

Osun Governorship Election 2026: Dataphyte Foundation's Mid-Day Election Analysis Shows Peaceful Voting, but Late Arrivals, BVAS Challenges and Vote Trading Persist

Election updates from Dataphyte Foundation's observers across all 30 LGAs indicate that the election process was conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner; however, there were reports of administrative delays, technical glitches with the BVAS machine, and electoral integrity concerns.

Between 6:46 a.m. and 11:05 a.m., the Dataphyte Foundation Osun Governorship Election 2026 Situation Room processed 301 election updates and incidents from across the state. These comprised 234 election process updates and 67 incident reports submitted by 60 observers who observed across all 30 Local Government Areas.

This analysis provides a snapshot of the electoral process, including the conduct of electoral stakeholders, including INEC, security personnel, party agents, and voters; the availability and deployment of election materials; BVAS performance; the security environment, voter participation, vote trading, and other emerging issues.

Election Updates/Incidents Processed	Accredited Election Observers Deployed	LGAs with reports
394	60	30

OVERALL PICTURE: LARGELY PEACEFUL, BUT NOT WITHOUT GAPS

The dominant trend from Dataphyte Foundation's observations is that voting is proceeding peacefully across the state, although cases of violence have been reported at some polling units.

Observer reports include 55 updates that confirmed the presence of election officials/security personnel, 36 updates described the atmosphere at observed polling units as peaceful, 33 updates confirmed the time that voting and accreditation commenced, 29 updates reported the early arrival of election officials at polling units

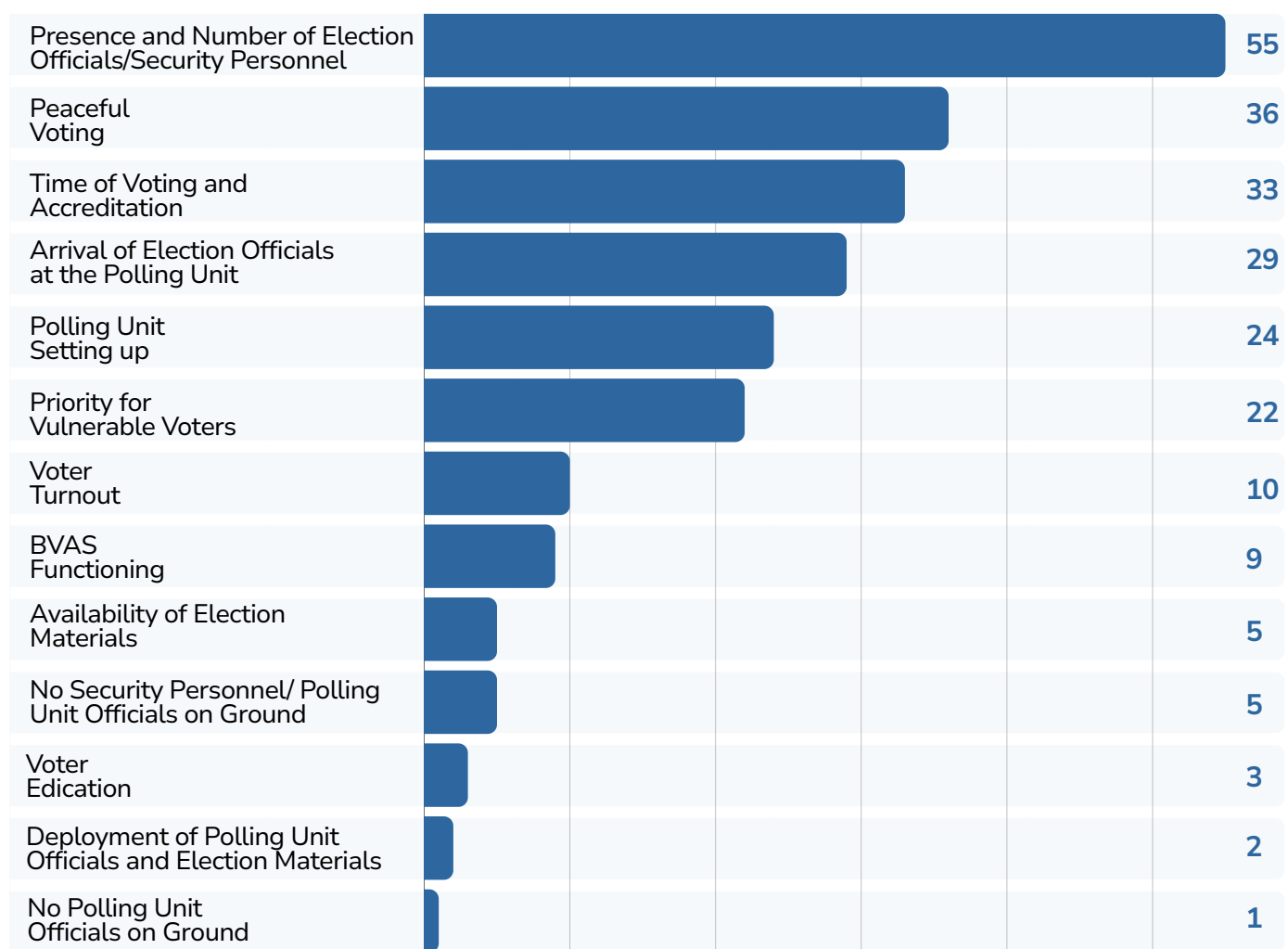
and 22 reports indicated that priority access was given to vulnerable voters, including Persons With Disabilities (PWDs), pregnant women, nursing mothers, and elderly voters.

Observers in Ita Ofa Junction, Omofe/Idasa, Ilesha West and Open Space, Inisha Road, Elejigbo 'B'/Isolo, Ejigbo, also reported early voter turnout, with voters arriving at some polling locations as early as 7:00 a.m and 7:30 a.m., respectively.

Dataphyte Foundation also received 9 reports confirming that BVAS devices were functioning properly during the observation period. However, this positive picture was not uniform across all observed locations; observers reported technical and operational challenges in some of the observed polling units.

The top updates received are those that confirmed the presence and number of election officials/security personnel across polling units observed

Number of Election Process Updates Recorded by Dataphyte' Foundation Election Observers

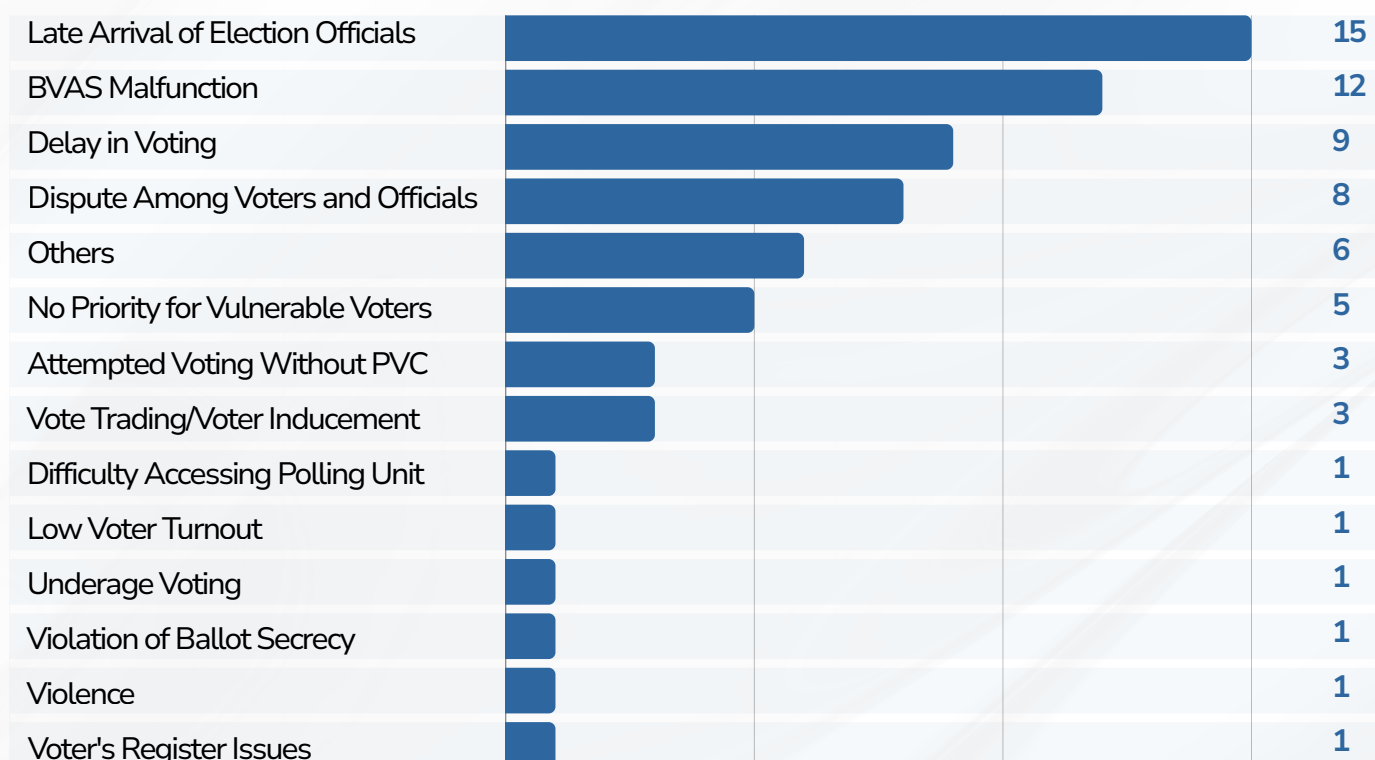


Source: Dataphyte Foundation Election Observers

In terms of the election incidents recorded, late arrival of election officials topped the chart across observed polling units between 6:46 a.m. and 11:05 a.m. This was followed by BVAS malfunction, delay in voting, disputes among voters and officials, among others.

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Categories Election Incidents Recorded by Dataphyte' Foundation Election Observers

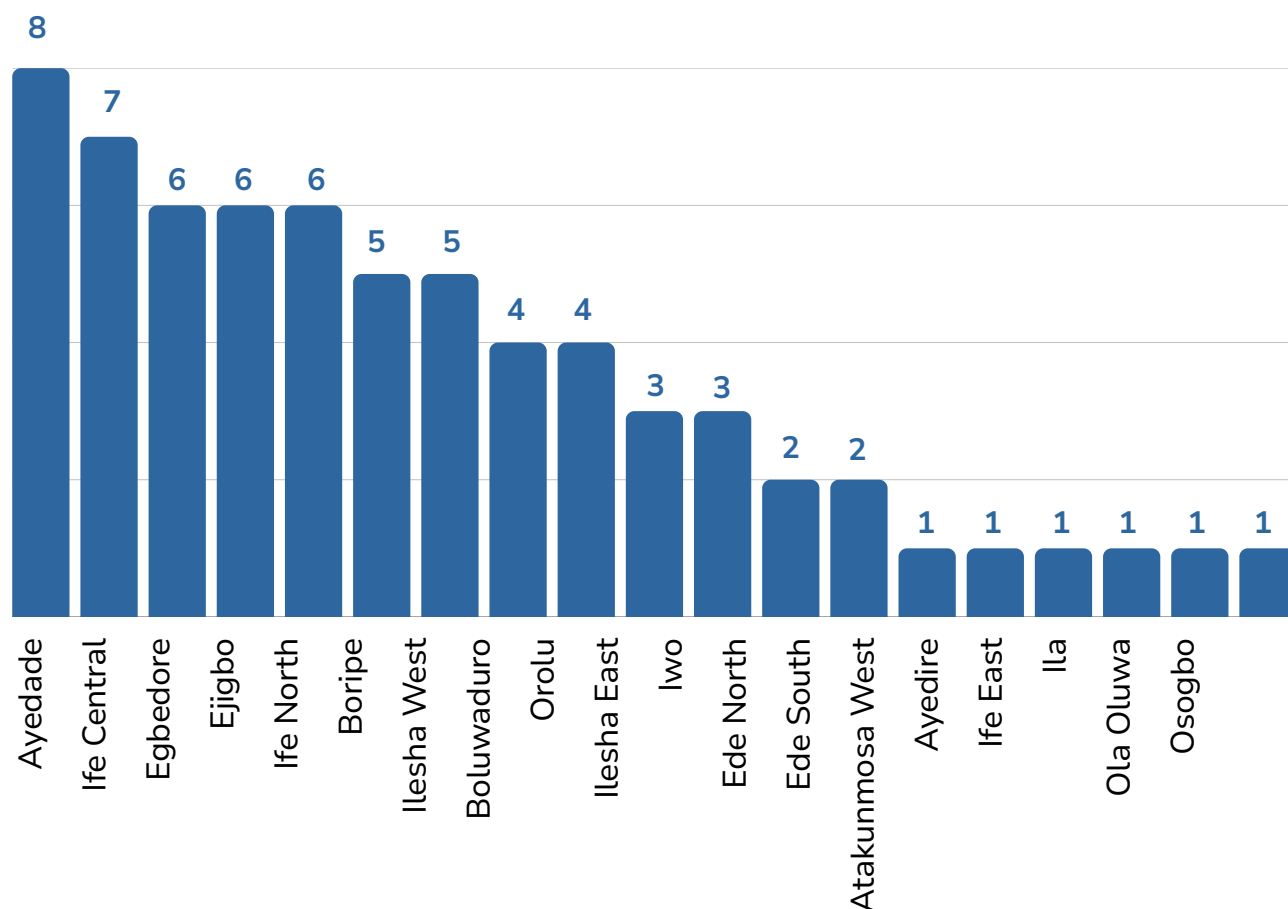


Source: Dataphyte Foundation Election Observers

In terms of the geographic distribution of reported election incidents, Ayedaade Local Government recorded the highest number of incidents in polling units observed, followed by Ife Central and Egbedore, among others.

The highest number of election incidents received from Dataphyte's election observers were recorded in Ayedaade Local Government

Local Government Areas where election incidents were concentrated



Source: Dataphyte Foundation Election Observers

LATE ARRIVAL OF POLLING UNIT OFFICIALS AND ELECTION MATERIALS

The late arrival of INEC officials and election materials remains one of the most frequently reported operational challenges so far.

As of 11:05 a.m., Dataphyte Foundation had recorded 15 reports of late arrival. Observers in Ayedaade, Ife North, Atakunmosa West and Ayedire Local Government Areas reported that election officials and materials arrived less than an hour before the scheduled 8:30 a.m. commencement of voting. Observers reported that the delays were linked to logistical vehicles serving multiple polling units before reaching their assigned locations.

Although voting eventually commenced in several affected locations, the late deployment could reduce the time available for voters to complete accreditation and cast their ballots.

Dataphyte Foundation calls on INEC to ensure that polling units experiencing delayed commencement receive appropriate attention and that voters waiting to vote are not disadvantaged by logistical delays.

ACCREDITATION AND VOTING DELAYS

Dataphyte Foundation recorded 9 incidents involving delays in accreditation and voting. The reported causes include high voter turnout outpacing BVAS accreditation speeds, shortages of materials for displaying or pasting voter registers, and disagreements over queue management.

Where voters are already present and waiting to vote, election officials should prioritise efficient processing while maintaining compliance with established procedures.

BVAS: FUNCTIONAL IN MANY LOCATIONS, BUT TECHNICAL HITCHES PERSIST

The performance of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) remains one of the key issues observed by Dataphyte Foundation.

While 9 of the updates received confirmed successful BVAS operation, 12 incidents involving BVAS malfunction or slow voter capture have also been recorded. These incidents were concentrated in Boluwaduro, Ejigbo, Ilesha East, Ilesha West, Ede South, Ede South, Ola Oluwa and Ayedire.

Dataphyte Foundation is concerned that prolonged technical disruptions, particularly where there is no immediate backup, could result in voter disenfranchisement. INEC should therefore ensure that appropriate technical support and backup arrangements are available at polling units experiencing persistent BVAS challenges.

PRESENCE OF SECURITY PERSONNEL

The presence of security personnel is generally visible across observed polling units. Dataphyte Foundation recorded 55 reports confirming the presence of security personnel.

Also, the overall security environment remains peaceful; however, our observers have documented security-related incidents that require attention.

In Modakeke III Registration Area Centre (RAC), Ife East LGA, a physical altercation reportedly broke out between supporters of rival parties. Security personnel intervened and contained the situation before it escalated.

In Ojamolapa, Oluson Orolu Local Government, a Dataphyte Foundation observer reported a dispute between Accord and APC party agents at the polling unit after both agents allegedly gave money to the same group of voters to vote for their respective party candidates.

One of Dataphyte Foundation's accredited election observers was harassed at Ikire G Registration Area Centre (RAC), ADC Primary School, Oke Ada, in Irewole Local Government Area of Osun State between 6:30 am and 7:30 am. The observer was subsequently asked to leave the premises and the town of Ikire.

Dataphyte Foundation urges security agencies to remain professional, impartial and restrained throughout the voting and collation process and to ensure that accredited observers, journalists and other authorised election stakeholders can carry out their duties without intimidation or obstruction.

VOTE TRADING AND VOTER INDUCEMENT

Vote trading remains one of the most significant electoral integrity concerns identified by Dataphyte Foundation's observations. The Situation Room has recorded three incidents involving alleged vote trading or voter inducement.

One of these reports emerged from OAU Quarters polling units in Ife Central LGA, where observers reported hearing discussions between voters and party agents about alleged cash payments of N15,000 to N25,000 in exchange for votes.

Dataphyte Foundation considers vote trading and voter inducement serious threats to the integrity of the electoral process. The right to vote is affirmed only when citizens can make their choices freely, without financial inducement, coercion, or pressure.

We therefore call on relevant authorities to investigate the cases of vote trading and take appropriate action where violations are established.

Political parties and candidates should equally direct their agents and supporters to desist from attempts to purchase votes or influence voters through material inducements.

VIOLATION OF THE SECRECY OF THE BALLOT

Dataphyte Foundation also recorded reports of violations of ballot secrecy and restrictions on access for accredited observers.

At Iree, Boriye LGA, an observer reported an allegation that party agents were clustering around the voting booth, potentially compromising the secrecy of voters' choices on the ballot. Security personnel reportedly intervened.

These incidents require particular attention because ballot secrecy protects voters from coercion. Dataphyte Foundation urges INEC officials and security personnel to ensure that polling-unit environments protect voters' privacy and allow them to vote for the candidate of their choice without having to show anyone who they have chosen.

OTHER EMERGING CONCERNS

Dataphyte Foundation observers have also reported 8 disputes involving voters, party agents and election officials, including a reported altercation in Orolu LGA following allegations that rival party agents were attempting to induce the same group of voters, five reports on no priority for vulnerable voters, three reports on attempted voting without Permanent Voter's Card (PVC), one allegation of underage voting at Ido-Osun Dispensary in Egbedore LGA and other queue-management and procedural challenges arising from high voter turnout.

DATAPHYTE FOUNDATION CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

INEC should:

- Deploy technical support and backup BVAS devices to locations experiencing persistent accreditation challenges, particularly in Ede South, Ilesha East and Osogbo.
- Address logistical delays and ensure that voters affected by late commencement are given a fair opportunity to vote.
- Reinforce polling-unit procedures on ballot secrecy, queue management and observer access.

- Ensure that all election materials are properly accounted for through the voting and collation stages.

Security agencies should:

- Investigate credible reports of vote trading and voter inducement, particularly the cluster reported around OAU Quarters in Ife Central.
- Pay particular attention to areas where incidents have been concentrated.
- Maintain professionalism and impartiality in their engagement with voters, observers, journalists and party agents.
- Prevent intimidation, violence and attempts to compromise ballot secrecy.

Political parties and candidates should:

- Direct their agents and supporters to refrain from vote-buying, voter intimidation, and other forms of electoral malpractice.
- Encourage peaceful conduct at polling units and during collation.
- Respect the secrecy of voters' choices and the legitimate role of accredited observers.

Voters should:

- Remain peaceful and patient while waiting to vote.
- Protect the secrecy of their ballots.
- Avoid accepting inducements in exchange for their votes.
- Report credible electoral violations through appropriate channels.

Dataphyte Foundation's Election Situation Room will continue to observe the election process across Osun State through the close of polls, counting, and collation.

Our observers will continue to document INEC's deployment and management of election materials; BVAS performance and accreditation challenges; voter turnout and participation; security conditions at polling units, vote trading and voter inducement; violence and intimidation; ballot secrecy; access for accredited observers, counting and violence and intimidation; ballot secrecy; access for accredited observers, counting and result-management procedures; and other emerging issues capable of affecting the credibility of the election.

The organisation urges all stakeholders to allow the electoral process to proceed peacefully and transparently and to respect the outcome of a credible and lawful process.