Public attitudes in Georgia
Results of a June 2016 survey carried out for
NDI by CRRC Georgia

This research is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Laura Thornton - NDI Georgia
Davit Sichinava – CRRC Georgia
Why We Conduct Polls?

- Foster the development of more responsive policies and governance;

- Help stakeholders diagnose and address issues of public concern;

  - Leaders from across the political spectrum have reported that the polls are important to their work and encourage continued polling;

  - Inclusive process: the polling instrument was developed in consultation with parties, government, and civil society leaders;
Information about the poll

- Fieldwork dates: June 8 – July 6, 2016
- 4,113 completed interviews
- A nationally representative sample including oversampled areas of the Capital, Urban, Rural and minority settlements
- The average margin of error is +/- 2.1%
Methodology

Sample design
NDI and CRRC use a complex survey design:

- **Stratification** – dividing population in relatively homogenous sub-groups
- **Clustering** – randomly selecting small geographic areas for each sub-group (stratum)

- Households are selected via random route sampling
- Respondents are selected using a Kish table
- Randomly selected households and individuals are not substituted
- All interviews were conducted face-to-face, in Georgian, Armenian and Azeri.
How NDI Survey is Conducted

1. At the first stage, CRRC randomly selects voting precincts in Georgia. Interviewers are sent there with given starting point, directions for walking, step size, number of contacts.

2. Interviewer randomly selects households according to the given step size, e.g. every 3rd, 5th, 8th...

3. The respondent is selected randomly, with special method - so called Kish grid. Selected respondent cannot be replaced.

4. Interviewer conducts an interview with the selected household member. Interviewer uses tablet computer and a special software.

5. Interviewer submits the results via the internet to the special server.

6. CRRC cleans and analyses collected data, which later is presented to the public.
Election Process
What do you think are the three biggest barriers to free and fair elections in Georgia? Name up to three (q29)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bribery of voters</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harassment of voters and activists</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems related with voters’ lists</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People voting more than once (including Carousel voting)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballot stuffing</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One person voting for other people</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voters feeling they have to vote a specific way to keep their jobs</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unequal media coverage of some candidates and parties</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget money is used unfairly in the election</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employers forcing employees to take part in a campaign</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public officials campaign on behalf of one party</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identification cards that do not protect against falsification</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unequal funding for some candidates or parties</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of transparency of political party finances</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are no barriers</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Whose opinion do you think matters most, when it comes to deciding whether elections have been run well? Name up to three (q30)

- My own opinion: 43
- Foreign observers: 25
- Central Election Commission (CEC): 24
- Opinion of the people around me (friends, neighbors, relatives, coworkers): 18
- The political party I support: 16
- Government of Georgia: 12
- Georgian observer NGOs: 12
- Media/Journalists: 10
- Foreign governments: 8
- Church: 7
- DK: 9
- RA: 1
How would you assess your trust towards Georgian election observers? (q31)

- Trust: 33
- Neutral: 42
- Distrust: 20
- DK: 4
How would you assess your trust towards international election observers? (q32)

- Trust: 45
- Neutral: 34
- Distrust: 15
- DK: 5
How do you think the coming Parliamentary election will be conducted/managed by the Central Election Commission (CEC)? (q33)
How much do you agree or disagree that the Central Election Commission (CEC) representatives will carry out their duties professionally? (q34)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agreement Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fully agree</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agree</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat agree somewhat disagree</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disagree</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completely disagree</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DK</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Making Electoral Choice
Thinking about next parliamentary elections, how important are the following factors in making your decision? Decided people only (q26)

Part 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Neither important nor unimportant</th>
<th>Unimportant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trust towards specific members of political parties</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parties’ past performance</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electoral platforms and promises</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The likelihood of a party winning</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thinking about next parliamentary elections, how important are the factors in making your decision? Decided people only (q26) Part 2

- Political opinion of the people close to me (family, friends): 45 Important, 16 Neither important nor unimportant, 36 Unimportant
- Parish and priests’ political opinions: 35 Important, 15 Neither important nor unimportant, 44 Unimportant
- Political opinion of popular people: 25 Important, 17 Neither important nor unimportant, 54 Unimportant
- Political opinion of people you work for and colleagues: 21 Important, 14 Neither important nor unimportant, 51 Unimportant
Thinking about next parliamentary elections, how important are the factors in making your decision? Undecided people only (q26) Part 1

- **Parties’ past performance**:
  - Important: 62
  - Neither important nor unimportant: 16
  - Unimportant: 16
- **Trust towards specific members of political parties**:
  - Important: 59
  - Neither important nor unimportant: 15
  - Unimportant: 20
- **Electoral platforms and promises**:
  - Important: 54
  - Neither important nor unimportant: 17
  - Unimportant: 25
- **Political opinion of the people close to me (family, friends)**:
  - Important: 40
  - Neither important nor unimportant: 18
  - Unimportant: 37
Thinking about next parliamentary elections, how important are the factors in making your decision? Undecided people only (q26) Part 2

- Parish and priests’ political opinions:
  - Important: 29
  - Neither important nor unimportant: 23
  - Unimportant: 42

- The likelihood of a party winning:
  - Important: 29
  - Neither important nor unimportant: 23
  - Unimportant: 38

- Political opinion of popular people:
  - Important: 20
  - Neither important nor unimportant: 18
  - Unimportant: 56

- Political opinion of people you work for and colleagues:
  - Important: 15
  - Neither important nor unimportant: 20
  - Unimportant: 49
According to Georgians their votes hinge on a number of issues, including first and foremost, parties’ economic policies (41%)
Which of the following issues matters the most when voting in parliamentary elections? (q27 X If elections were held tomorrow would you say you are decided or undecided?)

- Party economic policy: Decided 41, Undecided 42
- Party stance on national security issues: Decided 15, Undecided 10
- Party stance on healthcare issues: Decided 12, Undecided 15
- Party foreign policy stance: Decided 10, Undecided 7
- Party stance on rule of law: Decided 10, Undecided 8
- Party education policy stance: Decided 7, Undecided 6
- DK: Decided 4, Undecided 10
What kind of impact would increasing the number of women MPs have on Georgia? Would it have ... ? (q36)

- A positive impact: 43
- No Impact: 39
- A negative impact: 9
- DK: 9
Generally, comparing the performance of men and women in elected office, do you think ... ? (q35)

- Men perform better than women: 21
- Women and men perform equally: 58
- Women perform better than men: 16
- DK: 4
- RA: 1
How important or unimportant do you think it is for the party you support to have balanced representation of male and female candidates? (q28)
Future Elections & Party Support
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you vote? (q21)

- Likely voters: 67
- Likely abstainers: 33
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you vote? (q21)

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers. April 2015, August 2015, March 2016 and June 2016 are also representative for minority regions.
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you vote? (q21 X Gender)

- Likely voters:
  - Male: 68
  - Female: 66

- Likely abstainers:
  - Male: 32
  - Female: 34
Likely abstainers are the most dominant among young people.
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you vote? (q21 X Settlement)

- National: Likely voters 67, Likely abstainers 33
- Capital: Likely voters 58, Likely abstainers 42
- Urban: Likely voters 70, Likely abstainers 30
- Rural: Likely voters 74, Likely abstainers 26
- Minority settlements: Likely voters 58, Likely abstainers 42
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you say you are decided or undecided about how you would vote? (q20)
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you say you are decided or undecided about how you would vote? (q20)

- **Decided**:
  - June 2016: 38
  - March 2016: 34
  - November 2015: 35
  - August 2015: 28

- **Undecided**:
  - June 2016: 57
  - March 2016: 61
  - November 2015: 60
  - August 2015: 59

- **DK**:
  - June 2016: 3
  - March 2016: 3
  - November 2015: 3
  - August 2015: 11

- **RA**:
  - June 2016: 1
  - March 2016: 1
  - November 2015: 2
  - August 2015: 3
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you say you are decided or undecided about how you would vote? (q20 X Gender)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decided</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DK: 3 3
RA: 2 1
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you say you are decided or undecided about how you would vote? (q20 X Age)

Undecided voters are predominantly young.
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you say you are decided or undecided about how you would vote?

(q20 X Settlement)
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you say you are decided or undecided about how you would vote? (q20 X If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you vote?)

Half of likely voters are still undecided

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Likely voters</th>
<th>Likely abstainers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decided</td>
<td>Undecided</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you vote?
Which party is closest to you? (q18)

First choice
Second choice

Other: Parties that were named by less than 3% of the respondents.
Which party is closest to you? (q18)

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers. April 2015, August 2015, March 2016 and June 2016 are also representative for minority regions.
Whole Sample 100%

Will you vote?
- NO 33% Likely Abstainers
- YES 67% Likely Voters

Are you decided who to vote for?
- Decided likely voters 33%
- YES 38% Decided
- NO 57% Undecided
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for? Whole sample (q22)

Other: Parties that were named by less than 3% of the respondents.

If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for? Likely voters only (q22)

Other: Parties that were named by less than 3% of the respondents.

If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, which party would you vote for? Decided likely voters only - 33% (q22)

Other: Parties that were named by less than 3% of the respondents.

How would you describe your support for your first choice? (q23) - of the 38% who named a specific party they would vote in the first choice

- Strong: 55
- Average: 41
- Weak: 3
Are you going to vote for the same political party/group you voted in 2012 parliamentary elections? (q25) - of 38% who are decided about how they would vote

- Yes: 57%
- No: 27%
- Didn't vote / not planning to vote: 7%
- DK: 6%
- RA: 4%
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, which party do you think would win? (q19)

Other: Parties that were named by less than 3% of the respondents.

If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, which party do you think would win? (q19)

All waves are nationally representative of Georgian speakers. August 2015, March 2016 and June 2016 are also representative for minority regions.
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, which party do you think would win? (q19 X Party closest to you)

- Don't know
- Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia
- UNM (15%)
- Movement State for People (5%)
- No party
- Refuse to answer

Data breakdown:
- No party (27%): 57
- Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia (19%): 82
- UNM (15%): 51
- Don't know (10%): 75
- Movement State for People (5%): 39

Other responses:
- 0
- 2
- 1
- 1
- 0
- 0
- 0
- 1
- 1
- 2
- 0
- 4
- 3
- 3
- 1
- 2
- 4
- 0
- 1
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, which party do you think would win? (q19 X If elections were held tomorrow would you say you are decided or undecided?)

- 31% of undecided voters think that GD will win
- 6% of undecided voters think that UNM will win
Which party you would never vote for? (q24)

- UNM: 21
- Don't Know: 21
- Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia: 19
- No such party: 15
- Refuse to answer: 8
- Georgian Labour Party: 4
- United Democratic Movement: 4
- Alliance of Patriots of Georgia: 2
- Republican Party: 2
- Other: 6

Other: Parties that were named by less than 2% of the respondents.

These parties are: Industrialists, Free Georgia, Georgian Group, New Political Center - Girchi, Movement State for People, Free Democrats, Georgian Party, Georgian Conservative Party, National Forum, Left Alliance and New Rights.
Unpredictable election results: Georgians overwhelmingly want to vote but have not yet made up their mind.

Individual party ratings are so low that they cannot be taken as a guide to the outcome of future elections.

The numbers seen in the final election will look considerably different than the numbers presented in this poll as the results will depend on how undecided ultimately cast their ballots.