

## LAGOS STATE

### Introduction

Lagos State falls under the category, “battleground and swing terms, as stipulatively defined in the Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Nigeria: Electoral Trends, for each of the general elections conducted between 2003 and 2015. For each of these elections, the number of registered voters, and the total votes cast were as follows:

For the 2019 general elections, Lagos State has 6,728,394 registered voters, compared to 5,827,846 in 2015; 6,108,069; and 4,558,216 in 2003. But the voter turn-out in the state was 1.9 million in each of 2003 and 2011, and 1.4 million in 2015, probably due to the introduction of the card reader that year. Whether the turn-out will be higher for the 2019 general elections is unclear and it may be a decisive or major factor in the outcome of the presidential elections in the state.

Lagos State has been a highly competitive state for presidential and governorship elections in the state since the 1999 general elections. This is largely due to the considerably diversified ethnic voting blocs in the state, with deep roots in the political history of the state, dating back to the First Republic, 1960-1966.

Although the State government has been under the control of one of the parties in the APC coalition since 1999 (AD, 1999-2003; ACN, 2003-2015, APC 2015-present), the party has typically won governorship elections with a narrow margin of valid votes cast. The party has also typically won absolute majority of seats in the State House of Assembly. The control of the state executive and state legislature by the same party since 1999 makes the state a single-party dominant state. However, the party lost the presidential elections in the state in 2003, and 2011 to the PDP, the other major party in the state.

### Political Dynamics: 2019 Presidential Elections

Lagos remains a highly competitive state for the 2019 presidential elections for the following reasons, among others:

1. Fractionalization within the APC state leadership that has been simmering since

Bola Tinubu ended his two-term tenure as Governor in 2007, over his continued hold over the state government and over complaints about internal democracy deficits within the party in the state.

2. The denial of a second term to the current state Governor and his defeat in the state party primaries for the governorship elections.

3. However, the trend towards the fractionalization of the APC in the state must be set against the trend towards a much more deepening fractionalization of the PDP in the same, a trend that was accelerated by the loss of the PDP during the 2015 presidential elections and the consequent access to federal government patronage by the Lagos State PDP. This is reflected in the lackluster and weak campaign of the Lagos state PDP during the 2019 electioneering campaign in the state

4. Deep divisions over the presidential tickets of APC and PDP, over the personality of each of the presidential candidates of the two parties; policies of the APC federal government; and identity-based considerations



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