



Saturday, November 18, 2023 (10:00 AM)
 Monrovia, Liberia

**LEON’S ELECTION OBSERVATION:
 SITUATIONAL REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF RESULTS FROM
 THE 2023 PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF ELECTION**

LEON announces that its sample-based observation (SBO) findings from the 2023 presidential runoff election are consistent with the National Elections Commission’s (NEC) official results.

LEON commends NEC for conducting its duties with professionalism and largely in adherence with its policies and procedures to deliver the presidential runoff election.

LEON applauds the Liberian people for participating in the peaceful and orderly conduct of the 2023 presidential and legislative elections.

The Liberia Elections Observation Network (LEON) announces that the 99.58% of results released by the National Elections Commission (NEC) on November 17, 2023, are consistent with LEON’s sample-based observation (SBO) that independently collected data to enable a statistical projection of the presidential runoff election results. LEON’s representative sample of 904 polling places in all 73 electoral districts across the 15 counties of Liberia produced viable estimates of the expected results, which are consistent with the NEC’s announced results.

As was the case during the first round of the presidential election, LEON is releasing its SBO results data analysis to give the people of Liberia confidence in the second round of the presidential election and demonstrate the degree to which the official results reflect the will of the people. LEON’s determination that its sampling data is consistent with the runoff election’s results indicates that NEC’s official results can be viewed by stakeholders and voters with trust and confidence.

LEON’s results analysis is based on counting data submitted by its observers from 890 of 904 (98.5%) assigned polling places. In accordance with statistical principles, the actual result for each candidate could have fallen anywhere within the estimated ranges listed below; however, the NEC’s official results, when compared against LEON’s estimated midpoint of expected results for each candidate, demonstrate consistency between the two sets of results data:

Candidate	NEC Results (99.58%)	LEON Estimated % Midpoint	LEON Estimated % Range*	Consistent
JOSEPH N. BOAKAI (UP)	50.89%	50.14%	48.8% – 51.5%	Yes
GEORGE MANNEH WEAH (CDC)	49.11%	49.86%	48.5% – 51.2%	Yes
Invalid Votes	1.58%	1.59%	1.49% – 1.7%	Yes

*NEC results reflect 86 of 110 polling places (78.1%) in Grand Kru County. LEON’s midpoint estimates, and estimated ranges assume all 100% of polling place results in Grand Kru would be included in the official NEC results.

LEON Sample-based Observation Methodology

During the 2023 presidential and legislative elections, LEON conducted an SBO to assess the overall quality and integrity of the entire electoral cycle. The SBO approach is a proven, statistically based methodology that has been used in more than 40 countries for over three decades to evaluate an electoral process. Conducting an SBO means that LEON's observation is comprehensive, and its Election Day data was collected from a statistically relevant sample of polling places from all 73 electoral districts for internal analysis and cross-verification.

During the presidential election, LEON deployed 904 NEC-accredited short-term observers (STOs), supported by a team of 73 long-term observers (LTOs), 53 field coordinators (FCs), and 18 mobile field observers (MFOs). LEON's observers signed a pledge of impartiality and neutrality. The STOs were assigned to a randomly selected, representative sample of polling places in 73 electoral districts. LEON's observers followed voting and counting processes at sample locations and recorded NEC results data posted publicly at the polling places observed. Results data reported by observers were validated by photos of signed results sheets and cross-verified by LEON's clerks at its data center.

As a result of its SBO approach, LEON has a viable data sample that enables it to project a midpoint result estimate for each candidate from within an estimated range of possible results. The midpoint value is NOT an exact value against which to directly compare NEC's official results. Rather, the midpoint is the best estimate based on data collected through a sample and is the middle value within a margin of error. The estimated range is the margin of error, which is represented by the lowest value and highest value that each candidate could be expected to achieve, within which NEC's official results from all 5,890 polling places should fall. Based on LEON's results data analysis, the public should feel confident in NEC's official results.

LEON Congratulates all Stakeholders

LEON applauds the NEC on its administration and conduct of the electoral process in a largely competent and transparent manner. LEON's preliminary assessment of the 2023 general elections is that NEC generally adhered to the electoral laws, regulations, policies, and procedures and delivered a professional election to the citizens of Liberia. LEON will analyze its data collected throughout the 2023 electoral cycle to prepare a preliminary statement and then a final report on LEON's findings of the overall quality and integrity of the presidential and legislative elections.

While NEC continues to count votes and results are not yet final, LEON acknowledges that President George Manneh Weah conceded the election with grace and dignity on the night of November 17, 2023. LEON appeals to the victorious candidate, when announced by NEC, to be magnanimous and mindful that as the President-elect he must be a unifying force for all Liberians.

LEON commends the Liberian people on their peaceful participation in both rounds of presidential elections and the legislative elections. LEON is inspired by the successful implementation of the country's democracy. All Liberians should have great pride in their country, as we move ever forward as one Liberia.

Thank you and for further information, please contact the LEON Head of Secretariat and Spokesperson.

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