



Improving democracy in spite of political rhetoric

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey in Kenya



At a glance



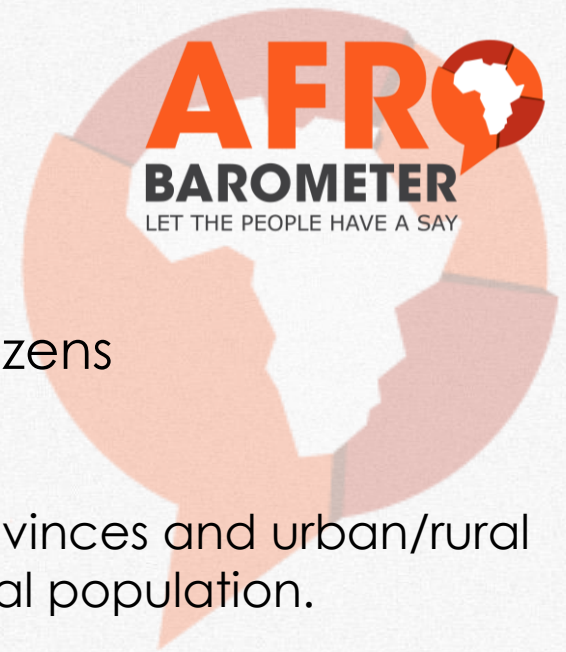
- **Democratic preferences:** A majority of Kenyans prefer democratic, accountable governance in which:
 - Leaders are elected in free and fair elections.
 - Political parties compete in an open field.
 - The president is accountable to the people and Parliament.
- **Democracy improving:** Compared to 2014, more Kenyans consider their country a democracy and are satisfied with the way it is working.
- **Greater freedom:** At least six in 10 Kenyans say that freedom of association, of expression, and of the media have increased.
- **Support for a presidential system:** Seven of 10 Kenyans prefer a presidential system of government.
- **Greater fear of violence:** Fear of political intimidation and violence during election campaigns has increased significantly.
- **Low trust:** Trust in police, judiciary, and IEBC is low, while support for removal of IEBC commissioners is high.

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.

Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions/states/provinces 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 Kenya of 1,599 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in Kenya was conducted in September-October 2016.

Survey demographics

Gender		%
	Men	50
	Women	50
Residence		
	Urban	36
	Rural	64
Education		
	No formal education	7
	Primary	38
	Secondary	36
	Post-secondary	19
Religion		
	Christian	82
	Muslim	10
	Other	8



Findings



Support for democracy | Kenya | 2011-2016

	2011	2014	2016
Democracy preferable	73%	65%	67%
Sometimes non-democratic government can be preferable	10%	8%	12%
Doesn't matter	7%	10%	10%
Don't know	9%	17%	12%

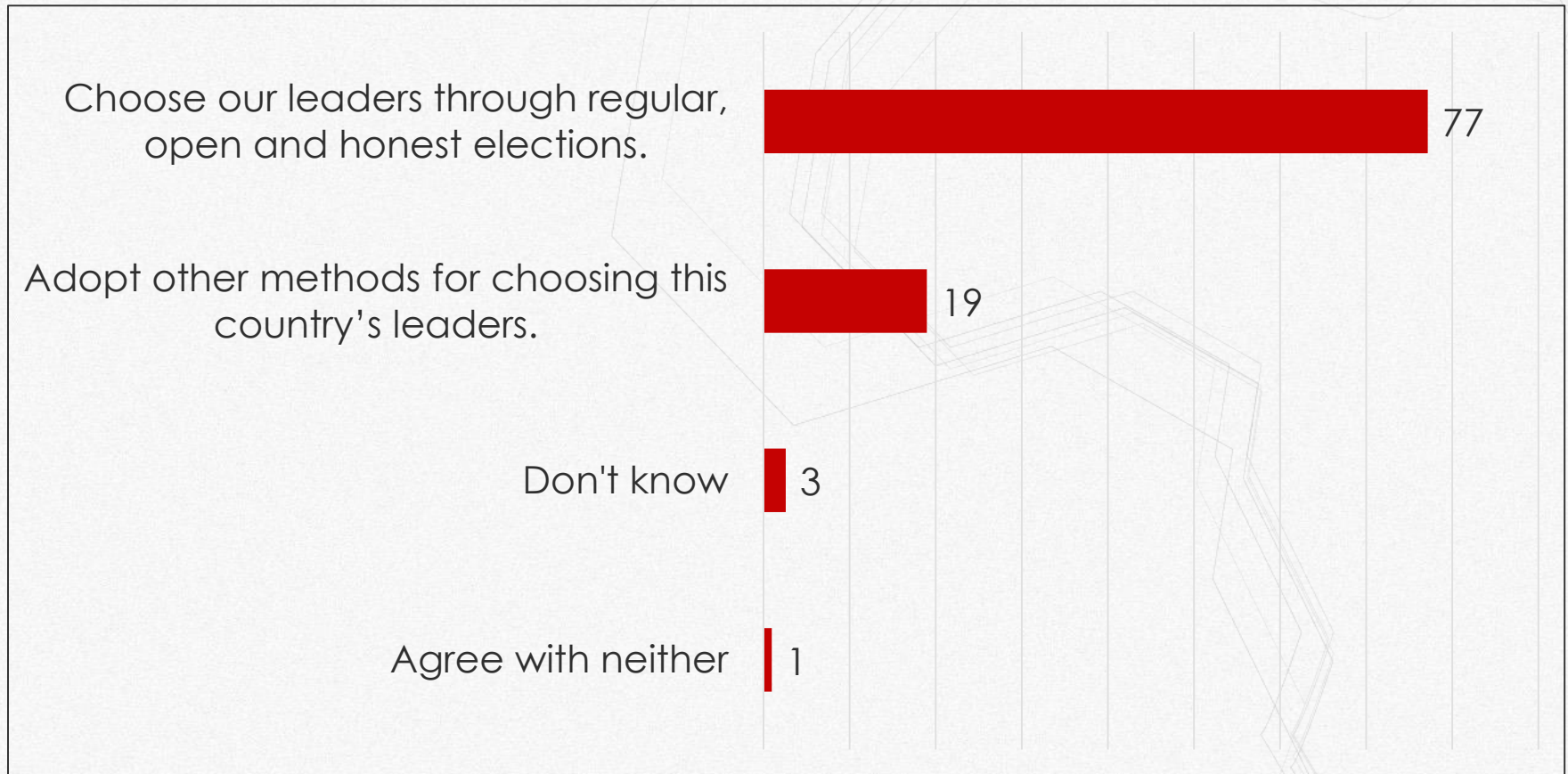
Respondents were asked: Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?

Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.

Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.

Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

Choose leaders through elections vs. other methods (%) | Kenya | 2016

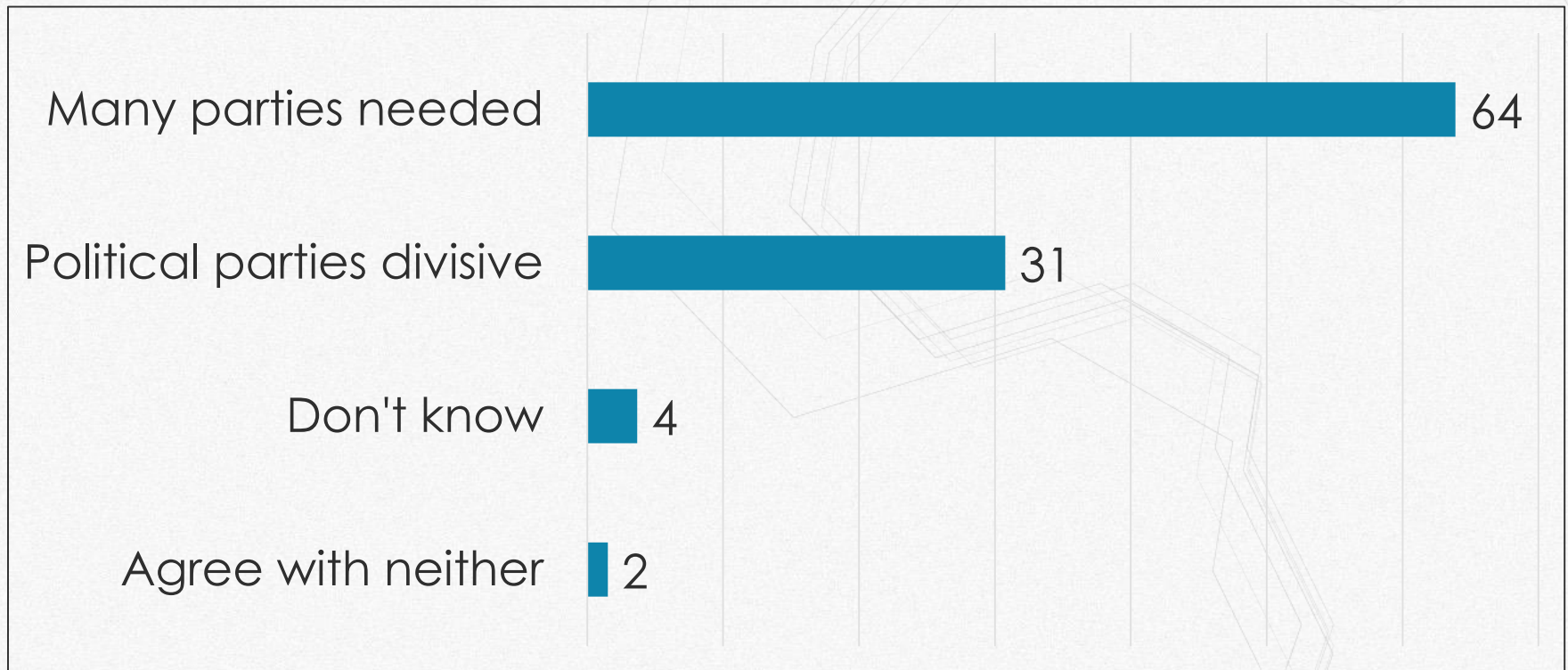


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: 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.

Support for multipartism (%) | Kenya | 2016



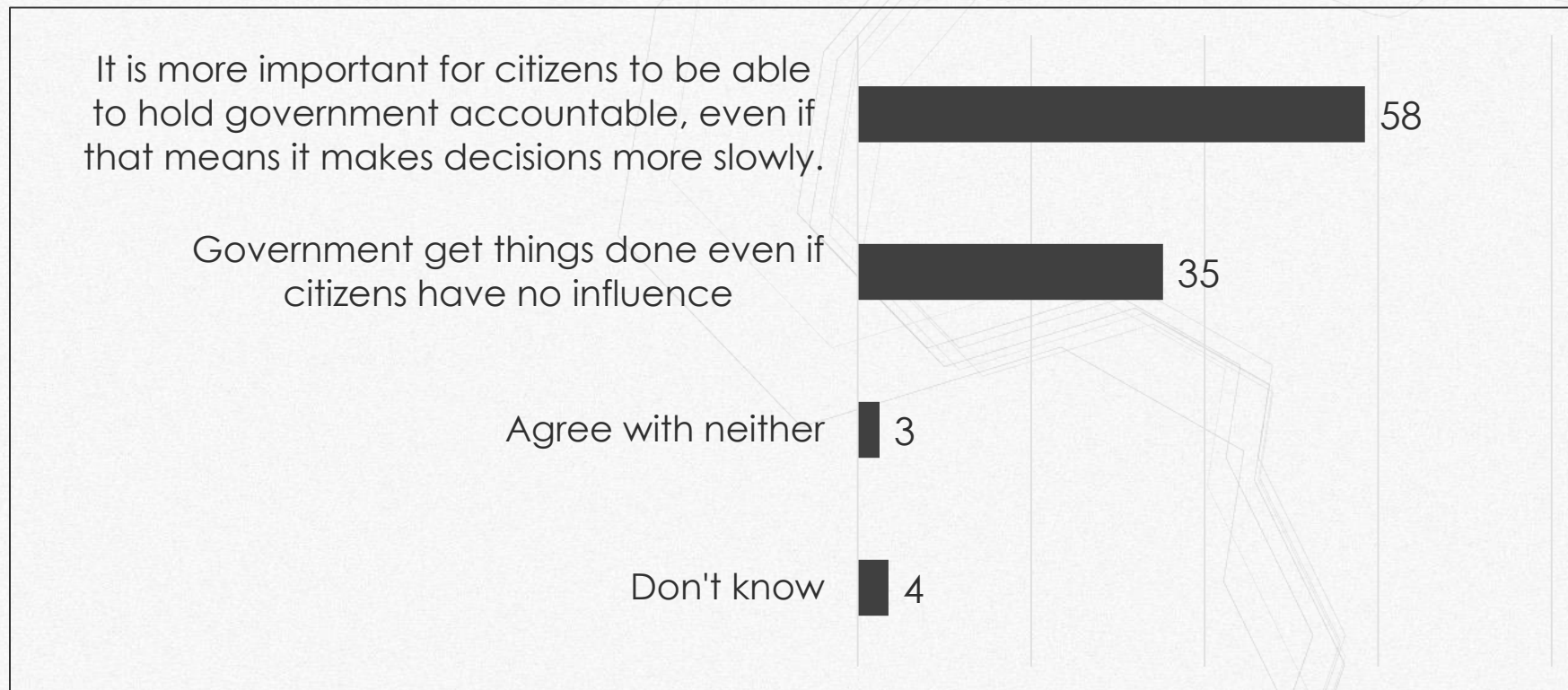
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: Political parties create division and confusion; it is therefore unnecessary to have many political parties in Kenya.

Statement 2: Many political parties are needed to make sure that Kenyans have real choices in who governs them.

Government accountability vs. efficiency (%)

| Kenya | 2016

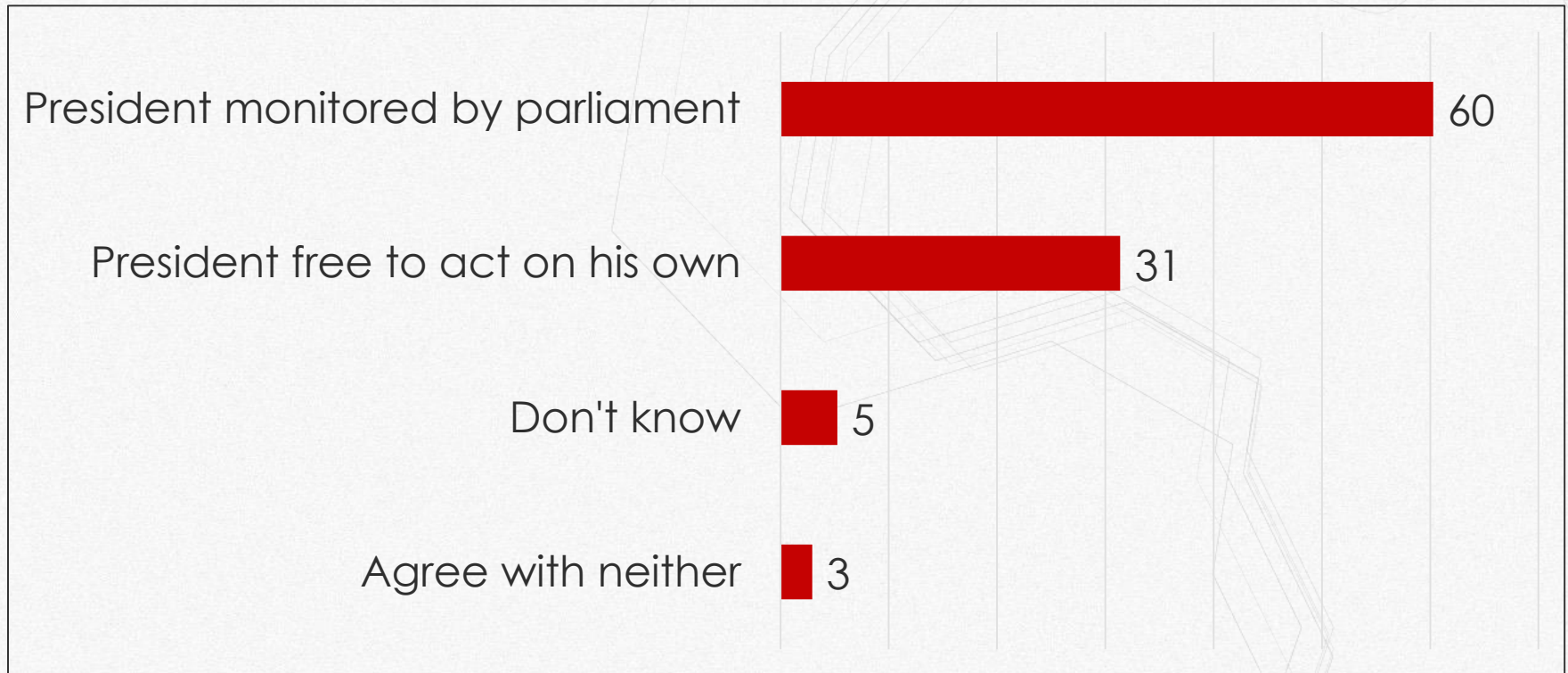


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: It is more important to have a government that can get things done, even if we have no influence over what it does.

Statement 2: It is more important for citizens to be able to hold government accountable, even if that means it makes decisions more slowly.

President monitored by Parliament vs. free to act on own (%) | Kenya | 2016

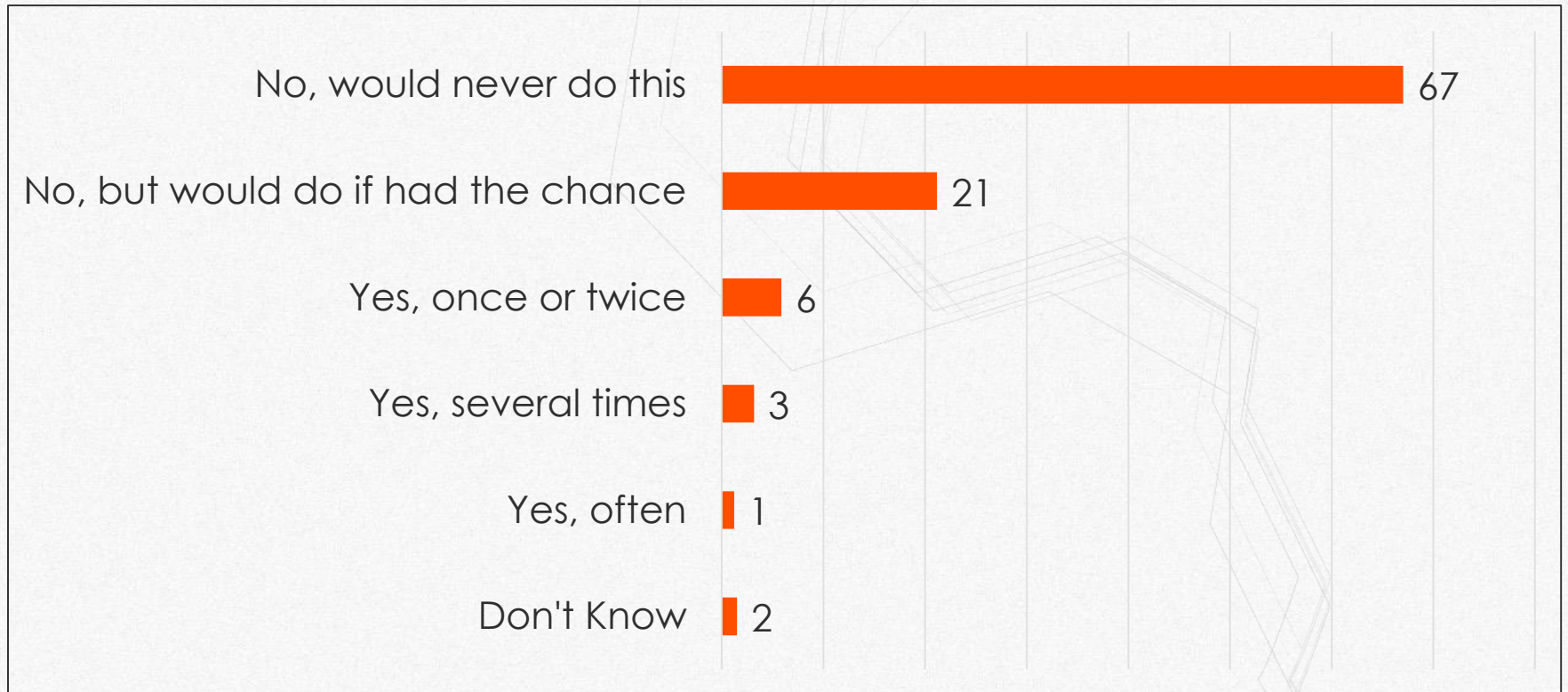


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: Parliament should ensure that the president explains to it on a regular basis how his government spends taxpayers' money.

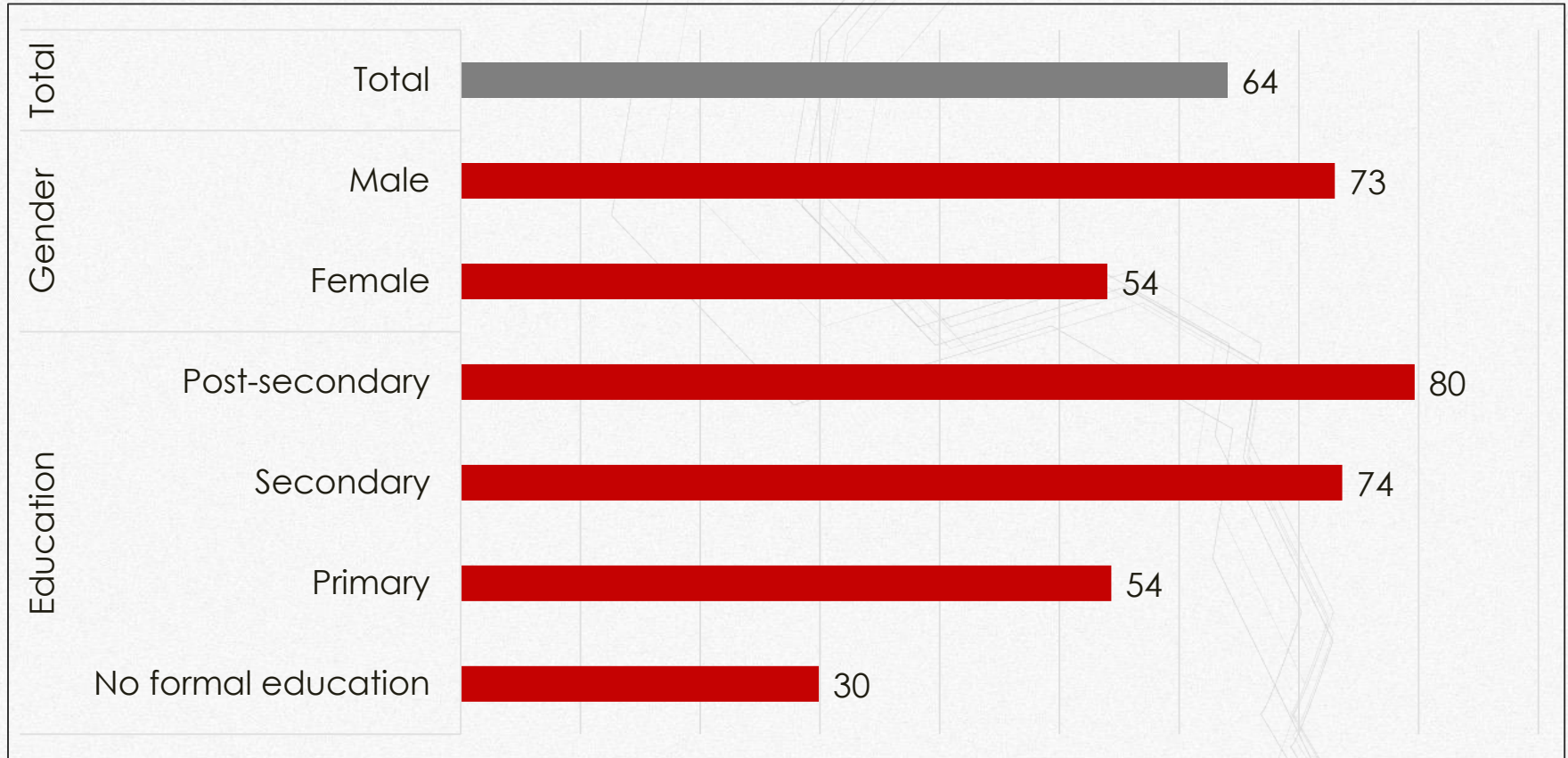
Statement 2: The president should be able to devote his full attention to developing the country rather than wasting time justifying his actions.

Participation in demonstration (%) | Kenya | 2016



Respondents were asked: *Here is a list of actions that people sometimes take as citizens when they are dissatisfied with government performance. For each of these, please tell me whether you, personally, have done any of these things during the past year: Participated in a demonstration of protest march? If not, would you do this if you had the chance?*

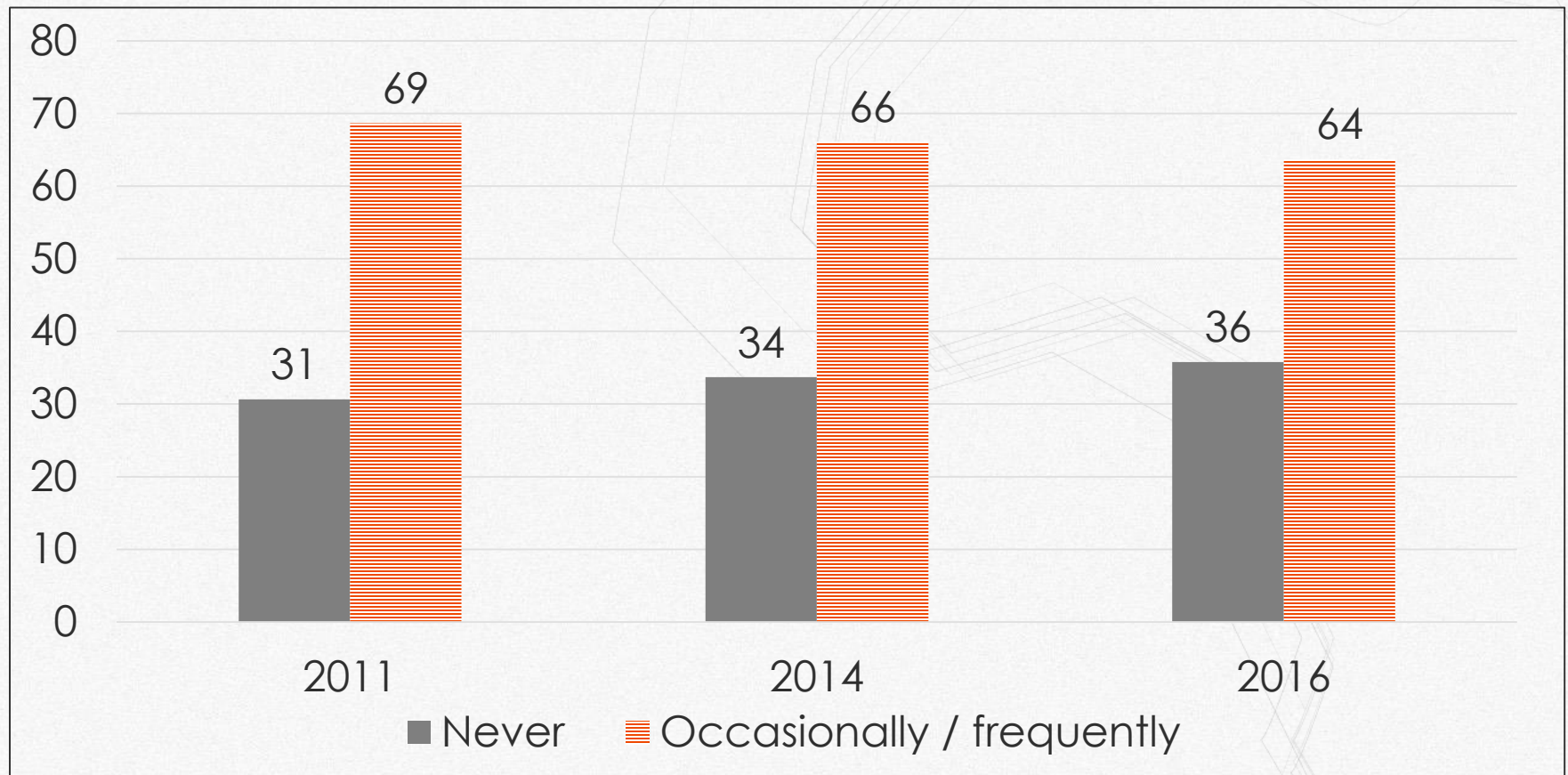
Frequency of discussing politics (%) | by gender and education | Kenya | 2016



Respondents were asked: *When you get together with your friends or family, would you say you discuss political matters frequently, occasionally, or never? (% who say “occasionally” or “frequently”)*

Frequency of discussing politics (%) | Kenya

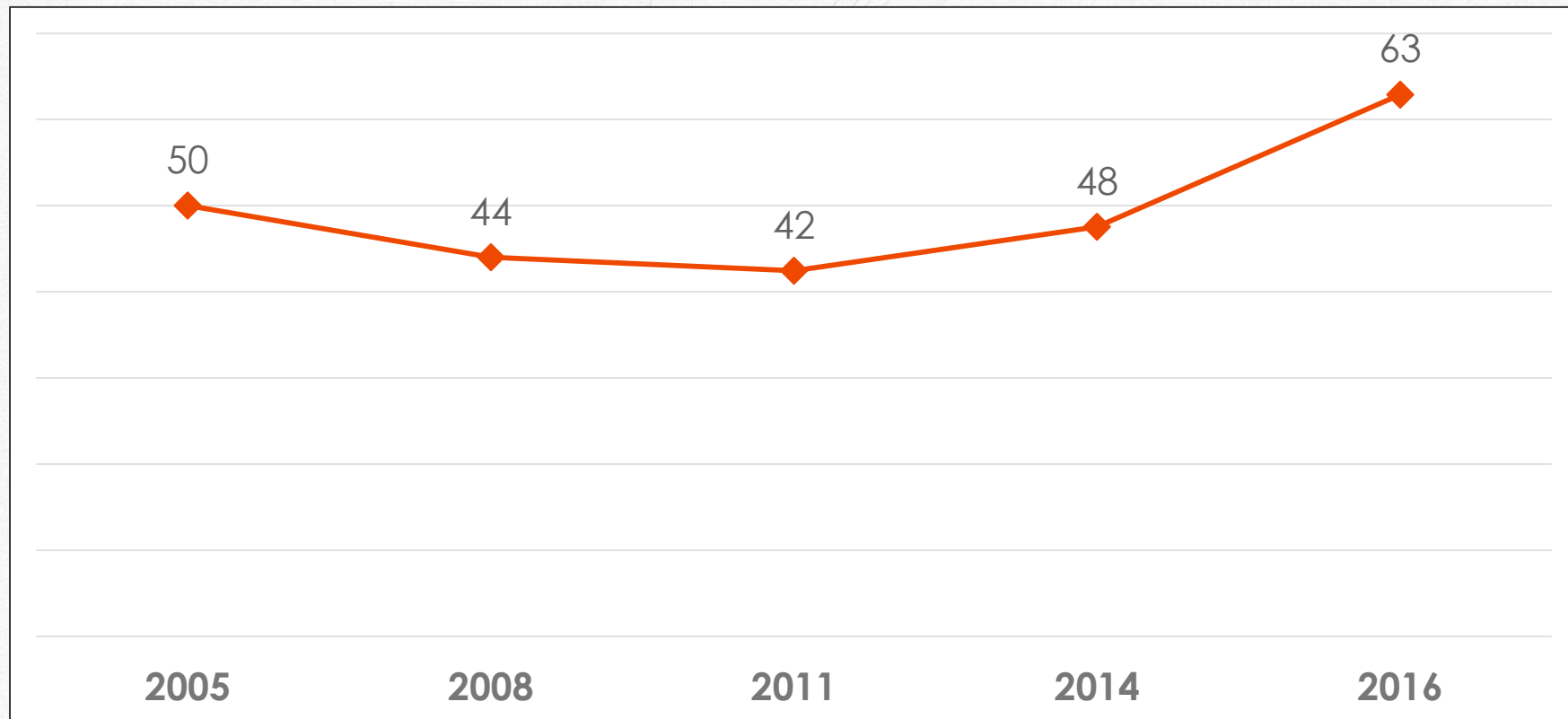
| 2011-2016



Respondents were asked: *When you get together with your friends or family, would you say you discuss political matters frequently, occasionally, or never? (% who say “occasionally” or “frequently”)*

Perceived extent of democracy (%) | Kenya

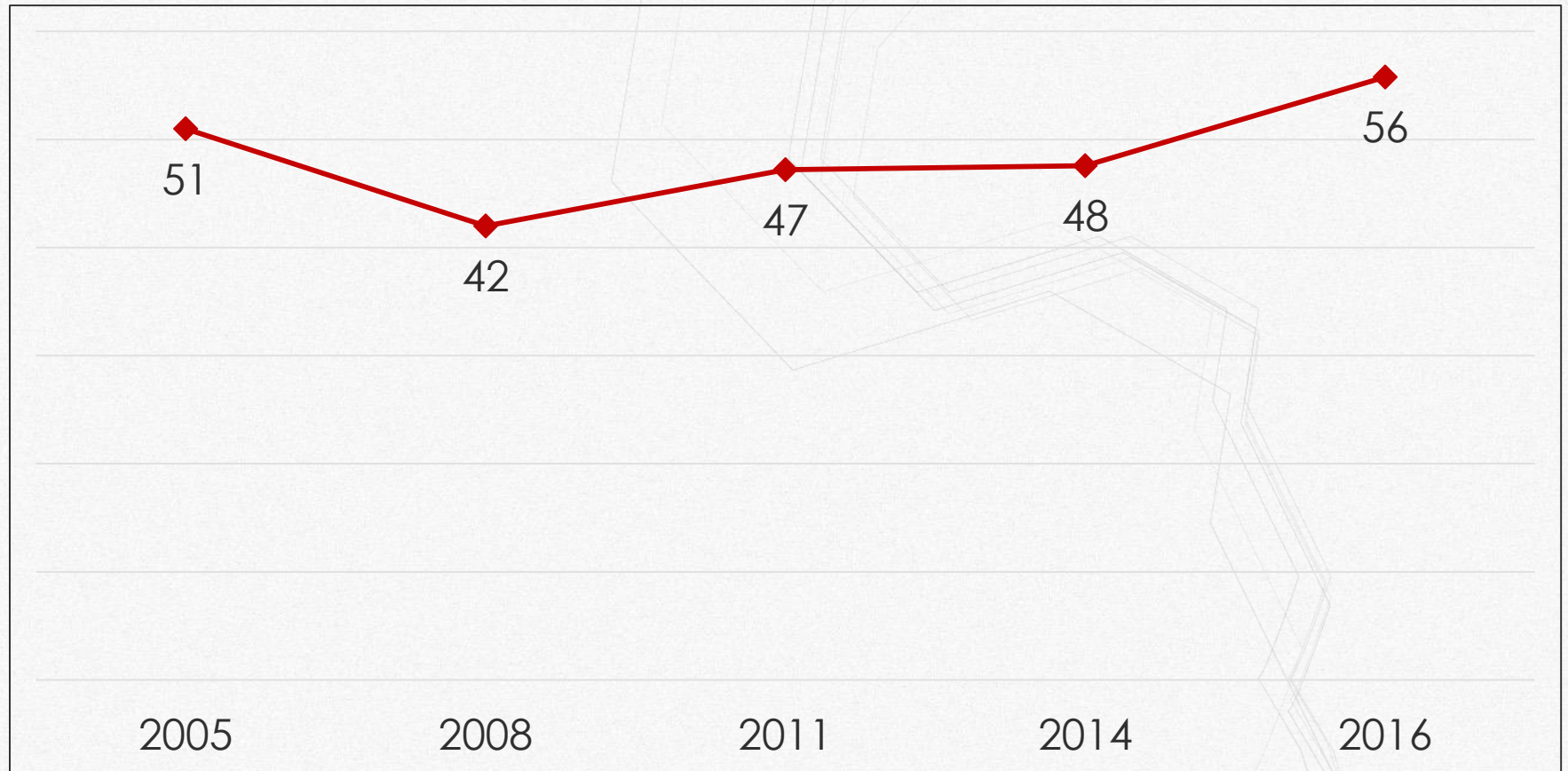
| 2005-2016



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how much of a democracy is Kenya today? (% who say "a full democracy" or "a democracy with minor problems")*

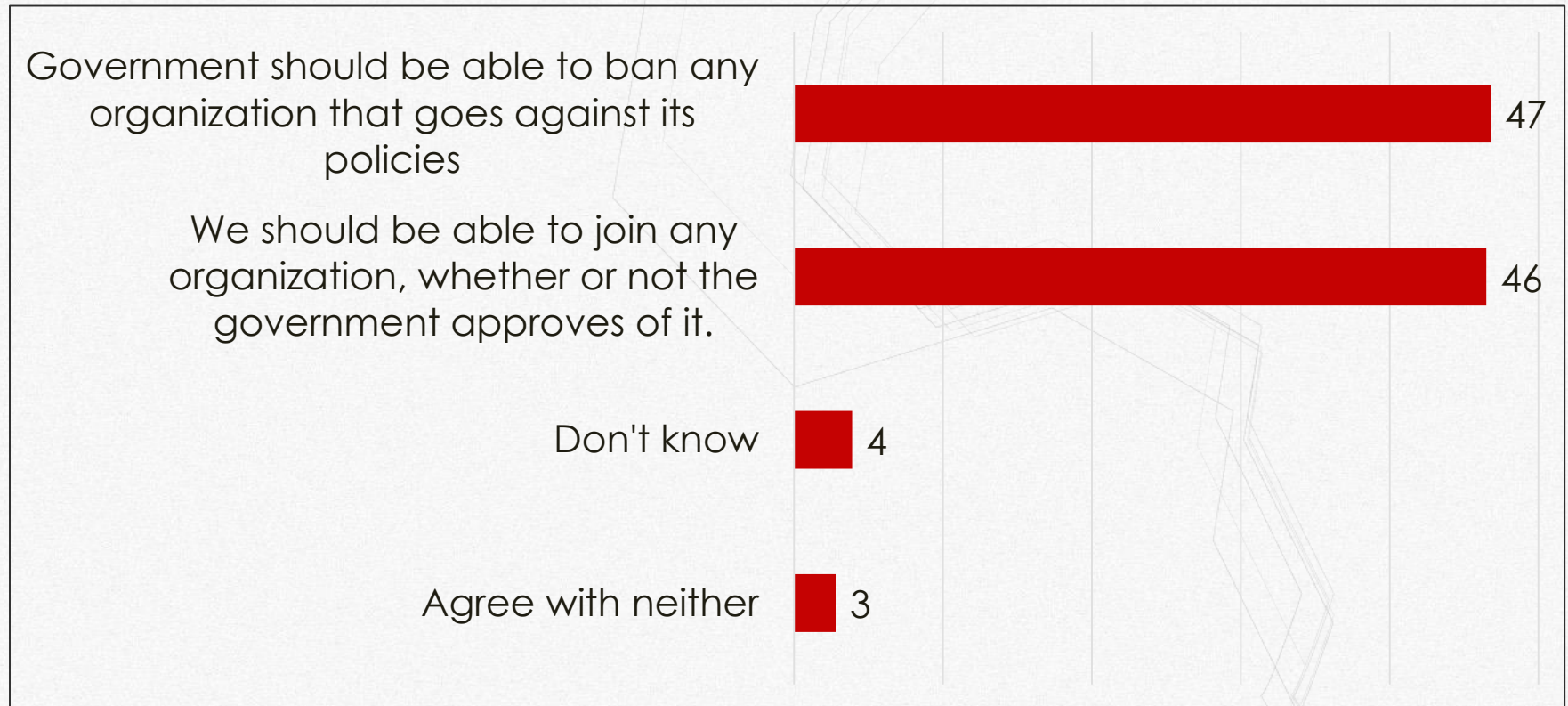
Satisfaction with democracy (%) | Kenya

| 2005-2016



Respondents were asked: Overall, how satisfied are you with the way democracy works in Kenya? (% who say "fairly satisfied" or "very satisfied")

Freedom of association (%) | Kenya | 2016



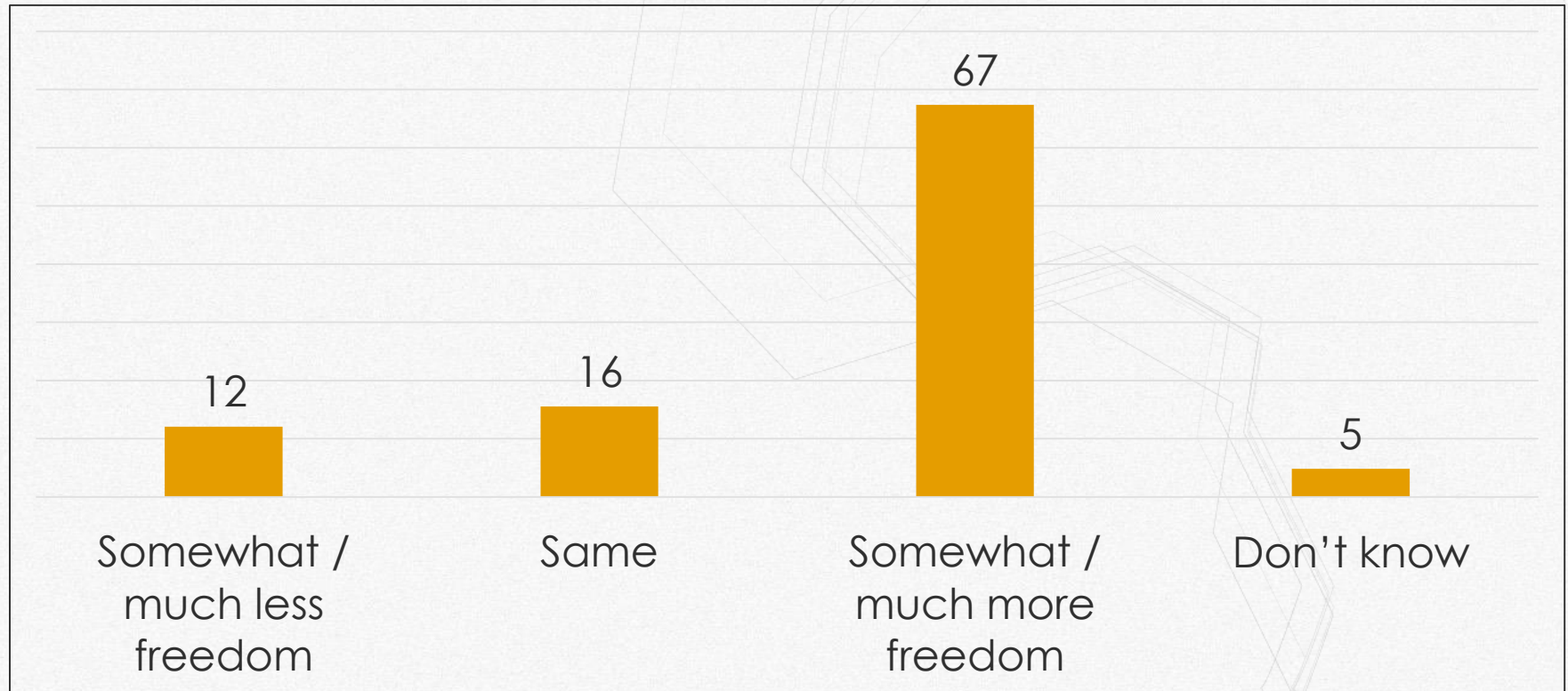
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: Government should be able to ban any organization that goes against its policies.

Statement 2: We should be able to join any organization, whether or not the government approves of it.

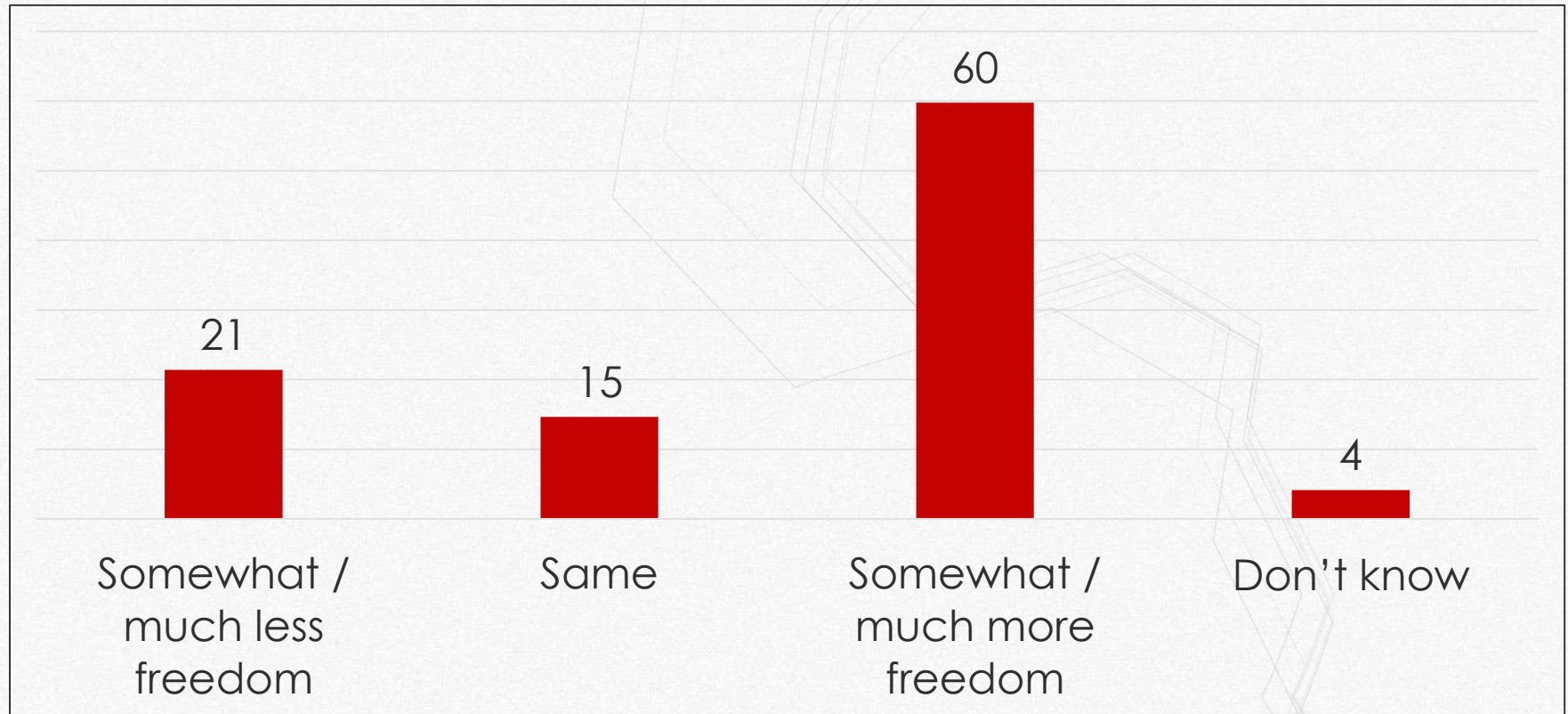
Freedom to join any political organization (%)

| Kenya | 2016



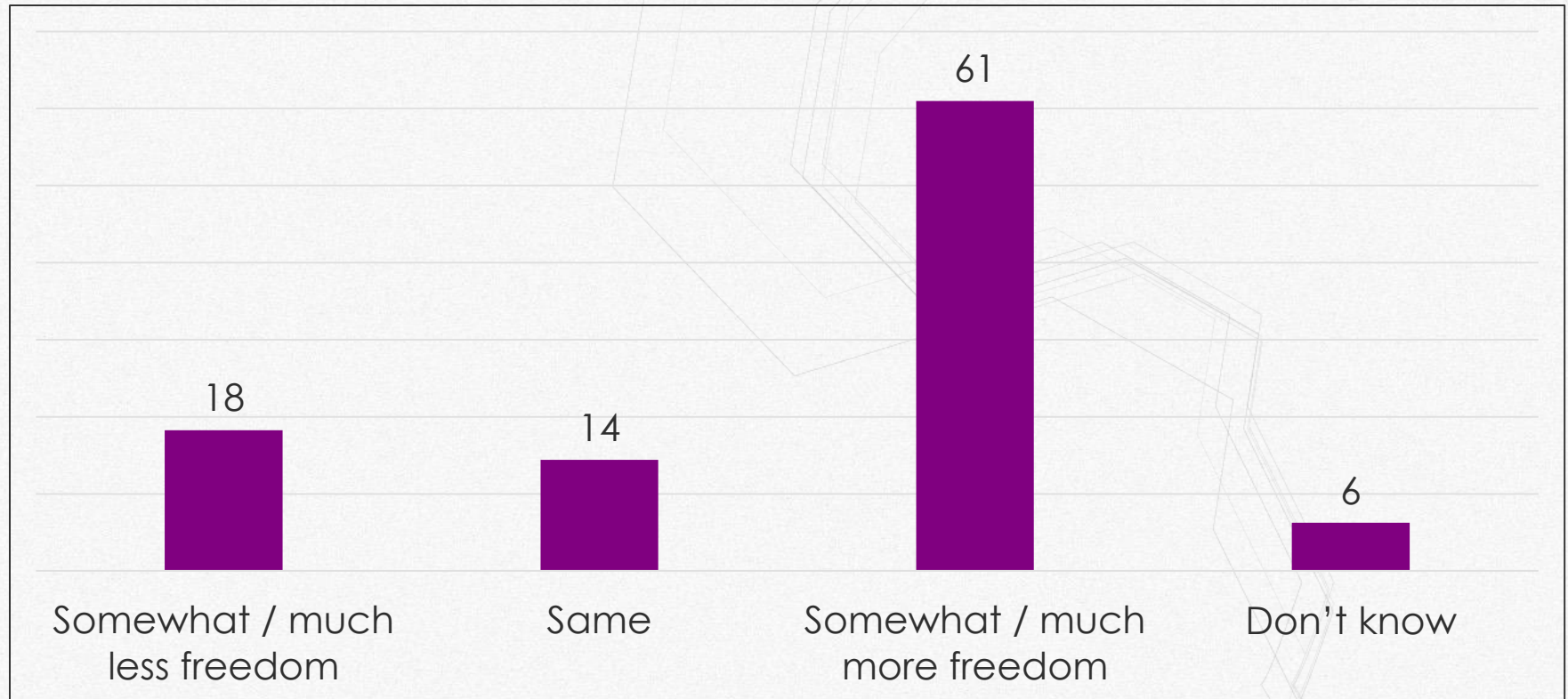
Respondents were asked: *Please tell me if there is more or less freedom now for each of the following things compared to a few years ago, or are things about the same: Your own freedom to join any political organization you want?*

Freedom of expression (%) | Kenya | 2016



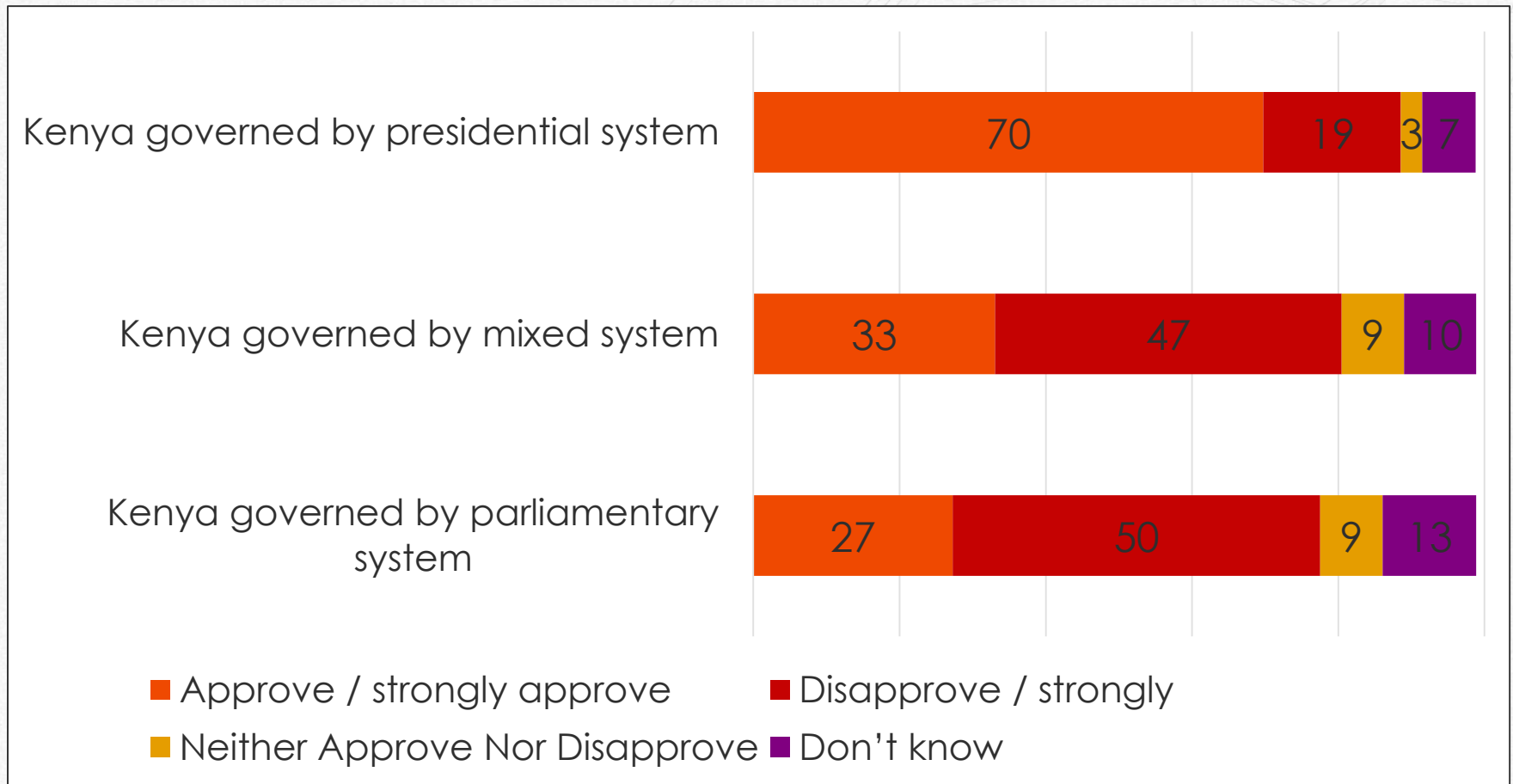
Respondents were asked: *Please tell me if there is more or less freedom now for each of the following things compared to a few years ago, or are things about the same: Your own freedom to say what you think about politics?*

Media freedom to report on and criticize government (%) | Kenya | 2016



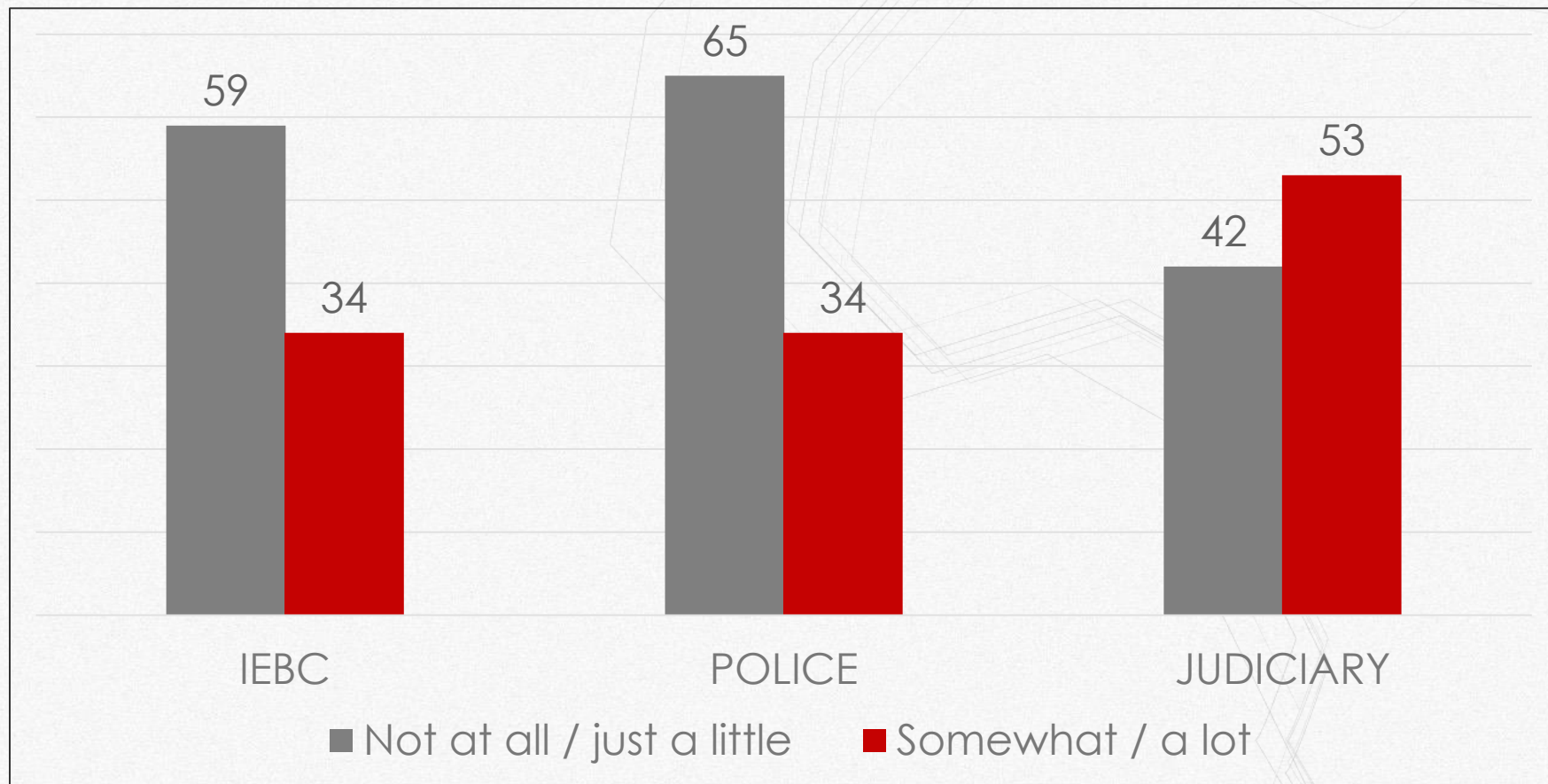
Respondents were asked: *Please tell me if there is more or less freedom now for each of the following things compared to a few years ago, or are things about the same: The media's freedom to investigate and report on government mistakes or to criticize government actions or performance?*

Preferred government system (%) | Kenya | 2016



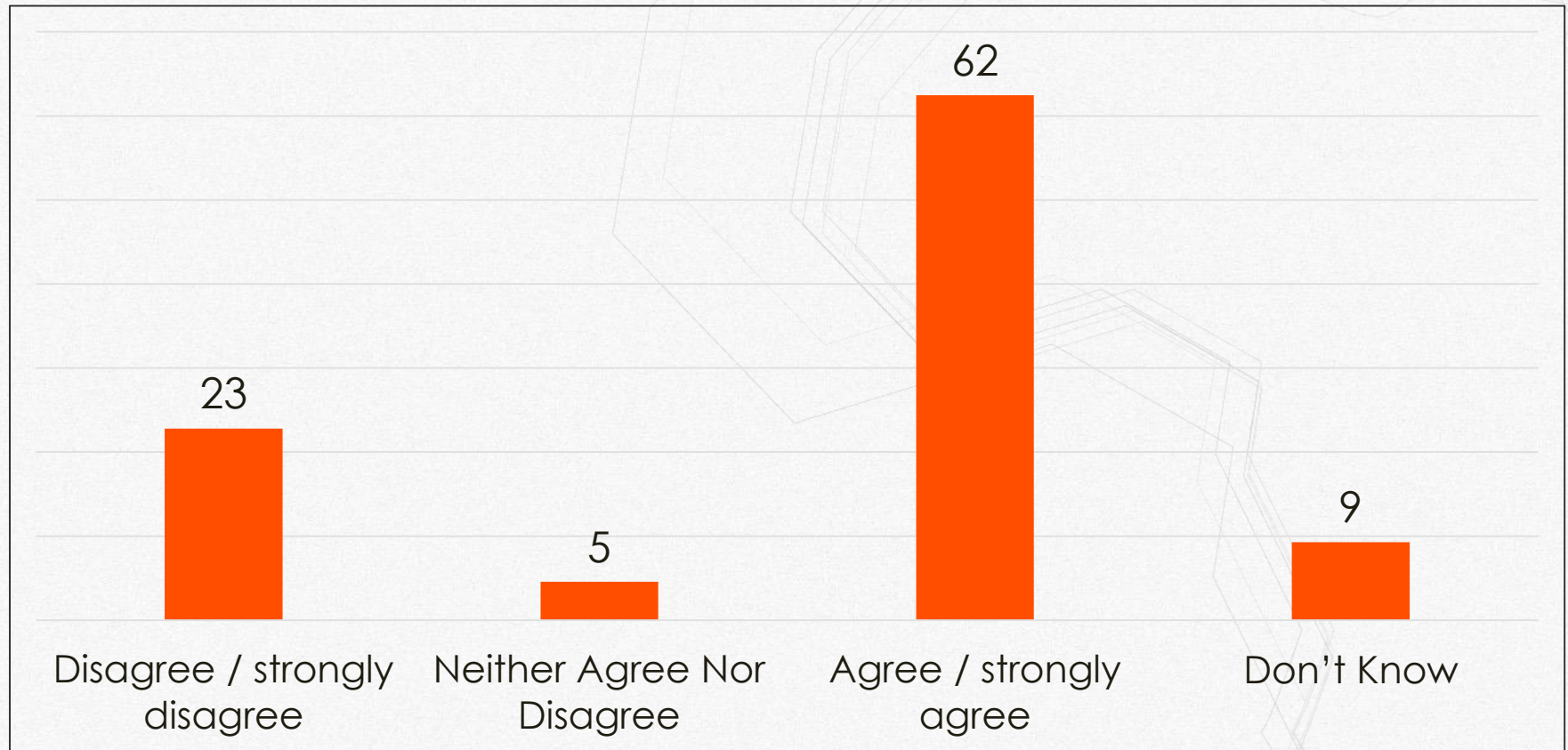
Respondents were asked: *There are many ways to govern a country. Would you disapprove or approve of the following government systems for the republic of Kenya: A presidential system in which the president is head of state and government? A parliamentary system in which a prime minister who is chosen from the largest party in Parliament becomes head of government and leader of the legislature? A mixed system in which a president is head of state and a prime minister is head of government?*

Trust in IEBC, police, and judiciary (%) | Kenya | 2016



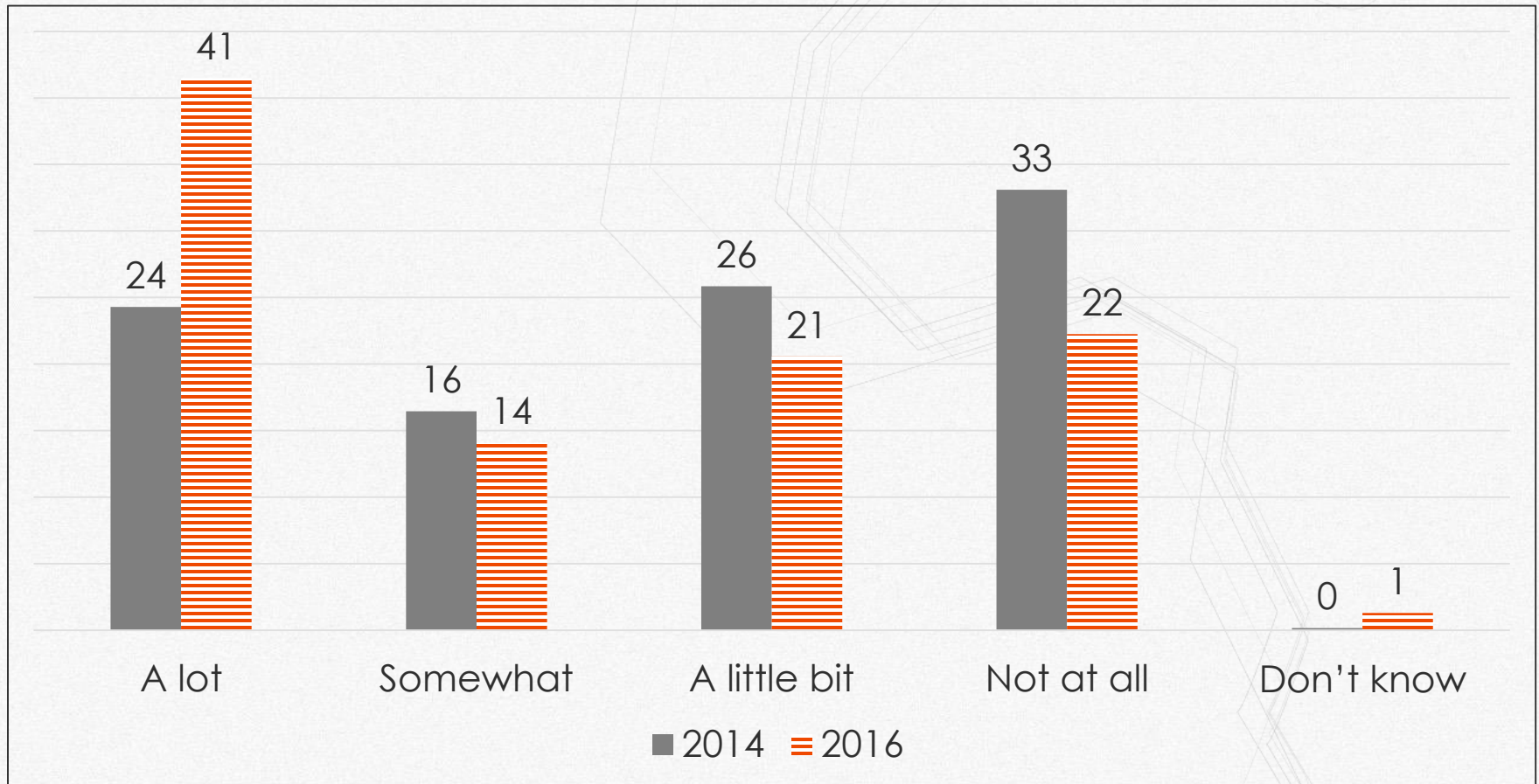
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission? The police? Courts of law?

Removal of IEBC members necessary? (%) | Kenya | 2016



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say: Removal of all commissioners of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission or IEBC was necessary to build public confidence ahead of 2017 elections?

Fear of political intimidation or violence during campaigns (%) | Kenya | 2014-2016



Respondents were asked: *During election campaigns in this country, how much do you personally fear becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence?*

Conclusions





- Growing numbers of Kenyans see their country as a democracy and are satisfied with the way the political system is working.
- Kenyans prefer their leaders to be democratically elected in a free and fair manner.
- Freedoms of association, expression, and the media are seen as increasing.
- Public trust in the police, judiciary, and IEBC is low.
- A majority of Kenyans express fear of becoming victims of political intimidation or violence during election campaigns.

Thank you

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