



Election of MMDCs and other aspects of local governance: What do Ghanaians say?

Evidence from Afrobarometer Round 7 survey in Ghana

At a glance...



- **Election of MMDCs:** More than two-thirds (69%) of Ghanaians “strongly agree” or “agree” that metropolitan, municipal, and district chief executives (MMDCs) should be elected by voters in the local authority area.
- **Trust in local government officials:** Trust in local government councillors has increased by 12 percentage points since 2014 but remains 7 percentage points lower, compared to 2005.
- **Citizens’ engagement with local government officials:** Most Ghanaians (from 59% to 87%) never contacted their formal and informal leaders about some important problem or to offer their opinions during the past year.
- **Elected leaders listening to citizens:** A majority of respondents say their local government councillors (65%) and MPs (75%) “never” or “only sometimes” listen to what their constituents have to say.
- **Ensuring accountable local governance:** The level of citizen acceptance of responsibility to ensure accountable local governance (i.e. voters ensuring local leaders do their jobs) has increased by 14 percentage points since 2005.

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.
- Six rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2015, and Round 7 surveys were carried out in 2016-2017.
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policy making by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organisations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National partners in each country conduct the survey. In Ghana, the Afrobarometer Round 7 survey was conducted by the Center for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana).

Methodology



- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - *Sample is distributed across regions/states/provinces and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.*
 - *All respondents are randomly selected.*
 - *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 of 2,400 yields a margin of error of $\pm 2\%$ at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 7 in Ghana was conducted September 9-25, 2017.
- The 2,400 respondents were located in 300 enumeration areas spread across 293 towns in 171 districts in the country's 10 regions.

Survey demographics

		National	2017 survey
Region	Western	10.1%	9.5%
	Central	8.4%	8.7%
	Greater Accra	18.5%	18.6%
	Volta	8.6%	8.6%
	Eastern	10.7%	10.6%
	Ashanti	19.3%	19.5%
	Brong Ahafo	9.0%	9.0%
	Northern	8.9%	8.9%
	Upper East	3.9%	4.0%
	Upper West	2.6%	2.6%
Urban-rural	Urban	54.40%	54.40%
	Rural	45.60%	45.60%
Gender	Male	---	50.0%
	Female	---	50.0%
Education	None	---	15.9%
	Primary	---	26.4%
	Secondary	---	43.5%
	Post-secondary	---	13.9%

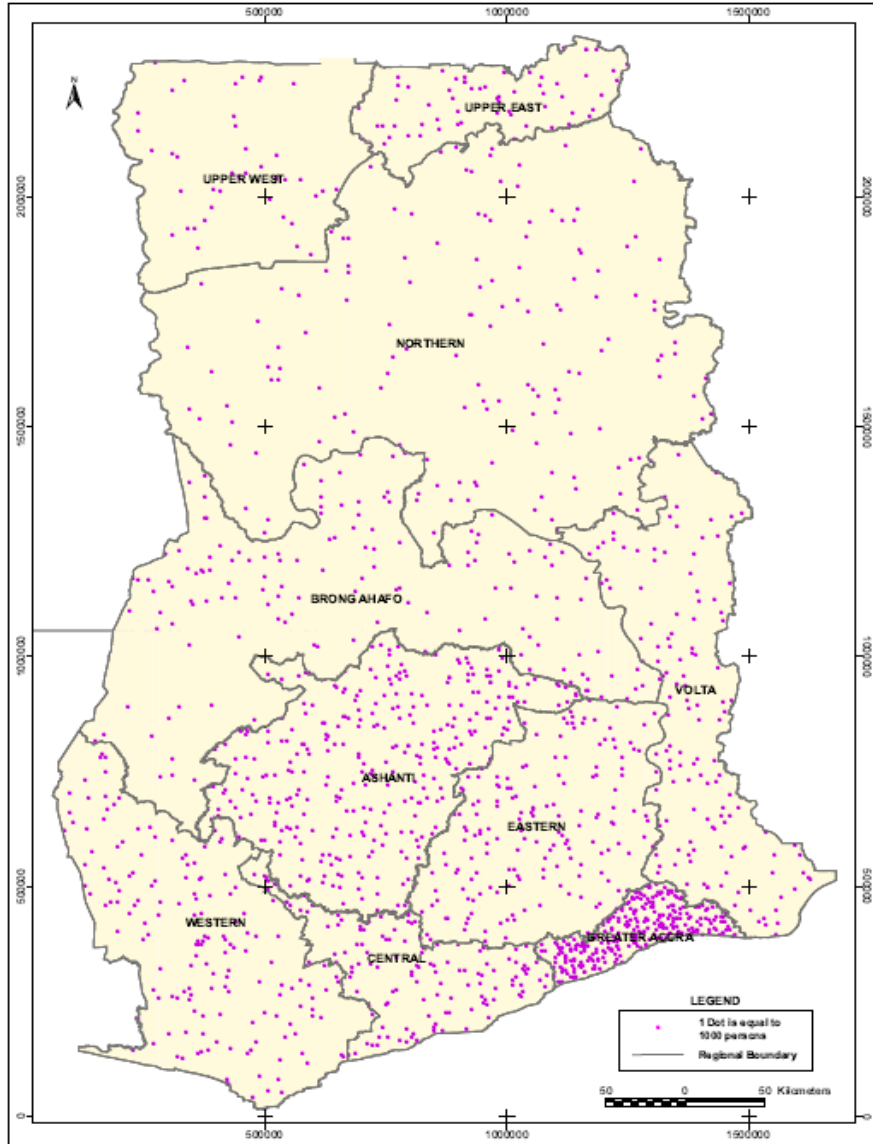
Survey demographics

		2017 survey
Religion	Christian	78.8%
	Islamic	15.4%
	Traditional	2.3%
	None	3.3%
Age	18 – 25 years	25.5%
	26 – 35 years	30.0%
	36 – 44 years	16.6%
	46 – 52 years	10.5%
	53 – 60 years	8.0%
	61 years or more	9.4%

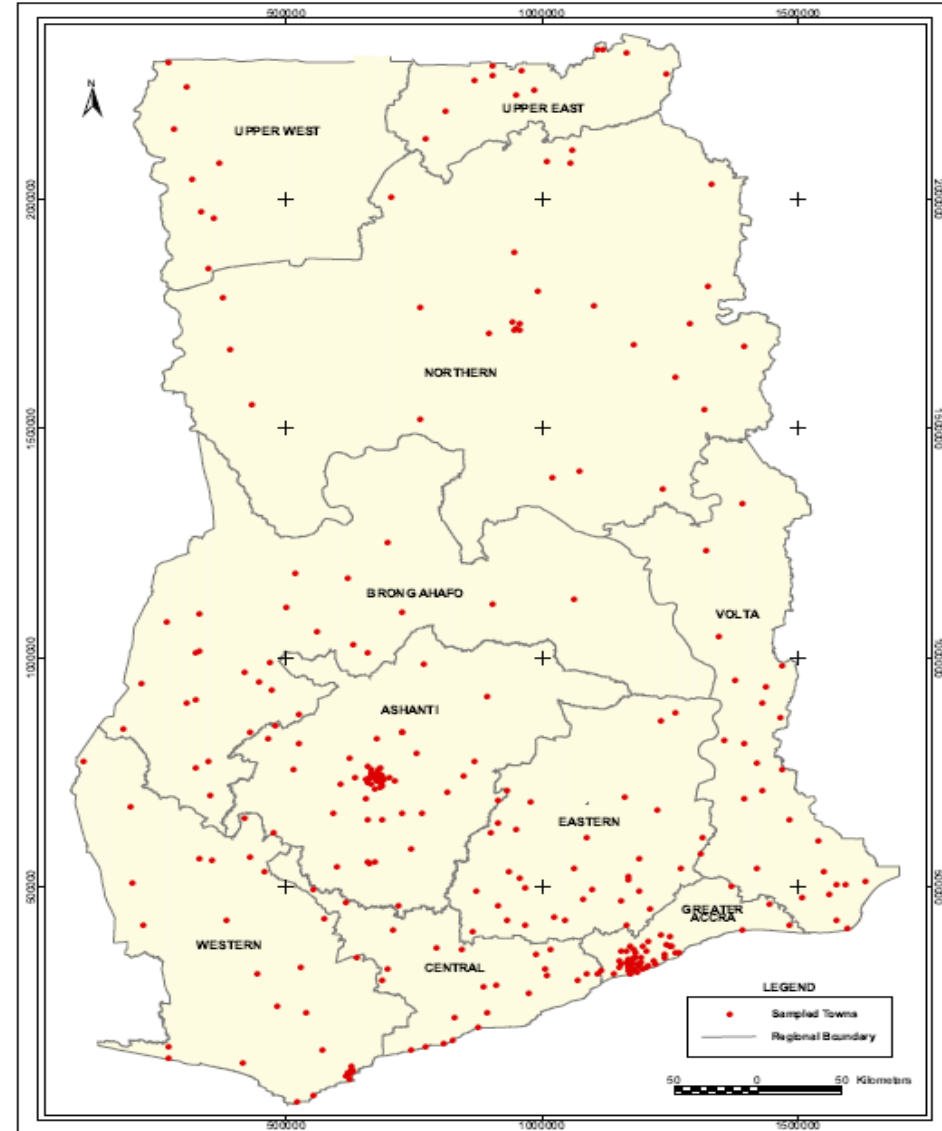
Geographic coverage



MAP OF GHANA SHOWING REGIONAL PROJECTIONS FOR PERSONS 18 YEARS AND OLDER (2015-2016)



MAP OF GHANA SHOWING SELECTED ENUMERATION AREAS (OR TOWNS/VILLAGES) FOR GHANA AFROBAROMETER R7 SURVEY, SEPTEMBER 2017





Views about local government and its functionaries



Citizens' engagement with local government officials

News about local government in the media during survey

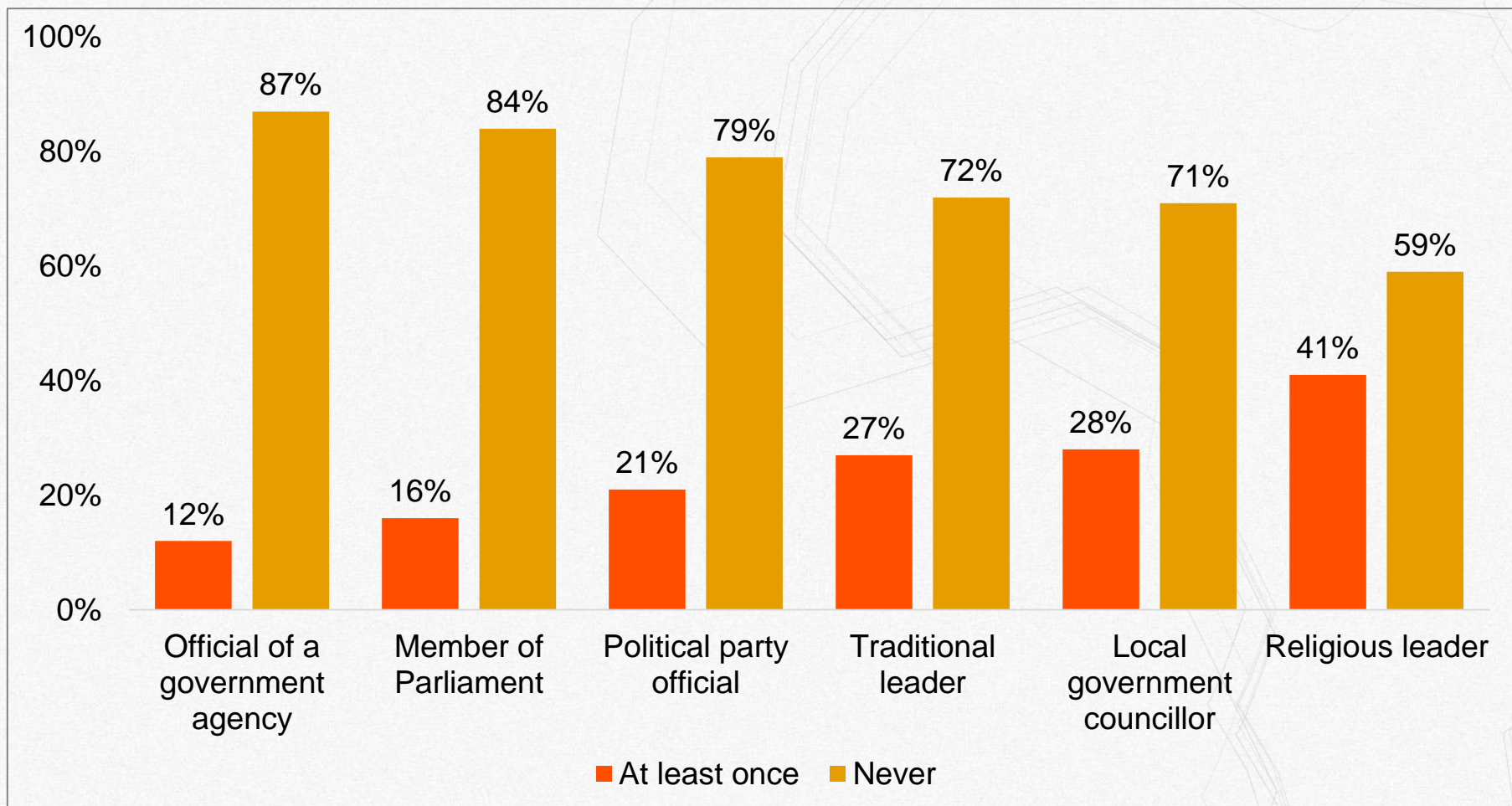
- Agitations erupted in some parts of the country when President Akufo-Addo made 212 MMDCE nominations for the approval of district assemblies.
 - *Most nominees for DCE positions in the Northern Region failed to secure assembly approval.*
- The president and other officials reiterated the government's commitment to push for making MMDCE positions elective in order to eliminate the contentious nomination-and-approval process and improve transparency and accountability at the local level.

Key findings

- A majority of Ghanaians (from 59% to 87%) never contacted their formal and informal leaders about important problems or to offer their opinion during the previous year.
- About one-quarter (28%) contacted their local government councillors at least once.
- Contact with local government councillors ranks second to that with religious leaders (41%).
- Contact with local government councillors increased by 14 percentage points between 2005 and 2017.
- Six in every 10 Ghanaians (60%) believe it is “very unlikely” or “somewhat unlikely” that they could access information on local government development plans and budgets from MMDAs.
- Six in 10 Ghanaians (61%) believe it is “very likely” or “somewhat likely” that they could get business registration information from MMDAs.

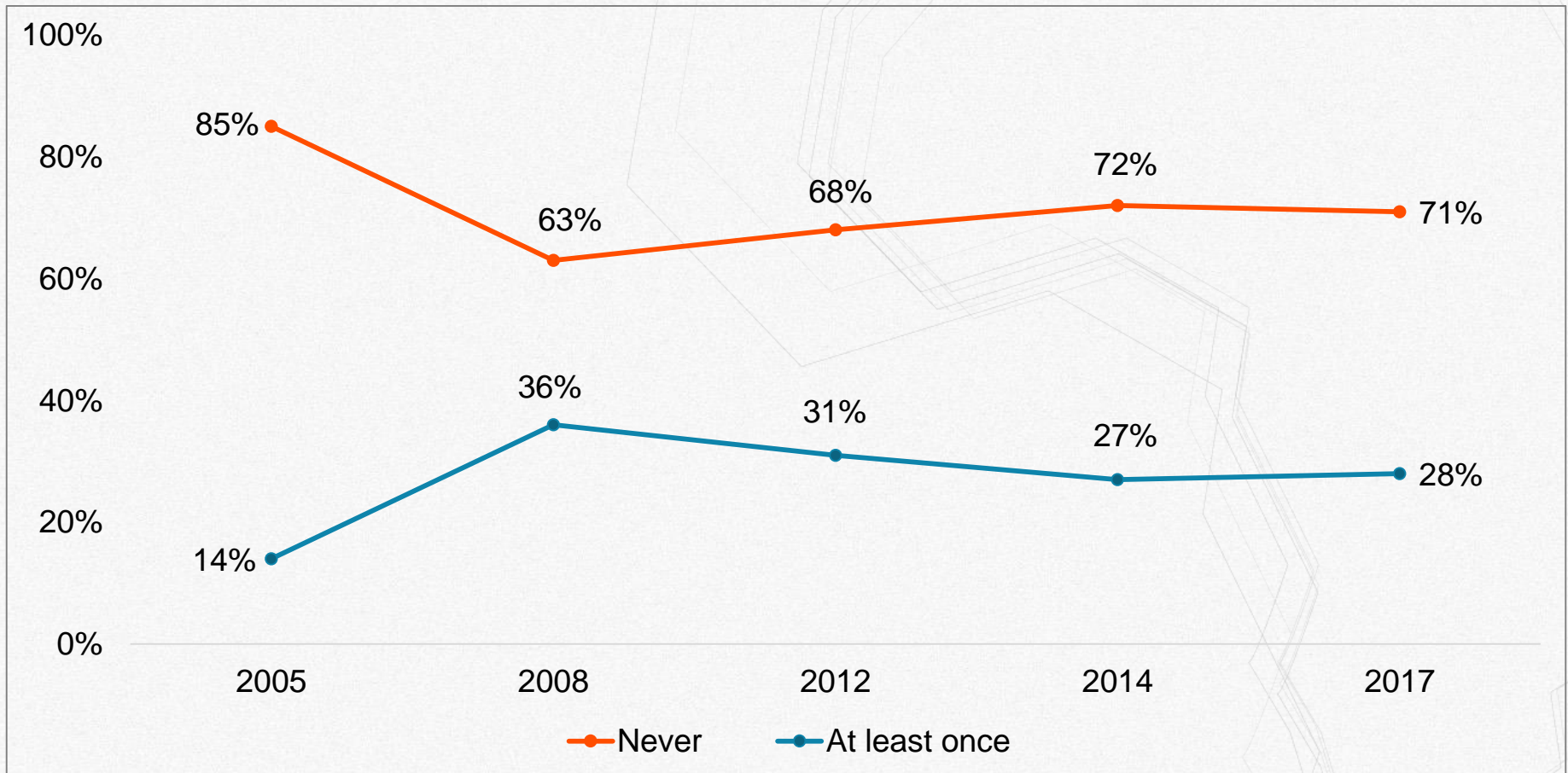
Contact with formal and informal leaders

| Ghana | 2017



Respondents were asked: During the past year, how often have you contacted any of the following persons about some important problem or to give them your views?

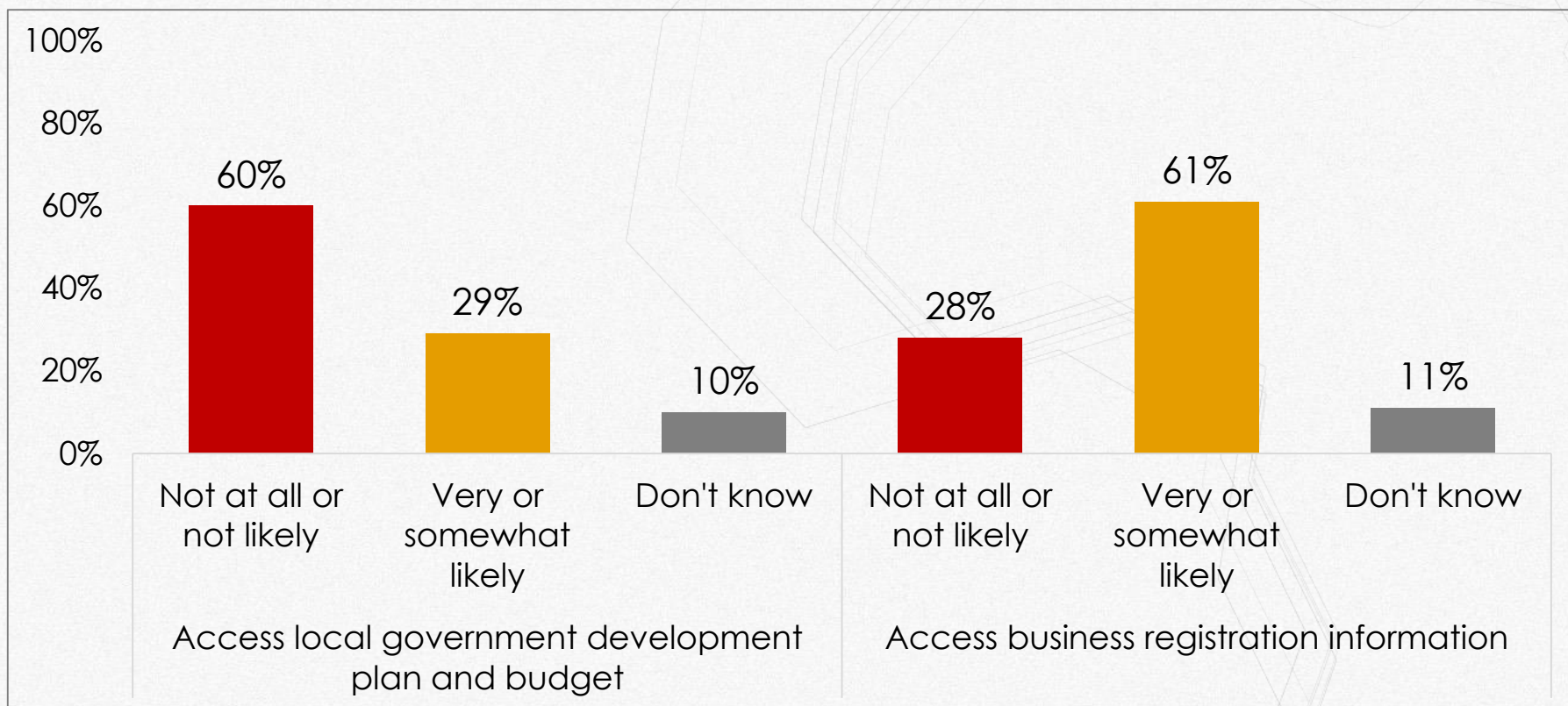
Over-time trend: Contacting local government councilors | Ghana | 2005-2017



Respondents were asked: During the past year, how often have you contacted any of the following persons about some important problem or to give them your views?

Access to information from local government

| Ghana | 2017



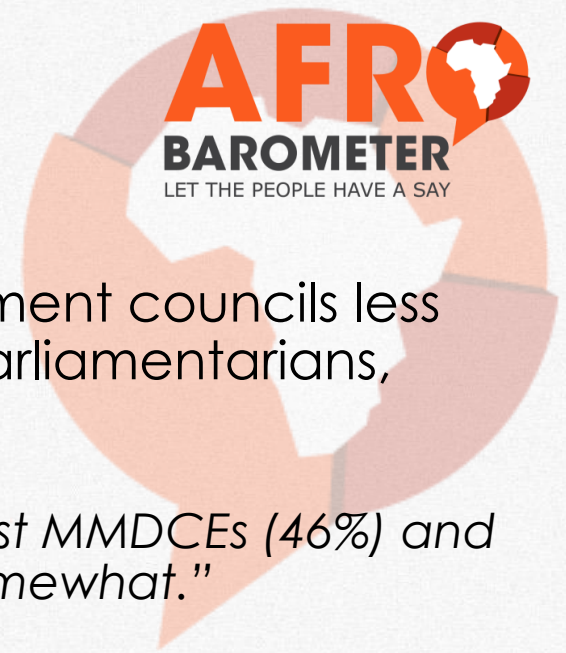
Respondents were asked: How likely is it that you could get the following information from government or other public institutions, or haven't you heard enough to say:

- If you went to the metropolitan, municipal, or district assembly to find out about the metropolitan, municipal, or district development plan and budgets?
- If you went to the metropolitan, municipal, or district assembly or registrar general's department to find out how to register a new business in your community?



Trust in public institutions and officials

Key findings

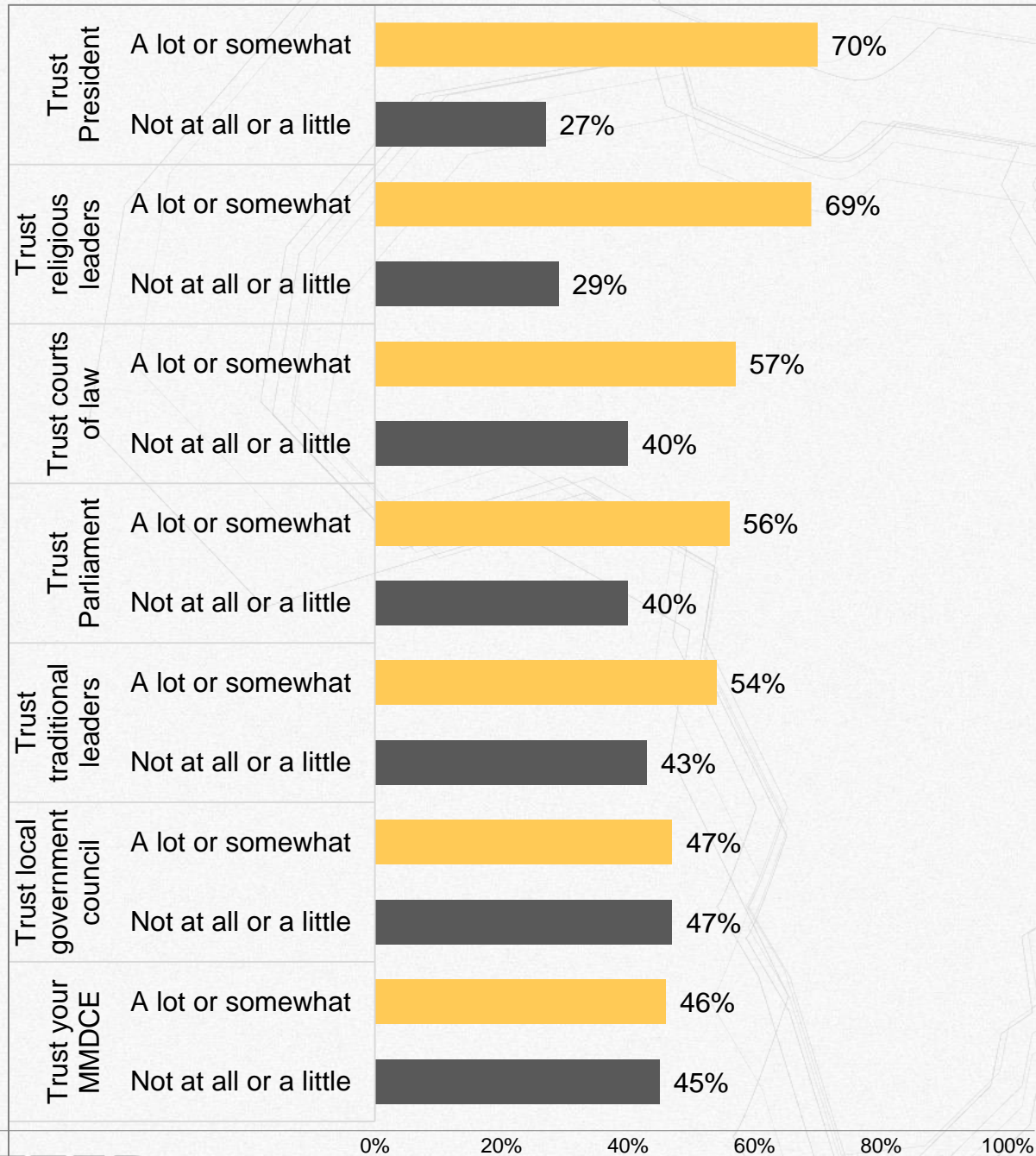


- Citizens trust their MMDCEs and local government councils less than they trust the president, courts of law, parliamentarians, religious and traditional leaders.
 - *Fewer than one-half of Ghanaians say they trust MMDCEs (46%) and local government councils (47%) “a lot” or “somewhat.”*
 - *A majority trust the president (70%), religious leaders (69%), courts of law (57%), Parliament (56%) and traditional leaders (54%).*
- Trust in local government councils has declined by 7 percentage points between 2005 and 2017.

Trust in public officials and institutions

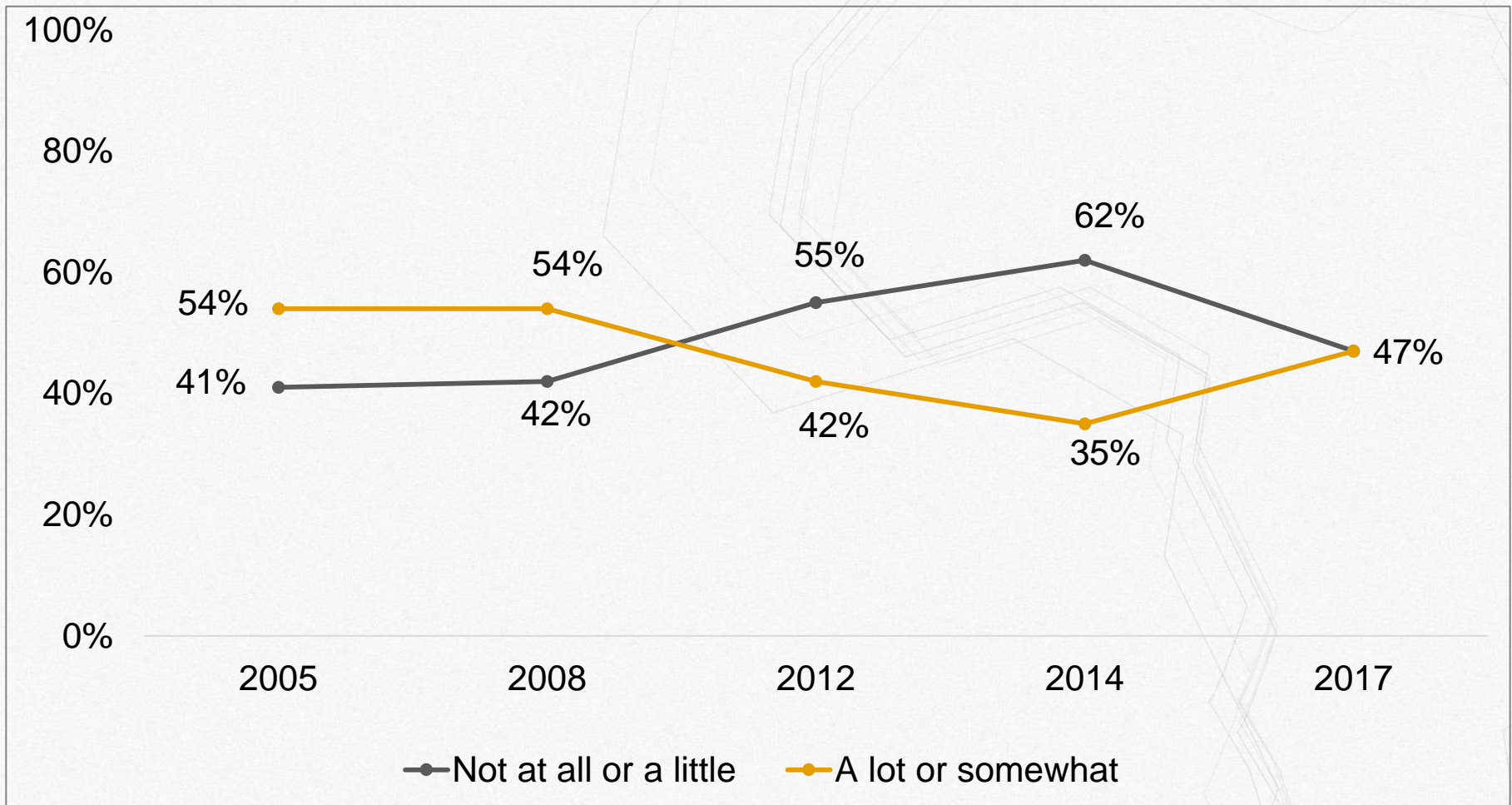
| Ghana
| 2017

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



Over-time trends: Trust in local government councils

| Ghana | 2005-2017



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



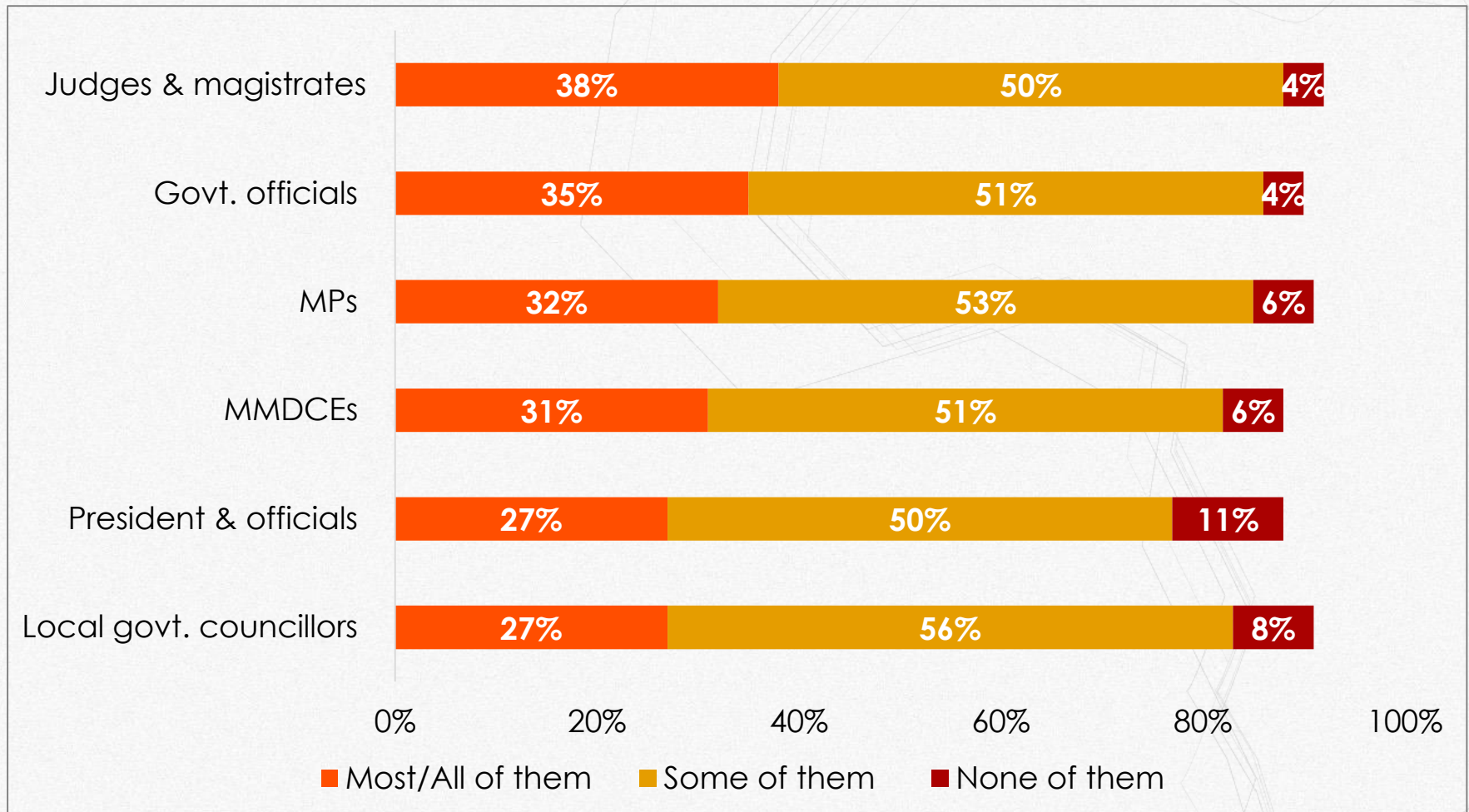
Perceived corruption among public officials

Key findings

- Large majorities of Ghanaians perceive at least “some” MMDCEs, local government councillors, parliamentarians, judges and magistrates, Presidency officials, and government officials as corrupt.
- Between 2005 and 2017, the proportion of Ghanaians who perceived “some,” “most,” or “all” local government councillors to be corrupt increased by 15 percentage points.
- However, those who believe “some,” “most,” or “all” MMDCEs are involved in corruption declined from 89% in 2012 to 82% in 2017.

Perceived corruption among public officials | Ghana

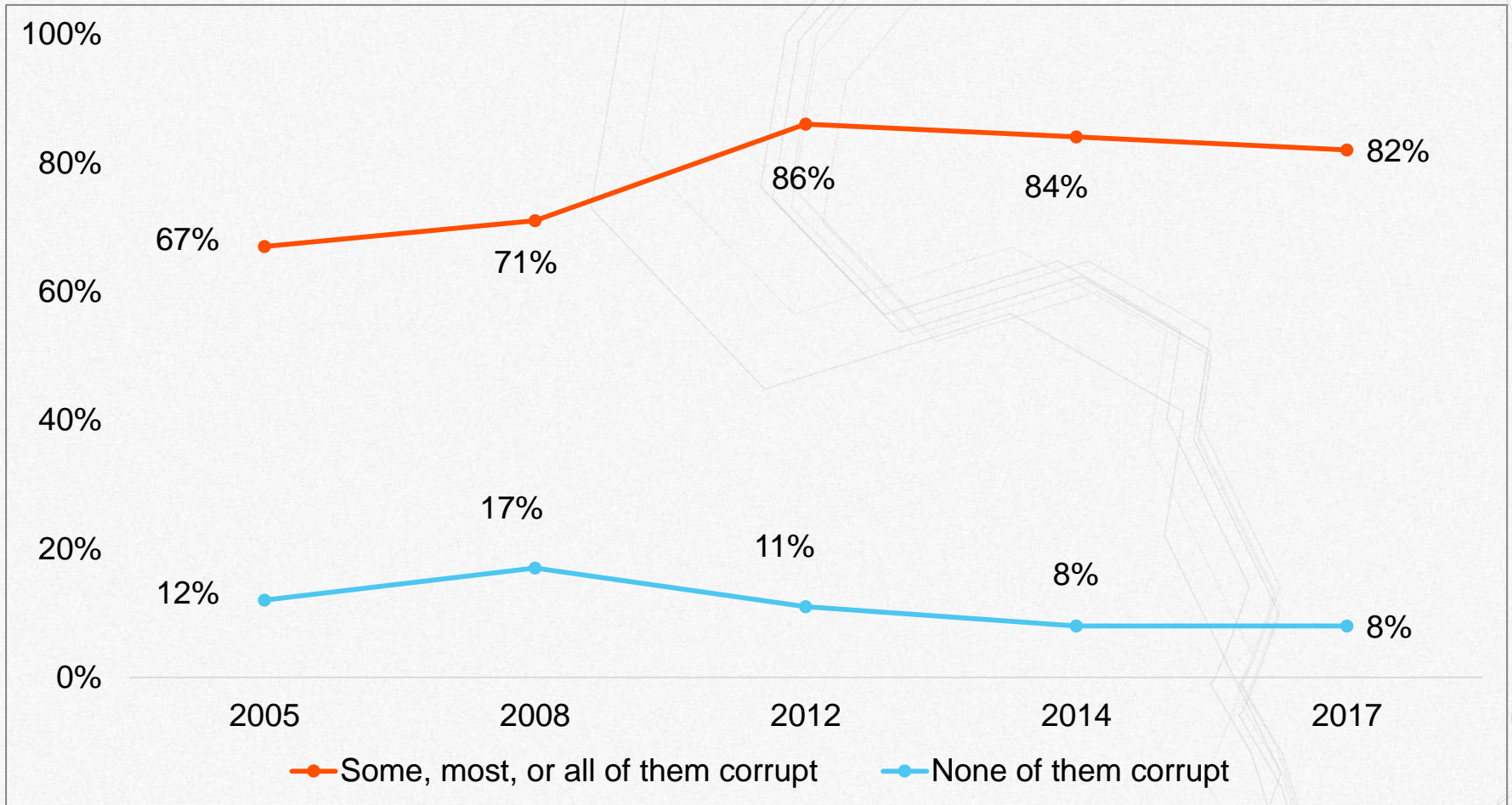
| 2017



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

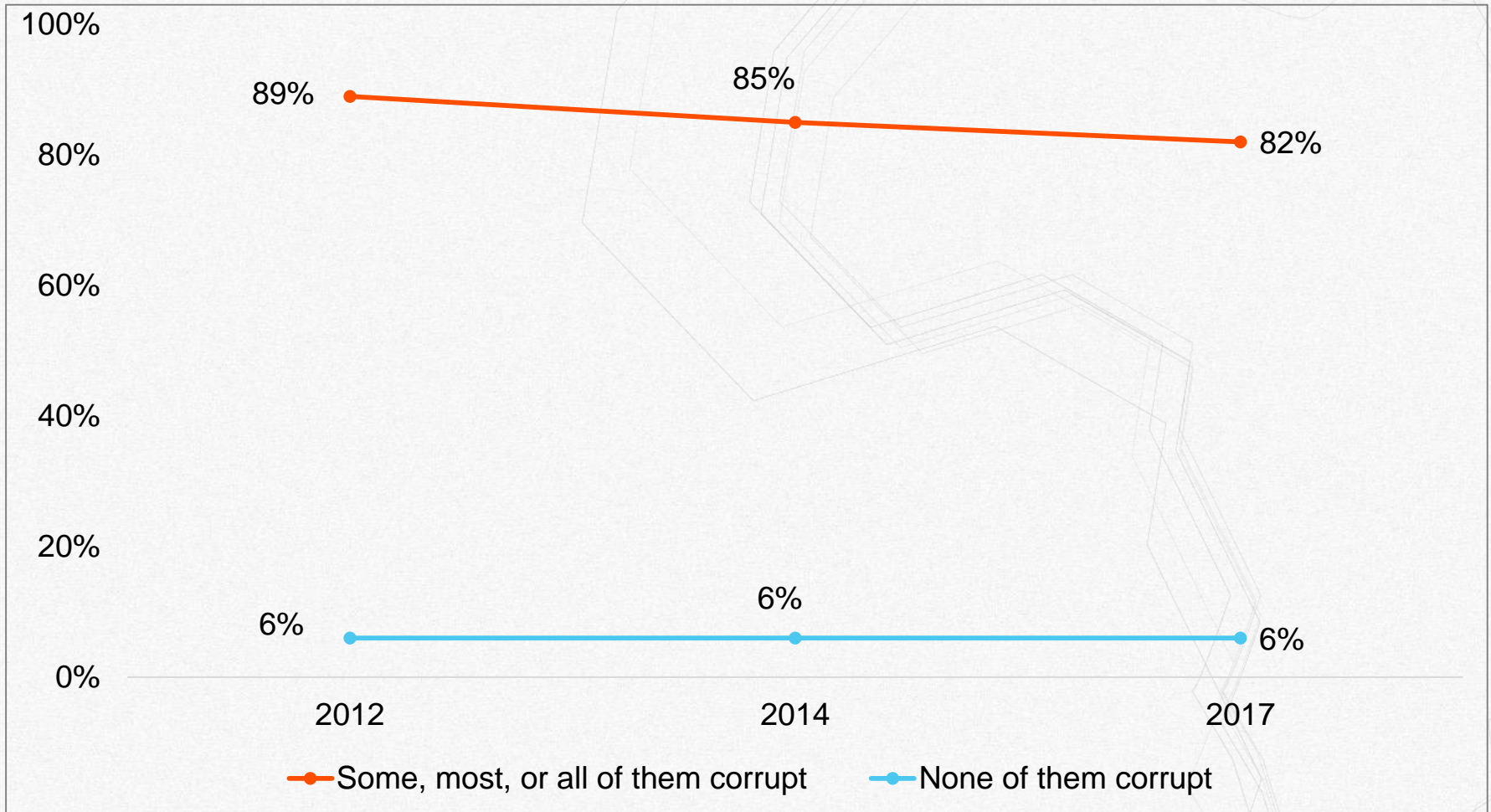
Over-time trends: Local government councillors corrupt

| Ghana | 2005-2017



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

Over-time trends: MMDCEs corrupt | Ghana | 2005-2017



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

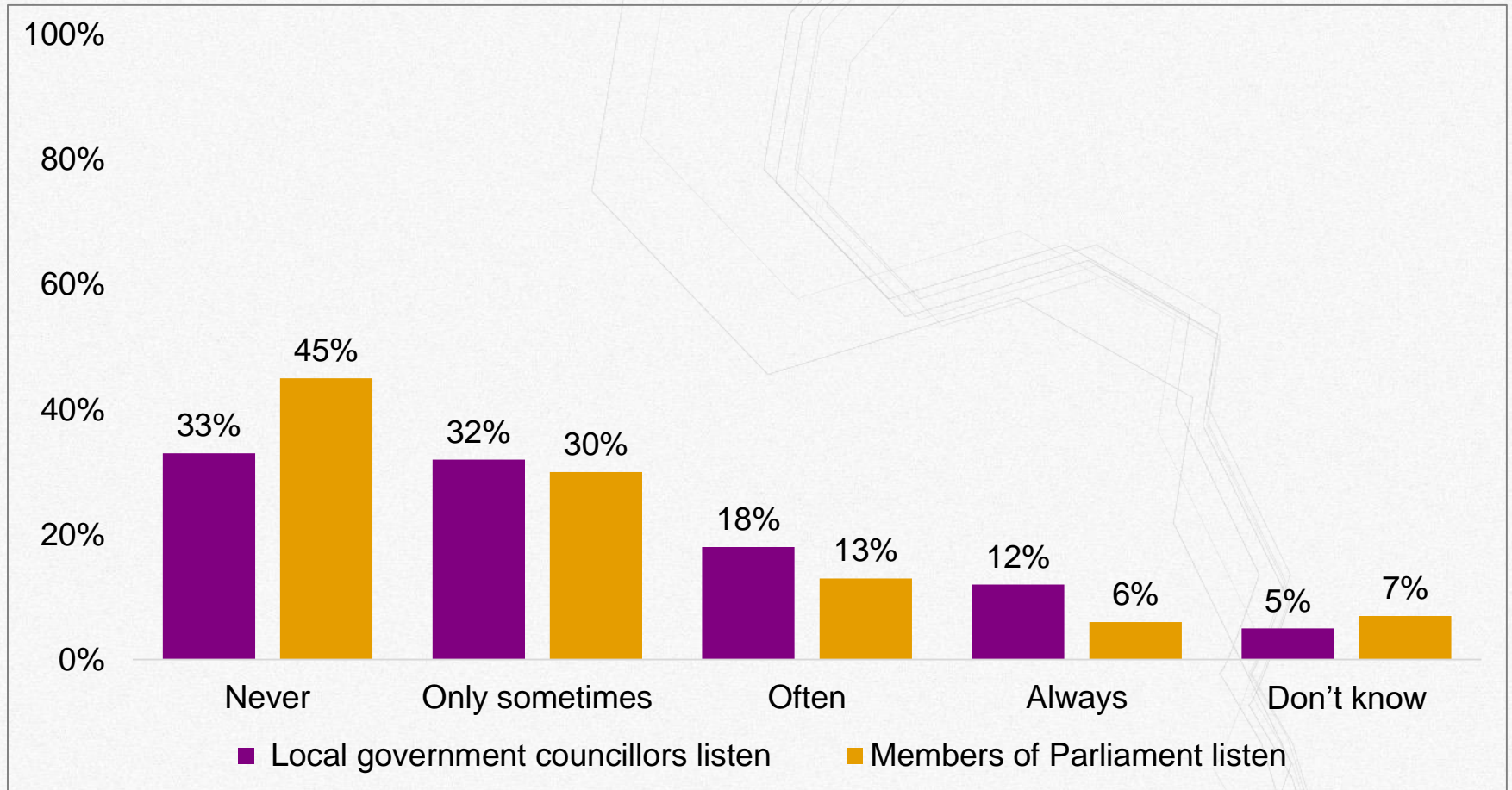


Evaluations of local government functionaries' job performance

Key findings

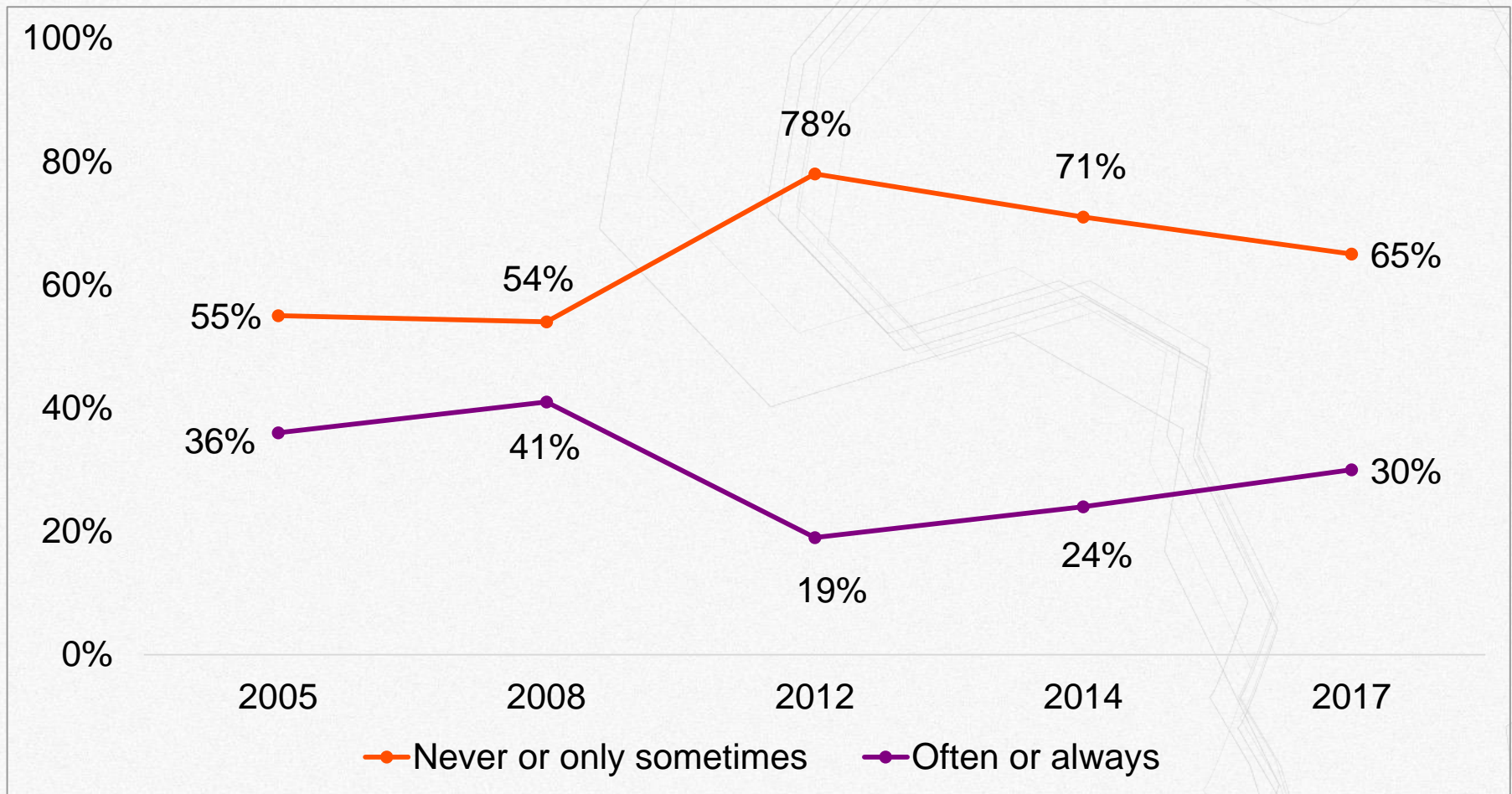
- A majority of Ghanaians say their local government councillors (65%) and MPs (75%) “never” or “only sometimes” listen to what ordinary people have to say.
 - *Between 2005 and 2017, the perception that local councillors “never” or “only sometimes” listen increased by 10 percentage points.*
 - *The perception that local councillors “often” or “always” listen decreased by 6 percentage points.*
- About half of respondents “approve” or “strongly approve” of the job performance of their local government councillors (54%) and MMDCEs (47%).
- Job performance approval rates for both MMDCEs and local government councillors remained fairly stable between 2012 and 2017.
- A majority of Ghanaians (52%) say voters are responsible for ensuring that local government councillors do their jobs – an increase of 14 percentage points since 2005.

Local government officials listen to what ordinary people say | Ghana | 2017



Respondents were asked: How much of the time do you think the following try their best to listen to what people like you have to say?

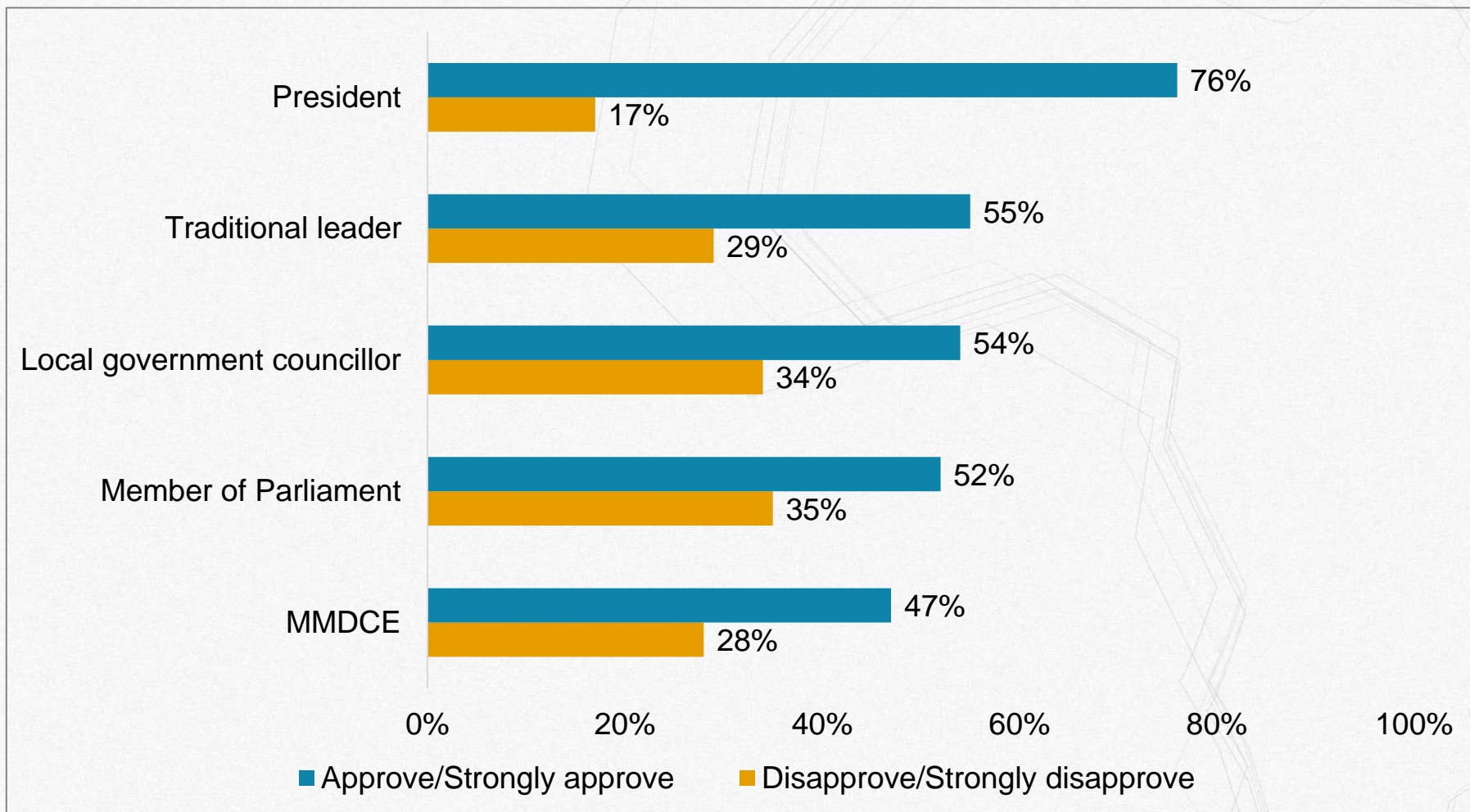
Over-time trends: Local government councillors listen to what ordinary people say | Ghana | 2005-2017



Respondents were asked: How much of the time do you think the following try their best to listen to what people like you have to say?

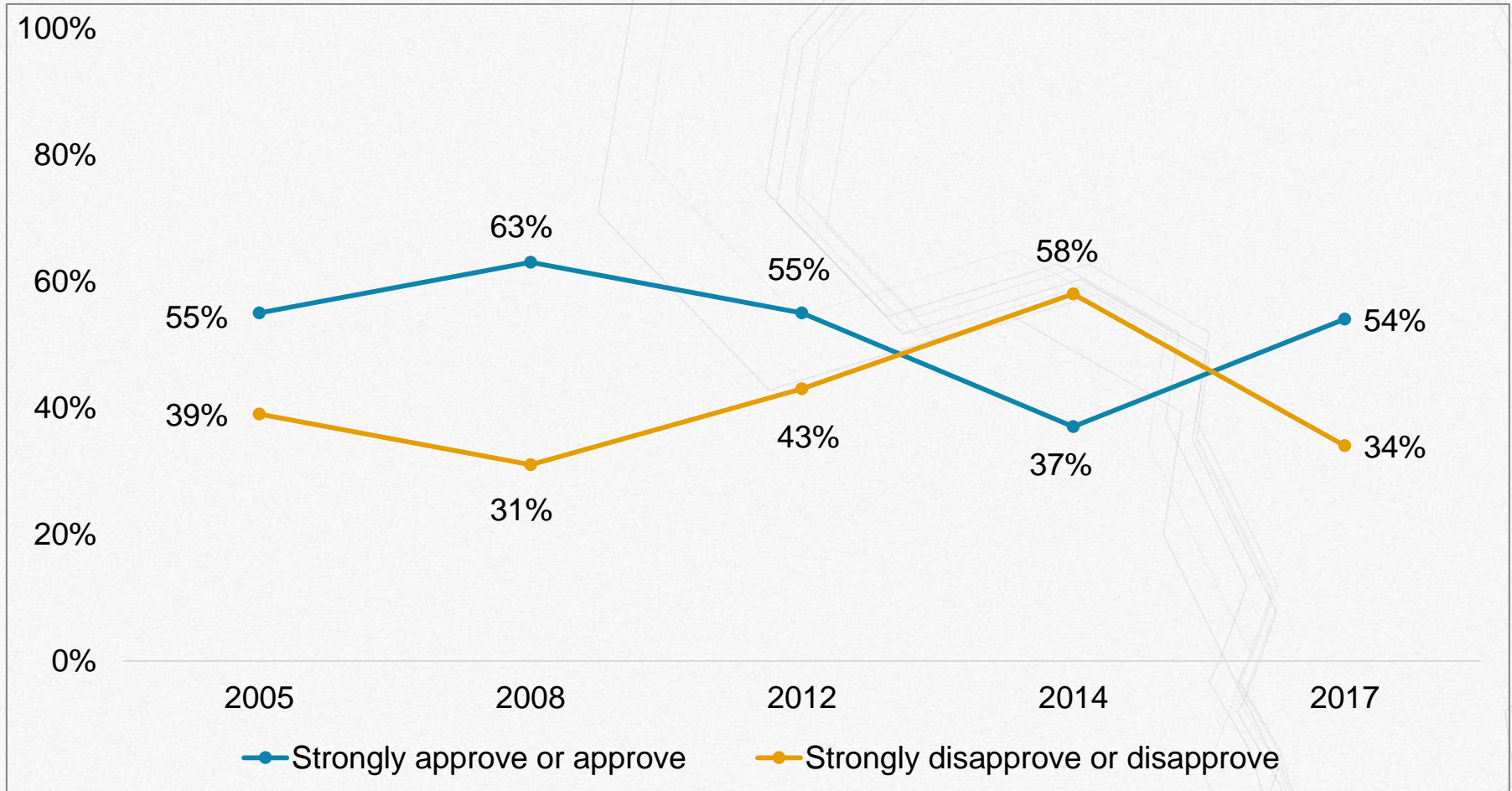
Evaluation of public officials' job performance

| Ghana | 2017



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past year, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

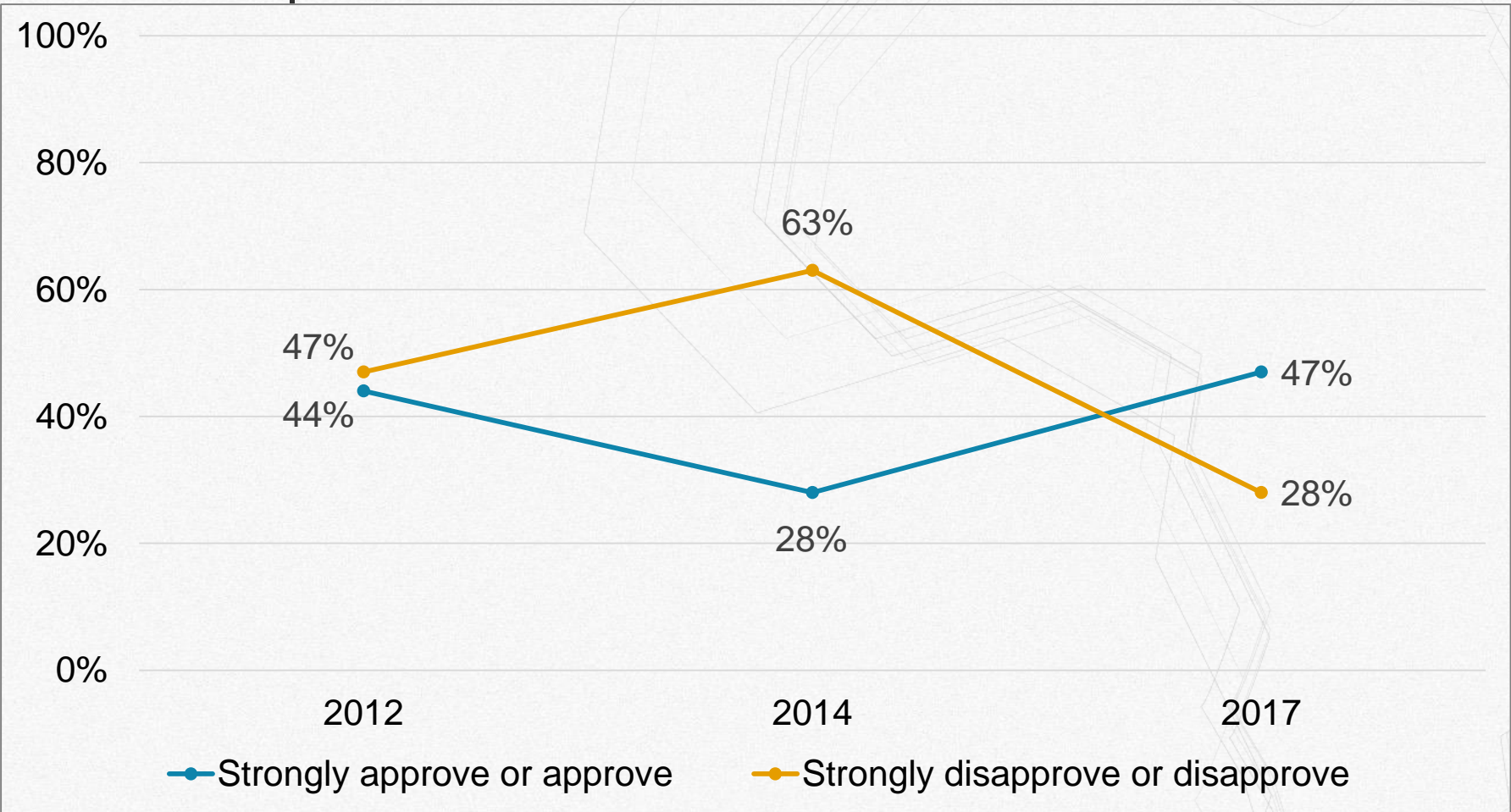
Over-time trends: Local government councillors' job performance | Ghana | 2005-2017



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past year, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Your assembly man or woman?

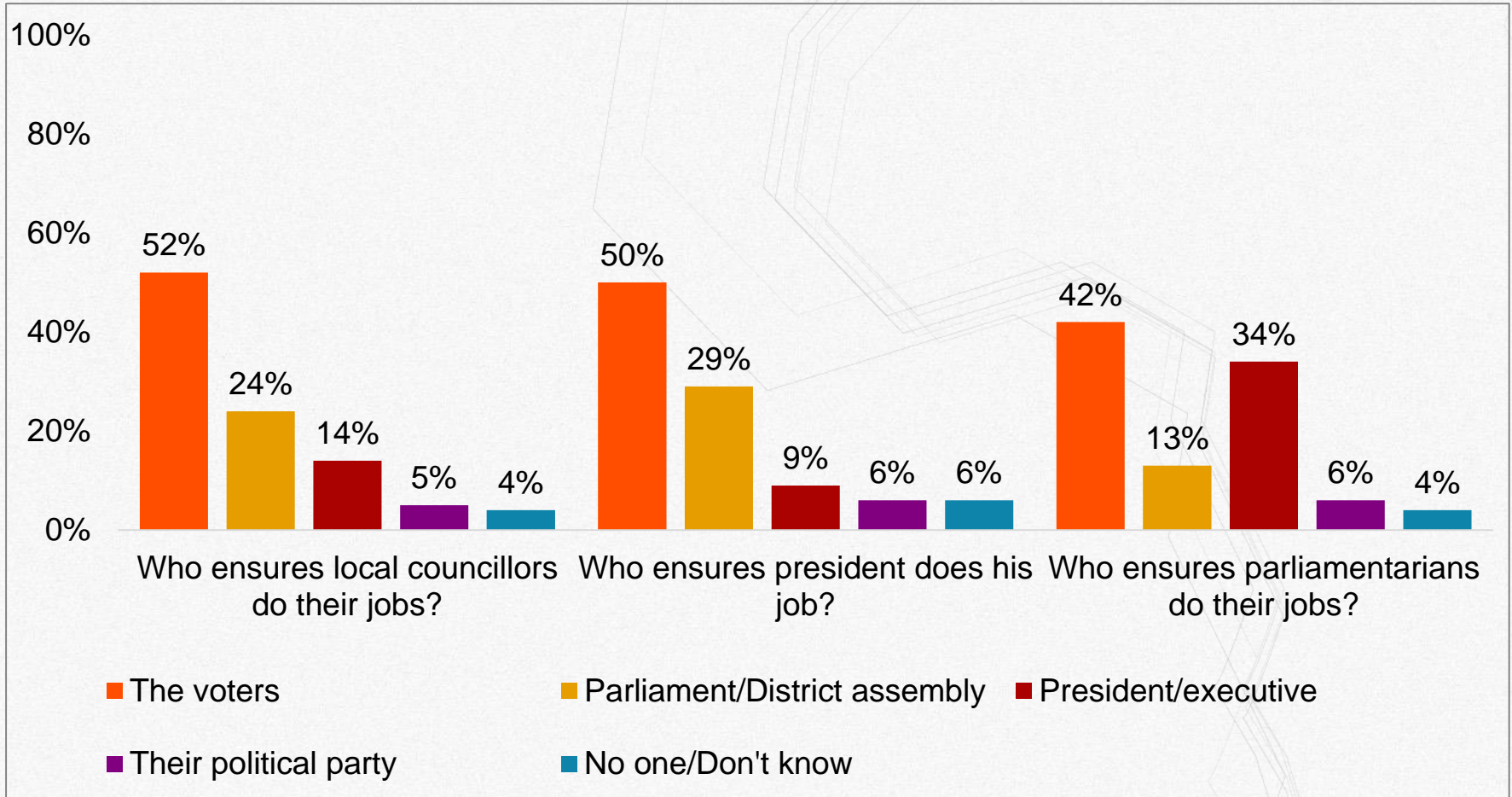
Over-time trends: MMDCE job performance

| Ghana | 2012-2017



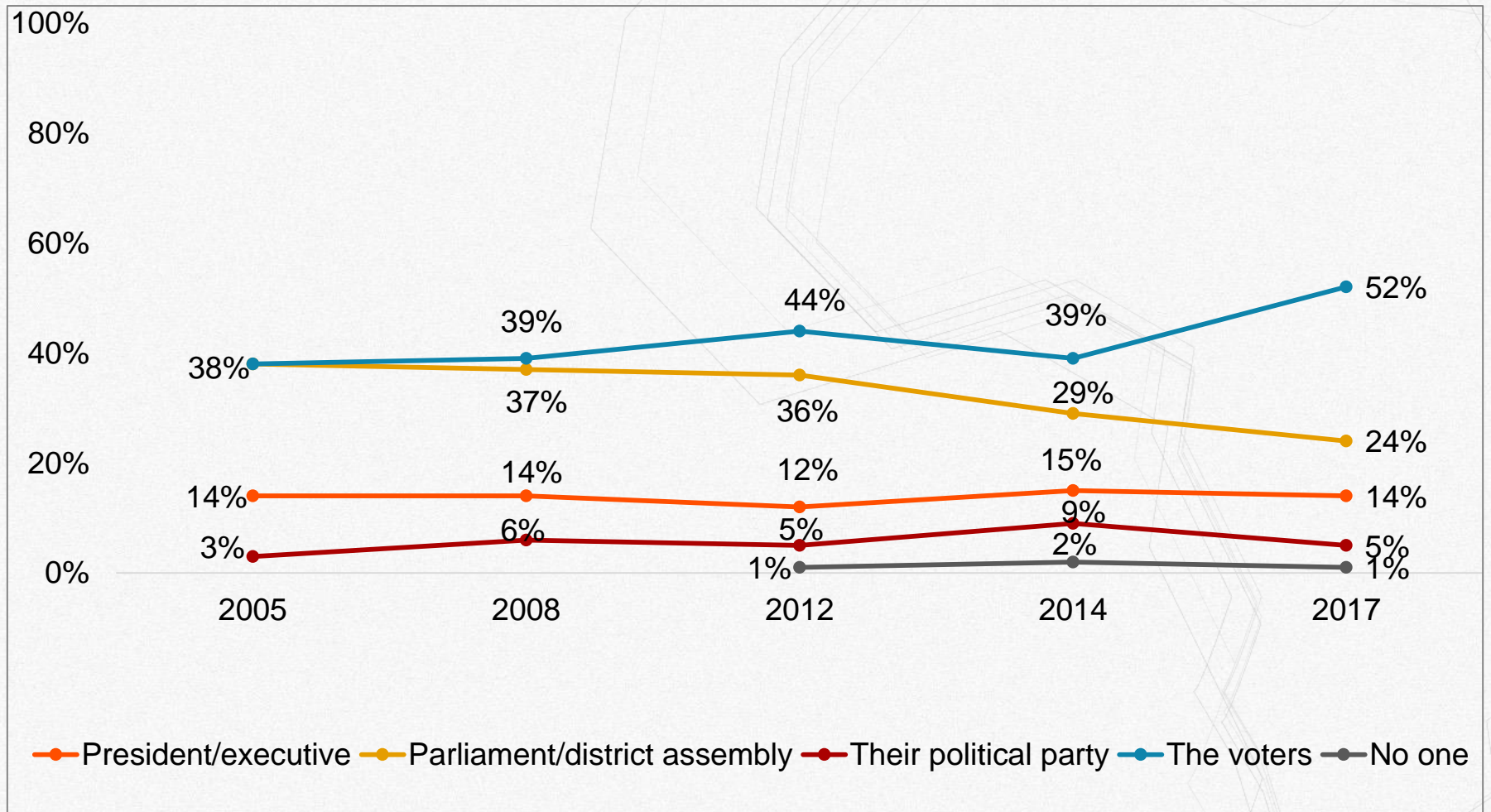
Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past year, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: Your metropolitan, municipal, or district chief executive?

Who should ensure that elected officials do their jobs? | Ghana | 2017



Respondents were asked: Who should be responsible for making sure that, once elected (a) Members of Parliament do their jobs? (b) Assembly men and women do their jobs? (c) The president does his job?

Over-time trends: Who ensures that local government councillors do their jobs? | Ghana | 2005-2017

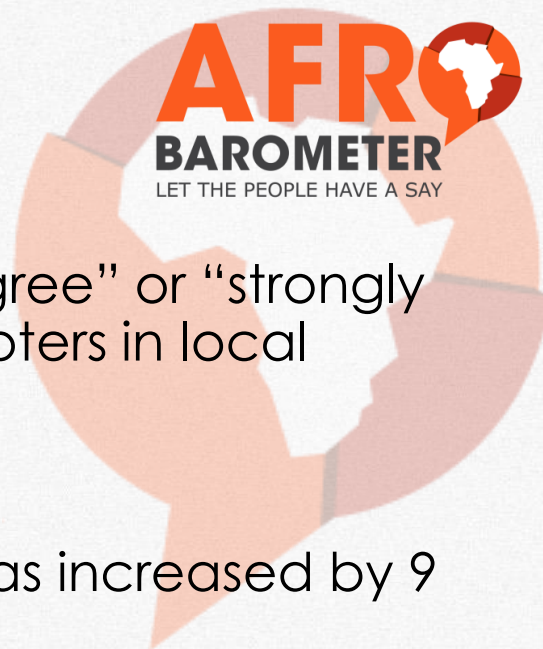


Respondents were asked: Who should be responsible for making sure that, once elected, assembly men and women do their jobs?



Opinions on election of MMDCs

Key findings



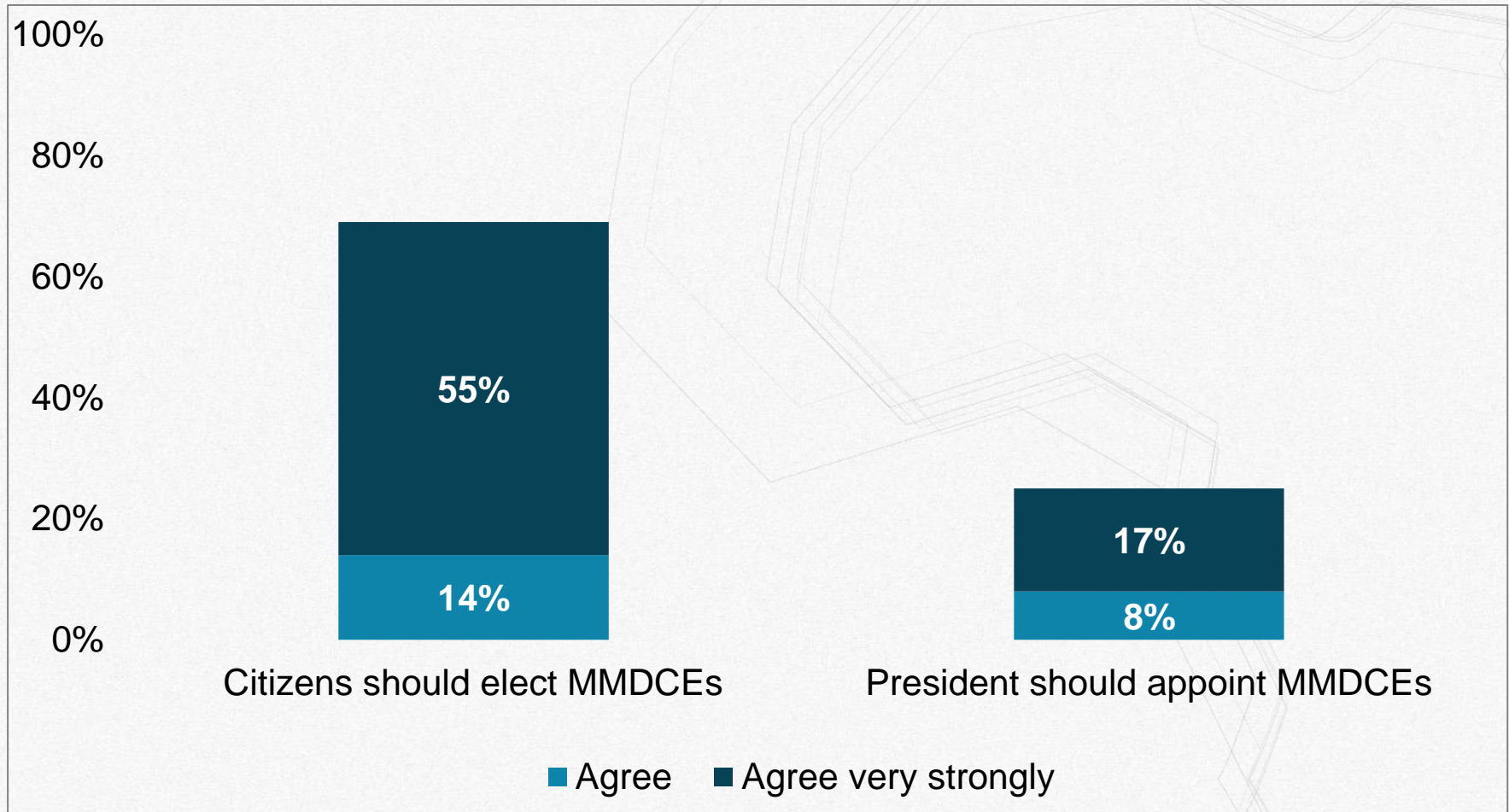
- A little over two-thirds (69%) of Ghanaians “agree” or “strongly agree” that MMDCEs should be elected by voters in local government authority areas.
- The preference for the election of MMDCEs has increased by 9 percentage points between 2008 and 2017.
- Support for elected rather than appointed MMDCEs is strong across regions, demographic groups, and major political parties.
- In Upper West Region, however, a majority (52%) want the status quo maintained (i.e. appointment of MMDCEs).

Key findings (contd.)



- A slim majority (51%) of Ghanaians say election of MMDCEs should be non-partisan just like that of the local government councillors.
- A sizeable minority (41%), however, would prefer partisan MMDCEs election.
- Two-thirds (66%) of respondents say the local government councillors' elections are not really non-partisan (i.e. partisan).
- In fact, among those who want MMDCE elections to be fashioned after local government councillors' elections, 70% do not think the latter are non-partisan.

Election vs. appointment of MMDCEs | Ghana | 2017

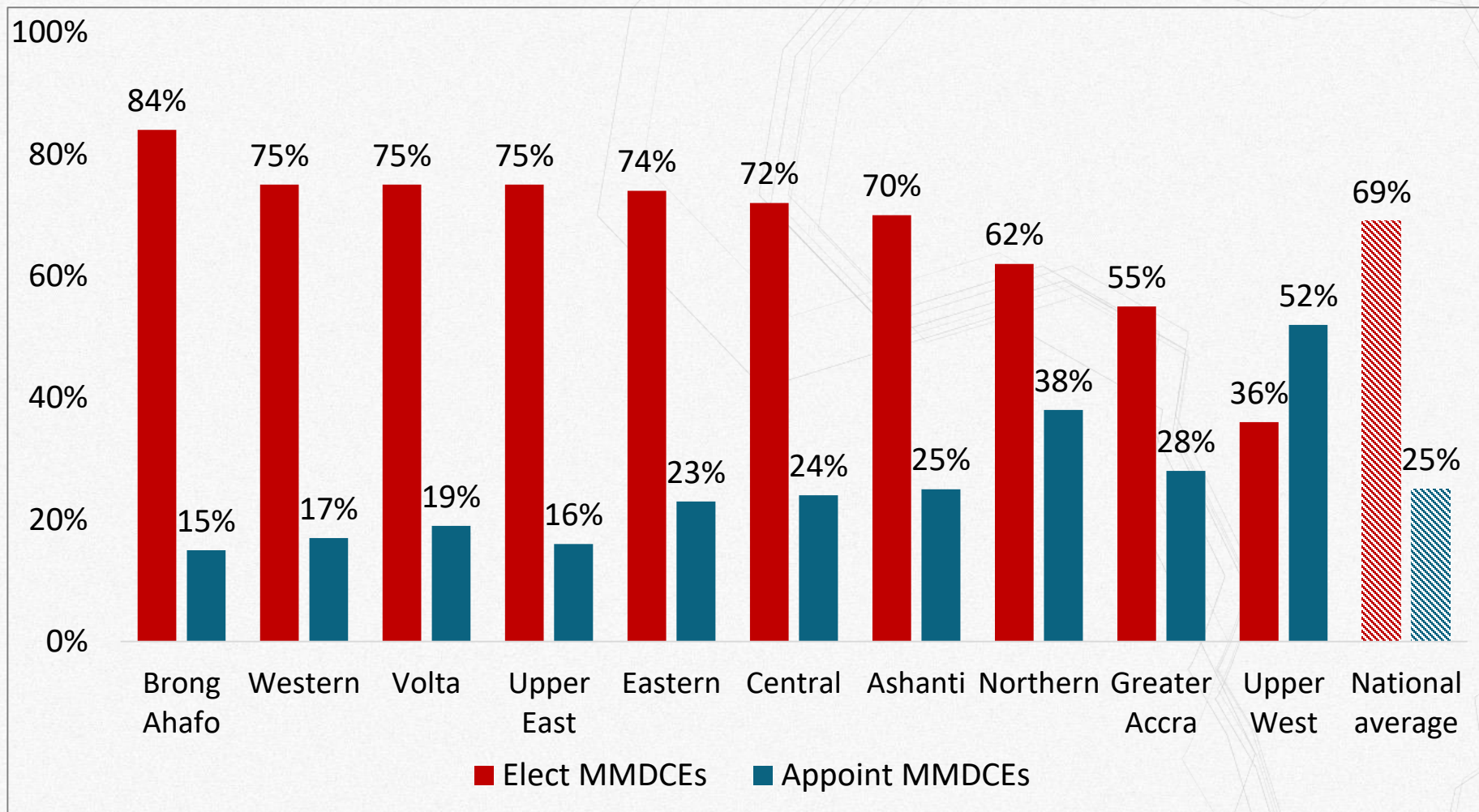


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

- 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.

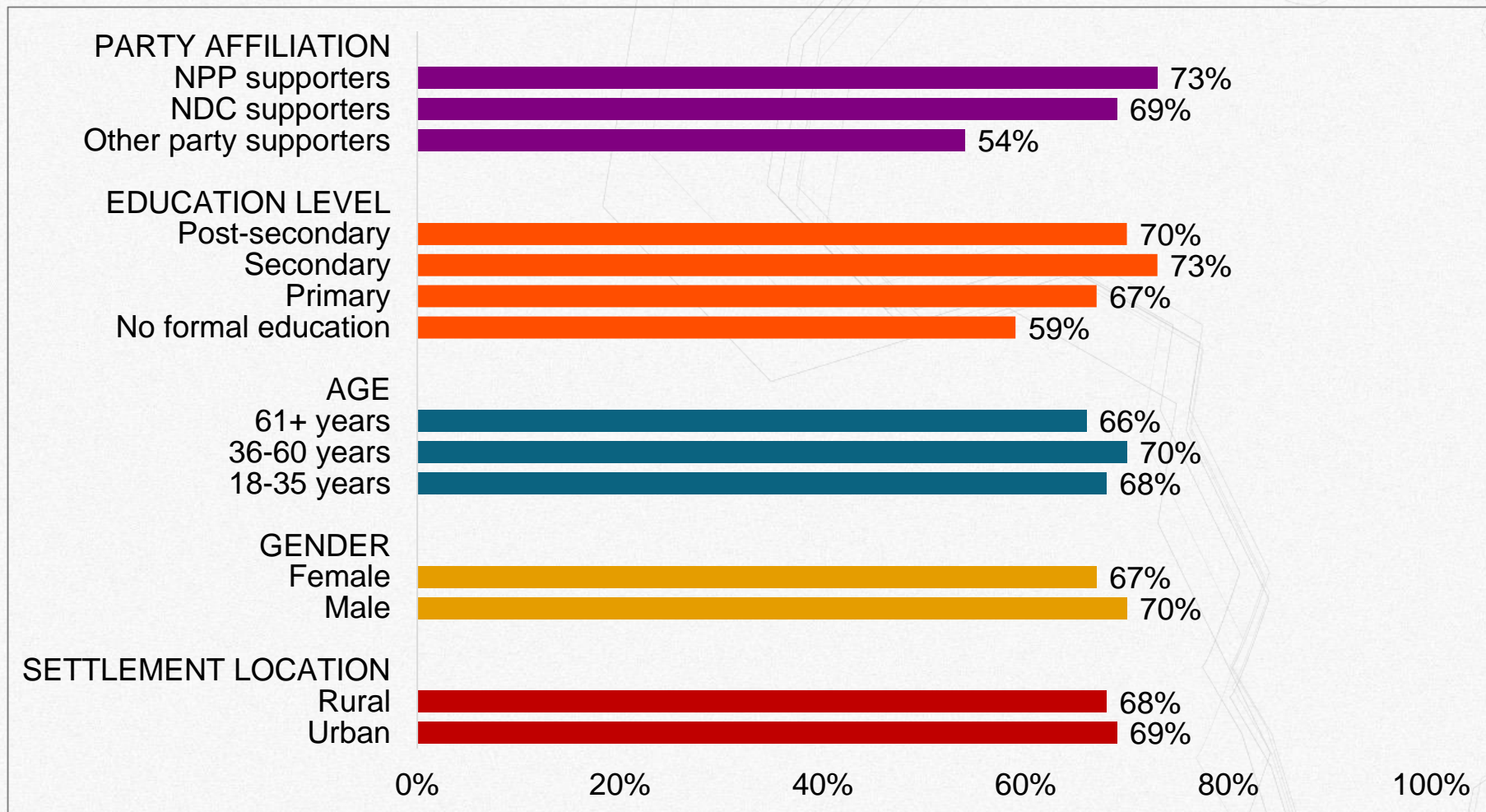
Election vs. appointment of MMDCEs | by region

| Ghana | 2017



(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each proposition)

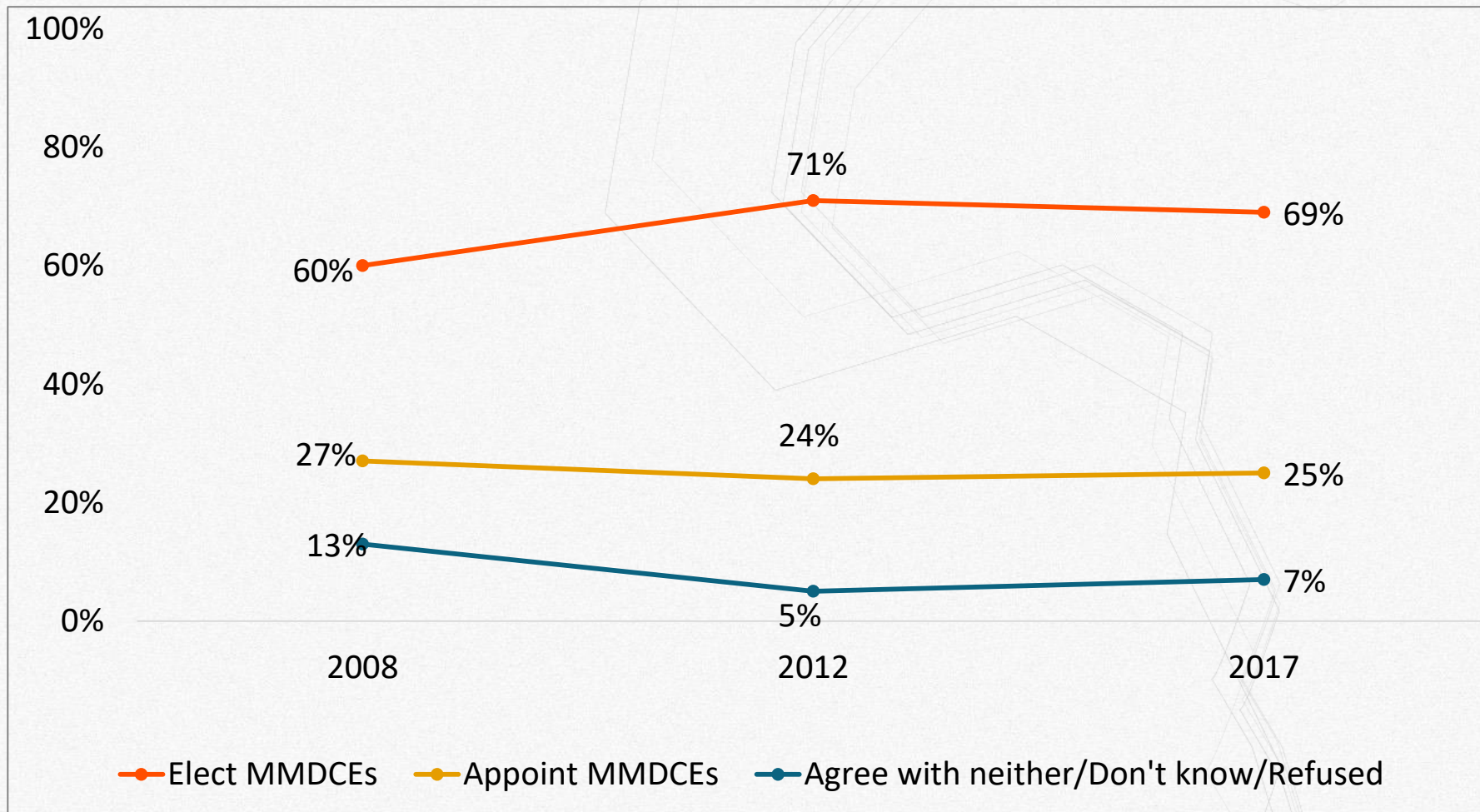
Support for electing MMDCEs | by socio-demographic groups | Ghana | 2017



(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" that MMDCEs should be elected)

Over-time trends: Election vs. appointment of MMDCEs

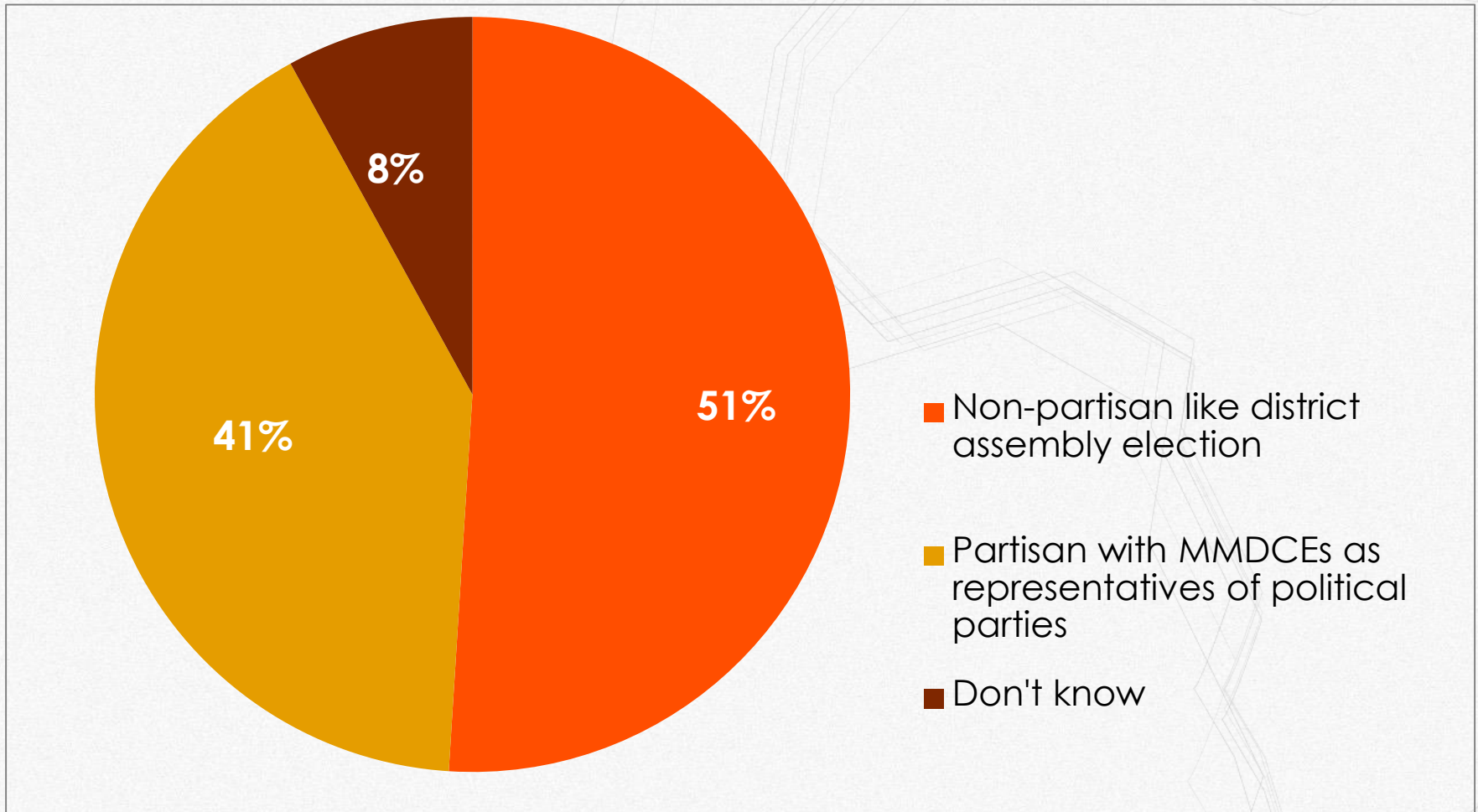
| Ghana | 2008-2017



(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each proposition)

Preferred electoral format for MMDCE elections

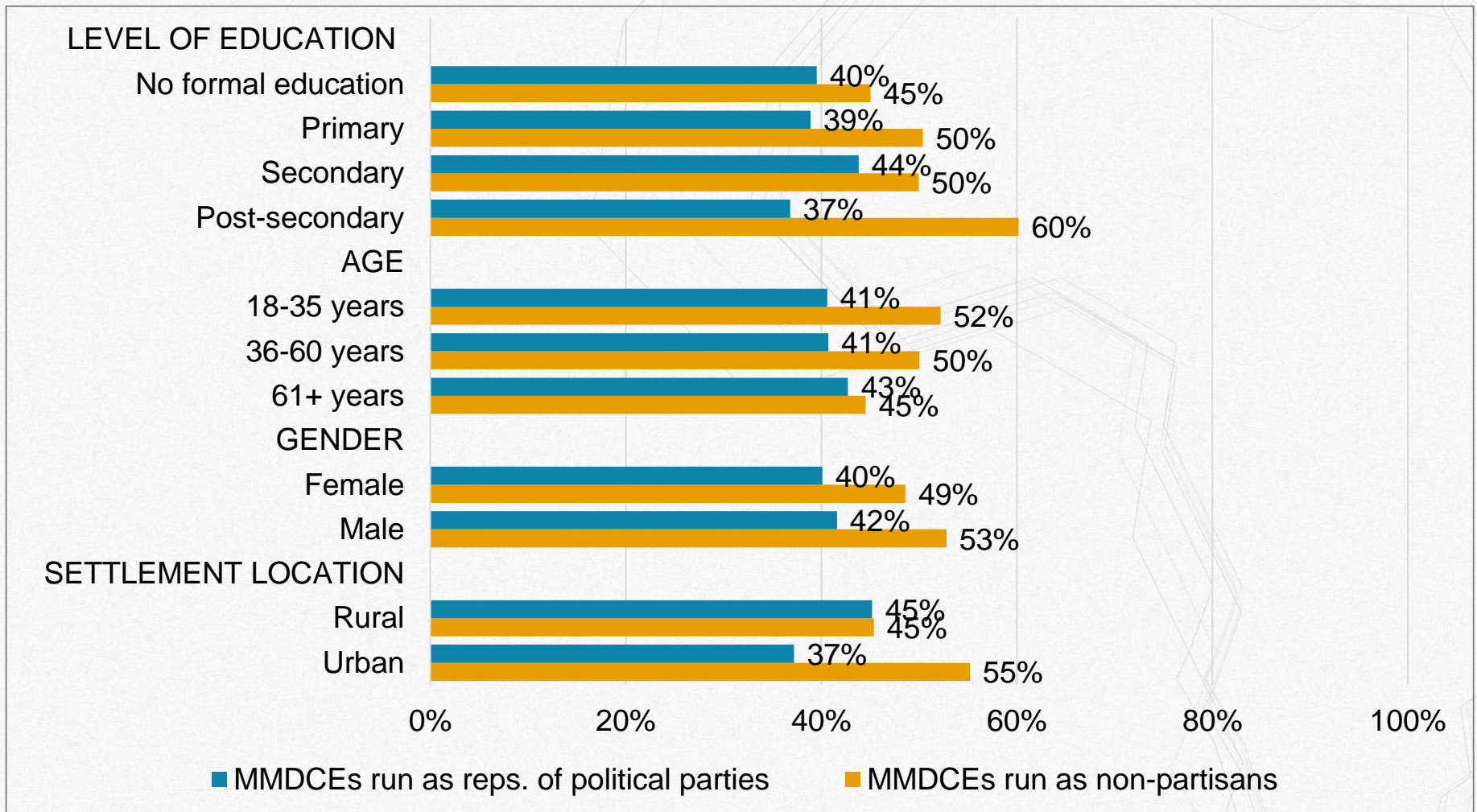
| Ghana | 2017



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?*

Preferred electoral format for MMDCEs elections

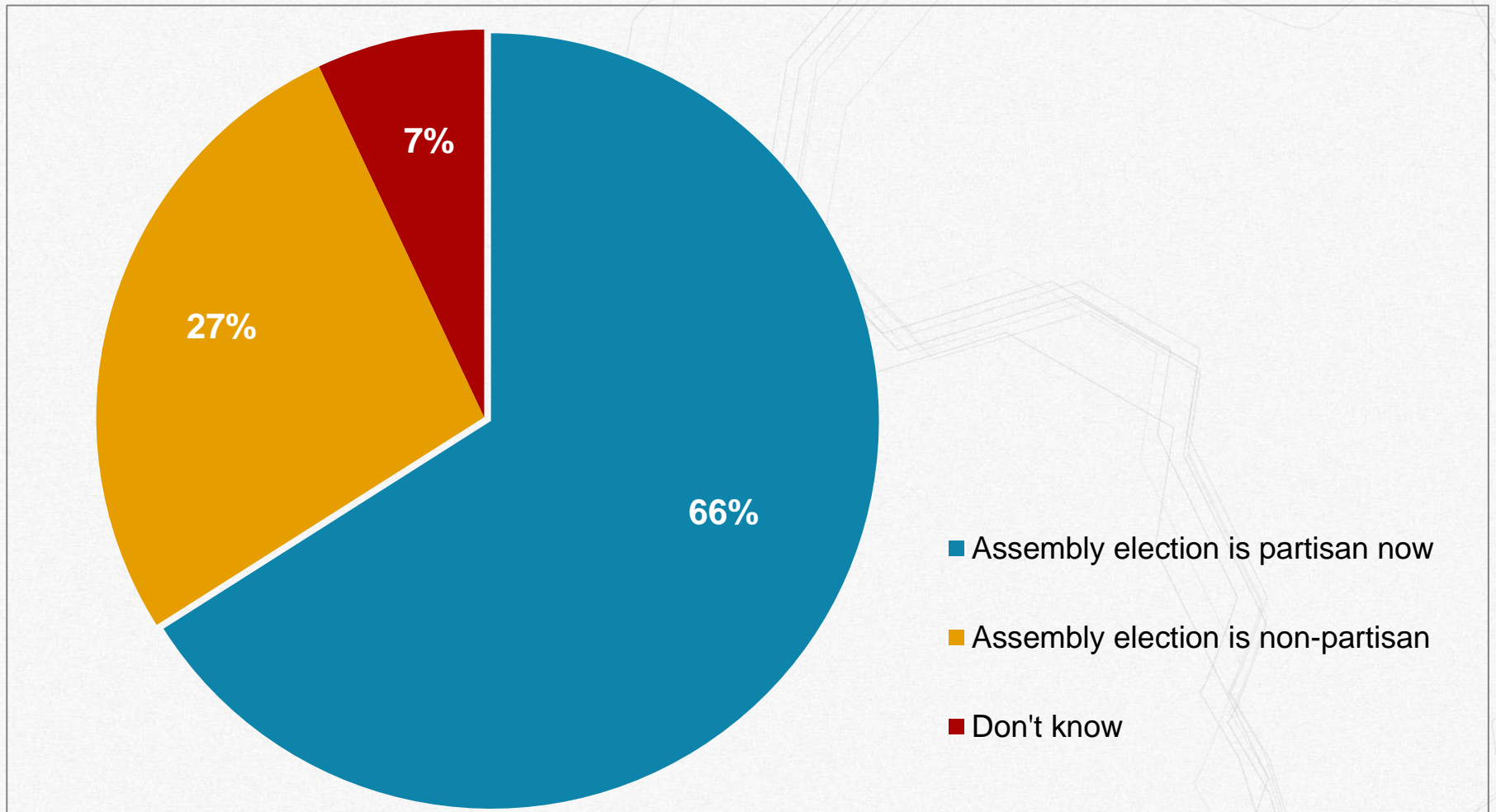
| by demographic group | Ghana | 2017



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?

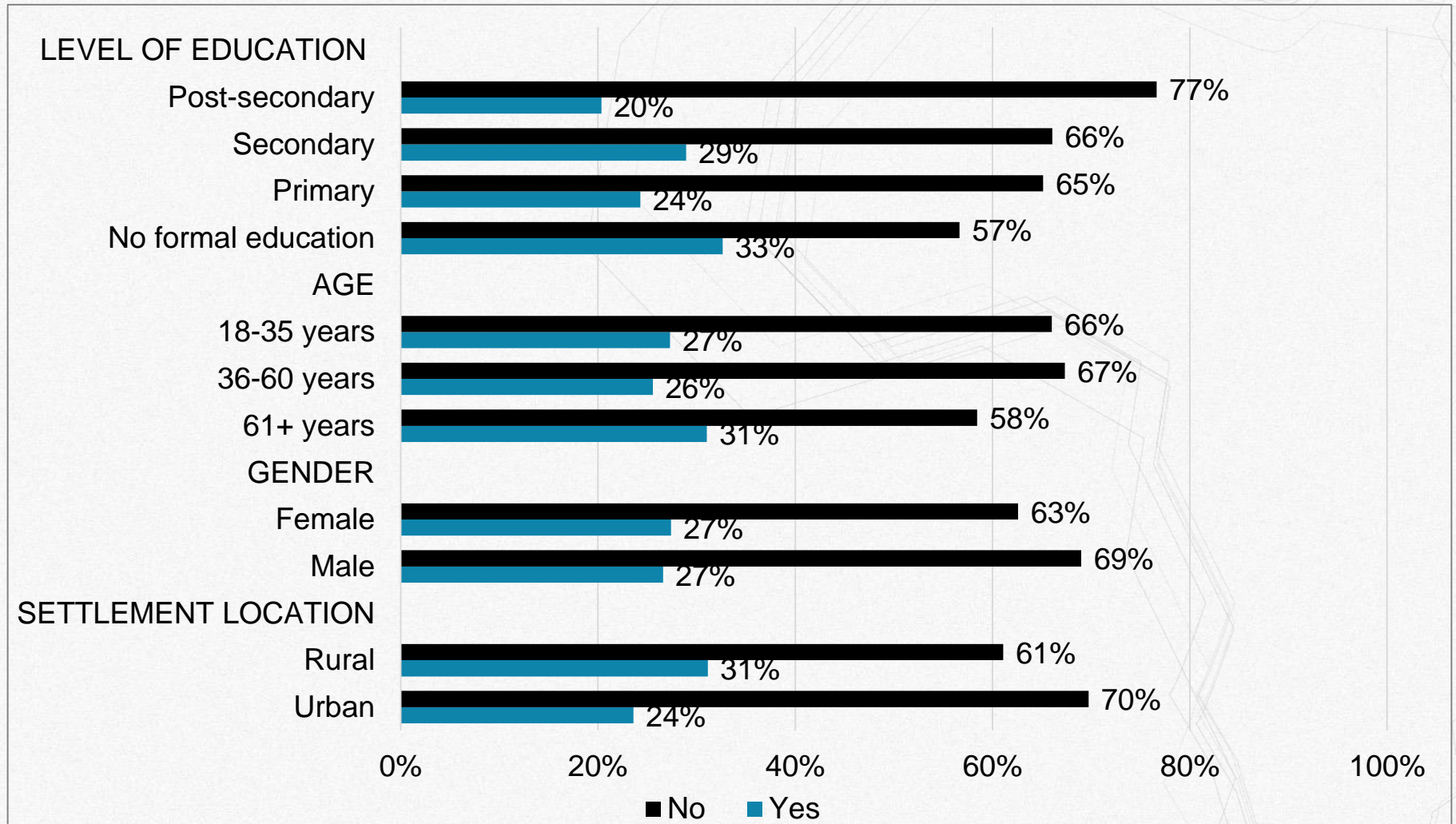
Is district assembly election really non-partisan?

| Ghana | 2017



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, do you think the district assembly election for assembly men and women is really non-partisan?

Is the district assembly election non-partisan? | by socio-demographic group | Ghana | 2017



Respondents were asked: In your opinion, do you think the district assembly election for assembly men and women is really non-partisan?

MMDCE election format vs. local government election partisan or non-partisan? | Ghana | 2017

		Is the district assembly election really non-partisan?		
		No	Yes	Don't know
Preferred election format for MMDCEs' election	Non-partisan like district assembly reps election	70%	26%	3%
	Partisan with MMDCEs as reps 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?
- In your opinion, do you think the district assembly election for assembly men and women is really non-partisan?

THANK YOU.

For more information &
online data analysis, visit
Afrobarometer website

www.Afrobarometer.org



Use the Online Data Analysis tool on our website

Step 1

Select a round of surveys



Step 2

Select a country or all countries



Step 3

Select a survey question



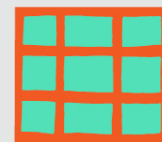
Step 4

Select a crossing variable (like urban or rural)



Step 5

Produce a frequency or cross-tabulation



Step 6

Create table, chart, graph or map

