



BENUE STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION

GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

2024

FOREWORD

THESE ELECTION GUIDELINES are a summary of the Benue State Independent Electoral Commission (Amendment) Law 2012 and The Benue State Electoral (Amendment) Law No. 31 of 2024 respectively.

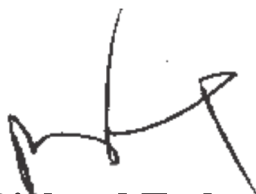
It is for the purposes of guiding and regulating the conduct of Political Parties, Candidates or Aspirants, Stakeholders, Electorates and the ELECTION MANAGEMENT BODY (EMB) towards organising, supervising and undertaking a transparent, free and fair Local Government Council Elections in the State.

In our democratic setting, it is the constitutional duty and legal obligation of the State Electoral Commission to conduct credible Elections which can afford the Electorates the right to vote and be voted for, in order to confer AUTHORITY and LEGITIMACY on the people democratically elected.

These guidelines and timetable are also meant to educate the Voters, Electorates, Poll Officials, Political Parties and Aspirants on the procedures and necessary conditions to be met by Aspirants, time and activities leading to the conduct of October, 2024 Local Government Council Polls.

We emphasize without equivocation, that strict compliance to the Electoral Guidelines and Regulations thereto is the only acceptable standard and first step towards the conduct of a credible, transparent, free and fair Local Government Council Elections in Benue State.

Conclusively, we strongly advise Political Parties, Candidates and the Electorates concerned to make judicious use of this Guidelines and Timetable strictly.



Hon. Barr. Richard Terlun Tombowua
Chairman,
Benue State Independent Electoral Commission (BSIEC)

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ELECTIONS NOTICE

PURSUANT TO THE POWERS CONFERRED ON THE COMMISSION by virtue of the provisions of Section 5 (b), (c) and (g) of the Benue State Independent Electoral Commission (Amendment) Law 2012 and Section 6, 11(1) and 15(2) of the Benue State Electoral (Amendment) Law No. 31 of 2024 respectively, I do hereby present to you the Elections' notice together with the guidelines thereto for the Conduct of a credible Local Government Council polls in Benue State in the year 2024.

GUIDELINES FOR THE CREATION OF COUNCIL WARDS AND CONDUCT OF 2024 LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

S/No	Particulars	Remarks
1.	a. One Chairman and a Vice Chairman shall be elected for each of the Twenty Three (23) Local Government Councils in the State; and b. One Councilor shall be elected for each of the Two Hundred and Seventy Six (276) Council Wards in Benue State.	Local Government Area Elections
2.	a. A person shall be qualified for election as a Local Government Councilor if; i. He is a citizen of Nigeria ii. He is not less than Twenty Five (25) years old and is a registered voter, iii. He is a member of a Political Party and is sponsored by such a Political Party, iv. He is nominated by Ten (10) persons whose names appear on the register of voters in the Ward he proposes to represent. v. He has produced evidence of Tax payment as and when due or Tax Exemption for the last Three (3) years prior to the election vi. He is educated up to at least School Certificate or its Equivalent b. For election to the Office of the Chairman of Local Government Council if; i. He has attained the age of Thirty Years (30) and is a registered voter. ii. He is nominated by Ten (10) persons whose names appear on the Register of Voters in that Local Government Area where he proposes to stand for the election	Qualification to stand for Local Government Council Elections

	I. He is a member of a Political Party and is sponsored by such a Political Party. ii. He is a citizen of Nigeria iii. He. has been educated up to at least school Certificate level or its equivalent; iv. He has produced evidence of Tax payment as and when due or Tax Exemption for the last three years prior to the election	
3	A person shall not be qualified to contest Local Government Council Elections if; (a) If he has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a country other than Nigeria or has made a declaration of allegiance to another country; or (b) If under any law in force in any part of Nigeria he/she is adjudged to be a lunatic or otherwise declared to be of unsound mind; (c) If he is under a sentence of death imposed on him by any court in Nigeria; or (d) If he is under a sentence of imprisonment for an office involving dishonesty; (e) If he has been found guilty of contravention of the Code of Conduct; or; (f) If he is an undischarged bankrupt; or (g) If he is in full time salaried employment in the Public Service of the Federation, State or Local Government; or (h) If he has been removed from any public service on any ground involving dishonesty; or (i) If he has been dismissed from service; or (j) If he has been found guilty of corruption, unjust enrichment or abuse of Office by a Court of competent jurisdiction; or (k) If he has presented a false, forged or fake certificate to the Commission; or (l) If he is a member of a Secret Society/Cult.	Disqualification to stand for the Local Government Council Elections

4	The provisions relating to qualification for election, tenure of office, disqualification and other duties of the Chairman of a Local Government Council in these Guidelines shall apply in relation to the office of the Vice Chairman as if reference to the Chairman were references to the vice Chairman.	Qualification and disqualification in relation to Chairman and Vice Chairman
5	The following conducts by Political Parties and candidate during campaigns are strictly prohibited. (a) No Political campaign or slogan shall be tainted with abusive language directly or indirectly likely to infer religious, ethnic, tribal or sectoral feelings; (b) Abusive intemperate, slanderous or base language or insinuations or innuendoes designed or likely to provoke violent reactions or emotions shall not be employed or used by any aspirant or Political Party; (c) Promote, propagate or attack other political Party's candidate or their programme or ideologies; (d) Masquerades shall not be employed or used by any Political Party candidate or person during Political Campaigns or for any other Political purpose; (e) No Political party or member of a Political Party shall retain, organize, train or equip any person or group of persons for the purpose of enabling them to be employed for the use or display of physical force or coercion in promoting political objective or interest or in such manner as to arouse reasonable apprehension that they are organized, trained or equipped for that purpose; (f) No Political Party, Person or Candidate shall keep or use private security group or individuals by whatever name called for the purpose of providing security, assisting or aiding the Political party or candidate in whatever manner during campaigns, processions or elections. (g) No candidate, person or group of persons shall directly or indirectly threaten any person with the use of force or violence during any political campaign in order to compel that person or any other person to support or refrain from supporting a Political Party. (h) Campaign shall not be allowed within Twenty Four (24) Hours preceding the date of the election.	Prohibited Conducts by Political Parties.

6	A person shall be eligible to vote at the Local Government Council Election if; (a) The person is ordinary resident within the Local Government Ward at which the person wishes to vote; (b) The person has been so resident there on the qualifying date; (c) The person is a citizen of Nigeria on the qualifying date and on the date of the Poll. (d) The person is at least 18 years of age; (e) The person is not subject to any legal incapacity	Eligibility to vote
7	(1) A person shall not be entitled to vote in any ward unless the person is registered in the register of voters to be used at the election (2) No person shall vote at any one election in more than one ward or more than once in the same Ward; (3) The following persons are not qualified to vote at any Local Government Council Election: (a). The Commission Chairman and Members of the Commission (b). The Electoral Officers and Assistant Electoral Officers (c). The Returning Officers and Assistant Returning Officers (d). The Presiding Officers (e). Any other person appointed by the Commission to perform any function at a Local government Council Election when in the opinion of the Chairman shall not vote.	Those not Eligible to vote at Local Government Council Elections

8.	(1). There shall be a Register of Voters for each Ward and the Voters constituting such ward shall be those ordinarily resident within the area constituting the Ward as compiled by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). (2). The Register of Voters published by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) shall for the purpose of Local Government Council Elections be the register to determine the persons entitled to vote at any Local Government Council Elections.	Register of Voters
9	Every registered Political Party shall deliver to the Commission the following: (a). Personal particulars of their candidate as may be supplied by the candidates in Form BCF 001 obtainable from the Commission. (b). List of Candidate the party proposes to sponsor at the election in form BCF 002	Submission of List and Personal Particulars of candidates
10	(a). Candidates shall be verified on dates fixed by the Commission. The Clearance Committee constituted by BSIEC shall undertake on its behalf, the verification of candidates at the Commission's Headquarters and Local Government Area Headquarters. (b). The Commission shall after the verification exercise deliver to the Political Parties on Form BCF 003 the names of candidates who the Commission considers qualified for election and where appropriate, a separate list of those not qualified on Form BCF 004. (c). In the case of those not found qualified, the Commission shall state in writing the grounds for such disqualification. (d). This will afford the Political Parties concerned an opportunity, subject to other provisions of the Law of substituting another candidate for each one so rejected.	Verification of candidates.
11	The Nomination Papers shall be in the Form prescribed by the Commission and shall be signed by the candidate and by the persons nominating him.	Nomination forms and Validity of Nomination/Fees.

	(b). Every candidate shall be nominated in writing by Ten (10) Persons whose names appear on the Register of Voters in the Ward in respect of which an election is to be held. (c). Every candidate shall before his nomination paper is delivered to the Commission pay into the State Revenue Office or Treasury; (I). A Non-Refundable deposit of ₦500,000.00 in the case of Chairman — (ii). A Non-Refundable deposit of ₦250,000.00 in the case of Councilor — (d). If after delivery to the Commission a Nomination paper and the Commission is satisfied that the prescribed deposit has been paid and other requirements of the Laws have been complied with, the candidate shall be issued with Form BCF 006 as evidence of Validity of the Nomination. (e) If after the delivery and proof of payment of the deposit, the Commission is not satisfied, the rejection within the time required by this section of the nomination paper on any of the following grounds: (i) That the particulars of the candidate or his nominators are not as required by this law; (ii) That the nomination is by virtue of any provision of this law invalid; (iii) That the nomination paper is not signed as required by this law; (iv) That the candidate has been nominated in more than one Ward; (v) That the nominators of the Candidate or any of them are not persons whose names appear on the register of voters in respect of the Ward to which nomination relates shall be prima facie evidence that the nomination was properly rejected as invalid.	
12.	a). No Political Party shall be allowed to present more than a candidate for the same election. (b). No Political Party shall be allowed to replace a candidate who has been cleared by the Commission.	Prohibition on Political Parties.

13	Any candidate may withdraw his candidature by notice in writing signed by him and delivered by himself to the Political Party that nominates him for election, and the Political Party shall convey such withdrawal to the Commission or one of the persons nominating him to the Commission not later than (14) fourteenth day to the election before the day of election. The deposits paid by such a person shall be returned to him.	Withdrawal of a Candidate
14.	The Commission shall at least Seven (7) days before the day of the Election publish by displaying it or causing it to be displayed at the Commission's Offices or any other place or places as the Commission may deem fit, a statement of the full names of all persons standing nominated and of the person's nominating them with their respective addresses and occupation.	Displaying of names of nominated candidates
15	If after the latest time for the delivery of nomination papers and before the commencement of the poll a nominated candidate dies, then upon being satisfied of the facts of death, the Commission may postpone the poll and shall appoint some other convenient date for the election in the Ward or Local Government as the case may be.	Death of a Candidate
16	If after the expiry of time for delivery of Nomination papers, there is more than one person standing nominated, a poll shall take place.	Multiple candidates
17	If after the delivery of Nominations papers there is only one person whose names is validly nominated, the person shall be declared elected	Single candidate
18	In any contested election, voting shall be by Open Secret Ballot, and the result shall be ascertained by counting the votes given to each candidate and the candidate with majority of votes shall be declared winner	Manner of voting
19	Where at the close of the Nomination there is no candidate validly nominated the Commission shall extend the time for nomination and fix a date for the election.	Failure of Nomination
20	1). A candidate for an election to the Office of the Chairman of a Local Government Council shall be deemed to have been duly elected to the Office when being the only candidate nominated for the election he has majority of Yes votes over No votes cast at the election.	

	1). A candidate for an election to the Office of the Chairman of a Local Government Council shall be deemed to have been duly elected to the Office when being the only candidate nominated for the election he has majority of Yes votes over No votes cast at the election. 2). A candidate for an election to the office of the Chairman of a Local Government Council shall be deemed to have been duly elected where, there being only more than two candidates for the election- (a). He has majority of the votes cast at the election; and (b). he has not less than one quarter of the votes cast at the election in each of at least two third of all the Wards in the Local Government Area. 3). If no candidate is duly elected under sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph, the Commission shall within Seven (7) days conduct a second election between the two candidates and the candidate who scored the majority of the votes cast at the election shall be deemed elected at the election. 4). A candidate for an election to the Office of the Chairman of a Local Government Council shall be deemed to have been duly elected where being more than two candidates for the election; (a). He/she has the highest number of votes cast at the election; (b). he/she has not less than one quarter of the votes at the election in each of at least Two Third of all the wards in the Local Government Council	Withdrawal of a Candidate
21.	(i). Each Political Party may by notice in writing signed by the Organizing Secretary and addressed to the Commission appoint Two Polling agents to attend at each polling station in the ward for which it has a candidate. (ii). The Notice shall set out the names and addresses of the Polling Agents and be given by the political party to the Commission not later than Three (3) days before the date fixed for the election. (iii). The Polling Agents shall be persons whose names appear on the Register of voters for the ward in respect of which they are appointed	Party Agents

	The Commission shall not later than Seven (7) days before the day of election cause to be published in such a manner as it may deem fit a notice specifying the following matters; (a) The day and hour fixed for the Poll; (b) The full names and addresses of the candidates remaining nominated together with the symbols allocated to each candidate	Publication of polling dates and particulars of candidates
23	(a). No person shall be permitted to vote at any polling unit other than the one at which he/she is entitled to vote according to his Area and Location. (b). The Presiding Officer shall regulate the admission of voters to the Polling Unit and shall exclude all other persons except Candidates, Party Agents, Poll Clerks, Poll Assistants, Security Personnel and any other person who in his/her opinion has lawful reason to be admitted.	Voting at appropriate Polling Unit
	(i). Polling Stations shall be opened for accreditation at 8.00 am and accreditation shall end at 12.00 noon where upon polling shall commence immediately and unless interrupted or delayed, polling shall close at 4.00pm of the same day provided that the last accredited person on the queue have voted. (ii). Before polling commences, the Officer in charge of the Polling station shall in the full view of all open and check the Ballot Box out; (iii). There shall be only one ballot box for all the candidates at any one polling station. (iv). Every person intending to vote shall present his/herself to a Presiding Officer at the Polling Station in the Ward at which his/her name is registered as being entitled to vote. (v). The Presiding Officer, after satisfying himself/herself that the name of the person intending to vote appears on the Register of voters and that such a person has not already voted shall; a). If the voter produces his or her Permanent Voters Card, mark the name in the register of voter in such a way as to indicate that it has been presented and used at the election. b). Stamp or endorse the ballot paper with the official mark of the polling Station. c). Issue the voter with a Ballot Paper d). Sign his name on the back of the ballot paper over the official stamp;	Polling Time Checking One Ballot Box per Polling Station Manner of voting Commencement of Accreditation and voting.

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28.	Where a voter soils or damages a ballot paper accidentally, the Presiding Officer may replace it if he/she is so satisfied.	Accidental destruction of ballot paper
29.	Where a person is suspected of impersonating at the polling Station, the matter shall be investigated on the spot and if cleared, shall be allowed to vote	Suspicion of impersonation
30.	If a person misconducts himself at a polling station, the Presiding Officer may order a Police Officer or Security Agent to remove him from the polling station.	Misconduct by voter
31.	(1) If the proceedings at any polling Station are interrupted or obstructed by riot or polling violence, the Presiding Officer may adjourn the proceedings to a later time or date and after taking such precautions as are necessary to safeguard the ballot box and ballot papers and other election requisites, shall there upon notify the electoral officer of the fact and the Electoral Officer Shall inform the Commission. (2) When the poll is adjourned at any polling station, the hours of polling on the day to which is adjourned shall be the same as for the original day. (3) Where a date has been appointed for the holding of an election, and there is reason to believe that a serious breach of the peace is likely to occur, which the election is proceeded with on that date or it is impossible to conduct the election as a result of natural disaster or other emergencies, the Commission may postpone the election and shall in respect of the area concerned appoint another date for the holding of the postponed election. 4). Where in the process of the election on the day fixed for the election riot, or polling violence occurs in more than 2/3 of the Wards of the Local Government Area, the Commission shall cancel or postpone the election in that area of the LGA and shall appoint another day for the holding of the postponed election.	Postponement of Polling
32.	When it is time for the closing of the polls the {Presiding Officer shall not allow into the polling station any person other than those already inside the polling station or on queue shall be allowed to vote. Immediately after the close of the poll, the Presiding Officer shall count votes scored by the candidates in the presence of the party agents, a. Enter the scores of the candidates in both words and figures in Form BSIEC 8A or BSIEC 8A (1) as the case may be.	Closing of the Poll

	b. Sign and stamp the Form and request the party Agents where available to sign too. c. Give to all Party Agents and the Police where available a copy of the completed Form after it has been duly signed. D. Take the original to the Ward Returning Officer	
33.	The Ward Returning Officer shall; a. Take delivery of all Forms BSIEC 8A & BSIEC 8A (1) for the Chairmanship and Councillorship Elections respectively from the Presiding Officer. b. Collate the votes entered in Form BSIEC 8A in the case of Chairmanship Election and Form BSIEC 8A (1) in the case of Councillorship Elections using Form BSIEC 8 or BSIEC 8B (1) as the case may be. c. Enter the votes in both words and figures in the appropriate space in Form BSIEC 8B (1) in the case of Councillorship Elections, sign the Form and get the Party Agents to Sign too. d. Crosscheck the figures in Form BSIEC 8B (1) carefully and distribute copies to the Party Agents, and Police or security agents where available at the Ward Collation Centre. e. Enter the score of each candidate in the Declaration of Result Form BSIEC 8E(1) for the Councillorship Election and f. Declare the Councillorship Results for the Ward and return the candidate with majority of votes cast as duly elected.	Collation of Results of Local Government Election at Ward level
34.	The Ward Collation Officer shall proceed as follows in respect of the Chairmanship Election a. Enter the votes in both words and figures in the appropriate space in Form BSIEC 8B, sign the Form and get the Party Agents to sign and announce the result of the Ward. b. Distribute copies of the duly completed and signed Form BSIEC 8B to the Party Agents, the Police or Security Agents available at the collation Centre. c. Proceed to the Local Government Area Collation Centre where he/she shall handover to the Local Government Returning Officer the original of Form BSIEC 8B, the results and other materials relating to the elections	Collation of Chairmanship Elections by the Collation Officer

35	The Local Government Area Returning Officer shall; - Take delivery of all Form BSIEC 8B submitted by the Ward Collation Officers from the Wards of the Local Government Area. - Collate the result by transferring votes scored by each chairmanship candidate from Form BSIEC 8B into Form BSIEC 8C Ward by Ward - Announce loudly the total results scored by each candidate at the local government Area level, as recorded in Form BSIEC 8C. - Thereafter sign the duly completed Form BSIEC 8C and get the Party Agents at the Collation Centre to sign too. - Crosscheck the figure in Form BSIEC 8C carefully and distribute copies to the Party Agents, the Police or Security Agents available. - Return the original of Form BSIEC 8C which shall be returned to the Electoral Officer for custody. - Enter the scores of each candidate in the Declaration of Result Form BSIEC 8E for the Chairmanship Election. - Declare the Chairmanship result for the Local Government Area and return the candidate who has won the election. - Complete the Certificate of Return - Declare the Result of the Poll by reading the completed Certificate of Return aloud in the place of counting and - Cause to be delivered to the Commission the original of the Certificate of Return and give copies to the Party Agents, the Police, the State Security Service present at the LGA Collation Centre - The Commission shall cause to be pasted at the office of the Council Wards concerned or at such other places as it thinks fit, notice of the result of the election and shall cause the names of the successful candidates to be endorsed on the relevant Forms. - The Commission shall publish the result in the State Gazette, Newspaper, or any other media deemed appropriate.	Collation of Result of Chairmanship Election at Local Government Council Level.
36.	A Certificate of Return shall be issued to every candidate who has won election under these guidelines.	Issuance of Certificate of Return at election

37.	a. The Returning Officer shall deliver all documents relating to the conduct of the election to the Commission which shall be responsible for their safe custody. b. The Commission shall retain for a period of eight (8) months all documents relating to an election forwarded to it as required by sub section (a) and unless otherwise ordered by a Tribunal or notified of a legal proceeding in respect of such an election, it shall at the end of that period cause the documents to be destroyed. c. Documents in the custody of the Commission shall not be available for any purpose except as required for inspection made by a Tribunal on an election petition.	Retention of Election Documents
38.	There shall be established for the state one or more Election Petition Tribunal which shall have original jurisdiction to hear and determine; a. Election Petitions as to whether a person has been validly elected as Chairman or Councilor of a Local Government Council. b. Any question as to whether the terms of office of any person as Chairman or Councilor of a Local Government Council has ceased or become vacant c. Any question as to whether an election petition is proper or improper before the election Petition Tribunal	Establishment of Election Petition Tribunal
39	1. An Election Petition Tribunal shall consist of a Chairman and two other Members, all of whom shall be persons of unquestionable integrity and who have not been involved in party politics 2. The Chairman shall be a High Court Judge or a Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal and Two other members 3. One shall be a legal practitioner who has been qualified for a period of not less than Ten years 4. The other shall be a senior Public Officer of unquestionable integrity; 5. The Chairman and other members shall be appointed by the Chief Judge of the State 6. The Quorum for the Election Petition Tribunal shall be the Chairman and One other.	Composition of Election Petition Tribunal

40.	1. An Election petition may be presented not later than fourteen (14) days after the date the result of the elections is declared by a. A candidate at the election or b. The political party that participated at the election 2. In any petition, the respondents to such petition shall be a. The successful candidate b. The Commission or c. The Returning Officer or any Officer of the Commission where the petitioner complains of his conduct.	Right to present Petition
41	1. An election maybe questioned on the following grounds a. That the person whose election is questioned was at the time of the election not qualified to be elected. b. That the election was invalid by reason of corrupt practices or not in compliance with the procedures laid down under the law. c. That the respondent was at the time of the election not duly elected by majority of lawful votes at the election. d. That the petitioner was validly nominated but was unlawfully excluded from the election.	Grounds for petition
42.	1. An election shall not be invalidated by reason of non-compliance with the procedure of election under this law if it appears to the Tribunal having cognizance of the question that the election was conducted substantially in accordance with the provision of the laws and that the non-compliance of the law did not affect the result of the election. 2. An election shall not be questioned by reason of defect in the title or want of title of the persons conducting the election, if that person was then in actual possession or acting in the office giving the right to conduct an election.	Substantial compliance
43.	The Tribunal shall deliver its decision in writing within One Hundred and Eighty Days (180) from the day of ruling of the petition and the judgment shall determine the issues before the Tribunal.	Delivery of Judgment

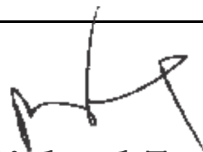
44.	Appeals from the decision of the Election Tribunal shall lay to the Local Government Election Appeal Tribunal (hereinafter referred to as the 'Election Appeal Tribunal') which shall comprise Three (3) Judges of the High Court and Customary Court of Appeal the most senior of whom shall be the Chairman.	Establishment of Appeal Tribunal and its Composition
45	1. Notice of Appeal to the Appeal Tribunal from the decision of an Election Tribunal on a petition shall be given within Fourteen (14) days from the date of the decision appealed against. 2. Two members of the Appeal Tribunal shall form a quorum and the decision of the Appeal Tribunal is final.	Notice of Appeal
46.	1. No person who having voted in any election under this law in any legal proceedings arising out of the election will be required to say for whom he has voted. 2. No member of the Commission shall be personally liable in the discharge of his duties under the law.	Liability of Voters and Members of the Commission
47.	Any person who commits any of the following offences that is to say: (a). Forges any nomination paper; (b). Willfully defaces or destroy any nomination paper; (c). Delivers to any Electoral Officer any nomination form knowing it to be forged; (d). Sign nomination paper as a candidate in more than one ward; (e). Forges any ballot paper or official mark on any ballot paper or any certificate of returns; (f). Willfully destroys any ballot paper or official mark on any ballot paper or any certificate of return; (g). Without proper authority supplies a ballot paper to any person. - h). Willfully place in any Ballot Box a Ballot Paper other than at a Polling Station on a polling day in the execution of his voting rights; (i). willfully removes from a Polling Station any Ballot Paper whether or not the Ballot Paper was issued to him in that Polling Station; (j). without proper authority destroys or in any other manner interferes with a Ballot Box or its contents or any packet of ballot papers in use for the purpose of the election;	Further Offences.

	(K). Signs a Nomination Paper consenting to be a candidate at the election knowing that he is ineligible to be a candidate for the election; (l). Without proper authority prints Ballot Papers; (m). Manufactures, constructs, imports, has in his possession, supplies to any election Officer, uses for the purpose of an election causes to be manufactured, constructed, imported, supplied to any election Officer, any appliance, device, or mechanism or by which a ballot paper may or could be Secretary placed, stored in, or having been deposited during polling may be secretly diverted, misplaced or manipulated; or (n). Being authorized by the Commission to print Ballot Papers, prints more than the number or quantity the Commission authorized shall be liable on conviction to N10,000.00 fine or two year imprisonment or both.	
	(1). No person shall provide for the purpose of conveying any person to a Registration Office or to a Polling Station any Government or Local Government vehicle or boat or any vehicle or boat belonging to public corporation except in respect of a person who is ordinarily entitled to use such a vehicle or boat; (2). Notwithstanding the provisions of Sub-section (i), the Commission may restrict or limit the use of vehicles of any particular description or any water transport at an election; (3). Any person who contravenes the provision of this Section commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction.	
	Any Officer appointed under this Law, who without lawful excuse commits a breach of his official duty shall, on conviction, be liable.	Breach of duty.
	Any person who after an election is announced. (a). Acts or incites another to act in disorderly manner; or (b). Has in his possession an offensive weapon or missiles at any gathering commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction.	Disorderly Conduct
	Any person who impersonates at an election shall on conviction be liable.	

	A person shall be guilty of corrupt practice and commits the offence of treating who- (a). Corruptly by himself or by any person at any time after the date of an election has been announced or indirectly gives or provide or pays wholly or in part, the expenses, travel food, drinks or entertainment of any person for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person to vote or refrain from voting at such election, or on account of such person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting at such election; or (b). Being a voter corruptly accept or takes any such food, drink, entertainment or provisions during any such period; (2). An offender as mentioned in Sub-section (1) shall be liable on conviction.	Corrupt Practices and treating.
48.	Any person who, (a), directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes use of or threaten to make use of any force, violence or restraint; or (b). Inflicts or threatens to inflict by himself or by any other person against any person, in order to induce or compel any one to refrain from standing as a candidate or to vote or refrain from voting or; (c). By any fraudulent device or contrivance impedes r prevents the free use of the vote by any voter or; (d). Compels a candidate to stop canvassing for votes, commits the offence f undue influence and shall be liable on conviction. To a fine of N10,000.00 or imprisonment for two years or both	Under Influence
	A person shall be guilty of corrupt practices and commits the offence of bribery who- (a). Directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person, corruptly gives, lends, or agrees to give or lend, any money or valuable consideration to a voter, or any person on behalf of any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting; (b). Corruptly gives or procures any office, place or employment for any voters or on behalf of a voter in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting; or	Bribery

(c. Corruptly makes any gift, loan, offer or promise to any person in order to induce such person to procure the return of any person to Local Government Council at any election; or (d). On account of any favour received from any person corruptly procures or engages or promises or endeavour to procure the return of any person for a Local Government Council or the vote of any voter at any election; (e). Gives any money to any person with the intent that such money may be needed to bribe any person at any election; or (f). After any election directly receives any money or favour from any person in circumstances amounting to bribery or commits an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine of N10,000.00 or to imprisonment for two years or both; (2). Nothing in this section shall extend or apply to money paid or agreed to be paid for or an account of any lawful expenses bonafide incurred at or concerning any election. (3). Where a person found guilty of corrupt practices is elected, such election shall be void and fresh election shall be held. Fine of N10, 000.00 or imprisonment for two years or both.	
No person shall, on the date on which election is held do any of the following acts in a Polling Station or within a distance of three hundred metres, that is to say- (a). Canvass for votes (b), Solicits the vote of another; (c). Persuade any voter to vote for a particular candidate; (d). Persuade any voter to vote at the election (e). Shout slogans concerning the election; (f). Be in possession of any offensive weapon or wear any dress or have any facial or other decoration which in any event is calculated to influence voters;	Offences on Election Day.

	(g). Exhibit, wear or tender any notice, symbol of a political party by any means whatsoever; (h). Display by any means on a vehicle the name or photograph of a candidate; (i). Use any vehicle bearing the colour or symbol or a political party by any means whatsoever; (j). Loiter without lawful excuses after voting or being refused to vote; 2. No person shall in any Ward on the day on which an election is held; (a). Convene, hold or attend any public meeting; or (b). Unless appointed under this Law, make official announcements, operate any megaphone,, amplifier, or public apparatus for the purpose of making announcements concerned with the election; or (c) Wear of carry any badge, poster, banner, flag or symbol relating to a political party or the election. (3). Any person acting contrary to the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of N5,000.00 or imprisonment for one year for every such offence.	
	Any person before on or on polling day who publishes false information as to the withdrawal of a candidate at the election, commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of N5,000.00 or one year imprisonment or both.	
	Where any provisions of these Guidelines conflicts with the provision of the Electoral Law 2024 as Amended and the Establishment Law 2012 as amended, the provisions in the law shall prevail/supersedes and the guidelines rendered null and void and of no legal effect whatsoever.	



Hon. Barr. Richard Terlumun Tombowua

Chairman,

Benue State Independent Electoral Commission, Makurdi