

# Journal of Public Policy and Administration (JPPA)

## **INFLUENCE OF VOTING IN ELECTIONS ON RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE IN NAIROBI CITY COUNTY GOVERNMENT, KENYA**

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### **Abstract**

**Purpose-** This study focused on establishing the influence of voting in elections on responsive governance in Kenya. Its main objective was to establish the influence of voting in elections on responsive governance in Kenya.

**Methodology-** Descriptive research design and positivism research philosophy were adopted. The study focused on a target population of 680 respondents from Eighty-five wards within Nairobi County, and data was collected from the following groups of respondents; Civil society representative, religious representative, ward administration representative, youth representative, women representative, the special interest group representative, a representative of the citizens' anticipating county services and a representative of the old aged residents were targeted. A sample size of 139 respondents was determined through purposive sampling technique. Primary data was collected through questionnaires and secondary data through published materials. Data was analysed through SPSS and presented in tables. Hypothesis testing was done through the use of t-test. F test (ANOVA) was also conducted to ascertain the difference between groups on study variable.

**Findings-** The study found that voting in elections has a positive and significant relationship with responsive governance. The study concluded that that citizen's education influences their ability and decision to vote in leaders who are effective in service delivery. The study also concluded that incumbent leader performance influences achievement of county goals. Based on the study findings, the researcher recommends that there is need to establish, County, Sub-County and Ward Citizens Forums to enhance voter awareness of residents in local governance. The forums will specifically enable citizens to engage directly in the planning, policy making and monitoring of service delivery accorded to them.

**Originality/value** – This paper fulfils an identified need in understanding how voting in elections can influence responsive governance. The study therefore recommends that all citizens should be empowered and given the rights to vote in their desired leader. Additionally, free and fair elections should be conducted to ensure that candidates with clear manifestos are elected.

**Key Words:** Responsive Governance, Voting, Elections Management

## **BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Since the introduction of electoral management studies, the full link between electoral management and the democratization process has been established. These studies underlined the role of the electoral authorities and their role in ensuring success. Traditionally, election research in African contexts has a behavioral focus; how ethnological conditions focus the behavior of Carlson voters (2017) or an elite mobilization on how elites use strategies such as vote buying and political violence to influence voters (Kramon, 2016).

Recently, academics have begun dissecting how election commission policies and procedures shape election results in non-Western contexts. De Kadt (2017) examines the electoral administration in South Africa and Kenya based on work in American and European politics on how participation costs voter turnout (Fauvelle-Aymar & Francois, 2018). Although the Electoral Administration's study has traditionally been overshadowed by an academic focus on electoral manipulation, this article examines how basic election management policies can influence voter behavior and election results.

Certainly, the electoral systems have for a long time had a specific impact on issues of governance, politics and political stability. Different electoral systems have a significant impact on the governance of parliamentary systems (Kramon, 2016). In particular, there is a tense relationship between electoral systems maximizing the potential of a one-party government (e.g. plurality/majority systems) and those that make multiparty coalitions (e.g. proportional systems) more likely. Both constellations have clear political implications: a one-party government greatly facilitates decision-making and clarity of responsibility, while coalitions tend to develop more representative strategies and make more comprehensive decisions. Similarly, major changes in government policy are easier to achieve in a one-party government, while coalitions are more likely to discuss and discuss issues before making changes (Carlson, 2017).

After decades of authoritarian rule, African countries switched to competitive politics in the 1990s. One of the ways in which power has been called into question is the reformulation of the constitutions. From Benin and South Africa to Burundi and Congo, the dispute surrounded the process of developing new constitutions. Efforts to amend existing constitutions in Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria and Zambia produced mixed results in Bratton (2012), but all discussions were generated on how best to organize and contain power in countries where it had previously concentrated in a few hands. Kenya is no stranger to this trend. On November 21, 2005, after a lengthy review process, Kenyans voted in their first referendum on a proposed new constitution, where supporters and opponents reaffirmed the need for a new constitution.

In a 1994 study on the legislative elections in Malawi, Elischer (2013) shows that regionalism was the predominant factor in explaining electoral behavior. Although Malawi has many ethnic groups, no one can claim a majority that requires coalition formation. There is evidence that ethnic groups have emerged in another region in three "superephobs". Although Kalipen suggests that the vote is mainly due to non-ethnic regionalism, it is clear that ethnicity remains important. Flores and Nooruddin (2016) point out in a study on Nigerian elections that, although

identity is important in Nigerian politics, ethnicity is not the only axis of identification. Identity in Nigeria has many dimensions, such as ethnicity, economy and religion. In addition, Lewis believes that identity is not defined and varies, depending on the region and over time. In other words, identity is quite fluid. Lewis, however, believes that ethnic feelings are stronger, for example in the Niger Delta, where people feel discriminated against and exploited. LeBas (2013) shows in his study that ethnicity was the decisive factor in the 1992 elections. Not only were ethnic political parties created, but they also voted mainly in ethnic blocs. This model was repeated in the 1997 general election. However, in the 2002 elections, several ethnic groups came together to form a grand coalition. In general, recent elections in Kenya have a clear ethnic dimension.

### **Statement of the problem**

Following the promulgation of the constitution on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2010, Kenya adopted a new system of governance which provided for two levels of government i.e Central government and Devolved County Governments. The reason behind this system of governance was to enhance governance and also make leaders accountable to the public. The devolved system of governance finally took off after the 2013 general elections which paved way for devolution of resources. The Central Government has continuously disbursed funds to county governments in order to boost service delivery to the public. During the financial year 2016/2017, the Central Government disbursed a total of Kshs. 356.3 billion to County Governments. However there have been challenges on providing effective service delivery due to misappropriation of funds by their leaders who are majorly put to power through voting in both General Elections and By-Elections.

Several studies for instance a survey done by transparency international in 2013 reported that 41% of Kenyans were not satisfied with the performance of their county governments in service delivery. This is because the voted in County bosses have been facing challenges on providing effective service delivery due to misappropriation of funds. In fact, the study pointed out that such misappropriation may result from myopic decision making when electing leaders with poor leadership skills to lead the electorates. Therefore, the study aims at providing guidelines on how the same should be done in order to ensure devolved governments that offer satisfactory services to their public, which is referred to as responsive governance.

Lubale (2012) Observes that, county governments and their agencies have the responsibility of delivering services within their designated area of jurisdiction, while observing the principles of equity, efficiency, accessibility, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, sharing of data and information, and subsidiarity. So far, county governments in Kenya are still grappling with challenges of service delivery on the decentralized functions. A report by Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) in 2013 highlights key sectors like health, water and sanitation, education among others which have faced challenges in service delivery. Survey done by Transparency international (TI) (2013) reported that 41% of Kenyans were not satisfied with the performance of their county governments in service delivery. Various studies on decentralization and performance of county governments have been conducted locally. (Muriu, 2012) Did a study on the nature and influence of citizen participation on decentralized service

delivery in Kenya. He found that the citizen participation through has had minimal influence on the decentralized service delivery in local authorities. He also found that the decision space had been limited to a few resources and hence the overall influence even where fully exerted could only make a little difference. (Mugambi et. al., 2014) Studied challenges encountered by devolved governments in Kenya in budget-preparations. The study found that the planning process was not adequately done and needed to be improved so as to issue a valid platform for preparing the budget. It also found that public participation was not done as per the stipulated guidelines, and also that politicians' involvement in the budget process was very high and this affected the budget preparation process by increasing the time spent and prioritization of projects within the budget.

Governors have presided over the likely loss of billions of shillings in unsupported expenditure, ghost projects, irregular payments and faulty procurement (Auditor General's report 2014/2015 Financial year). Specifically, this report reveals massive misappropriation of funds in some counties. Among the counties that have been put on the spotlight include: Kilifi County, where the Auditor General questioned why the county paid a total of Sh133.2 million through the recurrent account without using the IFMIS Financial Management platform as required by law, Mombasa County which operated four parallel revenue collection accounts: two accounts in KCB, one in National Bank of Kenya and another in the Cooperative Bank. The county is also accused of running 22 bank accounts, including those for defunct local authorities, with balances totaling Sh193.7 million. "In the circumstances, the validity, accuracy and completeness of the balances amounting to Sh299 million as at June 30, 2015, could not be ascertained," reads the report and in Nakuru County, five County Service Board members and the secretary have gobbled more than Sh3 million in overpaid salaries neither earned nor merited. "Besides drawing overpaid salaries, the gratuity payable at the expiry of the contract period is likely to be overstated," the report states. This study therefore sought to establish the influence of voting in elections on responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya.

### **Objective of the study**

The objective of the study was to establish the influence of voting in elections on responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya.

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY**

### **Spatial theory of voting**

Classical spatial theory has its roots in the works of Black (1994) and Downs (1957). According this classical perspective, voters make decisions through a comparison of their own preferences on issues or policies and the perceived positions of candidates or parties on those same issues (Magaloni, 2006).

In contrast to the social-psychological approach to studying voting behavior, the spatial theory of voting is premised on the idea of self-interested choice (Poole, 2005). Voters cast votes on the basis of their evaluation of the candidates or policy alternatives competing for their vote. Candidates fashion their appeals to the voters in an effort to win votes. Excluding the possibility



of strategic behavior, rational voters will always support the candidate or party with policy or issue positions nearest their own preferences. In a spatial context, voters seek merely to minimize the distance between their ideal point and that of the candidate or party. This early perspective was extended by many scholars (Poole, 2005), but the fundamental perspective has not changed. According to Downs (Jessee, 2009), a voter “must estimate in his own mind what the parties would do were they in power. Since one of the competing parties is already in power, its performance gives him the best possible idea of what it will do in the future, assuming its policies have some continuity.

Kenya general elections are held after every five years. The year 2010 saw the successful promulgation of the new constitution. This was after post-election that took place in 2007 and 2008 which left millions of properties destroyed, thousands of lives displaced and a closely similar number of human beings lost their lives (GRADIF-Kenya, 2014). It is of great importance that voters make rational decisions without influence from the politicians. This will ensure that previous bad experiences are not repeated, Kenyans should understand the context of spatial theory of voting. A number of scholars (Wanyande, 2006) have argued that most of the laws governing elections in Kenya do not facilitate free and fair elections. According to (Wanjala et. al., 2002), the law cannot provide the normative and procedural framework for conducting democratic elections, because the concept of free and fair elections has never been part of the country’s electoral jurisprudence. The current constitution gives the incumbent president too much power, which has been used to frustrate the opposition. Second, the constitution, from which the electoral laws are derived, is best suited to a one party system of government. There is therefore a need for farreaching reforms of the electoral laws (Wanyande, 2006).

State and local election officials can serve as educators if they administer policies designed to inform voters. In many other countries, notably Canada and the Nordic democracies, election officials are nonpartisan administrators who have the responsibility and the resources to educate citizens widely about the voting process (Milner & Tingley, 2010). In the United States, election officials, Secretaries of State and local administrators tend to be elected in partisan contests or appointed by incumbent officeholders, and they have limited responsibility for public education. But some states entrust some educational responsibilities to their Secretaries of State (Bekele, 2013).

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **Research design**

The study adopted descriptive research design. Descriptive research design like the scientific model, was based on precise definition of the problem to be studied, standardized research methods, representative samples and other smaller groups with a view of making generalizations of the population under study. By using the descriptive survey method, questions in questionnaires were posed to respondents thus facilitating investigations that will answer the stated research questions.

### **Target population**

Population refers to the larger group from which a sample is taken (Orodho, 2003). Target population includes the individuals to be studied (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). The unit of analysis which was the study population consisted of the residents of Nairobi City County. According to the current census statistics carried out in 2009, Nairobi City County has a population of approximately 3,138,369. The unit of observation which was the target population consisted of the 85 wards within Nairobi City County. The target respondents in each ward consisted of the civil society representative, religious representative, ward administrator, youth representative, women representative, and the special interest group representative, a representative of the citizens' receiving county services and a representative of the old aged residents. The target population therefore was 680 as shown in Table 1.

**Table 1: Target population**

<b>Category of respondents</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>
Civil Society representatives	85
Religious representatives	85
Ward Administrators	85
Youth representatives	85
Women representatives	85
Special interest groups representatives	85
Citizens representatives	85
Old aged residents representatives	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>680</b>

**Source: IEBC, 2017**

### **Sampling Frame**

According to (Kothari, 2009) a sampling frame is a complete list of all members of the population that is to be studied. The sampling frame of the study consisted of 680 respondents from all the 85 wards of Nairobi City County.

### **Sampling Techniques**

According to (Oso, & Onen, 2009) a sample is part of the target population that has been procedurally selected to represent it. Purposive sampling was used to determine the specific sample size of the study. According to (Neetij & Bikash, 2007) purposive sample is a non-probability sample that is selected based on characteristics of a population and the objective of the study. Purposive sampling is also known as judgmental, selective, or subjective sampling. The sample size of the study was determined using the following formulae.

$$\frac{nf = n \propto / 2pq}{e^2}$$

$$nf = \frac{196(0.5)(0.5)}{0.05^2} = 384$$

Where;

n = The desired sample size.

z = The standard normal deviate at the required confidence level.

P = The proportion in the target population estimated to have the characteristics being measured.

q = 1 - P

$$n = \frac{nf}{1+nf/N} = \frac{384}{1+680/384} = \frac{384}{2.771} = 139 \text{ Respondents.}$$

### Data Collection Instruments

Data collection instruments are the tools that are used to collect data. The study utilized both primary and secondary data. Primary data was collected through the use of questionnaires whereas secondary data was collected through published and audited reports. According to (Saunders & Thornhill, 2012) they prefer the use of questionnaires as research instruments because of their wide application in descriptive survey design. This study adopted closed ended questionnaires because it is a descriptive survey design. The open ended questionnaires were also be used since the study requires clear enumeration.

### Data collection procedures

The researcher obtained permission to commence data collection for the study from Nairobi City County administration. This was after getting approval from the university authority to commence on data collection. The questionnaires was distributed to the target respondents and given time to complete them. The researcher explained to the respondents the main purpose of the study and assured them of the confidentiality of the information provided. Specifically, the researcher clarified to the respondents the level of confidentiality the information provided and in particular limited to academic purposes.

### Pilot Testing

Empirical studies require pre-testing of the research instruments to ascertain the ability to collect the expected information from the respondents. The purpose of pre-testing the instruments is to ensure the items in the instruments are stated clearly and exemplify the same meaning to all the respondents (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2013). The population that was used in pilot study was 14



respondents which is 10% of the sample size. According to (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003) a pilot study needs to be between 1 to 10%.

Argued that the final step toward improving survey results is pre-testing, the assessment of questions and instruments before the start of a study (Cooper et. al. 2006). They said that there are abundant reasons for pre-testing individual questions, questionnaires, and interview schedules: discovering ways to increase participant interest, increasing the likelihood that participants would remain engaged to the completion of the survey discovering question content, wording, and sequencing problems discovering target question groups where researcher training is needed and exploring ways to improve the overall quality of survey data.

### **Reliability of Research Instruments**

Saunders *et al.* (2009) explained reliability as the extent to which your data collection techniques or analysis procedure will yield consistent findings. A reliable measurement is one that if it will be repeated for a second time, it will give the same results as in the first case. There are four methods of testing reliability namely: Re-test method, alternative method, split halves method and Internal Consistency. Retest method is one in which the same test is given to the same people after a period of time. The reliability of the test (instrument) can be estimated by examining the consistency of the responses between the two tests; Alternative method requires two testing with the same people. However, the same test is not given each time. Each of the two tests must be designed to measure the same thing and should not differ in any systematic way. One way to help ensure this is to use random procedures to select items for the different tests; Split halves is a method where total number of items is divided into halves, and a correlation taken between the two halves. This correlation only estimates the reliability of each half of the test; Internal consistency method provides a unique estimate of reliability for the given test administration.

Hair (2006) asserted that Cronbach's alpha is a measure of internal consistency, that is, how closely related a set of items are as a group. It is considered to be a measure of scale reliability. A "high" value for alpha does not imply that the measure is unidimensional. If, in addition to measuring internal consistency, you wish to provide evidence that the scale in question is unidimensional, additional analyses can be performed. Exploratory factor analysis is one method of checking dimensionality (Hair , 2006). Cronbach's alpha is not a statistical test - it is a coefficient of reliability (or consistency). Cronbach's alpha can be written as a function of the number of test items and the average inter-correlation among the items. The formula for the standardized Cronbach's alpha is given as:

$$\alpha = \frac{N \cdot \bar{c}}{\bar{V} + (N-1) \cdot \bar{c}}$$

$\alpha$ : Is a measure of internal consistency, that is, how closely related a set of items are as a group.

$N$  is equal to the number of items,

**cbar** is the average inter-item covariance among the items and

**Vbar** equals the average variance.

From this formula, when one increases the number of items, Cronbach's alpha increases. Additionally, if the average inter-item correlation is low, alpha will be low. As the average inter-item correlation increases, Cronbach's alpha increases as well (holding the number of items constant). Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient value of 1.0 indicates a perfect reliability while that of below 0.70 will indicate low reliability.

### **Validity of research Instruments**

(Best & Kahn, 2006) Stated that validity of an instrument refers to asking the right question formed in the least ambiguous way. Validity is concerned with whether the results appear to be what they are. Content validity was ensured through piloting. Validation strategies include: content-related: evidence that the items of the population and domains of an instrument are appropriate and comprehensive relative to its intended measurement concept(s), population and use; construct-related: evidence that relationships among the population items, domains, and concepts conform to a priori hypotheses concerning logical relationships that should exist with other measures or characteristics of patients and patient groups; and external validity which is about generalization of the findings in accordance with populations, settings, treatment variables, and measurement variables. Content validity was achieved through the review of the relevant literature to find out the relevant concepts. Construct validity was achieved through the review of the theories that formed the major themes of the study and established the existence of the constructs and finally external validity was achieved through generalization of the findings of the studies.

### **Data analysis and presentation**

This study generated both qualitative and quantitative data. Data generated from the study in general was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Specifically, quantitative data was analyzed through inferential statistics while qualitative data was analyzed through descriptive statistics. According to (Saunders et. al., 2009), descriptive statistics is the term given to the analysis of data that helps describe, show or summarize data in a meaningful way such that, for example, patterns might emerge from the data. Descriptive statistics do not, however, allow us to make conclusions beyond the data we have analyzed or reach conclusions regarding any hypotheses we might have made. Inferential statistics are techniques that allow us to use samples to make generalizations about the populations from which the samples were drawn. It is, therefore, important that the sample accurately represents the population. Inferential statistics arise out of the fact that sampling naturally incurs sampling error and thus a sample is not expected to perfectly represent the population.

In this study, measures of central tendency were analyzed descriptively using the mean and the standard deviation. Relationships between the variables was analyzed inferentially using Regression Analysis. The data collected was first edited to correct the errors, coded and then analyzed using the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20 computer software

which enabled the manipulation and transformation of variables into desired forms for the purpose of analysis. Finally, quantitative data was presented using statistical techniques such as tables, pie charts and graphs. Qualitative data on the other hand was presented descriptively.

**Regression Analysis**

Multiple linear regression analysis was conducted to determine the influence of public participation on responsive governance in selected county governments in Kenya. Regression analysis was conducted to determine the weight of each variable against the dependent variable. Responsive governance was regressed against the independent variables such as voting, participation in public debates, freedom of association petitioning and lobbying for special interest groups. The equation was expressed as follows;

$$Y_p = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \beta_6 X_6 + \epsilon \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (1)}$$

Where:

- Y<sub>p</sub> = Responsive governance in county governments in Kenya.
- β<sub>0</sub> = constant (co efficient of intercept)
- X<sub>1</sub> = Voting in elections
- X<sub>2</sub> = participation in public debates
- X<sub>3</sub> = freedom of association
- X<sub>4</sub> = signing a petition
- X<sub>5</sub> = lobbying for laws of special interest.
- β<sub>1</sub>.....β<sub>5</sub> = regression coefficient of six variables
- ε = error term

**Testing for Moderation**

An addition model was used to test for moderation in line with Baron and Kenny (1986) approach

$$Y_p = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \bar{X} + \beta_2 M + \beta_3 \bar{X} * M + \epsilon \dots \dots \dots \text{equation (2)}$$

Where:

- Y<sub>p</sub> = Responsive governance in county governments in Kenya.
- β<sub>0</sub> = constant (co efficient of intercept)
- $\bar{X}$  = Participation Composite
- M = Moderator (Civic Education)
- $\bar{X} * M$  = Moderating/Interaction Term
- β<sub>1</sub> = Regression coefficient of  $\bar{X}$  on Y

$\beta_2$  = Regression coefficient of ***M on Y***

$\beta_3$  = Moderating/Interaction coefficient of  $\bar{X} * ***M on Y***$

$\varepsilon$  = error term

### Hypotheses testing

Multiple regression analysis of the form:  $Y_p = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \beta_5 X_5 + \varepsilon$  was applied to test the null hypotheses. The study relied on t-test to test the hypotheses. A t-test looks at the t-statistic, the t-distribution and degrees of freedom to determine the probability of difference between populations; the test statistic in the test is known as the t-statistic. An important property of the t-test is its robustness against assumptions of population normality.

Calculation of t:

$$t = \frac{\text{mean-comparison value}}{\text{Standard Error}}$$

This estimate may be more or less accurate.

The following test will be applied in conducting t-test:

$$H_0 : \beta_j = 0$$

$$H_0 \beta_j < 0 \text{ Where } j = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$$

For the hypotheses to be accepted or rejected, comparison was done between the critical t values and the calculated t values. If the calculated t was greater than the critical t, then the alternative hypothesis was accepted (Shenoy & Madam, 2004). F test (ANOVA) was be conducted to ascertain the difference between groups on study variables.

If we have a large number of observations and all of these observations are close to the sample mean (large N, small SD), we can be confident that our estimate of the population mean (i.e., that it equals the sample mean) is fairly accurate => small SE. If we have a small number of observations and they vary a lot (small N, large SD), our estimate of the population is likely to be quite inaccurate => large SE.

Where:

**N**=Sample size

**SD**= Standard deviation

**SE**= Standard Error

If;

$t \leq 0.05$  reject the null hypothesis and if,

$t \geq 0.05$  fail to reject the null hypothesis.

## RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Descriptive Results

The Descriptive results are presented as shown in table 2.

**Table 2: Voting in Elections**

Statement	Initial	Extraction
The citizens of this ward are educated and this may have influenced their ability and decision to vote	1	0.66
The citizens of this ward are of a certain age group and this may have influenced their ability and decision to vote	1	0.481
The citizens of this ward come from a certain economic status and this may have influenced their ability and decision to vote	1	0.544
The (incumbent) MCA previous performance on waste disposal may influenced citizens decision to vote	1	0.664
The (incumbent) MCA previous performance on road infrastructure development may have influenced citizens decision to vote	1	0.521
The (incumbent) MCA previous performance on addressing the needs of citizens may have influenced citizens decision to vote	1	0.542
Gender	1	0.678
The candidates manifesto took into account the various stakeholders and this may have influenced the decision of citizens to vote	1	0.734
The candidates manifesto was centred on the needs of the citizens and this may have influenced the decision of citizens to vote	1	0.798

The findings showed that majority of the respondents agreed that the citizens of their ward are educated and this may have influenced their ability and decision to vote as supported by a mean of 3.56 and a standard deviation of 0.96. This findings agrees with that of Achen (2014) who found that education level and citizens voting practices were highly correlated.

The findings also showed that most of the respondents agreed that the citizens of their ward come from a certain economic status and this may have influenced their ability and decision to vote as supported by a mean of 3.88 and a standard deviation of 1.14 This findings agrees with that of Berry (2017) who found that socio economic factors have an influence on citizens' willingness to vote. It was also revealed that majority of the respondents agreed that the citizens of their ward are of a certain age group and this may have influenced their ability and decision to vote as supported by a mean of 3.74 and a standard deviation of 0.76. This findings agrees with that of Brown (2014) who established that middle aged citizens were more willing to participate in national elections as opposed to their younger counterparts.

Further it was found that majority of the respondents agreed that the (incumbent) MCA previous performance on waste disposal may have influenced citizens decision to vote as supported by a mean of 3.55 and a standard deviation of 1.01. This findings agrees with that of Li (2017) who found that the garbage management practices influenced the voting decisions among citizens. It was also found that most of the respondents agreed that the (incumbent) MCA previous



performance on road infrastructure development may have influenced citizen’s decision to vote as supported by a mean of 3.55 and a standard deviation of 0.94. This finding agrees with that of Huang (2015) who found that past leaders achievements influence citizens’ willingness to participate in elections. Further majority of the respondents agreed that the (incumbent) MCA previous performance on addressing the needs of citizens may have influenced citizen’s decision to vote as supported by a mean of 4.42 and a standard deviation of 0.64. This findings agrees with that of Mbule (2015) who found that past leaders achievements influence citizens’ willingness to participate in elections.

In addition majority of the respondents agreed that the candidates manifesto was centred on the needs of the citizens and this may have influenced the decision of citizens to vote as supported by a mean of 4.08 and a standard deviation of 0.92. This findings agrees with that of Mbule (2015) who found that past leaders achievements influence citizens’ willingness to participate in elections. The results also revealed that many respondents agreed that the candidates manifesto took into account the various stakeholders and this may have influenced the decision of citizens to vote as supported by a mean of 4.23 and a standard deviation of 0.81. This finding agrees with that of Muhammad and Hasan (2016) who noted that the manifesto influenced citizens desire to vote. On a five point scale, the average mean of the responses was 3.88. This implies that voting elections existed and they could have influenced the level of responsive governance.

### Correlation Analysis

**Table 3: Correlation Analysis between voting in elections and Responsive Governance**

		<b>Responsive Governance</b>	<b>Voting in Elections</b>
<b>Responsive Governance</b>	Pearson Correlation		1
	Sig. (2-tailed)		
<b>Voting in Elections</b>	Pearson Correlation	.532**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.000	

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

According to Artusi, et al., (2012), Pearson correlation coefficient is good in measuring the association between couples of continuous data that is collected on the same experimental unit following a bivariate normal distribution. Correlation coefficients of 0.10 are small, 0.30 are medium and of 0.50 are large in terms of magnitude of their effect sizes (Cohen, 1988). The study used Pearson Correlation Coefficients because it was deemed to be the best as supported by Jan et al., (2011). It the standard method of calculation and showed it to be the best one possible.

#### 4.8.1 Relationship between Voting in Elections and Responsive Governance

Correlation analysis was done to determine the relationship between voting in elections and Responsive Governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya.

##### Table 14: Correlation Analysis between voting in elections and Responsive Governance

The results in table 14 revealed that there was a positive and significant association between voting in elections and Responsive Governance ( $r = 0.532$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ). This implies that an increase in voting in elections resulted in an improvement in responsive governance. The findings were consistent with that of Ferraz and Finan (2011) who found that voting in elections helped in pulling out corrupt government officials and voting in promising officials.

##### Regression Analysis

To understand the relationship between the independent and dependent variables regression analysis was performed. Further the study tested the moderating effect of civic education on relationship between participation and responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya. In the end, the extent of the relationship between independent and dependent variable was quantified. The T-test statistic and the  $R^2$  Test statistic were computed to determine the strength of the relationship between voting in elections, and responsive governance.

##### Influence of Voting in Elections on Responsive Governance

Regression analysis was done to determine the influence of Voting in Elections on Responsive Governance. Results were presented in table 4

**Table 4: Model fitness**

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.532 <sup>a</sup>	.283	.276	.41738

The results in table 4 presented the fitness of model of regression model used in explaining the study phenomena. Voting in Elections was found to be satisfactory in explaining responsive governance. This was supported by coefficient of determination i.e. the R square of 28.3%. This shows that voting in Elections explain 28.3% of responsive governance. The results meant that the model applied to link the relationship. This also implies that 71.7% of the variation in the dependent variable is attributed to other variables not captured in the model. These findings agreed with that of Ferraz and Finan (2011) who found that voting in elections helped in pulling out corrupt government officials and voting in promising officials.

**Table 5: ANOVA for Voting in Elections**

	<b>B</b>	<b>Std. Error</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
(Constant)	1.09	0.41	2.656	0.009
Voting in elections	0.662	0.105	6.285	0.000

Table 5 provided the results on the analysis of the variance (ANOVA). The results indicated that the model was statistically significant. This was supported by an F statistic of 39.507 and the reported p value (0.000) which was less than the conventional probability of 0.05 significance level. The results implied that voting in elections is a good predictor of responsive governance. The findings also agreed with that of Ferraz and Finan (2011) who found that voting in elections helped in pulling out corrupt government officials and voting in promising officials.

Regression of coefficients results in table 5 revealed that Voting in Elections and responsive governance are positively and significantly related ( $\beta = 0.662$ ,  $p = 0.000$ ). This implies that a unit increase in Voting in elections would lead to increase in responsive governance by 0.662. The findings also agreed with that of Ferraz and Finan (2011) who found that voting in elections helped in pulling out corrupt government officials and voting in promising officials.

### **Hypothesis testing for Voting in elections and responsive governance**

The hypothesis was tested by using multiple linear regression (table 5 above). The acceptance/rejection criteria was that, if the p value is greater than 0.05, the  $H_0$  is not rejected but if it's less than 0.05, the  $H_0$  fails to be accepted. The null hypothesis was that Voting in elections does not significantly influence responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya. Results in Table 5 above show that the p-value was  $0.000 < 0.05$ . The results in table 5 further revealed that  $t_{cal} (6.285) > t_{critical} (1.96)$  and thus the null hypothesis was rejected. This indicated that the null hypothesis was rejected hence there is a significant relationship between Voting in elections and responsive governance in Nairobi city county government. Therefore the study concluded that voting in elections influence responsive governance. The findings agreed with that of Ferraz and Finan (2011) who found that voting in elections helped in pulling out corrupt government officials and voting in promising officials.

*H<sub>1</sub>: voting in elections significantly influence responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya.*

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The results from voting in elections indicated that an increase in voting in elections resulted to an improvement in responsive governance. Correlation results revealed that voting in elections and responsive governance were positively and significantly related. Regression further showed that voting in elections have a positive and significant relationship with responsive governance in Nairobi city county government in Kenya.

## Conclusion

The study concluded that citizen's education influences their ability and decision to vote in leaders who are effective in service delivery. The study also concluded that incumbent leader performance influences achievement of county goals. It was also concluded that candidate's manifesto influences the citizen's decision to vote and eventually the achievement of county goals. It was further concluded that economic status of citizens influences their ability and decision to vote and this in turn affects the service delivery in the county.

## Recommendations

The results from participation in public debates indicated that an increased Participation in Public Debates resulted to responsive governance. The study recommends that all citizens should be empowered and given the rights to vote in their desired leader. Additionally, free and fair elections should be conducted to ensure that candidates with clear manifestos are elected.

## Suggestion for Further Studies

Future areas of study should focus on other aspects of public participation since the overall model fitness indicated an adjusted  $R^2$  of 61.8%. This therefore, implies that further studies should be conducted on the remaining 38.2%. There is also need to conduct studies in other county governments in Kenya.

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