



# GGA-WARO ELECTION WATCH 2020

## HISTORY – OVERVIEW OF PAST 7 ELECTIONS IN GHANA'S 4TH REPUBLIC



GOOD GOVERNANCE AFRICA



*Polling station with eligible voters ready to exercise their constitutional right*

*Source: citifmonline.com*

## NATIONAL VOTER TURNOUT – 1992 TO 2016

Any electoral process counts on the assurance that registered voters will opt to cast their ballot during the election day. It is for this singular mandate that the Electoral Commission of Ghana spends resources to compile a voter register to guide and regulate how Ghanaian citizens are able to cast their ballot in a free, fair and transparent manner. It is also fair assessment to say that, political activism and campaigns are all geared towards whipping up enthusiasm from their support-base to turn out and vote.

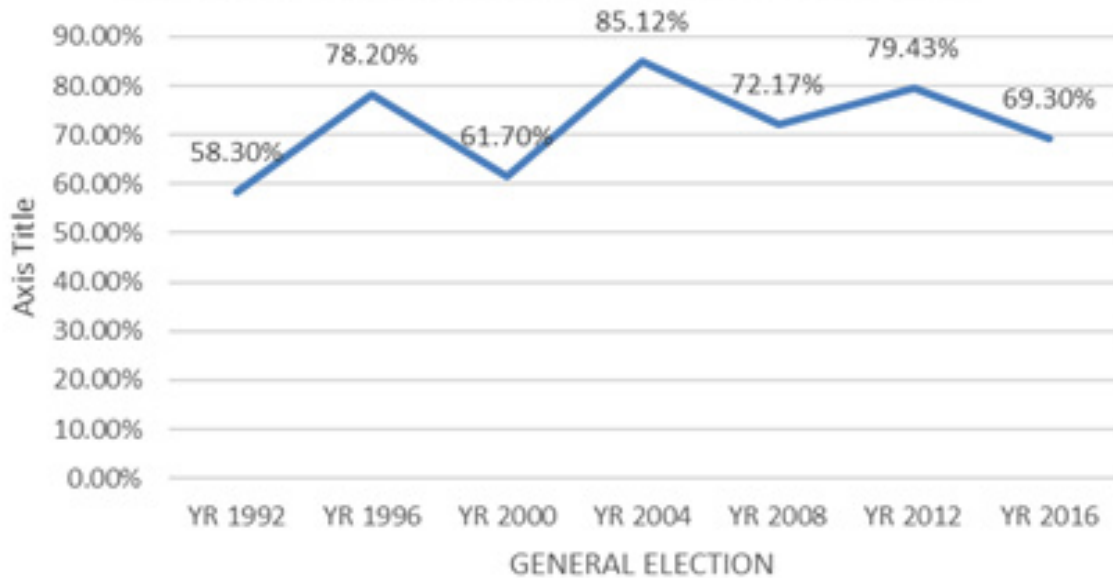
The 4th Republic of Ghana has seen some good national voter turnouts, recording a 50.2% turnout in the 1992 General Election. The highest voter turnout percentage of 85.12% was recorded in the 2004 General, a re-election campaign for President J.A Kufuor and the second attempt to the seat of the Presidency by then Vice President J.E.A Mills. The second highest turnout rate was recorded in the 2012 General Election (79.43%). This was the second attempt to the Presidency by then Candidate Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo, and what “seemed like a re-election” campaign by President John Dramani Mahama due to the untimely passing of late President J.E.A Mills, a unique circumstance that propped him into the Presidency mid-year 2012. In 2016, John Dramani Mahama and Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo faced off on the ballot for the second time, with John Dramani Mahama

as the sitting President. This was the third attempt for the Presidency for Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo.

The trend has been that the highest turnout rates (1996, 2004, 2012) have been recorded whenever a sitting President is seeking re-election (as was the case in 1996) and or an opposition candidate is making a second attempt at the Presidency (the case of 2004, 2012). In the 2020 General election, the new dynamics are that, this is the first-time a former President is contesting re-election as an opposition candidate and both leading Candidates will be facing off for the third time in a General election (2012, 2016, 2020), the later being the first of its happening in the 4th Republic. Although this seems like uncharted territories, a superficial trend analysis gives indication that, whenever there has been a dip in voter turnout, it has been followed up with steep rise in the next elections. Amid a COVID-19 pandemic, the question on the mind of many will be whether this trend be broken or sustained?

**PS:** The absolute in terms of actual numbers of valid votes cast has consistently been on the increase, rising from 8,229,902 in the year 1992 to 10,762,189 in the 2016 elections.

## NATIONAL VOTER TURNOUTS- 1992 TO 2016



## WINNING PERCENTAGE – 1992 TO 2016

The highest winning percentage in the 4th Republic has come for Flt Lt Jerry John Rawlings (58.30%) in the 1992 General Elections, the lowest coming for Prof JEA Mills (50.20%) in the run-off of the 2008 General Elections. There has been a steady rise in the winning percentage over the last two general elections, rising from 50.70% for John Dramani Mahama in 2012 to 53.72% for Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo in 2016. Conditions and scenarios being completely different going into the 2020 General Election, the tendency of an increase in winning percentage is minimal yet likely. The two leading candidates will face off for the 3rd time in a presidential election (2012, 2016, 2020). This is also the first election being organized amid a global pandemic in Ghana.

Based on the simple upward trajectory of the winning percentages from 2008 to 2016, (50.20% in 2008; 50.70 % in 2012; 53.72% in 2016) and holding it constant that this trend will continue, the projection is that the winning candidate of the 2020 General Election will have a winning percentage of over 54.00%. In the absence of accepted scientific explanation for the percentile differences between winning and losing candidates in the various general elections under the 4th Republic, I make an informed guess that, this trend of an upward increase in the winning percentage will see a decrease in the 2020 General Election. That is to say that, the

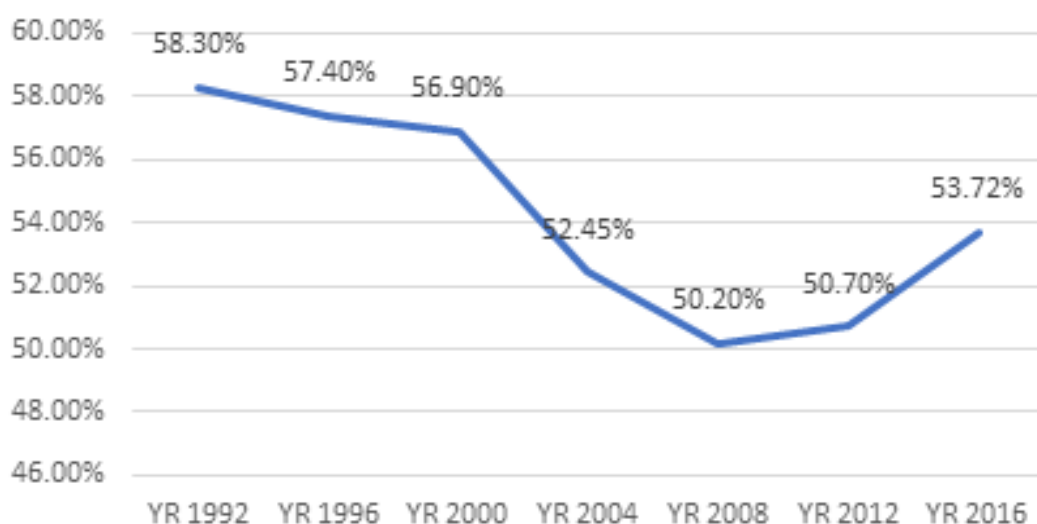
winning candidate is most likely to do so with However, in the face of an anticipated high voter turnout as projected elsewhere in this article, the absolute in terms of the actual numbers of votes the two leading candidates – John Dramani Mahama and Nana Addo Dankwa Akuffo-Addo - will increase.



Counting of ballots after presidential and parliamentary polls closed in the 2016 election.

Source: [amediaagency.com/](http://amediaagency.com/)

## WINNING % OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS- 1992 TO 2016



### Summary Table

| ELECTION YEAR | PRESIDENTIAL  | REMARKS  |
|---------------|---|--|
| <b>1992</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prof. A. Adu Boahen</li> <li>2. Dr. Hilla Limann</li> <li>3. Mr. Kwabena Darko</li> <li><b>4. Flt.Lt. J.J. Rawlings -</b></li> <li>5. Lt.Gen. E.A. Erskine</li> </ol>               | 5 Presidential Aspirants<br><b>-Flt.Lt. J.J. Rawlings won with 58.3%</b><br>-50.2% National voter turn out<br>-Total Registered Voters - 8,229,902   |
| <b>1996</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. J.J.Rawlings (winner)</b></li> <li>2. J. A. Kufuor</li> <li>3. E.N. Mahama</li> </ol>  | 3 Presidential Aspirants<br>- 78.2% National voter turn out<br><b>- J.J Rawlings won with 57.4%</b><br>(4,099,760 out of 9,279,605 voters)<br>- Region with the lowest turnout was Brong Ahafo (72.0%), highest turnout being Volta (81.8%)  |
| <b>2000</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dan Lartey</li> <li>2. J .E.Atta Mills</li> <li>3. G .P Hagan</li> <li>4. E.N Mahama</li> <li>5. C Were-Brobby</li> <li>6. Goosie Tanoh</li> <li><b>7. John A.Kufuor</b></li> </ol> | 7 Presidential Aspirants<br>- There was a run-off (48.2% for John Agyekum Kuffour; 44.5% for J .E.Atta Mills)<br><b>- John A. Kufuor won run off with 56.9%</b><br>- 61.7 National voter turn out<br>- 60.4 National voter turnout (run-off) |

|             |  |  |
|-------------|--|--|
| <b>2004</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. E. N. Mahama</li> <li><b>2. J. A. Kufour</b></li> <li>3. J.E Atta-Mills</li> <li>4. George Aggudey</li> </ol>  | <p>4 Presidential Aspirants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 85.12 % National voter turn out</li> <li>- <b>J.A Kufour won with 52.45% (4,524,074 out of 8,813,908 voters)</b></li> <li>- Region with the lowest turnout Upper West (81.16%), highest turnout being Ashanti (88.16%)</li> </ul>                                 |
| <b>2008</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nana A D AkufoAddo</li> <li>2. Edward N Mahama</li> <li><b>3. John E. Atta-Mills</b></li> <li>4. Emmanuel A Antwi</li> <li>5. T.N Ward Brew</li> <li>6. Papa Kwesi Nduom</li> <li>7. Kwabena Adjei Kwesi</li> <li>8. Amofa Yeboah</li> </ol>                 | <p>8 Presidential Aspirants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There was a run-off between Nana AD Akufo Addo and John E Atta-Mills</li> <li>- <b>John E. Atta-Mills won run-off with 50.2%</b></li> <li>- 72.17% National Turnout for Presidential run off</li> <li>- Total Valid Votes Casts(run-off) - 9,001,478</li> </ul>   |
| <b>2012</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. John Dramani Mahama</b></li> <li>2. Nana Akufo-Addo</li> <li>3. Paa Kwesi Nduom</li> <li>4. Henry Herbert Lartey</li> <li>5. Ayariga Hassan</li> <li>6. Michael Abu Sakara Foster</li> <li>7. Jacob Osei Yeboah</li> <li>8. Akwasi Addai Odike</li> </ol> | <p>8 Presidential Aspirants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>John Dramani Mahama won with 50.7</b></li> <li>- 79.43 % National voter turn out</li> <li>- NPP contested the outcome in Court</li> </ul>  |
| <b>2016</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ivor Kobina Greenstreet</li> <li>2. Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings</li> <li>3. John Dramani Mahama</li> <li>4. Papa Kwesi Nduom</li> <li><b>5. Nana Addo Danquah Akufo-Addo</b></li> <li>6. Edward Mahama</li> <li>7. Jacob Osei Yeboah</li> </ol>             | <p>7 Presidential Aspirants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1st Woman Presidential Aspirant in the 4th Republic – Nana Konadu Agyeman Rawlings</li> <li>- 69.3% National voter turn out</li> <li>- <b>Nana Addo Danquah Akufo-Addo won with 53.72% (5,767,076)</b></li> <li>- Total Valid Votes Casts (10,762,189)</li> </ul> |


*“The NDC led by J.J Rawlings is on record to have won the 1992 General elections with a huge percentage of (58.3%) to form government even though, there were series of agitations by the Opposition parties. The largest opposition then, New Patriotic Party accused the PNDC which later metamorphosed to NDC to have rigged the elections. Interestingly, they came out with a book “Stolen Verdict” which consisted of a compilation of alleged areas of electoral malfeasance in support of their claim and later went ahead to boycott the parliamentary elections which was held in December 1992. The NDC consolidated their victory to retain the seat of Government when they won the 1996 General elections recording (57.4%) as opposed to that of the NPP (39.6%) which was led by a new candidate John Agyekum Kuffour.*

Interestingly, Ghana attained its first alternation in power in 2000 when the losing candidate of the NPP in the 1996 election; John Agyekum Kuffour won the second round of the election with a whooping (56.9%) as opposed to (43.1%) from the incumbent NDC under the leadership of their vice president John Evans Atta Mills. The NPP also retained the seat when the incumbent president John Agyekum Kuffour won the 2004 general elections. Amazingly, Ghana attained what Huntington has described as the “Two-turn-over-Test” in 2008 when there was peaceful alternation of power between the two major parties namely NDC & NPP. The NDC led by the same candidate from 2004 election won the run-off of the 2008 elections with a slim margin of (50.2%) as opposed to the incumbent’s (49.8%) who were presented a new flagbearer in the person of Nana Addo Danquah Akuffo Addo who served as the Attorney General and Foreign Affairs Minister in the John Agyekum led government between (2000-2008).

An incident that changed the electoral dynamics of Ghana occurred for the first time when the sitting president John Evan Atta Mills lost his life due to a short ailment in July 2012. The sitting vice president in the person of John Dramani Mahama was subsequently sworn as a substantive President as the 1992 constitution of Ghana prescribes. The NDC retained John Mahama ahead of the 2012 general election to compete with an old face from the NPP Nana Akuffo Addo who was visiting “the shrine” for the second time. The NDC won the election by a slim margin of (50.7%) but decision as to who won was later tested at the Supreme Court of Ghana when the aggrieved NPP sort for justice in the famous 2012 election petition. The verdict of the court however affirmed the earlier declaration made by the Electoral Commission of Ghana that, Candidate John Dramani Mahama won the election. This according to some political pundits was a major step in consolidating democracy in Ghana largely because, the aggrieved party resorted to the use of the law court instead of violence. It is believed that, this major step by Nana Akuffo Addo was lauded by both local and international actors and institutions as an excellent move. The NPP on this was noted to had a defeat with a taste of victory because, the turn of events at the court brought to bear some of the electoral anomalies and called for major electoral reforms the party was on the neck of the Electoral Commission in the heat up to the elections.

The political capital the NPP made out of the landmark election petition case is believed to have aided the party to win the 2016 General elections. The NPP won with a whooping percentage of (53.9%). This according to some political pundit marked the biggest political defeat the NDC has ever experience with a loss margin of over 1 Million votes.”

Source: Boakye, Baffour. (2018). Electoral Politics in Ghana’s 4th Republic (1992-2016) and its Implications on Future Elections. SSRN Electronic Journal. 10.2139/ssrn.3202431.

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