

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
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News release

Ivoirians want presidential mandates limited to two terms, age limits for presidential candidates

Most Ivoirians favour limiting presidential mandates to two terms, an Afrobarometer survey shows.

The survey, conducted in November 2019, shows that more than three-fourths (78%) of citizens say the Constitution should limit the president to a maximum of two terms. Term limits have had solid public backing since Afrobarometer began its national surveys in Côte d'Ivoire in 2013. The decision initially announced by President Alassane Ouattara not to seek a third term was thus in line with public opinion.

Ivoirians also believe there should be minimum and maximum age limits for presidential candidates. Among those who support age limits for presidential candidates, almost nine out of 10 (87%) propose maximum ages of 80 years or lower.

Key findings

- More than three-quarters (78%) of Ivoirians want presidential mandates to be limited to two terms. Only two in 10 (21%) oppose this restriction (Figure 1).
- Support for term limits has consistently exceeded three-fourths since Afrobarometer's first survey in Côte d'Ivoire in 2013 (Figure 2).
- About eight out of 10 Ivoirians say there should be a minimum age requirement (81%) and a maximum age limit (77%) for presidential candidates (Figure 3).
- When asked what they think the age limits for presidential candidates should be, most respondents proposed a minimum age between 18 and 49 years (78%) and a maximum age of 80 years or less (87%) (Figure 4).

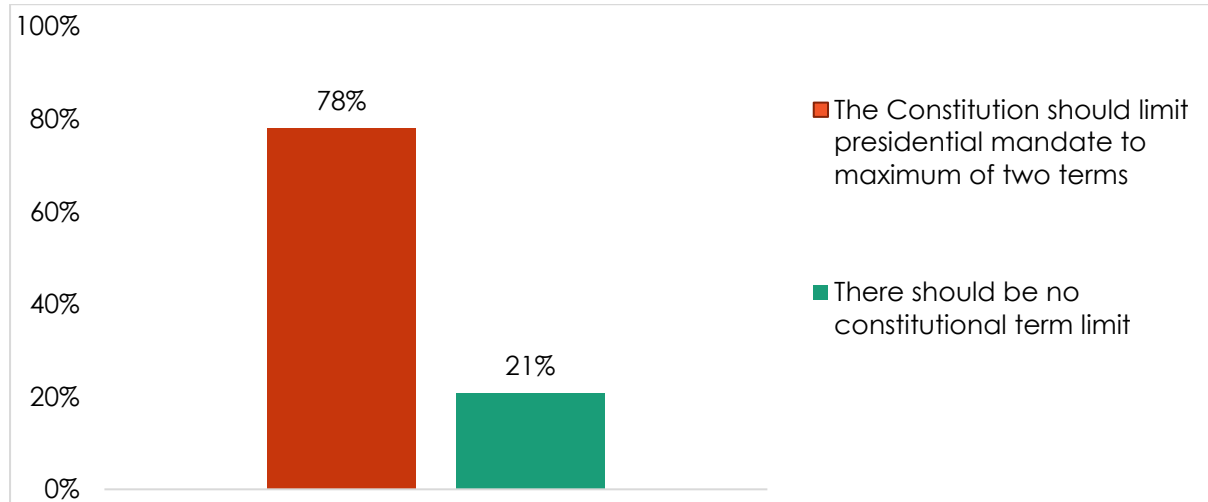
Afrobarometer

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

The Afrobarometer team in Côte d'Ivoire, led by CREFDI, interviewed 1,200 adult Ivoirians between 1 and 16 November 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 Côte d'Ivoire in 2013, 2014, and 2017.

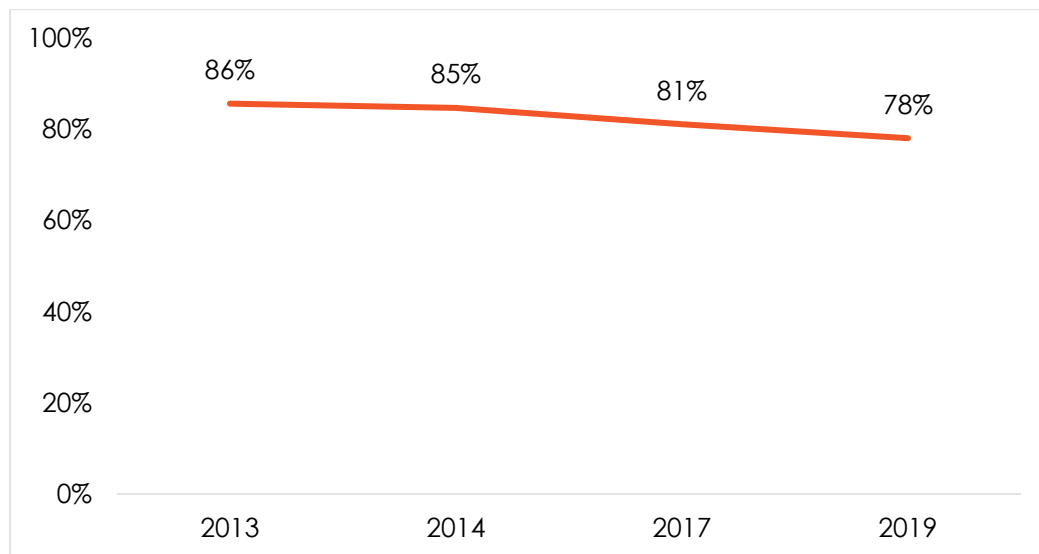
Charts

Figure 1: Views on two-term limit for president | Côte d'Ivoire | 2019



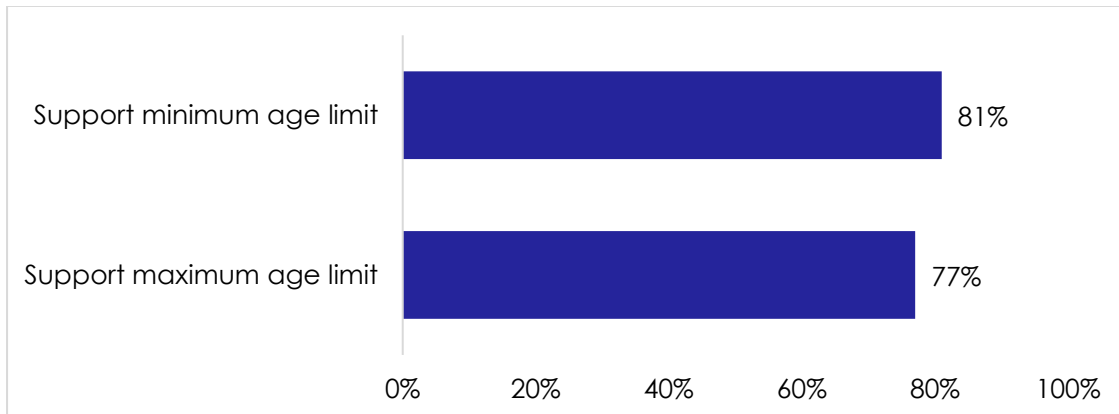
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the president to serving a maximum of two terms in office.
 Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with each statement)

Figure 2: Trend on support for two-term limit for president | Côte d'Ivoire | 2013-2019



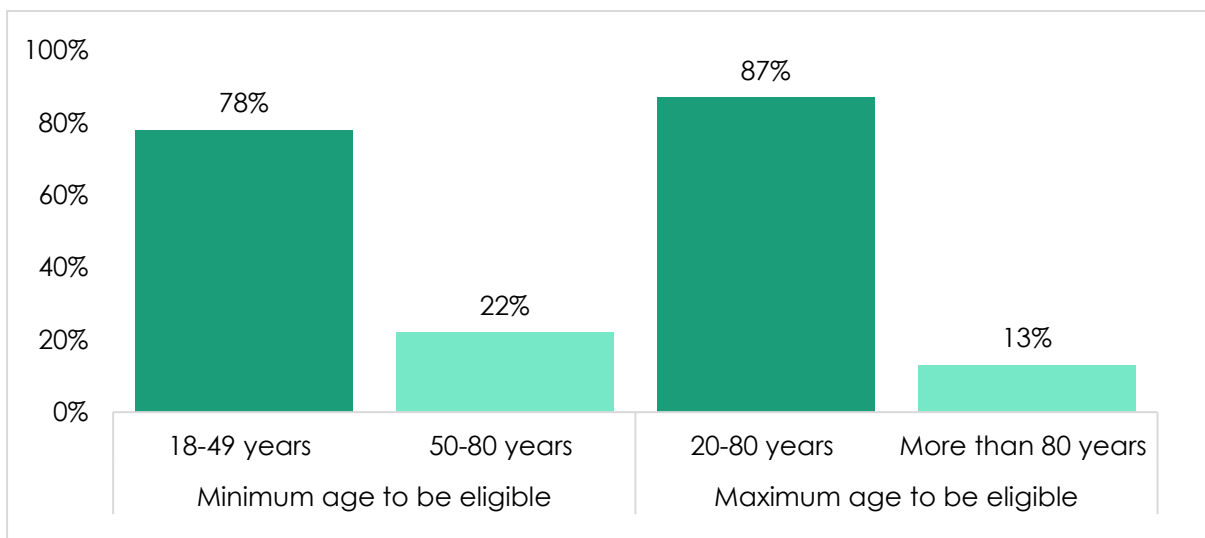
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
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 Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.
 (% who "agree" or "agree very strongly" with Statement 1)

Figure 3: Support for age limits for presidential candidates | Côte d'Ivoire | 2019



Respondents were asked: Should there be a minimum age for candidates for president? Should there be a maximum age for candidates for president?

Figure 4: Proposed minimum and maximum ages for presidential candidates | Côte d'Ivoire | 2019



Respondents who said there should be a minimum age for presidential candidates were asked: What should the minimum age be?

Respondents who said there should be a maximum age for presidential candidates were asked: What should the maximum age be?

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