



Harare, Zimbabwe  
22 August 2023

## News release

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### Young Zimbabweans less likely than their elders to cast their ballots on Election Day, new Afrobarometer survey shows

While most Zimbabweans say they are registered to vote and plan to cast their ballots in tomorrow's harmonised elections, an Afrobarometer survey shows that young citizens are considerably less likely than their elders to do so.

As reported by survey respondents, 18- to 35-year-olds are significantly less likely than older cohorts to report being registered and intending to vote.

Both registration rates and intention to vote also vary considerably by province. Mashonaland Central and Harare have the largest proportions of citizens who say they will "definitely" or "probably" vote, and Bulawayo has the smallest proportion.

#### Key findings

- More than eight in 10 voting-age Zimbabweans (85%) say they are registered to vote in this week's harmonised election (Figure 1).
  - Middle-aged and older citizens (both at 93%) are more likely to say they are registered to vote than the youth (76%) (Figure 2).
- Seven in 10 citizens (70%) say they will "definitely" vote in the election, and another 14% say they will "probably" vote (Figure 3).
- Almost nine in 10 residents of Mashonaland Central (88%) and Harare (87%) say they will "definitely" or "probably" vote, while only 73% of Bulawayo residents say the same (Figure 4).
  - Middle-aged citizens record the largest proportion who say they will definitely/probably vote (91% of 36- to 55-year-olds), while youth record the smallest share (78%).
  - Men and women differ little in their self-reported likelihood of voting. The same is true for urban and rural residents.

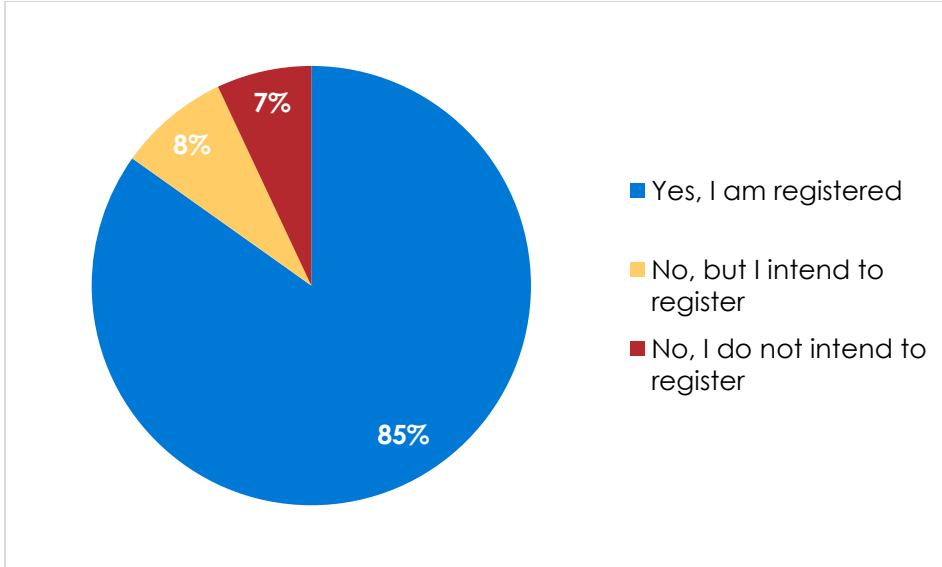
#### Afrobarometer surveys

Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

For a special pre-election survey, the Afrobarometer team in Harare, led by the Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI), interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Zimbabweans between 29 April and 12 May 2023. 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 have been conducted in Zimbabwe in 1999, 2004, 2005, 2009, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2021, and 2022.

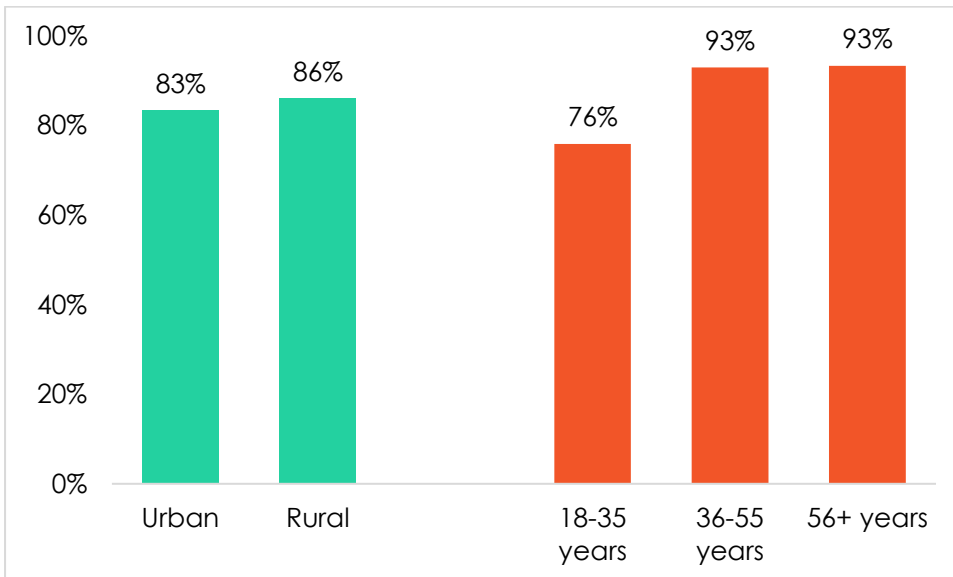
**Charts**

**Figure 1: Registered to vote in the 2023 elections?** | Zimbabwe | 2023



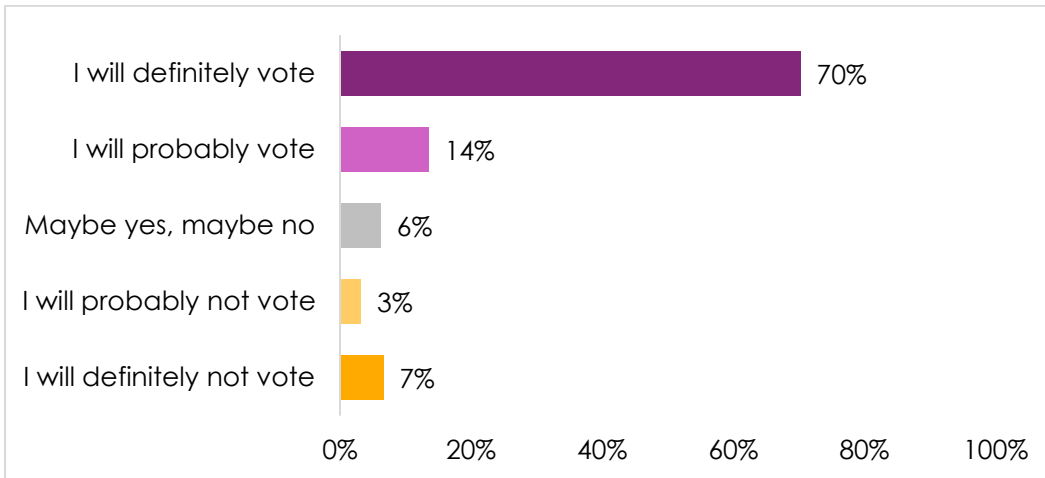
**Respondents were asked:** Are you registered to vote in the upcoming 2023 harmonised elections?

**Figure 2: Registered to vote in the 2023 elections** | by location and age | Zimbabwe | 2023



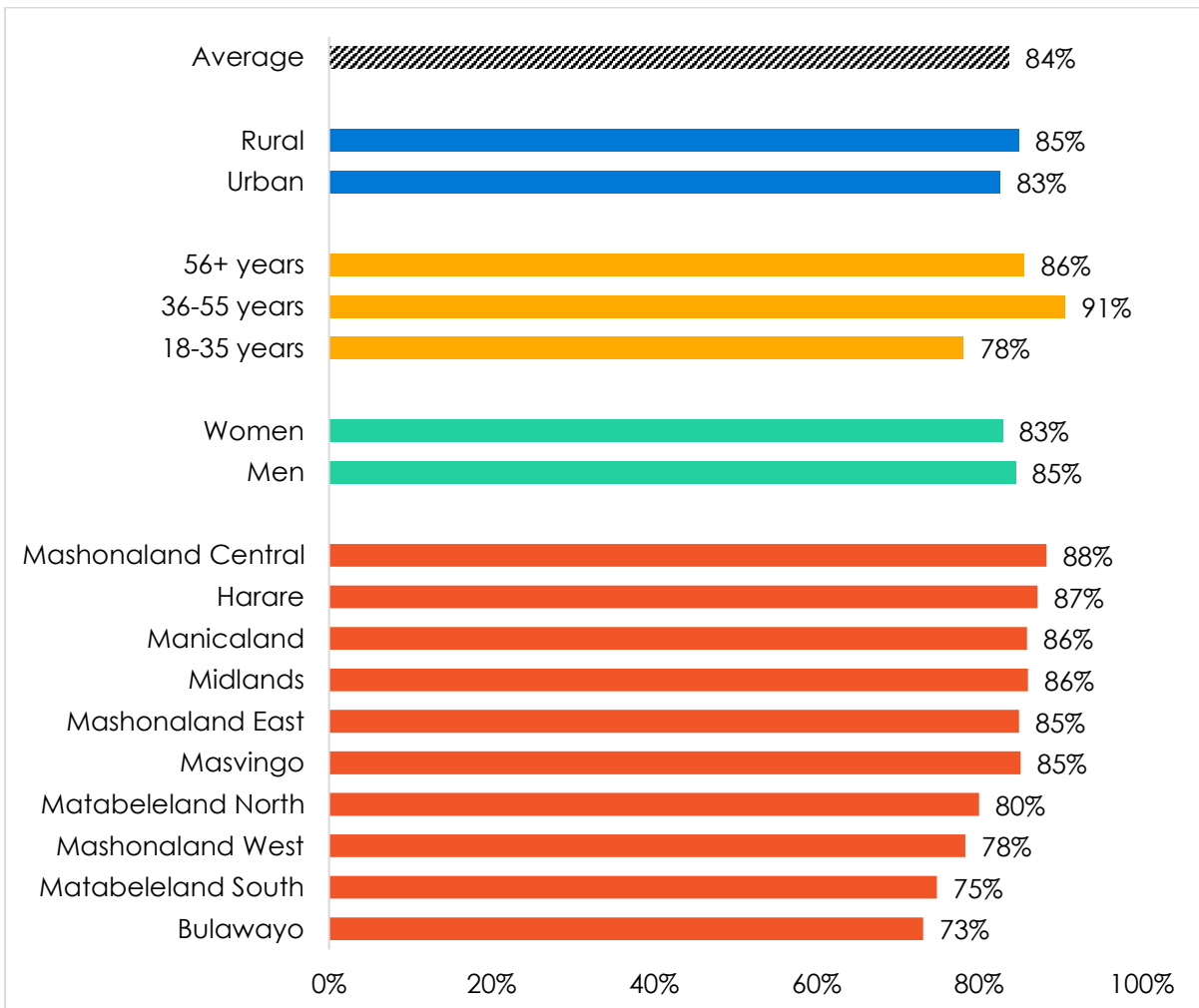
**Respondents were asked:** Are you registered to vote in the upcoming 2023 harmonised elections? (% "yes")

**Figure 3: Likelihood of voting in the 2023 elections | Zimbabwe | 2023**



**Respondents were asked:** How likely are you to vote in the 2023 harmonised elections?

**Figure 4: Will probably/definitely vote in the 2023 elections | by demographic group | Zimbabwe | 2023**



**Respondents were asked:** How likely are you to vote in the 2023 harmonised elections? (% who say "I will definitely vote" or "I will probably vote")

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