

Views on trust in institutions, corruption and elections: Highlights from Afrobarometer Round 10 survey in Ghana

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First public dissemination event

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What is Afrobarometer

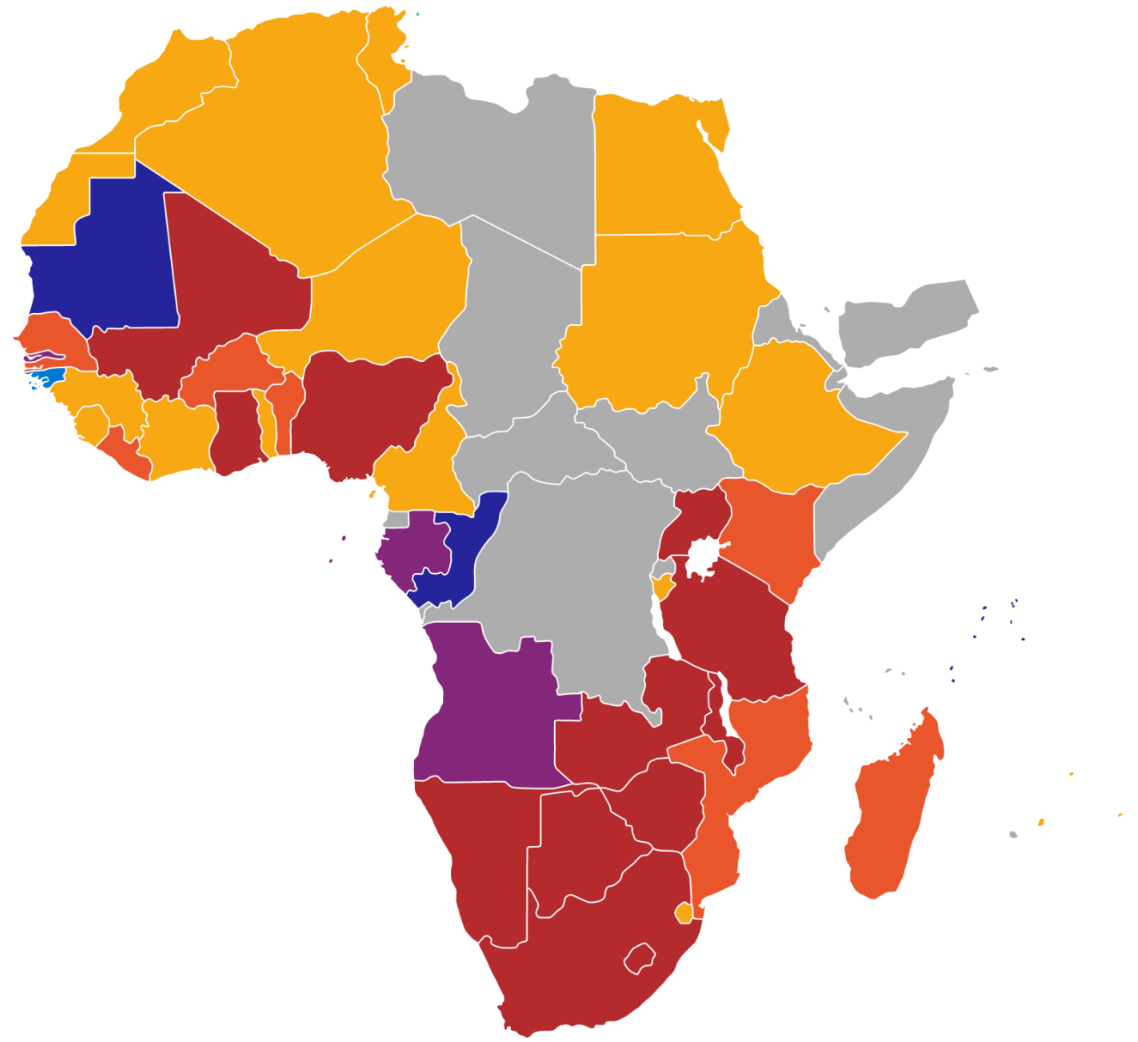
- Pan-African, non-partisan survey research network that provides reliable data on African experiences and evaluations of democracy, governance, and quality of life.
- **Goal:** To give African publics a voice in policy and decision making.
- Nine survey rounds in up to 42 countries have been completed since 1999.
- Round 10 surveys were launched in January 2024.



Where Afrobarometer works

First surveyed in

- 1999-2001
- 2002-2008
- 2011-2013
- 2014-2019
- 2021-2023
- To be surveyed in R10
- Never surveyed



Methodology

- Nationally representative sample of adult citizens (aged 18+)
- Face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice
- Standard questionnaire allows comparisons across countries and over time.
- Sample size of 2,400 yields country-level results with a margin of sampling error of +/-2 percentage points at 95% confidence level.
- Data collection for Round 10 started 5 August and ended 22 August 2024.

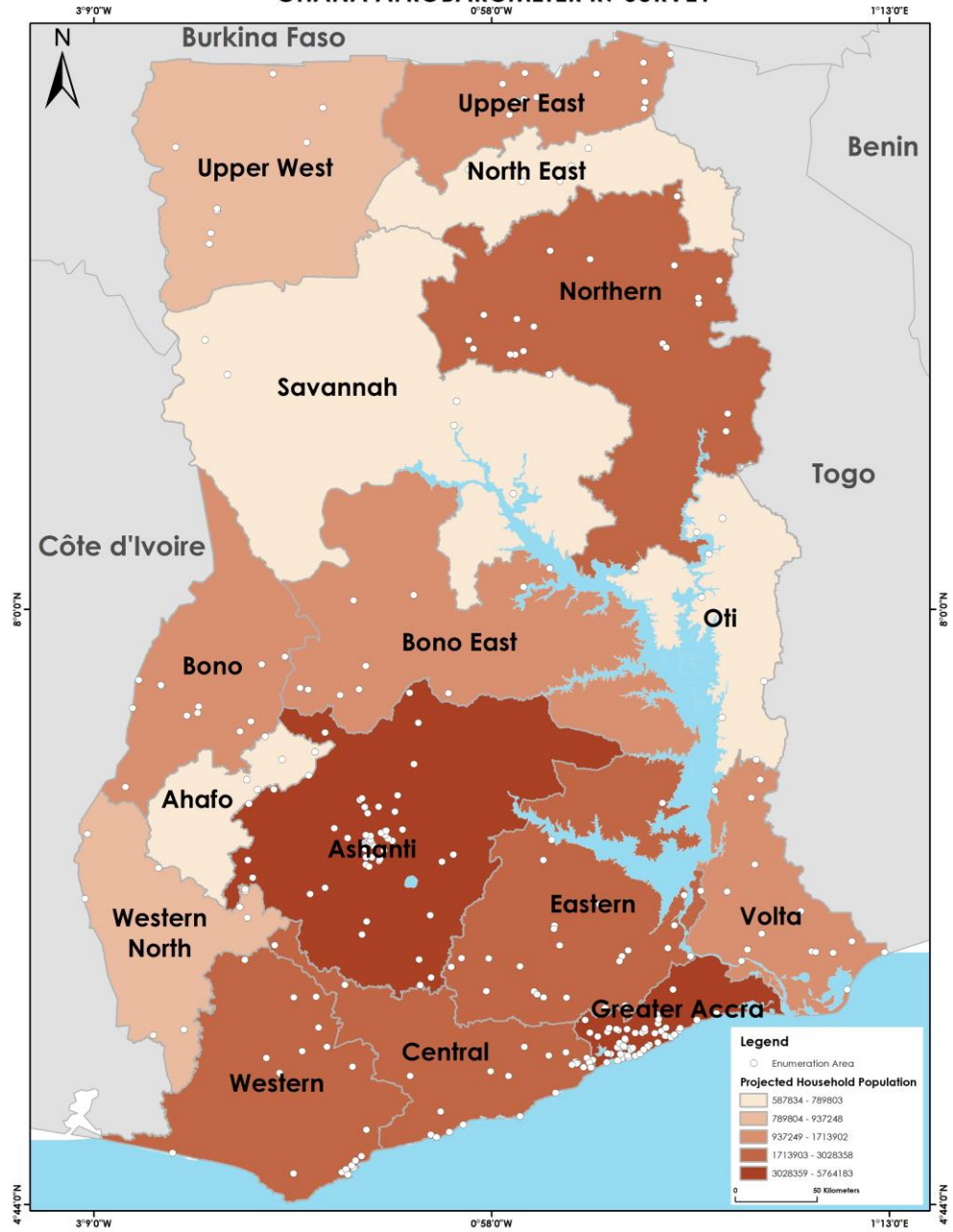


Survey demographics

| Residence | National (%) | Sample (%) |
|---------------|--------------|------------|
| Western | 6.8 | 6.8 |
| Western North | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Central | 9.2 | 9.2 |
| Greater Accra | 19.6 | 19.6 |
| Volta | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| Oti | 2.2 | 2.2 |
| Eastern | 9.6 | 9.6 |
| Ashanti | 17.8 | 17.8 |
| Ahafo | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| Bono | 4.0 | 3.9 |
| Bono East | 3.7 | 3.7 |
| Northern | 6.5 | 6.5 |
| Savanna | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| North East | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| Upper East | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Upper West | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| | | |
| Urban | 61.4 | 61.4 |
| Rural | 38.5 | 38.6 |

Spread of sample

MAP SHOWING 2024 PROJECTED
HOUSEHOLD POPULATION AND SELECTED
ENUMERATION AREAS FOR
GHANA AFROBAROMETER R9 SURVEY



Survey demographics

| Gender | % |
|---------------------|-----|
| Men | 50 |
| Women | 50 |
| Education | |
| No formal education | 13 |
| Primary | 20 |
| Secondary | 47 |
| Post-secondary | 19 |
| Religion | |
| Christian | 75% |
| Muslim | 18% |
| Traditional/Ethnic | 3% |
| Other | 4% |

Issues dominating the news before and during fieldwork



Governance Issues



- The appointment of new Electoral Commission members sparked controversy, with civil society questioning their independence. The opposition parties raised similar concerns.
- Concerns were raised about the EC's preparations for voter registration, particularly issues surrounding using the Ghana Card as the sole identification document for registration.
- EC announced plans to update the voter roll, with the opposition NDC alleging that the EC was attempting to manipulate the voter register to favor the ruling NPP.
- Parliament moved forward with anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, leading to both local and international backlash.
- The two major political parties, NDC and NPP, launched their manifestos.
- Campaign activities picked up momentum, with political parties and independent candidates organizing rallies across key regions.

Economic Issues



- The IMF Executive Board approved Ghana's second tranche of US\$600m for disbursement.
- Rising inflation and the depreciation of the cedi resulted in higher fuel and food prices, prompting public outcry.
- The Moody's credit rating upgrade provided hope for economic recovery.
- Youth unemployment remained a pressing issue, with the Government launching initiatives aimed at reducing unemployment.

Corruption Issues



- . High-profile corruption cases came to light, sparking national outrage.
- . The Auditor-General's annual report exposed widespread financial mismanagement across various government institutions.
- . Allegations of political interference in the Office of the Special Prosecutor surfaced.
- . Civil society organizations criticized the government for undermining the independence of the Special Prosecutor.

Infrastructure & Service Delivery Issues



- Significant road construction projects began, but poor road conditions in some regions drew public criticism.
- Power outages persisted, leading to public outcry. The government attributed the power cuts to technical faults, while the opposition accused the government of dishonesty about the situation.
- Public frustration over the power outages led to protests and social media campaigns calling for an end to the frequent outages.
- Several urban areas, particularly in Accra and Kumasi, experienced intermittent water supply.
- Healthcare challenges persisted, with shortages of essential drugs hitting hospitals, issues relating to the closure of the Korle Bu dialysis center, and the upward revision of the cost of dialysis.
- New COVID-19 infections were reported, prompting health authorities to urge the public to get vaccinated.

Key findings



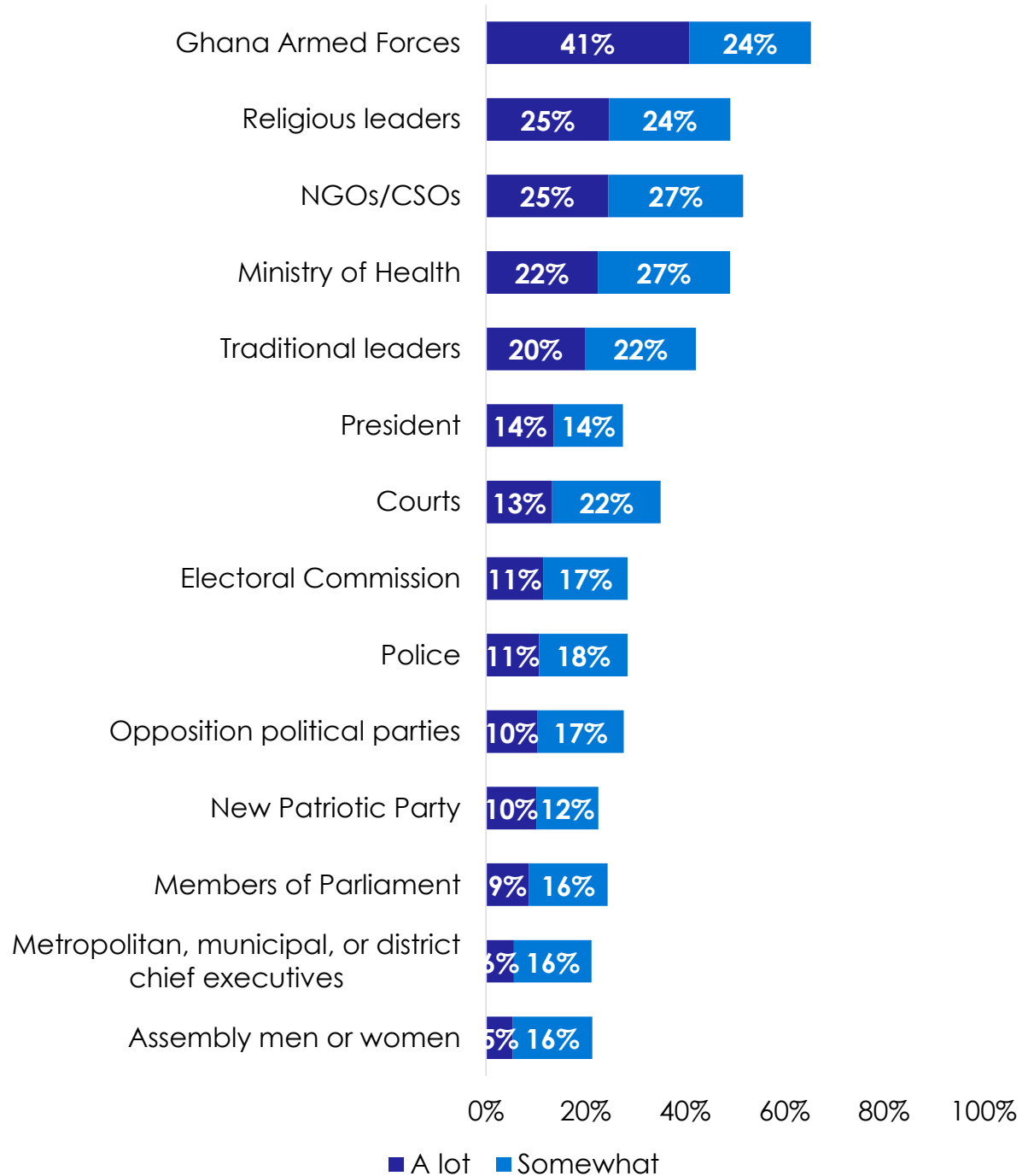
Trust in institutions



Trust in institutions

| Ghana
| 2024

Respondents were asked: How much do you trust each of the following, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?



Trends: Trust in institutions | Ghana | 2012-2024

| | 2012 | 2014 | 2017 | 2019 | 2022 | 2024 | Change 2022-2024 (pct. points) | Change 2012-2024 (pct. points) |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Members of Parliament | 49% | 36% | 56% | 39% | 27% | 24% | -3 | -25 |
| Opposition political parties | 54% | 46% | 42% | 36% | 29% | 28% | -1 | -27 |
| Ruling party | 47% | 36% | 61% | 47% | 27% | 22% | -5 | -25 |
| President | 56% | 40% | 71% | 56% | 32% | 28% | -5 | -29 |
| Police | 42% | 35% | 40% | 37% | 28% | 28% | 0 | -14 |
| Courts | 56% | 42% | 57% | 47% | 36% | 35% | -1 | -22 |
| Electoral Commission | 59% | 37% | 54% | 53% | 33% | 28% | -4 | -30 |
| Ghana Armed Forces | 72% | 57% | 75% | 72% | 67% | 65% | -1 | -7 |

Perceived corruption



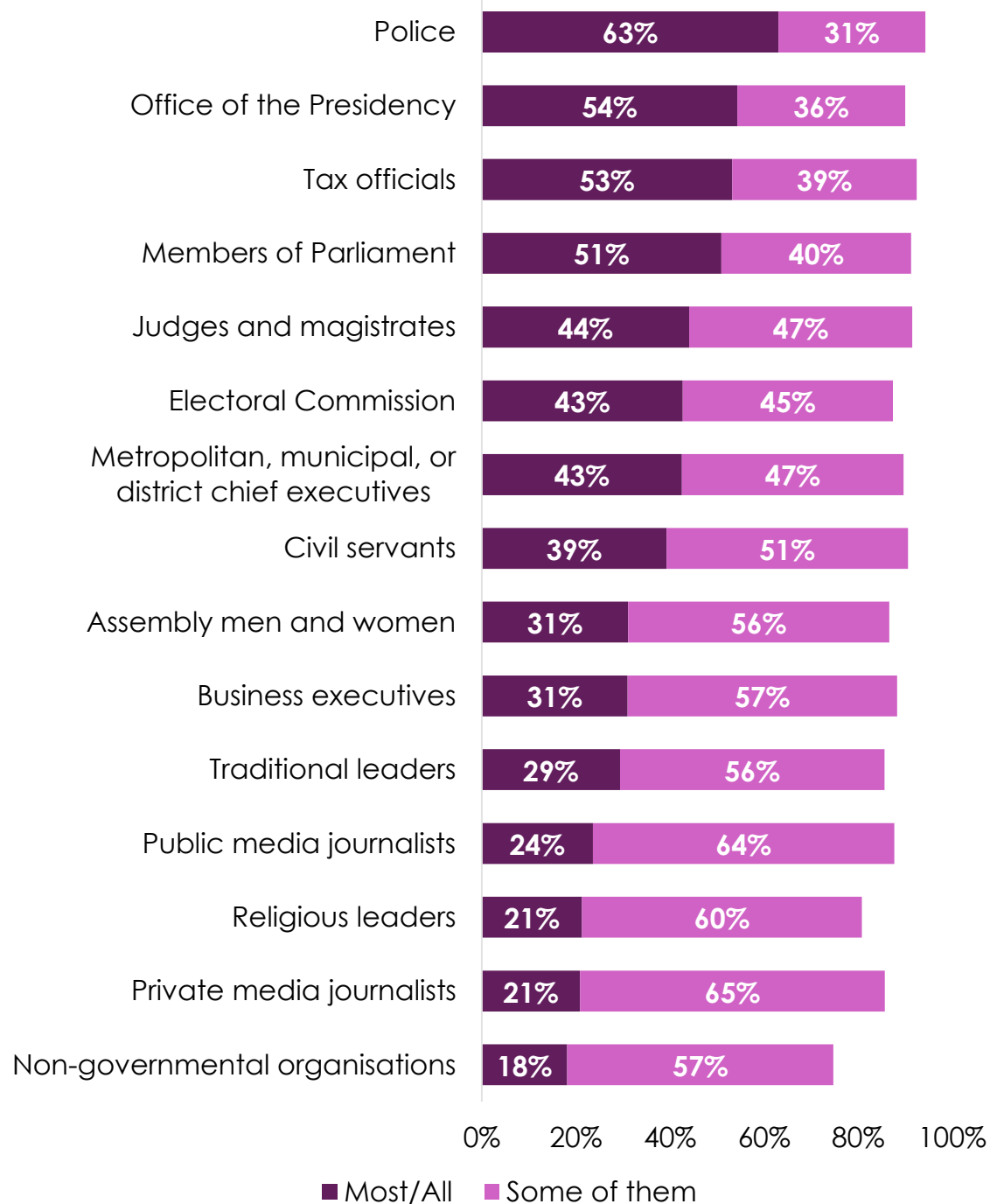
Who is corrupt

| Ghana

| 2024

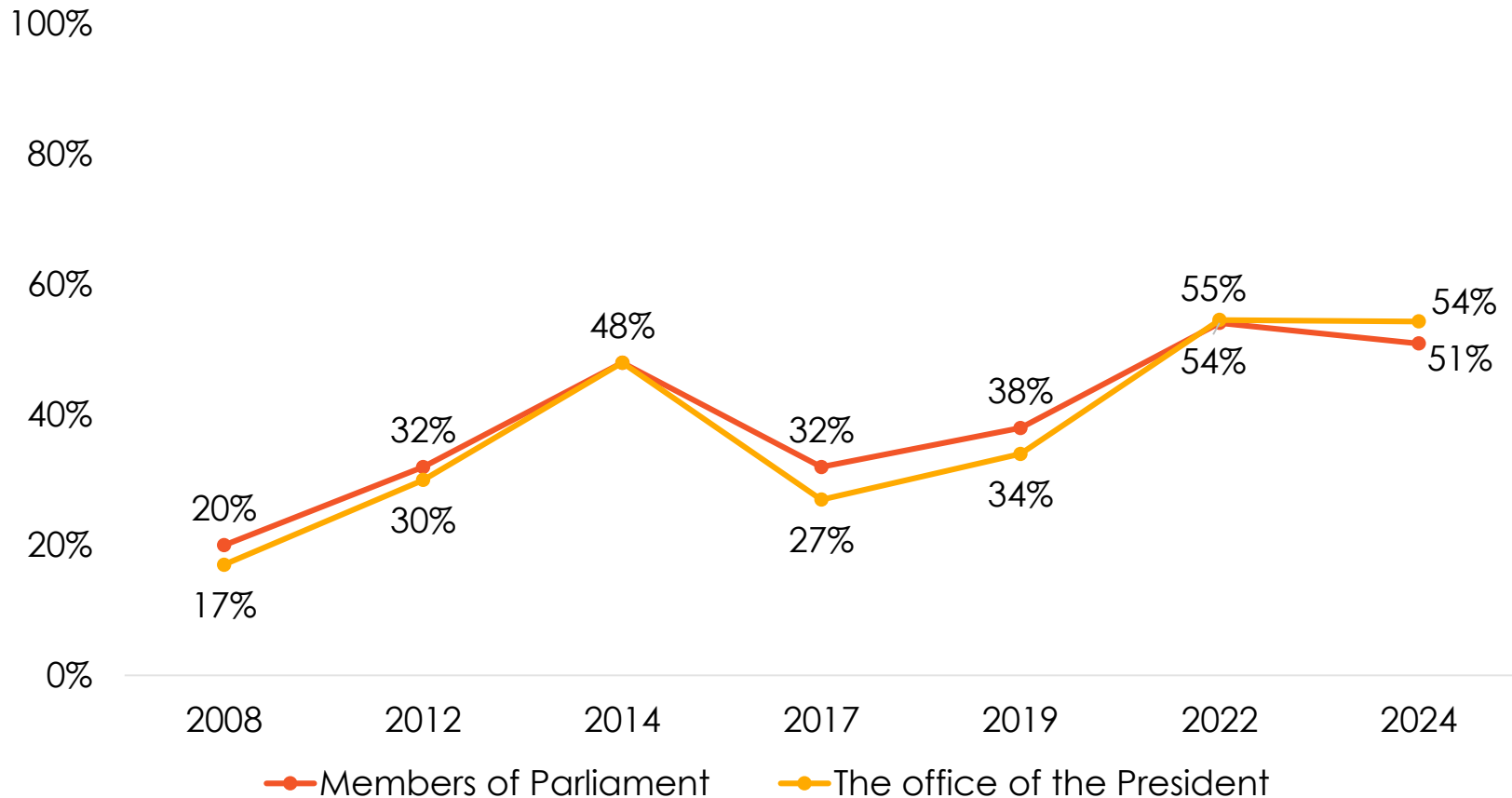
Respondents were asked:

How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?



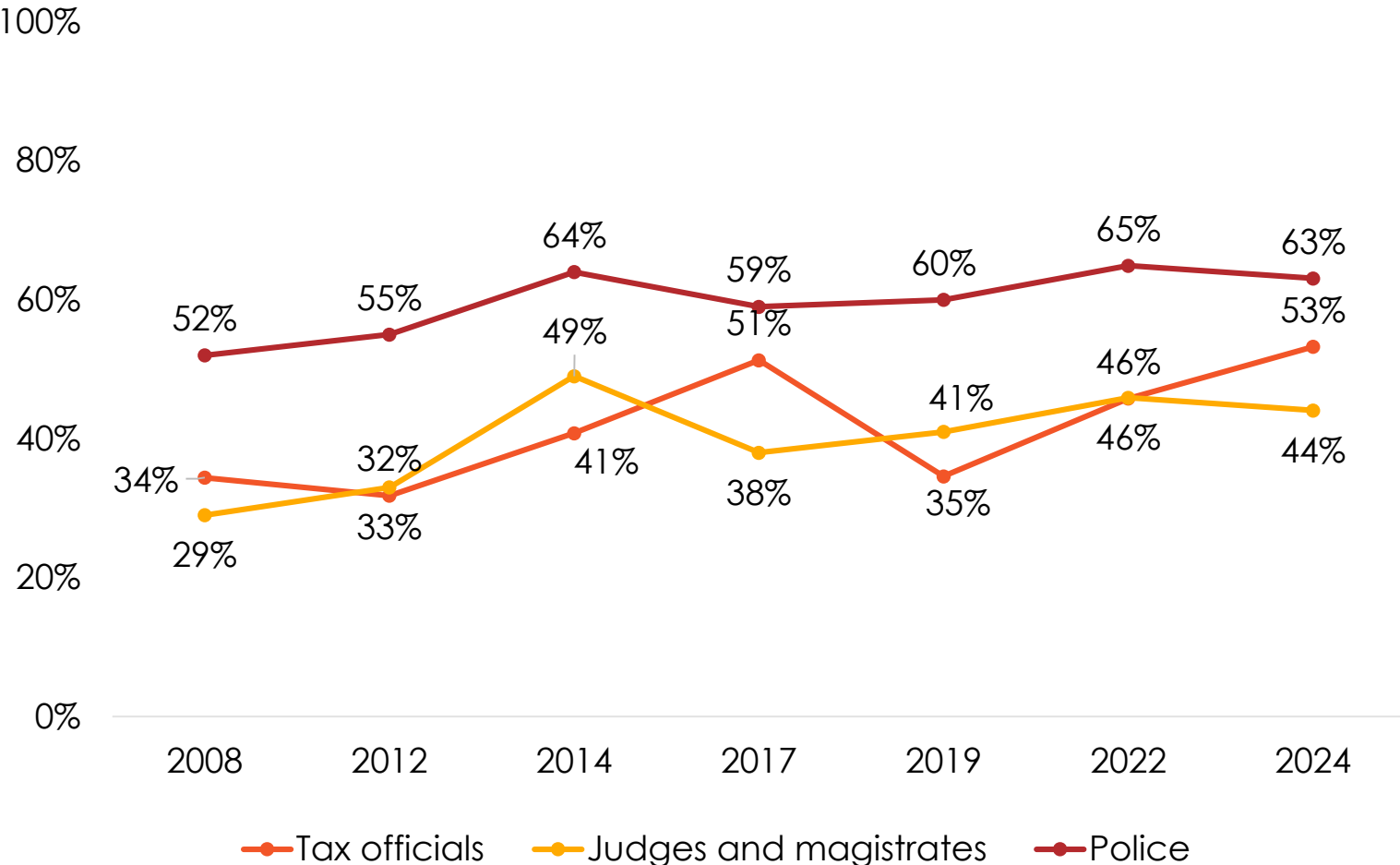
Corruption trends: Office of the President and MPs

| Ghana | 2008-2024



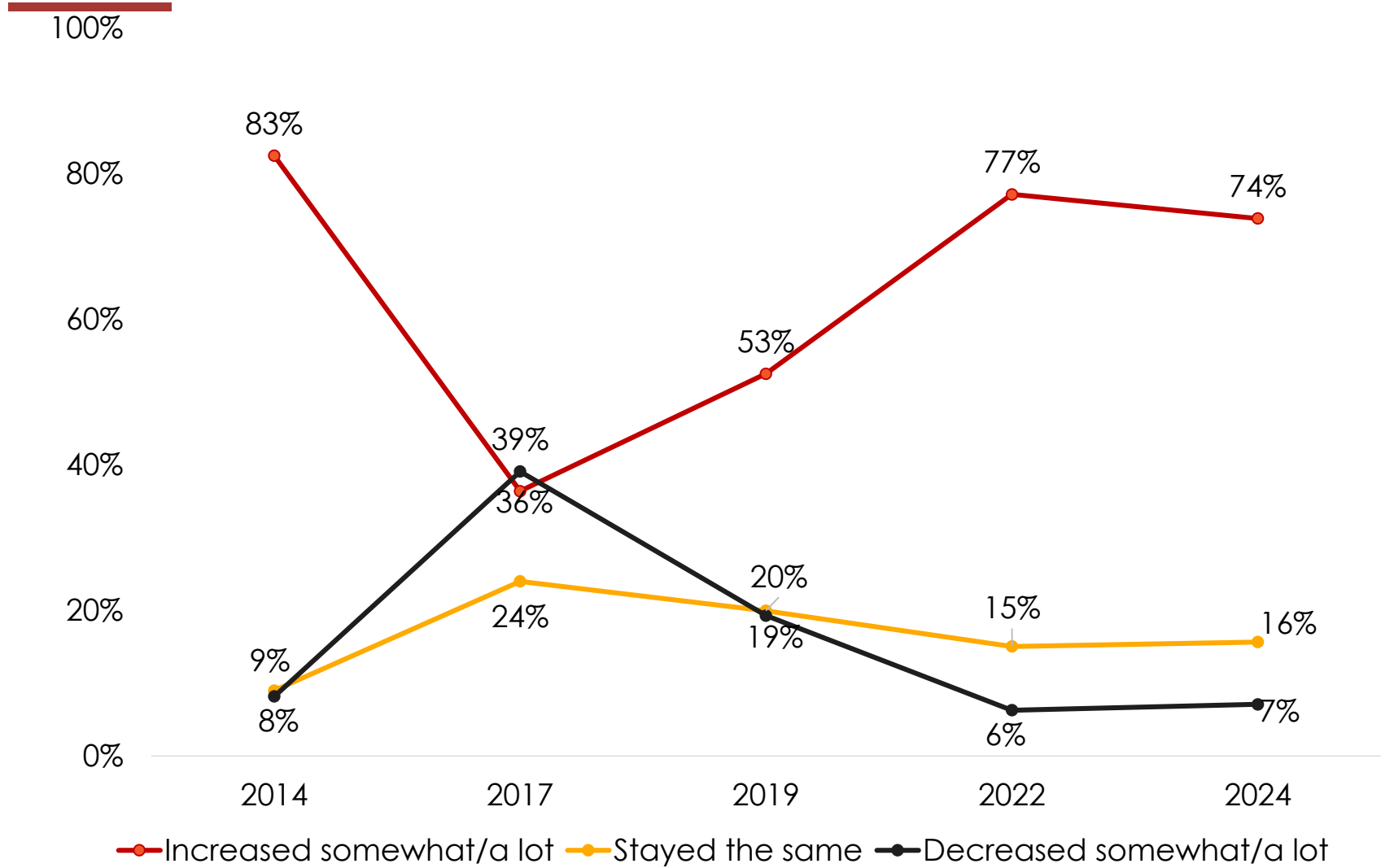
Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "most" or "all")

Perceived corruption among tax officials, police, and judges/magistrates | Ghana | 2008-2024



Respondents were asked: How many of the following people do you think are involved in corruption, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? (% who say "most" or "all")

Level of corruption | Ghana | 2014-2024

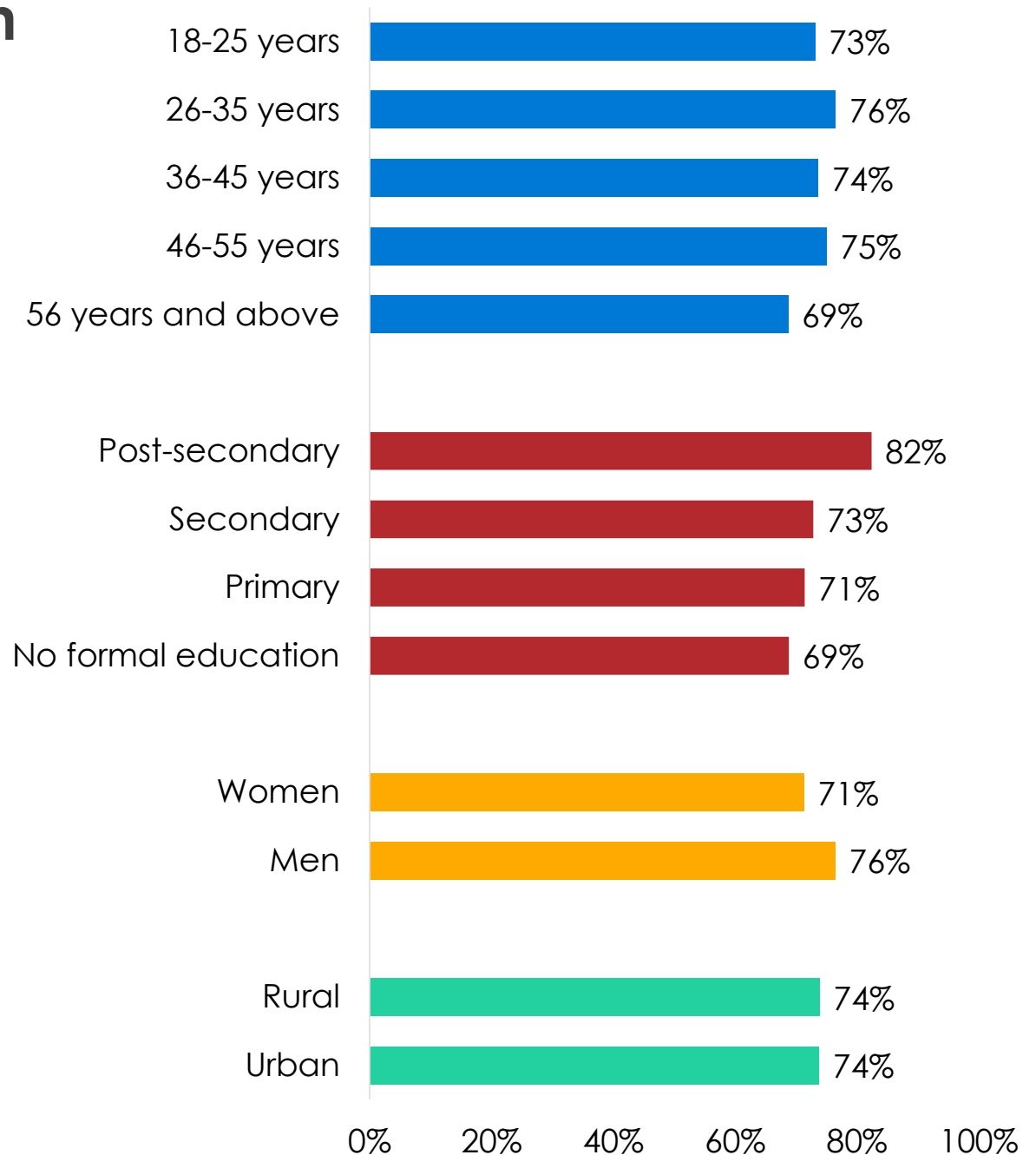


Respondents were asked: In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

Level of corruption increased | by demographic groups

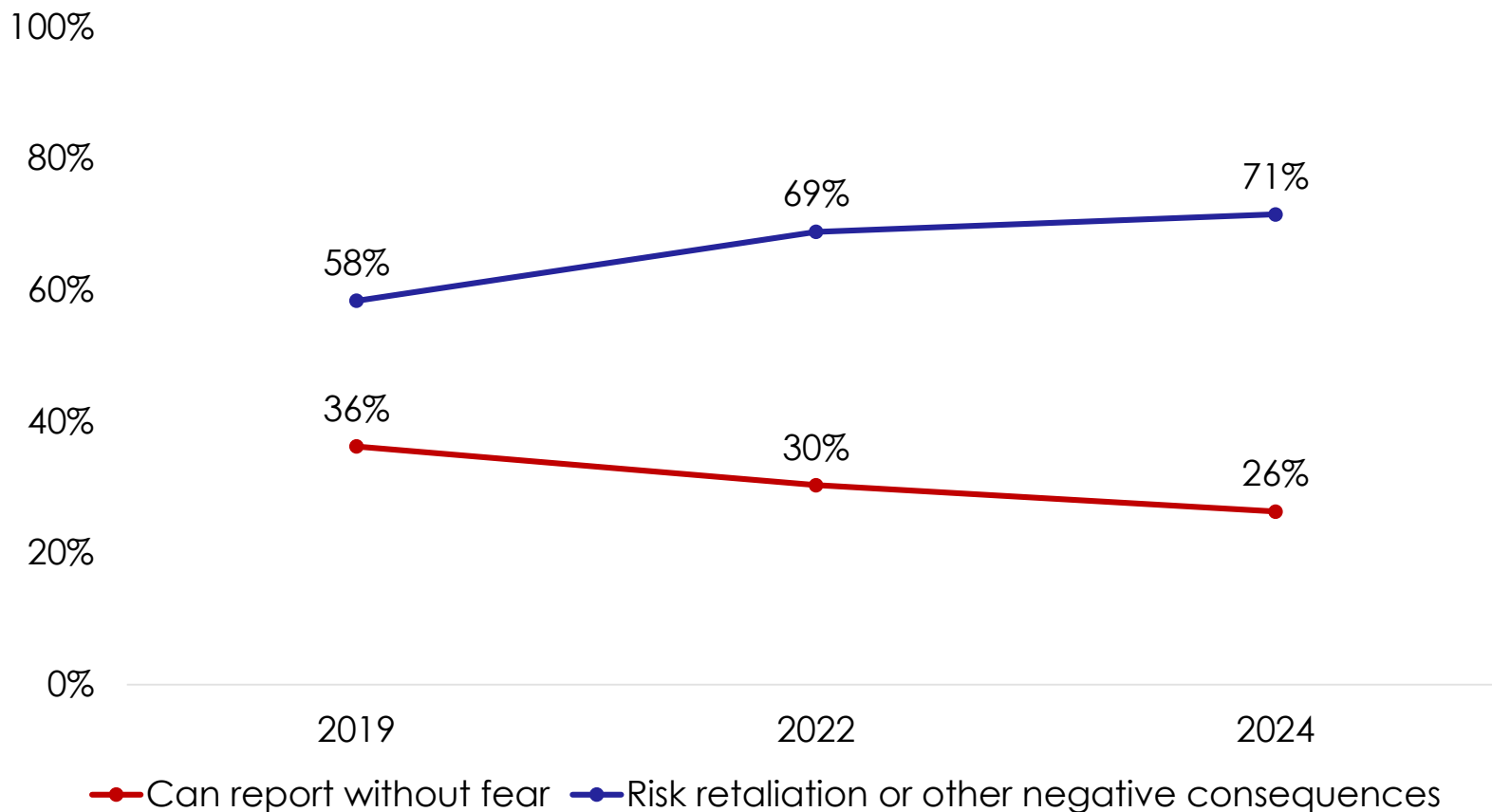
| Ghana
| 2024

Respondents were asked:
*In your opinion, over the past year, has the level of corruption in this country increased, decreased, or stayed the same?
(% who say "increased somewhat" or "increased a lot")*

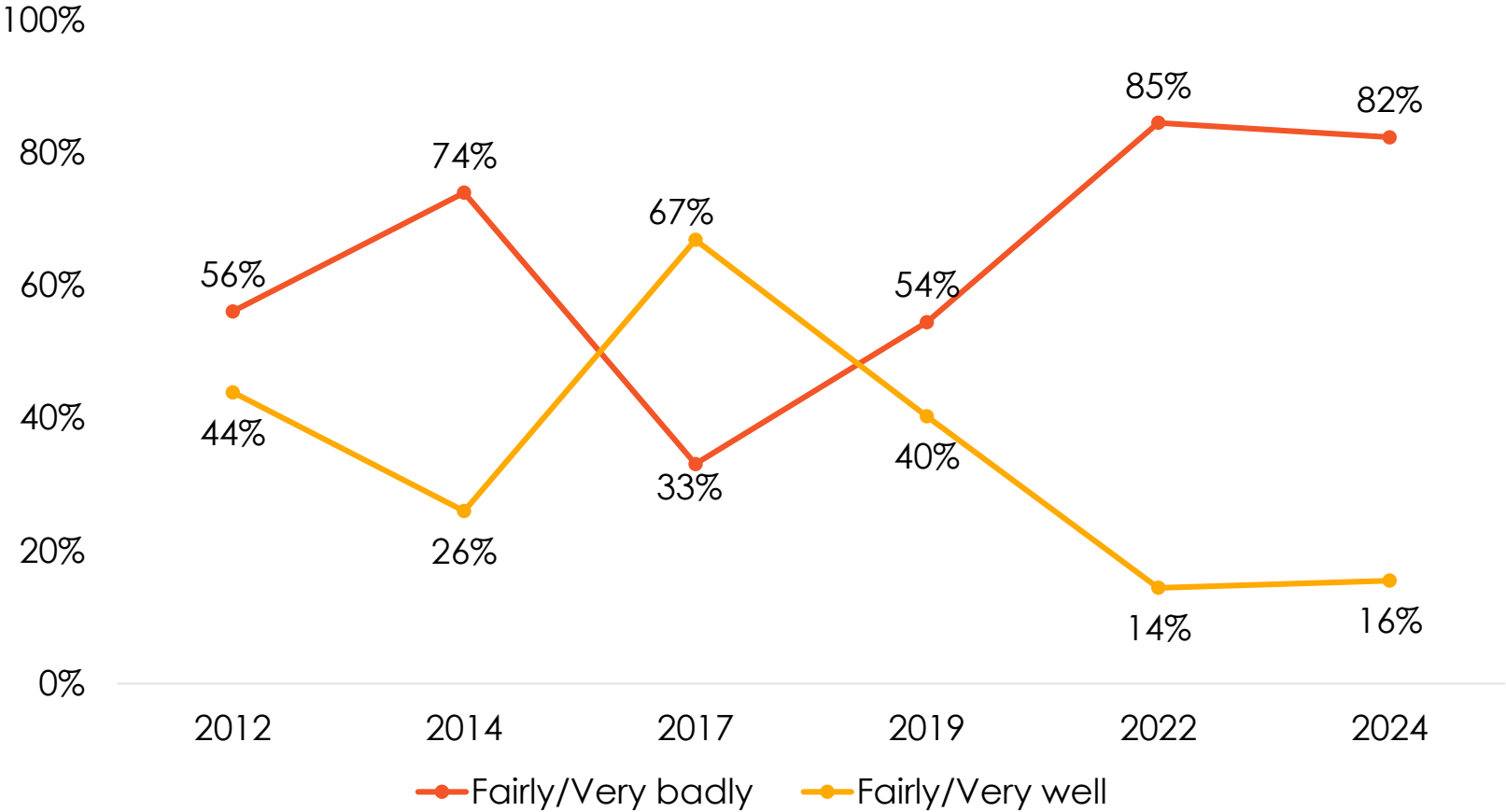


Risk of retaliation for reporting corruption | Ghana

| 2019-2024



Evaluation of government performance in fighting corruption | Ghana | 2012-2024

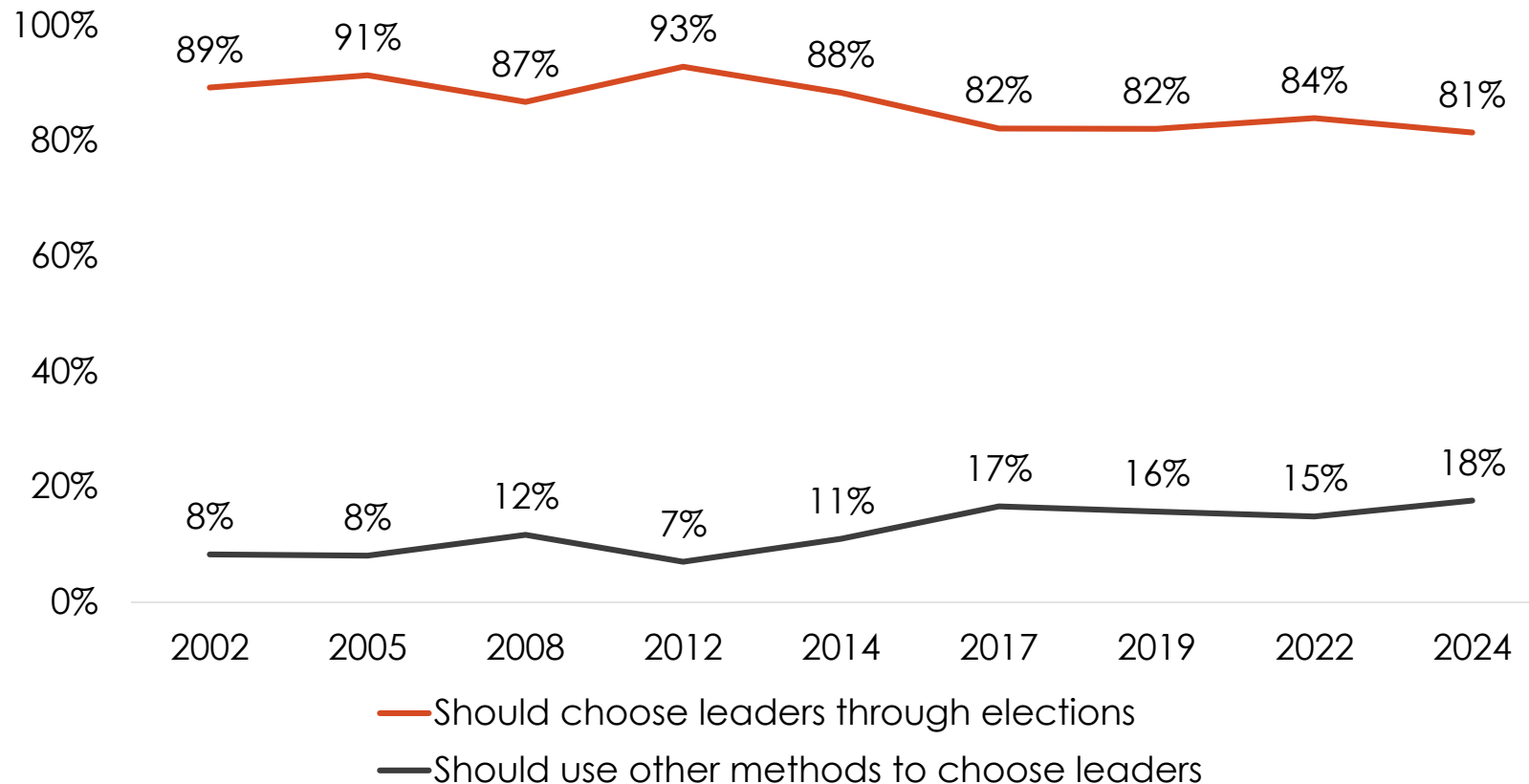


Respondents were asked: How well or badly would you say the current government is handling the following matters, or you haven't heard enough to say: Fighting corruption in government?

Views on elections



Popular support for elections | Ghana | 2002-2024



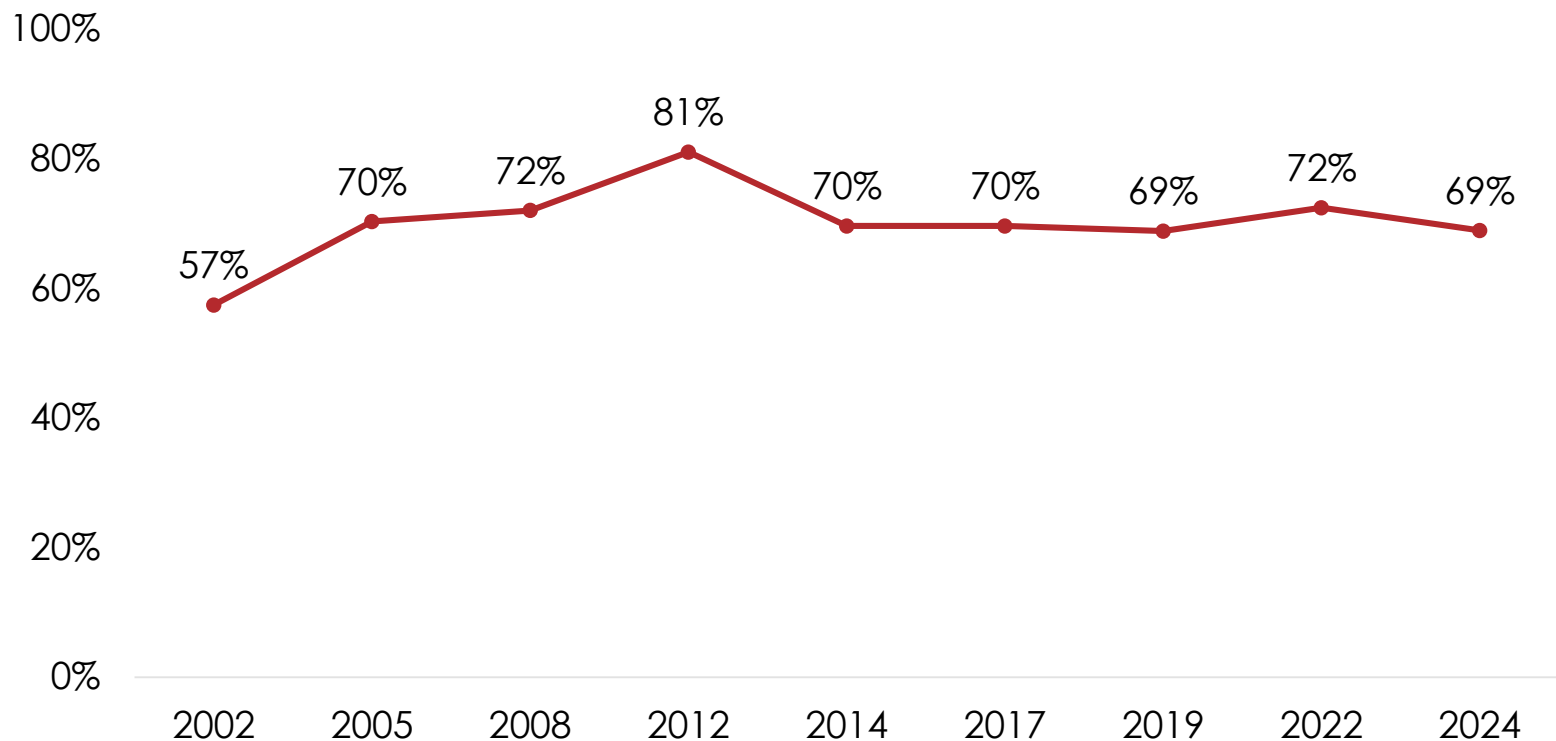
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

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.

Support for multiparty competition | Ghana

| 2002-2024



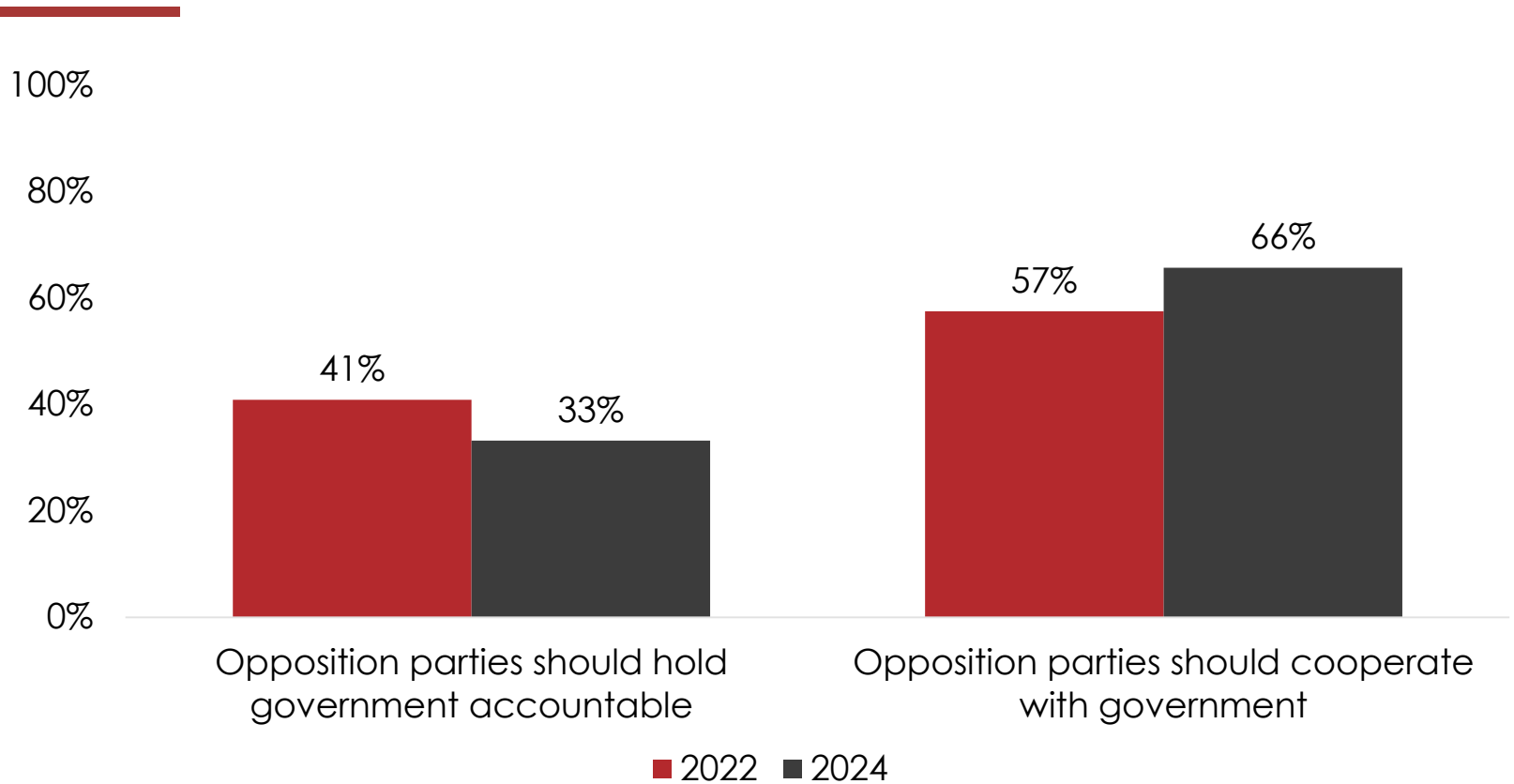
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

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

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

(% who agree with Statement 2)

Opposition parties should hold government accountable vs. cooperate | Ghana | 2022-2024



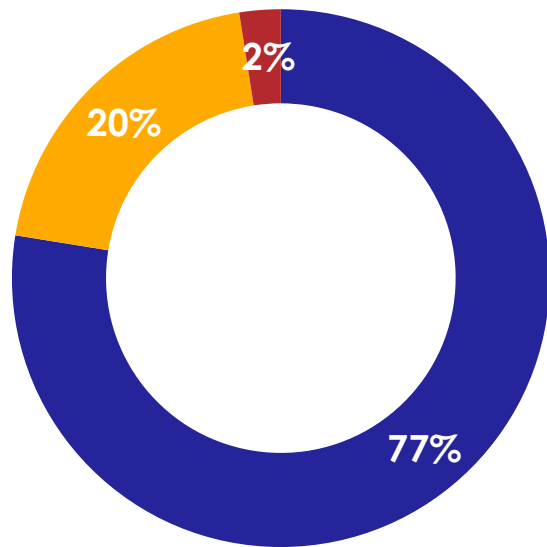
Respondents were asked: Which of the following statements is closest to your view?

Statement 1: After losing an election, opposition parties should monitor and criticise the government in order to hold it accountable.

Statement 2: Once an election is over, opposition parties and politicians should accept defeat and cooperate with government to help it develop the country.



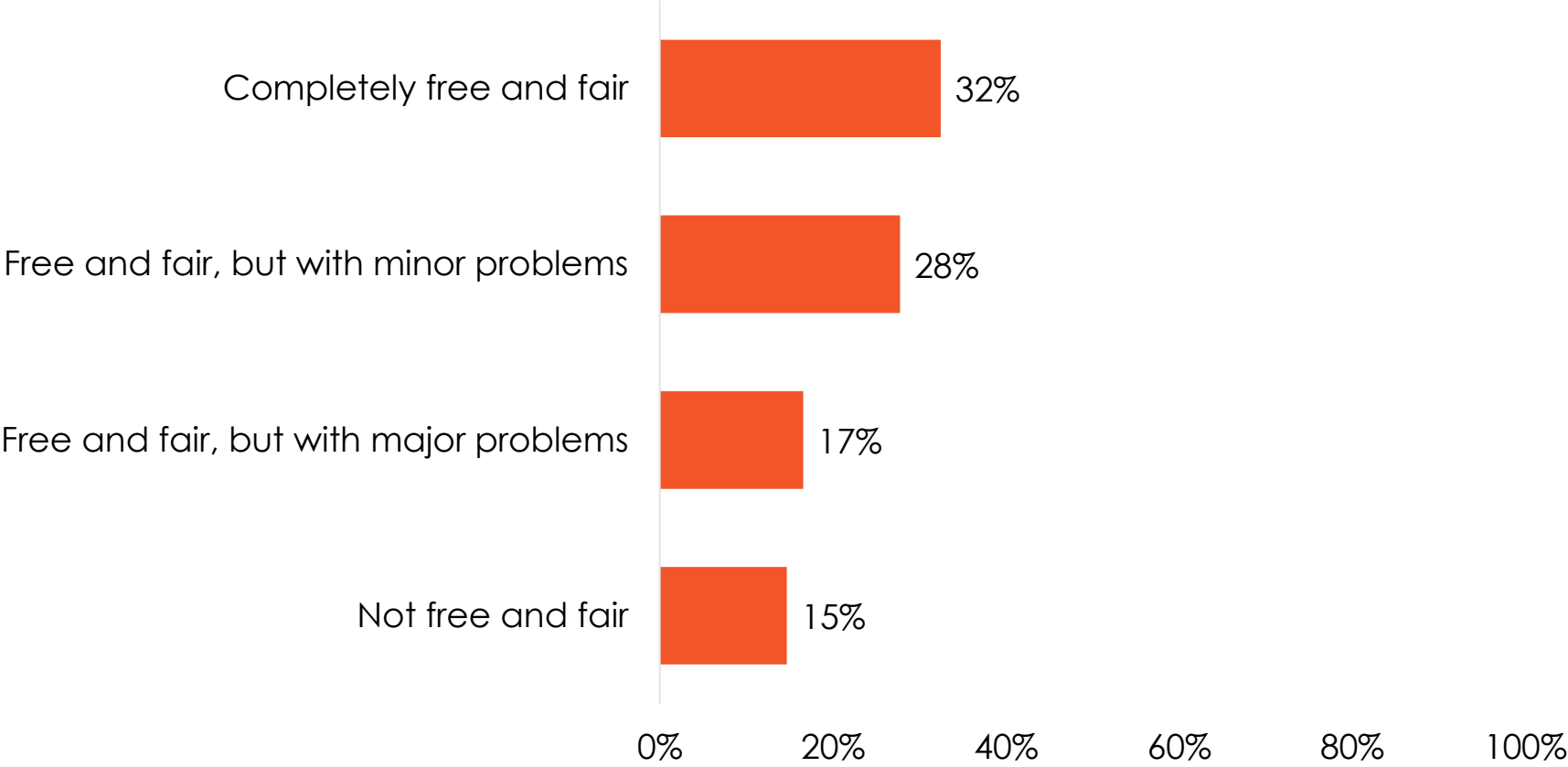
Participation in the 2020 election | Ghana | 2024



- I voted in the election
- I did not vote
- I was too young to vote

Respondents were asked: *In the last national election, held in 2020, did you vote, or not, or were you too young to vote? Or can't you remember whether you voted?*

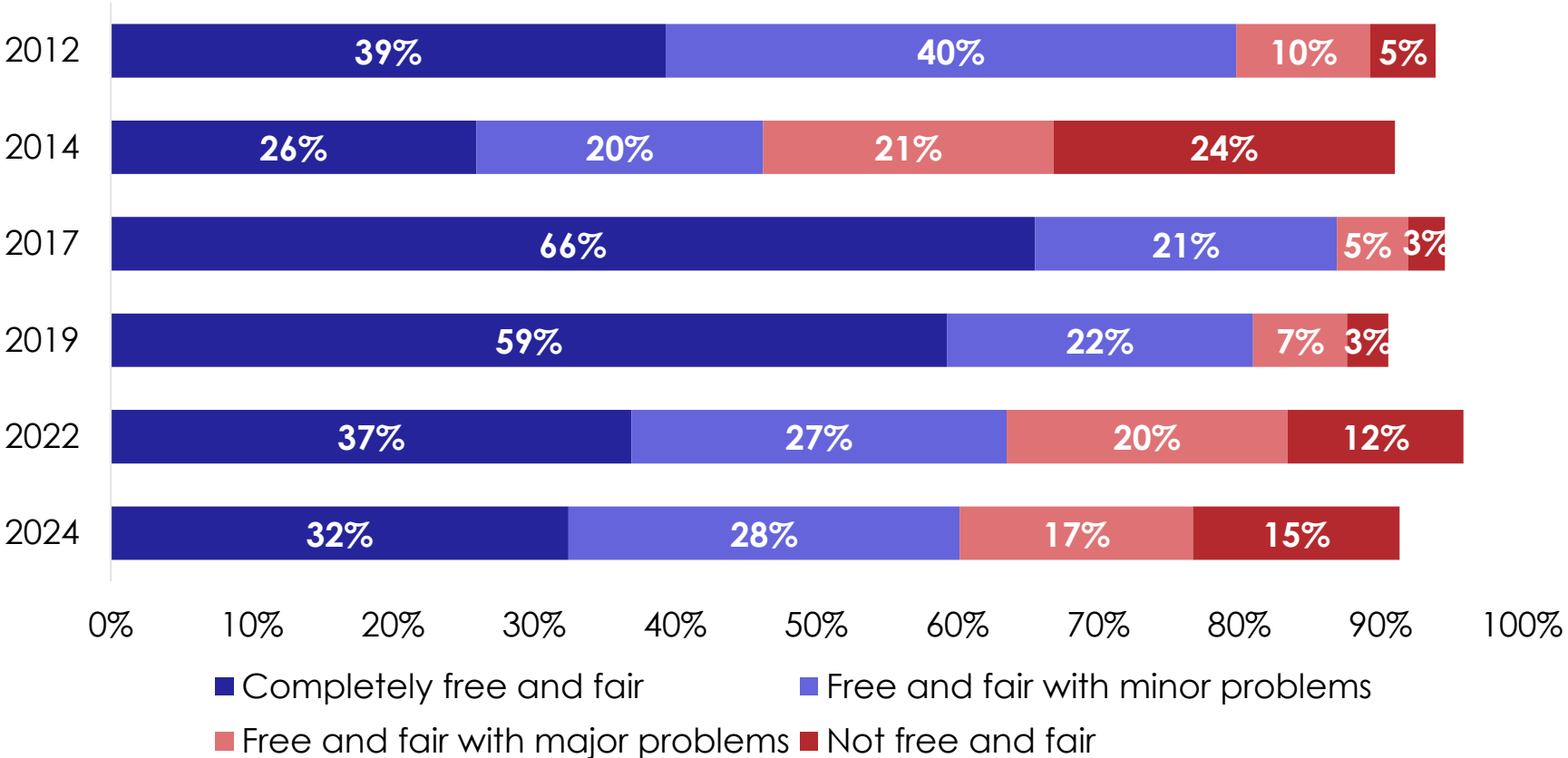
Freeness and fairness of 2020 election | Ghana | 2024



Respondents were asked: On the whole, how would you rate the freeness and fairness of the last general election, held in 2020?

Freeness and fairness of last election | Ghana

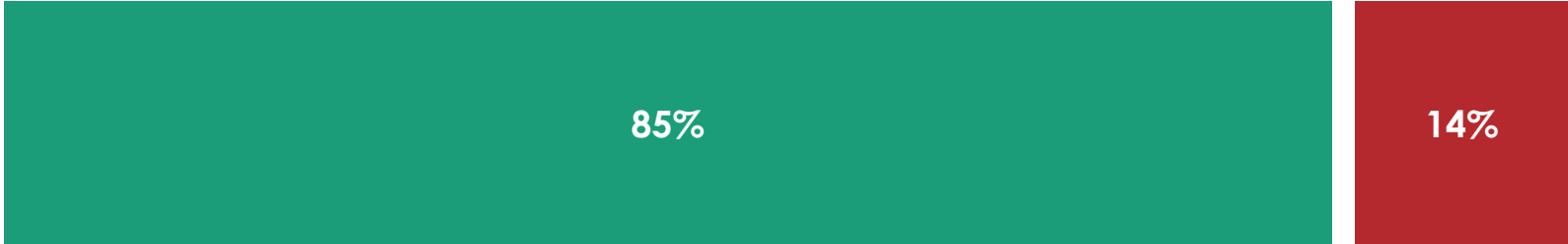
| 2012-2024



Respondents were asked: *On the whole, how would you rate the freeness and fairness of the last general election, held in [year]?*

Fear of intimidation or violence in 2020 election

| Ghana | 2024

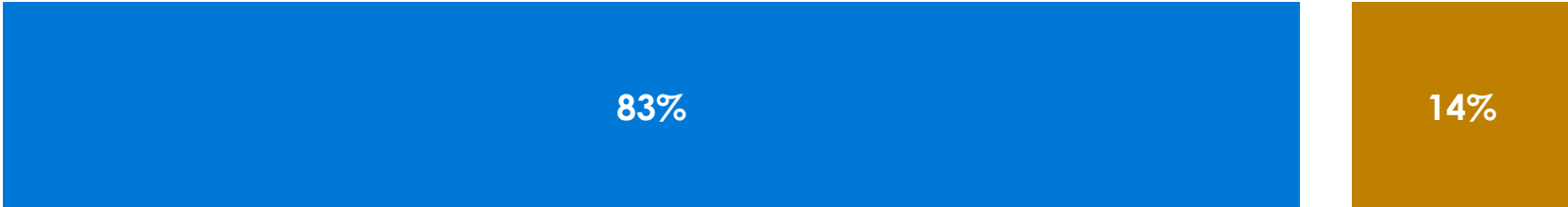


■ A little bit/ Not at all ■ Somewhat/A lot



Respondents were asked: *During the last general election campaign in 2020, how much did you personally fear becoming a victim of political intimidation or violence?*

Violation of ballot secrecy | Ghana | 2024

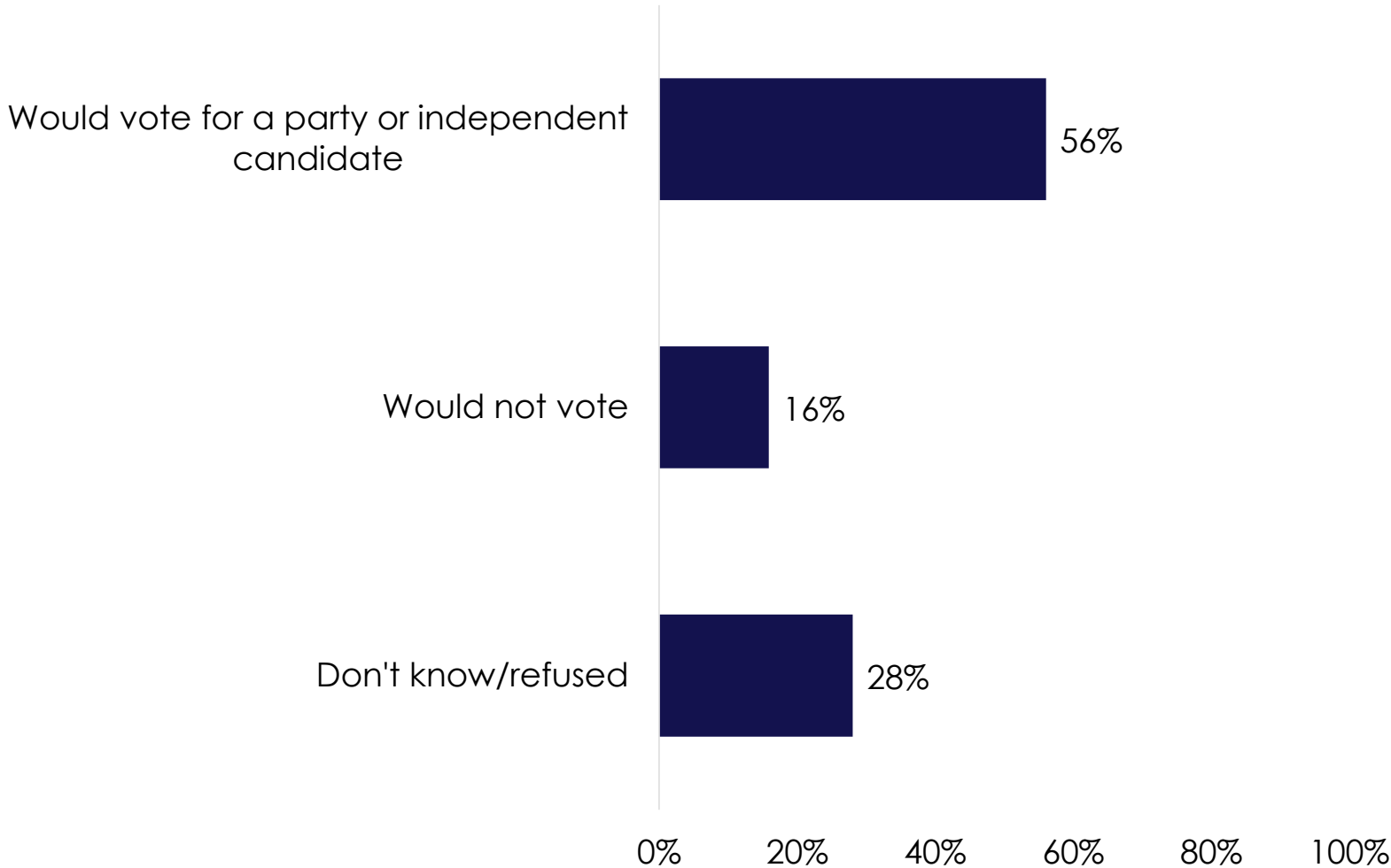


■ Not very likely/Not at all likely ■ Somewhat likely/Very likely



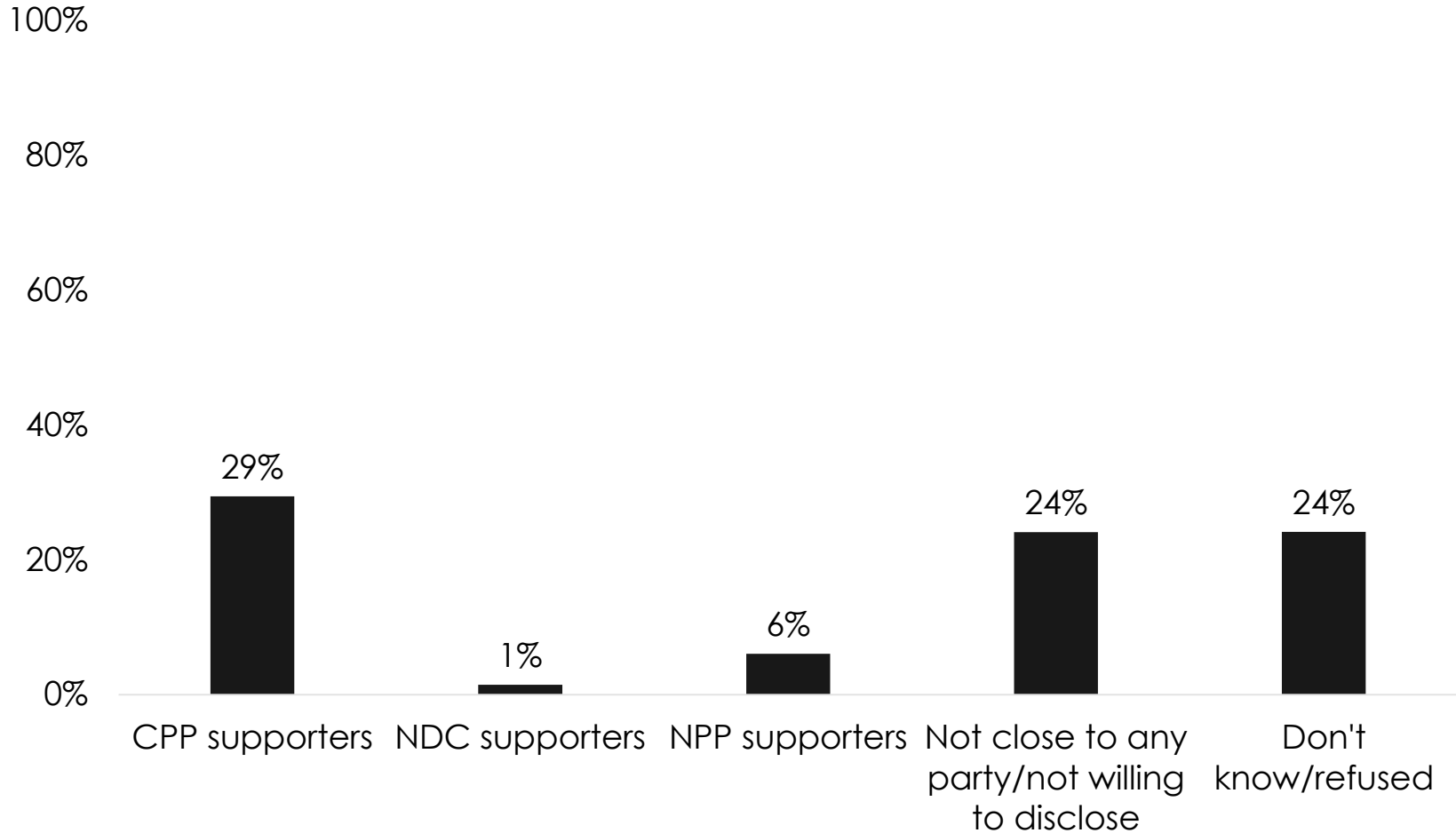
Respondents were asked: How likely do you think it is that powerful people can find out how you voted, even though there is supposed to be a secret ballot in this country?

If elections were held tomorrow | Ghana | 2024

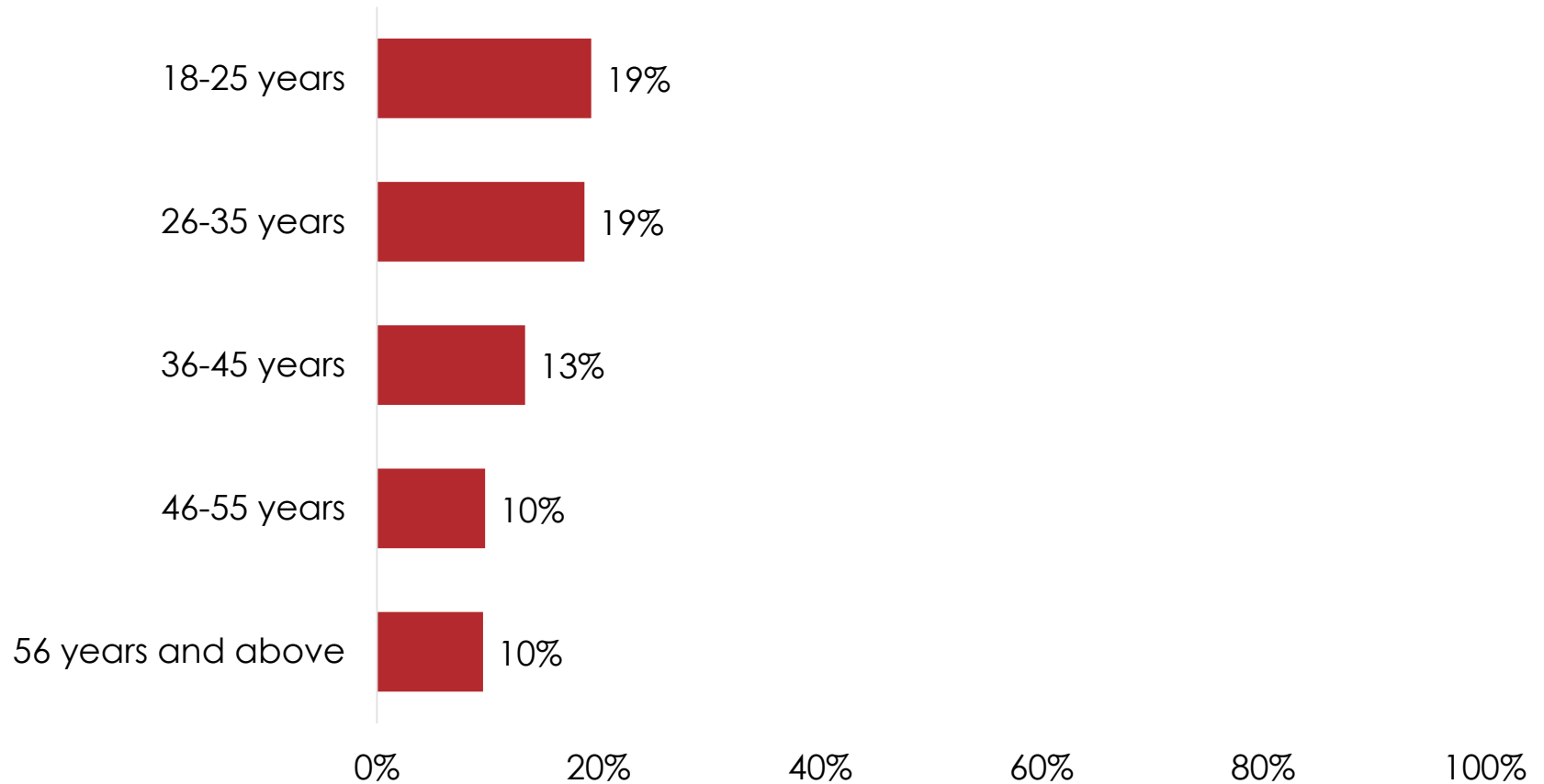


Respondents were asked: If presidential elections were held tomorrow, which party's candidate would you vote for?

Voter apathy: “Would not vote” | by party affiliation | Ghana | 2024



Voter apathy: 'Would not vote' | Ghana | by age | 2024

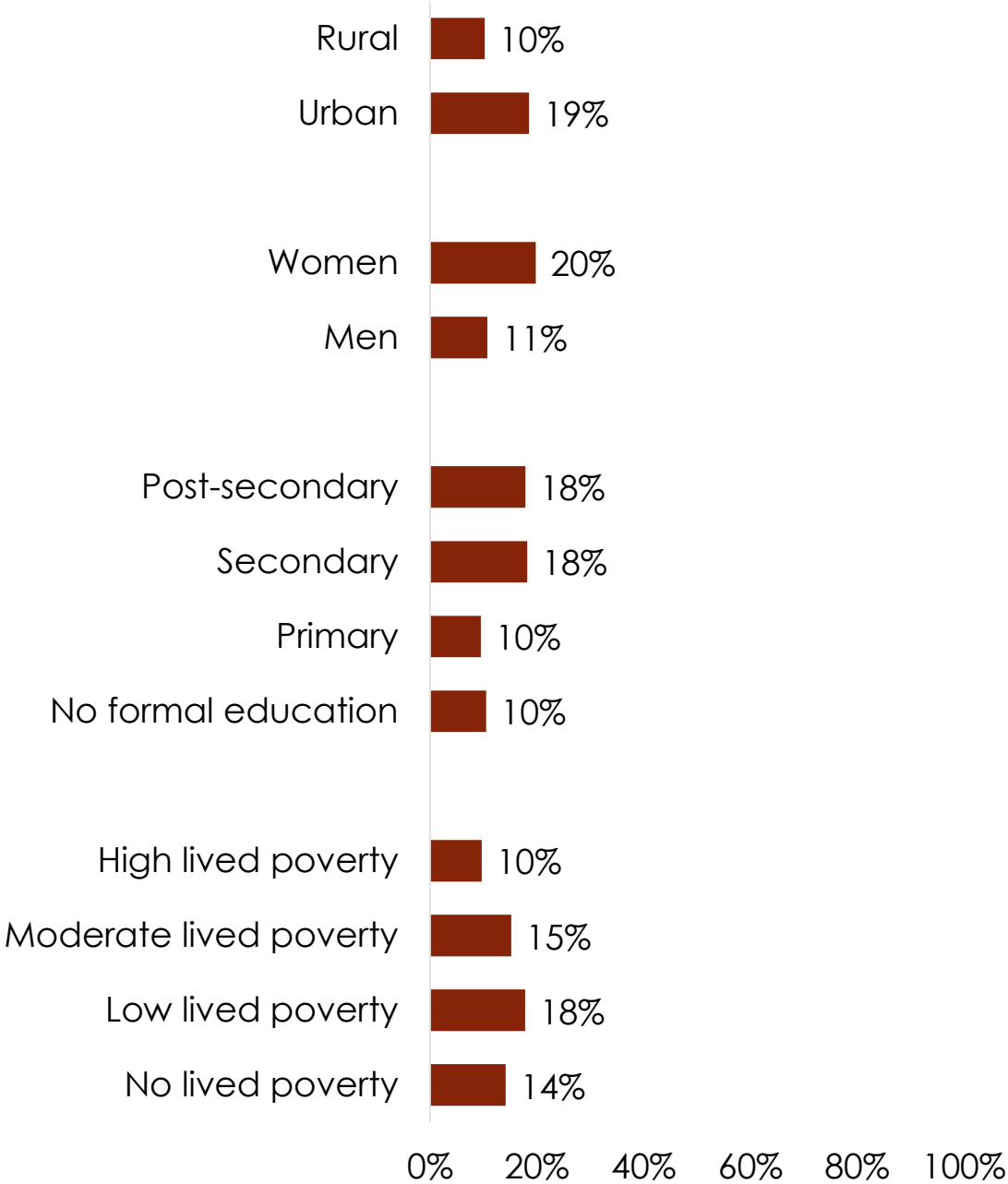


Voter apathy: 'Would not vote'

| Ghana
| by demographic
group | 2024



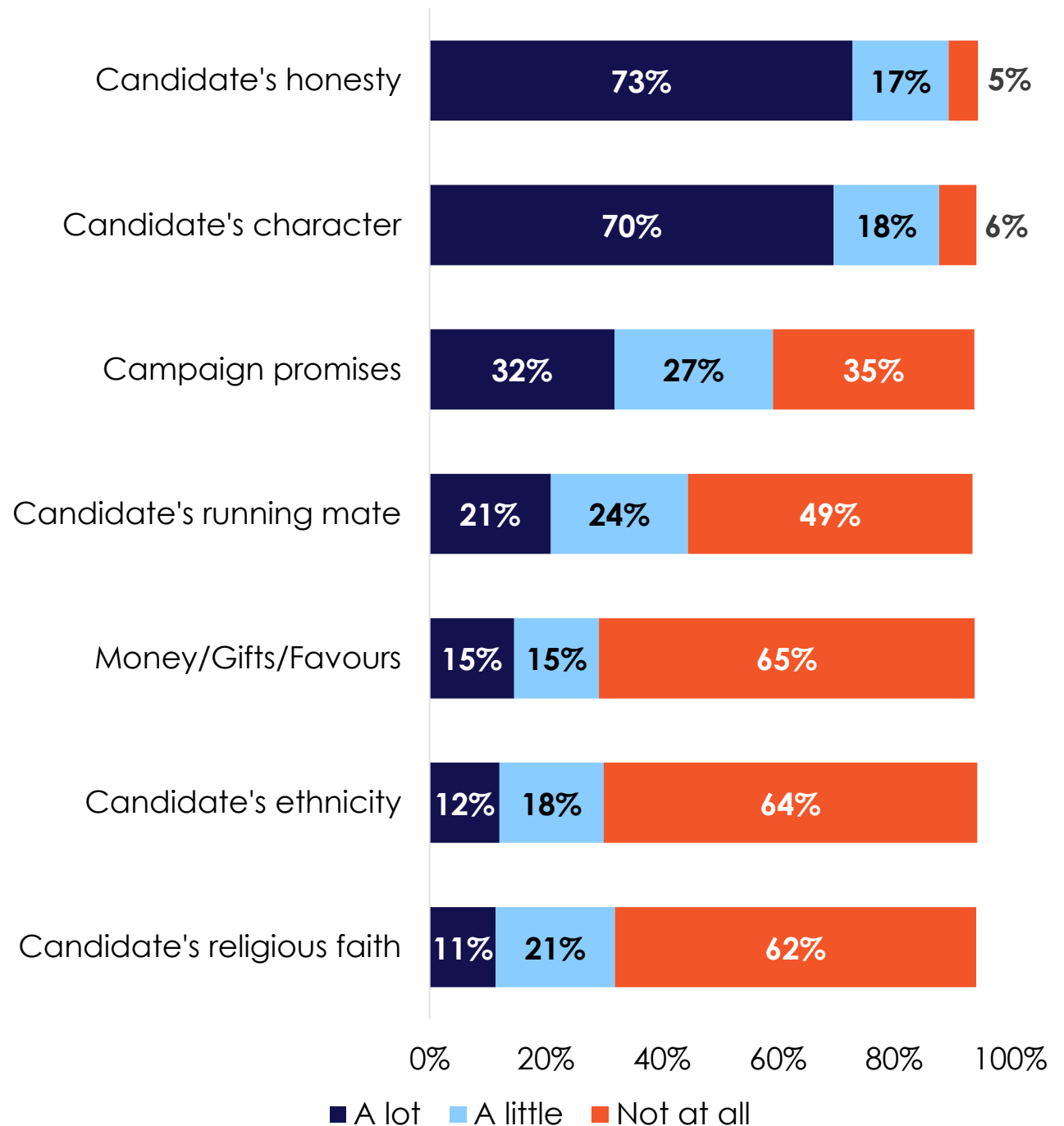
Respondents were asked:
*If presidential elections
were held tomorrow,
which party's candidate
would you vote for?
(% who say they "would
not vote")*



What will influence voters' choice

| Ghana
| 2024

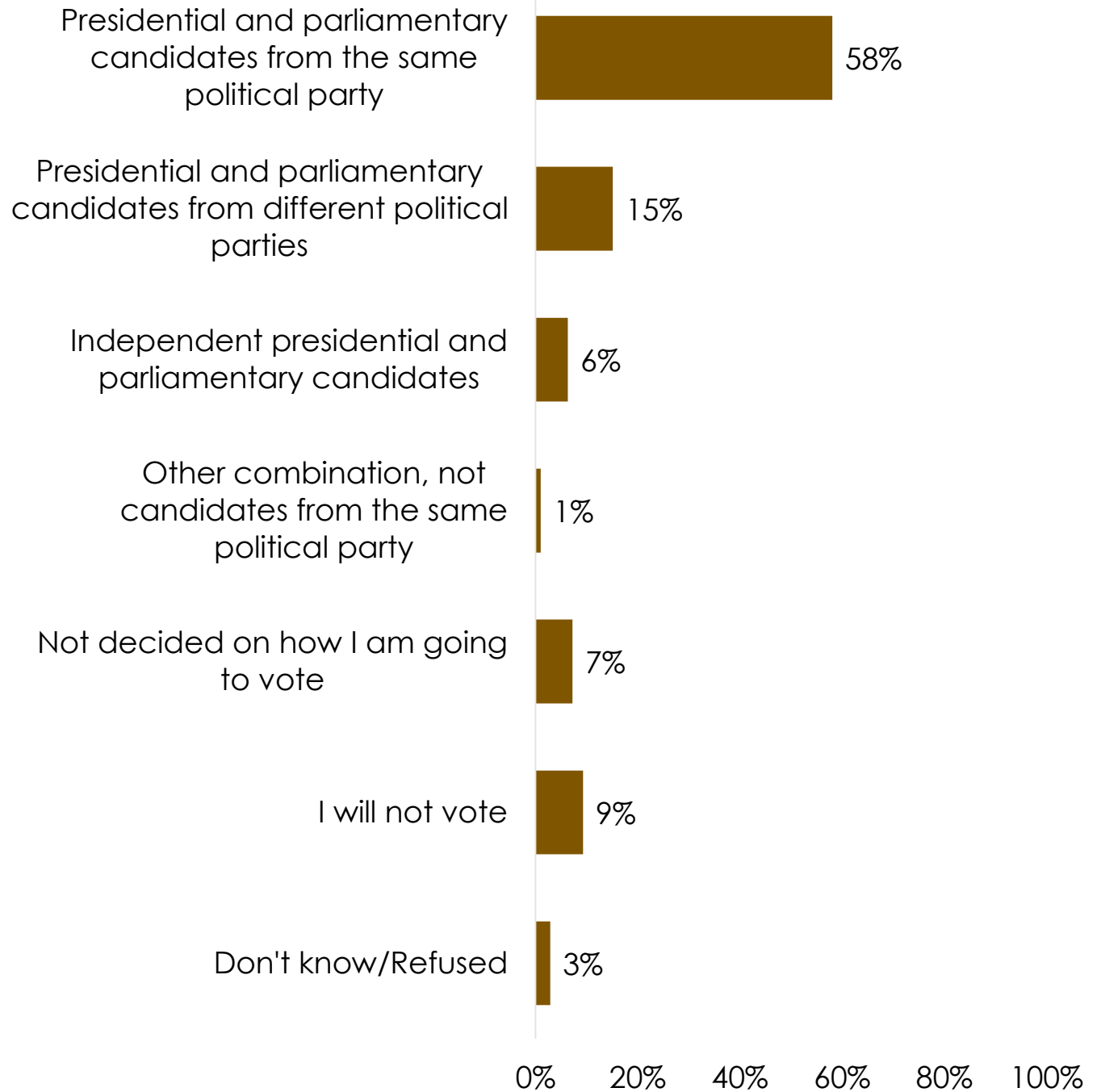
Respondents were asked:
Let's talk about your vote in the upcoming December 2024 general elections. As a voter, please tell me how much your choice of political party or candidates will be influenced by the following. ...



Approach to voting

| Ghana
| 2024

Respondents were asked: Please tell me which of the following best describes how you intend to vote in the upcoming 2024 presidential and parliamentary elections.



Key findings



- Among key public institutions, the Ghana Armed Forces, religious leaders, traditional leaders, and non-governmental and civil society organisations are the most trusted.
- Trust in key state institutions/officials witnessed marginal declines compared to 2022 but major declines since 2012.
- Among key public officials, the police, the Presidency, tax officials, MPs, and judges and magistrates are most widely perceived as corrupt.
- Three-fourths (74%) of Ghanaians say the level of corruption in the country increased “somewhat” or “a lot” over the past year, a 3-percentage-point decline compared to 2022.
- Only about a quarter (26%) of Ghanaians believe that people can report corruption without fear of retaliation, a decline of 4 percentage points compared to 2022.

Key findings

- Popular support for elections as the method for choosing leaders has consistently remained high since 2002. However, over time, there has been an increase in the percentage who think other methods should be adopted.
- Six in 10 citizens (60%) say the 2020 general election was “completely free and fair” or “free and fair with minor problems.”
- A candidate’s honesty (90%), character (88%), and campaign promises (59%) are the three major factors that Ghanaians say will influence their choices in the 2024 polls.

Thank you

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