



GHANA FEDERATION OF DISABILITY ORGANISATIONS (GFD)

Survey Report: Issues That Are Influencing Voting Decisions Of  
Persons With Disabilities In Ghana On The 2024 General  
Election

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## Introduction

Deciding who to vote for or which political party tradition to join during an election may be influenced by several factors. Besides the general issues, persons with disabilities may look to the peculiar issues that affect them and their community members as they weigh their options in the face of numerous competing proposals from different political parties, individual candidates, and political movements. To understand these diverse issues and how the decisions of persons with disabilities in Ghana would be based, an online survey was launched which targeted persons with disabilities, disability rights advocates, and carers who expressed diverse views about these issues. The survey was launched on the 13th of November and closed on 24th November 2024.

## Purpose and Objective

The purpose of this survey was to provide information to both aspiring public office candidates and persons with disabilities regarding the issues that matter most to the latter in the 2024 general election and most likely would influence their decisions on the day of the polls. The specific objectives include:

- a. To offer respondents the opportunity to express their political decision-making views with the view to influence political parties and election candidates.
- b. To provide information that will enable politicians to focus on addressing the things that matter most to persons with disabilities in the 2024 general election.

## Methodology

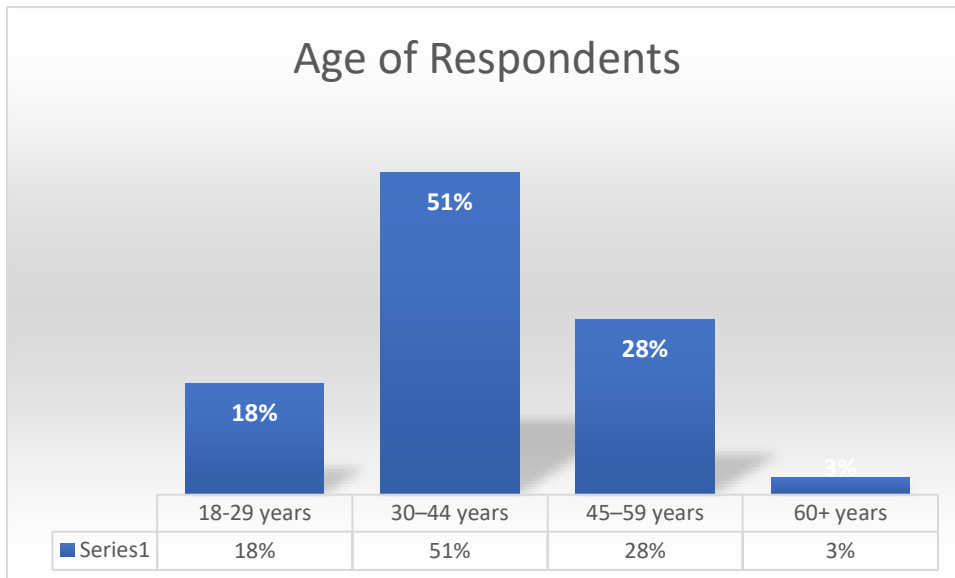
This was a quantitative study. Respondents were invited to respond to a short survey by clicking a link that was shared and widely circulated on social media platforms dominated by persons with disabilities. The survey took a maximum of 5 minutes for each respondent to anonymously complete and submit responses.

## THE OUTCOME OF THE SURVEY

### Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

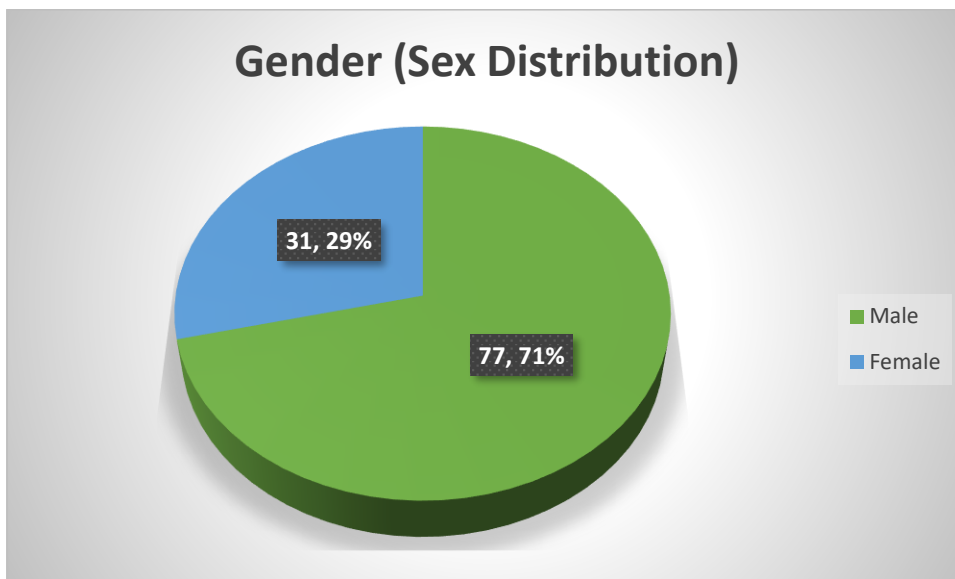
#### Age

Analysis of the age of respondents showed that the majority (51% ) were aged between 30 – 44 years followed by 28% who were persons with disabilities between the ages of 45 and 59. The least represented group were 60+ years people, representing just 3%. See details in the figure below.



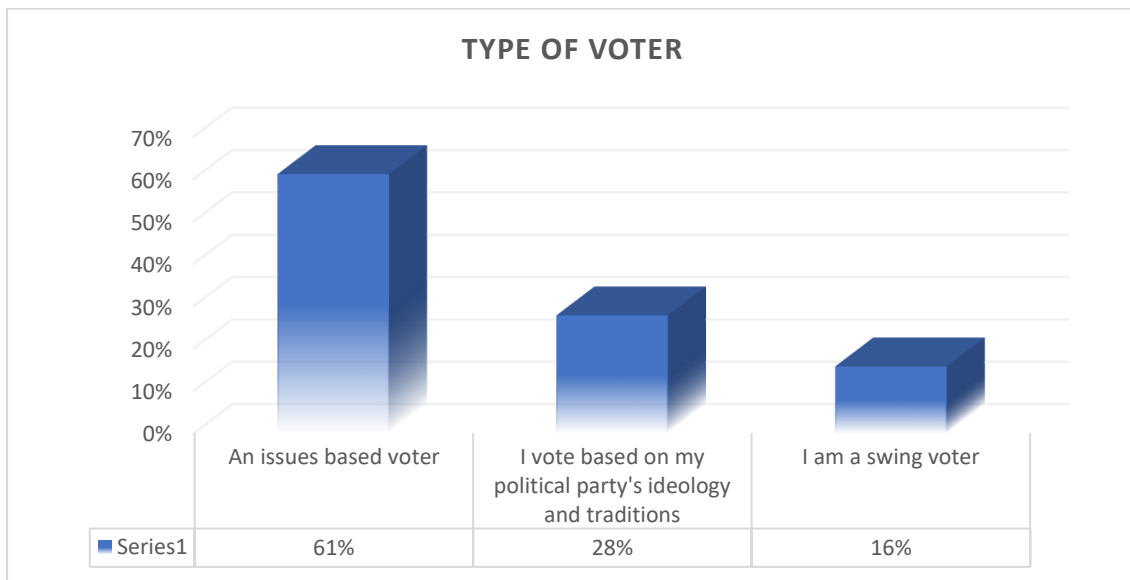
#### Gender (Sex) Distribution

The sex distribution of the respondents shows that the majority of them were males, representing 71% while the females were 29%.



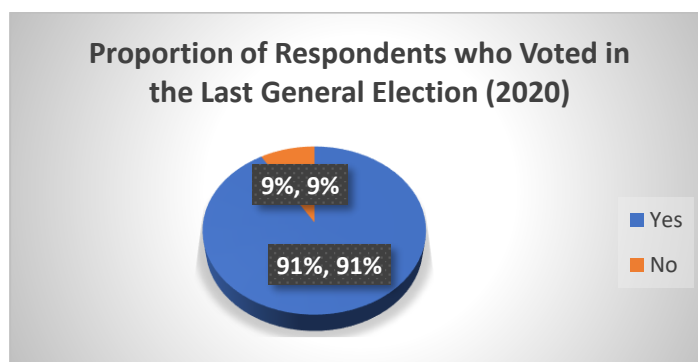
### Type of Voters

The survey asked respondents to state the best description of themselves in terms of the type of voter they were. The analysis, as shown in the figure below, shows that 61% were “Issues-based voters”, and 28% said that they voted based on their political party ideology or tradition. The remaining 16% said they consider themselves as “swing voters”. The results are quite significant for political parties seeking to influence the voting decision of persons with disabilities to consider basing their campaigns on key issues that are important to them.



### Participation in Previous Elections

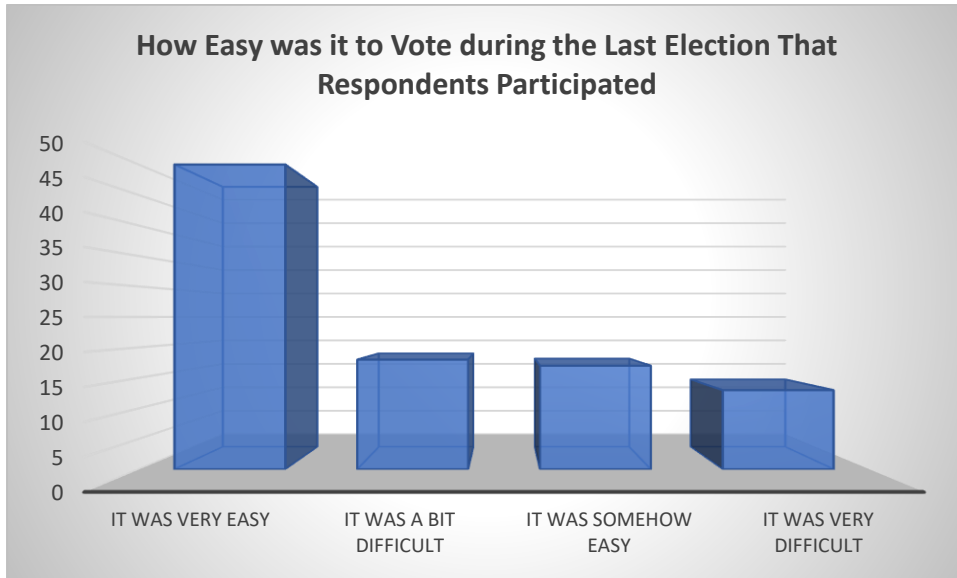
On whether the respondents have voted before in previous elections (particularly the 2020 elections), the analysis showed that only 9% said they never voted before. So, in terms of experience, the majority of the respondents have voted before and therefore were not new to elections in Ghana.



## Analysis of Key Issues

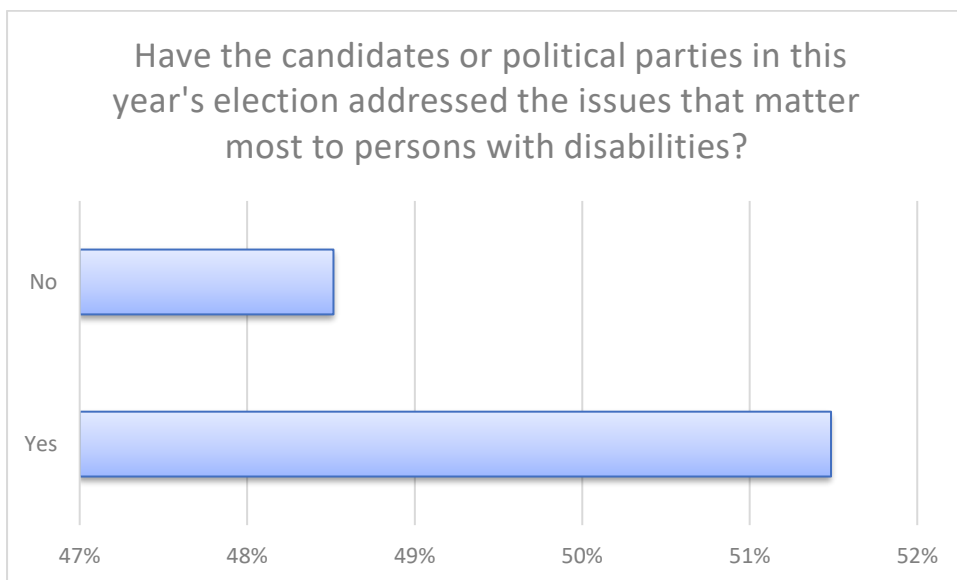
### Ease of voting in previous elections

Given their experience with voting, participants were asked to show how easy it was for them to go through the voting process during the past election. The results, as shown in the figure below, reveal that most of them found it very easy.



### Contents of political parties or candidates' messages to persons with disabilities.

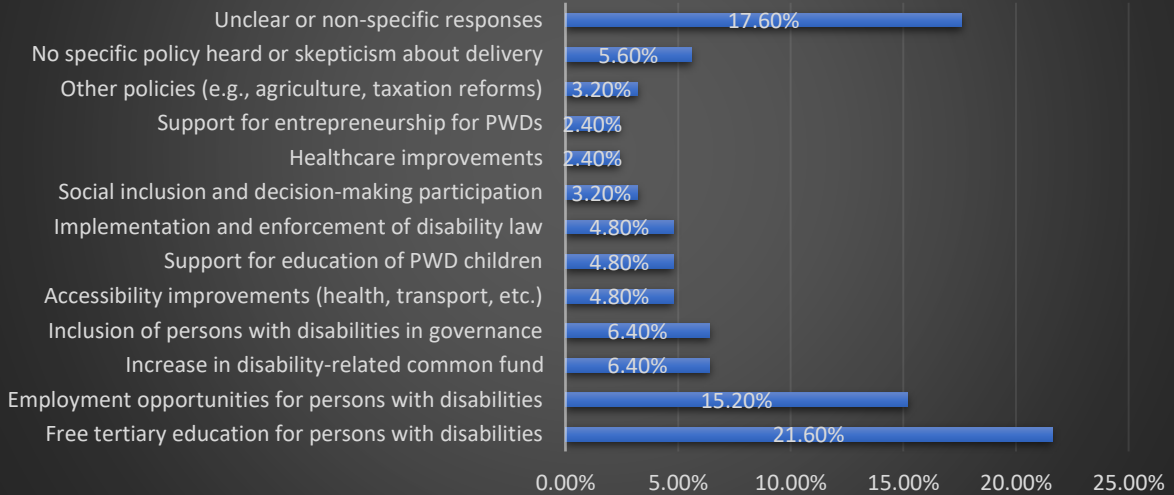
As shown in the figure below, over 51% of the respondents expressed the view that the political parties or candidates have addressed issues that matter most to them.



### Key Voting Determinants

The top three (3) most important factors that are influencing people's decisions in the 2024 election have been presented in the figure below. It shows that the policy of providing free tertiary education for persons with disabilities at the tertiary education level is a popular one among persons with disability which will influence how they vote(27%). This is followed by employment-related policies (15%).

## Issues that will be influencing voting decisions of persons with disabilities in the 2024 election



### Analysis

**Free tertiary education for persons with disabilities** is the most frequently mentioned policy, highlighting its strong appeal to respondents. **Employment opportunities** and **increased disability fund allocations** are also prominent concerns. Respondents value **inclusion in governance** and **accessibility improvements**, reflecting their desire for systemic representation and infrastructure changes. Some respondents expressed skepticism about the candidates' commitments, commenting, *"They want votes from us, but after getting power, we are nothing to them."*

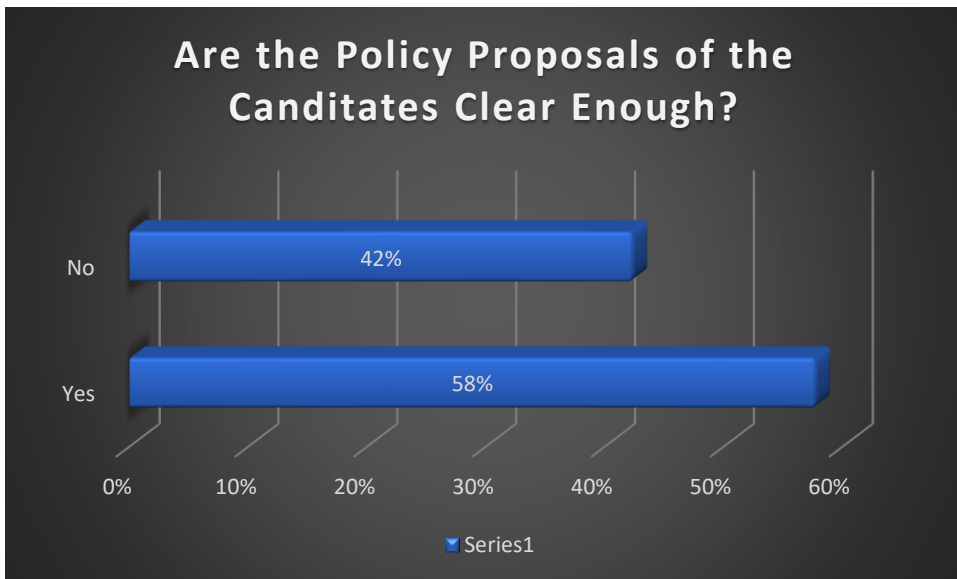
Furthermore, **78.4%** mentioned at least one specific policy or theme influencing their decision, and **5.6%** expressed a lack of confidence or skepticism about candidates' policies.

**17.6%** gave responses that were ambiguous or unrelated.

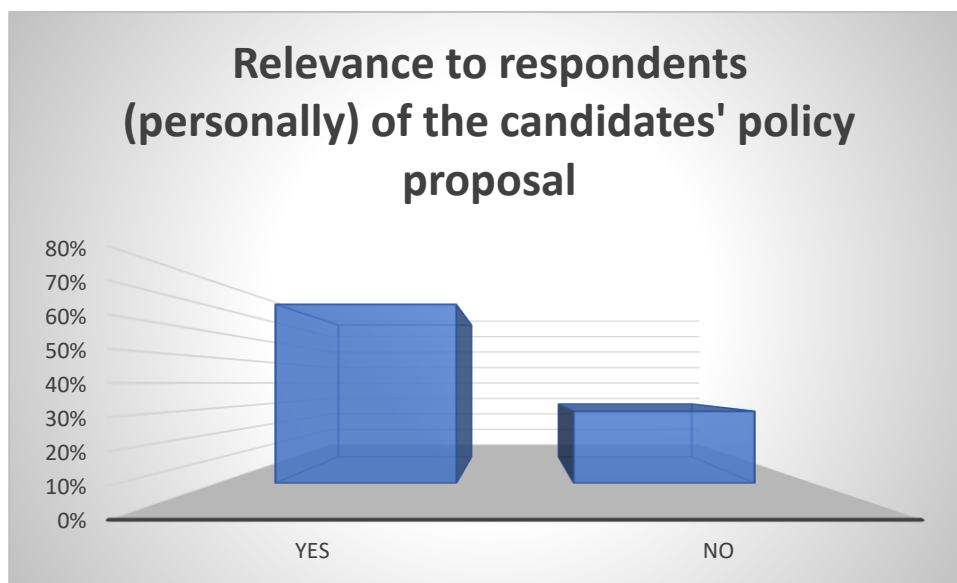
This data indicates strong preferences for education, employment, and governance inclusion, with a significant portion of respondents expressing dissatisfaction or uncertainty about the candidates' promises.

### The clarity of candidates' messages

The survey also sought the views of persons with disabilities as to whether politicians' promises were clear enough to aid their understanding and decision-making. The analysis shows that the greater majority (58%) said they found the candidates' policy proposals clear enough. However, a significant minority (42%) said the policies were not clear enough (see the figure below which is the graphical representation of the analysis of this survey question). This leaves enough room for the candidates to explain their policy proposals more to this group of respondents.



Related to the question about clarity, respondents also expressed their assessments on whether the policy proposals are relevant to them personally. The graph below indicates that over 60% of respondents found the policy proposals relevant.



#### Analysis of Other (General) Comments

Respondents gave the following general comments regarding issues of the 2024 general election.

**1. Accessibility and Inclusion (5.6%):** Accessibility to public spaces, particularly polling stations must be accessible to persons with disabilities. Outside of the elections, respondents noted that the transportation system in general is a major problem for many PWDs nationwide. Others expressed the need for better digital and communication accessibility, including the provision of sign language, and the need to improve the NHIS renewal code.



## **2. Enforcement and Implementation of Policies (12.8%)**

About 12.8% of the general comments had to do with the enforcement and implementation of policies. Key among the issues highlighted were:

- Enforcement of the Disability Act.
- Quota of employment reserved for PWDs
- Passage of the Amended Disability Bill Act 715 of 2006.
- Ensure the implementation of policies targeted towards persons with disabilities.
- Accountability in disability funding. The GFD must ensure that the disability funds [DACF] come directly into the PWDs account. There should be a special audit of the funds at the various MMDAs.

## **3. Employment and Economic Empowerment (19.2%)**

A significant proportion of the general comments related to employment and economic empowerment for persons with disabilities. This represented 19.2% and included the following issues:

- There should be economic opportunities and job creation. 'We need employment'.
- Skills training for persons with disabilities.
- 5% employment quota for persons with disabilities.
- Disbursement of the DACF should be based on categories of disabilities
- Monthly allowance for persons with disabilities.

## **4. Education (7.2%)**

Education-related issues, particularly regarding access to formal education are highlighted among the issues: specifically, the issues included:

- The need to help persons with disabilities to reach any level in their academic pursuits. This includes policies that will allow them to attend university for free.
- Build capacity for persons with disabilities especially those outside the formal sector.

## **5. Political Engagement and Governance (11.2%)**

Some 11.2% of respondents focused their comments on political engagement and governance.

Among the key issues highlighted were:

- Politicians should engage organizations of persons with disabilities.
- All political parties should use the Disability Manifesto.
- We need the commitments of political parties to pass the Persons with Disabilities Acts.
- Ghana deserves better governance.

## **6. Social Equity and Welfare (9.6%)**

Equity in public service delivery and prioritization of welfare issues affecting persons with disabilities. Specifically,

- Workers with disabilities must be allowed to go on retirement on their salary.
- Free health care and issuance of assistive devices.

## 7. Concerns About Politicians (8.8%)

Some of the comments expressed about politicians were skepticism about the promises they make.

- *'Are they going to help us persons with disabilities?'*
- *'The question is, would they live up to their promises concerning the welfare of PWDs?'*

## 8. Elections (4.8%)

Having a peaceful election and the fairness of the process were other issues respondents wanted to be addressed in this coming election. This represents about 4.8 % of respondents expressing this issue as a matter for consideration in the 2024 election.

- "I pray for a peaceful voting ahead of the election".
- "There should be a free and fair election in 2024".

## ANALYSIS

The survey revealed critical insights into the factors shaping the voting decisions of persons with disabilities in Ghana for the 2024 general elections.

### Demographic Insights

A significant proportion of the respondents fell within the 30-44 age group (51%), indicating a vibrant and active demographic. This was followed by those aged 45-59 (28%), with minimal representation from older individuals (3%). The gender distribution showed that males (71%) were significantly more represented than females (29%), suggesting possible gendered dynamics in political engagement or survey accessibility.

### Key Voting Determinants

Respondents prioritized **policy-driven issues** over political traditions, with 61% identifying as "issues-based voters" and only 28% voting based on political ideologies. This trend signals an opportunity for political candidates to directly address the specific needs of this group to influence voter alignment.

## Top Issues Impacting Voting Decisions

1. **Education:** The prospect of free tertiary education for persons with disabilities emerged as the most compelling policy, resonating strongly across respondents.
2. **Employment and Economic Opportunities:** Policies aimed at economic empowerment, including job creation and disability fund allocation, were also significant.
3. **Governance and Inclusion:** Representation in governance and systemic inclusion were frequently mentioned, underscoring the community's desire for broader societal integration.

## Perceptions of Political Promises

While 58% found the candidates' promises clear and 60% viewed them as personally relevant, a significant minority expressed dissatisfaction. Skepticism about the implementation of campaign promises was common, with respondents doubting candidates' sincerity after elections.

## Broader Issues Highlighted in Comments

1. **Accessibility:** Respondents stressed the need for more accessible polling stations and public spaces, reflecting ongoing infrastructural challenges.
2. **Enforcement of Disability Policies:** Concerns over the implementation of disability-focused laws, such as the Disability Act, were prominent.
3. **Employment and Social Equity:** Calls for structured employment quotas and equitable public service delivery featured prominently.
4. **Political Engagement:** Respondents demanded greater involvement of persons with disabilities in governance processes and adherence to a disability-focused manifesto.

## CONCLUSION

The survey demonstrates that persons with disabilities are not passive voters but are instead highly issue-driven, with clear priorities around education, employment, and systemic inclusion. However, the prevailing skepticism regarding candidates' commitment to fulfilling campaign promises highlights a critical gap in trust. Additionally, broader concerns around accessibility, social equity, and policy enforcement further emphasize the need for a disability-inclusive approach to governance and electioneering.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Enhanced Candidate Engagement:** Political parties and candidates should directly engage organizations of persons with disabilities to co-create relevant policies and manifestos.

2. **Policy Communication:** Ensure clarity in the dissemination of policy proposals. This could involve tailored communication formats such as sign language interpretation or accessible digital platforms.
3. **Improving Accessibility:** Immediate action is required to make polling stations and public spaces more accessible. This could be achieved through making physical adjustments in the polling infrastructure.
4. **Commitment to Policy Enforcement:** Aspirants should provide a roadmap for the implementation of critical laws, such as the Disability Act and the Amended Disability Bill Act 715 of 2006.
5. **Economic Empowerment Programs:** Strengthen policies on employment quotas and disability fund management, ensuring accountability and transparency.
6. **Continuous Monitoring and Feedback:** Conduct regular surveys and engagements to understand the evolving needs of persons with disabilities, building sustained trust in the political process.

These recommendations, if implemented, can bridge the existing gaps in trust and accessibility while empowering persons with disabilities to play a more active role in Ghana's democratic processes