

1 Section 65:

2 (1) Subject to the provision of section 66 of this Constitution, a person
3 shall be qualified for election as a member of:

4 (a) the Senate, if he is a citizen of Nigeria and has attained the age of
5 forty-five years; and

6 (b) the House of Representatives, if he is a citizen of Nigeria and has
7 attained the age of forty years.

8 (2) A person shall be qualified for election under subsection (1) of this
9 section if:

10 (a) he has been educated up to at least university first degree or its
11 equivalent; and

12 (b) Retained.

Qualification
for Elections as
President

13 3. Section 131:

14 A person shall be qualified for election to the office of the President if:

15 (a) he is a citizen of Nigeria by birth;

16 (b) he has attained the age of thirty-five years;

17 (c) he is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that political
18 party;

19 (d) he has been educated up to at least school certificate level or its
20 equivalent.

21 PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO SECTION 131

22 Proposed Section 131 to now read as:

23 Section 131:

24 A person shall be qualified for election to the office of the President if:

25 (a) Retained;

26 (b) he has attained the age of fifty years;

27 (c) Retained;

28 (d) he has been educated up to at least university first degree or its
29 equivalent.

4. Section 106:

Subject to the provisions of Section 107 of this Constitution, a person shall be qualified for elections as a member of a House of Assembly if:

Qualifications for Election into the House of Assembly of State

- (a) he is a citizen of Nigeria;
- (b) he has attained the age of thirty-five years;
- (c) he has been educated up to at least the school certificate level or its equivalent; and
- (d) he is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that party.

PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO SECTION 106

Proposed section 106 to now read as:

Section 106:

Subject to the provisions of Section 107 of this Constitution, a person shall be qualified for election as a member of a House of Assembly of a State if:

- (a) Retained;
- (b) he has attained the age of forty years;
- (c) he has been educated up to at least University First Degree or its equivalent; and
- (d) and he is a member of a Political Party and is sponsored by that Political Party.

5. Section 177:

A person shall be qualified for election to the Office of Governor of a State if:

Qualifications for Election as Governor

- (a) he is a citizen of Nigeria by birth;
- (b) he has attained the age of thirty-five years;
- (c) he is a member of a political party and IS sponsored by that political party; and

1 (d) he has been educated up to at least School Certificate level or its
2 equivalent.

3 PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO SECTION 177

4 Proposed Section 177 to now read as:

5 Section 177:

6 A person shall be qualified for election to the Office of Governor of a
7 State if:

8 (a) Retained;

9 (b) he has attained the age of forty-five years;

10 (c) Retained;

11 (d) he has been educated up to at least University First Degree or its
12 equivalent.

Interpretation
of the Provisions
of Constitution

13 6. Section 318:

14 School Certificate or its equivalent is deleted as the basic or minimum
15 academic qualification for membership of the National Assembly;

16 Office of the President; membership of the House of Assembly of a
17 State; and the Office of Governor of a State.

18 PROPOSED ALTERATION TO SECTION 318 ON ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

19 FOR ELECTIONS UNDER THIS CONSTITUTION

20 Section 318 to now read as:

21 Section 318-

22 "University first Degree or its equivalent means:

23 (a) a University first degree;

24 (b) a degree from Polytechnic or similar Institutions in Nigeria or
25 abroad;

26 (c) a degree from other Degree-Awarding institutions other than (a)
27 (b) and

28 (d) of this subsection in Nigeria or abroad;

29 (e) a degree from the Nigerian Defence Academy or such other
30 similar institutions in Nigeria or abroad; and

1 (f) such other qualifications, which in the opinions and approval of
2 the National Universities Commission and the Independent National
3 Electoral Commission, are equivalent of a University first degree."

4 7. This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Citation
5 Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alterations) Bill, 2021.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to alter sections 65, 131, 106 and 177 of the Constitution with respect to general qualifications for elections.

