



Kampala, Uganda
2 July 2024

News release

Ugandans strongly endorse multiparty politics, but support for parties is faltering as perceptions of violence increase, Afrobarometer study reveals

Ugandans rank among Africa's top supporters of multiparty politics but show waning support for political parties and report high levels of violence when political parties compete, according to the latest Afrobarometer survey.

Support for multiparty politics has risen steadily over the past two decades, but the belief that party competition leads to violence also increased. Meanwhile, identification with political parties has declined in recent years, along with trust in parties and the declared intention to vote them in a hypothetical election.

Key findings

- Support for multiparty politics in Uganda has grown from 42% in 2002 to 77% in 2024. But the perception that party competition “often” or “always” leads to violence has remained consistently high, rising to 75% in 2022 (Figure 1).
 - Uganda ranks high among African countries in its support for multiparty politics in Africa, far above the 39-country average of 64% in 2021/2023 (Figure 2).
 - But Uganda also ranks near the top in perceptions that party competition leads to violence, again well above the 39-country average of 54% in 2021/2023.
- Identification with a political party in Uganda grew from 29% in 2000 to a high of 73% in 2012 and 2015, but has since dropped to 61% (Figure 3).
- The proportion of Ugandan who say they “feel close to” the ruling political party increased from 20% in 2000 to a high of 47% in 2015 and 2019, but has since dropped to 42% (Figure 4).
 - Similarly, affiliation with an opposition party grew from 5% in 2000 to a high of 26% in 2008, but has since dropped to 14%.
- Trust in the ruling party increased from 45% in 2008 to 71% in 2015, but has since dropped to 55% (Figure 5).
- The share of respondents who say they would vote for the ruling party in a hypothetical election increased from 36% in 2002 to a high of 65% in 2015, but has since dropped to 56% (Figure 6).
- Trust in opposition parties climbed to 47% in 2012 but has since declined to 33%.
- Vote intention for opposition parties, in a hypothetical election, peaked at 30% in 2008 and 2012 and has since declined to 19%.

Afrobarometer surveys

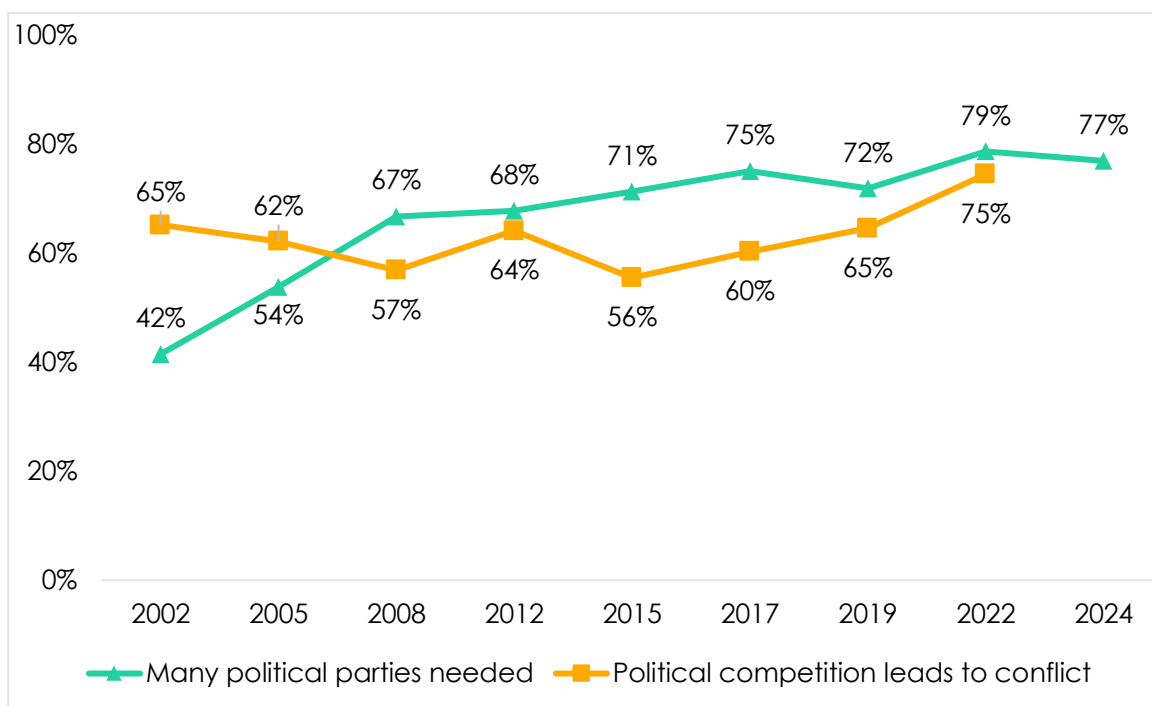
Afrobarometer is a pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life. Nine

survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999. Round 10 were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer’s national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent’s choice.

The Afrobarometer team in Uganda, led by Hatchile Consult Ltd., interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Ugandans in January 2024. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous standard surveys were conducted in Uganda in 2000, 2002, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2022.

Charts

Figure 1: Views on multiparty competition | Uganda | 2002–2024



Respondents were asked:

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

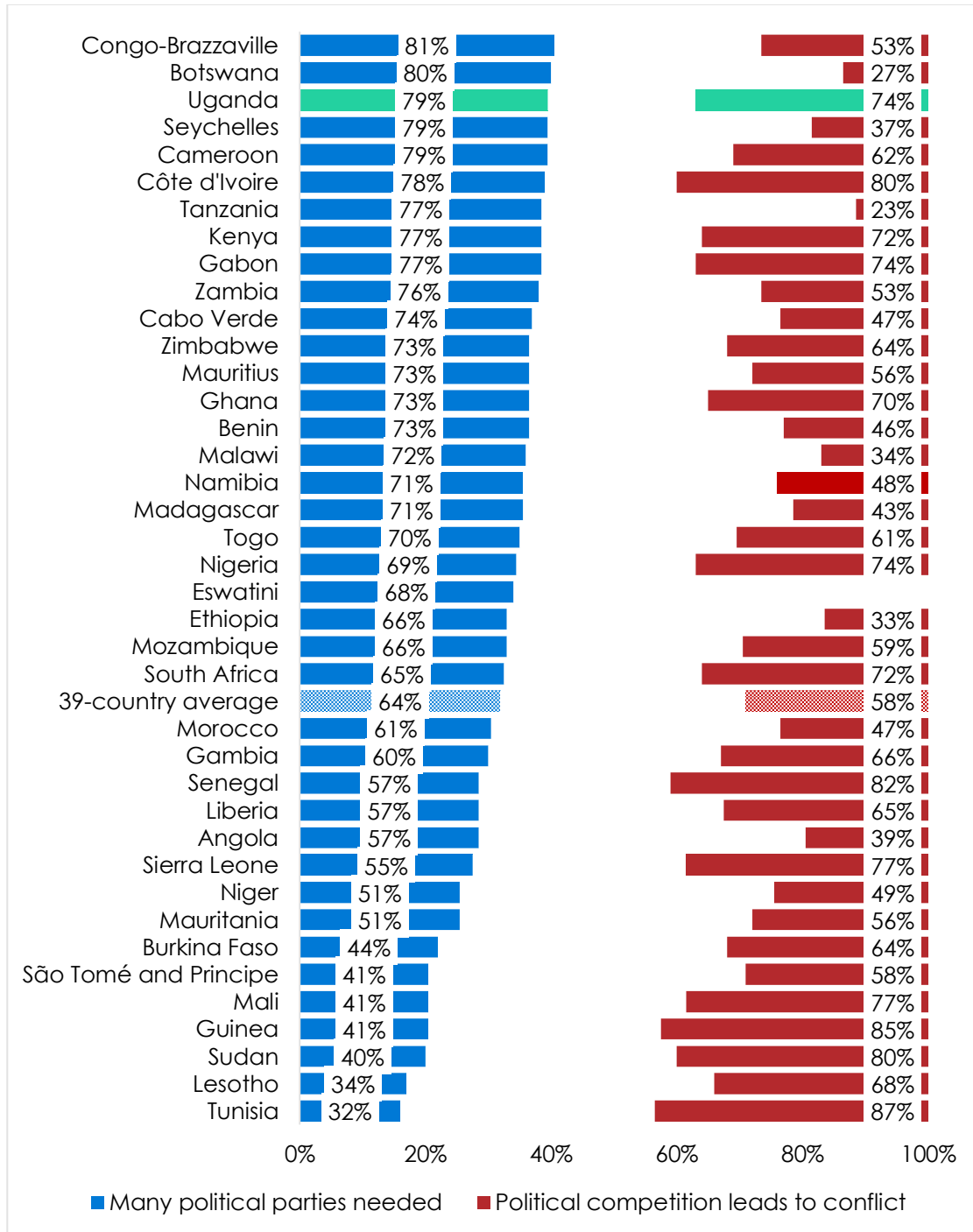
Statement 1: Political parties create division and confusion; it is therefore unnecessary to have many political parties.

Statement 2: Many political parties are needed to make sure that citizens have real choices in who governs them.

(% who “agree” or “strongly agree” with Statement 2)

In your opinion, how often, in this country, does competition between political parties lead to violent conflict? (% who say “often” or “always”)

Figure 2: Views on multiparty competition | 39 countries | 2021/2023



Respondents were asked:

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

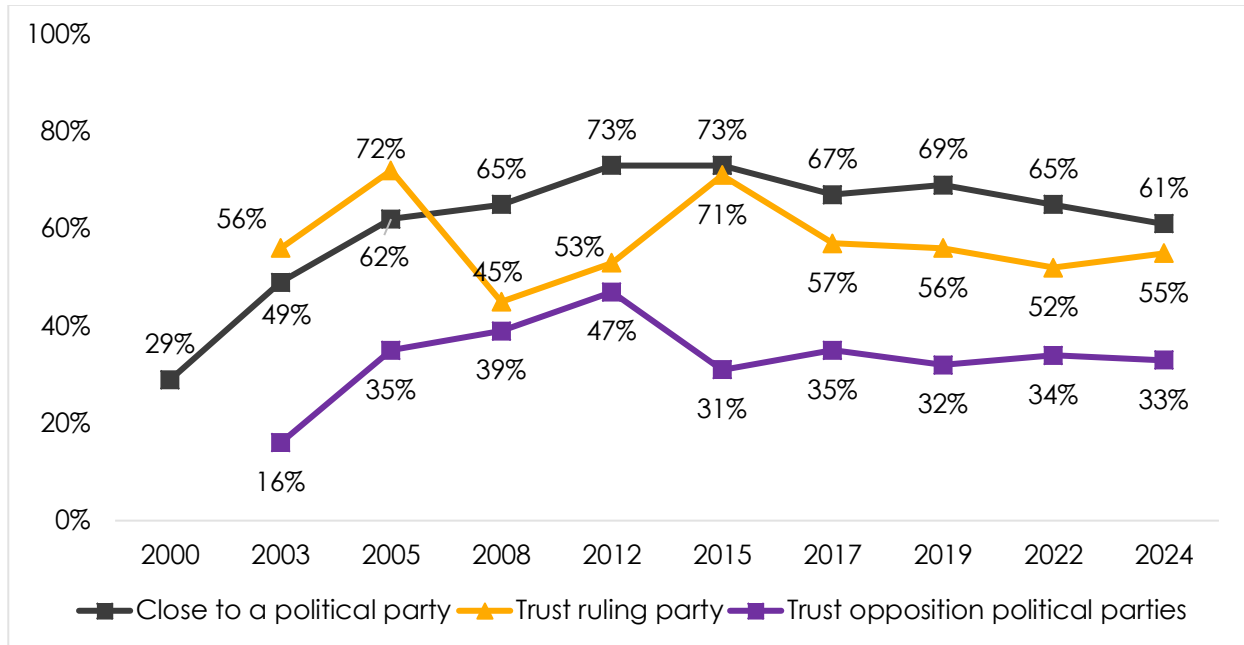
Statement 1: Political parties create division and confusion; it is therefore unnecessary to have many political parties.

Statement 2: Many political parties are needed to make sure that citizens have real choices in who governs them.

(% who "agree" or "strongly agree" with Statement 2)

In your opinion, how often, in this country, does competition between political parties lead to violent conflict? (% who say "often" or "always")

Figure 3: Political party identity and trust | Uganda | 2000-2024

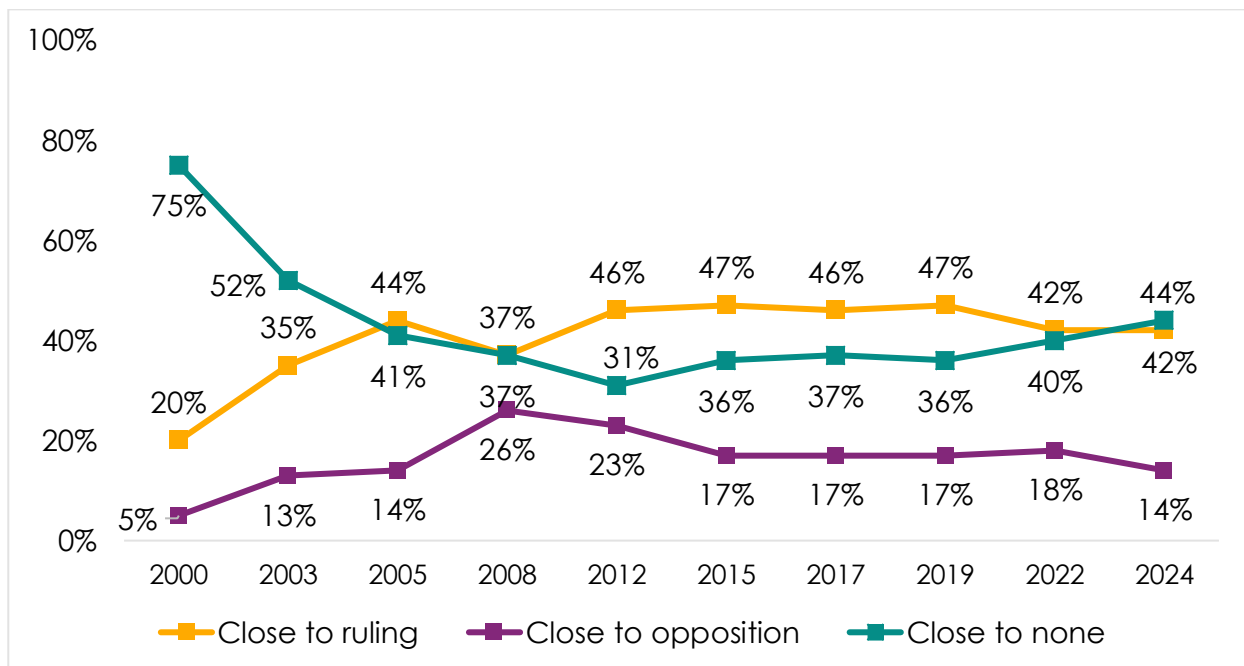


Respondents were asked:

Do you feel close to any particular political party? (% "yes")

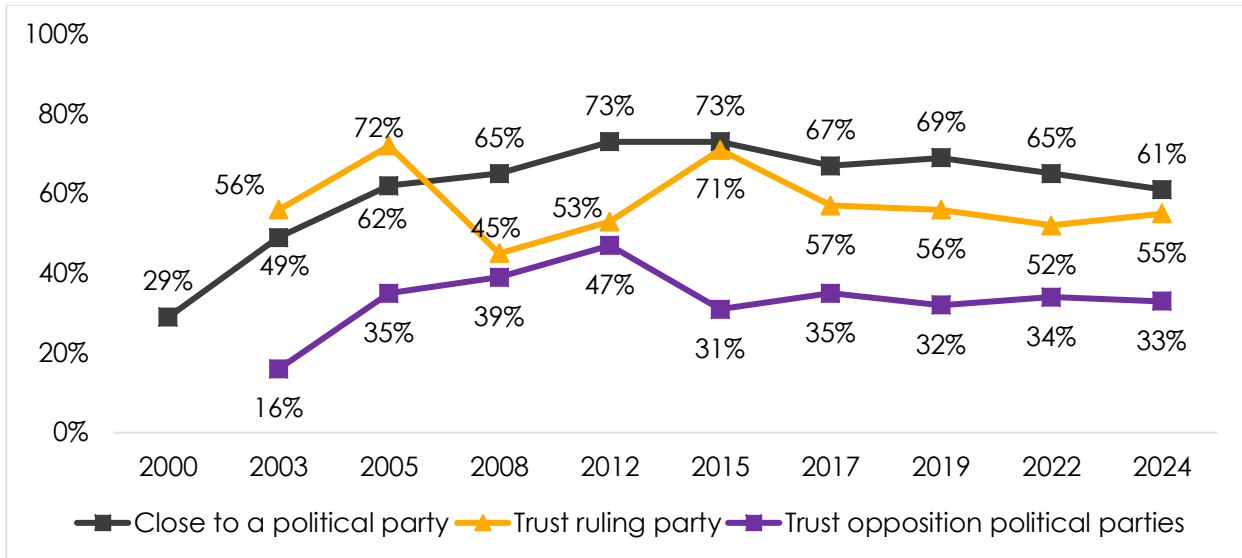
How much do you trust the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The ruling party? Opposition political parties? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Figure 4: Feel close to ruling or opposition political party | Uganda | 2000-2024



Respondents were asked: Do you feel close to any particular political party? [If "yes":] Which party is that? ("Close to none" includes "Don't know" and "Refused")

Figure 5: Political party identity and trust | Uganda | 2000-2024

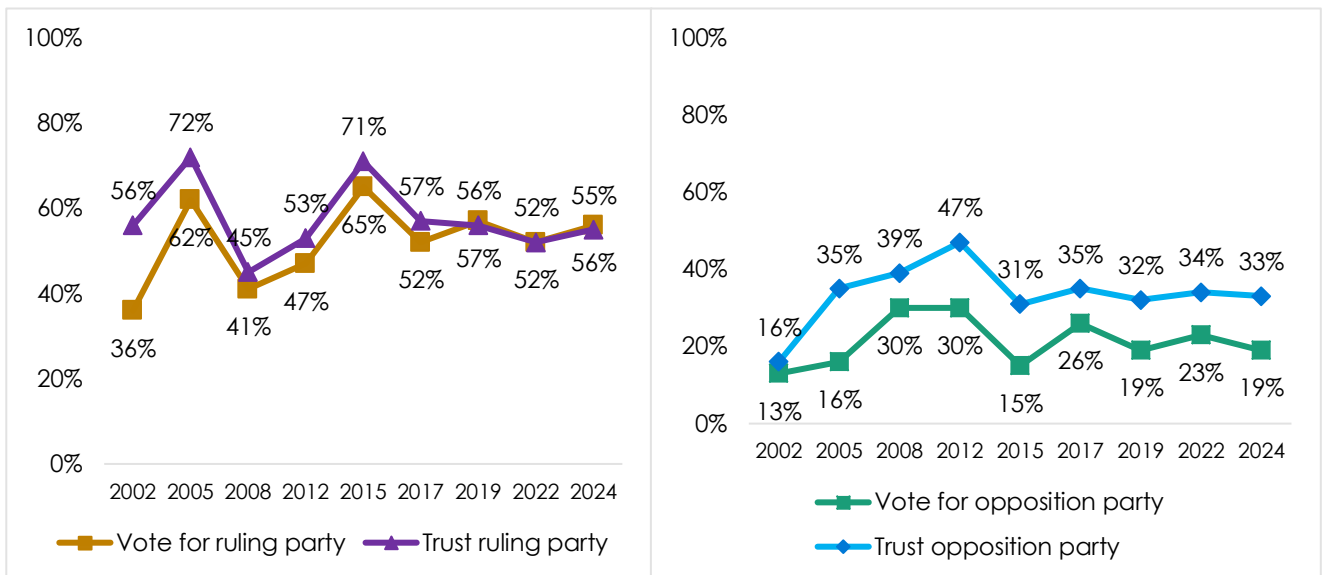


Respondents were asked:

Do you feel close to any particular political party? (% "yes")

How much do you trust the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The ruling party? Opposition political parties? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

Figure 6: Vote intention and trust in ruling and opposition political parties | Uganda | 2002-2024



Respondents were asked:

If presidential elections were held tomorrow, which candidate's party would you vote for?

How much do you trust the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say: The ruling party? Opposition political parties? (% who say "somewhat" or "a lot")

For more information, please contact:

Hatchile Consult Ltd.

Francis Kibirige

Telephone: +256 414 233 847, +256 771 756 465, +256 751 932 082

Email: fkibirige@afrobarometer.org , francis@hatchileconsult.com

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