



Bosnia and Hercegovina

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

Summary of Results

Polling from September 4 to September 17, 2002

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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 that are 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 September 4 and September 17, 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 versus 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 develop 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.

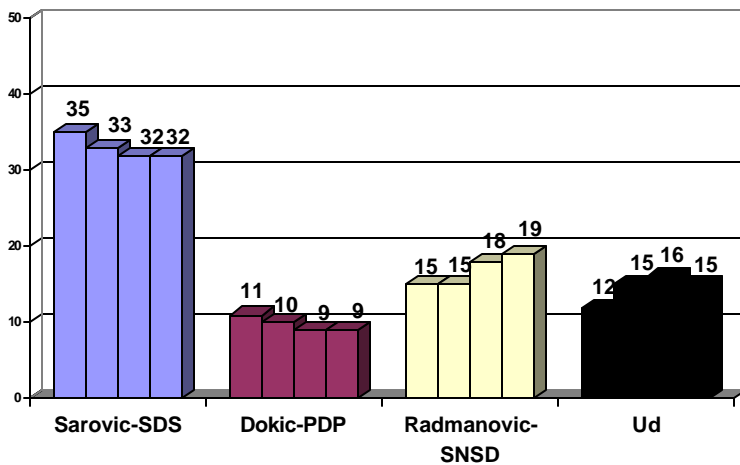
Presidency of Bosnia and Hercegovina

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.

Nebojsa Radmanovic of the SNSD continued to gain support in the race for the Serb member of the B&H presidency. Mr. Radmanovic now has the support of 23% of decided voters, an increase of 2 percentage points. There was virtually no change in the race for the Croat member of the presidency, while in the Bosniak member race Haris Siljadzic remained at 27% and now has an 8% lead over his nearest rival.

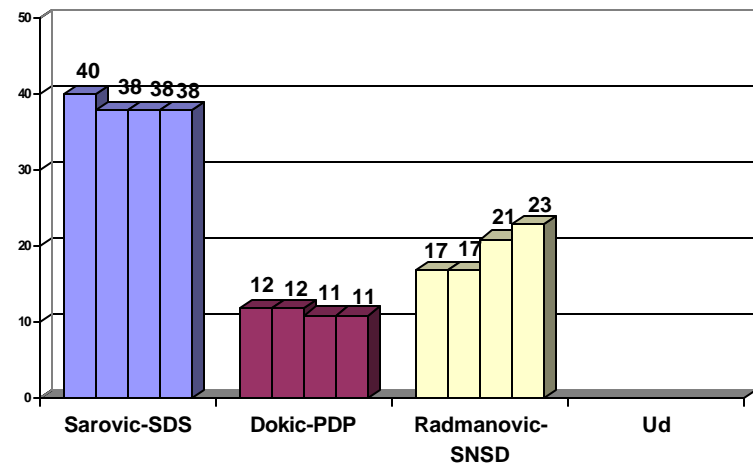
**Bosnian-Serb Member of the BiH Presidency
(Republika Srpska Respondents Only)**

All Respondents



Dates: August 28 - September 3 - September 9 - September 17

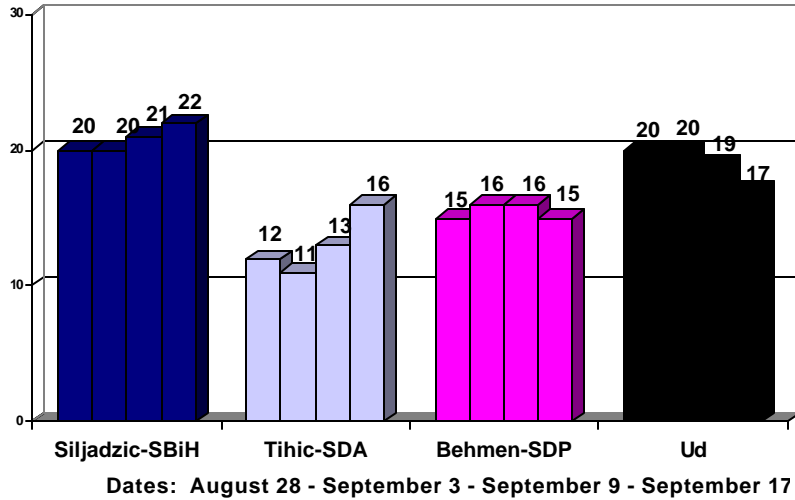
Decided Voters Only



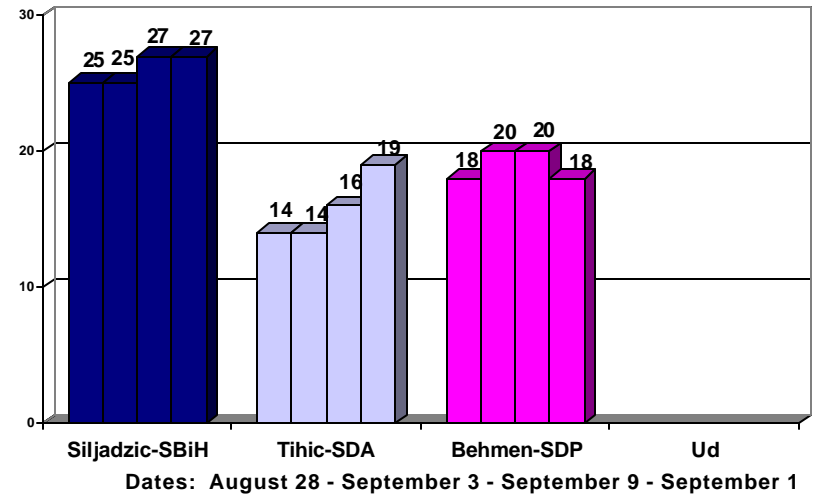
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Bosniak Member of the BiH Presidency (Federation of B&H Respondents Only)

All Respondents

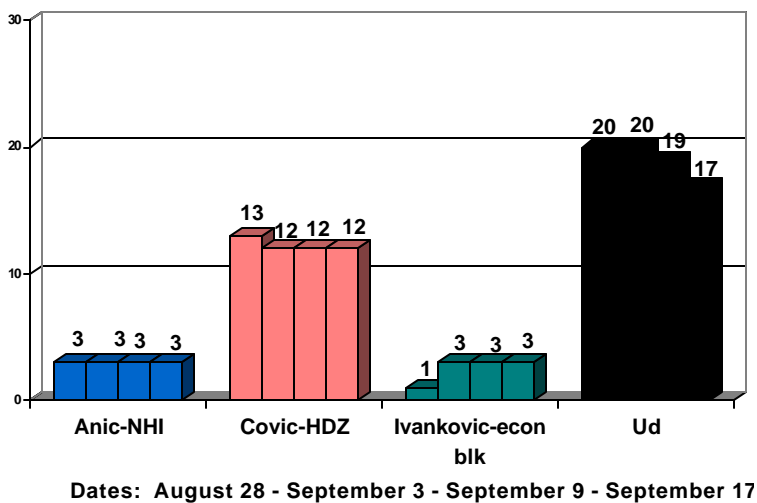


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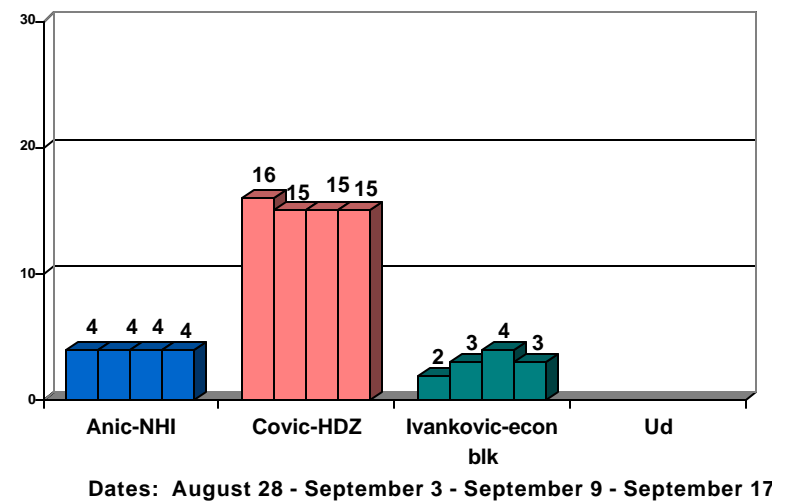


Bosnian-Croat Member of the BiH Presidency (Federation of B&H Respondents Only)

All Respondents



Decided Voters Only

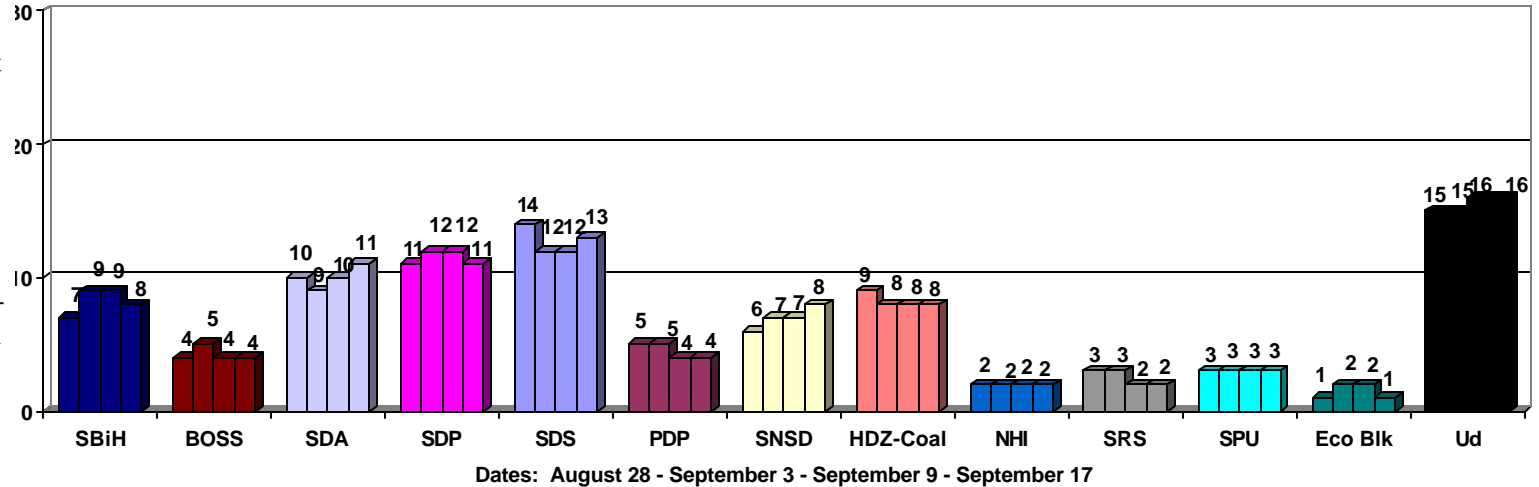


B&H House of Representatives

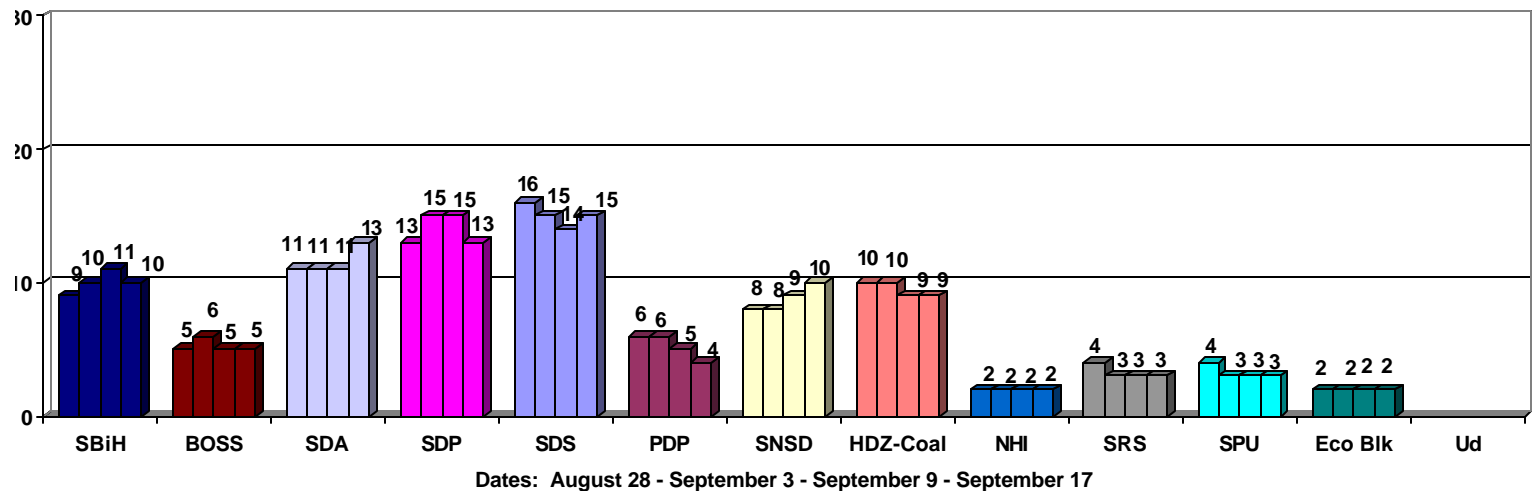
There was a 6% swing among decided voters away from moderate parties to nationalist ones in the BiH Parliamentary election. This was most significant among parties with a Bosniak voter base. The SDA gained 2 percentage points and the SDP dropped 2. The SBiH also declined by 1 point in the period.

Despite this change, the moderates continue to hold an overall lead with only 40% of voters supporting the nationalist parties, HDZ, SDA, SDS and SRS. The remainder of the parties have combined support of just under 50%.

All Respondents



Decided Voters Only



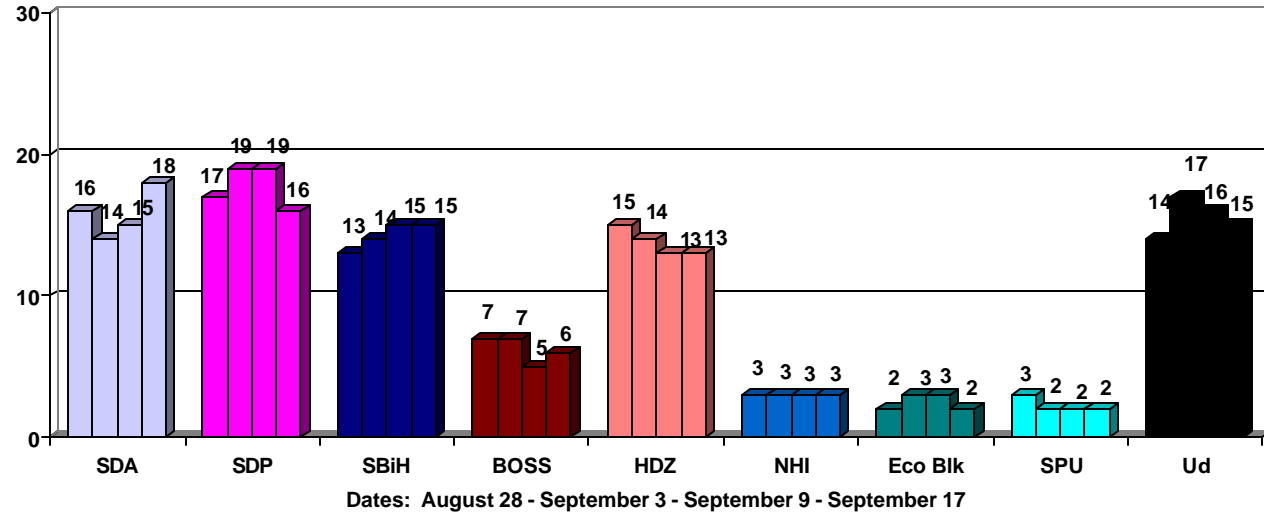
Federation B&H House of Representatives

There was a dramatic change in the Federation of B&H Parliament race. The SDA picked up 3 percentage points in the tracking period and now have the support of 21% of decided voters, while the SDP slipped into second place with 19%.

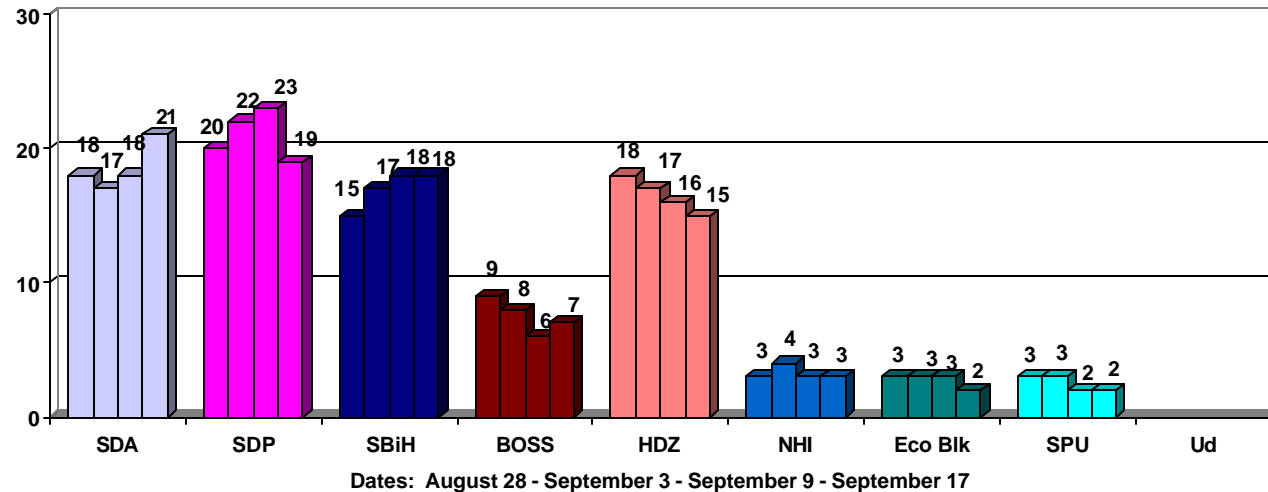
The HDZ continued its decline among decided voters and now has 15% support.

Despite the SDA's increased strength, a coalition government involving the SDA and HDZ is still not possible without the support of at least one major member of the current Alliance for Change.

All Respondents



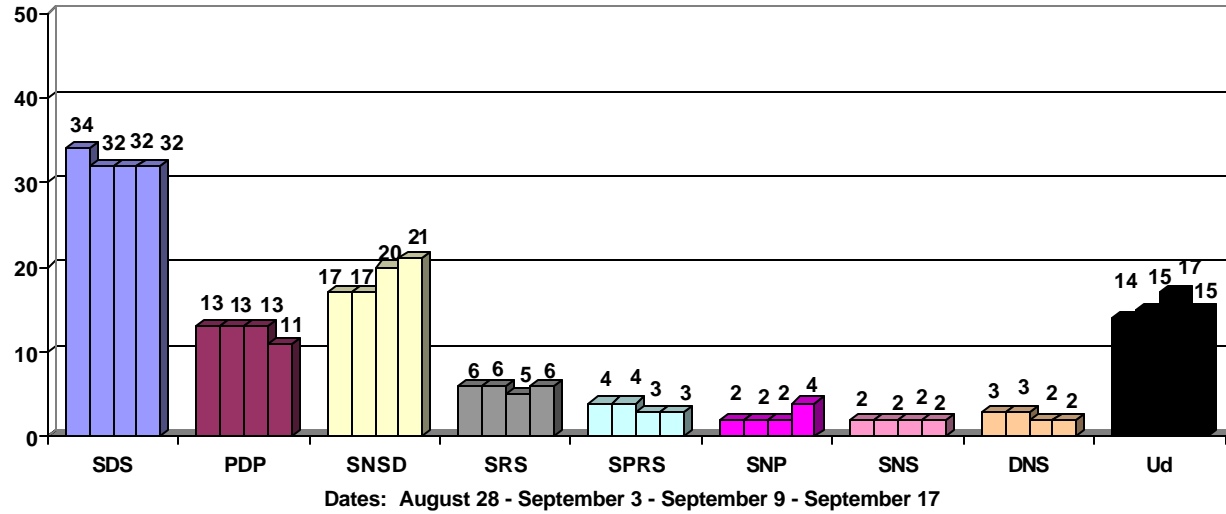
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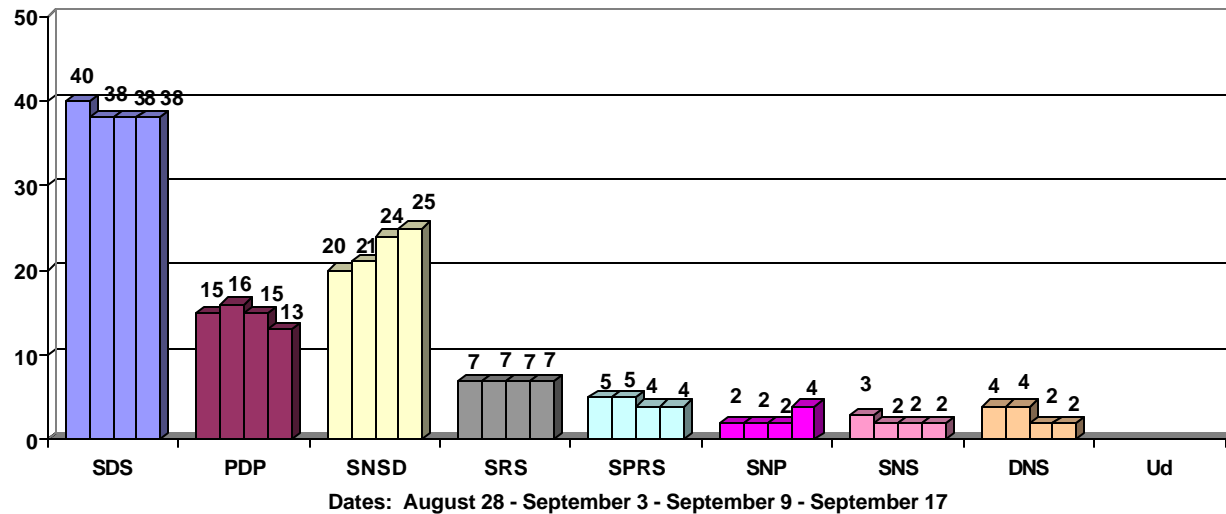
Republika Srpska National Assembly

SNSD support among decided voters for the RSNA continues to increase, although at a slower rate. The party now has the support of 25% of voters. Support for the SDS remains flat.

All Respondents



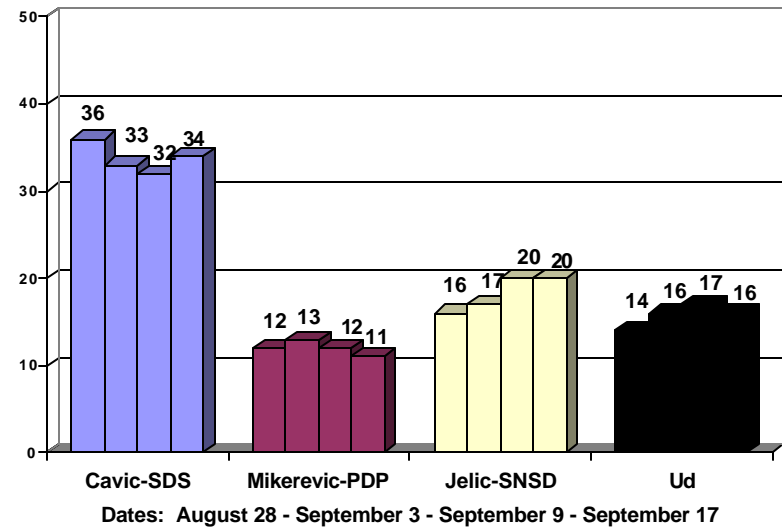
Decided Voters Only



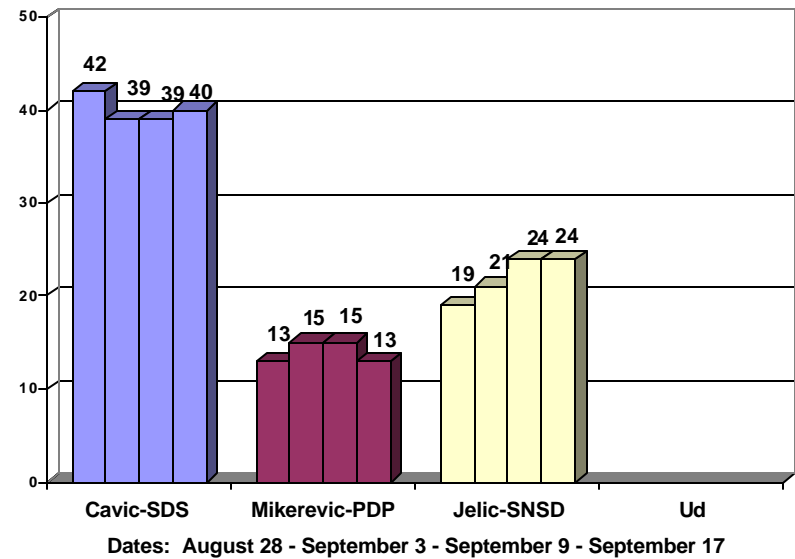
President Of The Republika Srpska

Dragan Cavic (SDS) increased his lead slightly in the race for the RS presidency. He now has the support of 40% of decided voters, a 16 percentage point lead over his nearest rival.

All Respondents



Decided Voters Only



ISSUES

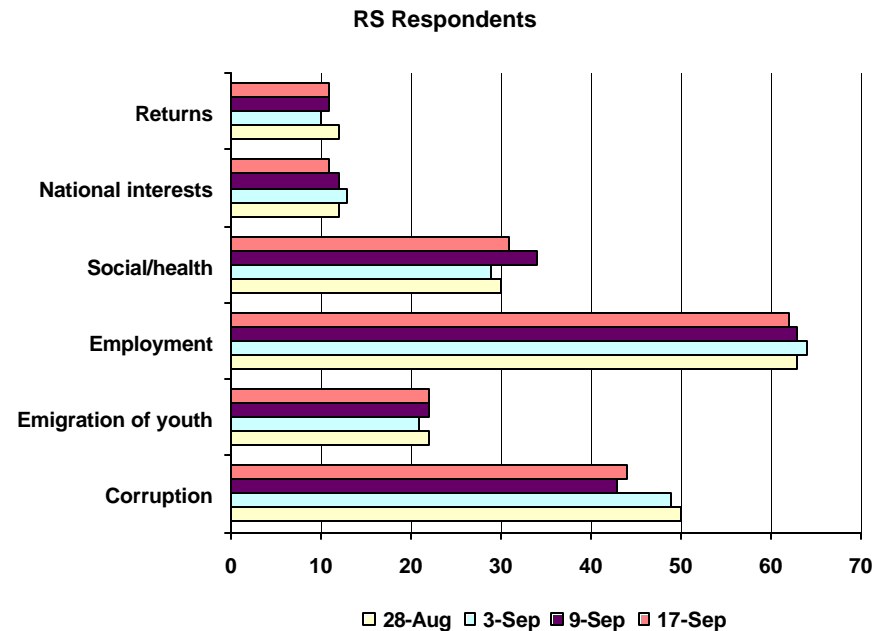
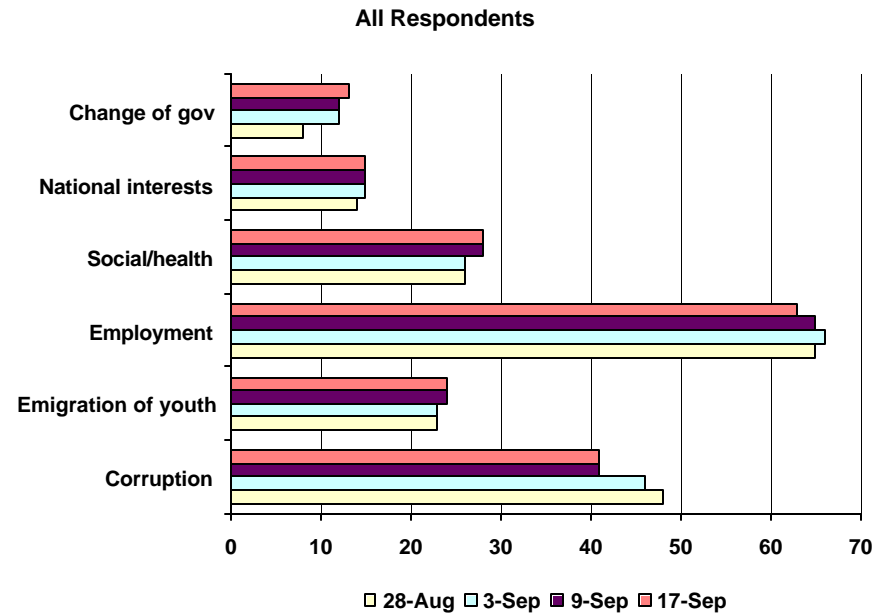
Respondents were asked what was the most important issue in deciding how to vote. The following seven issues have continually tracked as the most important issues since the spring of 2000.

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

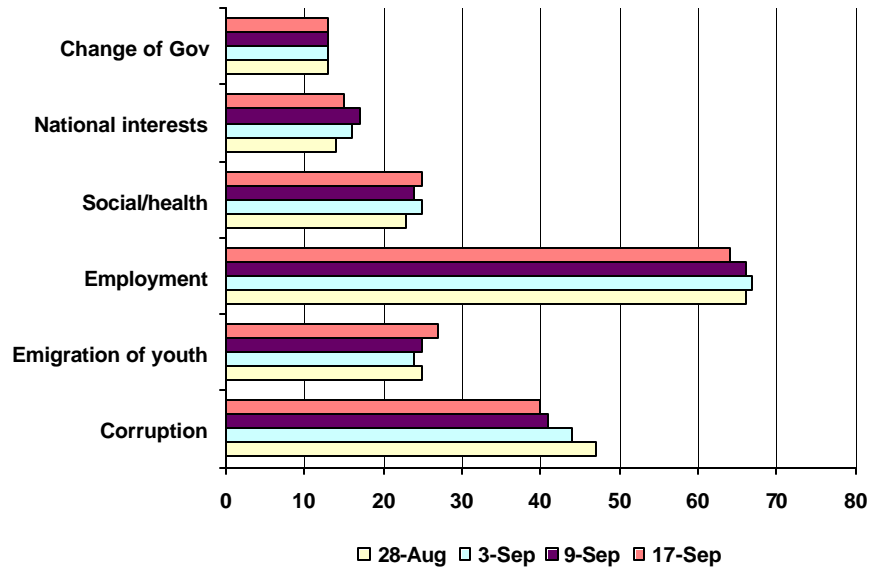
The graphs combine respondents first and second choices.

There was a sharp increase among Bosnian-Croat voters in their identification of “protection of my national interests” as the issue most important to them. This corresponded with a significant drop in employment as a most important issue. This trend has in past elections resulted in a significant increase in voter support for the HDZ.

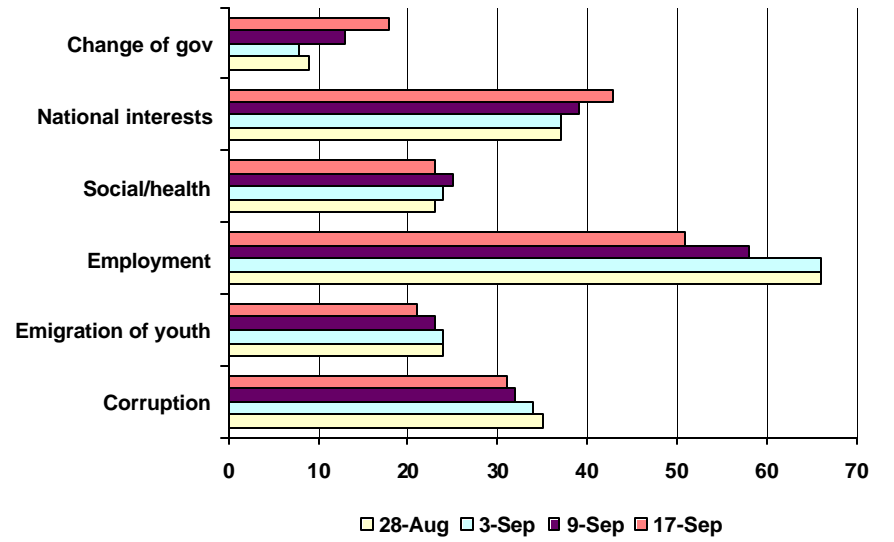
Among all other categories of voters there was little change in the issues they felt important.



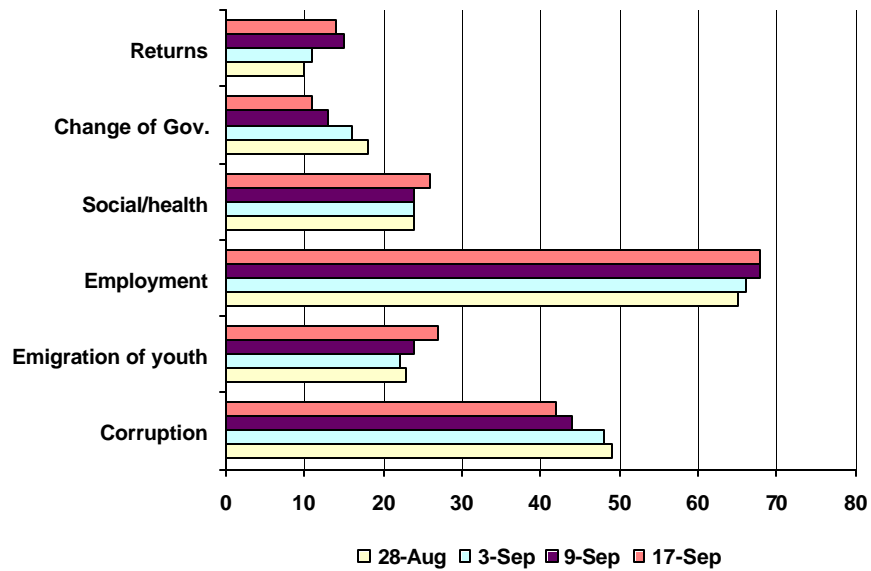
Federation Respondents



Bosnian-Croat Respondents



Bosniak Respondents



Bosnian-Serb Respondents

