

Battleground States in 2019 Elections.



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RIVERS STATE

Rivers state has a total registered voters of 3, 215,273million for the 2019 elections which shows an increase of 1million number of registered voters compared to that of about 2.5million in 2015. This figure no doubt would impact on the presidential outcome especially if voter turnout increases too. Historically, the state has voted in block for PDP candidates since 1999 to 2015 during presidential elections to the extent that PDP got 95% of votes cast during 2015 presidential election while APC got only 4% of the total votes cast in the same election.

What may be regarded as political crisis in Rivers that may mar or make 2019 presidential election in the state is basically the battle of supremacy between the two leading political parties' leaders in the state under the leadership of the incumbent PDP governor Wike on one hand and on the other his predecessor Amaechi who defected from PDP to APC in 2015. The political scenario in rivers state is essentially a power battle between the duo mentioned earlier, and also the supremacy tussle by factional APC led by senator Magnus. However, the current situation especially as regards the possible outcomes of 2019 presidential election, suggests that despite the fact that APC is factionalized, both factions of the APC would definitely vote for incumbent president Buhari during the 2019 presidential election but there is the tendency that they might not garner as much vote as PDP who controls the state and has also given block votes to PDP presidential candidates since 1999. However, the possibility of having peaceful election across the state is a major source of worry for the electorates and observers due to incessant political violence linked to the power struggle within the APC and between APC and PDP in the state. This may likely affect voter turnout even though electorates are determined to come and vote regardless of the tension in the polity occasioned by insecurity.



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