



Survey Warehouse
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News release

Although most Namibians support multiparty competition, fewer feel close to any political party, survey shows

More than two-thirds of Namibians say the country needs many political parties to ensure that citizens have real choices in who governs them, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey, but the proportion of citizens who identify with a political party continues to drop.

Survey findings show that large majorities of Namibians support multiparty competition and feel that voters have the power to elect leaders who will improve their lives. But the share of the voting-age population who identify with political parties has declined sharply over the past five years. Those who are less likely to feel close to a political party include youth and urban residents.

Key findings

- More than two-thirds (71%) of adult Namibians believe that voters will have their interests better represented in a multiparty system. Only 29% say Namibia doesn't need many political parties because they only create division and confusion. Support for multiparty competition has increased by 14 percentage points since 2006 (57%) (Figure 1).
- Namibians also overwhelmingly believe that voters have the power to choose leaders who will improve their lives (70%) (Figure 2).
- But the share of Namibians who "feel close to" a political party has declined sharply, from 84% in 2006 to 55% in 2019 (Figure 3). Partisanship is at its lowest level since Afrobarometer surveys started in 1999.
- While following similar declining trajectories over time, partisanship is significantly stronger among rural residents (62%) than urbanites (49%) and among older citizens (71% of those aged over 65) than among youth (41% of those aged 18-25) (Figure 4).

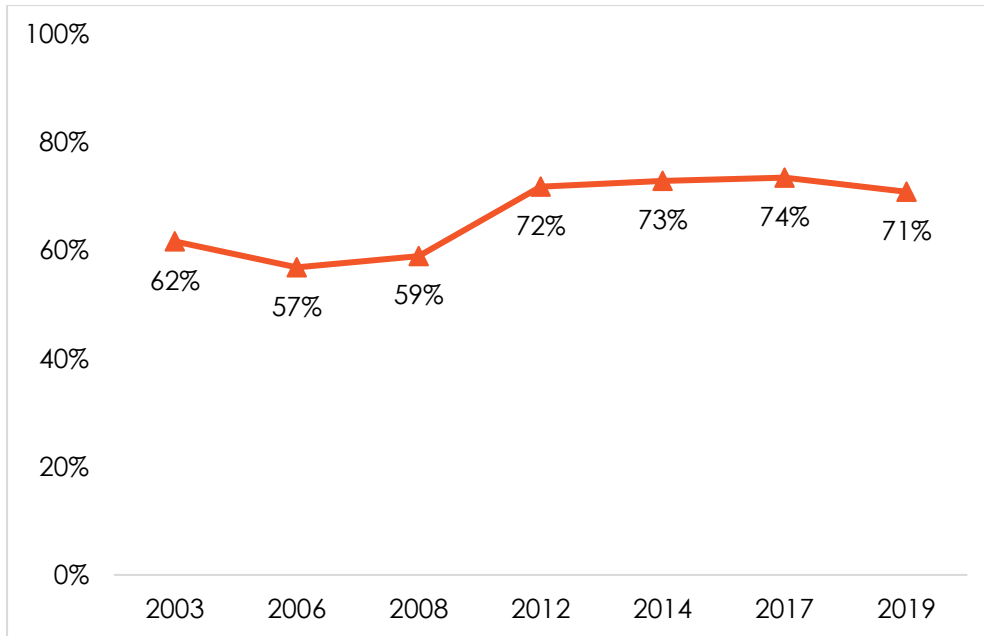
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, nonpartisan survey research network that provides reliable data on Africans' experiences and evaluations of quality of life, governance, and democracy. Seven rounds of surveys were completed in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018. Round 8 surveys are planned in at least 35 countries in 2019/2020. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Namibia, led by Survey Warehouse, interviewed 1,200 adult Namibians in August 2019. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys were conducted in Namibia in 1999, 2003, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2017.

Charts

Figure 1: Does Namibia need many political parties? | Namibia | 2003-2019



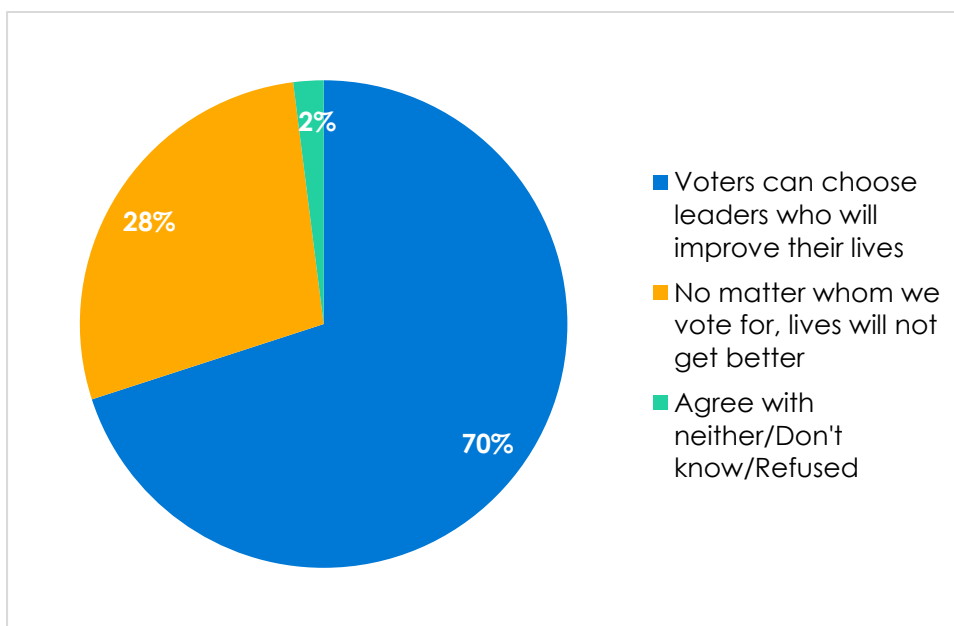
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

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

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

(% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with Statement 2)

Figure 2: Can voters choose leaders who will improve their lives? | Namibia | 2019

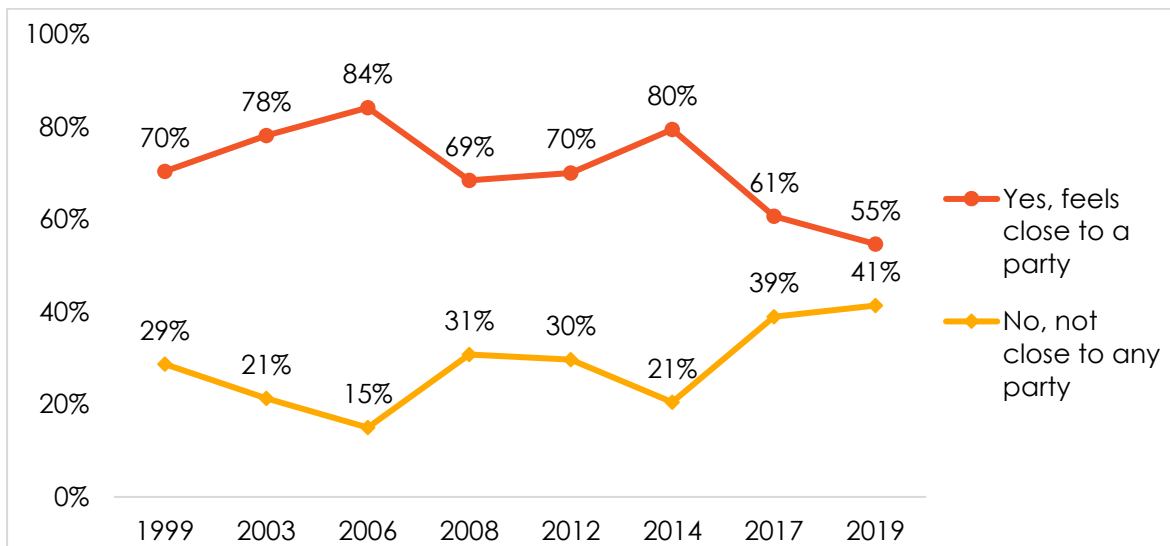


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: No matter whom we vote for, our lives will not get better in the future.

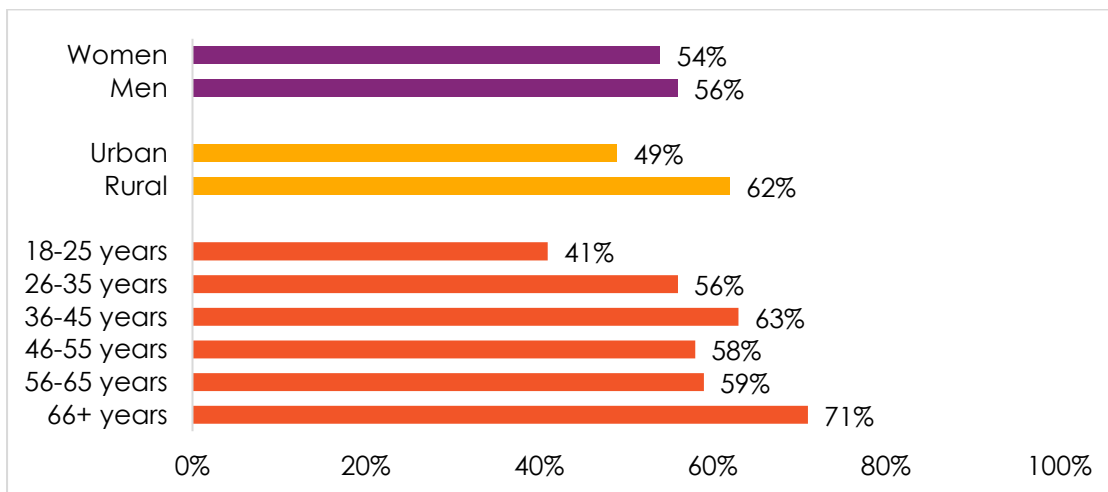
Statement 2: We can use our power as voters to choose leaders who will help us improve our lives.

Figure 3: Partisanship | Namibia | 1999-2019



Respondents were asked: Do you feel close to any particular political party?

Figure 4: Partisanship | by gender, urban-rural residency, and age | Namibia | 1999-2019



Respondents were asked: Do you feel close to any particular political party? (% who say "yes")

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