

**Fix Politics: Change.org Petition**  
Electronic Transmission of Votes

**Demand that the Nigerian legislature amend the Electoral Act to include [unconditional] electronic transmission of votes cast during an election.**

On 15 July 2021, the Nigerian Senate voted on whether or not to include the electronic transmission of votes as a provision in a bill to amend the federal electoral law. The majority of senators at the session voted against this provision.

Instead, the Senate passed an alternative provision stating: “The Commission [INEC] may consider the electronic transmission of results, provided the national coverage is adjudged to be adequate and secure by the National Communications Commission (NCC) and approved by the National Assembly.”

This alternative provision makes the electronic transmission of votes a decision that is conditioned on: (i) the consideration of INEC; (ii) the adjudication of NCC; and (iii) the approval of the National Assembly, thereby leaving the fate of the entire electoral process to the discretion of a few individuals. Also, it is unconstitutional that INEC (and any part of the electoral process) should be subject to the discretion of the NCC, which has no constitutional authority over election matters. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is clear that only INEC has authority to organise, undertake and supervise elections in Nigeria.

Similarly, on 16 July 2021, the House of Representatives passed an ambiguous amendment to the bill providing that “Voting at election and transmission of results in this Bill shall be in accordance with the procedure determined by the Commission.” This provision by the House of Representatives also leaves a broad discretion to INEC on how to transmit election results without any legal guidelines or oversight. This level of discretion is undemocratic and creates an effective roadblock to the implementation of the electronic transmission of votes.

It is trite that Nigerian elections since the beginning of the new democratic dispensation in 1999 have been plagued by violence, irregularities, and outright fraud and malpractice. Over the years, there have been numerous incidents of voting records being changed between the polling station and the collation centre, and between the collation centre and the final announcements by the returning officers. These incidents have led to diminished confidence in the electoral process. When citizens begin to feel that their votes do not count, then the entire democratic process suffers. The pool of sincere candidates diminish and the political field becomes an arena for fraud and violence.

Clearly, it is important that steps are taken to continuously improve the electoral process in order to safeguard the integrity of elections and restore or increase public confidence in Nigeria's democracy. An unconditional provision to transmit the outcomes of votes cast at an election is one of such ways of improving the electoral process. It is not only important that votes are ascertained at the polling station, but that they are also reflected correctly and accurately in the final count. Nigeria already has the capacity and technological infrastructure to achieve this provision effectively. INEC has also indicated its willingness and capacity to implement electronic transmission of results and has demonstrated this in some previous elections.

Accordingly, we hereby petition that the Nigerian legislature amend the Electoral Act to retain the original language in the bill which provided for an unconditional provision prescribing the electronic transmission of votes cast during an election whether at the federal, state, or local level.

This petition is endorsed by **FixPolitics Initiative** and the following CSOs, CBOs, Think-Tanks, Socio-Cultural Groups and Professional Associations in Nigeria:

1. Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)
2. Yoruba Summit Group (YSG)
3. Afenifere Renewal Group
4. Middle Belt Forum
5. Enough is Enough Foundation (EIE)
6. Women Advocates Research and Documentation Center
7. Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)
8. Budgit Foundation
9. Yiaga Africa
10. Feminist Womanifesto Group
11. Emerge Women Development Foundation
12. Raising New Voices Initiative
13. Campaign for A New Nigeria
14. Transition Monitoring Group (TMG)
15. Learning through Skills Acquisition Initiative" (LETSAI)
16. Mothers United and Mobilized
17. Media & Teens Network
18. ACTS Generation GBV
19. Media Concern Initiative
20. First Future Leadership
21. WOLDI Africa
22. Women's Rights and Health Project(WRAHP)
23. Network of Reproductive Health Journalists of Nigeria (NRHJN)
24. Centre for Women's Health and Information(CEWHIN)

25. Women Information Network (WINET)
26. Gender Development Initiative
27. Development in Practice, Gender and Entrepreneurial Initiative (DIPGEI)
28. Gender Awareness Trust (GAT)
29. Network on Peace and Security for Women in the ECOWAS Region (NOPSWECO)
30. Illuminate Nigeria Development Network
31. Women's Aid Collective (WACOL)
32. Gender and Constitutional Reform Network (GECORN)
33. Community Education Advancement of Peace and Development Initiative (CEAPDI)
34. Peoples Empowerment Forum
35. Women for Peace and Gender Equality Initiative (WOPEGEE)
36. Gender Development Initiative
37. Ofure Centre for Peace and Development
38. World Children Foundation
39. Kindly add Responsible Citizenship and Human Development Initiative.
40. Partners West Africa-Nigeria (PWAN)
41. Centre for Citizens Rights
42. Courageous People Health and Development Initiative
43. Health Reform Foundation of Nigeria (HERFON)
44. League for Human Rights
45. Anti-Corruption and Transparency Support Initiative (ACTSI)
46. League for Human Rights Jos. Plateau State
47. Youths Participation in progressive Development Initiative, Katsina State
48. Center for Peace Education and Community Development, Taraba State
49. Centre for Women Development and Social Justice
50. Hope for New Life Organization (HNLO)
51. Hopefield Empowerment & Learning Program (HELP)
52. Centre for Economic Empowerment and Gender Activities (CEEGA)
53. Halliru Memorial Youth Development and Empowerment Initiative (AYDI)
54. South-South Professional Women Association(SSPWA)
55. Connecting Lens Initiative, Benue State
56. Bauchi Community Oriented Development Initiative
57. Community Education Advancement of Peace and Development Initiative (CEAPDI), Ogun State
58. ADEM Community & Human Development Foundation
59. Rays of Hope Community Foundation
60. Women Advocacy on HIV&Aids Prevention and Others Diseases (WAHPOD)
61. Youth Future Savers Initiative (YFSI)
62. Ogayem Merciful Care and Support Initiative (OMCSI)
63. Lawanti Community Development Foundation (LCDF), Gombe State
64. Kwara Development Advocacy Group (KWDAG)
65. Centre for Women Development and Social Justice (WDSJ), Kwara State
66. Centre for Women Development and Social Justice (WDSJ)

67. People's Empowerment Forum
68. Women Youths and Children Advancement Program (WOYCAP)
69. Ajegunle Community Project
70. Baobab for Women's Human Rights
71. Dorothy Njemanze Foundation (DNF)
72. FEMBUD
73. Adegrange Child Foundation
74. Sesor Empowerment Foundation
75. Women Africa
76. African Girl Child Development And Support Initiative
77. Echoes of Women in Africa Initiative
78. Crestville Development Foundation
79. Hopefield Associates
80. Open Arms Initiative for Sustainable Development
81. Girl Education Rehabilitation And Care (GERAC)
82. Hope for New Life Organization
83. Nigeria for Change Initiative (Nigeria4Change)
84. Centre for Environmental Sustainability and Development Awareness (CESDA)
85. Royal Majesty Foundation for Grassroots Development (Majesty Found)
86. Head High International Organization
87. Centre for Nonviolence and Gender Advocacy in Nigeria
88. Caring Hearts Initiative for Advocacy Development and Empowerment (CHIADE)
89. The Electoral Hub
90. Initiative for Research, Innovation and Advocacy in Development
91. Federation of informal Workers Organization of Nigeria (FIWON)
92. 100 Women Lobby Group (100WLG)
93. Change Managers International Network
94. Kebetkache Women Development & Resource Centre
95. International Women Communication Center (IWCC)
96. Peyi Soyinka-Airewele, Verity Women's Network
97. Restoration of the Dignity of Womanhood
98. OrderPaper Advocacy Initiative (OAI)

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