9.4	Results from counting and tabulation process were displayed at the polling unit.	1.5	Closing Questionnaire B16, B17
9.5	There were no incidents of parties influencing the closing process.	2	Closing Questionnaire B18

9.6	All accredited poll agents and observers were able to observe the sorting, counting and tabulation process unhindered.	2.5	Closing Questionnaire A5, B9, C1, C2
9.7	Ballot boxes were sealed until sorting and counting processes commenced.	2.5	Closing Questionnaire B2, B8
9.8	Domestic observers and party agents understood guidelines on counting procedures.	2	Closing Questionnaire B18
9.9	Polling unit staff understood counting procedures.	2	Closing Questionnaire B3, B8, B9, B11, B15, B16, B17, B18, B19
9.10	Vote counting was implemented according to election law and procedures.	2	Closing Questionnaire B3, B8, B9, B11, B15, B16, B17, B18, B19

IRI's Snapshot is a resource to visualize the Institute's analysis of an election, taking into account the processes, procedures and context that make up the election. It is informed by data collected by IRI's observers using observation checklists and interview guides during the campaign period and on Election Day. IRI's experience is that while certain principles are consistent, every election is unique, with different stakeholders, procedures and environments. In order to accurately capture the story of each election, IRI adjusts the snapshot and its data collection approach so that the Institute's analysis is responsive to those differences.