

## Common Cause Public Foundation

# "Public opinion on the upcoming local council elections"

Analytical report based on the findings of the public opinion poll, March 3-17, 2021

## About the Foundation

The Common Cause Public Foundation is a nonpartisan organization established to monitor elections of various levels in the Kyrgyz Republic, implement civic education projects, and promote greater citizen participation in governance processes.

The mission of the Foundation is to facilitate the creation of opportunities for citizens to influence the quality of decisions made in the country through public involvement, discourse and oversight.

This public opinion poll was carried out as part of the Voter Education Component of the “Nonpartisan Domestic Election Observation in the Kyrgyz Republic” Project implemented by the Common Cause Public Foundation with support from the USAID.

The team of the Common Cause PF believes that the findings of the public opinion poll will help inform the citizens of the country, the media, political parties, civil society institutions, and decision-makers about important issues related to the upcoming elections.

***This report is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of the Common Cause Public Foundation and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.***

A light gray map of Turkey is shown in the background. A dark blue L-shaped graphic element is positioned over the map, starting from the top left and extending horizontally across the middle, then turning vertically down on the right side. The word "Methodology" is centered in the white space created by the L-shape.

# Methodology

# Methodology

- The survey of respondents was conducted through a personal interview method through phone surveying to cell phone numbers of major mobile operators (O!, Megacom, Beeline). The sociological research was conducted in all oblasts of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- In order to conduct the research and make extrapolations of the findings to the entire population, the sample size of 1,200 residents of the Kyrgyz Republic over 18 years old was drawn. The indicated sample size is sufficient and allows drawing conclusions with an accuracy of  $\pm 2.8\%$  at a 95% confidence level at the level of the population. The confidence level shows the probability of a random answer falling into a confidence interval. The confidence interval can be understood as a margin of error, setting the range of a part of the distribution curve on both sides of the selected point where the answers can fall.
- A stratified sample was built to conduct the research. 9 strata were identified, including the cities of Bishkek and Osh. The population of the Kyrgyz Republic over 18 years of age was represented as the population, according to the data of the National Statistical Committee and the Central Election Commission for 2020.
- When distributing the numbers among the strata, preference was given to equal-size/nonproportional distribution of sample. Such sample distribution allowed increasing the otherwise underrepresented number of respondents in strata with small population size.
- When applying the equal-size sampling, after data collection, a proportional weighting procedure was applied that made it possible to adjust the equal-size sample, which is close to the population, by increasing the weight of underrepresented observations and addressing overrepresentation.



# Demographics

# Socio-demographic indicators

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	%		
Bishkek city (n=211)	18%	18-29 years old (n=348)	29%
Osh city (n=59)	5%	30-39 years old (n=291)	24%
Chui Oblast (n=183)	15%	40-49 years old (n=207)	17%
Talas Oblast (n=46)	4%	50-59 years old (n=180)	15%
Osh Oblast (n=240)	20%	60-69 years old (n=119)	10%
Naryn Oblast (n=52)	4%	70 years old and older (n=55)	5%
Issyk-Kul Oblast (n=92)	8%	Male (n=570)	48%
Jalalabad Oblast (n=222)	19%	Female (n=630)	53%
Batken Oblast (n=95)	8%		
City (n=513)	43%		
Village (n=687)	57%		

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## **Importance of the upcoming elections and citizens participation**

The local council elections were scheduled for April 11, 2021. It is worth noting that 73% of the population is well aware of the local council elections. Of those, 80% are planning to participate in the elections.

The population believes that participation in the local council elections is important. In total, 66% of respondents state that participation in the upcoming elections is "important" and "rather important". Among the top stated reasons for voting in the local council elections are civic engagement (34%), the well-being of the local community depends on the local council (32%), and high voter turnout increases the chance that the elections will be held fairly (29%).

## **Misuse of administrative resources probability**

22% of respondents noted a high probability of the misuse of administrative resources in the local council elections. 20% believe that there will be no abuse of administrative resources in these elections. 26% found it difficult to answer this question. Considering the reasons for the likelihood of abuse of administrative resources, 61% called the abuse of administrative resources a common practice in elections. 22% noted that without the use of administrative resources some parties would not be able to win.

## **Vote buying probability**

27% of respondents believe that local council elections will be held without vote-buying. 20% of respondents noted that there is a high probability of vote-buying at these elections. Considering the reasons for the likelihood of vote-buying, 52% regard it as a common practice in elections, 24% of respondents consider vote-buying a good opportunity to get temporarily rich, and 14% believe that people do not care who they vote for, hence the likelihood of vote-buying is high.

## **What influences the decision to vote for a political party?**

The surveyed respondents named 4 main reasons that could influence the decision to vote for a particular party:

- 40% of respondents indicated that the content of the political party's program influence their decision first and foremost.
- 13% pay attention to the list of candidates of the political party.
- 11% of respondents specifically noted the clean reputation of the political party.
- 21% of respondents found it difficult to name a reason for choosing a particular political party.

## **How do deputies of local keneshes solve local problems?**

The respondents were asked to assess how actively the deputies of local keneshes participate in solving the problems of the local community:

- 17% believe that the deputies are quite active and 25% that they are rather actively involved in solving the problems of the local community.
- 29% believe that the deputies do not show any activity at all in solving local problems. In particular, residents of Bishkek, 41%, of the Chui region, 36%, as well as residents of the Osh and Jalalabad regions, 34%, note a complete lack of activity. And 16% believe that the deputies are rather inactive than active in solving local problems.

## **What makes a good deputy?**

The survey revealed 3 main qualities that the voters would like to see in local council deputies:

- 68% of respondents indicated honesty.
- 55% - civic engagement.
- 49% - high-quality education.



## **About gender quotas**

On the subject of gender quotas in the country's political life, 42% of respondents believe that quotas are important in order to utilize women's experience in politics, while 10% of respondents believe that quotas are important to observe gender equality in political life. 29% of respondents found it difficult to assess the importance of the introduction of gender quotas and 12% said that gender quotas are not important in the political life of the country. Most of the respondents who did not think gender quotas were important were men, 18%.

## **TV debates**

TV debates are planned to be held for the first time in the elections for local councils. 59% of respondents said that they would watch TV debates during the campaign period. Mostly, urban residents were interested, 63%, especially in Issyk-Kul and Jalal-Abad oblasts.

## **About mayors and heads of local government**

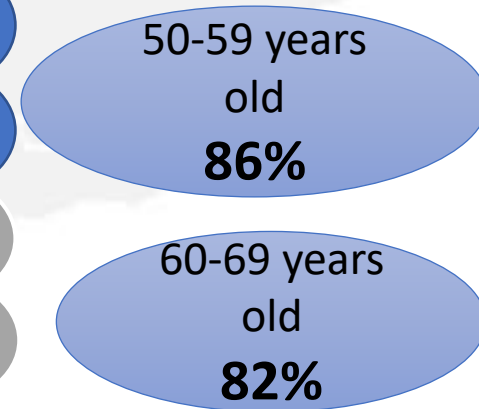
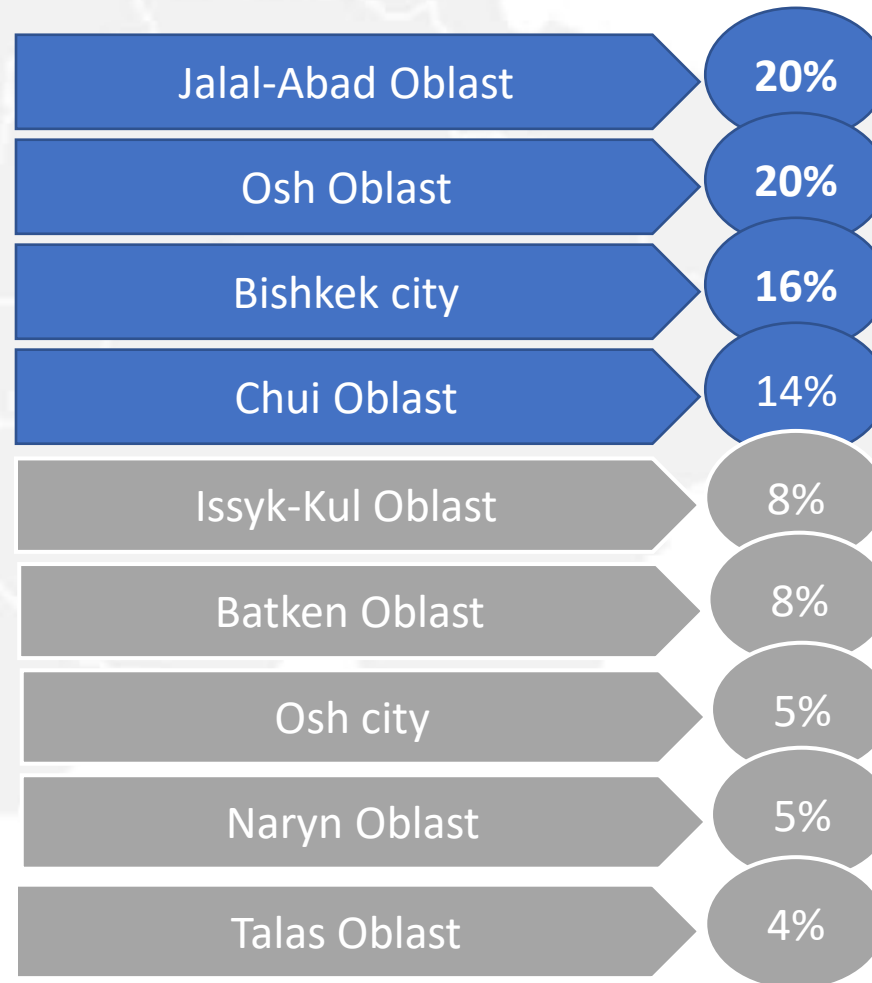
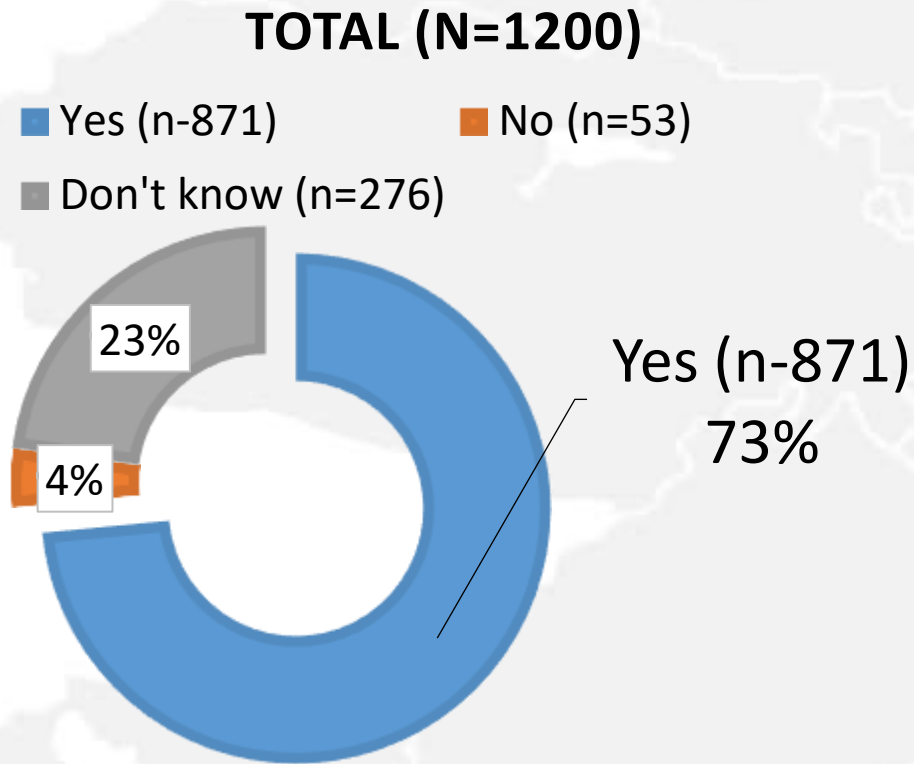
The selection and appointment of mayors and heads of aiyl okmotu should be done by the voters themselves, as noted by 70% of the surveyed respondents.

Assessing the independence of mayors and heads of aiyl okmotu from the government, 43% of respondents believe that mayors and heads of aiyl okmotu are completely dependent. 26% of respondents found it difficult to answer this question or they didn't know much about the work of local self-government. Only 11% are convinced that mayors and heads of aiyl okmotu work independently.



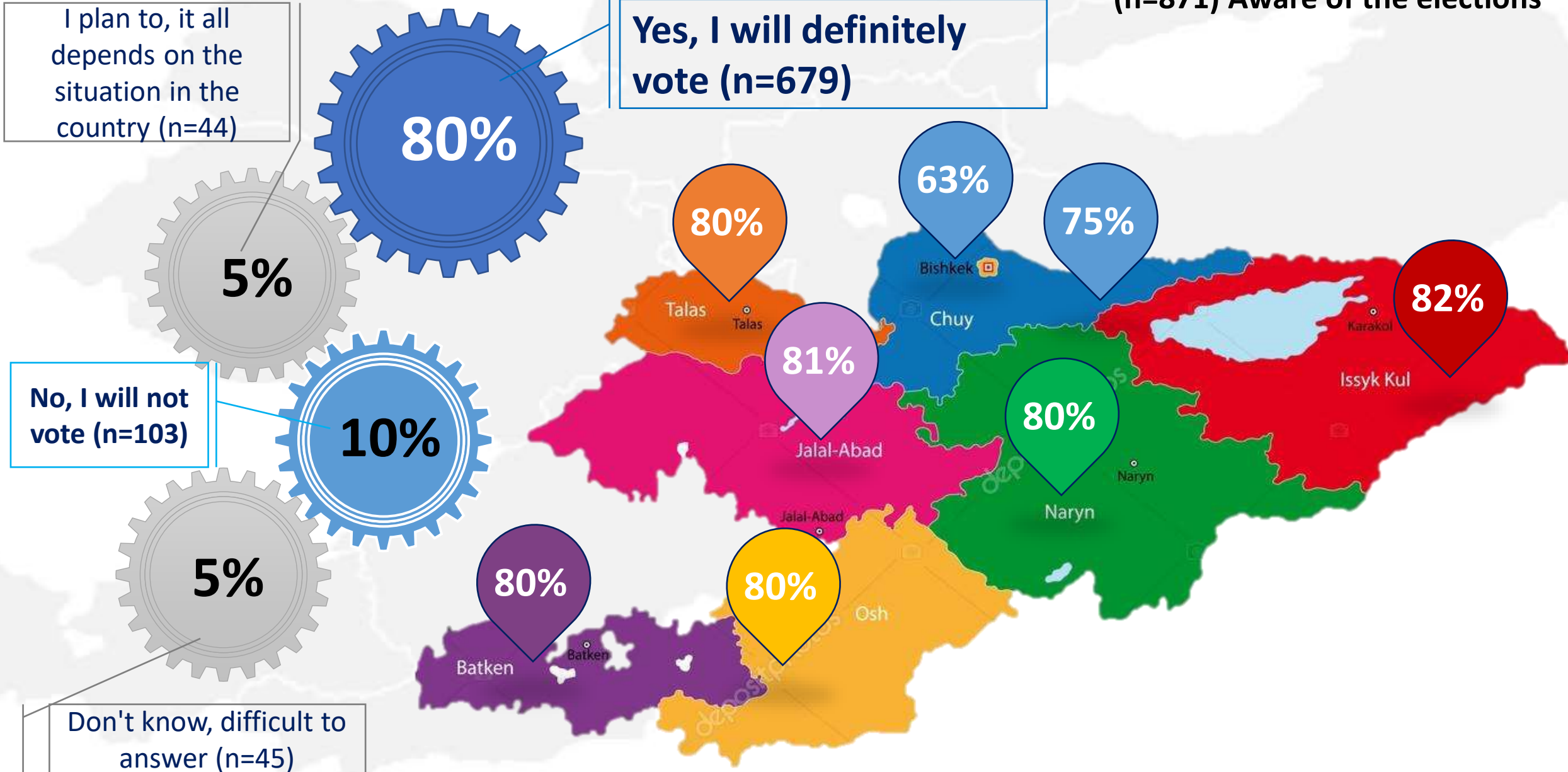
# Findings of the survey

# Population awareness, are local council elections planned in your village / city on April 11, 2021?



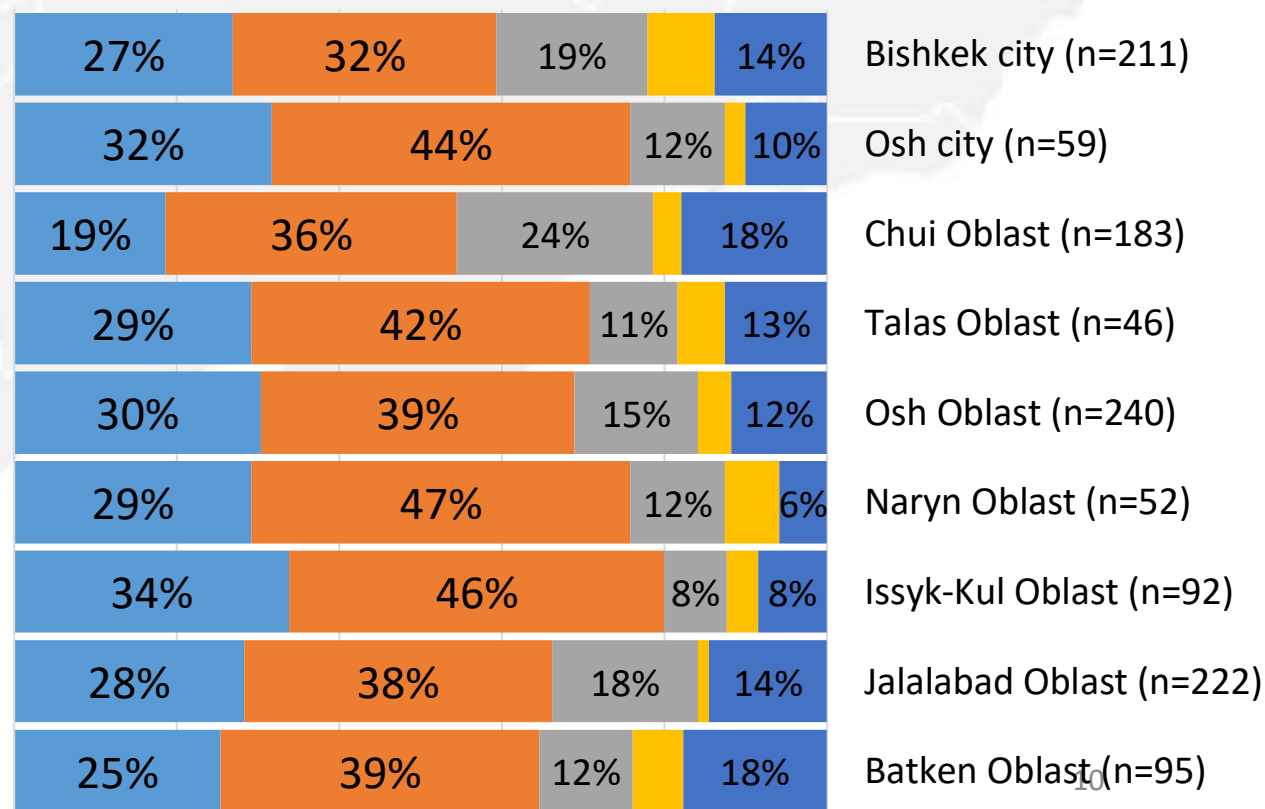
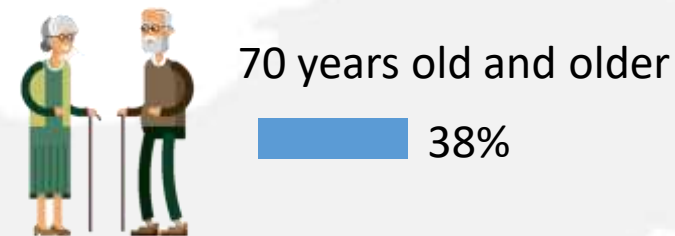
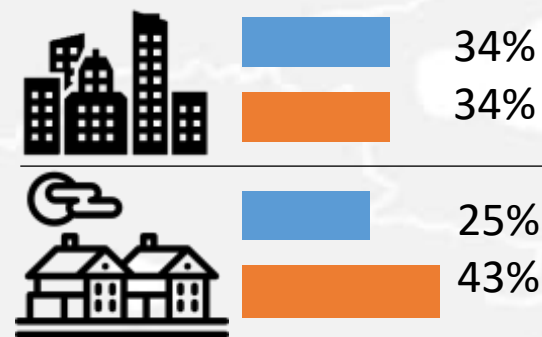
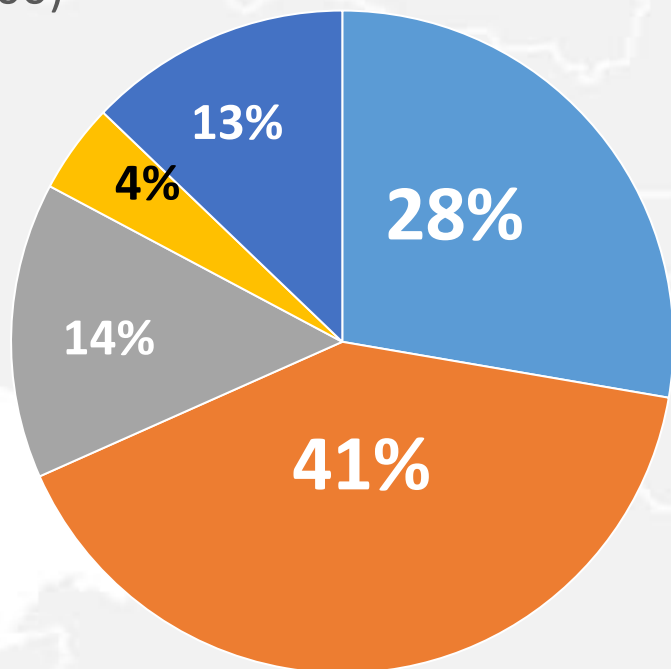
# Are you planning to vote in the local council elections on April 11, 2021?

(n=871) Aware of the elections

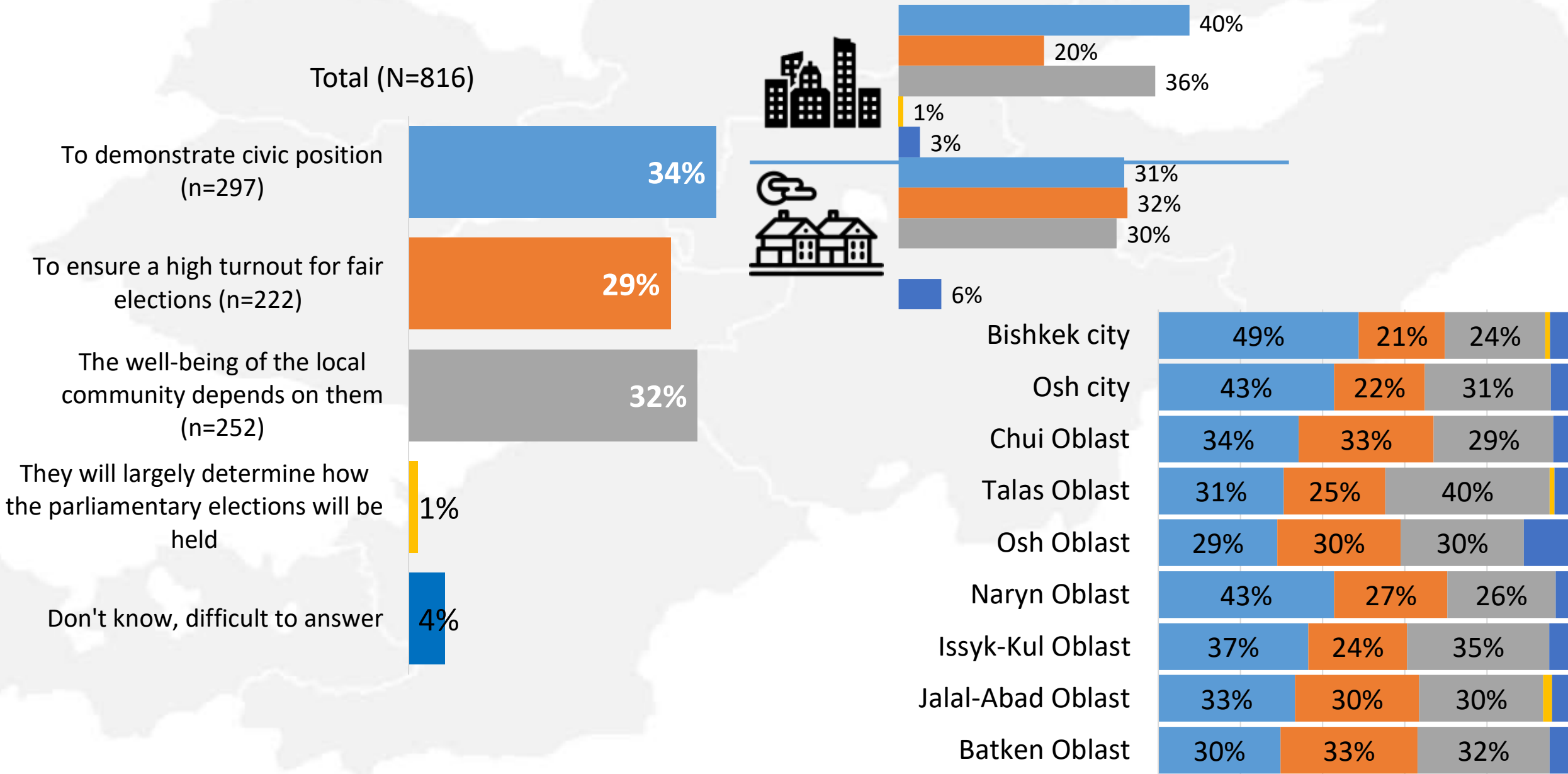


# Assessment of the importance of voting in the local council elections

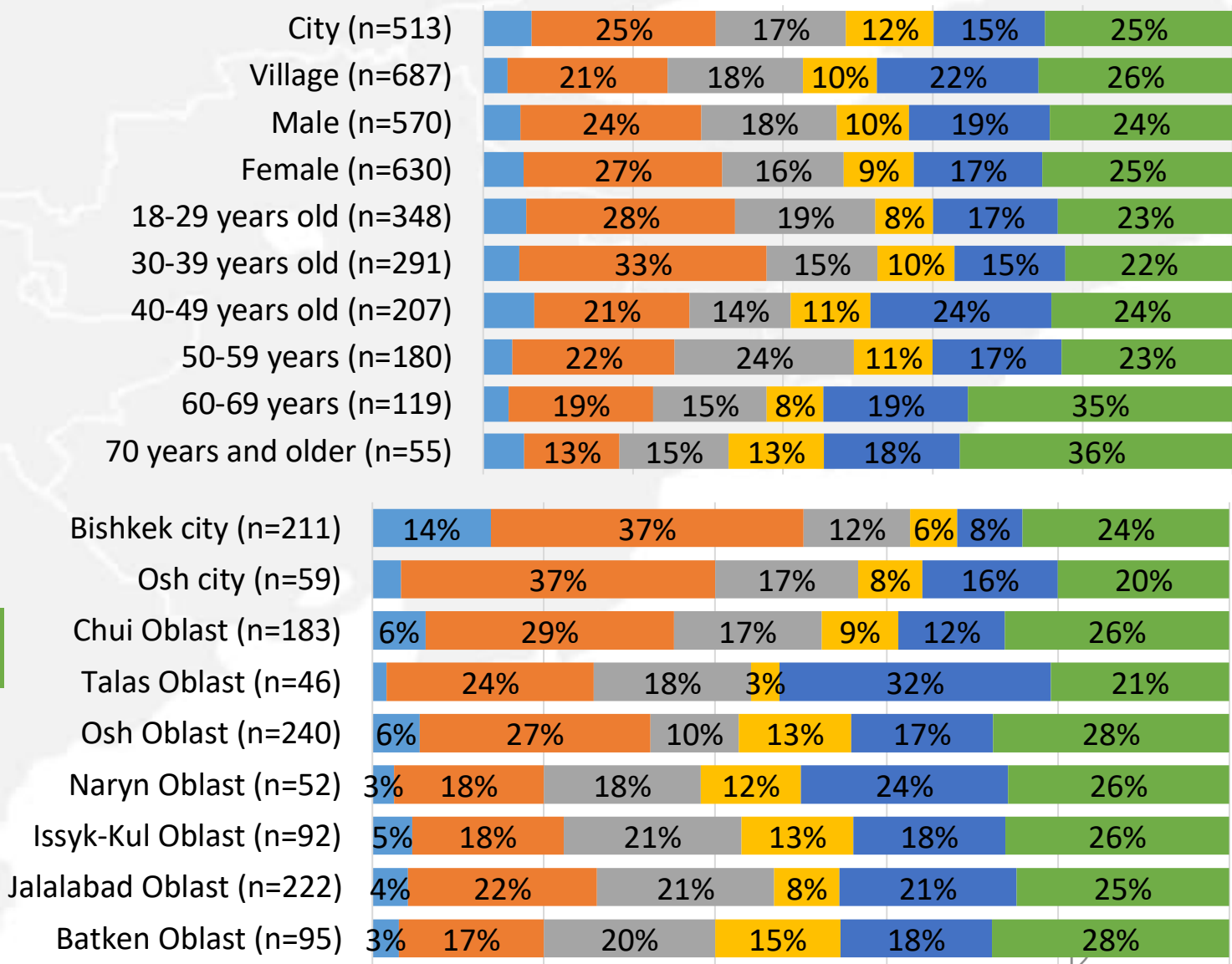
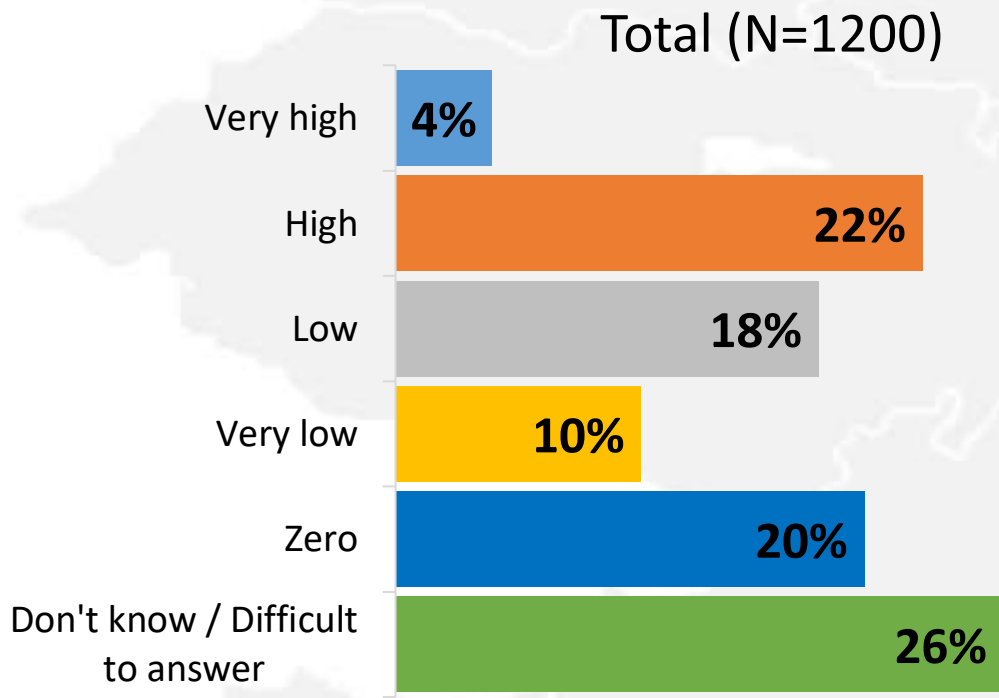
Total (N=1200)



# Why is it important to vote in the local council elections?



# Probability of the abuse of administrative resources in the local council elections



# Why is there a possibility of the abuse of administrative resources?

(n=367)

61%

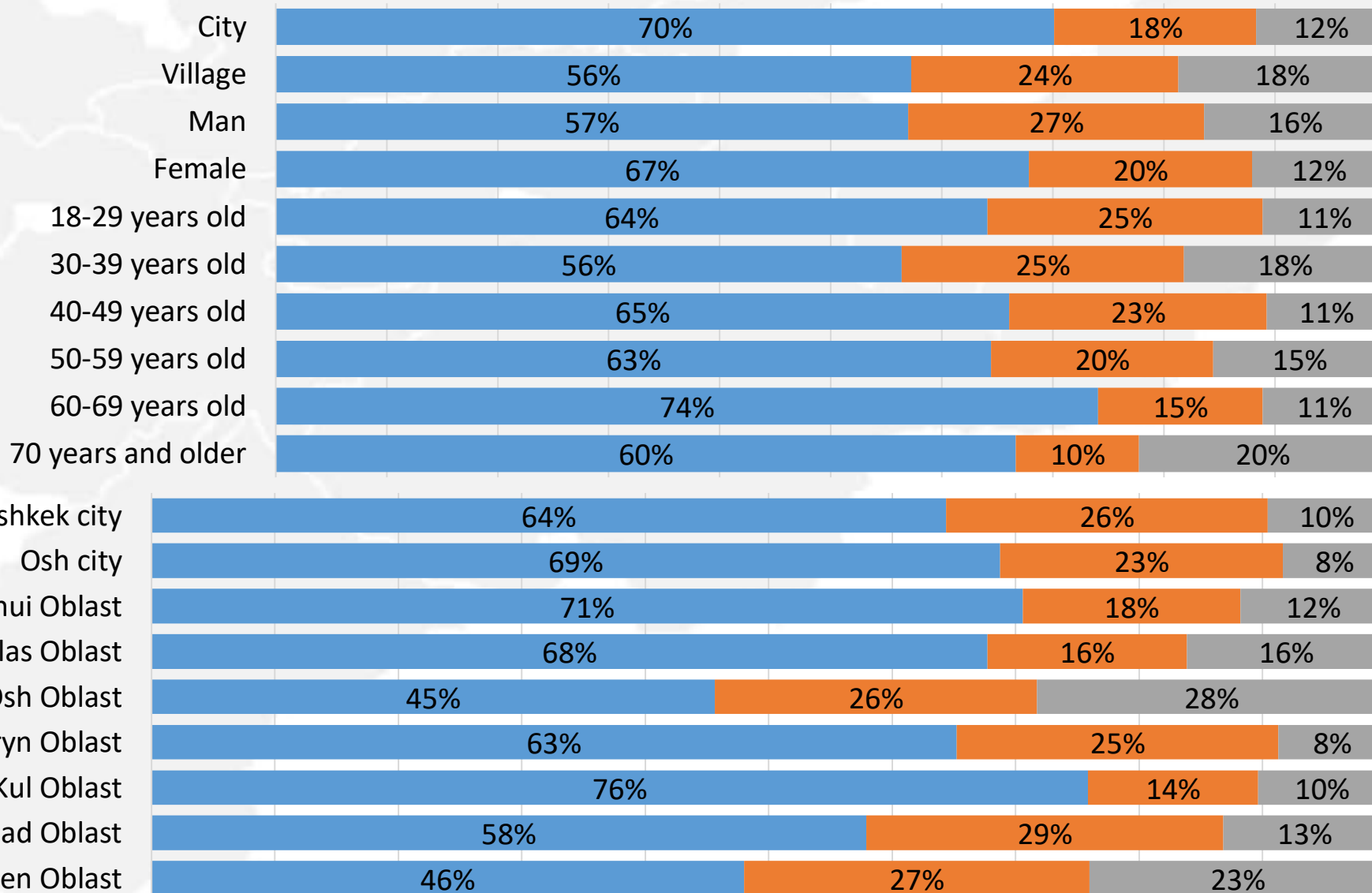
A common practice in elections

22%

Otherwise, some political parties / candidates will not be able to win

17%

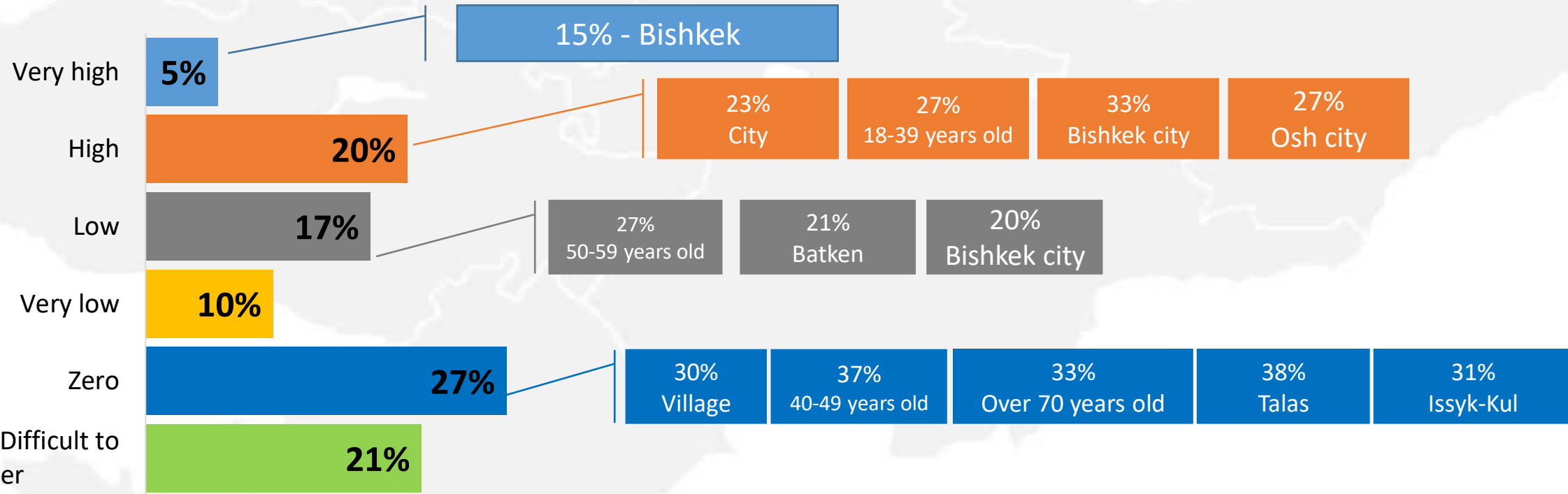
I don't know, difficult to answer/Refusal to reply





# Probability of vote-buying in the local council elections

Total (N=1200)



(n=346)

A common practice during the conduct of elections

52%

People don't care who they vote for

14%

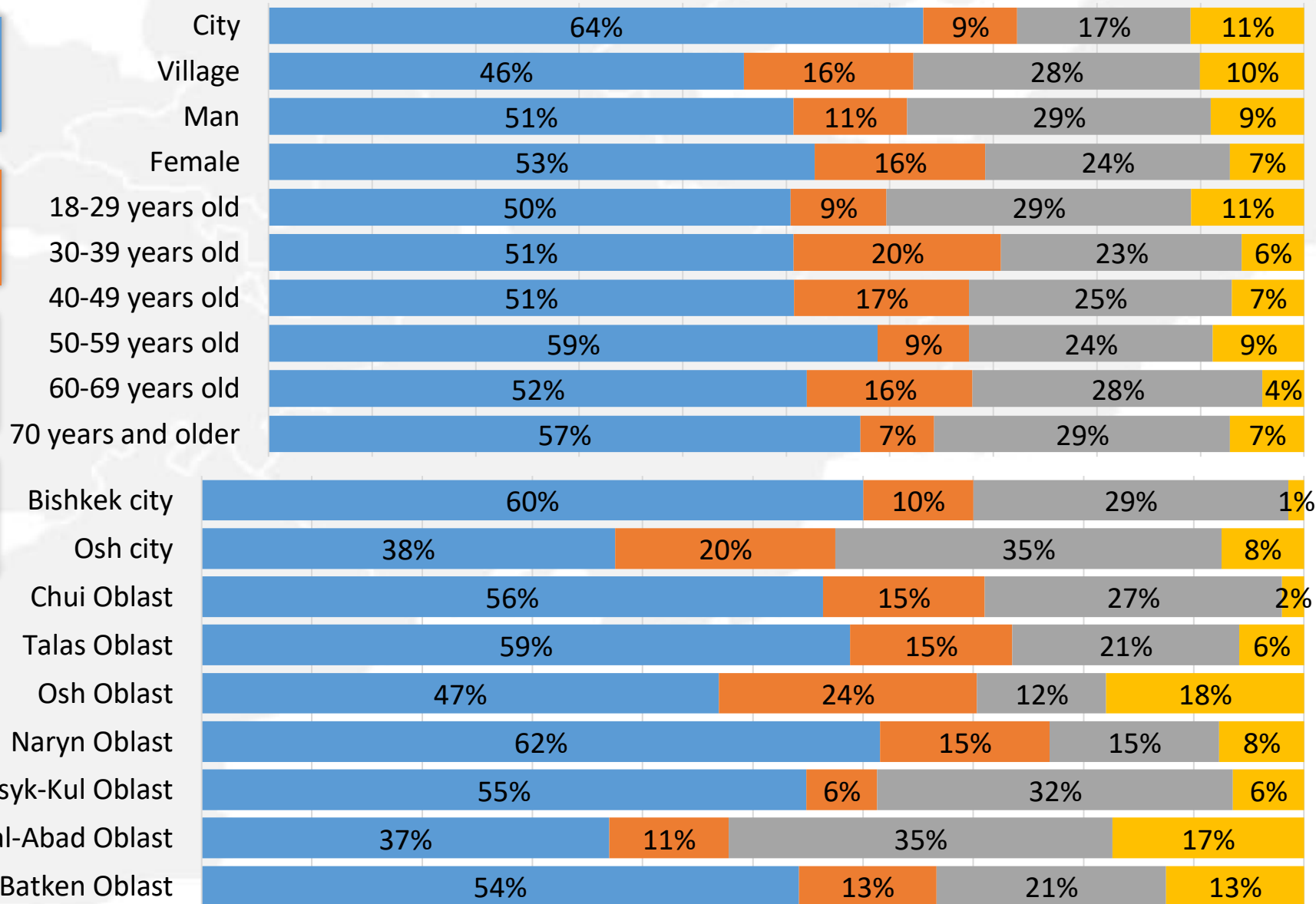
Opportunity to get temporarily rich

24%

I don't know, difficult to answer/Refusal to reply

10%

# Why is there a possibility of vote-buying?



# What influences your decision to vote for a particular political party/candidate the most?

Total (N =1200)

Political party's program

40%

Don't know, difficult to answer

21%

List of candidates  
of the political party

13%

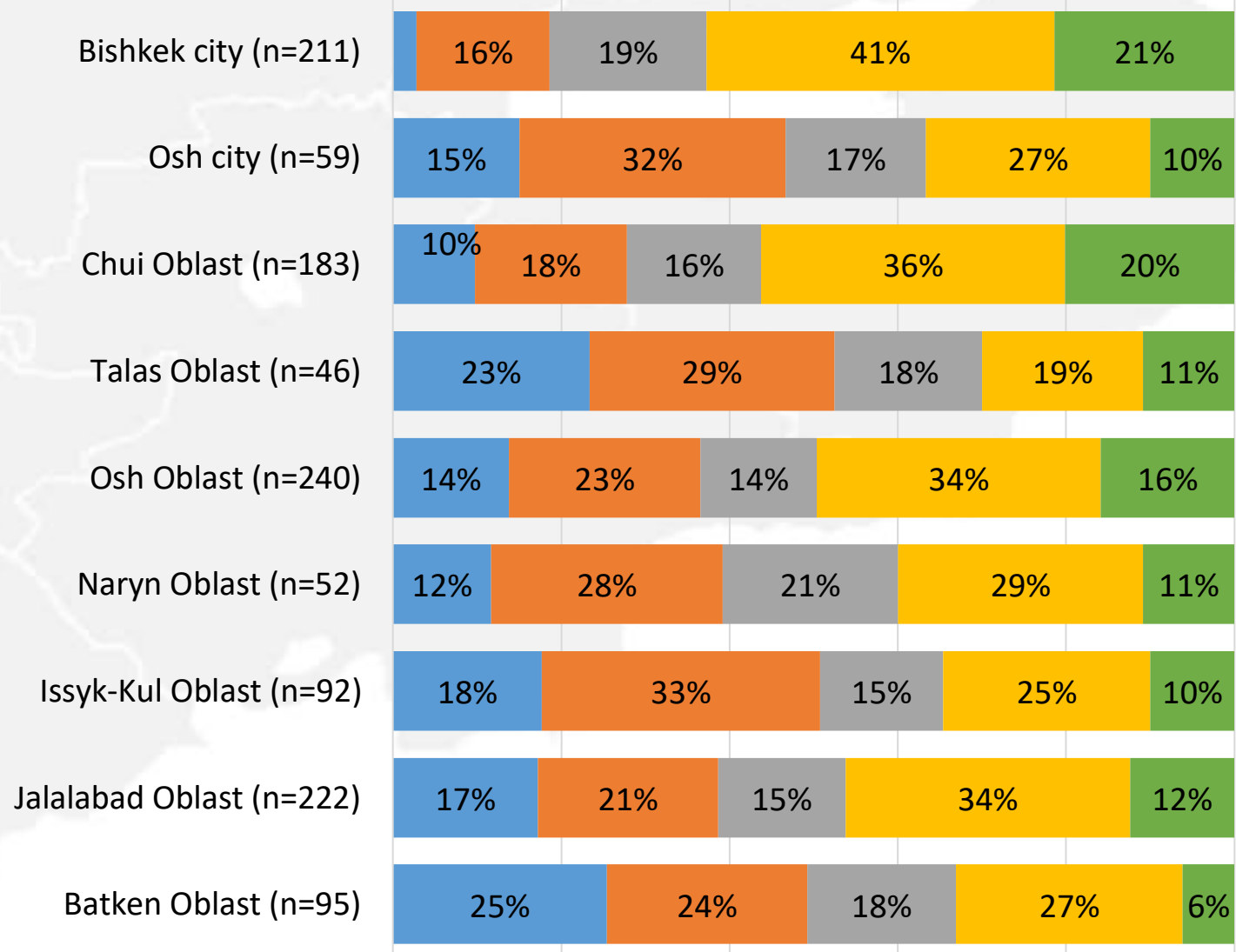
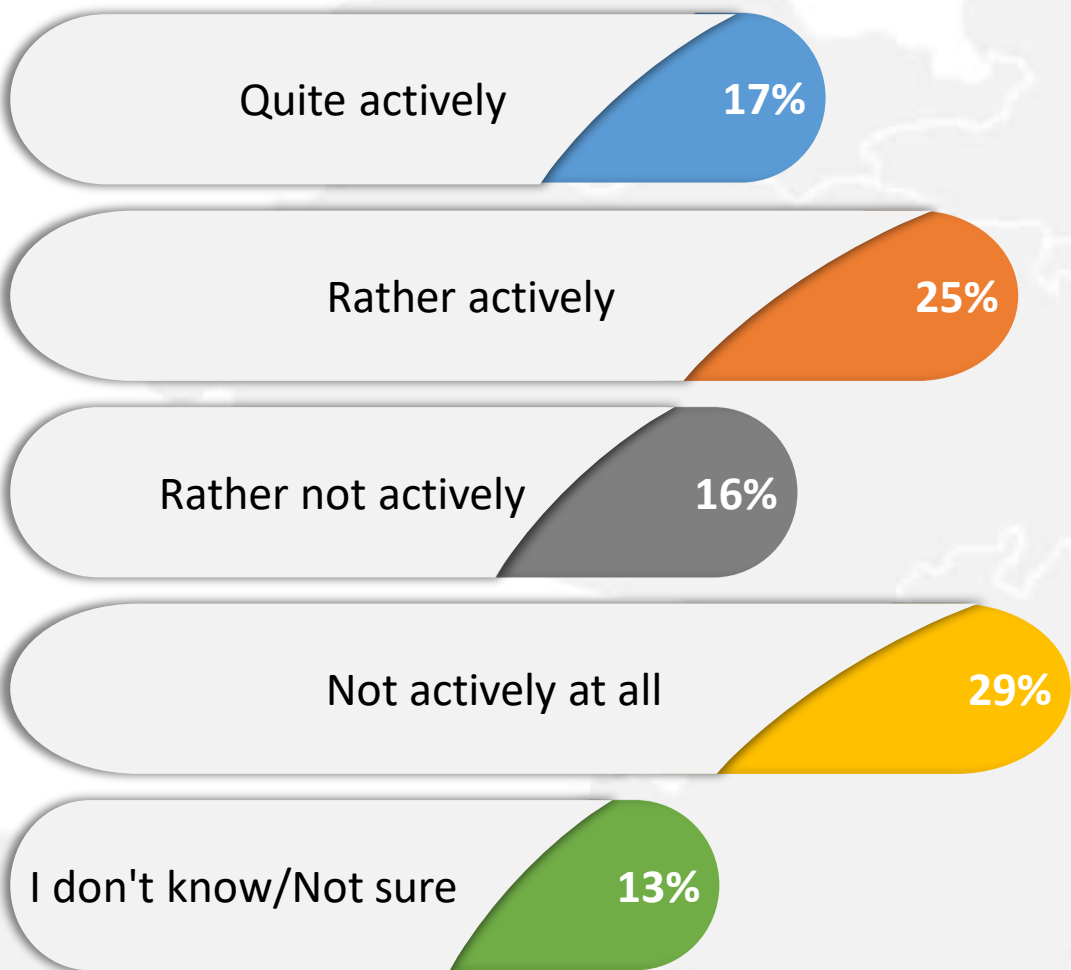
Novelty of the political party  
/ Clean reputation

11%

- 
- Meetings with voters 5%
  - Representation of a political party in the Parliament 4%
  - Speeches at TV debates 4%
  - Campaigning on social networks 2%
  - Refusal to reply 2%
-

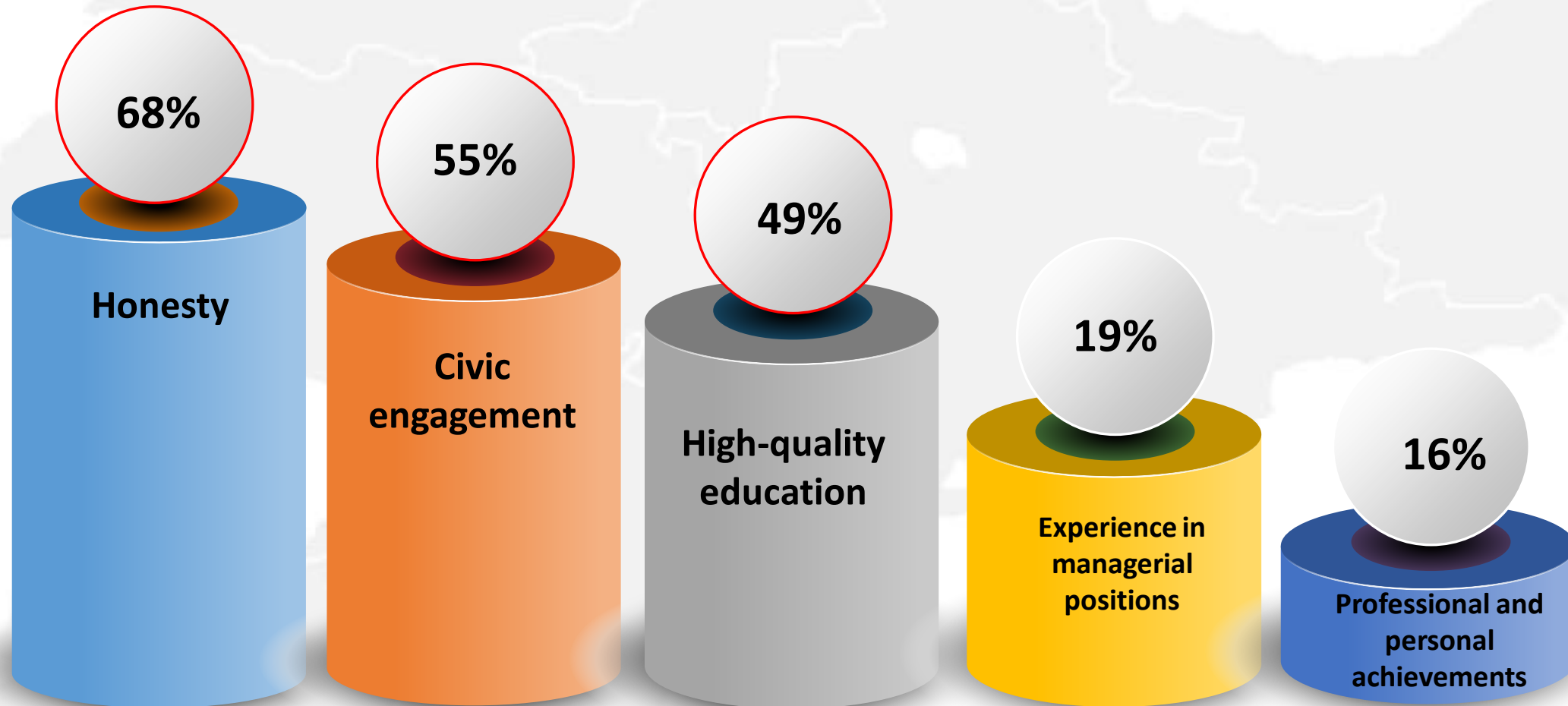
# Are local council deputies actively involved in solving the problems of the local community?

Total (N =1200)



# What three qualities should a deputy of the local council possess?

Total (N =1200)



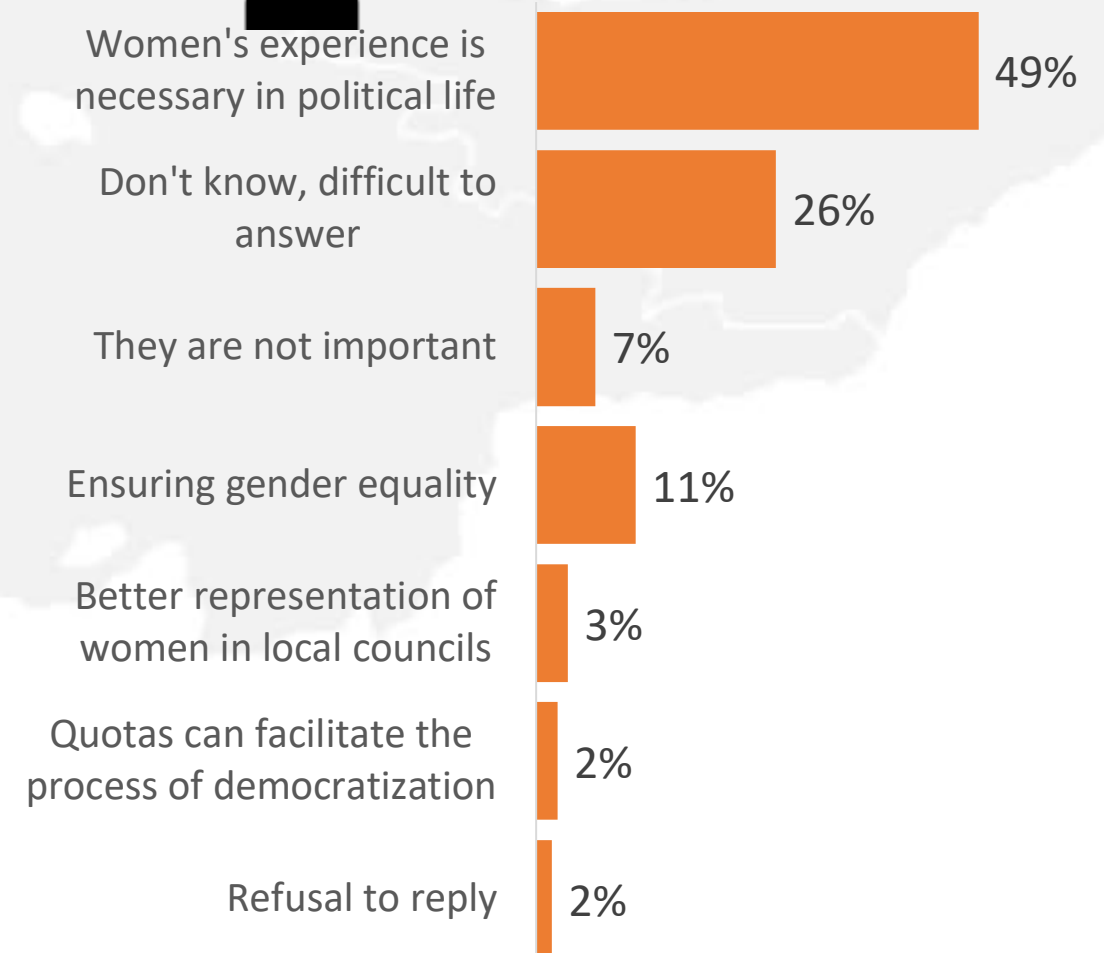
# The legislature introduced gender quotas for local councils. Why are gender quotas important?



Male (n=570)



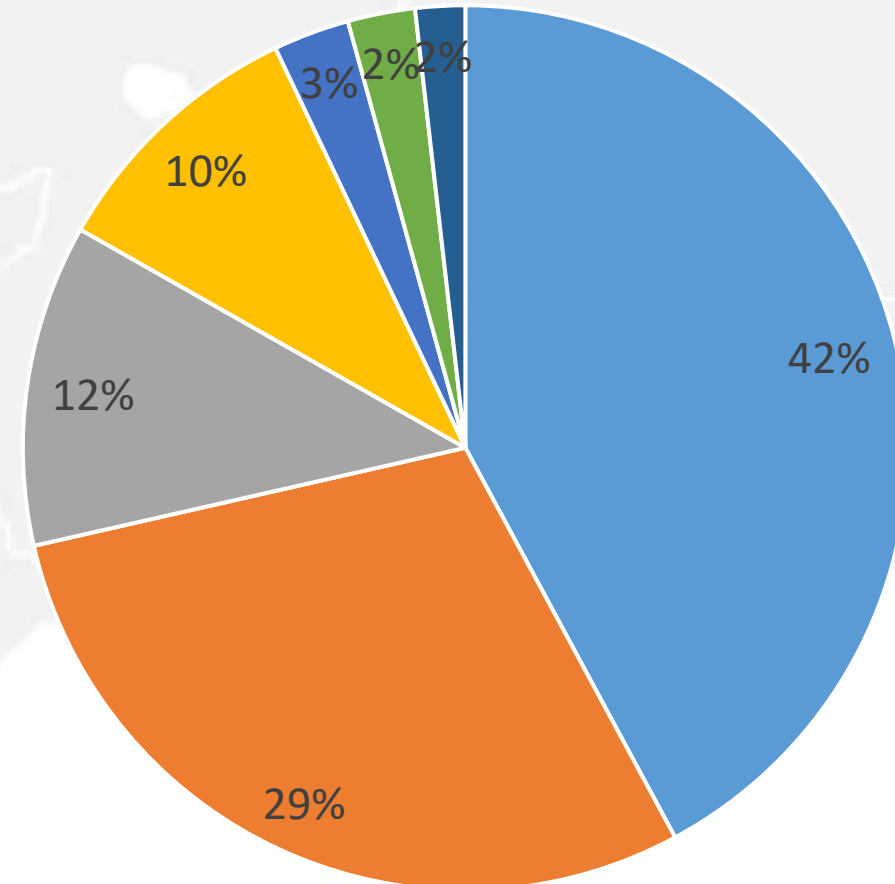
Female (n=630)



# The legislature introduced gender quotas for local councils. Why are gender quotas important?

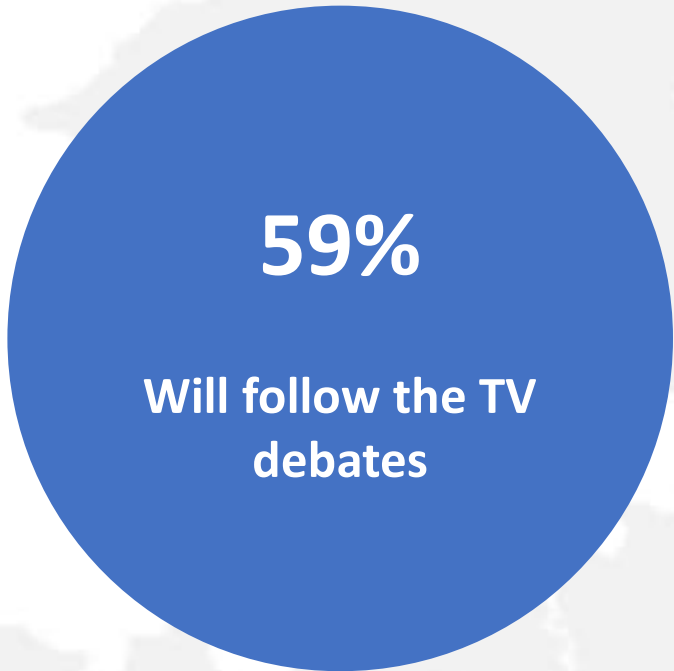
Bcero (N=1200)

- Women's experience is necessary in political life
- Don't know/Difficult to answer
- They are not important
- Ensuring gender equality
- Better representation of women in local councils
- Quotas can facilitate the process of democratisation

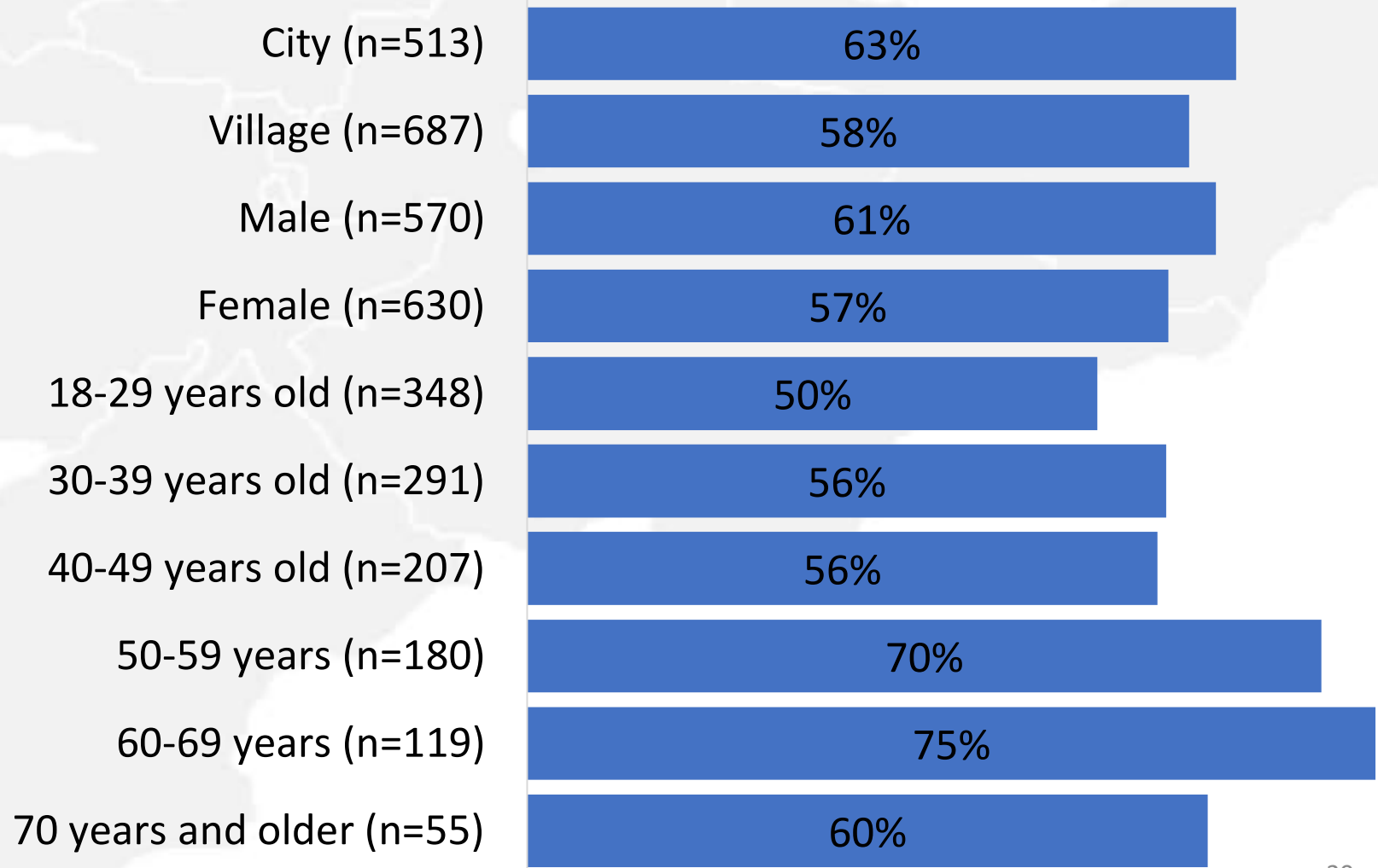


# For the first time there will be TV debates in the local council elections. Will you follow the debates?

Total (N=1200)



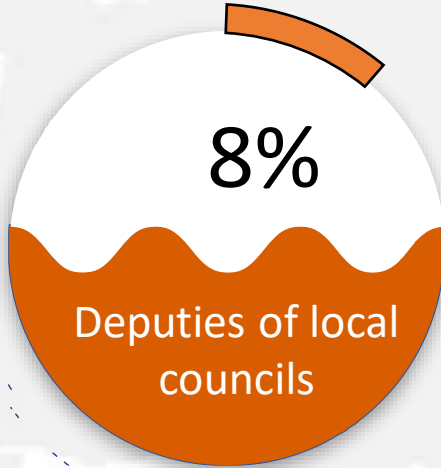
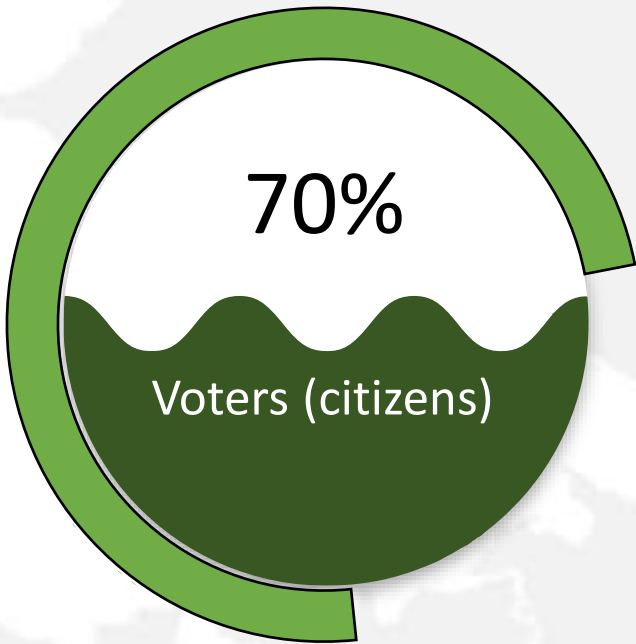
Respondents who answered YES (n=708)





# Who should select/appoint city mayors and heads of ayil okmotu?

Total (N=1200)




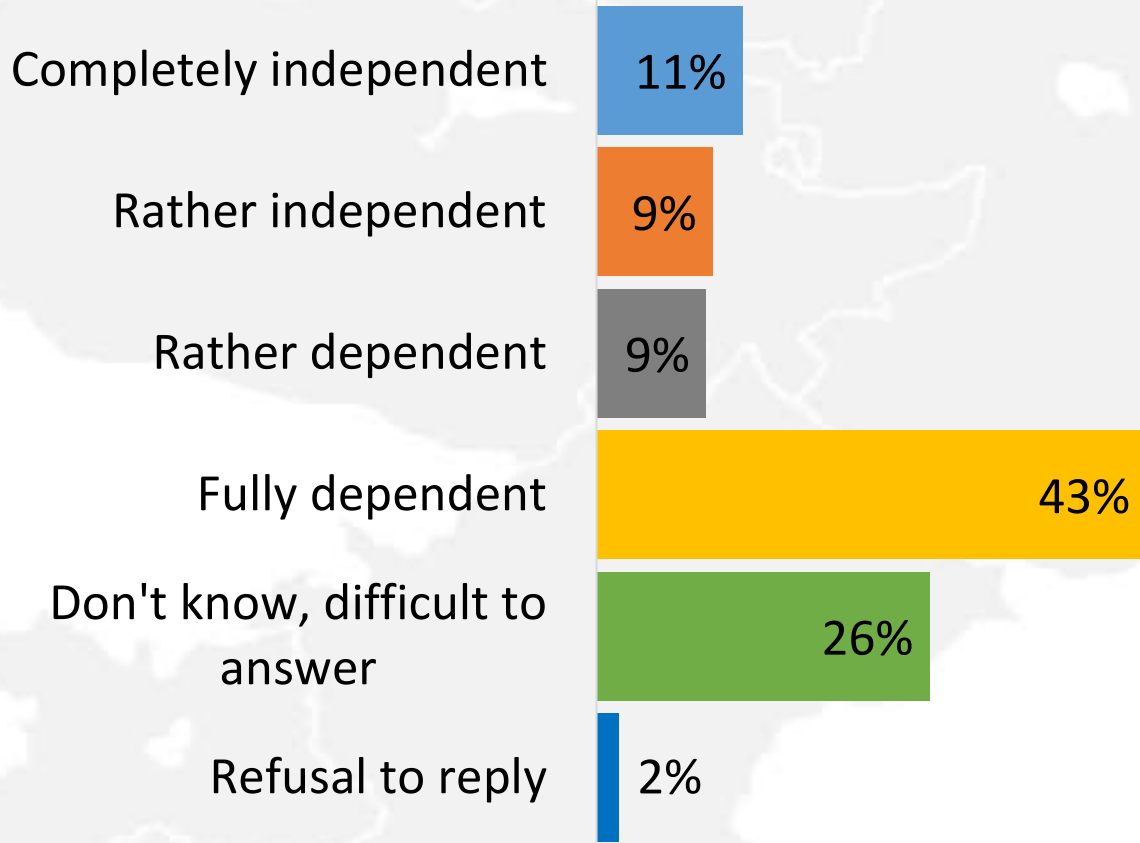
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• Don't know, difficult to answer	8%
• Deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh	3%
• Refusal to reply	1%

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# Do city mayors/heads of aiyl okmotu work independently from the Government?

Total (N=1200)



49%

48%  
30-49 years old

- 50% - Bishkek city
- 48% - Osh city
- 48% - Naryn Oblast
- 49% - Issyk-Kul Oblast

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