

Kampala, Uganda
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News release

Most Ugandans favour presidential age limits, Afrobarometer survey shows

An overwhelming majority of Ugandans support age limits for presidential candidates, in contrast to a constitutional amendment in 2017 lifting such a restriction, the most recent Afrobarometer survey shows.

At least eight out of 10 citizens favour setting both maximum and minimum age limits for president. Support for a maximum age is strongest among supporters of opposition political parties, but even among adherents of the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM), almost three-fourths agree.

The Ugandan Parliament in 2017 approved an amendment to the Constitution eliminating the requirement that candidates vying for the presidency be less than 75 years old.

President Yoweri Museveni won a sixth term in January, at age 76.

For lawmakers, survey findings point to a need for a broad-based national consensus when constitutional amendments are being considered.

Key findings

- Large majorities of Ugandans support a maximum age limit (80%) and minimum age limit (84%) for presidential candidates (Figure 1).
- Support for a maximum age limit for presidential candidates is highest among opposition supporters, more educated citizens, men, urban residents, and residents of the Central Region (Figure 2).
- The most widely preferred maximum age is 70 years (23%), followed by 60 years (14%), 75 years (12%), and 80 years (10%) (Figure 3). Almost two-thirds (64%) of all citizens favour a maximum age of 75 years or less.
- The most popular minimum ages are 35 and 40 years (each favoured by 19% of respondents), followed by 30 years (17%) and 45 years (8%) (Figure 4).

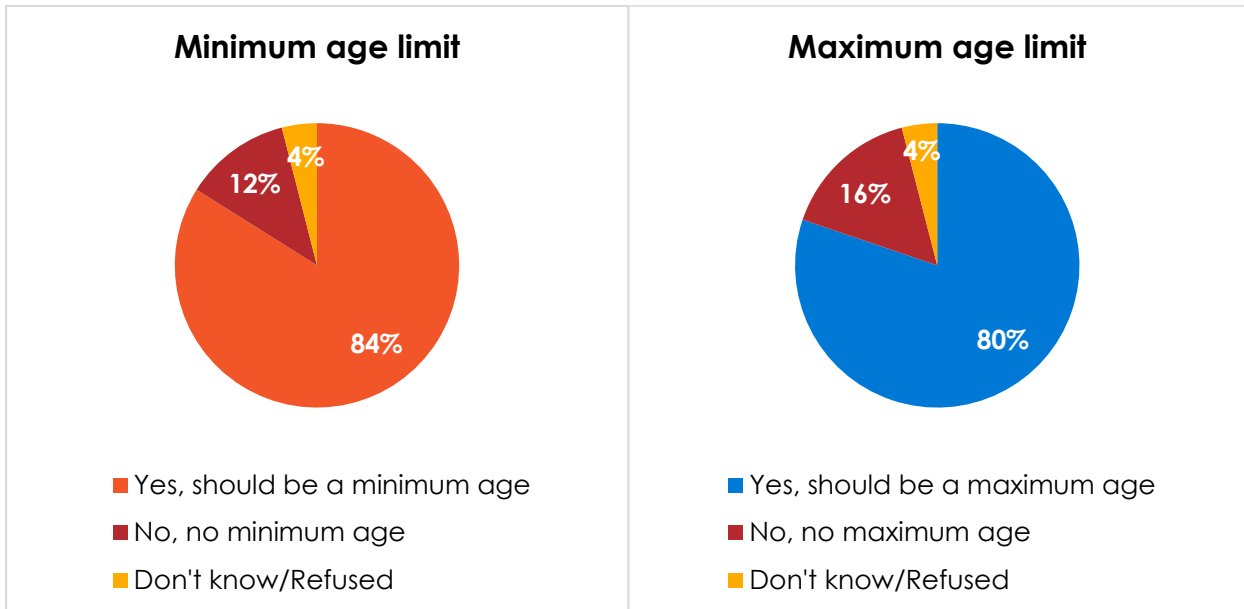
Afrobarometer surveys

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 2019/2021 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 Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult Ltd., interviewed 1,200 adult Ugandans between 30 September and 31 October 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 in Uganda were conducted in 1999, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2015, and 2017.

Charts

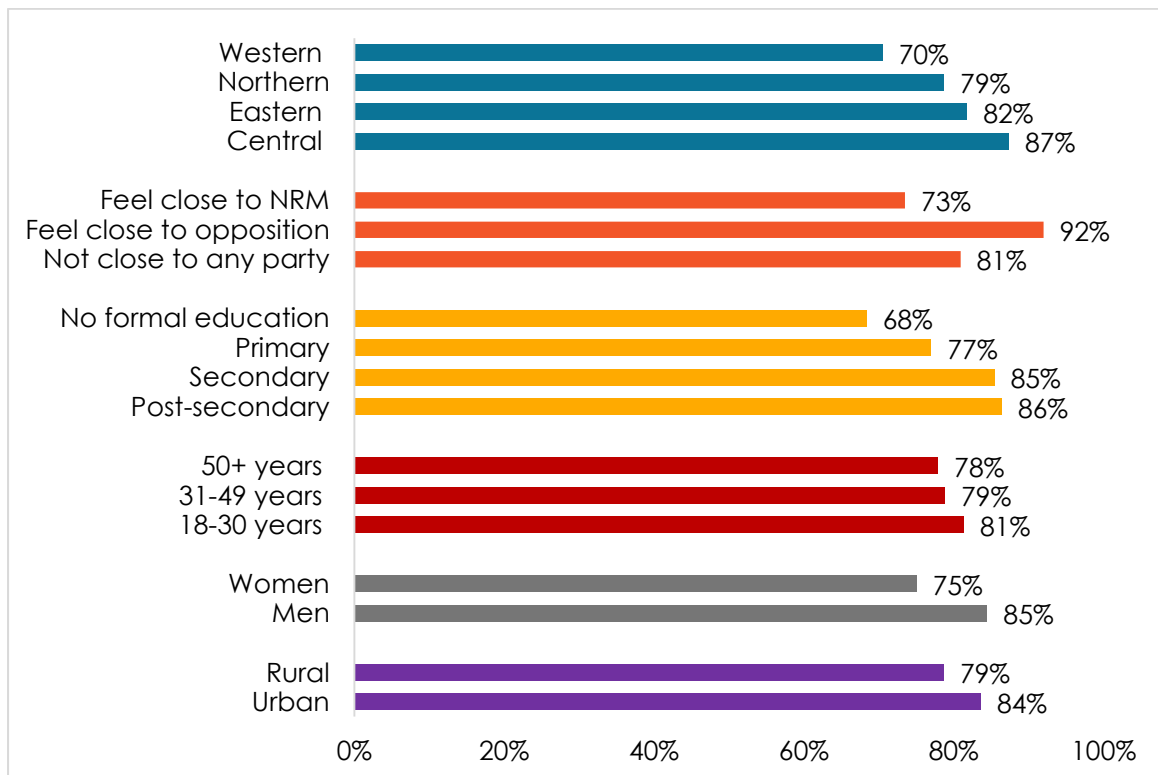
Figure 1: Support for maximum and minimum presidential age limit | Uganda | 2019



Respondents were asked:

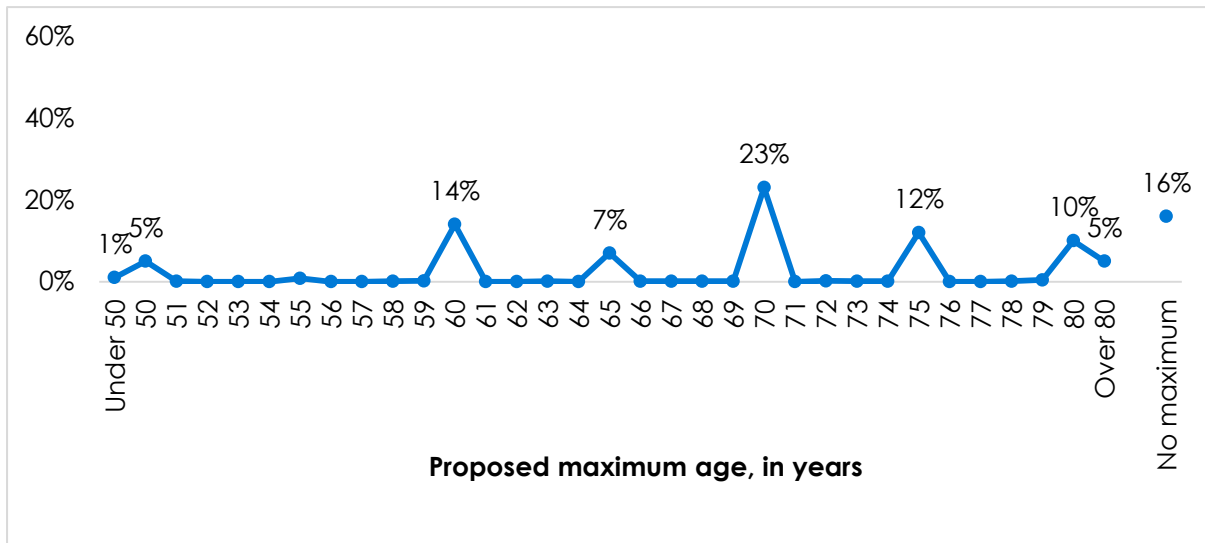
Should there be a maximum age for candidates for president?
 Should there be a minimum age for candidates for president?

Figure 2: Support for maximum age for presidential candidates | by socio-demographic group | Uganda | 2019



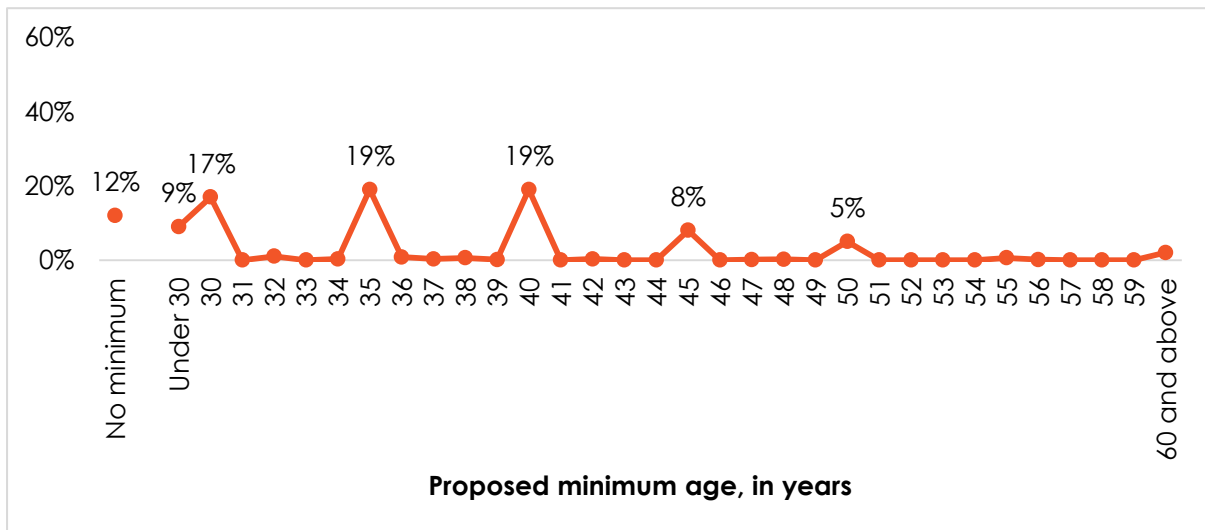
Respondents were asked: Should there be a maximum age for candidates for president? (% "yes")

Figure 3: Preferred maximum age for presidential candidates | Uganda | 2019



Respondents were asked: Should there be a maximum age for candidates for president? [If yes:] What should the maximum age be?

Figure 4: Preferred minimum age for presidential candidates | Uganda | 2019



Respondents were asked: Should there be a minimum age for candidates for president? [If yes:] What should the minimum age be?

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