



**CSO CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON PRIORITY
ELECTORAL REFORMS & ADVOCACY STRATEGY**

TOWARDS THE 2027 GENERAL ELECTION

**A MINIMUM LEGISLATIVE
REFORM AGENDA FOR KENYA**



***Ten Priority Reforms. One Legislative Window.
A Roadmap Civil Society Is Ready to Defend.***

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FOREWORD

Kenya's electoral democracy is at a pivotal moment. As the country turns to the 2027 General Election, three legislative processes, namely, the Elections (Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill, 2026 and the review of the Election Offences Act, provide a unique and ever-closing window for correcting structural weaknesses that have plagued successive elections. Window of opportunity are short, they rarely remain open, and fragmented civil society is not immune to the lessons it has often learned at great cost.

This report is civil society's answer to that lesson. Developed by the Uchaguzi Platform together with the CSO Technical Working Group on Elections, it brings together election practitioners, legal experts and reformers who have spent their careers-sometimes generations-inside the Kenyan election system. What distinguishes this report from previous reform agendas is not a long wish list for each individual reform measure, but the discipline that enabled the Technical Working Group to prioritize the ten reforms that are simultaneously urgent, evidence based and executable within the remaining legislative timeline.

This discipline is important. The history of Kenya's reforms is replete with the comprehensive proposals that were, somehow, simply too late, asked too much, or lacked the political and institutional capacity to survive the legislative process. This report offers a different approach. It is presented as a minimum, and not a maximum, of necessary policy interventions and asks that parties, the IEBC, the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties and other oversight bodies work with the National Assembly as equals in a bid for successful election reforms and to reinforce their own legitimacy and the public's belief in fair elections.

Civil society's participation in elections reform cannot be seen as negative or as an attendance at a function; it is constitutional. Article 1 of the Constitution of Kenya places sovereign power in the people and the signatories to this report exist in order to assure that power operates through credible elections and a truly democratic process. With a goal of strengthening Kenya's electoral democracy this report is presented with those commitments in mind and calls upon the legislature, the Executive, the IEBC, all political parties, Kenyan citizens and even Kenya's development partners to embrace this necessary electoral reform agenda and commit to them.

Uchaguzi Platform

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Development partners played a crucial role in making this report possible. We are indebted to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) via the ELGIA; the European Union through the Oslo Center; and the Royal Danish Embassy through URAIA Trust, for providing the sustained, long-term investments needed to address Kenya's civic and electoral governance space. Without their commitment, this report and the larger civic education, observation and reform advocacy program of which it is an element, would not have been possible.

Our initial debts are to the members of the Civil Society Organizations Technical Working Group on Elections: to their organizations and to their individual expertise, for the commitment of time, technical judgment, and institutional memory throughout the deliberative process that resulted in this agenda. We owe them the reason that this document matters, for their readiness to engage with dense legislative texts, to reconcile competing priorities and aspirations, and to build consensus on a realistic, rather than idealistic, reform package.

We thank the Uchaguzi Platform leadership (Sophie Kaibiria, Executive Director, FIDA-Kenya, Frank Mukwanja, Executive Director, CMD-Kenya, Sheila Masinde, Executive Director, TI-Kenya, Carolyn Gaita, Executive Director, Mzalendo Trust, Joshua Changwony, Executive Director, CRECO-Kenya, Felix Odhiambo, Executive Director, ELGIA and Mulle Musau, CEO, ELOG-Kenya for convening the process and for facilitating the coalition space in which this consensus was built.

We also extend gratitude to all the members of the technical team drawn from the membership of Uchaguzi Platform led by Marcus Ageng'a, Head of Programs, ELOG, K for their technical input and finalization of these electoral reform package and the advocacy framework.

Finally, we thank the dozens of county-level and national civil society actors, election observers, and citizens whose combined experience with Kenya's electoral cycles, its successes and failures, provided the evidence base for this agenda. It is in the service of citizens' trust in the General Elections of 2027 that we submit it.

Uchaguzi Platform

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Kenya stands at a decisive moment in its democratic trajectory as the country prepares for the 2027 General Election. While the constitutional and institutional framework for elections has evolved since 2010, recent electoral cycles continue to expose persistent structural vulnerabilities relating to electoral integrity, political financing, dispute resolution, and public trust in electoral outcomes.

This report is the outcome of a Civil Society-led Technical Working Group (TWG) on Elections deliberations, convened by Uchaguzi Platform from 18th-19th June 2027 following sustained engagement by governance actors around three critical legislative reform instruments currently shaping Kenya's electoral architecture: Elections (Amendment) Bill (Senate Bills No 29 of 2024); The Political Parties (Amendment) Bill 2026; and The Elections Offences Act Review Process.

The report reflects a collective agreement that while these Bills represent an important entry point for electoral reform, they remain largely fragmented and incremental in scope. Unless carefully prioritized and strategically calibrated to address the most consequential electoral vulnerabilities, they risk overlooking the critical pressure points that continue to undermine electoral integrity. As such, reform efforts should focus on the most pertinent and high-impact interventions capable of meaningfully strengthening the electoral framework ahead of 2027.

Accordingly, this report consolidates a prioritized, politically feasible, and implementation-oriented reform agenda of 10 critical and high priority interventions designed to strengthen the credibility and independence of electoral institutions, enhance transparency in electoral technology and results management, improve enforcement of electoral offences and political finance laws, reduce electoral violence and dispute escalation risks, expand inclusion, participation, and public confidence in elections serving as a policy influence instrument for electoral reform decision-makers.

The core of this agenda is to drive high-yield statutory and operational needs ahead of the 2027 general election. By isolating precise pressure points, such as the exact timelines for operational processes and the legal vulnerabilities the TWG hopes to lay a foundation for immediate statutory fixes-practical readily acceptable legislative proposals that can be



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The report proposes a unified operational roadmap for urgent electoral reforms, addressing key electoral reforms as a cohesive package rather than isolated fixes. Equally considered is the expansion of mechanisms designed to widen democratic space, ensuring that historically marginalized groups are not left out of these fast-tracked legislative updates. This will also include formalization of partnerships between electoral institutes, state agencies and civil society to guarantee continuous oversight throughout the remaining preparatory days. This will operate as a blueprint for real-time monitoring of regulatory compliance, giving civil society organizations and independent actors the legal standing needed to challenge procedural regressions.

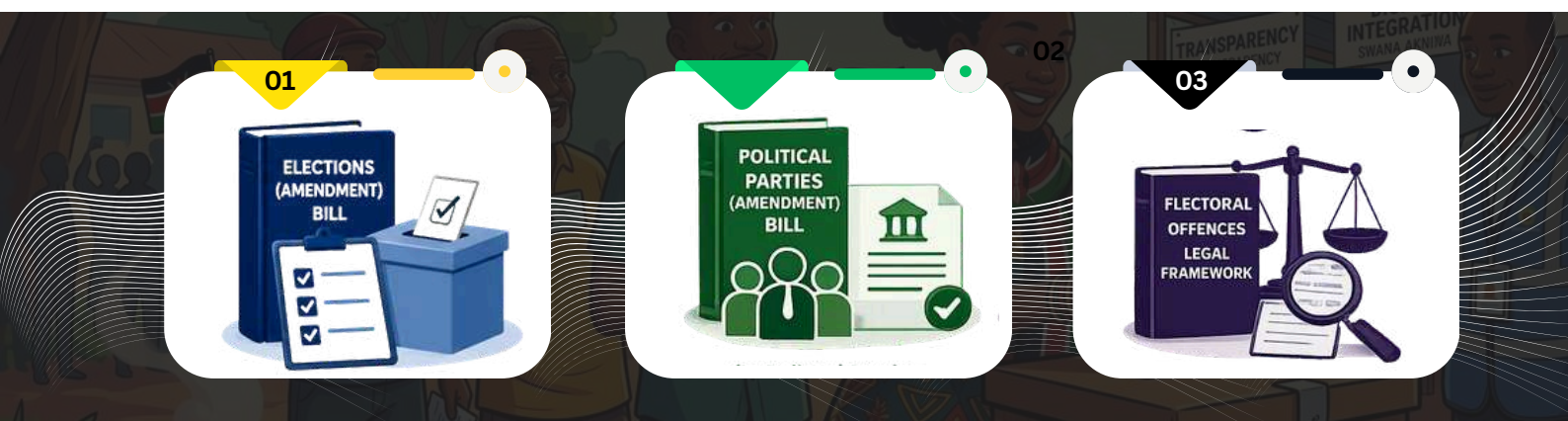
The final sections of the report map out the strategic outcomes that these 10 interventions will deliver for Kenya's democratic stability. By implementing these specific, targeted adjustments, the framework actively minimizes the risk of systemic failures that typically trigger friction in the electoral process. It is intended to serve as an actionable guide to ensuring that the technical management of the 2027 election matches the democratic aspirations of the constitution.

This realistic approach ensures that the proposed quick wins are not just good on paper, but are fully enforceable within Kenya's current electoral landscape.

1. Introduction

This report presents a set of priority electoral reform proposals identified through a structured consultative process undertaken by members of the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Technical Working Group (TWG) on Elections, following a stakeholders' retreat convened to review the ongoing electoral reform agenda. The assignment was undertaken against the backdrop of the limited legislative and administrative window remaining before the 2027 General Election, and the imperative to prioritize reforms capable of being enacted and operationalized within the available timeframe.

The deliberations focused primarily on three key reform initiatives currently under consideration, namely:



Participants critically examined the proposed amendments against the Constitution of Kenya, existing electoral framework, jurisprudence arising from previous electoral cycles, and practical implementation challenges experienced during recent elections.

The methodology adopted was consultative, evidence-based, and consensus-driven. Participants were organized into thematic working groups, with each group assigned to interrogate specific legislative proposals, namely the Elections (Amendment) Bill, the Political Parties (Amendment) Bill, and the Electoral Offences Act review.

Each working group undertook a detailed legal and policy analysis of the assigned instrument, identifying strengths, gaps, implementation challenges, and priority areas requiring reform. The groups subsequently presented their findings in plenary sessions, where recommendations were subjected to deliberation, refinement, and consensus-building. Particular emphasis was placed on reforms that would strengthen constitutional compliance, enhance transparency, improve accountability, promote political inclusion, safeguard electoral justice, and reinforce public confidence in Kenya's electoral processes.



Recognizing that not every desirable reform can realistically be concluded before the next electoral cycle, this report deliberately prioritizes ten minimum reforms considered both urgent and achievable within the remaining legislative period. The recommendations are intended to guide Parliament, relevant constitutional commissions, the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), political parties, and other stakeholders in focusing legislative and policy efforts on interventions with the greatest potential to improve the credibility, integrity, and inclusivity of the 2027 General Election.

The report therefore provides a practical roadmap for immediate reform action while acknowledging that comprehensive electoral reform remains a continuous constitutional and democratic undertaking extending beyond a single electoral cycle.

1.1 Context and origin of the Reform Agenda Mapping

Kenya has entered a critical electoral reform period as preparations for the 2027 General Election gather momentum. Following the reconstitution of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission and renewed legislative activity, several reform initiatives are underway, including proposed amendments to the Elections Act, the Political Parties Act, and a review of the Election Offences Act. These processes are being spearheaded through different institutional mandates by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP), the Judiciary Committee on Elections (JCE), the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) of Parliament, and other state actors.

Collectively, these initiatives represent an important opportunity to strengthen Kenya's electoral architecture and address longstanding legal, institutional, and operational challenges that have emerged from successive electoral cycles. While these processes are necessary and timely,

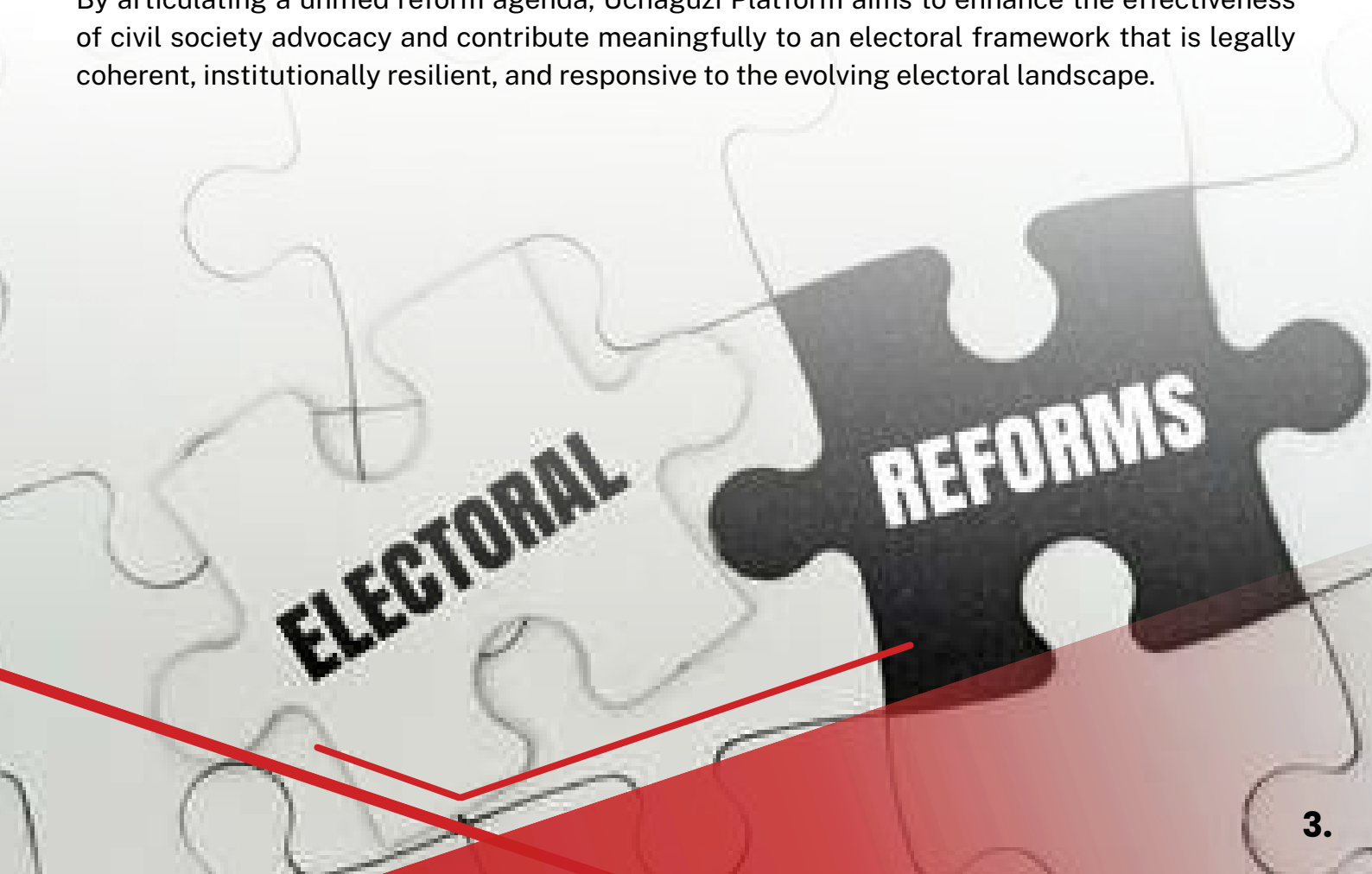


they are unfolding largely as parallel and institution-specific initiatives. Consequently, the emerging reform proposals risk being fragmented, uneven in ambition, and insufficiently coordinated around a shared vision for strengthening electoral integrity. There is also concern that, without deliberate prioritisation, legislative attention may gravitate towards technical or administrative amendments while leaving unresolved the more consequential structural and governance challenges that have consistently undermined public confidence in Kenya's electoral processes.

As a critical democratic stakeholder, civil society has historically played a central role in advancing electoral reforms. Beyond contributing to individual legislative processes, civil society recognises the need to ensure that reform proposals are coherent, mutually reinforcing, and responsive to the broader objective of delivering credible, transparent, inclusive, and peaceful elections in 2027.

It is against this backdrop that the members of Uchaguzi and the larger membership of Civil Society Organization working in electoral governance under the banner of TWG on elections, seek to consolidate the diverse reform proposals emerging from the various legislative and policy processes, identify areas of convergence and critical reform gaps, and develop a coherent, evidence-based, and prioritized civil society electoral reform agenda. The report sought to distinguish between desirable long-term reforms and those that are both feasible and essential for implementation before the 2027 General Election, ensuring that advocacy efforts are strategically focused on reforms with the greatest potential to strengthen electoral integrity and public confidence.

By articulating a unified reform agenda, Uchaguzi Platform aims to enhance the effectiveness of civil society advocacy and contribute meaningfully to an electoral framework that is legally coherent, institutionally resilient, and responsive to the evolving electoral landscape.



ELECTORAL

REFORMS

2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

This agenda is rooted in a technical dialogue process initiated by the Elections Observation Group (ELOG) in collaboration with Electoral Law and Governance Institute (ELGIA) in response to key legislative developments affecting Kenya's electoral framework.



2.1 Elections (Amendment) Bill

- Focused on procedural and operational adjustments to election administration, including aspects of results transmission and polling logistics.



2.2 Political Parties (Amendment) Bill

- Addressing governance of political parties, internal democracy and related electoral processes, funding frameworks, and regulatory oversight



2.3 Elections Offences Act Review

- Examining enforcement gaps in electoral malpractice, accountability mechanisms, and deterrence frameworks.

The Agenda advances a minimum essential reform package that is:

- Technically feasible within the 2026–2027 electoral timeline
- Politically realistic within Kenya's reform environment
- Financially supportable through donor and public investment
- Institutionally implementable by mandated state agencies
- Socially responsive to citizen trust deficits in elections

Credible administration over structural transformation. Rather than pursuing extensive constitutional or institutional changes that are unlikely to be completed before the election, meaningful gains can be achieved by implementing a focused package that offers the most practical pathway to improving the credibility and legitimacy of the 2027 General Election:

2.4 OPERATION PILLARS

Pillar	Objective & Feasibility / Benefits	Key Reforms & Minimum Packages
Pillar 1: Stabilize the Legal Framework	Objective: Avoid changing election rules close to polling day while resolving known legal ambiguities. Feasibility: Requires only targeted statutory amendments. Does not require constitutional amendment. Provides certainty to political actors and election administrators.	• Enact one limited Electoral Laws (Amendment) Bill by last quarter of 2026. • Harmonize conflicting provisions in electoral legislation. • Clarify procedures for electronic transmission, manual backups, result declarations, and tallying hierarchy. • Strengthening enforcement of electoral offences. • Enhanced inclusion of special interest groups.
Pillar 2: Improve Results Transparency	Objective: Address the greatest source of mistrust, which has been the results process. Benefits: Transparency reduces speculation.	• Clarify legal framework on results transmission-roles at polling stations, county and national tallying centers. • Ensure every polling station is traceable from Polling Station → Constituency → County → National tally. • Results traceability chain: Display transmitted/pending stations, rejected/corrected forms, and transmission timestamps. • Standard procedures for handling discrepancies during tallying.
Pillar 3: Continuous Voter Register Assurance	Objective: Strengthen register integrity, accuracy and inclusiveness. Feasibility: Administratively achievable within existing legal framework but can be improved through targeted legislative amendments. Benefits: Enhances accuracy	• Continuous registration and register cleaning. • Biometric verification. • Public inspection periods. • Independent register audit. • Publication of deletions, transfers, and duplicate removals. • Establish clear standards for protection of voter data; age identification verification during voter registration; management of the register of voters including secure data sharing protocols and enhancing integrity of voter registration in border counties through strengthened identity verification.

Pillar 4: Political Party Accountability

Objective: Prevent political actors themselves from disregarding the rules, which destroys trust in the process. Promote fair political competition.

Feasibility: Highly achievable under the existing mandate of the ORPP and through targeted legislative amendments and improved regulatory compliance.

Benefits: Enhances transparency in political party processes, improves level playing field in electoral competition and reduces disputes and conflicts.

- Strengthen campaign finance reporting, party nomination standards, codes of conduct, and dispute resolution timelines.
- Enforce strict campaign finance regulation and spending limits including sanctions for non-compliance.
- Standardize party nomination processes through strengthened oversight and enforcement.
- Strengthen internal party democracy governance standards.
- Strengthen enforcement and sanctions for non-compliance.

Pillar 5: Strengthen Election Dispute Resolution

Objective: Resolve electoral disputes faster to reduce post-election tensions.

Feasibility: Implementation primarily requires targeted legislative amendments to streamline timelines and clarify jurisdictional overlaps and strengthen procedural efficiency.

Benefits: Faster resolution and reduced uncertainty in electoral outcomes. Reduced delays in pre-election related litigation.

- Digital filing systems.
- Standardized evidence formats.
- Streamline timelines.
- Prompt publication of judicial decisions.
- Clearly define roles.

Pillar 6: Electoral Integrity, Election offences and Digital campaign Regulation

Objective: To strengthen prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of election offences while establishing a clear regulatory framework for emerging digital campaign practices.

Feasibility: Achievable through strengthened coordination among enforcement agencies and targeted legislative amendments.

Benefits: Stronger deterrence, reduced impunity through faster investigation and prosecution.

- Explicit legislation on ESGBV and TFGBV
- Establish clear investigative and prosecutorial timelines for election-related crimes.
- Introduce fast track mechanisms for election offence cases.
- Define emerging offences such as coordinated voter intimidation, digital harassment and misuse of technology in campaigns..
- Introduce rules for political messaging on digital platforms during campaigns.



2.5 CSO'S TWG PRIORITY ELECTORAL REFORM PACKAGE FOR THE 2027 GENERAL ELECTION

Proposed Minimum Priority Electoral Reforms (2026–2027)

N o.	Priority Reform Area	Priority Reform Measures	Intended Outcome	Key Institutions	Expected Reform Window
1	Integrity of the Voter Register	Conduct an independent audit of the register; strengthen continuous voter registration; strengthen voter identity verification; enforce secure data sharing protocols; improve mechanisms for removal of deceased voters; integrate civil registration databases; strengthen public inspection and verification processes.	Enhance public confidence in the voter register and minimize disputes regarding voter eligibility.	IEBC, Civil Registration Services, Ministry of Interior, Registrar of Persons, Political Parties, CSOs	Legislative amendments by Q4 2026; Administrative reforms immediately; audit completed before gazettement of final register.
2	Election Results Management	Strengthen legal and administrative safeguards governing transmission, verification, tallying, public access to Forms, technology testing, contingency planning, and transparency of the National Tallying Centre.	Increase credibility, transparency, and verifiability of presidential results while reducing post-election disputes.	IEBC, Judiciary, Parliament, ICT Authority, Political Parties, Election Observer Groups	Legislative amendments by Q4 2026; Administrative reforms immediately; Implementation of legal amendments where necessary before election period.

3	Election Security and Electoral-Related Violence	Develop integrated election security protocols; strengthen early warning and rapid response mechanisms; improve coordination between security agencies and IEBC; operationalize peace architecture at county level. Develop laws to address emerging electoral violence//crimes.	Prevent electoral violence and ensure a secure environment for voters, candidates, and election officials.	National Police Service, IEBC, NCIC, Ministry of Interior, County Security Committees, Peace Actors, ODPP	Legislative amendments by Q4 2026; Administrative implementation beginning immediately and continuing through election period.
4	Enforcement of Electoral Offences	Strengthen investigation and prosecution of electoral offences; improve coordination among enforcement agencies; operationalise evidence management systems; enhance deterrence through timely enforcement.	Increase accountability, reduce impunity, and improve compliance with electoral law.	IEBC, Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI), Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), Judiciary, National Police Service	Legislative amendments by Q4 2026; Administrative strengthening immediately; legislative amendments where necessary before election period.
5	Campaign Financing	Operationalize campaign finance regulations; strengthen disclosure requirements; establish expenditure reporting mechanisms; improve enforcement against misuse of public resources.	Promote transparency, fairness, and accountability in campaign financing.	Parliament, IEBC, EACC, Auditor-General, Controller of Budget, Political Parties	Legislative and regulatory action by Q1 2027; enforcement throughout campaign period.



6	Election Technology; Electoral Information Integrity and Regulation of Digital Campaigning	Establish a clear legal framework for digital campaigning; require transparency in online political advertising; regulate use of AI-generated campaign content and deepfakes; strengthen obligations for timely correction of electoral misinformation; clarify responsibilities of digital platforms and candidates during the election period. Timely procurement, testing, audit and deployment of technology to facilitate stakeholder verification, user preparedness and reliable electoral operations.	Protect voters from manipulation, enhance transparency in digital campaigning, and safeguard public confidence in electoral information throughout the electoral cycle.	Parliament, IEBC, Communications Authority of Kenya, NCIC, Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC), Political Parties, Digital Platforms	Legislative amendments by early 2027; Operational regulations before commencement of campaigns.
7	Compressed and Conflicting Electoral Timelines	Harmonize timelines across election laws and regulations to eliminate overlaps. Rationalize statutory timelines affecting candidate nominations, dispute resolution, voter register audit, and result management.	Improve election preparedness, reduce litigation and administrative bottlenecks, and enhance predictability of the electoral calendar.	Parliament, IEBC, Office of the Attorney General, Judiciary, Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC), Political Parties Disputes Tribunal (PPDT)	Legislative amendments by Q4 2026; Administrative implementation throughout 2027.

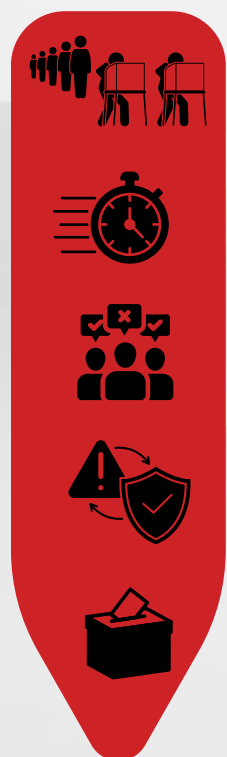


8	Regulation of Party Nominations	Standardise nomination procedures; strengthen internal party democracy; establish enforceable minimum standards for nomination technology and dispute resolution; improve oversight of party primaries.	Reduce disputes arising from party nominations and improve legitimacy of candidates.	ORPP, Political Parties, IEBC, PPDT, Parliament	Legislative and regulatory reforms by early 2027; implementation during party primaries.
9	Inclusive Representation	Remove administrative barriers affecting women, youth, persons with disabilities, minorities, and marginalized communities; improve accessibility standards; strengthen enforcement of inclusion obligations. Review laws governing proportional representation and promotion of special interest groups.	Enhance meaningful participation and equal electoral opportunities for all eligible citizens.	IEBC, Parliament, National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), Kenya National Commission of Human Rights (KNHRC), Political Parties	Legislative amendments by Q4 2026; Administrative reforms immediately; regulatory measures before candidate nominations.
10	Election Dispute Resolution Mechanisms	Clarify jurisdictional boundaries; streamline timelines; strengthen pre-election dispute resolution; expand alternative dispute resolution mechanisms; improve coordination among dispute resolution institutions.	Ensure timely and credible resolution of disputes before polling and reduce election-related litigation.	Judiciary, IEBC, PPDT, Political Parties, Parliament	Legislative refinement and administrative preparation before commencement of nominations.



2.6 Guiding Principles for Prioritization

This minimum, high-impact reform package has been curated using five practical criteria to strengthen the credibility, transparency, inclusiveness, and peaceful conduct of the 2027 General Election without requiring extensive constitutional change:



1. **Relevance:** Crucial to the integrity and credibility of the 2027 General Election.
2. **Feasibility:** Achievable within the remaining pre-election period (~60 weeks).
3. **Consensus:** Possesses high potential for broad political and stakeholder agreement.
4. **Mitigation:** Directly reduces election-related conflict and structural litigation.
5. **Delivery:** Contributes immediately to better election-day administration and post-election

2.7 Priority Reform Analysis Matrix

2.7.1 Integrity of the Voter Register

Analysis Area	Discussion
Why this qualifies as a priority	The voter register remains the foundation of electoral credibility and has consistently generated political contestation.
Why it matters for 2027	Public confidence in the register must be restored before the election period through independent verification and transparent auditing.

Election Day linkage	Determines who votes, where they vote, turnout management, polling station planning, and acceptance of election outcomes.
Nature of reform	Mainly administrative with targeted legal refinements.
Urgency	Critical

2.7.2 Election Results Management

Analysis Area	Discussion
Why this qualifies as a priority	Presidential results management remains the single most consequential determinant of electoral legitimacy and post-election stability.
Why it matters for 2027	Lessons from previous elections demonstrate the need for greater transparency, technology resilience, and procedural clarity.
Election Day linkage	Directly affects polling station result transmission, tallying, verification, declaration, and acceptance of final presidential results.
Nature of reform	Administrative improvements supported by targeted legislative clarification.
Urgency	Critical

2.7.3 Election Security and Electoral Violence

Analysis Area	Discussion
Why this qualifies as a priority	Electoral violence undermines democratic participation and can suppress voter turnout while affecting election credibility.

Why it matters for 2027	Security planning must begin well before campaigns to identify hotspots, coordinate agencies, and operationalise early warning mechanisms.
Election Day linkage	Protects voters, polling officials, election materials, tallying centres, and result transmission infrastructure.
Nature of reform	Primarily administrative and inter-agency coordination with key legislative introductions on emerging electoral crimes.
Urgency	Critical

2.7.4 Enforcement of Electoral Offences

Analysis Area	Discussion
Why this qualifies as a priority	Weak enforcement has contributed to recurring impunity surrounding electoral offences including bribery, intimidation, hate speech, and misuse of public resources.
Why it matters for 2027	Visible enforcement before and during the election will strengthen deterrence and reinforce public confidence in the rule of law.
Election Day linkage	Supports peaceful polling, compliance with electoral laws, and integrity of election officials and political actors.
Nature of reform	Administrative strengthening with targeted legal improvements.
Urgency	Critical

2.7.5 Election Campaign Financing

Analysis Area	Discussion
Why this qualifies as a priority	Lack of transparency in campaign financing contributes to unequal competition, corruption risks, and misuse of state resources.
Why it matters for 2027	Campaign finance rules must be operational before campaigns commence if they are to have practical effect.
Election Day linkage	Promotes a level electoral playing field and reduces illicit influence on electoral processes.
Nature of reform	Legislative activation supported by regulatory enforcement.
Urgency	Critical

2.7.6 Election technology, Electoral Information Integrity and Regulation of Misinformation, Disinformation and Digital Campaigning.

Analysis Area	Discussion
Why this qualifies as a priority	Electoral campaigns have increasingly shifted to digital platforms where misinformation, coordinated disinformation, AI-generated content and anonymous political advertising can influence public opinion, fuel tensions and undermine confidence in the electoral process. Existing electoral laws provide limited regulation of these emerging risks.
Why it matters for 2027	The 2027 General Election will likely be Kenya's most digitally driven election. Legislative clarity is needed before campaigns begin to establish enforceable rules governing online political communication and campaign transparency.

Election Day linkage	False information regarding polling stations, voting procedures, election officials or election results can suppress voter turnout, create confusion and heighten tensions on polling day and during results transmission.
Nature of reform	Targeted legislative amendments to Elections Act, Election Campaign Financing Act, Computer Misuse and Cyber Crimes Act, Kenya Information and Communications Act supported by regulations and inter-agency coordination.
Urgency	Critical

2.7.7 Compressed and Conflicting Electoral Timelines

Analysis Area	Discussion
Why this qualifies as a priority	Multiple statutory timelines overlap, creating implementation bottlenecks affecting nominations, procurement, dispute resolution, voter education, technology deployment, and election preparedness.
Why it matters for 2027	With approximately 60 weeks remaining, delays in legal reforms will directly undermine operational preparedness and increase litigation risks.
Election Day linkage	Poor sequencing before polling affects preparedness of polling officials, ballot printing, logistics, and timely declaration of results.
Nature of reform	Limited legislative amendments combined with IEBC administrative planning.
Urgency	High

2.7.8. Regulation of Party Nominations

Analysis Area	Discussion
Why this qualifies as a priority	Most electoral disputes originate during party nominations rather than on polling day itself.
Why it matters for 2027	Credible nominations reduce litigation, defections, violence, and independent candidacies that strain electoral administration.
Election Day linkage	Produces legitimate candidate lists, reducing disputes affecting ballot printing and polling operations.
Nature of reform	Legislative, regulatory, and political party reforms.
Urgency	High

2.7.9. Inclusive Representation

Analysis Area	Discussion
Why this qualifies as a priority	Persistent barriers continue to affect participation by women, youth, persons with disabilities, minorities, and marginalised groups.
Why it matters for 2027	Administrative reforms remain achievable within the remaining preparation period even where constitutional reforms are not feasible.
Election Day linkage	Improves voter access, candidate participation, polling accessibility, and inclusive election administration.

Nature of reform	Administrative and regulatory reforms.
Urgency	Medium-High



2.7.10. Election Dispute Resolution Mechanisms

Analysis Area	Discussion
Why this qualifies as a priority	Delayed or inconsistent dispute resolution undermines electoral certainty and disrupts election preparations.
Why it matters for 2027	Efficient dispute resolution prevents last-minute litigation affecting candidate lists and election logistics.
Election Day linkage	Ensures final candidate lists, polling preparations, and post-election petitions proceed within constitutional timelines.
Nature of reform	Legislative clarification and institutional coordination.
Urgency	High



Note:

The proposed package has been curated using five practical criteria:

1. Relevance to the integrity and credibility of the 2027 General Election.
2. Feasibility within the remaining pre-election period (approximately 60 weeks).
3. Potential for broad political and stakeholder consensus.
4. Ability to reduce election-related conflict and litigation.
5. Direct contribution to improving election-day administration and post-election legitimacy.

3.0 Proposed Legislative Reform Implementation Roadmap for the 2027 General Election

Purpose

The proposed reform package recognizes that there is limited time remaining before the 2027 General Election. Consequently, reforms must be prioritised according to their urgency, dependency on other reforms, and their place within the electoral cycle. The roadmap below identifies the preferred sequencing of legislative amendments, the principal statutes requiring review, the electoral stakeholders affected, and the latest recommended implementation period to ensure meaningful application before the General Election.

Phase	Priority Reform Area	Primary Legislation Targeted	Electoral Stakeholders Affected	Why this Phase Comes First	Recommended Timeline
Phase I: Immediate Legislative Action	Compressed and Conflicting Electoral Timelines	Elections Act; Election Laws (Amendment) Bill; IEBC Act, Elections(General) Regulations Elections(Registration of Voters) Regulations. Rules of Procedure on Settlement of Disputes.	IEBC, Political Parties, Judiciary, PPDT, Parliament	All subsequent electoral processes depend on statutory timelines. Delayed amendments will affect nominations, procurement, dispute resolution and election preparation.	August–October 2026
	Regulation of Party Nominations	Political Parties Act; Elections Act. Elections Act. Elections(Party Primaries and Party Lists)Regulations.	Political Parties, ORPP, PPDT, IEBC	Party nominations occur early in the electoral calendar and generate the majority of pre-election disputes.	August–October 2026



PHASE

1

2

	Presidential Election Results Management	Elections Act; Elections (Technology) Regulations; Elections (General) Regulations	IEBC, Political Parties, Candidates, Observers, Judiciary	Rules governing results management must be settled before procurement, testing and simulation of election technology.	August–October 2026
	Election Dispute Resolution Mechanisms	Elections Act; Political Parties Act; PPDT Act; Elections (Parliamentary and County Elections) Petitions Rules.	Judiciary, PPDT, IEBC, Political Parties, Candidates	Jurisdiction and timelines should be clarified before nomination disputes commence.	July–October 2026
	Integrity of the Voter Register	Elections Act; Registration of Persons Act; Births and Deaths Registration Act	IEBC, Voters, Political Parties, Civil Registration Services	A credible register must be established well before voter verification and gazettelement.	August–October 2026
	Electoral Violence-ESGBV/TFGBV including Digital Campaign Offences.	Election Offences Act Electoral Code of Conduct	Police, IEBC, NCIC, Political Parties, ODPP	Establishing a clear legal framework early in the electoral reform process creates a deterrent effect and provides certainty for enforcement agencies.	August–October 2026

PHASE

1

2

Phase II: Electoral Integrity Reforms

Electoral Technology

Elections Act; Election Offences Act; Data Protection Act; Kenya Information Communications Act; Elections (Technology) Regulations.

IEBC, Communications Authority, Office of Data Protection Officer, Political Parties, Technology Service Providers,

Electoral technology underpins voter registration, voter identification and results management- Testing systems at this stage will ensure security, transparency, auditability and interoperability while addressing emerging cyber threats including system failures.

Election Technology; Electoral Information Integrity and Digital Campaigning

Elections Act; Election (Technology) Regulations: Election Campaign Financing Act; Kenya Information and Communications Act; Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act

Political Parties, Candidates, Media, Digital Platforms, Voters, IEBC, Communications Authority

Digital campaigning begins long before official campaigns. The legal framework should therefore precede campaign activities.

Compliance

Elections Act; Political Parties Act; Election Offences Act; Leadership and Integrity Act; Public Finance Management Act (where applicable)

IEBC, ORPP, ODPP, National Police Service, Ethics and Anti-corruption commission, Judiciary, Political Parties, Civil Society

Electoral laws are only effective when consistently enforced. Strengthening compliance before roll out of election activities promotes adherence.

PHASE

1

2

3

Phase III: Electoral Fairness and Accountability	Campaign Financing	Election Campaign Financing Act; Elections Act Election(General) Regulations. Election Campaign Financing Regulations	Candidates, Political Parties, IEBC, EACC, Auditor-General	Campaign finance controls should be operational before campaigns officially commence.	January–March 2027
	Enforcement of Electoral Offences	Elections Act; Election Offences Act	IEBC, Police, DCI, ODPP, Judiciary, Candidates	Enforcement agencies require sufficient time to prepare operational protocols before the campaign period.	January–March 2027
	Election Security and Electoral-Related Violence	Election Offences Act; National Police Service Act; National Cohesion and Integration Act	Police, IEBC, NCIC, Political Parties, Candidates, Voters	Security coordination should be fully operational before campaigns intensify.	January–June 2027

4

Phase IV: Inclusion and Election Readiness	Inclusive Representation	Elections Act; Political Parties Act; Persons with Disabilities Act; Leadership and Integrity Act (where applicable) Elections(Party Primaries and Party List) Regulations	Women, Youth, Persons with Disabilities, Minority Groups, Political Parties, IEBC	Inclusion measures should be finalised before party nominations and candidate registration conclude.	January–June 2027
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4.0 Stakeholder Mapping Matrix

<i>Stakeholder Category</i>	<i>Reform Areas Most Affected</i>
Parliament (National Assembly and Senate)	All legislative amendments
Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission(IEBC)	All ten reform areas
Office of the Attorney General	Legislation
Political Parties	Timelines, Nominations, Campaign Finance, Voter Register, Digital Campaigning, Electoral Offences, Inclusive Representation
Political Elites	Campaign Finance, Results Management, Election Security, Election Offences, Regulation of Political Parties, Dispute Resolution
Candidates and Aspirants	Nominations, Campaign Finance, Electoral Offences, Dispute Resolution
Judiciary	Dispute Resolution, Results Management, Timelines
Political Parties Dispute Tribunal (PPDT)	Party Nominations, Dispute Resolution, Timelines
National Police Service	Electoral Security, Electoral Offences

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions & Commission on Administrative Justice	Electoral Offences
Directorate of Criminal Investigations	Electoral Offences
National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) & Commission on Administrative Justice	Electoral Violence, Election Offences, Hate Speech, Digital Campaigning, Inclusive Representation
National Gender Equality Commission (NGEC)	Inclusive Representation, Party Nominations, Campaign Finance, Electoral Violence/Security
Kenya National Commission of Human Rights (KNCHR)	Election Security/Violence, Election Offences, Inclusive Representation, Election Dispute Resolution
Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC)	Campaign Finance, Election Offences
Communications Authority of Kenya	Digital Campaigning and Information Integrity
Media and Digital Platforms	Information Integrity, Campaign Regulation,
Independent Media Regulators	Results Management, Election Security/Violence, Campaign Finance
Civil Society Organisations	Election Observation, Voter Education, Monitoring Reform Implementation
Religious Leaders/Faith Based Organisations	Election Security/Violence, Results Management, Election Dispute Resolution, Inclusive Representation
Youth Organisations	Inclusive Representation, Election Security/Violence, Integrity of Register of Voters, Party Nominations, Campaign Finance, Technology

Women Organisations	Inclusive Representations, Integrity of Register of Voters, Campaign Finance, Election Security/Violence, Party Nominations
Persons With Disabilities(PWD's) Organisations	Inclusive Representation, Integrity of the Register of Voters, Party Nominations, technology, Election Security/Violence, Campaign Finance
Development Partners	Technical Assistance, Capacity Building, Election Support
Citizens/Voters	Voter Register, Information Integrity, Election Security, Results Management, Inclusive Representation
Ministry of Interior and National Administration (including Registrar of Persons/Civil Registration Services)	Integrity of the Voter Register, Election Security/Violence
Political Parties Liaison Committee (PPLC)	Compressed and Conflicting Electoral Timelines, Regulation of Party Nominations
ICT Authority	Election Results Management, Election Technology
Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC)	Election Technology, Regulation of Digital Campaigning
Auditor-General	Election Campaign Finance
Controller of Budget	Election Campaign Finance
National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD)	Inclusive Representation
County Security Committees / Peace Actors	Election Security/Violence

5.0 Legislative Reform Prioritization and Advocacy Matrix

This matrix is intended to guide CSO advocacy, parliamentary engagement, and stakeholder coordination around the minimum legislative reforms required before the 2027 General Election. It identifies the principal legal instruments requiring amendment, lead implementing institutions, priority advocacy targets, implementation risks, indicative resource implications, and an assessment of political feasibility.

Reform Area	Principal Acts/Laws Targeted	Nature of Legislative Amendment	Lead Institution(s)	Primary CSO Advocacy Target	Key Stakeholders Affected	Risk if Reform is Not Enacted Before 2027	• Indicative Implementation Cost	Political Feasibility
1. Integrity of the Voter Register	Elections Act; Elections (registration of Voter) Regulations Registration of Persons Act; Births and Deaths Registration Act	Strengthen provisions on continuous voter registration, register audits, public inspections and verification, and integration of civil registration databases.	IEBC; Ministry of Interior	IEBC; JLAC; JLAHRC	Voters, Political Parties, IEBC, Civil Registration Services	Persistent disputes over voter eligibility and reduced public confidence in election outcomes.	Medium	Critical

2. Election Results Management	Elections Act; Elections (General) Regulations; Elections (Technology) Regulations	Clarify legal provisions governing electronic transmission, verification, tallying, publication and management of presidential election results.	Parliament; IEBC	Parliament; IEBC	Candidates, Political Parties, Judiciary, Election Observers, Voters	Increased disputes over presidential results, reduced transparency and heightened post-election tensions.	Medium	Critical
3. Election Security and Electoral-Related Violence	Election Offences Act; National Police Service Act; National Cohesion and Integration Act	Strengthen coordination mechanisms, clarify institutional mandates and improve enforcement against election-related violence and intimidation.	IEBC Ministry of Interior; National Police Service; Parliament	Parliamentary Committee s on Administration and Security; NCIC	IEBC Security Agencies, Political Parties, Candidates, Communities	Increased electoral violence, intimidation and disruption of polling.	Medium	Critical
4. Enforcement of Electoral Offences	Election Offences Act; Elections Act	Strengthen investigative powers, prosecution procedures, sanctions and institutional coordination for enforcement of electoral offences.	Parliament; DCI; ODPP; IEBC	DCI; ODPP; Parliament	Candidates, Political Parties, Security Agencies, Voters	Continued impunity, voter bribery, intimidation and weak enforcement of electoral law.	Medium	Critical

5. Campaign Financing	Election Campaign Financing Act; Elections Act. Election campaign Finance Regulations	Operationalize campaign finance law, strengthen disclosure obligations, expenditure reporting and enforcement mechanisms.	Parliament ; IEBC	Parliament; IEBC; EACC	Political Parties, Candidates, IEBC, Oversight Agencies	Continued opaque campaign financing and misuse of public resources.	Medium	Critical
6. Election Technology; Electoral Information Integrity and Digital Campaigning	Elections Act; Election Campaign Financing Act; Kenya Information and Communications Act; Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act; Election(Technology)Regulations	Regulate online political advertising, require transparency in digital campaigning, address AI-generated misinformation and clarify responsibilities of digital platforms during elections. Review laws for timely procurement and testing of election technology.	Parliament ; IEBC; Communications Authority; NCIC	Parliament; Communications Authority; IEBC	Political Parties, Candidates, Media, Digital Platforms, Voters	Increased misinformation, voter manipulation, online incitement and reduced public trust in electoral information.	Medium	Critical
7. Compressed and Conflicting Electoral Timelines	Elections Act; Political Parties Act Election Laws (Amendment) Bill Electoral Regulations	Harmonize statutory timelines for nominations, dispute resolution, procurement, voter register certification and election preparation.	Parliament ; IEBC; Attorney General	Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC); Senate Committee on Justice,Legal Affairs & Human Rights(JLAHRC); IEBC	IEBC, ORPP Judiciary, Political Parties,	Delayed election preparations, increased litigation, operational uncertainty and legal conflicts.	Low	High

8. Regulation of Party Nominations	Political Parties Act; Elections Act Elections(Party primaries and Party List)Regulations	Establish minimum standards for nominations, strengthen internal party democracy, improve dispute resolution and regulate nomination technologies.	Parliament; ORPP; IEBC	ORPP; Political Parties; Parliament	Political Parties, PPDT, IEBC	Continued disputes, defections, court cases and delayed election preparations.	Low	High
9. Inclusive Representation	Elections Act; Political Parties Act; Persons with Disabilities Act Elections(Party Primaries and Party List)Regulations	Strengthen legal obligations promoting participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities and marginalised groups.	Parliament; IEBC; ORPP	Parliament; NGEC; NCPWD	Women, Youth, PWDs, Minority Communities, Political Parties	Continued barriers to participation and failure to realise constitutional inclusion objectives.	Medium	High
10.Election Dispute Resolution Mechanisms	Elections Act; Political Parties Act; PPDT Act Rules of Procedure for Settlement of Disputes.	Clarify jurisdiction, harmonise timelines and strengthen coordination among dispute resolution bodies.	Judiciary; PPDT Parliament	Judiciary; Parliament; PPDT	Judiciary PPDT Political Parties IEBC	Delayed determination of disputes affecting candidate lists and election preparations.	Low	High

6.0 Advocacy Milestones for CSOs

**July -
September
2026**



- Secure agreement on the minimum legislative reform package.
- Engage the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee (JLAC) and Senate Justice, Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee. (JLAHRC)
- Advocate for publication of an Electoral Laws (Amendment) Bill.

**October -
December
2026**



- Parliamentary consideration and enactment of priority amendments.
- Development of subsidiary legislation and regulations.
- Public participation and stakeholder consultations.

**January -
March
2027**

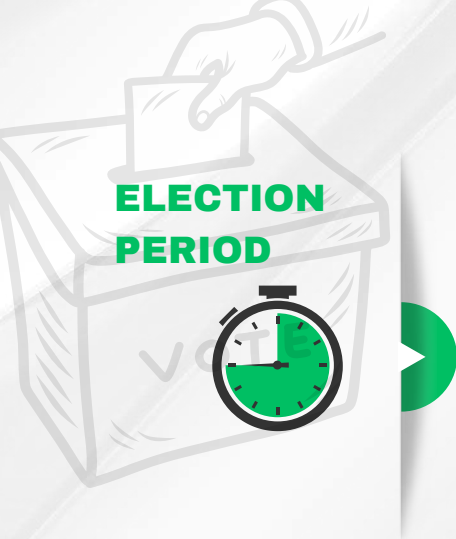


- Operationalisation of amended laws.
- Capacity building for implementing institutions.
- Public awareness campaigns on the reforms.

**April -June
2027**



- Monitoring compliance during voter registration, party nominations and campaign preparations.
- Identification of implementation gaps requiring administrative action.



- Monitor implementation of the amended legal framework.
- Document compliance and emerging challenges.
- Support peaceful dispute resolution and evidence-based post-election assessment.

Note:

The guiding principle for sequencing reforms is that legislative certainty must precede electoral implementation. Amendments affecting nominations, voter registration, campaign regulation, electoral technology, dispute resolution and election security should be enacted well before the commencement of election operations to allow sufficient time for institutional preparedness, stakeholder sensitization and effective implementation.



Why This Matters Now

The 2026–2027 electoral cycle faces a closing window for meaningful reform implementation, requiring coordinated dedicated and well-resourced interventions. This curated package will guide towards providing specific, actionable and measurable reforms. This will also enable development partners to align their interventions, with each partner supporting specific reform areas while complementing one another's efforts and avoiding duplication.

Collectively, these ten reforms represent a minimum, high-impact reform agenda capable of strengthening the credibility, transparency, inclusiveness, and peaceful conduct of the 2027 General Election without requiring extensive changes or constitutional change.

PHOTO GALLERY



Notes

