UDPK

UNITED DISABLED PERSONS OF KENYA

DISABILITY ELECTORAL REFORM AGENDA

Towards Inclusive Elections 2027

A roadmap for strengthening the participation, representation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in Kenya's electoral processes.



Uraia

Kenya's National Civic Education Programme

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK

Denmark in Kenya

Contents



3



5

Background 5

Purpose 5

Rationale for disability-inclusive elections 5

Scope 6



7



12



13



16



17



18



19



21



23

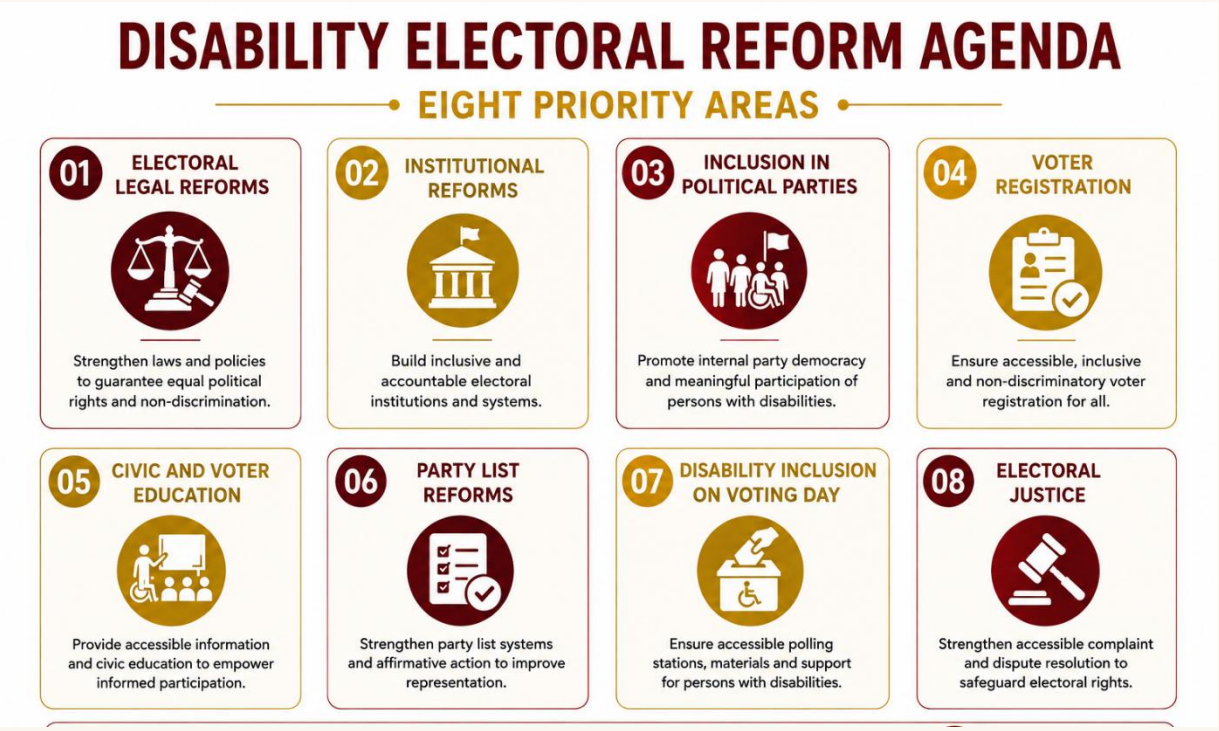
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite progress in strengthening democratic participation in Kenya, persons with disabilities continue to face barriers that limit their full and effective participation in electoral and political processes. These challenges include gaps in legal and policy frameworks, inaccessible electoral systems and information, underrepresentation in political leadership, and inadequate mechanisms to promote accountability for disability inclusion.

The **Disability Electoral Reform Agenda** presents a set of priority reforms aimed at strengthening disability inclusion within Kenya's electoral and political systems ahead of the 2027 General Election. The agenda identifies practical actions to enhance accessibility, representation, accountability, and participation by addressing gaps within electoral laws, institutions, political parties, voter registration processes, civic and voter education, party list systems, voting-day arrangements, and electoral justice mechanisms.

The Agenda was developed by the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK), with support from Uraia Trust, through a series of consultations with Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and key electoral, governance, and political stakeholders to identify and prioritize reforms necessary for advancing disability-inclusive elections in Kenya.

The agenda is organized around **eight priority reform areas** that provide a roadmap for stakeholders to advance inclusive elections and ensure that persons with disabilities can participate fully and equally throughout the electoral cycle.





Background

1. The Constitution of Kenya (2010) commits Kenya to undertake disability-inclusive elections, both in substance and process. It establishes principles and devices to support the representation of persons with disabilities in the National Assembly, the Senate and County Assemblies. Additionally, it establishes procedural mechanisms to facilitate the effective participation of persons with disabilities in elections.
2. The 10 August 2027 General Election will be the fourth conducted under the Constitution. The United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) and other organisations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) have played critical technical and advocacy roles towards enhancing the disability inclusiveness of the previous three general elections. On 30 May 2023, UDPK and the Caucus on Disability Rights Advocacy (CDRA) presented an audit of the 2022 General Election to the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC).[1] The IEBC welcomed the audit, noting that it would inform its policies and strategies on disability inclusion.[2]

Purpose

3. UDPK has prepared this paper to set out the priority electoral reforms that Kenya should undertake ahead of the 2027 General Election, to ensure disability-inclusive elections. The purpose of the Disability Electoral Reforms Agenda is to strengthen disability-inclusive electoral governance, and promote the meaningful and effective participation of persons with disabilities throughout the electoral cycle.

Rationale for disability-inclusive elections

4. Disability-inclusive elections are important for several reasons. First, they enable persons with disabilities to exercise their constitutional right to political participation on an equal basis with others, as guaranteed under the Constitution and international human rights instruments ratified by Kenya. Second, they create opportunities for persons with disabilities to influence public policy and legislative

priorities by participating as voters, candidates, political party members, election officials and observers, while also strengthening the accountability of elected leaders on disability rights and inclusion. Third, disability-inclusive elections strengthen Kenya's democracy by affirming that diversity, equality and inclusion are essential characteristics of representative governance.

5. UDPK believes that disability inclusion in the 2027 General Election must be both meaningful and effective. It will be meaningful when persons with disabilities can participate fully, equally and with dignity in every stage of the electoral process, without discrimination or barriers. It will be effective when inclusive policies, accessible infrastructure and appropriate assistive services are in place to ensure that voters, candidates and electoral officials with disabilities participate fully in the General Election.

Scope

6. The Reforms Agenda comprises the following eight agendas, under each of which a situational analysis is provided and actions/recommendations are made:
   6.1 Electoral legal reforms;
   6.2 Institutional reforms;
   6.3 Inclusion in political parties;
   6.4 Voter registration;
   6.5 Civic education and voter education;
   6.6 Party lists;
   6.7 Disability inclusion on election day; and
   6.8 Electoral justice.

Situation

7. The legal framework for elections primarily comprises the Constitution, the Persons with Disabilities Act (2025), the Political Parties Act, the Elections Act, and the County Governments Act. Additionally, Kenya is party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the African Union Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa (African Disability Protocol), both of which establish important standards on disability-inclusive elections.
8. The Constitution guarantees citizens the right to form or participate in the activities of political parties. It also guarantees them the right to vote in elections or stand as candidates for electoral offices.[3]
9. This guarantee is strengthened by the CRPD and, in particular the African Disability Protocol, which requires Kenya to repeal or amend laws that restrict individuals from voting on the basis of disability.[4] This obligation is important because the Constitution restricts persons with psychosocial disabilities, what it refers to as "persons of unsound mind", from voting or standing for elective office.[5]
10. The Constitution requires State institutions to progressively ensure that elective and appointive bodies include persons with disabilities.[6]
11. In line with the CRPD and the African Disability Protocol, the Disabilities Act affirms that every person with disability has the right to vote for, and be voted into, political office. The Act requires the IEBC, which has the primary mandate of conducting elections, to facilitate persons with disabilities in their exercise of civic and political rights. Under the Act, the IEBC:
    - 11.1 Provides appropriate, accessible and easy to understand and use voting procedures, facilities and materials;
    - 11.2 Protects the rights of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot, and to offer themselves as candidates for elections;
    - 11.3 Allows persons with disabilities, on their request, to vote with assistance from persons of their choice; and

11.4 Facilitates the use of assistive and appropriate technologies.[7]

12. The Political Parties Act requires political parties to promote inclusiveness, democracy and participation of the people in the formulation of their policies, and in nomination of candidates for elections.[8] Their roles include promoting the representation of women, persons with disabilities, youth, ethnic and other minorities and marginalised communities, in Parliament and County Assemblies.[9] The Act obligates political parties to use allocations from the Political Parties Fund to promote the representation, among others, of persons with disabilities in Parliament and County Assemblies.[10]
13. The Elections Act details the procedure for elections on the basis of proportional representation by use of party lists. The Constitution and the Elections Act, however, do not state expressly the number of candidates with disabilities from party lists to who the IEBC should allocate the party list positions in the National Assembly. This is unlike the Constitution's express provision that the Senate must include at least one male and one female senator.[11]
14. Under the Elections Act, party lists for County Assemblies include at least two persons with disabilities.[12] The Act, however, makes an unclear provision on the prioritisation of candidates on party lists for County Assemblies, providing that the lists "shall prioritise a person with disability, the youth and any other candidate representing a marginalized group."[13] The Act provides further that the IEBC shall allocate the list seats in County Assemblies in the order stated in the party lists.[14] This too means that the law does not specify the number of list seats in each County Assembly that the IEBC must allocate to candidates with disabilities. The County Governments Act provides that a County Assembly shall not be fully and duly constituted after a general election unless all party list members have been duly nominated and their names published officially.[15] Political parties have exploited the ambiguity of the provisions on party lists to deprioritise candidates with disabilities.

15. Persons with disabilities have failed in their arguments before courts that a County Assembly should not be deemed fully and duly constituted if it does not include members with disabilities. Courts have found that the IEBC has a constitutional obligation to decline a party list submitted by a political party if it does not comply with Article 177(c) of the Constitution, and that it can direct a party to submit a constitutionally-compliant list. However, IEBC does not have latitude to substitute the order in which the names on a party list are presented since that would usurp the constitutional mandate assigned to political parties. Where the IEBC approves an apparently non-compliant party list, a party may seek a remedy in the Elections Court.[16]
16. Another gap in the Elections Act is its failure to provide expressly for the reallocation of special seats held by persons with disabilities. The Act simply provides that where during their term a person elected via a party list leaves office, that seat is allocated to "the next candidate of the same gender on the respective political party list".[17]
17. The Elections Act also establishes the institutional basis for the IEBC to ensure persons with disabilities realise their right to vote:
    17.1 The IEBC puts in place appropriate infrastructure, including special voting booths, for use by voters with disabilities.
    17.2 It deploys officers to facilitate voting by persons with disabilities.[18] In the 2022 electoral cycle, it was reported that the IEBC had procured special voting booths ahead of the elections;[19] but no voters with disabilities reported having used the booths.
18. The IEBC has established regulations elaborating how voters with disabilities may vote or be assisted in voting.[20]
19. Finally, the Electoral Code of Conduct obligates electoral stakeholders, including political parties and electoral candidates to:
    19.1 Avoid discrimination based on disability;[21]
    19.2 Ensure security and full participation of persons with disabilities as candidates and voters;[22] and

19.3 Ensure that persons with disabilities have free access to public political meetings, marches, demonstrations, rallies and other public political events.[23]

20. The provisions in support of disability-inclusive elections in the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act are quite general. The Act provides that the staff of the IEBC includes persons with disabilities; and that the IEBC's mandate-execution observes the principle of the fair representation of persons with disabilities.[24]

Actions:

21. On the Constitution:

21.1 All adults with disabilities, regardless of their disability, have the right to vote and stand for elective office. The constitutional provisions that bar persons of unsound mind from voting in or standing for elections constitute discrimination on the basis of disability.

21.2 Whenever constitutional reforms take place, either ahead or after the General Election, Articles 83(1)(b), 99(2)(e) and 193(2)(d) of the Constitution, which restrict individuals of unsound mind from voting or standing for elections, must be repealed, in conformity with Article 21(e) of the African Disability Protocol, which prohibits disability-based discrimination.

21.3 Article 54(2) of the Constitution, which requires that five percent of elective and appointive bodies must comprise persons with disabilities, should be implemented fully. The effect of this provision must, for example, be that if the National Assembly is constituted of 300 members, 15 members must be persons with disabilities. Where an elective or appointive body has less than 20 members, it must include at least one member with disability.

22. On the Elections Act:

22.1 Amend Section 36 to state expressly that two of the 12 members of the National assembly elected on the party list system shall be persons with disabilities.

22.2 Amend Section 34 to state expressly that political parties shall include candidates with disabilities preferentially as their first or second list candidates for the National Assembly.

22.3 Amend Section 34 to state expressly that political parties shall include candidates with disabilities preferentially as their first or second list candidates for County Assemblies.

22.4 Amend Section 38 to provide for the reallocation of a party list seat in the event that a seating person with disability leaves office. Amendment to provide that such seat shall be filled by a candidate with disability from the appropriate party list.

23. On the County Governments Act: amend Section 7A to state expressly that a County Assembly shall not be fully and duly constituted after a general election if its membership does not include at least two persons with disabilities.

24. On the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act, in preparation for the 2032 General Election, amend Section 5 to establish selection protocols for ensuring a disability-inclusive appointment process for Commissioners. As the key electoral management body, the IEBC must include at least one Commissioner with disability.



Situation

25. As primary electoral management bodies, the IEBC and the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) must comply with the inclusion test of diversity of composition. Despite the constitutional obligation for the progressive inclusion of persons with disabilities in appointive positions, since its establishment, no Commissioners in the IEBC's various cohorts or senior managers in the ORPP, have self-identified as persons with disabilities.
26. The IEBC and the ORPP have not provided disability-disaggregated information on their staff diversity.

Actions

27. The IEBC must reestablish and resource the **Disability Inclusion Coordination Committee,** which has remained largely moribund following the 2022 General Election.
28. **The IEBC and the ORPP must:**
    - 28.1 Establish a structured engagement mechanism to ensure disability inclusion is addressed consistently across voter registration, political party regulation, candidate nomination, voter education, complaints handling, and post-election review.
    - 28.2 Designate senior disability inclusion focal points to coordinate across departments and report to senior management.
    - 28.3 Publish disability-disaggregated data on staffing, recruitment, training, leadership, complaints, voter registration, party membership, party lists and candidates, and voters.
    - 28.4 Conduct accessibility audits of their headquarters, constituency offices, digital platforms, communication platforms, meeting venues and public complaints mechanisms.
    - 28.5 Ensure, in conformity with Article 54(2) of the Constitution, that at least five percent of their staff are persons with disabilities.

28.6 Ensure they procure goods and services in conformity with disability inclusion standards established under the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) programme.



Situation

29. Political parties promote the representation in Parliament and County Assemblies of women, persons with disabilities, youth, ethnic and other minorities and marginalised communities.[25] An entity is registered as a political party only if its members and governing bodies reflect regional and ethnic diversity, gender balance and representation of special interest groups. Political parties disaggregate their membership information on the basis of each of the components of the special interest groups.
30. Political parties and other stakeholders continue to stress the importance of persons with disabilities participating proactively in politics, including by joining and participating in their activities.[26] To this end, persons with disabilities have the right to know the policies of each political party.
31. Yet, the ORPP also found that persons with disabilities had been manipulated to become members of political parties without their consent.[27] In October 2024, the ORPP launched a political education training manual for persons with disabilities, which aims to empower individuals with disabilities to actively engage and take up leadership responsibilities including in political parties and elective positions.[28] The ORPP is using the manual to train officials and members of political parties.[29]
32. The ORPP oversees the distribution and use of the Political Parties Fund, whose aims include promoting the representation in Parliament and County Assemblies of women, persons with disabilities, youth, ethnic and other minorities and marginalised communities. The formula for distributing the Fund is geared to

support the inclusion of persons with disabilities in political parties. 15% of the Fund is distributed proportionately on the basis of the number of candidates of the political party from special interest groups elected in the preceding general election.

33. During the 2022 election cycle:

33.1 96% of registered political parties had at least one person with disability in their National Executive Councils.[30]

33.2 All political parties had some level of inclusive party constitutions and manifestos.

33.3 The barriers inhibiting persons with disabilities from participating in political parties included the culture of violence and intimidation within political parties; lack of reasonable accommodation; and assumed low value of persons with disabilities by political parties.

33.4 Some political parties had units tasked to work with persons with disabilities, usually referred to as Disability Leagues. These units, however, had insignificant influence determining key matters such as nominees with disabilities who political parties included on their slates for list seats. Hence, they were largely tokenistic.[31]

33.5 The nomination rules of political parties included some specific measures to encourage the participation of persons with disabilities to stand for elective offices. Parties lowered the nomination fees payable by persons with disabilities applying for candidacy for the presidency, national legislature, governorship and county assembly. However, while some political parties issued direct tickets for women to stand for elective offices, including as governors,[32] there were no reports of persons with disabilities being issued equivalent direct tickets.

33.6 Party nomination rules also made provisions for assisted voting.

33.7 Political parties included some policy and legislative priorities of persons with disabilities in their campaign manifestoes.

Actions

34. Political parties should:

34.1 Proactively disclose disability-disaggregated information on their membership and electoral candidates.

34.2 Disclose the utilisation of monies allocated to disability issues from the political Parties Fund.

34.3 Review/update specific measures for facilitating persons with disabilities to stand for elective offices.

34.4 Explore and include priorities of persons with disabilities in their party manifestoes.

34.5 Ensure that election campaign material, including party manifestoes, are accessible. Their websites must be accessible to people with different disabilities; and campaign events must be barrier-free; and they must have Sign Language interpretation.[33]

35. The ORPP should:

35.1 Facilitate a process for political parties to commit that they will respect the letter and spirit of disability inclusion under the Constitution and the Political Parties Act.

35.2 Proactively provide disability-disaggregated information on the use of the Political Parties Fund.

35.3 Sanction political parties which do not apply monies from the Fund for disability inclusion activities.

35.4 Ensure that its Integrated Political Parties Management System (IPPMS) is accessible to persons with disabilities, in the event they need to check their membership status. Accessibility should cover the Bulk Short Service Messaging (SMS) and SMS short code and Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) platform code (*509#). It should also ensure that alternative ways of verifying membership status, including the eCitizen platform, are accessible, in the event a person with disability needs to verify their membership status or even resign from a party.



Situation

36. Persons with disabilities face multiple barriers when they seek to be registered as voters. Registration centres are inaccessible on account of not having ramps for use by persons with disabilities; being located on upper floors of buildings with no lifts, or at steep locations or in unfinished buildings with rough incomplete surfaces; having narrow entrances; or being accessible through back-entrances.[34]
37. IEBC informed UDPK and CDRA that it had revised entry field for collecting data on disability during voter registration, turning it from a comment to a field, and this would make the collection of disability-disaggregated data more seamless.[35] In preparation for the 2027 General Election, the IEBC undertook phase one of the Enhanced Continuous Voter Registration, from 30 March to 28 April 2026. However, the Commission's briefing on the exercise did not provide any disability-specific information.[36]

Actions

38. The IEBC should:

38.1 Disaggregate the voter register on the basis of disability at the national, county and ward levels. This will enable the Commission and other stakeholders to mobilise more persons with disabilities to register as voters, and it will also enable the Commission to establish logistics for providing specific measures to voters with disabilities in their designated polling stations.

38.2 Ensure that its constituency offices, which also serve as voter registration centres, are barrier-free, to provide persons with disabilities who wish to register barrier-free access.

38.3 Ensure that voter registration centres during enhanced voter registration drives are sited in accessible places, and establish alternative protocols for registering persons with disabilities who cannot access registration centres.

38.4 Provide reasonable accommodation and other support measures to persons with disabilities, including priority registration. In that regard, provide reasonable accommodations to persons with invisible disabilities too.

38.5 Collaborate with OPDs, county offices of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, and National Government Administrative Officers to enhance outreach to persons with disabilities on voter registration.

38.6 Train its officials from the national, county, constituency and ward levels on disability-inclusive approaches to voter registration.



Situation

39. In the last electoral cycle, IEBC did not consult OPDs on their voter education needs until as late as July 2022, leaving hardly any time for substantive voter education to take place.[37] IEBC reported that it had availed voter education material in Braille, and that it had deployed Sign Language interpreters as voter educators. It partnered with AssistAll to provide a mobile platform that included a helpline for deaf persons, a database of Sign Language interpreters, subtitle video content, and targeted voter education.[38] However, no user-assessments of these services were recorded, and stakeholders raised the concern that IEBC implemented voter education initiatives on an ad hoc basis without adequately consulting persons with disabilities.
40. IEBC has, ahead of the 2027 General Election, started to consult persons with disabilities on enhancing their participation in electoral processes.[39]

Actions

41. IEBC should:

41.1 Consult stakeholders expeditiously to determine the formats in which they require voter education material. Accessible formats may include Braille, large print, Easy-Read, and Sign Language videos and captioning.

41.2 Work with persons with disabilities to co-create and co-design voter education content and material. Additionally, the IEBC should pretest the voter education material with persons with disabilities.

41.3 Ensure that voter education information is provided in accessible formats in all its platforms, including printed material, social media and online platforms.

41.4 Ensure that voter education material communicates to the public and to persons with disabilities specifically on matters of disability. The material should not typify or stereotype issues of persons with disabilities under a generic category such as special interest groups.

41.5 Ensure cascaded training from the national, county and constituency levels covering all cadres of officials, on matters of disability inclusion.



Situation

42. The Elections Act details the procedure for elections on the basis of proportional representation by use of party lists. The Constitution and the Elections Act, however, do not state expressly the number of candidates with disabilities from party lists to who the IEBC should allocate the party list positions in the National Assembly. This is unlike the Constitution's express provision that the Senate must include at least one male and one female senator.[40]

Actions

43. **Political parties** should Prioritize placement of candidates with disabilities on their party nomination list for election to National and County assemblies.

43. IEBC should:

43.1 Review with diligence party lists submitted by political parties, and return them if they do not accord with the Constitution; and

43.2 Update its protocols for accepting nominations for list seats submitted to it by political parties, including by:

43.2.1 Inviting public feedback on candidates who purport to have disabilities when in fact they do not;

43.2.2 Cross-checking submitted lists against other databases, including that of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities.



Situation

44. IEBC is obligated to ensure that voting is disability-inclusive, including by:
    - 44.1 Ensuring polling stations are barrier-free;
    - 44.2 Ensuring voting materials are in accessible formats;
    - 44.3 Adapting polling booths and ballot boxes;
    - 44.4 Establishing alternative voting methods, such as postal voting.[41]
45. On polling day for the 2022 General Election, voters with disabilities encountered the following barriers:
    - 45.1 While most polling stations were on ground floors, their entrances had steps and high slabs, and they were approached through walkways and pathways with obstacles, all of which impeded easy access for persons with mobility and visual disabilities.
    - 45.2 The toilets in most schools acting as polling centres had narrow entrances with steps, and had no hand-rails.
    - 45.3 Voters with disabilities who were conveyed to vote in vehicles found it difficult to get priority or indeed any parking at all, and had to walk or wheel long-distances to their polling stations.
    - 45.4 Lighting in some polling stations was low, making it difficult for persons with certain disabilities to decipher ballot papers which themselves had text in small print.
    - 45.5 The printed voters lists on noticeboards in all polling centres also had small print, making it difficult for persons with visual disabilities to decipher them.
    - 45.6 Most polling stations did not have Sign Language interpreters.
    - 45.7 The layout of voting booths was not configured to suit voters who needed to sit as they marked their ballots.
    - 45.8 The secrecy of the ballot was compromised where party agents crowded around persons with disabilities using assisted voting.

Actions

46. IEBC should:

46.1 Use universally designed booths to ensure accessibility for persons with different disabilities. The Commission should consult with disability stakeholders on specifications for such booths.

46.2 Take account, in the design (including colours) and placement of ballot boxes, of the needs of persons with disabilities.

46.3 Ensure voting material (including ballots and signage) have distinct colours and large font.

46.4 Use disability-disaggregated data to determine the deployment of its resources and services, including Sign Language interpretation and tactile ballots.

46.5 Establish the manner and procedure for the conduct of special voting to accommodate persons with disabilities and others who are unable to access polling stations, in conformity with the recommendation of the Supreme Court in *Odinga & 16 others v Ruto & 10 others*.[42]

Situation

47. The IEBC Electoral Code of Conduct binds political parties and candidates participating in elections to avoid discrimination based on the ground of disability, in connection with the election and political activities. In the last electoral cycle, election observers raised concerns about the increased use of abusive, insulting or derogatory language targeting persons with disabilities and other groups as voters and candidates.[43]

48. Candidates with disabilities aggrieved by the conduct of elections sought redress before relevant forums, including IEBC's Election Disputes Resolution Tribunal, and the courts:

    48.1 A person with disability who applied to be nominated by Wiper as a candidate for an MCA seat in Kitui got orders from the IEBC Disputes Resolution Tribunal, which Wiper nonetheless declined to implement.[44]

    48.2 In the instance of Reuben Kigame, a politician with disability, who applied to be nominated as a presidential candidate, IEBC decided not to heed orders from the High Court requiring it to accept and consider his presidential nomination papers which IEBC had rejected because they had been tendered out of time.[45] The High Court's decision was based on the following reasoning:

        48.2.1 That the Constitution and statutes deliberately seek to ensure equalisation of opportunities for persons with disabilities;

        48.2.2 That IEBC took no steps to accord the petitioner assistance towards compliance with electoral requirements, including by furnishing him with relevant documentation in an accessible format (Braille);

        48.2.3 That IEBC, having taken note that the petitioner was the only person with disability in the presidential race, should have accorded him reasonable opportunity to participate in the election;

        48.2.4 That IEBC failed to accord the petitioner a reasonable opportunity to participate in the General Election as a presidential candidate by placing the bar at the same level as other presidential candidates;

48.2.5 That the petitioner had endeavoured to collect the requisite number of signatures from his supporters despite exceeding the regulated timeline;

48.2.6 That IEBC did not accord the petitioner any reprieve on account of his disability;

48.2.7 That the CRPD is part of Kenyan law under the Constitution and that its provisions on the political participation of persons with disabilities apply; and

48.2.8 That, in any case, the High Court had already voided the requirement that aspiring presidential candidates should supply IEBC with their supporters' identity cards.[46]

Actions

49. **IEBC should** establish clear protocols detailing the reasonable accommodation and specific measures it will provide individuals with disabilities who seek nomination as candidates for the presidential, parliamentary and county elections. The measures should be guided by the principles established by the High Court in the Reuben Kigame case.

Support Acknowledgement

The development of this Disability electoral reform Agenda has been made possible by the generous financial support from the Embassy of Denmark in Kenya through Uraia Trust. The Contents herein are the responsibility of the United Disabled Persons of Kenya (UDPK) and do not necessarily reflect the views of Danida and Uraia Trust,

REFERENCES

African Union “African Union Election Observation Mission to the 9 August 2022 General Elections in the Republic of Kenya” (2022).

Carter Center “International Election Observation: Kenya 2022 (2022).

Carter Center, “Preliminary Report: the Carter Center Election Expert Mission Presidential Election, Kenya” (8 September 2022).

Centre for Human Rights “Proactive Disclosure of Information During Elections: An Assessment of Kenya’s Compliance with the Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa” (2023).

Commission on Administrative Justice “Ombudsman Elections Monitoring and Observation Report 2022” (2022).

Commonwealth Secretariat “Report of the Commonwealth Observer Group: Kenya General Election 9 August 2022” (2023).

Consortium for Election Research and Advocacy “Thematic Report on Engagement of Youth and Special Interest Groups in the Electoral Process in Kenya” (2023).

Elections Observation Group “Report on the Long - Term Observation Mission” (May 2022”.

Elections Observation Group “From the Ballot to the Portal: ELOG Observation Report for the 2022 General Elections in Kenya” (2022).

Elections Observation Group “Catalyzing Change: Strategies for Transforming Kenya's Electoral Landscape - A report of the 2022 National Post-Election Symposium” (2023).

Endorois Indigenous Women Empowerment Network “Barriers to Participation of PWDs in Kenya's 2022 General Elections: A Case of Baringo, Nakuru and Narok Counties” (2023).

European Union “Election Follow-up Mission Kenya 2 February — 1 March 2025 FINAL REPORT” (2025).

European Union” Election Observation Mission Kenya 2022 Final Report General Elections 9 August 2022” (2022).

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission “Election Operation Plan 2025-2027”.

Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission “Post Election Evaluation Report for the 9th August 2022 General Election (2022).
International Commission of Jurists “An Opportune Moment: Realising the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa” (2025).
International Republican Institute and National Democratic Institute “International Election Observation Mission to Kenya Final Report of the 2022 General Election” (2022).
Kenya National Commission on Human Rights “The Bound Ballot: A Human Rights Account of the 2022 Political Party Nomination Exercise” (2022).
Minority Rights Group “Rapid Assessment Survey Report: Barriers to Participation of PWDs in Kenya’s 2022 General Elections” (2022).
National Cohesion and Integration Commission “ELECTIONS BILA NOMA: THE 2022 KENYAN EXPERIENCE (2022).
Office of Registrar of Political Parties “Post Election Evaluation Report” (May 2023).
Owino, Ruth “A Study on the Impact of Digital Tools on the Political Participation of Marginalized Groups in Kenya” (Mzalendo Trust 2025).
United Disabled Persons of Kenya “From Words to More Words? Audit of the 9 August 2022 General Election From a Disability Inclusion Perspective” (2023).
United Nations Development Programme “Advancing the Electoral Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the Digital Era: Concept Note & Agenda”.
Westminster Foundation for Democracy and Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis “The State of Political Inclusion in Kenya: A Baseline Report” (2022).

[1] UDPK “From Words to More Words? Audit of the 9 August 2022 General Election From a Disability Inclusion Perspective” (2023).
[2] IEBC “Commission Engages PWDs to Strengthen Inclusion in Electoral Process” (16th June 2023). Accessible here.
[3] Constitution of Kenya (Constitution) art38.
[4] African Union, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa (2018) art21(e).
[5] Constitution arts 83(1)(b), 99(2)(e) and 193(2)(d).
[6] Constitution art54(2).
[7] Persons with Disabilities Act (Disabilities Act) s32(2).
[8] Political Parties Act (PPA) (Cap. 7D) s3(1A).
[9] PPA s4A(c).
[10] PPA s26(1)(a).
[11] Constitution art98(c).
[12] Elections Act (EA) (Cap. 7) s36(1)(f).
[13] EA s36(3).

[14] EA s36(8).
[15] County Governments Act (Cap. 265) s7A(1).
[16] *Kenya Human Rights Commission & 3 others v Independent Electoral & Boundaries Commission & 3 others; National Council for Persons with Disability & another (Interested Parties)* [2022] KEHC 16358 (KLR)
[17] EA s38(1).
[18] EA s104.
[19] IEBC "IEBC to Procure Special Polling Booths for PWDs Ahead of 2022 GE" (22 October 2021). Accessible here.
[20] EA s109(n).
[21] EA Second Schedule Regulation 6(j).
[22] EA Second Schedule Regulation 16(a).
[23] EA Second Schedule Regulation 16(d).
[24] Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission Act (Cap. 7C ss11(5)(a) and 25(c).
[25] PPA s4A.
[26] For example see call by the Chairperson of the Political Parties Liaison Committee for persons with disabilities to walk the talk by registering as members of political parties. Accessible here.
[27] ORPP "Post Election Evaluation Report" (May 2023).
[28] ORPP "ORPP unveils first of its kind PWDs Political Education Manual". Accessible here.
[29] ORPP "Who we are". Accessible here.
[30] Comments of Registrar of Political Parties. Accessible here.
[31] ELOG "From the Ballot to the Portal: ELOG Observation Report for the 2022 General Elections in Kenya" (2022).
[32] See, for example, KNCHR "The Bound Ballot: A Human Rights Account of the 2022 Political Party Nomination Exercise" (2022).
[33] Light for the World "Equal access in elections: 5 ways to ensure people with disabilities can vote" (24 July 2024). Accessible here.
[34] UDPK "From Words to More Words? Audit of the 9 August 2022 General Election From a Disability Inclusion Perspective" (2023).
[35] IEBC "Commission Engages PWDs to Strengthen Inclusion in Electoral Process" (16th June 2023). Accessible here.
[36] IEBC "FINAL STATUS REPORT ON THE ENHANCED CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (ECVR) PHASE 1 (30 April 2026).
[37] Consortium for Election Research and Advocacy "Thematic Report on Engagement of Youth and Special Interest Groups in the Electoral Process in Kenya" (2023).
Carter Center, "Preliminary Report: the Carter Center Election Expert Mission Presidential Election, Kenya" (8 September 2022).
[38] See "IEBC Partners with AssistALL". Accessible here.
[39] See IEBC "Commission enhances inclusion, pledges to work with deaf and visually impaired communities in the electoral process" (23 December 2025). Accessible here.
[40] Constitution art98(c).
[41] Light for the World "Equal access in elections: 5 ways to ensure people with disabilities can vote" (24 July 2024).
[42] *Odinga & 16 others v Ruto & 10 others; Law Society of Kenya & 4 others (Amicus Curiae)* [2022] KESC 54 (KLR) (Election Petitions) (5 September 2022) (Judgment).
[43] ELOG "Report on the Long - Term Observation Mission" (May 2022".
[44] Information from candidate provided at meeting of the CDRA on 3 October 2022.
[45] *Lichete v Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission & another; Attorney General (Interested Party)* [2022] KEHC 13244 (KLR).
[46] As above.