



Survey of Bangladesh Public Opinion

August 21 - September 7, 2014

Detailed Methodology

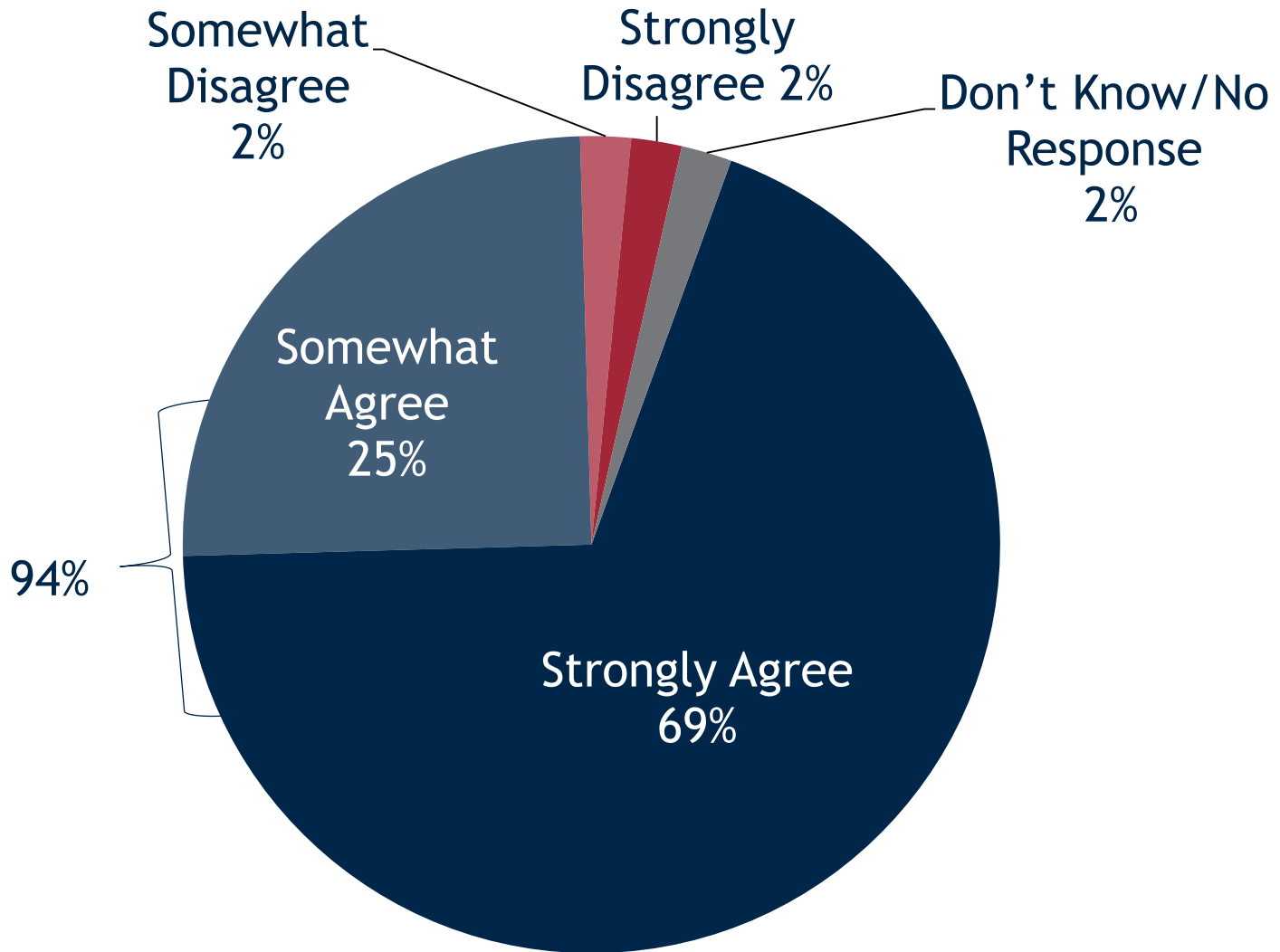
- The survey was conducted under the supervision of Rob Varsalone of [Global Strategic Partners](#) (GSP) and the International Republican Institute (IRI) between August 21-September 7, 2014.
- Data was collected using a multi-stage stratified probability sample and through in-person, in-house interviews. The sample was stratified by the seven administrative divisions, by district and by urban and rural locations.
- The sample consisted of 2,550 respondents (response rate: 58 percent) aged 18 and older, and was representative of voting-age adults nationally.
- The sample was distributed into 255 primary sampling units (PSU) from all 64 districts of all seven divisions. PSUs were defined as *mouza* in rural areas and as *mahalla* in urban areas.
- The probability-proportional-to-size method was used to select localities. After identifying a centrally located starting point, the Date Method was used to select the first house and then Systematic Random Sampling was used to select the appropriate household. Within each household, the Kish Grid was then used to select respondents 18 years and older.
- Interview teams were comprised of both males and females.
- The margin of error does not exceed plus or minus two percent at the mid-range with a confidence level of 95 percent.
- The information in this report has been compiled in accordance with international standards for market and social research methodologies. Figures in charts and tables may not sum to 100 percent due to rounding.



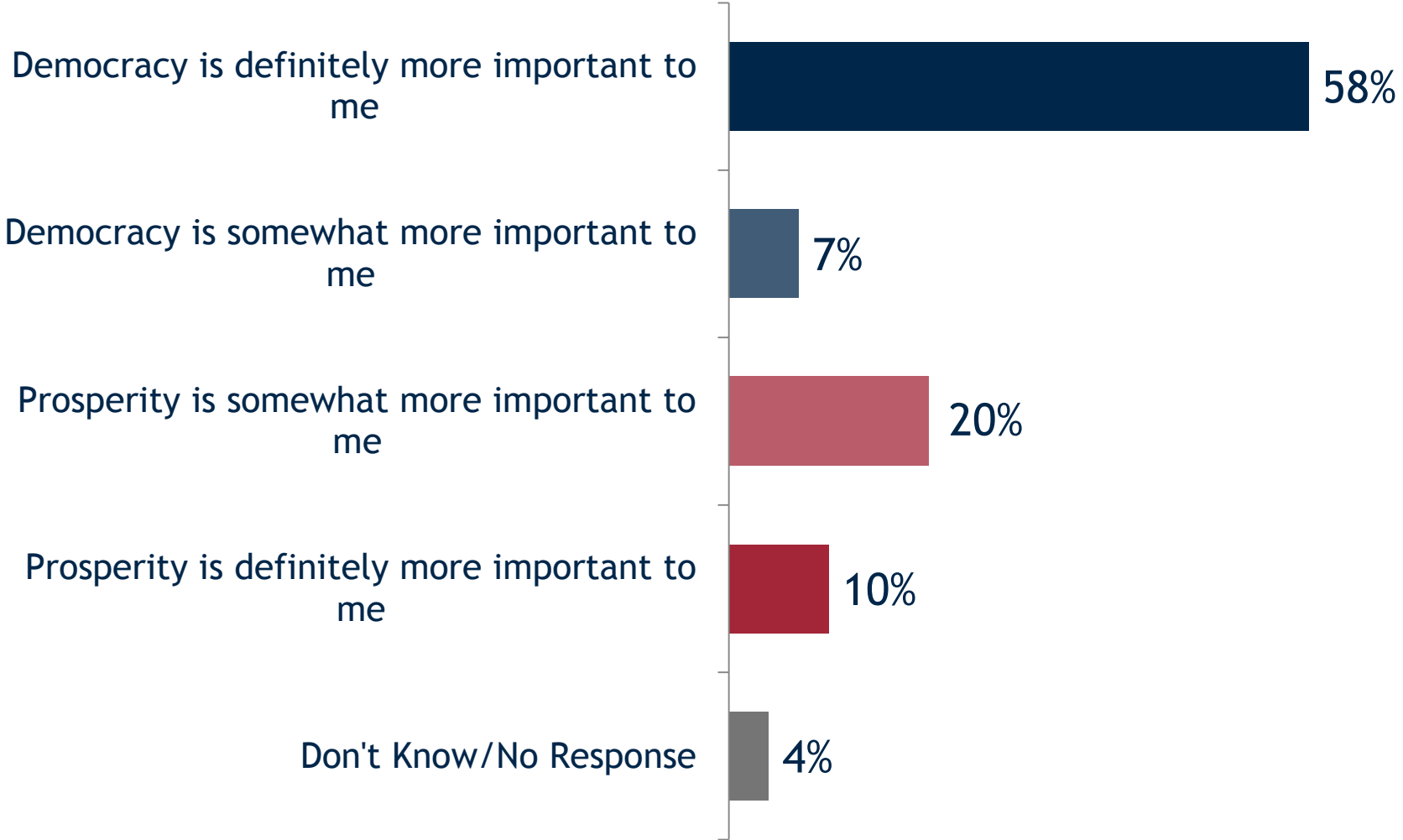
Enduring Faith in Democracy

Agree or Disagree?

Voting gives me a chance to influence decision-making in the country.



In Bangladesh, if you could only have one or the other, which is more important to you: a democratic system of government or a prosperous economy?

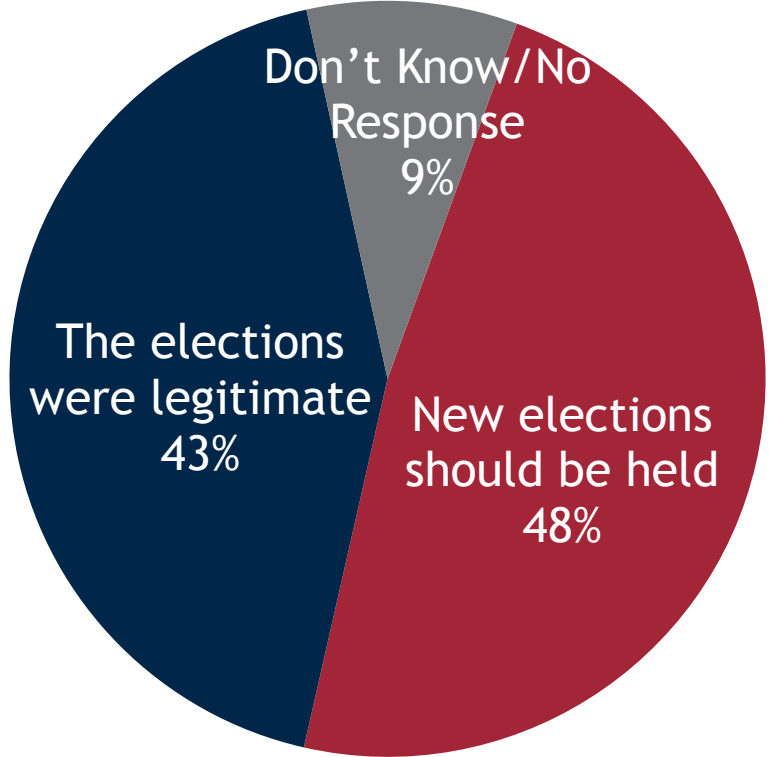




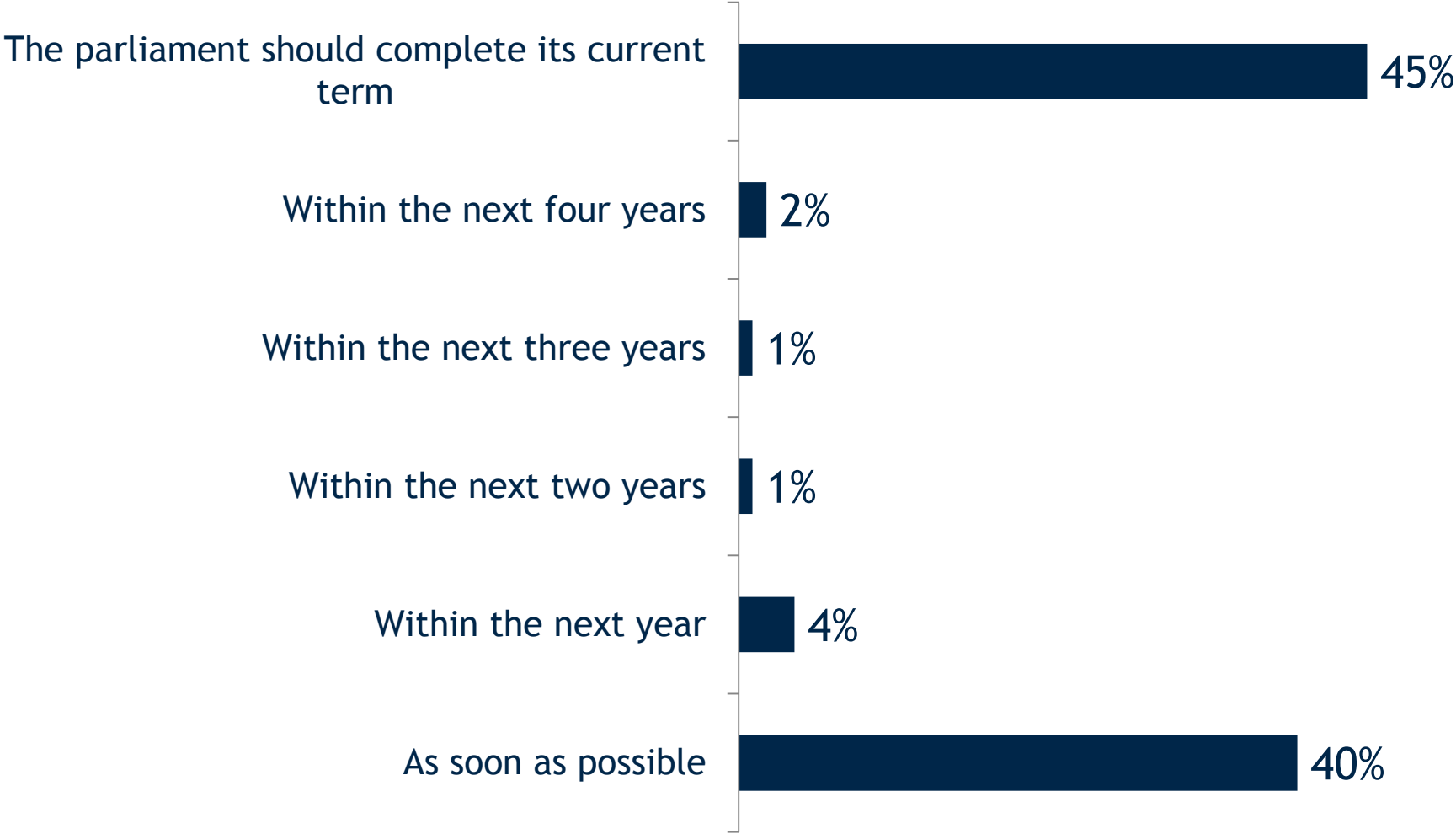
Apprehension of Violence Divides Bangladeshis

Some people are saying that the last elections should not count because they were not inclusive and therefore new elections should be held as soon as possible. Other people are saying that there is no need to hold new elections before the current parliament's term ends because the elections that were held in January were legitimate.

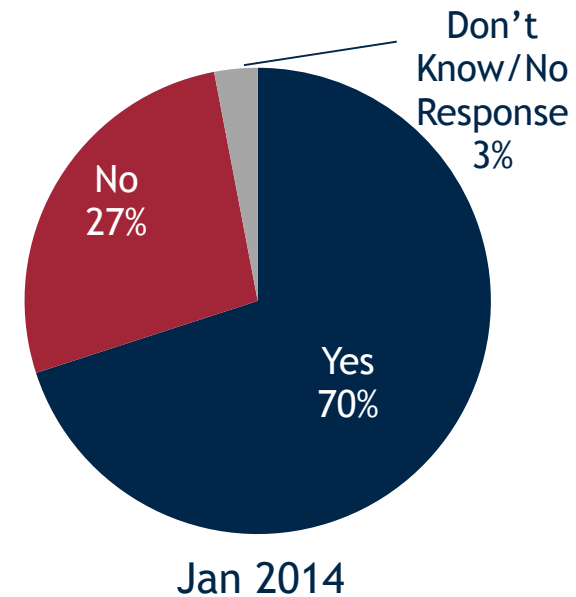
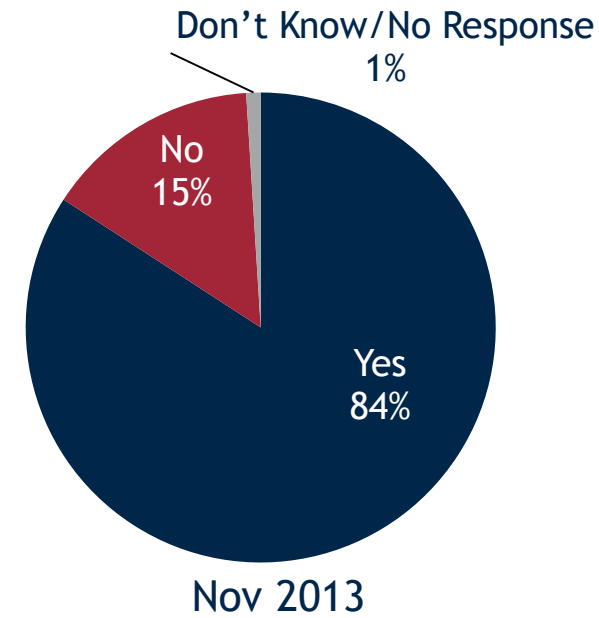
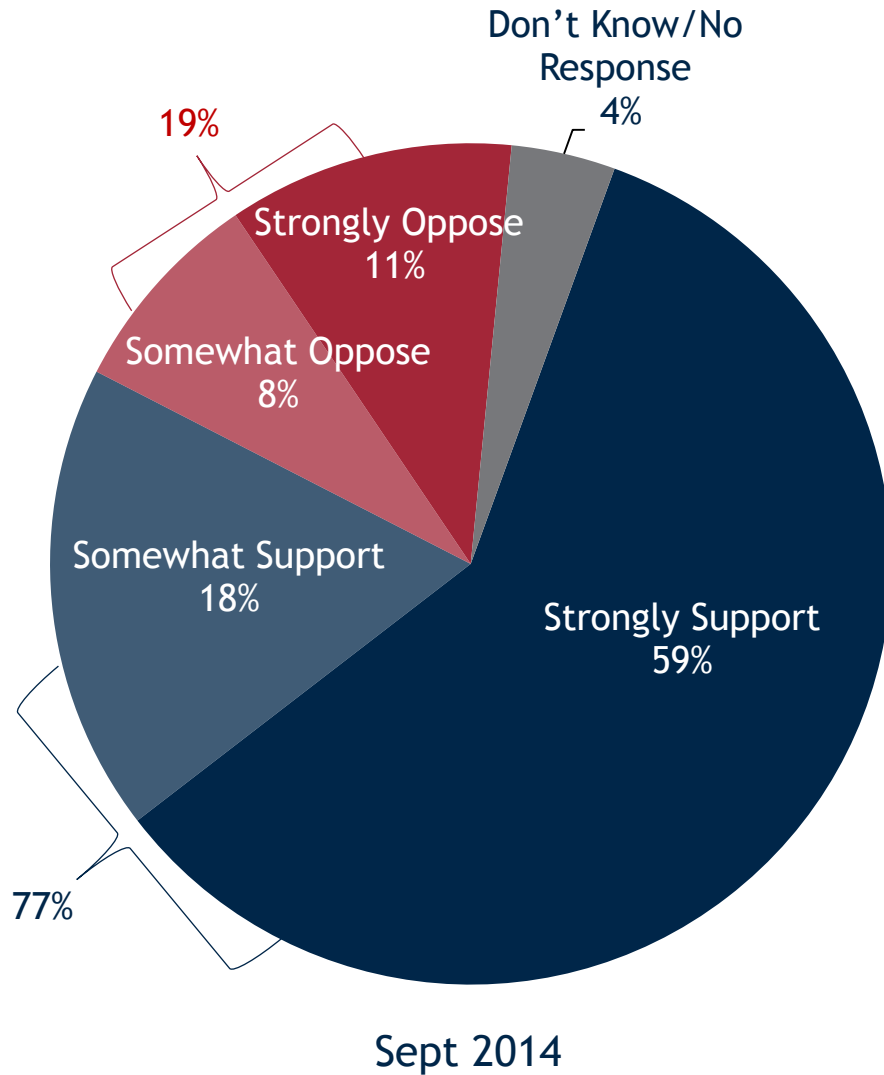
Which comes closest to your own opinion?



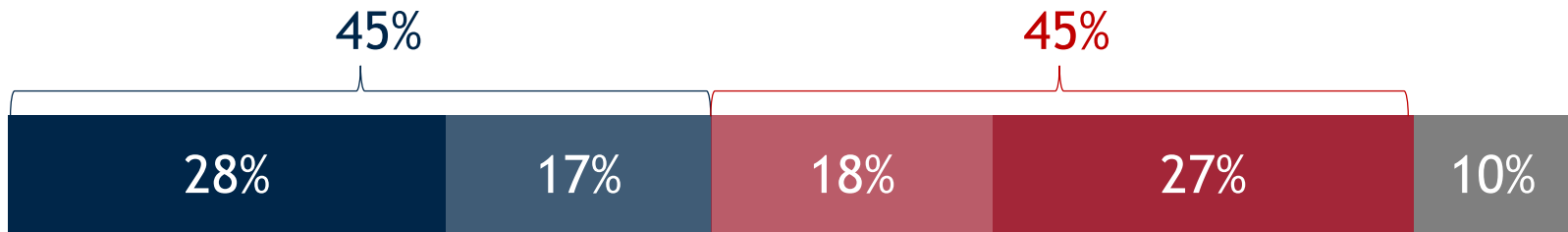
When would you like to see the next national parliamentary elections occur?



Would you support a law that bans general strikes, blockades and other forms of violent protest?



The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) recently announced that it intends to launch a popular movement against the government to protest what it says were unfair elections in January. Do you support or oppose this movement?



■ Strongly Support

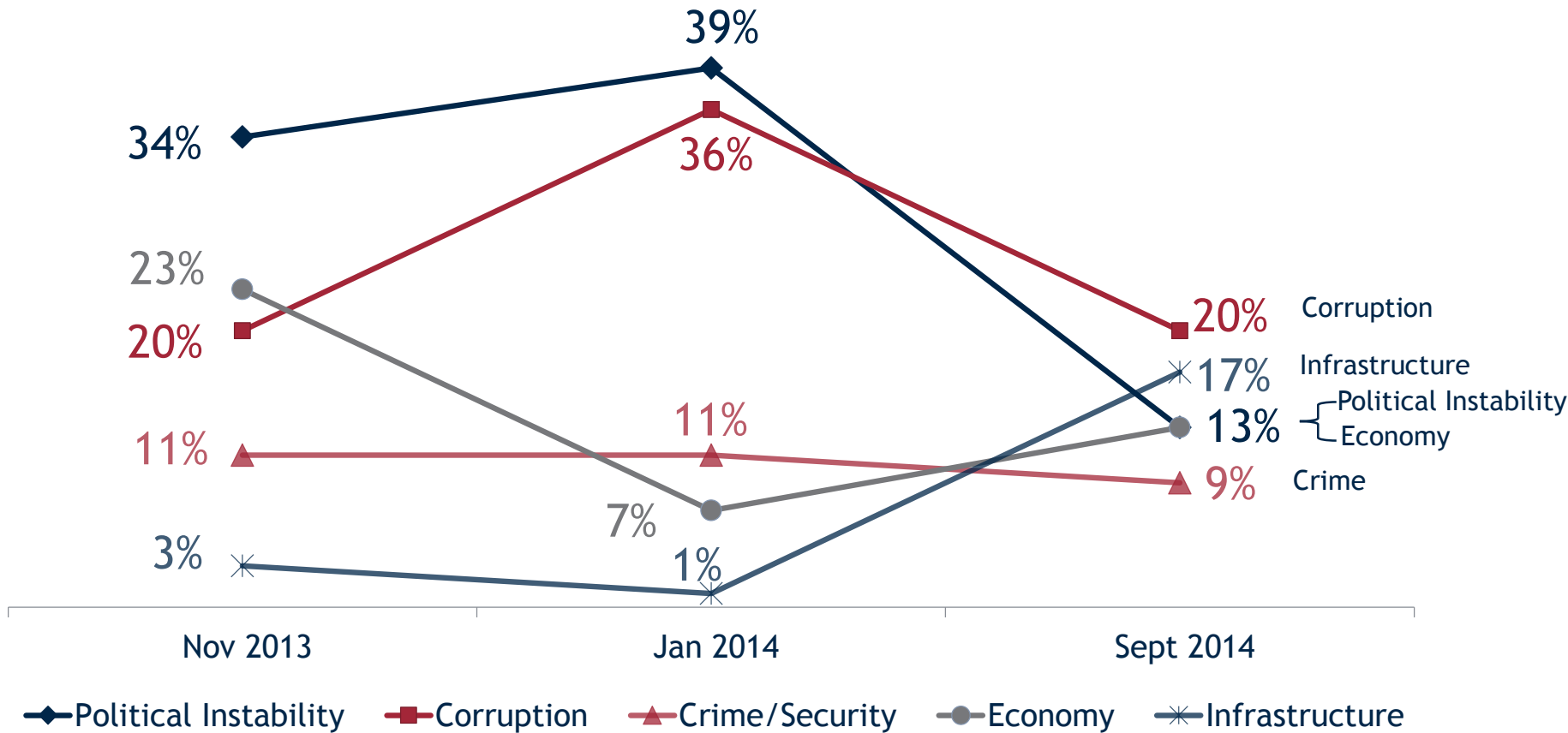
■ Somewhat Support

■ Somewhat Oppose

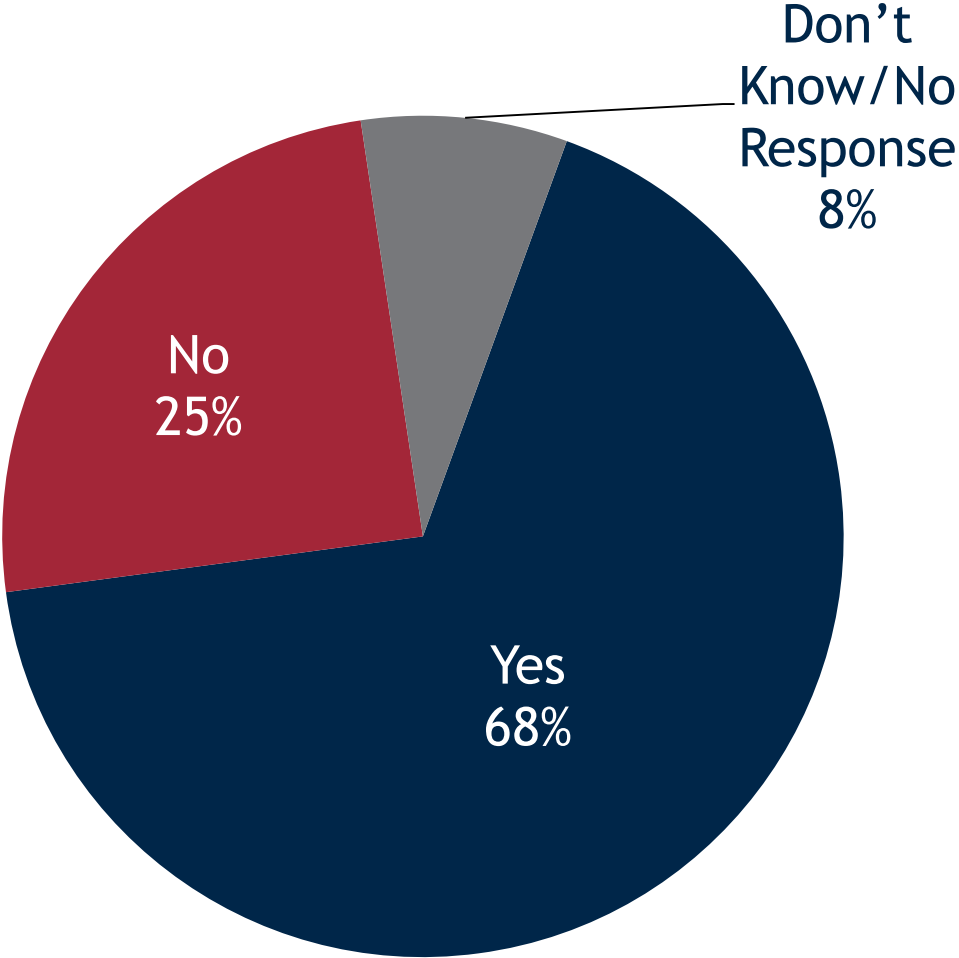
■ Strongly Oppose

■ Don't Know/No Response

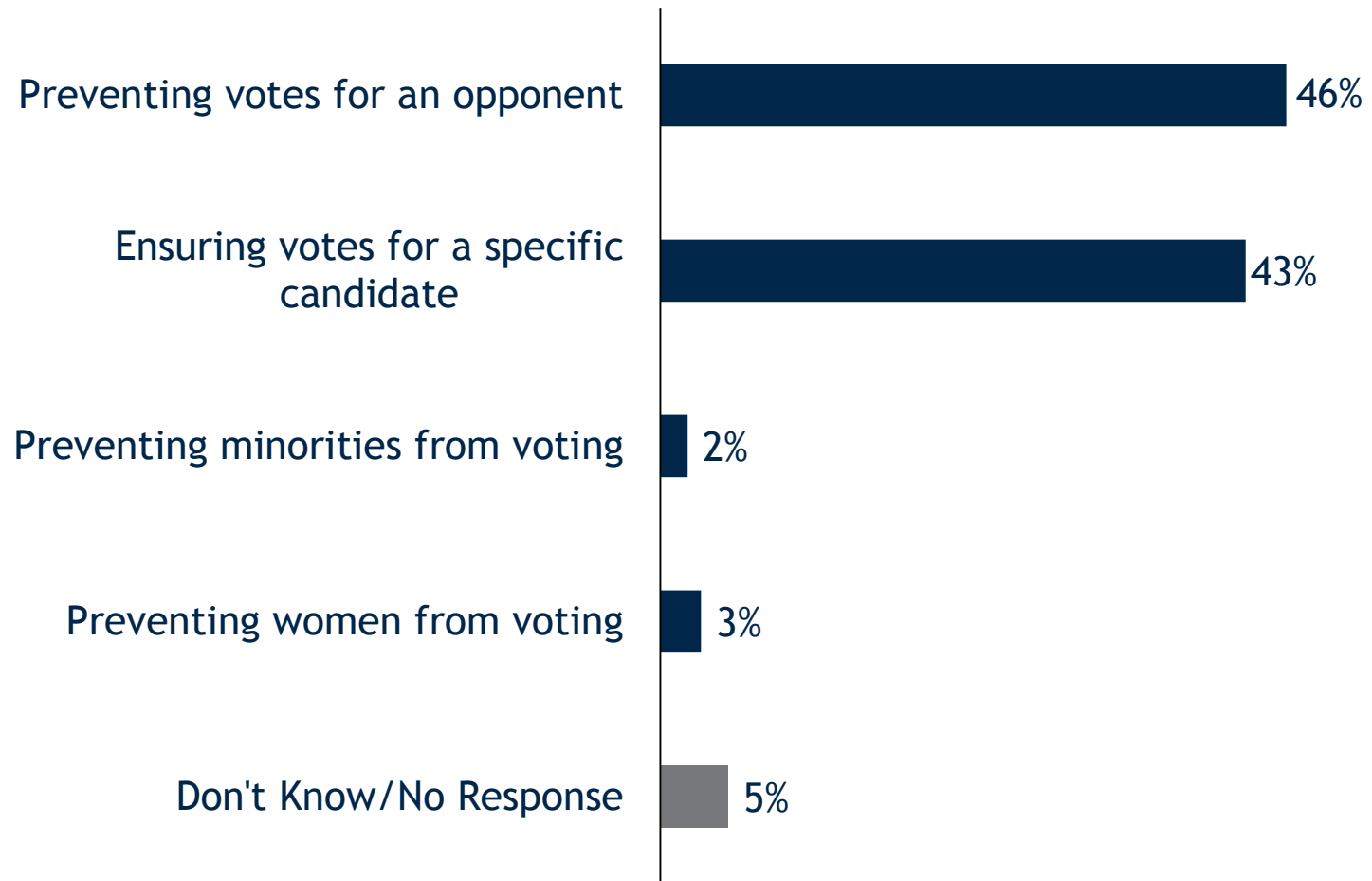
What are the top three issues in Bangladesh? (Open-ended, First Choices Shown)



Should a non-party, caretaker government be brought back before the next parliamentary elections?



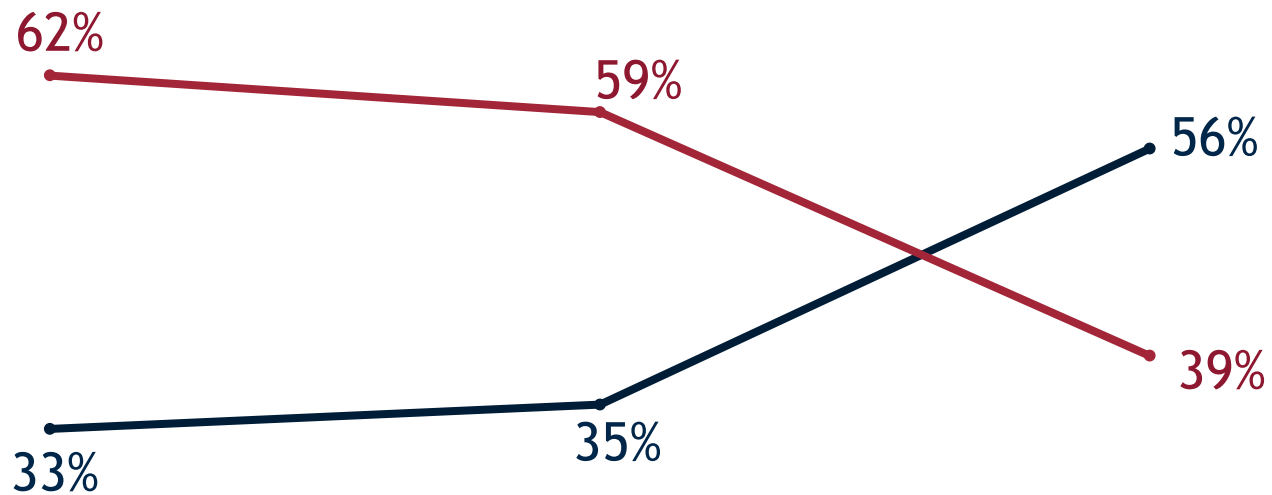
In your opinion, what is the main reason for election-related threats and intimidations in Bangladesh?





Cautious Optimism

Do you believe things in Bangladesh are heading in the right direction, or are they heading in the wrong direction?



Nov 2013

Jan 2014

Sept 2014

—●— Right Direction

—●— Wrong Direction

Reasons given for why the country is on the right track.

Nov 2013
n=842

Jan 2014
n=884

Sept 2014
n=1,430

More Development	35%	Improved Education	73%	Improved Education	72%
Improved Education	31%	More Development	18%	More Development	18%
Better Economy	21%	Better Economy	8%	Better Economy	8%
Improving Law and Order	8%	Improving Law and Order	1%	Improving Law and Order	1%

Reasons given for why the country is on the wrong track.

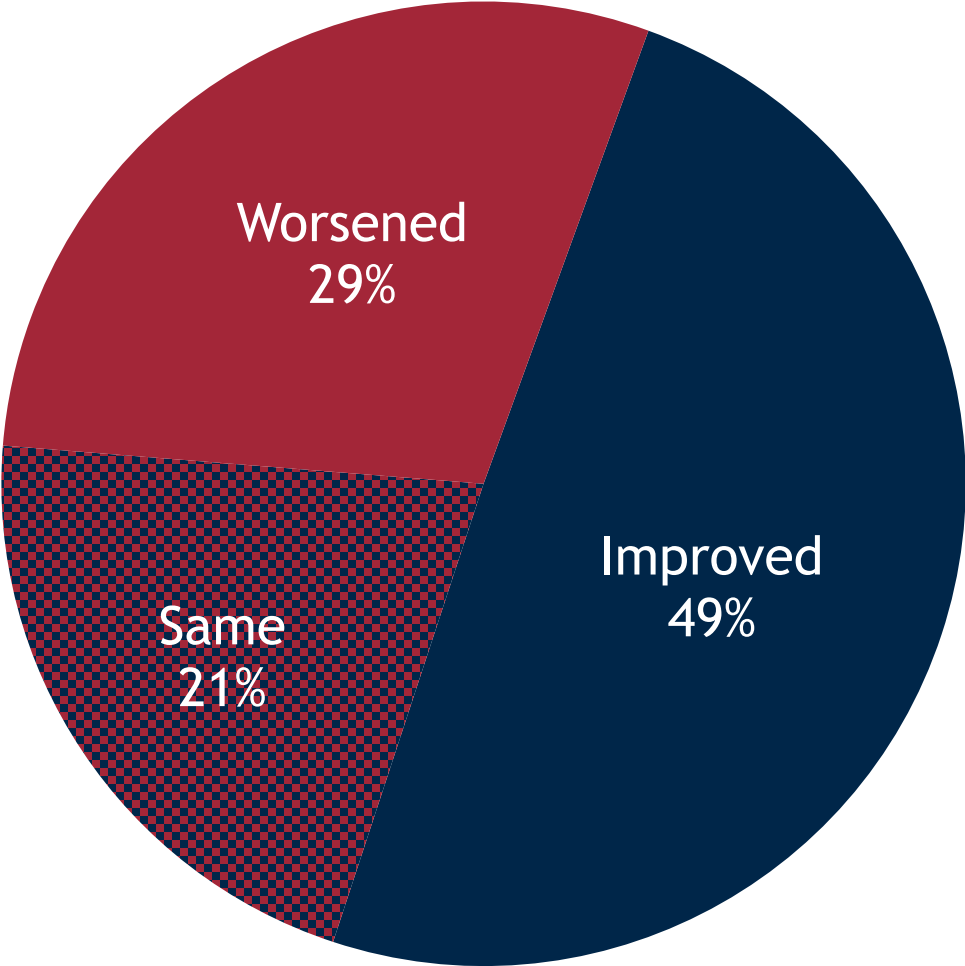
Nov 2013
n=1,587

Jan 2014
n=1,512

Sept 2014
n=1,002

Political Instability	32%	Political Instability	86%	Political Instability	58%
Frequent Strikes	24%	Poor Economy	7%	Frequent Strikes	2%
Price Hikes	17%	Frequent Strikes	6%	Price Hikes	22%
Poor Economy	8%			Poor Economy	5%
Lack of Development	5%			Lack of Law and Order	2%
Lack of Law and Order	5%				

Thinking about the personal economic situation of you and your family, in the past year has it improved, worsened or stayed the same?

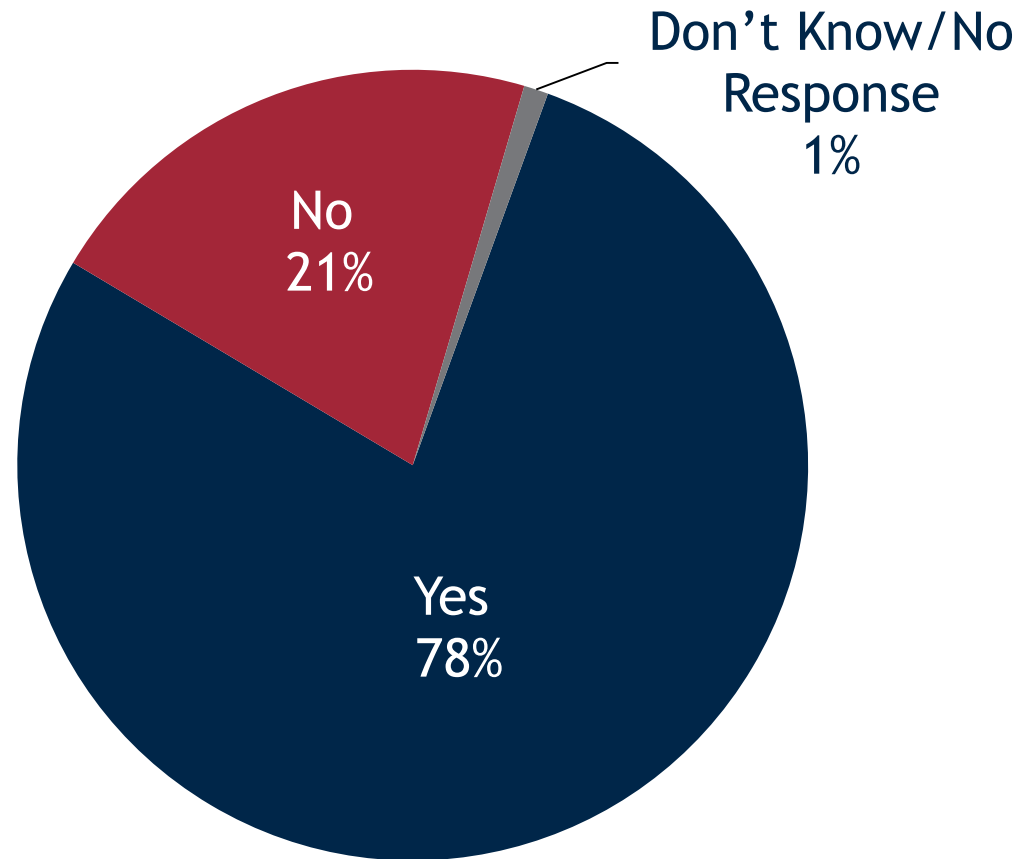


Thinking some more about the personal economic situation of you and your family, in the coming year do you think it will improve, worsen or stay the same?



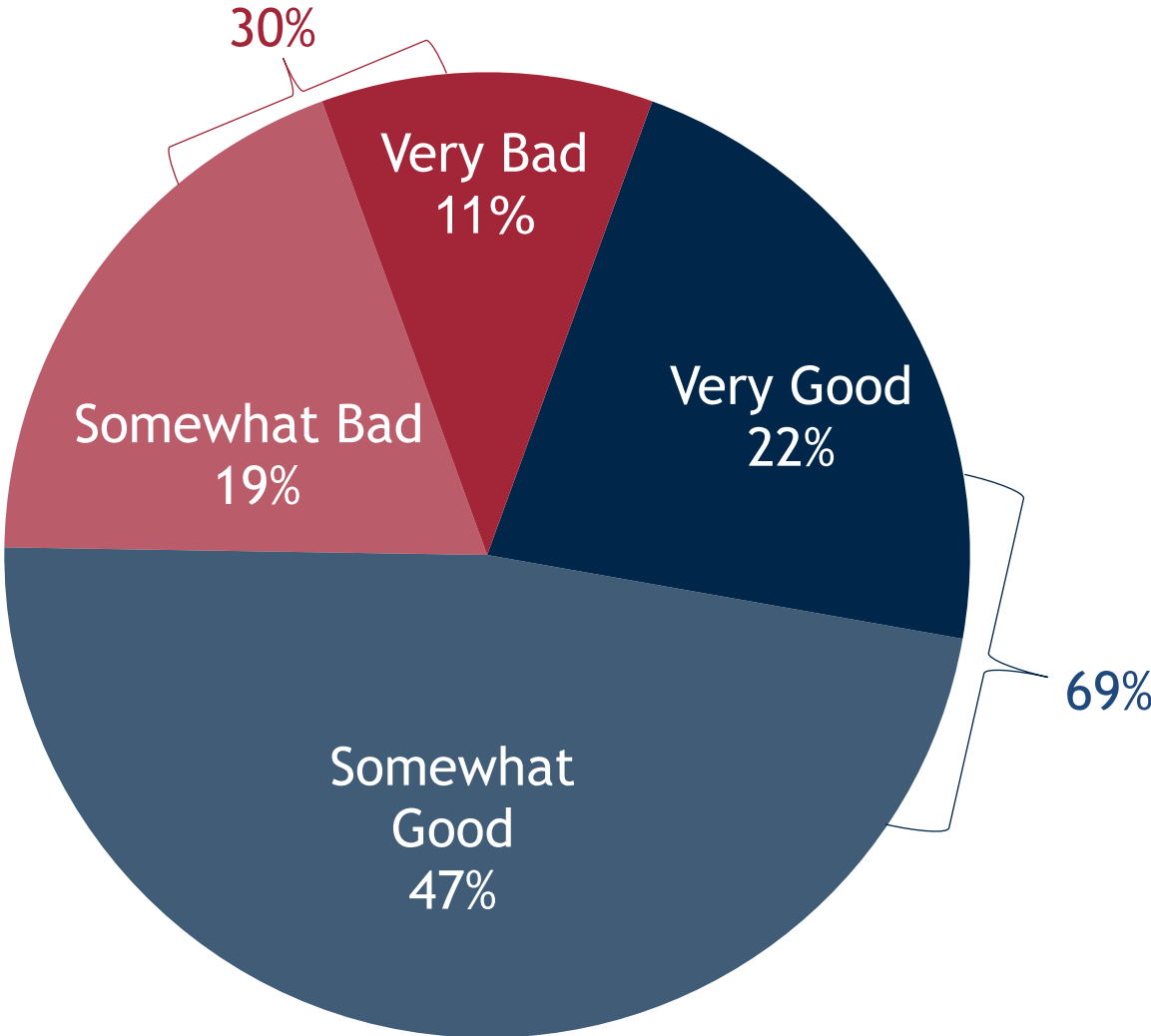
■ Improve ■ Same ■ Worse ■ Don't Know/No Response

Do you and your family have enough income to afford basic commodities (rice, milk, eggs, fish, *dhal**, etc.) in the market?

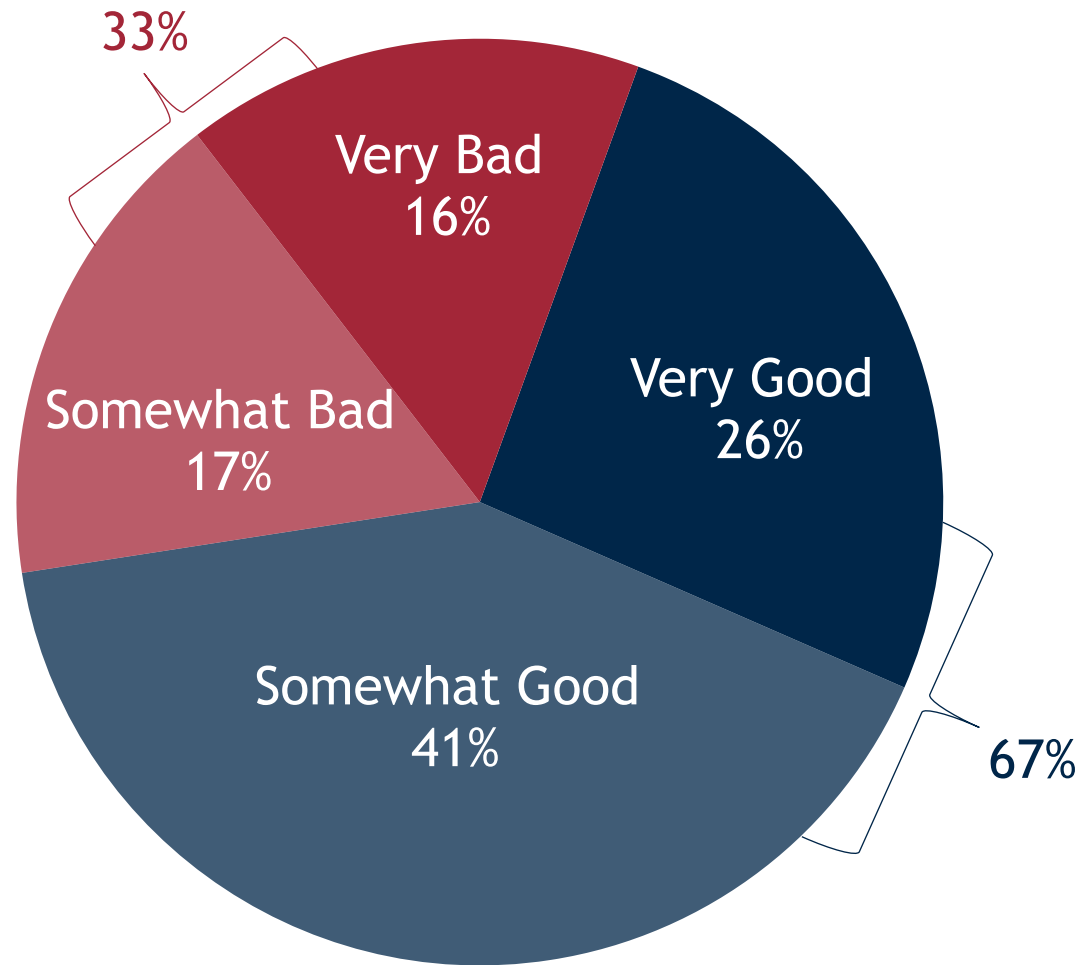


**Dhal* is the Bengali term for lentils, a regional dietary staple.

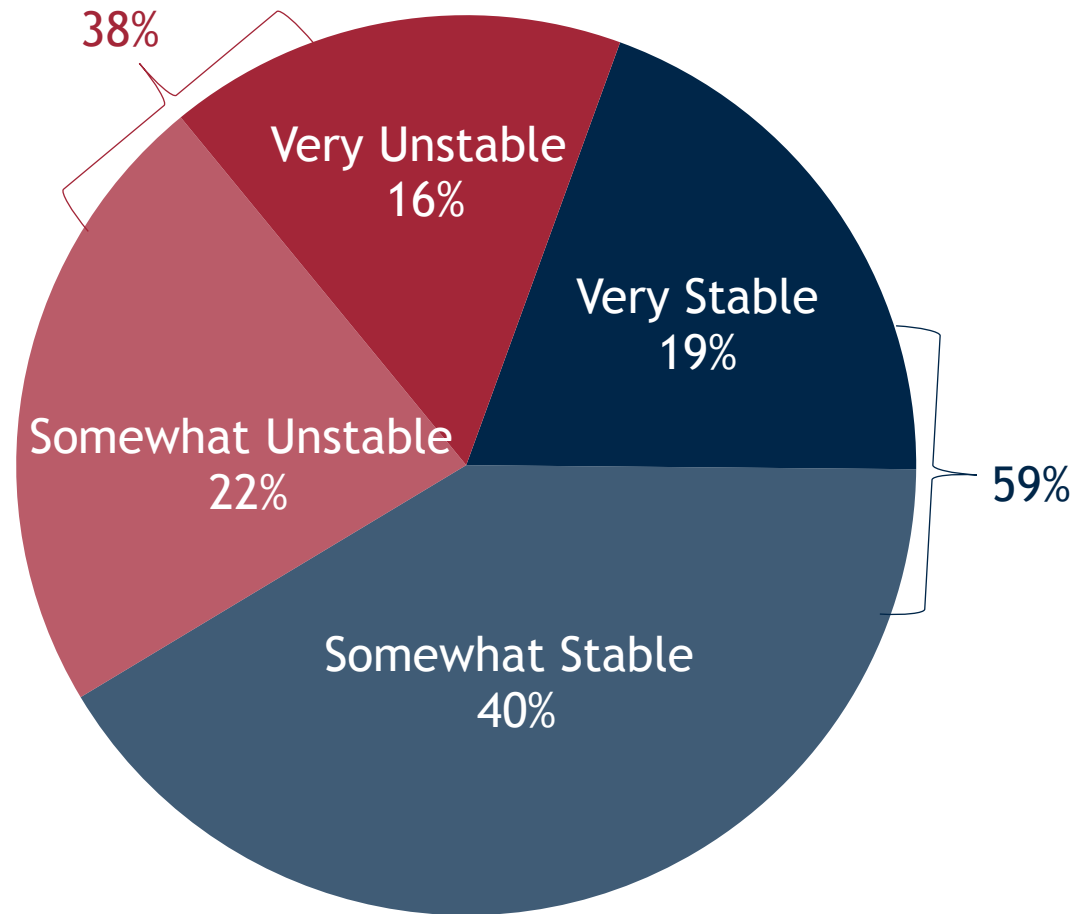
Overall, how would you rate the current economic conditions in Bangladesh?



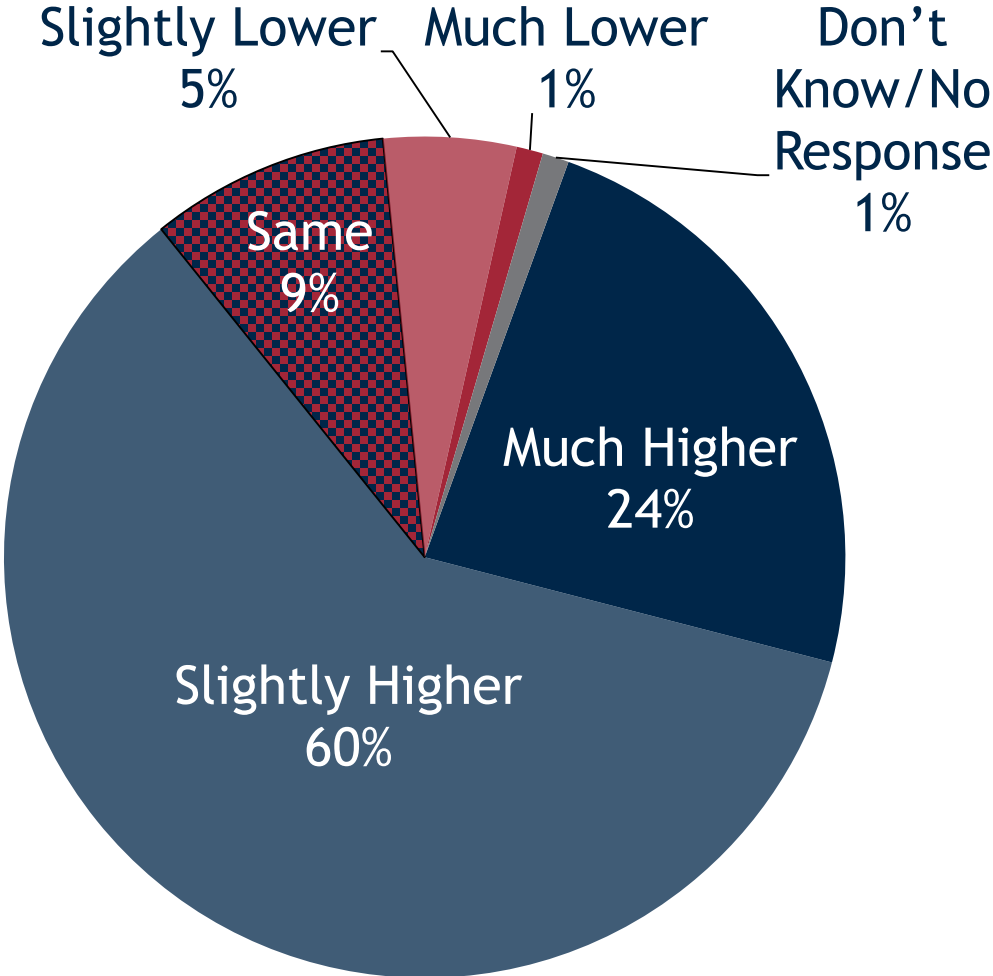
Overall, how would you rate the current security conditions in Bangladesh?



Overall, how would you rate the political stability of Bangladesh?



Do you expect the price of basic commodities to be higher or lower six months from now?





Elections and Campaign Finance

Thinking now about elections, did you vote in the recent *upazila** elections?



If no, why didn't you vote?
(Open-ended)
n=786

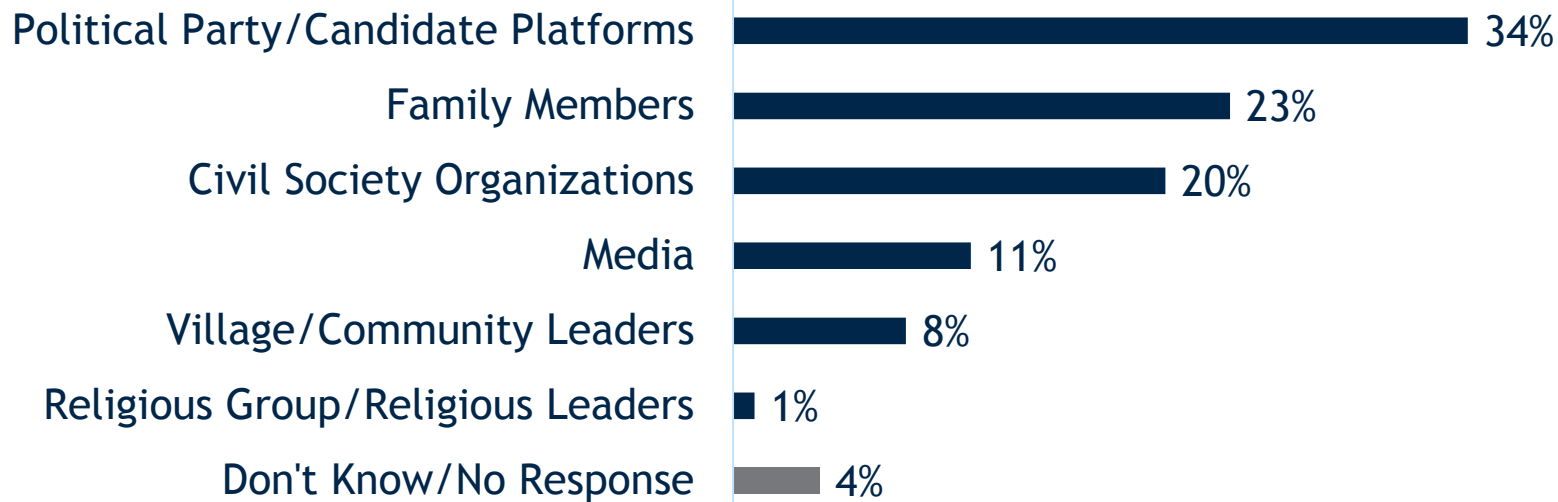
No Election in my Area	24%
I'm Not a Voter	18%
Did Not Feel Safe	14%
Was Away from my Area	12%
Did Not Feel the Election was Free and Fair	6%
Someone Voted for Me	5%
I was Sick	4%
Name Did Not Appear on List	3%
My Party Boycotted	3%
Did Not Like any Candidates	2%
Too Busy	2%
Was Threatened	2%
No ID Card	2%

*An *upazila* is a sub-district of Bangladeshi government, of which there are 488. Elections to the *upazila parishad* (councils) were held in May 2014.

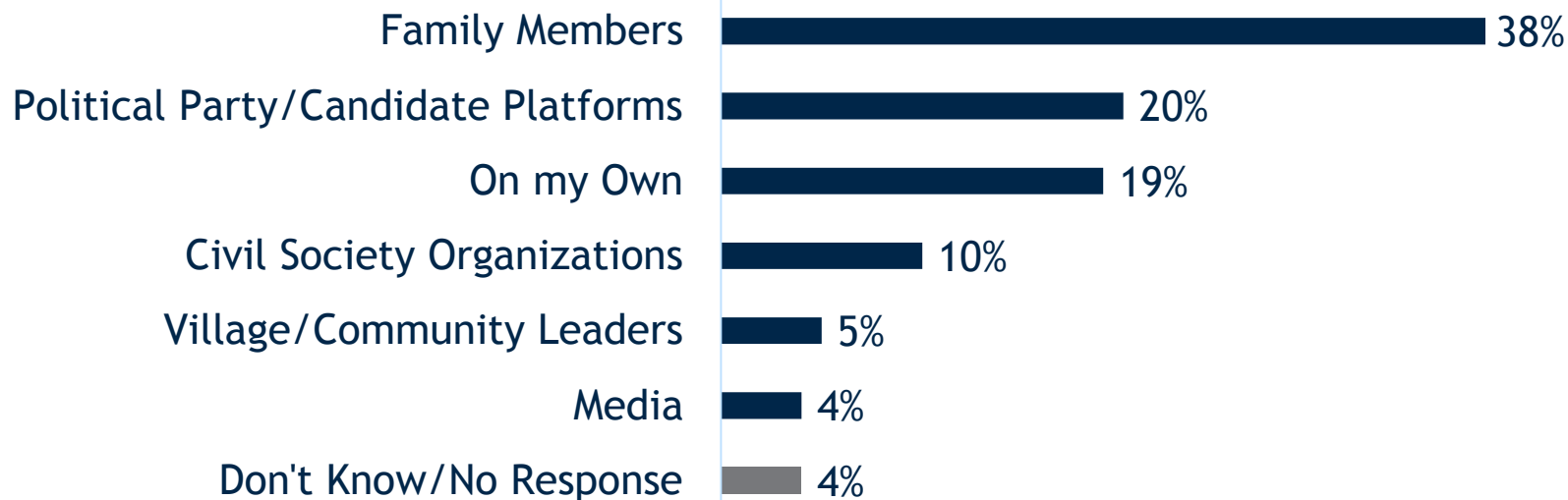
Do you believe that the *upazila* elections were free and fair?



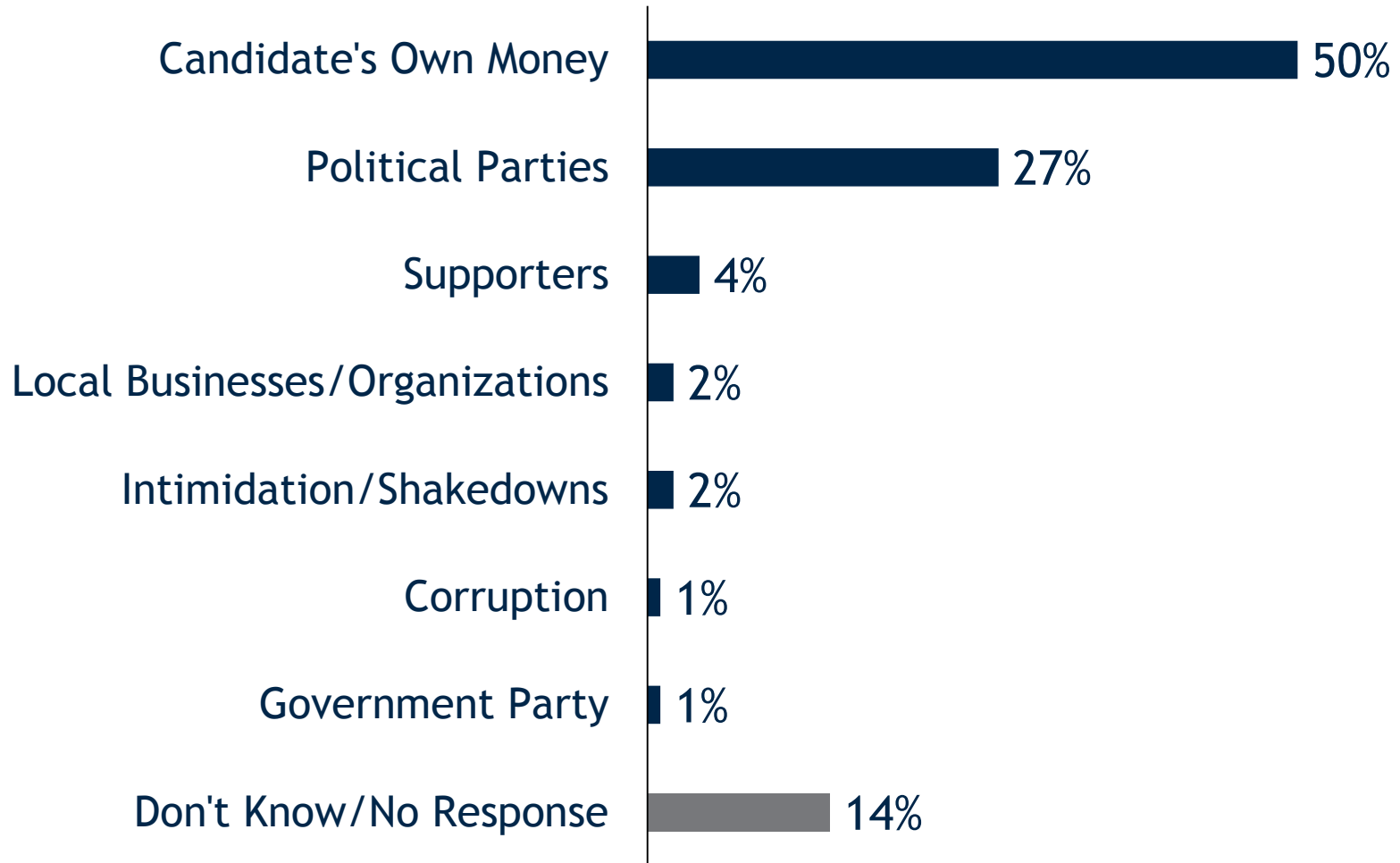
Where do you get information related to candidates and political parties?



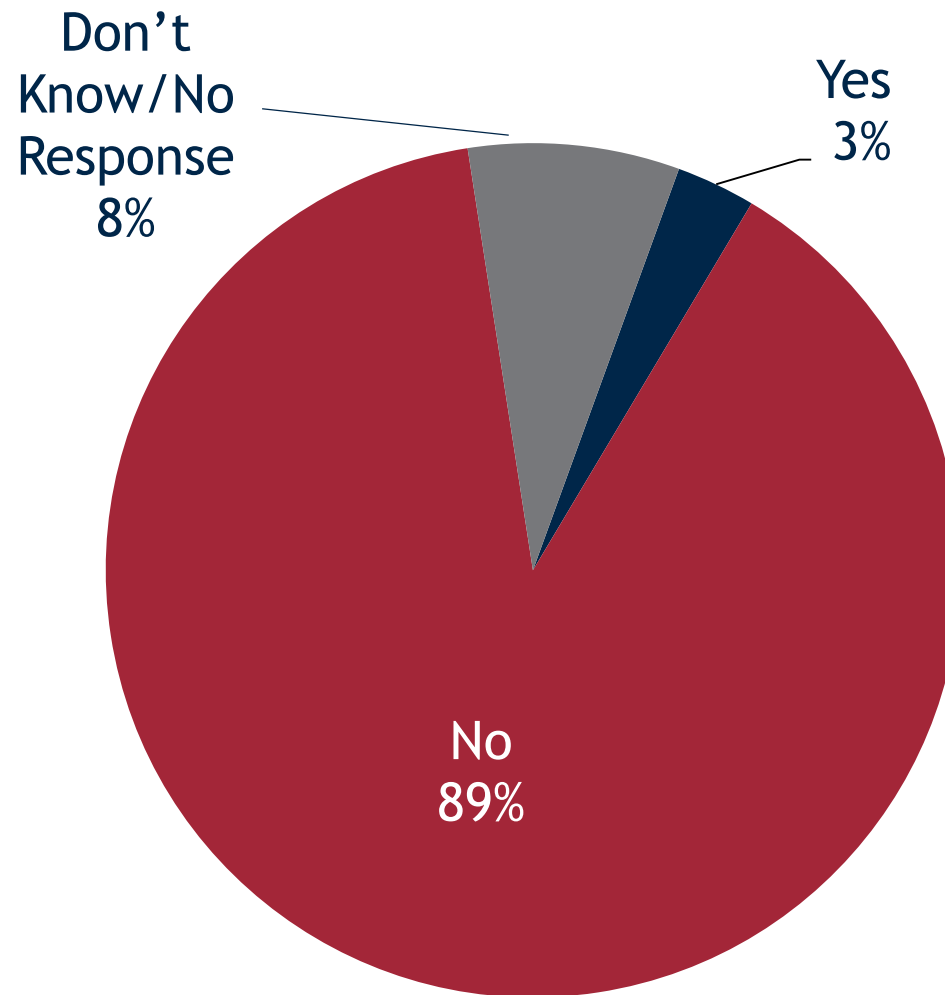
What or who influences your voting decision the most?



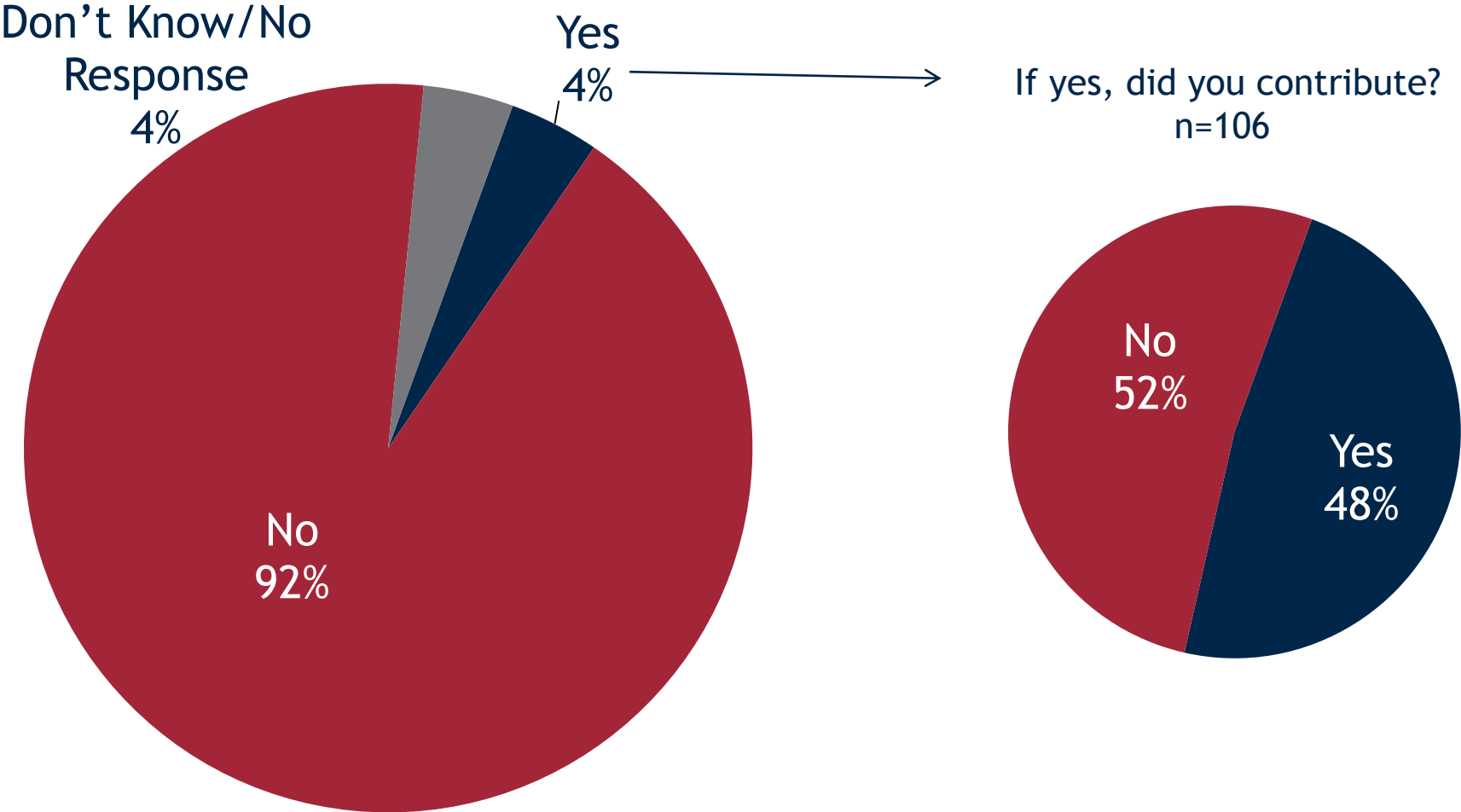
Where do you believe candidates for elections receive most of the money for their campaigns?



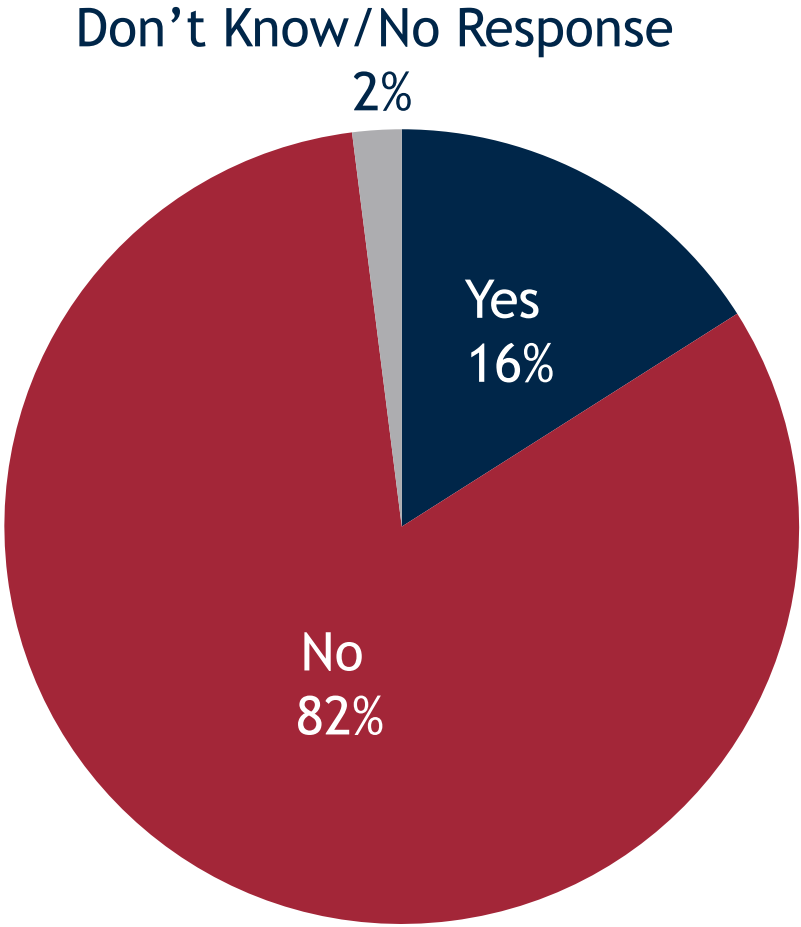
Have you ever personally witnessed incumbent candidates using government offices or vehicles during their campaigns?



Have you ever been asked to contribute money or free services to a candidate or political party for an election campaign?



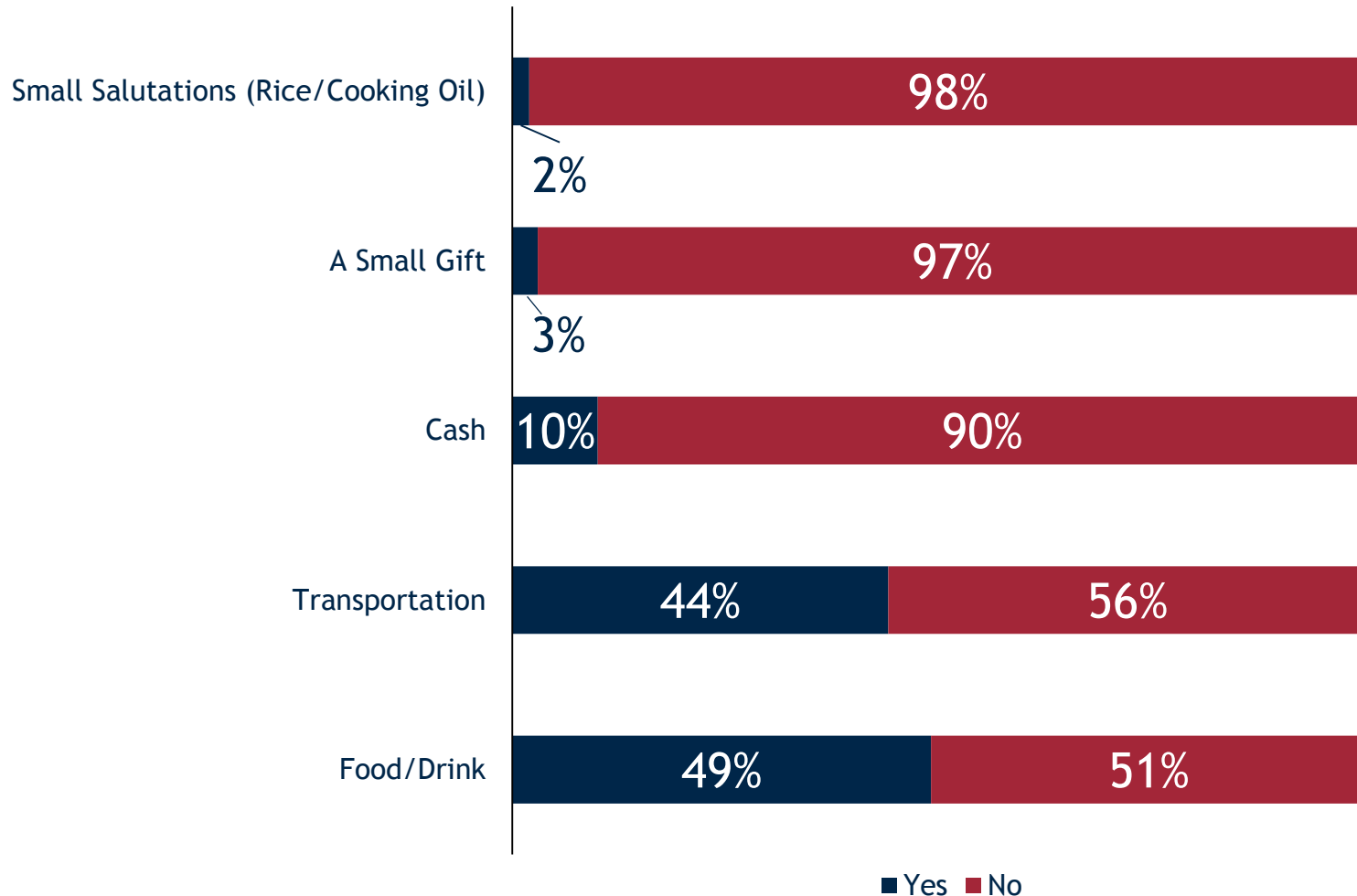
Have you attended any rallies, meetings or events in your area for any of the candidates for national parliamentary elections or *upazila* elections?



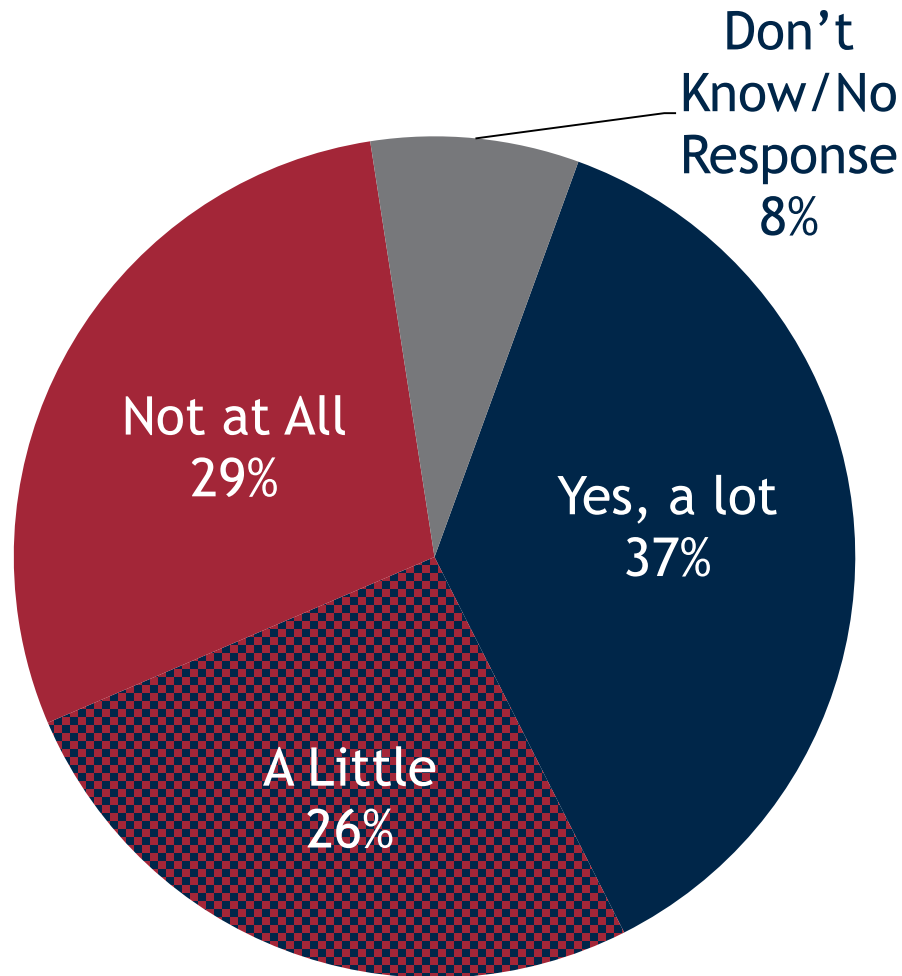
Have you attended any rallies, meetings or events in your area for any of the candidates for national parliamentary elections or *upazila* elections?

If yes, did you receive...?

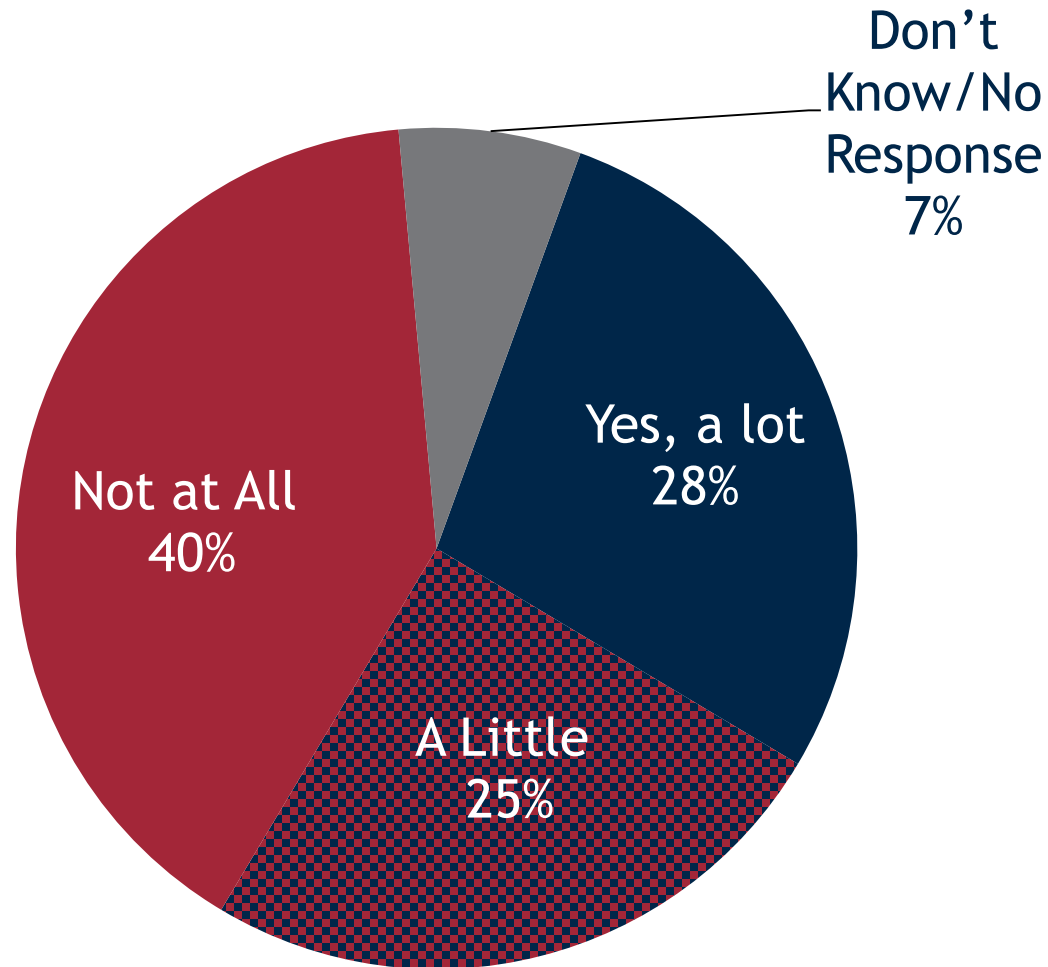
n=396



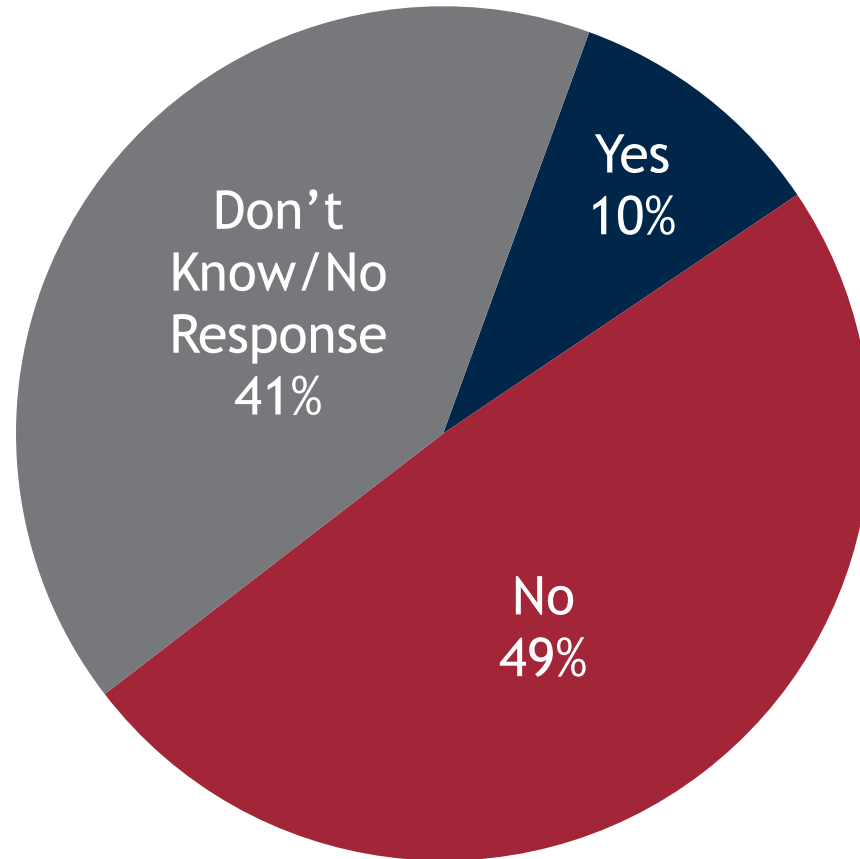
Does it bother you if a candidate spends on his/her campaign more money than allowed by the law?



Does it bother you if a candidate spends his/her personal money on campaign expenses?

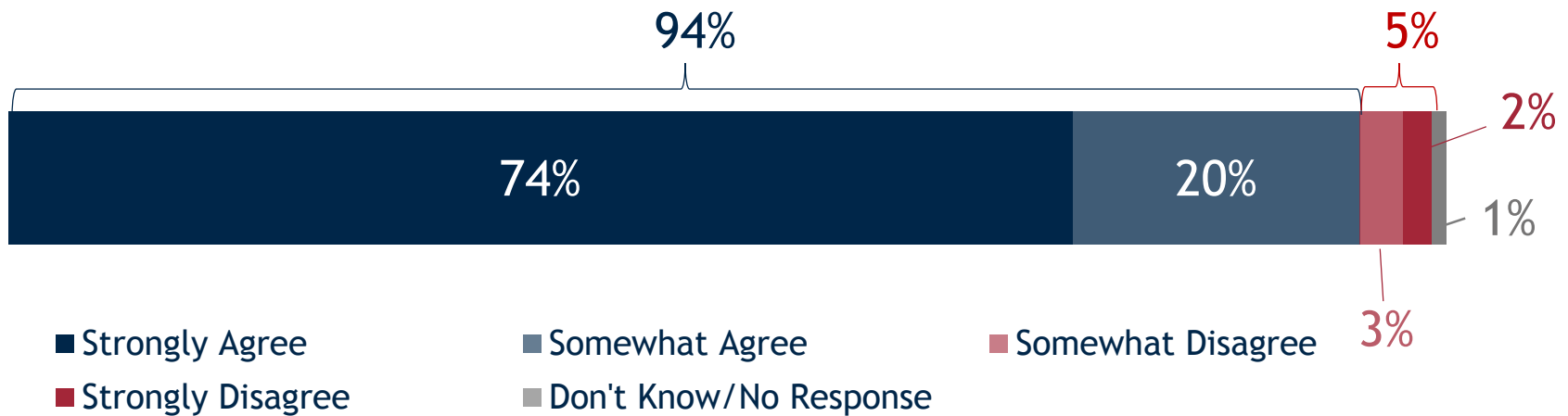


Did the returning officer or deputy returning officer in your area post statements of election expenditures for candidates during the national parliamentary or *upazila* elections?

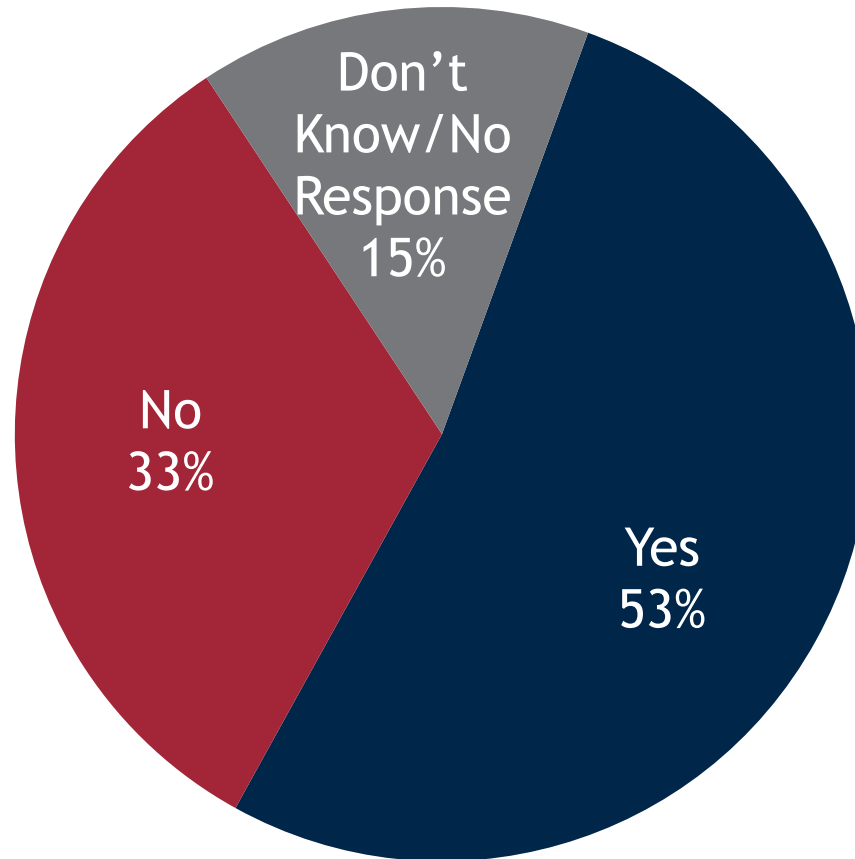


Agree or Disagree?

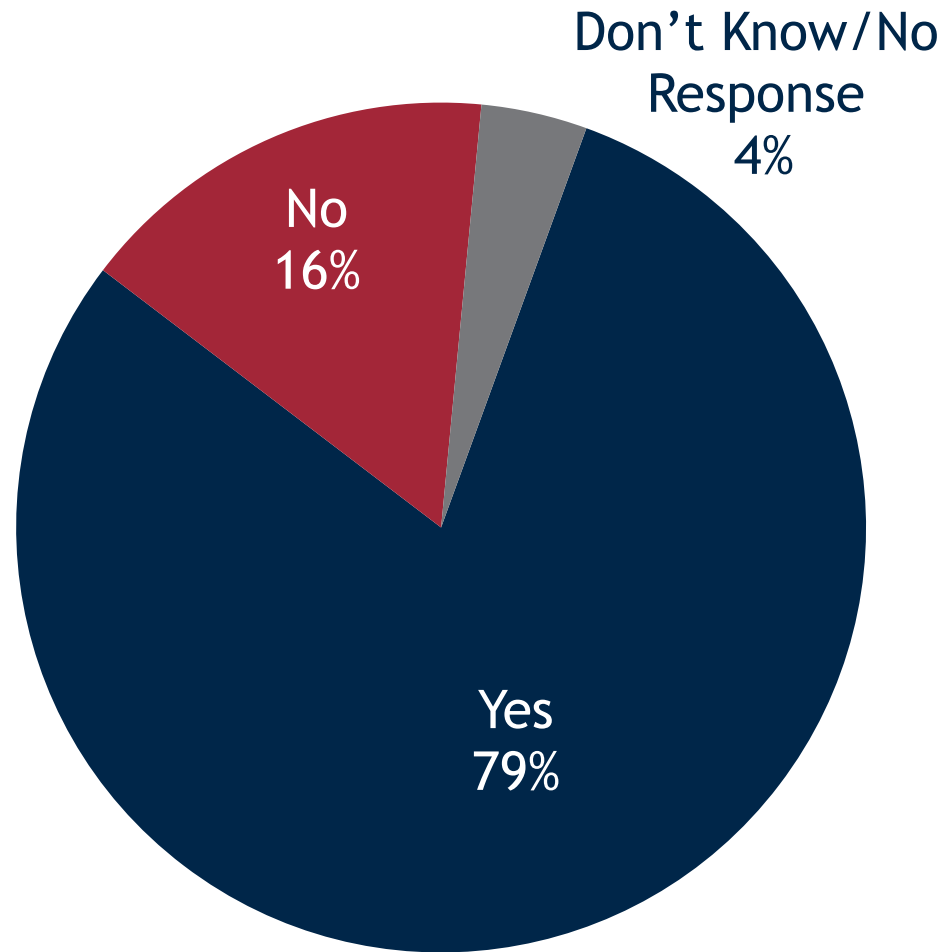
Information on a candidate's assets and his/her campaign expenses should be public knowledge.



Do you believe the election commission is capable of tracking and regulating money spent on campaigns?

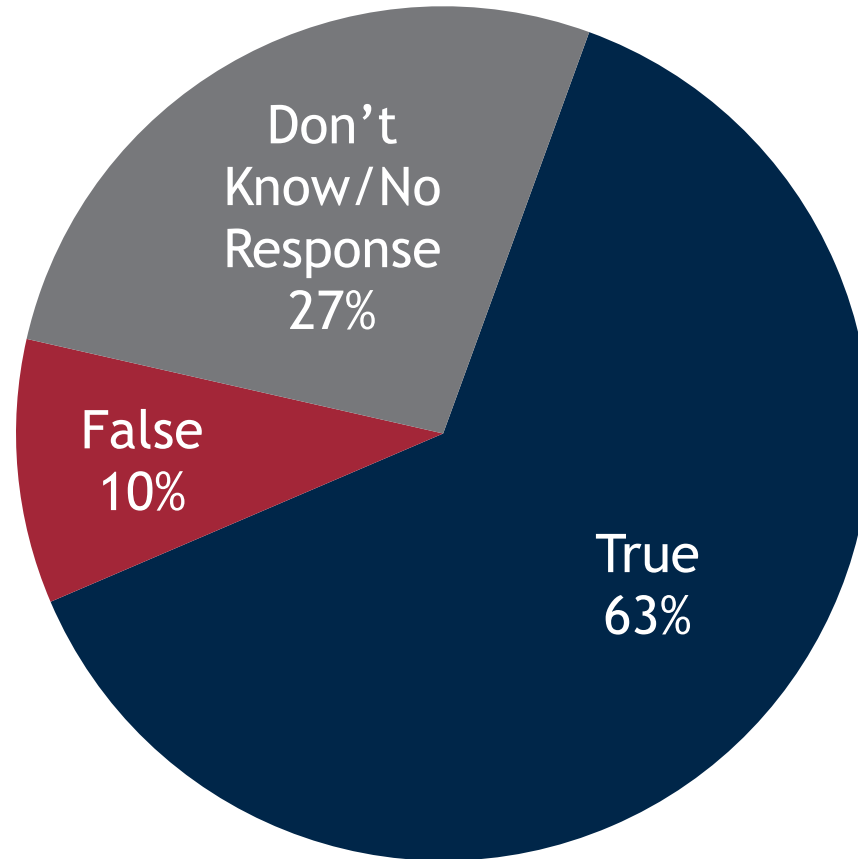


Thinking about the election law, as far as you know, is it illegal for candidates to provide food and small gifts to voters during the campaigns?



True or False?

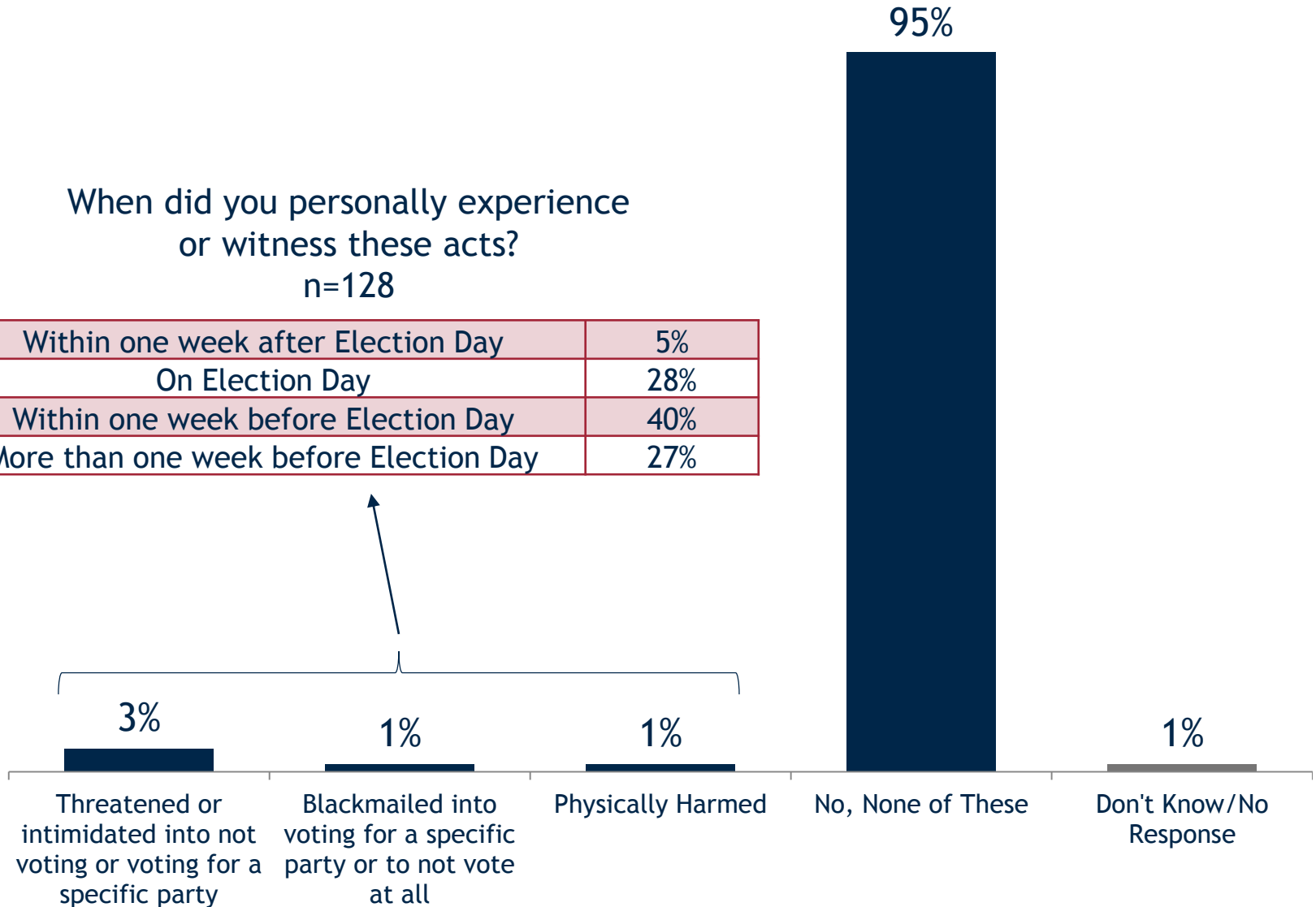
Under the election law, candidates are required to submit to the returning officer a list of what they spent money on during the campaigns.



During the elections process, have you ever been....? (Choose all that apply)

When did you personally experience
or witness these acts?
n=128

Within one week after Election Day	5%
On Election Day	28%
Within one week before Election Day	40%
More than one week before Election Day	27%

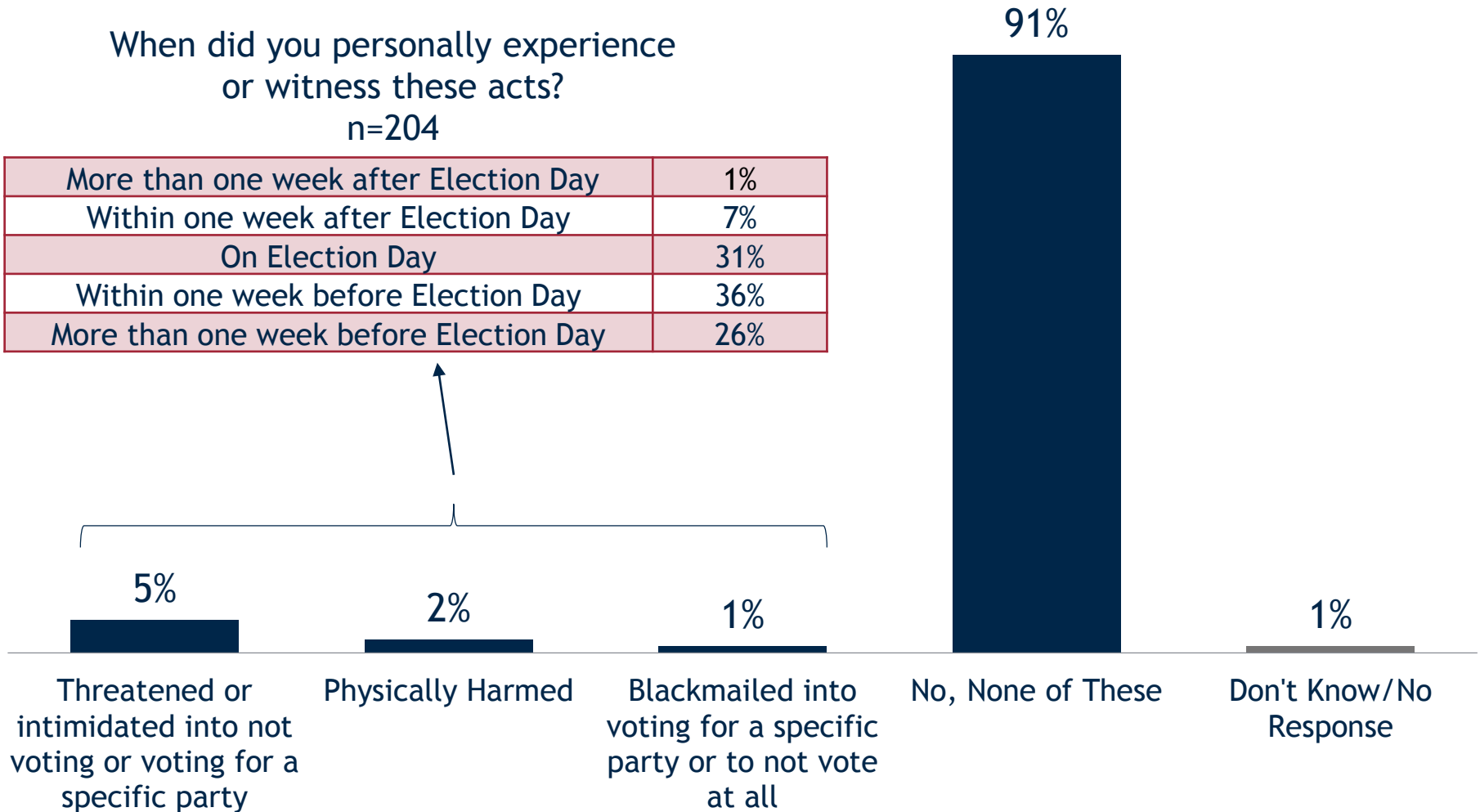


During the elections process, have you ever witnessed other people being....? (Choose all that apply)

When did you personally experience
or witness these acts?

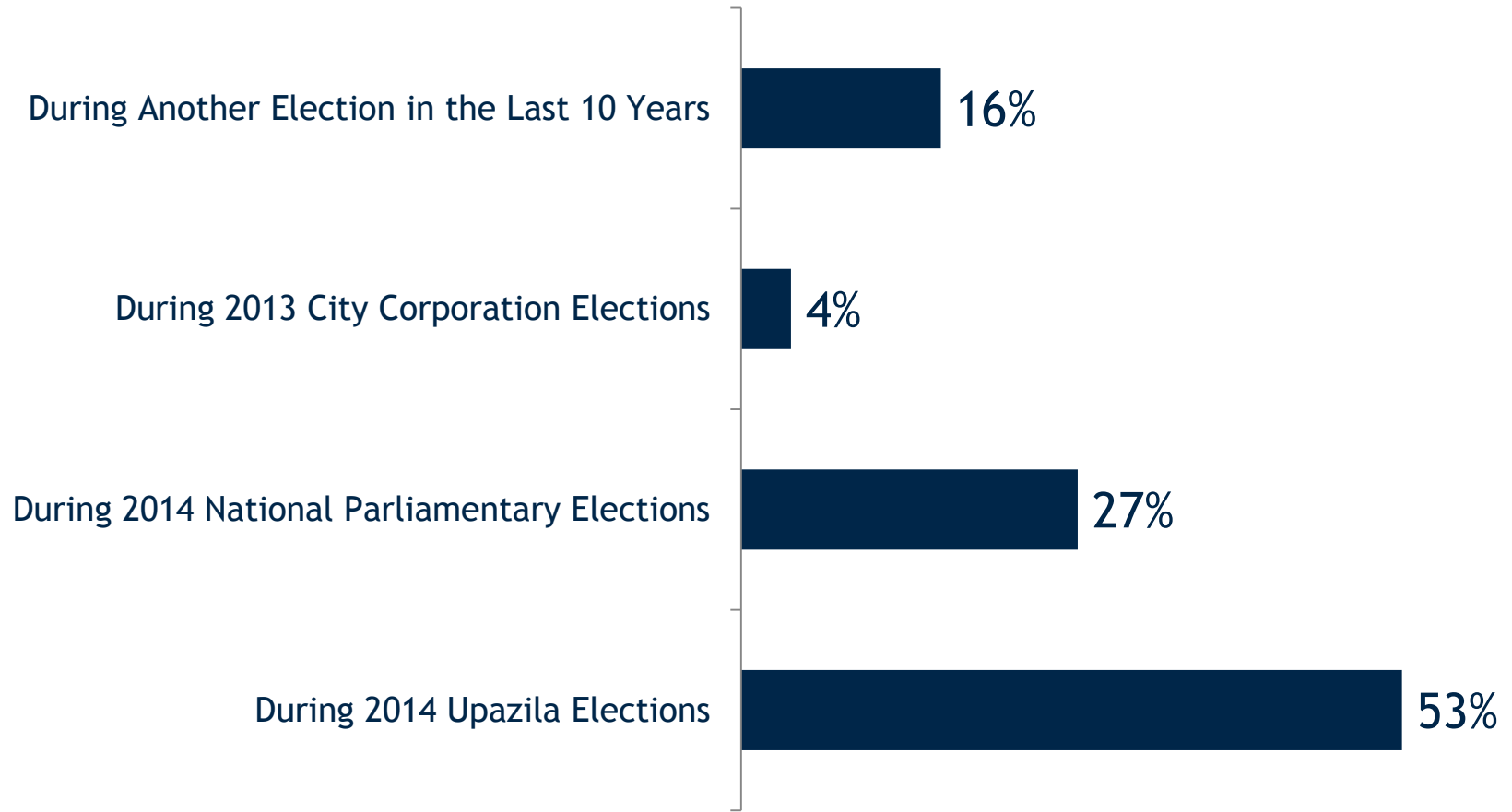
n=204

More than one week after Election Day	1%
Within one week after Election Day	7%
On Election Day	31%
Within one week before Election Day	36%
More than one week before Election Day	26%

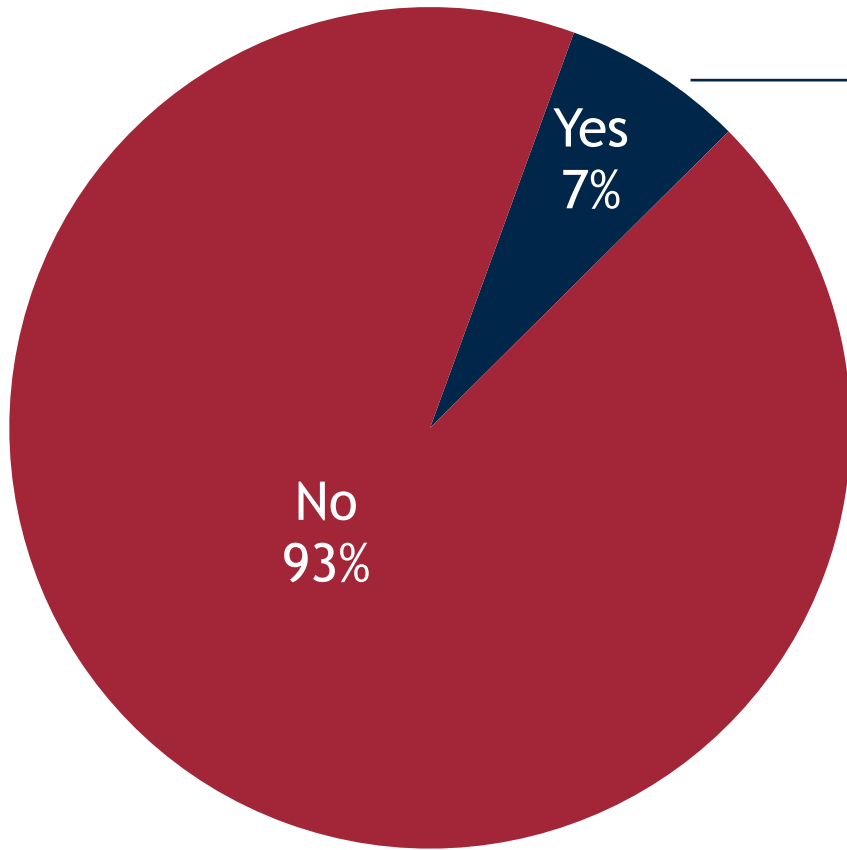


If the answer to either of the previous two questions was yes, during which election did you personally experience or witness these acts?
(Choose all that apply)

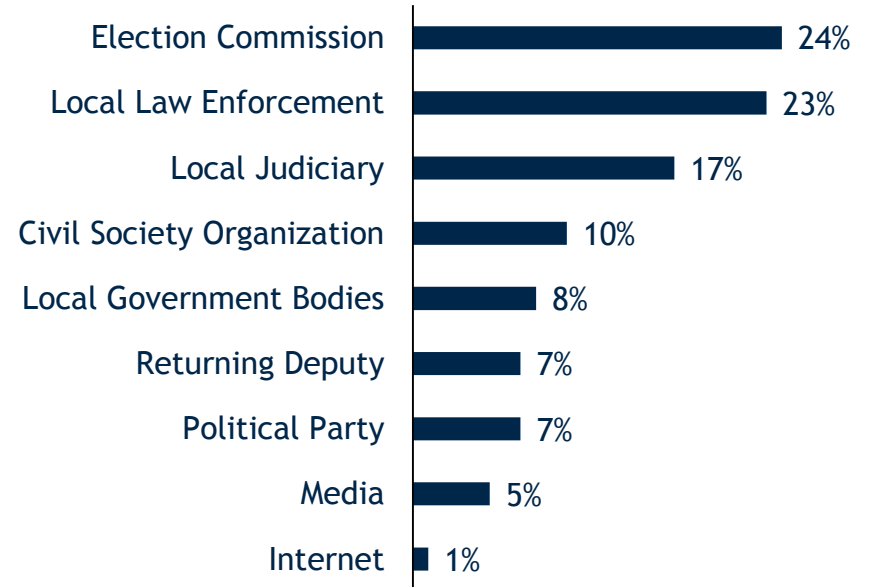
n=332



Do you know how to submit an official election complaint?



If yes, how did you learn about the process to submit an official complaint?
n=181

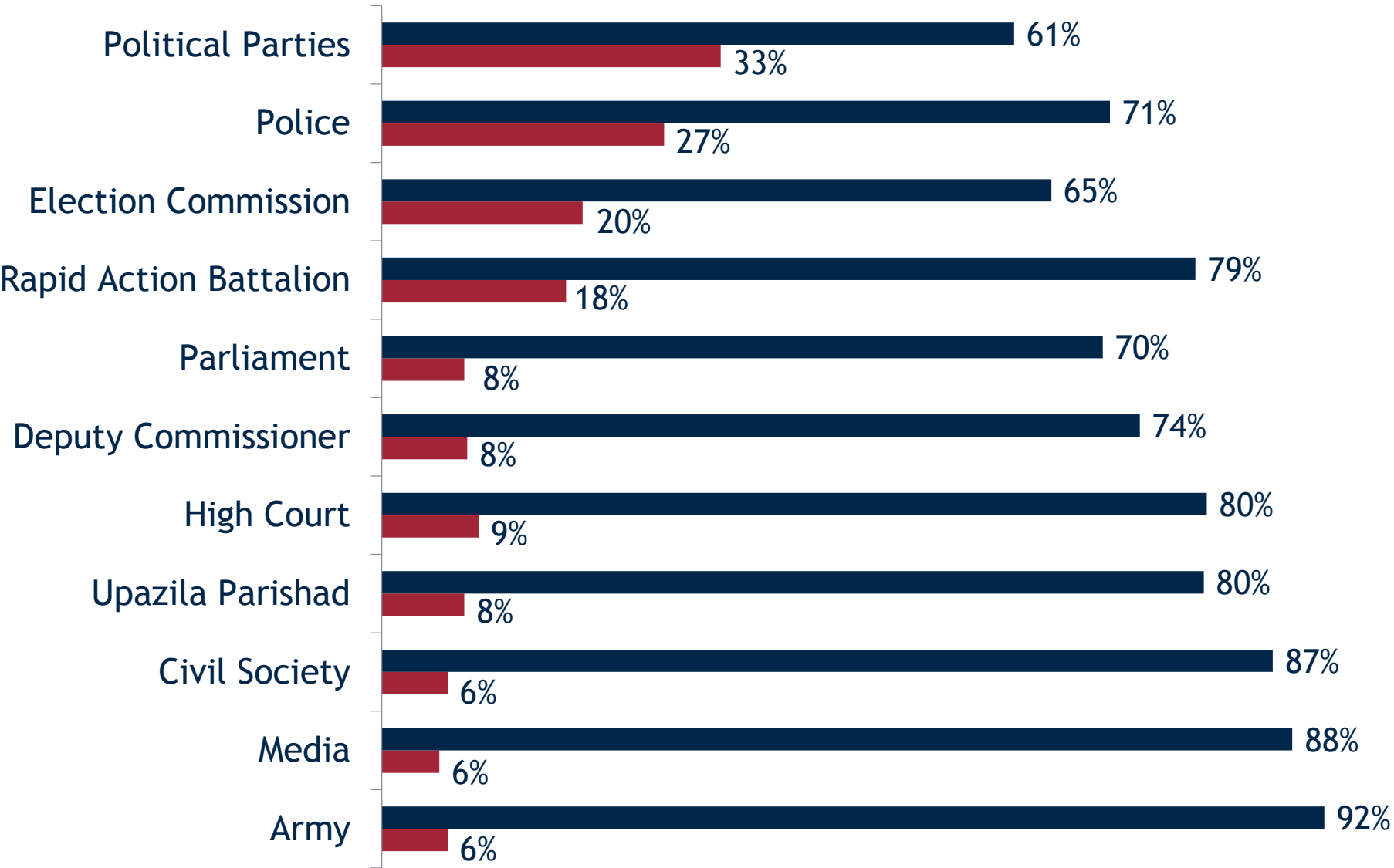




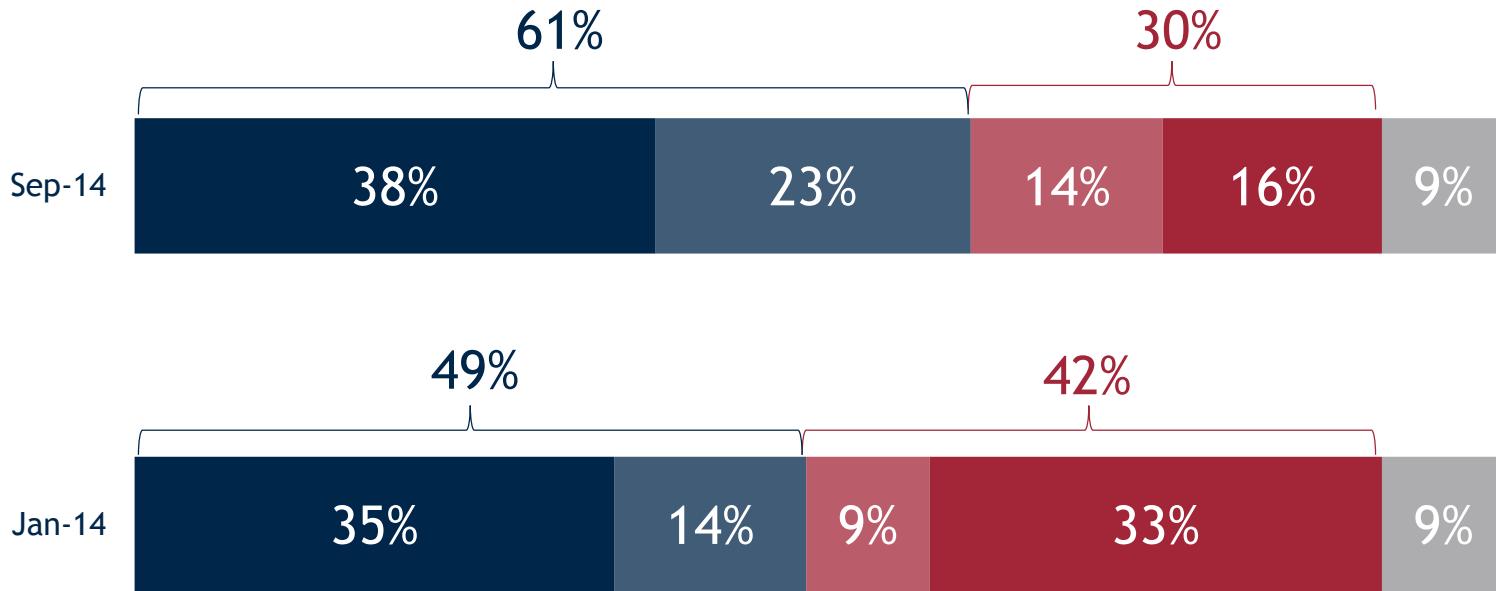
Ratings of Institutions

Do you approve or disapprove of the job being done by the...?

■ Approve ■ Disapprove

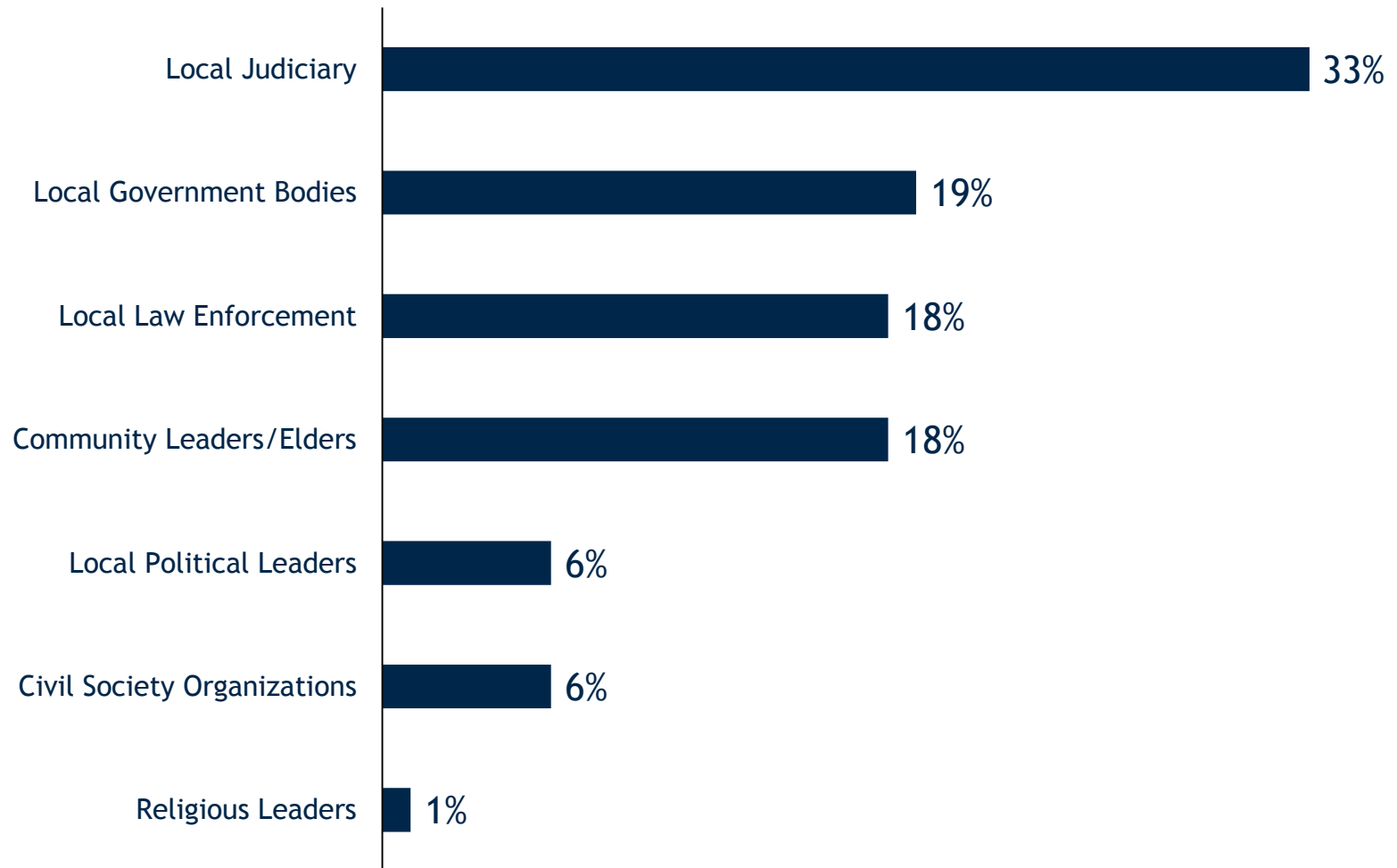


Do you believe the Bangladesh Election Commission is completely fair and independent?



■ Strongly Agree ■ Somewhat Agree ■ Somewhat Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree ■ Don't Know/No Response

Whom do you trust to impartially resolve disputes that may arise between residents of your locality?

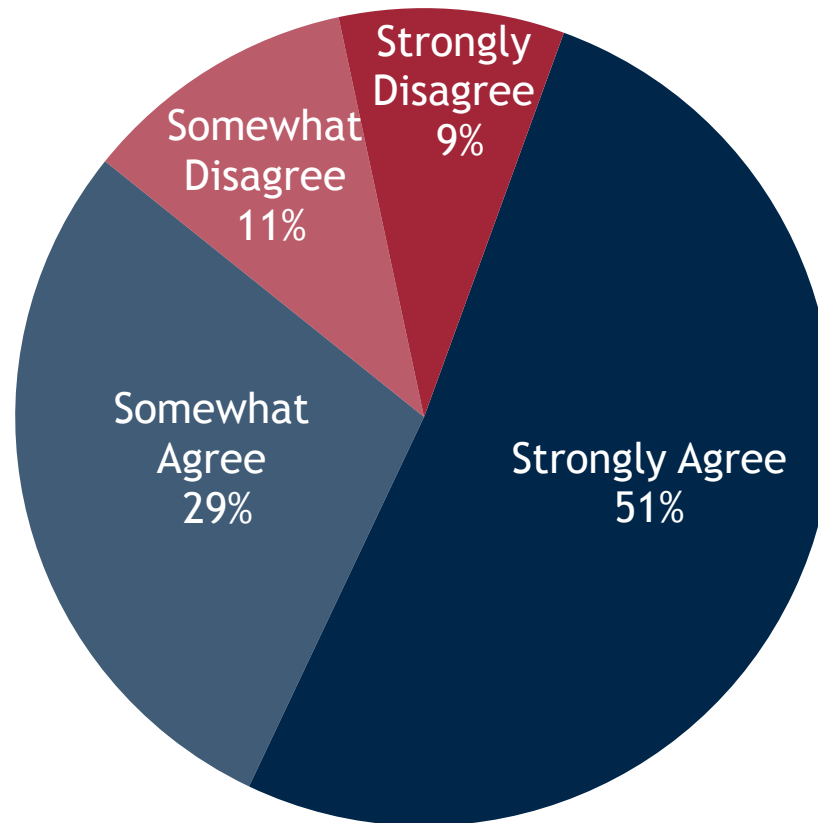




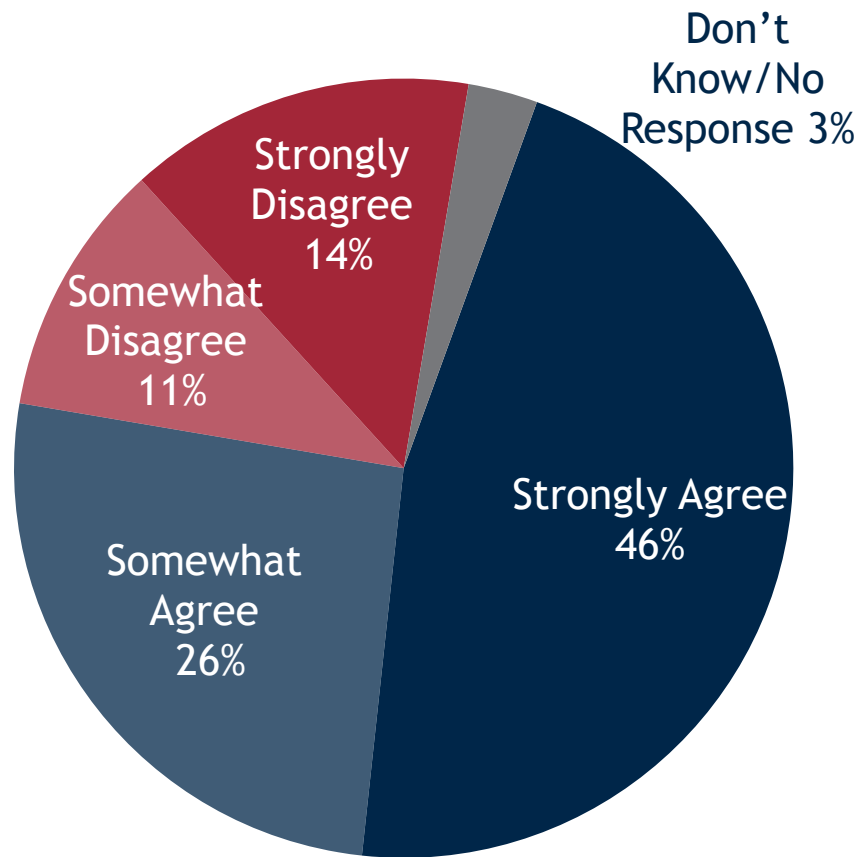
Gender and Elections

Agree or Disagree?

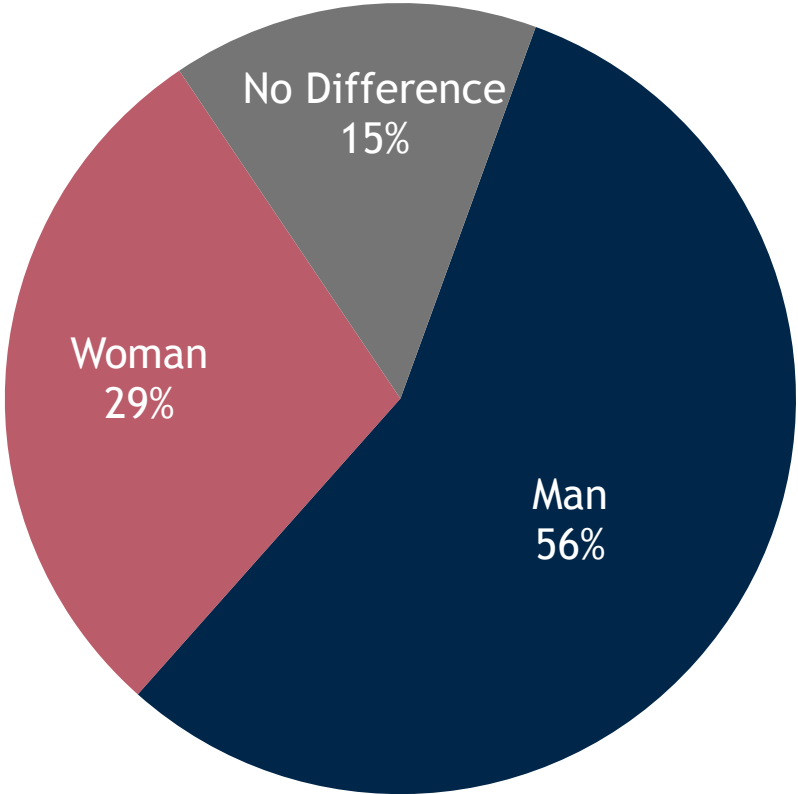
Women are equally represented in political decision-making positions in Bangladesh.



Agree or Disagree? Women make good political leaders.



If there are two candidates running for office and they are exactly the same aside from the fact that one is a man and one is a woman, which candidate would you prefer?



By Gender

	Prefer Man	Prefer Woman	No Difference
Male	79%	7%	14%
Female	34%	51%	16%

Demographics

Monthly Household Income

Less Than 5,000 <i>taka</i> *	15%
5,001-10,000 <i>taka</i>	45%
10,001-15,000 <i>taka</i>	19%
15,001-20,000 <i>taka</i>	11%
20,001-25,000 <i>taka</i>	4%
25,001-30,000 <i>taka</i>	2%
30,001-35,000 <i>taka</i>	1%
35,001 <i>taka</i> and Greater	4%

Division

Dhaka	32%
Chittagong	20%
Rajshahi	13%
Khulna	11%
Rangpur	11%
Sylhet	7%
Barisal	6%

Education

Illiterate	20%
Literate/No Formal Schooling	9%
Class 1-4	11%
Class 5-9	37%
Secondary School	
Certificate/ <i>Dakhil</i>	10%
Higher Secondary Certificate	9%
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science	3%
Graduate Degree	2%

Age

18-30 years	39%
31-40 years	25%
41-50 years	18%
51-60 years	10%
61 Years and Older	8%

Religion

Muslim	88%
Hindu	12%
Buddhist	1%

Gender

Male	50%
Female	50%

Area

Urban	26%
Rural	74%

*At the time of survey fieldwork, one Bangladeshi *taka* was equivalent to \$0.013 USD.

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