



## Nigeria

Electoral Commission Website  
<http://www.inecnigeria.org>

**Parliamentary Structure**  
Bicameral

**Election System**  
Presidential: Majority  
House of Representatives:  
FPTP  
Senate: MM Plurality  
Local: FPTP

# Female Political Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa

## Metafile

### Administrative Divisions

Nigeria is divided into 36 states and 1 Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The states are further divided into 774 Local Government Areas (LGAs). Local governments are created by their respective state legislation and are all single-tier across states (CLGF, 2016).

### Election System

Nigeria is a federal republic with three levels of government: federal, state and local. National Assembly is bicameral and comprises of an elected House of Representatives and an elected Senate by way of a first past the post election system. Furthermore, there are 36 state assemblies. The FCT is supervised by the National Assembly.

Local government elections are conducted using a first past the post election system. Councillors and Chairpersons of councils are elected directly by universal adult suffrage (CLGF, 2016). Furthermore, local government is split into wards across states and each ward elects a single member to its local council. Local government councils range in size from 10 to 13 councillors depending on the amount of wards in the area.

The last national elections were held in March 2015. Local election dates vary from state to state. The last election for the State house of Assembly was held in 2015.

### Women's Representation & Quota Information

Nigeria has not adopted legislated gender quotas for female representation in government (Bauer, 2013). Furthermore, meaningful voluntary political party quotas have not been adopted by any parties.

### Seats & Trends in Seat Numbers

Nigeria's bicameral legislature is comprised of a 109-member Senate and a 360-member House of Representatives. Following the April 2011 parliamentary election, women represented 3.69% (13 of 352 available seats) in the House of Representatives, and 4 of the 109 seats in the Senate (3.67%). These numbers increased to 20 out of 360 (5.56%) seats in the House of Representatives and 7 of the 108 (6.48%) available seats in the Senate following the March 2015 parliamentary election. At the local level, women held 51 of the 962 (5.30%) seats in the House of Assembly.



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## **References**

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