



Maputo, Mozambique
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News release

Fewer than half of Mozambicans feel ‘completely free’ at the ballot box, Afrobarometer survey shows

Fewer than half of potential voters in Mozambique say they feel “completely free” to choose who to vote for without feeling pressured, a recent Afrobarometer survey indicates.

A majority of citizens say their last national election, in 2019, was generally free and fair, though about one-third say they feared political intimidation or violence.

Citizens in the Northern and Central regions are more likely to see the last election as free and fair than their Southern counterparts, but they are also more likely to say they feared falling prey to political intimidation or violence.

Survey findings show that Mozambicans value elections: Most say regular, open, and honest elections are the best way to choose their leaders, and majorities in the Northern, Central, and Southern regions agree that many political parties are needed to make sure that voters have real choices in who governs them.

Mozambicans, whose recent municipal election results are still being contested, will conduct their next presidential election in October 2024.

Key findings

- Fewer than half (44%) of Mozambicans say they feel “completely free” to choose who to vote for without feeling pressured, while another 23% say they feel “somewhat free.” More urbanites than rural residents (52% vs. 39%) say they feel “completely free” (Figure 1).
- Almost two-thirds (64%) of citizens say they voted in the last national election in 2019, while about one-third say they did not vote (23%), were too young to vote (8%), or can’t remember whether they voted (3%) (Figure 2).
- A majority (58%) of Mozambicans believe that the 2019 election was “completely free and fair” (35%) or “free and fair with minor problems” (23%). About one in 10 (11%) describe it as “not free and fair” (Figure 3).
 - Citizens in the Northern (67%) and Central (63%) regions are more likely to see the last election as largely free and fair than their Southern counterparts (38%).
- About one-third (34%) of citizens say they feared political intimidation and violence “somewhat” (22%) or “a lot” (12%) during the last national election campaign in 2019 (Figure 4).
 - Citizens in the Northern (48%) and Central (32%) regions are more likely to say that they feared political intimidation or violence “somewhat” or “a lot” than their Southern counterparts (16%).

- More than six in 10 citizens (63%) support elections as the best way to choose their leaders, while one-third (34%) say other methods for choosing the country's leaders should be adopted (Figure 5).
- Two-thirds (67%) of Mozambicans support multiparty competition, including majorities of varying strengths in the Northern (78%), Central (59%), and Southern (65%) regions (Figure 6).

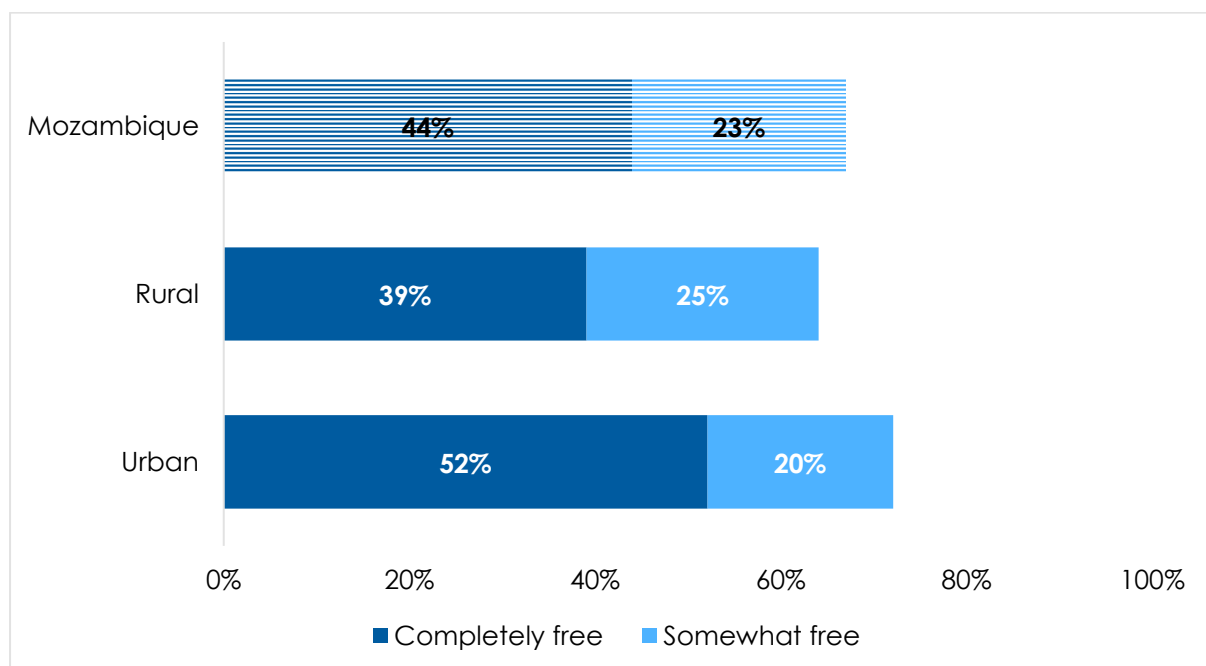
Afrobarometer surveys

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 rounds of surveys have been conducted in up to 42 countries since 1999. Round 9 surveys (2021/2023) cover 39 countries. Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Mozambique, led by Ipsos, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 1,120 adult Mozambicans in October, November, and December 2022. 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 were conducted in Mozambique in 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2018, and 2021.

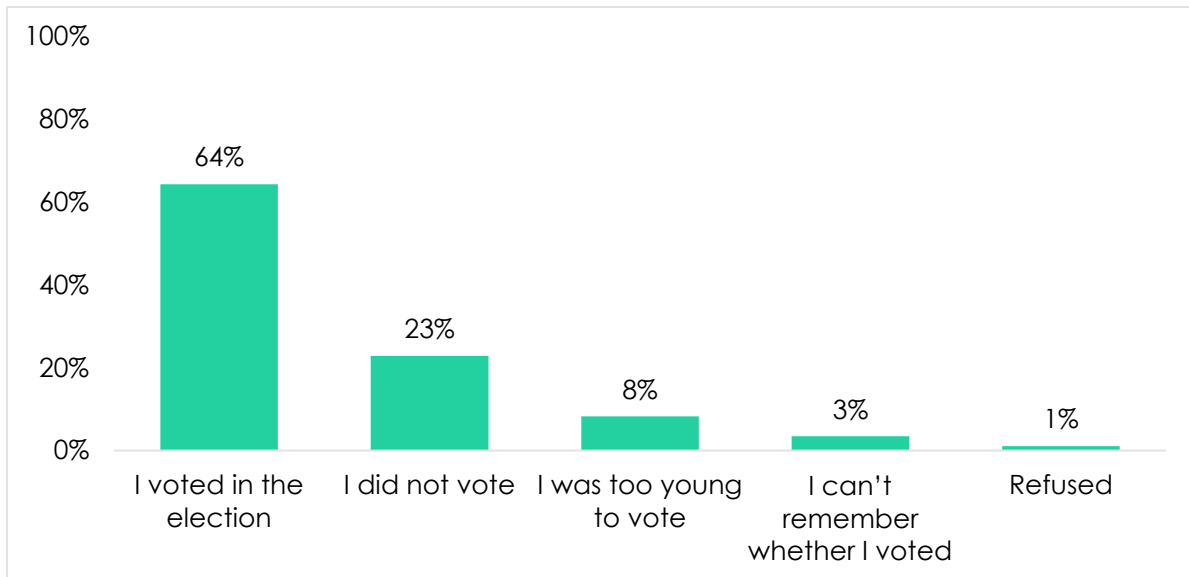
Charts

Figure 1: Freedom to choose who to vote for | Mozambique | 2022



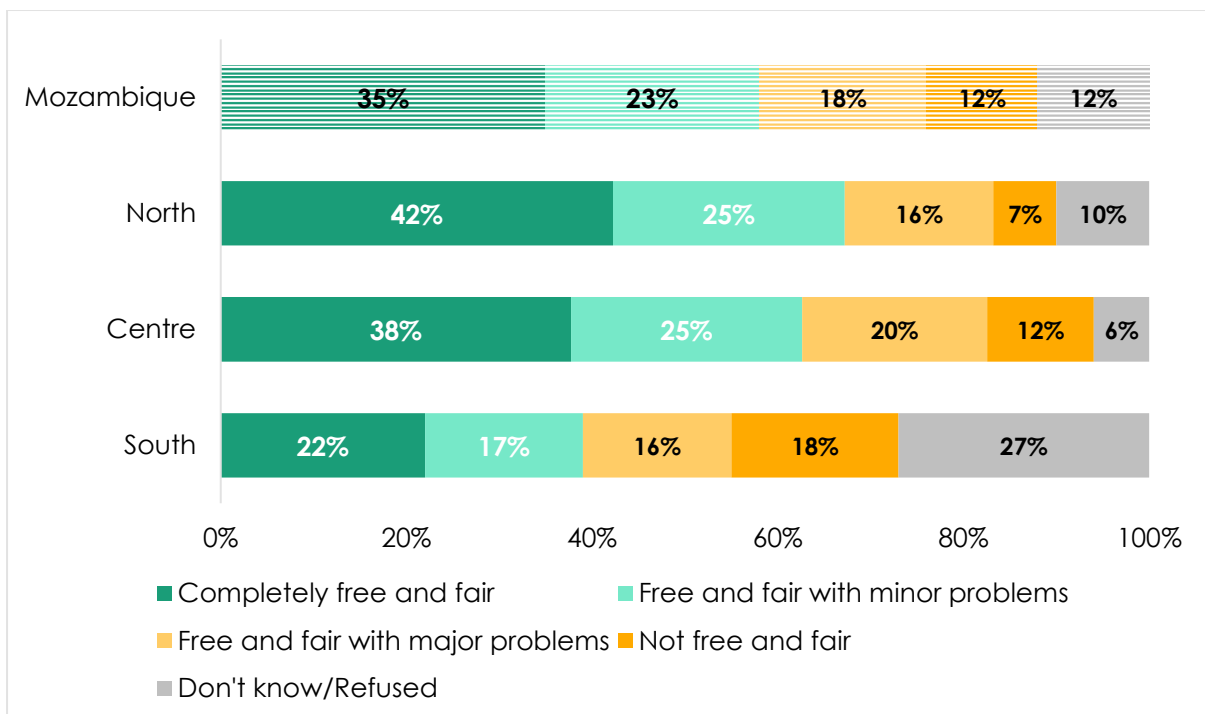
Respondents were asked: *In this country, how free are you to choose who to vote for without feeling pressured?*

Figure 2: Voting in the 2019 election | Mozambique | 2022



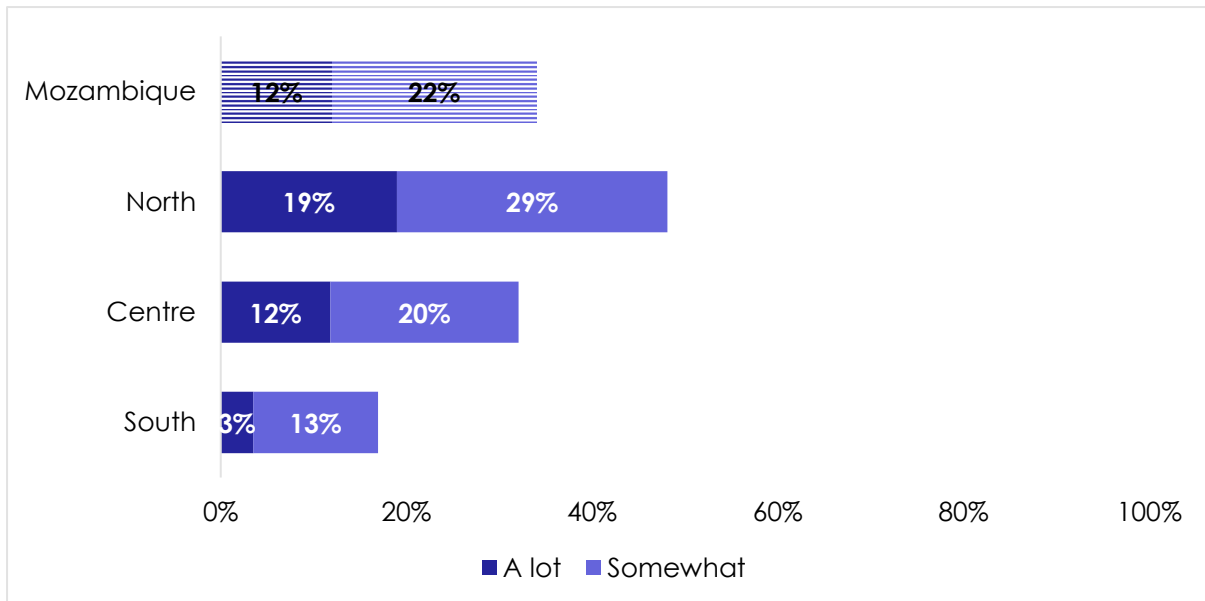
Respondents were asked: People are not always able to vote in elections, for example, because they weren't registered, they were unable to go, or someone prevented them from voting. How about you? In the last national election, held in 2019, did you vote, or not, or were you too young to vote? Or can't you remember whether you voted?

Figure 3: Freeness and fairness of the 2019 election | Mozambique | 2022



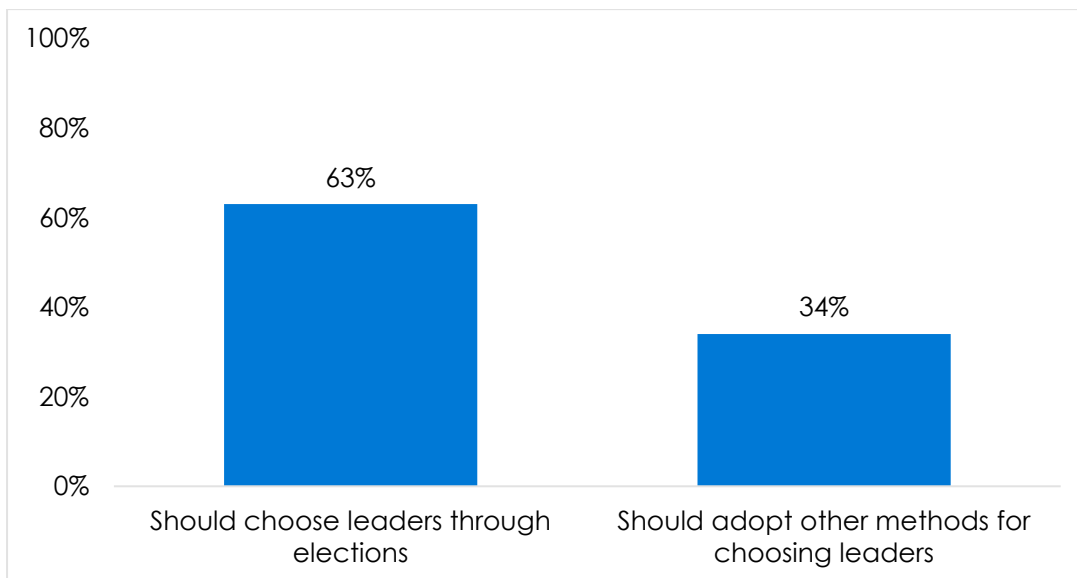
Respondents were asked: On the whole, how would you rate the freeness and fairness of the last national election, held in 2019?

Figure 4: Fear of political intimidation or violence | Mozambique | 2022



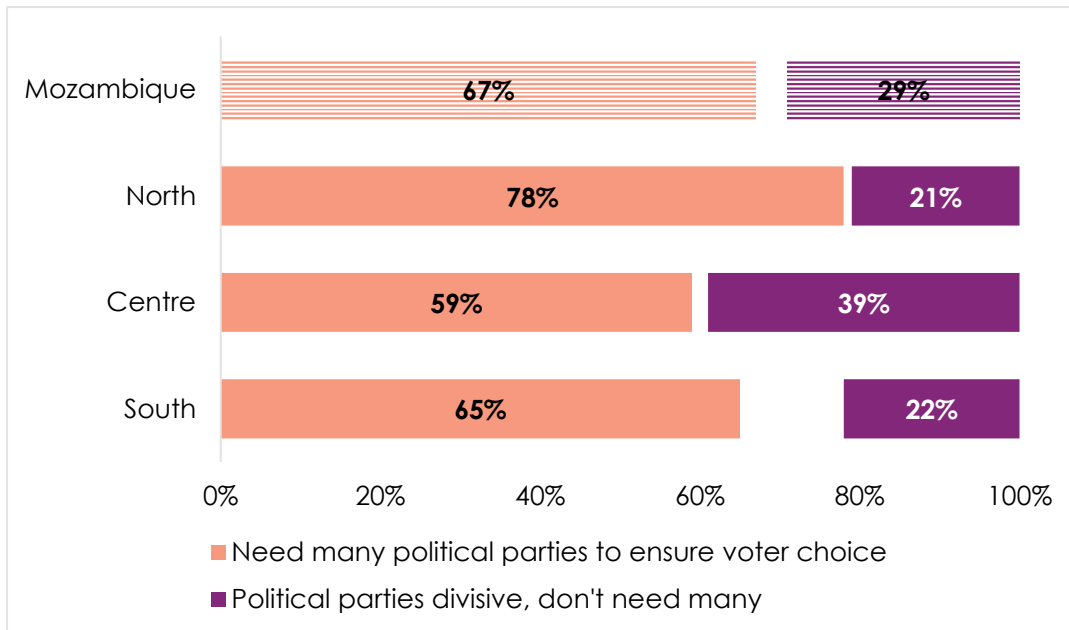
Respondents were asked: During the last national election campaign in 2019, how much did you personally fear becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence?

Figure 5: Choose leaders through elections vs. other methods | Mozambique | 2022



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: We should choose our leaders in this country through regular, open, and honest elections.
 Statement 2: Since elections sometimes produce bad results, we should adopt other methods for choosing this country's leaders.
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

Figure 6: Political parties divisive vs. many parties needed | Mozambique | 2022



Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?
 Statement 1: Political parties create division and confusion; it is therefore unnecessary to have many political parties in Mozambique.
 Statement 2: Many political parties are needed to make sure that Mozambicans have real choices in who governs them.
 (% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with each statement)

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