

A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN KENYA'S GENERAL ELECTIONS



SUMMARY OF THE KEY FINDINGS

This report is The Youth Cafe's review of youth participation in 2022 General elections in Kenya. It builds on the previous reports by adding new data from the last two general elections, using age data from official electoral datasets, as well as other quantitative and qualitative data from 47 counties. The data is current as at 16 Jan 2023. Scholarly studies and information from interviews also helped provide a full picture of youth participation before, during and after elections in 2022. Key findings and examples of good practices on addressing youth under-representation are included throughout the report, as are recommendations for further action.

YOUTH PERFORMANCE AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

YOUTH CANDIDATES

27% Made up of all candidates

9% Were elected

YOUTH VOTED

30 - 34

This is largest age group: 3,407,243 voters

YOUTH ELECTED

POSITION	YOUTH ELECTED
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	17
SENATE	6
COUNTY ASSEMBLY	317
GOVERNOR	1
WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE	3

TOTAL REGISTERED

8,811,691

39.8%

Compared to 2017, **fewer young people (39.84%)** registered to vote in 2022.

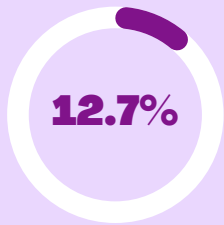
49.1%

While youth participation decreased, **female voters increased to 49.12%** of the registered population.

NEW REGISTRATIONS IN 2022

2,451,490

New youth voters

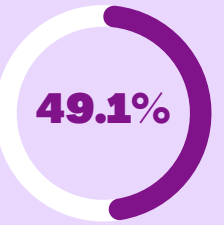


OVERALL VOTER REGISTRATION

Increased by **12.79%** from 2021 to 2022

17%

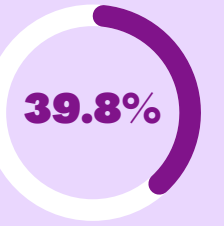
of the seats were held by young elected officials (**335 seats**) an **increase from 314 in 2017.**



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The biggest increase was seen in **county assemblies (MCAs)**, where youth went **from 287 to 317 seats.**



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2022

Marked the first time a young independent candidate won a governor's seat.

On the day of voting;

22,120,458

Were registered voters (10,865,568)

8,811,691

Were registered youths voters

10,862,268

Were women voters

Breakdown by Gender

49.1%

Were female (10,865,568)

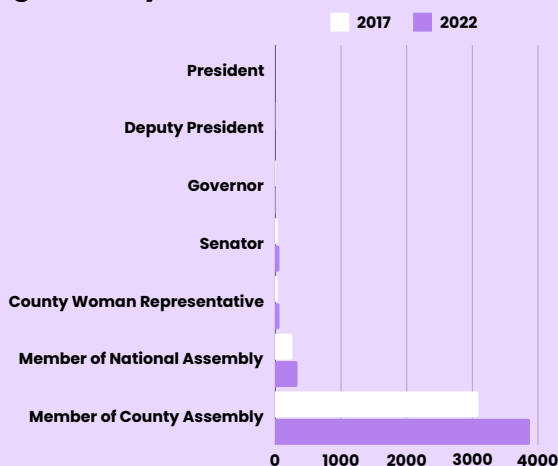
39.8%

Were youth (8,812,790)

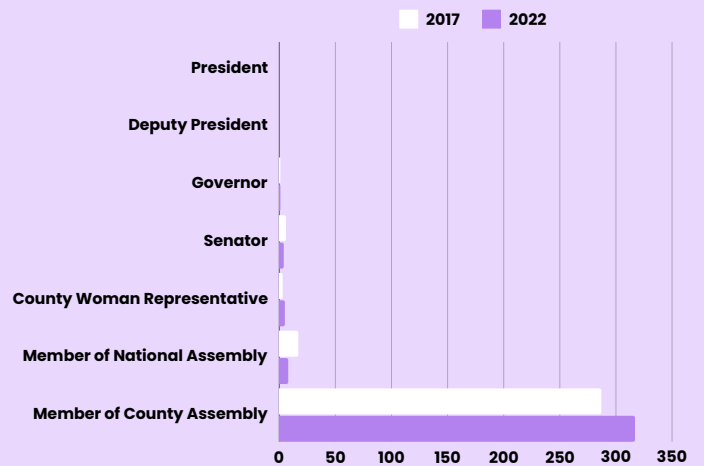
50.8%

Were male (11,254,889)

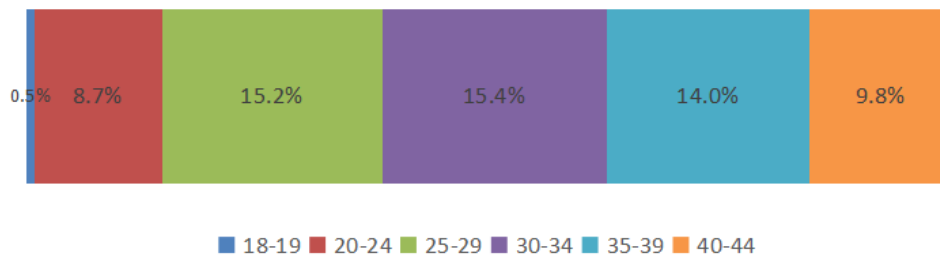
Registered youth candidates in 2017 and 2022



Elected Youth in 2017 and 2022



Distribution of Registered Voters by Age Group (18-44)



DISTRIBUTION AS PER GENDER ELECTED YOUTH

2022

2017

POSITION	MALE	FEMALE	POSITION	MALE	FEMALE
PRESIDENT	0	0	PRESIDENT	0	0
SENATORIAL	4	0	SENATORIAL	6	0
MEMBER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	7	1	MEMBER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	14	3
WOMEN MEMBER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	0	5	WOMEN MEMBER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY	0	3
GUBERNATORIAL	1	0	GUBERNATORIAL	1	0
MEMBER OF COUNTY ASSEMBLY	303	14	MEMBER OF COUNTY ASSEMBLY	274	13

KENYA PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION (YOUNG FEMALES)

POSITION	YOUTH ELECTED
SENATE	5
MPS	3
WOMEN REPRESENTATIVE	15

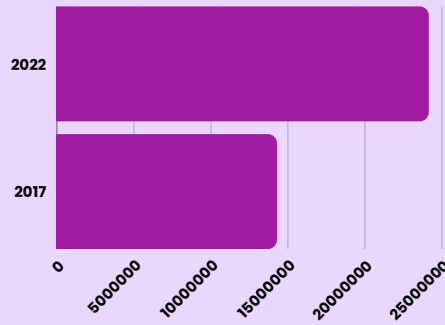
YOUTH PERFORMANCE AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

335

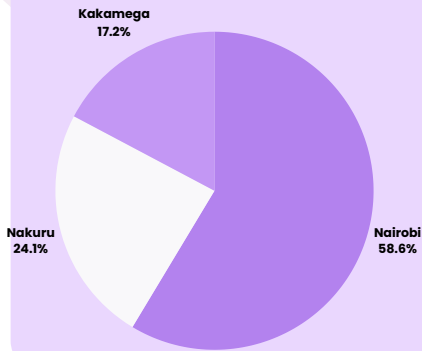
Youths were elected as MCAs

7.7%

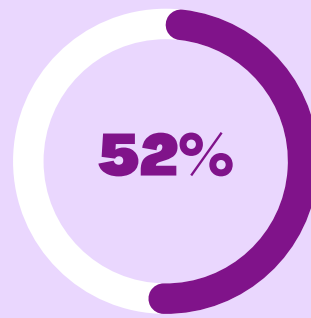
Vied for the MCA's Position. Out of this only 14 were women



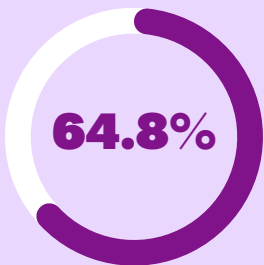
Number of registered member parties went up



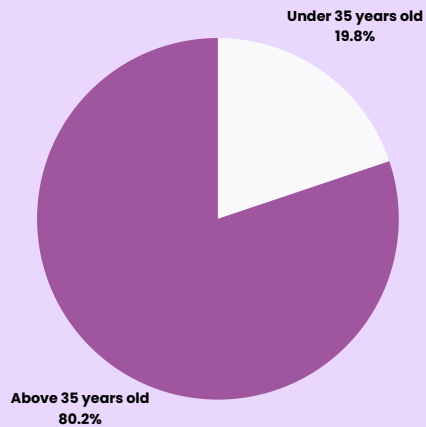
Cities with the highest registered young voters (18 - 24)



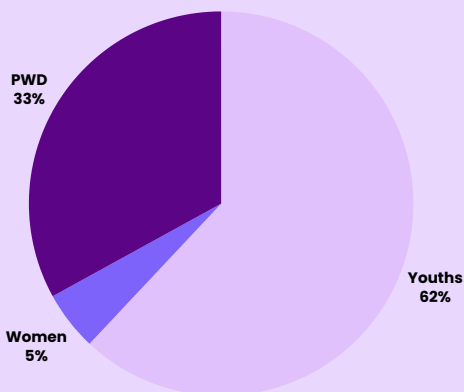
Youth represented 52% of the total party list. (4,918)



There was a general low voter turnout. This is a drop from the 78% attained in 2017.



Youth representation of the political party membership



Approved independent candidates

Very few young people are elected officials in Kenya:

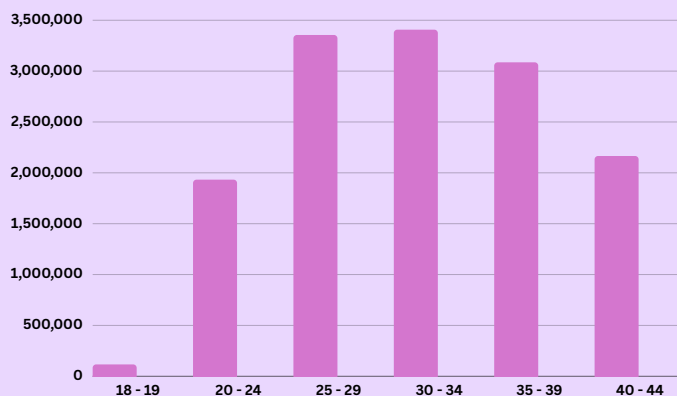
-Less than 1% of MPs are under 30 years old.

-Only 18% of MPs are under 40.

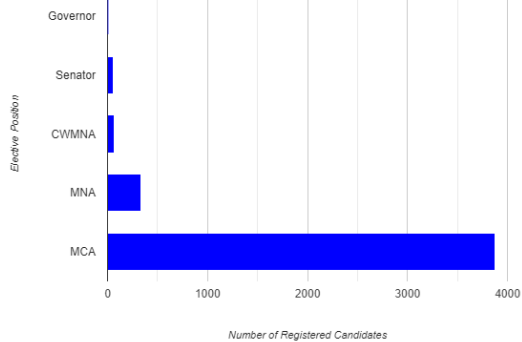


Despite making up a large portion of the population (75%), young people only hold 6.5% of parliamentary seats.

Distribution of registered voters



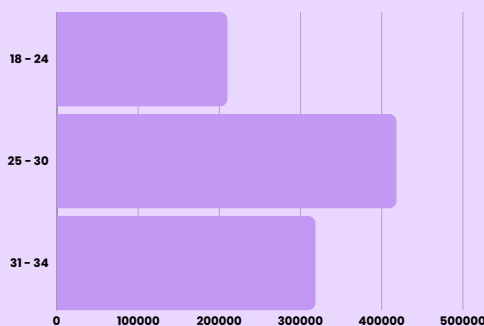
Registered Candidates by Elective Position (2022)



Registered Candidates by Elective Position (2017)



Nairobi had the highest number of youth voters



YOUTH IN PARLIAMENT & QUOTA

COUNTIES WITH THE HIGHEST YOUTH REPRESENTATION

130,909 Members

Uasin Gishu County: United Democratic Alliance (UDA)

61,188 Members

Nairobi County: Orange Democratic Movement (ODM)

42,548 Members

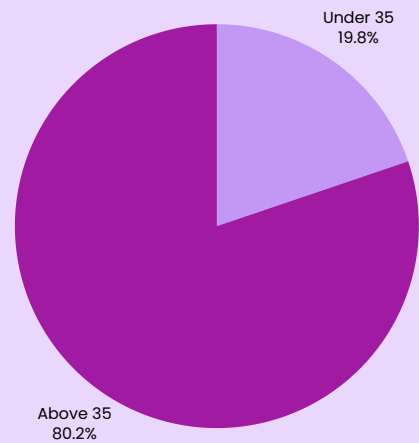
Nairobi County: Amani National Congress (ANC)

REGISTRATION OF PARTY MEMBERSHIP REGISTER

2022 - 24,148,436

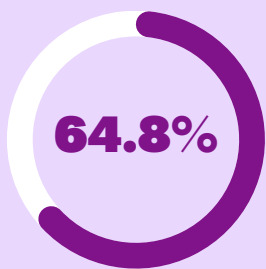
2017 - 14,288,582

YOUTH REPRESENTATION IN PARTY MEMBERSHIP



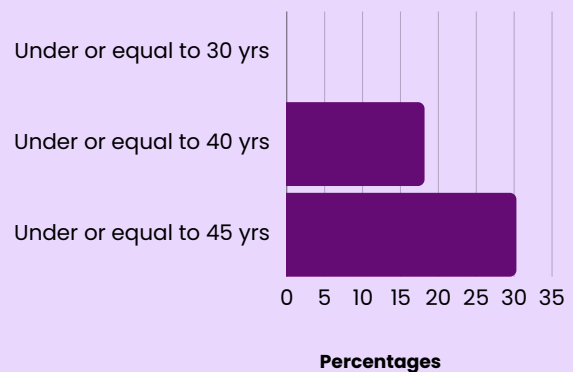
4918

Youths were nominated to various positions making up 52.3% of the total number



was a low voter turnout compared to 78% of the 2017.

Age distribution of Kenyan MPs



Highest Number of Youth registered voters

NAIROBI	1,793,075	12.67%
NAKURU	695,343	4.91%
KAKAMEGA	506,788	3.58%

Lowest Number of Youth registered voters

TANA RIVER	92,750	-
SAMBURU	64,111	0.45%
ISIOLO	58,740	0.42%
LAMU	51,500	0.36%

- One Youth Governor, a holdover from the 2017 elections, was chosen in 2022.
- Fourteen young senators were elected, a decrease from the six who were elected in the 2017 elections.
- Five female representatives. Elected youth increased from three in 2017.
- Compared to the 17 adolescents elected in the 2017 elections, just 8 were elected as members of the National Assembly in 2022. This is a substantial decrease.
- The number of young people winning Member of County Assembly seats increased dramatically in the 2022 elections, with 317 youngsters taking the seats compared to 287 in 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve online communication strategy to reach youth and redouble its efforts to use music, sports, arts and entertainment to target its voter education programmes. More organizations and institutions involved in election should consider recruiting dedicated youth outreach officers to spearhead its youth voter education programme.

Seek to develop **public-private partnerships in** finances, civic education, access to information and justice with local companies to encourage young staff to register, vote and utilize corporate workspaces as civic education opportunities.

Identify ways to simplify the process of **acquiring identity cards** by possibly regularizing the process for youth to receive IDs. It should enable chiefs or community elders to speak on behalf of youth to obtain IDs.

Invest in digital reforms and capacity building should be continuous and cascaded to the grassroots. **Encourage parties to decentralize** to remote/marginalized areas for manual registration of members.

Developed and **enhanced sustained capacity-building programs** for party members and elected and nominated youth in the form of mentorship, coaching and leadership and political programs.

Ensure **the Youth Manifesto is** implemented and fed into relevant stakeholder strategies as well as the National Action Plan.

Increase budget allocations for the IEBC and youths SIGs, marginalized and illiterate people for better political participation. Ensure that the materials used are accurate and politically neutral.

Maintain positive attitudes, behavior and active agency towards democratic and governance processes. Therefore, their interest in democratic and governance processes such as elections should be reinvigorated and employed for meaningful and value-based societal governance changes.

Keep vigil and **consolidate advocacy and activism around respect for human rights and the rule of law during elections** to promote adherence to electoral laws, including international best practices on elections and efforts towards operationalising the Campaign Finance Act and the two-thirds gender rule in the next election cycle.

Develop programmes that **promote gender inclusivity** and young women's empowerment, particularly in pastoralist communities, building on the success of the early warning and response project.

Increase budget allocations for the IEBC and youth SIGs, marginalized and illiterate people for better political participation. Ensure that the materials used are accurate and politically neutral.

Consolidate advocacy and activism around respect for human rights and the rule of law during elections to promote adherence to electoral laws, including international best practices on elections and efforts towards operationalizing two-thirds gender rule in the next election cycle.



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