How to check your INEC voter registration status

Reviewing the voters’ register

The voters’ register is the list of all those who are currently signed up to vote. It is important to ensure that the voters’ register is up to date and only contains the names of genuine voters. In order to ensure this, INEC periodically reviews the register, especially before major elections. After doing so, it removes the names of voters who have died, reconciles the names of those who have transferred their registration, removes the names of those who have registered more than once, and removes the names of those under 18.

The Preliminary Register

Before the voters’ register is published for the 2019 General Elections, the Preliminary Register of Voters will be displayed at all Polling Units for public scrutiny. It is likely this will happen during or after July, once the Continuous Voters’ Registration process has been completed.

On the basis of this, citizens can raise objections, such as concerning the presence of under-age voters and non-Nigerians on the register. These can be registered in INEC’s ‘Claims and Objection’ form, which will be issued during the exercise.

How to check your registration status

There are three key ways to check if you are registered with INEC and eligible to vote in the 2019 elections:

1. Visit your polling unit during the ‘display of voter register’ exercise

   INEC will display the reviewed or Preliminary Register at your local registration centre, as described above. Visit your local registration centre to confirm that your details are included and correct.
2. Use your phone

Send a text message to 08171 646 879 in the following format: state, surname, last five digits of your voter identification number (found on the top of your temporary or permanent voter card). An example is given: Rivers, Ibinabo, 02457

You should receive a response within 15 minutes displaying your full profile on the Voters’ Register and your polling unit number, or an error message. If you receive an error message, check to ensure that you entered your information correctly. Note that text messages are charged at the local network rate.

3. Check your registration on the INEC website

Visit the INEC registration status website:

www.inecnigeria.org/?page_id=2160

The final register

INEC has scheduled to publish the final Voter Register on January 7, 2019. Ensure that you look for your name on the register when it happens.

Disclaimer: the information in this document is based on publicly available INEC information and discussions with INEC officials in Port Harcourt in spring 2018. It is accurate and up to date to the best of SDN’s knowledge, but processes may change as election preparations are finalised.