# **ELECTORAL REFORMS**

# 1. Diaspora Voting

#### Bill No: SB. 255

# A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO PROVIDE FOR DIASPORA VOTING; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sections	Provision of the Constitution	Provision of the Bill	Remarks
		<b>ENACTED</b> by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria -	
		Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution	
		The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.	
7	Local government system	Clause 2 Alteration of Section 7	
	<ul> <li>(1)</li> <li>(2) The person carried30ti by law to prescribe the area over which a local government council may exercise authority shall-</li> <li>(a) define such area as clearly as practicable; and</li> <li>(b) ensure, to the extent to which it may be reasonably justifiable, that in defining such area regard is paid to</li> <li>(i) the common interest of the community in the</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Section 7 is altered – <ul> <li>(a) in subsection (2), by substituting for the word, "in", in line</li> <li>2, the words, "within or outside"</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) by inserting after subsection (2), new subsection "(2A)" and "(2B)" –</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>(i) the common interest of the community in the area,</li> <li>(ii) traditional association of the community, and</li> <li>(iii) administrative convenience.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>"(2A) To be eligible to vote in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, the citizen of Nigeria shall – <ul> <li>(i) be at least 18 years old;</li> <li>(ii) hold a valid Nigerian International Passport;</li> <li>(iii) have lived in Nigeria for a period of a least five years from a minimum age of ten years old; and be legally</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

		<ul><li>resident in any foreign country from where the person seeks to vote in the Nigerian election for at least twelve months;</li><li>(2B) the Independent National Electoral Commission shall issue guidelines for Diaspora voting."</li></ul>	
117	Direct election and franchise (1) (2) Every citizen of Nigeria, who has attained the age of eighteen years, residing in Nigeria at the time of the registration of voters for purposes of election to any legislative House, shall be entitled to be registered as a voter for that election.	Clause 3 Alteration of Section 117 Section 117 is altered – (a) in subsection (2), by substituting for the word, "in", in line 2, the words, "within or outside" (b) by inserting after subsection (2), new subsection "(2A)" and "(2B)" – "(2A) To be eligible to vote in accordance with subsection (2) of this section, the citizen of Nigeria shall – (i) be at least 18 years old; (ii) hold a valid Nigerian International Passport; (iii) have lived in Nigeria for a period of a least five years from a minimum age of ten years old; and be legally resident in the country of resident for a least twelve months; (2B) the Independent National Electoral Commission shall issue guidelines for Diaspora voting."	
		<b>Citation</b> This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025	
		Explanatory Memorandum	

	This Bill seeks to alter the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to provide for diaspora	
	voting.	

# 2. Equitable Representation in State Houses of Assembly

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO ENSURE THAT EVERY LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN EACH STATE HAS AT LEAST ONE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY OF THAT STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Section	<b>Provision of the Constitution/Principal Act</b>	Provision of the Bill	Remarks
		Clause 1 The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (in this Act referred to as "Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill.	
91	<b>Composition of the House of Assembly</b> Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of three or four times the number of seats which that State has in the House of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal population: Provided that a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of not less than twenty-four and not more than forty members.	Clause 2 Amendment of section 91 Section 91 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for the proviso, a new "proviso" – "Provided that the House of Assembly of a State consist of not less than twenty-four and not more than <b>forty-four</b> members and composition of membership shall show or indicate that each Local Government in the State has at least one member representing the Local Government in the House of Assembly of that State."	
		Clause 3 Citation	

This Bill may be cited as Constitution (Alteration) Bill, 2025
Explanatory Memorandum
This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,1999 to ensure that every local Government in each State has at least one member representing the Local Government in the House of Assembly of that State to ensure equity, fairness, and attract democratic dividends to inhabitants of each Local Government in the State.

# 3. Independent Candidacy

Bill No: SB 812

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROVIDE FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDACY IN PRESIDENTIAL, GOVERNORSHIP, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCILS ELECTIONS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Section	Provision of the Constitution	Senate Proposed alterations to the Constitution	Remarks
		Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution	
		The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.	
7	Local Government System (4) The Government of a State shall ensure that every person who is entitled to vote or be voted for at an election to House of Assembly shall have the right to vote or be voted for at an election to a local government council.	Clause 2 Alteration of Section 7 Section 7 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after subsection (4), a new subsection "(4A)" - "(4A) In the case of an independent candidate, the person has obtained the verified signatures of at least twenty per cent of registered voters from each of all the electoral wards in the respective local government area, for a Chairmanship candidate, and signatures of at least twenty per cent of registered voters from each of all the polling units in the respective electoral wards for a councilor: Provided that- (a) a registered voter shall not sign for more than one independent candidate in respect of the same office; and	

		(b) the signatures shall be verified by the relevant electoral body"
65	Qualification for Election         (2) A person shall be qualified for election under subsection (1) of this section if –         (a) he has been educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent; and         (b) he is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that party.	Clause 3 Alteration of Section 65         Section 65 of the Principal Act is further altered— <ul> <li>(a) in subsection (2) (b), by inserting after the last word, "party", the words, "or the person is an independent candidate";</li> <li>(b) by inserting after paragraph (b), a new paragraph "(c)" -</li></ul>
106	Qualifications for ElectionsSubject to the provisions of section 107 of thisConstitution, a person shall be qualified for election asa member of a House of Assembly if –(a) he is a citizen of Nigeria;(b) he has attained the age of twenty-five years;(c) he has been educated up to at least the SchoolCertificate level or its equivalent; and	Clause 4Alteration of section 106Section 106 of the Principal Act is further altered by:-(a) in subsection (2) (d), by inserting after the last word, "party", the words, "or the person is an independent candidate";

	(d) he is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that party.	<ul> <li>(b) inserting, after paragraph (d), a new paragraph "(e)" –</li> <li>"(e) in the case of an independent candidate, the person has obtained the verified signatures of at least twenty per cent of registered voters from each of the wards in the State Constituency:</li> <li>Provided that-</li> <li>(i) a registered voter shall not sign for more than one independent candidate in respect of the same office: and</li> <li>(ii) the signatures shall be verified by the relevant electoral body"</li> </ul>	
131	Qualifications for Elections as President A person shall be qualified for election to the office of the President if - (a) he is a citizen of Nigeria by birth; (b) he has attained the age of thirty-five years; (c) he is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that political party; and (d) he has been educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent.	Clause 5 Alteration of section 131Section 131 of the Principal Act is further altered by:-(a) in subsection (2) (d), by inserting after the last word, "party", the words, "or the person is an independent candidate";(b) inserting after paragraph (c), a new paragraph "(cc)" —"(cc) in the case of an independent candidate, the person has obtained the verified signatures of at least twenty per cent of 	

177	Qualifications for elections as Governor	Clause 6	
1//	A person shall be qualified for election to the office of	Alteration of Section 177	
	Governor of a State if-	Alteration of Section 177	
	(a) he is a citizen of Nigeria by birth;	Section 177 of the Driveing 1 Act is forther alternal by	
	(b) he has attained the age of thirty-five years;	Section 177 of the Principal Act is further altered by-	
	(c) he is a member of a political party and is sponsored	(a) in subsection (2) (d), by inserting after the last word, "party",	
	by that political party; and	the words, "or the person is an independent candidate";	
	(d) he has been educated up to at least School	the words, of the person is an independent candidate,	
	Certificate level or its equivalent.	(b) inserting after paragraph (c), a new paragraph "(cc)" –	
		"(cc) in the case of an independent candidate, the person has	
		obtained the verified signatures of at least twenty per cent of	
		registered voters from each of the local government areas in the	
		State:	
		Provided that-	
		(a) a registered voter shall not sign for more than one	
		independent candidate in respect of the same office; and	
		(b) the signatures shall be verified by the relevant electoral	
220		body"	
228	Powers of the National Assembly with respect to	Clause 7 Alteration of Section 228	
	political parties	Anteration of Section 228	
	The National Assembly may by law provide -	Section 228 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after	
	(a)	paragraph (c), a new paragraph "(cc)"-	
		paragraph (c), a new paragraph (cc) -	
	(b)	"(cc) for the conferment on the Commission of power by	
	(0)	regulations to prescribe the payment of such administrative	
		fees by independent candidates for respective elections:	
	(c) for an annual grant to the Independent National	, rr	
	Electoral Commission for disbursement to political	Provided that the Independent National Electoral Commission	
	parties on a fair and equitable basis to assist them in	shall waive fifty percent of the administrative fees for women	
	the discharge of their functions; and	candidates."	
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Clause 8 Citation	
This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025.	
Explanatory Memorandum	
This Bill seeks to alter the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to allow an independent candidate contest for an elective position.	

# 4. Cross-Carpeting

# Bill No: SB 810

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROVIDE FOR THE TERMINATION OF TENURE OF CERTAIN ELECTED OFFICIALS ON ACCOUNT OF A CHANGE OF POLITICAL PARTY; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Section	Provision of the Constitution	Proposed alterations of the Constitution	Remarks
		Clause 1	
		Alteration of the Constitution The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.	
180.	<ul> <li>Tenure of office of Governor</li> <li>(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the Governor shall vacate his office at the expiration of a period of four years commencing from the date when - <ul> <li>(a) in the case of a person first elected as Governor under this Constitution, he took the Oath of Allegiance and oath of office; and</li> <li>(b) the person last elected to that office took the Oath of Allegiance and oath of office or would, but for his death, have taken such oaths.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Clause 2 Alteration of section 180 Section 180 (2) is altered by inserting after the word, "oath" in paragraph (b), a new "proviso" – "Provided that where a person whose election to the office of the Governor or Deputy Governor was sponsored by a political party becomes a member of another political party before the expiration of his tenure, he shall vacate the office for which he was elected if his membership of the latter political party is not as a result of - (i) a division in the political party of which he was previously a member; or	

(ii) a merger of two or more political parties or a faction by one of which he was previously sponsored".	
Clause 3	
Citation	
This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Amendment) Bill, 2025.	
Explanatory Memoranda	
This Bill seeks to provide for the termination of tenure of certain elected officials on account of a change of political party.	

# 5. Formation of Political Parties

### Bill No: SB 803

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO ENHANCE EXISTING PROVISIONS ON THE FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Section	Provision of the Constitution	Proposed Alterations to the Constitution	Remarks
		Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution	
		The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.	
222.	Restrictions on Formation of Political Parties         (a)	Clause 2 Alteration of section 222 Section 222 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after paragraph (f), new paragraphs "(g) – (j)" – "(g) it has verifiable, equipped and staffed offices in at least two-thirds of all the States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, as may be determined by the Independent National Electoral Commission; (h) the names and addresses of national officers and members of the association shall be registered with the Independent National Electoral Commission;	

		<ul> <li>(i) the list of such members shall be accompanied with sworn affidavit of non-membership of an existing political party"; and</li> <li>(j) the association shall have at least three percent of registered voters who are its members and who are not members of any other association or political party in at least two-thirds of the States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory".</li> </ul>
223.	<b>Constitution and Rules of Political Parties</b>	Clause 3
		Alteration of section 223
	<ul><li>(a)</li><li>(b) ensure that the members of the executive committee or other governing body of the political party reflect the federal character of Nigeria.</li></ul>	Section 223 (1) of the Principal Act is altered by substituting for paragraph (b), a new paragraph "(b)"—
		"(b) ensure that members of the –
		<ul> <li>(i) National Executive Committee or other governing body of the political party reflect the federal character of Nigeria and have the same qualifications as candidates for election to the House of Representatives,</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>(ii) State Executive Committee of the political party shall have representation from different local government areas not being less than two-thirds of all the local government areas of the State, and</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>(iii) executive committee of the political party in the Federal Capital Territory shall have representation from different area councils not being less than two-thirds of all the area councils of the Federal Capital Territory.</li> </ul>

	Clause 4 Citation	
	This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Amendment) Bill, 2025.	
	Explanatory Memorandum	
	This Bill seeks to enhance existing provisions on the formation of political Parties to ensure national orientation, viability and sustainability.	

# **6. Restriction on a Political Party Participating in the Presidential Election** Bill No: SB 799

# A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROVIDE A RESTRICTION ON POLITICAL PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Sections	Provision of the Constitution	Provision of the Bill	Remarks
		<b>ENACTED</b> by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria -	
		Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution	
		The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.	
222	Restriction on formation of political parties	Clause 2 Insert after section 222 of the Principal Act, new section 222A —	
	(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f)	<ul> <li>"Restriction on political parties participating in presidential election</li> <li>222A. A political party shall not participate in a presidential election unless the political party maintains functional and verifiable offices in at least two thirds of the states of the Federation."</li> </ul>	
		Clause 3 Citation	

This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025.	
Explanatory Memorandum	
This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to provide a restriction on political parties participating in presidential election.	

## 7. Additional Powers and Criteria for Appointing Members of a State Independent Electoral Commission Bill No: SB 806

#### A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROVIDE THE CRITERIA FOR APPOINTING MEMBERS OF AND ADDITIONAL POWERS FOR THE STATE INDEPENDENT ELECTORAL COMMISSION; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Sections	Provision of the Constitution	Provision of the Bill	Remarks
		<b>ENACTED</b> by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria -	
		Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution	
		The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.	
200	Qualification for membership	Clause 2 Alteration of Section 200	
	(1) No person shall be qualified for appointment as a member of any of the bodies aforesaid if –	Section 200 (1) (a) of the Principal Act is altered, by substituting for the words "he shall not be a member of a	
	(a) he is not qualified or if he is disqualified for election as a member of a House of Assembly, provided that a	political party;" in the proviso, the words —	
	member of any of the said bodies shall not be required to belong to a political party and, in the case of the State Independent Electoral Commission, he shall not be a	<ul> <li>"he shall — </li> <li>(i) not be a member of a political party,</li> <li>(ii) not be less than 25 years of age, and</li> </ul>	
	member of a political party; (b)	(ii) hot be less than 25 years of age, and (iii) be a person of proven integrity and competence."	
204	Powers and procedure	Clause 3	

	(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, any of the bodies may, with the approval of the Governor, by rules or otherwise regulate its own procedure or confer powers or impose duties on any officer or authority for the purpose of discharging its functions.	Alteration of Section 204 Section 204 of the Principal Act is altered in subsection (1), by inserting after the word "functions", a new proviso — "Provided that in the case of the State Independent National Electoral Commission, its powers to make its own rules or otherwise regulate its own procedure shall not be subject to the approval or control of the Governor."
Third Schedule	PART II State's Executive Bodies (established by section B - State Independent Electoral Commission (1)(2)	Clause 4 Alteration of the Third Schedule Part II, item B of the Third Schedule to the Principal Act is altered by substituting for paragraph 4, a new paragraph "4" — "4. The Commission shall have power — (a) conduct voter's civic education; (b) monitor party primaries, congress and convention related to local government elections; (c)monitor political campaigns and provide guidelines and regulations for campaigns; (d) to organise, undertake and supervise all elections to local government councils within the State; I conduct referendum required to be conducted under the constitution or any law of the state; (f) promote knowledge of sound democratic election processes at the local government level; (g) delegate any of its powers to the electoral officers (h) perform such other functions as may be conferred on it by law of the State; (i) to render such advice as it may consider necessary to the Independent National Electoral Commission on

the compilation of and the register of voters in so far as that register is applicable to local government elections in the State."	
Clause 5 Citation	
 This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025.	
Explanatory Memorandum	
This Bill alters the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to provide for the criteria for appointing member of and additional powers for the State Independent Electoral Commission.	

# **8. Non-Justiciability of Pre-election Matters** Bill No: SB 809

# A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO REPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES TO RESOLVE ALL PRE-ELECTION DISPUTES INTERNALLY WITHOUT RECOURSE TO COURTS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

SECTION	PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION	PROVISIONS OF THE BILL	REMARKS
		ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:	
		Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution	
		The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.	
285.	285. Election Tribunals. Time for determination of pre-election matters	Clause 2 Alteration of Section 285	
	(8) Where a preliminary objection or any other interlocutory issue touching on the		
	jurisdiction of the tribunal or court in any pre- election matter or on the competence of the petition itself is raised by a party, the tribunal		
	or court shall suspend its ruling and deliver it at the stage of final judgment.	"(8) All issues and disputes arising or bordering on all pre-election matters shall not be litigated in any court in Nigeria but shall be treated as internal party affairs to	

<ul> <li>(9) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Constitution, every pre-election matter shall be filed not later than 14 days from the date of the occurrence of the event, decision or action complained of in the suit.</li> <li>(10) A Court in every pre-election matter shall deliver its judgment in writing within 180 days from the date of filing of the suit.</li> </ul>	be resolved as such within the platform of the affected political party"; and (b) deleting subsections (9), (10), (11), (12) and (14).	
	Clause 3 Citation This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025	
	<b>EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM</b> This Bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to reposition political parties to resolve every pre-election dispute internally without recourse to courts.	