

Windhoek, Namibia
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News release

Majority of Namibians support elections as the best way to choose their leaders, new Afrobarometer study shows

Most Namibians value elections, and overwhelming majorities say that they feel free to join any political organisation and to choose whom to vote for without feeling pressured, a recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

More than seven in 10 citizens say they voted in the last election in 2019. While most respondents consider that election to have been largely free and fair, about three in 10 report fearing political intimidation or violence at least "a little bit" during the election campaign.

Namibians will take to the polls in November 2024, with a national re-registration of voters launching in June.

Key findings

- About three-quarters (74%) of Namibians support elections as the best way to choose their leaders, while one-quarter (25%) say other methods for choosing the country's leaders would be preferable (Figure 1).
- Overwhelming majorities report that they feel "somewhat free" or "completely free" to join any political organisation (87%) and to choose whom to vote for without feeling pressured (90%) (Figure 2).
 - Citizens with no formal education (81%), urban dwellers (84%), and women (85%) are slightly less likely to say they feel free to join any political organisation.
- Almost three-quarters (72%) of citizens say they voted in the last national election in 2019, while 25% say they did not (Figure 3).
 - Urbanites (65%) are less likely than rural residents (81%) to indicate that they voted in the previous election (Figure 4).
 - Even excluding those who were too young to vote in 2019, youth aged 18-35 (56%) are far less likely to report having voted than their elders (84%-92%).
- Two-thirds (66%) of respondents describe the 2019 election as having been largely free and fair: 34% say it was "completely free and fair," while 32% consider it "free and fair with minor problems." But almost three in 10 (28%) say it was either "free and fair with major problems" (18%) or "not free and fair" (10%) (Figure 5).
- About one in four citizens (26%) say they feared political intimidation or violence "a little bit" (16%), "somewhat" (5%), or "a lot" (5%) during the last election, while 71% report experiencing no such fears (Figure 6).

Afrobarometer surveys

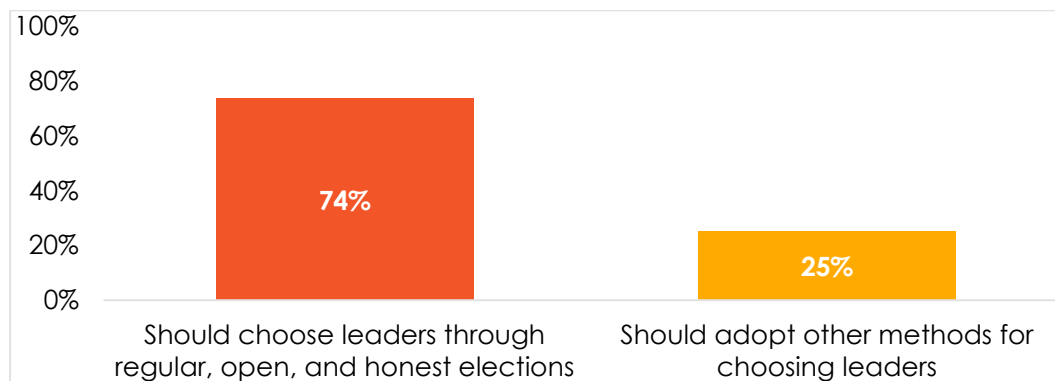
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 surveys

are currently underway. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Namibia, led by Survey Warehouse, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,200 adult citizens of Namibia in March 2024. 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, 2017, 2019, and 2021.

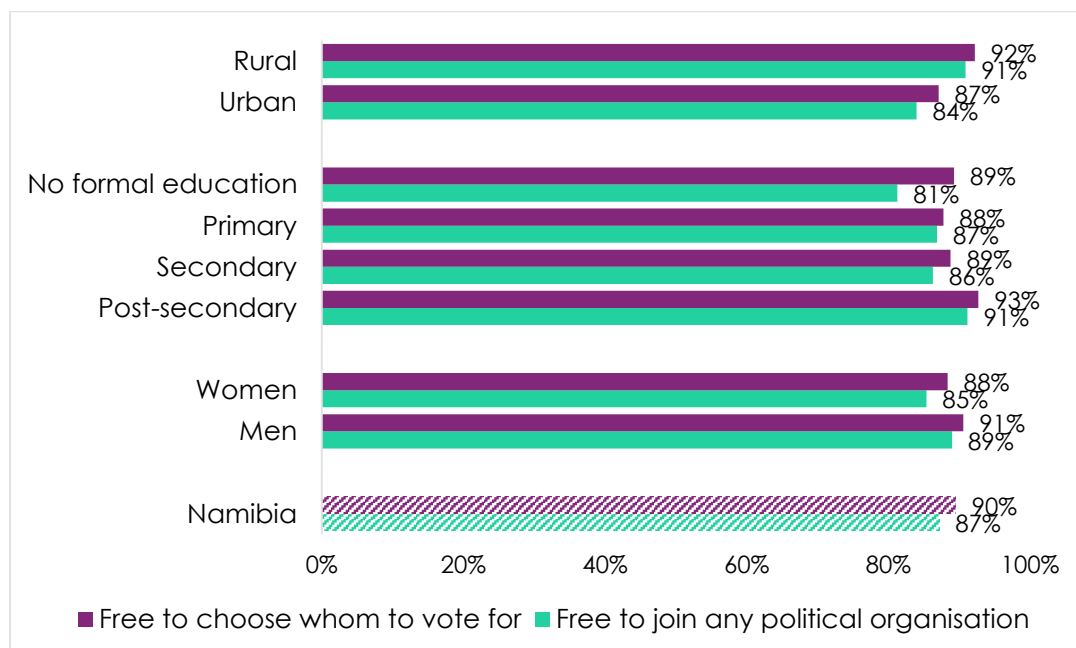
Charts

Figure 1: Support for elections as the best way to choose leaders | Namibia | 2024



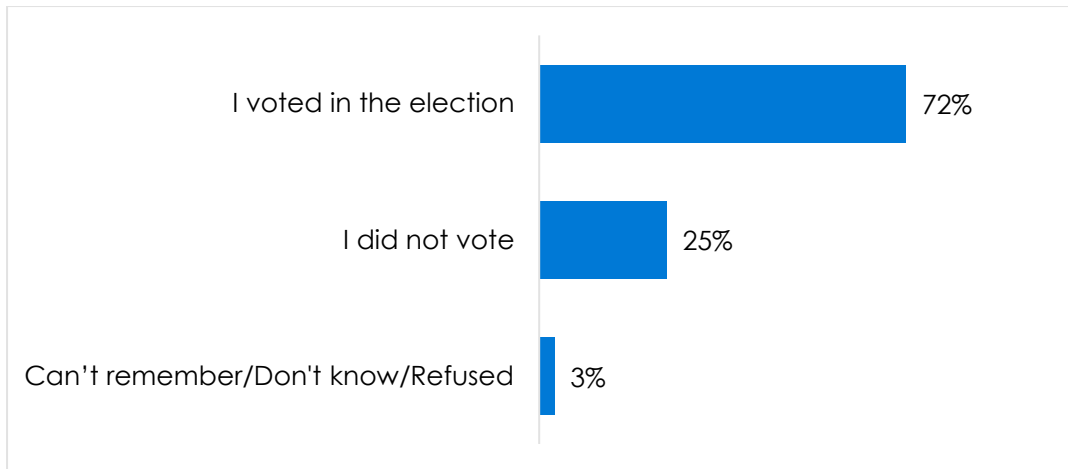
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: We should choose our leaders in this country through regular, open, and honest elections.
 Statement 2: Since elections sometimes produce bad results, we should adopt other methods for choosing this country's leaders.

Figure 2: Freedom to join political organisations and choose whom to vote for | Namibia | 2024



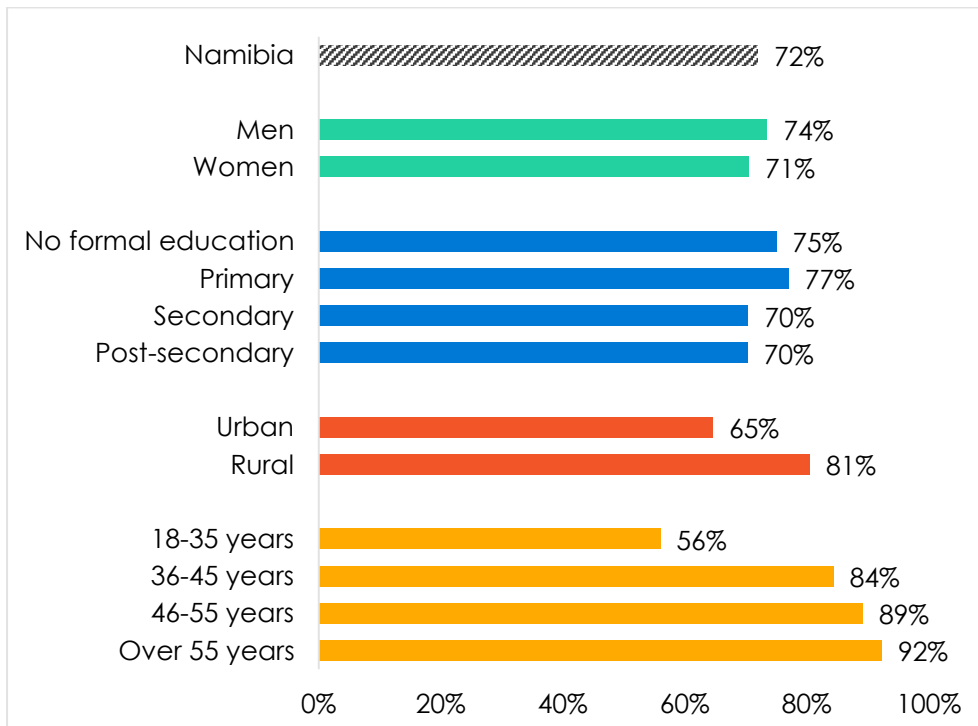
Respondents were asked: In this country, how free are you: To join any political organisation you want? To choose whom to vote for without feeling pressured? (% who say "somewhat free" or "completely free")

Figure 3: Voting in the 2019 national election | excluding respondents who were too young to vote | Namibia | 2024



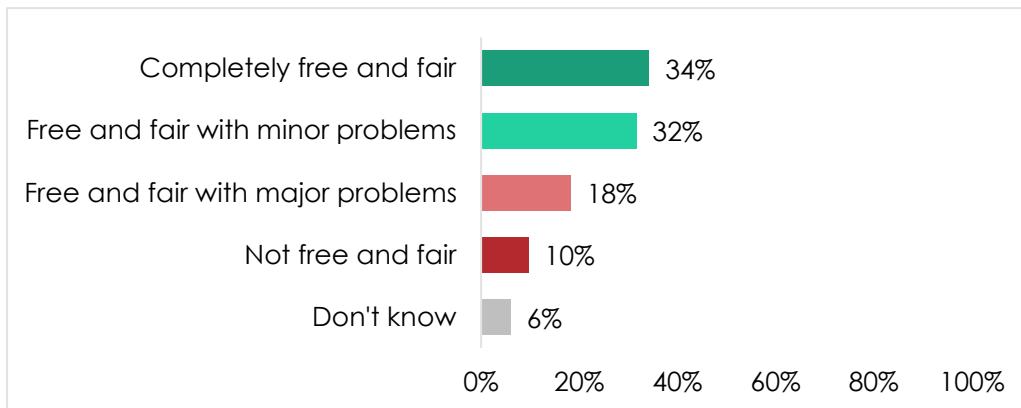
Respondents were asked: People are not always able to vote in elections, for example, because they weren't registered, they were unable to go, or someone prevented them from voting. How about you? In the last national election, held in 2019, did you vote, or not, or were you too young to vote? Or can't you remember whether you voted? (Respondents who were not old enough to vote in 2019 are excluded.)

Figure 4: Voting in the 2019 national election | by demographic group | Namibia | 2024



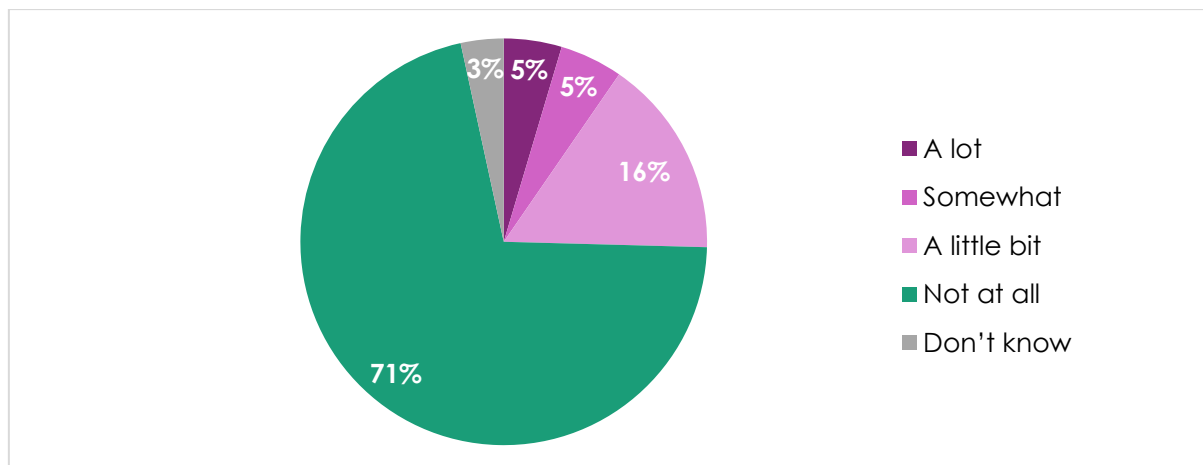
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Figure 5: Freeness and fairness of the 2019 national election | Namibia | 2024



Respondents were asked: On the whole, how would you rate the freeness and fairness of the last national election, held in 2019?

Figure 6: Feared political intimidation or violence in the 2019 national election | Namibia | 2024



Respondents were asked: During the last national election campaign in 2019, how much did you personally fear becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence?

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