

Center for Democratic Development
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News release

Ghanaians favour election of metropolitan, municipal, and district chief executives (MMDCEs)

Most Ghanaians want a voice in choosing their metropolitan, municipal, and district chief executives (MMDCEs), a recent Afrobarometer survey reveals. Support for elected rather than appointed MMDCEs is strong across regions, demographic groups, and major political parties.

The data is being released at a time when the president has reiterated the government's commitment to push for a law that would make MMDCE positions elective in a bid to improve transparency and accountability at the local level .

Key findings

- Almost seven in every 10 Ghanaians (69%) say MMDCE positions should be made elective, including 55% who "agree very strongly" with this view. Only one-quarter (25%) want to maintain the current system of MMDCEs appointed by the president with approval by the local assembly (see Figure 1).
- Strong support for elective MMDCEs is consistent with previous Afrobarometer survey findings (60% in 2008 and 71% in 2012) (see Figure 2).
- Support for election of MMDCEs is strong across demographic groups, including supporters of both the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and the National Democratic Congress (NDC). It is stronger among citizens with higher education (73% secondary and 70% post-secondary) than those with no formal education (59%) (see Figure 3).
- In upper West Region, however, a majority (52%) of citizens prefer appointment of MMDCEs, while only about one-third (36%) support making these positions elective (see Figure 4).
- A slim majority (51%) of Ghanaians say election of MMDCEs should be non-partisan like local government councillors' election, while a sizeable minority (41%) would prefer partisan election.
- However, 66% hold the view that local government councillor elections are not really non-partisan. In fact, among those who want MMDCE elections to be fashioned after local government councillor elections, 70% do not think the latter are non-partisan (see Table 1).

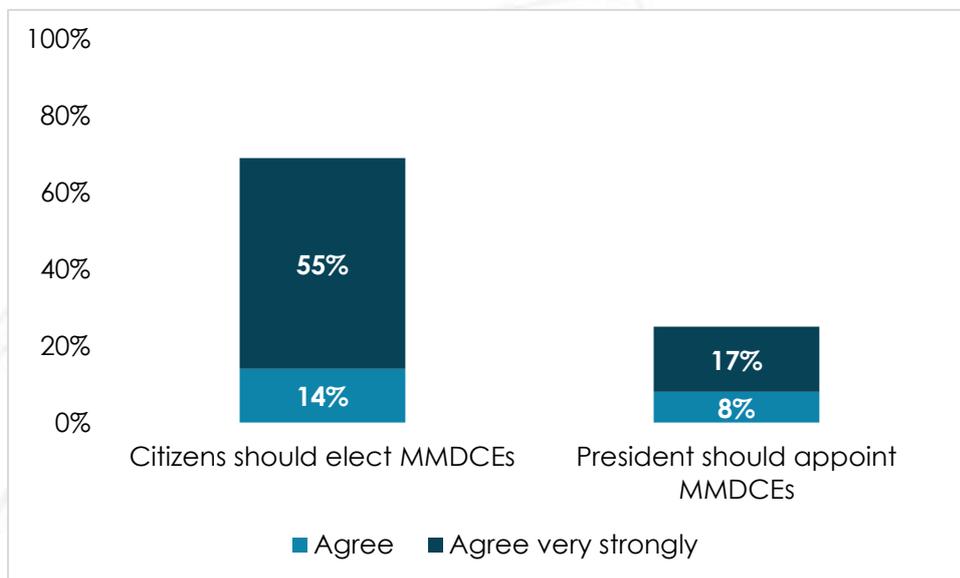
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across Africa. Six rounds of surveys were completed between 1999 and 2015, and Round 7 surveys are being conducted in 2016/2018. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Ghana, led by the Ghana Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), interviewed 2,400 adult Ghanaians between September 9 and 25, 2017. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in Ghana in 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, and 2014.

Charts

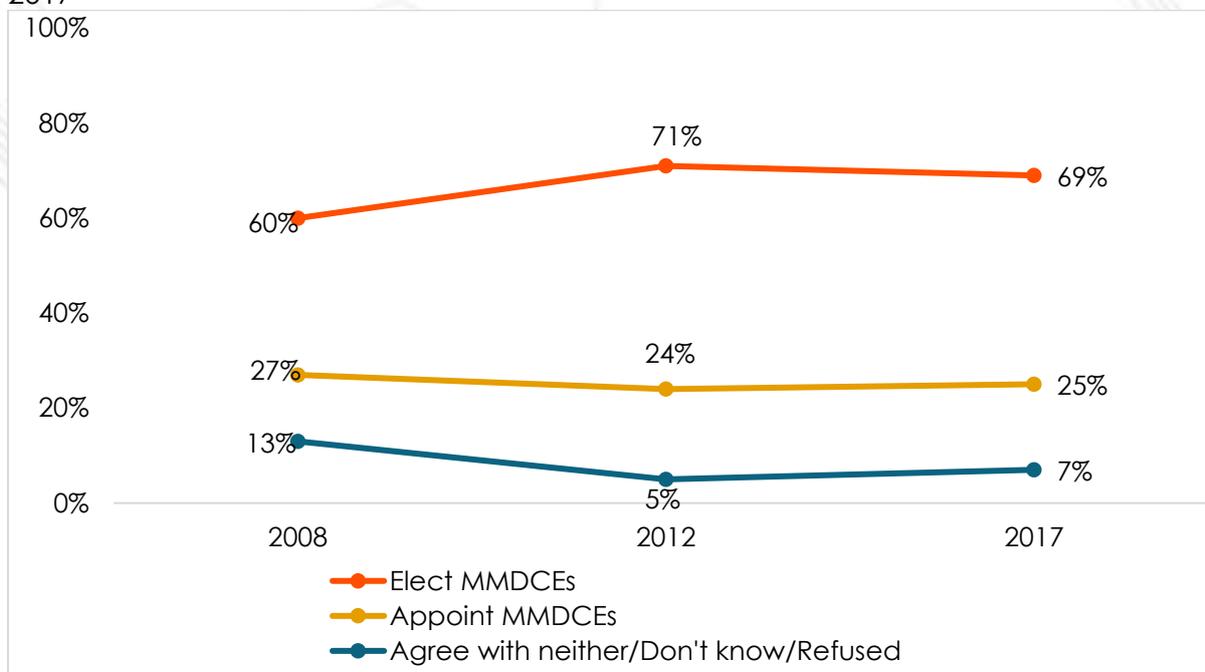
Figure 1: Election vs. appointment of MMDCEs | Ghana | 2017



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

- Statement 1: The metropolitan, municipal, and district chief executives or MMDCEs should be elected by voters in the local authority area.
- Statement 2: The metropolitan, municipal, and district chief executives or MMDCEs should be appointed by the president with approval by assembly members.

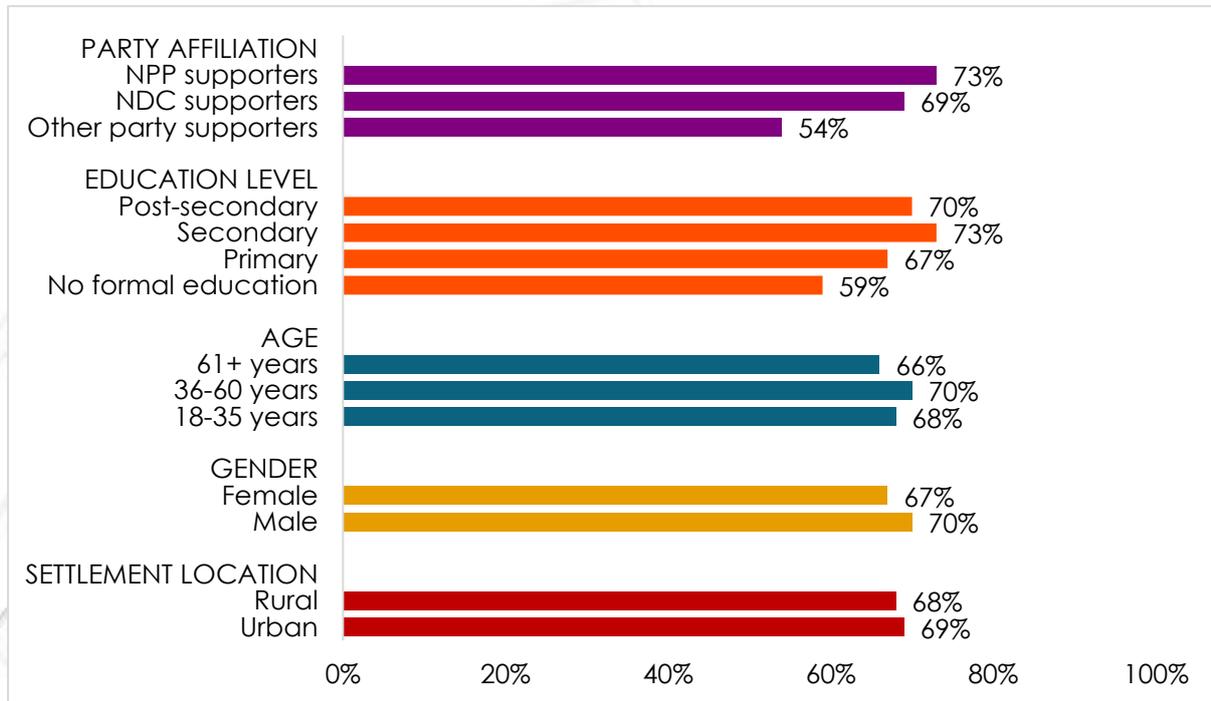
Figure 2: Over-time trends: Election vs. appointment of MMDCEs | Ghana | 2008 – 2017



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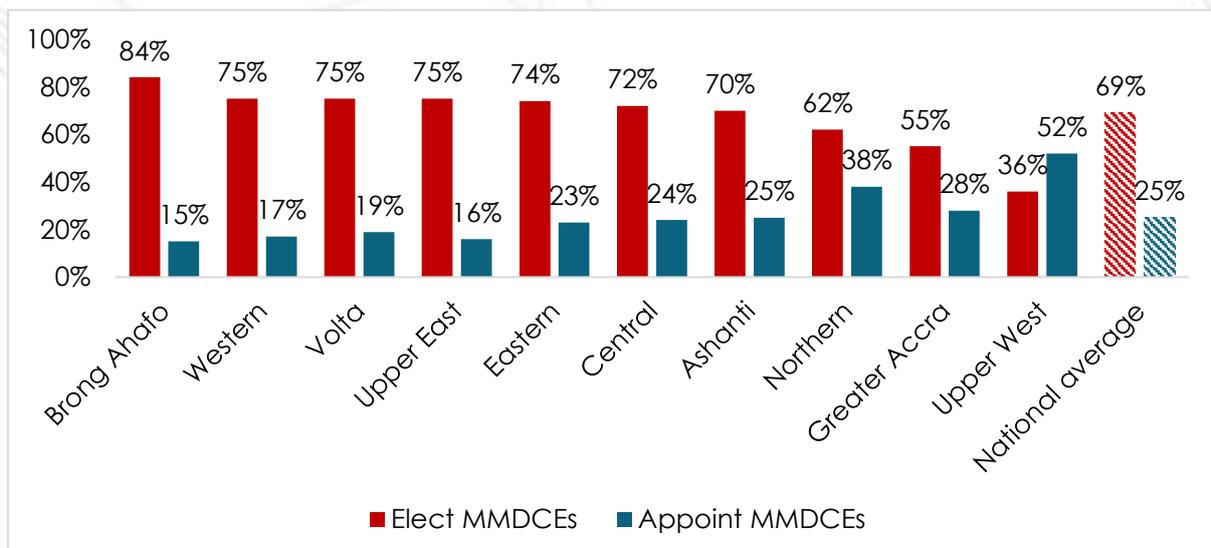
Figure 3: Elected vs. appointed MMDCEs | by demographic group | Ghana | 2017



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Figure 4: Election vs. appointment of MMDCEs | by region | Ghana | 2017



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Table 1: Partisan vs. non-partisan: Should MMDCE elections be partisan vs. Are local government elections really non-partisan? | Ghana | 2017

		Are district assembly elections really non-partisan?		
		No	Yes	Don't know
Preferred format for MMDCE elections	Non-partisan like district assembly elections	70%	26%	3%
	Partisan with MMDCEs as representatives of political parties	65%	29%	5%

Respondents were asked:

- If citizens were to elect their metropolitan, municipal, and district chief executives or MMDCEs, which electoral procedures would you want the country to adopt: MMDCEs should run as non-partisans in a manner similar to how assembly men and women are elected? Or MMDCEs should run as representatives of political parties?
- In your opinion, do you think the district assembly election for assembly men and women is really non-partisan?

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