



Bosnia and Hercegovina

Polling Results on Voter Attitudes Regarding October 5, 2002 BiH Elections

Summary of Results

Polling from August 29 to September 9, 2002

52 Mjedenica, Sarajevo
387-33-214-664
www.ndi.ba

Kralja Alfonsa XIII br. 14
Banja Luka
387-51-313-251

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

The following is a presentation and analysis of key findings from the latest in a series of tracking polls conducted by NDI in advance of the October 5, B&H elections. This tracking period marks the final phase of NDI's election research program.

The program began in February with a 3,700 person survey of voter attitudes, designed to assist political parties in B&H to begin developing election strategies. In May, a second 3,700 person survey was conducted providing parties with the opportunity to gain information that would help them refine and finalize their messages and strategies prior to the start of the campaign period. It is hoped that this research was a valuable tool in assisting political parties to better understand the electorate and respond to the issues important to the people of B&H.

This final, or tracking phase, will monitor the effectiveness of the campaigns, programs and messages the parties will attempt to communicate to the people of B&H prior to October 5.

It is important to note that this research project is not designed to predict the outcome of the B&H elections, but rather to identify trends and to assist parties to better understand the concerns of the electorate. It is difficult for any polling program to predict the precise outcome of any election. Due to the use of face-to-face interviews, data received is often several days or even weeks old and, at best, provides a picture of what was happening days or weeks before the data is published. Out-of-country voters are not included in the sample and displaced persons in B&H are significantly under represented. These are important factors to remember when interpreting the data and drawing conclusions.

Between August 29th and September 9, a total of 2,400 Bosnia and Hercegovina citizens were interviewed. The 2,400 interviews were conducted throughout B&H and reflect a representative sample of the B&H population over the age of 18 on the basis of age, gender, rural vs urban and population density. The margin of error on a sample of 2,400 people is plus or minus 3%. Sub samples such as RS voters or Federation voters will have a margin of error of 4% to 5%.

This research program is the property of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and was supported financially by USAID. Its primary purpose is to assist NDI's political party program partners in developing the skills and experience necessary to effectively compete in elections and to enhance their ability to represent the interests of the people of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

VOTE INTENTION

On October 5, 2002, citizens of Bosnia and Hercegovina will vote in a number of elections, the B&H Presidency, B&H Parliament, Republika Srpska President and Vice-presidents, Republika Srpska National Assembly, Federation of B&H Parliament and 10 Cantonal Assemblies.

For each of the elections being held on October 5, survey respondents were asked, **“If the election were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for?”**

The results of vote intention questions are presented in two ways, all respondents and decided voters only. The “all respondents” includes undecided voters and respondents that refused to answer. This response measures the true level of party support among all surveyed people. However, because a party's level of support on Election Day is a percentage of only the people that voted it is not an accurate reflection of potential election results.

The “decided voters only” response shows a party's support as a percentage of decided voters only and is a more accurate reflection of the support the party may expect on Election Day. In presenting the results of decided voters only, respondents who said they were undecided, would not vote or did not know are distributed among the parties in proportion to their levels of support among all respondents. For example if a party has 22% support among all respondents then 22% of undecided voters are allocated to that party. A party with 9% support receives 9% of undecided voters. This may not be an accurate portrayal of vote intention among undecided voters but is currently the only statistical option available in allocating undecided voters.

Presidency of Bosnia and Hercegovina

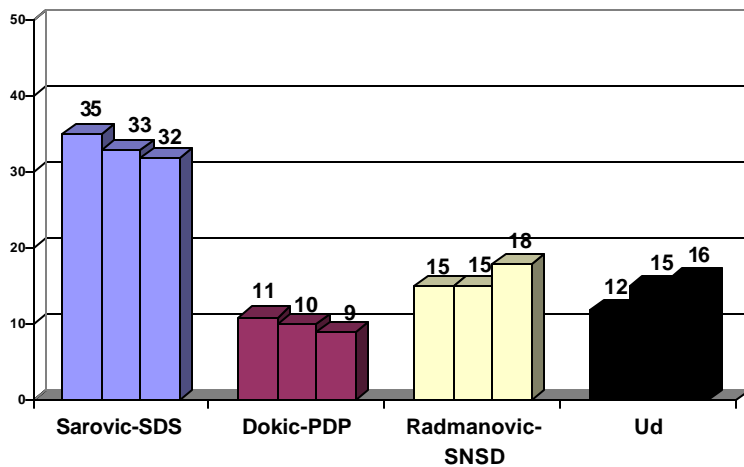
A three member presidency will be elected based on the country’s three constituent people. The candidate from each ethnic group receiving the largest number of votes will be elected to the presidency.

The leads of both the HDZ and SDS candidates for the BiH presidency have decreased in the last week- the most substantial change being in the race for the Serb seat on the presidency where Mr. Radmanovic of the SNSD has gained 4 points, moving to 21% of decided voters.

In the race for the Bosniak member of the presidency, Haris Siljadzic has increased his lead by 2% over the SDP candidate Alija Behmen.

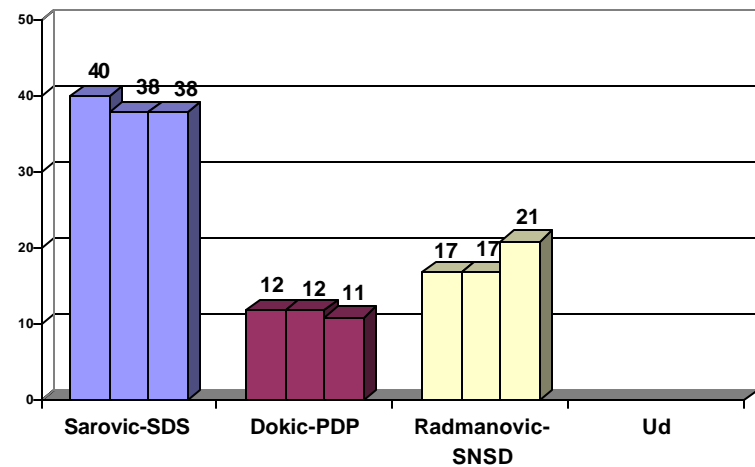
**Bosnian-Serb Member of the BiH Presidency
(Republika Srpska Respondents Only)**

All Respondents



Dates: August 28 - September 3 - September 9

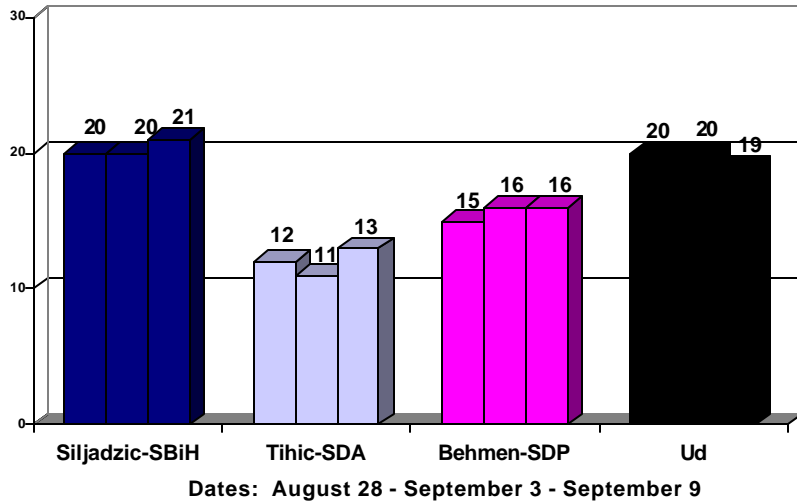
Decided Voters Only



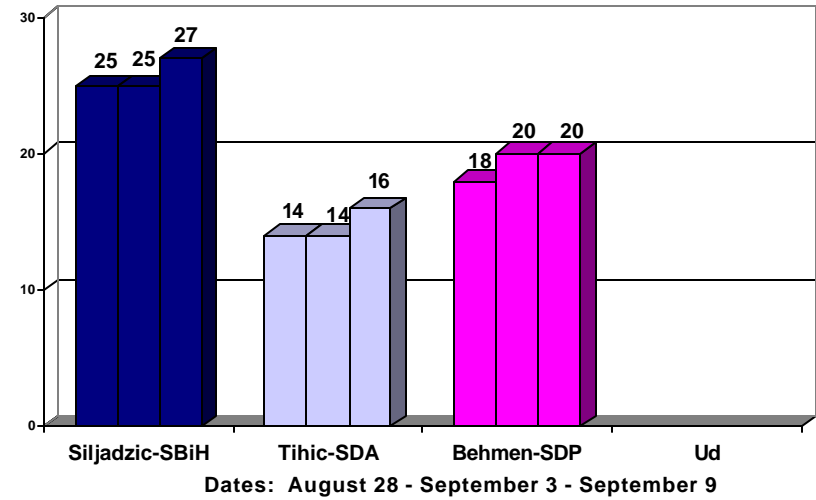
Dates: August 28 - September 3 - September 9

Bosniak Member of the BiH Presidency (Federation of B&H Respondents Only)

All Respondents

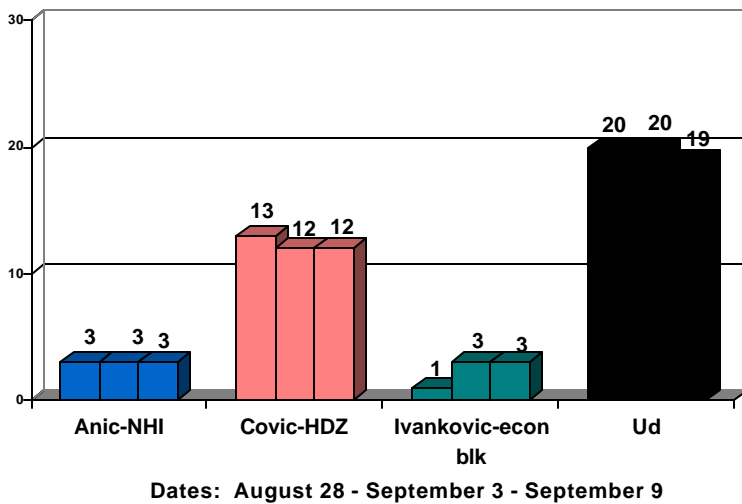


Decided Voters Only

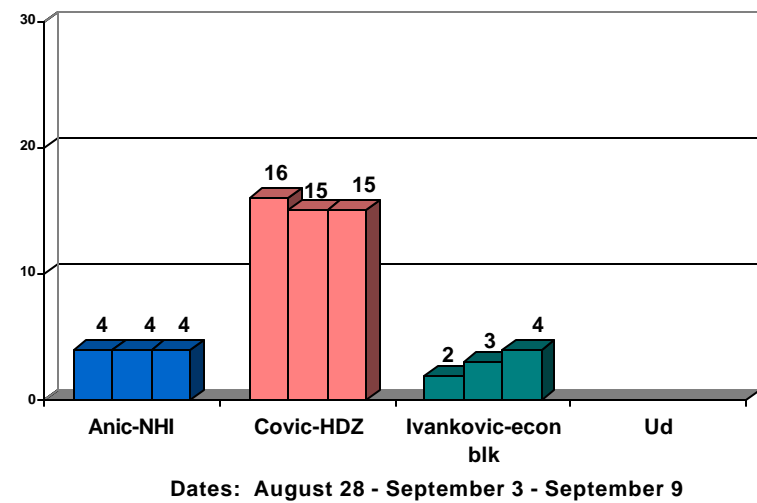


Bosnian-Croat Member of the BiH Presidency (Federation of B&H Respondents Only)

All Respondents



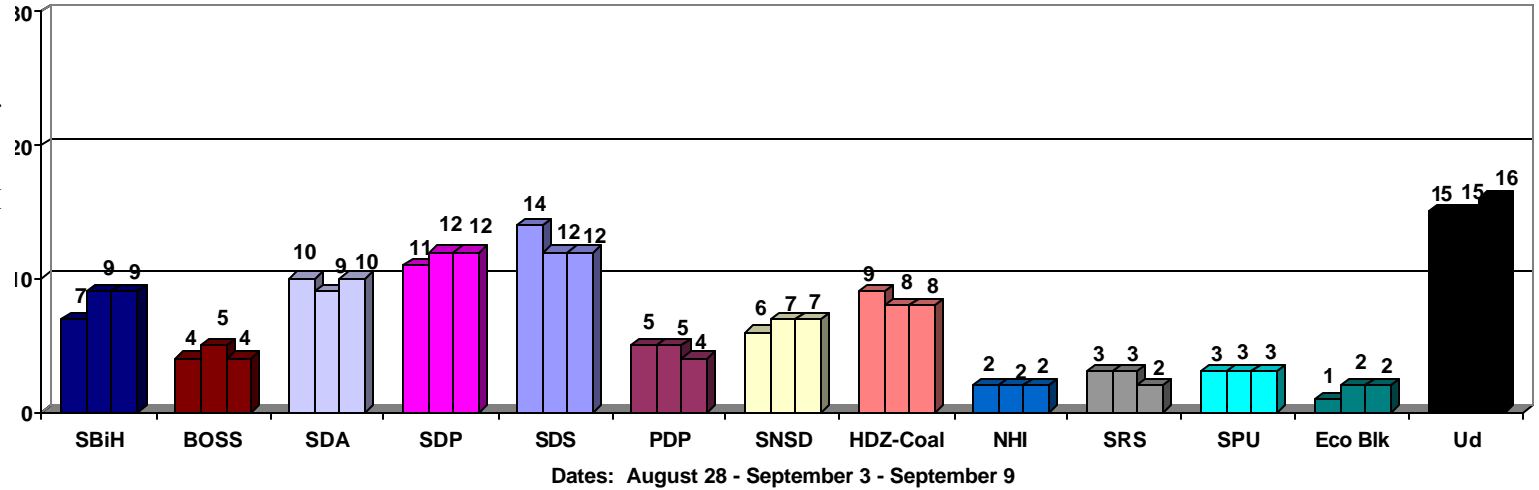
Decided Voters Only



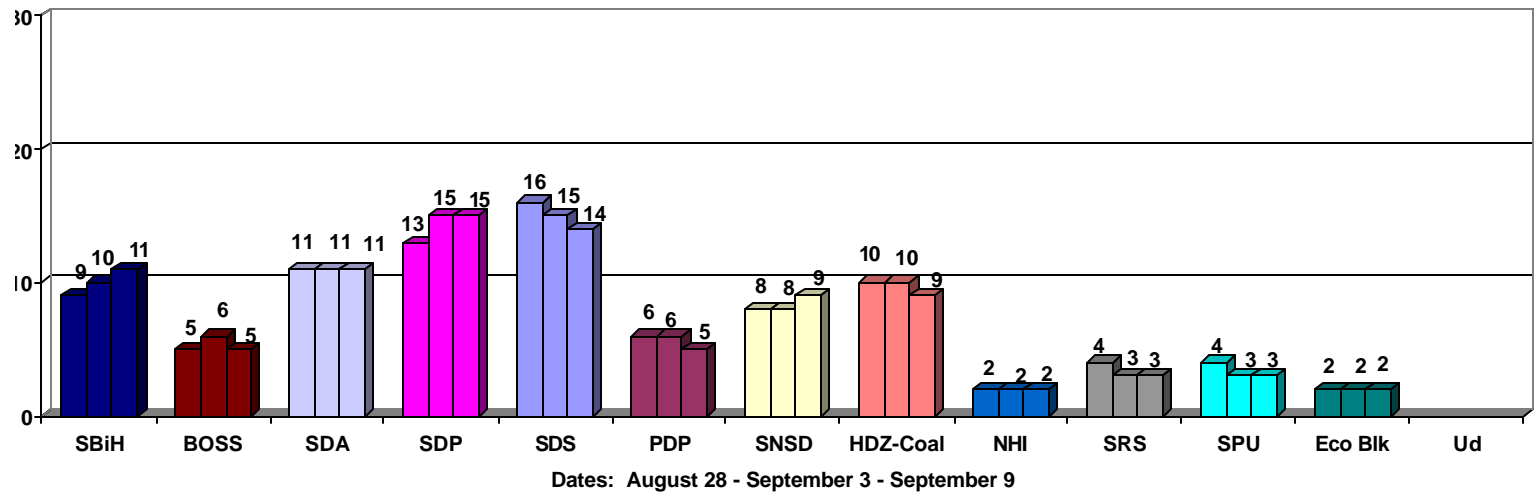
B&H House of Representatives

The decline in support for nationalist parties in the B&H parliament continues with both the SDS and HDZ dropping another percentage point and the SDA remaining unchanged. The drop by SDS means the SDP now has the greatest support among voters for the B&H parliament.

All Respondents



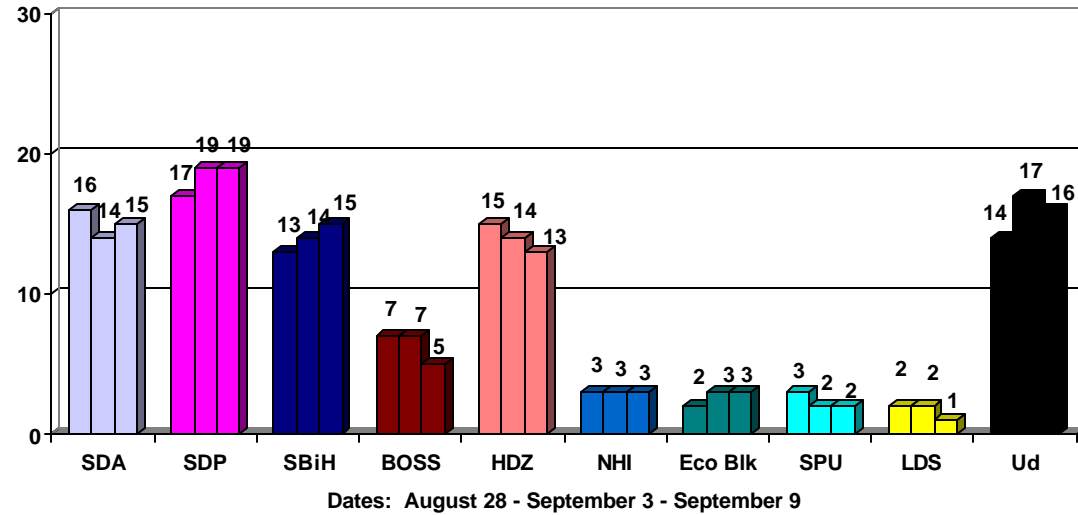
Decided Voters Only



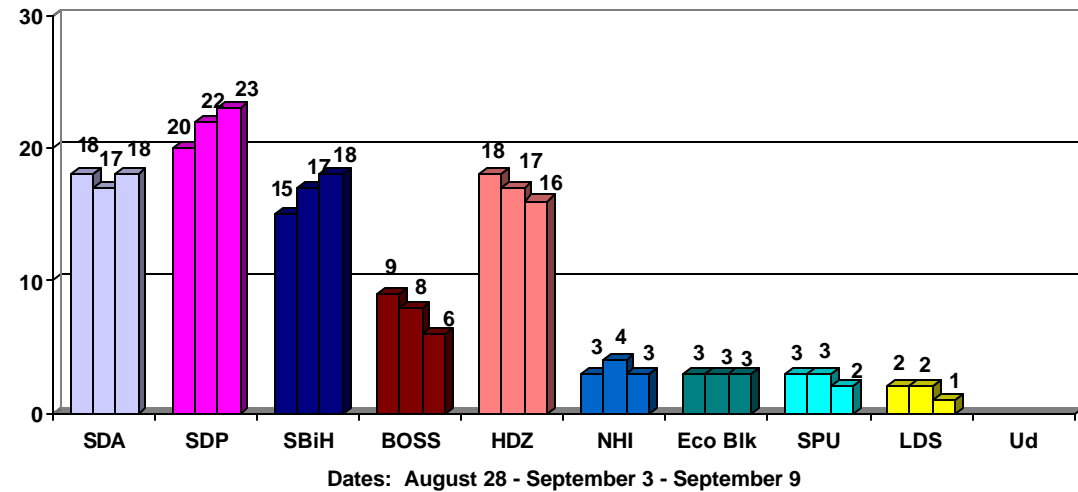
Federation B&H House of Representatives

Support for three of the four largest parties in the Federation parliament elections increased in the last 7 days. The exception was the HDZ who's support continues to drop. The increase in support of the SDP, SDA and SBiH seems to correspond with a decrease in undecided voters and among smaller parties with a Bosniak voter base.

All Respondents



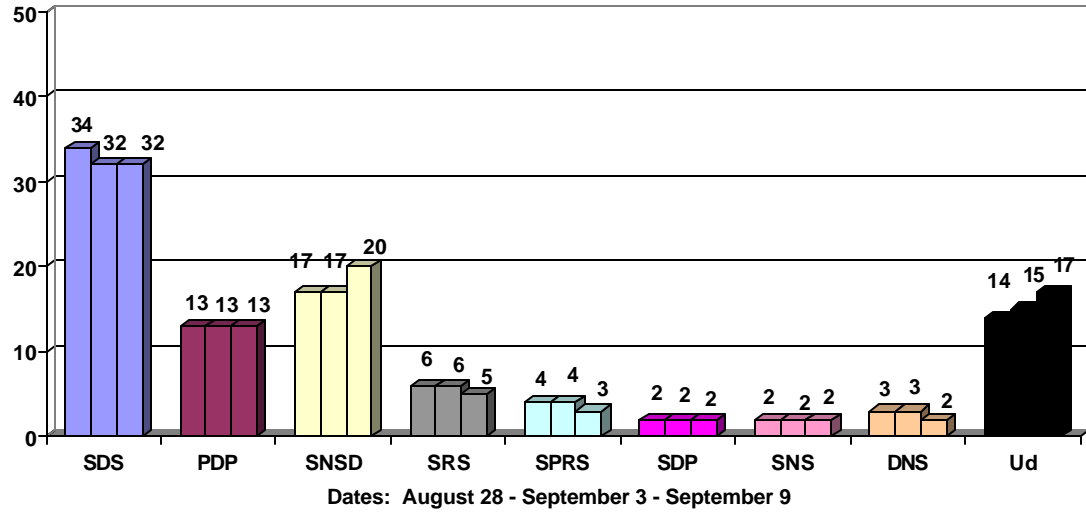
Decided Voters Only



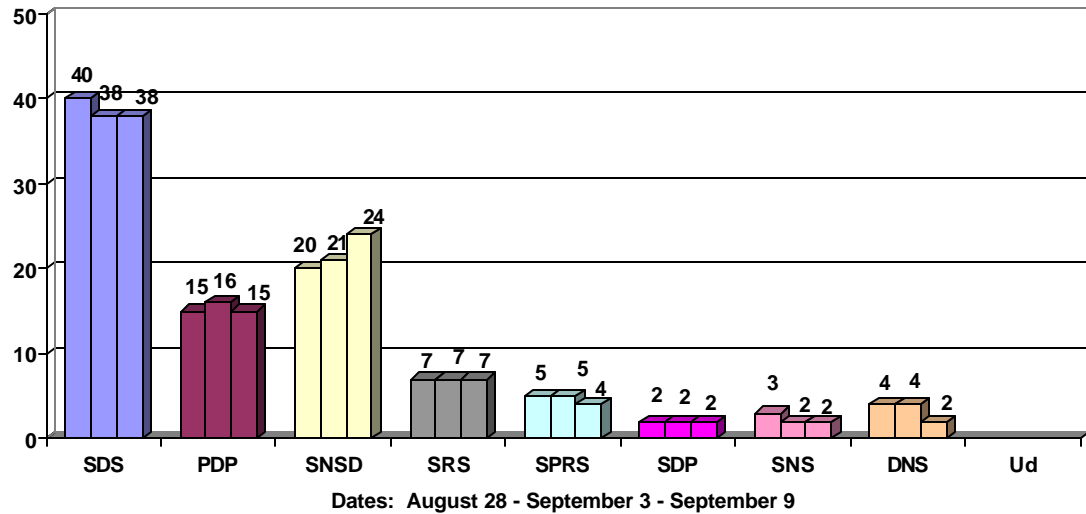
Republika Srpska National Assembly

SNSD support among decided voters for the RSNA has increased by 3% for the week, while every other party has either declined or remained unchanged. In addition the number of undecided voters for the RSNA continues to increase. These two facts combined indicate that the RSNA race may be the most volatile of all those being contested on October 5.

All Respondents



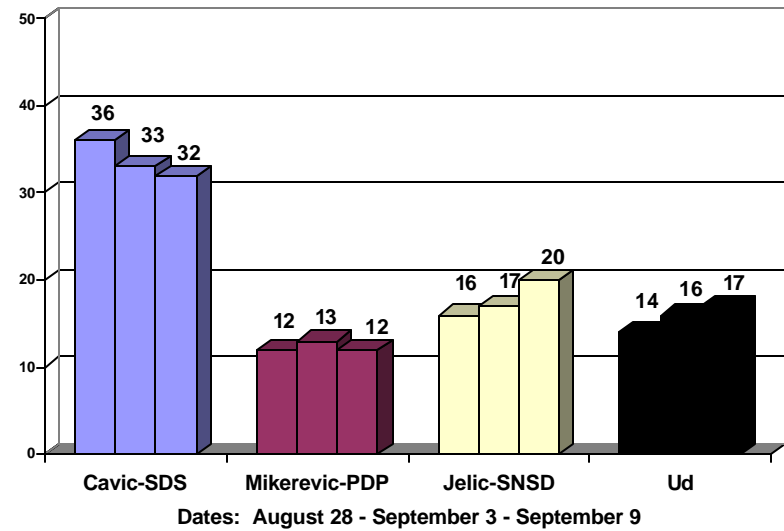
Decided Voters Only



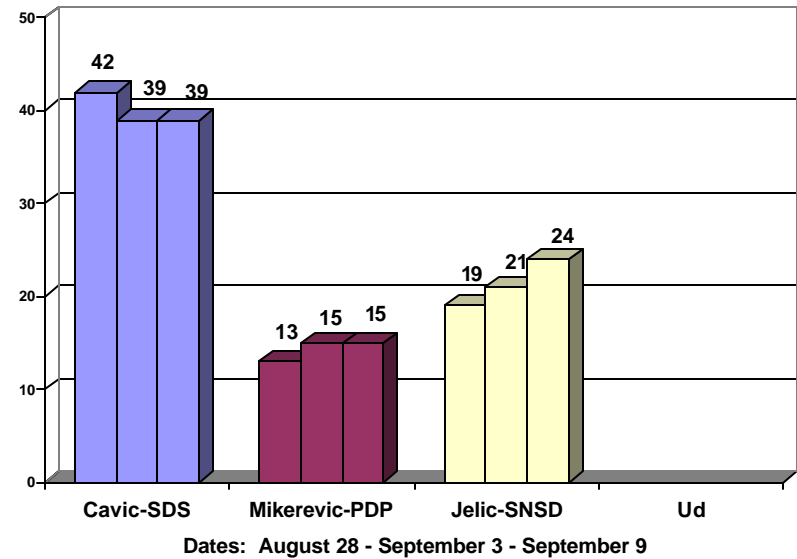
President Of The Republika Srpska

Similar to the increased support for SNSD in the RSNA race, support for Milan Jelic (SNSD) has risen by 3% over the last 7 days in the race for RS president. Neither the SDS nor the PDP candidates declined in the week, indicating that Jelic and the SNSD's support may be coming from smaller parties.

All Respondents



Decided Voters Only



ISSUES

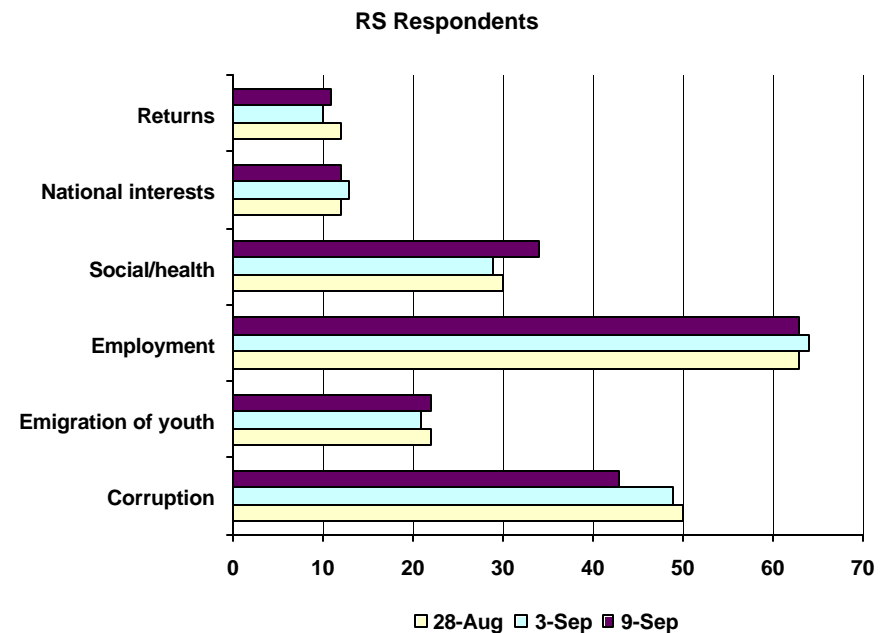
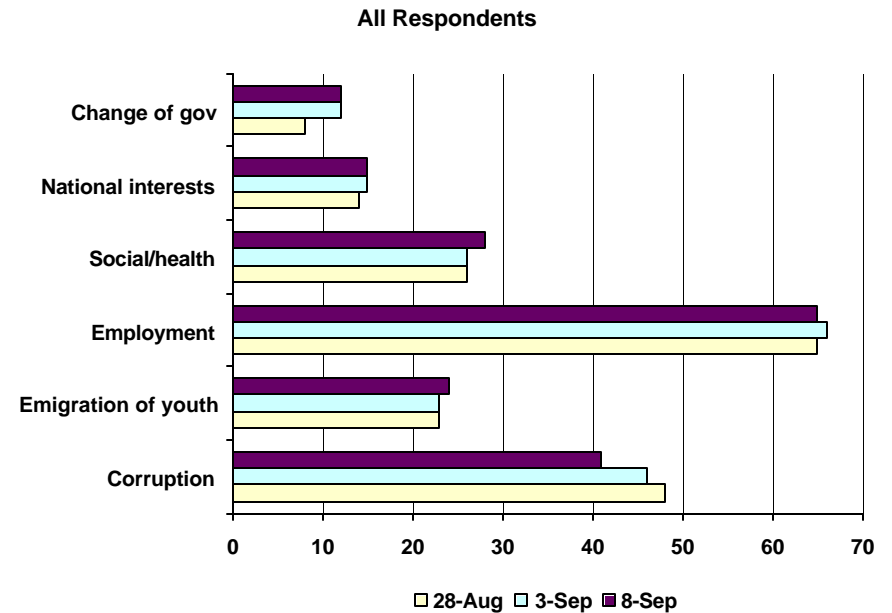
9

Respondents were asked what was the most important issue in deciding how to vote. The following seven issues have continually tracked as the most important issues since the spring of 2000.

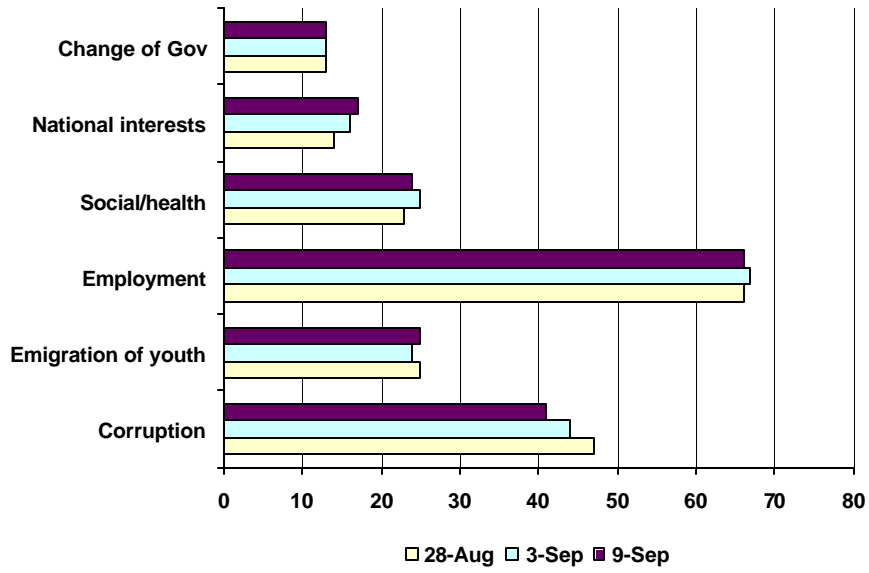
1. Battle against corruption
2. Young people leaving B&H
3. Return and accommodation of displaced persons and refugees
4. Change of Government
5. Improvement of social and health protection
6. Employment and the creation of new workplaces
7. Protection of the national interests of my people

The graphs combine respondents first and second choices.

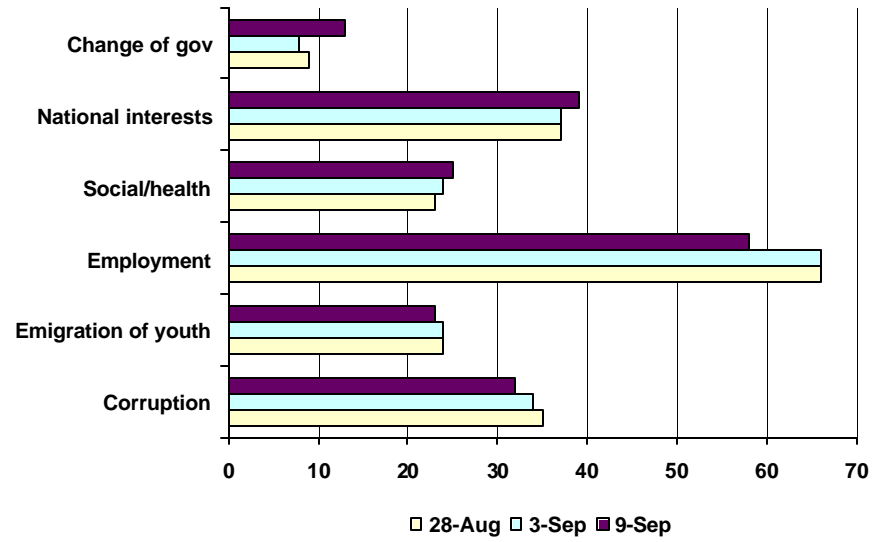
There was a significant decline in corruption as the issue most important to voters in the October 5th elections. This decline was in both entities and within all three major ethnic groups. Health and social issues continue to rise in importance among most voter categories. Jobs and employment continue to be the most important issue in every voter category.



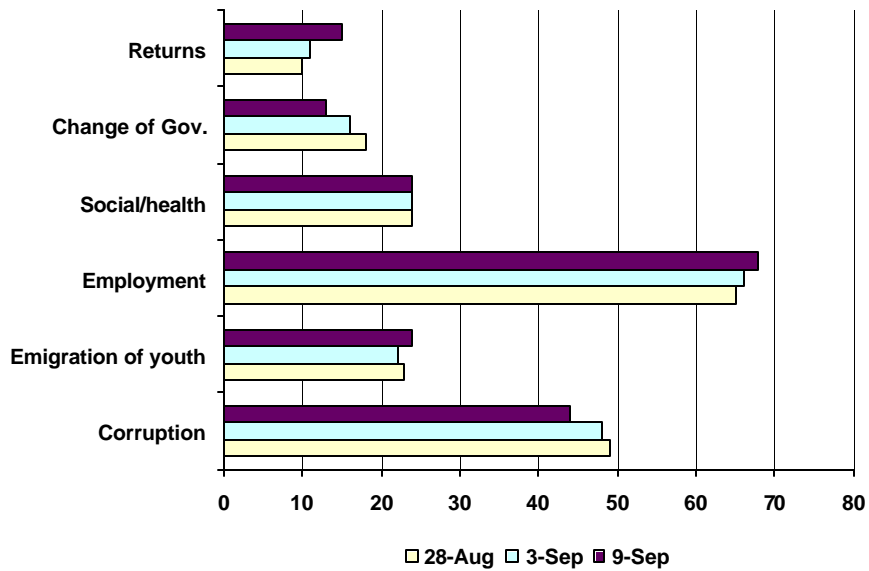
Federation Respondents



Bosnian-Croat Respondents



Bosniak Respondents



Bosnian-Serb Respondents

