



Nairobi, Kenya
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News release

Kenyans support presidential term limits, age restrictions for presidential candidates

Kenyans overwhelmingly favor limiting their president to two terms in office and placing age restrictions on presidential candidates, according to the most recent Afrobarometer survey.

More than three-fourths of citizens endorse presidential term limits, which have been enshrined in the Constitution since 1992. While some African leaders have tried to get around term limits in order to stay in office, Kenya has remained committed to this democratic principle.

In addition to supporting term limits, most Kenyans say the country should determine minimum and maximum ages for presidential candidates.

Key findings

- More than three-quarters (78%) of Kenyans endorse the Constitution's provision limiting the president to serving a maximum of two terms in office. Only two out of 10 (21%) oppose term limits (Figure 1).
- More than eight out of 10 Kenyans say there should be minimum (81%) and maximum (85%) age requirements for presidential candidates (Figure 2). Support for age requirements is strong across key socio-demographic groups.
 - Respondents who favour a two-term limit on presidential mandates are also more likely to endorse age limits for presidential candidates (Figure 3).
- When respondents who favour age restrictions were asked what the limits should be (Figure 4):
 - Proposed minimum ages range from 18 to 80, with 35 as the most frequent suggestion (by 24%) and the median of all suggestions.
 - Proposed maximum ages range from 20 to 100, with 70 as the most frequent suggestion (by 25%) and 66 as the median of all suggestions.
 - Young, more-educated, urban, and female respondents were more likely to propose a somewhat lower maximum age (median: 65 years) than their older, less-educated, rural, and male counterparts (median: 70 years).

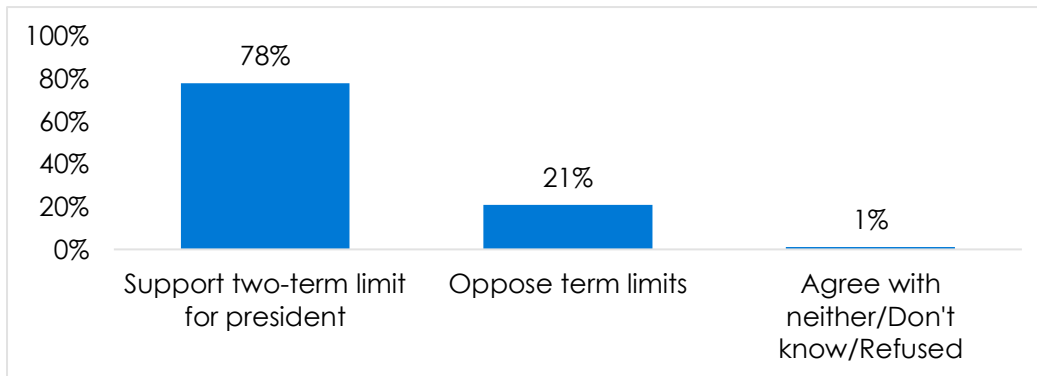
Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Seven rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 38 countries between 1999 and 2018, and Round 8 surveys (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 Kenya, led by the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi, interviewed 2,400 adult citizens of Kenya in August-September 2019. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys in Kenya were conducted in, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, and 2016.

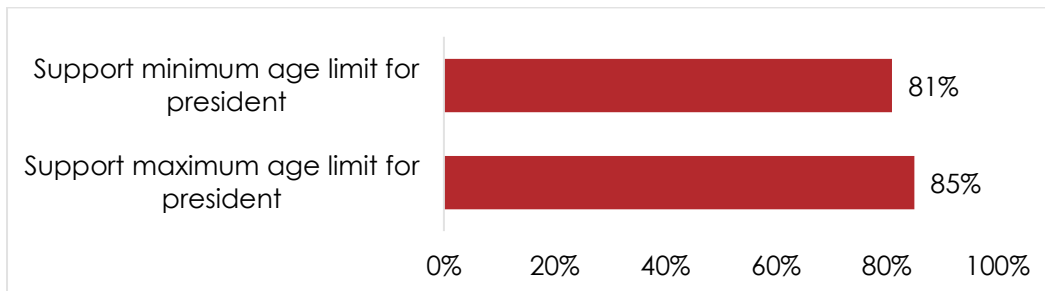
Charts

Figure 1: Views on presidential term limits | Kenya | 2019



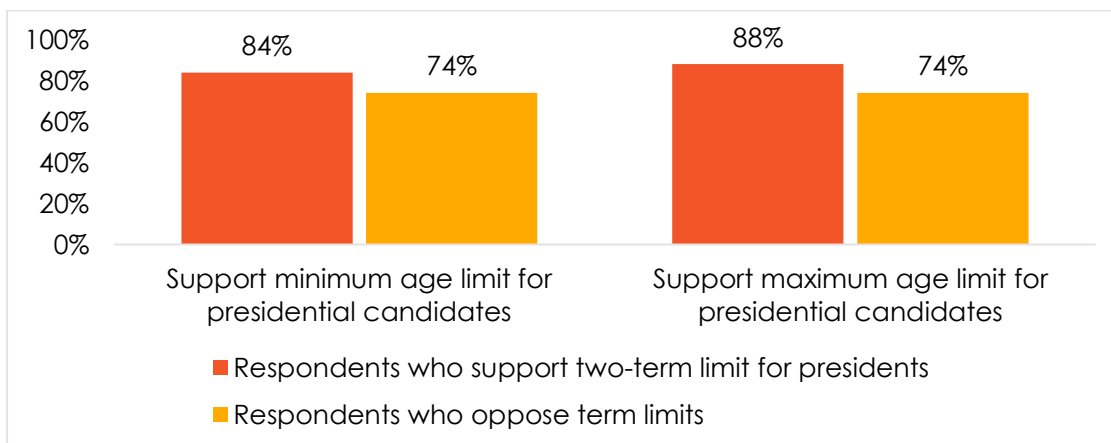
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the president to serving a maximum of two terms in office.
 Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.

Figure 2: Support for age limits for candidates for president | Kenya | 2019



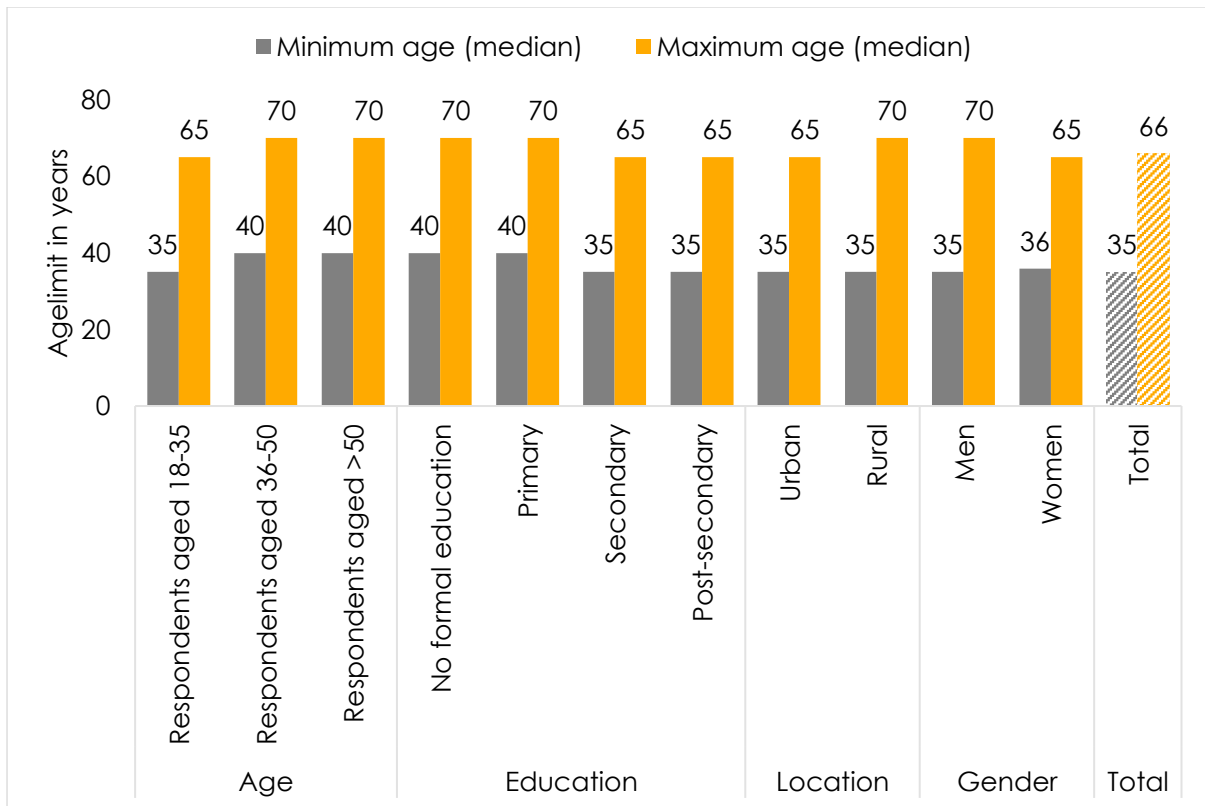
Respondents were asked: Should there be a minimum age for candidates for president? Should there be a maximum age for candidates for president? (% who say "yes")

Figure 3: Support for age restrictions for presidential candidates | by support for term limits | Kenya | 2019



Respondents were asked:
 Which of the following statements is closest to your view? (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with Statement 1)
 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.
 Should there be a minimum/maximum age for candidates for president?

Figure 4: Proposed minimum and maximum ages for presidential candidates (median) | Kenya | 2019



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

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