

Nairobi, Kenya
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News release

Majority of Kenyans support democracy, endorse term limits for the president, Afrobarometer surveys show

By strong majorities, Kenyans consistently support democracy, favour choosing leaders through elections, and endorse a two-term limit for the president, the latest Afrobarometer survey report reveals.

A majority of Kenyans say democracy is preferable to any other political system, and most support regular, open, and honest elections as the best way to choose their political leaders. For more than a decade, most have consistently supported a two-term limit on presidential mandates.

Term limits are more popular among citizens who prefer democracy over any other system than among those who think that a non-democratic government can sometimes be preferable. In terms of political affiliation, presidential term limits draw strong majority endorsements from both United Democratic Alliance supporters and Orange Democratic Movement adherents.

Afrobarometer survey

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 surveys were launched in January 2024. Afrobarometer's national partners conduct face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice. The

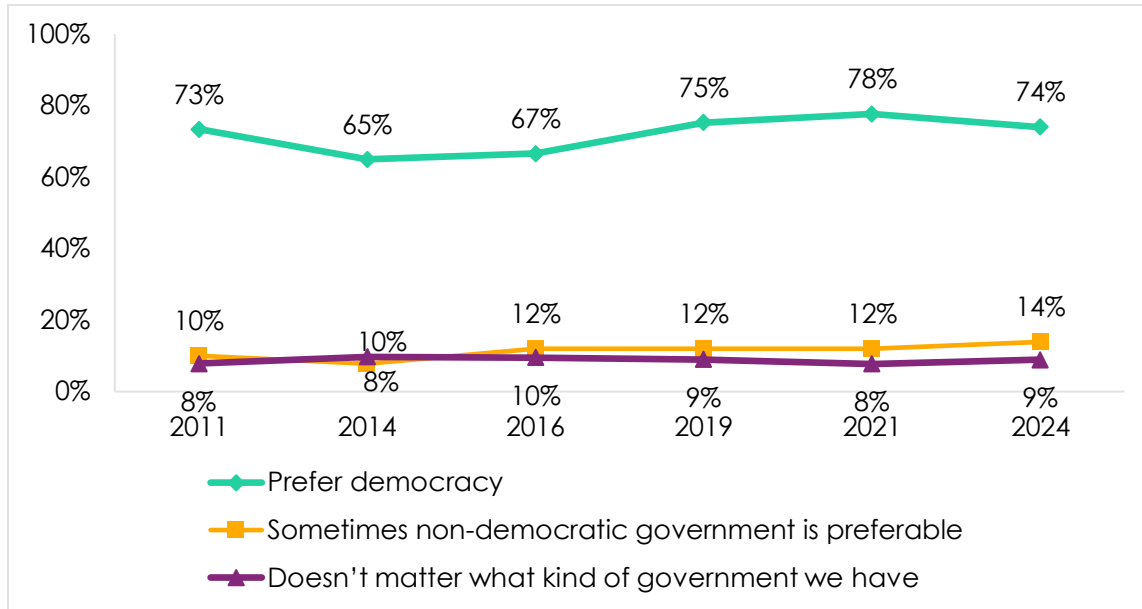
Afrobarometer team in Kenya, led by the Institute for Development Studies at the University of Nairobi, interviewed a nationally representative sample of 2,400 adult Kenyans in April-May 2024. A sample of this size yields country-level results with a margin of error of +/-2 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. Previous standard Afrobarometer surveys were conducted in Kenya in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2011, 2014, 2016, 2019, and 2021.

Key findings

- About three-fourths (74%) of Kenyans say democracy is preferable to any other political system (Figure 1).
- A similar majority (77%) support regular, open, and honest elections as the best way to choose their political leaders (Figure 2).
- Almost nine in 10 Kenyans (86%) endorse a two-term limit on presidential mandates, a position that has consistently had strong support for the past decade (Figure 3).
- Term limits are more popular among citizens who prefer democracy over any other system (89%) than among those who think that a non-democratic government can sometimes be preferable (75%) and those who say it doesn't matter what kind of government they have (80%) (Figure 4).
 - Presidential term limits draw strong majority endorsements from both United Democratic Alliance supporters (81%) and Orange Democratic Movement adherents (90%).

Charts

Figure 1: Support for democracy | Kenya | 2011-2024



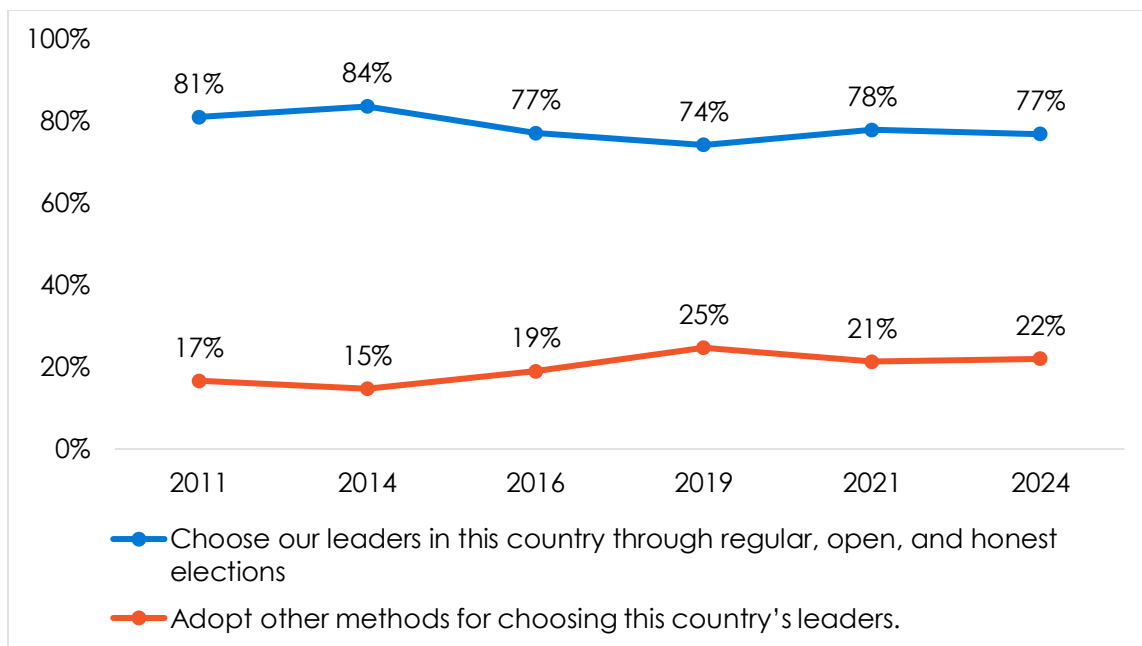
Respondents were asked: Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?

Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.

Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.

Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

Figure 2: Views on elections as the best method for choosing leaders | Kenya | 2011-2024

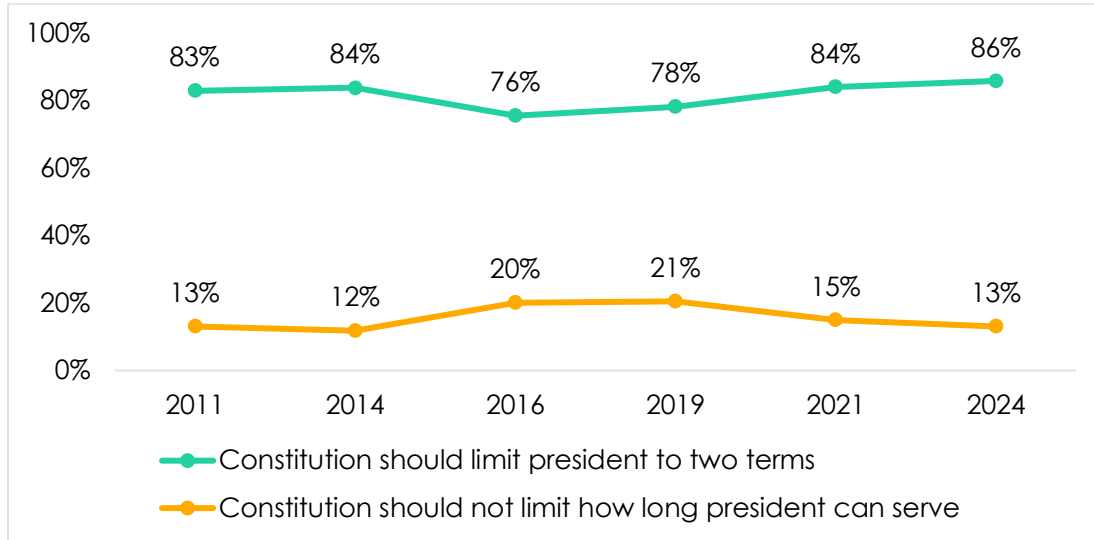


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

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.

Figure 3: Views on presidential term limits | Kenya | 2011-2024

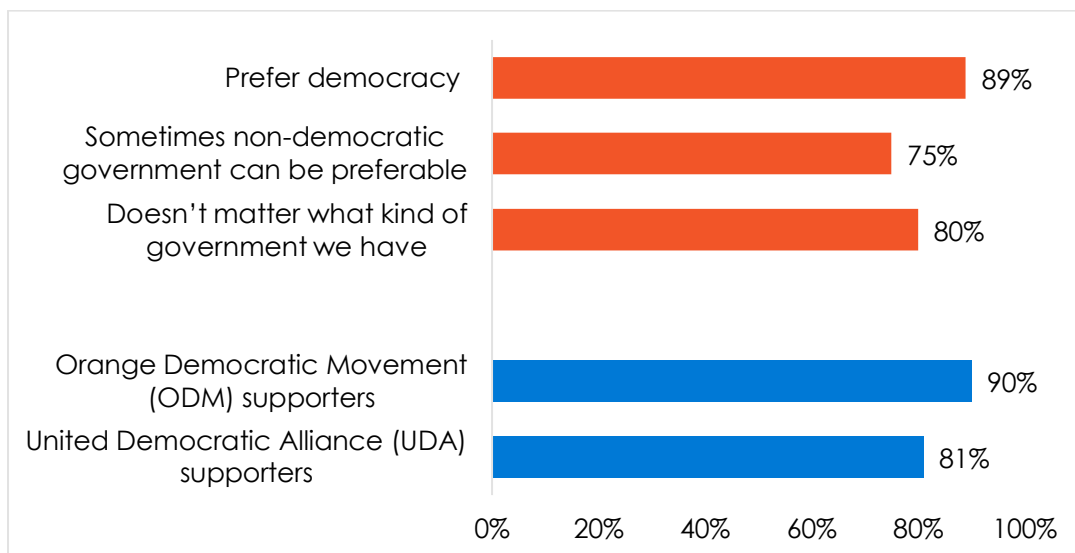


Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the president to serving a maximum of two terms in office.

Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.

Figure 4: Support for presidential term limits | by views on democracy and political party identification | Kenya | 2024



Respondents were asked:

Which of these three statements is closest to your own opinion?

Statement 1: Democracy is preferable to any other kind of government.

Statement 2: In some circumstances, a non-democratic government can be preferable.

Statement 3: For someone like me, it doesn't matter what kind of government we have.

Do you feel close to any particular party? [If "yes":] Which party is that?

Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the president to serving a maximum of two terms in office.

Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the president can serve.

(% who agree with Statement 1)



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