



The Value of Elections to the Zambian voter

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 6 Survey In Zambia



23 September 2015
Lusaka, Zambia

At a glance

- Almost six of 10 Zambians (59%) say elections function well in enabling voters to remove leaders who do not do what the people want. This proportion has nearly doubled from 30% in 2005.
- More than half (51%) say elections ensure that MPs reflect the views of voters, an increase from 29% in 2005.
- A majority (59%) perceive the 2011 elections as “completely free and fair,” and an additional 20% say they “free and fair, but with minor problems.”
- A plurality of Zambians say that voters are never threatened with violence and a quarter said they are never bribed and a third said that votes are always counted fairly.

What is Afrobarometer?



- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- 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.
- National Partners in each country conduct the survey. In Zambia, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by RuralNet Associates Ltd.

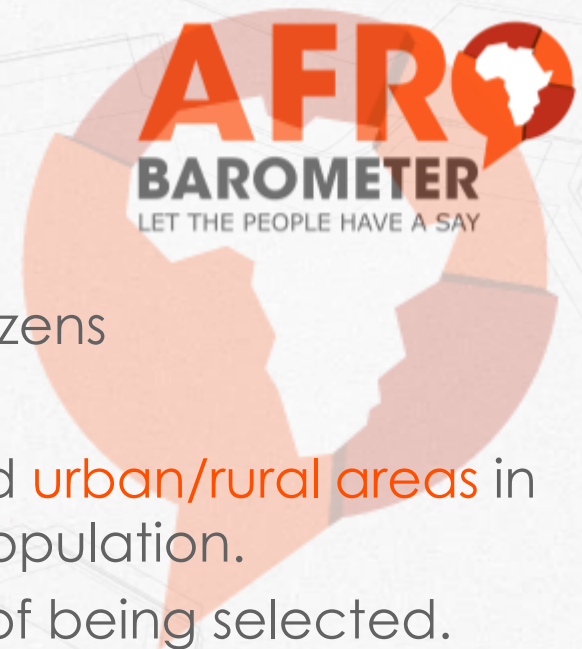


Where Afrobarometer works

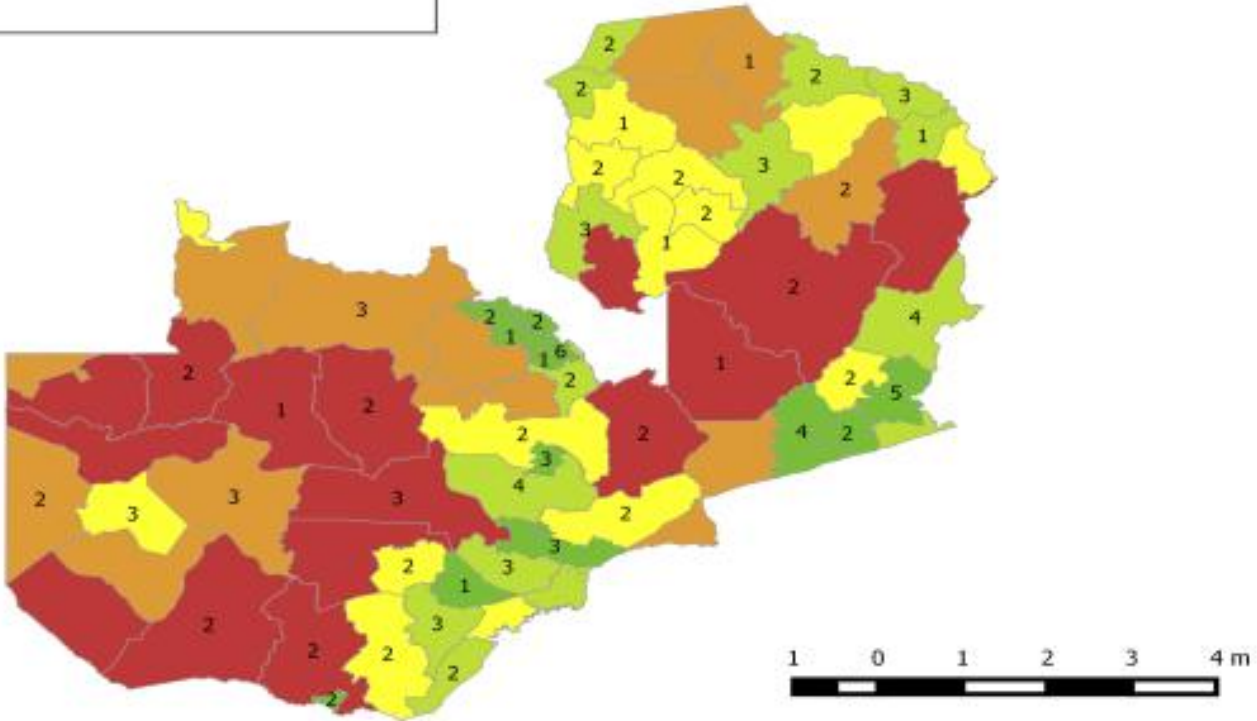
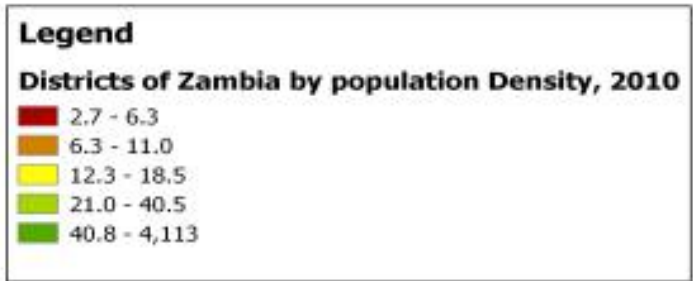


Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are **randomly** selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across **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 Zambia of **1,200** adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in Zambia was conducted between **1** and **31 October 2014**.



Enumerator map



Note: the numbers in the map refer to the number of enumeration areas (EAs) selected in each district.

Survey demographics

		Unweighted	Weighted
Gender	Male	50%	50%
	Female	50%	50%
	Total	100%	100%

		Unweighted	Weighted
Urban or rural	Urban	43%	40%
	Rural	57%	60%
	Total	100%	100%

Survey demographics

		Unweighted	Weighted
Province	Lusaka	19%	17%
	Central	10%	10%
	Copperbelt	16%	15%
	Eastern	11%	12%
	Southern	11%	12%
	Northern	8%	8%
	Luapula	7%	8%
	Western	7%	7%
	North-Western	5%	6%
	Muchinga	5%	5%
	Total	100%	100%

Survey demographics

		Unweighted	Weighted
Education	Secondary	43%	44%
	Primary	35%	34%
	Post-secondary	13%	13%
	No formal education	8%	8%
	Total	100%	100%



Results



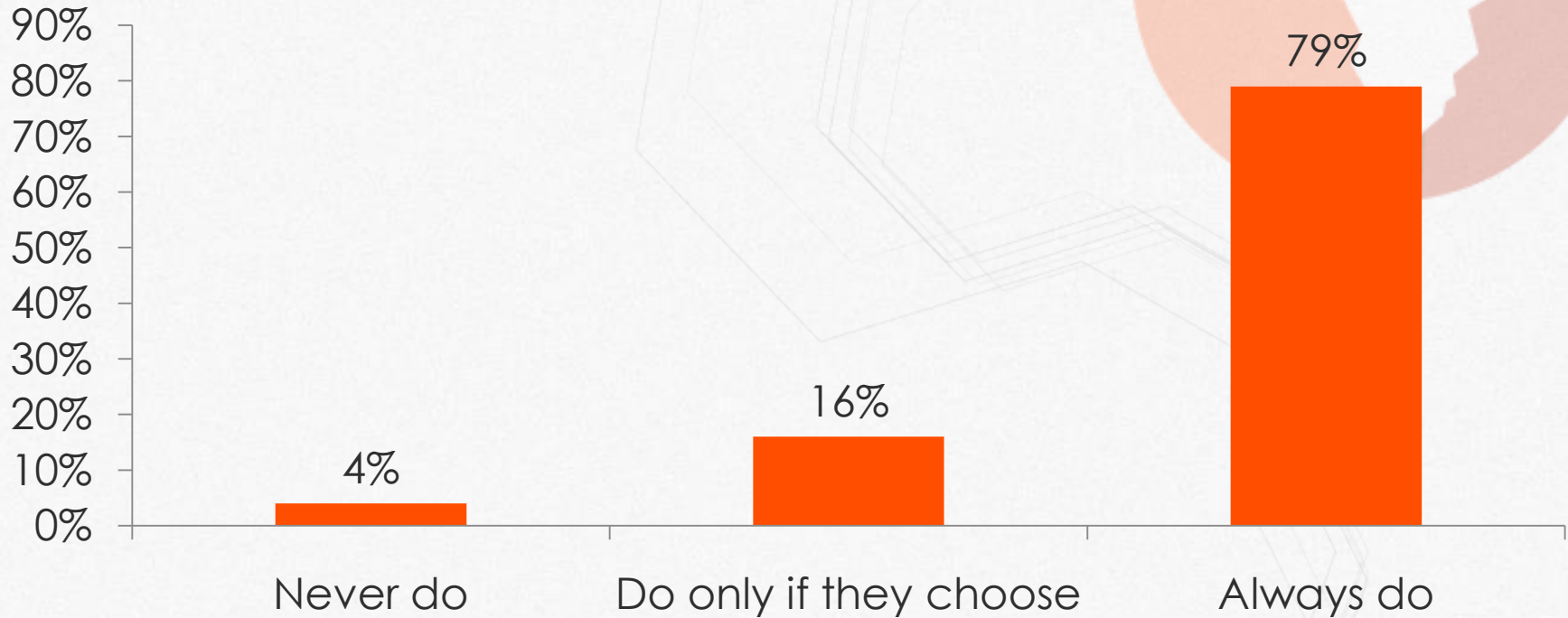


VOTING IN AN ELECTION AS A DEMOCRATIC VALUE

Key findings

- An overwhelming majority (79%) of Zambians think that voting in an election is something a good citizen in a democracy should always do.
- Voter turnout has declined from a high of 71% in 2006 to 54% in 2011

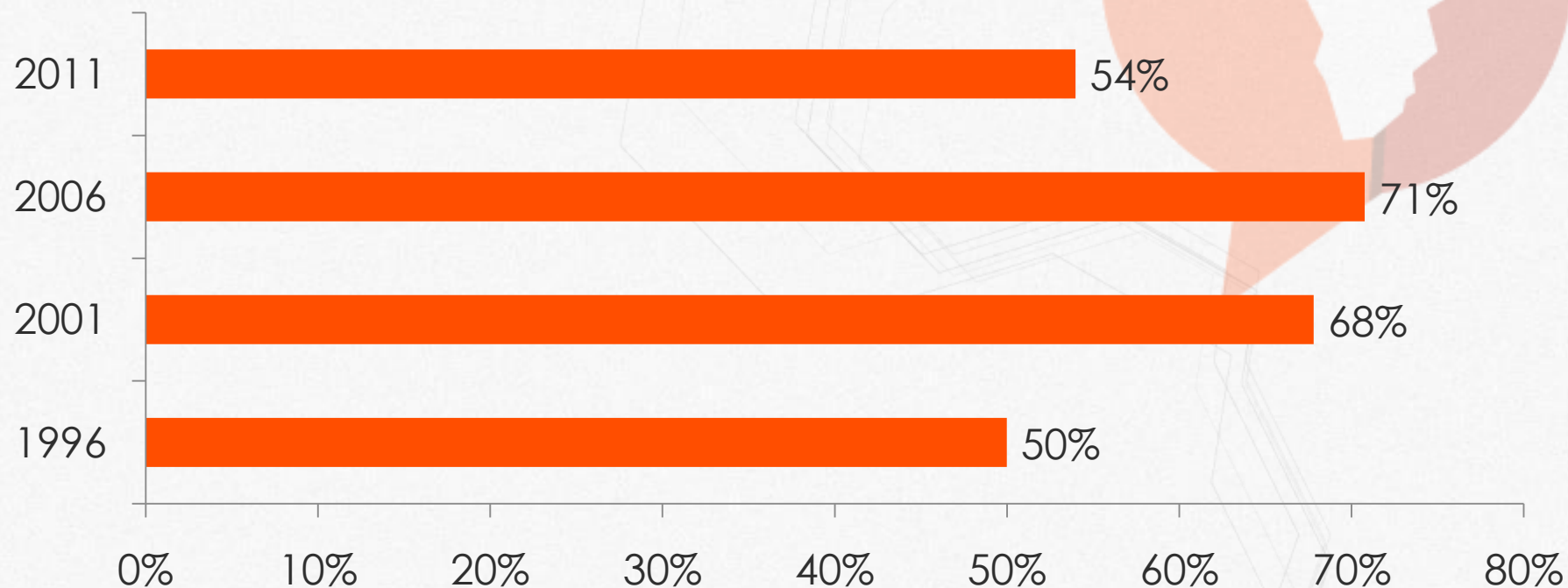
Voting in elections is something good citizens should do



Respondents were asked : For each of the following actions, please tell me whether you think it is something a good citizen in a democracy should always do, never do, or do only if they choose: Vote in elections.

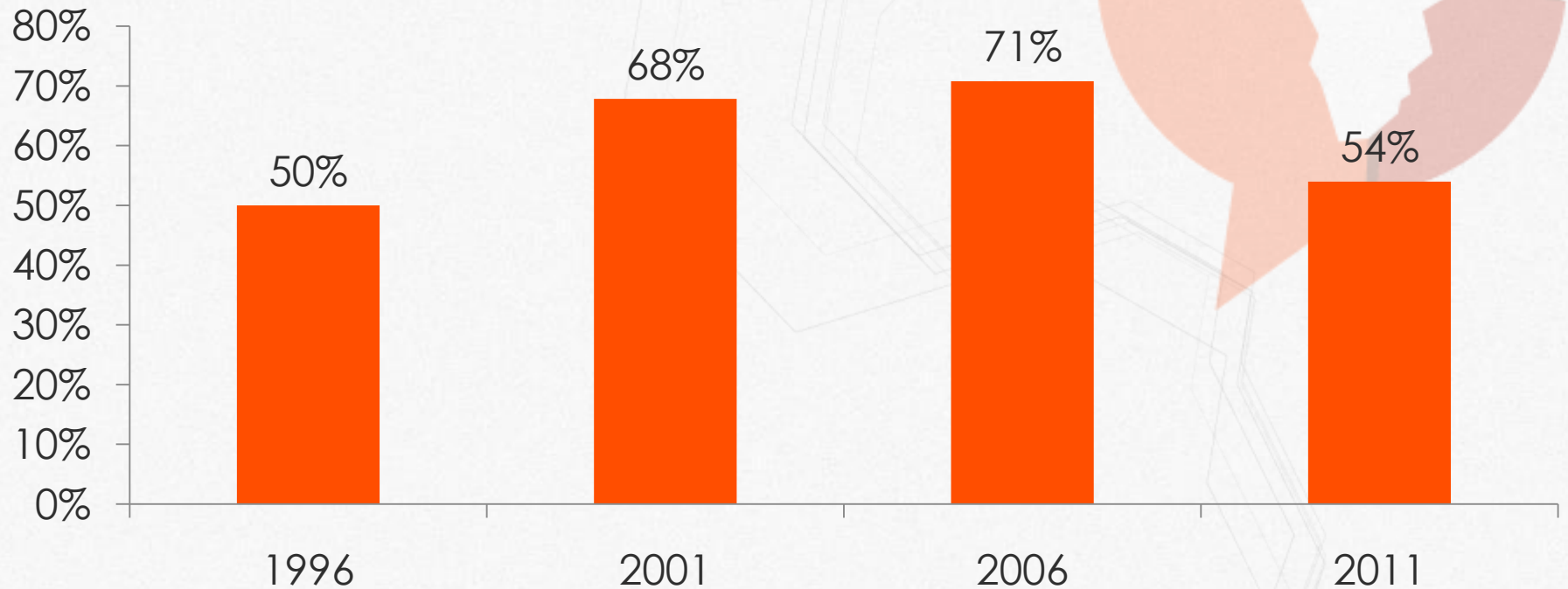


Voter turnout in tripartite elections | Electoral Commission of Zambia



Data source: Electoral Commission of Zambia (www.elections.org.zm)

Voter turnout trend in presidential elections | Electoral Commission of Zambia 1996 - 2011



Data source: Electoral Commission of Zambia (www.elections.org.zm)

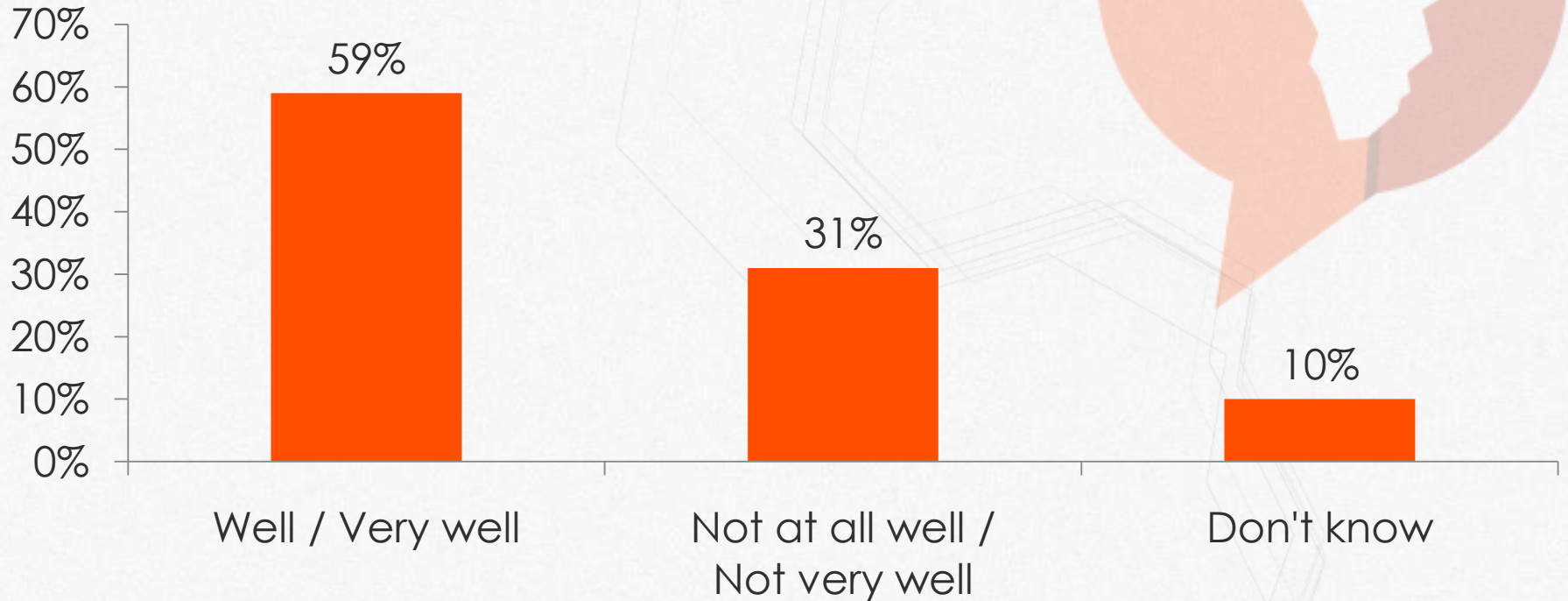


ELECTIONS AS TOOLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

Key findings

- A majority (59%) of Zambians say elections function “well” or “very well” to enable voters to remove from office leaders who do not do what the people want; 31% say they do not.
- A slim majority (51%) of Zambians also believe that elections function “well” or “very well” to ensure that MPs reflect the views of voters, while 38% say they do not.

Elections enable voters to remove leaders from office

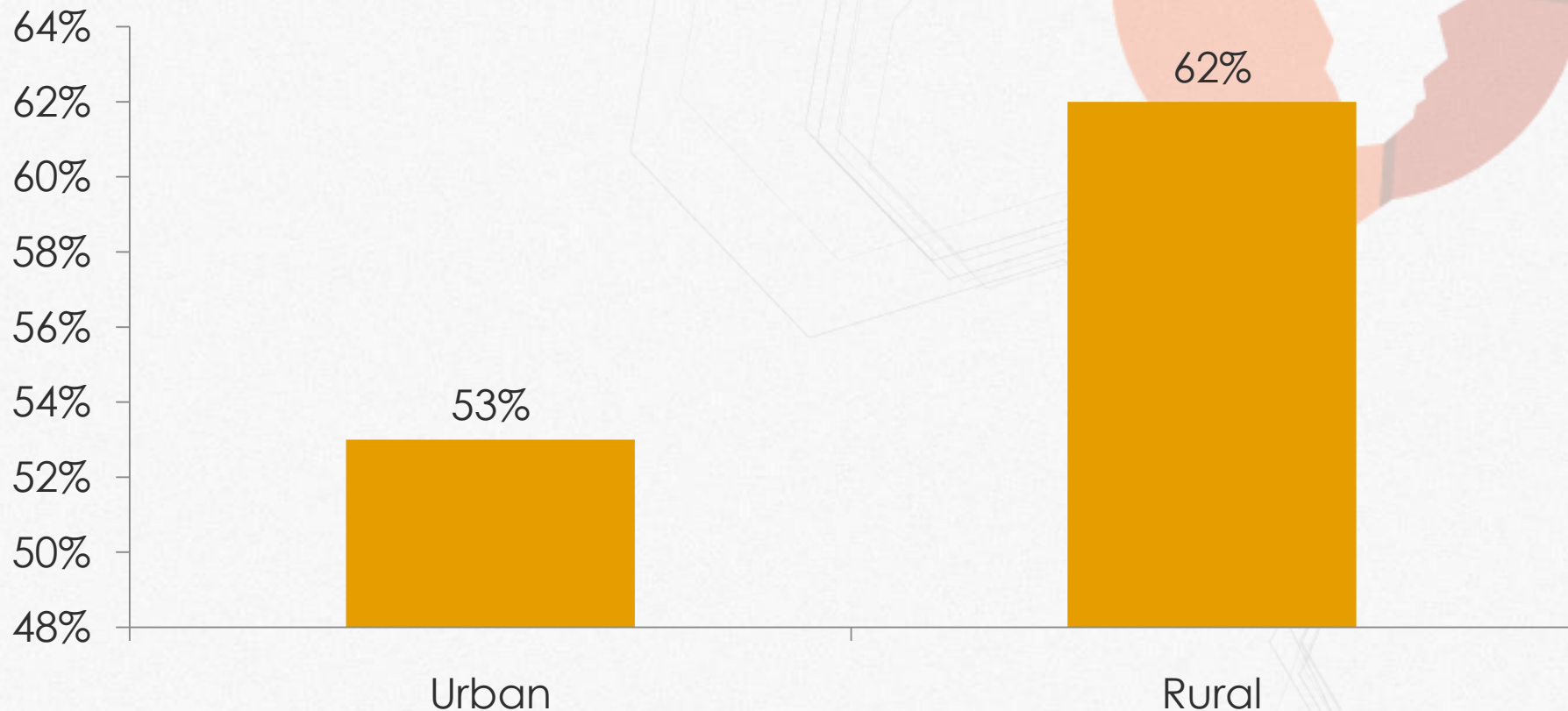


Respondents were asked: Think about how elections work in practice in this country. How well do elections: Enable voters to remove from office leaders who do not do what the people want?

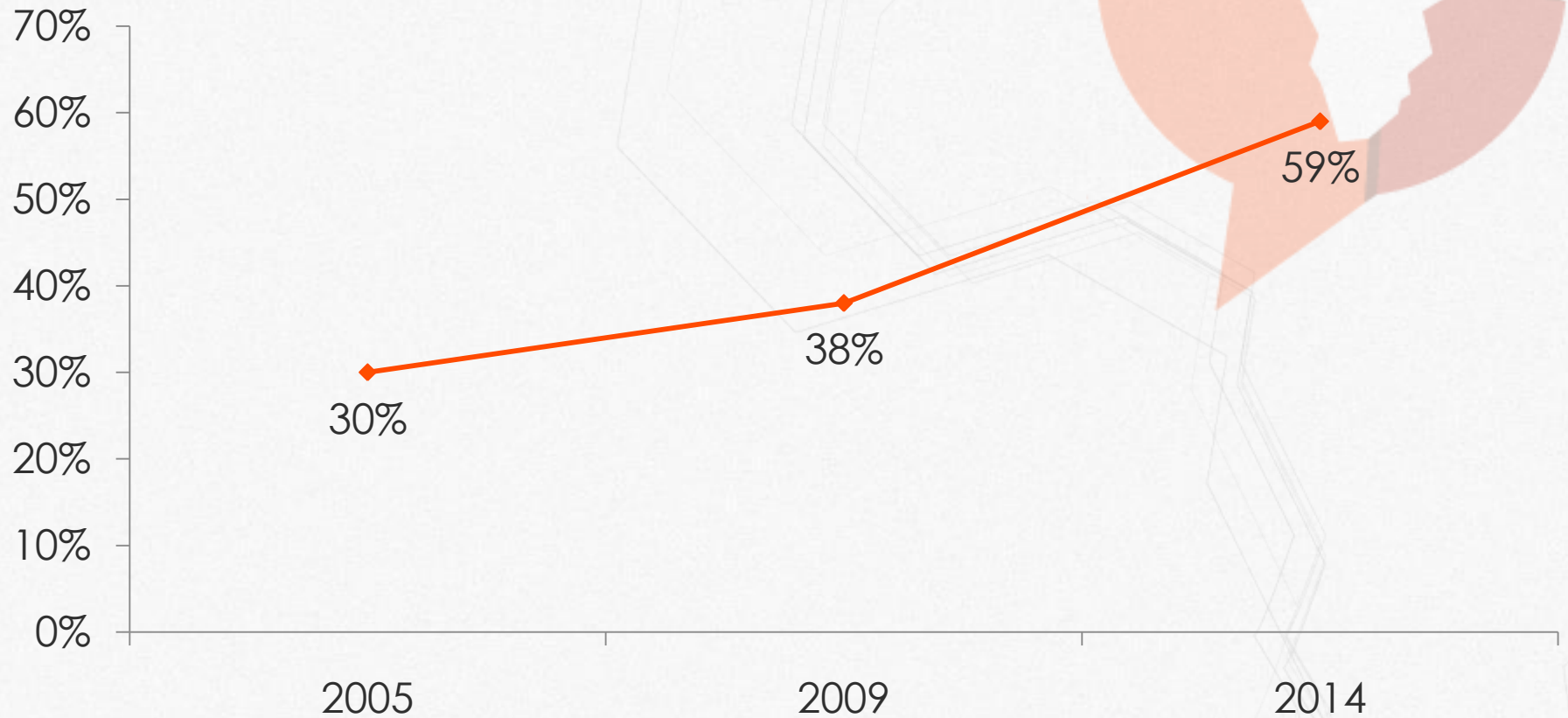
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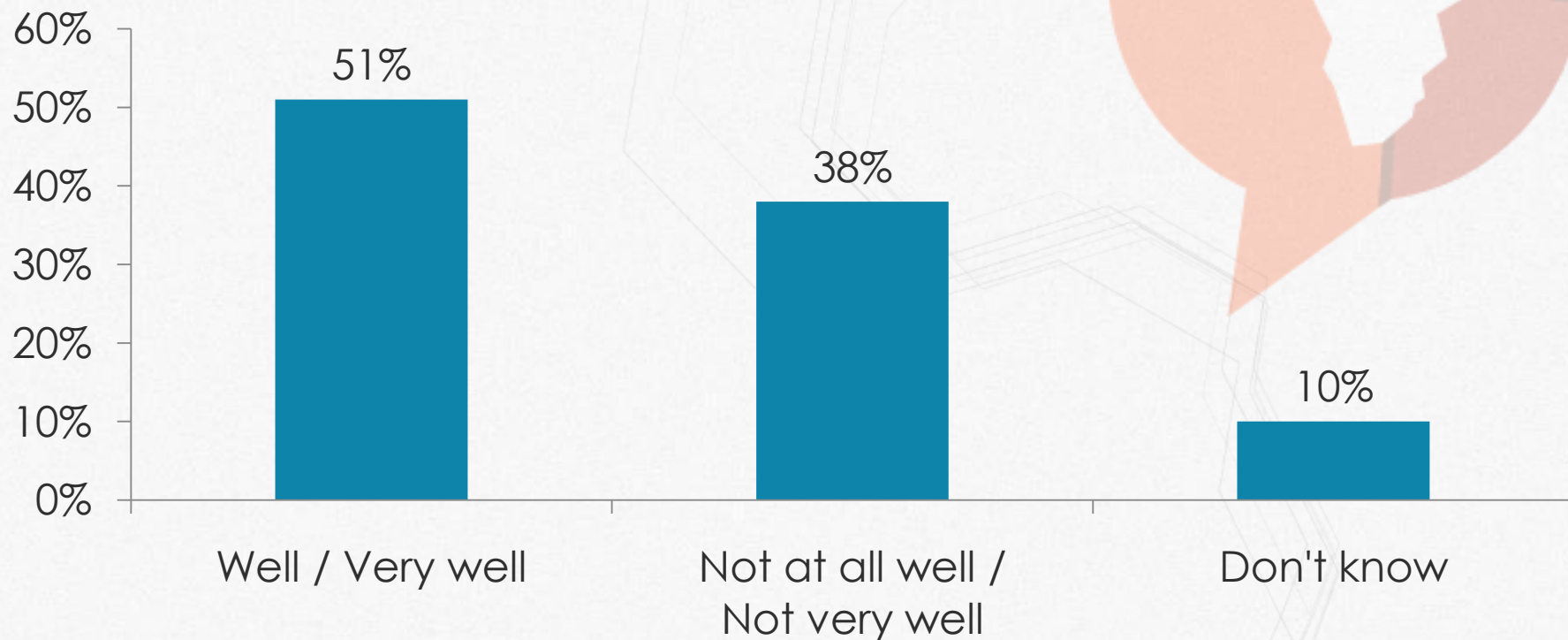
Elections enable voters to remove leaders from office



Elections enable voters to remove leaders from office



Elections ensure that voters' views are reflected

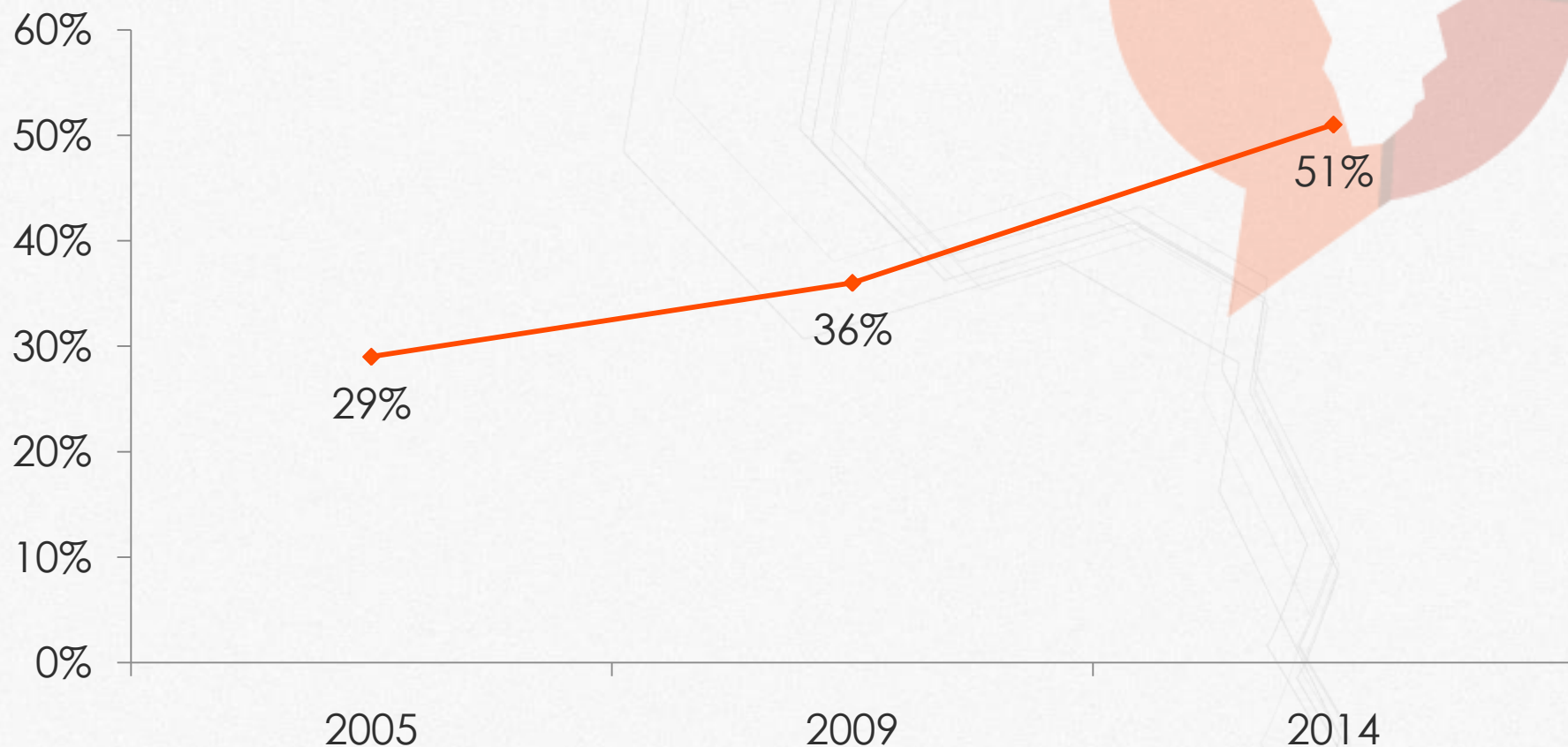


Respondents were asked: Think about how elections work in practice in this country. How well do elections: Ensure that the members of Parliament reflect the views of voters?

Elections ensure that voters' views are reflected



Elections ensure that voters' views are reflected





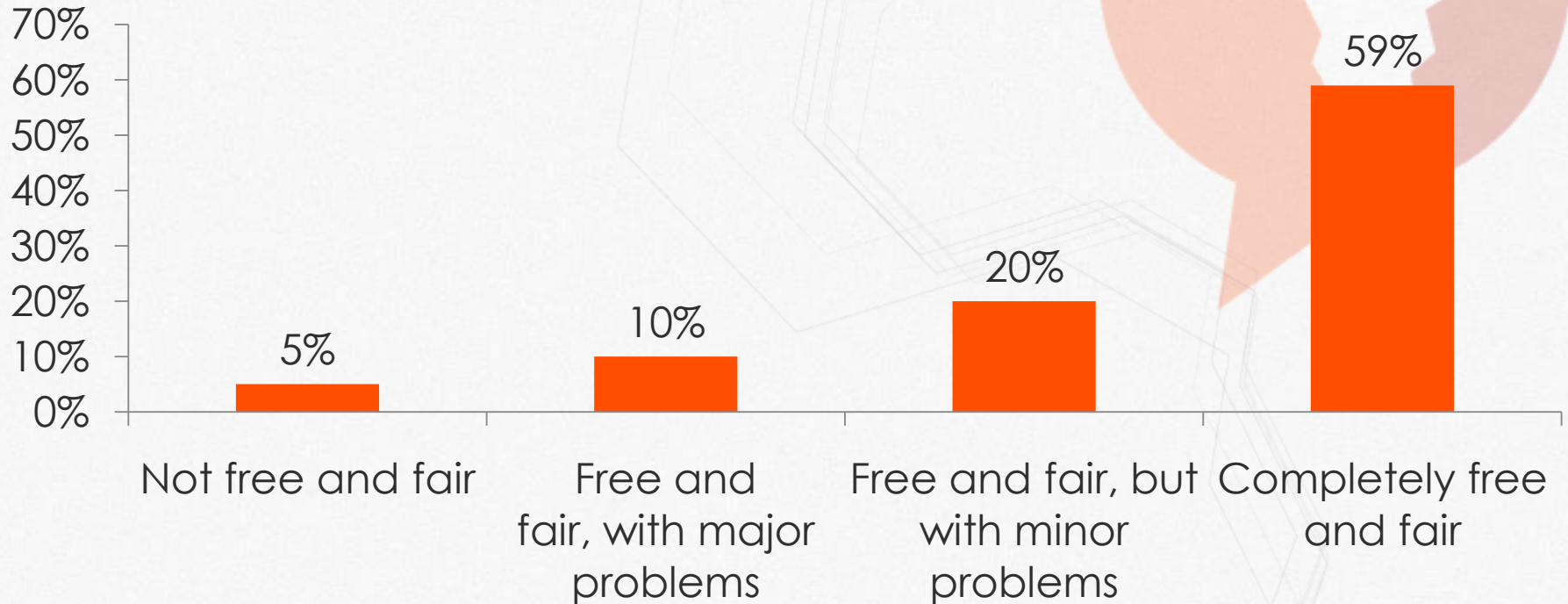
CREDIBILITY OF ELECTIONS

Key findings

- The 2011 tripartite elections are perceived as having been “completely free and fair” by more than half of respondents (58%).
- Despite this positive assessment of the 2011 elections, respondents don't think this is always the case.
- Thus, only one-third (33%) believe that votes are “always” counted fairly, while 39% say they are only “sometimes” counted fairly and 9% say they are “never” counted fairly.



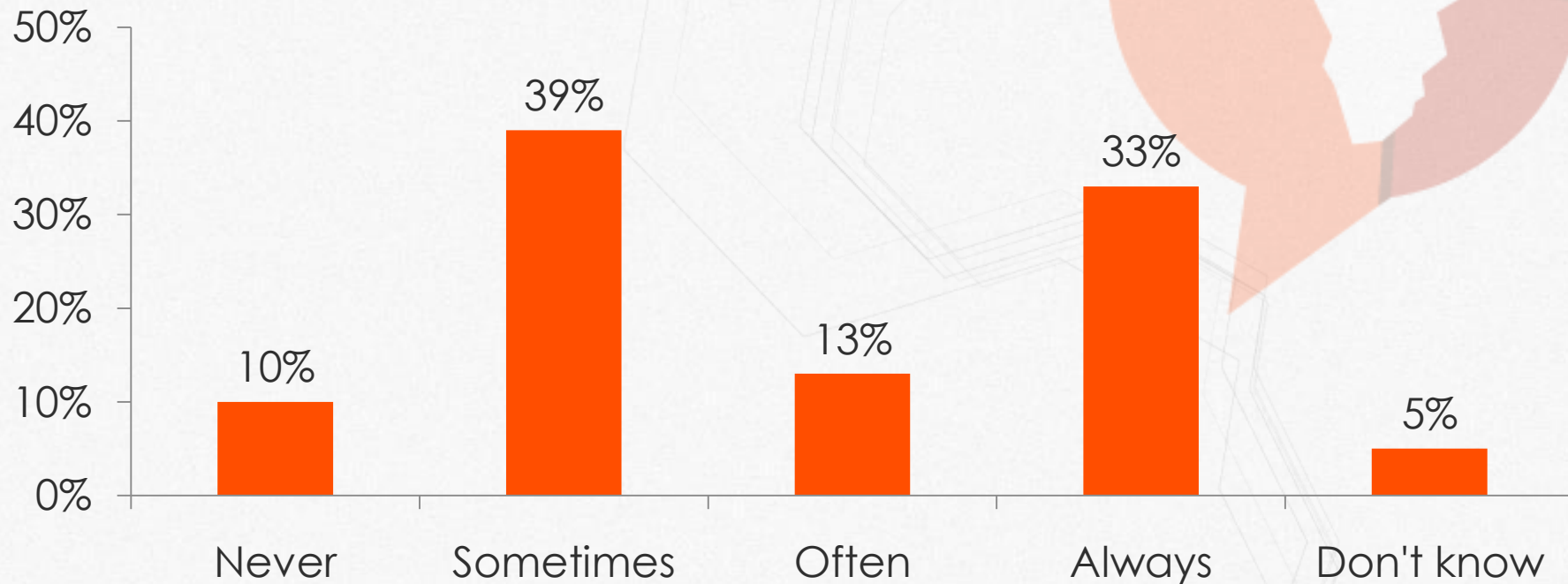
Freeness and fairness of the last tripartite elections



Respondents were asked: *On the whole, how would you rate the freeness and fairness of the last national election, held in September 2011?*

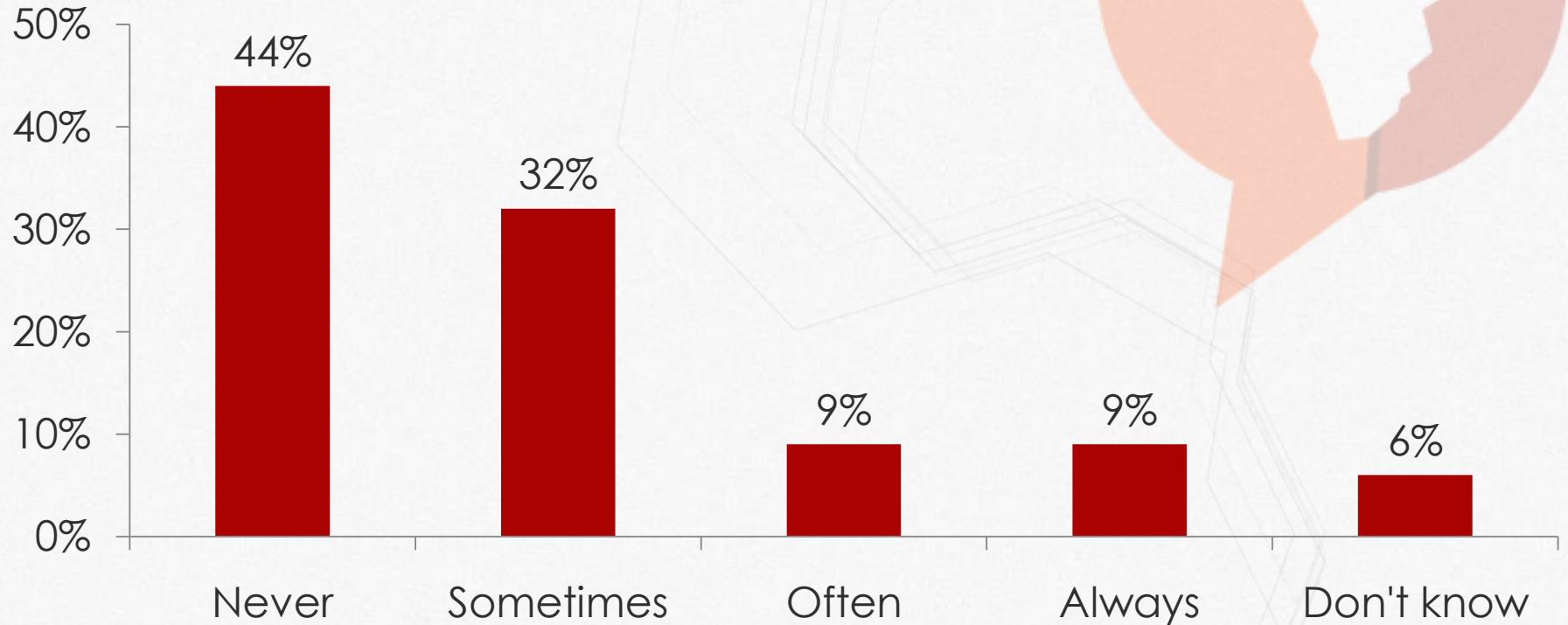


How often votes are counted fairly



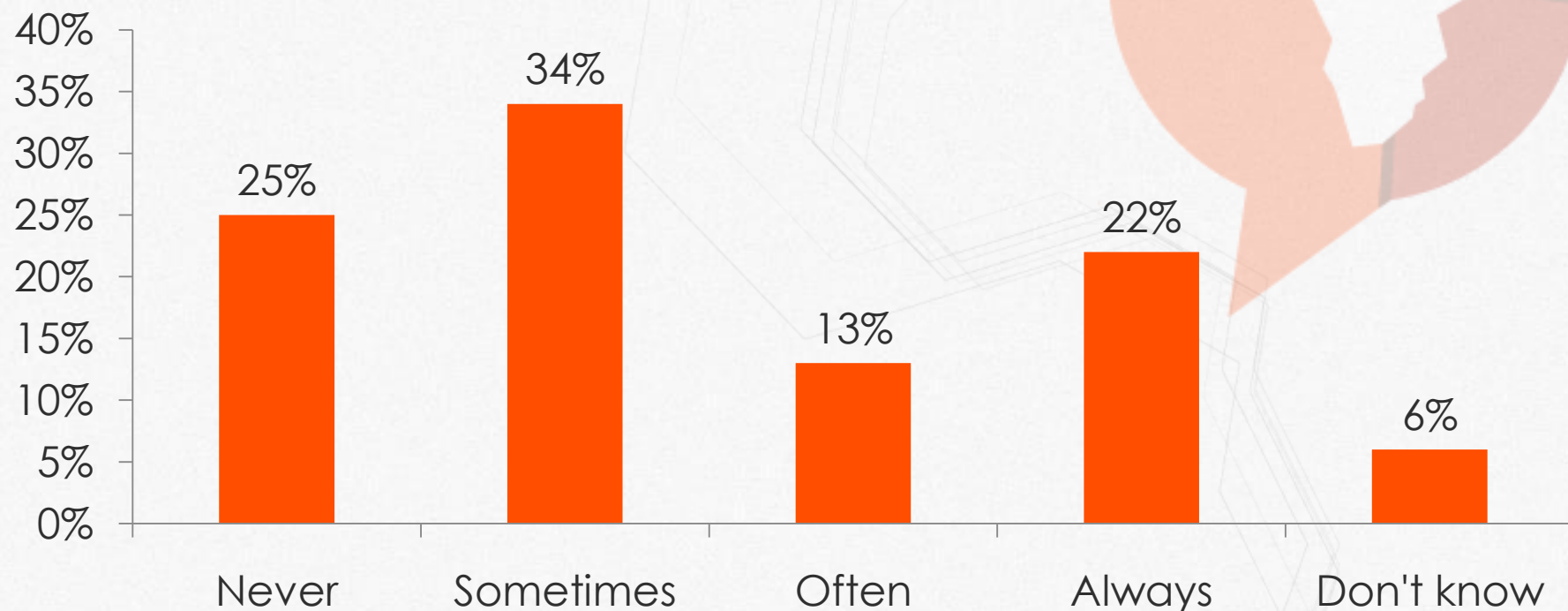
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections:
Votes are counted fairly?

How often voters are threatened



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections:
Voters are threatened with violence at the polls*

How often voters are bribed



Respondents were asked: *In your opinion, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections: Voters are bribed? .*





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Thank you very much for your attention



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