



Electoral reforms, political party funding, and opposition viability

Findings from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey in Botswana



At a glance

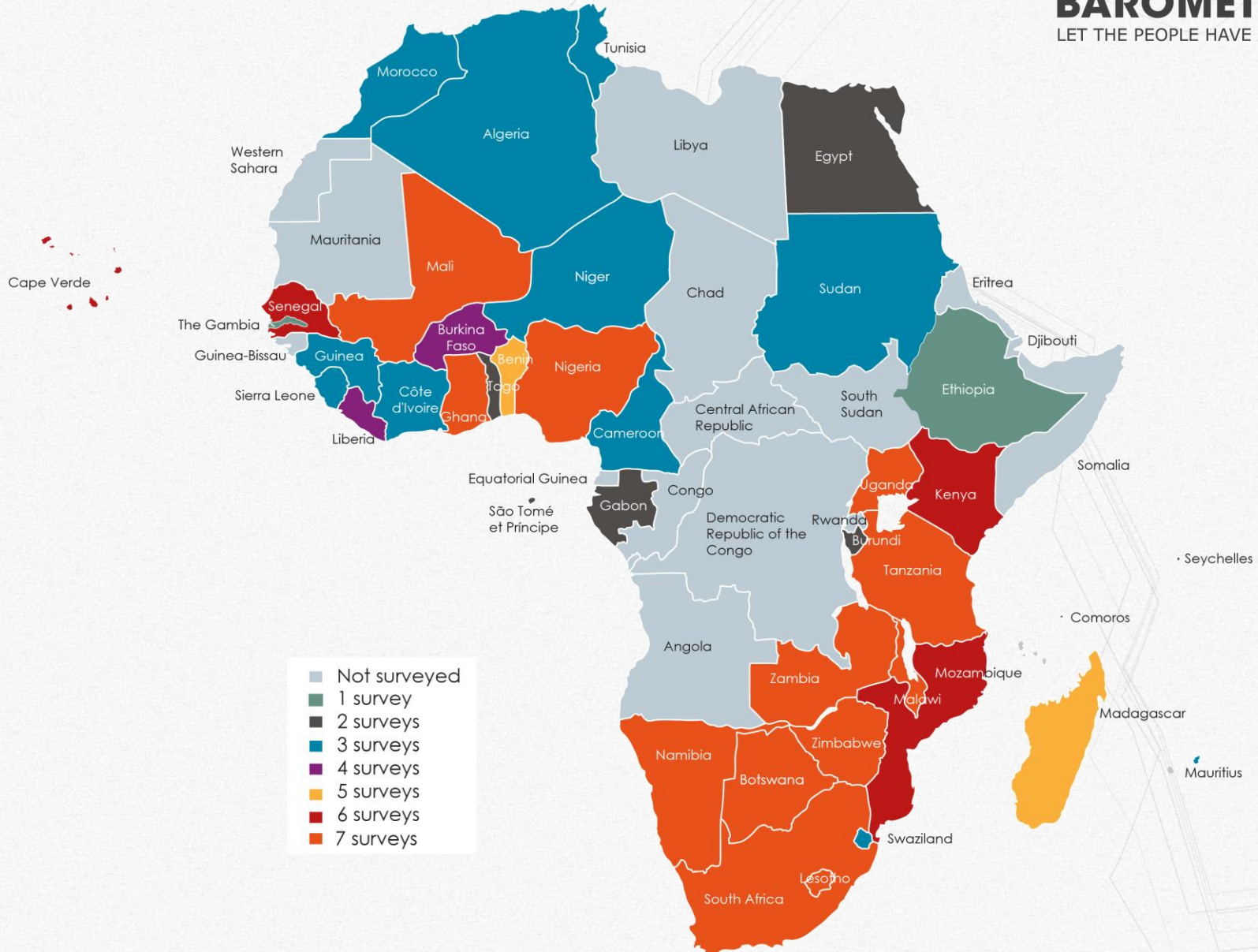
- **Trust in Independent Electoral Commission:** Batswana have lost significant trust in the IEC, down 9 percentage points since 2014.
- **Electronic voting machines:** A majority of Batswana doubt the need for voting machines but agree with other reforms.
- **Political party funding by state:** Citizens demand public political party funding.
- **Viability of political opposition:** A majority now see the opposition coalition as presenting an alternative vision and plan to the ruling party.

What is Afrobarometer?



- A pan-African, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 African countries in 1999, expanded to 36 countries in Round 6 (2014/2015). Round 7 surveys are being conducted in 2016/2017.
- **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.
- A national partner in each country conducts the survey. In Botswana, the Round 7 survey was conducted by Star Awards.

Where Afrobarometer works



- Not surveyed
- 1 survey
- 2 surveys
- 3 surveys
- 4 surveys
- 5 surveys
- 6 surveys
- 7 surveys

Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across regions/states/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 Botswana of 1,200 adult citizens yields a margin of error of +/-3% at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in Botswana was conducted between 28 June and 6 July 2017.

Survey demographics

Gender		%
	Men	50
	Women	50
Residence		
	Urban	21
	Rural	31
	Semi-Urban	48
Education		
	No formal education	10
	Primary	17
	Secondary	47
	Post-secondary	6
Religion		
	Christian	79
	Muslim	0.2
	Other	17





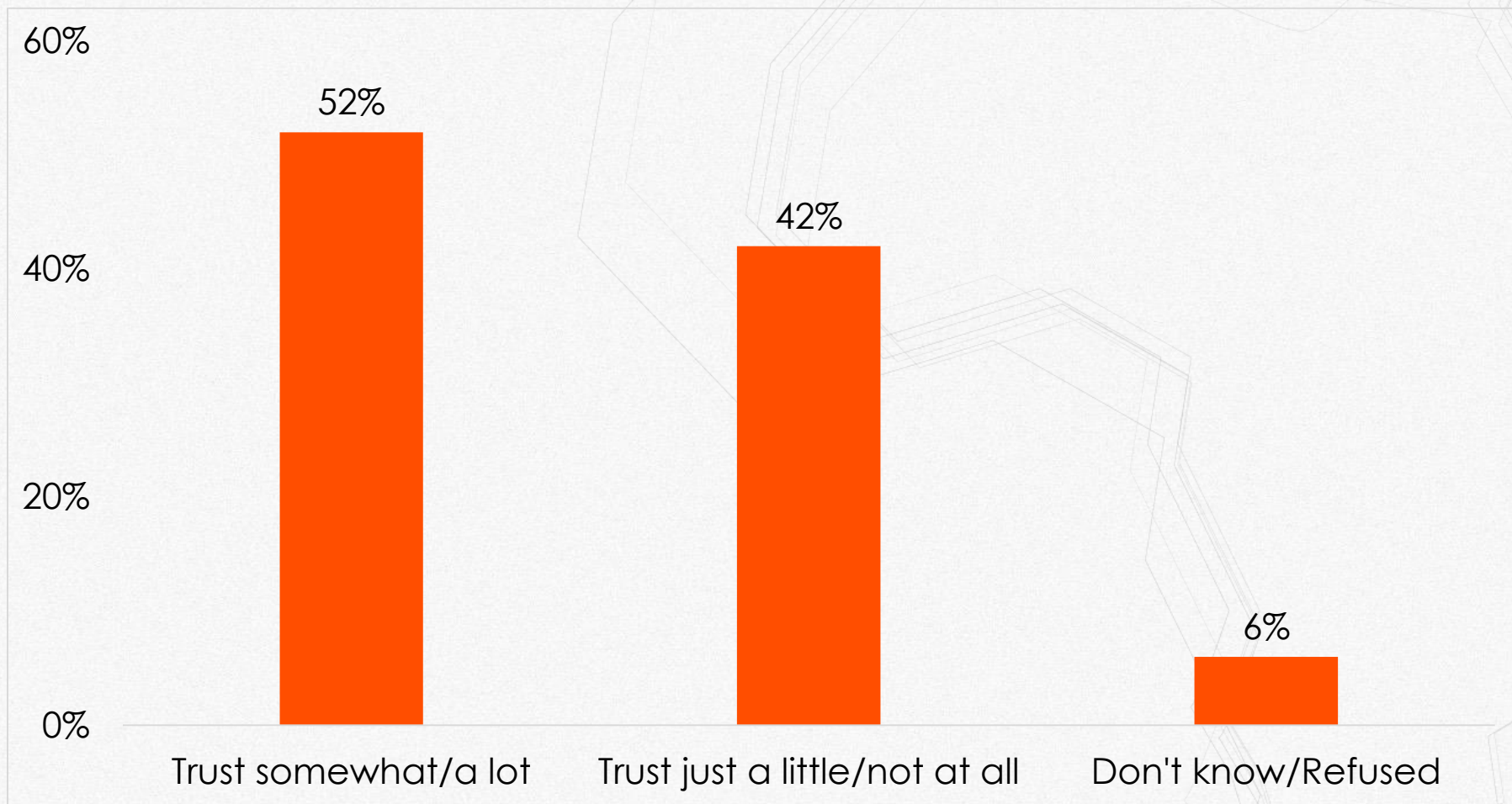
Trust in the Independent Electoral Commission, introduction of voting machines

Key findings

- Only a slim majority (52%) of Batswana trust the Independent Electoral Commission “somewhat” or “a lot.” This proportion has declined by 18 percentage points over the past decade.
- More than half (53%) of respondents say they are not satisfied with the reasons advanced by the IEC in favour of using electronic voting machines in 2019.
- More than two-thirds (69%) say the IEC did not consult adequately with the public on whether electronic voting machines should be used.

Trust in the Independent Electoral Commission

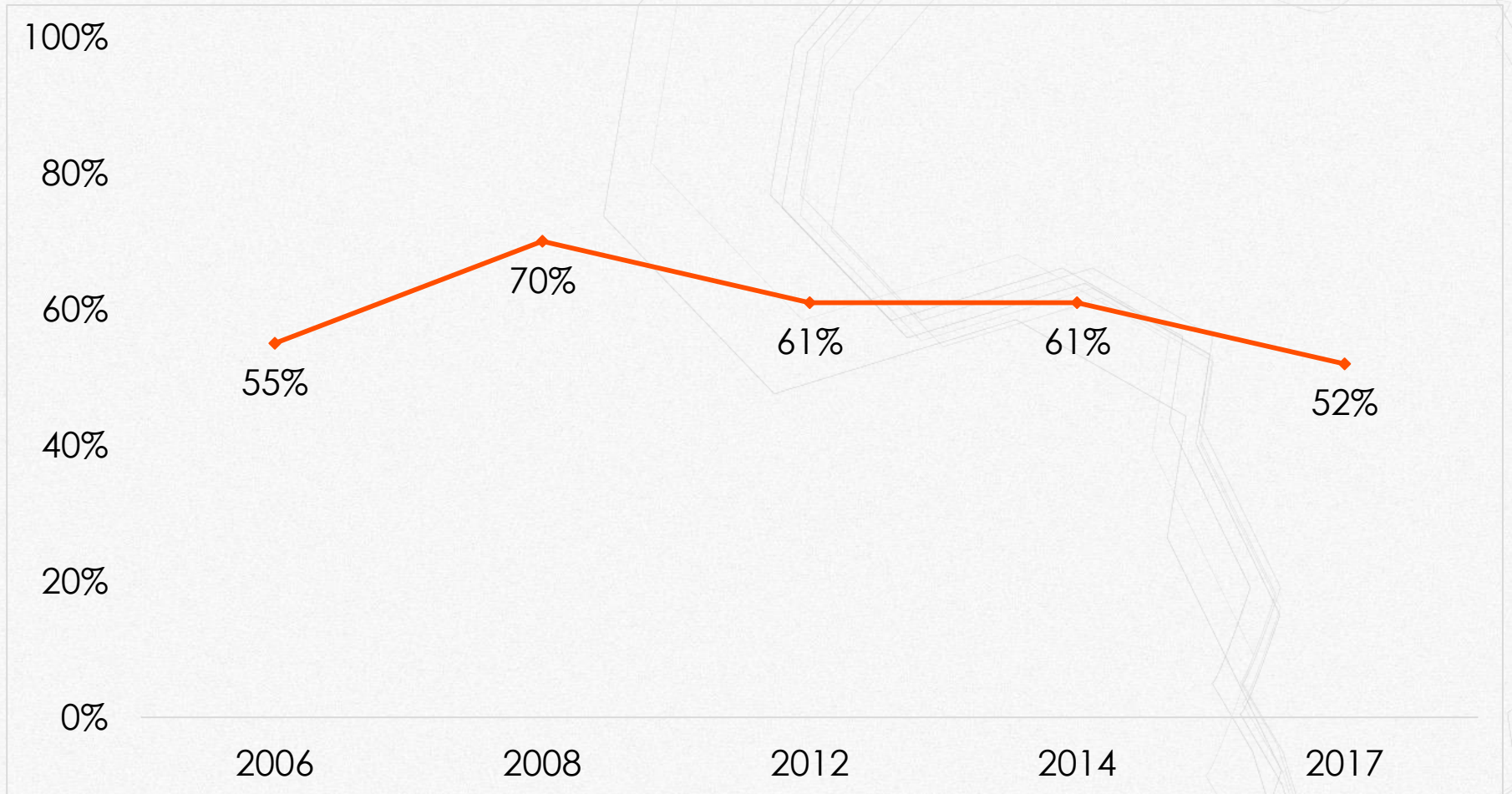
| Botswana | 2017



Respondents were asked: How much do you trust the following, or haven't you heard enough to say: The Independent Electoral Commission?

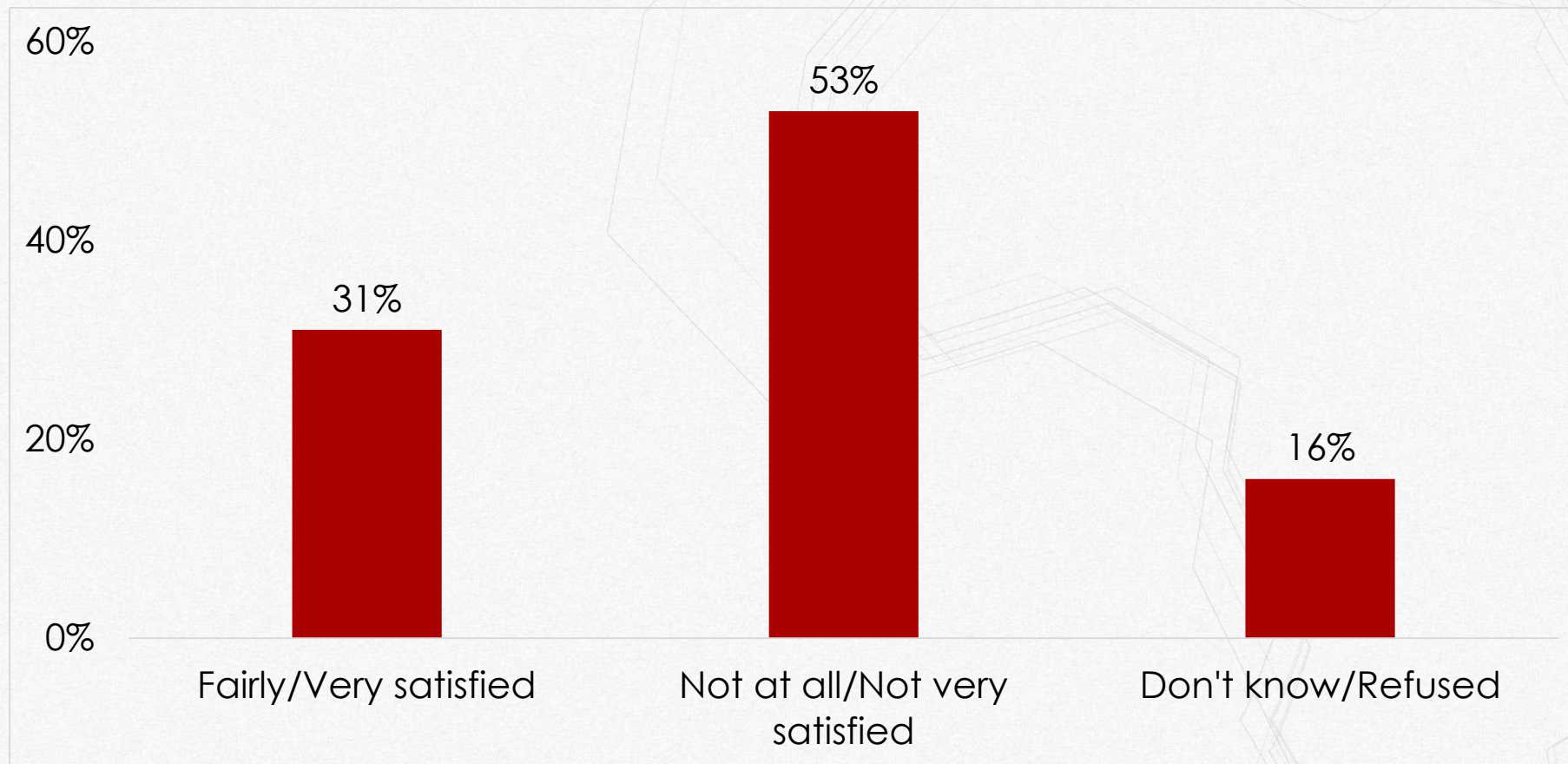
Trust in the Independent Electoral Commission

| Botswana | 2006-2017



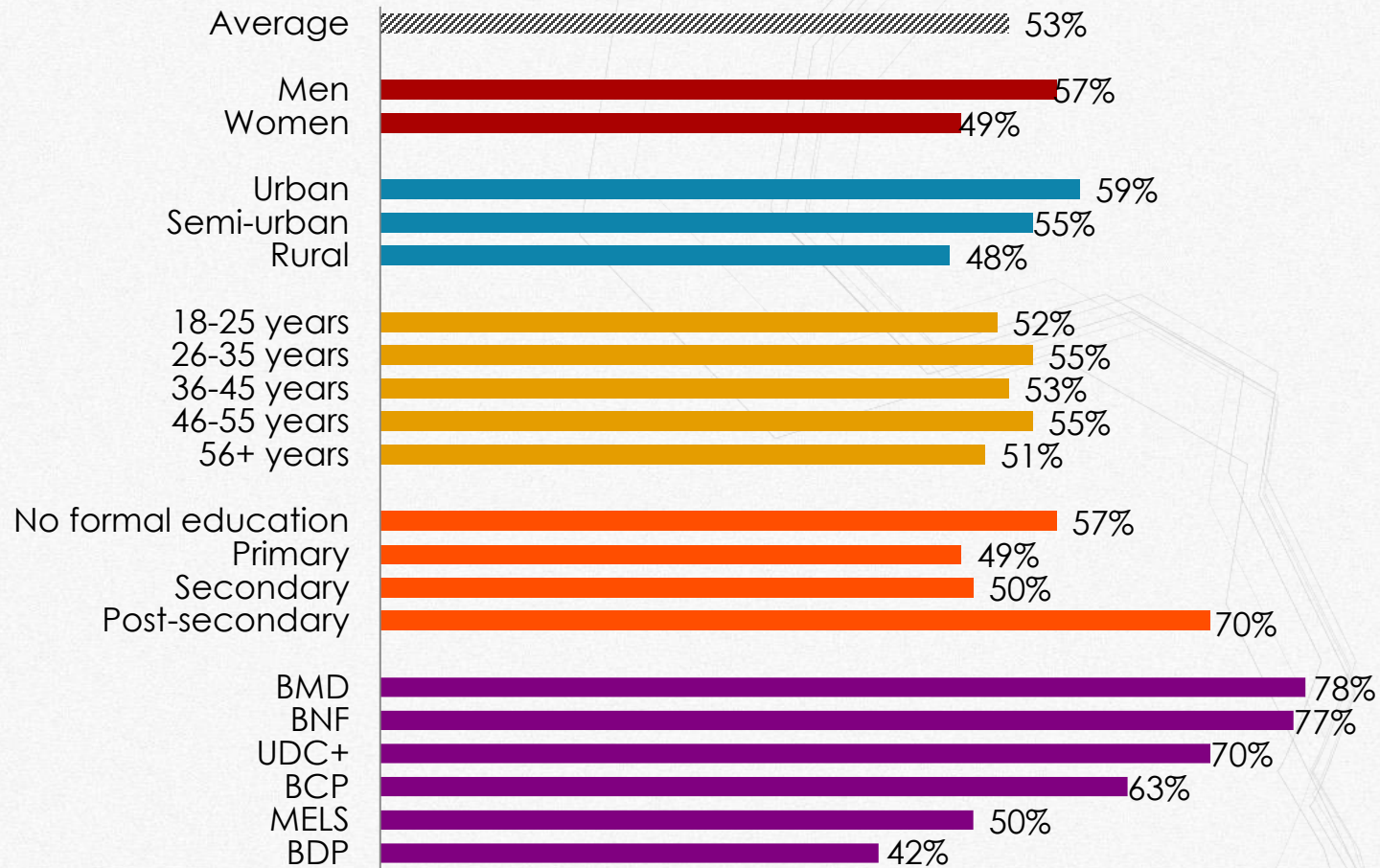
Respondents were asked: How much do you trust the following, or haven't you heard enough to say: The Independent Electoral Commission? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Satisfaction with reasons for electronic voting machines | Botswana | 2017



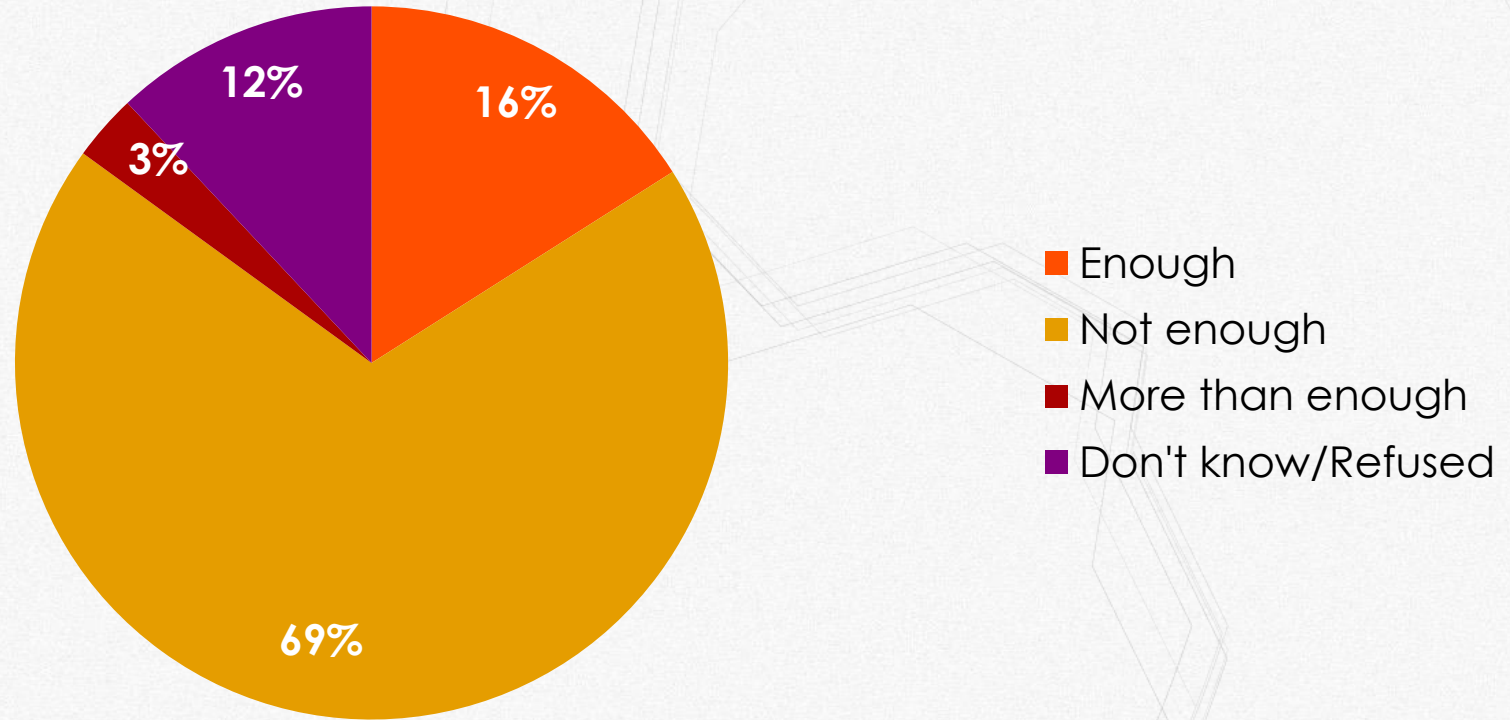
Respondents were asked: As Botswana prepares for the next general elections in October 2019, a number of suggestions have been made aimed at improving the quality of our elections. I would now like to ask whether you approve or disapprove of the following suggested changes: Overall, how satisfied are you with the reasons advanced by the Independent Electoral Commission for introducing electronic voting machines?

Dissatisfaction with reasons for electronic voting machines | by demographics | Botswana | 2017



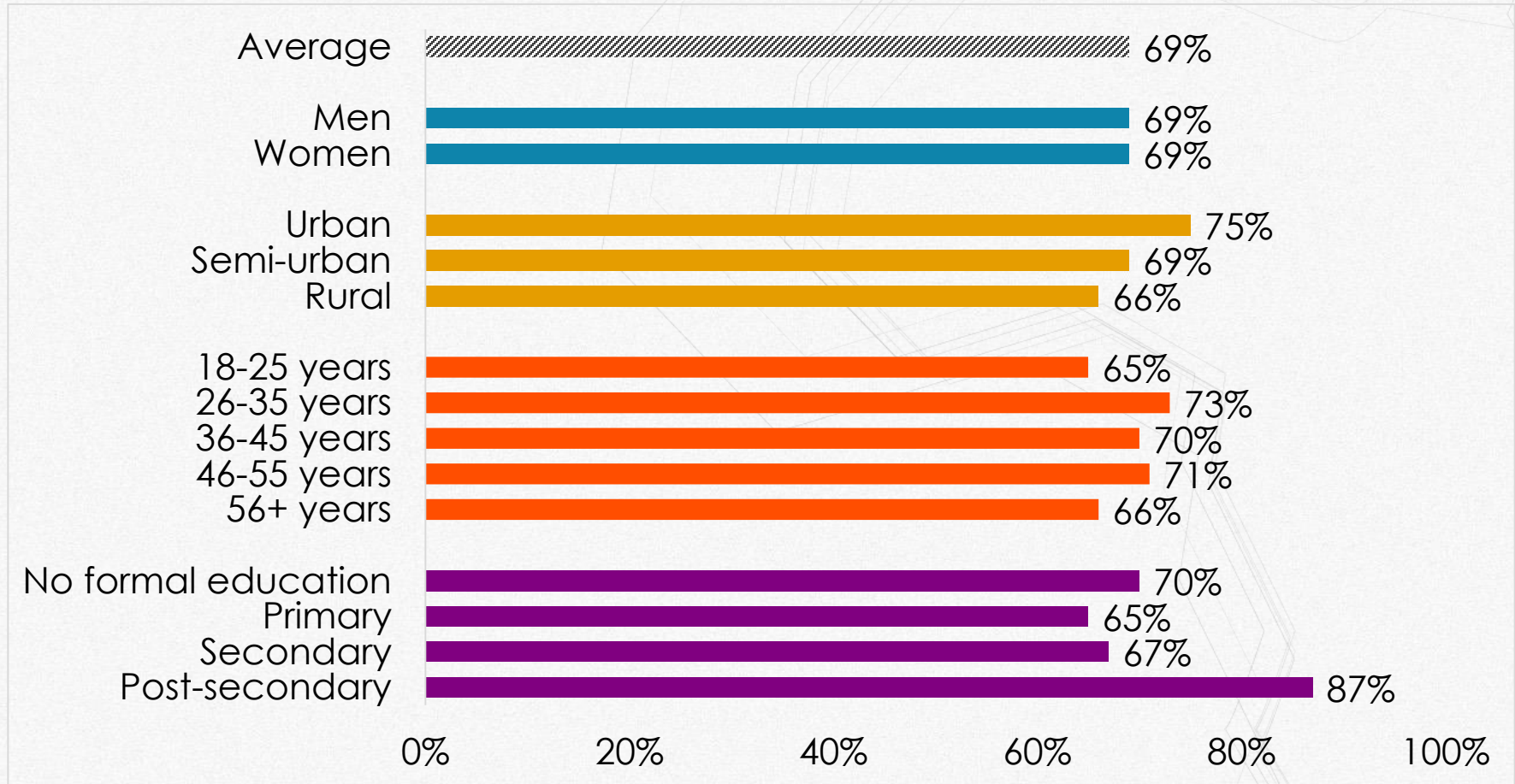
Respondents were asked: Overall, how satisfied are you with the reasons advanced by the Independent Electoral Commission for introducing electronic voting machines? (% who say "not very satisfied" or "not at all satisfied")

Views on consultation on electronic voting machines | Botswana | 2017



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how much public consultation was done by the Independent Electoral Commission on the introduction of electronic voting machines: Enough? Not enough? More than enough?

Insufficient public consultation on electronic voting machines | by demographics | Botswana | 2017



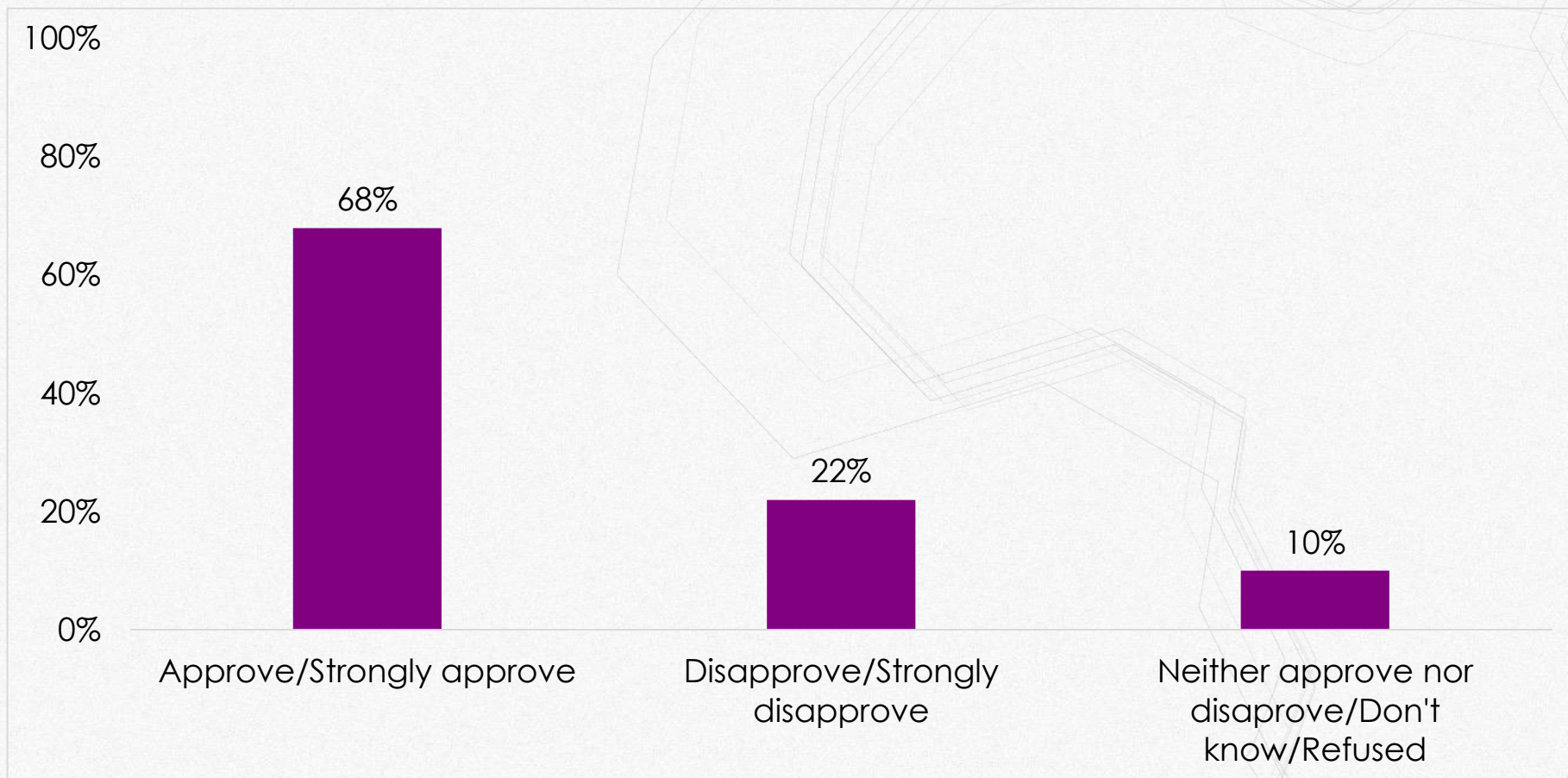
Respondents were asked: In your opinion, how much public consultation was done by the Independent Electoral Commission on the introduction of electronic voting machines: Enough? Not enough? More than enough?

Other electoral reforms

Key findings

- Despite declining popular trust, more than two-thirds (68%) of respondents say the IEC should have the power to determine national/local election dates.
- Eight in 10 Batswana (81%) say MPs who leave their political party should have to vacate their seat in Parliament.

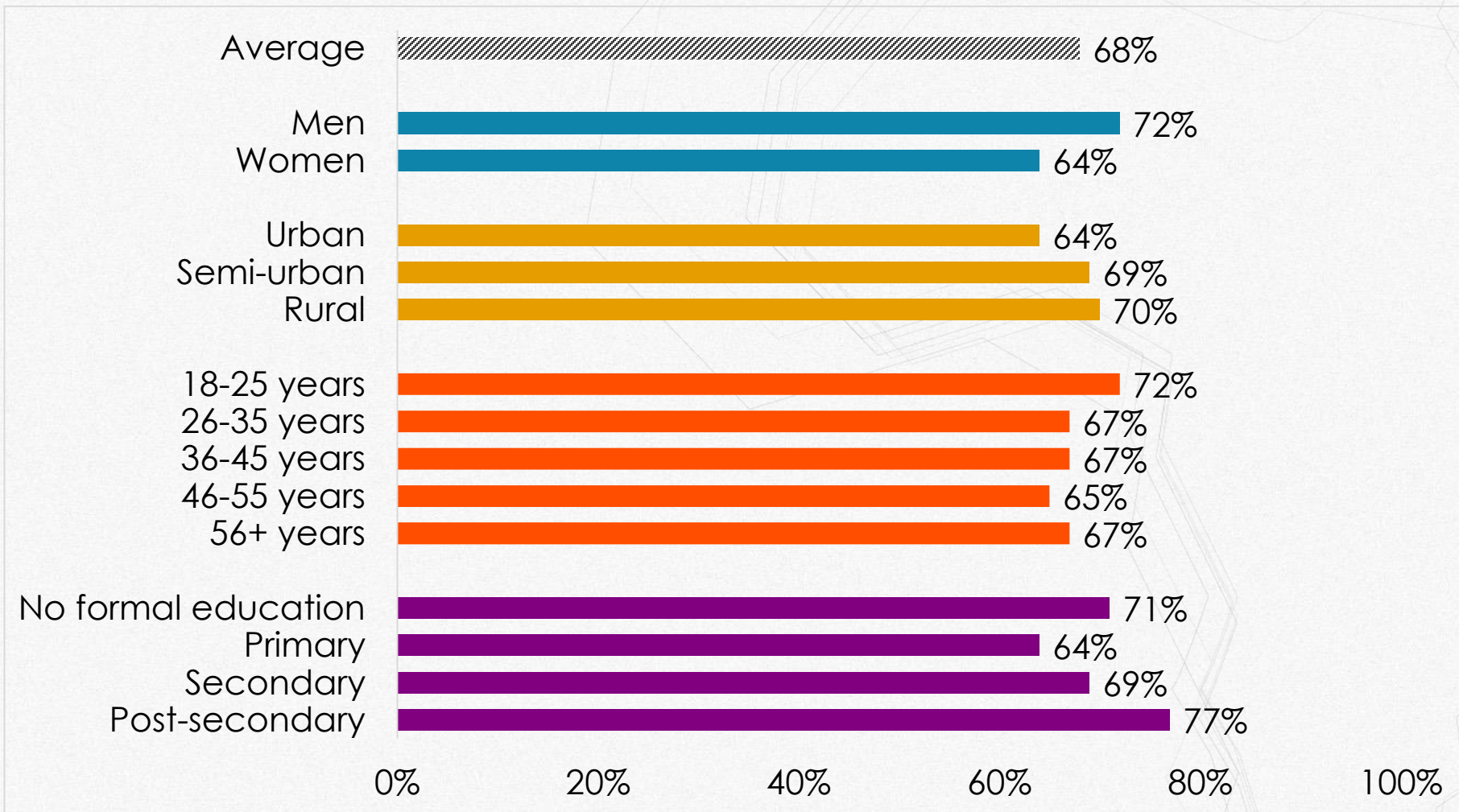
Should IEC set election dates? | Botswana | 2017



Respondents were asked: As Botswana prepares for the next general elections in October 2019, a number of suggestions have been made aimed at improving the quality of our elections. I would now like to ask whether you approve or disapprove of the following suggested changes: The Independent Electoral Commission should have the power to independently determine the dates of national and local elections?

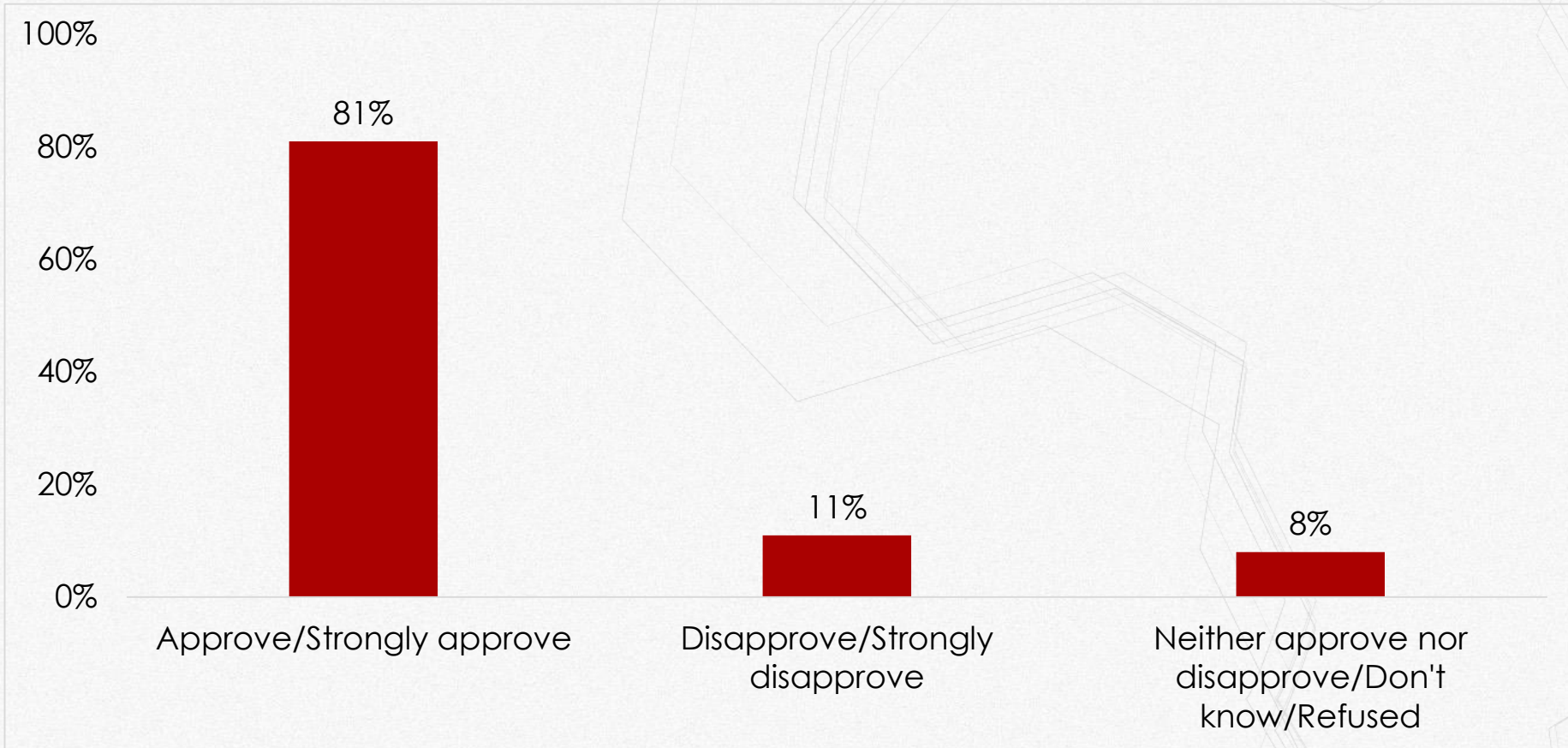
Should IEC set election dates? | by demographics

| Botswana | 2017



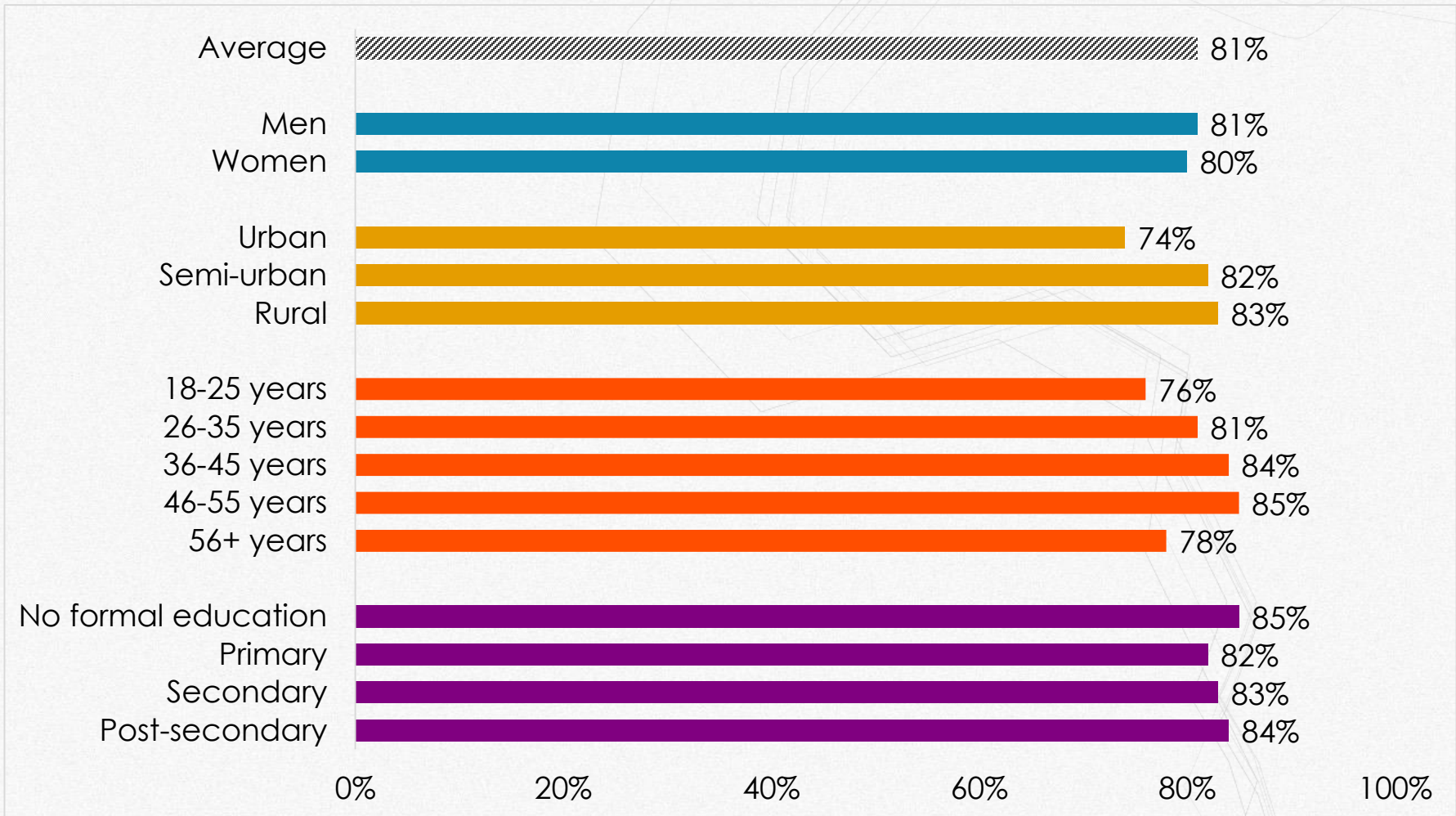
(% who "approve" or "strongly approve")

Should MPs who leave their party give up their seats? | Botswana | 2017



Respondents were asked: As Botswana prepares for the next general elections in October 2019, a number of suggestions have been made aimed at improving the quality of our elections. I would now like to ask whether you approve or disapprove of the following suggested changes: A member of Parliament who resigns from his or her party must vacate his or her seat so that fresh elections can be held in their area?

Should MPs who leave their party give up their seats? | by demographics | Botswana | 2017



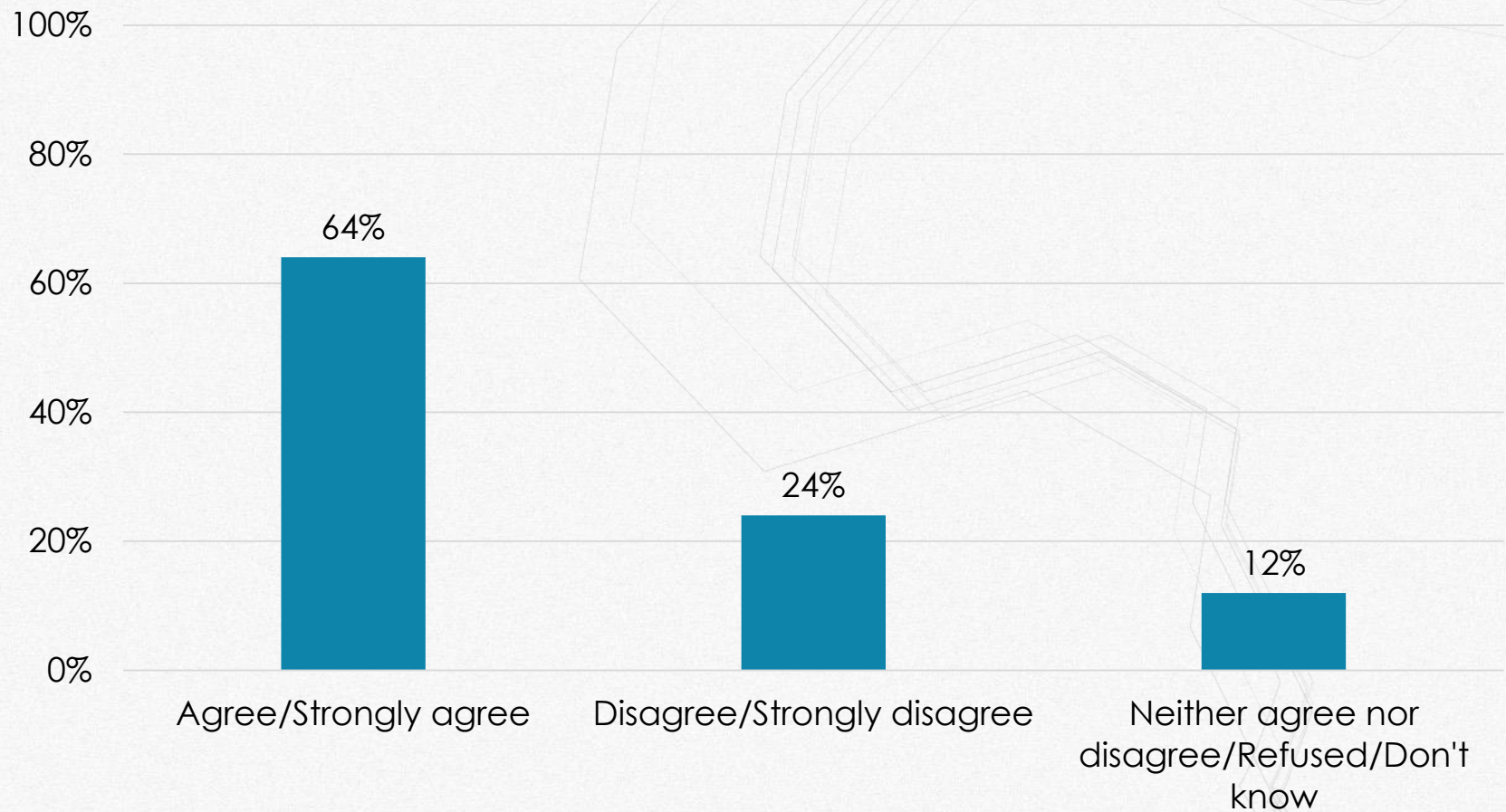
(% who "approve" or "strongly approve")

Political party funding

Key findings

- Majority of Batswana (64%) call for state funding of political parties based on electoral performance.
- Support for state funding of parties does not differ by gender or location but is stronger among better-educated respondents.

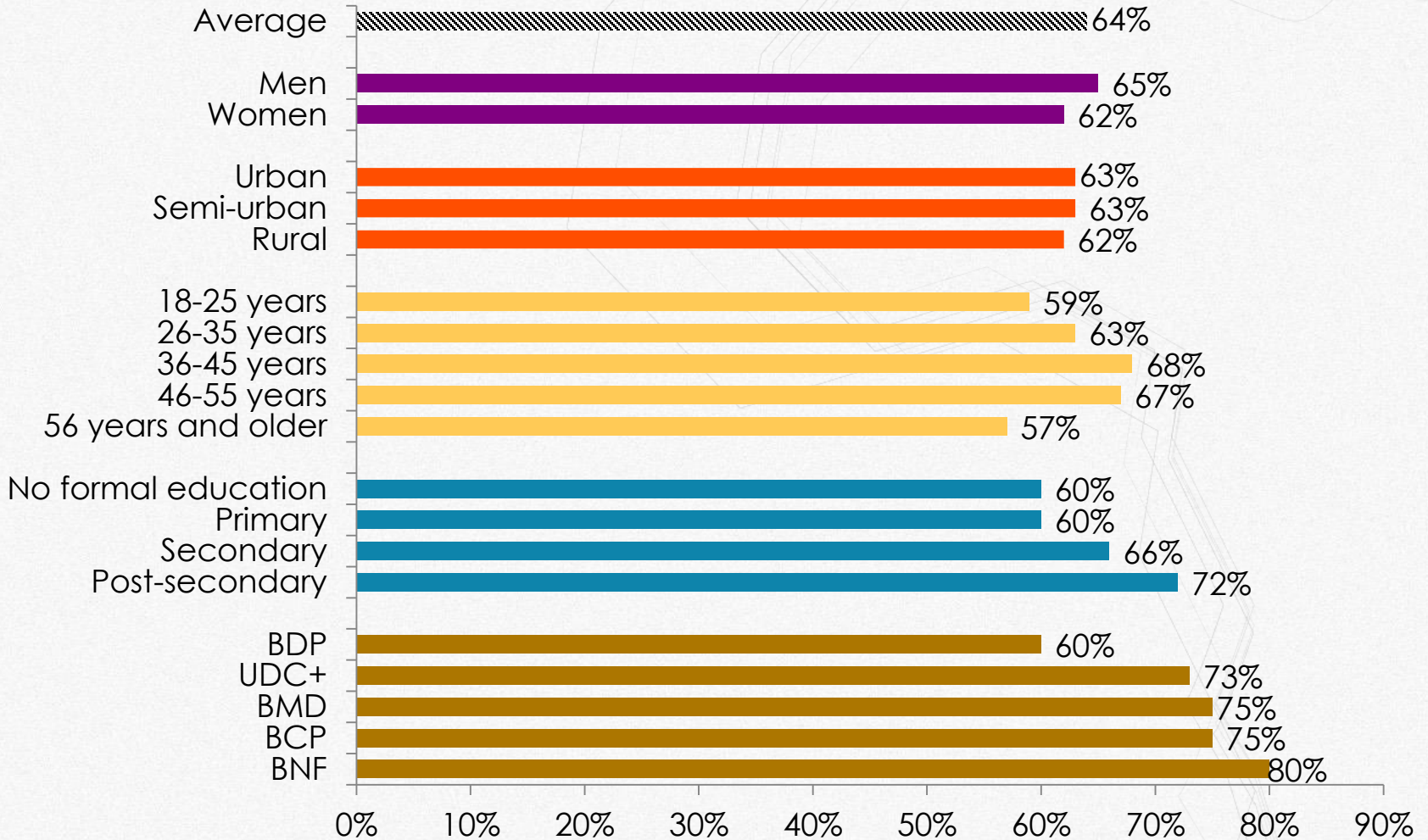
State funding of political parties | Botswana | 2017



Respondents were asked: *Recently, there have been a number of suggestions to change some laws in order to improve government accountability. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The state should provide funding to all political parties based on their performance during elections?*

State funding of political parties | by demographics

| Botswana | 2017



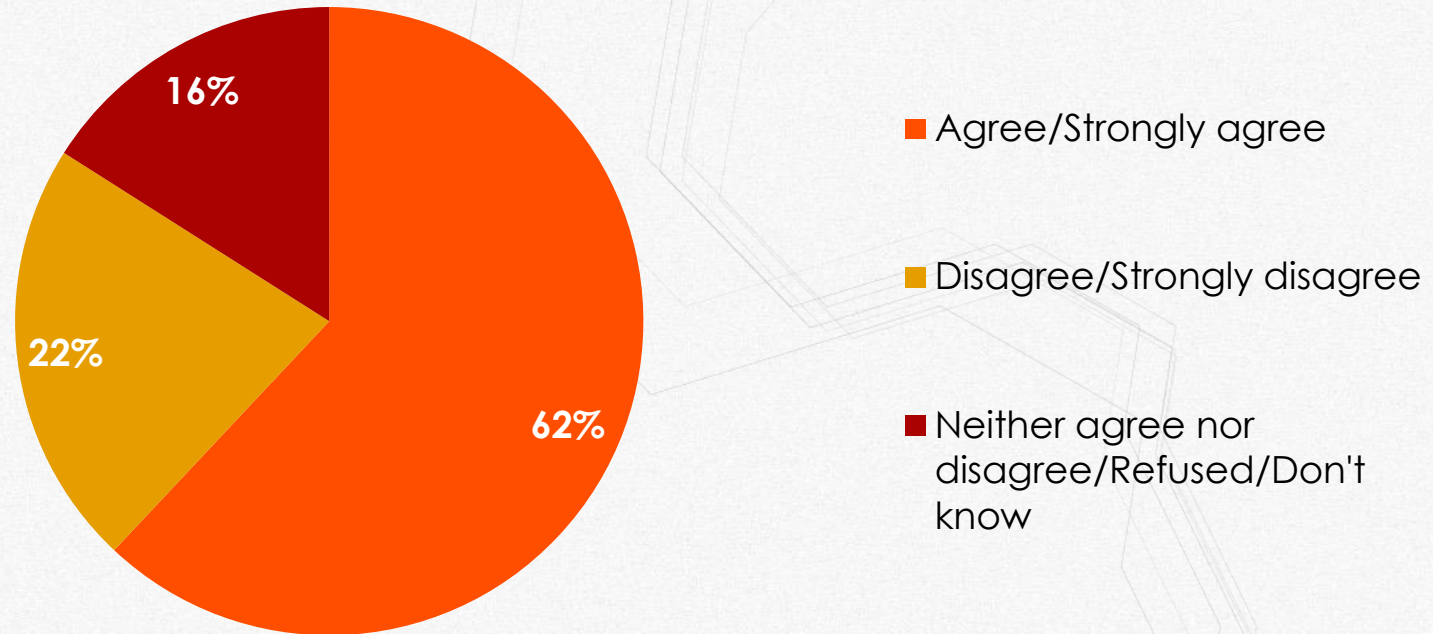
(% who "agree" or "strongly agree")

Political opposition viability

Key findings

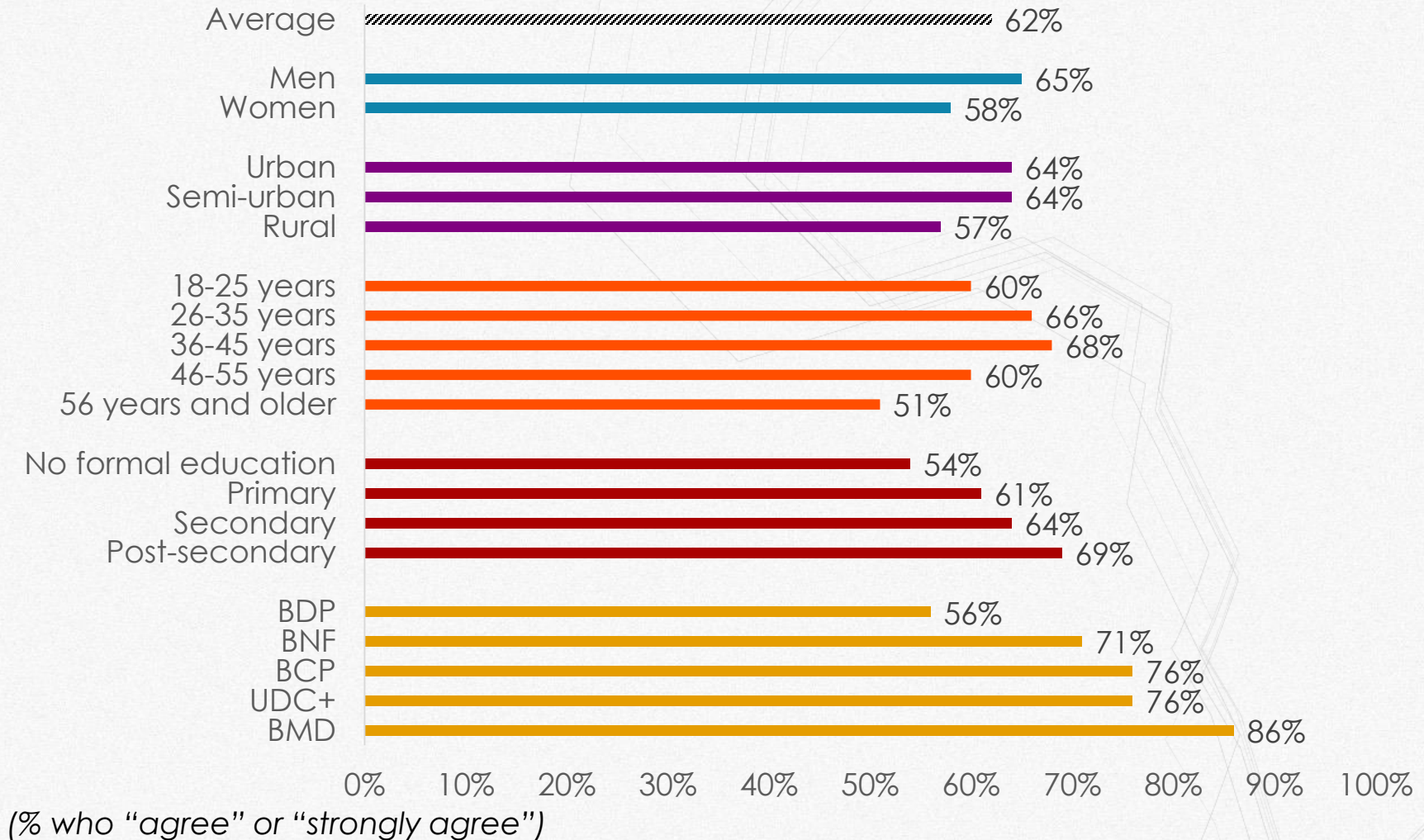
- A majority (62%) of Batswana believe that opposition parties present a viable alternative plan and vision for the country.
- Men (65%) and urban residents (64%) are more likely to see opposition parties as a viable alternative than women (58%) and rural residents (57%).
- Perceptions of the opposition as a viable alternative increase with respondents' education level.

Opposition presents viable alternative | Botswana | 2017



Respondents were asked: For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you disagree or agree, or haven't you heard enough to say: The political opposition in Botswana presents a viable alternative vision and plan for the country?

Opposition presents viable alternative vision and plan | by demographics | Botswana | 2017



Conclusions



Conclusion

- Batswana agree to some electoral reforms but are wary of electronic voting.
- Trust in the Independent Electoral Commission has declined markedly over the past decade.
- Opposition parties have made strides in convincing Batswana that they present a viable alternative vision and plan to the long-ruling BDP.

Thank you

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