



NGelectionpolls

ELECTION MONITOR

ELECTION MONITOR • INDEPENDENT • NON-PARTISAN • CITIZEN-POWERED

EYEWITNESS REPORTER CODE OF CONDUCT

For all eyewitness reporters on the NGelectionpolls platform

The standards every NGelectionpolls eyewitness reporter agrees to follow before, during, and after election day.

Issued by: **The Legal Team, NGelectionpolls**

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www.ngelectionpolls.org

ABOUT THIS CODE

NGelectionpolls is an independent, non-partisan, citizen-powered platform. Its eyewitness reporters help people across Nigeria see what is happening at elections in real time. This Code sets out how you, as a reporter, are expected to behave before, during, and after election day.

It applies to everyone who reports for the platform, whether paid, volunteer, or accredited for a single election. By signing up to report, you agree to follow it.

The Code rests on one simple idea. People trust what NGelectionpolls publishes because its reporters are fair, honest, and independent. Every reporter either protects that trust or puts it at risk.

The five commitments every reporter makes

1. I stay non-partisan and report without bias.
2. I observe the election. I never interfere with it.
3. I do not disrupt voting or the work of officials at the polling unit.
4. I do not damage or destroy public or private property.
5. I represent NGelectionpolls with honesty and good character.

1. BE NON-PARTISAN

You report for the public, not for any party, candidate, or interest.

- Do not campaign, wear party colours or logos, or show support for any party or candidate while reporting.
- Do not let your own views shape what you report. Report what happens, not what you wish had happened.
- Do not accept money, gifts, favours, or instructions from any party, candidate, agent, or official in exchange for how you report. If anyone offers, refuse and tell NGelectionpolls.
- If you have a close personal or family tie to a candidate or party in the area you cover, tell NGelectionpolls before election day so you can be reassigned.

2. REPORT FAIRLY AND ACCURATELY

Your job is to give an honest account of what you see.

- Report only what you witness or can verify. Do not pass on rumours as fact.
- Do not exaggerate, play down, or twist events to favour any side.
- Do not stage, edit, or doctor photos, videos, or any other material. Send what actually happened, with the time and place where you can.
- If you get something wrong, correct it as soon as you can and let NGelectionpolls know.
- Keep your tone calm and factual. Avoid insults, slurs, and language meant to inflame.

3. OBSERVE, DO NOT INTERFERE

You are there to watch and record, not to take part. This is the heart of the role.

- Do not handle ballot papers, ballot boxes, result sheets, the BVAS, or any election material.
- Do not direct voters, officials, or agents, and do not tell anyone how to do their job.
- Do not argue with, obstruct, or challenge poll officials, security agents, or INEC staff. Raise any concern through NGelectionpolls, not by confronting people at the unit.
- Do not enter restricted areas such as voting cubicles or collation tables unless you are clearly permitted to.
- Respect the lawful instructions of poll officials and security agents. If you are asked to step back or leave, do so, and report what happened to NGelectionpolls.

Follow the law and INEC's Regulations and Guidelines for the Conduct of Elections. Under those rules, observers may watch and note what happens but must not interfere with the process. You are a reporter, not a referee.

4. DO NOT DISRUPT THE POLLS

A polling unit exists for voters. Your presence should never get in their way.

- Keep a reasonable distance from the accreditation point, the cubicle, and the ballot box. Do not block queues, doorways, or officials.
- Keep noise down. Do not shout, chant, or draw a crowd.
- Do not bring weapons or anything that could be taken as a threat.
- Do not film or photograph in a way that breaks polling rules or that records how a person votes.
- Stay calm if things get tense. Do not add to confusion or panic. If there is real danger, move to safety first, then report.

5. RESPECT PEOPLE AND PROPERTY

- Do not damage, deface, or destroy any public or private property, including polling units, schools, furniture, vehicles, and election materials. You are personally responsible for any damage you cause.
- Do not take part in, encourage, or excuse violence, intimidation, or theft.
- Treat voters, officials, agents, observers, and fellow reporters with respect, whatever their party or background.
- Respect people's privacy. Do not publish someone's personal details or how they voted, and do not harass anyone who declines to speak to you.

6. CARRY YOURSELF AS AN AMBASSADOR OF NGELECTIONPOLL

When you report, you represent the platform. People will judge NGelectionpolls by how you behave.

- Be honest in everything you do for the platform, including who you are and what you saw.
- Carry your NGelectionpolls identification and show it when it is proper to do so. Do not lend it to anyone or claim powers you do not have. You are a reporter, not an official, and you have no authority over the conduct of the election.
- Do not use your role for personal gain, to settle scores, or to push an agenda of your own.
- Stay clear of conduct that would embarrass the platform or call your character into question, on or off duty. This includes drunkenness, harassment, fraud, and any criminal act.
- Speak for yourself, not for NGelectionpolls, unless you have been asked to. Do not make official statements on its behalf.

7. STAY SAFE

Your safety comes before any report.

- Know the area, plan how you will get in and out, and keep your phone charged.
- Avoid confrontation. Walk away from anyone who threatens you.
- If you feel unsafe, leave and contact NGelectionpolls. No report is worth your life.

8. HANDLE INFORMATION RESPONSIBLY

- Send your reports through the official NGelectionpolls channels only.
- Submit on time and keep your own records (notes, photos, times, and locations) in case they are needed.
- Protect any sensitive information you come across, and do not share your login details or platform tools with anyone.

9. PROHIBITED CONDUCT AT A GLANCE

The following will always be treated as serious breaches of this Code:

- Taking sides or taking money or gifts to slant a report.
- Inventing, faking, or doctoring any report or media.
- Touching or tampering with election materials or the BVAS.
- Obstructing officials, voters, or security agents.
- Damaging public or private property.
- Taking part in violence, intimidation, or vote buying.
- Impersonating an official or misusing NGelectionpolls identification.
- Any criminal conduct on election day.

10. IF YOU BREACH THIS CODE

NGelectionpolls takes this Code seriously.

- Depending on how serious the breach is, NGelectionpolls may warn you, suspend you, remove you from the platform, or decline to use your reports.
- Where a breach involves a crime, NGelectionpolls may report it to the authorities and cooperate fully with any investigation.
- You remain personally responsible under the law for your own actions, including any damage or offence you commit.

DECLARATION

I have read and understood the NGelectionpolls Eyewitness Reporter Code of Conduct. I agree to follow it in full while reporting for the platform. I understand that breaking it may end my role, and that I remain responsible under the law for my own conduct.

Full name:

Reporter ID:

State / area covered:

Signature:

Date:

About NGelectionpolls

Nigeria's democracy needs active citizens more than ever. NGelectionpolls helps people report, verify, and share what is happening at elections in real time across more than 176,000 polling units. It is an independent, non-partisan, citizen-powered platform.

Questions about this Code? Contact:

Email: admin@ngelectionpolls.org

Web: www.ngelectionpolls.org