

MONITORING LEGISLATIVE CONSTITUENCY BREAKS IN LIBERIA 2026

Assessing Lawmakers' Engagement,
Accountability, and Responsiveness to
Citizens During the Constituency Break



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Executive Summary

Legislative constituency breaks in Liberia are governed by Article 32 of the 1986 Constitution and the Legislative Adjournment Calendar Act, which empower the Legislature to regulate its sittings and recess periods. Under the amended legislative calendar, lawmakers observe official constituency breaks during the year to enable direct engagement with citizens in their districts and counties. The first constituency break begins on the third Friday of March and ends on the second Friday of May annually. *These breaks are intended to strengthen representative democracy by allowing lawmakers to conduct constituency visits, hold town hall meetings, engage citizens through public consultations and media platforms, assess community needs, and report on legislative activities.*

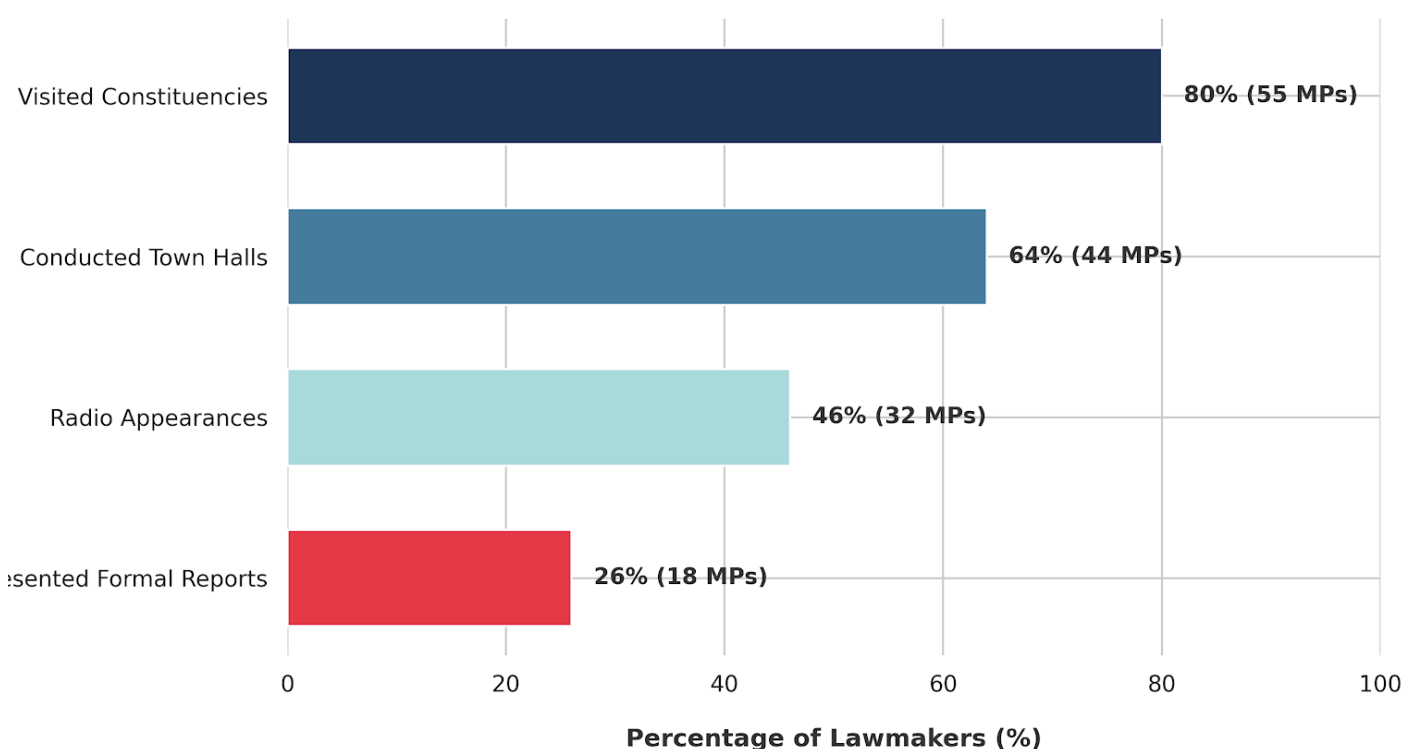
In Liberia, Members of the Legislature observe an official constituency break (legislative recess) intended to facilitate direct engagement with citizens in their respective districts and counties. Under the amended legislative calendar, the first constituency break begins on the third Friday of March and ends on the second Friday of May each year. This arrangement is grounded in Article 32(b) of the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, which empowers the Legislature to regulate its sittings and adjournments, and is further reinforced by the Legislative Adjournment Calendar Act.

For the first time, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development conducted a structured nationwide monitoring exercise to assess how lawmakers engage, communicate, and account to citizens during the 2026 first constituency break period.

This report presents findings from data collected between March 19 and May 8, 2026, across Liberia’s 15 counties and 69 of the country’s 73 electoral districts, representing 95% national coverage. Data were gathered by 75 trained county monitors using a standardized monitoring framework.

The findings reveal mixed levels of legislative engagement and accountability. While a majority of lawmakers visited their constituencies and participated in some form of public interaction, structured accountability mechanisms remained weak and inconsistent.

**Lawmaker Accountability & Engagement During Recess
(Total Lawmakers: 69)**





The monitoring further revealed that many lawmakers prioritized project inspections, dedications, donations, and ceremonial activities during the break period. While such activities may contribute to local visibility and community relations, they often lacked structured accountability or policy dialogue.

Citizens participating in town hall meetings consistently raised concerns regarding:

- Access to quality healthcare;
- Poor road and community infrastructure;
- Education services;
- Youth and women's empowerment; and
- Limited development opportunities within their districts.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that while physical constituency engagement is moderately strong, formal systems for accountability, communication, and citizen reporting remain underdeveloped. This reflects a persistent gap between citizen expectations and legislative performance.

The report recommends institutionalizing mandatory constituency reporting, strengthening public engagement mechanisms, expanding the use of community radio platforms, and enhancing civic participation to improve democratic accountability and responsiveness in Liberia.



1. Introduction

Citizen engagement and legislative accountability are fundamental pillars of democratic governance. In representative democracies, elected officials are expected not only to legislate and oversee government activities, but also to maintain regular engagement, transparency, and responsiveness to the citizens they represent.

In Liberia, constituency engagement forms an essential component of democratic practice. Mechanisms such as district visits, town hall meetings, radio discussions, public consultations, and constituency reporting create opportunities for citizens to interact directly with lawmakers, express concerns, and evaluate the performance of their elected representatives.

Recognizing the importance of evidence-based democratic accountability, Naymote Partners for Democratic Development conducted a nationwide monitoring assessment during Liberia's 2026 First Legislative Constituency Break using the Constituency Accountability and Assessment Tool (CAAT).

The assessment sought to generate citizen-centered evidence on lawmakers:

- Accessibility and visibility within constituencies;
- Public communication practices;
- Responsiveness to citizen concerns; and
- Accountability and reporting mechanisms.

This report presents the findings of that assessment and contributes to broader policy discussions on strengthening democratic governance, legislative accountability, and citizen participation in Liberia.

2. Objectives of the Assessment

The assessment aimed to:

1. Evaluate lawmakers' constituency engagement during the legislative break period;
2. Assess the organization and quality of town hall meetings and public consultations;
3. Examine lawmakers' use of media platforms for citizen communication;
4. Evaluate accountability and constituency reporting practices; and
5. Identify gaps and opportunities for improving legislative responsiveness and citizen engagement.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Design

The assessment employed a mixed-methods and citizen-centered monitoring approach to evaluate legislative engagement, responsiveness, and accountability during Liberia's 2026 First Legislative Constituency Break.

The study combined:

- Digital data collection tools;
- Community-based field monitoring; and
- Structured citizen feedback mechanisms.

This approach ensured both inclusiveness and broad national coverage, particularly in hard-to-reach communities.

3.2 Data Collection

Primary data were collected between March 19 and May 8, 2026, through:

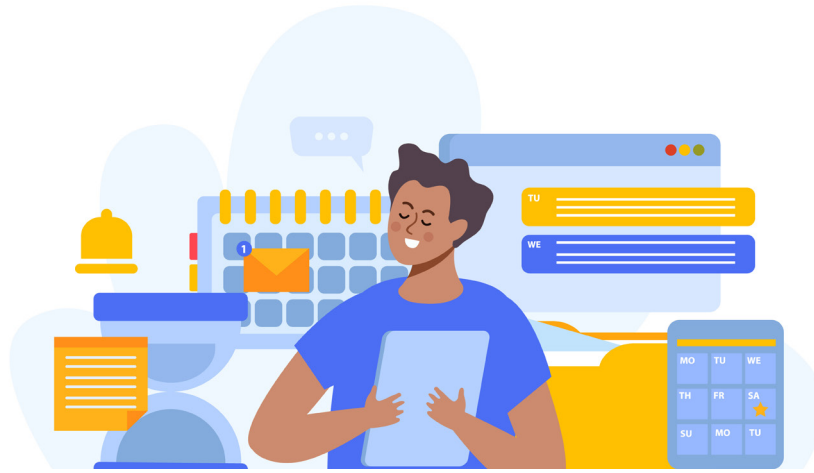
- Structured questionnaires administered via Google Forms in digitally connected areas; and
- Open Data Kit (ODK)-enabled mobile devices used by trained field monitors in rural and offline communities.

A total of 75 trained County Accountability Monitors were deployed across Liberia's 15 counties.

The assessment monitored:

- Constituency visits;
- Town hall meetings;
- Public consultations;
- Radio appearances;
- Constituency reporting activities; and
- Other forms of citizen engagement by lawmakers.

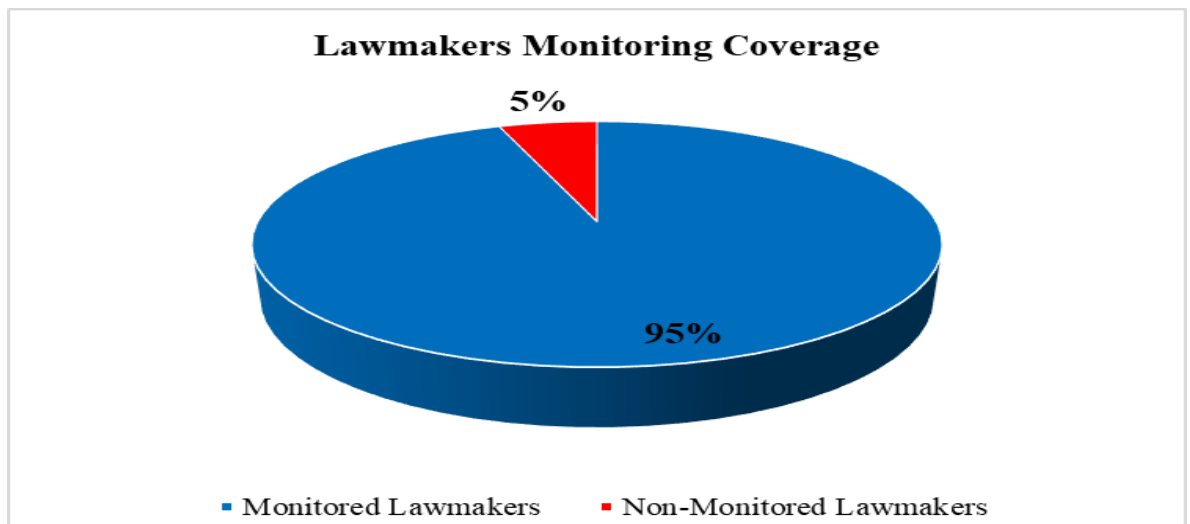




3.3 Coverage

The monitoring exercise covered:

- 69 of Liberia’s 73 electoral districts;
- All 15 counties; and
- Approximately 95% of the country’s elected Representatives.



3.4 Data Processing and Analysis

All datasets were merged, cleaned, validated, and analyzed to ensure consistency and reliability.

Descriptive statistical methods were applied to generate:

- Frequencies;
- Percentages; and
- Comparative trends across counties and districts.

The findings provide a standardized and evidence-based assessment of legislative constituency engagement and accountability practices in Liberia.

3.5 Limitations of the Study

While the assessment achieved broad national coverage, several limitations should be acknowledged:

- Four electoral districts were not fully monitored due to logistical and accessibility challenges;
- Some constituency activities may have occurred without documentation or public visibility;
- Variations in internet connectivity affected real-time reporting in remote areas; and
- The study focused primarily on observable engagement activities rather than measuring the quality or long-term impact of interactions.

Despite these limitations, the assessment provides a credible national snapshot of constituency engagement practices during the 2026 legislative break.

4. County Participation and Response Distribution

The assessment revealed significant variations in monitoring participation and response distribution across counties.

Montserrado County recorded the highest level of monitoring coverage due to its 17 electoral districts, accounting for approximately 27% of all monitored districts nationwide. This was followed by Nimba, Bong, Grand Bassa, and Lofa Counties, which also demonstrated relatively high monitoring activity because of their larger number of representatives and broader civic engagement presence.

Counties with lower participation levels generally reflected:

- Geographic remoteness;
- Limited civic monitoring infrastructure; and
- Logistical constraints affecting data collection.

Overall, the findings highlight notable geographic disparities in citizen monitoring participation and underscore the need for:

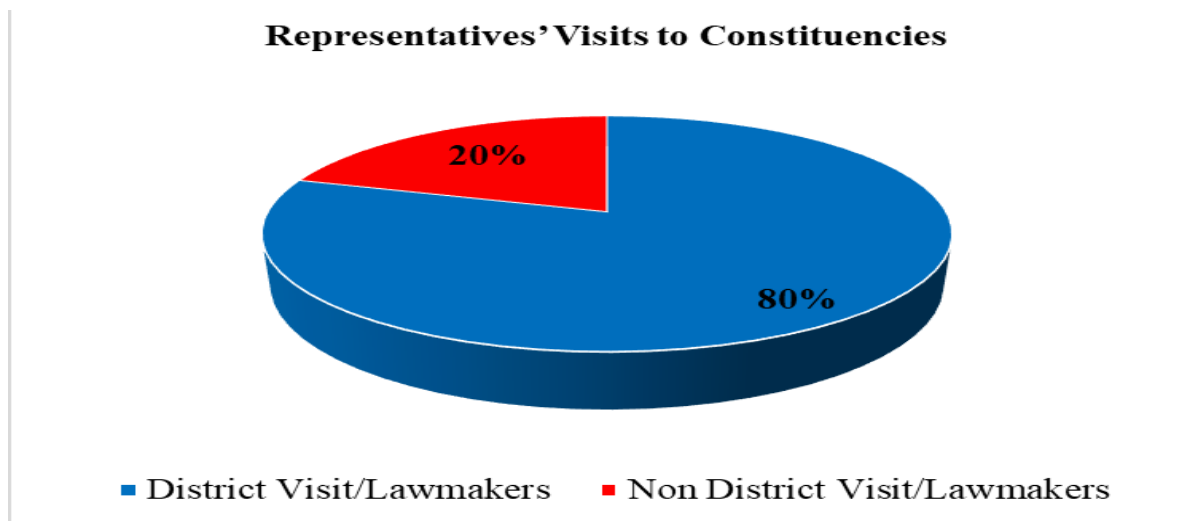
- Expanded civic outreach;
- Stronger county-level monitoring systems; and
- Increased investment in grassroots accountability initiatives.

5. Findings and Analysis

5.1 Representatives' Visits to Constituencies

The assessment found that constituency visits were relatively common during the legislative break period. Out of the 69 Representatives monitored:

- 55 lawmakers (80%) visited their districts; while
- 14 lawmakers (20%) did not record constituency visits during the monitoring period.



This suggests a reasonable level of physical constituency engagement among lawmakers. However, the absence of visits in one-fifth of monitored districts raises concerns regarding uneven representation and limited citizen access to elected officials.

Although physical presence is important, constituency visits alone do not necessarily translate into accountability or meaningful engagement unless accompanied by structured dialogue and reporting mechanisms.

Analytical Observation

The findings suggest that constituency breaks are often treated as ceremonial or political outreach opportunities rather than institutional accountability exercises. Many monitored activities focused on:

- Project dedications;
- Community ceremonies;
- Donation activities; and
- Political networking.

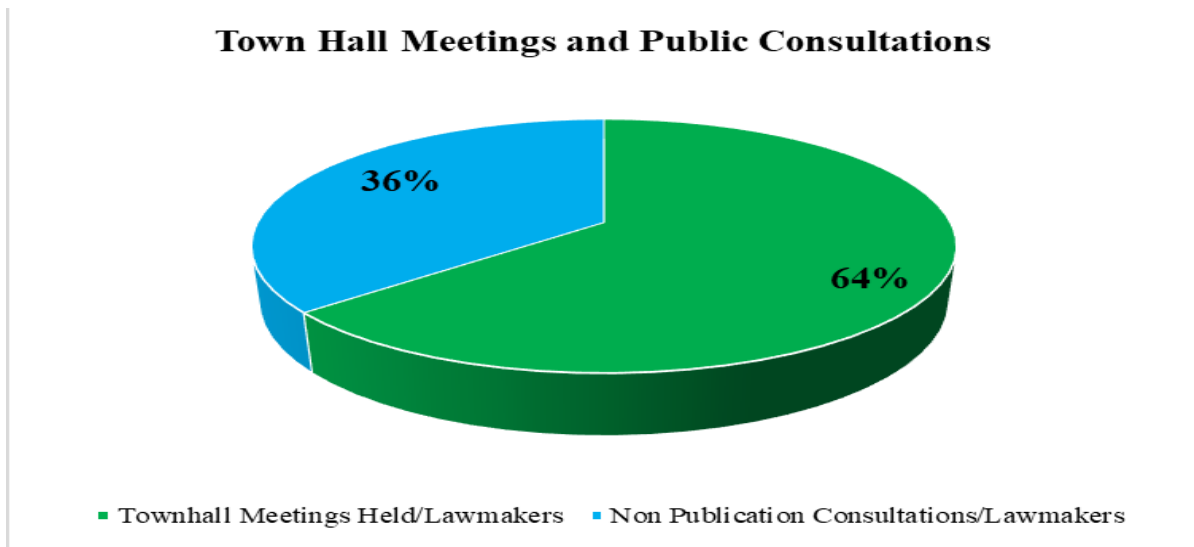
While these activities may strengthen political visibility, they often lacked substantive policy engagement or opportunities for citizens to assess legislative performance.

5.2 Town Hall Meetings and Public Consultations

Town hall meetings emerged as one of the most commonly used forms of direct citizen engagement.

Among the monitored Representatives:

- 44 lawmakers (64%) organized town hall meetings; while
- 25 lawmakers (36%) held no documented public consultations.



The findings indicate reasonable progress toward participatory governance practices. Town hall meetings provided citizens with opportunities to:

- Raise community concerns;
- Question lawmakers directly; and
- Discuss development priorities.

Key issues consistently raised by citizens included:

- Poor healthcare delivery;
- Weak educational infrastructure;
- Limited economic opportunities;
- Poor road conditions; and
- Youth and women's empowerment.

Analytical Observation

Despite the relative frequency of town hall meetings, the study found inconsistencies in:

- Frequency of meetings;
- Inclusiveness of participation;
- Documentation of discussions; and
- Follow-up mechanisms.

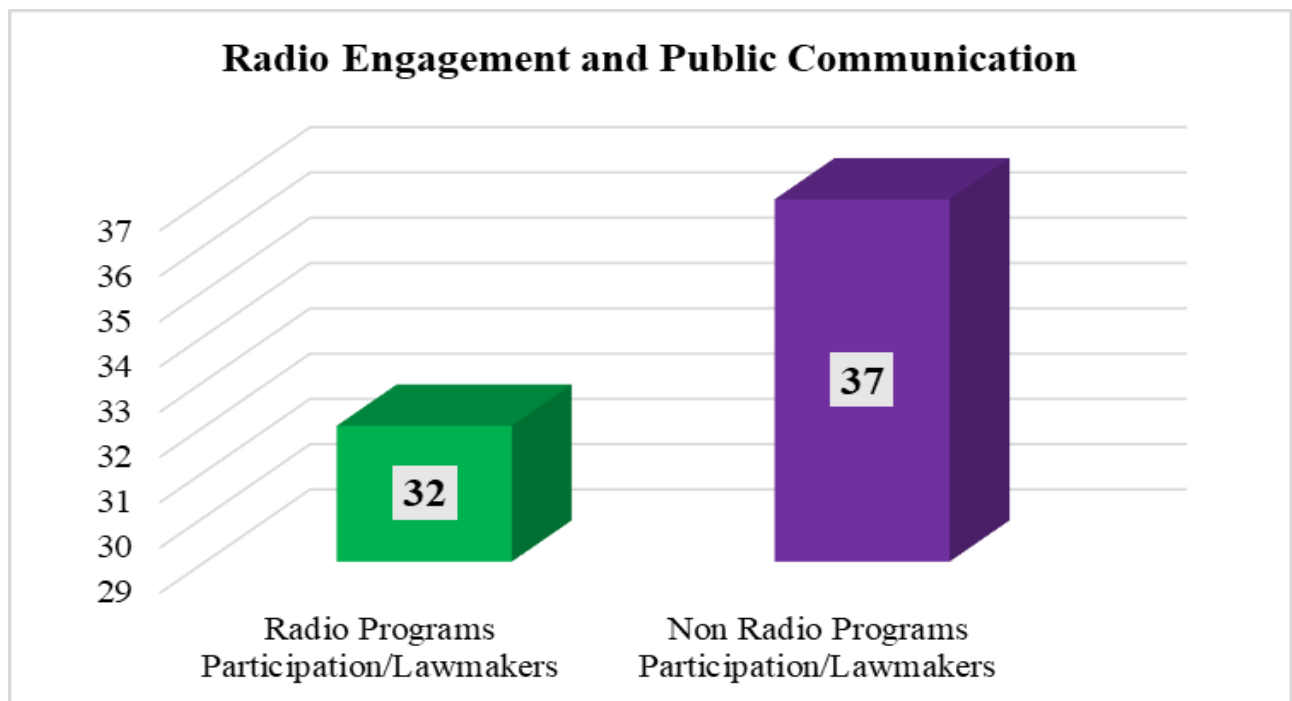
In many cases, town hall meetings lacked structured agendas or mechanisms for tracking commitments made by lawmakers. This limits the long-term effectiveness of such engagements and weakens citizen confidence in participatory governance processes.

5.3 Radio Engagement and Public Communication

Radio remains Liberia's most accessible and influential communication platform, particularly in rural communities where internet penetration remains low.

However, the assessment found limited use of radio by lawmakers during the constituency break:

- 32 Representatives (46%) participated in radio programs; while
- 37 Representatives (54%) recorded no radio engagement.



Analytical Observation

The limited use of radio represents a significant missed opportunity for:

- Public accountability;
- Policy communication;
- Constituency education; and
- Citizen feedback.

Lawmakers who appeared on radio platforms generally demonstrated stronger visibility and broader public interaction. In contrast, the absence of radio engagement restricted access to information for rural populations and weakened public understanding of legislative activities.

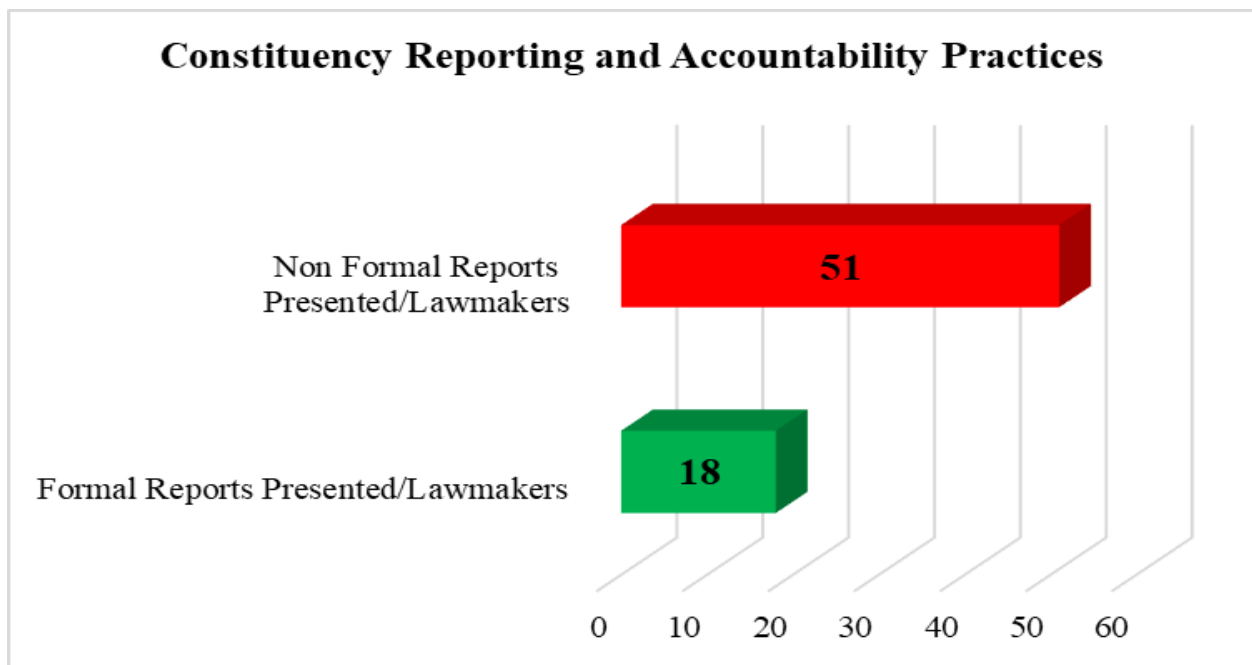
The findings suggest that many lawmakers still rely heavily on physical appearances and informal communication channels rather than leveraging mass media for transparent governance.

5.4 Constituency Reporting and Accountability Practices

The assessment identified constituency reporting as the weakest area of legislative accountability.

Among the 69 Representatives monitored:

- Only 18 lawmakers (26%) presented formal reports to constituents; while
- 51 lawmakers (74%) provided no documented legislative reports.



Analytical Observation

This represents a major accountability deficit within Liberia’s representative governance system. Constituency reporting is a core democratic practice that allows citizens to:

- Assess lawmakers’ legislative performance;
- Track campaign promises;
- Understand policy decisions; and
- Evaluate constituency development efforts.

The absence of formal reporting mechanisms limits transparency and weakens citizen oversight of elected officials.

Furthermore, the findings suggest that accountability practices remain largely informal, voluntary, and personality-driven rather than institutionalized within legislative procedures.

Without standardized reporting expectations, citizens have limited capacity to measure performance or demand corrective action from underperforming representatives.

6. Cross-Cutting Issues and Emerging Trends

Several cross-cutting trends emerged from the assessment:

6.1 Weak Institutionalization of Accountability

Most accountability efforts were informal and inconsistent across districts. There is currently no standardized national framework requiring lawmakers to provide periodic constituency reports or public accountability sessions.

6.2 Pre-Campaign Political Engagement

Many monitored activities resembled early political mobilization efforts ahead of future electoral cycles. Donations, ceremonies, and development project inspections often overshadowed structured accountability discussions.

6.3 Limited Citizen Feedback Systems

Few lawmakers maintained formal systems for collecting, documenting, or responding to citizen concerns raised during engagements.

6.4 Uneven Civic Participation

Citizen participation levels varied significantly across counties, reflecting disparities in civic awareness, local organizing capacity, and access to information.

7. Overall Findings and Conclusion

The assessment reveals mixed levels of constituency engagement and legislative accountability across Liberia. While many lawmakers demonstrated visible constituency presence through district visits and public interactions, substantial weaknesses remain in:

- Structured communication;
- Transparency;
- Public reporting; and
- Institutional accountability practices.

The low rate of constituency reporting and limited use of radio communication indicate that many lawmakers are not consistently meeting citizens' expectations for responsive and transparent representation.

Overall, constituency accountability in Liberia remains:

- Uneven;
- Weakly institutionalized; and
- Largely dependent on individual initiative rather than formal democratic standards.

Although some lawmakers demonstrated commendable efforts to engage citizens, the broader accountability framework requires urgent strengthening to improve democratic governance, rebuild public trust, and promote more responsive representation.

8. Recommendations

8.1 Institutionalize Mandatory Constituency Reporting

The Legislature should adopt formal requirements mandating all lawmakers to produce and publicly present annual constituency accountability reports.

Such reports should include:

- Legislative activities;
- Budget advocacy efforts;
- Development initiatives;
- Committee participation; and
- Responses to constituent concerns.

8.2 Strengthen Structured Public Engagement

Lawmakers should conduct regular and inclusive town hall meetings with clearly documented agendas, citizen feedback mechanisms, and follow-up processes.

Special attention should be given to:

- Women;
- Youth;
- Persons with disabilities;
- Educators
- Health workers and local chiefs

8.3 Expand the Use of Radio and Community Media

Representatives should increase engagement through local radio platforms to improve transparency, broaden public access to information, and facilitate citizen dialogue.

Community radio remains one of the most effective communication tools for reaching rural populations in Liberia.

8.4 Strengthen Civil Society Monitoring

Civil society organizations should expand independent monitoring and citizen oversight initiatives to promote transparency and encourage sustained accountability practices.

8.5 Promote Civic Education and Citizen Participation

Government institutions, civil society groups, and development partners should intensify civic education campaigns to:

- Increase public awareness of legislative responsibilities;
- Encourage citizen participation; and
- Strengthen democratic accountability culture.

8.6 Develop Legislative Accountability Standards

The Legislature should establish clear national guidelines on constituency engagement, reporting obligations, and minimum accountability standards for all elected lawmakers.

9. Final Conclusion

The 2026 monitoring assessment provides important baseline evidence on legislative constituency engagement in Liberia.

The findings demonstrate that while many lawmakers maintain some level of physical presence within their constituencies, meaningful accountability and structured citizen communication remain limited.

Strengthening democratic accountability in Liberia will require:

- Institutional reforms;
- Stronger citizen oversight;
- Improved public communication systems; and
- Greater commitment by lawmakers to transparent and responsive governance.

By institutionalizing constituency accountability practices, Liberia can strengthen public trust in democratic institutions and promote a more participatory and citizen-centered system of governance.

About Naymote

Naymote Partners for Democratic Development is a mission-driven organization; it was established in 2001 by student leaders and social activists. Since its founding, the institution has been engaged with promoting political accountability, advancing principles of good democratic governance, rule of law, civic engagement, and youth empowerment. The institution has trained some of the most prominent young politicians in Africa. The institution believes that a purposeful and effective civil society is needed to set the national policy agenda, stimulate sound and healthy grassroots responses to governance issues, and influence the uneven power dynamics that characterize the relationship between Liberia's citizens and government.



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