



ECC Voter Registration Update #1 (February 1, 2017)

The **Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC)** is a civil society platform organized to observe all aspects of the electoral process, including the 2017 Presidential and Legislative elections. The ECC has a six organization steering committee with representatives from Actions for Genuine Democratic Alternatives (AGENDA); Center for Democratic Governance (CDG); Center for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP); Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD); National Youth Movement for Transparent Elections – Partners for Democratic Development (NAYMOTE-PADD); West Africa Network for Peace Building (WANEP), and the Women’s NGO Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL). CDG currently serves as the chair of ECC.

ECC Trains and Deploys 89 Observers for Voter Registration who will report via Code Text Messages using Mobile Phone

The Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) has trained and deployed 89 observers across the country to observe throughout the voter registration exercise. Observers will send their observation reports via coded text messages using their mobile phones to the ECC’s National Information Center located in Monrovia in near real time.

Of the 89 ECC observers has deployed across the country, 16 are county coordinators – one per county with two for Montserrado County – and 73 are electoral district observers – one per electoral district (Table 1 provides a distribution of the ECC’s observers for voter registration centers by county). Overall, 37 or 41.6% of the ECC observers are women.

The ECC conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) in Monrovia for its training teams on January 23 and 24. The training teams then deployed to conduct four, one-day cluster trainings held across the country in advance of the start of voter registration on February 1.

All ECC observers were trained on the registration procedures, how to complete the observation checklist, and how to format and send in their observation reports via coded text messages using their mobile phones. At the workshops, ECC observers participated in a simulation exercise where they practiced formulating and sending observation reports via coded text messages using their mobile phones.

County	ECC Observers	Registration Centers
Bomi	4	85
Bong	8	183
Gbarpolu	4	75
Grand Bassa	6	197
Grand Cape Mount	4	76
Grand Gedeh	4	78
Grand Kru	3	57
Lofa	6	146
Margibi	6	150
Maryland	4	83
Montserrado	19	495
Nimba	10	262
River Gee	4	56
Rivercess	3	55
Sinoe	4	82
Total	89	2,080

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Critical Voter Education Messages for 2017 Voter Registration

If You Want to Vote in 2017 You MUST Register in 2017

The last voter registration exercise in 2014 was an update. Only newly eligible individuals or already registered Liberians who had moved were required to register to vote. As in 2005 and 2011, all eligible Liberians who want to vote in 2017 must register in 2017.

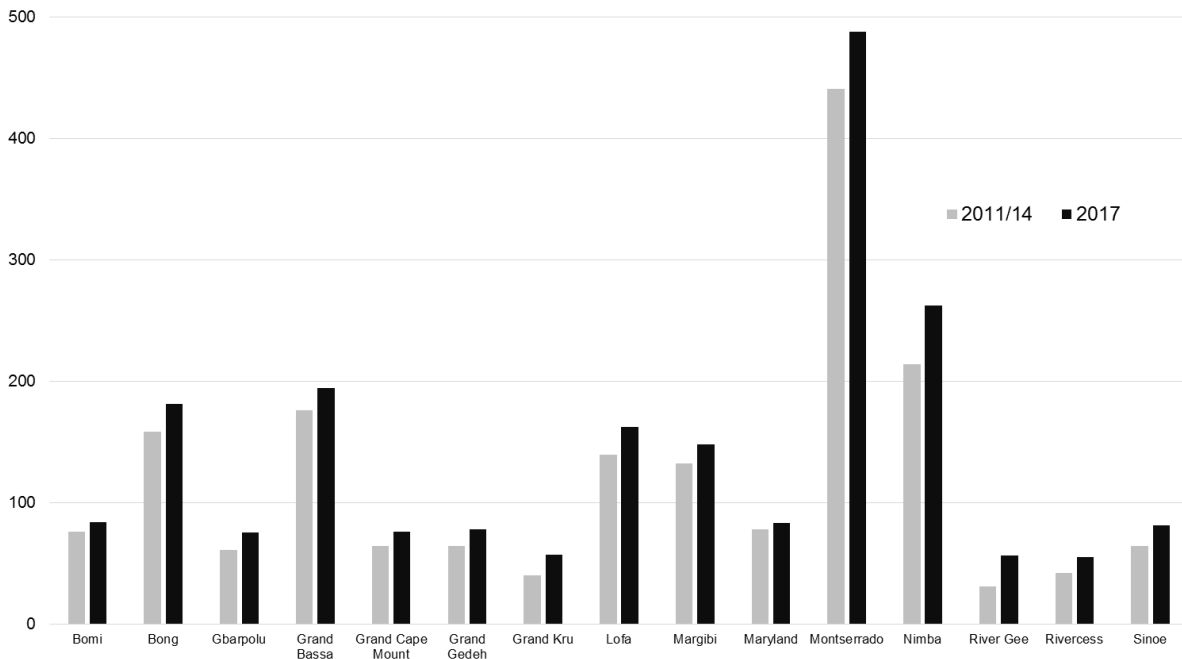
ECC Reviews NEC List of Registration Centers

Starting on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, the National Elections Commission (NEC) began publishing the List of Registration Centers in local newspapers with 2,080 registration centers, of which 300 were new.

Findings from the ECC review of the NEC’s initial list showed a small number of potential errors – registration centers that appeared to have been removed from the list (21); registration centers that appeared to have moved electoral district (9); and registration centers that appeared to have wrong codes (4). These potential errors, however, affected only 1.6% of the total registration centers. However, the ECC’s review of the initial list also showed that out of the existing 1,780 registration centers from 2011/14, 1,048 (59.6%) had a different locality than in 2017 and 1,118 (63.6%) had a different name. This suggested that nearly two-thirds of the existing centers had been moved to a new location for 2017. The ECC shared these issues with the NEC who informed the ECC that they were aware of these concerns and were working to address them.

The NEC subsequently released a revised List of Registration Centers on Saturday January 28, 2017, just four days before voter registration was scheduled to commence. This revised list corrected all of the potential errors raised by the ECC about the initial list. Also, the existing 1,780 registration centers from 2011/14 now all had the same locality and name in 2017 as they did in 2011/14, suggesting they had not been moved after all. As with the initial list the revised list also had 2,080 registration centers of which 300 were new.

Chart 1: Comparison of NEC Voter Registration Center by County (2011/14 and 2017 Revised List)



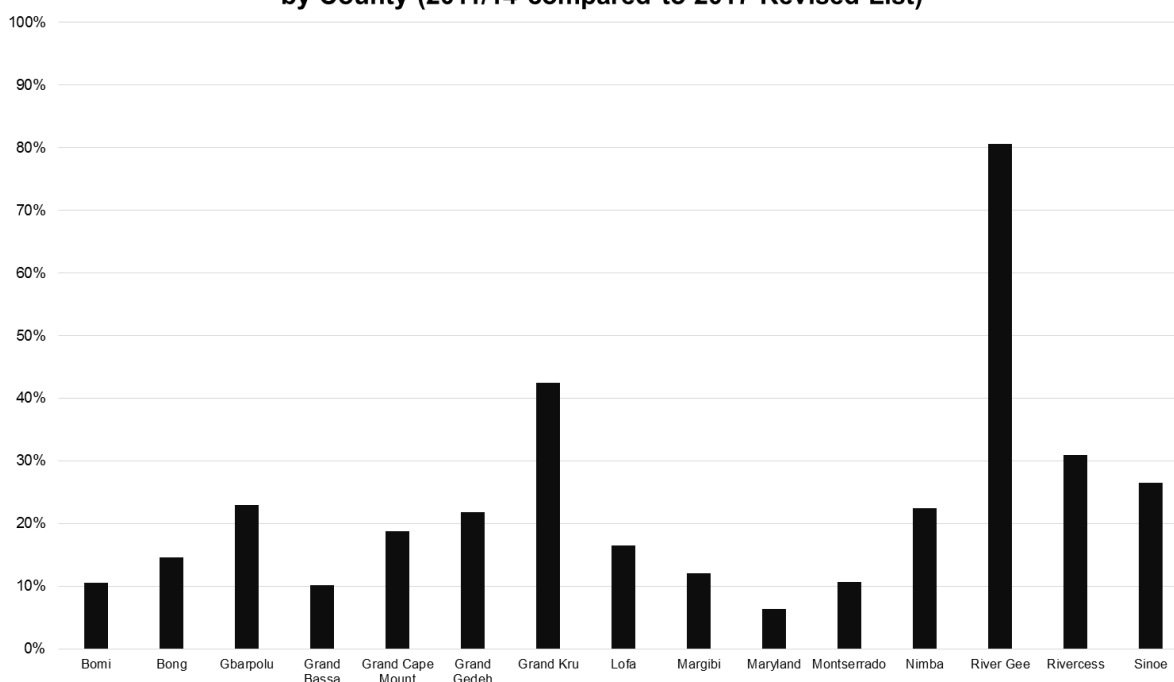
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- ▶ The largest number of new centers were established in Nimba County (48).
- ▶ The fewest number of new centers were established in Maryland County (5).
- ▶ The largest percentage of new centers were established in River Gee County (80.6%)
- ▶ The smallest percentage of new centers were established in Maryland County (6.4%).

Table 2: Distribution of NEC Registration Centers by County (2011/14 compared to 2017 Revised)						
County	2011/14 Registration Centers		2017 Registration Centers (Revised List)		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Bomi	76	4.3%	84	4.0%	+8	+10.5%
Bong	158	8.9%	181	8.7%	+23	+14.6%
Gbarpolu	61	3.4%	75	3.6%	+14	+23.0%
Grand Bassa	176	9.9%	194	9.3%	+18	+10.2%
Grand Cape Mount	64	3.6%	76	3.7%	+12	+18.8%
Grand Gedeh	64	3.6%	78	3.8%	+14	+21.9%
Grand Kru	40	2.2%	57	2.7%	+17	+42.5%
Lofa	139	7.8%	162	7.8%	+23	+16.5%
Margibi	132	7.4%	148	7.1%	+16	+12.1%
Maryland	78	4.4%	83	4.0%	+5	+6.4%
Montserrado	441	24.8%	488	23.5%	+47	+10.7%
Nimba	214	12.0%	262	12.6%	+48	+22.4%
River Gee	31	1.7%	56	2.7%	+25	+80.6%
Rivercess	42	2.4%	55	2.6%	+13	+31.0%
Sinoe	64	3.6%	81	3.9%	+17	+26.6%
Total	1,780		2,080		+300	+16.9%

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Chart 2: Percentage Change in the Number of NEC Registration Centers by County (2011/14 compared to 2017 Revised List)



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ECC Trains and Deploys 89 Observers for Voter Registration

All ECC observers were given copies of the NEC's Code of Conduct for Observers (Local and International) and signed the ECC Non-Partisan Pledge to ensure they observe in compliance with NEC regulations and are politically neutral at all times.

ECC's observers were carefully selected from the network's member organizations and all have been accredited by the National Elections Commission (NEC) to observe the voter registration process.

Four, one-day cluster workshops were held in:

- ▶ Buchanan, for ECC observers from Grand Bassa, Margibi, part of Montserrado, and Rivercess counties (January 27);
- ▶ Gbarnga, for ECC observers from Bong, Lofa, and Nimba counties (January 30);
- ▶ Tubmanburg, for ECC observers from Bomi, Gbarpolu, Grand Cape Mount, and part of Montserrado counties (January 27);
- ▶ Zwedru, for Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Maryland, River Gee, and Sinoe counties (January 30).

Who Should Be Allowed to Register?

Currently, the NEC requires successful voter registration applicants to be 18 years or older **on the day on which they present themselves at registration centers**. This is based on the NEC's interpretation of the Electoral Law and Constitution of Liberia. This approach will exclude Liberians who turn 18 between the end of registration and election day.

In countries like Liberia that use periodic registration, it is more common to require successful applicants to be 18 years old or older **on the date of the election**. The NEC's current practice of only allowing individuals who are 18 at the time to register is more common in countries with continuous voter registration.

If this second approach is used in Liberia for 2017, then the NEC would register all Liberians born on or before October 10, 1999 (meaning all Liberians who will be 18 years or older on election day). This approach would expand voting to more young people without extending voter registration. The ECC encourages the NEC and all stakeholders to explore this approach for future voter registration efforts.

Electoral District	Magisterial Area	RCs
Nimba 07	Nimba (Lower)	15
Nimba 07	Nimba (Upper)	13
Montserrado 11	Montserrado (Lower)	6
Montserrado 11	Montserrado (Upper)	16
Montserrado 13	Montserrado (Lower)	4
Montserrado 13	Montserrado (Upper)	23
Lofa 03	Lofa (Lower)	23
Lofa 03	Lofa (Upper)	10
Bong 02	Bong (Lower)	3
Bong 02	Bong (Upper)	19
Bong 03	Bong (Lower)	2
Bong 03	Bong (Upper)	16
Bong 04	Bong (Lower)	3
Bong 04	Bong (Upper)	21
Bong 05	Bong (Lower)	27
Bong 05	Bong (Upper)	1

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ECC Secretariat at eccsecretariat2011@gmail.com or www.eccliberia.com

Follow **ECC** on **Social Media** at <https://www.facebook.com/eccsecretariat2011/>

**Table 4: Distribution of NEC Registration Centers by Electoral District
(2011/14 compared to 2017 Revised)**

Electoral District	2011/14 Registration Centers		2017 Registration Centers (Revised List)		Difference	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Bomi 01	25	1.40%	29	1.39%	+4	+16.00%
Bomi 02	25	1.40%	27	1.30%	+2	+8.00%
Bomi 03	26	1.50%	28	1.35%	+2	+7.69%
Bong 01	25	1.40%	29	1.39%	+4	+16.00%
Bong 02	20	1.10%	22	1.06%	+2	+10.00%
Bong 03	17	1.00%	18	0.87%	+1	+5.88%
Bong 04	22	1.20%	24	1.15%	+2	+9.09%
Bong 05	23	1.30%	28	1.35%	+5	+21.74%
Bong 06	24	1.30%	28	1.35%	+4	+16.67%
Bong 07	27	1.50%	32	1.54%	+5	+18.52%
Gbarpolu 01	13	0.70%	16	0.77%	+3	+23.08%
Gbarpolu 02	24	1.30%	28	1.35%	+4	+16.67%
Gbarpolu 03	24	1.30%	31	1.49%	+7	+29.17%
Grand Bassa 01	43	2.40%	48	2.31%	+5	+11.63%
Grand Bassa 02	49	2.80%	52	2.50%	+3	+6.12%
Grand Bassa 03	20	1.10%	20	0.96%	0	0.00%
Grand Bassa 04	31	1.70%	35	1.68%	+4	+12.90%
Grand Bassa 05	33	1.90%	39	1.88%	+6	+18.18%
Grand Cape Mount 01	24	1.30%	28	1.35%	+4	+16.67%
Grand Cape Mount 02	21	1.20%	27	1.30%	+6	+28.57%
Grand Cape Mount 03	19	1.10%	21	1.01%	+2	+10.53%
Grand Gedeh 01	9	0.50%	11	0.53%	+2	+22.22%
Grand Gedeh 02	27	1.50%	33	1.59%	+6	+22.22%
Grand Gedeh 03	28	1.60%	34	1.63%	+6	+21.43%
Grand Kru 01	17	1.00%	25	1.20%	+8	+47.06%
Grand Kru 02	23	1.30%	32	1.54%	+9	+39.13%
Lofa 01	17	1.00%	19	0.91%	+2	+11.76%
Lofa 02	20	1.10%	24	1.15%	+4	+20.00%
Lofa 03	31	1.70%	33	1.59%	+2	+6.45%
Lofa 04	35	2.00%	45	2.16%	+10	+28.57%
Lofa 05	36	2.00%	41	1.97%	+5	+13.89%
Margibi 01	22	1.20%	23	1.11%	+1	+4.55%
Margibi 02	27	1.50%	29	1.39%	+2	+7.41%
Margibi 03	25	1.40%	28	1.35%	+3	+12.00%

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Margibi 04	28	1.60%	34	1.63%	+6	+21.43%
Margibi 05	30	1.70%	34	1.63%	+4	+13.33%
Maryland 01	23	1.30%	25	1.20%	+2	+8.70%
Maryland 02	18	1.00%	19	0.91%	+1	+5.56%
Maryland 03	37	2.10%	39	1.88%	+2	+5.41%
Montserrado 01	43	2.40%	47	2.26%	+4	+9.30%
Montserrado 02	18	1.00%	19	0.91%	+1	+5.56%
Montserrado 03	16	0.90%	16	0.77%	+0	0.00%
Montserrado 04	22	1.20%	25	1.20%	+3	+13.64%
Montserrado 05	15	0.80%	17	0.82%	+2	+13.33%
Montserrado 06	14	0.80%	16	0.77%	+2	+14.29%
Montserrado 07	30	1.70%	32	1.54%	+2	+6.67%
Montserrado 08	27	1.50%	28	1.35%	+1	+3.70%
Montserrado 09	30	1.70%	32	1.54%	+2	+6.67%
Montserrado 10	27	1.50%	29	1.39%	+2	+7.41%
Montserrado 11	20	1.10%	22	1.06%	+2	+10.00%
Montserrado 12	22	1.20%	22	1.06%	0	0.00%
Montserrado 13	26	1.50%	27	1.30%	+1	+3.85%
Montserrado 14	26	1.50%	30	1.44%	+4	+15.38%
Montserrado 15	30	1.70%	31	1.49%	+1	+3.33%
Montserrado 16	36	2.00%	40	1.92%	+4	+11.11%
Montserrado 17	39	2.20%	55	2.64%	+16	+41.03%
Nimba 01	15	0.80%	18	0.87%	+3	+20.00%
Nimba 02	32	1.80%	35	1.68%	+3	+9.38%
Nimba 03	25	1.40%	31	1.49%	+6	+24.00%
Nimba 04	26	1.50%	30	1.44%	+4	+15.38%
Nimba 05	18	1.00%	21	1.01%	+3	+16.67%
Nimba 06	21	1.20%	29	1.39%	+8	+38.10%
Nimba 07	22	1.20%	28	1.35%	+6	+27.27%
Nimba 08	24	1.30%	30	1.44%	+6	+25.00%
Nimba 09	31	1.70%	40	1.92%	+9	+29.03%
River Gee 01	9	0.50%	17	0.82%	+8	+88.89%
River Gee 02	10	0.60%	15	0.72%	+5	+50.00%
River Gee 03	12	0.70%	24	1.15%	+12	+100.00%

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	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rivercess 01	23	1.30%	28	1.35%	+5	+21.74%
Rivercess 02	19	1.10%	27	1.30%	+8	+42.11%
Sinoe 01	18	1.00%	20	0.96%	+2	+11.11%
Sinoe 02	19	1.10%	25	1.20%	+6	+31.58%
Sinoe 03	27	1.50%	36	1.73%	+9	+33.33%
Total	1,780		2,080		+300	+16.85%

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