



What Are Liberians Saying about Corruption and Trust in Public Institutions in Liberia? An Afrobarometer Survey Reveals

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www.afrobarometer.org

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What is the Afrobarometer?

- The Afrobarometer (AB) is a comparative series of public opinion surveys that measure public attitudes toward democracy, governance, the economy, leadership, identity, and other related issues.
- The AB is an independent, non-partisan, African-based network of researchers
- The first round of surveys took place in 1999-2001 in 12 countries. The Network is now conducting “Round 5” surveys in up to 35 countries during 2011-2012
- **Purpose:** to measure popular perspectives on the social, political, and economic environments in each country where it is implemented and across Africa.
- **Goal:** to give the public a *voice in policy making processes by providing high-quality public opinion data to policy-makers, advocates, academics, media, donors, and ordinary Africans.*

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Country Coverage 1999 - 2002

Round 1, 1999 – 2001, 12 Countries

- *Southern Africa: Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe*
- *West Africa: Ghana, Mali, Nigeria*
- *East Africa: Tanzania, Uganda*

Round 2, 2002 – 2003, 16 countries

- *Cape Verde, Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal*

Round 3, 2005 – 2006, 18 countries

- *Benin, Madagascar*

Round 4, 2008 – 2009, 20 countries

- *Burkina Faso, Liberia*

Round 5, 2011 – 2013, up to 35 countries

- *Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d' Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea, Mauritius, Morocco, Niger, Togo, Tunisia, Sierra Leone, Sudan*

Who is the Afrobarometer?

A Pan African Network of Survey researchers and analysts

- In each country there is a National Partner responsible for survey implementation. In Liberia the National Partner is the Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD)

- **Three Core Partners provide technical assistance and Network management**

- Center for Democratic Development (CDD), Ghana
- Institute for Development Studies, (IDS), University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy, (IREEP), Benin

- **Two Support Units for capacity building and quality assurance**

- Michigan State University
- University of Cape Town

- **Round Five Core Funders include**

- DFID
- SIDA
- USAID
- Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF)

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Survey Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - *all respondents are randomly selected*
 - *every adult citizen has an equal and known chance of being selected*
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice
- Standard survey instrument across all countries for comparability
- Field work for Round Five was conducted in Liberia between June and July 2012.
- The survey interviewed 1200 adult Liberian citizens proportionate to the Liberian population (based on 2011 projections of the 2008 Census); A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/- 3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Afrobarometer's work in Liberia is coordinated by the Institute for Research and Democratic Development (IREDD).

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Survey Demography

		Unweighted	Weighted
Gender			
	Male	50%	50%
	Female	50%	50%
Education			
	No formal education	24%	24%
	Primary	23%	23%
	Secondary	39%	39%
	Post-secondary	14%	14%
	Don't know	%	%
Religion			
	Christian	85%	87%
	Muslim	11%	10%
	Other	3%	3%

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Region/Counties		Unweighted	Weighted
	Bomi	3%	2%
	Bong	9%	10%
	Gbarpolu	3%	2%
	Grand Bassa	7%	7%
	Grand Cape Mount	3%	4%
	Grand Gedeh	4%	4%
	Grand Kru	1%	2%
	Lofa	8%	8%
	Margibi	6%	6%
	Maryland	3%	4%
	Montserrado	33%	34%
	Nimba	13%	13%
	River Cess	2%	2%
	River Gee	2%	2%
	Sinoe	3%	3%
Location			
	Urban	48%	47%
	Rural	52%	53%

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Topical Issues In This Release

- **Popular Assessment of Corruption**
 - Corruption in the Presidency
 - Corruption in the Legislature
 - Corruption Amongst Government Officials
 - Corruption Amongst Local Government Councilors
 - Corruption in the Police
 - Corruption Amongst Judges & Magistrates
 - Corruption Amongst Tax Officials

- **Trust in Public Institutions**
 - Trust in the President
 - Trust in the Legislature
 - Trust in the National Elections Commission
 - Trust in Revenue Department
 - Trust in Local Authority Council
 - Trust in Ruling and Opposition Political Parties
 - Trust in Public Safety and Security Institutions
 - Trust in the Courts



Popular Assessment of Corruption

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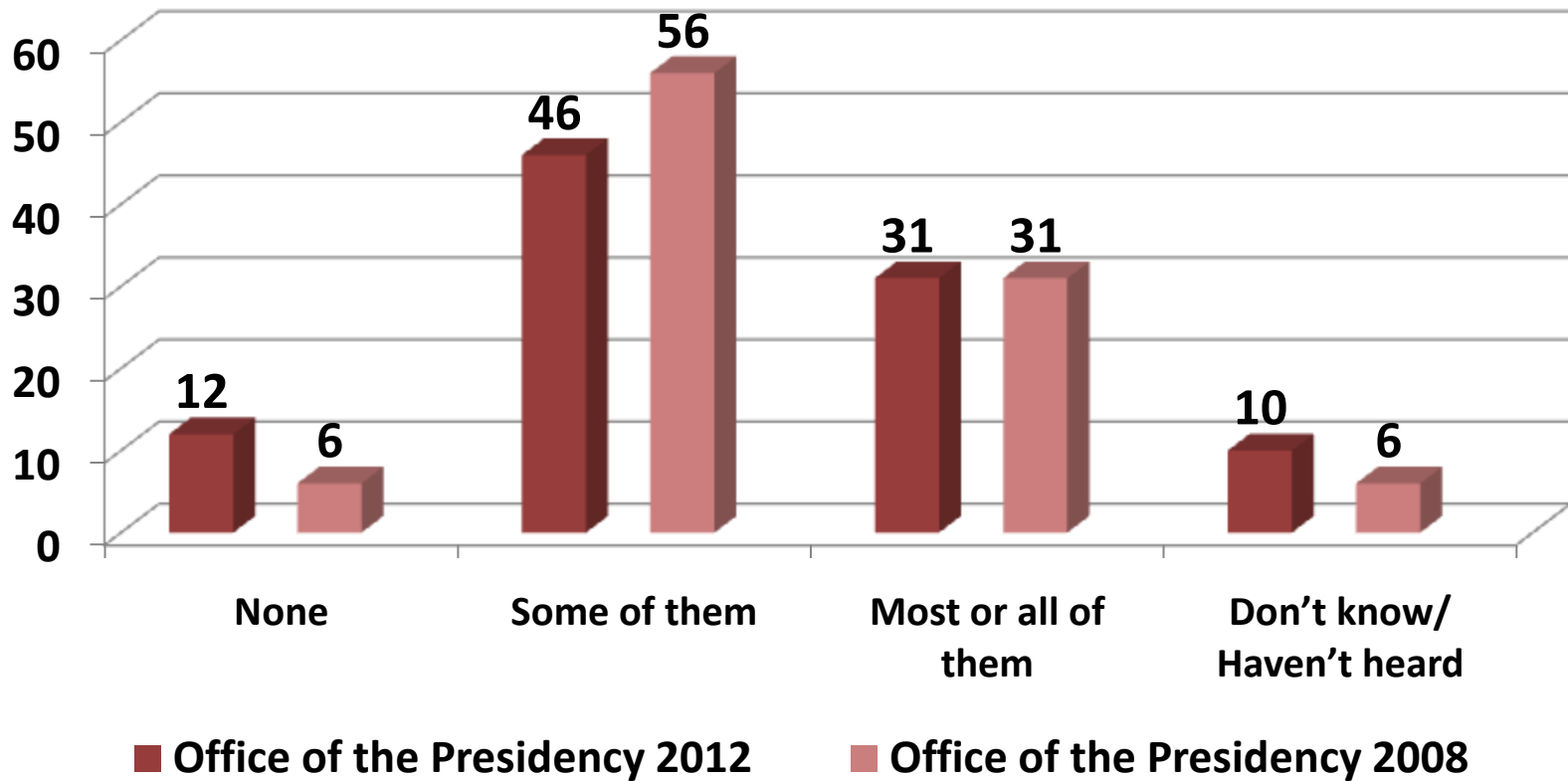


Popular Assessment of Corruption

- Liberians perceive widespread corruption amongst public officials. Seventy eight percent (**including 46% who say some corrupt**) perceive “some”, “most” or “all” officials of the presidency to be corrupt.
- In contrast, only a small minority **12 percent** think that “none” at the presidency is corrupt.
- Overtime, negative perception about corruption in the presidency dropped by 10 percentage points from **56 percent in 2008 to 46 percent in 2012** amongst those who believe corruption is only amongst “some of them”.
- However, another sizeable proportion (**31 percent**) of the population between 2008 and 2012 have consistently maintained that “most” or “all of them” in the presidency are corrupt.

Popular Assessment of Corruption

How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say

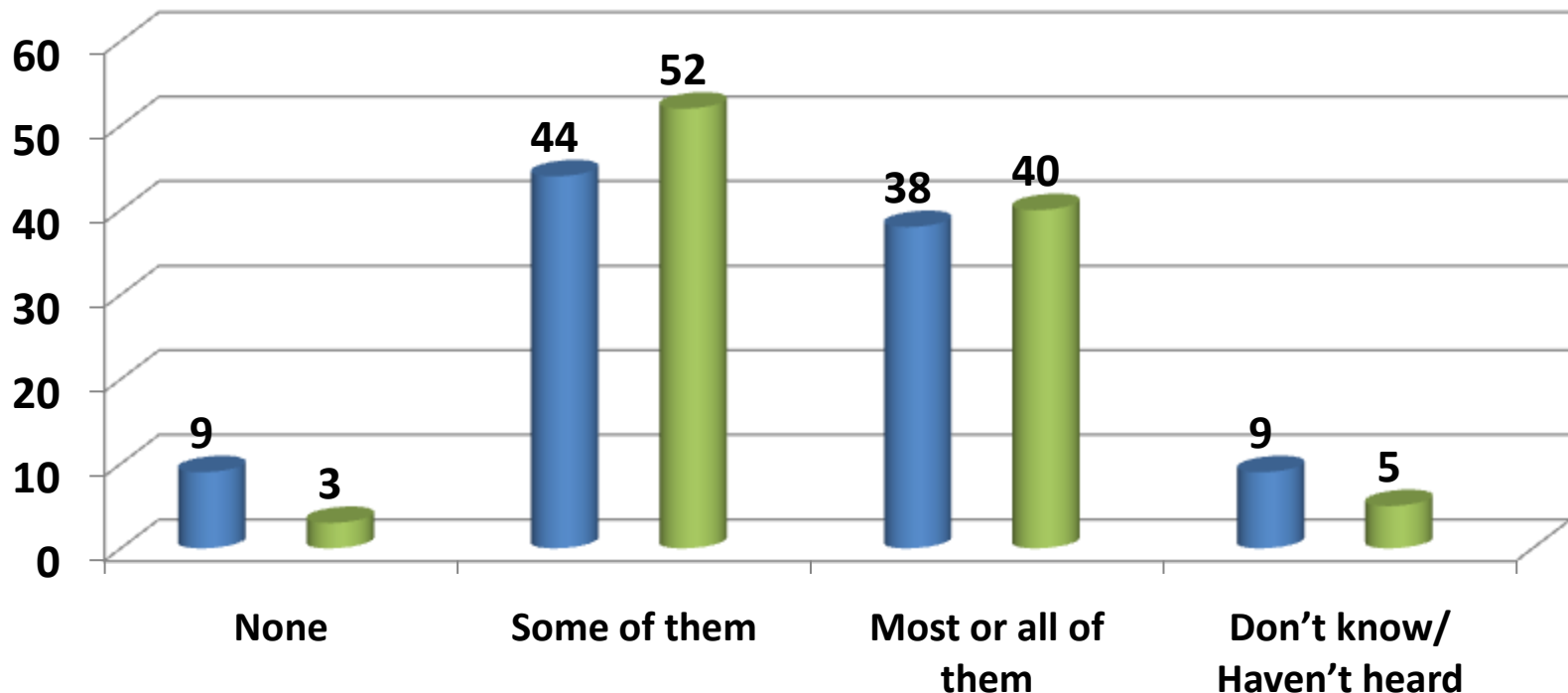


Popular Assessment of Corruption

- Public perception about corruption amongst elected officials in the legislature is overwhelming. Eighty two percent (**including 44 percent who say some are corrupt**) perceive **“some”, “most or “all”** members of the legislature to be corrupt. Similarly, another 38 percent Liberians think **“most” or “all of them”** in the legislature are corrupt.
- In contrast, a tiny minority (**9 percent**) believe **“none”** of the legislators are corrupt
- Overtime, public perception about corruption amongst members of the legislature remains consistent with eight percentage points improvement amongst those who say **“some of them”** are corrupt.
- In similar consistent pattern, respondents persist there is corruption amongst **“most” or “all of them”** in the legislature.

Popular Assessment of Corruption

How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say



■ House of Rep 2012 ■ House of Rep 2008

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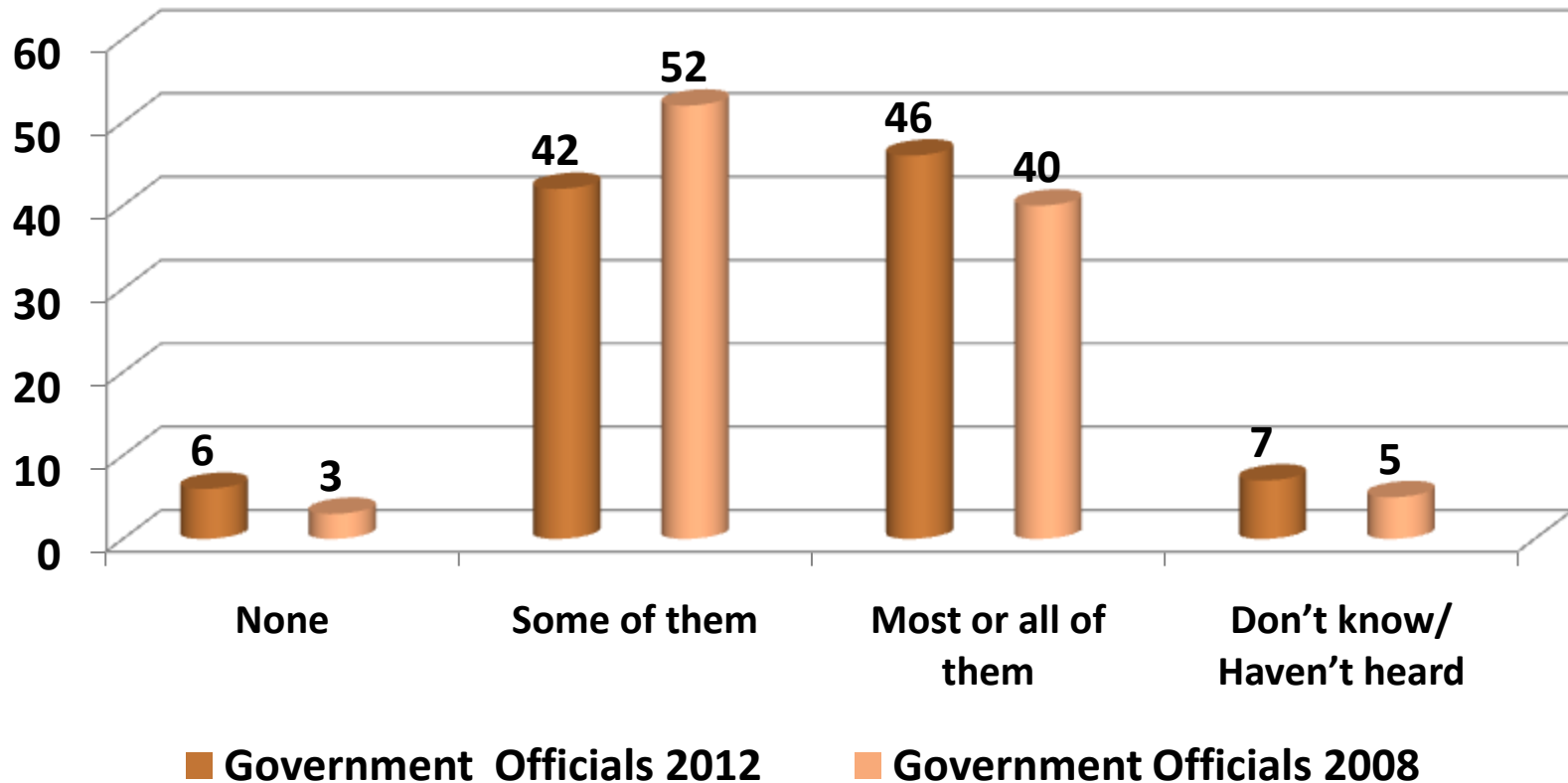
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Popular Assessment of Corruption

- Corruption is perceived to be a critical challenge in Liberia. Eighty eight percent (**including 42 percent respondents who say some corrupt**) perceive **“some”, “most” or “all”** members of the legislature to be corrupt. Another segment **46 percent** of the population thinks **“most” or “all of them”** national officials in government are corrupt.
- Overtime, perception about corruption amongst public officials has been generally dissatisfactory. Respondents’ insight about corruption amongst national officials is consistent though there is a ten percentage improvement amongst Liberians who believe **“some of them”** are corrupt.
- In contrast, the segment of the population that think **“most” or “all of them”** national officials are corrupt increased by six percentage points from **40 percent** in 2008 to **46 percent** in 2012.

Popular Assessment of Corruption

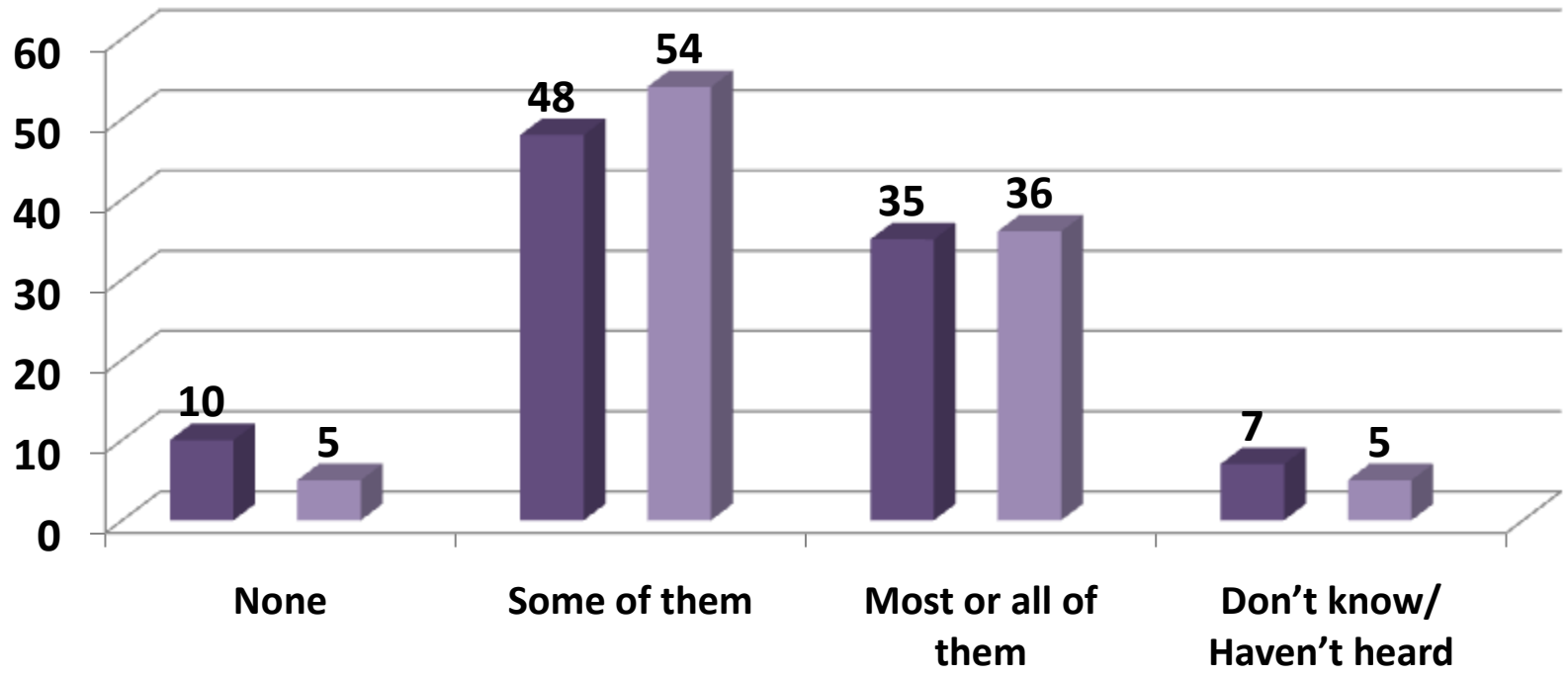
How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say



- Perception about corruption cuts across local settlements. Eighty three percent (**including 48 percent Liberians who say some corrupt**) perceive **“some”, “most” or “all”** of local government councilors to be corrupt. Similarly, another sizeable majority **35 percent** also believes **“most” or “all of them”** who are local government councilors are corrupt.
- Overtime, perception about corruption across local settlements has not changed much since 2008. Respondents’ notion about corruption amongst local government councilors have only improved by **6 percentage points** at least amongst **“some of them”** from **54 percent** in 2008 to **48 percent** in 2012.
- In similar trends, nearly equal segments (**35 percent in 2012 and 36 percent in 2008**) of the population think **“most” or “all of them”** who are local government councilors have not improved in their corrupt practice much.

Popular Assessment of Corruption

How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say



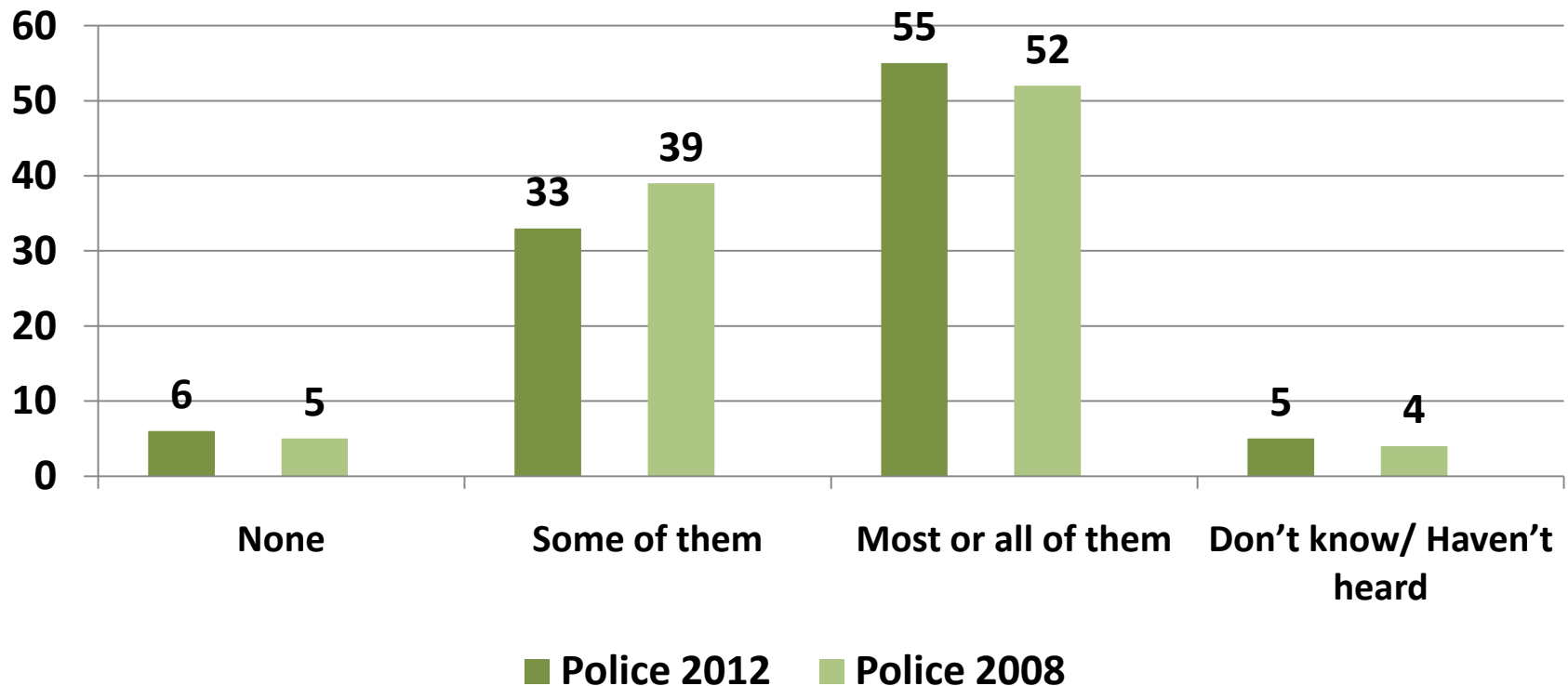
■ Local Government Councilors 2012 ■ Local Government Councilors 2008

Popular Assessment of Corruption

- Corruption continues to be an impediment to the provision of public safety in Liberia. Eighty eight percent (**including 33 percent respondents who say some are corrupt**) perceive “**some**”, “**most**” or “**all**” police to be corrupt.
- In addition, majority **55 percent** believes “**most**” or “**all of them**” in the police are corrupt.
- Overtime, strong perception about corruption remains consistent with **three percentage points** increase from **52 percent** in 2008 to **55 percent** in 2012 amongst “**most**” or “**all of them**” in the police.
- Only a tiny minority **5 percent** in 2008 and **6 percent** in 2012 consistently says “**none**” of those in the police are corrupt.

Popular Assessment of Corruption

How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say

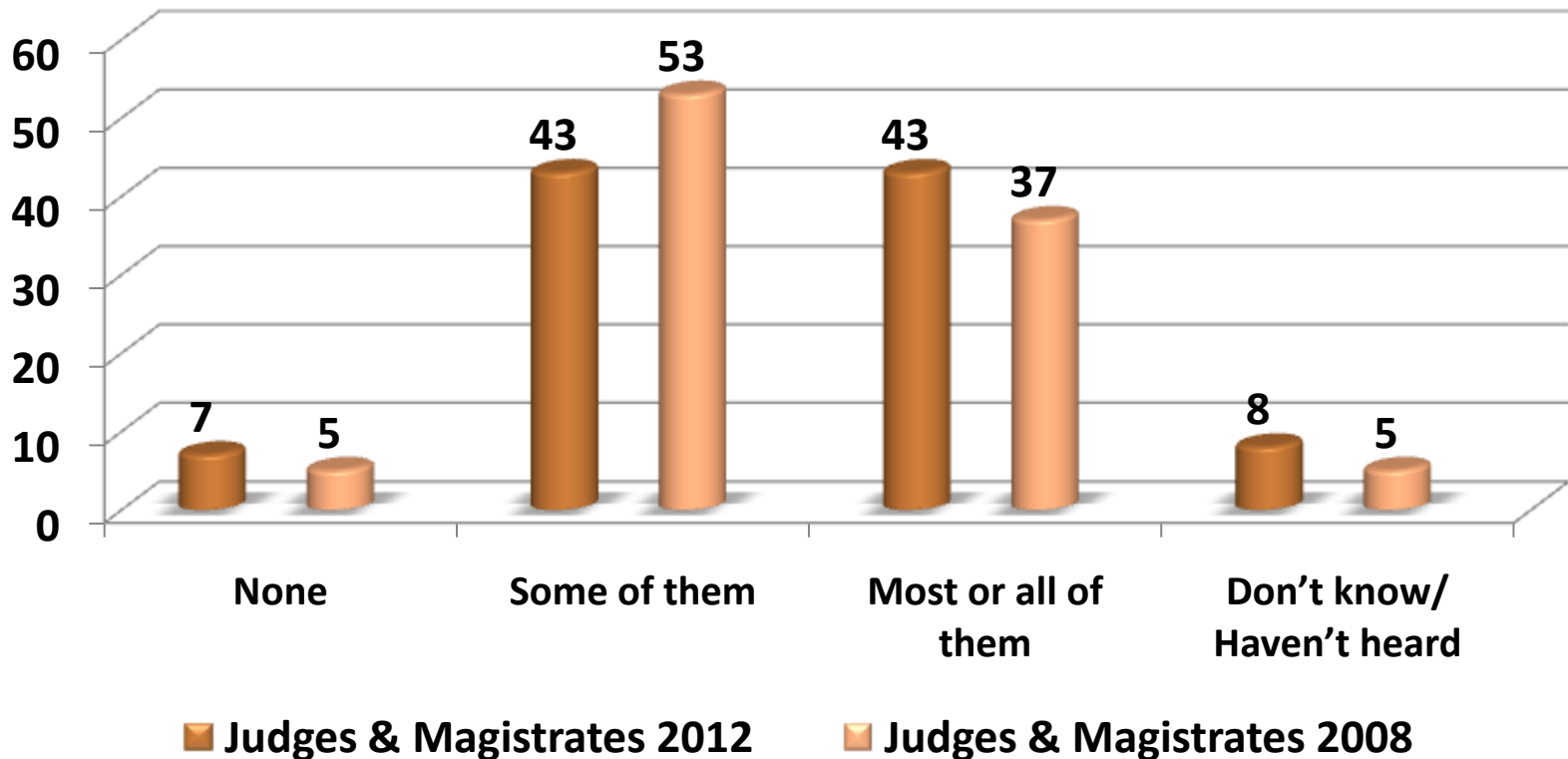


Popular Assessment of Corruption

- Judges and magistrates are key pillars in upholding the rule of law, however, widespread public perception about corruption amongst them is of concern. Eighty six percent (**including 43 percent Liberians who say some are corrupt**) perceive **“some”, “most” or “all”** judges and magistrates to be corrupt.
- Similarly, another equal proportion **43 percent** believes **“most” or “all of them”** who are judges and magistrates are corrupt.
- However, since 2008, respondents’ assessment of corruption amongst the judges and magistrates **“some of them”** has dropped by **ten percentage points** from **53 percent** in 2008 to **43 percent** in 2012.
- In contrast, respondents’ perception about corruption amongst **“most” or “all of them”** who are judges and magistrates reveal worsening state of corruption from **37 percent** in 2008 to **43 percent** in 2012.

Popular Assessment of Corruption

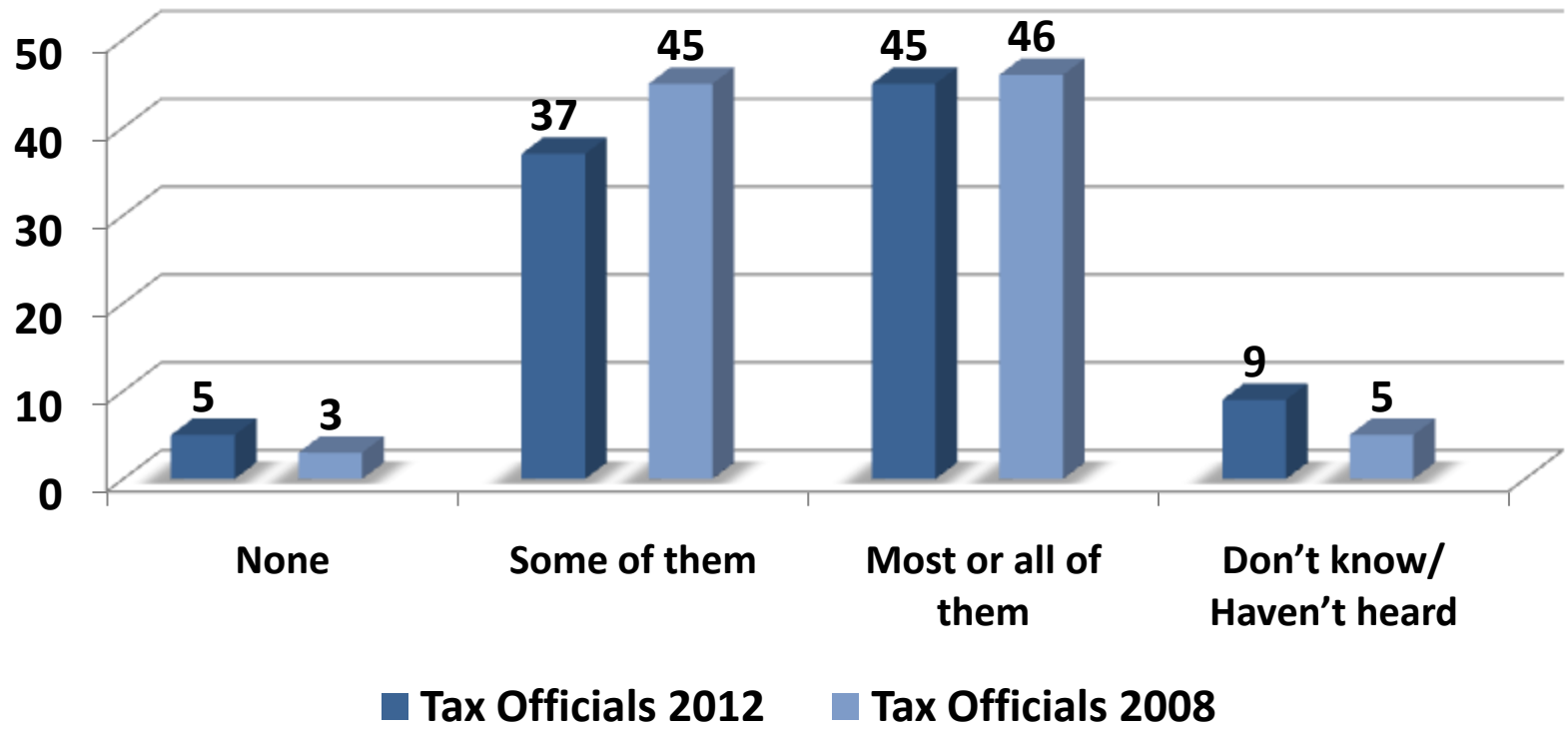
How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say



- Liberians say corruption is widespread amongst revenue authorities in public offices. Eighty five percent (**including 37 percent of those who say some are corrupt**) perceive **“some”, “most” or “all”** tax officials to be corrupt.
- In fact, a large segment of the population **45 percent** believes **“most” or “all of them”** tax officials are corrupt.
- Interestingly, public perception about corruption amongst **“most” or “all of them”** who are tax officials remains the same, since 2008.
- Only **5 percent** of Liberians believe that **“none”** of the tax officials are corrupt while another **9 percent** say they **“don’t know/haven’t heard”** about them.

Popular Assessment of Corruption

How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say



However, in tracking connivance in corruption over time (2008-2012), only small proportions of Liberians admit complicity in corruption (i.e. paying bribe 2011).

When asked in the past year, how often, if ever, have you had to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favor to government officials in order to access the following services:

	Never	Once or twice + a few + often	No experience in past year
Get a document or a permit	47%	23%	27%
Get water or sanitation services	55%	14%	28%
Get treatment at a local health clinic or hospital	48%	33%	18%
Avoid a problem with the police like passing a checkpoint or avoiding a fine or arrest	51%	27%	20%
Get a place in a primary school for a child	53%	27%	19%



Trust in Public Institutions

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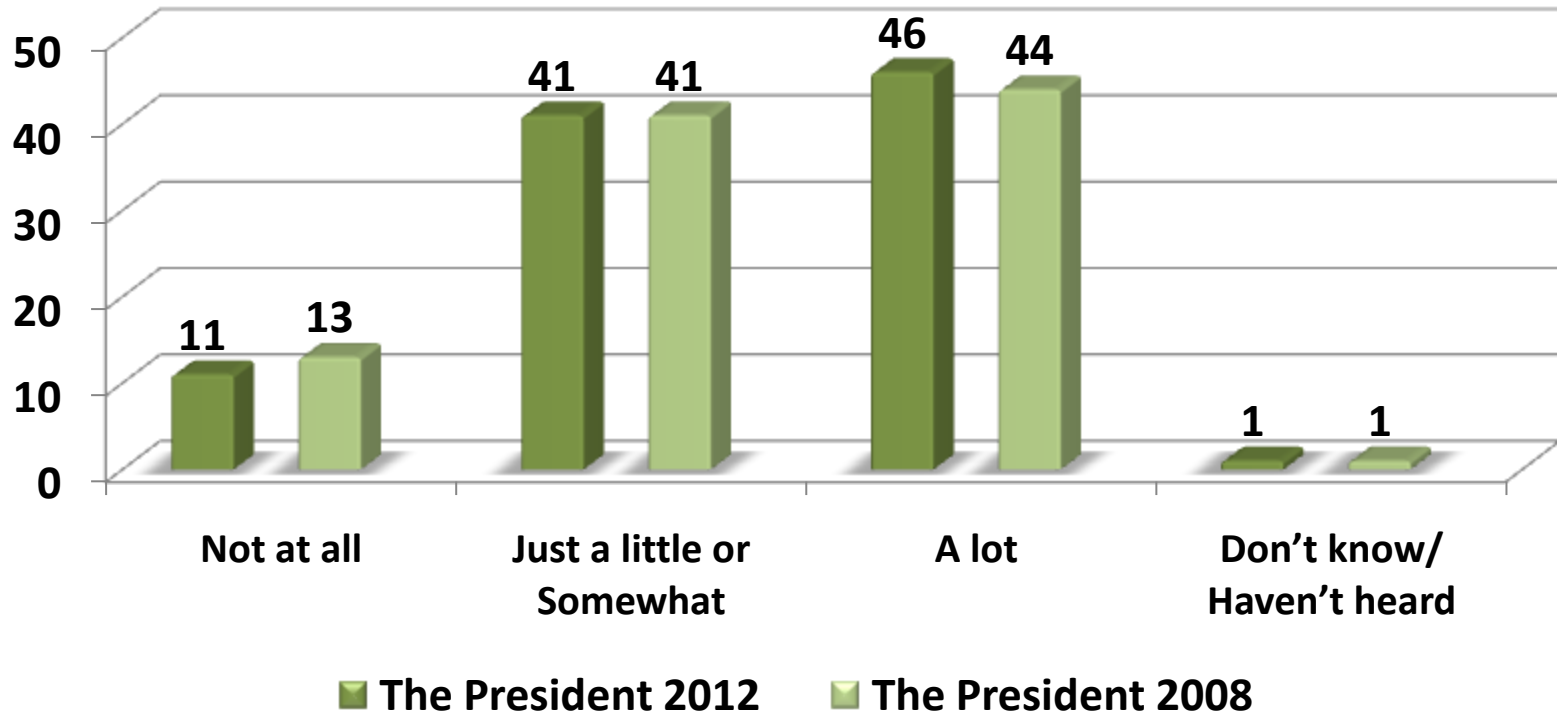


How much would you say the presidency can be trusted or haven't you heard enough to say?

- Trust level in the presidency amongst Liberians reveals favorable rating. Majority **46 percent** think the presidency can be trusted “**a lot**”.
- A near equal proportion of another segment **41 percent** believe the presidency can be trusted “**just a little**” or “**somewhat**”. Only a small minority says they do “**not at all**” trust the presidency.
- Notably, trust level for the presidency has not changed since 2008 amongst Liberians despite dissatisfaction with the handling of corruption. Positive rating about trust could be attributed to the presence of stability and large development partners' support to government since the civil war ended in 2003

Trust in Public Institutions

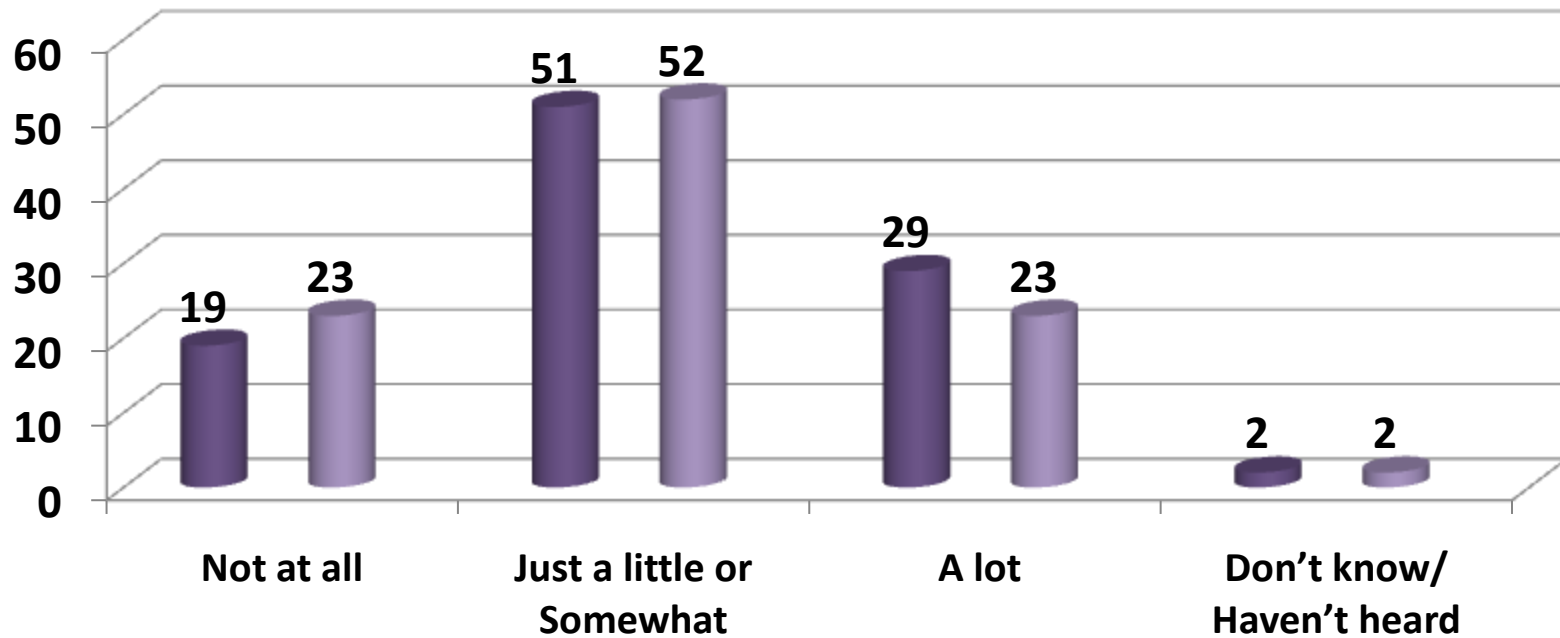
How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say



How much would you say you trust legislators in the legislature or haven't you heard enough to say?

- Afrobarometer public opinion reveal trust in the legislature is unfavorable. Majority **51 percent** say they only trust the legislature “**just a little**” or “**somewhat**”. Only a little over a quarter **29 percent** claim they trust the Legislature “**a lot**”.
- In contrast, a small minority **11 percent** say they do “**not at all**” trust the Legislature.
- Since 2008, trust level in the legislature remains consistently unfavorable amongst the segment of Liberians who think they do have trust in the Legislature “**just a little**” or “**somewhat**”, with only a **one percentage point** drop from **52 percent** in 2008 to **51 percent** in 2012.
- Notwithstanding, there is a small proportion of Liberians who still say consistently that they do have “**a lot**” of trust in the Legislature.

How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say



■ The House of Representatives 2012 ■ The House of Representatives 2008

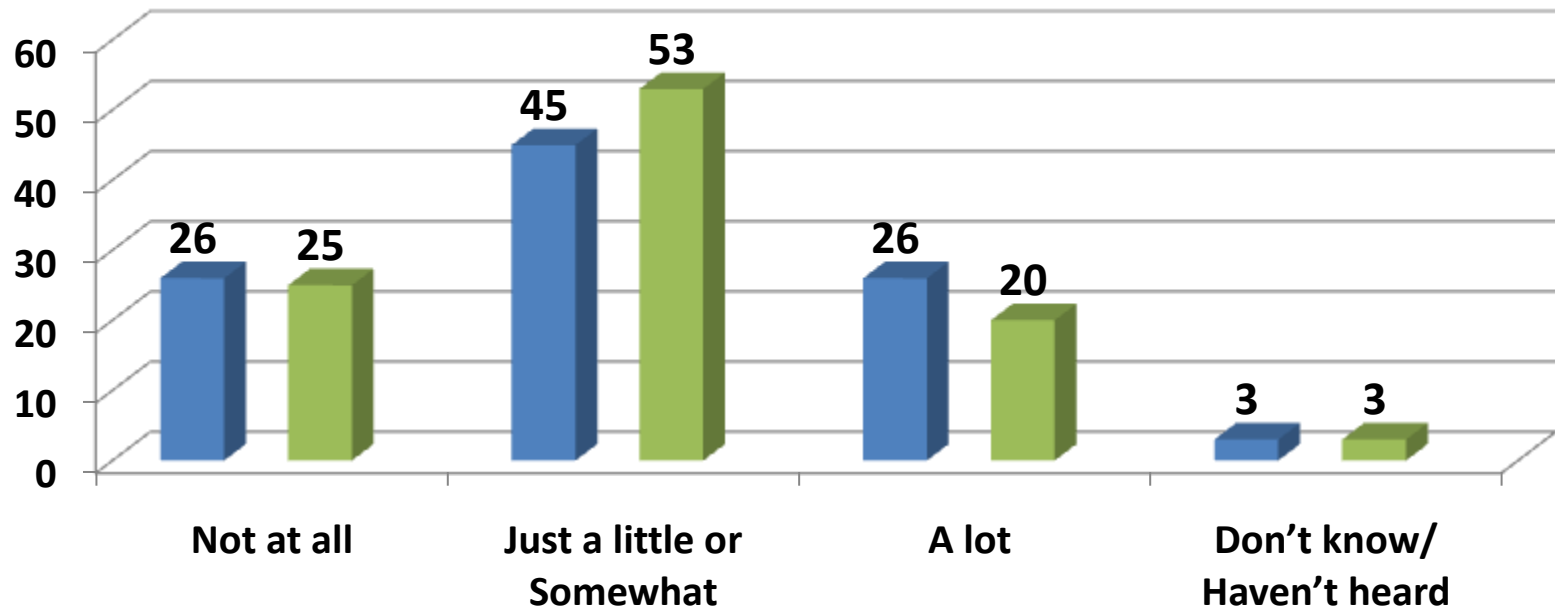
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How much would you say you trust the National Elections Commission or haven't you heard enough to say?

- Popular opinion amongst Liberians shows unfavorable public trust in the National Elections Commission. A sizeable minority **45 percent** say trust in the National Elections Commission is **“just a little”** or **“somewhat”**.
- Similarly, another segment of the population is also divided. Equal proportion of those who expressed **“a lot”** of trust in the National Elections Commission (**26 percent**), have also said they do **“not at all”** trust the Commission.
- Since 2008, Liberians have been distrustful of the National Elections Commission. Trends of distrust remain consistent but with minimum improvement of **8 percentage points** from **53 percent in 2008** to **45 percent in 2012** amongst those who say they only have **“just a little”** or **“somewhat”** trust in the Commission.

How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say

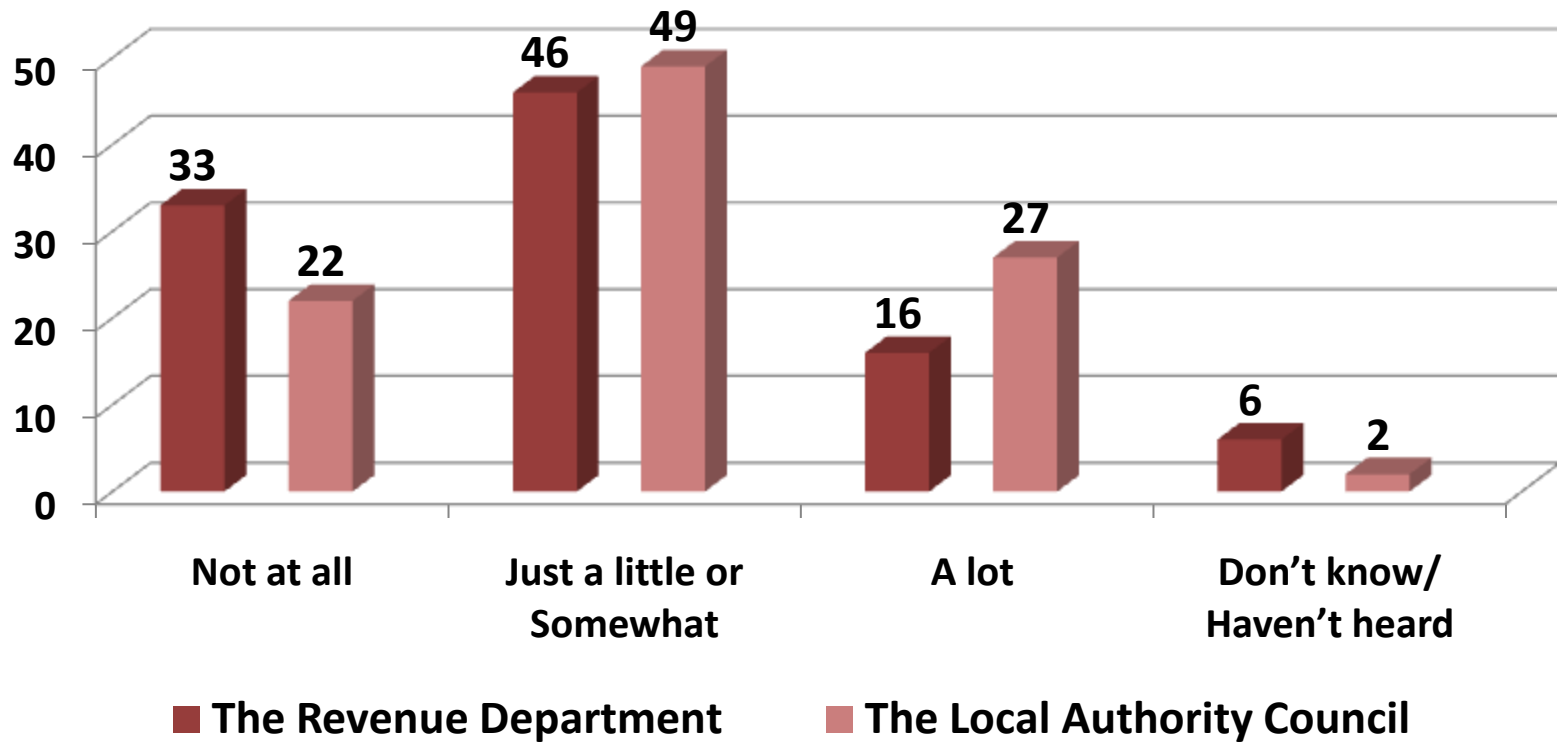


- The National Election Commission 2012
- The National Election Commission 2008

How much would you say you trust the Revenue Department and Local Authority Council or haven't you heard enough to say?

- Generally, respondents' trust in revenue agency and local authority council is very unfavorable. The survey reveals minority **46 percent** have **“just a little”** or **“Somewhat”** trust in the Revenue Department and local authority council.
- Only a small minority of respondents interviewed say they trust the Revenue Department (**16 percent**) and local authority council (**27 percent**) **“a lot”**.
- In contrast, another sizeable minority express mistrust in the Revenue Department (**33 percent**) and Local Authority Council (**22 percent**).

How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say



Liberians perception about trust in political institutions is mixed

- A sizeable minority of Liberians express trust in the ruling Unity Party **34 percent** compare to Opposition Political Parties (**12 percent**).
- A large minority express mistrust in the Ruling Party (**42 percent**) and (**51 percent in Opposition Parties**).
- A sizeable segment of Liberians says they do not trust the Ruling Party (**21 percent**) and Opposition Political Parties (**33 percent**).



Trust in Public Institutions

Afrobarometer tracked Liberians' perception about trust in Political Parties since 2008.

	2008	2012	2012 - 2008
Ruling Party			
Not at all	22	21	-1
Just a little or somewhat	51	42	-9
A lot	24	34	+10
Opposition Political Parties			
Not at all	32	33	+1
Just a little or somewhat	51	51	0
A lot	14	12	-2

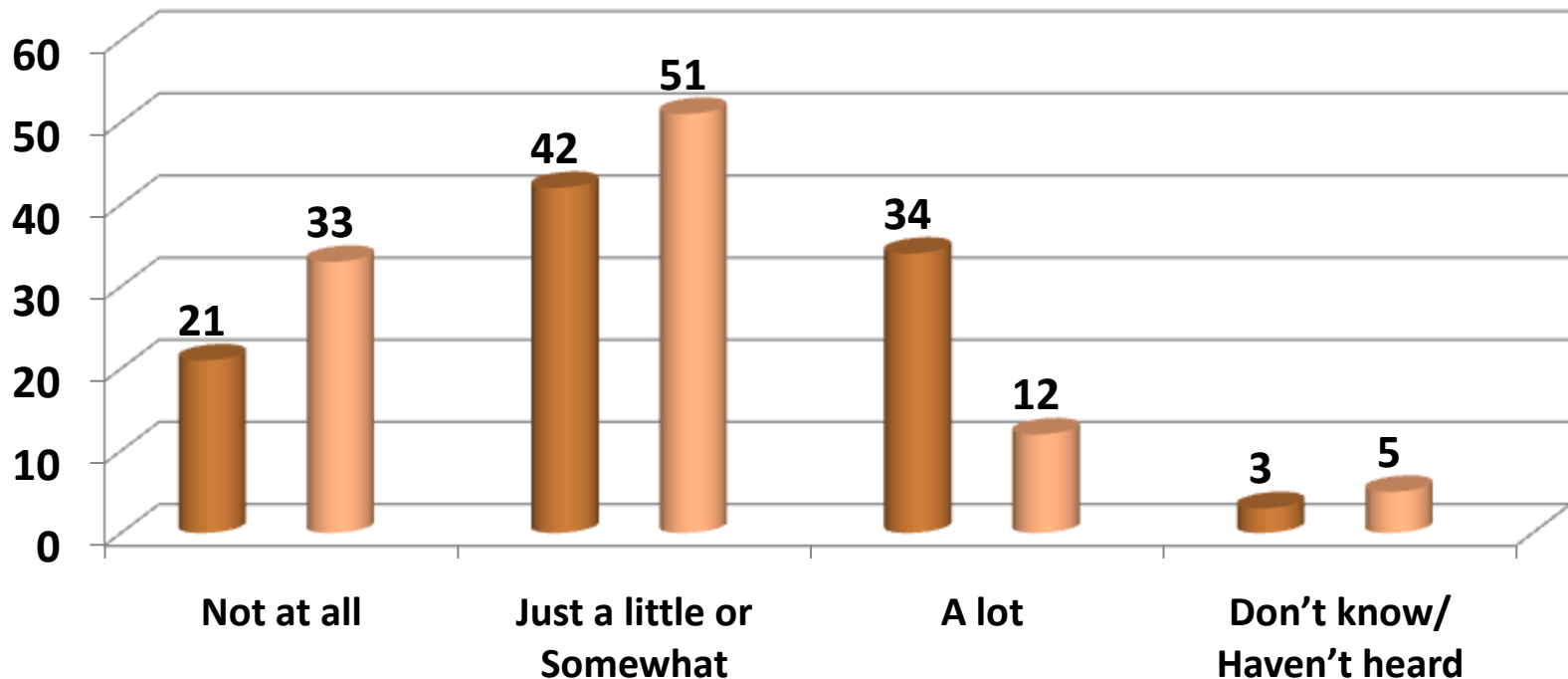
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Trust in Public Institutions

How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say



■ The Ruling Party ■ Opposition Political Parties

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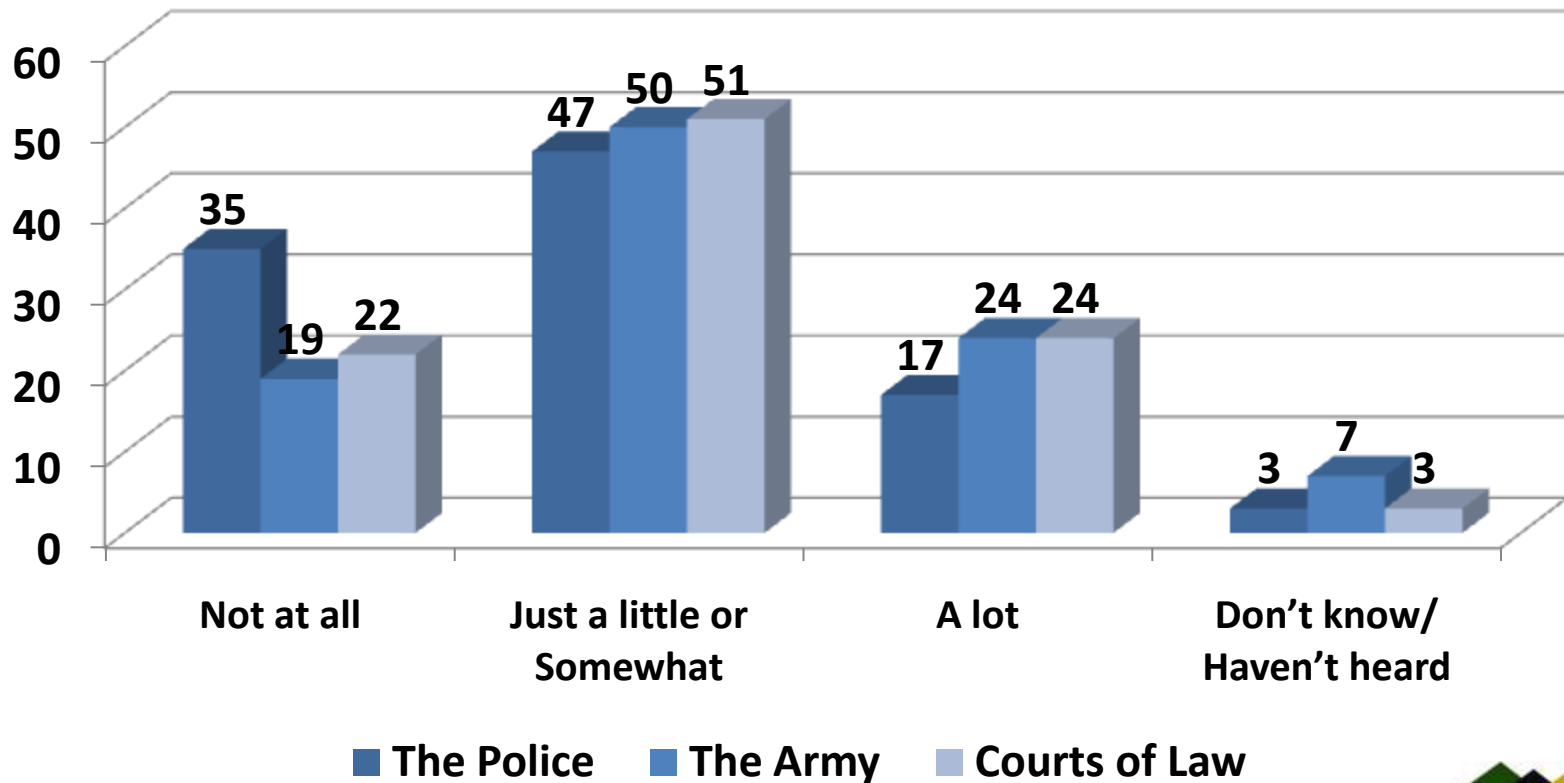
Afrobarometer reveals widespread mistrust in security institutions and the Courts.

- Minority of Liberians interviewed say they have “**just a little**” or “**somewhat**” trust in the Police (**47 percent**), The Army (**50 percent**) and the Courts of Law (**51 percent**). However, another sizeable segment shares equal view of having “**a lot**” of trust in the Army and the Courts (**24 percent**).
- In contrast, respondents say the Police is the least trusted public safety institution. Only a small minority (**17 percent**) trust the Police “**a lot**” while a sizeable majority (**35 percent**) say they do not trust them at all.
- Overtime, public disapproval for trust in the Police declined by **5 percentage points** amongst “**not at all**” respondents since 2008 and has only improved by **one percentage point** amongst respondents with mixed trust.

How have Liberians assessed their trust level in public safety institutions and the Courts since 2008

	2008	2012	2012-2008
The Police			
Not at all	30	35	+5
Just a little + somewhat	53	47	-6
A lot	16	17	+1
The Army			
Not at all		19	0
Just a little + somewhat		50	0
A lot		24	0
Courts Of Law			
Not at all	21	22	+1
Just a little + somewhat	57	51	-6
A lot	22	25	+3

How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say





Afrobarometer Round 5 Presentation II

The Next Release: Topical Issues and Date

Topical Issues: Governance Accountability and
Responsiveness

Expected Date: September 15, 2013

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Afrobarometer Round 5 Presentation II

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