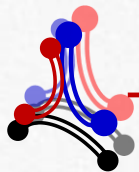




Outcry vs. disdain? Understanding public support for proposals to improve Parliament and elections in Uganda

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey



HATCHILE CONSULT LTD

Social Research and Integrated Business Consultancy

At a glance



- **Overwhelming public support for reform:** Large majorities favour reform proposals designed to improve Parliament and elections.
- **Cross-cutting support:** Support for reform transcends political and demographic differences.
- **Most popular reforms:** Improving electoral transparency, reducing size of Parliament, and launching a national dialogue over 2016 elections are among the most strongly supported proposals.

What is Afrobarometer?



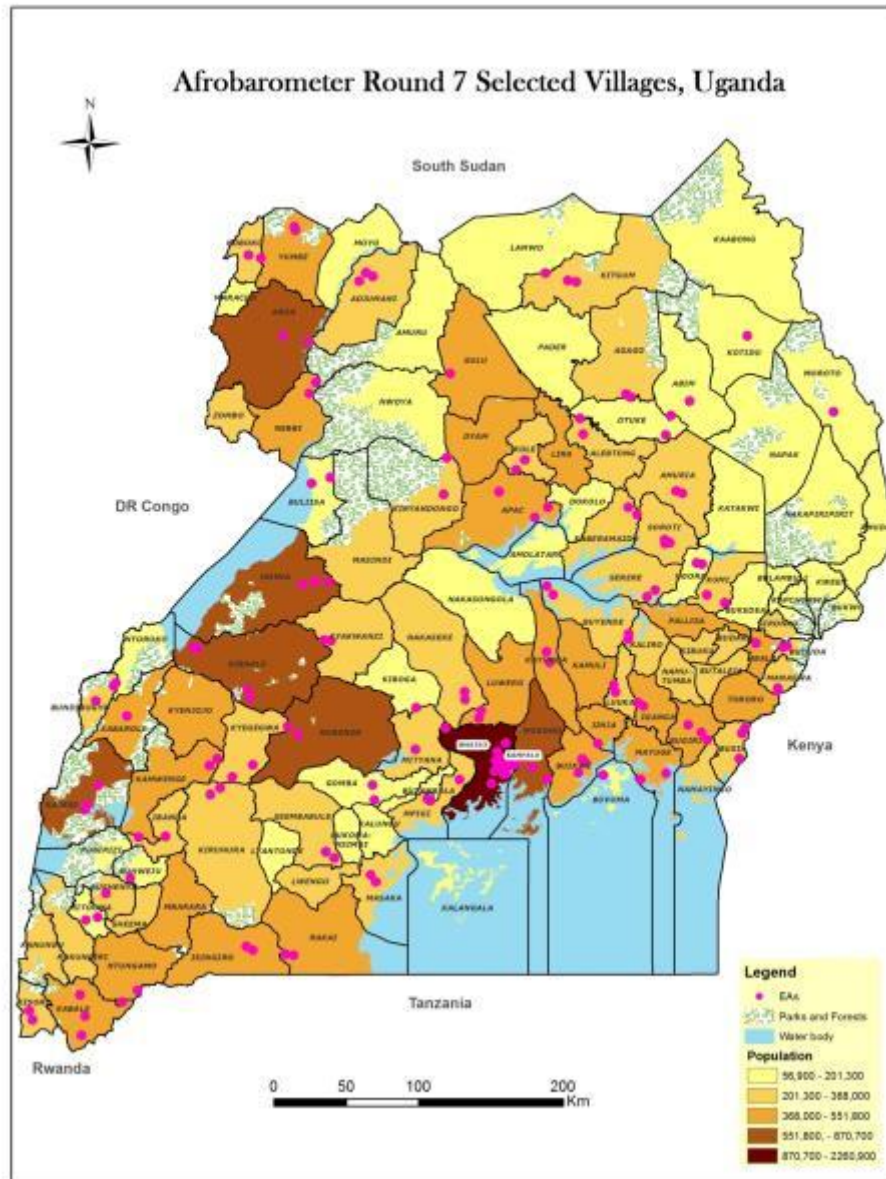
- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999, expanded to 36 countries in Round 6 (2014/2015). Round 7 surveys are being conducted in 2016/2017.
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Uganda, Afrobarometer Round 7 survey was conducted by Hatchile Consult Ltd.

Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across 5 regions (Kampala, Central, West, North, and East) and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
 - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in Uganda of 1,200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in Uganda was conducted between 26 December 2016 and 8 January 2017.

Survey coverage



Survey demographics

Gender		%
	Men	50
	Women	50
Residence		
	Urban	25
	Rural	75
Education		
	No formal education	13
	Primary	45
	Secondary	29
	Post-secondary	13
Region		
	North	20
	East	24
	Central	24
	West	26
	Kampala	6
Age		
	18-24	24
	25-34	31
	35-44	21
	45-54	12
	55-64	7
	65 and over	5





Findings

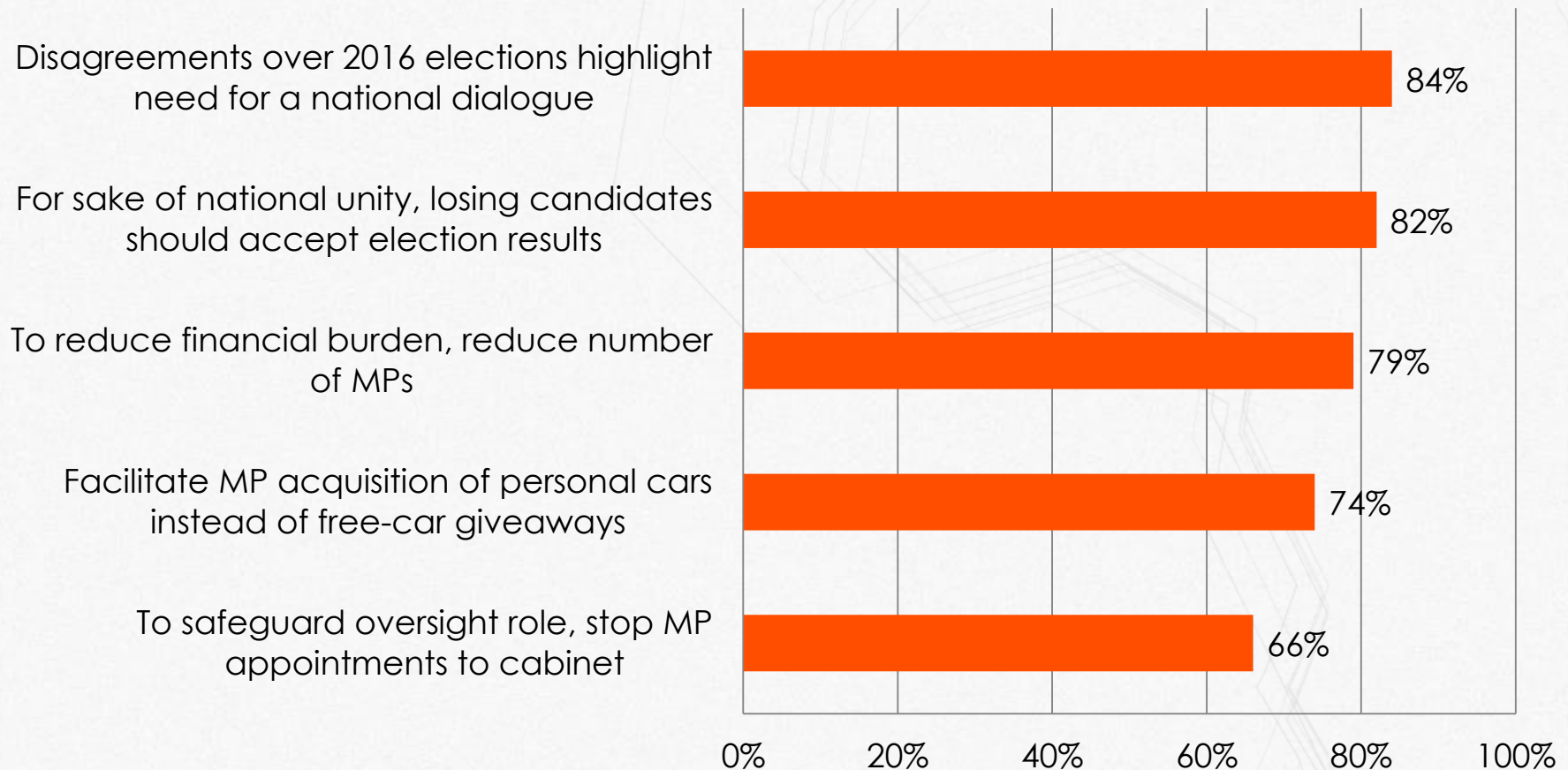
Public demand to improve Parliament and elections

Key findings



- Overwhelming majority of Ugandans support reforms to improve Parliament and elections, especially transparency in vote tallying, transmission, and declaration (96%).
- Eight in 10 respondents (84%) agree with the need for a national dialogue to resolve the country's disagreements following recent elections.
- Eight in 10 respondents (79%) favour reducing the number of MPs to save taxpayers money, and three-fourths (74%) say MPs should not be given free cars.
- Three-fourths of Ugandans (75%) support maintaining the current constitutional age limit of 75 years on any person seeking the office of president.

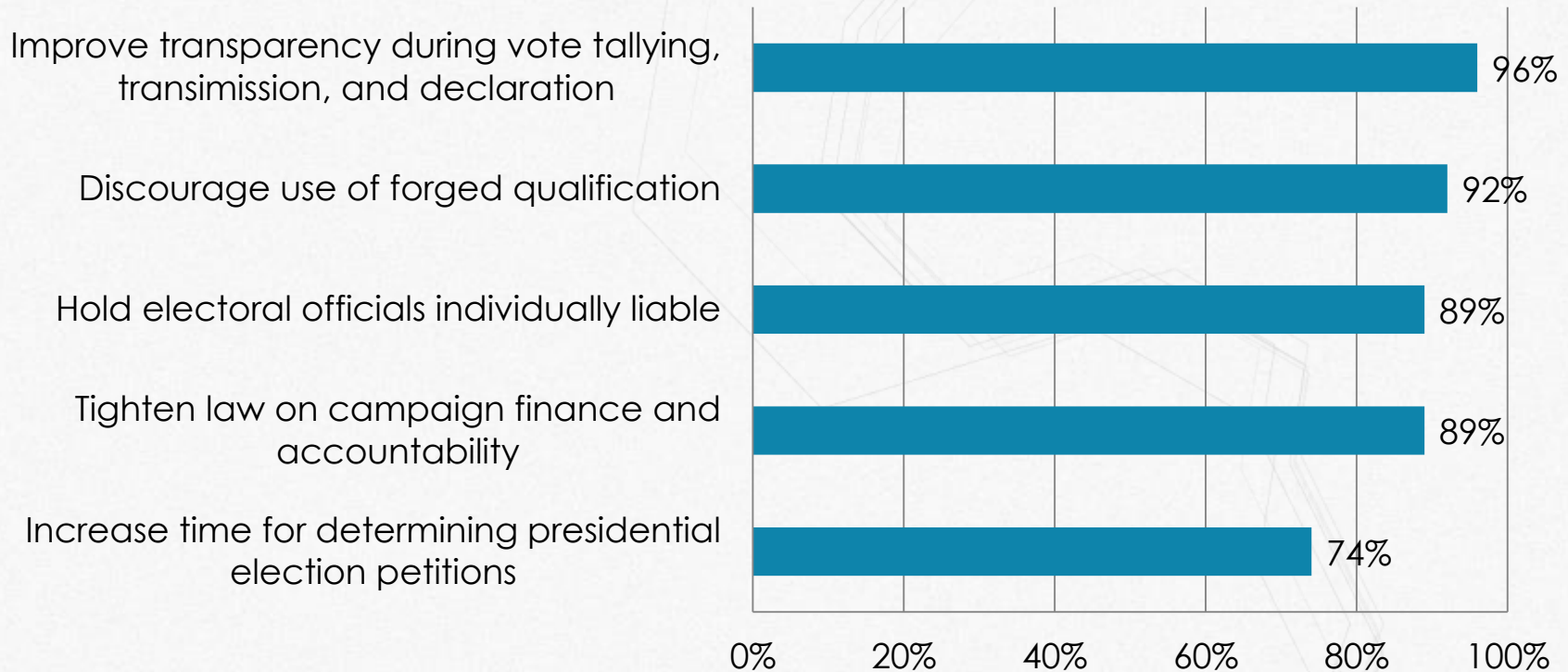
Support for proposals to improve Parliament and elections | Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you agree or disagree. (% who “agree” or “strongly agree”)

Support for proposals to improve elections

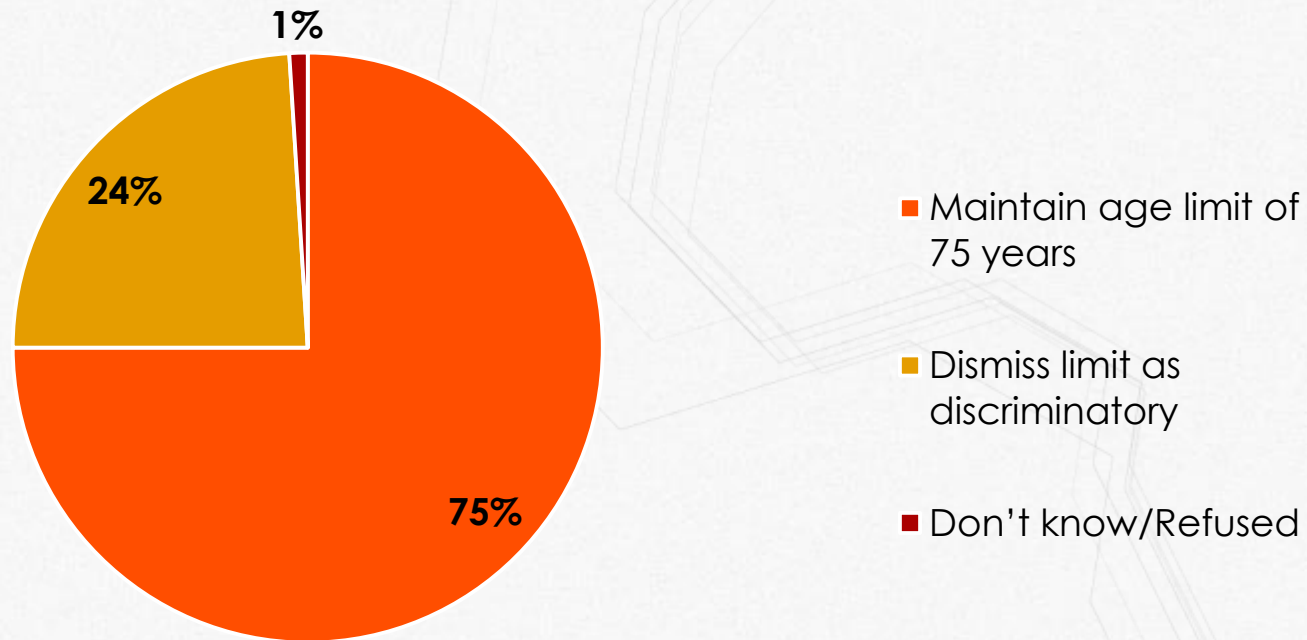
| Uganda | 2017



Respondents were asked: *The quality of Uganda's elections have been described by many stakeholders (including the opposition, ruling party, civil society, media, and voters) as poor due to allegations of election irregularities and mismanagement. I am going to read from a list of proposals aimed at improving the quality of Uganda's elections. For each of the following proposals, please tell me whether you disagree or agree. (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)*

Support for continued limit on age of president

| Uganda | 2017



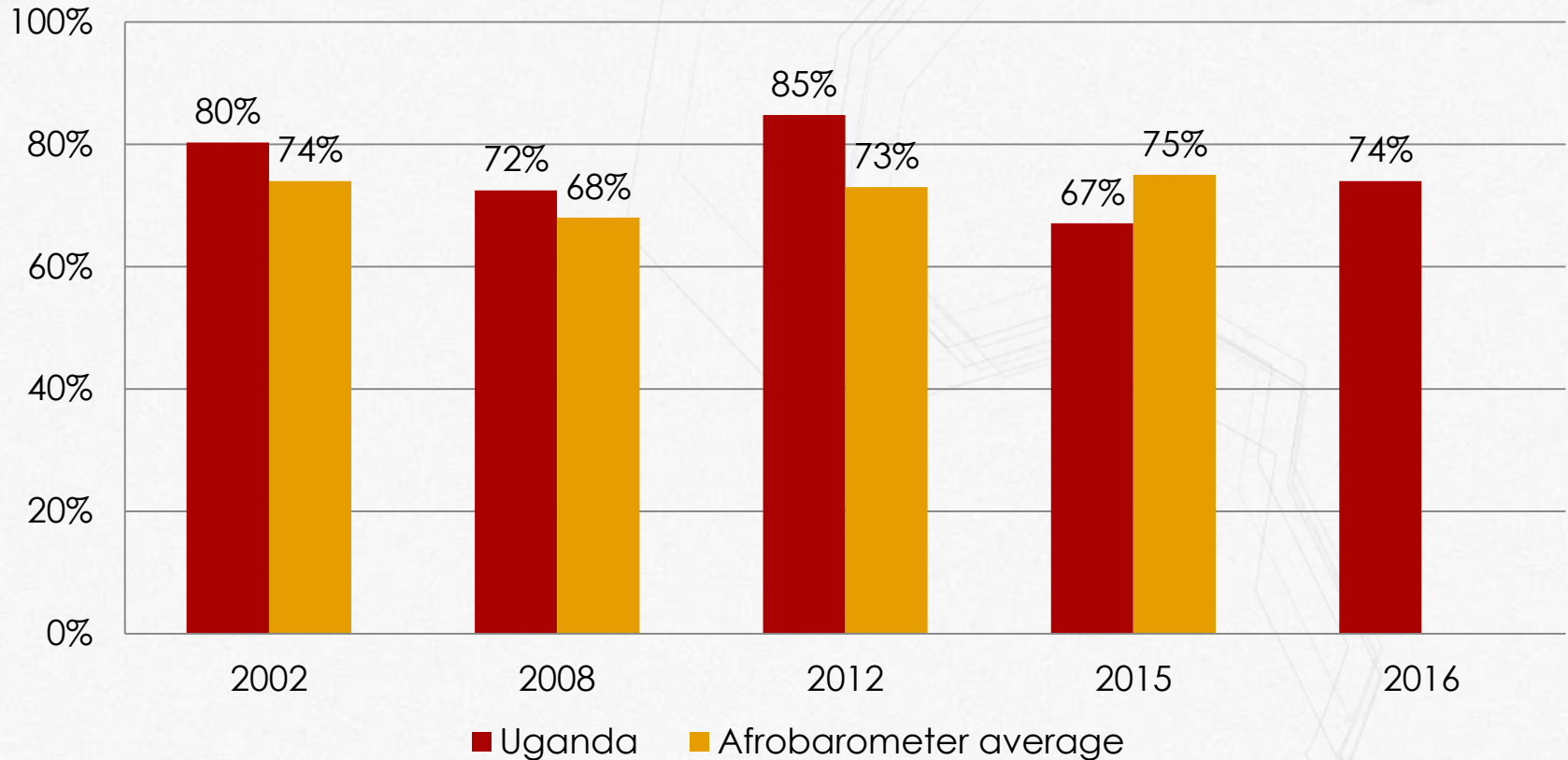
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

- Statement 1: The electoral law stopping any person older than 75 years from running as president in this country should be maintained.
- Statement 2: Preventing persons older than 75 years from standing for election as president is a form of discrimination and should not be allowed.

(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Support for presidential term limit | Uganda

| 2002-2017

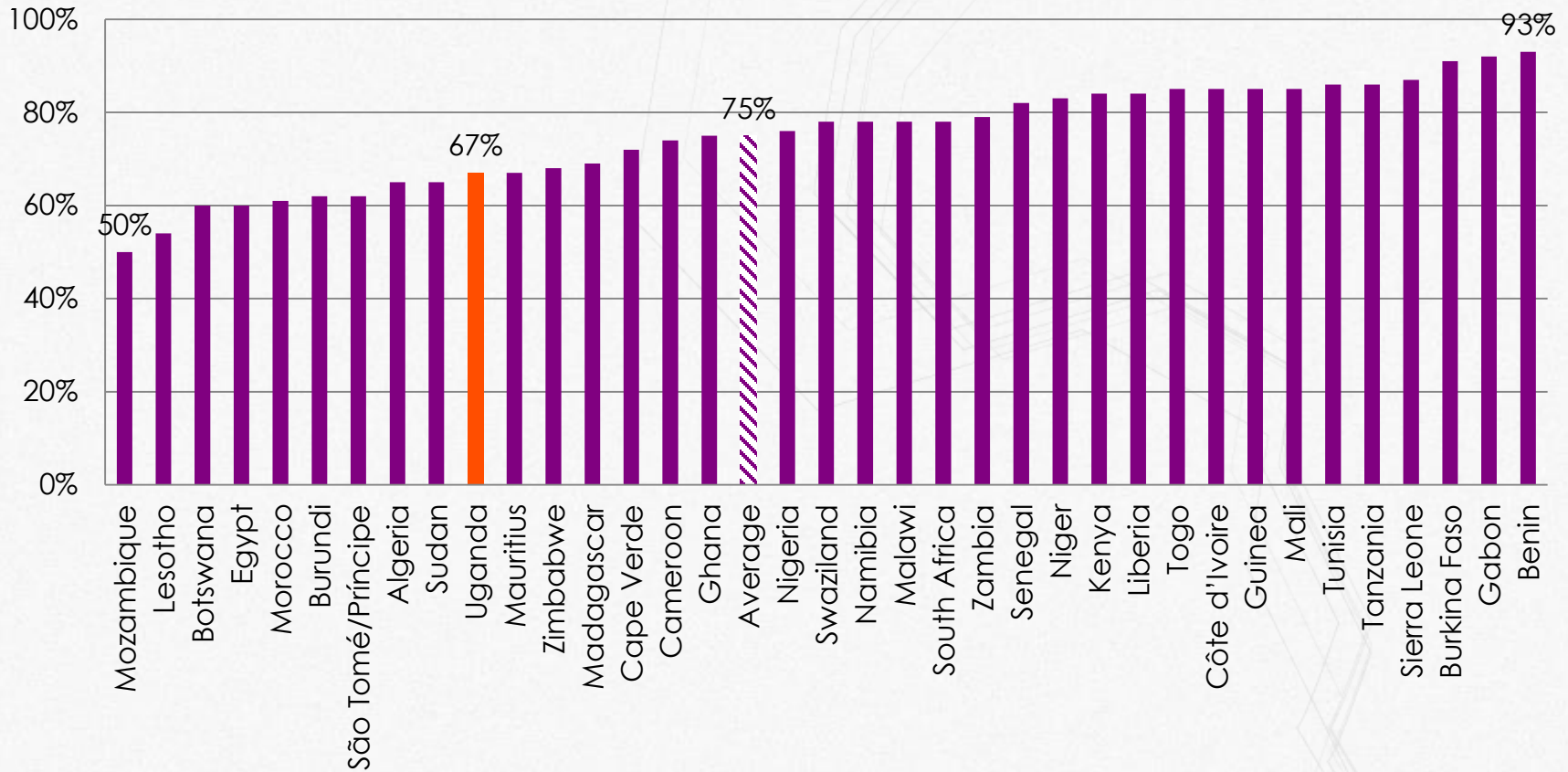


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

- Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the president to serving a maximum of two terms in office.
- Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.

(% who “agree” or “strongly agree” with Statement 1)

Support for presidential term limit | 36 African countries | 2014/2015



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

- Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the president to serving a maximum of two terms in office.
- Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.

(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with Statement 1)

Majority support most reform proposals | Uganda | 2017

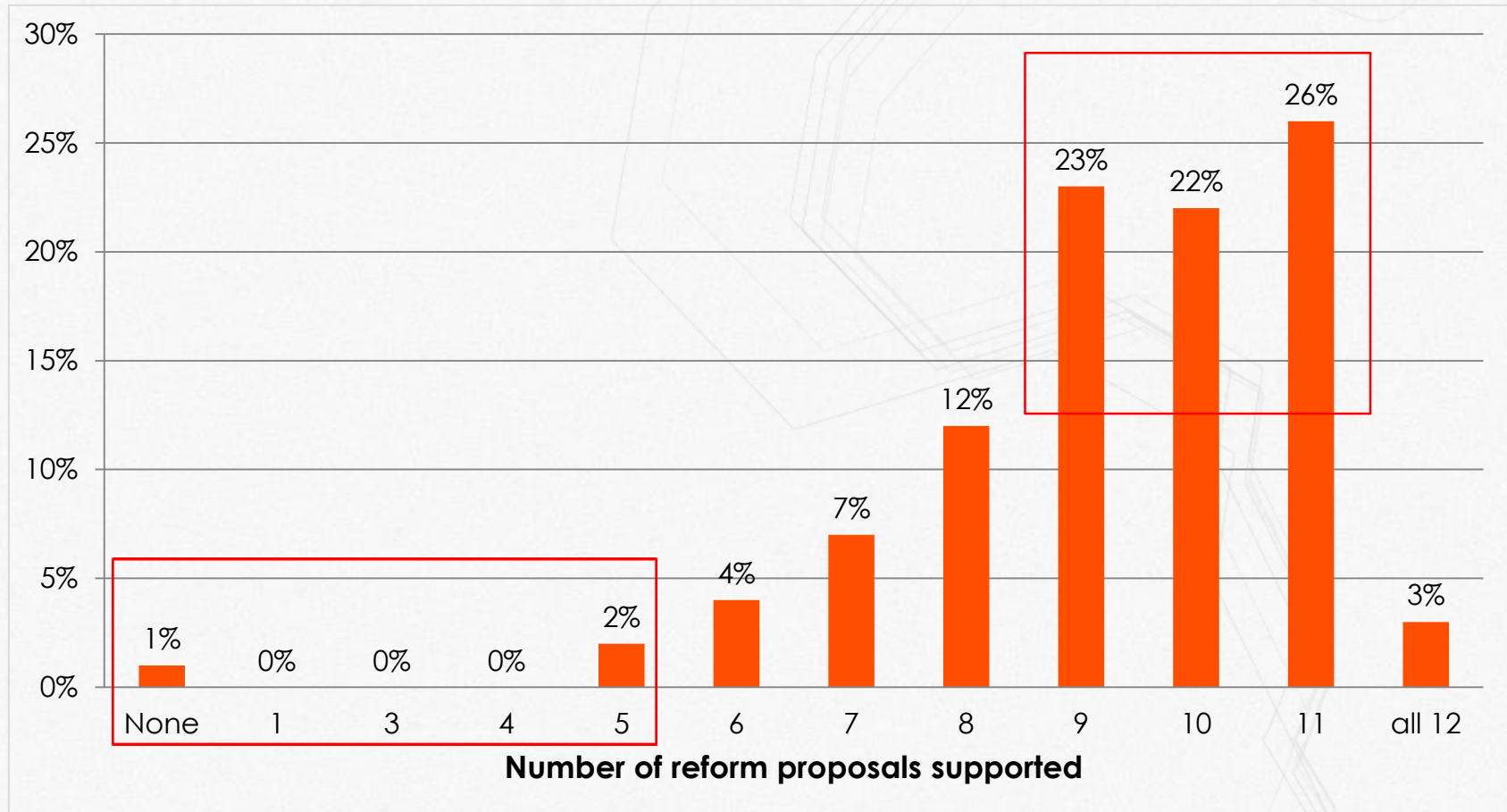
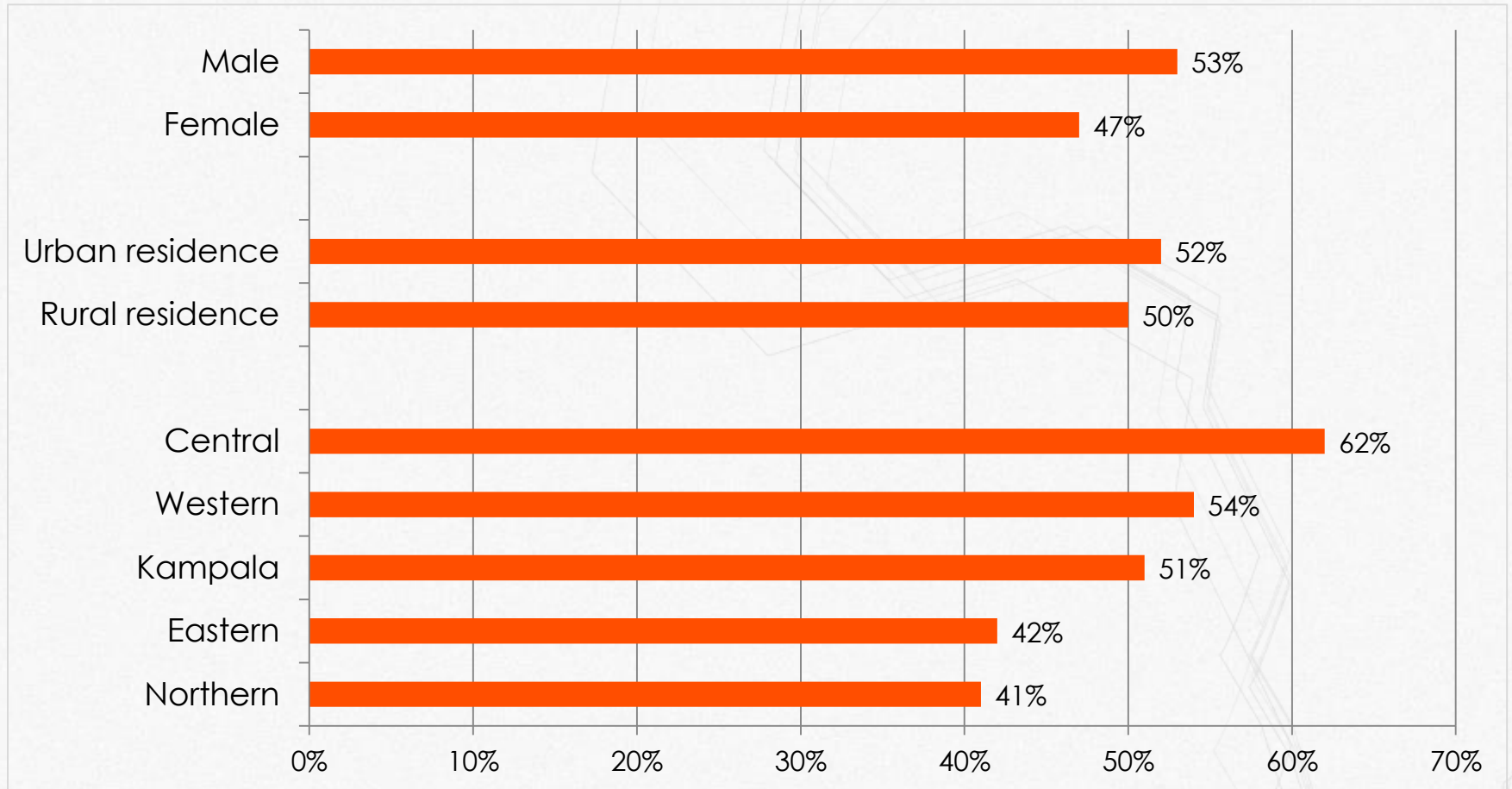


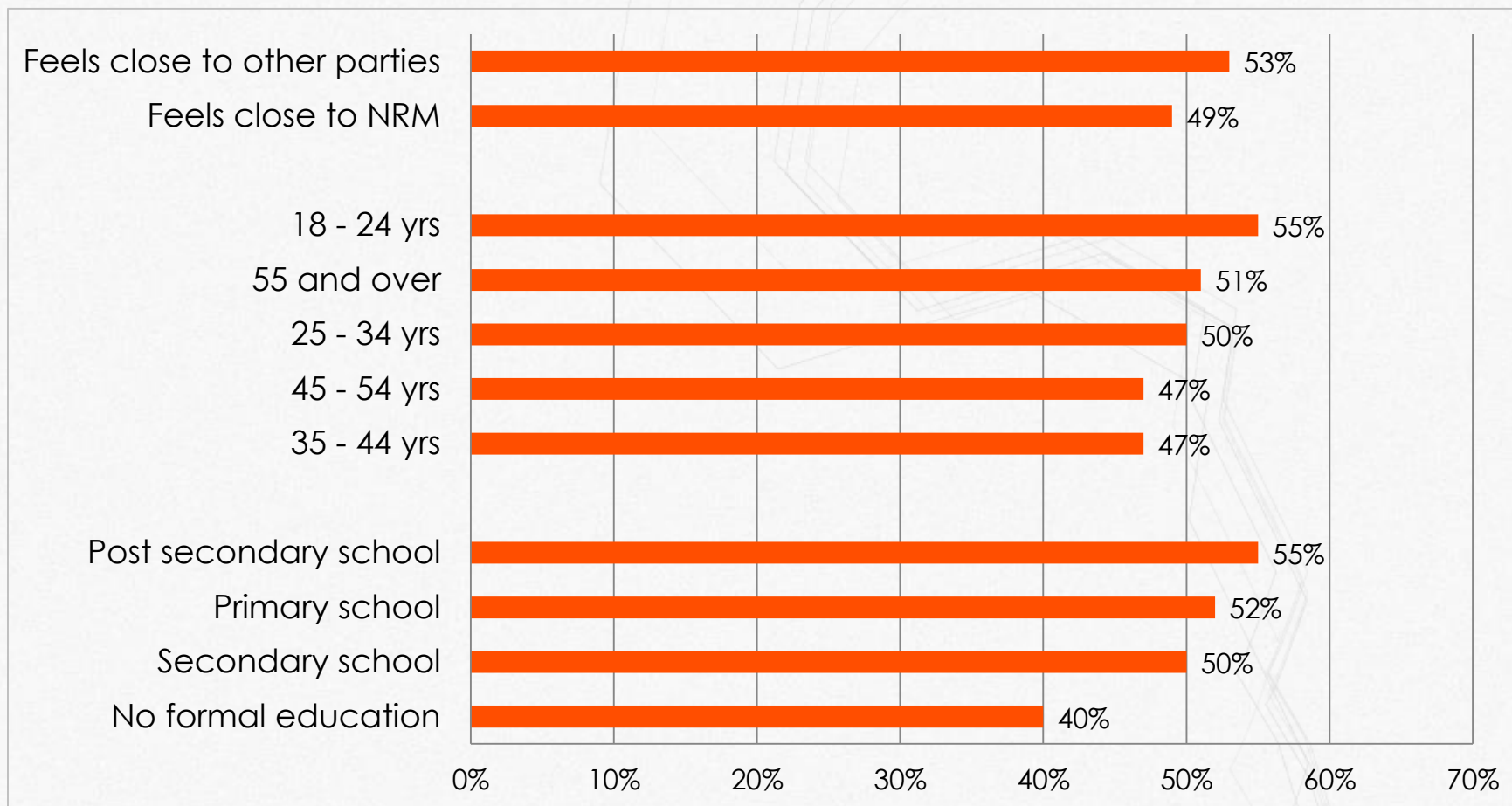
Figure shows percentage of respondents who “agree” or “strongly agree” with none of the proposed reforms, one of the proposed reforms, two of the proposed reforms, etc.

Support for at least 10 of the 12 proposed reforms to improve Parliament and elections | by gender and residence | Uganda | 2017



(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with at least 10 of the 12 proposed reforms)

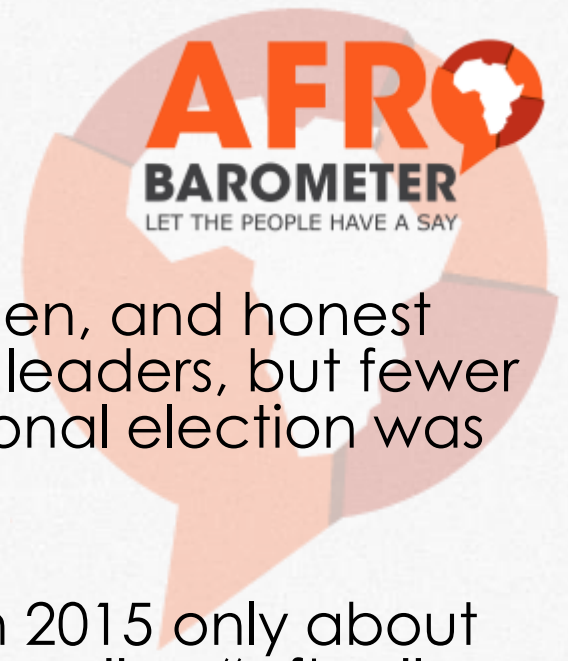
Support for at least 10 of the 12 proposed reforms to improve Parliament and elections | by age, education, and political affiliation | Uganda | 2017



(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with at least 10 of the 12 proposed reforms)

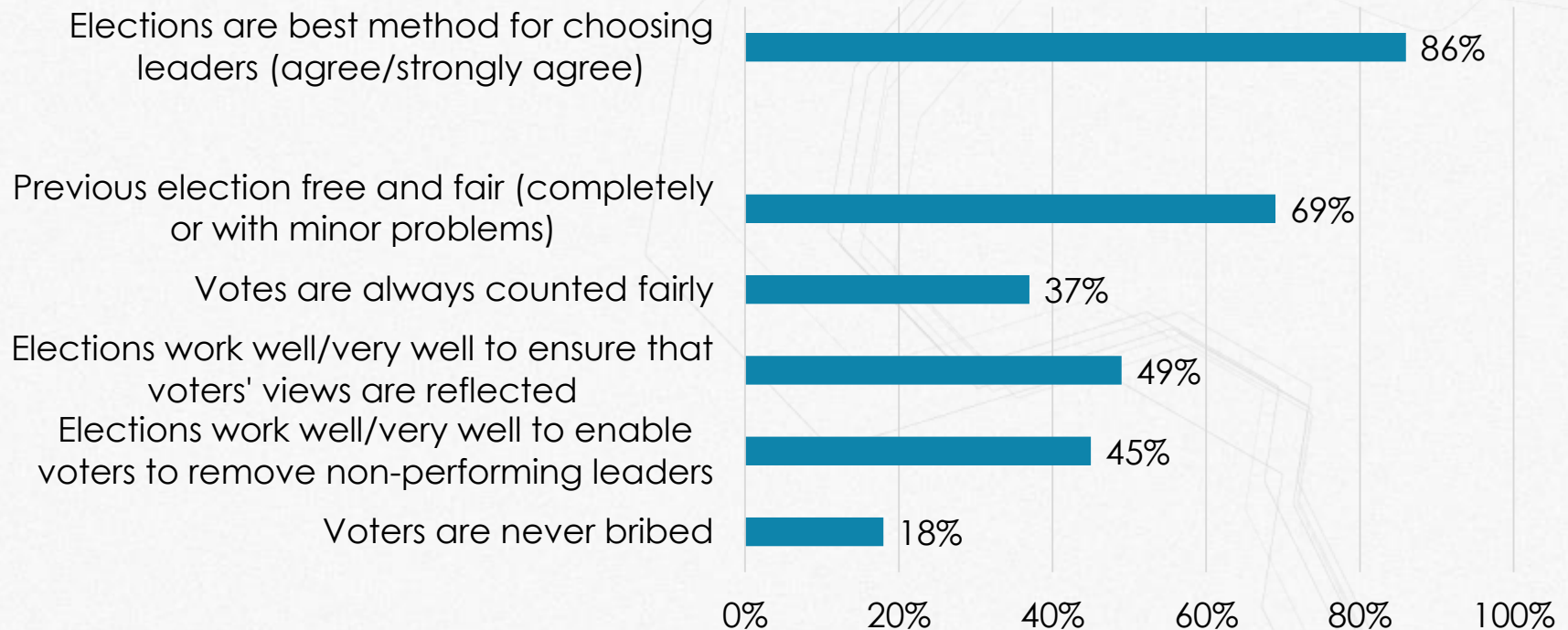
Perceptions of elections and previous electoral-reform proposals

Key findings



- Most Ugandans (83%) support regular, open, and honest elections as the best way to choose their leaders, but fewer than half (34%) say their most recent national election was “completely free and fair.”
- Regarding the quality of their elections, in 2015 only about half of Ugandans said that votes are “always” or “often” counted fairly (52%) and that elections function well to ensure that voters’ views are reflected (49%) and that voters can remove under-performing leaders (45%).
- Electoral reforms proposed ahead of the 2016 elections received strong support, including support to ban candidates convicted of vote buying (86%), declaring election results at constituency (80%), and ceasing appointment of electoral commission officials by the President.

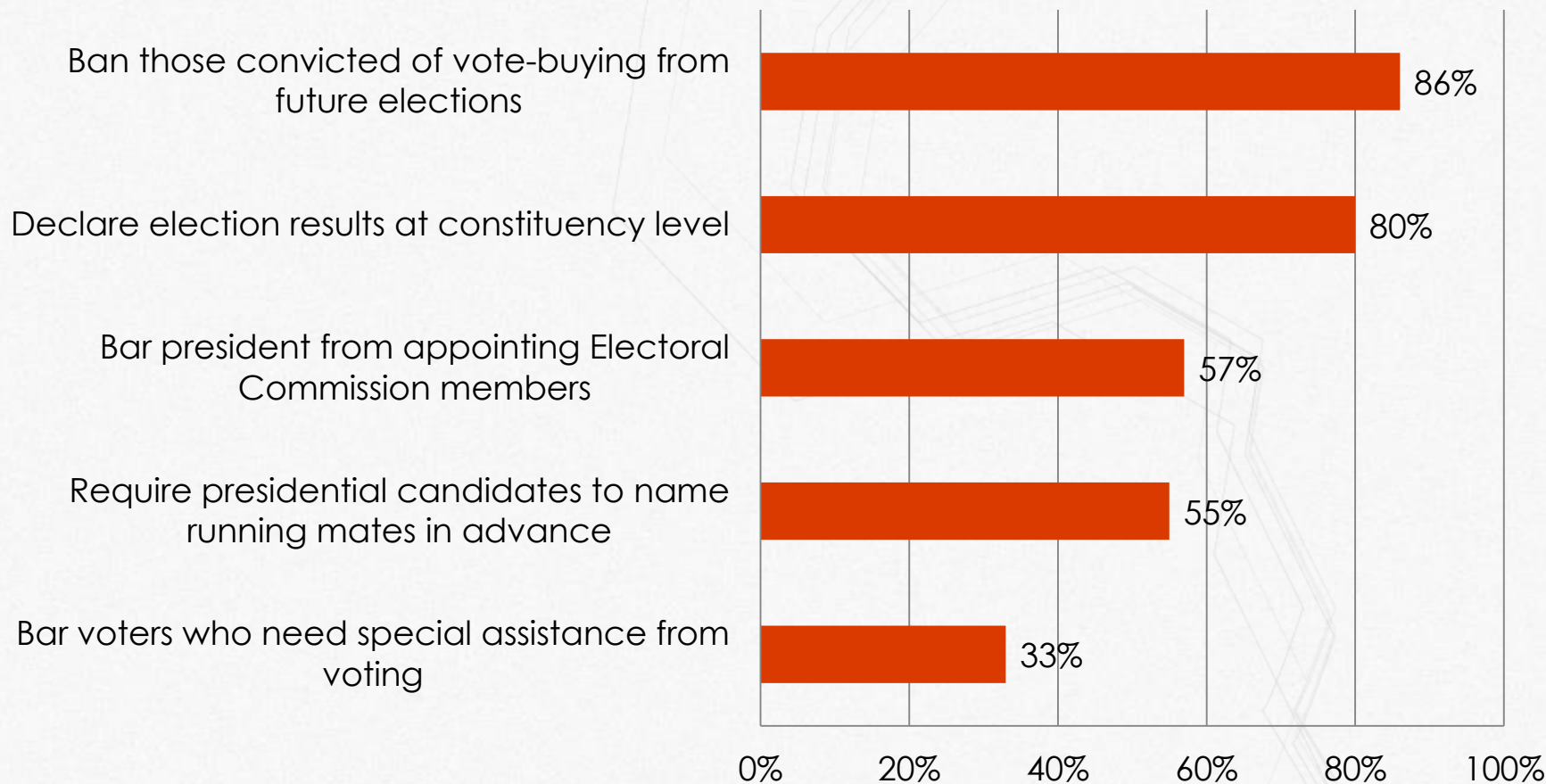
Support for and quality of elections | Uganda | 2015



Respondents were asked:

1. Which of the following statements is closest to your view: We should choose our leaders in this country through regular, open, and honest elections. Statement 2: Since elections sometimes produce bad results, we should adopt other methods for choosing this country's leaders.
2. On the whole, how would you rate the freeness and fairness of the last national election, held in 2011?
3. In your opinion, how often are votes counted fairly in this country's elections?
4. How well do elections ensure that members of Parliament reflect the views of voters?
5. How well do elections enable voters to remove from office leaders who do not do what the people want?
6. In your opinion, how often are voters bribed in this country's elections?

Support for electoral reforms proposed ahead of 2016 elections | Uganda | 2015



Respondents were asked: Do you agree or disagree with the following suggestions for electoral reforms ahead of the 2016 general elections in Uganda? (% who “agree” or “strongly agree”)

Conclusions

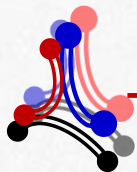
Who wants electoral reforms in Uganda?



- Public support for proposals to improve Parliament and elections is very high.
- This support transcends political-party and demographic differences and has endured past the 2016 election period.
- Despite strong popular support, government has not committed to a clear program of action to address reform proposals.

Thank you

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