



Political Reforms: A term limit for the Prime Minister and Transparent Funding for Parties

Findings from the Afrobarometer Round 6 Survey in Mauritius

At a Glance

- **Limited Term of Office for the Prime Minister**: 7 out of 10 Mauritians believe that the term of office of the Prime Minister should be limited to two only.
- **Funding of Political Parties**: Political parties should find their own funding just as any private entity. The State and taxpayers' money should not be used to finance their activities.
- **Independent oversight of parties' finances**: 8 out of 10 Mauritians believe that an independent body such as the Electoral Supervisory Commission should be able to scrutinise the finances of political parties.

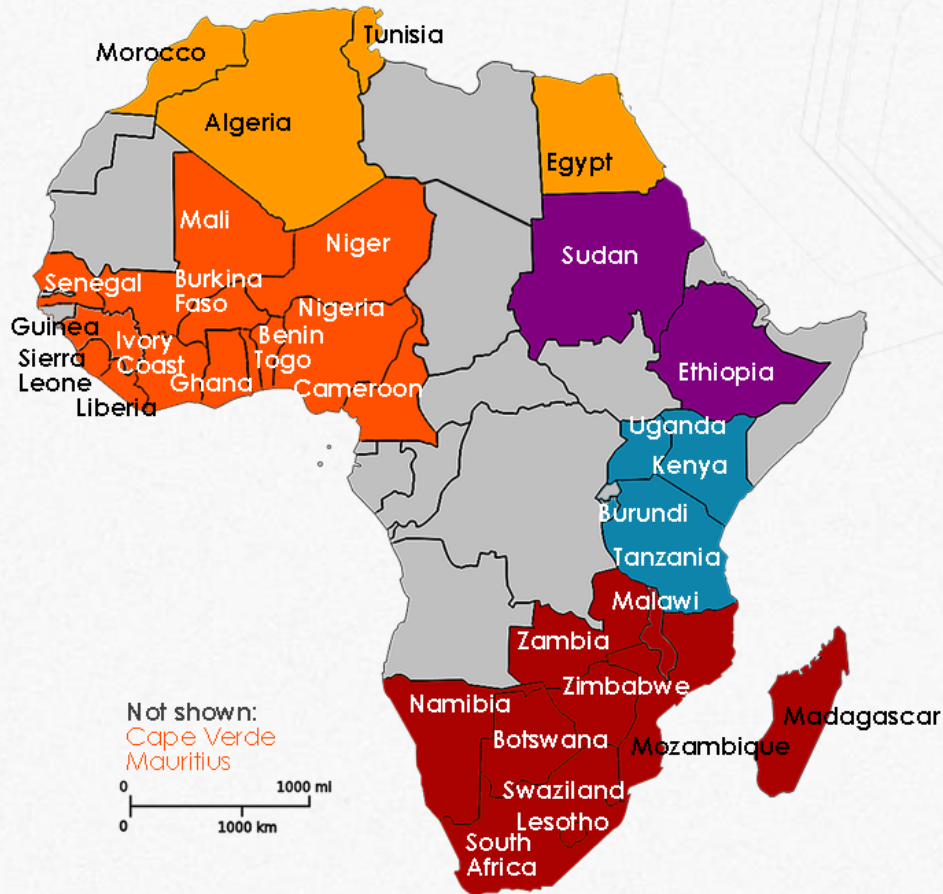
What is Afrobarometer?

- An African-led, non-partisan survey research project that measures citizen attitudes on democracy and governance, the economy, civil society, and other topics.
- Started in 12 countries in 1999, expanded to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013).
- **Goal:** To give the public a voice in policymaking by providing high-quality public opinion data to policymakers, policy advocates, civil society organizations, academics, news media, donors and investors, and ordinary Africans.
- National Partners in each country conduct the survey. In **Mauritius**, Afrobarometer Round 6 survey was conducted by **StraConsult**.

Where Afrobarometer works

Face-to-Face Interviews | 35 Countries

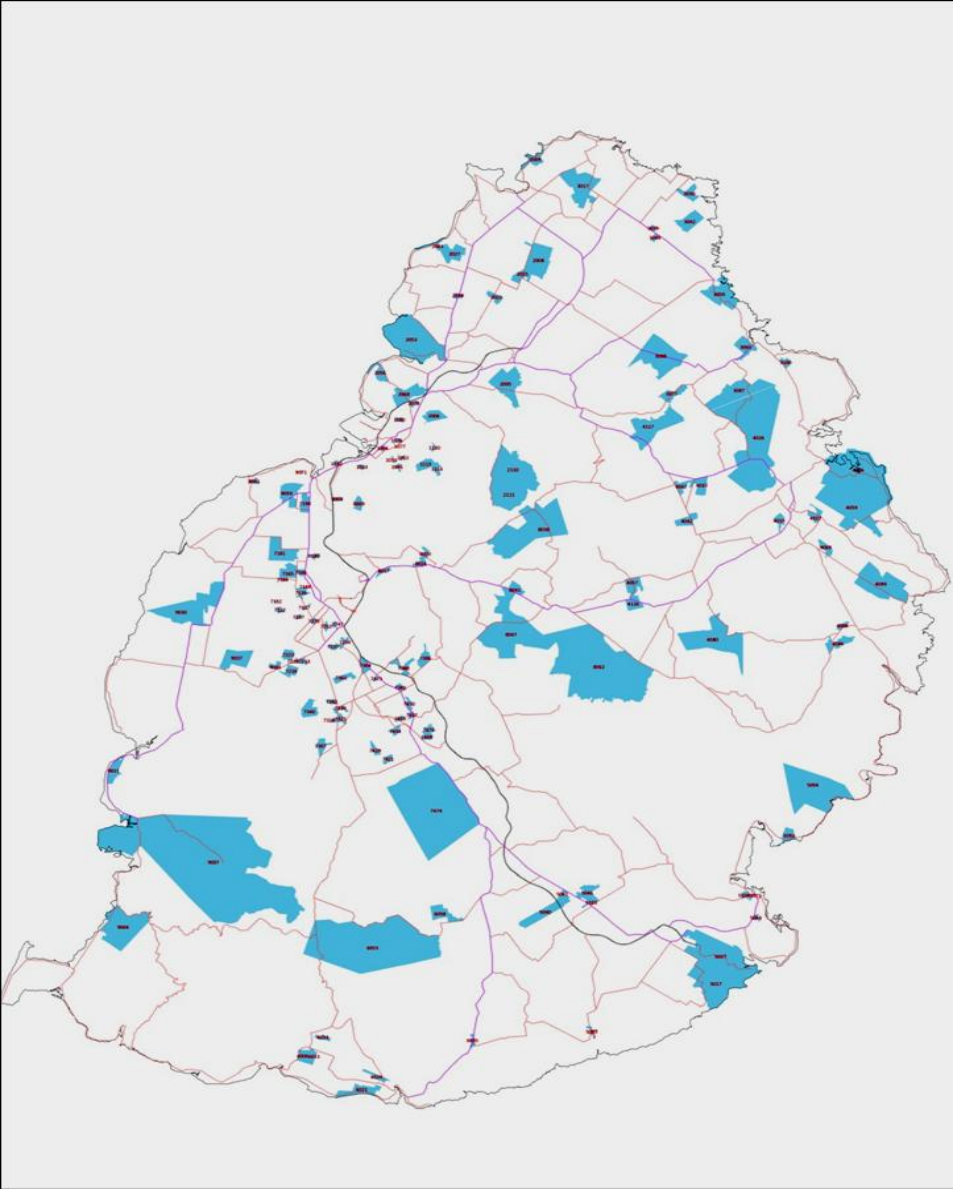
Surveys by state, region



Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens
 - ❑ All respondents are *randomly* selected.
 - ❑ Sample is distributed across **districts** and urban/rural areas in proportion to their share in the national population.
 - ❑ Every adult citizen has an *equal* chance of being selected.
- Face-to-face interviews In the language of the respondent's choice (**English, French** or **Creole**).
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size in **Mauritius** of **1200** adult citizens yields a margin of error of **+/-3%** at a 95% confidence level.
- Fieldwork for Round 6 in **Mauritius** was conducted between **27 June and 27 July 2014**.

Enumerator Map



Survey Demographics (1)

	Unweighted	Weighted
Gender		
Male	50%	50%
Female	50%	50%
Location		
Urban	38%	41%
Rural	62%	59%
Education		
No formal education	1%	1%
Primary	23%	22%
Secondary	55%	56%
Post-secondary	20%	21%

Survey Demographics (2)

	Unweighted	Weighted
District		
Port Louis	9%	10%
Pamplemousses	10%	11%
Riviere du Rempart	8%	9%
Flacq	10%	11%
Grand Port	8%	9%
Savanne	5%	5%
Plaine Wilhems	28%	30%
Moka	6%	7%
Black River	6%	6%
Rodrigues	10%	3%



FINDINGS



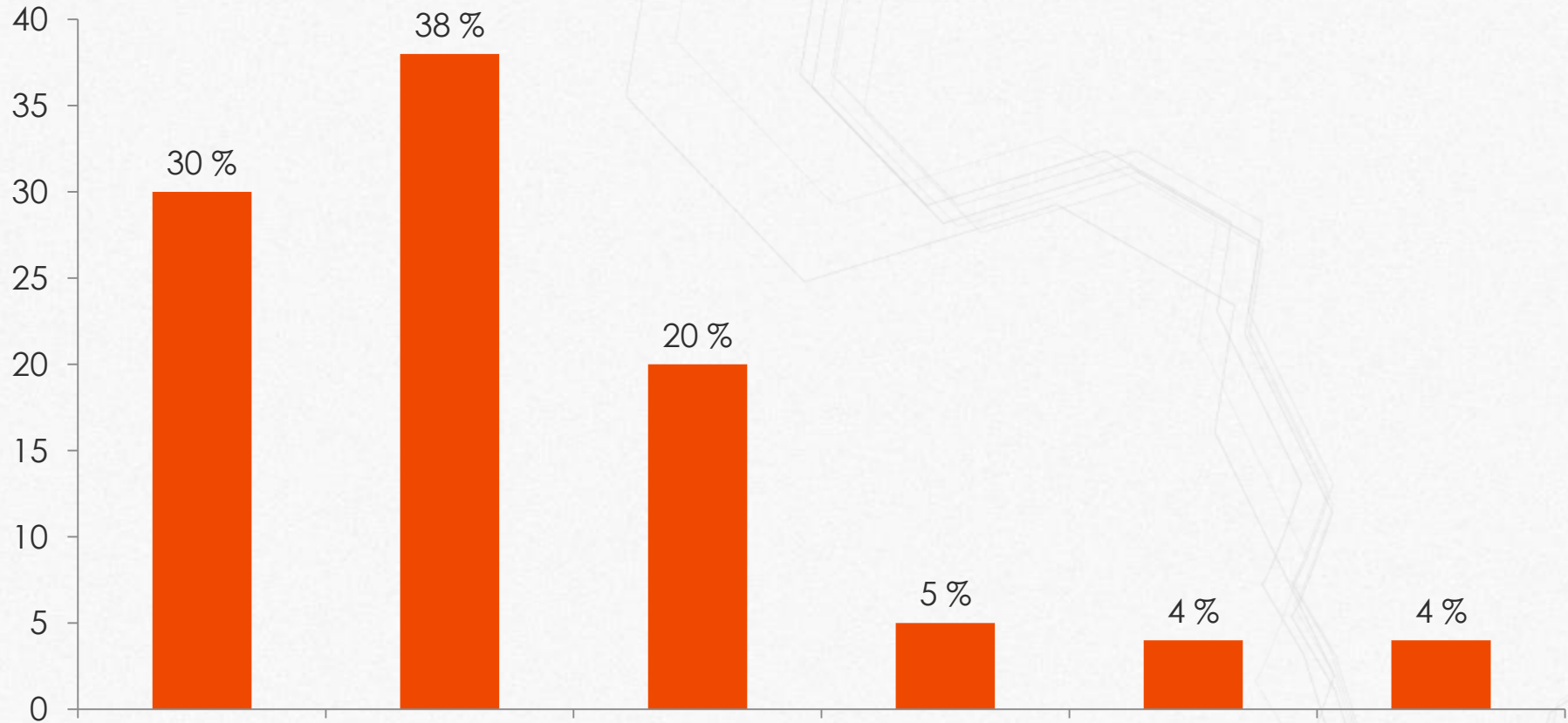
PRIME MINISTERSHIP TERMS OF OFFICE

Key Findings

- Almost 7 out of 10 (68%) Mauritians believe that prime ministership should be limited to two terms only.
- While three quarter of urban respondents want to limit the terms of office of the prime minister the number is less in rural areas. They are actually one third in rural areas who believe that there should be no limit.

Prime Minister's Term of Office

Q. Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view? Choose Statement 1 or Statement 2. **Statement 1: The Constitution should limit the Prime Minister to serving a maximum of two terms in office.** **Statement 2: There should be no constitutional limit on how long the Prime Minister can serve.**





FINANCING OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Key Findings

- An overwhelming majority (90%) of Mauritians believe that political parties should raise their own funds just as any private organisation.
- While in many countries, the State is called upon to finance political parties based on their performance in elections, more than three quarter (79%) of Mauritians reject this possibility.

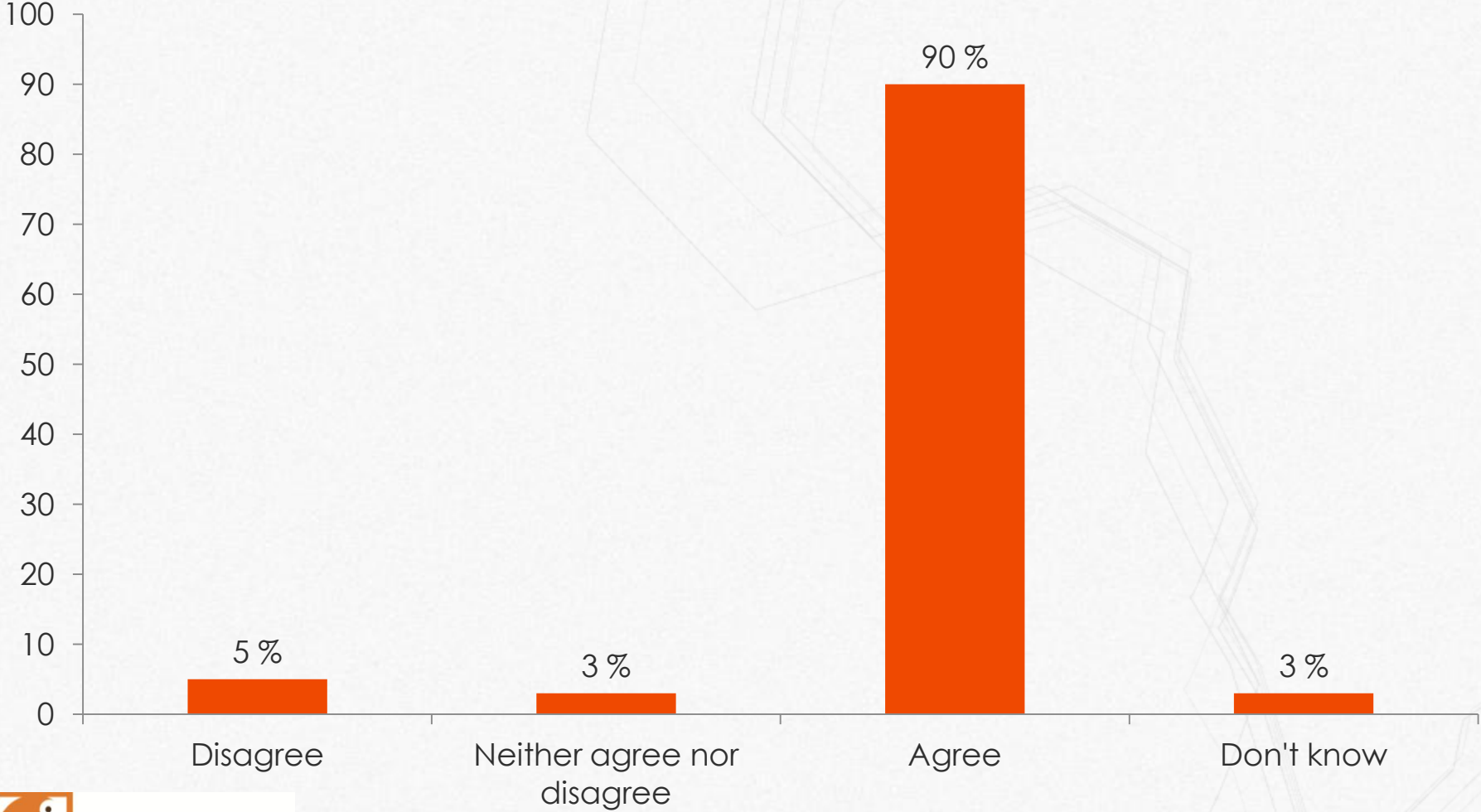
Key Findings

- Mauritians are even more vehemently opposed to the use of taxpayers' money to finance political parties. More than 9 out of 10 respondents to the survey disagree that they should pay more taxes to finance political parties.
- With regards to transparency of political parties finance, Mauritians believe that the Electoral Supervisory Commission should be mandated to scrutinise their accounts. 4 out of 5 citizens (80%) believe that there should be official control of the way in which parties get their finance and use it.

Parties' Funding

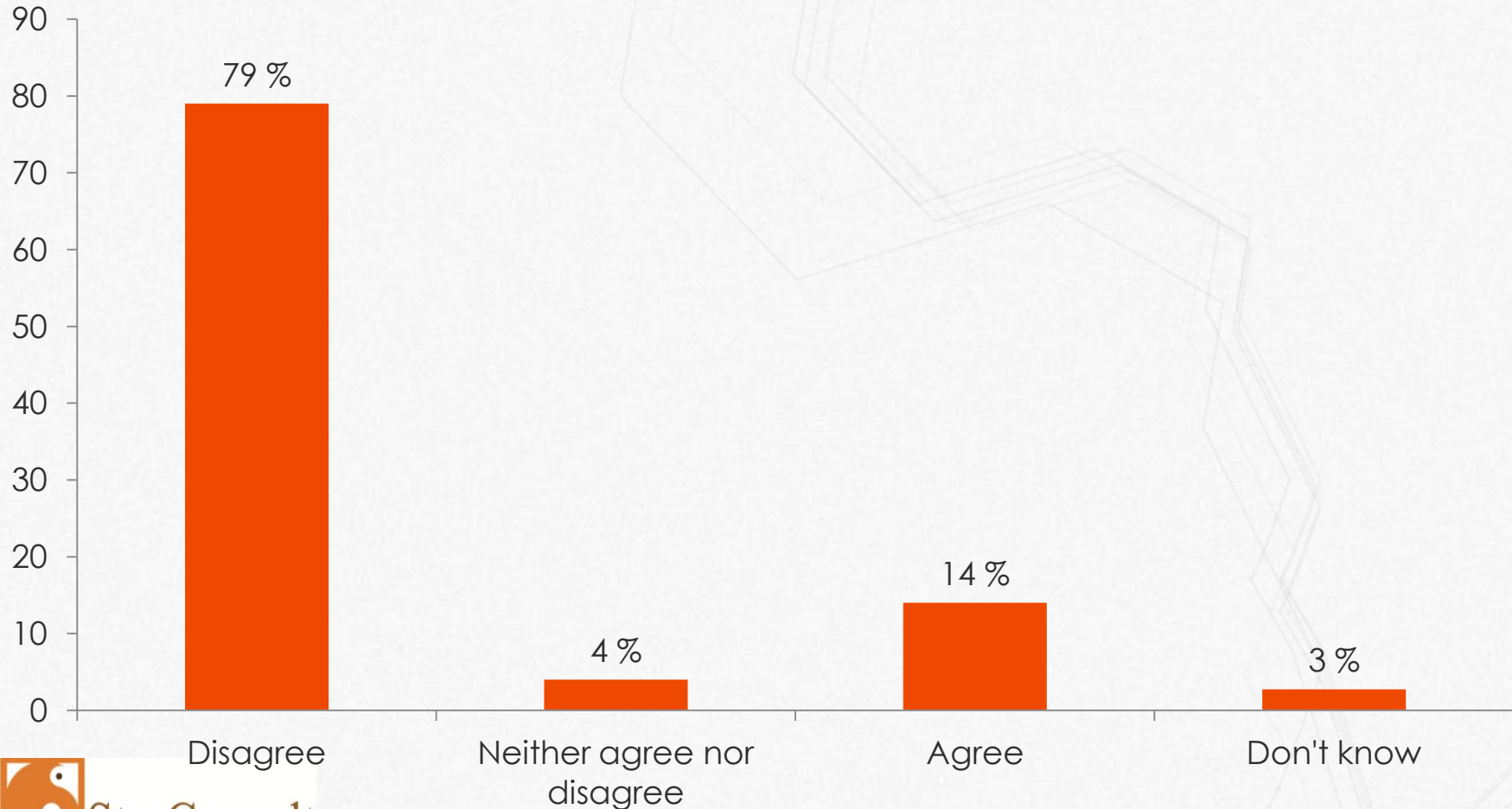
Q: Let us now turn to the financing of political parties in this country. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

Political parties are private entities, they should raise their own funds.



Introduction of PR – 10% Threshold of Eligibility

Q: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements or haven't you heard enough about them to say?
The state should provide funding to registered political parties based on how they perform in elections

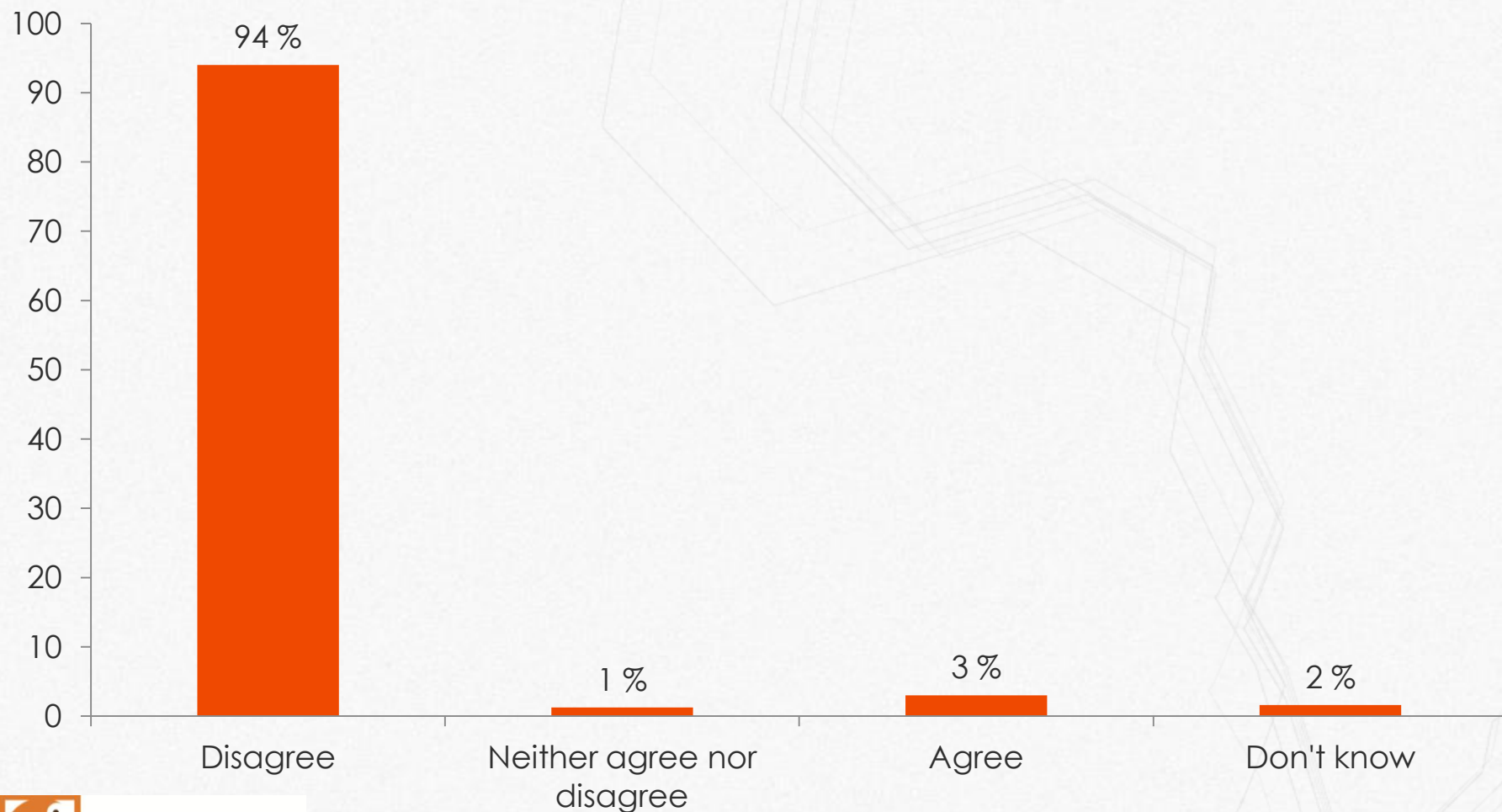


Introduction of PR – 10% Threshold

of Eligibility

Q: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

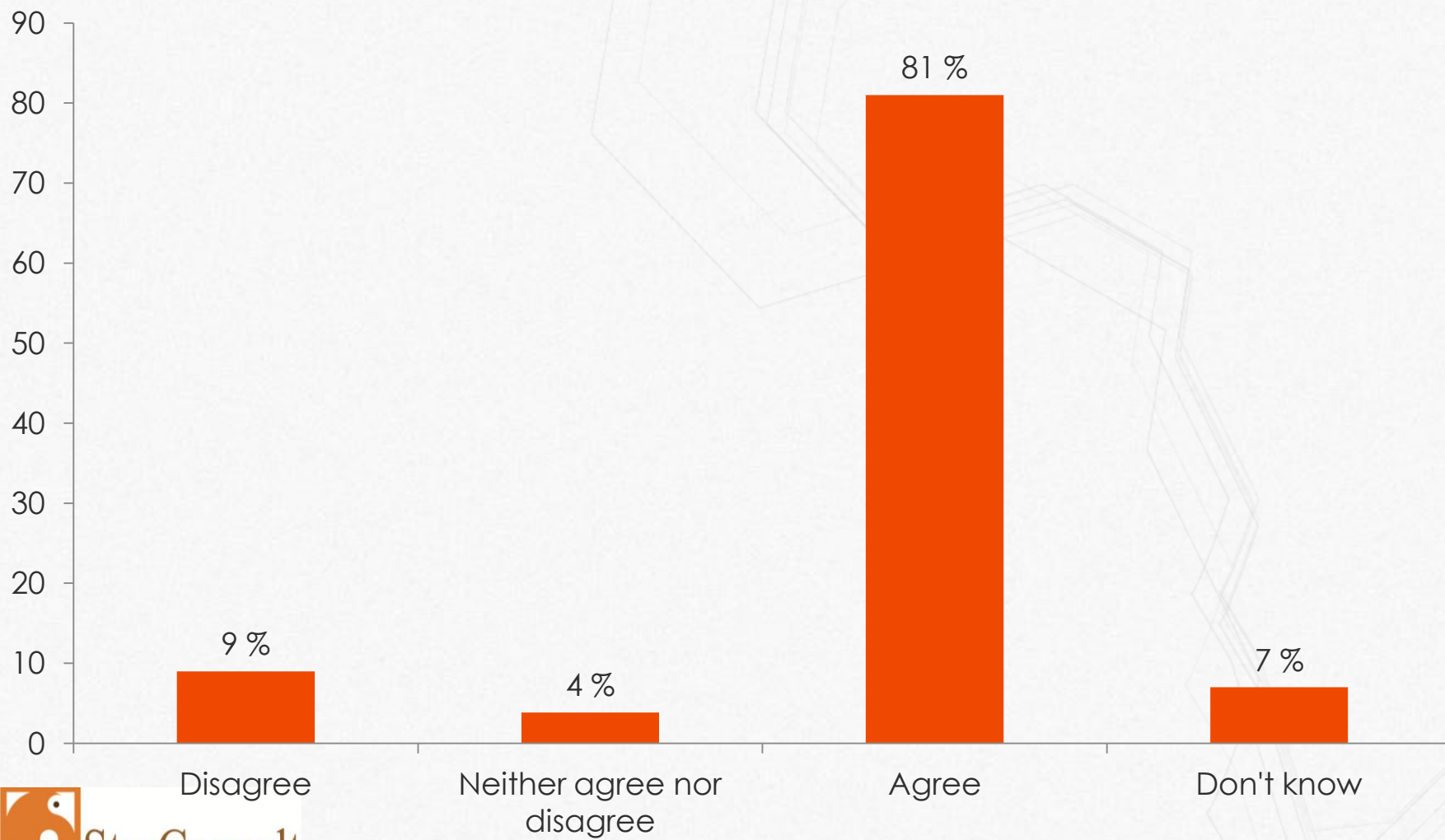
Citizens should be made to pay more taxes to support the financing of political parties



of Eligibility

Q: Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

The Electoral Supervisory Commission should be mandated to scrutinize the finances of political parties





CONCLUSIONS

Major Findings

- Mauritians do not want prime ministers ruling over them for ever. 10 years is enough for someone to rule the country.
- Political parties should fund their activities from their own pockets. A majority of Mauritians do not think the State or taxpayers money should be used to finance them.
- Furthermore, the finances of parties should be monitored by an independent body such as the Electoral Supervisory Commission.

Thank You