

PLATEAU STATE

Plateau State has a total 2,480,455 registered voters for the 2019 elections, out of which about 2,246,865 are in possession of their PVCs as at the end of 2018. This figure shows an increase of over 480 thousand registered voters compared to 2015. There is a general sense that the most active voting population reside in the Northern senatorial zone of the state. Reason being that, access to state power is central to the Hausa Fulani population of Jos North, while claim over ownership of Jos by the Beroms is synonymous to holding power.

Equally, the demographics and voting pattern in Plateau has always been divided along ethnic and religious lines. However, this has not impacted significantly on block votes for a particular party during presidential elections. Since 1999, the state has voted massively for PDP during presidential elections, although the governorship election in 2015 APC won governorship seat yet PDP garnered more votes than APC in the presidential election. For 2019 presidential election, there are many young persons who have keyed into the Not Too Young to Run Act are contesting for the 2019 polls, but the struggle appears to be mainly between two major political parties, APC and PDP. While APC has the power of incumbency, PDP claims the state is the traditional birth place of the party and has a strong followership. The state will most likely witness a keen contest between these two parties in the presidential election.

The two major contenders are equally strong in many different ways and the 2019 presidential election cannot be logically and accurately predicted. But one fact remain, that out of the over 2 million voters in the state, about 1 million are from the Northern Senatorial zone, with Jos North alone having about 300,000 thousand registered voters. With the Hausa Fulani active voting population and their consistent choice of Northern candidates and the Berom God Father; Senator Jonah Jang, APC is most likely to have good followership. On the flip side is the PDP whose campaign is hinged on peace, security and Justice, affected communities by the persistent conflict in the state, and traditional PDP party members would likely not vote for APC. Both parties have enjoyed crowds during their rallies, but APC due to incumbency factor must have mobilised supporters across the

17 local governments while PDP supporters are mostly those yearning for change due to the growing insecurity. However, setting up of Air Force Base in Mangu and mobile barracks in Ajikamai in Shendam and Gasish in Barkin Ladi local government seems to be a sign that the Federal government is committed to the peace process. Whether Plateau plays politics of inclusivity or exclusivity will be reflected in the votes during the 2019 presidential election and will be telling if Plateau is able to do away with its ethnic and religious bigotry.



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The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) was established in the United Kingdom in 1997 as an independent, not-for-profit, research training, advocacy and capacity building organization

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