



Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI)  
Harare, Zimbabwe  
7 June 2018

## News release

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### **Most Zimbabweans registered and ready to vote; in presidential race, ZANU-PF holds tentative lead amid large unknowns**

Most Zimbabweans are registered and ready to vote in July, but while the ruling ZANU-PF appears to have a lead among declared voters, the outcome is far from certain, according to a new survey by Afrobarometer partner Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI).

As of late April/early May, more than eight in 10 Zimbabweans said they were registered and likely to vote in the July elections. Among voters willing to declare their preferences in the presidential race, the ZANU-PF held a 42% to 31% lead over the MDC-T, but the intentions of fully one-fourth of voters remained unknown.

Moreover, the state of the presidential race could change during the three months between the survey dates (28 April-13 May 2018) and Election Day, scheduled for 30 July.

#### **Key findings**

- More than eight out of 10 Zimbabweans (85%) said they had registered to vote in the upcoming elections (Figure 1).
- About three in 10 registered voters (31%) said they had been asked by an unauthorized person to show the serial number of their voter registration slip (Figure 2).
- More than three-fourths (77%) of Zimbabwean adults said they will "definitely" vote in the 2018 election. In addition, 9% said they will "probably" vote, and 5% said they may or may not vote (Figure 3).
- In hypothetical presidential elections held at the time of the survey, ZANU-PF would have attracted 42% of the vote compared to 31% for the MDC-T (combined Chamisa party and Alliance) (Figure 4).
- But voting intentions of 26% of voters are unknown, limiting inferences that can be drawn about the actual state of the presidential race.
- When citizens were asked which party's candidate they expect to win the presidential election, 44% said ZANU-PF, 28% MDC-T Chamisa, and 2% MDC Alliance. About one in four said they didn't know, refused to answer, or said the election was too close to call (Figure 5).

#### **Afrobarometer surveys**

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues in African countries. Six rounds of surveys were conducted in up to 37 countries between 1999 and 2015, and a regular Round 7 survey was conducted in Zimbabwe in January-February 2017 (for findings, please visit [www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face

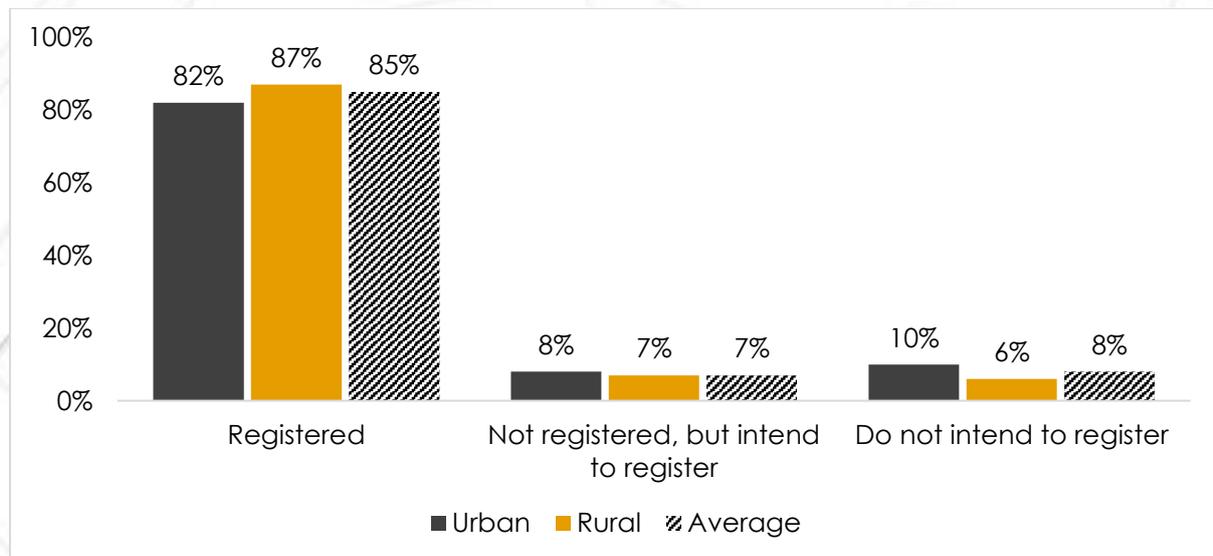


interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples.

For its latest survey, Afrobarometer national partner Mass Public Opinion Institute interviewed 2,399 adult citizens between 28 April and 13 May 2018. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.

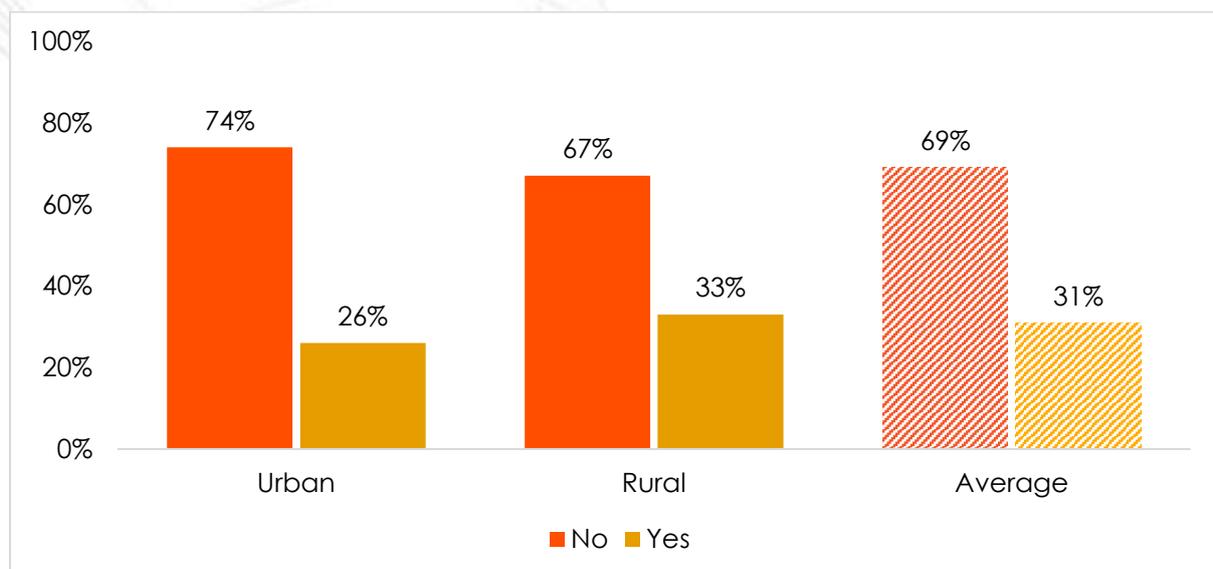
### Charts

**Figure 1: Registered to vote | by urban-rural location | Zimbabwe | 2018**



**Respondents were asked:** Are you registered to vote in the upcoming 2018 elections?

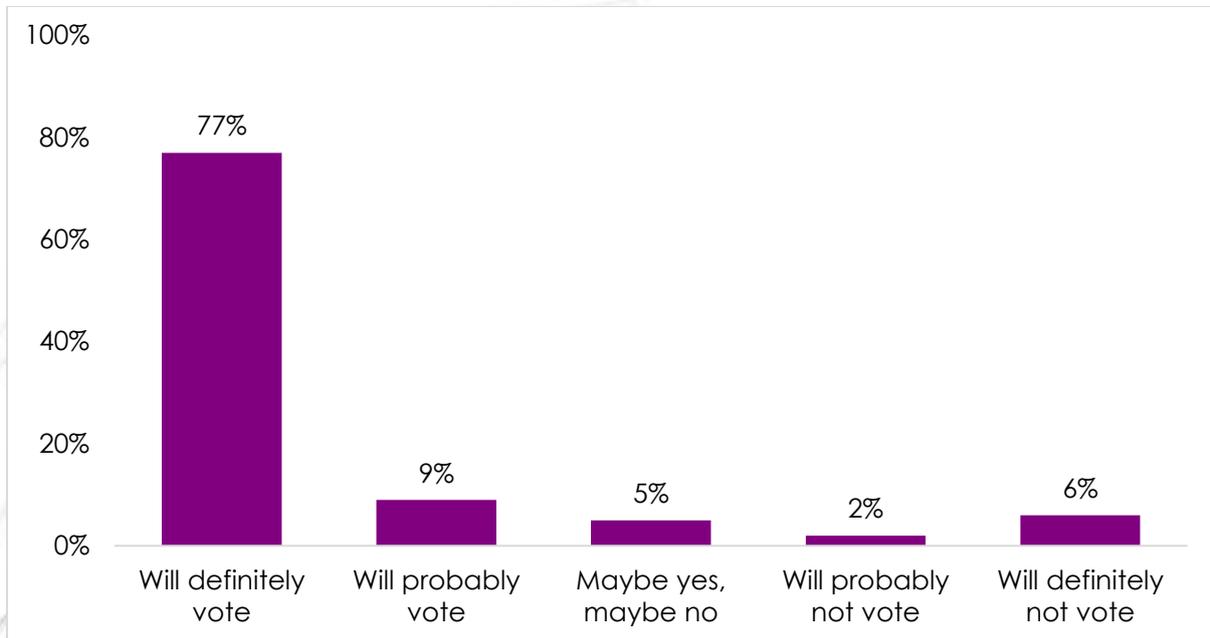
**Figure 2: Has anyone requested to see voter-registration slip? | by urban-rural location | Zimbabwe | 2018**



**Respondents were asked:** Has anyone demanded to see the serial number of your voter registration slip? (Note: Analysis includes only respondents who said they were registered to vote.)

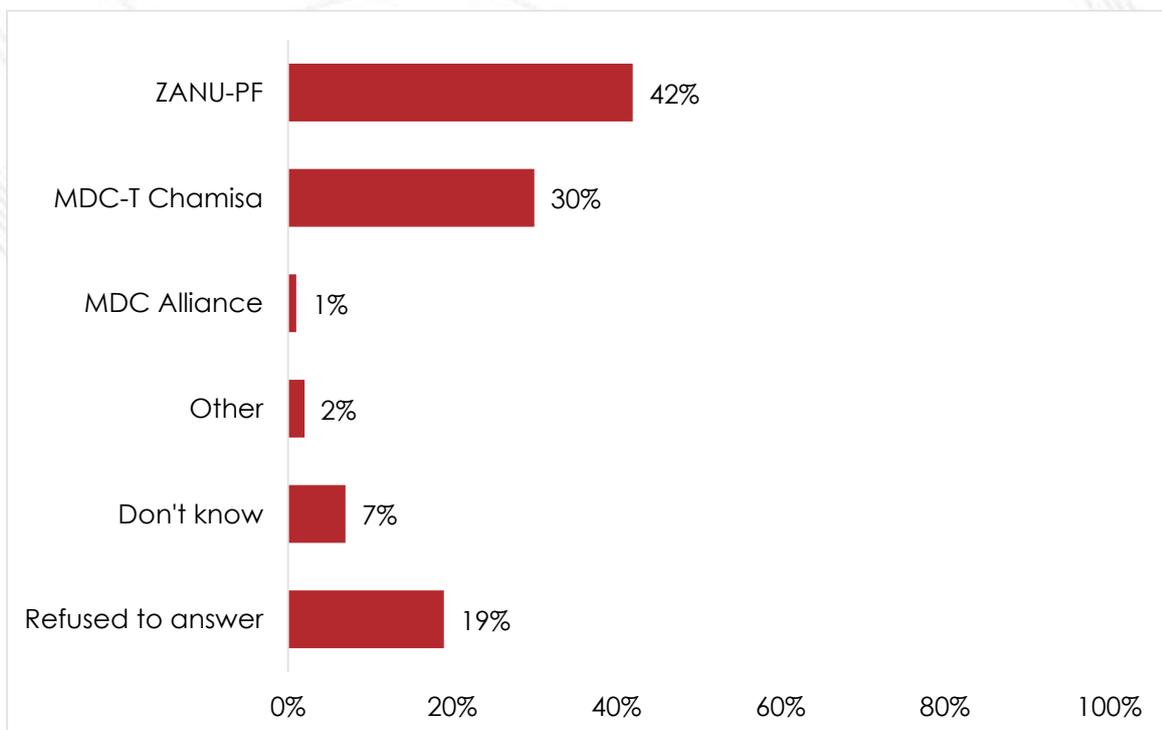


**Figure 3: Likelihood of voting in 2018 elections** | Zimbabwe | 2018



**Respondents were asked:** How likely are you to vote in the 2018 elections?

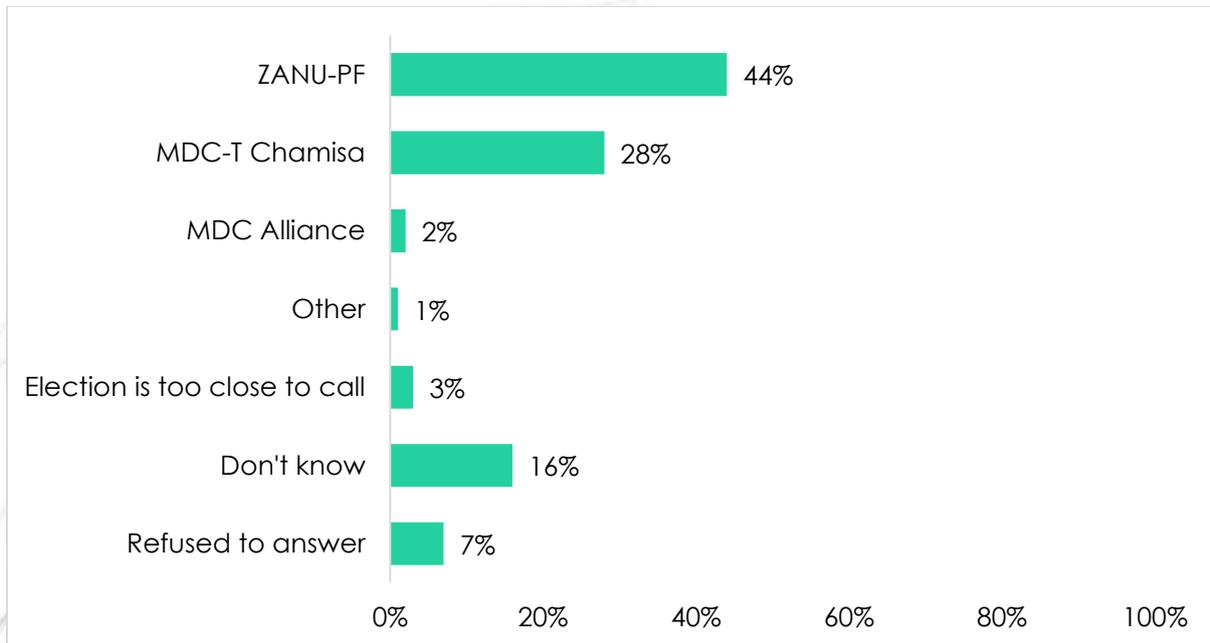
**Figure 4: Voting intentions in the presidential election** | registered and likely voters | Zimbabwe | 2018



**Respondents were asked:** If presidential elections were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for? (NOTE: Analysis includes only respondents who said they were registered to vote and likely to vote.)



**Figure 5: Citizens' expected winner of presidential election | Zimbabwe | 2018**



**Respondents were asked:** *Regardless of whether or not you will vote, or who you will vote for, which party's or alliance's candidate do you expect, ultimately, will win the 2018 presidential election? (Note: Analysis includes all respondents.)*

**For more information, please contact:**

Mass Public Opinion Institute  
Eldred. V. Masunungure  
Telephone: +263772100409  
Email: director@mpoi.org.zw

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[www.mpoi.net/](http://www.mpoi.net/)  
[www.afrobarometer.org](http://www.afrobarometer.org)

