

WHAT CONSTITUTES THE DEMOCRATIC QUALITY OF ELECTIONS? EVIDENCE FROM NIGERIA

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Abstract

Growing attention about election integrity continue (s) to resonate among intellectuals and policy makers. The use of statistical assessments of experts' and voters' viewpoints appeared to have dominated the evaluation of the quality of an election, outshining any attempt to provide an in-depth case-to-case comparative examination of election quality. Corroborating multiple evidence from the Nigerian Independent Electoral Commission, in-depth interview, Afrobarometer Round 4 Survey and Media House reports and election observer reports, the paper address this gap by focusing on the 2007, 2011, and 2015 elections in Nigeria. Findings suggest that the two most recent elections (2011 and 2015) are better than the 2007 elections in terms of competition, participation, and legitimacy.

Keywords: Election, Democracy, Participation, Competition, Perceived Legitimacy