



## **Bosnia and Hercegovina**

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

#### **Summary of Results**

**Polling from September 20 to September 27, 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 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 20 and September 27, a total of 1,600 Bosnia and Hercegovina citizens were interviewed. The 1,600 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 1,600 people is plus or minus 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.

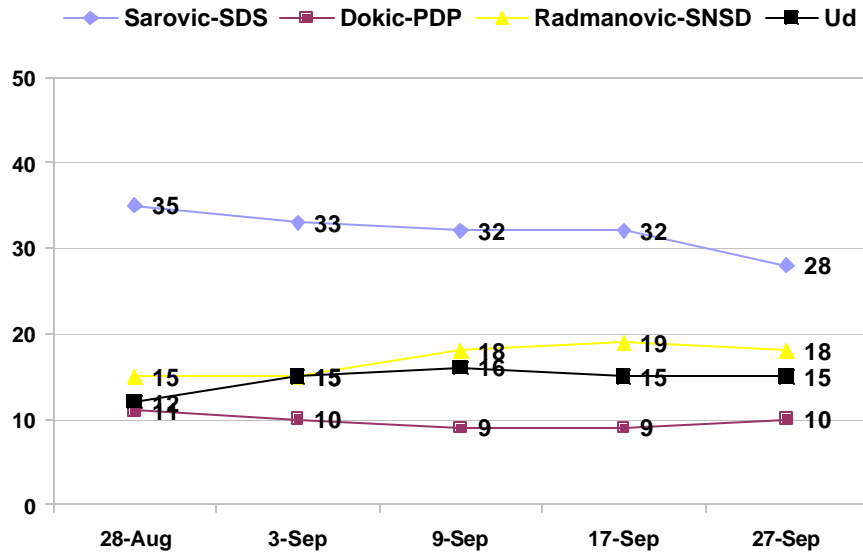
The “decided voters only” response shows a party's support as a percentage of decided voters only and is a more accurate reflection of the support the party may expect on Election Day. In presenting the results of decided voters only, respondents who said they were undecided, would not vote or did not 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.

### Three Member Presidency of Bosnia and Hercegovina

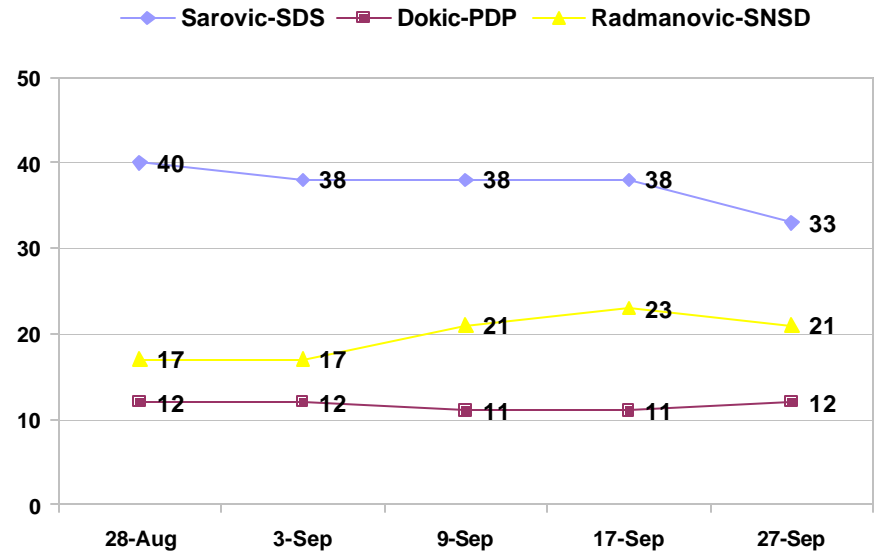
A three member presidency will be elected based on the country’s three constituent people. The candidate from each ethnic group receiving the largest number of votes will be elected to the presidency.

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

All Respondents

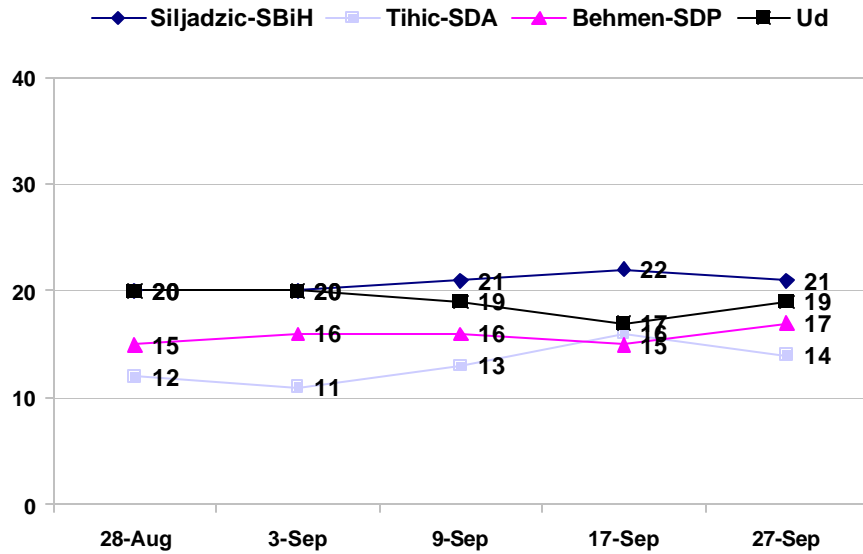


Decided Voters Only

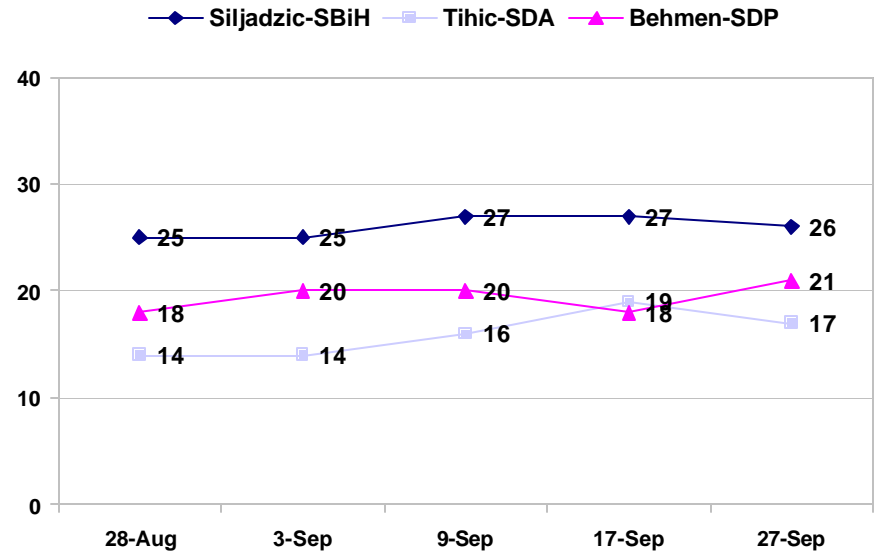


**Bosniak Member of the BiH Presidency (Federation of B&H Respondents Only)**

**All Respondents**

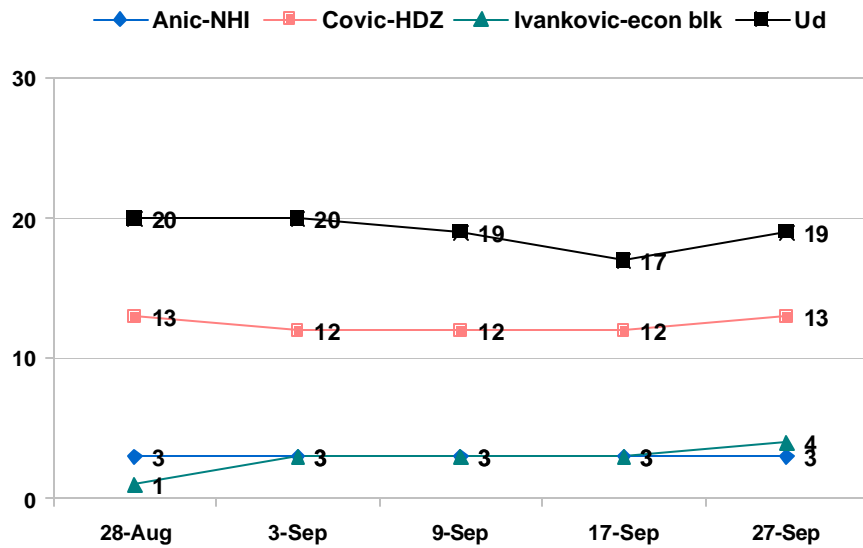


**Decided Voters Only**

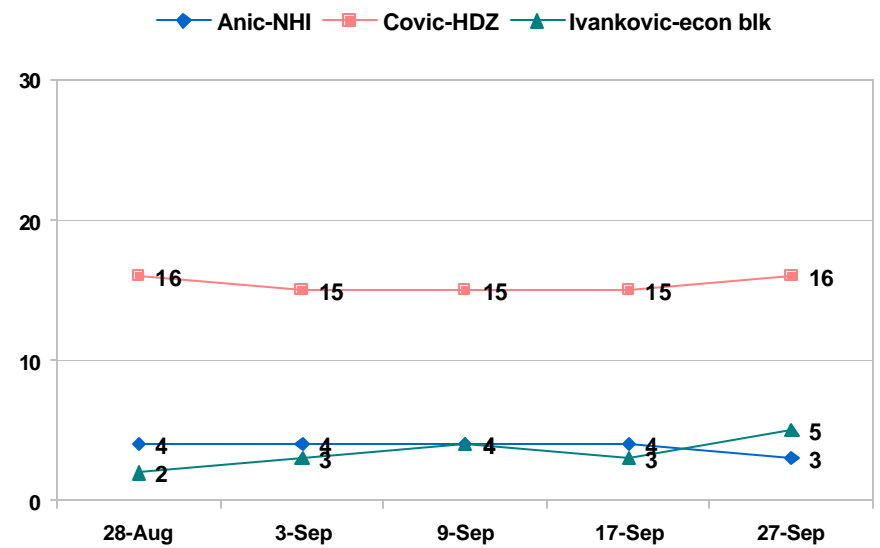


**Bosnian-Croat Member of the BiH Presidency (Federation of B&H Respondents Only)**

**All Respondents**



**Decided Voters Only**

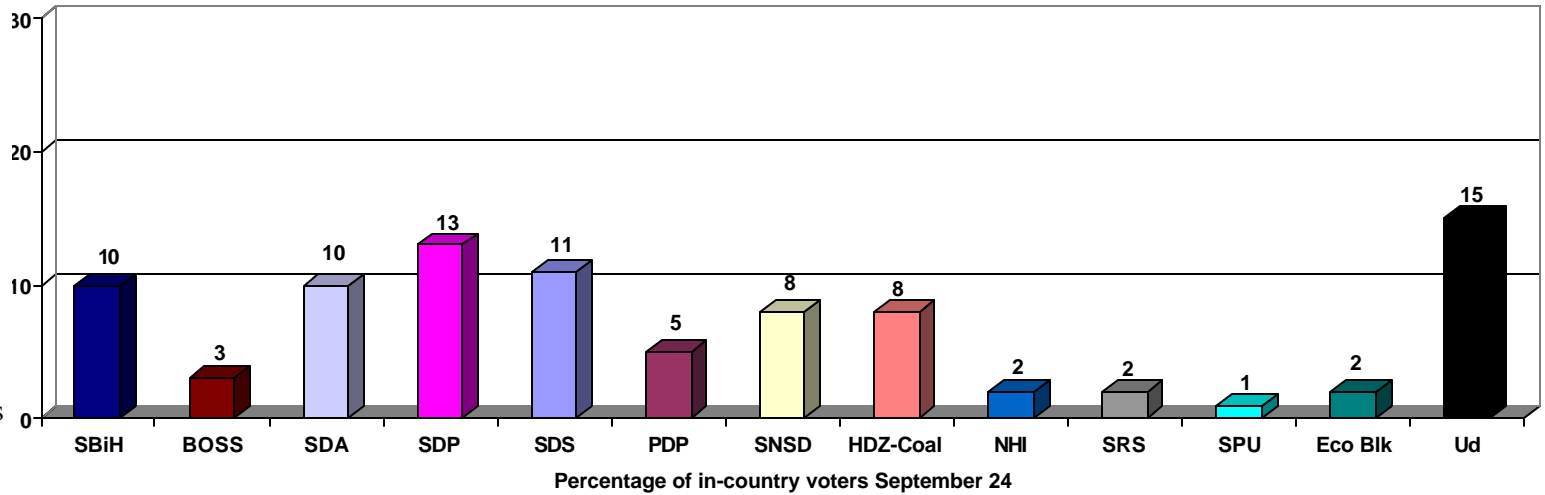


### B&H House of Representatives

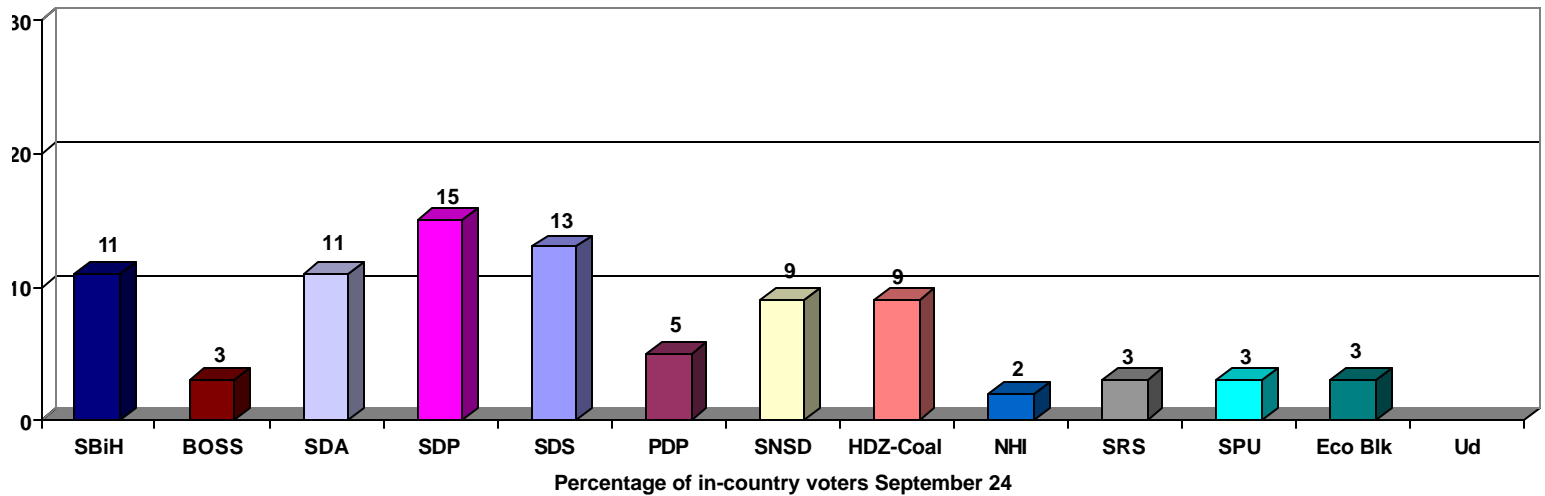
It is important to note that the research sample does not include out-of-country voters and that displaced voters are likely under sampled.

The addition of these two voter groups on election day will likely have the effect of increasing the percentage of support for Bosniak and Croat voter based parties while decreasing the percentage of support for Serb voter based parties. How large this impact will be depends on the number of out-of-country voters that participate in the election.

All Respondents

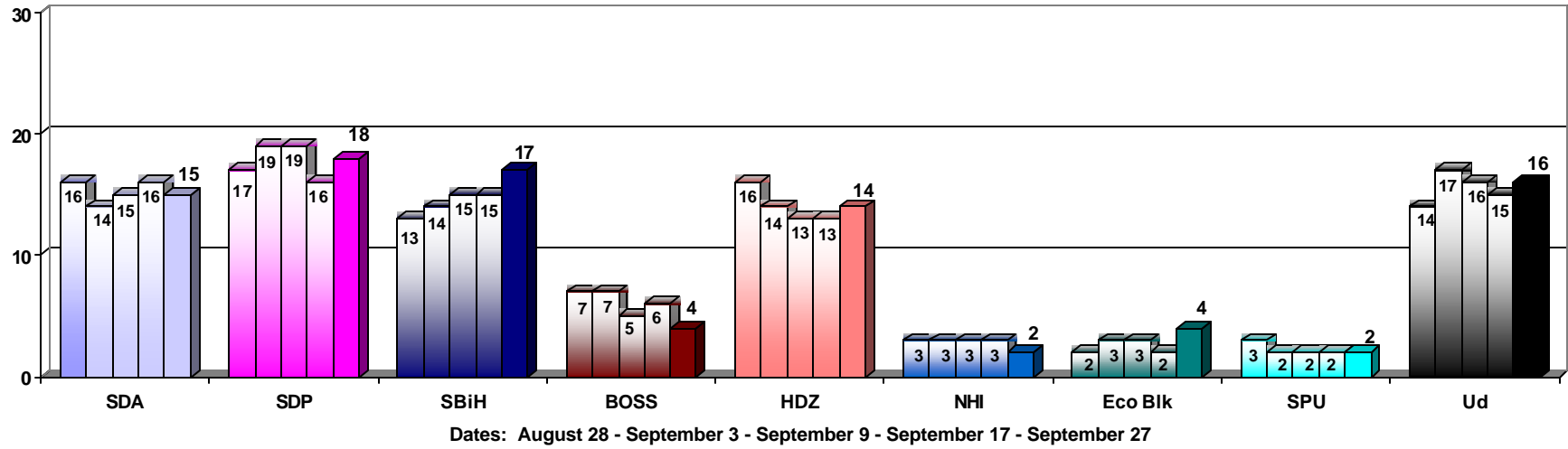


Decided Voters Only

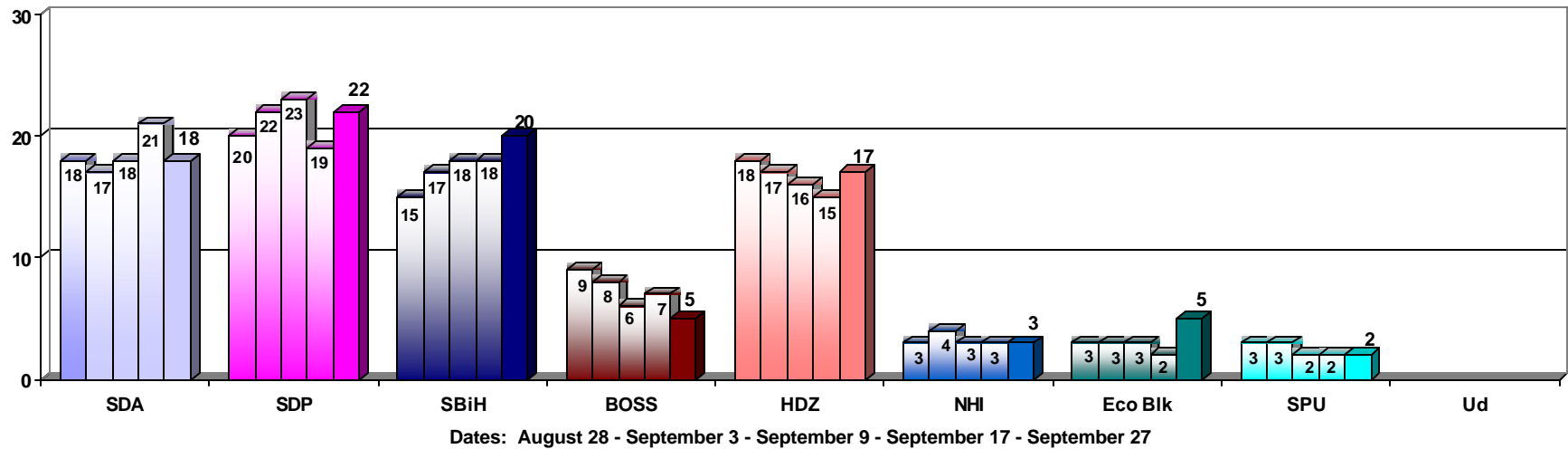


Federation B&H House of Representatives

All Respondents

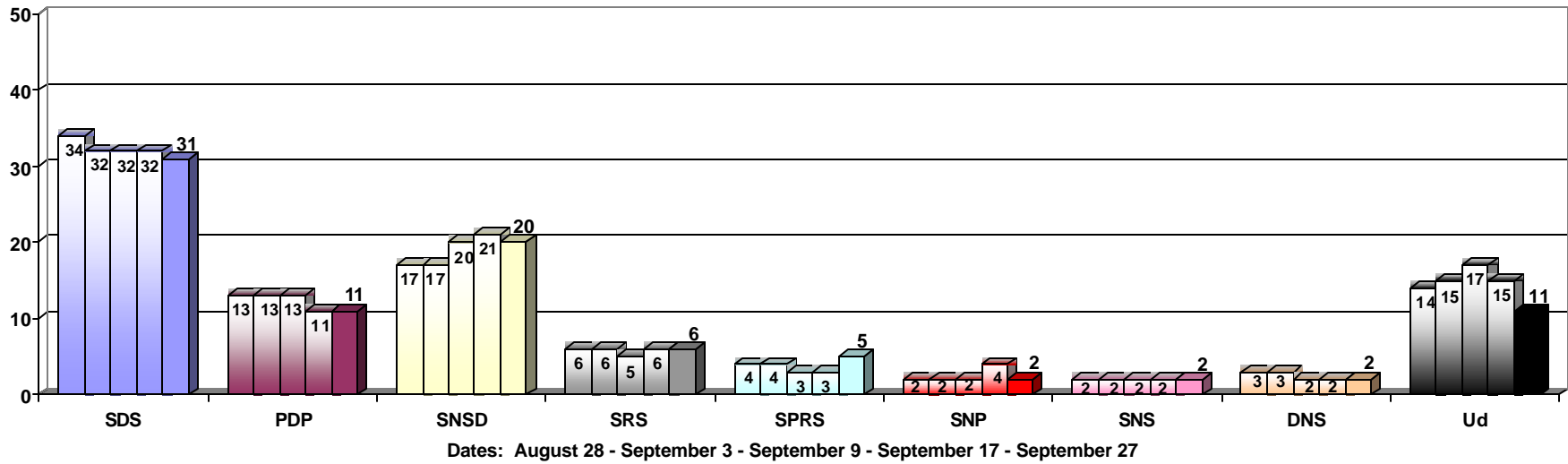


Decided Voters Only

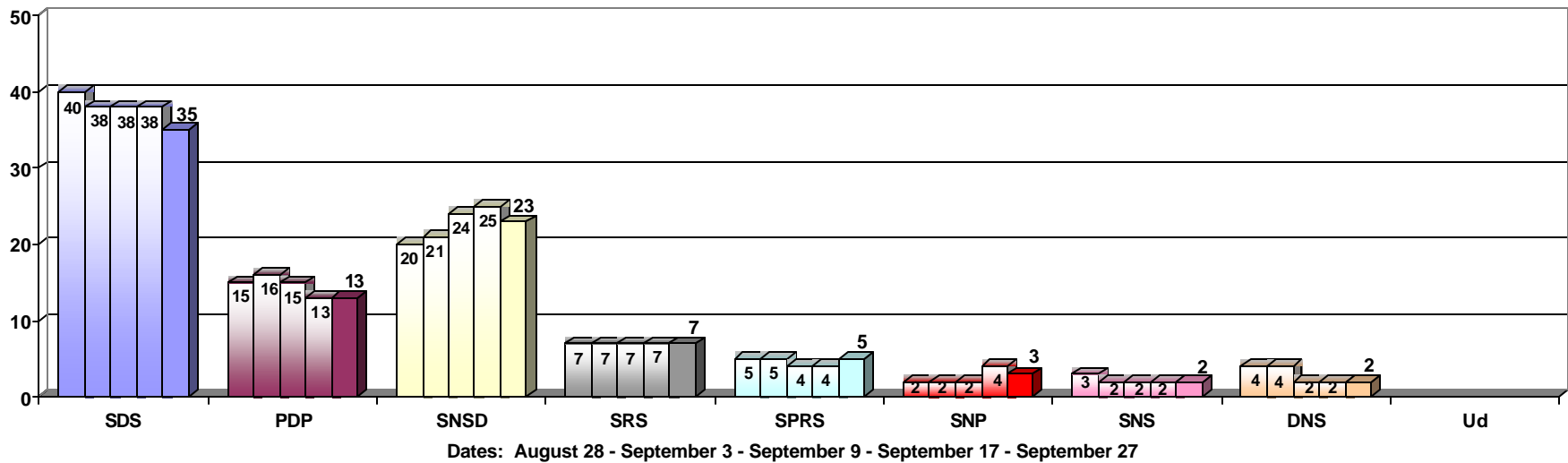


Republika Srpska National Assembly

All Respondents

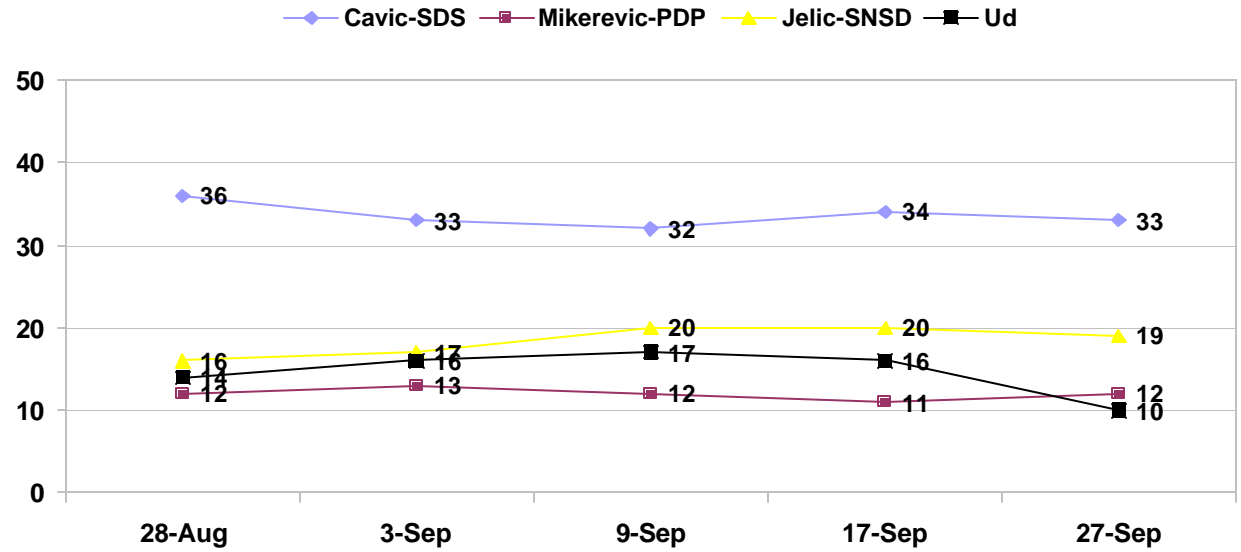


Decided Voters Only

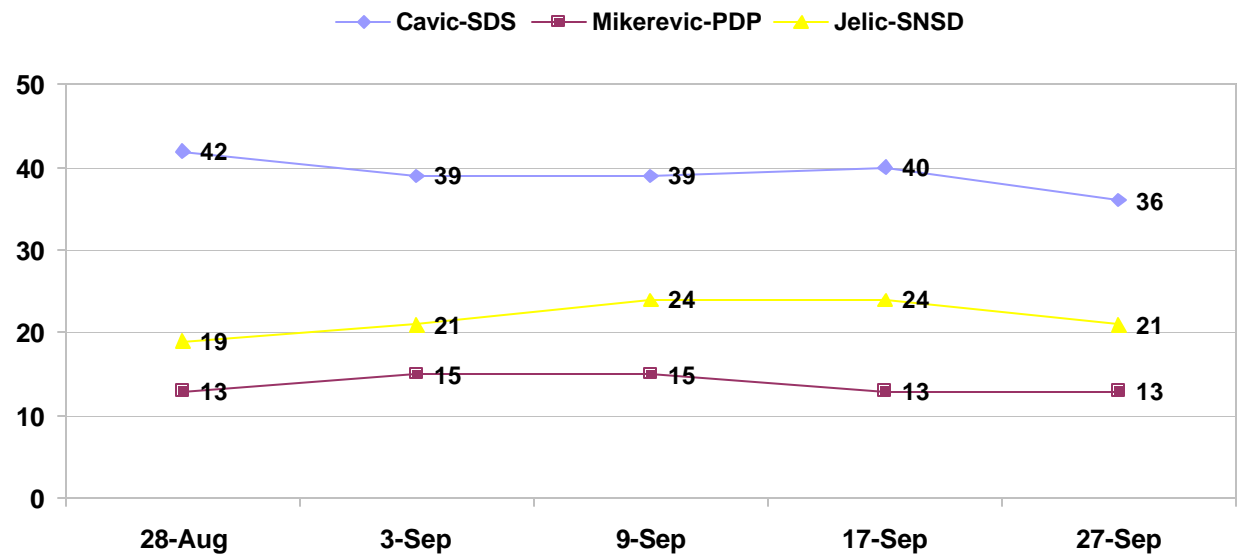


## President Of The Republika Srpska

### All Respondents



### Decided Voters Only





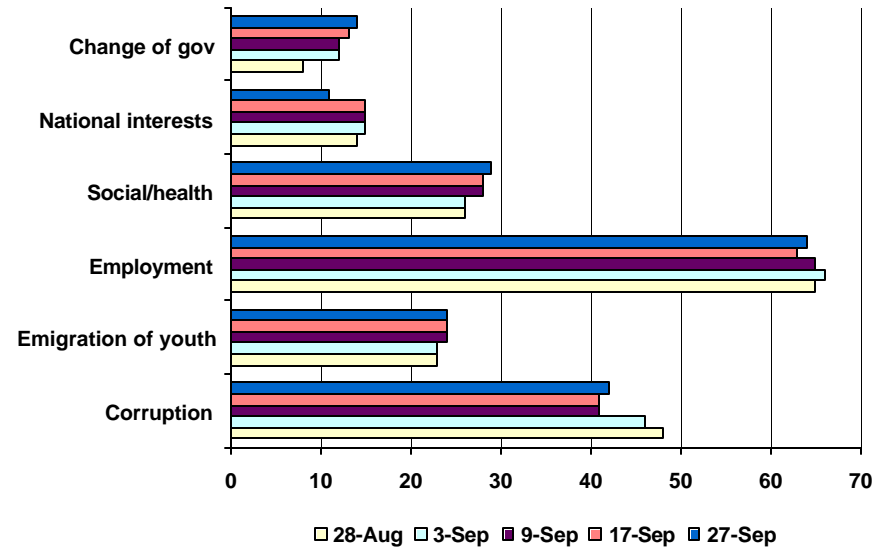
# ISSUES

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.

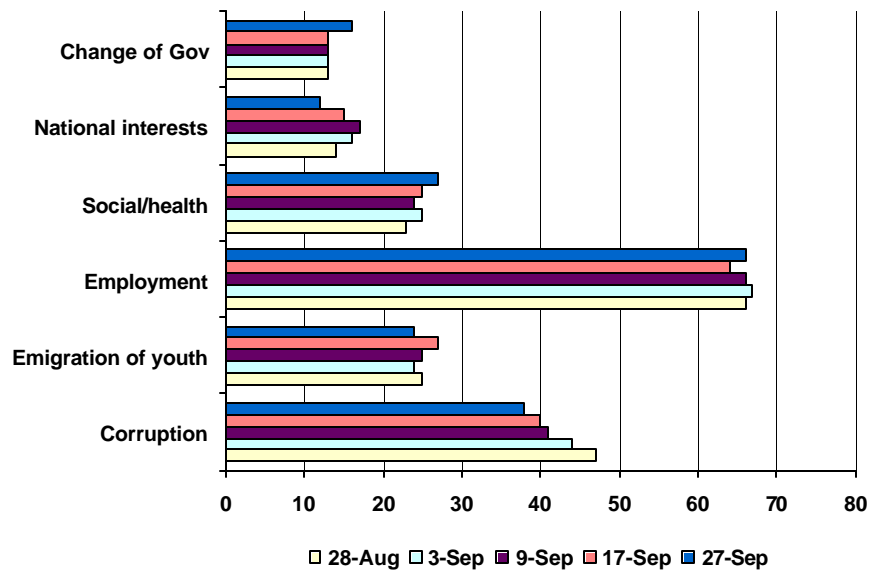
1. Battle against corruption
2. Young people leaving B&H
3. Return and accommodation of displaced persons and refugees
4. Change of Government
5. Improvement of social and health protection
6. Employment and the creation of new workplaces
7. Protection of the national interests of my people

The graphs combine respondents first and second choices.

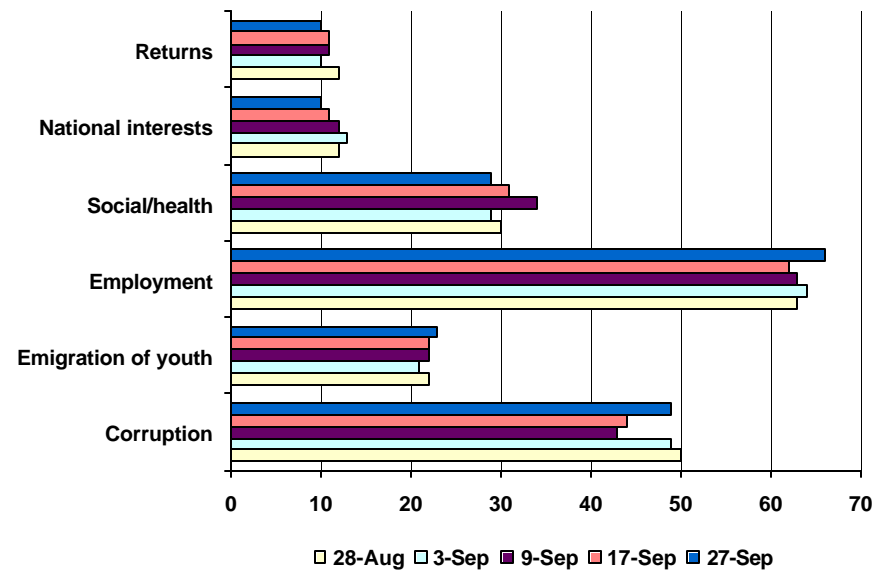
All Respondents



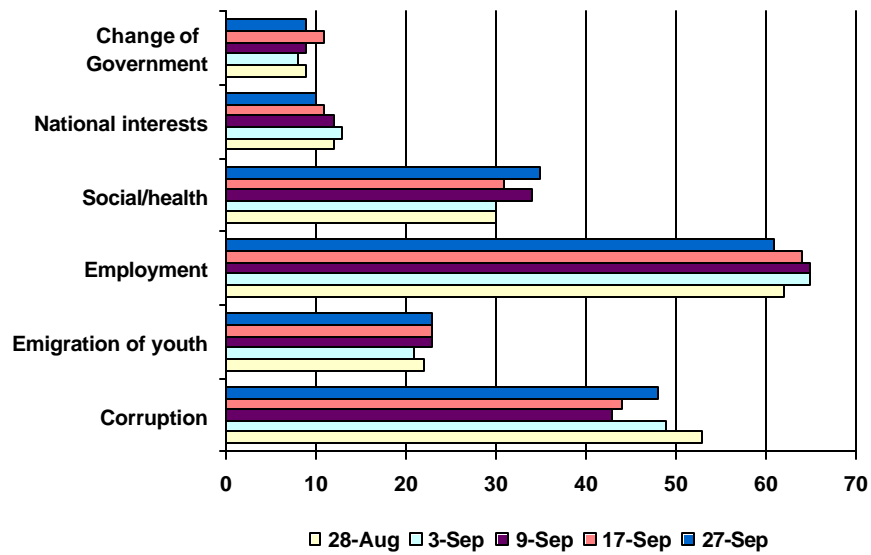
Federation Respondents



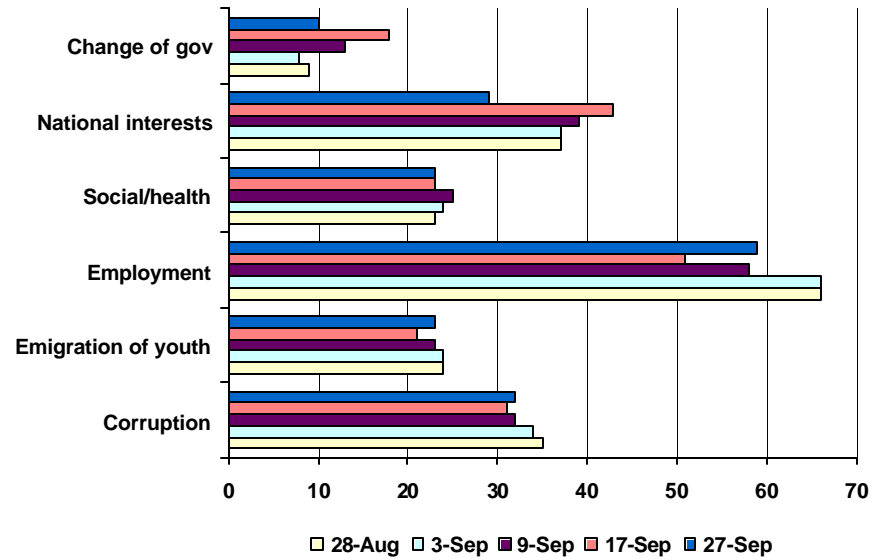
RS Respondents



**Bosnian-Serb Respondents**



**Bosnian-Croat Respondents**



**Bosniak Respondents**

