Roadmap to Nigeria Elections

Civichive



Women and Youth Political Inclusion in Nigeria:

A Candidate Analysis of the 2027 General Elections

About CivicHive

Civic Hive was established in 2017 as the innovation centre of BudgIT with the goal of developing new civictech leaders, raising solutions, and also creating an innovative virtual and physical space for partnerships and to support new civictech organisations and strengthen the capacity of already existing NGOs in Nigeria In order to meaningfully impact the Nigerian civictech space.

Our overarching goal is to stimulate citizens' interests around public data and trigger discussions towards better governance. We are committed to the principles of open data & governance, citizen participation, and data transparency.

Our Mission
To champion new methods of civic engagement through the use of technology, stimulate citizens' interests in public data and trigger discussions towards better governance.

Civic Hive Team Lead: Joseph Amenaghawon

Authors: Temidayo Musa, Arafat Oseni, Neto Osakwe

Data Analysis: Temidayo Musa, Angel Ihejirika

Research Assistant: Olabisi Saludeen, Mojisola Olayiwola

Creative Development: Precious Chima Okorie

Contact: info@civichive.org (+234) 810 130 2285 www.civichive.org, www.elections.civichive.org

Address: 2nd floor, 42, Montgomery Road, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.

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Content

3 Executive Summary

4 Methodology

5 Overview of the 2027 Election

7 Section A: Analysis of 2027 Senatorial Candidates

18 Section B: Analysis of 2027 Federal House of Representative Candidates

31 Section C: Analysis of 2027 State House of Assembly Candidates

111 Section D: Spotlight on Youth-Focused Parties (Youth Party, and Youth Progressive Party)

115 Recommendations

Executive Summary



Political parties are central to the functioning of electoral democracy, providing platforms for mobilising voters, contesting elections, and engaging with governance. Despite their critical role, political parties in Nigeria have recorded mixed outcomes, particularly regarding the inclusion and representation of women, young people, and persons with disabilities.

This study assesses the level of inclusivity within Nigeria's political parties, focusing on the extent to which they provide meaningful opportunities for these groups to participate in political processes. It is premised on the recognition that political parties remain among the institutions of Nigeria's democracy that have experienced limited structural and organisational development since the return to democratic rule in 1999. This stagnation raises concerns about their capacity to respond to citizens' expectations and deliver democratic dividends.

The study examines the 22 political parties that will be participating in the 2027 general elections to determine how effectively their flagbearers for different elective positions promote inclusion. Data were collected through INEC website.

The findings indicate a significant gap between the formal commitments of political parties to youth and women inclusion and their actual practices. Although party constitutions, manifestos, and official procedures often contain provisions supporting women, young people, and persons with disabilities, there is limited evidence that these commitments are consistently implemented.

Many parties also lack comprehensive membership registers with disaggregated data on these groups, making it difficult to assess their participation and representation. While parties claim to offer equal opportunities for members to seek leadership positions, party nominations, and political appointments, the number of individuals from these groups who successfully access such opportunities remains disproportionately low.

This analysis further finds that access to political influence is shaped not only by party membership but also by personal connections, informal networks, and established power structures. These dynamics are often at the disadvantage of underrepresented groups and limit their ability to influence party decisions. Women who attain positions of influence remain relatively few, with limited impact on broader efforts to advance women's political participation.

Similarly, young people may prioritise personal ambition and relationships with established party leaders over collective advocacy for youth representation. Persons with disabilities face additional barriers, with their visibility and participation often limited and their representation rarely extending beyond designated disability leadership positions within party structures.

Overall, this analysis concludes that entrenched practices and unequal power relations within Nigerian political parties continue to undermine inclusive participation. These barriers limit the ability of women, young people, and persons with disabilities to mobilise collectively, influence political decisions, secure representation, and exercise meaningful political agency. Addressing these challenges requires moving beyond formal commitments to inclusion towards deliberate and measurable actions that promote equitable participation within party structures and electoral processes.

Methodology

This analysis adopts a desk-based research approach, relying on secondary data obtained from official documents published by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The study examines the inclusivity of Nigeria's political parties, with particular attention to the participation and representation of women, and young people's candidacy in the country's electoral process.

The analysis draws on relevant INEC documents, including political party records, candidates' lists, election-related publications, and other publicly available electoral data relating to the 2023 general elections. The 18 political parties that participated in the elections constitute the scope of the assessment.

Data extracted from these documents were reviewed and analysed to assess the level of representation of women, and young people, across political parties and elective positions. Key indicators considered include the distribution of candidates by gender, and age, as well as the extent to which these groups secured opportunities to contest elective positions. Where available, party-level data were compared to identify differences in the representation of underrepresented groups.

The analysis employed descriptive and comparative techniques to identify patterns, gaps, and disparities in political representation. Quantitative data were organised and disaggregated to establish the proportion of candidates belonging to the identified groups, while document review provided the basis for interpreting the findings within the broader context of political inclusion in Nigeria.

The study recognises that official electoral records provide an important basis for assessing representation but may not fully capture the broader experiences of inclusion within political parties, particularly participation in internal decision-making, access to party leadership, campaign financing, and the nomination process. Consequently, the findings are limited to the information available in the reviewed INEC's documents and should be interpreted as an assessment of electoral representation rather than a comprehensive evaluation of internal party democracy.



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Overview of 2027 Nigeria Election



Nigeria's 2027 elections will determine more than who occupies political offices for the next four years. They will also reveal who gets the opportunity to participate in shaping the country's future. Eight years following the enactment of the Not Too Young to Run bill, available data highlights a pressing concern: to what extent are youth and women actually represented on the ballot?

Nigeria's demographics make it a must to include the youth. With over 60 per cent of the population under 35, young people make up a large proportion of the electorate and a key force in political mobilisation. The National Youth Policy (2009) defines youth as citizens aged 18 -35, recognising their need for social, economic and political support. But their numbers have not been reflected in similar representation in elected office. High nomination fees, monetised primaries, political godfatherism, limited access to party structures and insufficient campaign resources still hinder young aspirants. Women face additional challenges such as gender stereotypes, discriminatory political practices, limited access to finance and unequal chances for party leadership. This makes the nomination processes of political parties a critical test of the extent to which pledges to inclusion are translated into real opportunities to contest and win elections.

Young Nigerians, however, play a significant influence in electoral mobilisation and digital activism. Social media (popularism) has become an important avenue for political participation, allowing young people to mobilise around shared concerns, shape public debate and demand electoral accountability. Bennett and Segerberg (2012) refer to this as connective action where digital technologies allow personalised forms of political mobilisation. A notable example is the 2026 Osun State governorship election, during which popular Nigerian musician Davido used his social media platforms to mobilise young people to support the incumbent governor, Ademola Adeleke.

He also publicly challenged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) over delays in uploading results from specific polling units to its results portal, drawing attention to the importance of electoral transparency. This illustrates the capacity of young people and influential public figures to shape electoral engagement beyond conventional party structures. However, participation through mobilisation and digital advocacy does not necessarily translate into access to nomination processes or political decision-making.

President Bola Tinubu has publicly reaffirmed his administration's commitment to empowering girls, women, and young people. Speaking at the unveiling of the UNFPA State of the World Population 2024 Report, he emphasised girls' education, access to quality healthcare and family planning, the prevention of early and forced marriage, and the implementation of laws addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices. These commitments, situated within the administration's Renewed Hope Agenda and its four principles of Development, Democracy, Demography, and Diaspora, recognise the importance of harnessing Nigeria's youthful and growing population.

However, public commitments must be matched by measurable political inclusion. Government empowerment programmes and policy declarations do not automatically guarantee that young people and women can access party tickets, secure winnable positions, or influence political decisions. Their representation in the 2027 nomination process should therefore be assessed through candidate data, party primary outcomes, and access to political resources. Young Nigerians are directly affected by decisions concerning unemployment, education, insecurity, healthcare, economic opportunities, and the cost of living. With approximately 1.7 million graduates reportedly entering the labour market annually and youth unemployment estimated at nearly 80 million, exclusion from decision-making risks deepening frustration and political alienation. Similarly, women's underrepresentation limits the diversity of experiences informing policies that affect their rights, livelihoods, and wellbeing.



Their meaningful inclusion in candidate nomination, political leadership, and governance is essential to building a more representative, accountable, and responsive democracy.

Section A
Analysis of 2027 Senatorial Candidates

Women make up almost half of Nigeria's population, while young people constitute a significant share of the electorate. Yet their representation among candidates for the Senate remains disproportionately low. Nine out of ten senatorial candidates are men. Data on the 2027 senatorial candidates shows that only 123 of 1,303 candidates are women, representing just 9.4% of the total. This means that roughly nine out of every ten candidates contesting for the Senate are men.

AT A GLANCE



Total Available Seat:
109 3 senators per state & 1 FCT Senator

State With The Highest Number Of Candidates:
Kano 48 candidates

State With The Lowest Number Of Candidates:
Ekiti 19 candidates



Total Number of Candidates:
1,303

The numbers have remained poor across recent election cycles. Women accounted for 12.2% of senatorial candidates in 2019, falling to 8.3% in 2023 and rising slightly to 9.4% in 2027. The slight increase from 2023 should not obscure the larger picture: women are still significantly underrepresented in the race for legislative power, and when we look specifically at young women, the situation becomes even more concerning. Young women's candidacy for the Senate fell from 2.1% in 2019 to 0.8% in 2023 and just 0.2% in 2027. That is not progress, young people are still struggling to enter the room, and this challenge is not limited to women.



Only 187 candidates aged 40 and below are among the 1,303 senatorial candidates, representing approximately 14.35% of the total. The decline in youth candidacy is particularly striking.

ON WOMEN CANDIDACY



State With The Highest Number Of Female Candidates:

Akwa Ibom | **10**

States With No Female Candidates:

Jigawa, Nasarawa, Niger, and Yobe

Total number of Women Candidates:

123

Men: 1,180

Nigeria is a young country, but its political institutions continue to have limited space for young political leaders. Young Nigerians are already leading businesses, technology companies, civil society organisations, professional associations and community initiatives. They are developing solutions to some of the country's most pressing problems. Yet when it comes to formal political leadership, many are still kept outside the room. Political parties hold the key, voters cannot elect candidates who never make it to the ballot. This is why the responsibility for improving representation cannot rest with voters alone. Political parties have a major role to play.

Parties determine who receives tickets, how much candidates pay to participate, which constituencies candidates contest and, ultimately, who has a realistic chance of winning. If political parties are serious about building a more representative democracy, they need to make their internal processes more accessible to women and young people. This could include reducing the financial barriers to obtaining nomination forms, creating transparent candidate selection processes, investing in leadership development and adopting clear targets for women's and youth representation.

ON YOUNG PEOPLE CANDIDACY (≤40)





Total Number Young of Candidates:

187
(out of 1,303)



State With Highest Number Of Young Candidates:

Benue 10 candidates



State With No Youth Candidates:

Lagos

Most importantly, women and young people should not simply be included to fulfil quotas or create the appearance of diversity. They should be supported to contest competitive seats where they have a genuine opportunity to win; representation matters. The argument for greater representation is not simply that women and young people should occupy political offices because of their demographics. The stronger argument is that democracy works better when people from different backgrounds have a meaningful opportunity to participate in making decisions that affect them.



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ON YOUTH AND WOMEN (STATE DISPARITIES)

Top Performing States: Akwa Ibom leads the nation in overall inclusion, recording **10** female candidates and **8** young candidates. Other high-performing states include:

States	Young Candidates	Female Candidates
Benue	10	3
Plateau	9	3
Borno	9	1
Osun	7	8
Kwara	5	7
Ebonyi	8	1
Jigawa	7	0
Nasarawa	6	0
Niger	4	0
Yobe	7	0

The National Assembly makes laws, approves budgets, exercises oversight and influences policies that affect virtually every Nigerian, who sits there matters. When women have limited representation, issues that disproportionately affect women may receive less political attention. When young people are largely absent, perspectives on employment, education, technology, climate change and the future of work may be inadequately represented.

Representation does not also guarantee good governance. A young politician is not automatically a good politician, just as a woman is not automatically a better representative. Competence, integrity, ideas and public service should remain important criteria. But competence cannot be assessed if people are denied a fair opportunity to compete in the first place.

ON POLITICAL PARTIES DRIVE FOR YOUTH AND GENDER INCLUSIVITY



Alternative political parties are the primary vehicles for young and female candidates. APM (All Allied Peoples Movement) fields the highest number of candidates across both demographics, with **29 young candidates** and **10 female candidates (39 total)**.

Political Party	Young Candidates	Female Candidates
APM	29	11
NRM	20	8
ADP	17	11
APP	17	4
SDP	13	5

A more representative political system will not happen by accident. It requires deliberate action from political parties, institutions, civil society, voters and citizens themselves. So as the 2027 election approaches, Nigerians should ask more than "Who are you voting for?" We should also ask: Who was given the opportunity to run? Who is represented on the ballot? Whose voices will be present when decisions about our future are made?

Nigeria cannot build an inclusive democracy while large sections of its population remain underrepresented in political leadership.

Table Showing Senatorial Candidates Across Nigeria

State	Total Candidates	Female Candidates	Young Candidates (≤40)
ABIA	40	4	1
ADAMAWA	38	1	4
AKWA IBOM	37	10	8
ANAMBRA	42	6	1
BAUCHI	31	2	5
BAYELSA	45	5	6
BENUE	39	3	10
BORNO	33	1	9
CROSS RIVER	25	5	3
DELTA	43	5	2
EBONYI	30	1	8
EDO	26	5	6
EKITI	19	2	2
ENUGU	38	6	4
FCT	20	4	2
GOMBE	37	3	7
IMO	45	5	4
JIGAWA	31	0	7
KADUNA	33	3	7
KANO	48	2	7
KATSINA	23	2	1
KEBBI	35	1	6
KOGI	42	5	5

Table Showing Senatorial Candidates Across Nigeria

State	Total Candidates	Female Candidates	Young Candidates (≤40)
KWARA	35	7	5
LAGOS	36	3	0
NASARAWA	36	0	6
NIGER	34	0	4
OGUN	37	4	6
ONDO	31	1	5
OSUN	39	8	7
OYO	38	4	3
PLATEAU	32	3	9
RIVERS	41	7	6
SOKOTO	36	1	7
TARABA	35	2	3
YOBE	36	0	7
ZAMFARA	37	2	4
TOTAL	1303	123	187

Summary of Key Findings

1. **Severe underrepresentation of Female and Young Candidates.Overall Demographic Share:** Out of 1,303 total candidates vying for Senate seats across 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), female candidates account for only 9.44% (123 candidates), while young candidates (aged 40 and under) account for 14.35% (187 candidates).

   Intersectional Overlap: Exactly 34 female candidates fall into the young candidate category (aged ≤ 40), representing 27.64% of all female candidates. This indicates that more than a quarter of women contesting for Senate seats entered the political arena early in their careers under the constitutional threshold created by the "Not Too Young To Run" legislation.

   Female Age Distribution: As illustrated in the 'Age Distribution of Female Senate Candidates' chart, female candidate participation peaks in the 41-50 age bracket (40 candidates, 32.52%), followed closely by the 35-40 age bracket (34 candidates, 27.64%). Female candidates over the age of 60 constitute 22 candidates (17.89%).

2. **Alternative parties drive youth and female inclusion while major ruling parties lag Alternative parties lead nominations:** Smaller and emerging political parties serve as the primary vehicle for female and youth inclusion. As shown in the 'Top Political Parties Sponsoring Female and Young Candidates' chart, the Allied Peoples Movement (APM) fields the highest number of inclusion-focused candidates with 29 young candidates and 11 female candidates. The Action Democratic Party (ADP) sponsored 17 young and 11 female candidates, while the National Rescue Movement (NRM) fielded 20 young and 8 female candidates.

   Major Ruling Parties Lag: Mainstream parties nominate very few female and young candidates. The All Progressives Congress (APC) fields 0 young candidates (≤40) and only 4 female candidates (3.25% of female candidates). The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) nominated only 3 young candidates (1.60% of young candidates) and 8 female candidates (6.50% of female candidates).

   Structural Entry Barriers: The concentration of female and young candidates in smaller political parties points to structural entry barriers, higher nomination fee thresholds, and entrenched patronage networks within major political party structures.

States with Zero Female Senatorial Candidates

State	Female Candidates	Male Candidates	Total Candidates	Young Candidates (≤40)	Youth Representation (%)
Jigawa	0	31	31	7	22.58%
Nasarawa	0	36	36	6	16.67%
Niger	0	34	34	4	11.76%
Yobe	0	36	36	7	19.44%
Total	**0**	**137**	**137**	**24**	**17.52%**

3. Evident geographic disparities and zero-representation states

Top States for Female Inclusion: As shown in the 'Top States by Representation Share of Female and Young Candidates' chart, Akwa Ibom leads female participation with 10 female candidates (27.03% of its candidates), followed by Osun (20.51% / 8 candidates), Kwara (20% / 7 candidates), FCT (20% / 4 candidates), and Cross River (20.00% / 5 candidates).s, 27.64%). Female candidates over the age of 60 constitute 22 candidates (17.89%).

Top States for Youth Inclusion: For youth participation, Plateau leads with 28.13% young candidates (9 out of 32), followed by Borno (27.27% / 9 candidates), Ebonyi (26.67% / 8 candidates), and Benue (25.64% / 10 candidates).

Zero-Representation Zones: Four states recorded 0 female candidates: Jigawa (0/31), Nasarawa (0/36), Niger (0/34), and Yobe (0/36). Conversely, Lagos State recorded 0 young candidates (0/36, 0.00%), while Anambra (1 out of 42; 2.38%) and Abia (1 out of 40; 2.50%) fielded only a single young candidate each.



State Ranking by Percentage of Female Representation (Senatorial Candidates)

Rank	State	Female Candidates	Male Candidates	Total Candidates	Female Representation(%)
1	Akwa Ibom	10	27	37	27.03%
2	Osun	8	31	39	20.51%
3	Cross River	5	20	25	20.00%
4	FCT	4	16	20	20.00%
5	Kwara	7	28	35	20.00%
6	Edo	5	21	26	19.23%
7	Rivers	7	34	41	17.07%
8	Enugu	6	32	38	15.79%
9	Anambra	6	36	42	14.29%
10	Kogi	5	37	42	11.90%
11	Delta	5	38	43	11.63%
12	Bayelsa	5	40	45	11.11%
13	Imo	5	40	45	11.11%
14	Ogun	4	33	37	10.81%
15	Ekiti	2	17	19	10.53%
16	Oyo	4	34	38	10.53%
17	Abia	4	36	40	10.00%
18	Plateau	3	29	32	9.38%
19	Kaduna	3	30	33	9.09%
20	Katsina	2	21	23	8.70%
21	Lagos	3	33	36	8.33%
22	Gombe	3	34	37	8.11%
23	Benue	3	36	39	7.69%
24	Bauchi	2	29	31	6.45%
25	Taraba	2	33	35	5.71%
26	Zamfara	2	35	37	5.41%
27	Kano	2	46	48	4.17%
28	Ebonyi	1	29	30	3.33%
29	Ondo	1	30	31	3.23%
30	Borno	1	32	33	3.03%
31	Kebbi	1	34	35	2.86%
32	Sokoto	1	35	36	2.78%
33	Adamawa	1	37	38	2.63%
34	Jigawa	0	31	31	0.00%
35	Nasarawa	0	36	36	0.00%
36	Niger	0	34	34	0.00%
37	Yobe	0	36	36	0.00%

Political Party Ranking by Female Representation (Senatorial Candidates)

Rank	Political Party	Female Candidates	% of Total Female Candidates
1	ADP (Action Democratic Party)	11	8.94%
1	APM (Allied Peoples Movement)	11	8.94%
3	A (Accord)	10	8.13%
4	ADC (African Democratic Congress)	8	6.50%
4	NRM (National Rescue Movement)	8	6.50%
4	PDP (Peoples Democratic Party)	8	6.50%
7	AA (Action Alliance)	7	5.69%
7	LP (Labour Party)	7	5.69%
7	YPP (Young Progressives Party)	7	5.69%
7	ZLP (Zenith Labour Party)	7	5.69%
11	NDC	6	4.88%
12	DLA	5	4.07%
12	SDP (Social Democratic Party)	5	4.07%
14	AAC (African Action Congress)	4	3.25%
14	APC (All Progressives Congress)	4	3.25%
14	APP (Action Peoples Party)	4	3.25%
17	APGA (All Progressives Grand Alliance)	3	2.44%
17	NDP	3	2.44%
17	NNPP (New Nigeria People's Party)	3	2.44%
20	BP (Boot Party)	2	1.63%

Section B

Spotlight on 2027 Federal House of Representatives Candidates

Despite increasing evidence of youth activism, political awareness, and mobilisation in Nigeria, young people remain inadequately represented in the country's political leadership and decision-making structures. Several factors continue to constrain their political participation, including leadership deficits, the high cost of political participation, monetisation of electoral processes, weak internal party democracy, and the absence of a coordinated political agenda capable of advancing youth interests and aspirations. These challenges have limited the ability of young Nigerians to translate their growing civic engagement into meaningful political representation and influence over national development.

AT A GLANCE



Total Available Seat:

109 | **3** senators per state & **1** FCT Senator

State With The Highest Number Of Candidates:

Kano | **48** candidates

State With The Lowest Number Of Candidates:

Ekiti | **19** candidates



Total Number of Candidates:

1,303

This disconnect between the political contributions of young people and their limited representation in contemporary governance is particularly striking when viewed against Nigeria's political history.

Across Africa, young people were instrumental in the nationalist movements that challenged colonial authority and secured independence. They mobilised citizens, organised resistance, shaped political consciousness, and championed the struggle for self-determination. In many countries, the independence movement was driven significantly by young activists and emerging political leaders. Yet, despite these contributions, the role of young people in shaping African politics has received relatively limited attention in studies on democratisation.

ON WOMEN CANDIDACY



State With The Highest Number Of Female Candidates:

Akwa Ibom | **10**

States With No Female Candidates:

Jigawa, Nasarawa, Niger, and Yobe



Total number of Women Candidates:

123

Men: 1,180

Nigeria's own experience illustrates how young people once occupied central positions in the country's political transformation. Figures such as Herbert Macaulay, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, H.O. Davies, Tafawa Balewa, Ahmadu Bello, and Samuel Akintola made significant political contributions while in their twenties and thirties. Many were instrumental in establishing political movements and parties, including the Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM), the Nigeria National Democratic Party (NNDP), and the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC). Through political organising, advocacy, and the media, these young nationalists challenged colonial policies and mobilised support for independence. Nnamdi Azikiwe, for example, used his newspaper, West African Pilot, as a platform to promote nationalist ideals, criticise colonial rule, and advance the demand for self-government.

ON YOUNG PEOPLE CANDIDACY (≤40)





Total Number Young of Candidates:

187
(out of 1,303)



State With Highest Number Of Young Candidates:

Benue 10 candidates



State With No Youth Candidates:

Lagos

Is Poverty Excluding Nigerian Youths from Legislative Representation?

The question of whether Nigerian youths are too poor to contest legislative positions is closely tied to the growing monetisation of the country's electoral process. Although the Constitution does not impose a minimum wealth requirement for anyone seeking elective office, the financial demands of securing party nominations and running election campaigns create significant barriers for young aspirants.

ON YOUTH AND WOMEN (STATE DISPARITIES)

Top Performing States: Akwa Ibom leads the nation in overall inclusion, recording **10** female candidates and **8** young candidates. Other high-performing states include:

States	Young Candidates	Female Candidates
Benue	10	3
Plateau	9	3
Borno	9	1
Osun	7	8
Kwara	5	7
Ebonyi	8	1
Jigawa	7	0
Nasarawa	6	0
Niger	4	0
Yobe	7	0

The cost of expression of interest and nomination forms, party consultations, campaign logistics, mobilisation, publicity, and other election-related activities often places political participation beyond the reach of young people who lack substantial financial resources.

In a political environment where access to party structures and electoral success can be influenced by financial capacity, political connections, and patronage networks, young aspirants without established economic or political backing are frequently disadvantaged. Consequently, the ability to contest elections becomes less about competence, leadership potential, or public support and increasingly dependent on financial capacity.

This financial barrier raises broader questions about the inclusiveness of Nigeria's democracy and the extent to which political parties provide equal opportunities for emerging leaders. Many young Nigerians face unemployment, underemployment, limited access to capital, and economic insecurity, making it difficult to independently finance legislative campaigns.

Even where young aspirants demonstrate the capacity to mobilise grassroots support, they may struggle to compete against older, wealthier politicians with established political networks and access to campaign resources. While initiatives such as the Not Too Young To Run movement have helped challenge age-related barriers to political participation, reducing the age requirements for elective offices does not automatically translate into affordable access to political power.

The challenge, therefore, is not simply whether Nigerian youths are too poor to run for legislative office, but whether the country's political and electoral systems are structured to allow people without significant personal wealth to compete fairly.



Even where young aspirants demonstrate the capacity to mobilise grassroots support, they may struggle to compete against older, wealthier politicians with established political networks and access to campaign resources.

1. Analysis on Political Parties Drive for Youth and Gender Inclusivity

a. Minor parties lead inclusion, dominant parties preserve the status quo.

Dominant Party Deficit: Nigeria's major establishment parties demonstrate the lowest levels of youth and gender inclusion. The ruling APC fielded only 29 female candidates (8.06%) and 29 youth candidates (8.06%) out of 360 total candidates. Similarly, the PDP fielded 22 female candidates (6.96%) and 65 youth candidates (20.57%) out of 316 candidates, while the ADC nominated 18 females (5.20%) and 80 youth (23.12%) out of 346 candidates.

Minor Parties drive Democratic Opening: Minor and emerging political parties serve as the primary vehicles for young and female aspirants. Parties like YPP (60.14% youth; 86 of 143 candidates), AAC (52% youth; 26 of 50 candidates), APP (50.64% youth; 79 of 156 candidates), ADP (49.61% youth; 127 of 256 candidates), and NRM (47.67% youth; 82 of 172 candidates) significantly surpass national inclusion averages.

Female Inclusion Leadership: The parties with the highest proportion of female candidates are NDP (20%; 12 of 60 candidates), AAC (18%; 9 of 50 candidates), DLA (17.65%; 12 of 68 candidates), AA (17.19%; 11 of 64 candidates), ZLP (16.19%; 17 of 105 candidates), and NNPP (15.38%; 8 of 52 candidates).

b. Severe intersectional deficit: young females face double marginalization

Across all 3,560 candidates, only 159 candidates are young females (40 years old), representing a minimal 4.47% of the entire candidate pool.

Near-Zero Inclusion in Mainstream Parties: Among major political parties, young female candidates are virtually absent. The APC nominated only 1 young female candidate out of 360 (0.28%; Chiamaka Issac-Ojo in Rivers), the PDP nominated 8 out of 316 (2.53%), and the ADC fielded 0 young female candidates out of 346.

Minor Party Intersectional Concentration: Mid-sized and smaller parties account for the majority of young female candidacies. Leading parties in young female representation include AAC (12.00%; 6 of 50), DLA (11.76%; 8 of 68), NNPP (11.54%; 6 of 52), NDP (10.00%; 6 of 60), AA (9.38%; 6 of 64), and APM (9.29%; 29 of 312).

c. Regional Disparities: Geographic Trade-Offs Between Youth and Gender

Inverse Regional Dynamics: State-level data reveals a trade-off where states with high youth participation often record the lowest female participation. Northern states such as Sokoto (52.17% youth vs. 9.42% female), Zamfara (51.39% youth vs. 1.39% female), Borno (51.39% youth vs. 2.78% female), and Kano (48.61% youth vs. 1.20% female) show strong youth candidate numbers but severe female underrepresentation.

Top Performing States for Female Inclusion: Kwara leads female candidate share at 24.62% (16 of 65 candidates), followed by Cross River (22.22%; 14 of 63), Osun (18.52%; 15 of 81), Anambra (18.52%; 20 of 108), Lagos (16.85%; 31 of 184), Ekiti (16.67%; 6 of 36), and Akwa Ibom (16.50%; 17 of 103).

States with Single-Digit Female Nominations: Katsina registered the lowest female representation at 0.96% (1 female out of 104 candidates), followed by Kano (1.20%; 3 of 251), Zamfara (1.39%; 1 of 72), Nasarawa (1.64%; 1 of 61), Borno (2.78%; 2 of 72), Taraba (2.86%; 2 of 70), Kebbi (3.23%; 2 of 62), and Yobe (3.23%; 2 of 62).

Inclusivity Metric: 2027 Federal House of Representative Candidates

Party	Total Candidates	Male	Female	% Female	Youth (≤ 40)	% Youth	Young Female	% Young Female
APC	360	331	29	8.06%	29	8.06%	1	0.28%
ADC	346	328	18	5.20%	80	23.12%	0	0.00%
NDC	330	311	19	5.76%	97	29.39%	6	1.82%
PDP	316	294	22	6.96%	65	20.57%	8	2.53%
APM	312	270	42	13.46%	129	41.35%	29	9.29%
SDP	257	224	33	12.84%	95	36.96%	16	6.23%
ADP	256	226	30	11.72%	127	49.61%	17	6.64%
NRM	172	151	21	12.21%	82	47.67%	11	6.40%
LP	170	148	22	12.94%	64	37.65%	9	5.29%
A	159	144	15	9.43%	71	44.65%	6	3.77%
APP	156	141	15	9.62%	79	50.64%	8	5.13%
YPP	143	139	4	2.80%	86	60.14%	4	2.80%
ZLP	105	88	17	16.19%	47	44.76%	9	8.57%
PRP	100	99	1	1.00%	34	34.00%	0	0.00%
APGA	70	65	5	7.14%	24	34.29%	3	4.29%
DLA	68	56	12	17.65%	29	42.65%	8	11.76%
AA	64	53	11	17.19%	25	39.06%	6	9.38%
NDP	60	48	12	20.00%	26	43.33%	6	10.00%
NNPP	52	44	8	15.38%	22	42.31%	6	11.54%
AAC	50	41	9	18.00%	26	52.00%	6	12.00%
BP	10	9	1	10.00%	4	40.00%	0	0.00%
YP	4	4	0	0.00%	3	75.00%	0	0.00%
Overall Total	**3,560**	**3,214**	**346**	**9.72%**	**1,244**	**34.94%**	**159**	**4.47%**

Summary of Key Findings

Across the 3,560 House of Representatives candidates registered across all 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), 1,244 candidates (34.94%) are youth (40 years old), 346 candidates (9.72%) are female, and 159 candidates (4.47%) are young females (40 years old and female).orno (2.78%; 2 of 72), Taraba (2.86%; 2 of 70), Kebbi (3.23%; 2 of 62), and Yobe (3.23%; 2 of 62).

1. Overall Representation: Over One-Third of Candidates are 40 or Younger

1,244 out of 3,560 candidates (34.94%) in the dataset are 40 years of age or younger, while 2,316 candidates (65.06%) are above 40 years old.

Concentration in Upper 30s: The age distribution shows a progressive increase in candidacy with age. Candidates aged 35 to 40 constitute 60.9% (758 candidates) of the youth cohort, peaking at age 36 (142 candidates) and age 40 (138 candidates).

Youngest Candidates (Age 25): Exactly 17 candidates are at the constitutional minimum age threshold of 25 years.

2. Party Strategy & Adoption: Higher Youth Inclusivity in Newer/Minor Parties

Newer/Smaller Parties Lead Youth Adoption: Parties such as YPP (Young Progressives Party) lead with 60.14% (86 of 143) of their candidates being 40 or under. Similarly, AAC (52.00%, 26 of 50), APP (50.64%, 79 of 156), and ADP (49.61%, 127 of 256) field roughly half or more of their total candidate slate from this age group.

Major Parties Lag in Youth Inclusion: The ruling APC fields the lowest proportion of young candidates, with only 8.06% (29 of 360 candidates) aged 40 or below. The PDP fields 20.57% (65 of 316 candidates) in this age bracket.

3. Demographic Insights: Gender Balance & Geographical Hotspots

Higher Female Participation among Youth: Women represent 12.78% (159 candidates) of candidates aged 40 and below, compared to 8.07% female representation among candidates older than 40.

Geographic Breakdown: Northern states show the highest total counts of youth candidates. Kano leads significantly with 122 candidates aged 40 or under, followed by Sokoto (72 candidates), Kaduna (70 candidates), and Bauchi (47 candidates).

4. Inverse Regional Correlation Between Youth and Female Candidacy

Northern States Lead in Youth Candidate Participation: Northern geopolitical zones exhibit substantially higher youth inclusion rates than Southern zones. The North West zone leads nationally with 46.81% youth candidates (404 out of 863), followed by the North East at 40.95% (199 out of 486) and North Central at 36.89% (204 out of 553). The top 5 individual states for youth candidacy are Sokoto (52.17%, 72 candidates), Zamfara (51.39%, 37 candidates), Borno (51.39%, 37 candidates), Kano (48.61%, 122 candidates), and Yobe (46.77%, 29 candidates).

Southern States Lead in Female Candidate Participation: In contrast, Southern zones lead significantly in female representation: South South leads at 15.00% female candidates (81 out of 540), followed by South East at 13.96% (67 out of 480) and South West at 13.64% (87 out of 638). The top states for female representation are Kwara (24.62%, 16 candidates), Cross River (22.22%, 14 candidates), Osun (18.52%, 15 candidates), Anambra (18.52%, 20 candidates), and Lagos (16.85%, 31 candidates).

Severe Northern Deficit in Female Candidates: Female representation drops below 3% in several Northern states, including Katsina (0.96%, 1 candidate out of 104), Kano (1.20%, 3 out of 251), Zamfara (1.39%, 1 out of 72), Nasarawa (1.64%, 1 out of 61), and Borno (2.78%, 2 out of 72).

Overall Regional Totals (North vs. South)

Region	Regional Total	Youth Candidates	Female Candidates
Northern	1,902	807 (42.43%	111 (5.84%)
Southern	1,658	437 (26.36)	235 (14.17%)

5. Deep Intersectional Deficit for Young Female Candidates

Low Baseline Nationally: Young female candidates (40 years old) face a double representation deficit, accounting for only 4.47% (159 candidates) of the national total.

Complete Exclusion in Three States: Borno (0 young female candidates out of 72 total), Katsina (0 out of 104), and Yobe (0 out of 62) have zero young female candidates. Kano has only 2 young female candidates out of 251 candidates (0.80%).

Concentrated Performance in Select States: Only two states break the 10% threshold for young female candidacy: Kwara at 13.85% (9 candidates out of 65) and Cross River at 12.70% (8 candidates out of 63), followed by Niger at 9.78% (9 candidates) and Ekiti at 8.33% (3 candidates).

6. Political Party Disparity: Major vs. Minor Parties

Established Major Parties Lag in Inclusivity: APC has 8.06% youth candidates (29 out of 360) and 8.06% female candidates (29 out of 360). PDP has 20.57% youth candidates (65 out of 316) and 6.96% female candidates (22 out of 316).

Alternative/Minor Parties Power Demographic Diversity: Newer and smaller parties provide the vast majority of opportunities for youth and women candidates. Young Progressives Party (YPP) leads youth representation with 60.14% youth candidates (86 out of 143), while African Action Congress (AAC) features 52.00% youth (26 out of 50) and 18.00% female candidates. The National Democratic Party (NDP) features 43.33% youth and 20.00% female candidates (12 out of 60).

Candidates by Geopolitical Zone

Geopolitical Zone	Total Candidates	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Youth %	Female Candidates	Female %	Young Female Candidates	Young Female %
North Central	553	204	36.89%	60	10.85%	36	6.51%
North East	486	199	40.95%	19	3.91%	7	1.44%
North West	863	404	46.81%	32	3.71%	23	2.67%
South East	480	121	25.21%	67	13.96%	24	5.00%
South South	540	157	29.07%	81	15.00%	36	6.67%
South West	638	159	24.92%	87	13.64%	33	5.17%
National Total	**3,560**	**1,244**	**34.94%**	**346**	**9.72%**	**159**	**4.47%**

Top & Bottom 5 State Rankings by Youth Candidates

State	Youth Candidate
TOP 5	
Sokoto	52.17% *(72 youth / 138 total)*
Zamfara	51.39% *(37 youth / 72 total)*
Borno	51.39% *(37 youth / 72 total)*
Kano	48.61% *(122 youth / 251 total)*
Yobe	46.77% *(29 youth / 62 total)*
BOTTOM 5	
Kogi	22.34% *(21 youth / 94 total)*
Lagos	22.28% *(41 youth / 184 total)*
Ogun	21.05% *(20 youth / 95 total)*
Imo	17.86% *(25 youth / 140 total)*
Ekiti	16.67% *(6 youth / 36 total)*

Top & Bottom 5 State Rankings by Female Candidates

State	Female Candidate
TOP 5	
Kwara	24.62% *(16 female / 65 total)*
Cross River	22.22% *(14 female / 63 total)*
Osun	18.52% *(15 female / 81 total)*
Anambra	18.52% *(20 female / 108 total)*
Lagos	16.85% *(31 female / 184 total)*
BOTTOM 5	
Borno	2.78% *(2 female / 72 total)*
Nasarawa	1.64% *(1 female / 61 total)*
Zamfara	1.39% *(1 female / 72 total)*
Kano	1.20% *(3 female / 251 total)*
Katsina	0.96% *(1 female / 104 total)*

Note:
Data Anomaly: Adebayo Moboluji Adedotun, PDP candidate's age was listed as "947" in Oluyole constituency was classified as non-youth for threshold logic and excluded strictly from mean age calculations

Political Party Ranking by % of Female Candidates

Rank	Party	Total Candidates	Female Candidates	Male Candidates	Female Representation %
1	**NDP**	60	12	48	20.0%
2	**AAC**	50	9	41	18.0%
3	**DLA**	68	12	56	17.6%
4	**AA**	64	11	53	17.2%
5	**ZLP**	105	17	88	16.2%
6	**NNPP**	52	8	44	15.4%
7	**APM**	312	42	270	13.5%
8	**LP**	170	22	148	12.9%
9	**SDP**	257	33	224	12.8%
10	**NRM**	172	21	151	12.2%
11	**ADP**	256	30	226	11.7%
12	**BP**	10	1	9	10.0%
13	**APP**	156	15	141	9.6%
14	**A**	159	15	144	9.4%
15	**APC**	360	29	331	8.1%
16	**APGA**	70	5	65	7.1%
17	**PDP**	316	22	294	7.0%
18	**NDC**	330	19	311	5.8%
19	**ADC**	346	18	328	5.2%
20	**YPP**	143	4	139	2.8%
21	**PRP**	100	1	99	1.0%
22	**YP**	4	0	4	0.0%

Political Party Ranking by Youth Representation Percentage

Rank	Political Party	Total Candidates	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Non-Youth Candidates (> 40)	Youth Representation %
1	YP (Youth Party)	4	3	1	75.0%
2	YPP (Young Progressives Party)	143	86	57	60.1%
3	AAC (African Action Congress)	50	26	24	52.0%
4	APP (Action Peoples Party)	156	79	77	50.6%
5	ADP (Action Democratic Party)	256	127	129	49.6%
6	NRM (National Rescue Movement)	172	82	90	47.7%
7	ZLP (Zenith Labour Party)	105	47	58	44.8%
8	A (Accord)	159	71	88	44.7%
9	NDP (New Nigeria Peoples Party / NDP)	60	26	34	43.3%
10	DLA (Democratic Liberty Alliance)	68	29	39	42.6%
11	NNPP (New Nigeria Peoples Party)	52	22	30	42.3%
12	APM (Allied Peoples Movement)	312	129	183	41.3%
13	BP (Boot Party)	10	4	6	40.0%
14	AA (Action Alliance)	64	25	39	39.1%
15	LP (Labour Party)	170	64	106	37.6%
16	SDP (Social Democratic Party)	257	95	162	37.0%
17	APGA (All Progressives Grand Alliance)	70	24	46	34.3%
18	PRP (Peoples Redemption Party)	100	34	66	34.0%
19	NDC (National Democratic Coalition)	330	97	233	29.4%
20	ADC (African Democratic Congress)	346	80	266	23.1%
21	PDP (Peoples Democratic Party)	316	65	251	20.6%
22	APC (All Progressives Congress)	360	29	331	8.1%
	National Total	**3,560**	**1,244**	**2,316**	**34.9%**

Political Party Ranking by Youth Representation Percentage

Rank	Political Party	Total Candidates	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Non-Youth Candidates (> 40)	Youth Representation %
1	YP (Youth Party)	4	3	1	75.0%
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	National Total	**3,560**	**1,244**	**2,316**	**34.9%**

Section C
Analysis of 2027 State House of Assembly Candidates

Summary of Key Findings

1. Electoral Competitiveness and Slate Saturation Vary Widely Across Political Parties
Only two parties; ADC and APC, field candidates across all 991 state constituencies (991 candidates each). They are closely followed by NDC with 964 candidates (97.3% coverage), SDP with 893 candidates (90.1%), and PDP with 870 candidates (87.8%). These five major parties are the primary competitors across state assemblies.

National parties like APM (754 candidates), ADP (644 candidates), and NNPP (530 candidates) maintain strong regional reach, whereas minor parties such as YP (19 candidates) and BP (35 candidates) operate as targeted, hyper-localized contenders.

Across the 35 participating states[1] represented in the data (excluding Borno State, which was omitted from the source official list, and FCT, which lacks a State Assembly), Kano and Lagos lead with 40 constituencies each (449 and 332 total candidates respectively). Rivers State has the highest candidate density, averaging 13.5 candidates per constituency (432 candidates across 32 constituencies), whereas Cross River records the lowest density at 5.8 candidates per constituency (145 candidates across 25 constituencies).

2. Gender Representation Remains Low Overall, with Sharp Disparities Across Parties and Regions
Out of 9,802 total candidates, women account for 1,010 candidates (10.30%), while men make up 8,792 candidates (89.70%).

Smaller and progressive political parties display higher female candidate percentages. NRM leads with 23.78% female candidates (78 females out of 328 candidates), followed by NNPP at 17.55% (93 out of 530), APP at 16.61% (53 out of 319), and ZLP at 16.03% (25 out of 156). In contrast, the largest establishment parties field smaller proportions of female candidates: ADC (5.25%), APC (6.16%), PDP (6.67%), and LP (9.16%).

Regional variances are substantial across the states. Kwara State leads female inclusion at 21.59% (57 female candidates out of 264), followed by Osun (21.29%), Ekiti (21.14%), and Akwa Ibom (19.61%). Conversely, several states in the North report low female inclusion ratios: Jigawa (1.28%, 3 females), Yobe (1.41%, 3 females), Katsina (1.71%, 5 females), Zamfara (3.21%, 8 females), and Kano (3.34%, 15 females).

3. Candidate Demographics Are Dominated By Middle-Aged Aspirants With Emerging Youth Inclusion
Majority of the candidate ages are concentrated in the 40-49 age bracket (3,540 candidates, 36.13%) and the 30-39 age bracket (3,322 candidates, 33.90%). Aspirants aged 30 to 49 comprise 70.03% of the total candidate pool.

Young adults in the 25–29 age bracket account for 732 candidates (7.47%), reflecting active youth participation under the "Not Too Young to Run" framework. On average, female candidates are slightly younger (mean age: 40.8 years) than male candidates (mean age: 42.7 years).

1. Per official election notes, Borno State candidates were absent from the published INEC document and FCT has no House of Assembly; state summary metrics cover all 35 active states.

Senior aspirants aged 60 and above total 601 candidates (6.13%), with 28 candidates aged 70 or older (the oldest valid candidate being 77). Additionally, 16 candidates are officially registered as Persons with Disabilities (PWD), consisting of 9 candidates with Albinism and 7 listed under "Others".

4. Youth Participation Outpaces Female Representation Across State Legislative Candidates

Out of 9,802 candidates contesting State House of Assembly seats across the 36 states, youth candidates (40 years) comprise 4,454 candidates (45.44%), whereas female candidates account for only 1,010 candidates (10.30%).

Female youth candidates (40 years old) number 529 candidates, accounting for 52.38% of all female candidates, 11.88% of all youth candidates, and 5.40% of total candidates overall. Non-youth females (>40 years) make up 481 candidates (47.62% of female candidates).

Female candidates are slightly younger on average with a mean age of 40.83 years (median 40.0 years) compared to male candidates, who average 42.69 years (median 42.0 years). Male candidates dominate both youth (3,925 candidates; 40.04%) and non-youth (4,867 candidates; 49.65%) cohorts, while female candidates remain constrained in both brackets.

5. Major Parties Lag Behind Alternative Parties in Fielding Women and Youth Candidates

APC, the ruling party, exhibits lower rates of youth and female representation compared to smaller parties. APC fields 61 female candidates (6.16%) and 183 youth candidates (18.47%), with only 13 female youth candidates (1.31%).

Smaller and newer parties report higher rates of inclusion. The National Rescue Movement (NRM) leads female inclusion with 23.78% female candidates (78 out of 328), followed by the New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP) at 17.54% (93 out of 530), African Peoples Party (APP) at 16.61% (53 out of 319), and Zenith Labour Party (ZLP) at 16.03% (25 out of 156).

Youth representation is highest in parties such as Youth Party (YP - 68.42%, 13 candidates), African Action Congress (AAC - 67.65%, 69 candidates), Action Democratic Party (ADP - 60.25%, 388 candidates), and NRM (58.84%, 193 candidates).

The highest proportions of young female candidates (40 years) are found in NRM (14.02%, 46 candidates), ZLP (12.18%, 19 candidates), NNPP (11.32%, 60 candidates), and APP (10.34%, 33 candidates). The "Women vs. Youth Representation Across Political Parties" chart highlights these differences across party platforms.

6. Regional Variations Show Inverse Trends Between Youth and Female Participation

Several Northern states display high youth involvement alongside very low female candidacy. For instance, Yobe (72.77% youth, 155 candidates; 1.41% female, 3 candidates), Zamfara (67.07% youth, 167 candidates; 3.21% female, 8 candidates), Sokoto (65.41% youth, 191 candidates; 7.19% female, 21 candidates), and Jigawa (53.42% youth, 125 candidates; 1.28% female, 3 candidates).

South-West and South-South states show higher female candidacy shares. Leading states include Kwara (21.59% female, 57 candidates; 57.95% youth, 153 candidates), Osun (21.29% female, 56 candidates), Ekiti (21.14% female, 37 candidates), Akwa Ibom (19.61% female, 50 candidates), and Ogun (16.39% female, 49 candidates).

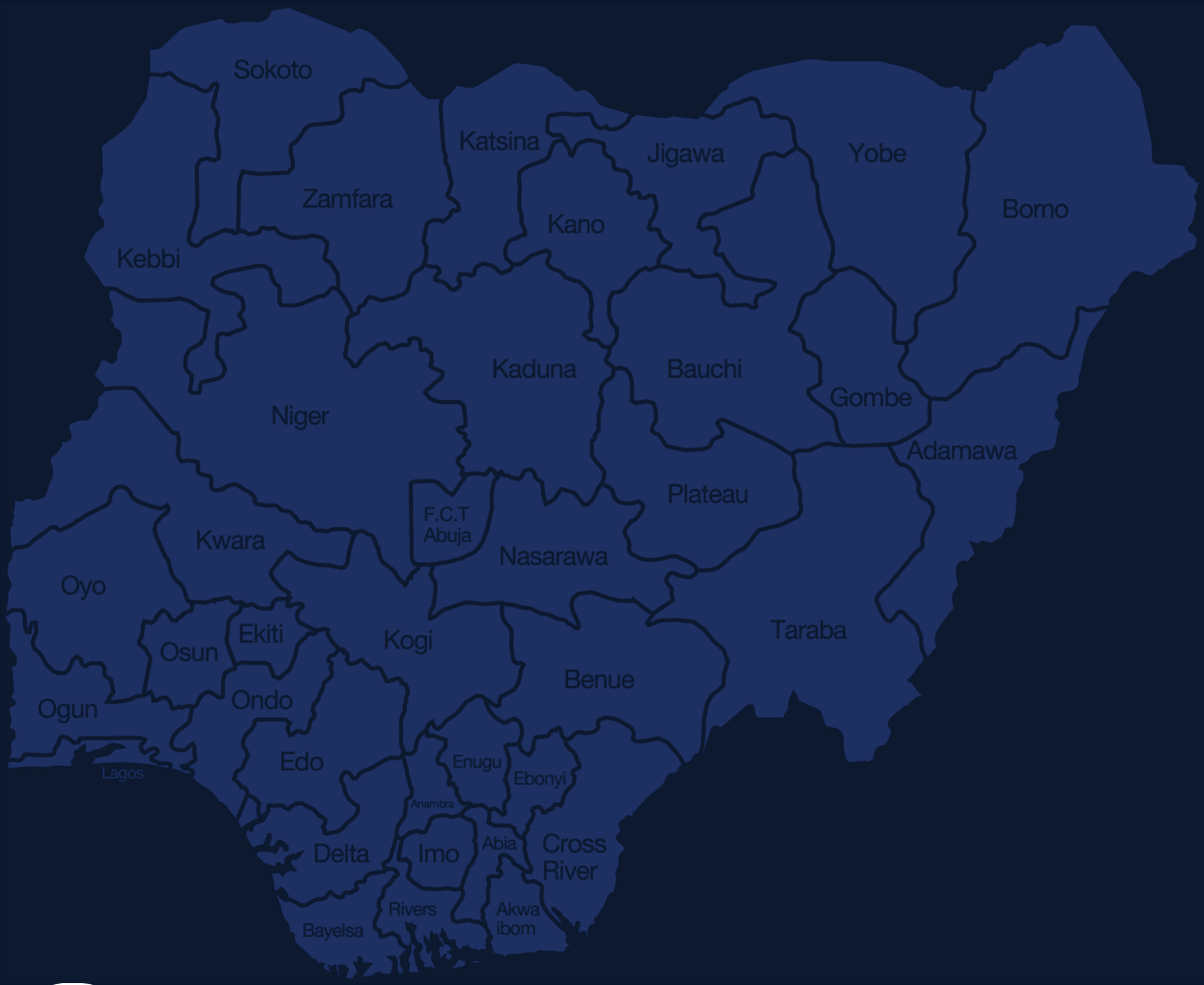
South-Eastern states show lower youth candidacy percentages, led by Imo (26.65% youth, 97 candidates), Enugu (30.89% youth, 59 candidates), Abia (31.78% youth, 102 candidates), and Anambra (34.29% youth, 84 candidates).

State House of Assembly Candidates by Demographic Category

Demographic Category	Total Candidates	Share of Total (%)
All Candidates	9,802	100.00%
Male Candidates	8,792	89.70%
Female Candidates	1,010	10.30%
Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	4,454	45.44%
Non-Youth Candidates (> 40)	5,347	54.55%
Female Youth (≤ 40)	529	5.40%
Female Non-Youth (> 40)	481	4.91%
Male Youth (≤ 40)	3,925	40.04%
Male Non-Youth (> 40)	4,867	49.65%

Data Anomaly Notes:

- Three extreme age values in the dataset (ages 957, 955, and 156) were identified as printing errors from the source PDF document and excluded when computing demographic averages and age brackets
- Per official election notes, Borno State candidates were absent from the published INEC document and FCT has no House of Assembly; state summary metrics cover all 35 active states.
- One candidate (Ojike Innocent, Apga, Anambra State - Oyi constituency) lacked age data and was excluded from age-specific analysis.



State by State *Analysis*



1. Abia State

God's Own State

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **321** | 284 Male, 37 Female

Parties Participating: **19**

Top Parties Fielded: **A (24), APC (24), SDP (24)**

PWD Candidate: **01** | Anyanso Destiny (APM, Ohafia North)

Data Insights: *Extremely competitive landscape with high candidate density. Multi-party fragmentation provides strong opportunities for coalition building.*

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Electoral Competitiveness and Broad Party Participation

Abia State features 321 candidates contesting across 24 state constituencies.. Abia ranks 9th highest overall in total candidate count among all 35 states in the dataset, well above the national state average of 280 candidates.

Out of 19 participating political parties, 7 parties have nominated a full complement of 24 candidates across all 24 constituencies: Accord (A), All Progressives Congress (APC), Social Democratic Party (SDP), Labour Party (LP), National Rescue Congress (NDC), African Democratic Congress (ADC), and Action Peoples Party (APP).

2. Gender Inclusion and Youthful Demographic Profile

Out of 321 candidates in Abia State, 37 are female (11.53%) and 284 are male (88.47%). Abia's proportion of female candidates exceeds the national state average of 10.30%, placing Abia 15th among all 35 states for female candidate participation.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) leads female nominations with 6 female candidates, followed by APM (5), NRM (5), APP (4), NNPP (4), and PDP (4). APC nominated 1 female candidate, while Accord (A), NDC, APGA, ZLP, and PRP nominated no female candidates.

Candidates in Abia State range from 25 to 66 years old, with an overall average age of 44.5 years (median: 44.0 years). On average, female candidates are noticeably younger (mean age of 40.3 years) compared to male candidates (mean age of 45.1 years).

Over 47.7% of candidates (153 candidates) belong to the 40-49 age bracket, while candidates under 40 account for 26.5% (85 candidates: 18 aged 20-29 and 67 aged 30-39).

Abia SHoA Party Candidates Breakdown

Party	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Total Candidates
A	24	0	2	0	24
AA	1	0	0	0	1
ADC	22	2	9	2	24
ADP	11	3	2	0	14
APC	23	1	5	0	24
APGA	8	0	4	0	8
APM	15	5	9	2	20
APP	20	4	16	4	24
LP	22	2	5	1	24
NDC	24	0	11	0	24
NDP	17	0	5	0	17
NNPP	11	4	1	1	15
NRM	15	5	15	4	20
PDP	18	4	2	1	22
PRP	5	0	2	0	5
SDP	18	6	8	3	24
YP	1	0	0	0	1
YPP	21	1	4	0	22
ZLP	8	0	2	0	8
Total	**284**	**37**	**102**	**18**	**321**



2. Adamawa State

Land of Beauty

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **25**

Candidates: **283** | 270 Male, 13 Female - 4.6% Female

Parties Participating: **19**

Top Parties Fielded: **LP (25), PDP (25), ADC (25)**

PWD Candidate: **02**

Data Insights: *Extremely competitive landscape with high candidate density. Multi-party fragmentation provides strong opportunities for coalition building.*

Summary of Key Findings

1. Broad Political Party Competition Across Constituencies

A total of 19 political parties are contesting seats across Adamawa State. 6 political parties have fielded candidates in all 25 constituencies (25 candidates each): ADC, APC, APM, LP, NDC, and PDP.

2. Demographics: Youth Dominance, Gender Imbalance, and Inclusion

The average candidate age in Adamawa State is 43 years (median: 42 years). Candidates aged 30-39 represent the largest share with 101 candidates (35.69%), followed by candidates aged 40-49 with 97 candidates (34.28%).

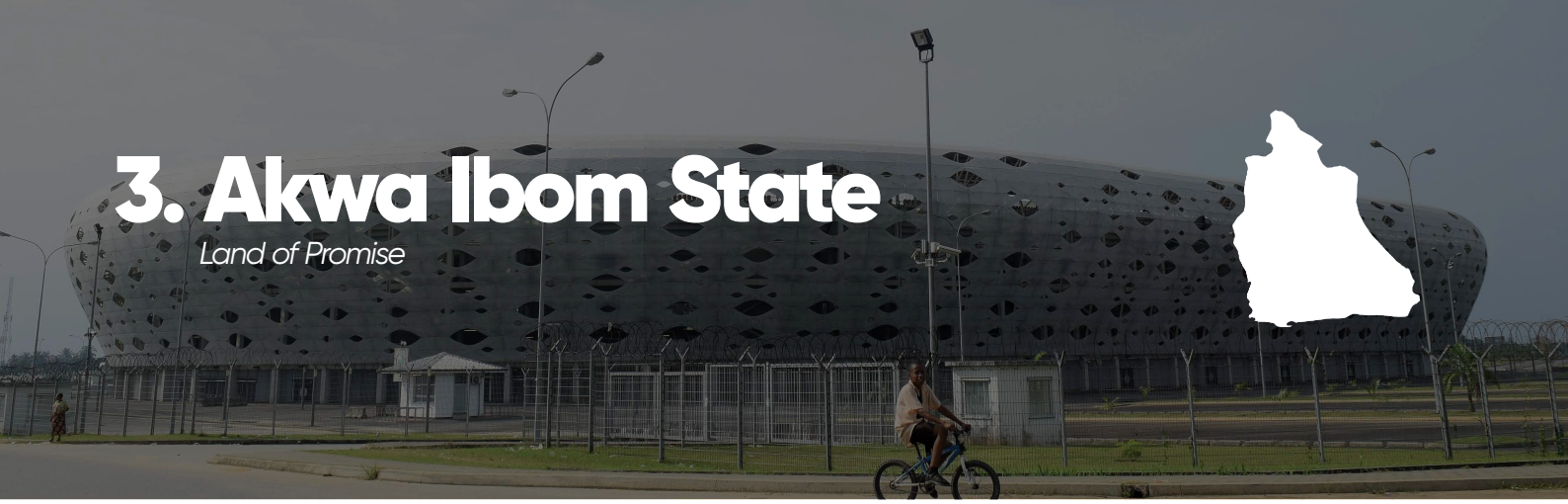
There are 16 candidates under the age of 30 (5.65%). The youngest contenders include: Michael Benisemeni (Toungo, ADP, Age 25), Umar Imam Vokna (Yola North, APP, Age 26), Gobe Ahmed (Yola North, LP, Age 26), and Tagwal Sosthenes Sylvanus (Koma/Leko, DLA, Age 26)

There are 17 candidates aged 60 and above (6.01%). The oldest candidates are Alfa Umar Belel (Maiha, APM, Age 76), Panchiri Francis (Madagali, YPP, Age 71), and Ijai James Thliza (Madagali, PDP, Age 68).

registered as PWD, both representing APGA with Albinism: Abdulhamid Ibbo A. (Gombi, Age 33) and Musa Simon (Maiha, Age 39).

Adamawa SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Total Candidates
A	7	2	5	2	9
AA	5	0	1	0	5
ADC	2	1	3	1	3
ADP	25	0	16	0	25
APC	4	0	3	0	4
APGA	25	0	3	0	25
APM	12	2	10	1	14
APP	24	1	8	1	25
LP	9	0	4	0	9
NDC	13	3	10	2	16
NDP	23	2	11	0	25
NNPP	25	0	7	0	25
NRM	8	1	8	1	9
PDP	12	0	8	0	12
PRP	25	0	7	0	25
SDP	3	0	2	0	3
YP	22	0	9	0	22
YPP	22	1	11	0	23
ZLP	4	0	2	0	4
Total	**270**	**13**	**128**	**8**	**283**



3. Akwa Ibom State

Land of Promise

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **26**

Candidates: **255** | 205 Male, 50 Female – 19.6% Female

Parties Participating: **19**

Top Parties Fielded:

ADC (26), APC (26), APM (26)

Data Insights: *High gender diversity (nearly 20% female).*

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Female Inclusion Relative to National Averages Driven by Select Parties

Akwa Ibom fields 50 female candidates out of 255 total candidates, achieving a female representation rate of 19.61%. This places Akwa Ibom 4th highest out of 36 states. NNPP leads in female representation with 13 female candidates out of 18 (72.2%). PDP and SDP both fielded 7 female candidates out of 26 (26.9%). ADP fielded 5 female candidates out of 13 (38.5%), while APC and APM each fielded 4 female candidates out of 26 (15.4%). Conversely, ADC, PRP, A, AAC, LP, APGA, and NRM fielded zero female candidates in Akwa Ibom.

2. Middle-Aged Dominance with Younger Female Contenders

Female candidates are younger on average than their male counterparts. Youngest Candidate: Ekpenyong Victory Akaninyene (25 years old, Female, BP party, Nsit Ibom constituency). Oldest Candidate: Williams Patrick Sambo (70 years old, Male, ADC party, Uyo constituency).

Akwa Ibom SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Total Candidates
A	4	0	1	0	4
AA	3	1	2	0	4
AAC	3	0	1	0	3
ADC	26	0	11	0	26
ADP	8	5	8	5	13
APC	22	4	1	0	26
APGA	1	0	1	0	1
APM	22	4	10	3	26
BP	1	1	2	1	2
DLA	15	1	7	1	16
LP	3	0	1	0	3
NDC	25	1	6	1	26
NDP	18	3	5	0	21
NNPP	5	13	10	8	18
NRM	1	0	0	0	1
PDP	19	7	11	4	26
PRP	6	0	4	0	6
SDP	19	7	18	4	26
YPP	4	3	4	2	7
Total	**205**	**50**	**103**	**29**	**255**



4. Anambra State

Light of the Nation

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **30**

Candidates: **245** | 219 Male, 26 Female - 10.6% Female

Parties Participating: **17**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (30), APGA (30), NDC (30)**

PWD Candidate: **01**

Data Insights: *APGA's core stronghold state. Moderate candidate density with active legal dispute requiring court compliance tracking.*

Summary of Key Findings

1. Political Party Participation is Concentrated Among Top Contenders

4 political parties: ADC, APGA, NDC, and APC, have fielded full candidate lists across all 30 state assembly constituencies (30 candidates each). NDP (28 candidates), NNPP (26 candidates), SDP (19 candidates), and YPP (17 candidates) maintain substantial statewide coverage.

Traditional major parties such as LP with 5 candidates and PDP with 4 candidates display surprisingly low representation in the Anambra State House of Assembly races compared to state-level contenders.

2. Pronounced Gender Disparity

Male candidates comprise 89.39% (219 candidates) of all contenders in Anambra State, whereas female candidates account for 10.61% (26 candidates). The 41–50 age bracket is the largest candidate group with 101 candidates (41.32% of candidates with age recorded), followed by the 30–40 age bracket with 76 candidates (31.15%). Overall, candidate ages range from 25 to 74 years, with a mean age of 44.5 years. Youth candidates under the age of 30 represent 3.28% (8 candidates), while senior candidates aged 61 and above represent 5.33% (13 candidates).

Anambra SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Total Candidates
A	2	0	0	0	2
AA	2	0	1	0	2
ADC	28	2	14	1	30
ADP	6	1	1	0	7
APC	28	2	13	1	30
APGA	29	1	4	0	30
APM	2	0	0	0	2
APP	2	1	0	0	3
LP	5	0	1	0	5
NDC	29	1	9	0	30
NDP	22	6	9	4	28
NNPP	24	2	11	0	26
NRM	2	2	0	0	4
PDP	3	1	1	0	4
SDP	14	5	9	2	19
YPP	16	1	8	1	17
ZLP	5	1	3	1	6
Total	**219**	**26**	**84**	**10**	**245**



5. Bauchi State

Pearl of Tourism

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **31**

Candidates: **367** | 345 Male, 22 Female - 6.0% Female

Parties Participating: **17**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (31), APC (31), APM (31)**

PWD Candidate: **01**

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Party Participation from Major Contenders

367 total candidates are contesting across all 31 constituencies in Bauchi State, averaging approximately 11.8 candidates per constituency. 6 political parties fielded a full slate of 31 candidates across every single constituency in the state: ADC (31 candidates), APC (31 candidates), APM (31 candidates), NNPP (31 candidates), PDP (31 candidates), and PRP (31 candidates)

2. Severe Gender Imbalance Among Major Political Parties

Out of 367 total candidates, 345 are male (94.0%) and only 22 are female (6.0%). Zero female candidates in major parties: All 6 major parties with full slates (APC, PDP, NNPP, ADC, PRP, APM) fielded 0 female candidates across all 31 constituencies (186 total male candidates across these six parties).

Female representation is driven by smaller parties. Only 7 parties fielded female candidates: Action Alliance (AA): 7 female candidates out of 17 (41.2% female), Action Peoples Party (APP): 6 female candidates out of 17 (35.3% female), Zenith Labour Party (ZLP): 5 female candidates out of 23 (21.7% female). AAC, ADP, LP, and NDC: 1 female candidate each

20 out of 31 constituencies have no female candidates at all. The highest female representation is in Bauchi (Bauchi I) and Lere/Bula (Tafawa/Balewa), each with 3 female candidates.

Bauchi SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	4	4	4	0	4	0
AA	17	17	10	7	15	7
AAC	23	23	22	1	15	1
ADC	31	31	31	0	18	0
ADP	23	23	22	1	10	1
APC	31	31	31	0	10	0
APGA	6	6	6	0	6	0
APM	31	31	31	0	6	0
APP	17	17	11	6	10	4
LP	9	9	8	1	7	0
NDC	29	29	28	1	18	1
NNPP	31	31	31	0	18	0
PDP	31	31	31	0	12	0
PRP	31	31	31	0	11	0
SDP	27	27	27	0	19	0
YPP	3	3	3	0	2	0
ZLP	23	23	18	5	19	5
Total	**367**	**31**	**345**	**22**	**200**	**19**



6. Bayelsa State

The Glory of All Lands

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **261** | 232 Male, 29 Female - 11.1% Female

Parties Participating: **22**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (24), APC (24), NDC (24)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Political Party Engagement led by Major Parties

A total of 22 political parties fielded candidates in Bayelsa State, combining for 261 total candidates. 5 parties fielded candidates across all 24 constituencies: ADC, APC, NDC, PDP, and SDP (each fielding 24 candidates).

2. Demographics & Gender Representation Trends

Out of 261 candidates, 232 are male (88.89%) and 29 are female (11.11%). Bayelsa's 11.11% female candidate representation sits slightly above the national average of 10.44%, ranking 16th. NNPP fielded the highest number of female candidates in Bayelsa with 5 female candidates.

Major parties like ADC, and LP fielded 0 female candidates in Bayelsa State. The constituency with the highest female participation is Southern Ijaw IV with 5 female candidates out of 14. 8 constituencies have zero female candidates running: Brass I, Brass III, Kolokuma/Opokuma I, Nembe II, Ogbia II, Sagbama II, Southern Ijaw I, Southern Ijaw II, and Southern Ijaw III.

Bayelsa SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	7	7	6	1	4	1
AA	14	14	13	1	7	1
AAC	4	4	4	0	0	0
ADC	24	24	24	0	7	0
ADP	15	15	12	3	9	3
APC	24	24	22	2	0	0
APGA	6	6	5	1	2	0
APM	7	7	6	1	4	1
APP	15	15	14	1	8	1
BP	4	4	4	0	2	0
DLA	11	11	7	4	9	4
LP	8	8	8	0	1	0
NDC	24	24	22	2	4	0
NDP	4	4	3	1	2	0
NNPP	12	12	7	5	9	4
NRM	8	8	8	0	2	0
PDP	24	24	23	1	6	0
PRP	12	12	12	0	9	0
SDP	24	24	21	3	10	3
YP	2	2	2	0	1	0
YPP	5	5	4	1	2	0
ZLP	7	7	5	2	5	1
Total	**261**	**24**	**232**	**29**	**103**	**19**



7. Benue State

Food Basket of the Nation

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **37**

Candidates: **422** 388 Male, 34 Female - 8.1% Female

Parties Participating: **18**

Top Parties Fielded: **SDP (37), ADC (37), APC (37)**

PWD Candidate: **01**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Political Party Competition and Territory Coverage

Five political parties: ADC, APC, LP, PDP, and SDP, fielded candidates in all 37 constituencies (37 candidates each), achieving 100% geographic coverage across the state.

27 candidates (6.4%) are under the age of 30. The youngest candidate in the state is 25-year-old TYOTSUME MSUGH (LP, Konshisha I - Gaav), while the oldest verified candidate is 70-year-old OCHEKLIYE AGBO ISAAC (PDP, Ohimini).

Refer to the chart Age Distribution of State House of Assembly Candidates in Benue State for the full breakdown by age groups.

2.Gender Disparity and Inclusivity Metrics

Of the 422 candidates running in Benue State, 388 are male (91.94%) and 34 are female (8.06%). Female participation varies significantly across party lines. APM fielded the highest number of female candidates (6 females out of 28 total, or 21.4%), followed by ADP (5 out of 36), APGA (4 out of 21), NNPP (3 out of 21), and PRP (3 out of 14). Notably, major parties PDP and SDP fielded zero female candidates across all 37 constituencies, while APC fielded 2 females (5.4%) and LP fielded 1 female (2.7%). Only 1 candidate in Benue State is registered under Person with Disability (PWD) status: Awaji Queen (APM, Gboko West), a 31-year-old female candidate registered under the "Others" disability classification.

Benue SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	36	36	34	2	22	1
AAC	2	2	2	0	2	0
ADC	37	37	36	1	14	1
ADP	36	36	31	5	21	3
APC	37	37	35	2	10	0
APGA	21	21	17	4	10	1
APM	28	28	22	6	18	5
APP	1	1	1	0	1	0
DLA	1	1	1	0	0	0
LP	37	37	36	1	11	1
NDC	34	34	32	2	17	1
NDP	31	31	29	2	6	1
NNPP	21	21	18	3	9	1
NRM	10	10	8	2	9	2
PDP	37	37	37	0	12	0
PRP	14	14	11	3	4	0
SDP	37	37	37	0	18	0
ZLP	2	2	1	1	2	1
Total	**422**	**37 (State Total)**	**388**	**34**	**186**	**18**



8. Cross River State

The People's Paradise

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **25**

Candidates: **145** | 122 Male, 23 Female - 15.9% Female

Parties Participating: **14**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (25), APC (25), NDC (25)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Party Representation & Competitiveness

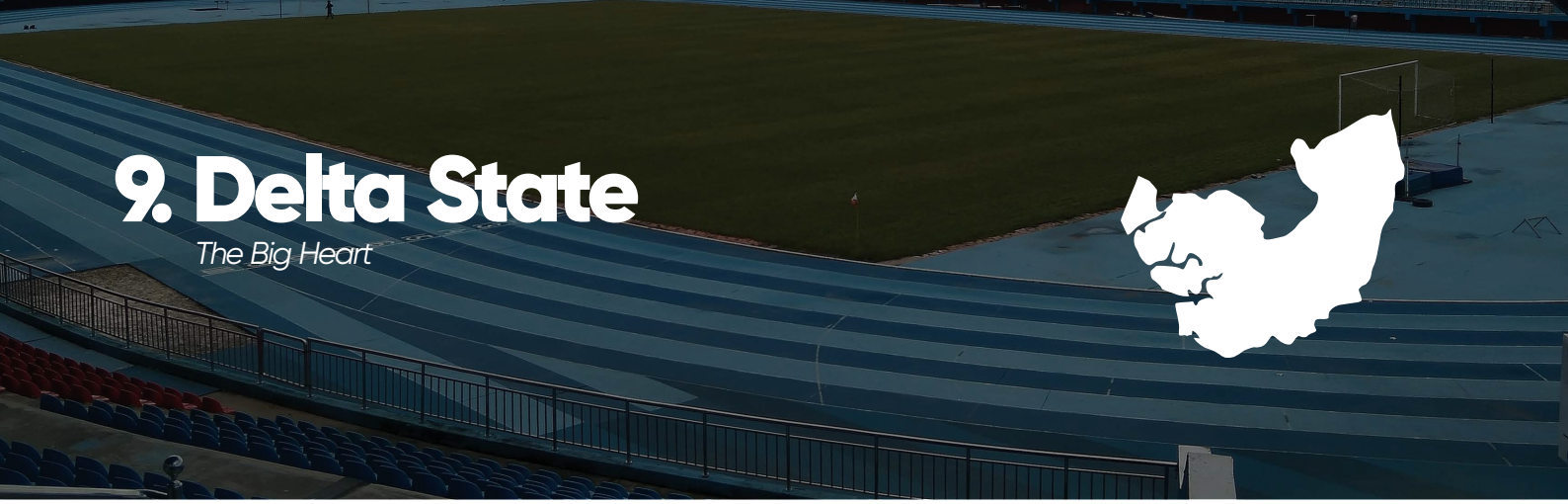
Three political parties: ADC, APC, and NDC, field a full slate of 25 candidates, contesting every constituency in the state. PDP fields 24 candidates (missing only 1 constituency), while SDP fields 19 candidates.

Female candidates represent 15.86% (23 candidates) of the state total, surpassing the national average of 10.30%. Male candidates account for 84.14% (122 candidates). NDC fields the highest number of female candidates (5), followed by ADC (4), PDP (3), and APC (3).

Calabar South II exhibits the highest female candidate concentration in the state, with 5 out of 7 candidates being female (71.4%). 10 candidates (6.90%) are under the age of 30. The youngest candidate is 25-year-old Covenant Onah Owogeka (ADC, Yala I constituency), while 7 candidates (4.83%) are 60 years or older. The oldest candidates, aged 65, are Effiom Polycarp Asuquo (PDP, Akamkpa II) and Ovat Sunday (SDP, Obubra I).

Cross River SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
AA	3	3	1	2	2	1
ADC	25	25	21	4	9	2
ADP	5	5	4	1	1	1
APC	25	25	22	3	6	0
APM	1	1	1	0	1	0
APP	4	4	3	1	3	0
DLA	1	1	1	0	1	0
LP	4	4	3	1	2	0
NDC	25	25	20	5	12	3
NDP	1	1	0	1	0	0
NNPP	2	2	2	0	1	0
NRM	6	6	4	2	5	2
PDP	24	24	21	3	10	1
SDP	19	19	18	1	11	1
TOTAL	**145**	**145**	**122**	**23**	**64**	**11**



9. Delta State

The Big Heart

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **38**

Candidates: **344** | 293 Male, 51 Female - 14.8% Female

Parties Participating: **22**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (38), APC (38), NDC (38)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Electoral Scale and High Political Party Participation

Delta State is one of the largest electoral arenas in Nigeria for state legislative elections, boasting 38 constituencies (ranking 3rd nationwide behind Kano and Lagos with 40 each) and a total of 344 candidates (ranking 7th nationally). A total of 22 political parties are fielding candidates in Delta State.

Youngest Candidates (Ages 25–27): Akporotu Evans Awhotu (25, NRM, Ethiope West), Obi Obiajulu Aghogo (26, A, Ndokwa East), Okwara Oluchi Joy (26, NRM, Oshimili North), Momah Ugochukwu Patrick (26, ADC, Aniocha North II), and Benefa Prince Preyeme (27, ADC, Burutu).

Oldest Candidates (Ages 68–72): Obodoeke Godwin (72, AAC, Ndokwa East), Eyarefe Oghene Stanley (70, APM, Sapele), Ofomana Austin (69, ADP, Ethiope East), Sobotie Mathias Oghenerume (68, PRP, Ughelli North I), and Umukoro Emmanuel (68, AA, Sapele II).

Delta SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	14	14	9	5	7	3
AA	8	8	8	0	3	0
AAC	18	18	18	0	9	0
ADC	38	38	35	3	9	0
ADP	8	8	8	0	0	0
APC	38	38	34	4	4	2
APGA	4	4	3	1	1	0
APM	21	21	13	8	15	7
APP	22	22	15	7	7	3
BP	3	3	3	0	3	0
DLA	7	7	7	0	4	0
LP	4	4	3	1	3	1
NDC	38	38	36	2	12	1
NDP	8	8	7	1	2	0
NNPP	14	14	9	5	5	2
NRM	25	25	18	7	17	5
PDP	32	32	29	3	7	1
PRP	4	4	4	0	1	0
SDP	27	27	23	4	11	2
YP	3	3	3	0	2	0
YPP	3	3	3	0	1	0
ZLP	5	5	5	0	1	0
Total	344	38	293	51	124	27



10. Ebonyi State

Salt of the Nation

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **238** | 209 Male, 29 Female - 12.2% Female

Parties Participating: **17**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADP (24), NDC (24), SDP (24)**

PWD Candidate: **01**

Summary of Key Findings

Ebonyi State features 238 candidates contesting for seats across 24 constituencies. Six political parties (ADC, ADP, APC, NDC, PDP, and SDP) fielded a complete slate of 24 candidates, contesting every constituency in the state.

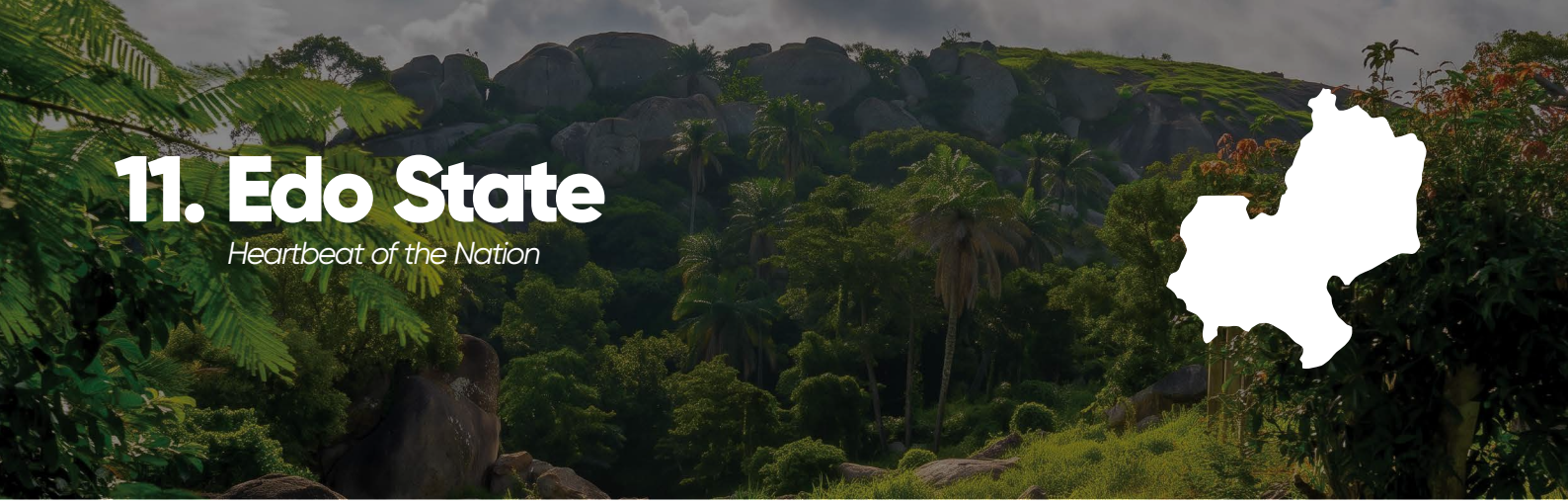
Male candidates dominate the candidate list in Ebonyi State, accounting for 87.8% (209 candidates), compared to 12.2% (29 candidates) female candidates. Female candidates are disproportionately fielded by smaller or newer parties: ADP (5 female candidates), NNPP (5), NRM (5), and NDC (4) account for over 65% of all female contestants in Ebonyi.

Major parties such as APC and PDP fielded only 2 female candidates each (8.3% of their respective candidate slates), while 8 political parties (ADC, LP, APGA, A, PRP, AA, APP, YPP) fielded zero female candidates.

Youthful candidate profile concentrated in the 30-49 age bracket. Over 77.3% of candidates (184 candidates) fall between 30 and 49 years of age (96 candidates aged 30–39 and 88 candidates aged 40–49). The youngest candidates (Age 25): Okike Eunice O. (DLA, Ishielu South, and Nwamini Ezinne Lucy (DLA, Izzi East). The oldest (Age 68): John Obasi Chukwu (ADC, Onicha East). Only 1 candidate in Ebonyi State is registered with a PWD designation: Ochere Ofobuike Gilbert (32 years old, YPP, Ikwo South constituency).

Ebonyi SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	4	4	4	0	1	0
AA	2	2	2	0	2	0
ADC	24	24	24	0	11	0
ADP	24	24	19	5	16	4
APC	24	24	22	2	5	0
APGA	13	13	13	0	5	0
APM	15	15	14	1	7	1
APP	2	2	2	0	1	0
DLA	8	8	6	2	7	2
LP	14	14	14	0	9	0
NDC	24	24	20	4	7	1
NNPP	16	16	11	5	8	5
NRM	15	15	10	5	9	2
PDP	24	24	22	2	9	1
PRP	3	3	3	0	1	0
SDP	24	24	21	3	15	3
YPP	2	2	2	0	2	0
Total / Summary	**238**	**24**	**209**	**29**	**115**	**19**



11. Edo State

Heartbeat of the Nation

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **164** | 148 Male, 16 Female - 9.8% Female

Parties Participating: **14**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (24), APC (24), NDC (24)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Female Political Representation Remains Low but Heavily Driven by Youth

Female candidacy stands at 9.76% (16 out of 164 candidates). However, 50.0% of all female candidates in Edo State are young women aged 40 and below (8 out of 16).

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Action Democratic Party (ADP) lead in female candidate inclusion, fielding 4 and 3 female candidates respectively. Major parties like APC, PDP, and ADC fielded only 1 female candidate each.

Egor Constituency exhibits the highest gender inclusion, with 4 out of 9 candidates being women (44.4%). Conversely, 14 out of the 24 constituencies have no female candidates.

2. Strong Youth Presence Across Political Parties

With 39.63% (65 out of 164) of all candidates aged 40 and below, young citizens are actively seeking elective office in Edo State.

SDP leads in youth nomination, with 62.5% (15 out of 24) of its candidates being 40 or younger. APM (10) and NDC (10) also show significant youth nomination rates above 40%. Etsako West I leads in youth candidacy with 6 out of 9 candidates aged 40 and below, followed by Etsako West II with 5 young candidates.

Edo SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
AA	1	1	1	0	1	0
AAC	2	2	1	1	2	1
ADC	24	24	23	1	7	0
ADP	4	4	1	3	4	3
APC	24	24	23	1	4	0
APM	23	23	22	1	10	0
APP	5	5	4	1	2	0
LP	11	11	9	2	3	0
NDC	24	24	23	1	10	1
NDP	2	2	2	0	1	0
NRM	1	1	1	0	0	0
PDP	16	16	15	1	3	0
SDP	24	24	20	4	15	3
YPP	3	3	3	0	3	0
Total	**164**	**24**	**148**	**16**	**65**	**8**



12. Ekiti State

Land of Honour & Integrity

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **26**

Candidates: **175** | 138 Male, 37 Female - 21.1% Female

Parties Participating: **13**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (26), APC (26), NNPP (26)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Data Insights: *One of the highest female candidate percentages in Nigeria (21.1%) with concentrated party competition.*

Summary of Key Findings

1. Exceptionally High Female Candidate Representation

Ekiti ranks 3rd highest in Nigeria for female candidate participation at 21.14% (37 out of 175 candidates), significantly exceeding the national average of 10.30%.

PDP stands out with 87.5% female candidates (7 females out of 8 total candidates: Bosede Bukola Oyewole, Bosede Adenike Babalola, Olayemi Helen Alonge, Oluwatoyin Margaret Fagbemi, Risikat Adenike Olorunfemi, Rachael A. Adedigba, and Deborah Folake Ogundola). APC, NNPP, NDC, and SDP each fielded 6 to 7 female candidates (~23%–27% female inclusion). ADC fielded only 1 female candidate out of 26 (3.85%), and LP fielded zero female candidates across its 5 nominees.

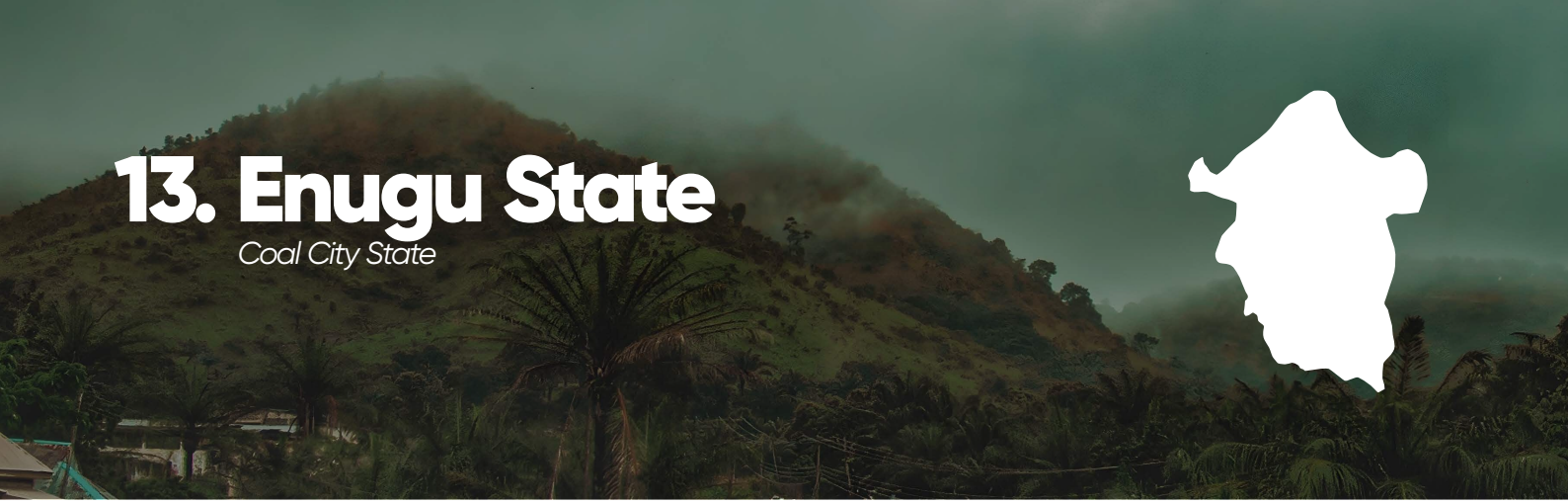
2. Streamlined Party Competition Across 26 Constituencies

A total of 175 candidates are competing across 26 House of Assembly constituencies, averaging 6.73 candidates per constituency, noticeably lower than the national average of 9.89, indicating a more consolidated political landscape.

5 political parties fielded candidates in all 26 constituencies (100% coverage): ADC, APC, NNPP, NDC, and SDP.

Ekiti SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	2	2	1	1	0	0
AA	4	4	3	1	2	0
AAC	1	1	1	0	1	0
ADC	26	26	25	1	8	0
ADP	3	3	2	1	2	1
APC	26	26	19	7	3	1
APM	19	19	18	1	5	0
LP	5	5	5	0	1	0
NDC	26	26	20	6	12	3
NNPP	26	26	20	6	17	6
PDP	8	8	1	7	5	5
SDP	26	26	20	6	11	1
YPP	3	3	3	0	0	0
Total	**175**	**26**	**138**	**37**	**67**	**17**



13. Enugu State

Coal City State

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **191** | 164 Male, 27 Female - 14.1% Female

Parties Participating: **18**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (24), APC (24), NDC (24)**

PWD Candidate: **01**

Summary of Key Findings

1.Female Candidates Exceed National Representation Averages

Female candidates account for 27 out of 191 candidates (14.14%) in Enugu. This is higher than the national female candidate representation average of 10.30% across all states.

Female nominations are heavily concentrated in smaller parties, led by the Action Democratic Party (ADP) with 8 candidates, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) with 7 candidates, and the People's Redemption Party (PRP) with 4 candidates. Major mainstream parties such as the PDP sponsored zero female candidates in Enugu.

2. Young Candidates (40 and Below) Make Up Nearly One-Third of Contestants

Young candidates aged 40 and below comprise 59 out of 191 candidates (30.89%) in Enugu State, which is lower than the national youth candidate benchmark of 45.44%.

There are 12 young female candidates in Enugu State, representing 6.28% of the total state candidate pool and 44.4% of all female candidates in the state. Male candidates account for 85.87% (164 candidates), while female candidates make up 14.14% (27 candidates) of the total 191 candidates.

Enugu SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	6	6	6	0	2	0
ADC	24	24	24	0	5	0
ADP	18	10	10	8	10	4
APC	24	22	22	2	3	0
APGA	1	1	1	0	0	0
APM	2	2	2	0	2	0
APP	4	1	1	3	2	1
DLA	1	1	1	0	0	0
LP	16	16	16	0	7	0
NDC	24	22	22	2	3	0
NDP	1	1	1	0	0	0
NRM	2	2	2	0	0	0
PDP	24	24	24	0	6	0
PRP	12	8	8	4	6	3
SDP	23	16	16	7	9	4
YP	1	1	1	0	1	0
YPP	5	5	5	0	2	0
ZLP	3	2	2	1	1	0
Total	**191**	**24**	**164**	**27**	**59**	**12**



14. Gombe State

Jewel in the Savannah

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **257** | 240 Male, 17 Female - 6.6% Female

Parties Participating: **18**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (24), APC (24), LP (24)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

Six major parties; ADC, APC, LP, NDC, PDP, and SDP, have fielded candidates in all 24 constituencies (24 candidates each).

Strong youth presence with a predominantly young candidate pool. Candidates aged 20–39 represent 54.9% (141 candidates) of the entire candidate pool. The youngest candidates are 25 years old (e.g., Mohammed Abdulrahaman in Akko North, Sulaiman Abdullahi and Ibrahim Sulaiman Saidu in Kwami West), while the oldest is 68 years old (Audu Ahmadu in Yamaltu East).

Out of 257 candidates, 240 are Male (93.4%) and 17 are Female (6.6%). The NRM fields the highest number of female candidates (6 out of 23 candidates, or 26.1%). PDP, SDP, and YPP field 2 female candidates each, while ADC, APGA, NDP, NNPP, and PRP field 1 each. Nine parties fielded no female candidates.

Gombe SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
AA	4	4	4	0	4	0
AAC	2	2	2	0	2	0
ADC	24	24	23	1	10	1
ADP	11	11	11	0	7	0
APC	24	24	24	0	5	0
APGA	2	2	1	1	0	0
APM	9	9	9	0	8	0
APP	2	2	2	0	2	0
DLA	8	8	8	0	5	0
LP	24	24	24	0	10	0
NDC	24	24	24	0	15	0
NDP	12	12	11	1	10	1
NNPP	7	7	6	1	7	1
NRM	23	23	17	6	18	5
PDP	24	24	22	2	8	0
PRP	20	20	19	1	18	1
SDP	24	24	22	2	14	0
YPP	13	13	11	2	6	1
Total	**257**	**24**	**240**	**17**	**149**	**10**



15. Imo State

Eastern Heartland

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **27**

Candidates: **364** | 310 Male, 54 Female - 14.8% Female

Parties Participating: **21**

Top Parties Fielded: **A (27), APC (27), SDP (27)**

PWD Candidate: **01**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Electoral Representation & Party Competitiveness

Imo State has 364 candidates contesting across 27 State Assembly constituencies, averaging 13.5 candidates per constituency. 9 political parties fielded a complete candidate list in all the 27 constituencies. They are: A, ADC, ADP, APC, APM, APP, NDC, PDP, and SDP.

Highest competitive constituencies (16 candidates each): Ahiazu Mbaise, Mbaitoli, and Ngor Okpala.Least competitive constituency (11 candidates): Orsu.

2. Gender Diversity & Female Inclusion

Out of 364 candidates, 310 are male (85.16%) and 54 are female (14.84%). APM (All People's Party) has the highest female candidate count (10 female candidates out of 27). SDP (Social Democratic Party) followed with 9 female candidates out of 27, while ADP fielded 6 female candidates, and APGA fielded 4. Several parties fielded 0 female candidates (e.g., AA, AAC, NDP, YP).

3. Age Demographics & Inclusivity

The average age of candidates in Imo State is 45.8 years (median age is 45), spanning from 26 to 77 years old.

Youngest Candidates (Age 26): Ahaneku Valentine Nzubechi (APP, Aboh Mbaise) and Okoronkwo Chiagozie Godswill (A, Ideato North).

Oldest Candidates (Age 76–77): Ezuruike Benard (SDP, Mbaitoli, Age 77) and Ekenadi Caleb (DLA, Ngor Okpala, Age 76).

Persons with Disabilities (PWD): 1 candidate is formally registered in the PWD category (Ihekwoaba Paul, NDC party, Ezinihitte constituency, Age 53).

Imo SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	27	27	24	3	4	0
AA	7	7	7	0	4	0
AAC	1	1	1	0	1	0
ADC	27	27	24	3	9	1
ADP	27	27	21	6	3	0
APC	27	27	25	2	1	0
APGA	21	21	17	4	4	1
APM	27	27	17	10	17	9
APP	27	27	26	1	14	0
DLA	5	5	3	2	0	0
LP	23	23	21	2	6	1
NDC	27	27	26	1	6	1
NDP	1	1	1	0	0	0
NNPP	13	13	10	3	5	2
NRM	20	20	17	3	2	1
PDP	27	27	26	1	7	1
PRP	3	3	2	1	0	0
SDP	27	27	18	9	6	1
YP	1	1	1	0	1	0
YPP	20	20	19	1	5	0
ZLP	6	6	4	2	2	1
Total	**364**	**27**	**310**	**54**	**97**	**19**



16. Jigawa State

The New World

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **31**

Candidates: **234** | 231 Male, 3 Female - 1.3% Female

Parties Participating: **14**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (31), APC (31), APM (31)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Strategic Insights: Lowest female candidate ratio in the country (1.3%).

Summary of Key Findings

1. Political Party Participation & Field Coverage

5 political parties (ADC, APC, APM, NDC, PDP) achieved 100% coverage across all 31 constituencies in Jigawa State, fielding 31 candidates each.

Birnin Kudu has the highest level of competition with 10 candidates. Aujara, Garki, and Roni have the fewest candidates, each with 6 candidates.

2. Gender Disparity & Youth Demographic Profile

Extreme Gender Imbalance: Out of 234 total candidates in Jigawa State, 231 (98.7%) are male and only 3 (1.3%) are female.

All 3 female candidates running in Jigawa State are young women under the age of 30:

* Fatima Abdulmalik (NNPP, Gumel Constituency, Age: 25)
* Maryam Muhammed (APP, Hadejia Constituency, Age: 29)
* Makiya Murtala (APP, Kiyawa Constituency, Age: 25)

Jigawa SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	5	5	5	0	3	0
ADC	31	31	31	0	15	0
ADP	29	29	29	0	24	0
APC	31	31	31	0	1	0
APGA	2	2	2	0	1	0
APM	31	31	31	0	27	0
APP	3	3	1	2	3	2
LP	4	4	4	0	2	0
NDC	31	31	31	0	23	0
NNPP	1	1	0	1	1	1
NRM	8	8	8	0	6	0
PDP	31	31	31	0	4	0
PRP	1	1	1	0	0	0
SDP	26	26	26	0	15	0
Total	**234**	**31***	**231**	**3**	**125**	**3**



17. Kaduna State

Centre of Learning

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **34**

Candidates: **317** | 290 Male, 27 Female - 8.5% Female

Parties Participating: **17**

Top Parties Fielded: **PDP (34), APC (34), ADC (34)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Four Main Parties Dominating Broad Territorial Coverage

While 17 political parties participate in Kaduna State, electoral presence is heavily concentrated among four major political parties. APC, PDP, ADC, and NDC have each fielded candidates in all 34 constituencies (136 candidates combined, representing 42.9% of the candidate pool).

The most contested constituencies are Chikun I with 15 candidates, followed by Jaba and Doka/Gabasawa with 12 candidates each.

2. Youth-Driven Candidate Pool with Low Female Representation

The demographic profile of candidates in Kaduna State reveals a strong lean toward younger cohorts alongside a substantial gender disparity: Out of 317 candidates, 290 are Male (91.5%) and 27 are Female (8.5%). ADP fields the highest number of female candidates with 8 women (24.2% of its candidates), followed by SDP (4 female candidates), NRM (3), and YPP (3). In contrast, major parties (APC, PDP, ADC, NDC) each fielded only 1 female candidate (2.9% inclusion).

Kaduna SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	10	10	10	0	10	0
ADC	34	34	33	1	11	0
ADP	33	33	25	8	30	6
APC	34	34	33	1	7	0
APGA	7	7	7	0	2	0
APM	21	21	21	0	15	0
APP	1	1	1	0	1	0
LP	13	13	11	2	7	1
NDC	34	34	33	1	18	0
NDP	21	21	20	1	9	0
NNPP	11	11	11	0	5	0
NRM	10	10	7	3	8	2
PDP	34	34	33	1	6	0
PRP	17	17	16	1	8	0
SDP	24	24	20	4	15	3
YPP	12	12	9	3	5	1
ZLP	1	1	0	1	1	1
Total	**317**	**34**	**290**	**27**	**158**	**14**



18. Kano State

Centre of Commerce

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: 40

Candidates: 449 | 434 Male, 15 Female - 3.3% Female

Parties Participating: 19

Top Parties Fielded: NDC (40), APP (40), ADC (40)

PWD Candidate: 0

Data Insights: *Highest absolute candidate volume in Nigeria (449 candidates).*

An analysis of the dataset reveals that Kano State represents one of the largest and most competitive electoral battlegrounds in Nigeria. Kano State is tied with Lagos State for the highest number of State House of Assembly constituencies (40 constituencies) and ranks #1 nationwide in total candidates fielded (449 candidates), representing 4.58% of all 9,802 candidates across the country.

Summary of Key Findings

1. National Electoral Scale & High Constituency Competition

Kano State leads all 35 participating states with 449 total candidates across its 40 constituencies, surpassing Rivers (432 candidates), Benue (422 candidates), and Oyo (378 candidates). Competition varies from 15 candidates in Gaya (the highest in the state) to 8 candidates in Makoda (the lowest). Other high-density constituencies include Ajingi, Dala, Gwale, and Kano Municipal, each with 14 competing candidates.

2. Party Penetration & Alignment

A total of 19 political parties are contesting seats in Kano State. Four parties ADC, APC, APP, and NDC fielded candidates in all 40 constituencies.

NNPP and APM fielded 33 candidates each, ADP fielded 32 candidates, and DLA fielded 31 candidates. Conversely, minor parties such as AAC, APGA, LP, and NRM fielded only 1 candidate each in the state.

3. Demographic Profile: Youthful Field vs. Low Female Representation

The youngest candidates in Kano are 25 years old (the minimum statutory age), while the oldest candidate is 71 years old.

Female candidates account for only 15 of the 449 candidates (3.34%), placing Kano among the lowest five states nationally in female candidate percentage (ranking 31st out of 35 states).

Kano SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	36	36	30	6	19	2
AA	7	7	6	1	2	0
AAC	1	1	0	1	0	0
ADC	40	40	39	1	23	1
ADP	32	32	32	0	19	0
APC	40	40	39	1	7	1
APGA	1	1	1	0	0	0
APM	33	33	31	2	23	1
APP	40	40	40	0	34	0
DLA	31	31	30	1	18	1
LP	1	1	1	0	1	0
NDC	40	40	40	0	17	0
NNPP	33	33	33	0	21	0
NRM	1	1	1	0	1	0
PDP	35	35	34	1	18	0
PRP	19	19	18	1	14	0
SDP	39	39	39	0	22	0
YPP	13	13	13	0	11	0
ZLP	7	7	7	0	6	0
Total	**449**	**449**	**434**	**15**	**256**	**6**



19. Katsina State

Home of Hospitality

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **34**

Candidates: **293** | 288 Male, 5 Female - 1.7% Female

Parties Participating: **12**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADP (34), ADC (34), APC (34)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Broad Multi-Party Representation with High Coverage Across Major Parties

Katsina State has a total of 293 candidates contesting across 34 State House of Assembly constituencies. Seven political parties demonstrate full coverage by contesting in every single constituency (34 candidates each): ADC, ADP, APC, APM, NDC, NNPP, and PDP.

2. Party Penetration & Alignment

Out of 293 candidates, 288 are male (98.29%) and 5 are female (1.71%). The 5 female candidates are:

Umar Halimatu Machika (ADC, Sabuwa Constituency, Age 27)
Lawal Hafsat (NNPP, Mai'adua Constituency, Age 35)
Lawal Hadiza (AAC, Kankia Constituency, Age 36)
Rahanatu Suleiman (SDP, Katsina Constituency, Age 39)
Bala Maimuna (NNPP, Katsina Constituency, Age 46)\

The youngest candidates tied at 25 years old are Sabiu Hamisu (APM, Kankara) and Ali Sulaiman (ADP, Zango). The oldest candidate is Ganua Tanimu Zubairu (PDP, Charanchi) at 68 years old.

Katsina SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
AAC	1	1	0	1	1	1
ADC	34	34	33	1	26	1
ADP	34	34	34	0	33	0
APC	34	34	34	0	8	0
APM	34	34	34	0	20	0
NDC	34	34	34	0	15	0
NNPP	34	34	32	2	6	1
NRM	4	4	4	0	2	0
PDP	34	34	34	0	18	0
PRP	26	26	26	0	18	0
SDP	23	23	22	1	15	1
YPP	1	1	1	0	1	0
Total	**293**	**34**	**288**	**5**	**163**	**4**

20. Kebbi State

Land of Equity



AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **167** | 158 Male, 9 Female - 5.4% Female

Parties Participating: **12**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (24), APC (24), A (23)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Party Participation

ADC (24 candidates) and APC (24 candidates) achieved 100% constituency coverage by fielding a candidate in every single constituency across the state.

The constituencies with the highest candidate concentration are Argungu (10 candidates) and Bunza (10 candidates), followed by Suru (9), Birnin Kebbi North (9), and Birnin Kebbi South (9).

2. Pronounced Gender Imbalance with Exclusion in Leading Parties

Severe Female Underrepresentation: Women account for only 5.39% (9 candidates) of all contestants in Kebbi State.

Zero Female Nominations by Major Parties: Neither APC (24 candidates), ADC (24 candidates), PDP (19 candidates), nor NDC (22 candidates) nominated a single female candidate.

All 9 Female Candidates:

Muhammed Fatima: NRM - Arewa constituency (Age 36), **Abubakar Halima:** Accord (A) - Bagudo West constituency (Age 29), **Abubakar Sambo Aisha:** SDP - Bagudo West constituency (Age 26,), **Muhammad Saratu:** APP - Birnin Kebbi North constituency (Age 26), **Peter Filicia:** NRM - Fakai constituency (Age 25), **Kayan Mai Manu:** SDP - Fakai constituency (Age 48), **A. Sani Sadiya:** APGA - Jega constituency (Age 36), **Abdullahi Hawa'u:** Accord (A) - Kalgo constituency (Age 38), **Abubakar Suwaiba:** NRM - Koko/Besse constituency (Age 27)

3. Youth Involvement and Representation

Nearly half of all candidates (49.1%, 82 candidates) are 40 years old or younger. The largest single age cohort is 31- 40 years (57 candidates), followed by 41-50 years (41 candidates) and 25-30 years (25 candidates). The youngest candidates are 25 years old (the legal minimum), while the oldest is 68.

Kebbi SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	23	23	21	2	18	2
AA	3	3	3	0	1	0
ADC	24	24	24	0	11	0
ADP	4	4	4	0	1	0
APC	24	24	24	0	3	0
APGA	4	4	3	1	3	1
APP	4	4	3	1	4	1
LP	2	2	2	0	2	0
NDC	22	22	22	0	15	0
NRM	15	15	12	3	10	3
PDP	19	19	19	0	7	0
SDP	23	23	21	2	7	1
Total	**167**	**24**	**158**	**9**	**82**	**8**

21. Kogi State

The Confluence State



AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **36**

Candidates: **285** 259 Male, 26 Female - 9.1% Female

Parties Participating: **16**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (36), APC (36), PDP (34)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Robust Electoral Competition

Kogi State features 36 constituencies, placing it 5th nationwide in the number of electoral constituencies (tied with 36-constituency states and behind Kano [40], Lagos [40], Delta [38], and Benue [37]).

A total of 285 candidates are competing for the 36 available seats. Out of 16 contesting political parties, only APC and ADC have achieved 100% constituency coverage by fielding candidates in all 36 seats. PDP and SDP follow closely with 34 candidates each.

Omala constituency is the most contested seat in the state with 11 candidates, followed by Adavi, Lokoja I, and Ankpa II with 10 candidates each. Conversely, Yagba West II is the least contested with 3 candidates.

2.Gender Disparity

Overall Gender Imbalance: Female candidates account for 9.1% (26 candidates) of all contestants in Kogi State, while male candidates represent 90.9% (259 candidates). Kogi ranks 20th out of 35 states in female representation percentage, falling slightly below the national state average of 10.4%.

NNPP as the Primary Gender Diversity Driver: The New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) accounts for nearly half of all female candidates in the state, fielding 12 female candidates out of their 25 total candidates (48.0% female ratio).

Party Breakdown in Kogi State

State	Total Candidates	Male Candidates	Female Candidates	Female Representation(%)
ADC	36	35	1	2.8%
APC	36	35	1	2.8%
PDP	34	33	1	2.9%
SDP	34	33	1	2.9%
NDC	28	28	0	0.0%
NNPP	25	13	12	48.0%
APM	23	17	6	26.1%
NDP	22	22	0	0.0%
A	16	15	1	6.3%
YPP	8	7	1	12.5%
ADP	8	8	0	0.0%
APGA	6	4	2	33.3%
AA	5	5	0	0.0%
YP	2	2	0	0.0%
AAC	1	1	0	0.0%
APP	1	1	0	0.0%
Total	**285**	**259**	**26**	**9.1%**



22. Kwara State

State of Harmony

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **264** 207 Male, 57 Female - 21.6% Female

Parties Participating: **13**

Top Parties Fielded: **A (24), ADP (24), ADC (24)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Data Insights: *Highest female candidate percentage in the nation (21.6%). High candidate interest despite fewer participating parties.*

Summary of Key Findings

1. Kwara Leads Nigeria in Female Political Representation

Kwara State ranks #1 out of all 35 participating states in female candidate representation for the State House of Assembly elections. Females make up 21.59% (57 candidates) of Kwara's total candidate pool, which is more than double the national average of 10.30%. Isin Constituency has the highest proportion of female candidates, with 50.0% female candidates (6 out of 12).

2. Party-Level Inclusion:

Allied Peoples Movement (APM): Fielded 14 female candidates out of 23 total (60.87% female).National Rescue Movement (NRM): Fielded 11 female candidates out of 13 total (84.62% female).Action Peoples Party (APP): Fielded 10 female candidates out of 23 total (43.48% female).Action Alliance (AA): Fielded 2 female candidates out of 2 total (100% female).All Progressives Congress (APC): Fielded 6 female candidates out of 24 total (25.00% female).PDP & SDP: Both fielded 0 female candidates (0 out of 24 for PDP; 0 out of 17 for SDP).Six parties fielded a full slate of 24 candidates across all 24 constituencies: **A, ADC, ADP, APC, NDC, and PDP.**

3. Young Candidate Profile and Demographic Distribution

The candidate pool in Kwara State is notably youth-leaning, with an average candidate age of 40.05 years (median: 38.0 years), compared to the national candidate average age of 42.70 years.Age Bracket Breakdown:

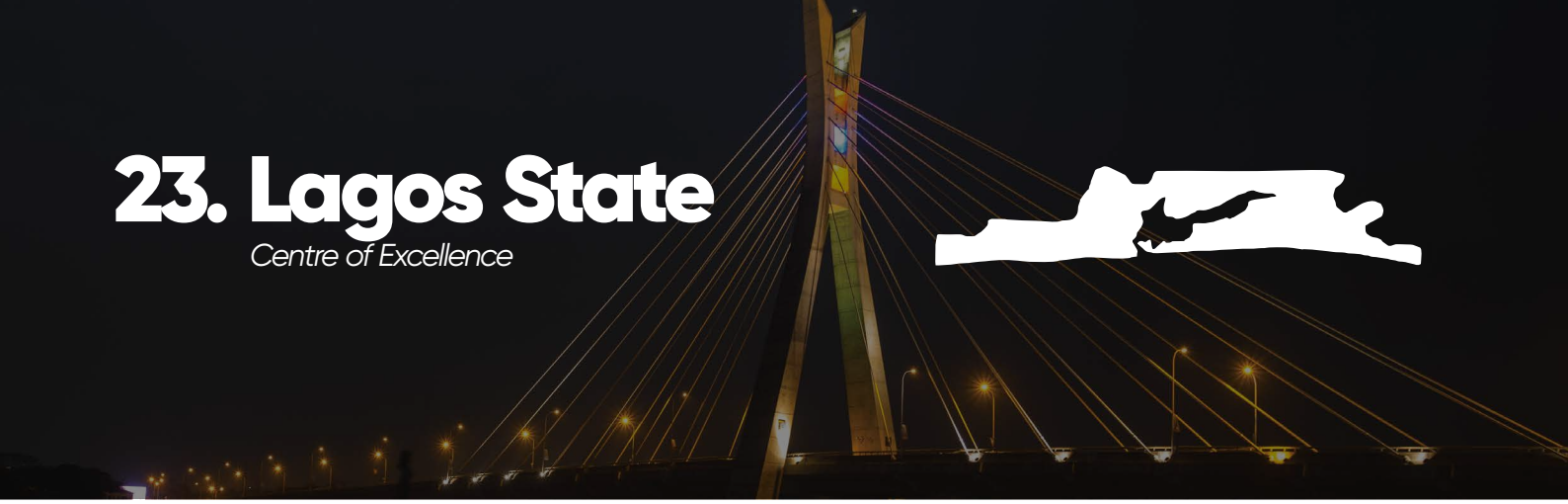
25–29 Years (Youth): 28 candidates (10.61%), **30–39 Years:** 122 candidates (46.21%), **40–49 Years:** 74 candidates (28.03%), **50–59 Years:** 33 candidates (12.50%), **60+ Years:** 7 candidates (2.65%)

Youngest Candidate: Fatimat Ammahullahi, Age 25, contesting under the APP for the Gwanabe/Adena/Banni/Kaiama I constituency.

Oldest Candidate: Osasona Joseph Adeleke, Age 70, contesting under the ADC for the Ekiti constituency.

Kwara SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	24	24	22	2	18	1
AA	2	2	0	2	1	1
ADC	24	24	23	1	13	0
ADP	24	24	21	3	11	1
APC	24	24	18	6	8	3
APM	23	23	9	14	18	10
APP	23	23	13	10	18	7
NDC	24	24	22	2	10	1
NDP	19	19	15	4	11	2
NNPP	23	23	21	2	12	1
NRM	13	13	2	11	11	9
PDP	24	24	24	0	10	0
SDP	17	17	17	0	12	0
Total	**264**	**24**	**207**	**57**	**153**	**36**



23. Lagos State

Centre of Excellence

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **40**

Candidates: **332** | 282 Male, 50 Female - 15.1% Female

Parties Participating: **18**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (40), APC (40), APM (39)**

PWD Candidate: **02**

Data Insights: *Moderate density across 40 seats. Strong female inclusion (50 candidates) and higher PWD representation.*

Summary of Key Findings

1. Kwara Leads Nigeria in Female Political Representation

Out of 18 participating political parties, only ADC and APC field candidates in all 40 constituencies (40 candidates each). APM, NDC, and PDP each field candidates in 39 constituencies, while SDP fields 35 candidates and NRM fields 25 candidates. The average constituency has 8 candidates. The most contested constituencies with 11 candidates each are Alimosho I, Alimosho II, Kosofe I, Mushin I, and Shomolu I. The least contested with 6 candidates each are Apapa II, Eti-Osa I, Oshodi/Isolo I, and Surulere I.

2. Demographics & Representation

Gender Imbalance: 282 candidates (84.9%) are male and 50 candidates (15.1%) are female. Among major parties, ADC has the highest female representation with 9 female candidates (22.5%), followed by APM with 8 (20.5%) and SDP with 7 (20.0%). PDP fields 4 female candidates (10.3%), while APC fields 2 female candidates (5.0%).

Age Distribution: Excluding one data anomaly (Fapohunda Olanrewaju, ADP, Alimosho I, listed with an age of 156), candidate ages range from 25 to 70 years, with a mean age of 44.4 years and a median age of 43 years.

Inclusion (PWD): 2 candidates Olorunkemi Arafat Emiola (ADC, Amuwo Odofin II, Age 45, Male) and Adikwu Augustine Ochigbo (NDC, Ibeju-Lekki I, Age 49, Male)

Lagos SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	5	5	4	1	3	1
AAC	7	7	7	0	5	0
ADC	40	40	31	9	15	5
ADP	16	16	13	3	7	2
APC	40	40	38	2	7	2
APM	39	39	31	8	15	3
APP	4	4	3	1	2	1
BP	3	3	3	0	1	0
LP	9	9	7	2	1	0
NDC	39	39	36	3	16	0
NDP	15	15	13	2	6	2
NNPP	3	3	3	0	1	0
NRM	25	25	20	5	9	2
PDP	39	39	35	4	8	0
SDP	35	35	28	7	14	1
YP	3	3	2	1	3	1
YPP	4	4	4	0	2	0
ZLP	6	6	4	2	3	2
Total	**332**	**27**	**282**	**50**	**118**	**22**

24. Nasarawa Sate

Home of Solid Minerals



AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **251** | 239 Male, 12 Female - 4.8% Female

Parties Participating: **17**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADP (24), ADC (24), APC (24)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Severe Gender Imbalance Across Constituencies and Parties

Low Overall Female Representation: Female candidates account for only 4.78% (12 candidates) of the 251 candidates in Nasarawa State, which is significantly below the national average of 10.30%. The remaining 239 candidates (95.22%) are male.

Widespread Female Exclusion in Constituencies: 16 out of the 24 constituencies (66.7%) have zero female candidates contesting. Female candidates are concentrated in just 8 constituencies, led by Akwanga South (3 female candidates), Akwanga North (2 candidates), and Karu/Gitata (2 candidates).

Party Gender Disparities: Out of 17 participating political parties in the state, only 9 fielded at least one female candidate. Party A fielded the highest number (4 female candidates), while APC, APGA, APM, LP, NRM, SDP, YPP, and ZLP fielded 1 each. Major parties such as PDP and ADC fielded zero female candidates in the state.

Nasarawa SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	19	19	15	4	12	1
AA	1	1	1	0	0	0
ADC	24	24	24	0	12	0
ADP	24	24	24	0	17	0
APC	24	24	23	1	4	0
APGA	19	19	18	1	10	1
APM	22	22	21	1	17	1
APP	4	4	4	0	1	0
LP	17	17	16	1	9	1
NDC	23	23	23	0	7	0
NNPP	1	1	1	0	1	0
NRM	4	4	3	1	2	0
PDP	23	23	23	0	8	0
PRP	2	2	2	0	0	0
SDP	24	24	23	1	7	1
YPP	6	6	5	1	3	1
ZLP	14	14	13	1	10	1
Total	**251**	**24**	**239**	**12**	**120**	**7**



25. Niger State

The Power State

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **27**

Candidates: **316** | 292 Male, 24 Female - 7.6% Female

Parties Participating: **17**

Top Parties Fielded: **NNPP (27), NDC (27), ADC (27)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Party Participation with Full Coverage Across Constituencies

Niger State comprises 27 State Assembly constituencies contested by 316 candidates across 17 political parties, averaging approximately 11.7 candidates per constituency. 9 political parties achieved complete statewide coverage by nominating a candidate in every single constituency (27 candidates each): ADC, ADP, APC, LP, NDC, NDP, NNPP, PDP, and SDP. Bida I (North) and Chanchanga host the highest competition with 14 candidates each, whereas Agwara, Edatti, and Mariga have the lowest with 10 candidates each.

Pronounced Gender Disparity Across Political Parties

Underrepresentation of Women: Out of 316 candidates, 292 are male (92.41%) and only 24 are female (7.59%), highlighting a significant gender imbalance.

Minor Parties Lead Inclusion: Female candidacy is concentrated within non-major parties. Action Alliance (A) and Allied Peoples Movement (APM) lead gender inclusion with 6 female candidates each, together accounting for 50% of all female candidates in Niger State.

Zero Female Representation in Major Parties: Established mainstream parties including APC, PDP, and SDP filed zero female candidates across all 27 constituencies.

Youth Bias in Female Nominations: Female candidates are disproportionately younger; 13 out of 24 female candidates (54.17%) belong to the youth demographic (aged 25–35), and none are over 60 years old. No Persons with Disabilities (PWD) candidates were recorded for Niger State.

Niger SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	25	25	19	6	21	5
AAC	2	2	2	0	2	0
ADC	27	27	25	2	7	0
ADP	27	27	25	2	23	2
APC	27	27	27	0	6	0
APGA	4	4	3	1	0	0
APM	24	24	18	6	23	6
APP	1	1	1	0	1	0
LP	27	27	25	2	8	1
NDC	27	27	26	1	7	1
NDP	27	27	27	0	9	0
NNPP	27	27	25	2	18	2
NRM	13	13	12	1	11	0
PDP	27	27	27	0	15	0
PRP	3	3	3	0	1	0
SDP	27	27	27	0	21	0
ZLP	1	1	0	1	1	1
Total	**316**	**27**	**292**	**24**	**174**	**18**



26. Ogun State

Gateway State

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **26**

Candidates: **299** | 250 Male, 49 Female - 16.4% Female

Parties Participating: **15**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADC (26), APC (26), NDC (26)**

PWD Candidate: **02**

Data Insights: *Robust female participation and above-average candidate density.*

Summary of Key Findings

1. Party Participation & Coverage

6 political parties (ADC, APC, NDC, PDP, SDP, and YPP) have fielded a complete slate of 26 candidates across all 26 constituencies. 15 political parties are active in the state.

Abeokuta North, Sagamu I Offin, Odeda Area, and Ifo I feature the largest candidate fields with 13 candidates each.

2. Gender Inclusion & Constituency Dynamics

Overall Imbalance: Male candidates account for 83.61% (250 candidates), while female candidates account for 16.39% (49 candidates). PDP fielded 0 female candidates across all 26 constituencies (100% male). NNPP achieved the highest female representation at 40.0% (10 female candidates out of 25), followed by NRM (38.1%, 8 of 21).

Odogbolu is the only female-majority constituency in the state, with 6 female and 5 male candidates (54.5% female). 4 constituencies have zero female candidates: Ifo I, Imeko-Afon, Idiroko Ipokia, and Egbado North II. 2 candidates are registered with PWD status (Albinism): Osikanmi Tosin (YPP, Ijebu North I) and Soloman Amusan (SDP, Ikenne).

Youth Candidates: 13 candidates (4.35%) are under 30 years old, with 5 candidates running at the minimum eligible age of 25:

Olorundare Abiodun (ADP, Ifo I), **Amuda Temitope** (NNPP, Ifo II), **Odufeso Rafiat Oluwakemi** (NNPP, Ijebu East Area), **Olaide Olumade Omobolaji** (ADC, Remo North), **Bamgbose Muinat Ayinke** (AAC, Egbado North I)

Ogun SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	3	3	2	1	3	1
AAC	6	6	5	1	5	1
ADC	26	26	22	4	6	1
ADP	22	22	15	7	6	2
APC	26	26	25	1	3	0
APM	24	24	22	2	6	0
BP	14	14	13	1	6	1
DLA	4	4	3	1	4	1
NDC	26	26	25	1	13	1
NDP	24	24	23	1	7	1
NNPP	25	25	15	10	17	8
NRM	21	21	13	8	8	3
PDP	26	26	26	0	7	0
SDP	26	26	22	4	6	1
YPP	26	26	19	7	15	3
Total	**299**	**26**	**250**	**49**	**112**	**24**



27. Ondo State

Sunshine State

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **26**

Candidates: **191** | 168 Male, 23 Female - 12% Female

Parties Participating: **19**

Top Parties Fielded: **APC (26), ADC (26), APM (22)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Data Insights: *Lower candidate density.*

Summary of Key Findings

1. Party Representation and Constituency Coverage

Only two political parties (APC, ADC) fielded a full slate of 26 candidates across all 26 State House of Assembly constituencies in Ondo State.

2. Gender Inclusion and Age Demographics

Male Candidates: 168 candidates (87.96%)Female Candidates: 23 candidates (12.04%)

Labour Party (LP): Achieved the highest proportion of female candidates (66.7% - 4 female candidates out of 6 total), including Oluwafemi Helen Omolola (Akoko North West II, Age 59), Ajibola Mary Yemisi (Akoko South West I, Age 42), Oluwaseun Temitayo David (Akure South II, Age 42), and Oladele Loveth (Idanre, Age 27).

APC: 4 female candidates out of 26 (15.4%), including Edu Tomisin Esther Falade (Akure North, Age 41), Fynch Adeola Rosemary (Akure South I, Age 42), Atoyebi Grace Aderonke (Odigbo II, Age 30), and Aruna Olufunke Bisi (Owo II, Age 46).

ADC: 0 female candidates out of 26 (0.0%).

Youngest Candidates (Tied at 26 years old): Ariwolo Oyewole (NNPP, Akoko South West I), Akintoye Michael Oluwafemi (ZLP, Odigbo I), and Oloniteru Femi (AAC, Ose).

Oldest Candidate (76 years old): Balogun Hammed (APM, Ondo East).

Ondo SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	8	8	8	0	1	0
AA	5	5	4	1	2	1
AAC	4	4	4	0	2	0
ADC	26	26	26	0	14	0
ADP	4	4	2	2	1	0
APC	26	26	22	4	6	1
APM	22	22	21	1	5	1
APP	5	5	3	2	4	1
BP	1	1	1	0	0	0
DLA	4	4	4	0	1	0
LP	6	6	2	4	3	1
NDC	20	20	19	1	7	0
NDP	2	2	2	0	0	0
NNPP	14	14	11	3	5	1
PDP	12	12	10	2	5	0
SDP	20	20	17	3	4	0
YP	1	1	1	0	0	0
YPP	4	4	4	0	3	0
ZLP	7	7	7	0	1	0
Total	**191**	**26**	**168**	**23**	**64**	**6**



28. Osun State

State Of The Living Spring

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **26**

Candidates: **263** | 207 Male, 56 Female - 21.3% Female

Parties Participating: **17**

Top Parties Fielded: **A (26), APC (26), NDP (26)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Exceptionally High Female Representation (Ranked #2 Nationally)

Female candidates make up 21.29% (56 out of 263) of all candidates in Osun State. This places Osun second nationwide among all 35 states analyzed, trailing only Kwara State (21.59%) and significantly outperforming the national average of 10.30%.

Female inclusion is heavily driven by parties such as NDP (13 females out of 26 candidates; 50.0%), NDC (11 females out of 26 candidates; 42.3%), and NRM (9 females out of 20 candidates; 45.0%). Major parties exhibit much lower gender balance in Osun; for instance, APC fields 1 female candidate out of 26 (3.8%), while party A fields 0 female candidates across its 26 nominees.

Osogbo constituency leads the state with 5 female candidates (41.7% of its 12 total candidates), followed by Egbedore with 4 female candidates. By contrast, Iwo is the only constituency without any female candidate (0 out of 9 candidates).

Osun SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40)	Female Candidates (≤ 40)
A	26	26	26	0	4	0
AA	4	4	2	2	2	0
AAC	3	3	3	0	3	0
ADC	26	26	24	2	10	1
ADP	16	16	12	4	3	0
APC	26	26	25	1	6	0
APM	25	25	24	1	7	0
APP	8	8	7	1	3	0
BP	2	2	1	1	2	1
LP	3	3	1	2	3	2
NDC	26	26	15	11	6	1
NDP	26	26	13	13	8	3
NNPP	21	21	16	5	8	2
NRM	20	20	11	9	7	1
PRP	4	4	2	2	1	1
SDP	25	25	23	2	18	2
YPP	2	2	2	0	1	0
Total	**263**	**26**	**207**	**56**	**92**	**14**



29. Oyo State

Pace Setter State

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **32**

Candidates: **378** | 340 Male, 38 Female - 10.1% Female

Parties Participating: **19**

Top Parties Fielded: **A (32), NDC (32), ADC (32)**

PWD Candidate: **01**

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Electoral Competition Driven by Broad Party Participation

Oyo State fields 378 candidates across 32 state constituencies, making it the 4th largest state cohort in Nigeria (behind Kano with 449, Rivers with 432, and Benue with 422).

Electoral contests are densest in urban Ibadan constituencies, led by Ibadan South West II (17 candidates), Ibadan South-East II (15 candidates), and Oluyole (14 candidates). In contrast, 5 constituencies have the lowest count of 10 candidates each: Ibarapa East, Oorelope, Oriire, Ogo-Oluwa / Surulere, and Irepo & Olorunsogo.

Party Footprint & Coverage: A total of 19 political parties are contesting in Oyo State. 7 parties (A, ADC, ADP, APC, APM, NDC, PRP) field a full slate of 32 candidates across every constituency. Major contenders PDP (31 candidates) and NNPP (30 candidates) field candidates in nearly all constituencies. 08148424988

Demographics: Youth candidates under 30 account for 21 candidates (5.6%). The youngest candidates are 25 years old (e.g., Durojaye Ridwan Tolani [SDP, Saki West], Oyewole Aliyu Sunkanmi [NNPP, Ibadan North West], and Adepoju Umar-Faruk [A, Ogbomoso North]), while the oldest candidate is 67 years old (Adejuyigbe Bolade Taiwo [NDP, Oluyole]).

Gender Disparity: Women account for 10.05% (38 candidates) versus 89.95% (340 male candidates). Oyo State ranks 18th out of 36 states in female candidacy percentage, hovering right around the national average of 10.30%.

Persons with Disabilities (PWD): There is 1 candidate registered under the PWD classification: Adeyemi Olaide (APC, age 41, Ibadan North East I constituency, condition: Albinism).

Oyo SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	32	32	31	1	20	0
AA	6	6	6	0	2	0
AAC	3	3	3	0	2	0
ADC	32	32	28	4	8	1
ADP	32	32	23	9	17	4
APC	32	32	31	1	9	0
APM	32	32	30	2	10	0
APP	2	2	2	0	0	0
LP	9	9	9	0	7	0
NDC	32	32	28	4	15	2
NDP	22	22	19	3	8	1
NNPP	30	30	27	3	19	3
NRM	3	3	2	1	2	1
PDP	31	31	29	2	10	0
PRP	32	32	30	2	9	0
SDP	29	29	26	3	16	1
YP	1	1	1	0	1	0
YPP	8	8	6	2	6	2
ZLP	10	10	9	1	2	0
Total	**378**	**378**	**340**	**38**	**163**	**15**



30. Plateau State

Home of Peace and Tourism

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **257** | 224 Male, 33 Female - 12.8% Female

Parties Participating: **20**

Top Parties Fielded: **ZLP (24), PDP (24), APC (24)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Data Insights: *High political diversity with 20 active parties, including strong ZLP participation.*

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Political Party Participation and Competitive Field Density

A total of 257 candidates are competing across 24 State House of Assembly constituencies in Plateau State. 5 political parties fielded a full candidate list of 24 candidates (one in every constituency): APC (24 candidates), PDP (24 candidates), ADC (24 candidates), NDC (24 candidates), and ZLP (24 candidates)

Most Contested: Jos North West leads with 14 candidates, followed by Jos North, Jos South, and Pengana with 13 candidates each.

Least Contested: Langtang South and Qua'an Pan North have the lowest competition, with 8 candidates each.

2. Demographics: Younger Candidate Pool with Low Female Representation

The field is heavily male-dominated: Male: 224 candidates (87.2%), Female: 33 candidates (12.8%)

NDP fielded the highest number of female candidates with **6**, followed by **ADP** with **4.** Major parties fielded fewer female candidates: **PDP (3), SDP (3), APC (2), ADC (2), and ZLP (2).**

Youngest candidates (25 years old): Dadi Joseph (YPP, Langtang North), Benjamin Nancwat Makzy (APM, Langtang South), and Sindep John Timnan (NDC, Langtang South).

Oldest candidate (67 years old): Lemoro Wanga Hosea (ADP, Pengana).

Plateau SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	1	1	1	0	0	0
AAC	1	1	1	0	1	0
ADC	24	24	22	2	13	2
ADP	23	23	19	4	10	3
APC	24	24	22	2	7	1
APM	19	19	18	1	10	0
APP	7	7	5	2	6	1
BP	1	1	1	0	1	0
DLA	1	1	1	0	1	0
LP	4	4	4	0	2	0
NDC	24	24	21	3	14	1
NDP	14	14	8	6	8	5
NNPP	10	10	9	1	8	1
NRM	5	5	4	1	4	1
PDP	24	24	21	3	8	2
PRP	4	4	2	2	3	2
SDP	23	23	20	3	11	1
YP	1	1	1	0	1	0
YPP	23	23	22	1	20	1
ZLP	24	24	22	2	15	1
Total	**257**	**24**	**224**	**33**	**143**	**22**



31. Rivers State

Treasure Base of the Nation

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **32**

Candidates: **432** | 362 Male, 70 Female - 16.2% Female

Parties Participating: **22**

Top Parties Fielded: **NDC (32), PDP (32), APP (32)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Political Engagement

Rivers State accounts for 432 total candidates contesting across 32 State House of Assembly constituencies, averaging 13.5 candidates per constituency. Rivers State ranks 3rd nationally in total candidate volume (tied with Kano and Benue at 432 candidates).

Six political parties (ADC, APC, APP, NDC, PDP, SDP) fielded the maximum possible count of 32 candidates (one for every constituency in the state)

2. Above-Average Female Representation

Rivers State achieved a 16.2% female candidate rate (70 female candidates out of 432), ranking 6th highest nationally and substantially exceeding the national average of 10.3%. PDP fielded the highest proportion and number of female candidates in Rivers State at 37.5% (12 female candidates out of 32), followed by APC, SDP, NDC, and LP with 6 female candidates each.

Top Constituencies for Female Representation: Port-Harcourt III achieved 50.0% gender parity (6 female, 6 male candidates), followed by ONELGA II at 45.5% (5 female, 6 male candidates) and Asari-Toru I at 30.8% (4 female, 9 male candidates).

Zero Female Representation: Three constituencies, Andoni I (16 candidates), Etche I (11 candidates), and Omuma (10 candidates) have zero female candidates.

3. Young Demographics and Tertiary Educational Attainment

Youngest Candidate: Nwaoburu Trustgod Chukwachuiam (Party A, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni constituency) at 25 years old (Female).

Oldest Candidate: Ifamama Ngeribara David (LP, Ogu/Bolo constituency) at 76 years old (Male)

Constituency	Total Candidates	Male	Female	Female Percentage (%)
Port-Harcourt III	12	6	6	50.0%
ONELGA II	11	6	5	45.5%
Asari-Toru I	13	9	4	30.8%
Khana I	15	11	4	26.7%
Ikwere I	16	12	4	25.0%
Akuku-Toru II	13	10	3	23.1%
Obio/Akpor II	13	10	3	23.1%

Rivers SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	10	10	8	2	6	1
AA	30	30	26	4	14	1
AAC	1	1	0	1	1	1
ADC	32	32	27	5	9	3
ADP	14	14	11	3	8	2
APC	32	32	26	6	3	1
APGA	1	1	1	0	0	0
APM	27	27	23	4	10	3
APP	32	32	31	1	8	0
BP	3	3	3	0	0	0
DLA	19	19	19	0	8	0
LP	27	27	21	6	7	2
NDC	32	32	26	6	13	5
NDP	3	3	2	1	1	0
NNPP	26	26	23	3	8	1
NRM	15	15	13	2	11	2
PDP	32	32	20	12	7	2
PRP	15	15	14	1	9	0
SDP	32	32	26	6	13	4
YP	3	3	3	0	2	0
YPP	26	26	23	3	9	0
ZLP	20	20	16	4	10	3
Total	**432**	**32**	**362**	**70**	**157**	**31**

32. Sokoto State

Seat of the Caliphate



AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **30**

Candidates: **292** | 271 Male, 21 Female - 7.2% Female

Parties Participating: **17**

Top Parties Fielded: **NDC (30), APP (30), ADC (30)**

PWD Candidate: **01**

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Party Competition and Strong Youth Demographics

A total of 292 candidates are contesting across 30 state constituencies in Sokoto State, averaging 9.7 candidates per constituency. Six political parties (ADC, APC, APM, APP, NDC, and SDP) fielded a candidate in all 30 constituencies.

The most competitive constituencies by candidate count are Sokoto South I and Sokoto South II with 13 candidates each, followed by Kebbe, Shagari, Rabah, Tambuwal East, and Sokoto North I with 12 candidates each.

Youth Representation (60.6% Under 40): The candidate pool in Sokoto is remarkably young, with a median age of 36 years and a mean age of 38.5 years. Candidates aged 30-39 form the largest group (112 candidates, 38.4%), followed by ages 40-49 (68 candidates, 23.3%), and ages 25-29 (65 candidates, 22.3%).

2. Pronounced Gender Imbalance in Major Parties

Low Overall Female Representation: Out of 292 total candidates, 271 are Male (92.8%) and 21 are Female (7.2%). The main political parties in the state; APC, PDP, ADC, SDP, and NDC, fielded 0 female candidates.

Female Candidates concentrated in Alternative Parties: Female candidacies are concentrated in specific parties: APM (7 females), APP (7 females), ADP (3 females), A (1 female), AA (1 female), APGA (1 female), and LP (1 female).

3. On Inclusion

1 candidate is officially registered as a Person with Disability: Saidu Kabiru (NRM, Bodinga North constituency, Age 36, Male), categorized under Albinism.

Sokoto SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	9	9	8	1	6	1
AA	6	6	5	1	3	1
AAC	5	5	5	0	2	0
ADC	30	30	30	0	13	0
ADP	26	26	23	3	24	3
APC	30	30	30	0	4	0
APGA	5	5	4	1	5	1
APM	30	30	23	7	18	5
APP	30	30	23	7	29	6
LP	14	14	13	1	12	1
NDC	30	30	30	0	21	0
NNPP	3	3	3	0	2	0
NRM	8	8	8	0	8	0
PDP	26	26	26	0	12	0
PRP	3	3	3	0	3	0
SDP	30	30	30	0	22	0
YPP	7	7	7	0	7	0
Total	**292**	**30**	**271**	**21**	**191**	**18**

33. Taraba State

Nature's Gift to the Nation



AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **288** | 272 Male, 16 Female - 5.6% Female

Parties Participating: **21**

Top Parties Fielded: **SDP (24), PDP (24), APC (24)**

PWD Candidate: **01**

Summary of Key Findings

1. Political Competition & Party Coverage Across Constituencies

A total of 288 candidates across 21 political parties are contesting for 24 seats in the Taraba State House of Assembly. Four major parties achieve 100% coverage; Out of 21 participating parties, exactly 4 parties (APC, PDP, SDP, ADC) field candidates in all 24 constituencies.

2. Demographics: Gender Representation, Youth Participation & Disability Inclusion

Out of 288 total candidates, 272 are male (94.44%) and 16 are female (5.56%). Taraba ranks 27th out of 35 states in female candidate representation, remaining below the national state average of 10.44%. Only 12 of the 24 constituencies feature female candidates on the ballot.

All 16 Female Candidates:

Alhassan Veronica (APC, Bali I, Age 53), **Bakundi Huraira Tukur** (SDP, Bali I, Age 43), **Christy Samuel** (LP, Gassol II, Age 39), **Nailatu M. Gassol** (DLA, Jalingo I, Age 36), **Emmanuel Christiana** (NNPP, Takum I, Age 39), **Ndetsiba Tosiah Adi** (ADP, Ussa/Likam, Age 56), **Saidu Aishatu Kune** (APM, Mbamnga, Age 32), **Apolos Naomi** (ADC, Kurmi, Age 41), **Martin Nester** (ADP, Zing, Age 35), **Bello Fauziya** (ZLP, Zing, Age 26), **Lengaya Rejoice** (LP, Wukari II, Age 37), **Muhammad Batulu Kaltume** (APC, Gashaka, Age 60), **Bulus Sarah** (APGA, Lau, Age 28), **Ibrahim Rahinatu** (NRM, Lau, Age 37), **Gaavo Grace Ameh** (ADP, Yorro, Age 53), **Nyabun Baru Latan** (LP, Yorro, Age 28)

3. Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PWD):

Only 1 candidate is registered as a Person with a Disability: Aliyu Bello (NRM, Yorro Constituency, Age 44, Male, Condition: Albinism).

Taraba SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	18	18	18	0	8	0
AA	3	3	3	0	1	0
AAC	1	1	1	0	1	0
ADC	24	24	23	1	13	0
ADP	16	16	13	3	7	1
APC	24	24	22	2	2	0
APGA	23	23	22	1	12	1
APM	23	23	22	1	6	1
APP	3	3	3	0	2	0
BP	1	1	1	0	0	0
DLA	5	5	4	1	2	1
LP	17	17	14	3	10	3
NDC	20	20	20	0	8	0
NDP	12	12	12	0	5	0
NNPP	20	20	19	1	5	1
NRM	8	8	7	1	4	1
PDP	24	24	24	0	7	0
PRP	8	8	8	0	5	0
SDP	24	24	23	1	7	0
YPP	12	12	12	0	6	0
ZLP	2	2	1	1	2	1
Total	**288**	**24**	**272**	**16**	**113**	**10**



34. Yobe State

Pride of the Sahel

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **213** | 210 Male, 3 Female - 1.4% Female

Parties Participating: **12**

Top Parties Fielded: **ADP (24), ADC (24), APC (24)**

PWD Candidate: **01**

Data Insights: *Low female inclusion (3 candidates) and younger candidate demographic*

Summary of Key Findings

A total of 213 candidates are competing across 24 constituencies in Yobe State, representing 12 political parties. Four major parties; ADP, ADC, APC, and NDC, have fielded candidates in all 24 constituencies.

Highly Youth-Centric Candidate Pool: The average age of candidates in Yobe State is 38.2 years. Over 69% of all candidates (147 out of 213) are under 40 years old, with 17.8% under the age of 30.

Severe Gender Imbalance: Male candidates dominate the field at 98.6% (210 candidates), while female candidates account for just 1.4% (3 candidates total across the entire state).

2. Party Representation & Constituency Coverage

A total of 12 political parties are participating in Yobe State. Coverage varies from total state-wide presence to selective district entries: 100% Coverage (24 Candidates / 24 Constituencies):

3. Demographic Profile

Gender Representation: Male Candidates: 210 (98.59%) Female Candidates: 3 (1.41%)

The Female Candidates: Tela Amina , Party: ADP, Constituency: (Bursari, Age: 30), Yusuf Zainab, Party: APP, Constituency: Damaturu II,(Age: 25), Umaru Habiba, Party: YPP, Constituency: Fika/Ngalda, (Age: 33)

3. Persons with Disabilities (PWD)

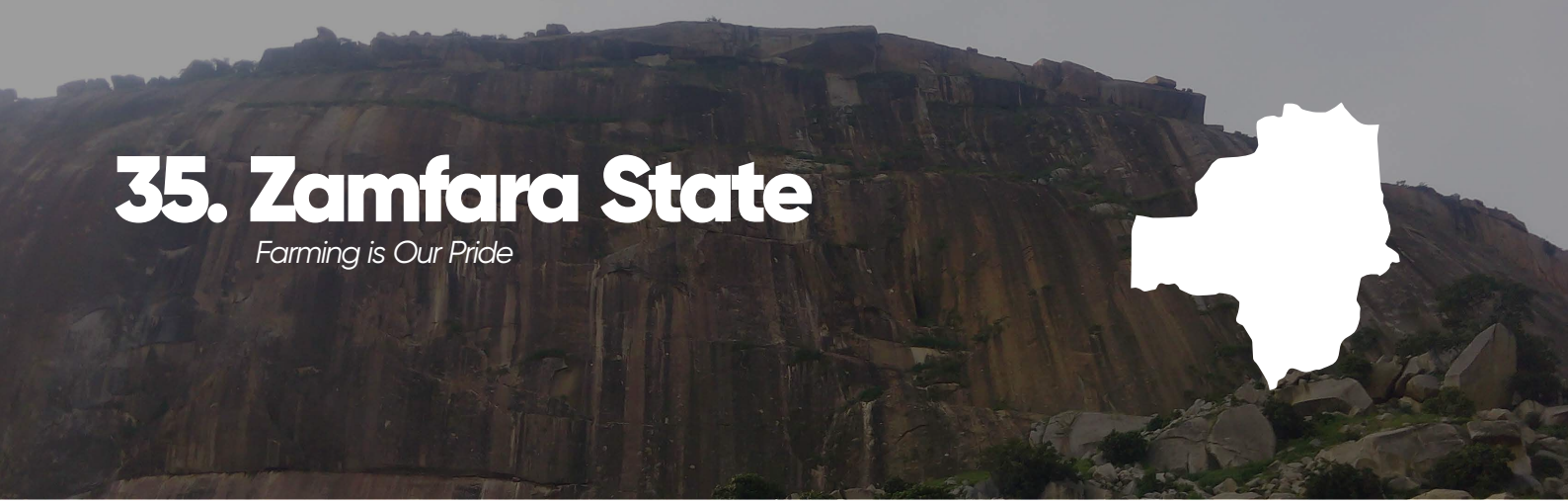
1 Candidate Recorded: Mohammed Baba Adamu, Party: LP, Constituency: Fika/Ngalda, Age: 36, Status: Albinism.

Most Competitive Constituencies (10 candidates each): Damaturu I, Damaturu II, Fika/Ngalda, Geidam North, Gujba, Karasuwa, Nangere, Nguru I, Potiskum Town.

Least Competitive Constituency: Mamudo (7 candidates).

Yobe SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
AA	2	2	2	0	1	0
ADC	24	24	24	0	13	0
ADP	24	24	23	1	24	1
APC	24	24	24	0	5	0
APM	22	22	22	0	17	0
APP	15	15	14	1	14	1
LP	15	15	15	0	12	0
NDC	24	24	24	0	21	0
NRM	4	4	4	0	2	0
PDP	23	23	23	0	18	0
SDP	15	15	15	0	11	0
YPP	21	21	20	1	17	1
Total	**213**	**24**	**210**	**3**	**155**	**3**



35. Zamfara State

Farming is Our Pride

AT A GLANCE

Constituencies: **24**

Candidates: **213** | 241 Male, 8 Female - 3.2% Female

Parties Participating: **17**

Top Parties Fielded: **PRP (24), ADP (24), ADC (24)**

PWD Candidate: **0**

Summary of Key Findings

1. High Youth Participation and Demographic Profile

Candidates in Zamfara are significantly younger than the national average (37.65 years vs. 42.70 years nationally). Over 43.3% of candidates (108 out of 249) fall into the youth category (ages 25–34).

Youngest & Oldest: The minimum legal age of 25 years is represented by 12 candidates, while the oldest candidate is 72 years old (Mu'azu Halilu, PDP - Maru North).

2. Severe Gender Imbalance Concentrated in a Single Party

Low Female Representation: Female candidates account for just 3.21% (8 candidates) of the total 249 candidates in Zamfara, ranking 4th lowest nationwide (behind Jigawa at 1.28%, Yobe at 1.41%, and Katsina at 1.71%).

Constituencies with Female Candidates: emale candidates are running in only 7 of the 24 constituencies (17 constituencies have zero female candidates).

All 8 Female Candidates

Abdullahi Aisha (AAC, Gusau West) Age 25, **Shehu Aisha** (APM, Maradun II) Age 26, **Hassan Naja'atu** (APM, Maru South) Age 27, **Yusuf Shamsiyya** (APM, Talata Mafara South) Age 27, **Jangebe Hassina** (ADP, Talata Mafara South) Age 28, **Abdullahi Naziya** (APM, Birnin Magaji) Age 29, **Aliyu Aisha** (APM, Bungudu West) Age 32, **Attahiru Masuda** (APM, Gusau East) Age 34

3. Political Party Competition

Eight political parties fielded a candidate in all 24 constituencies: ADC, ADP, APC, APM, NDC, PDP, PRP, SDP (24 candidates each).

Zamfara SHoA Candidates Party Breakdown

Party	Total Candidates	Constituencies Contested	Total Male	Total Female	Youth Candidates (≤ 40 years)	Female Candidates (≤ 40 years)
A	23	23	23	0	15	0
AA	4	4	4	0	3	0
AAC	7	7	6	1	7	1
ADC	24	24	24	0	21	0
ADP	24	24	23	1	21	1
APC	24	24	24	0	9	0
APM	24	24	18	6	20	6
APP	1	1	1	0	0	0
BP	1	1	1	0	1	0
DLA	2	2	2	0	0	0
LP	2	2	2	0	0	0
NDC	24	24	24	0	12	0
NNPP	13	13	13	0	5	0
NRM	4	4	4	0	2	0
PDP	24	24	24	0	16	0
PRP	24	24	24	0	12	0
SDP	24	24	24	0	23	0
Total	**249**	**24**	**241**	**8**	**167**	**8**

Appendix: Complete State-by-State Candidacy Breakdown

State	Total Candidates	Women Candidates	Women %	Youth Candidates (25–35)	Youth %	Young Women	Young Men
Abia	321	37	11.53%	43	13.40%	10	33
Adamawa	283	13	4.59%	76	26.86%	4	72
Akwa Ibom	255	50	19.61%	35	13.73%	12	23
Anambra	245	26	10.61%	45	18.37%	4	41
Bauchi	367	22	5.99%	124	33.79%	11	113
Bayelsa	261	29	11.11%	45	17.24%	13	32
Benue	422	34	8.06%	79	18.72%	7	72
Cross River	145	23	15.86%	33	22.76%	8	25
Delta	344	51	14.83%	54	15.70%	10	44
Ebonyi	238	29	12.18%	61	25.63%	10	51
Edo	164	16	9.76%	29	17.68%	5	24
Ekiti	175	37	21.14%	31	17.71%	13	18
Enugu	191	27	14.14%	32	16.75%	6	26
Gombe	257	17	6.61%	114	44.36%	8	106
Imo	364	54	14.84%	37	10.16%	12	25
Jigawa	234	3	1.28%	84	35.90%	3	81
Kaduna	317	27	8.52%	102	32.18%	10	92
Kano	449	15	3.34%	171	38.08%	3	168
Katsina	293	5	1.71%	100	34.13%	2	98
Kebbi	167	9	5.39%	43	25.75%	5	38
Kogi	285	26	9.12%	56	19.65%	11	45
Kwara	264	57	21.59%	87	32.95%	25	62
Lagos	332	50	15.06%	50	15.06%	9	41
Nasarawa	251	12	4.78%	65	25.90%	5	60
Niger	316	24	7.59%	108	34.18%	13	95
Ogun	299	49	16.39%	51	17.06%	15	36
Ondo	191	23	12.04%	27	14.14%	3	24
Osun	263	56	21.29%	35	13.31%	7	28

Appendix: Complete State-by-State Candidacy Breakdown

State	Total Candidates	Women Candidates	Women %	Youth Candidates (25–35)	Youth %	Young Women	Young Men
Abia	321	37	11.53%	43	13.40%	10	33
Adamawa	283	13	4.59%	76	26.86%	4	72
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Bauchi	367	22	5.99%	124	33.79%	11	113
Bayelsa	261	29	11.11%	45	17.24%	13	32
Benue	422	34	8.06%	79	18.72%	7	72
Cross River	145	23	15.86%	33	22.76%	8	25
Delta	344	51	14.83%	54	15.70%	10	44
Ebonyi	238	29	12.18%	61	25.63%	10	51
Edo	164	16	9.76%	29	17.68%	5	24
Ekiti	175	37	21.14%	31	17.71%	13	18
Enugu	191	27	14.14%	32	16.75%	6	26
Gombe	257	17	6.61%	114	44.36%	8	106
Imo	364	54	14.84%	37	10.16%	12	25
Jigawa	234	3	1.28%	84	35.90%	3	81
Kaduna	317	27	8.52%	102	32.18%	10	92
Kano	449	15	3.34%	171	38.08%	3	168
Katsina	293	5	1.71%	100	34.13%	2	98
Kebbi	167	9	5.39%	43	25.75%	5	38
Kogi	285	26	9.12%	56	19.65%	11	45
Kwara	264	57	21.59%	87	32.95%	25	62
Lagos	332	50	15.06%	50	15.06%	9	41
Nasarawa	251	12	4.78%	65	25.90%	5	60
Niger	316	24	7.59%	108	34.18%	13	95
Ogun	299	49	16.39%	51	17.06%	15	36
Ondo	191	23	12.04%	27	14.14%	3	24
Osun	263	56	21.29%	35	13.31%	7	28

Appendix: Complete State-by-State Candidacy Breakdown

State	Total Candidates	Women Candidates	Women %	Youth Candidates (25–35)	Youth %	Young Women	Young Men
Oyo	378	38	10.05%	78	20.63%	5	73
Plateau	257	33	12.84%	91	35.41%	18	73
Rivers	432	70	16.20%	82	18.98%	15	67
Sokoto	292	21	7.19%	126	43.15%	14	112
Taraba	288	16	5.56%	67	23.26%	5	62
Yobe	213	3	1.41%	106	49.77%	3	103
Zamfara	249	8	3.21%	114	45.78%	8	106

Appendix II: State Ranking by Female SHoA Candidates

Rank (Count)	State	Female Candidates	Male Candidates	Total Candidates	% Female Candidates	Rank (% Female)
1	Rivers	70	362	432	16.20%	6
2	Kwara	57	207	264	21.59%	1
3	Osun	56	207	263	21.29%	2
4	Imo	54	310	364	14.84%	9
5	Delta	51	293	344	14.83%	10
6	Akwa Ibom	50	205	255	19.61%	4
6	Lagos	50	282	332	15.06%	8
8	Ogun	49	250	299	16.39%	5
9	Oyo	38	340	378	10.05%	18
10	Ekiti	37	138	175	21.14%	3
10	Abia	37	284	321	11.53%	15
12	Benue	34	388	422	8.06%	22
13	Plateau	33	224	257	12.84%	12
14	Ebonyi	29	209	238	12.18%	13
14	Bayelsa	29	232	261	11.11%	16
16	Enugu	27	164	191	14.14%	11

Appendix II: State Ranking by Female SHoA Candidates

Rank (Count)	State	Female Candidates	Male Candidates	Total Candidates	% Female Candidates	Rank (% Female)
16	Kaduna	27	290	317	8.52%	21
18	Anambra	26	219	245	10.61%	17
18	Kogi	26	259	285	9.12%	20
20	Niger	24	292	316	7.59%	23
21	Cross River	23	122	145	15.86%	7
21	Ondo	23	168	191	12.04%	14
23	Bauchi	22	345	367	5.99%	26
24	Sokoto	21	271	292	7.19%	24
25	Gombe	17	240	257	6.61%	25
26	Edo	16	148	164	9.76%	19
26	Taraba	16	272	288	5.56%	27
28	Kano	15	434	449	3.34%	31
29	Adamawa	13	270	283	4.59%	30
30	Nasarawa	12	239	251	4.78%	29
31	Kebbi	9	158	167	5.39%	28
32	Zamfara	8	241	249	3.21%	32
33	Katsina	5	288	293	1.71%	33
34	Yobe	3	210	213	1.41%	34
34	Jigawa	3	231	234	1.28%	35

Appendix III: State Ranking Table: % of Female State House of Assembly Candidates

Rank	State	Constituencies	Female Candidates	Male Candidates	Total Candidates	Female Representation (%)
1	Kwara	24	57	207	264	21.59%
2	Osun	26	56	207	263	21.29%
3	Ekiti	26	37	138	175	21.14%
4	Akwa Ibom	26	50	205	255	19.61%
5	Ogun	26	49	250	299	16.39%
6	Rivers	32	70	362	432	16.20%
7	Cross River	25	23	122	145	15.86%
8	Lagos	40	50	282	332	15.06%
9	Imo	27	54	310	364	14.84%
10	Delta	38	51	293	344	14.83%
11	Enugu	24	27	164	191	14.14%
12	Plateau	24	33	224	257	12.84%
13	Ebonyi	24	29	209	238	12.18%
14	Ondo	26	23	168	191	12.04%
15	Abia	24	37	284	321	11.53%
16	Bayelsa	24	29	232	261	11.11%
17	Anambra	30	26	219	245	10.61%
18	Oyo	32	38	340	378	10.05%
19	Edo	24	16	148	164	9.76%
20	Kogi	36	26	259	285	9.12%
21	Kaduna	34	27	290	317	8.52%
22	Benue	37	34	388	422	8.06%
23	Niger	27	24	292	316	7.59%
24	Sokoto	30	21	271	292	7.19%
25	Gombe	24	17	240	257	6.61%
26	Bauchi	31	22	345	367	5.99%
27	Taraba	24	16	272	288	5.56%
28	Kebbi	24	9	158	167	5.39%
29	Nasarawa	24	12	239	251	4.78%
30	Adamawa	25	13	270	283	4.59%

Appendix III: State Ranking Table: % of Female State House of Assembly Candidates

Rank	State	Constituencies	Female Candidates	Male Candidates	Total Candidates	Female Representation (%)
31	Kano	40	15	434	449	3.34%
32	Zamfara	24	8	241	249	3.21%
33	Katsina	34	5	288	293	1.71%
34	Yobe	24	3	210	213	1.41%
35	Jigawa	31	3	231	234	1.28%

Section D

Spotlight on Youth-Focused Parties (Youth Party, and Youth Progressive Party)

The emergence of youth-focused political parties in Nigeria provides an opportunity to examine the extent to which political platforms established around youth inclusion and leadership renewal are translating their stated objectives into actual electoral representation. While these parties often position themselves as alternatives to the traditional political establishment, advocating greater participation of young people in governance and challenging the dominance of older political actors, their candidate lists offer a practical basis for assessing this commitment.

This section therefore examines the proportion of youth candidates fielded by parties with explicit youth-oriented objectives, comparing their stated ideals with the age composition of their candidates. It seeks to establish whether these parties are practising the inclusion they advocate or whether youth representation remains largely a feature of their political messaging rather than a measurable electoral commitment.[1]

On Federal House of Representatives Candidates

YP's candidates in the House of Representatives nominations are very low, fielding just 4 male candidates across 4 states: Abia, Benue, Imo, and Kogi, with no female candidates. Despite its small total footprint, YP demonstrated a strong commitment to youth inclusion, with 3 out of 4 candidates under 40 years of age 40: Mgbeoji Chiwelite Obioma (age 28, Imo), Opeh Benjamin Uko (age 31, Benue), and Ojisi Lebechi Ogbaja (age 38, Abia), alongside Suleiman Abubakar Sadeeq (age 60, Kogi).

YPP demonstrated a substantially larger national scale when compared to YP, nominating 143 candidates across 30 states and the FCT (ranking 12th largest party by overall candidate volume), with major state concentrations in Kano (16 candidates), Rivers (11 candidates), Ogun (9 candidates), and Anambra (9 candidates). However, YPP performed poorly on gender diversity, fielding 139 males and only 4 female candidates (2.80% female representation): ranking 20th out of 22 political parties and remaining significantly below the national party average of 9.7%.

The four female nominees were Moriafen Oghenetega Joan (age 37, Delta), Audu-Kosulo Yakubed (age 36, Gombe), Adetayo Temitope J (age 36, Ogun), and Sheni Dirya (age 32, Plateau). Offsetting its gender disparity, YPP led strongly in youth engagement, with 86 of its 143 candidates (60.14%) categorized as youth (aged 40 or under), maintaining an overall candidate age range of 25 to 68 years, an average age of 39.83 years (median: 38.0 years), and zero PWD nominees.



YPP demonstrated a substantially larger national scale when compared to YP, nominating 143 candidates across 30 states and the FCT (ranking 12th largest party by overall candidate volume), with major state concentrations in Kano (16 candidates), Rivers (11 candidates), Ogun (9 candidates), and Anambra (9 candidates).

Table: YP and YPP Candidates Count, State Breakdown (Federal House of Representatives Candidates)

State	YP Total	YP Youth (≤ 40)	YPP Total	YPP Youth (≤ 40)	Combined Candidates
Abia	1	1	1	1	2
Adamawa	0	0	7	3	7
Akwa Ibom	0	0	7	4	7
Anambra	0	0	9	5	9
Bauchi	0	0	1	1	1
Bayelsa	0	0	3	0	3
Benue	1	1	0	0	1
Cross River	0	0	3	3	3
Delta	0	0	5	3	5
Edo	0	0	1	0	1
Ekiti	0	0	1	0	1
Enugu	0	0	2	1	2
FCT (Abuja)	0	0	1	1	1
Gombe	0	0	2	2	2
Imo	1	1	6	1	7
Kaduna	0	0	4	2	4
Kano	0	0	16	14	16
Kebbi	0	0	2	1	2
Kogi	1	0	8	4	9
Lagos	0	0	1	0	1
Nasarawa	0	0	5	5	5
Niger	0	0	2	0	2
Ogun	0	0	9	5	9
Ondo	0	0	4	2	4
Oyo	0	0	5	2	5
Plateau	0	0	7	3	7
Rivers	0	0	11	6	11
Sokoto	0	0	6	6	6
Taraba	0	0	6	6	6
Yobe	0	0	6	4	6
Zamfara	0	0	2	1	2
National Total	**4**	**3**	**143**	**86**	**147**

On State House of Assemblies Candidates

The Youth Party (YP) fielded 19 candidates across 19 constituencies, establishing a footprint across 11 states (led by Delta with 3 candidates, Lagos with 3 candidates, Rivers with 3 candidates, Bayelsa with 2 candidates, and Kogi with 2 candidates among others. YP achieved fractional youth participation, with 13 youth candidates aged 40 or under making up 68.4% of its candidate total. However, gender inclusion still remained low, comprising 18 male candidates, and 1 female candidate (Osunsina Hannah Oluwadolapo In Lagos Eti-Osa II).

The Young Progressives Party (YPP) demonstrated a significantly broader reach by contesting 299 candidates across 299 constituencies, spanning 28 states (led by Rivers with 26 candidates, Ogun with 26 candidates, Adamawa with 23 candidates, Plateau with 23 candidates, and Abia with 22 candidates, alongside 8 states with 0 candidates: Benue, Borno, Cross River, Jigawa, Kebbi, Kwara, Niger, and Zamfara).

YPP featured 159 youth candidates aged 40 or under, representing 53.2% of its candidate base. Across gender lines, YPP fielded 270 male candidates, and 29 female candidates.

Table: YP and YPP 2027 State House of Assembly Candidates Breakdown

State	YP	YP (<=40)	YPP	YPP (<=40)	Combined Candidates
Abia	1	0	22	4	23
Adamawa	0	0	23	11	23
Akwa Ibom	0	0	7	4	7
Anambra	0	0	17	8	17
Bauchi	0	0	3	2	3
Bayelsa	2	1	5	2	8
Benue	0	0	0	0	0
Borno	0	0	0	0	0
Cross River	0	0	0	0	0
Delta	3	2	3	1	8
Ebonyi	0	0	2	2	2
Edo	0	0	3	3	3
Ekiti	0	0	3	0	3
Enugu	1	1	5	2	7
Gombe	0	0	13	6	13
Imo	1	1	20	5	22
Jigawa	0	0	0	0	0
Kaduna	0	0	12	5	12

Table: YP and YPP 2027 Senate Candidates Breakdown

State	YP	YP (<=40)	YPP	YPP (<=40)	Combined Candidates
Kano	0	0	13	11	13
Katsina	0	0	1	1	1
Kebbi	0	0	0	0	0
Kogi	2	1	8	3	11
Kwara	0	0	0	0	0
Lagos	3	3	4	2	10
Nasarawa	0	0	6	3	6
Niger	0	0	0	0	0
Ogun	0	0	26	15	26
Ondo	1	0	4	3	5
Osun	0	0	2	1	2
Oyo	1	1	8	6	10
Plateau	1	1	23	20	25
Rivers	3	2	26	9	31
Sokoto	0	0	7	7	7
Taraba	0	0	12	6	12
Yobe	0	0	21	17	21
Zamfara	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**19**	**13**	**299**	**159**	**331**

Recommendations

1. Enhance Gender Inclusion Strategies: Political parties should move beyond general commitments to gender equality by introducing deliberate measures that increase women's participation in electoral contests. This should include enforceable nomination quotas, affirmative action in candidate selection, reduced nomination fees, financial support, mentorship and leadership development programmes for female aspirants.

Parties should also strengthen internal democratic processes to address structural barriers, discrimination and political gatekeeping that often limit women's access to party tickets. These measures are necessary to address the persistent gender disparity in political representation across states and levels of government.

2. Sustain Youth Engagement and Political Representation: The growing participation of young people in electoral contests, particularly through youth-oriented political parties, presents an opportunity to expand generational representation in Nigeria's political system. However, increased youth candidacy must translate into meaningful electoral victories and legislative representation. Youth-focused parties should institutionalise mentorship, political education, campaign management training and leadership development programmes to prepare young aspirants for the demands of public office.

Established political parties should equally create more inclusive leadership structures, reduce financial barriers to candidacy and provide young people with greater opportunities to contest for winnable positions rather than limiting their participation to mobilisation and campaign activities.

3. Expand Participation of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs): Political parties and electoral stakeholders should take deliberate steps to remove the institutional; financial, physical and social barriers that discourage Persons with Disabilities from seeking elective office. This should include accessible party secretariats and nomination processes, reasonable adjustments during party primaries, inclusive campaign environments and targeted financial or organisational support for PWD candidates.

Political parties should also incorporate disability inclusion into their internal policies and candidate selection frameworks. Beyond encouraging participation, these measures should ensure that persons with disabilities have equitable opportunities to secure party nominations, contest elections and occupy decision-making positions.

4. Strengthen Political Party Accountability for Inclusion: Political parties should be encouraged to adopt measurable inclusion targets for women, young people and persons with disabilities in their candidate selection processes. These targets should be supported by transparent reporting mechanisms that disclose the demographic composition of candidates across elective positions and states. INEC, civil society organisations, and other electoral stakeholders can strengthen accountability by monitoring party compliance with inclusion commitments and publishing periodic assessments. This would help shift political inclusion from campaign rhetoric to measurable institutional practice.

5. Address the Financial Barriers to Political Participation: The high cost of political participation remains a major obstacle to inclusive representation, particularly for women, young people and persons with disabilities who may have limited access to established political financing networks. Political parties should review nomination fees and other financial requirements that disproportionately disadvantage underrepresented groups.

There is also a need to explore transparent campaign support mechanisms, political financing reforms and partnerships that can help qualified candidates compete without being excluded by their economic circumstances. Reducing these barriers would make political participation more accessible and strengthen the competitiveness of Nigeria's electoral process.

6. Promote Inclusive Internal Party Democracy: Meaningful political inclusion begins within political parties. Party leadership should strengthen internal democratic processes by ensuring transparent primaries, fair access to nomination opportunities and equal treatment of aspirants irrespective of gender, age or disability. Party structures should also provide underrepresented groups with opportunities to participate in decision-making, leadership appointments and policy development. Without reforms to internal party structures, increased candidacy among women, young people and persons with disabilities may not translate into actual political power or representation.

Importantly, improving political inclusion in Nigeria requires more than increasing the number of women, young people and persons with disabilities contesting elections. It requires institutional reforms that enable these groups to secure party nominations, compete effectively, win elections and exercise meaningful influence in governance.

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1


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