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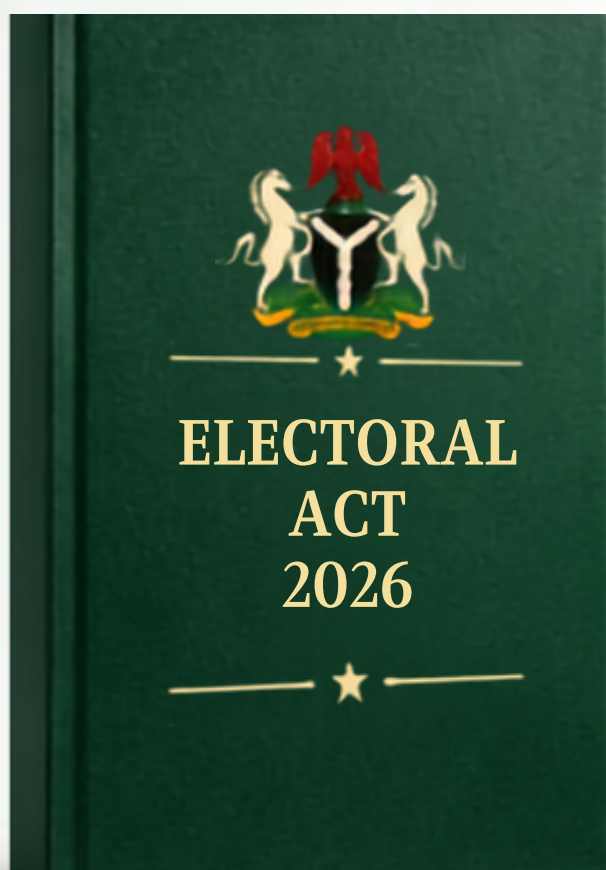


DO YOU KNOW **THE** **ELECTORAL** **OFFENCES** CONTAINED IN THE **2026** **ELECTORAL ACT?**



KNOW THE OFFENCE.
KNOW THE PENALTY.

**PROTECT
DEMOCRACY.**



**33 OFFENCES
SECTIONS 118 – 133**



**CLEAR OFFENCES
DEFINED**



**PENALTIES
STATED**



**DEMOCRACY
PROTECTED**

ESI HUB

Election Security Information Hub

Source:

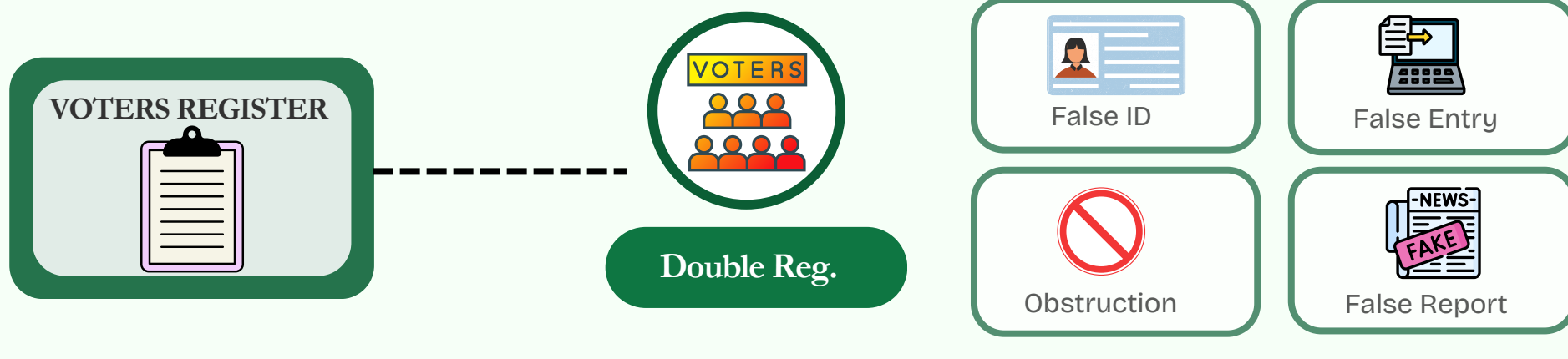
Nigeria Electoral Act 2026 — Part VII: Electoral Offences
<https://nass.gov.ng/documents/download/11248>

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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 118 | Part VII – Offences in Relation to Registration

Common Registration Offences



WHAT CONSTITUTES THIS OFFENCE

- Destroying, defacing or altering voter registration documents
- Registering in more than one constituency or centre
- Publishing false statements to prevent eligible persons from registering
- Making false entries in voter registration records
- Obstructing a registration or revision officer

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦100,000 or imprisonment for a term of 1 year, or both.
- Additional sanctions may apply for aggravated offences involving multiple registrations.



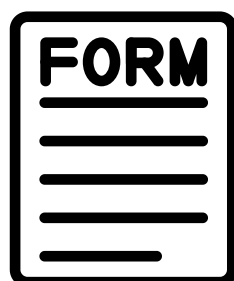
Know the Offence. Know the Penalty. Protect Democracy.

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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 119 | Part VII – **Offences in Respect of Nomination**

VOTERS REGISTER



Forged Docs



Double Nom.



False Affidavit



Obstruction



**Tampering with nomination processes
undermines democracy**

PROHIBITED ACTIONS

- Submitting forged or falsified nomination documents
- Filing a false affidavit in support of candidacy
- Nominating a candidate under false pretences
- Inducing or intimidating nominators
- Obstructing or interfering with the nomination process

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦500,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- False affidavit offences may carry additional charges under the Perjury Act.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 120 | Part VII – **Disorderly Behaviour at Political Meetings**



Political Rally



PEACEFUL — PROTECTED RIGHT



Weapons



Alcohol



Incitement



Violence



Disruption



Intimidation

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

- Acting in a disorderly manner at any political meeting
- Inciting others to act in a disorderly manner
- Carrying offensive weapons at political gatherings
- Disrupting lawful political rallies or processions
- Using intoxicating substances to provoke disorder

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦500,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- Possession of weapons at political meetings may attract additional criminal charges.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

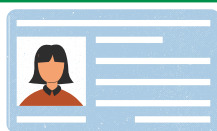
Section 121 | Part VII – **Improper Use of Voters Cards**



Selling card



Transferring Card



Permanent Voters Card



Hoarding cards



Using Another's Card



Your Voters Card is your personal democratic identity
It must only be used by **YOU** at your designated polling unit

OFFENCES UNDER THIS SECTION

- Giving your voters card to another person for use at an election
- Receiving a voters card in the name of another person to use fraudulently
- Possessing more than one voters card without lawful excuse
- Buying, selling, or dealing in voters card

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of **₦1,000,000** or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- Dealing in multiple cards carries the full maximum penalty.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 122 | Part VII – Improper Use of Vehicles



GOVERNMENT VEHICLE



Cannot transport voters to polls

VS

PRIVATE VEHICLE - ALLOWED



Personal transport is permitted



PROHIBITED



Party Siren Vehicle
Near polls = ILLEGAL

PROHIBITED VEHICLE USE

- Using any government vehicle or boat to convey voters to polling units
- Using vehicles belonging to public corporations for voter transport
- Operating vehicles bearing party colours or symbols near polling units
- Loitering with sirens blaring near polling units on election day

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦500,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- The vehicle may also be impounded by security agencies.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

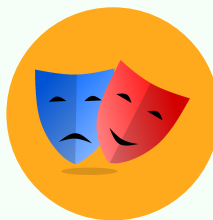
Section 123 | Part VII – Impersonation and Voting When Not Qualified



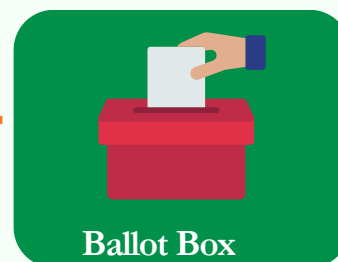
REAL VOTER: JOHN



ILLEGAL SWAP



IMPERSONATOR



Ballot Box



Under 18
Not Qualified



Every vote must be cast by the actual registered voter, in person
Voting under a false identity or when disqualified is a serious criminal offence

WHAT IS IMPERSONATION?

- Applying for a ballot paper in the name of another registered voter
- Voting when you know you are not qualified to do so
- Voting more than once at the same or different polling unit
- Aiding, abetting or procuring another to impersonate a voter

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- Accomplices who aid impersonation face the same maximum penalty.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 124 | Part VII – **Misconduct or Dereliction of Duty**



ELECTION OFFICIAL

Dereliction of Duty Examples



Absent from polling unit on election day without lawful excuse



Falsifying or conspiring to make false declarations of election results



Failing to perform official duties without lawful excuse



Accepting bribes or inducements in exchange for official favour

WHO THIS APPLIES TO

- Any officer appointed by INEC for electoral purposes
- Polling officials who fail to report on election day
- Polling agents who conspire to make false result declarations
- Party officials who direct misconduct in official capacities
- Security personnel assigned to election duty

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦500,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- Officials may also face removal from office and disqualification from future public service.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 125 | Part VII – **Bribery and Conspiracy**



Vote Buyer



Cash/ Contract/ Gift



Your Vote - ILLEGAL



Vote Seller

Forms of Bribery

-  Cash payments
-  Gifts and food items
-  Contracts or employment
-  Promises of housing/land
-  Scholarship offers
-  Phones and gadgets
-  Medical care promises



BOTH ARE GUILTY



MONEY DOES NOT BUY YOUR FUTURE

THE OFFENCE OF BRIBERY INCLUDES

- Paying or offering money to any person to vote or refrain from voting
- Receiving money or gifts in exchange for voting for a candidate
- Conspiring with others to corrupt the voting process
- Using public office or contract as inducement for votes

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of **₦500,000** or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- Both the person giving and the person receiving a bribe face equal prosecution.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 126 | Part VII – Requirement of Secrecy in Voting



SECRET BALLOT
Your choice is private



Photographing Ballot
Illegal — Do not do this

Interfering with voter
while casting their vote



Your vote
belongs to you

No one has a
right to know
how you
voted

PROTECTING THE SECRET BALLOT

- No person present at the polling unit shall interfere with a voter casting their vote
- No one may attempt to find out how a voter has voted or intends to vote
- Taking photographs of marked ballot papers is prohibited
- Tampering with electoral materials carries a 24-month prison term (Sec. 126(4))

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦100,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- Tampering with electoral materials: imprisonment of 24 months (Section 126(4)).



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 127 | Part VII – **Wrongful Voting and False Statements**



Voting at wrong unit
Voting outside
your registered polling
unit

False withdrawal news
Falsely announcing
a candidate's withdrawal

DEBUNKED
False candidate info
Publishing false
info about a candidate



Verify before you vote. Verify before you share.

Disinformation during elections is a criminal offence, not just a civic problem

ACTS THAT CONSTITUTE THIS OFFENCE

- Voting at a polling unit you are not assigned to
- Publishing a false statement of a candidate's withdrawal to mislead voters
- Publishing any false statement about a candidate likely to affect the election outcome
- Making false declarations about electoral matters to authorities

THE DANGER OF DISINFORMATION

- Fine of ₦500,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- Publishing false candidate information may attract additional civil liability.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 128 | Part VII – **Voting by Unregistered Person**



UNREGISTERED



Requirements to Vote Legally

- ✓ Must be a registered voter on the official voters register
- ✓ Must present a valid Permanent Voter's Card (PVC)
- ✓ Must vote at your designated polling unit only
- ✓ Must vote in person — no proxies allowed
- ✓ Must pass biometric verification at polling unit

THE OFFENCE

- Attempting to vote without being on the electoral register
- Voting with someone else's voter card when you are not registered
- Persuading or inducing an unregistered person to vote
- Assisting an unregistered person in obtaining a ballot paper

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦500,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- The attempt to vote is itself the offence — no vote need be successfully cast.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 129 | Part VII – **Disorderly Conduct at Elections**



POLLING UNIT



Inciting Others
to disorder



Soliciting Votes
at polling unit



Offensive
Weapons



Party Symbol
Vehicle Siren



Loitering at
Polling Unit



Persuading Voter
not to vote

PROHIBITED CONDUCT AT POLLING UNITS

- Inciting others to act in a disorderly manner at or near a polling unit
- Soliciting votes on election day at or near a polling unit
- Persuading any voter not to vote or to vote for a particular candidate
- Being in possession of any offensive weapon near a polling unit
- Using a vehicle bearing party colours or blaring a siren near polls

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦100,000 or imprisonment for a term of 6 months for some acts;
- Up to ₦500,000 or 12 months for serious disorderly conduct, or both.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 130 | Part VII – **Offences on Election Day**

ELECTION DAY



Maximum vigilance
required

Key Offences on Election Day

-  Stealing, destroying or tampering with ballot boxes or papers
-  Marking or falsifying ballot papers — ballot stuffing
-  Using arms or weapons to disrupt polling
-  Interfering with electronic voting or accreditation devices
-  Falsifying or altering election results at any stage
-  Security personnel interfering with lawful voting processes

MOST CRITICAL OFFENCES

- Stealing, snatching or destroying ballot materials at any stage
- Ballot stuffing or pre-marking ballot papers
- Interrupting or preventing lawful voting and counting
- Tampering with BVAS or any electoral technology device
- Making false declarations of election results

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Tampering with electoral materials: imprisonment of 24 months.
- Other election day offences: fine of ₦500,000 or imprisonment of 12 months, or both.



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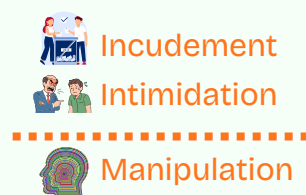
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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 131 | Part VII – **Undue Influence**

**POWERFUL
PERSON**

Employer/
Official/
Elder



**VOTER UNDER
PRESSURE**



**THE LAW
PROTECTS YOU**

Requirements to Vote Legally

- ✓ No one can force your vote
- ✓ Employer cannot direct your choice
- ✓ Religious leaders cannot coerce you
- ✓ Community heads cannot override you
- ✓ Report undue influence to INEC/police
- ✓ Your ballot is secret — you decide alone

WHAT IS UNDUE INFLUENCE?

- Accepting money or any other inducement in exchange for a vote
- Using a position of authority to direct how subordinates must vote
- Exploiting religious, traditional or cultural influence to coerce voters
- Preventing a political aspirant from freely using media or campaign
- Restraining a person's free exercise of the right to vote

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of **₦100,000** or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- Systematic undue influence by party organisations may attract institutional sanctions.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 132 | Part VII – **Threatening**



THREATENER

Types of Illegal Threats

-  Violence or injury threats
-  Eviction / property threats
-  Job loss / livelihood threats
-  Intimidation campaigns
-  Blocking media access



VOTER / ASPIRANT



LEGAL PROTECTION

Report to police or
INEC

WHAT CONSTITUTES THREATENING?

- Threatening a person with violence or injury to compel them to vote or refrain from voting
- Threatening injury to property, occupation or livelihood to coerce a voter
- Preventing any political aspirant from free use of media or mobilising support
- Any intimidation campaign designed to suppress voter participation

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦100,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- Systematic undue influence by party organisations may attract institutional sanctions.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 133 | Part VII – **Offences Relating to Recall**



**ELECTED
OFFICIAL**

Rep / Senator

RECALL PETITION



PETITION

Needs 51%+ of
registered voters
Must be verified by
INEC

**Must be genuine —
no forged signatures!**

Prohibited Acts

-  Forging signatures
-  Bribing signatories
-  False identity claims
-  Threatening citizens
-  Obstructing process
-  Fraudulent lists

OFFENCES IN THE RECALL PROCESS

- Forging signatures on a recall petition
- Bribing constituents to sign or not sign a recall petition
- Making false claims of identity in a recall petition
- Threatening or intimidating persons regarding a recall petition
- Obstructing the lawful process of recall by INEC

PENALTY UPON CONVICTION

- Fine of ₦500,000 or imprisonment for a term of 12 months, or both.
- Forging petition signatures may attract additional charges under the Criminal Code.



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Electoral Offences Under the Electoral Act, 2026

Section 118 - 133 | Part VII

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SEC. 118



Offences in Relation to Registrati
#100,000 fine or 1 year

SEC. 119



Offences in Respect of Nomination
#500,000 fine or 12 months

SEC. 120



Disorderly Behaviour at Political Meetings
#500,000 fine or 12 months

SEC. 121



Improper Use of Voters Cards
#1,000,000 fine or 12 months

SEC. 122



Improper Use of Vehicles
#500,000 fine or 12 months

SEC. 123



Impersonation and Voting When Not Qualified
#500,000 fine or 12 months

SEC. 124



Misconduct or Dereliction of Duty
#500,000 fine or 12 months

SEC. 125



Bribery and Conspiracy
#500,000 fine or 12 months

SEC. 126



Requirement of Secrecy in Voting
#100,000 or 6 months; tampering: 24 months

SEC. 127



Wrongful Voting and False Statements
#500,000 fine or 12 months

SEC. 128



Voting by Unregistered Person
#500,000 fine or 12 months

SEC. 129



Disorderly Conduct at Elections
#100,000–#500,000 or 6–12 months

SEC. 130



Offences on Election Day
#500,000 or 12 months; tampering: 24 months

SEC. 131



Undue Influence
#100,000 fine or 12 months

SEC. 132



Threatening
#1,000,000 fine or 3 years

SEC. 133



Offences Relating to Recall
#500,000 fine or 12 months