



Campaign for Good Governance
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News release

Sierra Leoneans split on whether dual citizens should be allowed to vote, new Afrobarometer survey shows

Sierra Leoneans are divided on whether dual citizens should be allowed to vote, a new national Afrobarometer survey shows. A majority also say that dual citizens should not be allowed to stand for elected office.

The various regions hold similar thoughts on whether dual citizens should be allowed to vote, but the call for dual citizens not to be allowed to stand for elections is highest in the Western and Eastern regions.

The dual citizenship law, passed in 2006, states that dual citizens are not qualified for election as members of Parliament. The issue of dual citizenship was dormant until the March 2018 elections, when the ruling All People's Congress cited the law as a reason for which dual citizens should not be allowed to contest for presidential and parliamentary elections.

Key findings

- Sierra Leoneans are split on whether dual citizens should be allowed to vote; 49% say they should, while 45% "disagree" or "strongly disagree" (Figure 1).
- A majority (56%) of Sierra Leoneans say dual citizens should not be allowed to stand for elected office (Figure 2).
- The call for dual citizens not to be allowed to stand for elections is highest in the Western region (66%) and Eastern region (58%) (Figure 3).

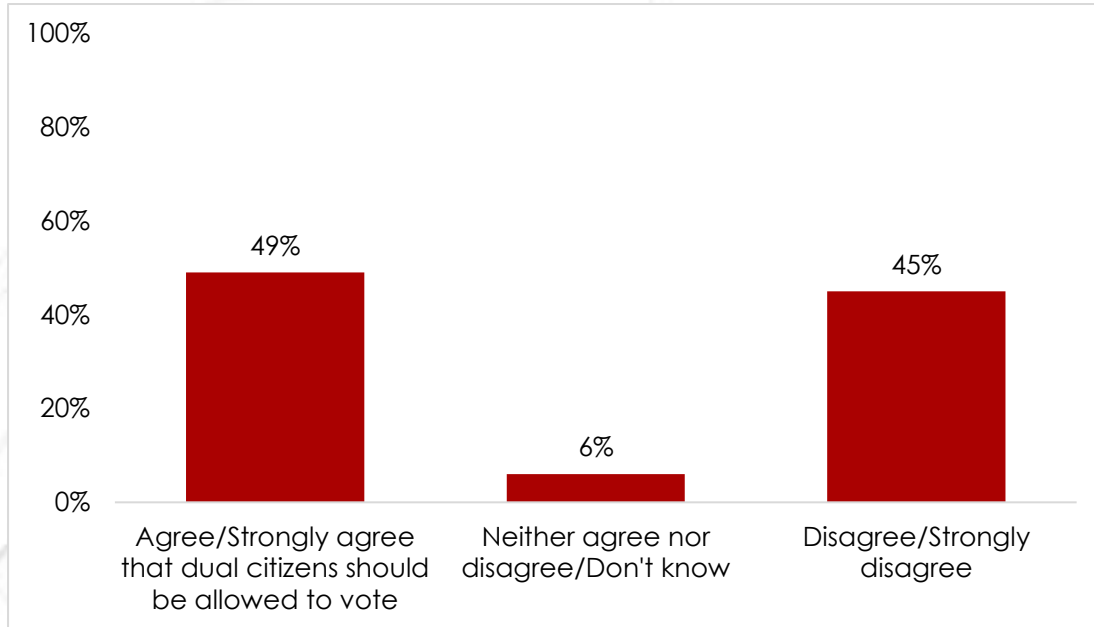
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in Africa. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 African countries between 1999 and 2016, and Round 7 surveys have been completed in 2018. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

The Afrobarometer team in Sierra Leone, led by ITASCAP, interviewed 1,200 adult Sierra Leoneans in July 2018. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Campaign for Good Governance (CGG) and Lena Thompson are responsible for disseminating the key findings of the survey. Previous surveys have been conducted in Sierra Leone in 2012 and 2015.

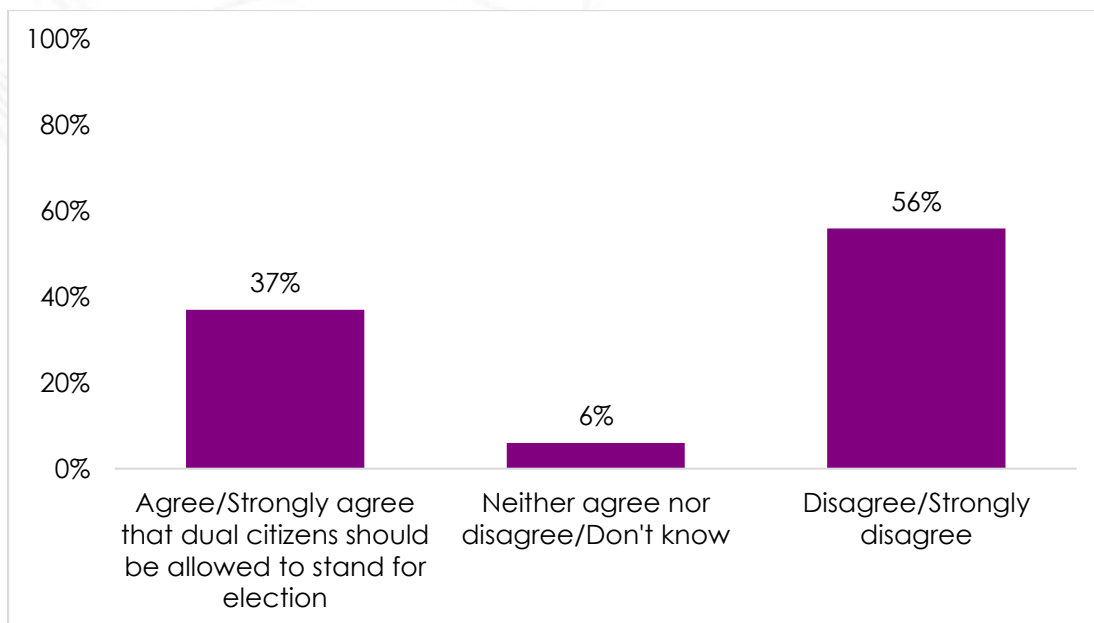
Charts

Figure 1: Should dual citizens be allowed to vote? | Sierra Leone | 2018



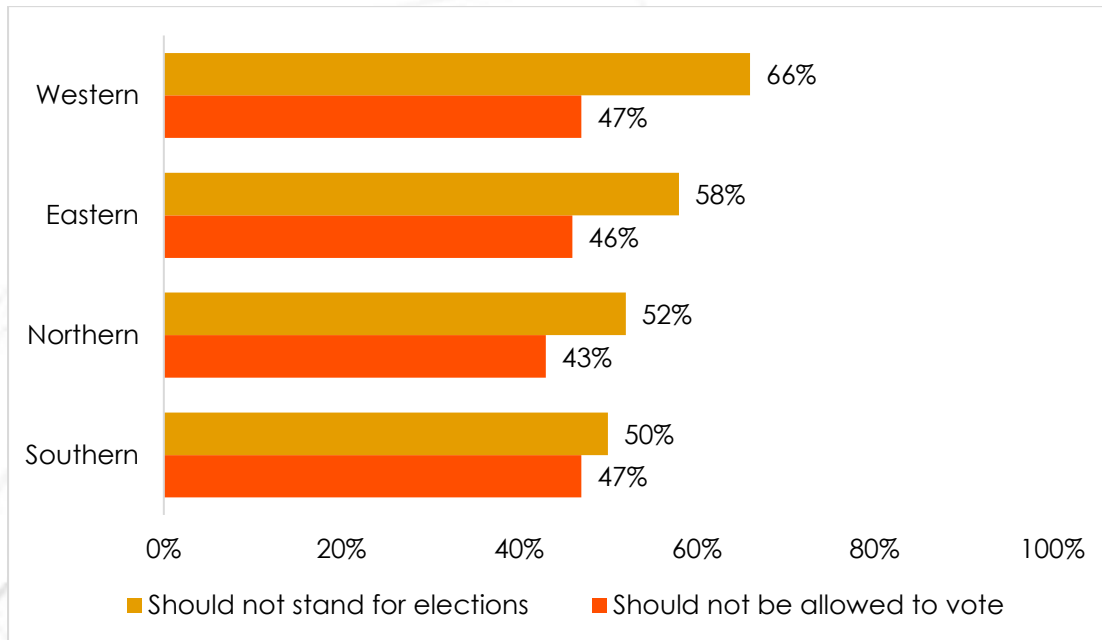
Respondents were asked: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Persons who hold citizenship of Sierra Leone and that of another country should be allowed to vote in general elections in this country?

Figure 2: Should dual citizens be allowed to stand for elections? | Sierra Leone | 2018



Respondents were asked: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Persons who hold citizenship of Sierra Leone and that of another country should be allowed to stand for elected office during elections in this country?

Figure 3: Dual citizens should not be allowed to vote or stand for elections
 | by region | Sierra Leone | 2018



Respondents were asked: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 - Persons who hold citizenship of Sierra Leone and that of another country should be allowed to vote in general elections in this country?
 - Persons who hold citizenship of Sierra Leone and that of another country should be allowed to stand for elected office during elections in this country?
 (% who "disagree" or strongly disagree")

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