SIERRA LEONE 2023: CITIZEN'S KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES TOWARDS POLITICS AND ELECTION

A PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

March 2023

WHY CONDUCT THE KAP?

Benchmark citizen's knowledge about the electoral process

Identify the gaps in planning and track progress of over time

Provide citizen input into elections planning

Provide feedback on EMB performance

To make elections meaningful by tracking apportunities for policy uptake

METHODOLOGY

Political parties validating the KAP tool

N=2400

50/50 Gender split

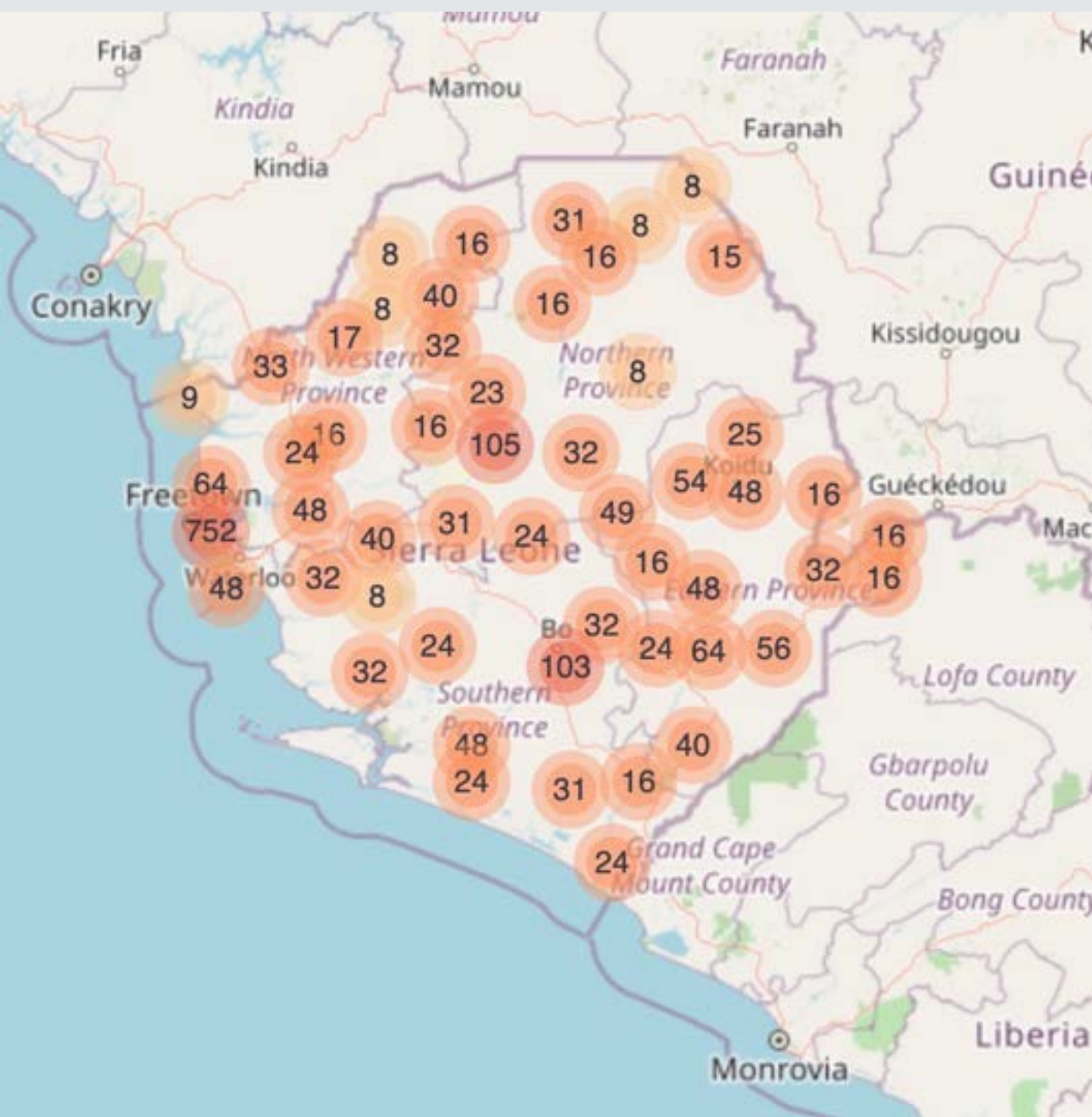Utilised ECSL data – 2018 VRC and polling stations.

Ensured political party validation of tools & ownership

Divided SL 16 districts in to two Stratas:

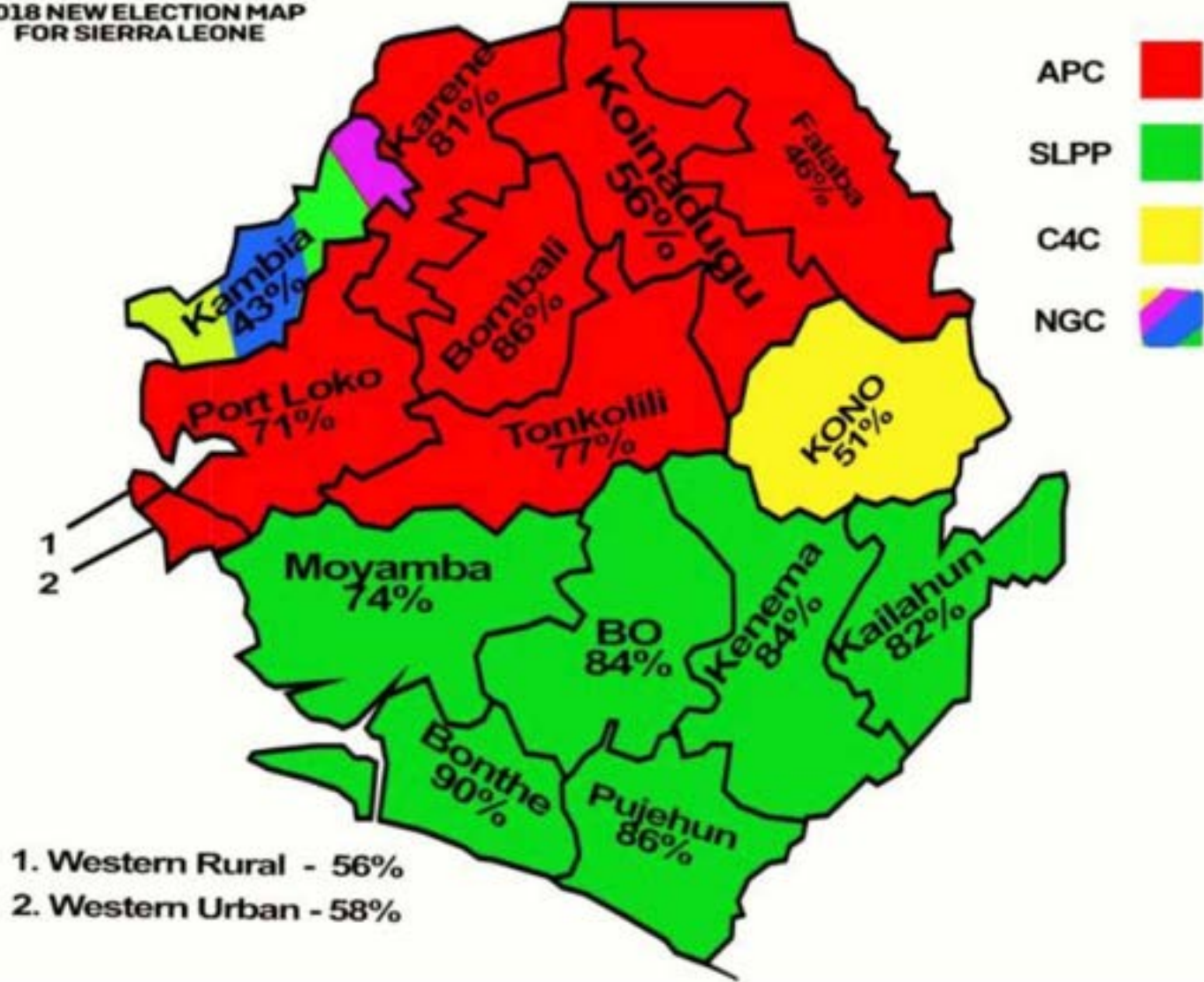Competitive district strata: Moyamba, Kono, Kambia, W/Urban, W/Rural, Falaba & Koinadugu

Stronghold district star: Bo, Pujehun, Bonthe, Kenema, Kailahun, Bombali, Pork Loko, Karene & Tonkolili

Data collected in February 2023

Sample spread

2,400 interviews

2018 NEW ELECTION MAP
FOR SIERRA LEONE

APC
SLPP
C4C
NGC

Karene 81%
Koinadugu 56%
Falaba 46%
Bombali 86%
Port Loko 71%
Kambia 43%
Tonkolili 77%
KONO 51%
Moyamba 74%
BO 84%
Kenema 84%
Kailahun 82%
Bonthe 90%
Pujehun 86%

1
2

1. Western Rural - 56%
2. Western Urban - 58%

A report prepared by:
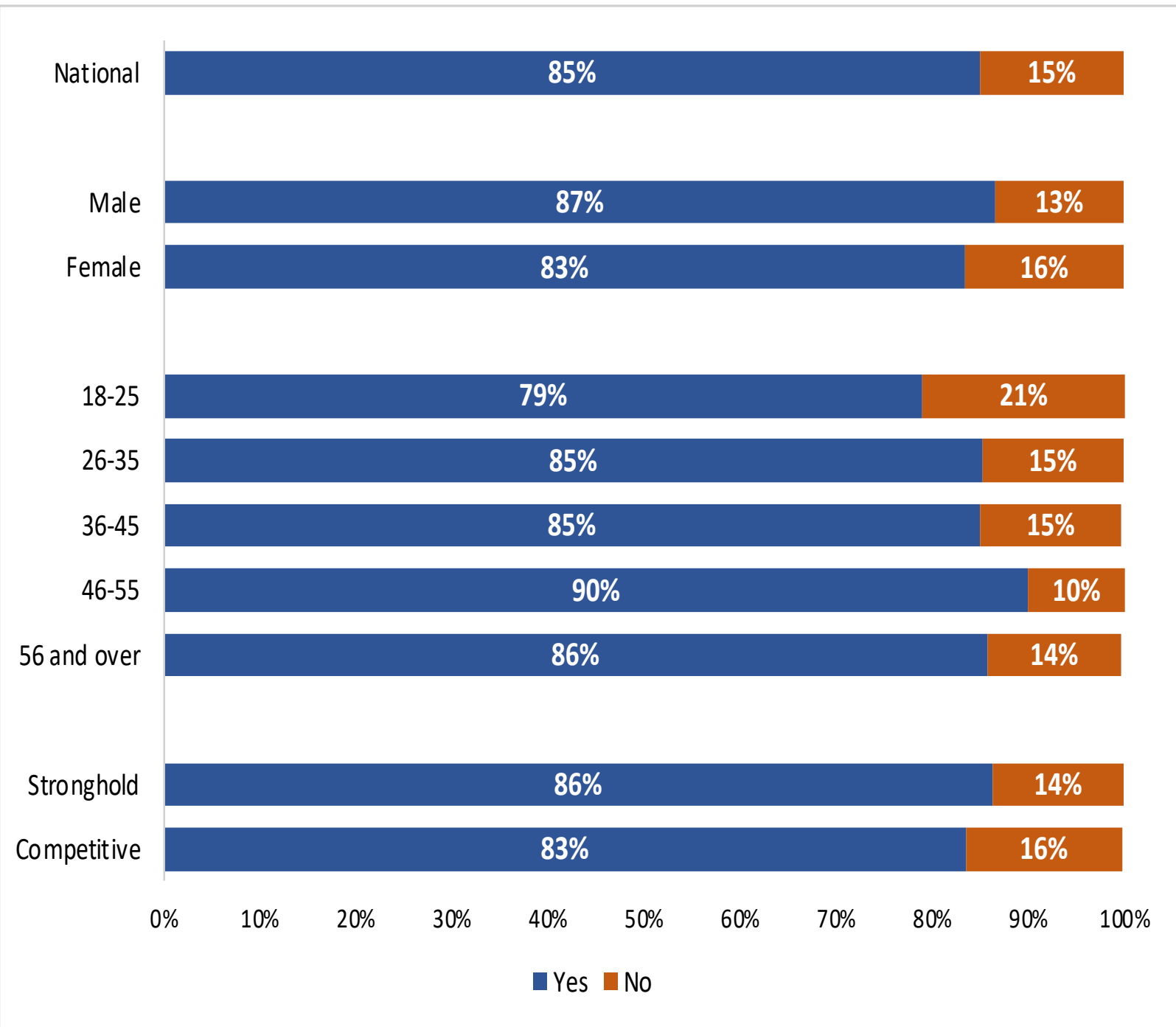Institute for Governance Reform[1]
www.igrsl.org

Current Electoral Map 2018-2023

Results:

READINESS FOR THE VOTING

| Percentage of respondents who said they registered to vote | 99% |

Have you made up your mind on whom to vote for president?

Category	Yes	No
National	85%	15%
Male	87%	13%
Female	83%	16%
18-25	79%	21%
26-35	85%	15%
36-45	85%	15%
46-55	90%	10%
56 and over	86%	14%
Stronghold	86%	14%
Competitive	83%	16%

■ Yes ■ No

Support for political parties and policy-based voting

Do you support any political party?
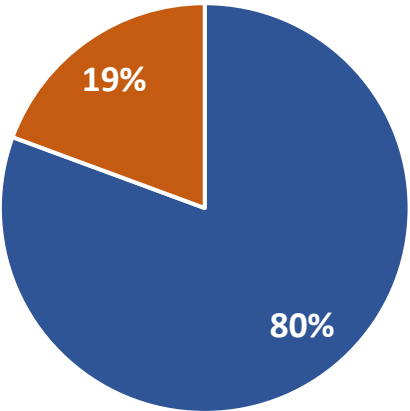
- Yes
- No
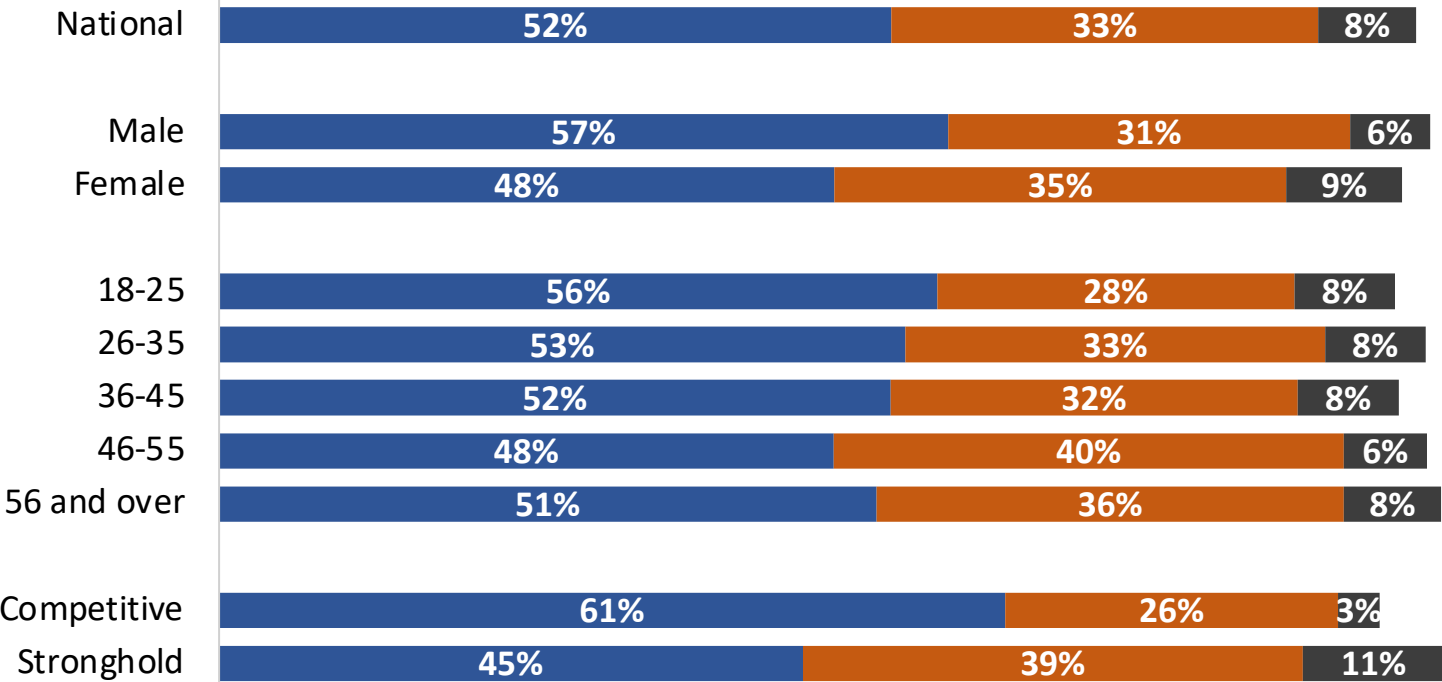
19%
80%

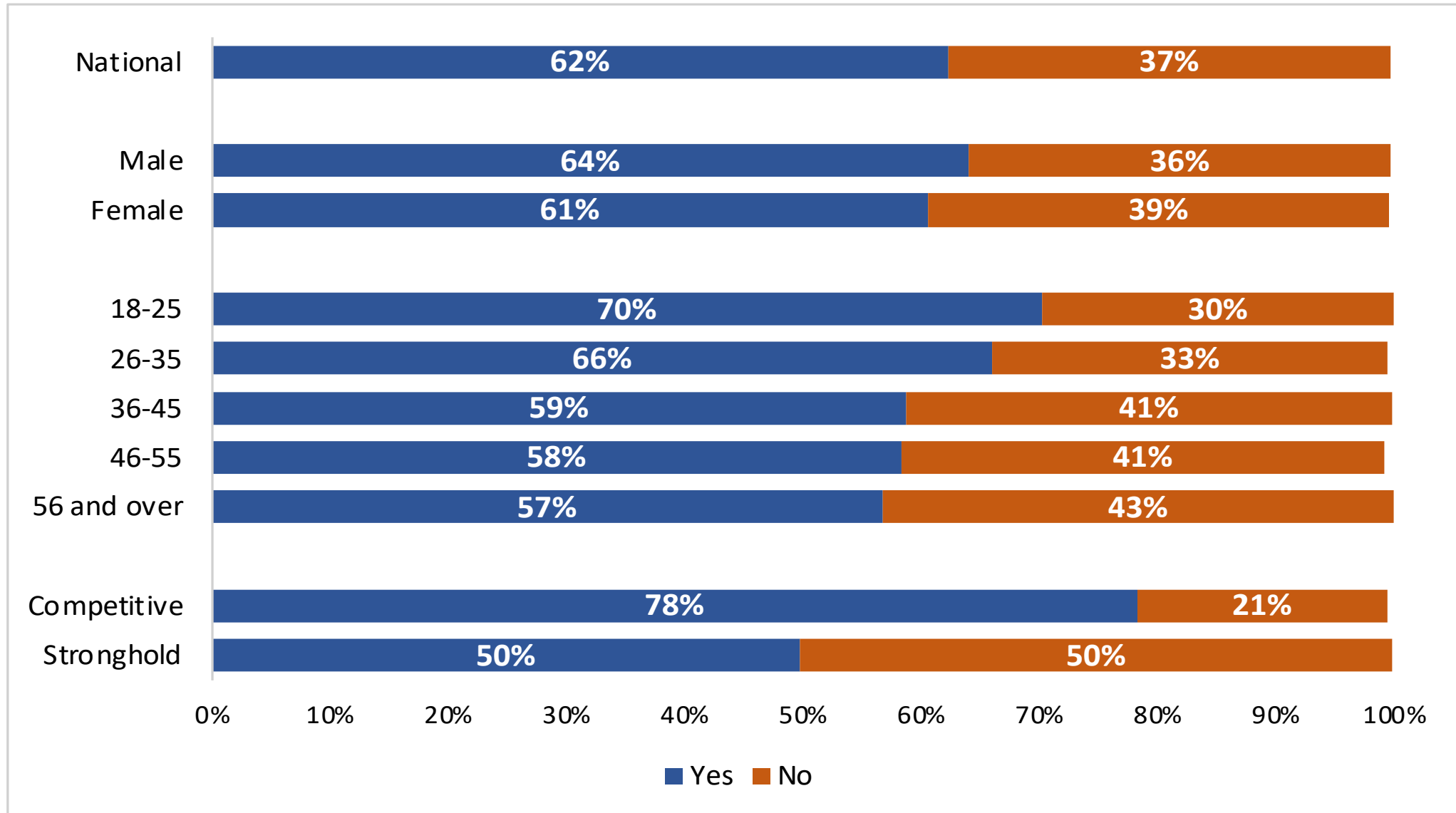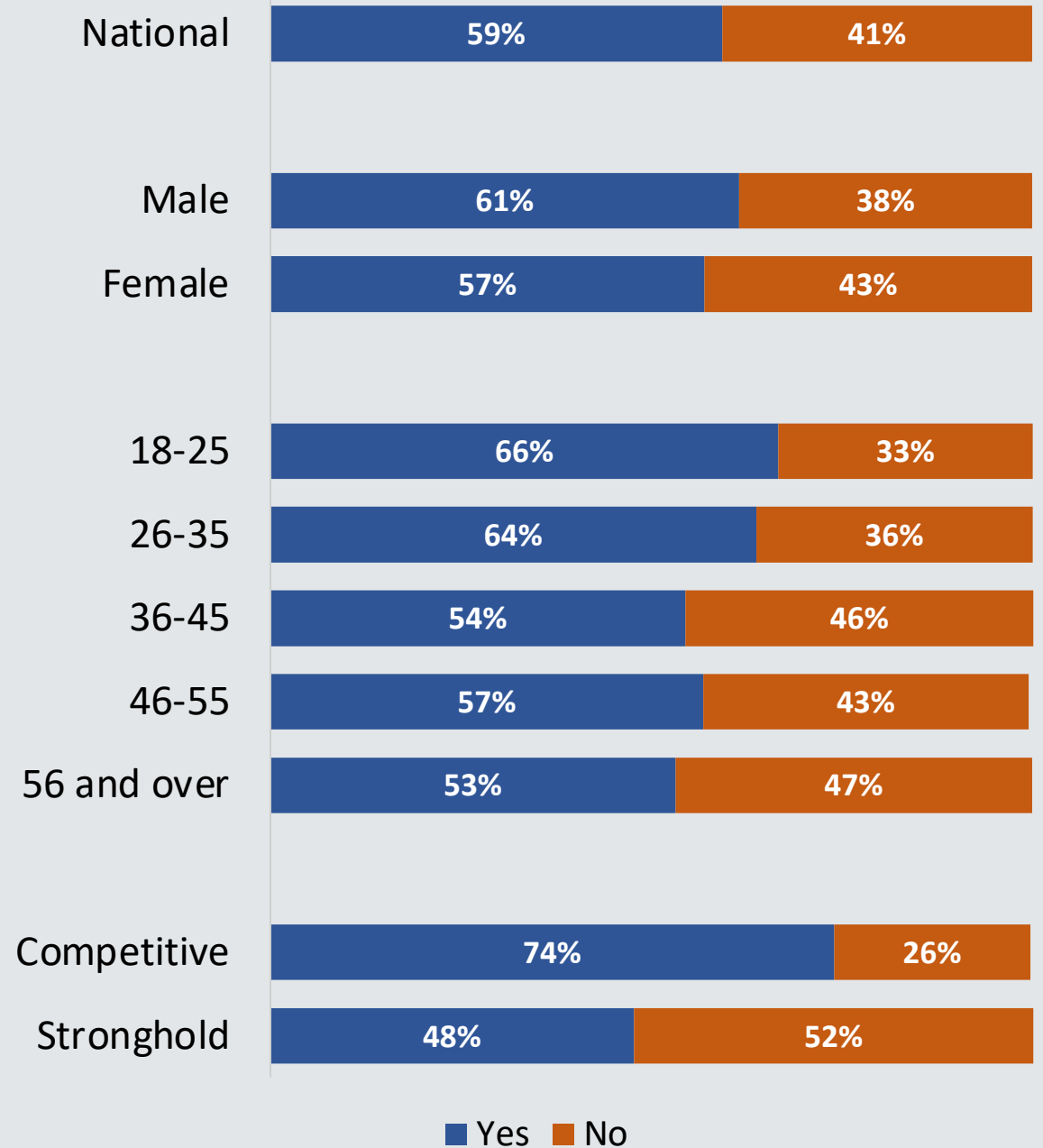|	The candidate's policy	Candidate is from the political party I support	Ethnicity and region of the candidate
National	52%	33%	8%
Male	57%	31%	6%
Female	48%	35%	9%
18-25	56%	28%	8%
26-35	53%	33%	8%
36-45	52%	32%	8%
46-55	48%	40%	6%
56 and over	51%	36%	8%
Competitive	61%	26%	3%
Stronghold	45%	39%	11%

- The candidate's policy
- Candidate is from the political party I support
- Ethnicity and region of the candidate

Will you vote for a presidential candidate that majority of people from your ethnic group do not support?

	Yes	No
National	62%	37%
Male	64%	36%
Female	61%	39%
18-25	70%	30%
26-35	66%	33%
36-45	59%	41%
46-55	58%	41%
56 and over	57%	43%
Competitive	78%	21%
Stronghold	50%	50%

Will you vote for the same political party party you voted in 2018?

	Yes	No	Don't know / Refuse to answer
National	63%	20%	17%
Male	63%	21%	16%
Female	62%	19%	18%
18-25	44%	31%	25%
26-35	63%	19%	18%
36-45	62%	21%	17%
46-55	75%	14%	11%
56 and over	72%	15%	13%
Stronghold	71%	12%	17%
Competitive	52%	31%	17%
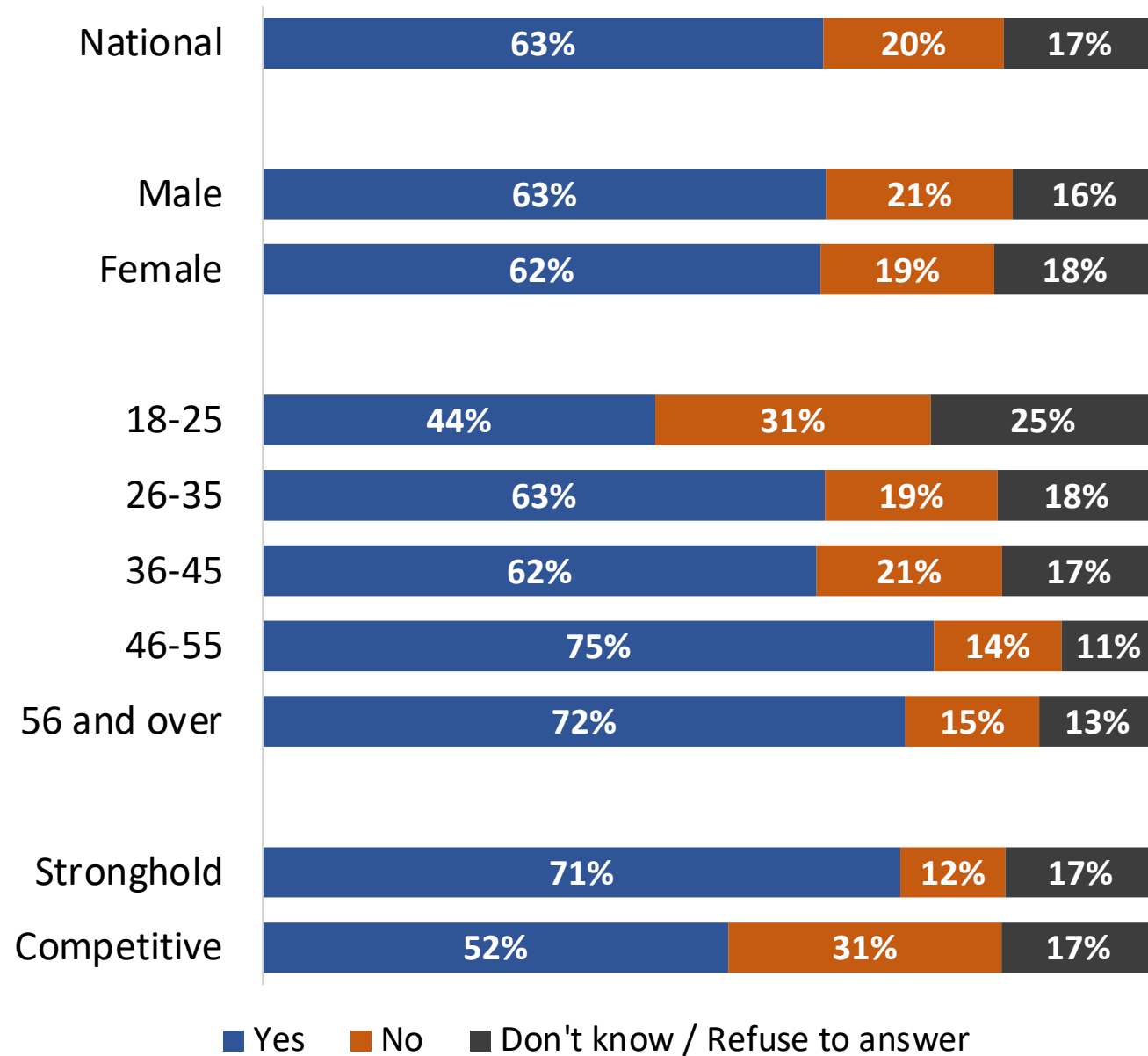
SIERRA LEONE: Citizens policy priorities

Election 2023:
Top Ten Priorities of Sierra Leone Voters

FARMING/FOOD — 9.0%
HEALTHCARE — 11.0%
KEEP PRICES DOWN — 19.7%
WATER — 20%
ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE — 24.9%

JOBS — 1.3%
GOVERNANCE/SECURITY — 1.6%
TRANSPORTATION — 1.9%
Electricity — 4.9%
Education / Learning — 5.4%
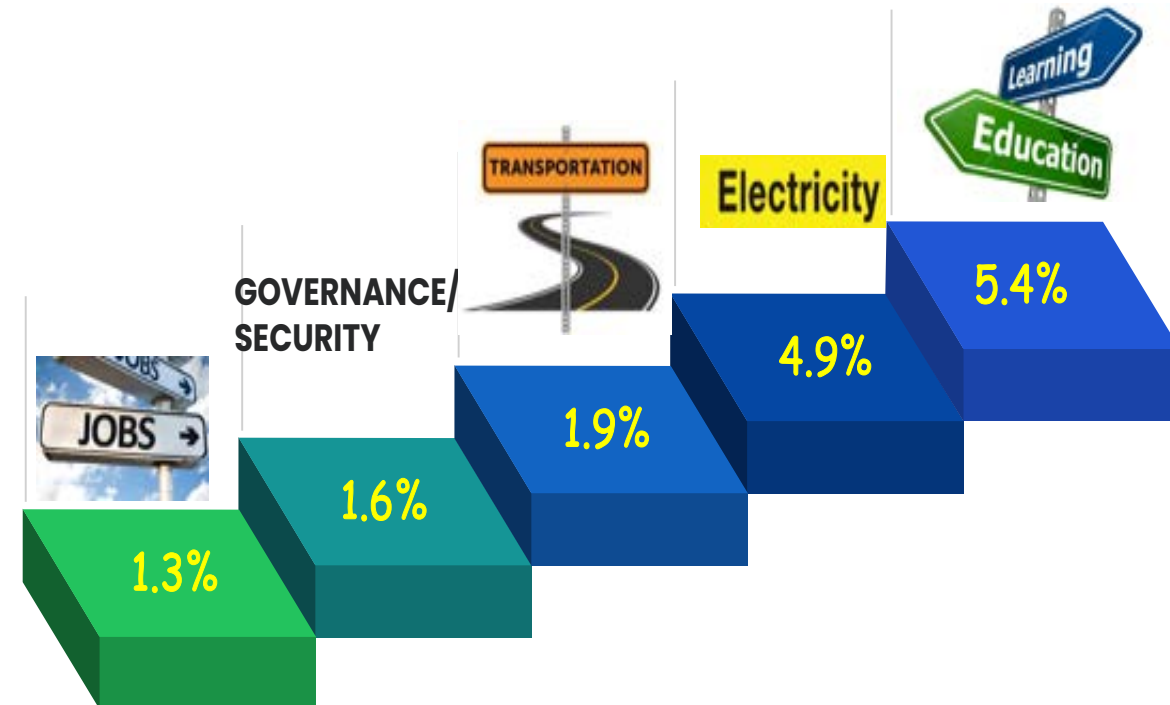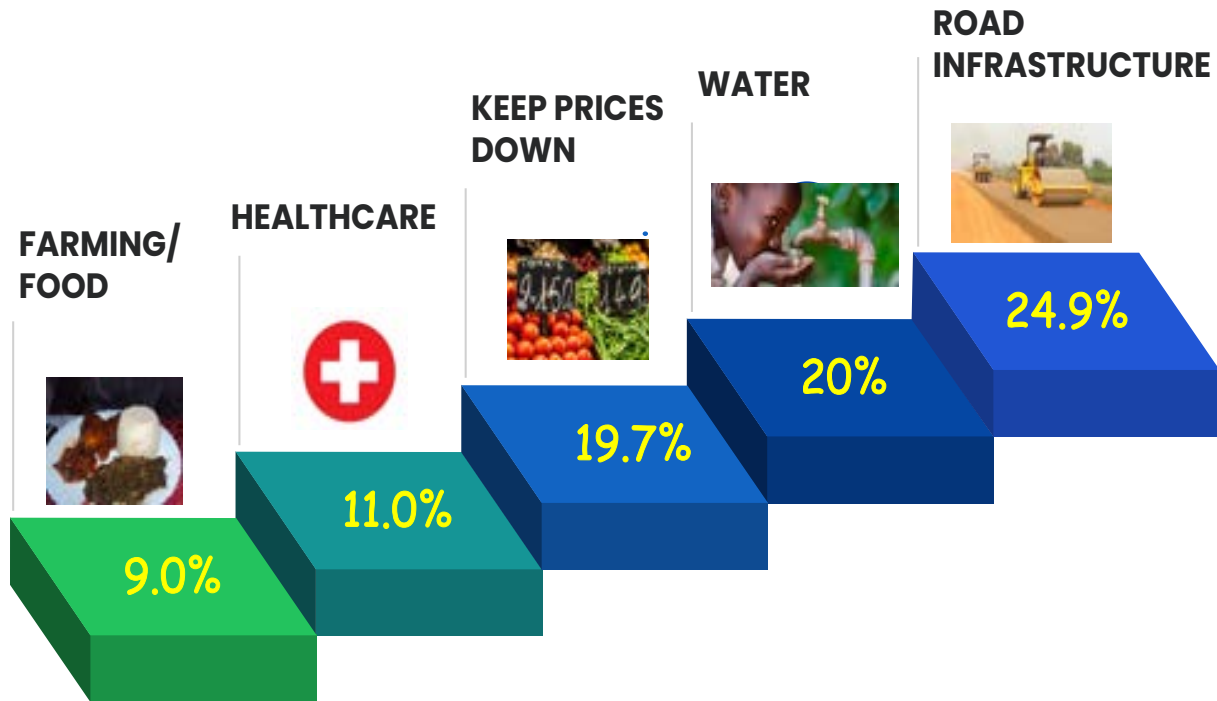
Top Two Policy Priorities of Voters by District

1. **Bo**
- Prices 32%
- Water 12%

2. **Bombali**
- Prices 30%
- Roads. 22%

3. **Bonthe**
- Health 34%
- Farming/food 17%

4. **Falaba**
- Roads 81%
- Water 6%.

5. **Kailahun**
- Price 38%
- Roads 19%.

6. **Kambia**
- Health 26%
- Water 21%.

7. **Karene**
- Prices 26%
- Education 22%

8. **Kenema**
- Roads 54%
- Health 13%

9. **Koinadugu**
- Health 28%
- Prices 22%

Kono
10.
- Roads 39%
- Water 17%

Moyamba
11.
- Prices 54%
- Roads 30%

Port Loko
12.
- Roads 28%
- Health 20%.

Pujehun
13.
- Farming/food 31%
- Prices 18%

Tonkolili
14.
- Farming/food 45%
- Prices 19%.

Western Rural
15.
- Electricity 29%
- Water 28% .

Western Urban
16.
- Water 52%
- Roads 16%

Citizen's policy priorities Cont.

Demand for and commitment to reforms

1. In the 1st yr. introduce traffic light and reduce police on the street

2. Make payment for traffic offences via electronic money

3. MPs and presidential aspirants to publish assets on or before nomination

4. Political parties to commit to achieving 50% employment for youth

5. The next government to evenly distribute appointments to regions. Not below 15% and above 30% per region

6. Pay executives of parliamentary parties from the consolidated fund

1. Commit to not throwing rubbish on the street and support enforcement of public sanitation laws.

2. Commit to stopping to build houses in unauthorized locations and setting fire on bushes

3. Stop putting undue pressure on judges, police magistrates, EMBs and allow the law to take its course

4. Stop paying bribes to public officials like police, teachers, health workers and tax officials

5. Stop begging MPs and politicians for money and personal gifts

6. Will never use social media to incite ethnic tension and hate

Are you afraid there will be violence in the election

NATIONAL

20%

77%

- Yes
- No

District	Yes	No
KONO	35%	62%
BOMBALI	35%	54%
KAILAHUN	30%	68%
KAMBIA	23%	73%
WESTERN RURAL	22%	74%
WESTERN URBAN	22%	77%
PUJEHUN	21%	79%
BO	18%	79%
MOYAMBA	18%	82%
TONKOLILI	18%	82%
KENEMA	17%	83%
BONTHE	14%	81%
KARENE	10%	90%
FALABA	8%	67%
PORT LOKO	6%	94%
KOINADUGU	3%	78%

- Yes
- No
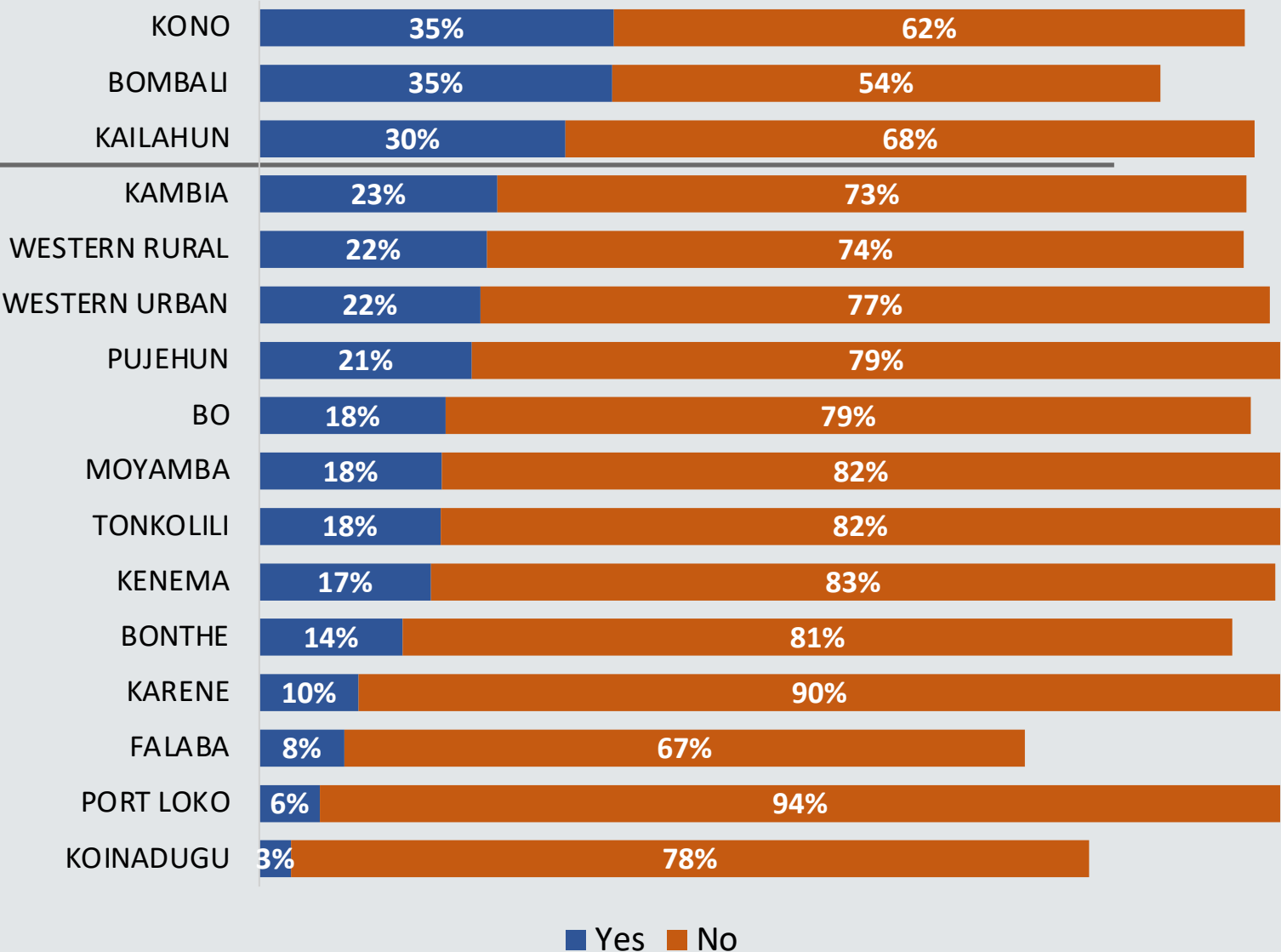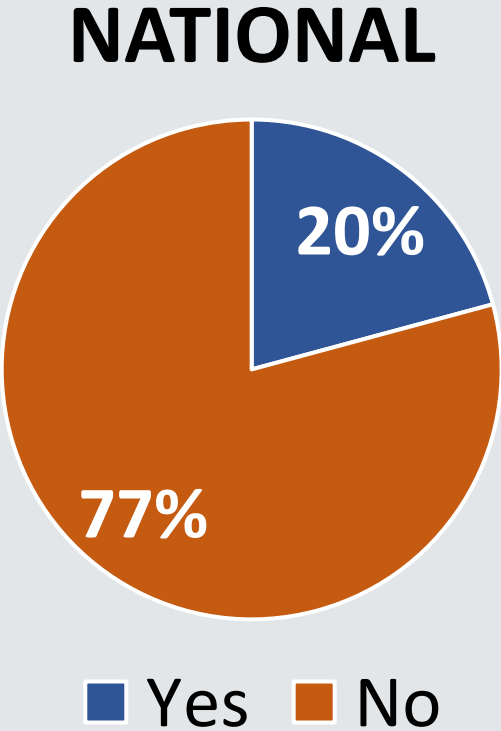
What do you think is the major cause of political violence during election time?

Category	Percentage
Intimidation or verbal attacks on opponents.	52%
Preventing opponents from campaigning in their communities.	7%
Ethnic tensions.	5%
Political party leaders preaching hate messages	4%
Election malpractice	4%
Disagreement	4%
Preventing others from registering to vote.	3%
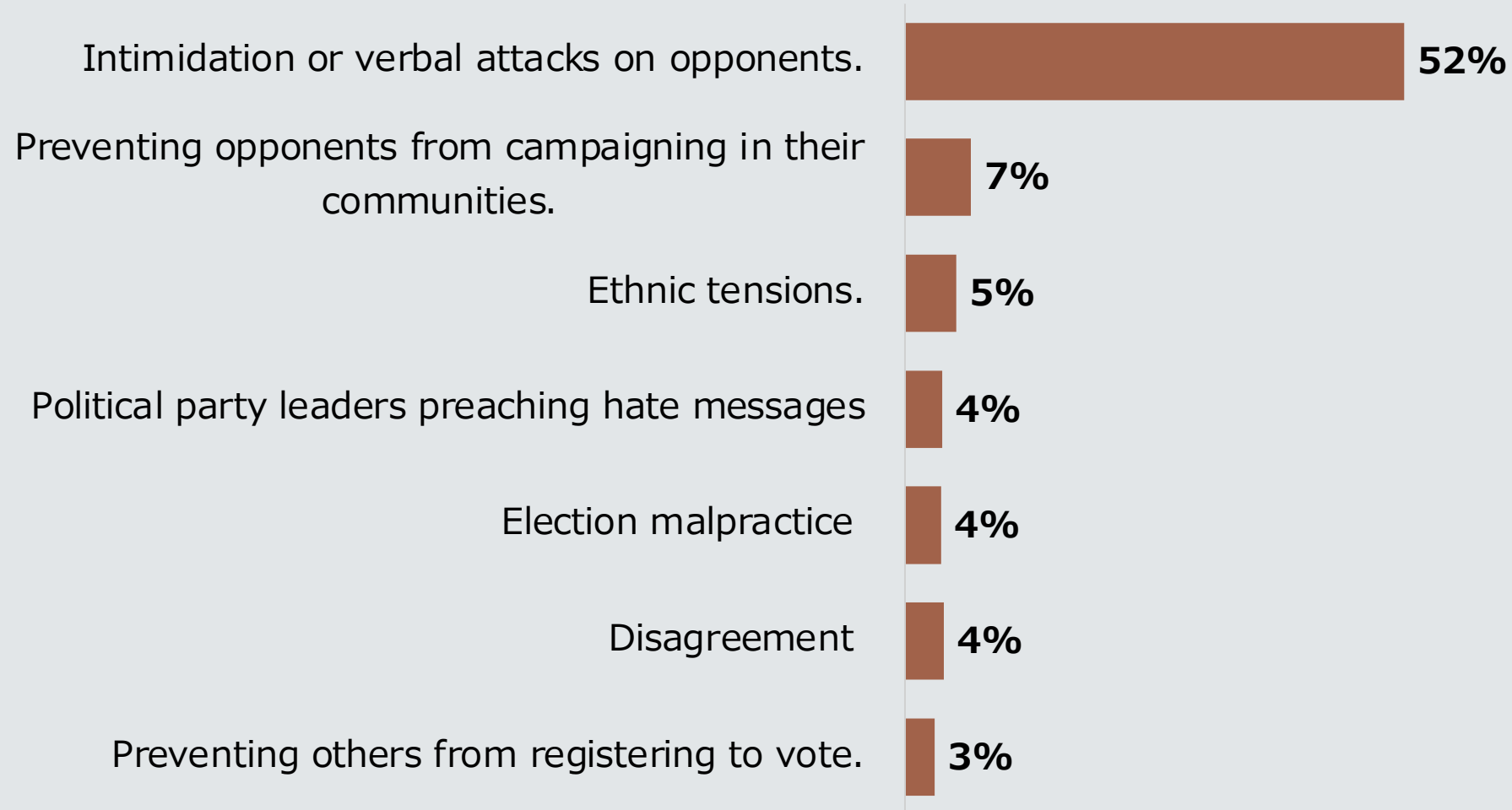
Do you think the police will provide a secure environment in which all Sierra Leoneans are safe to vote?

National	72%
Male	75%
Female	70%
18-25	76%
56 and over	73%
26-35	72%
36-45	71%
46-55	71%
BONTHE	97%
KENEMA	95%
KARENE	93%
KAILAHUN	92%
TONKOLILI	89%
PORT LOKO	86%
PUJEHUN	85%
KONO	75%
MOYAMBA	74%
BO	70%
WESTERN RURAL	66%
KAMBIA	64%
WESTERN URBAN	58%
KOINADUGU	52%
BOMBALI	48%
FALABA	40%
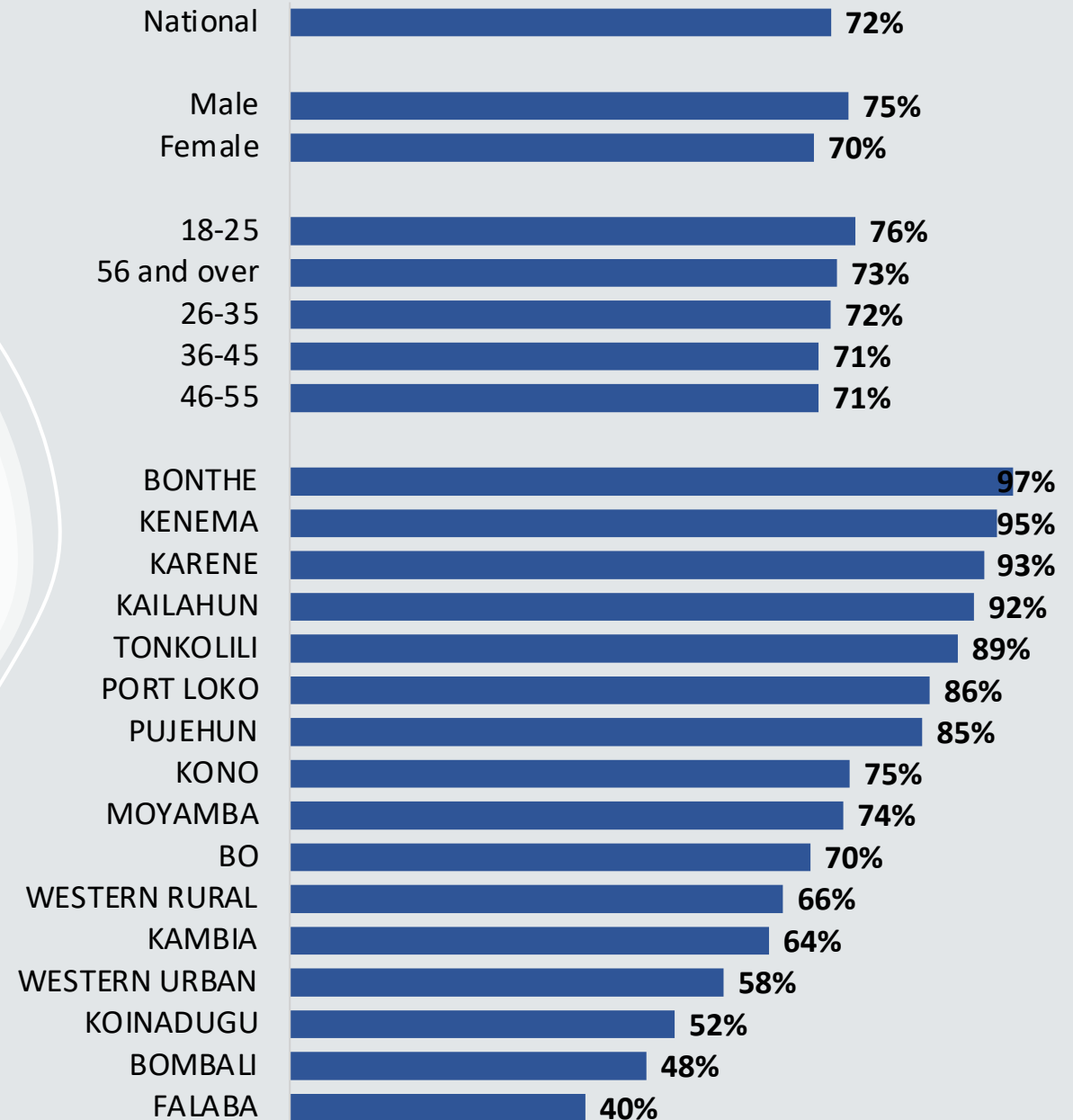
Knowledge and attitudes towards the electoral laws and the electoral system

Do you know how parties will select the MP candidates under PR?

	Yes	No
National	15%	79%
Male	19%	76%
Female	11%	82%
56 and over	19%	73%
46-55	17%	77%
36-45	16%	78%
26-35	14%	79%
18-25	8%	87%
WESTERN RURAL	27%	70%
BOMBALI	26%	74%
WESTERN URBAN	20%	76%
KAILAHUN	18%	58%
KENEMA	15%	84%
FALABA	15%	85%
MOYAMBA	13%	87%
KARENE	13%	88%
BONTHE	13%	86%
TONKOLILI	10%	89%
KONO	9%	89%
BO	9%	64%
PUJEHUN	7%	93%
KAMBIA	5%	95%
PORT LOKO	5%	95%
KOINADUGU	3%	50%

	Yes	No
Have you heard that at least 1 in 3 of seats in your district should be given to women?	39%	56%
That government has decided that the next elections will be held under the PR system?	32%	61%
Do you know how parties will select the MP candidates under PR?	15%	79%

■ Yes ■ No

Where do you get your most reliable information about the election?

Source	Percentage
Radio	56%
My friends and family	17%
Social media (WhatsApp/Facebook)	12%
Political party leader	6%
Chief/religious leader	5%
Other	4%
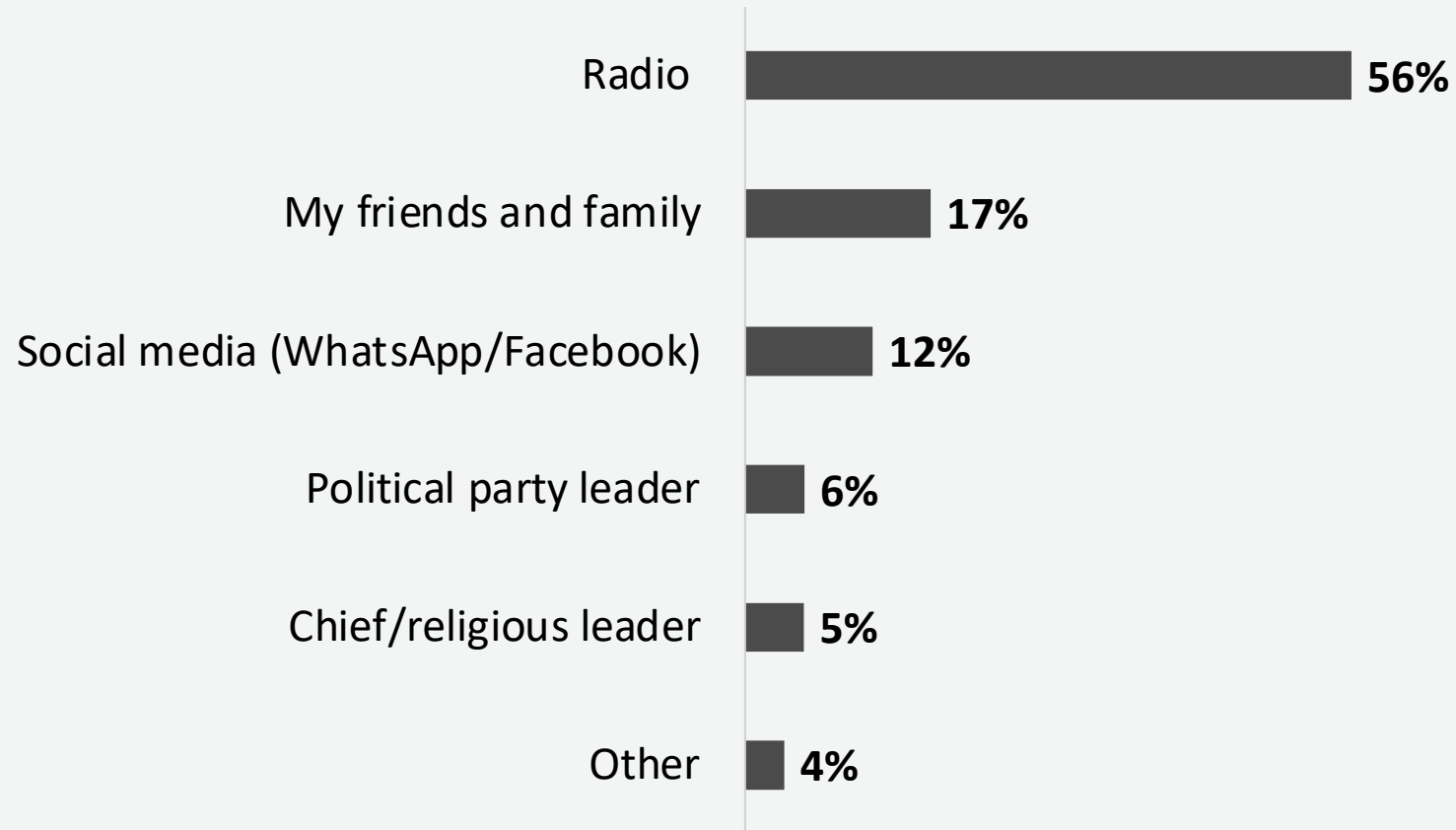
EMBs: Do you trust EC to conduct the 2023 elections fairly?

Category	Yes	No
National	74%	20%
Male	74%	22%
Female	75%	19%
26-35	76%	21%
18-25	74%	20%
36-45	74%	22%
46-55	73%	20%
56 and over	73%	18%
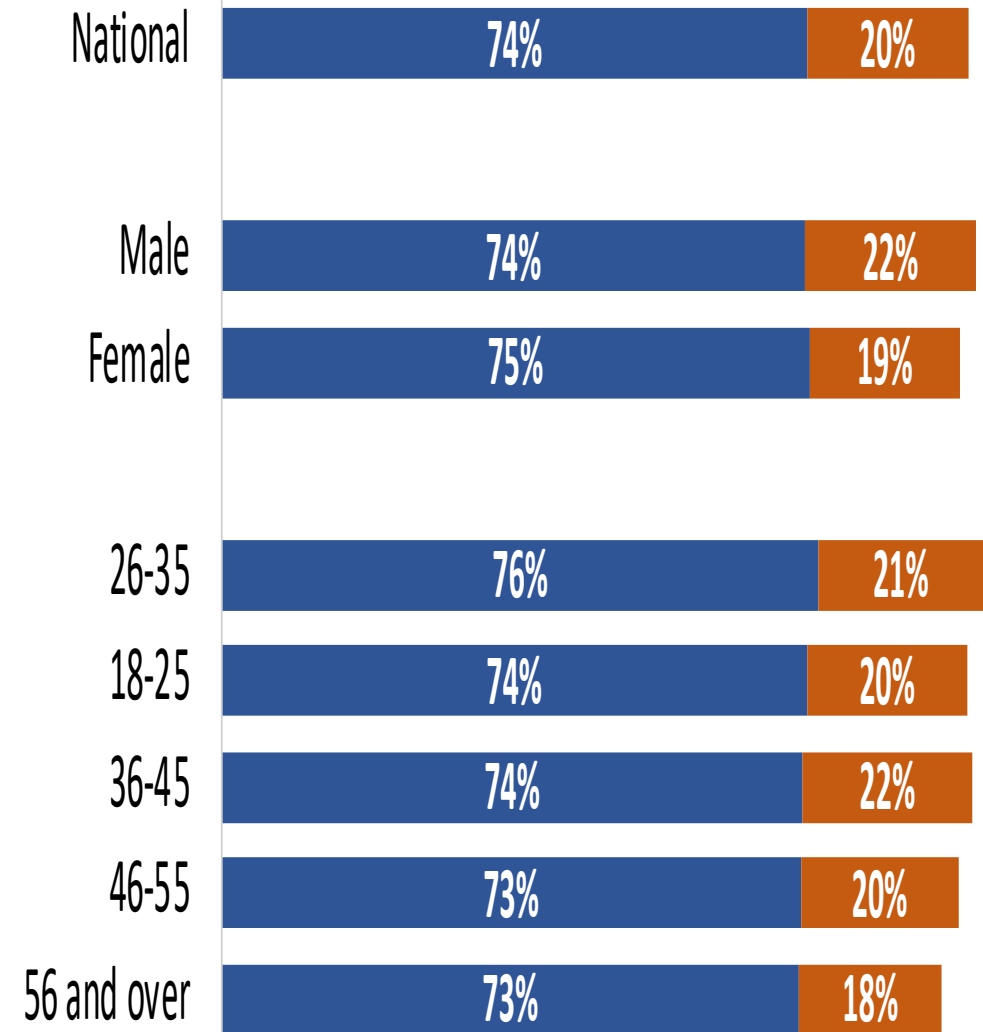
If you have election related dispute in this community, do you think the following will decide the case fairly? (% of respondents who said yes)

60%	61%	64%	67%	70%
Police	PPRC	Elections court	Local court	Chief
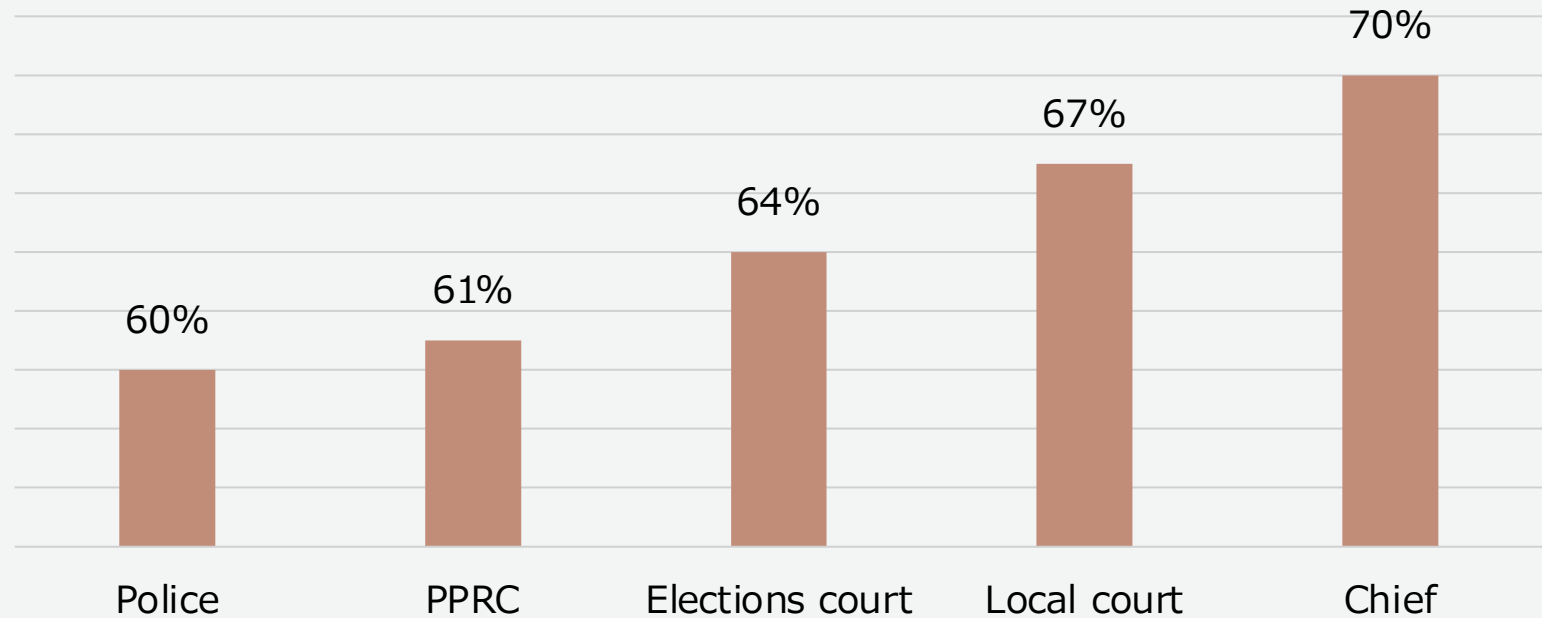
THANK YOU

WE HOPE YOU FIND THIS DATA USEFUL IN YOUR WORK TOWARDS FREE, FAIR, PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE ELECTIONS IN JUNE 2023.