



Star Awards  
Gaborone, Botswana  
24 October 2017

## News release

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### **Batswana demand state funding of political parties**

State funding of political parties in Botswana remains a contested issue and after 50 years of independence, a law providing for the funding of parties has not been enacted. This is in spite of the countless calls from stakeholders including civil society and opposition parties to provide for such a law to fund political parties in order to level electoral competition and enhance democracy.

Opposition parties have decried the unfair advantages of incumbency enjoyed by the ruling party, lamenting that it is not in the interest of the BDP to support a law on state funding of political parties.

However, as debates continue on the need for state funding of parties, a recent survey by Afrobarometer indicates that almost two thirds of Batswana want political parties to be financed based on their performance in national elections.

#### **Key findings**

- More than majority (63%) of Batswana call for state funding of parties based on electoral performance.
- Two-thirds (64%) of men say that the state should fund political parties compared with 62% of women.
- Support for state funding of parties does not differ by location as 62% rural and semi-urban dwellers agree with 63% urban dwellers.

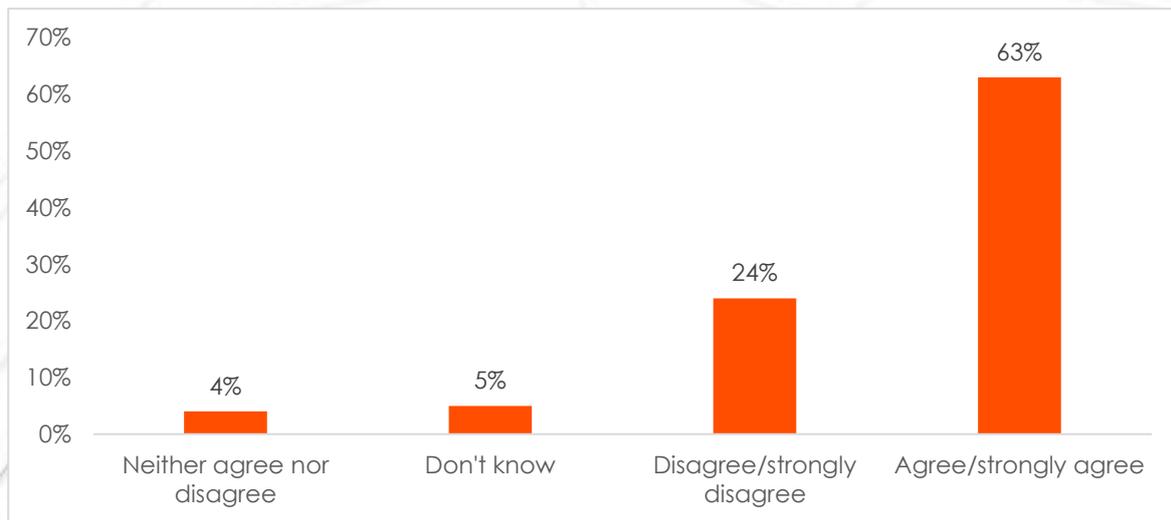
#### **Afrobarometer**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in African countries. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 countries between 1999 and 2016, and Round 7 surveys are currently underway. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Botswana, led by Star Awards Pty Ltd, interviewed 1,200 adult Batswana in July 2017. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Botswana in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012, and 2014.

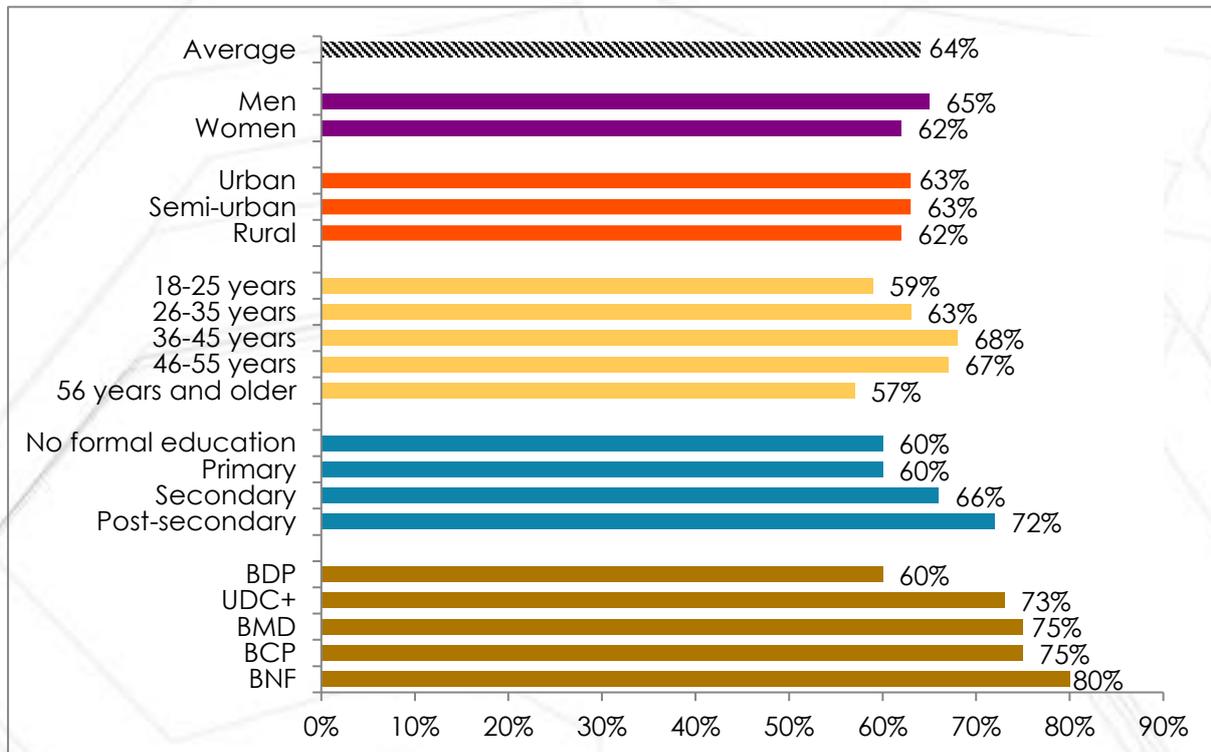
## Charts

**Figure 1: State funding of political parties | Botswana | 2017**



**Respondents were asked:** Recently, there have been a number of suggestions to change some laws in order to improve government accountability. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements: The state should provide funding to all political parties based on their performance during elections?

**Figure 2: State funding of political parties | by socio-demographics | Botswana | 2017**



(% who said "agree" or "strongly agree")

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