



**GUIDELINES FOR THE NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR THE
2022 EKITI STATE GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION –
DIRECT PRIMARIES (OPTION A4)**

PREAMBLE

Only political parties, according to Section 221 of the Nigerian Constitution, shall “*canvass for votes for any candidate at any election.*” This section strengthens the All Progressives Congress’ objective in Article 7 (IV) of its Party Constitution which seeks to attain political power through legitimate, democratic and constitutional means.

It behoves the party therefore to lay down guidelines for its members seeking to contest elections into public offices in the country. The guidelines will, without prejudice, conform to the provisions of the Party Constitution, the 2010 Electoral Act as amended, and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended.

1. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

In conformity with the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 as amended, the qualifications for aspirants are specifically the provisions of ***Sections 176, 177 and 182*** in respect of elective Offices. The party prescribes that aspirants seeking public office on its platform shall be:

1. Nigerian citizens
2. Educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent
3. For Governorship, the aspirant must have attained the age of 30 years

The party prescribes that any aspirant seeking public office on the platform of the Party shall not have:

- a. Being adjudged to be a lunatic under any law in Nigeria or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind
- b. Being under a sentence of death imposed on him by any court of law tribunal in Nigeria or a sentence of imprisonment or fine for an offence involving dishonesty or fraud
- c. Being convicted and sentenced for an offence involving dishonesty or found guilty of contravention of the code of conduct within a period of 10 years before the date of the election
- d. Being adjudged or declared bankrupt under any law or remained as an employee of the Public service within 30 days preceding the date of an election
- e. Being a member of a secret society
- f. Being convicted for embezzlement or fraud by a Judicial Commission of Inquiry or a Tribunal set up under the Tribunals of Inquiry Act, or any other Law by the Federal or State Government whose conviction has been accepted by the Federal or State Government

2. ALL PROGRESSIVES CONGRESS REQUIREMENTS

The Party Constitution prescribes that members' names in the register names Members and evidence of Membership shall be the prima facie evidence of valid registration as a member. Hence the first requirement is that any aspirant on the platform of the Party shall have complied with this provision. In addition the aspirant shall:

- (a) Be a Nigerian citizen
- (b) Be a registered member of the Party at the Ward of his or her choice
- (c) Pay the prescribed fees
- (d) Shall not be a member of any other political Party, or hold any political office in any Government not controlled by the Party

3. QUALIFICATION AND CONDUCT:

- (a) All aspirants are to submit evidence of membership of the Party
- (b) Aspirants are to submit financial evidence of up-to-date payment of dues (in accordance to Article 9:1 of the Party Constitution)
- (c) Aspirants or his supporters shall not engage in act of violence
- (d) Aspirants must comport and reasonably conduct themselves during the process of the Screening Exercise and thereafter
- (e) All aspirants must sign the party's Code of Conduct
- (f) Only aspirants duly cleared by the Party shall be eligible to stand election at the Party Primaries
- (g) Aspirants shall not be accompanied by more than two persons to the venue of the screening
- (h) All aspirants must demonstrate knowledge of the Party Manifestos and Programmes and must commit themselves to the full implementation of the Party's Goals and Objectives

Violations of any of these Guidelines shall attract automatic disqualification.

4. MANDATORY PROVISIONS:

- 1) All Aspirants shall comply with the Constitutional Provisions and requirements applicable to the Public Office they seek to contest for.
- 2) This compliance shall be without prejudice to other necessary requirements of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), Electoral Act 2010 (as amended), the Party Constitution (as amended) and such additional guidelines as may be issued.
 - (a) Specifically, the Applicable Provisions are Section 176, 177 and 182 of the 1999 Constitution(as amended) in respect of the Office of the Governor.

4. NOMINATION FORM

Consequently, the aspirants complying with provisions of the Party Constitution shall complete nomination forms specifically provided for the office being sought after having paid the prescribed Expression of Interest and Nomination Fees.

And to provide an evidence of payment made in full directly into the designated Bank accounts of the All Progressives Congress

- ✓ There shall be no separate charge for deputy
- ✓ Female Aspirants and Physically Challenged Aspirants are to pay 50% of the prescribed fees for each position

6. NOMINATION

- Governorship: the nomination shall be supported by 5 party members from each Local Government Area in the State.

7. ATTESTATION

- Each aspirant shall swear an oath under the Oaths Act that all the information provided in the nomination form is correct, and all false information shall lead to disqualification and in serious cases to prosecution.
- Each aspirant shall sign an undertaking to be of good behavior, and to be vicariously liable for the actions of his or her supporters. Where it is established that an aspirant and or his/her supporters are responsible for breaches of the peace and or law, the aspirant may be disqualified from participating in the nomination exercise and in serious cases prosecuted.

8. VERIFICATION

It shall be the duty of every aspirant to present for scrutiny all certificates that he/she lays claims to and if the need arises not to obstruct the verification of such documents from the issuing bodies.

9. DISQUALIFICATION

If any aspirant is disqualified from participating in the screening by the Screening Committee, full reasons shall be given for the disqualification in writing.

10. REVIEWS

Any aggrieved aspirant shall have the right to appeal against any decision of the Screening Committee in line with the Party Constitution and Guideline.

11. SCREENING COMMITTEE

The Screening Committee established by the Party shall be responsible for all activities in respect of the party's screening process and ensure all activities in respect of the party's screening process are in compliance with the Requirements and Guidelines as provided below:

The Screening Committee's decision shall however be subjected to a review by the Screening Appeal Committee and to a final decision of CECPC (acting on behalf of NEC).

- (a) There shall be a Governorship Screening Committee composed of 7 members who shall be recruited from outside their State of assignment and shall screen all the Governorship Aspirants in the State.

11 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SCREENING COMMITTEE

- a. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the Screening Committee to carry out a Comprehensive, Due Diligence of all documents, materials and statements submitted to the party by the aspirants.

- b. The screening Committee shall also carry out verification of all Certificates, Documents, Claims and other supporting materials submitted by all aspirants (in support of their qualification for meeting the Constitutional Requirements, Electoral Act Provisions, the Party Constitution and further Guidelines issued by the party in conformity with all eligibility provisions).
- c. The Screening Committee shall carry out its duties and responsibilities fairly and justly without fear or favour.
- d. The screening exercise shall be mandatory for all aspirants without exception.
- e. The Committee shall ensure aspirants comply with all stipulated requirements.
- f. The decisions of the Screening Committees shall be conveyed in writing stating the grounds for disqualifications (if any).
- g. Reports of the screening exercise shall be made available through the Party National Secretariat.

12. SCREENING APPEAL COMMITTEE

- A. (1) There shall be a 5-Man Governorship Screening Appeal Committee composed of a Chairman, Secretary and 3 Members, who shall not be from the state of assignment. The Committee shall be responsible for hearing of Appeals (if any) arising from the Screening Committee
- B. Aspirants may seek review of the Screening Committee's decision at the Screening Appeal Committee. The party's CECPC (acting on behalf of NEC) shall have the final decision on all appeals

13. SCREENING EXERCISE

The Screening Committee shall take into consideration full information on the aspirants' background; viz education, political experience, payment of party's dues, work experience, team spirit,

reputation inclusive of any history or drug or alcohol abuse, temperament or proneness to violence, conviction and knowledge of party manifesto and reliability.

14. ELECTORAL PROCESS AND ELECTION COMMITTEE

- a. There shall be a 7-member Election Committee, whose members must be persons of proven integrity.
- b. The members of the Committee are to be recruited from outside the State of their assignment and composed of a Chairman, Secretary and 5 other Members.
- c. The Committee shall be responsible for the overall conduct of the exercise in the State.
- d. The Committee shall supervise the Local Government and Ward Election Committees.
- e. The Committee shall collate the results from all the Local Governments and Wards elections.
- f. The final result of the elections shall be collated on the State Declaration of Election Results Summary sheet.
- g. The Chairman of the Committee shall declare the aspirant polling majority of lawful votes as the winner of the primary; however, the winner must have secured not less than 25% of the votes at the primary elections in each of at least two-thirds of all the Local Government Chapters of the party as collated in the State.

15. DUTIES OF THE WARD ELECTORAL/RETURNING OFFICER

- (i) Accreditation of intended voters who must be members of the party and whose names are in the Ward Membership Register. The means of identification of members shall be by Membership Registration slip. The name of accredited members shall thereafter be ticked on the Register of Members.

- (ii) Conducting elections, entering the scores of the candidates in the Ward Result sheet and announcing the result.
- (iii) Submit the completed Ward Result Form to the Electoral Committee of the Local Government which shall be collated and entered into the LGA Summary Result Sheet.
- (iv) Report any adverse incident to the Electoral Committee of the Local Government.

16. QUALIFICATION TO VOTE

A person shall be eligible to vote at the primary election conducted by the Electoral Committee if he/she:

- a. is a registered member of the party;
- b. his/her name appears on the Register of Members of the Party;
- c. presents himself/herself physically (not by proxy) at the Ward he/she was registered; and
- d. is accredited on presentation of a valid voters card/membership slip cross checked against the membership register at the venue of the election

17. THOSE TO BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE VENUE OF THE PRIMARY ELECTIONS

The following shall be allowed access to the venue of the primary elections:

- (i) Candidates and their accredited agents
- (ii) Intended voters who are members of the party with permanent voter's card (PVC) and membership slip
- (iii) Authorised Security Agents

- (iv) Accredited Observers
- (v) Members of the monitoring team from the Party National Secretariat
- (vi) Accredited INEC officials on election duty

The role of *iv - vi* above shall be limited to observing the accreditation process, voting, counting, announcement, and declaration of results; and invite the attention of the Returning Officer to any observed irregularities, but shall not, in any way, interfere in the process.

18. **METHOD OF VOTING:**

Accreditation, Voting and Counting Procedures

- a. Voting shall take place at the respective recognised Ward Voting Centers as may be designated by the Local Government Election Committee.
- b. The Committee shall be at liberty to have Two (2) accredited agents.
- c. Candidates or their agents may bring their posters as identification to the venue of the primary but there shall be no canvassing for votes at the election venue.
- d. Voting shall be done in line with the modified Open-Secret Ballot System (Option A4) literally known as *Direct Primaries*.
- e. Accreditation shall be done by the Returning Officer between the hours of 8:00am to 12noon. Any member, candidate or agent who arrives after the commencement of voting shall not be accredited or allowed to vote.
- f. Accreditation of members for voting shall be by APC membership registration slip and the Returning Officer/Polling officers shall apply indelible ink to the cuticle of the left thumb on the left hand of the voter after voting.

- g. At 12:00 p.m. or whenever accreditation ends, the Returning Officer shall: declare accreditation closed, but ensure that all eligible members already on the queue for accreditation by 12.00 p.m. are accredited.
- h. Count the number of accredited voters in the Register of Members and enter the figures into the APC official result sheet.
- i. Voting shall commence immediately accreditation ends and continue till 2.00 pm or two hours after the accreditation to end casting of votes. Voter shall queue up behind the poster , agent of his/her preferred candidates at the voting center.
- j. No member shall vote for more than one aspirant and where the votes cast exceed the number of accredited voters, the election shall be declared void by the Ward Electoral/Returning Officer on behalf of the Electoral Committee and the exercise may be repeated.
- k. After counting the votes, the results shall be publicly announced and the scores of the candidates properly entered both in words and figures on the APC official result sheet.
- l. Any result not recorded on the official result sheet shall not be accepted.