



British Embassy
Tbilisi

Public Attitudes in Georgia

Results of August 2020 telephone survey



Carried out for NDI by CRRC Georgia

This research project is funded with
UK aid from the British people

WHY WE CONDUCT POLLS?



To foster the development of more responsive policies and governance;

To help stakeholders diagnose and address issues of public concern.

- ❖ Leaders from across the political spectrum have reported that polls are important to their work and encourage continued polling;
- ❖ Inclusive process: the polling instrument was developed in consultation with political parties, government, and civil society leaders.

ABOUT THE POLL

- ❖ Fieldwork dates: August 6-11, 2020
- ❖ 2,045 completed interviews (29% response rate, according to AAPOR standards)
- ❖ The average margin of error is +/- 1.3%
- ❖ **Note: the margin of error is different for every response**
- ❖ **Shift from face-to-face to telephone method might affect a change on historical slides.**

SAMPLE

- ❖ All interviews were conducted via **mobile phone interview** method
- ❖ Simple random sampling method was used. Respondents were selected using the **random-digit-dial method**
- ❖ Interviews were conducted in Georgian, Azerbaijani, Armenian and Russian languages
- ❖ The poll is representative of entire Georgian population (excluding the occupied territories)
- ❖ In addition, the poll is representative of the capital, urban and rural settlements

Quality control

- ❖ All interviewers receive special training
- ❖ CRRC central office coordinators conduct quality control interviews

Differences between face to face and telephone surveys

Face to face survey



- ❑ Ability to ask more questions (60-80);
- ❑ Interviews take longer (30-60 min);
- ❑ You can ask longer questions, provide definitions;
- ❑ You can show cards with answer options.

Telephone survey



- ❑ Number of questions limited (20-30);
- ❑ Shorter duration (10-20 min);
- ❑ Questions are shorter and simpler, than during face to face interviews;
- ❑ You can't use show cards with answer options. This means that answer options should be shorter, or interviewer should correspond answers.

Differences between face to face and telephone surveys

Face to face survey



- Interviewer sees respondent and can observe respondent's non-verbal behavior, whether he/she understand the question or not;
- Interviewer is in the same space with respondent and can better manage the situation;
- Certain group of busy people are harder to reach this way;
- Due to the sampling method, margin of error is higher than during telephone surveys;
- More expensive;
- Longer fieldwork.

Telephone survey



- Chances are higher that respondent can't understand the question and interviewer won't notice it;
- Interviewer has no way of knowing in what kind of environment the respondent is;
- Easier to approach some respondents, e.g. men or people who are often out of home;
- Due to the sampling method, margin of error is lower than during face to face interviews;
- Cheaper;
- Shorter fieldwork.

Research goals:

- ❖ To foster political discourse focused on citizens' priorities during the pre-election period. By:
 - ❖ Informing candidates as they develop issue-focused platforms and engage voters during the campaign, and injecting citizen priorities into their electoral platforms and campaign promises.
- ❖ To inform a post-election poll, which is envisioned as a baseline for both parliamentary leadership and individual MPs to understand citizen demands and policy expectations for the new convocation.

Main findings

- ❖ Georgians remain committed to voting on election day (88 percent), but largely undecided (59 percent) ahead of parliamentary elections on October 31. They remain focused on economic issues, and open to persuasion based on party policy platforms.
- ❖ When deciding which party they will vote for, Georgians noted that economic policy (36 percent), healthcare policy (12 percent), and stance on rule of law (12 percent) are among the most important factors.
- ❖ Georgians' emphasis on a party's economic policies mirrors their top national concerns, which have consistently included jobs (49 percent), poverty (39 percent) and rising prices/inflation (20 percent).
- ❖ A quarter of the adult population reports that they are unemployed, a seven percent increase from NDI's June 2020 poll and likely an indicator of the economic impact of the covid-19 pandemic.

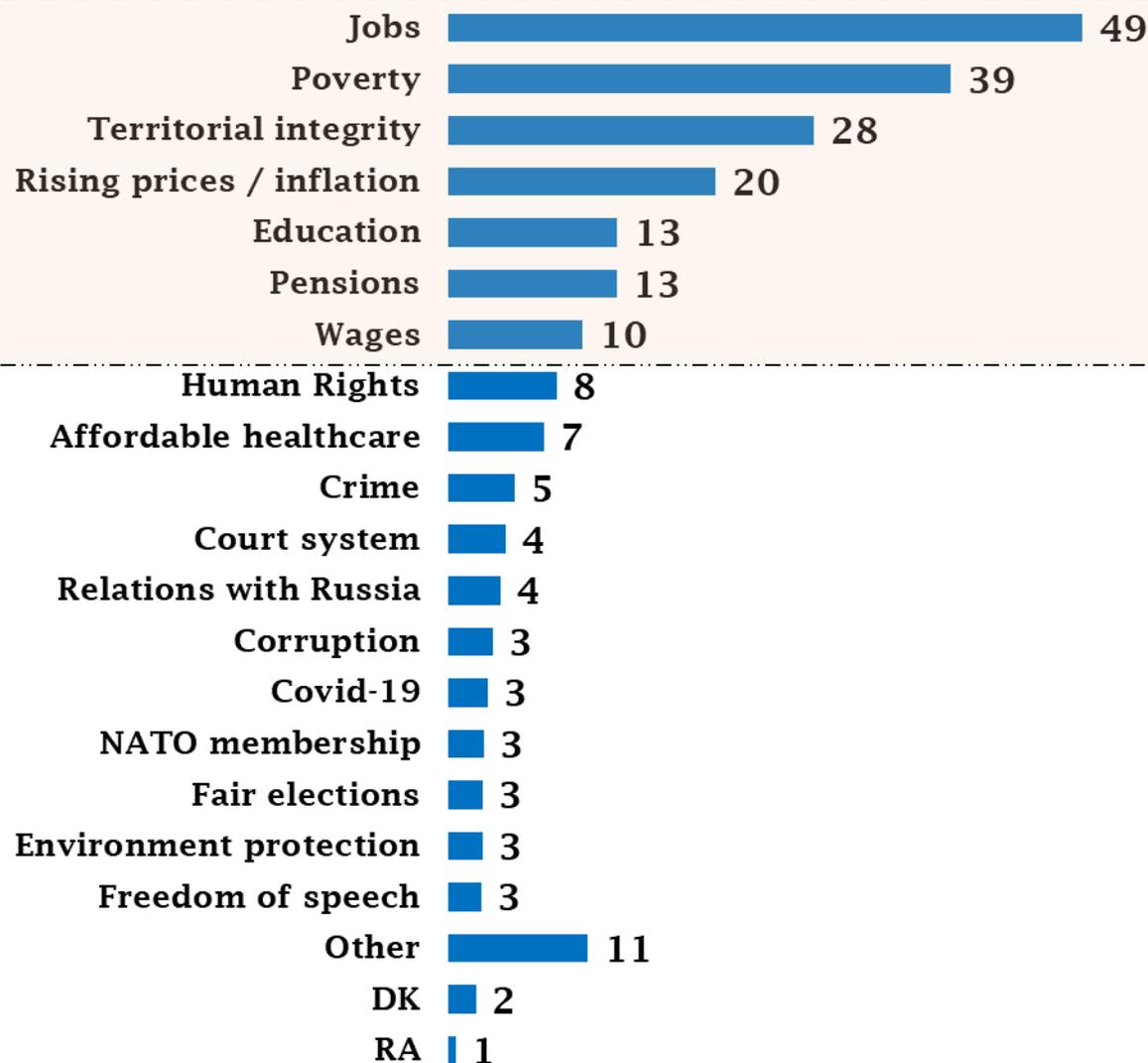
Main findings

- ❖ At the local level Georgians remain concerned about infrastructural issues, including roads (31 percent), water supply (22 percent), environmental pollution (13 percent), and traffic (13 percent). In Tbilisi, traffic and environmental pollution are the top priorities; other urban and rural settlements are focused on water supply and roads.
- ❖ With election day less than two months away, the majority of Georgians, 56 percent, are confident that the 2020 parliamentary elections will be conducted in a free and fair environment.
- ❖ However, some concerns remain. Approximately a third of Georgians (30 percent) report that bribing of voters presents the biggest challenge to the integrity of elections, followed by violations during voting procedures (15 percent) and abuse of administrative resources (13 percent). These concerns reflect some of the findings of NDI's virtual pre-election analysis report, [Georgia Election Watch](#).

National and local issues of concern

National issues

What are the most important national level issues facing you and your family? Please name up to three. (q7) **Open question**

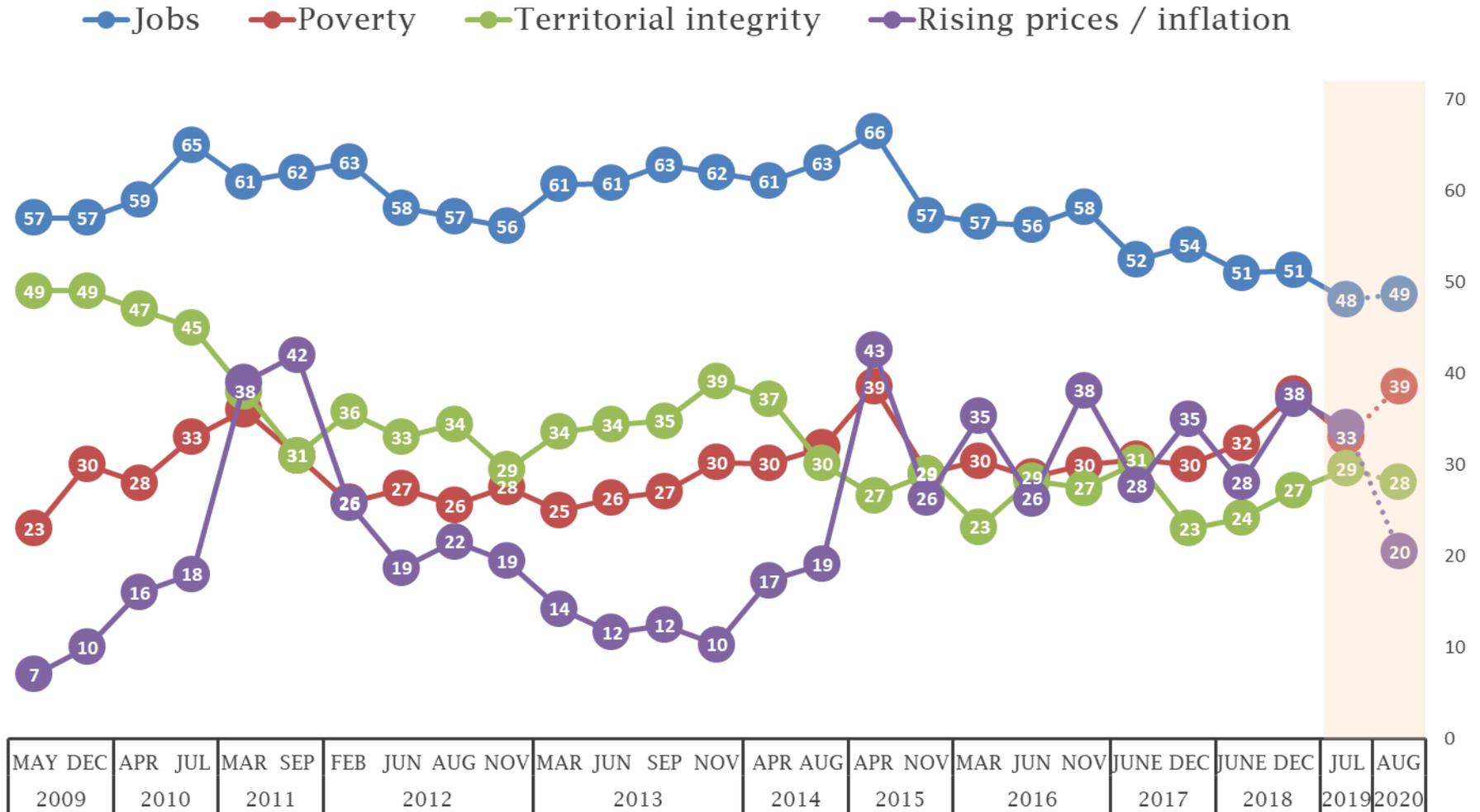


Top issues
remain the same
since 2009

National issues

What are the most important national level issues facing you and your family? Please name up to three. (q7) - OPEN QUESTION

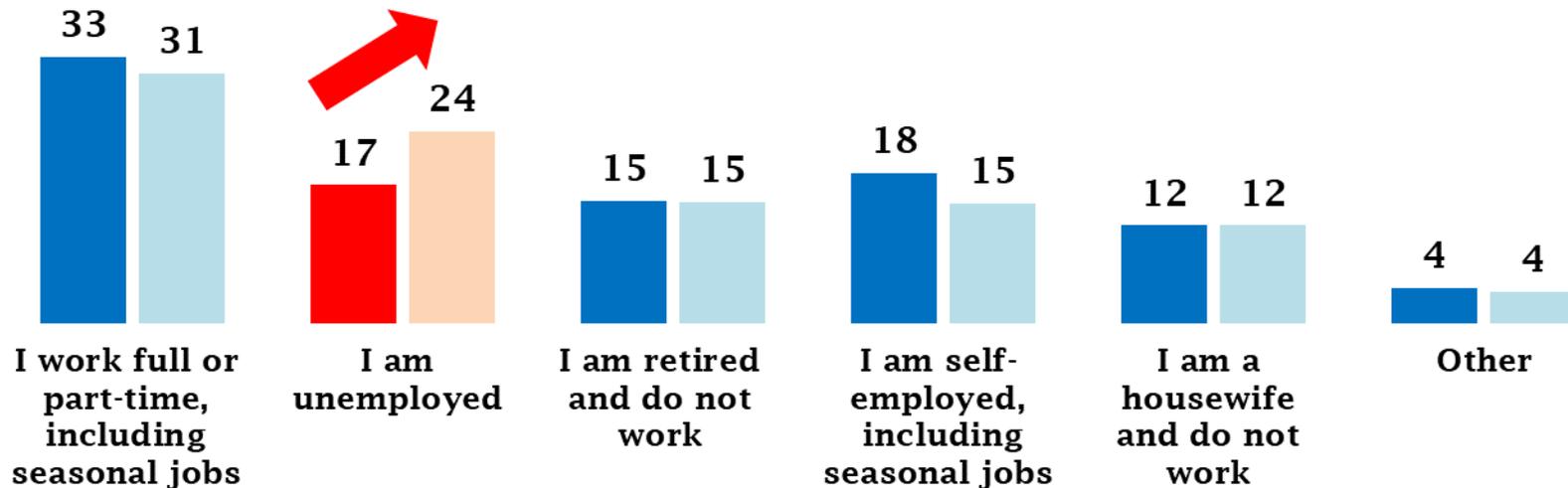
*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



Employment

Which of the following best describes your situation? Please tell me about the activity that you consider to be primary. (q3)

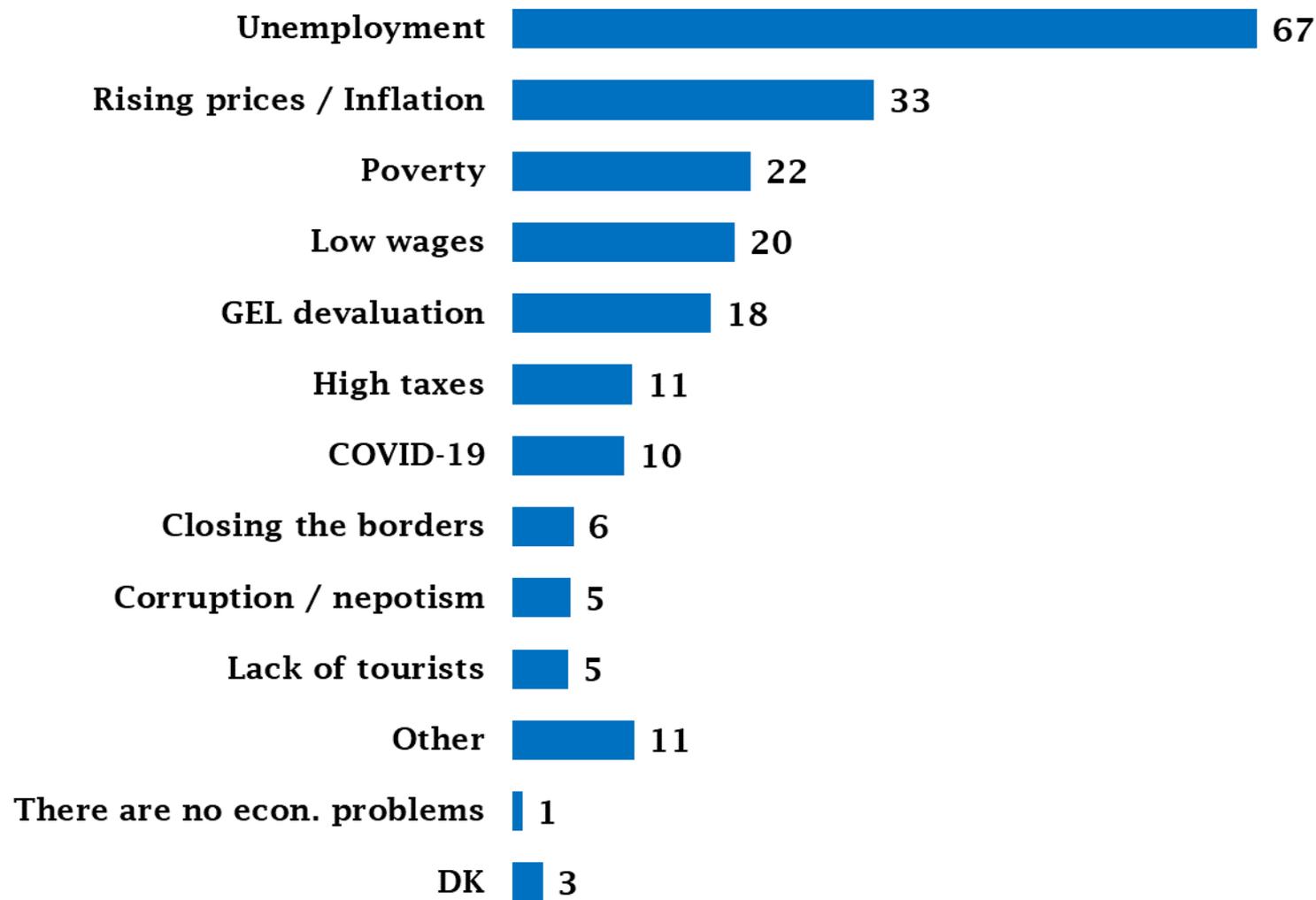
■ June 2020 ■ August 2020



„Other” includes students and people with disabilities who do not work

Economic issues

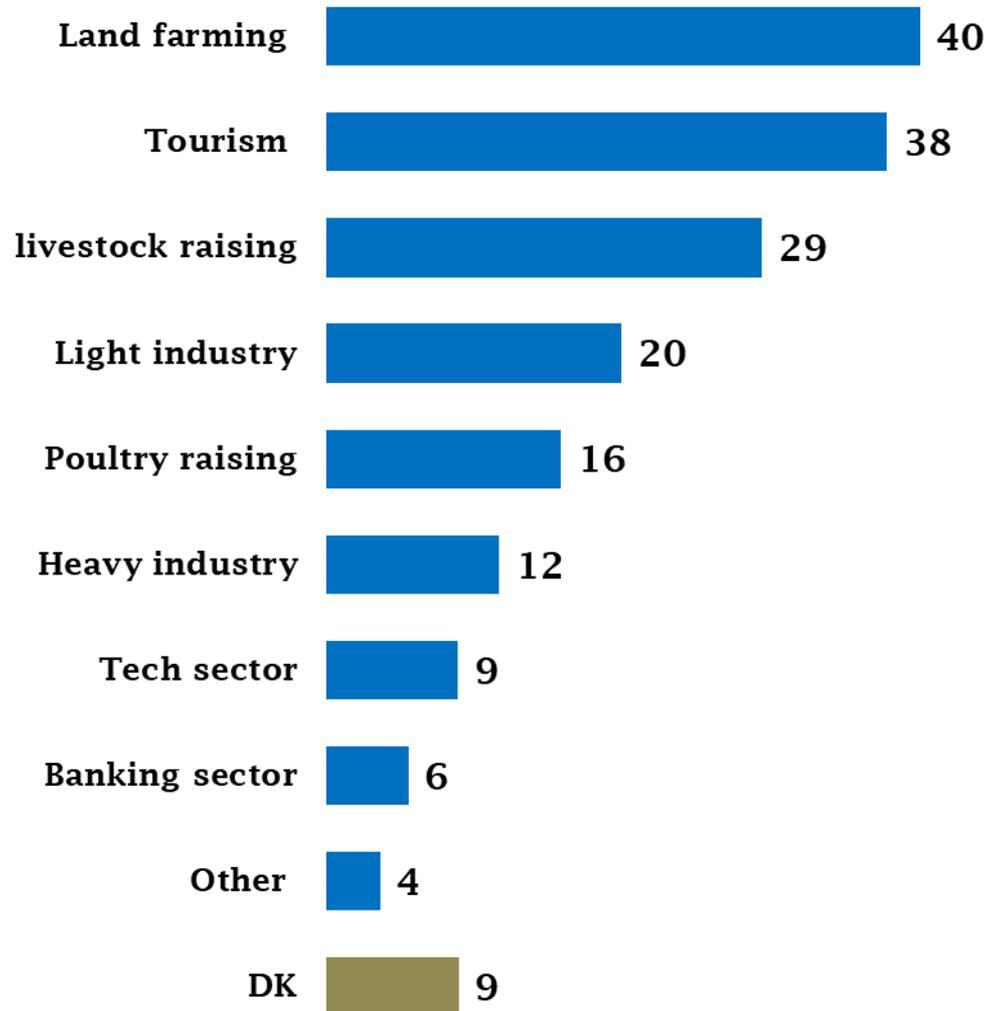
What is the biggest issue facing the Georgian economy today? Up to three answers (q10) Open question



Economic opportunities

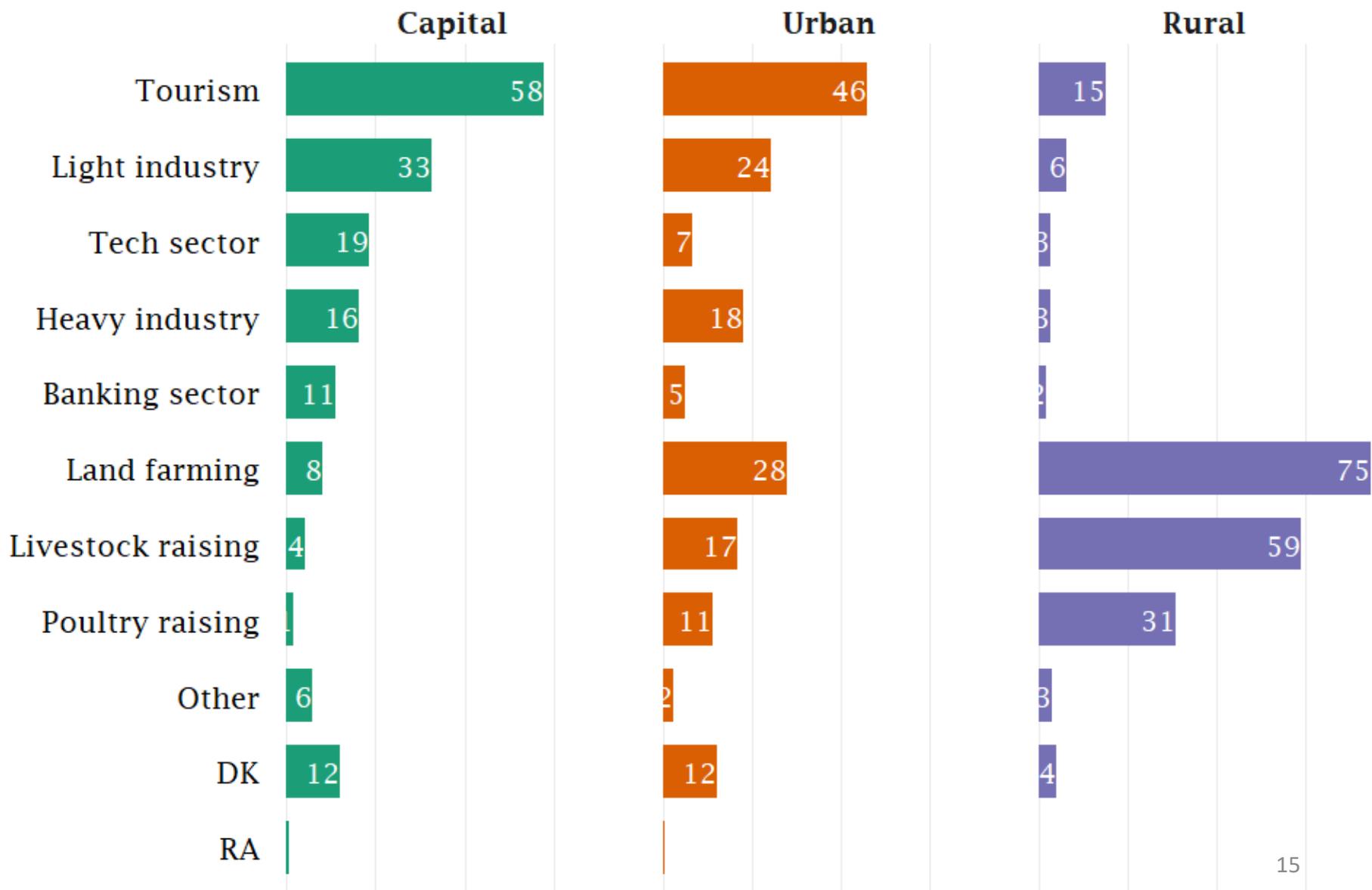
What are three economic development opportunities in your city/village?

Up to three answers (q11)



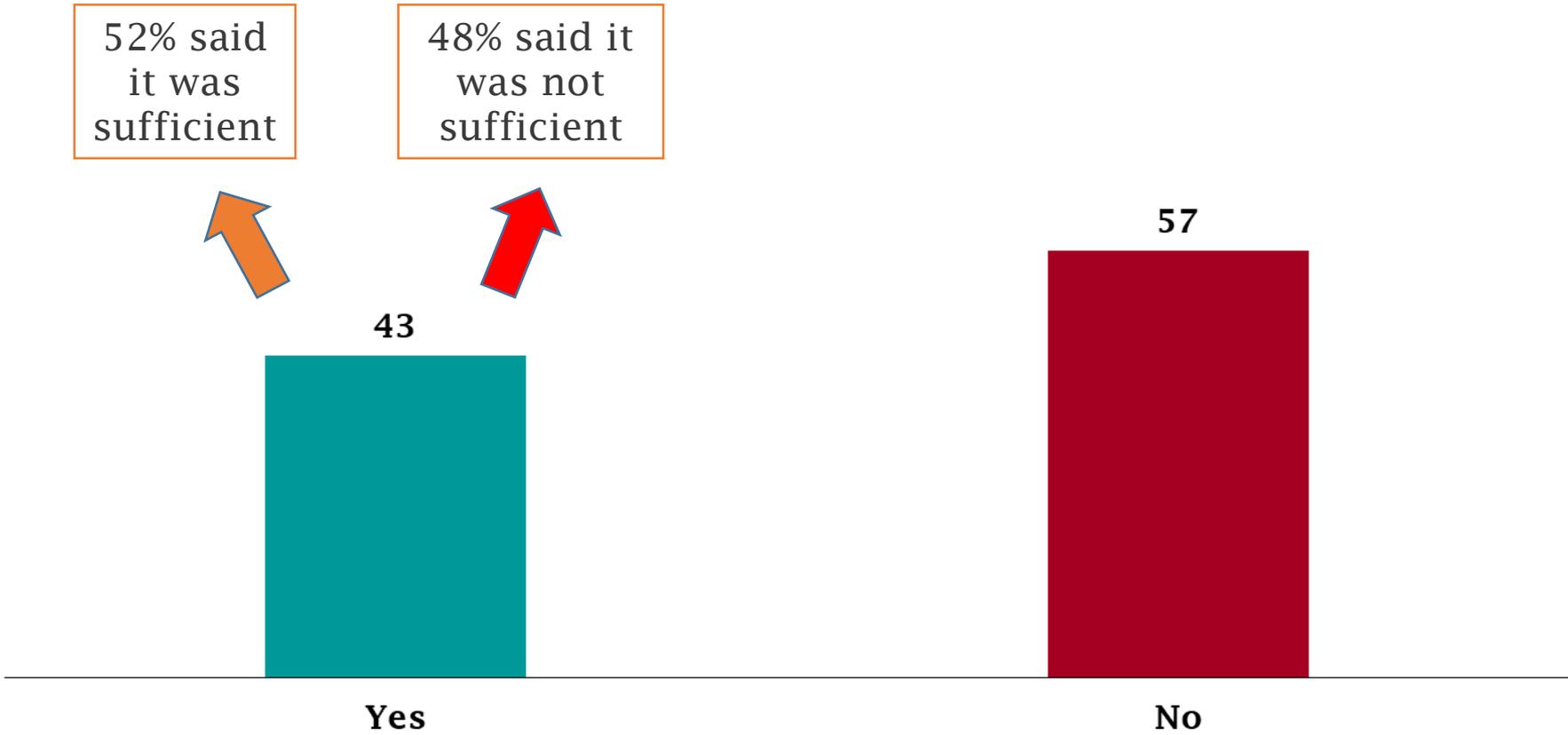
Economic opportunities

What are three economic development opportunities in your city/village? (q11 X Settlement)



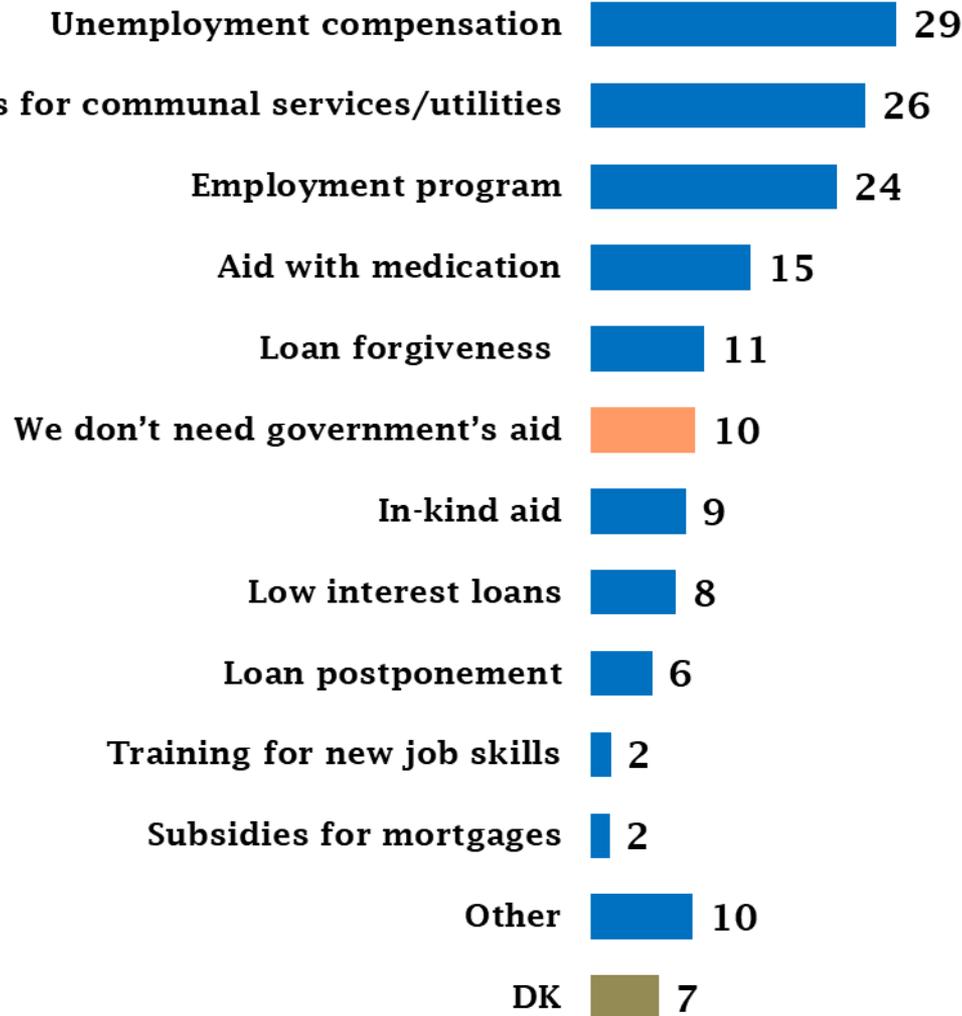
Financial aid

Have you or someone in your household received any kind of financial aid or benefit from the government during the Covid-19 pandemic? (q12)



Aid programs

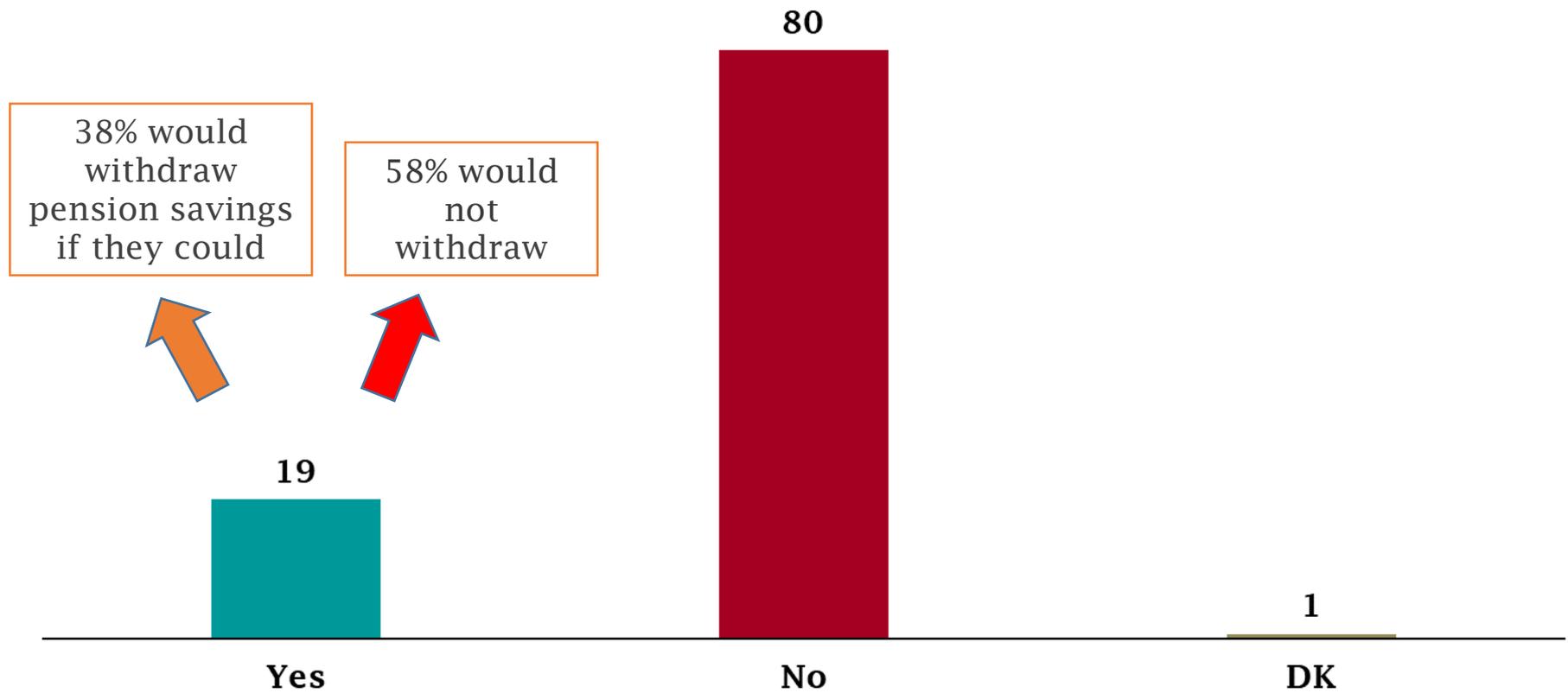
Thinking about the economic disruptions of Covid-19, what government programs would be most helpful to your household? Up to three answers (q14)



More than half of those who named other, named 'Financial aid'.

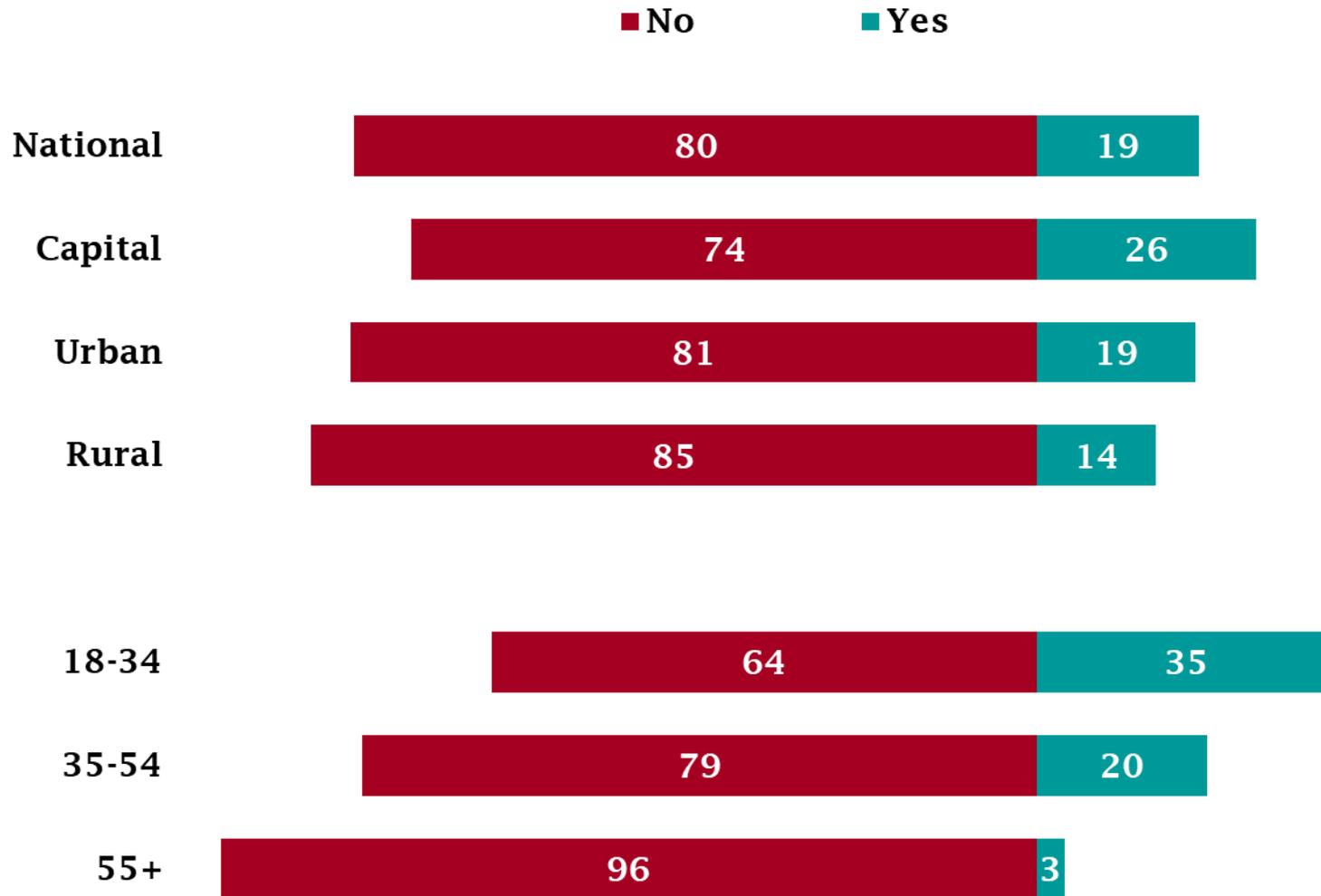
State pension program

Are you currently involved in the state accumulative pension program?
(q15)



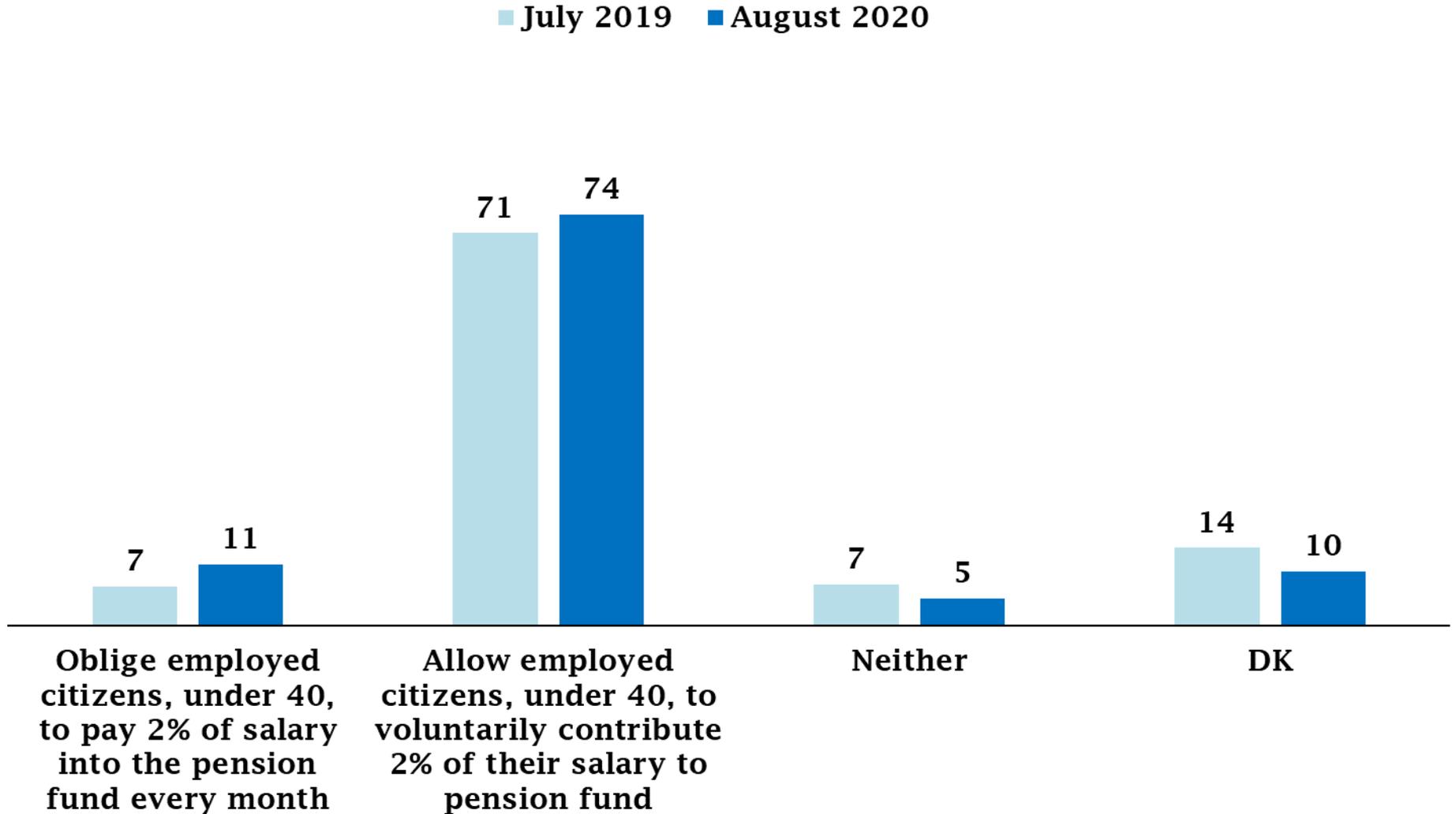
State pension program

Are you currently involved in the state accumulative pension program?
(q15 X Settlement, Age)



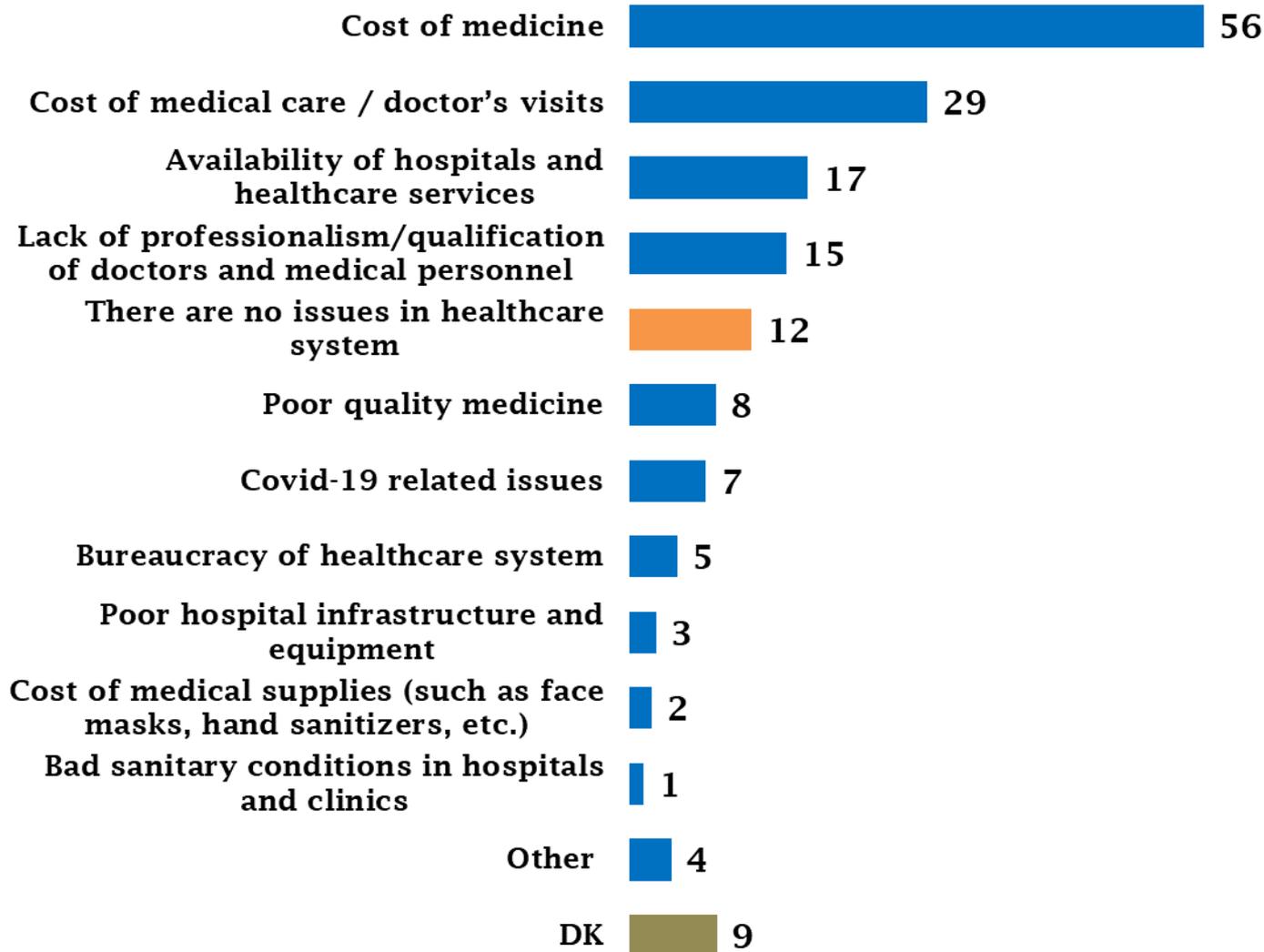
Pension system

Which of the following statements do you agree with? (q17)



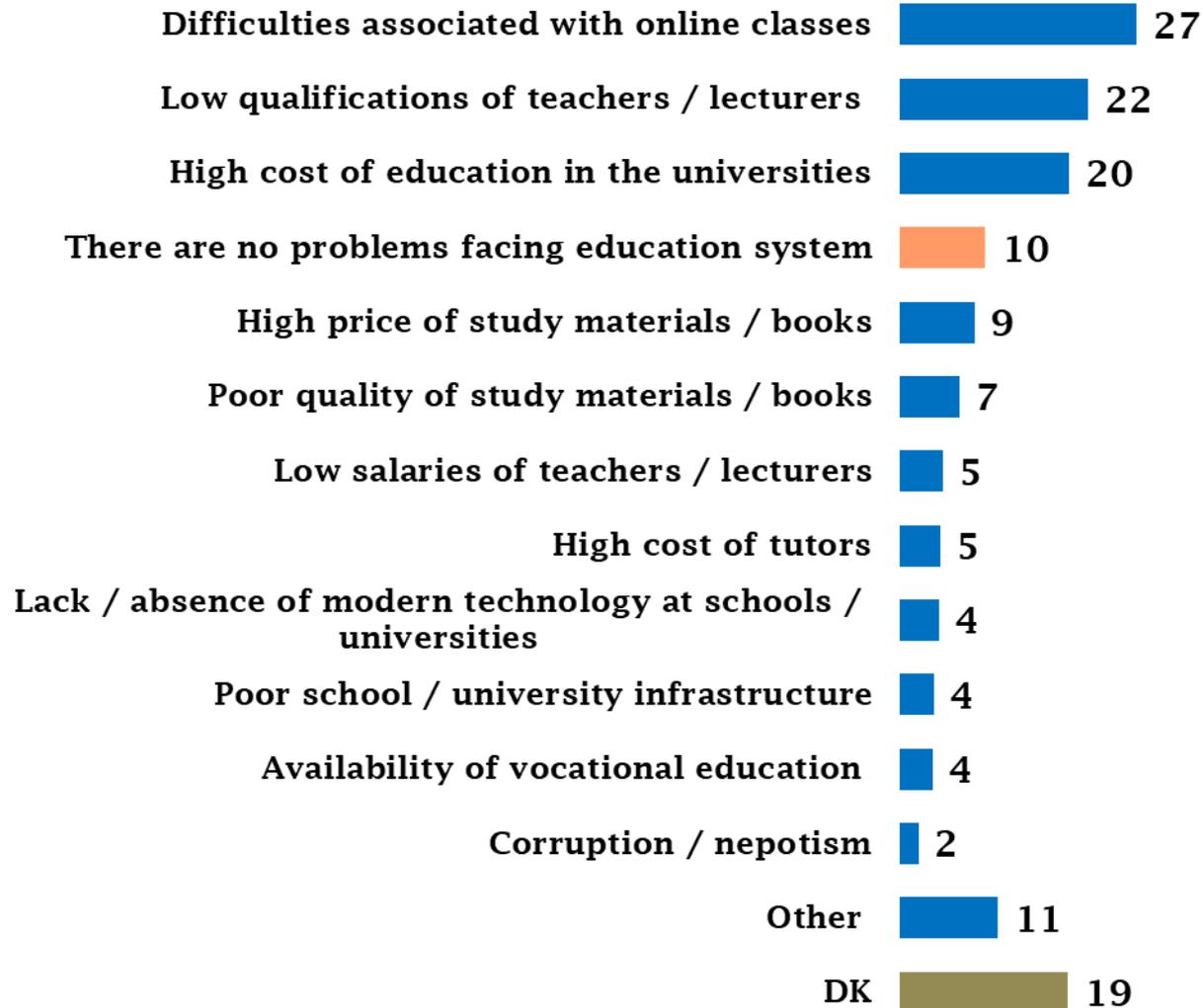
Healthcare issues

What is the biggest issue facing the healthcare system today? Up to three answers (q9) - Open question



Education issues

What is the biggest issue facing the education system in Georgia today? Up to three answers (q21) - **Open question**

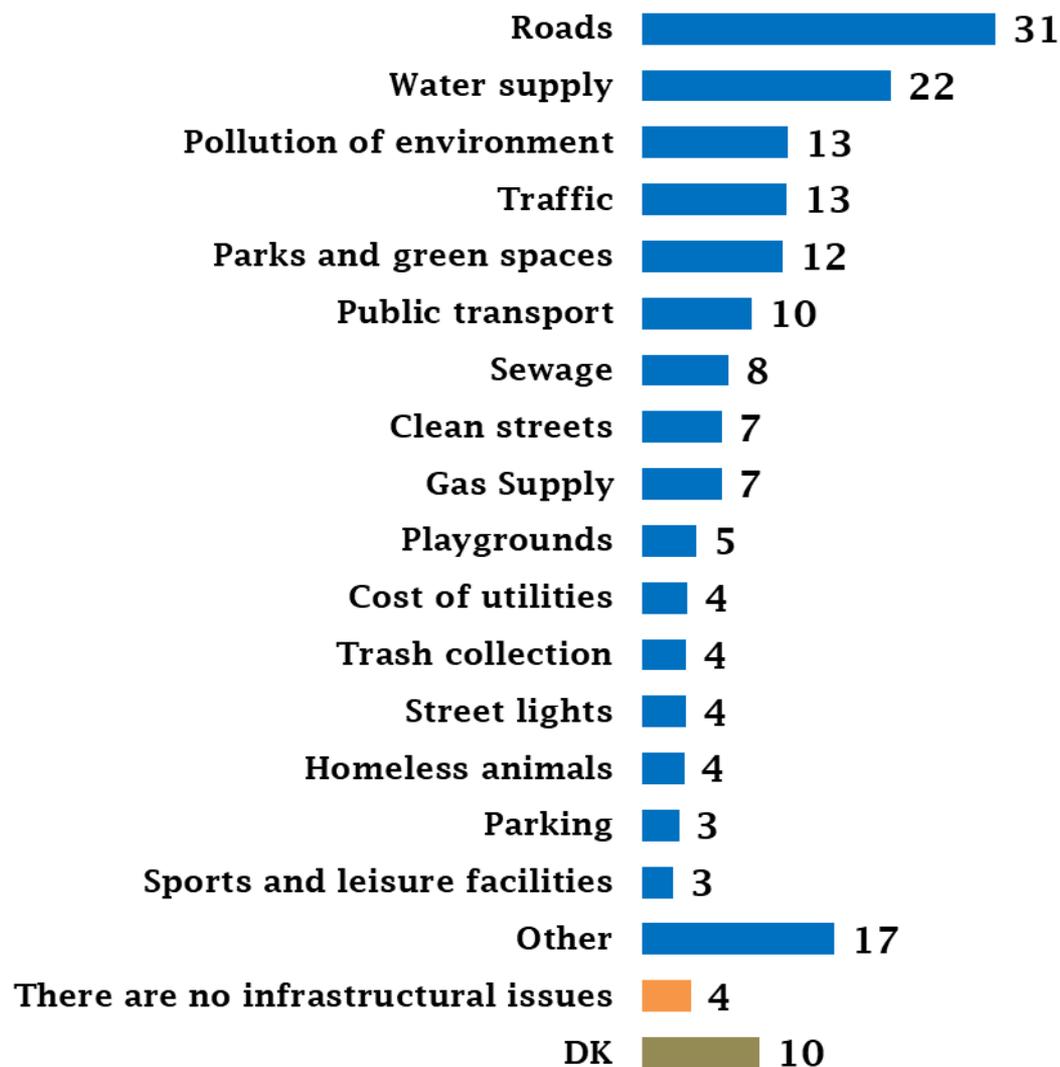


Those who named other, mostly named 'Quality/usefulness of education' and 'Mismanagement of education system' as biggest issues.

Infrastructural issues

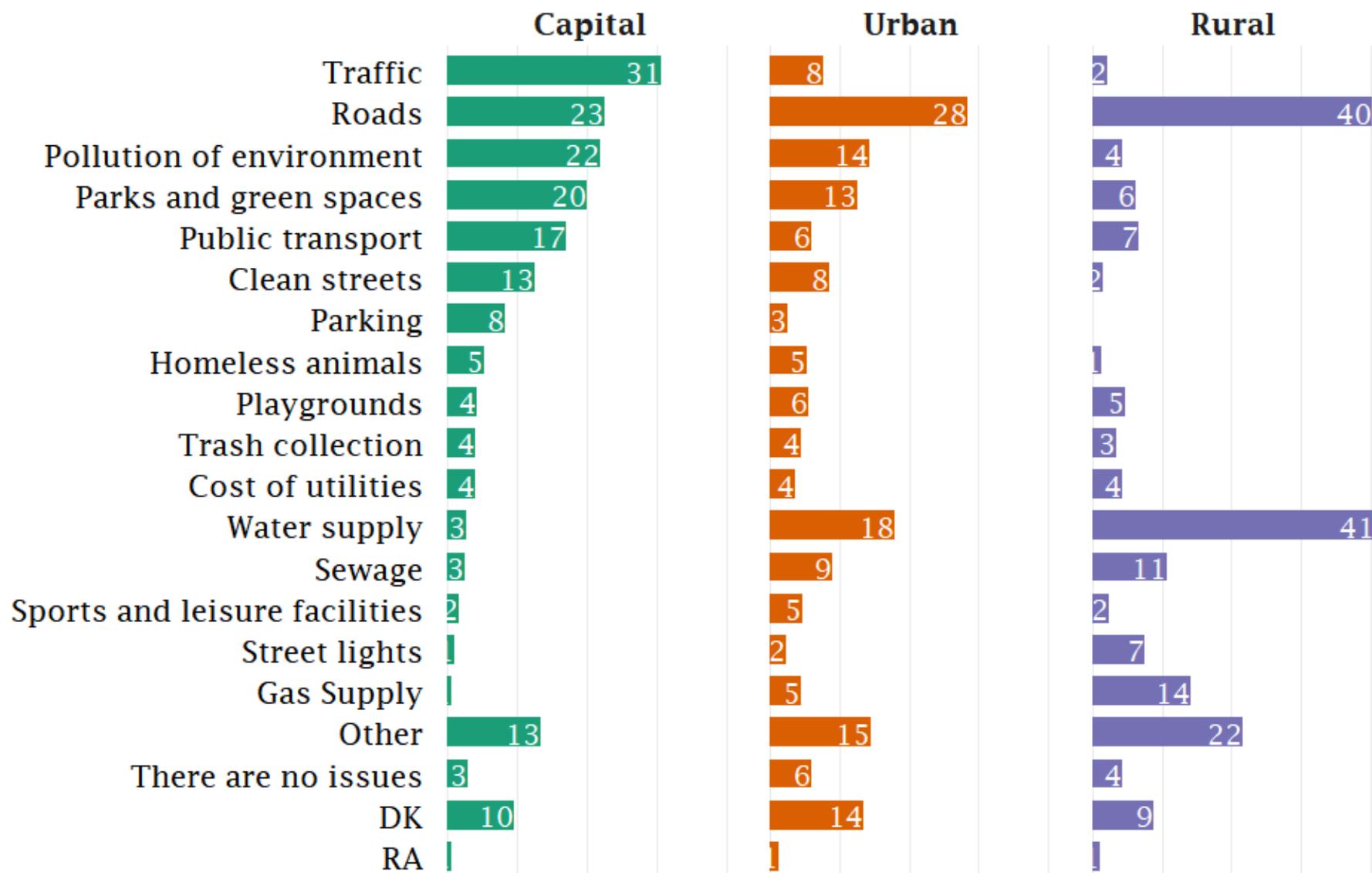
What are three most important infrastructural issues in your city/village?

Up to three answers (q8) Open questions



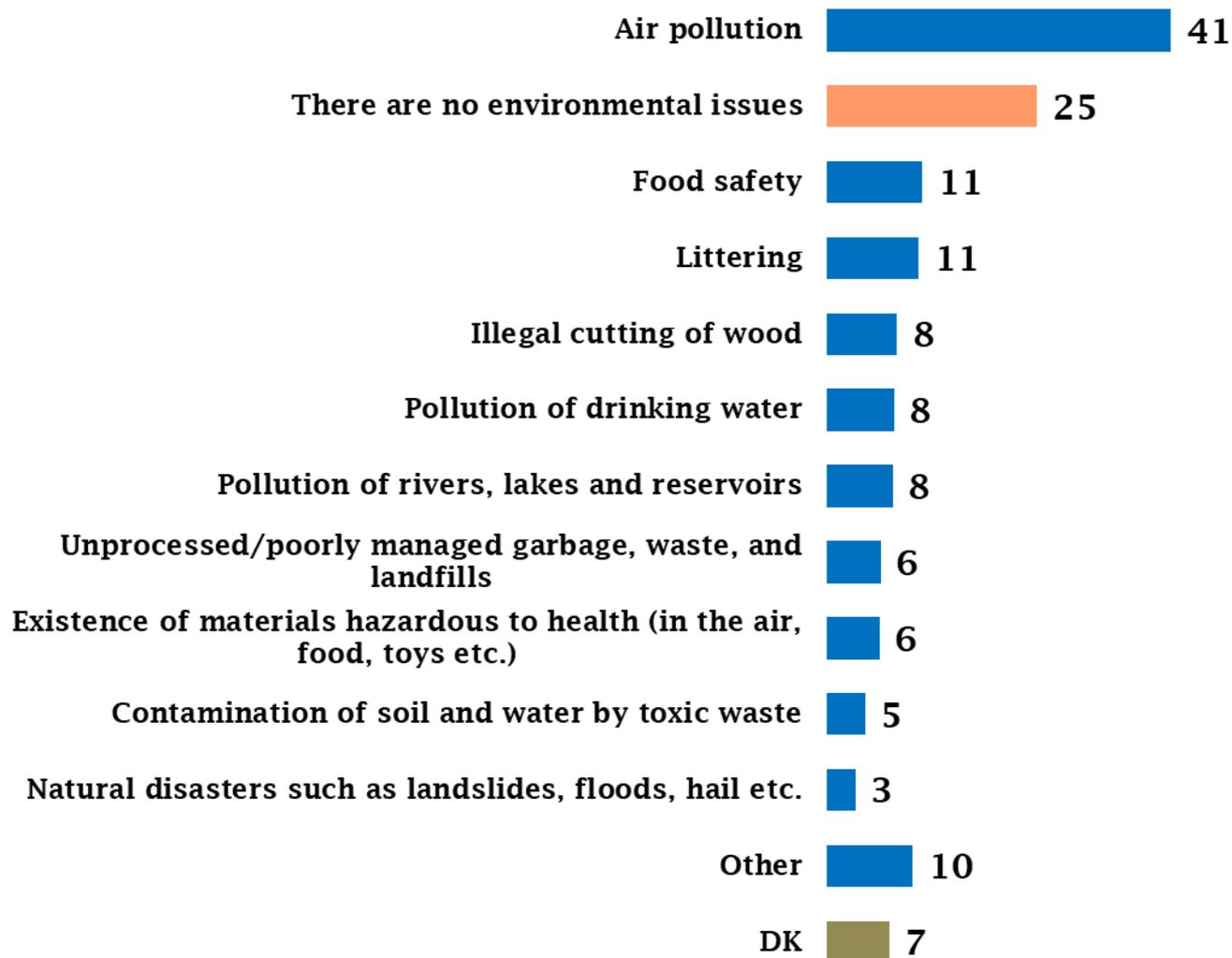
Local issues

What are three most important infrastructural issues in your city/village?
(q8 x Settlement) Open question



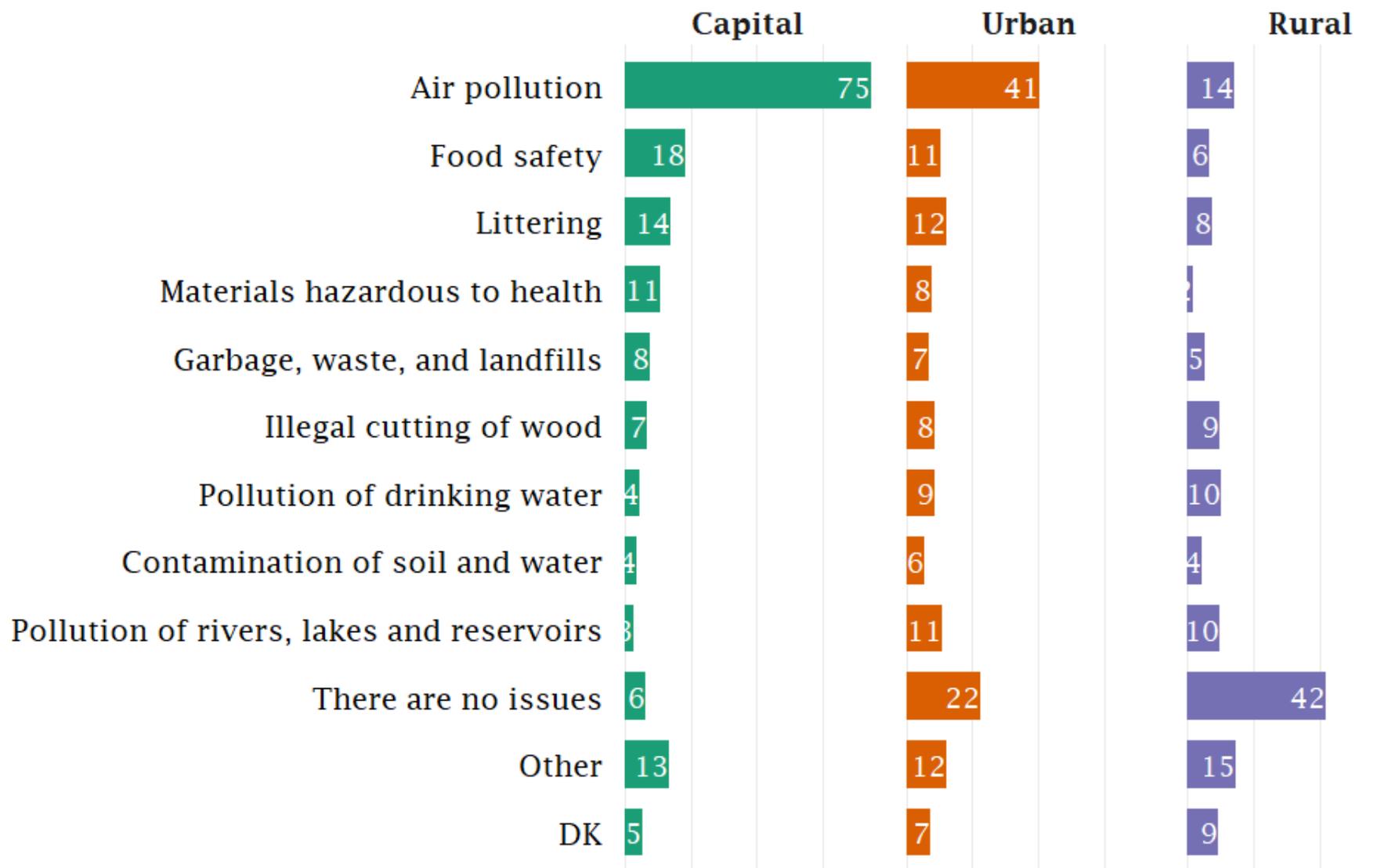
Environmental issues

Which environmental issues do you think are the most problematic for your city/village/settlement? Up to three answers (q18) **Open question**



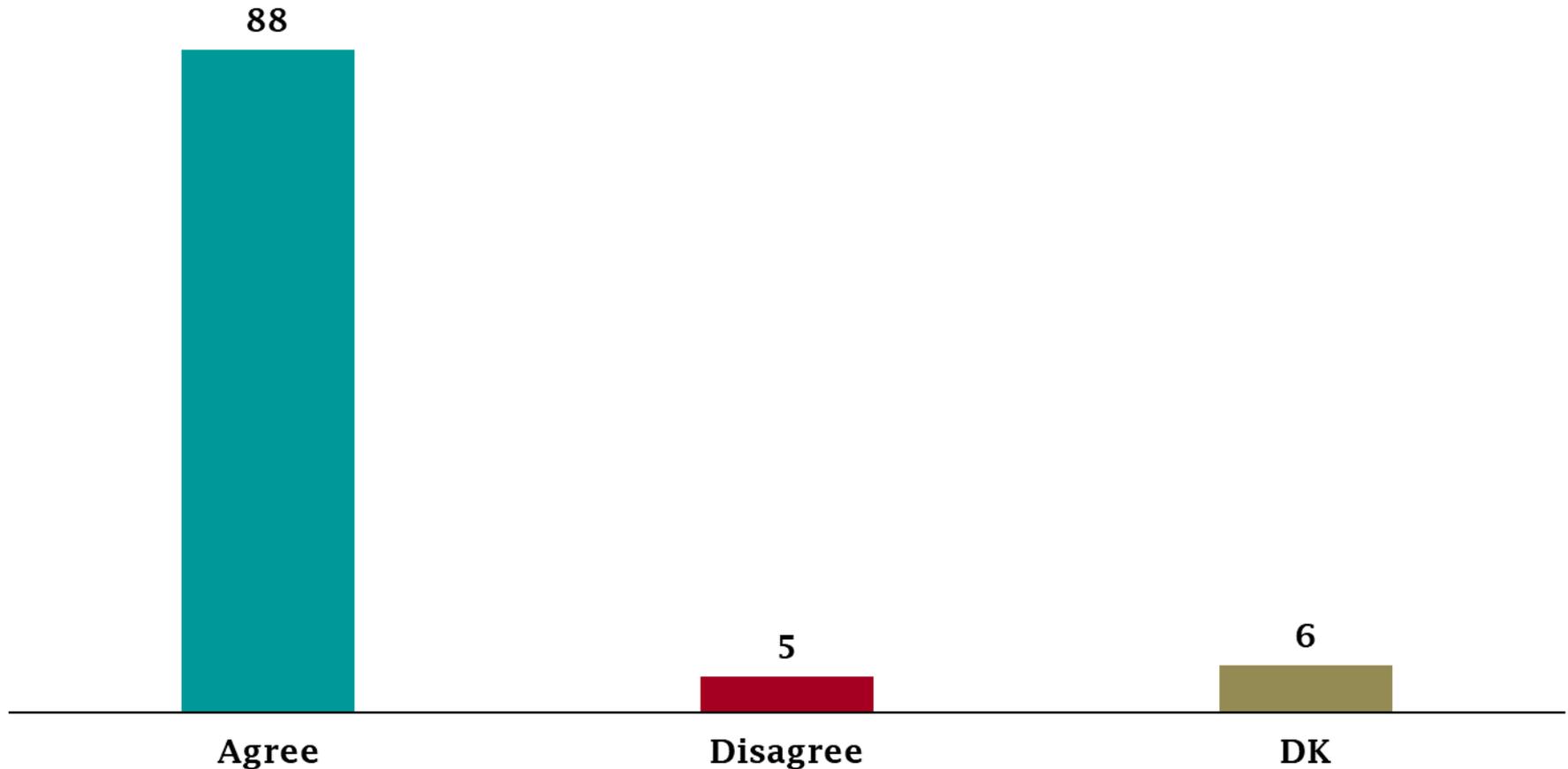
Environmental issues

Which environmental issues do you think are the most problematic for your city/village/settlement? (q18 X Settlement) Open question



Protecting environment

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
Protecting environment and reducing air pollution is important, even if it
requires stricter regulations and rules for businesses as well as individuals.
(q19)



Protecting environment

In order to protect parks and green spaces in urban areas, would you approve or disapprove the government: (q20) Tbilisi & urban areas only

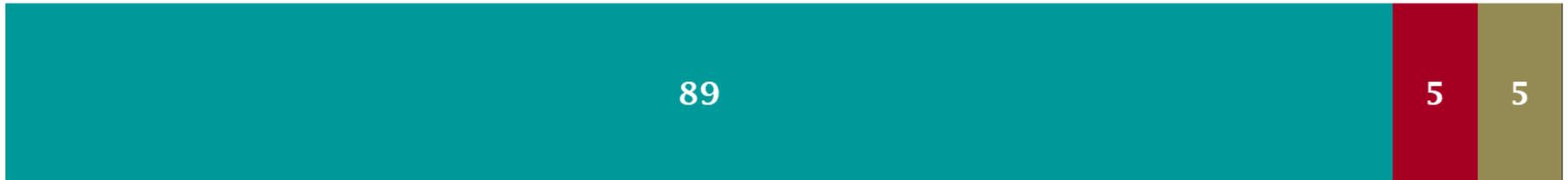
■ Approve

■ Disapprove

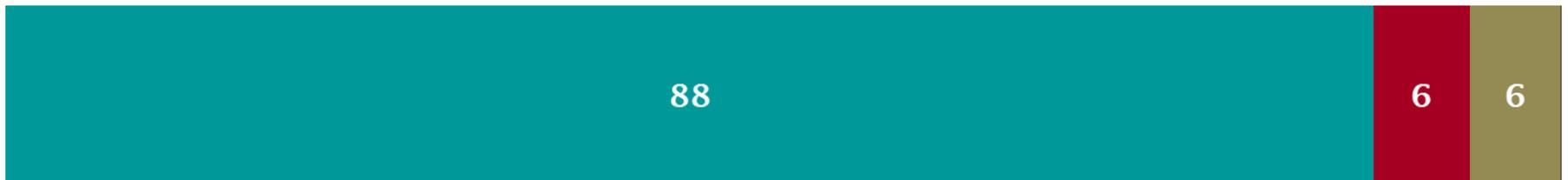
■ DK

■ RA

Expanding areas where construction will be prohibited



Prohibiting construction that does not meet high environmental standards, even if it increases the cost of private property

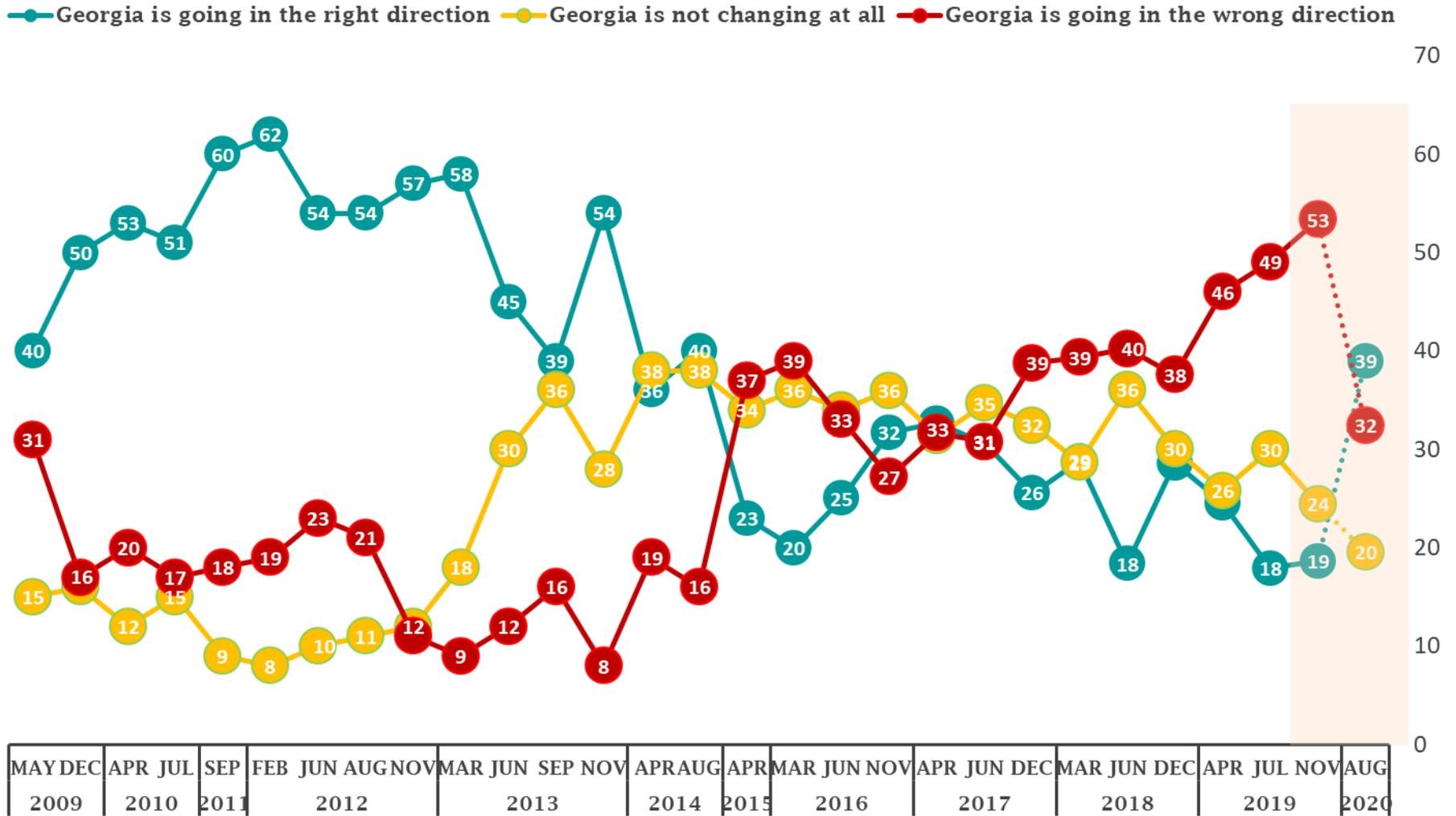


Country direction and state of democracy

Country direction

There are different opinions regarding the direction in which Georgia is going. Which one do you agree with? (q5)

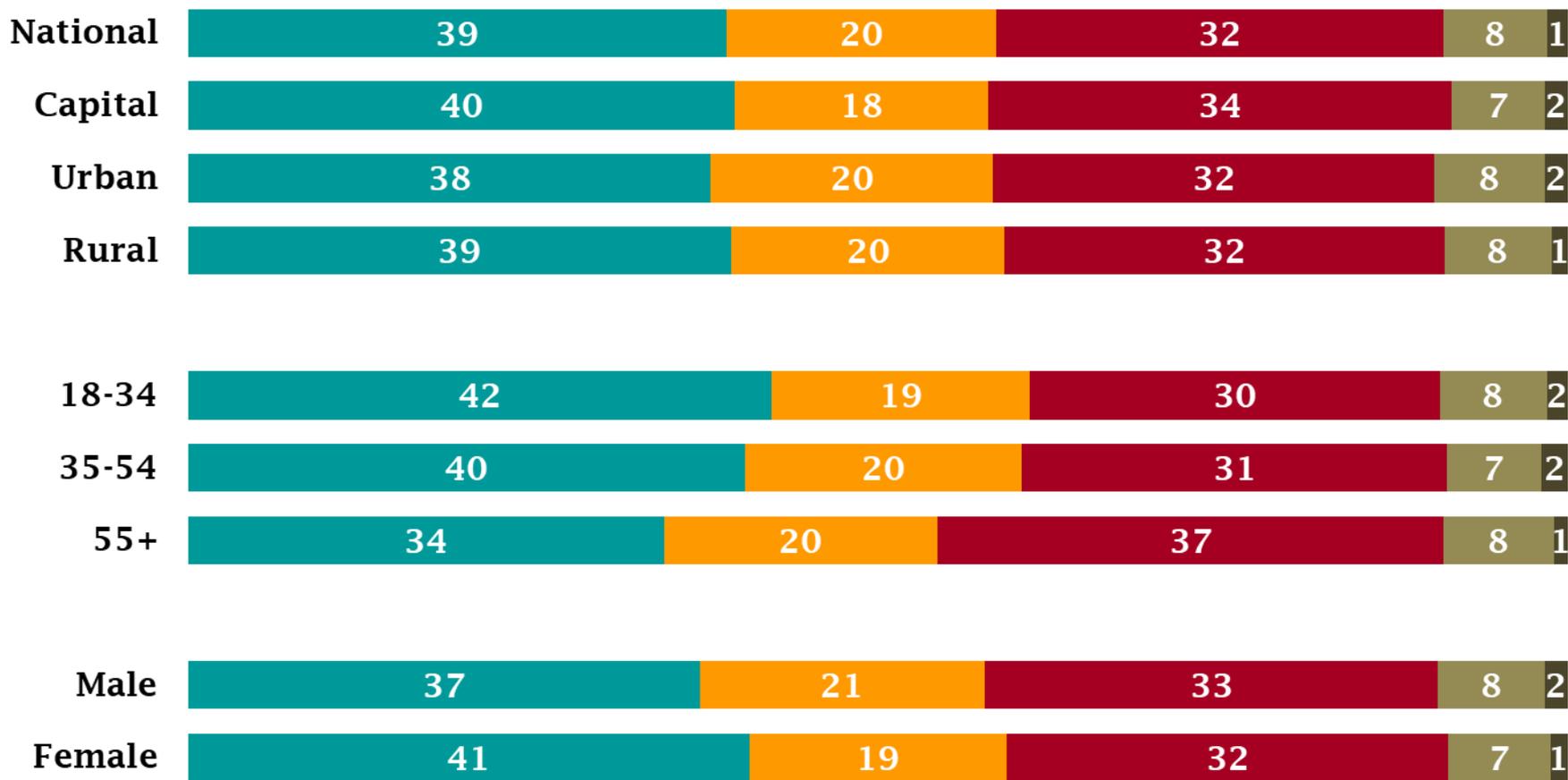
*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



Country direction

There are different opinions regarding the direction in which Georgia is going. Which one do you agree with? (q5 X Settlement, Age, Gender)

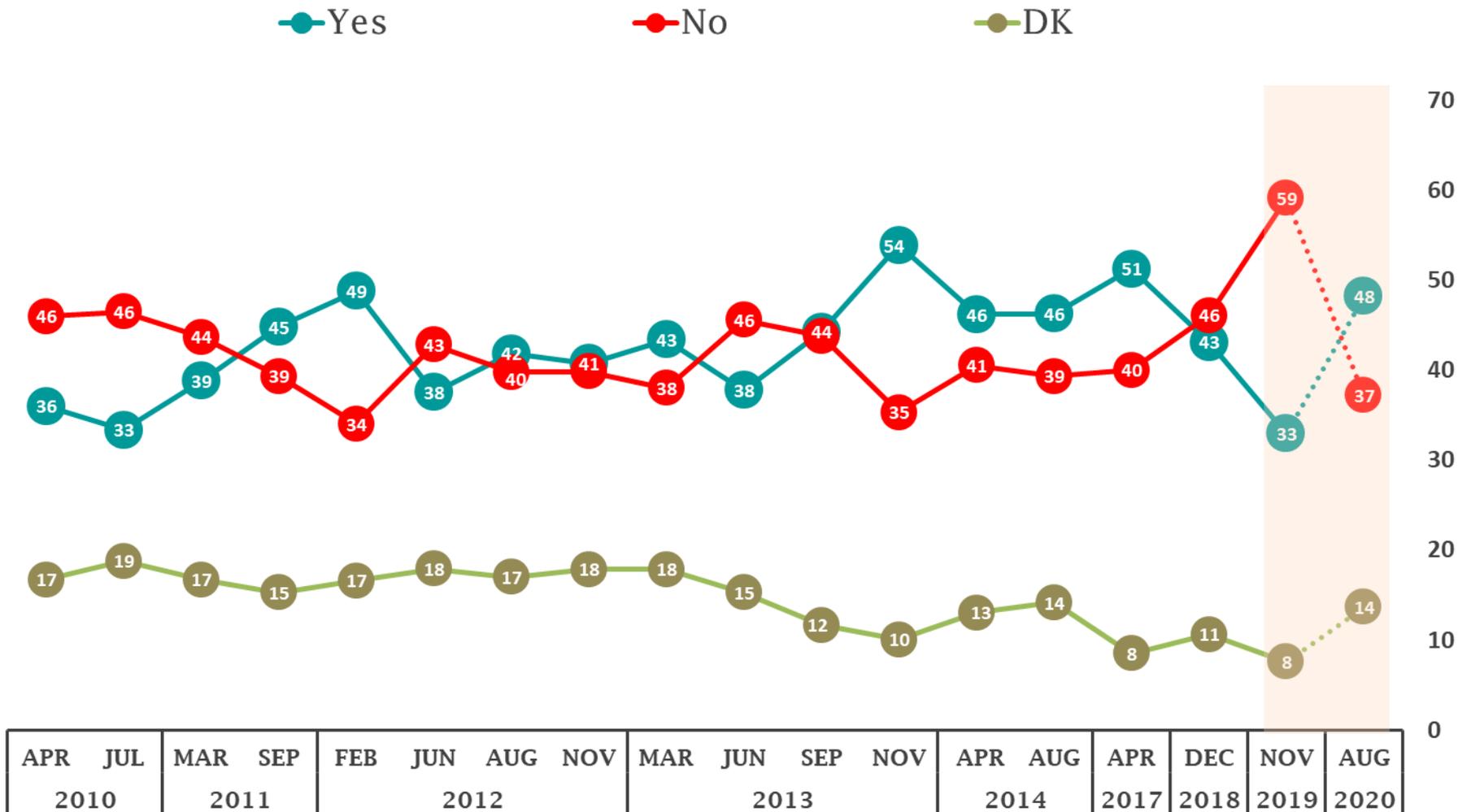
- Georgia is going in the right direction
- Georgia is not changing at all
- Georgia is going in the wrong direction
- DK
- RA



Democracy

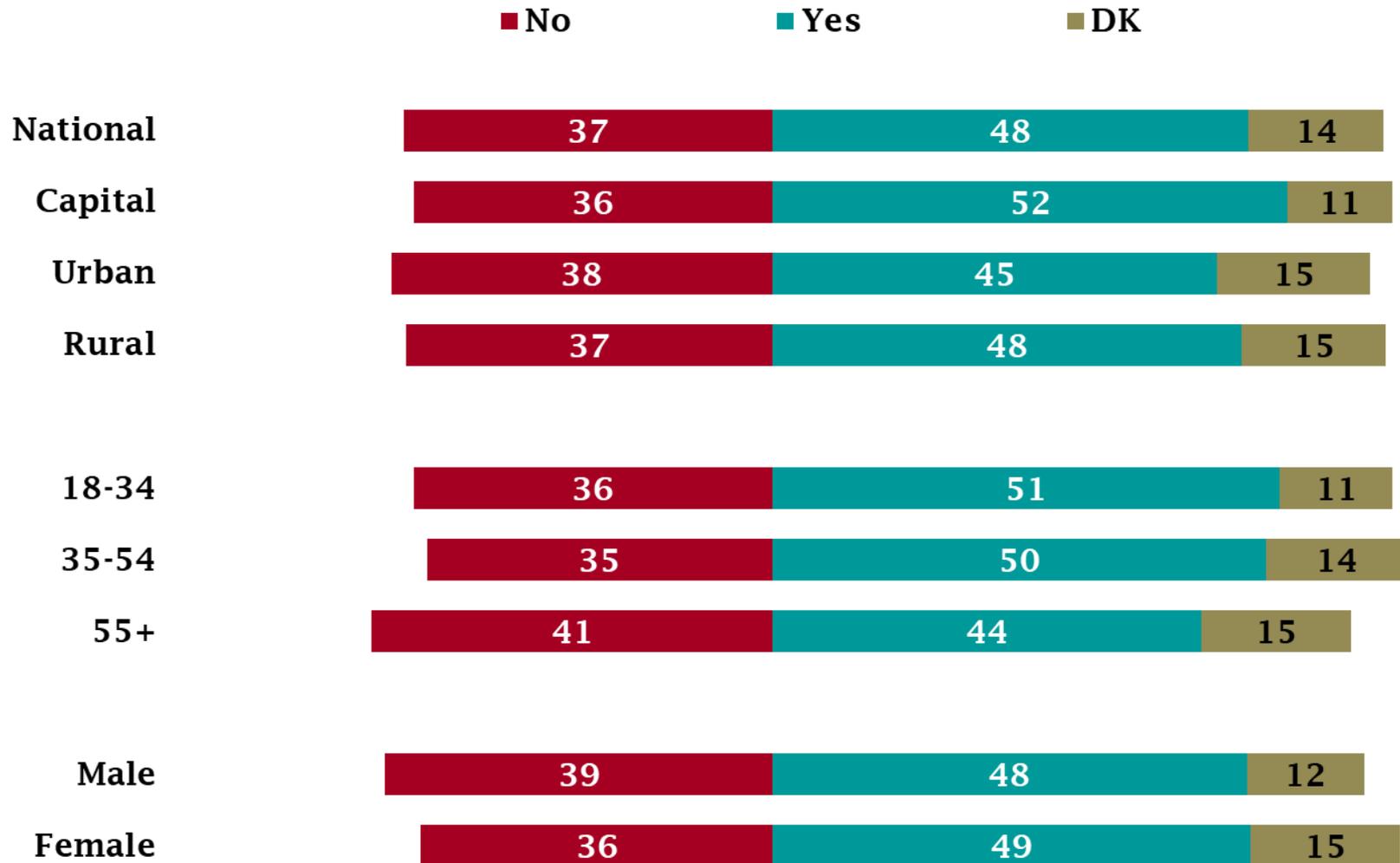
In your opinion, is Georgia a democracy now? (q6)

*Dashed line represents change in method from face-to-face to telephone



Democracy

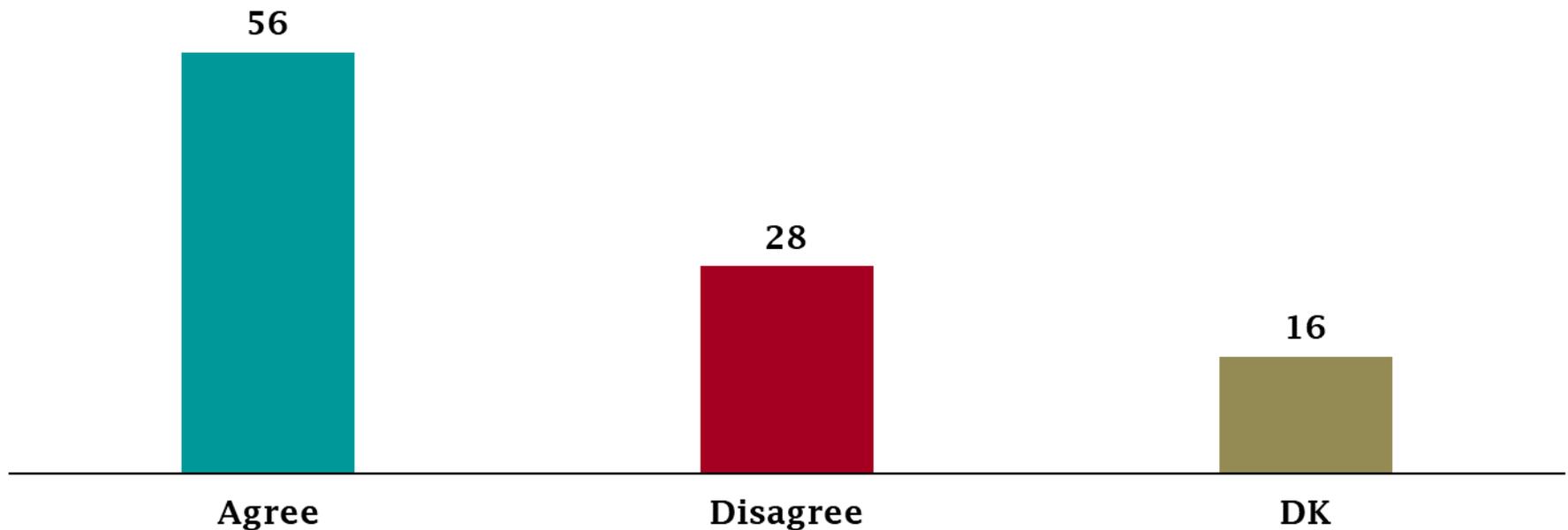
In your opinion, is Georgia a democracy now?
(q6 X Settlement, Age, Gender)



Elections 2020

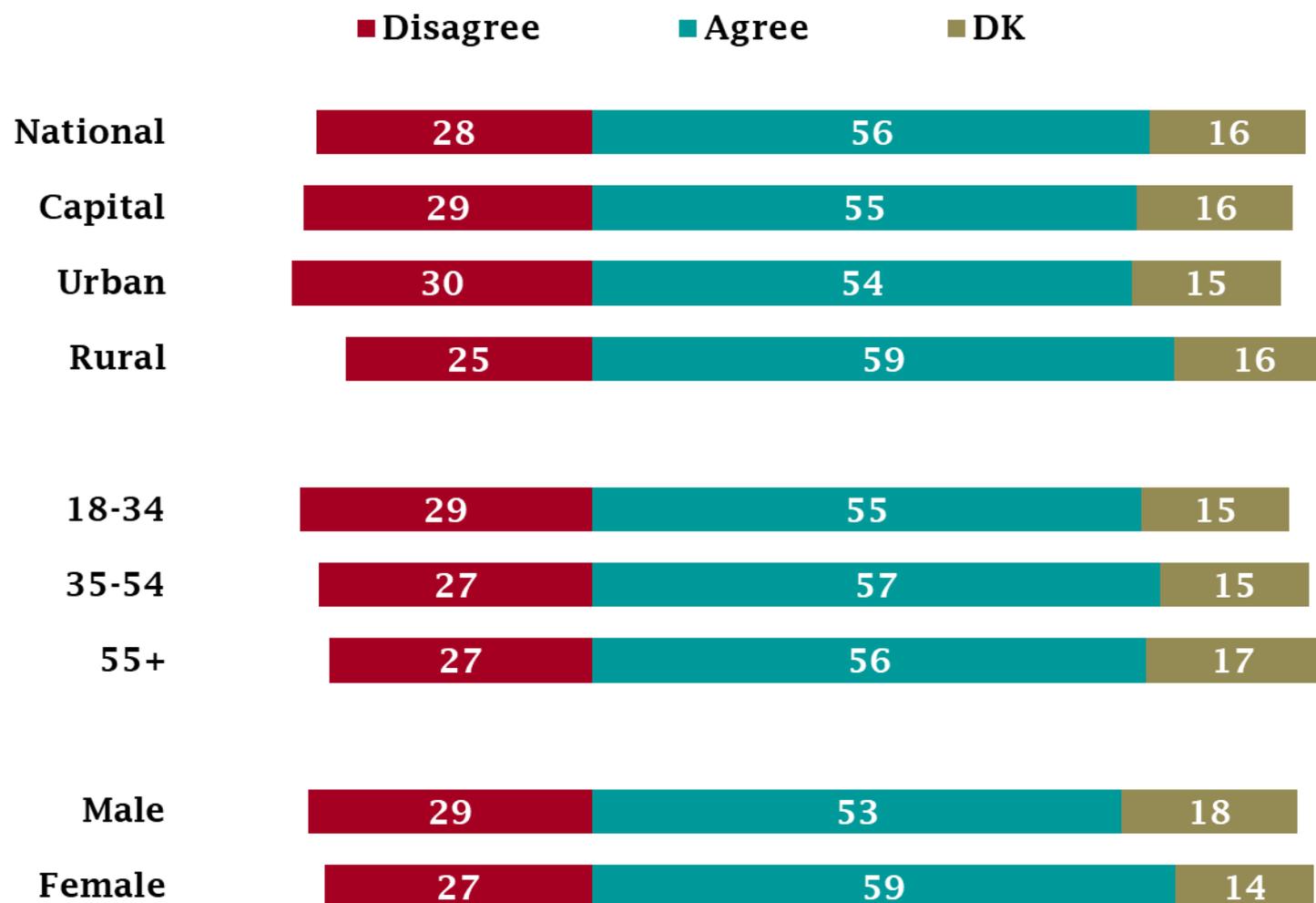
Confidence in the elections

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
October 2020 parliamentary elections will be conducted in a free and fair environment. (q32)



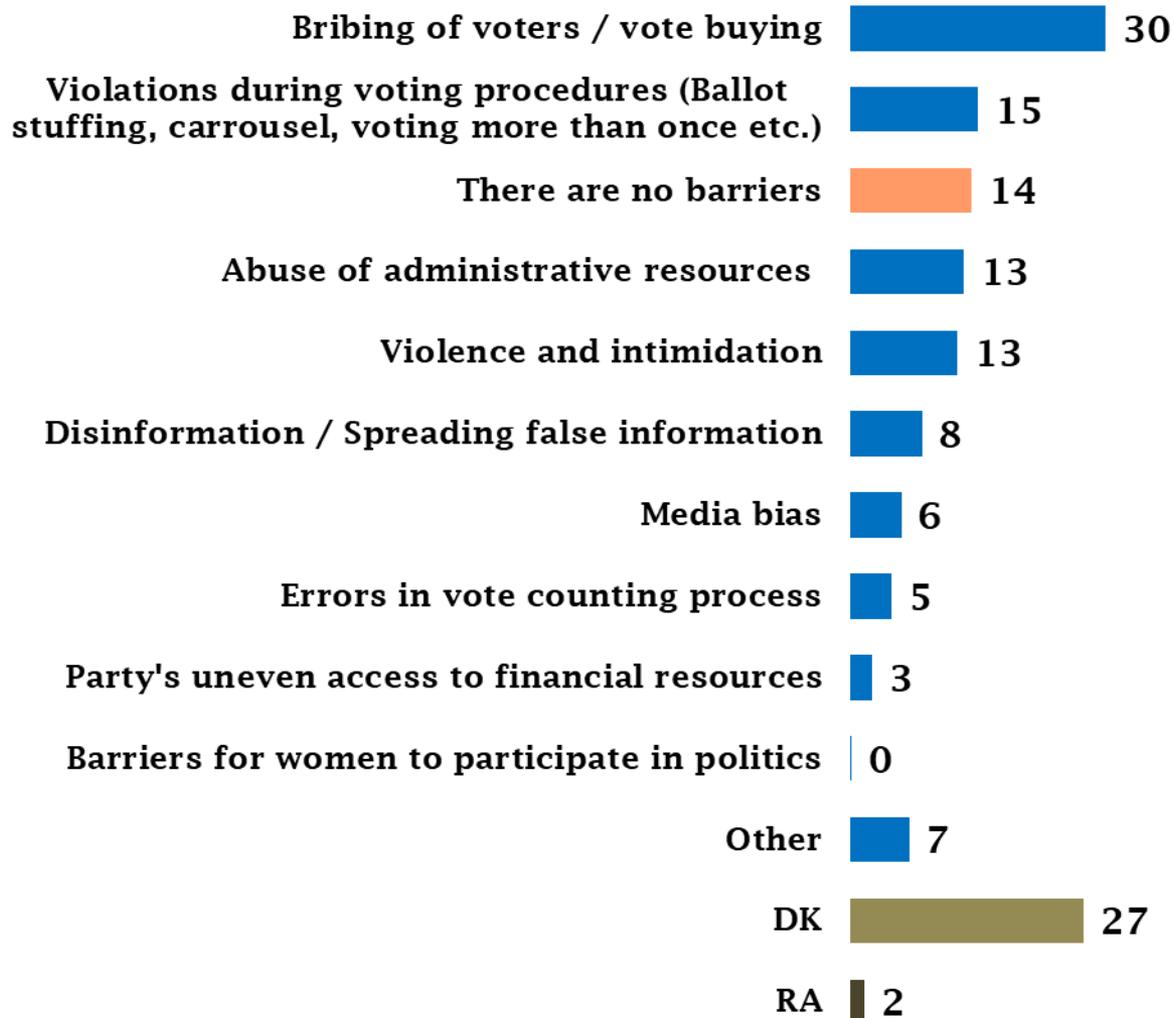
Confidence in the elections

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
October 2020 parliamentary elections will be conducted in a free and fair
environment. (q32 X Settlement, Age, Gender)



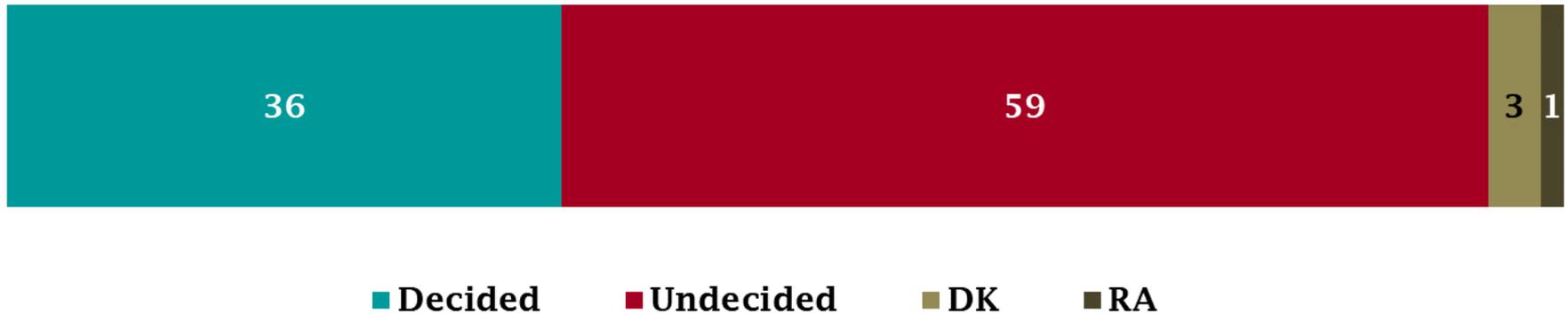
Barriers to elections

What, if any, do you think are 3 biggest barriers to free and fair elections in Georgia? Up to three answers (q31) Open question



Intention to vote

If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you say you are decided or undecided about how you would vote? (q22)



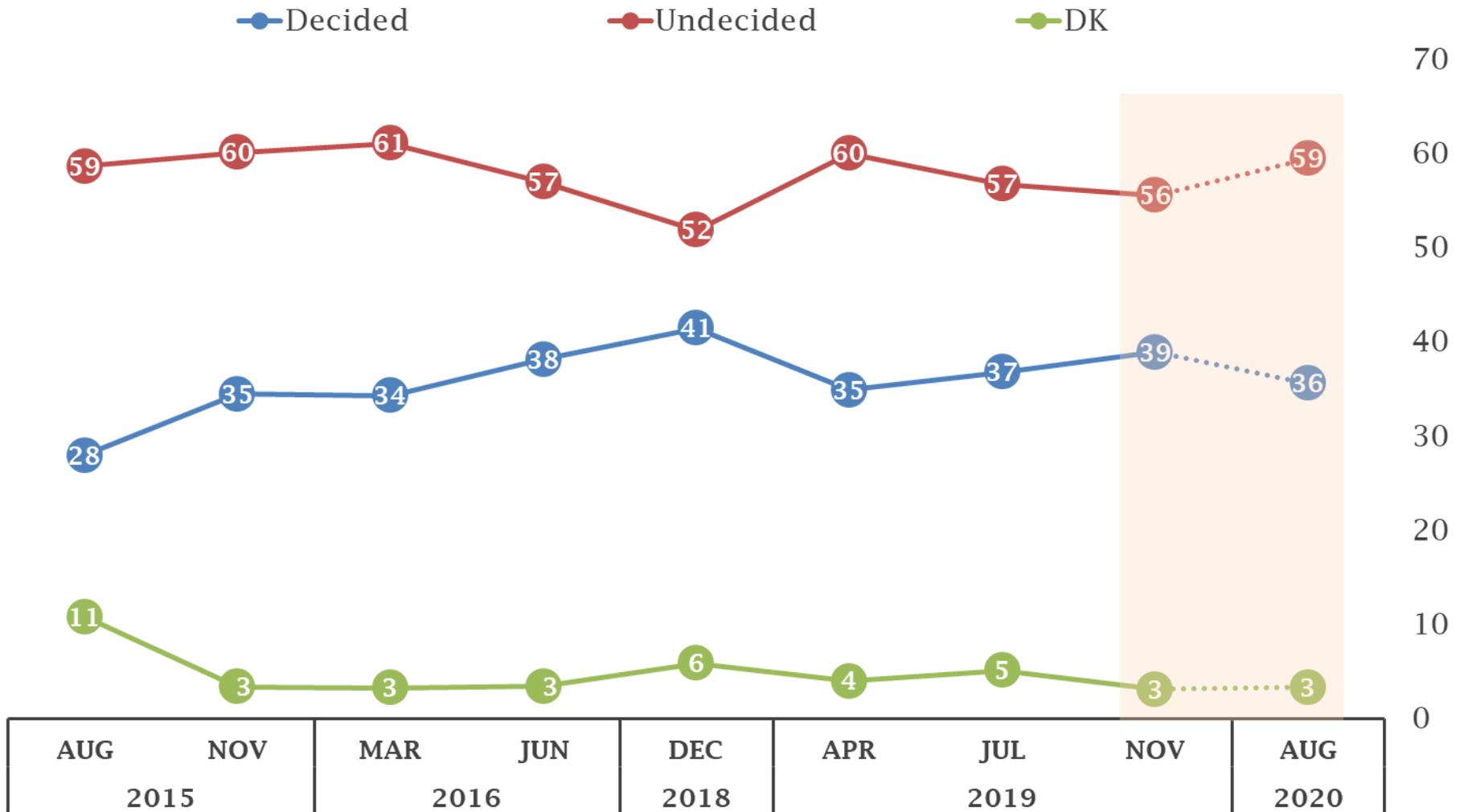
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you vote? (q23)



Decided or undecided?

If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow, would you say you are decided or undecided about how you would vote? (q22)

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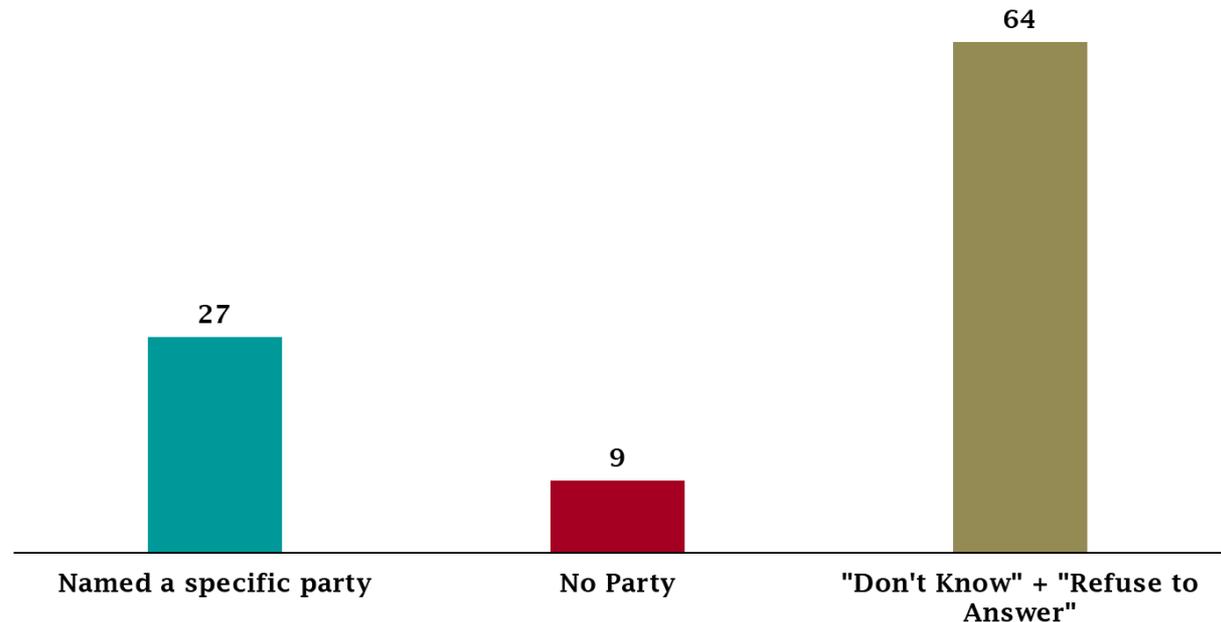
Majority of Georgians do not know or do not say who they will vote for if parliamentary elections were held tomorrow. Only 27% of citizens named a political party.



Declared support for individual parties are so low that they cannot be taken as a guide to the outcome of future elections.

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

*If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow which party would you vote for? (q24) **Open Question***



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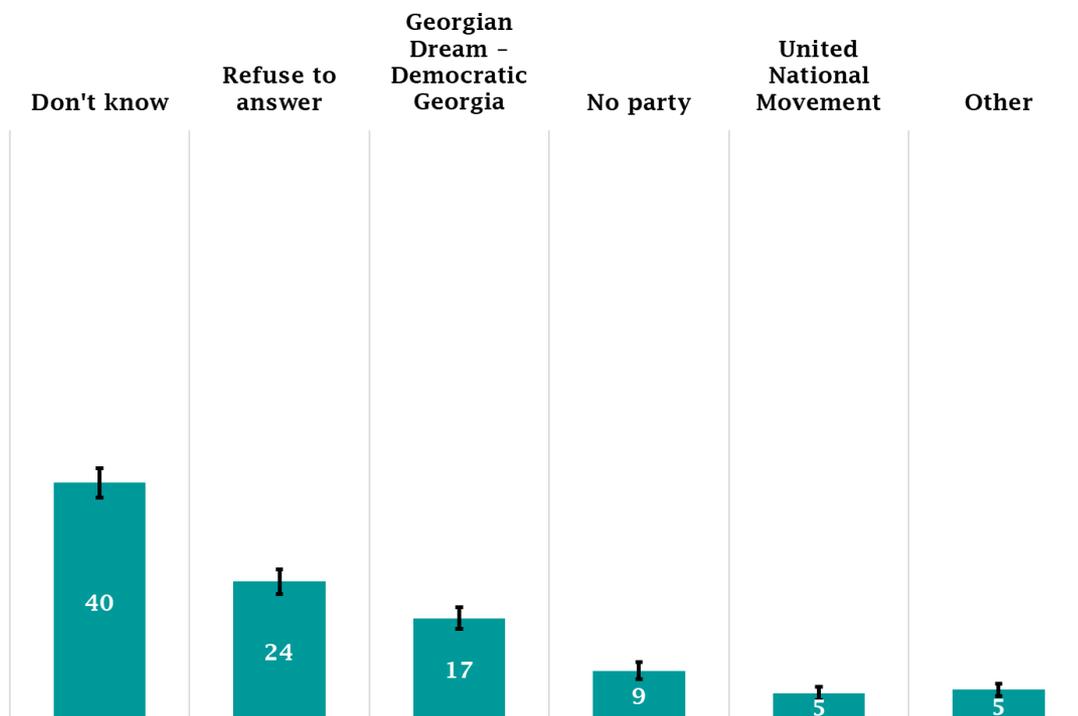


If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow which party would you vote for? (q24) - Open Question.

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Whole Sample



Majority of Georgians remain politically undecided. Although citizens plan to vote, many have not yet determined which party they will support.



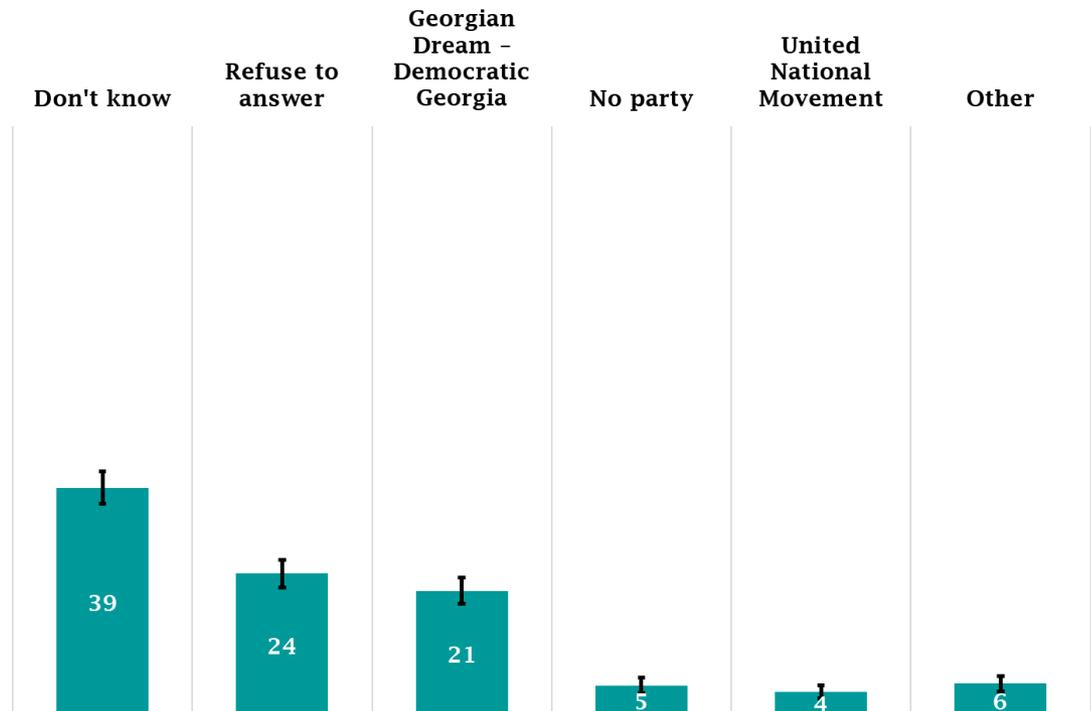
If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow which party would you vote for? (q24) - Open Question

Likely voters

(73% - those who say they will absolutely vote)

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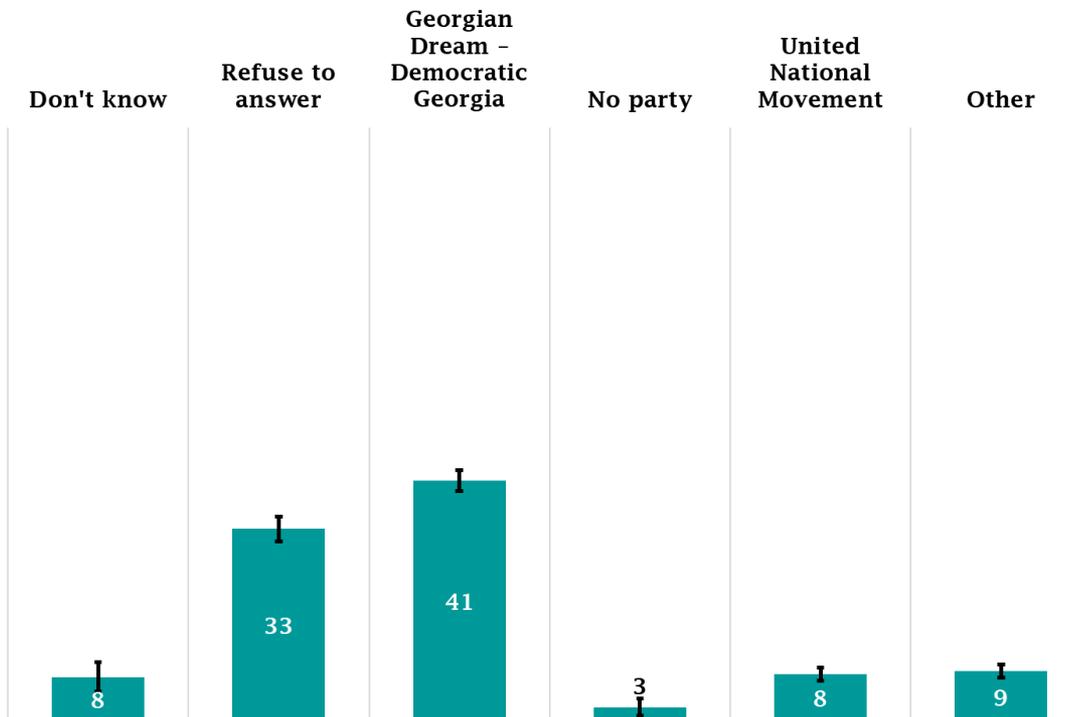


If parliamentary elections were held tomorrow which party would you vote for? (q24) - Open Question

Decided likely voters (32%)

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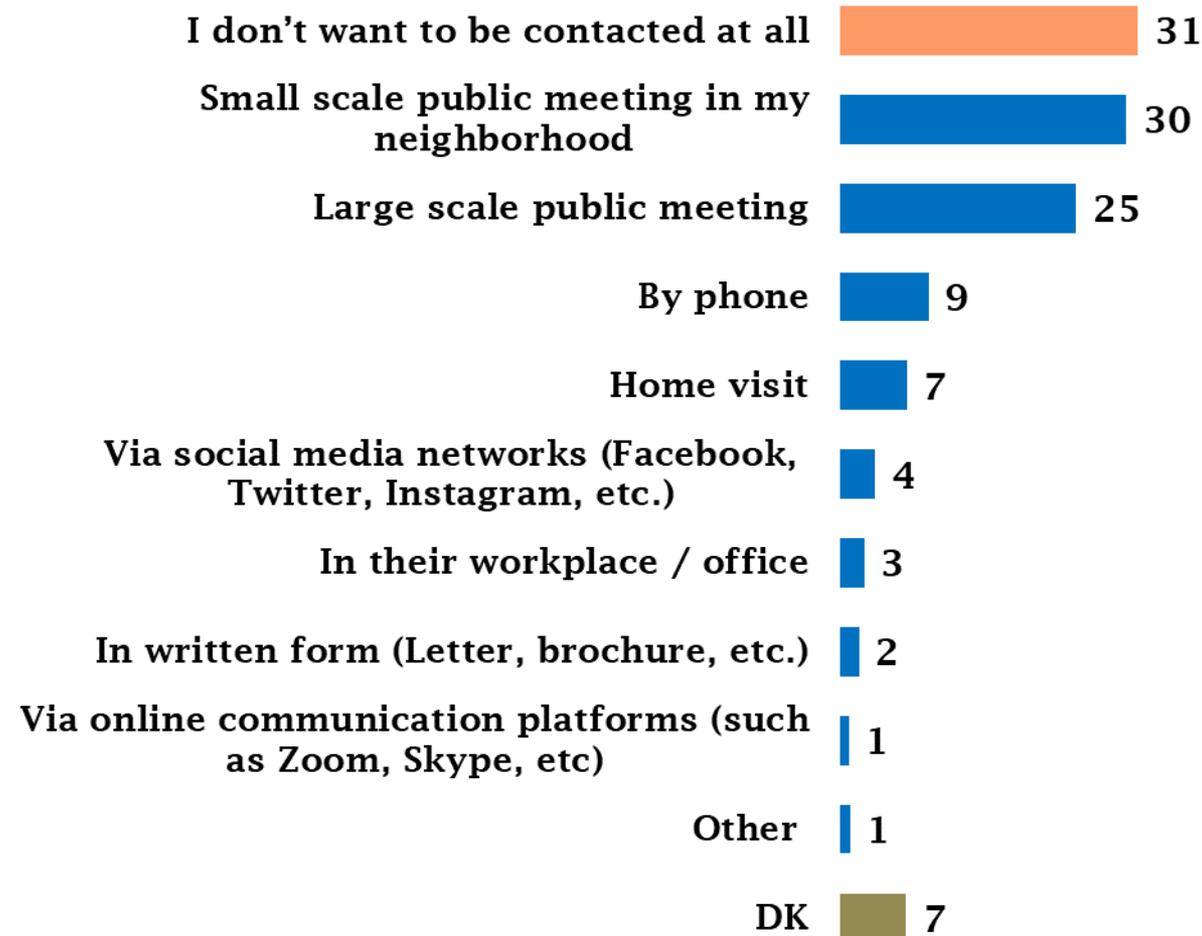


Forms of communication

Election campaign for 2020 parliamentary elections has already begun and parties and candidates are trying to contact the voters in various ways.

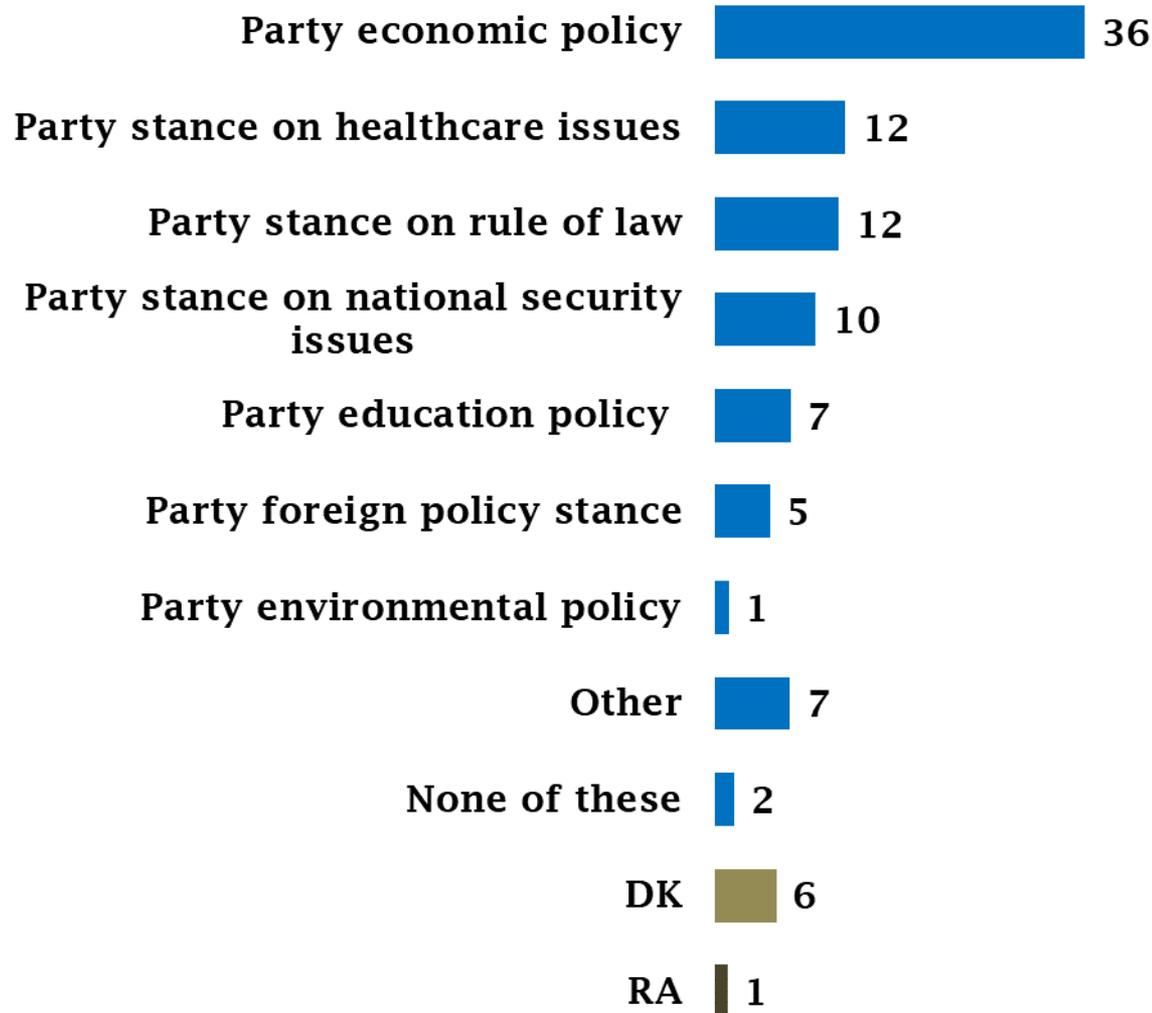
What would be the best form to contact you? Up to three answers (q26)

Open question



Important factors during voting

Which of the following policies is the most important when deciding which party to vote for? (q27)



Making electoral decision

When selecting a party or a candidate would you prefer? (q29-30)

A party priotizing... (q29)

...formal education

DK

RA

...professional training



A party promising... (q30)

...higher pensions

DK

RA

...lower taxes (such as income, vat, property taxes)



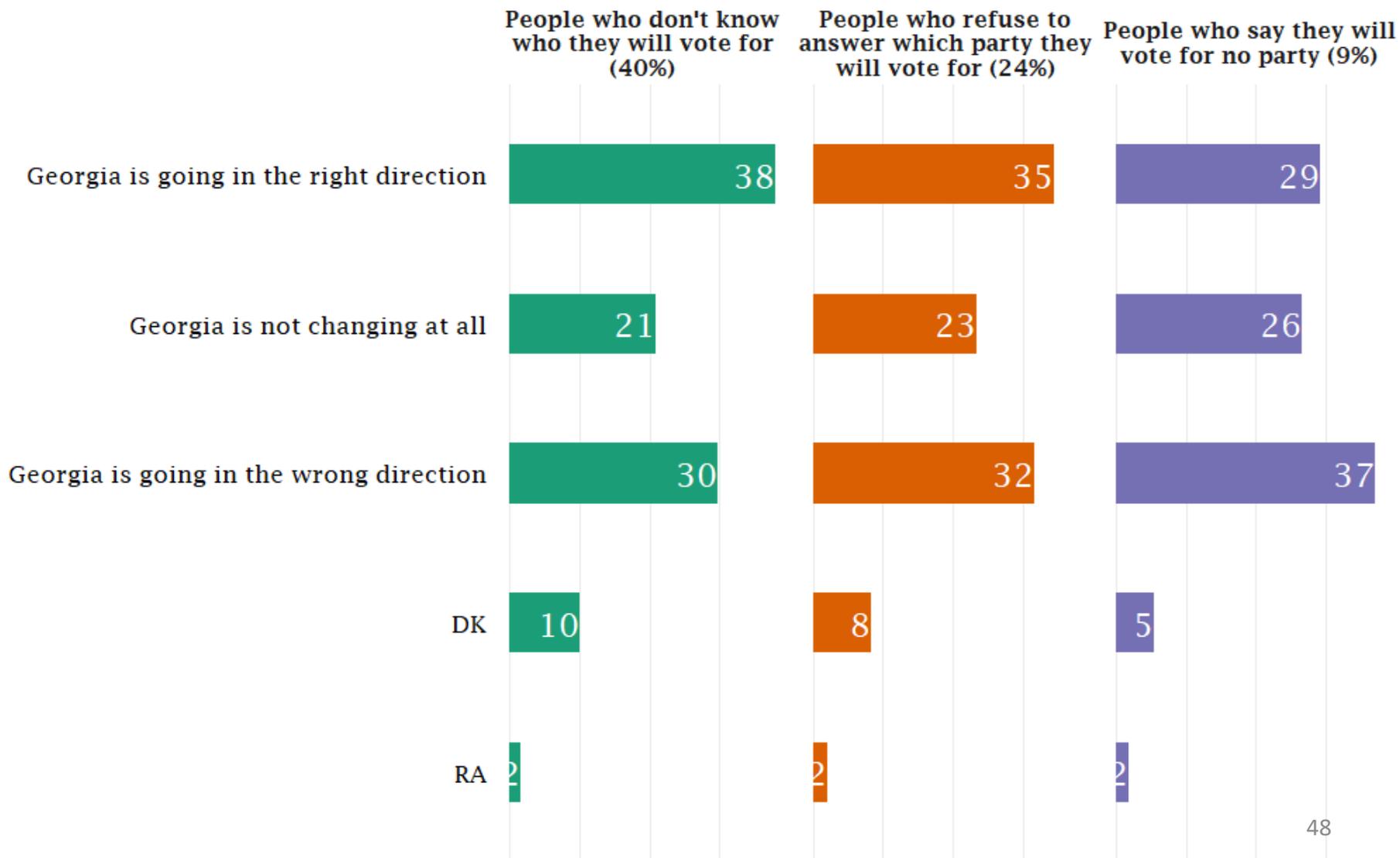
Undecided voters

(DK, RA, NP)

DK: don't know
RA: refuse to answer
NP: no party

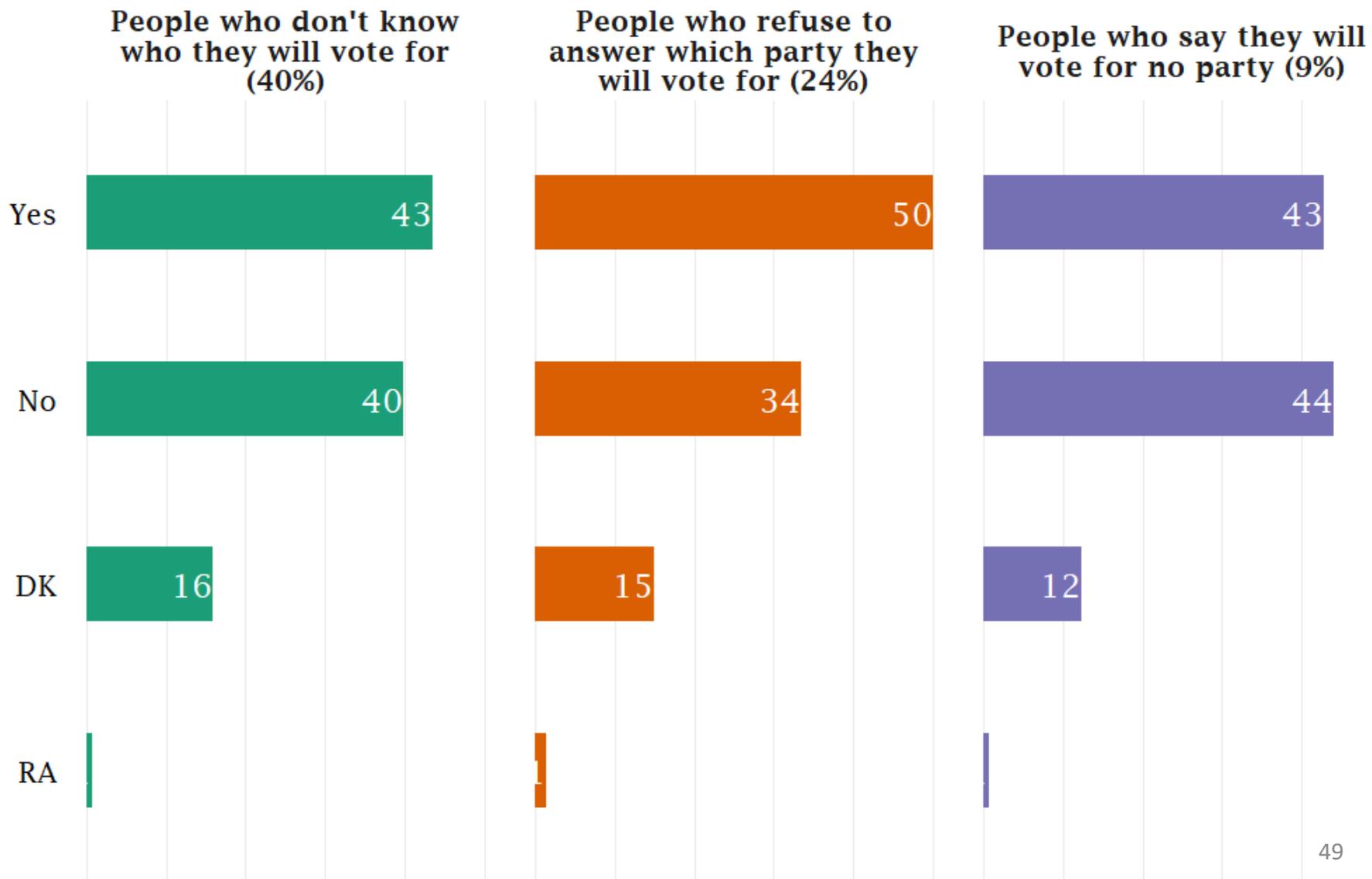
Country Direction

There are different opinions regarding the direction in which Georgia is going. Which one do you agree with? (q5 X If parliamentary elections were tomorrow which party would you vote for?)



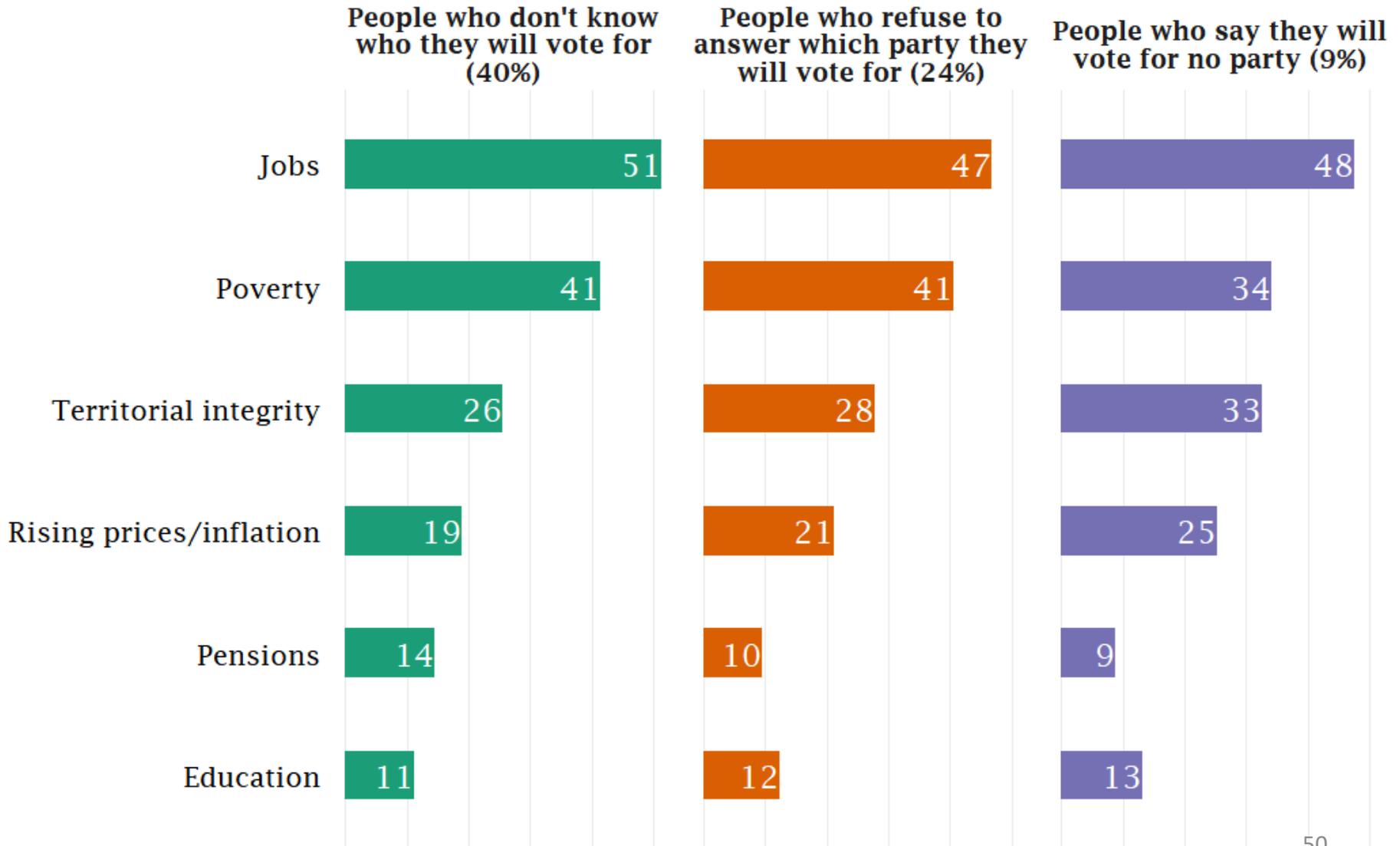
Democracy

In your opinion, is Georgia a democracy now? (q6 X If parliamentary elections were tomorrow which party would you vote for?)



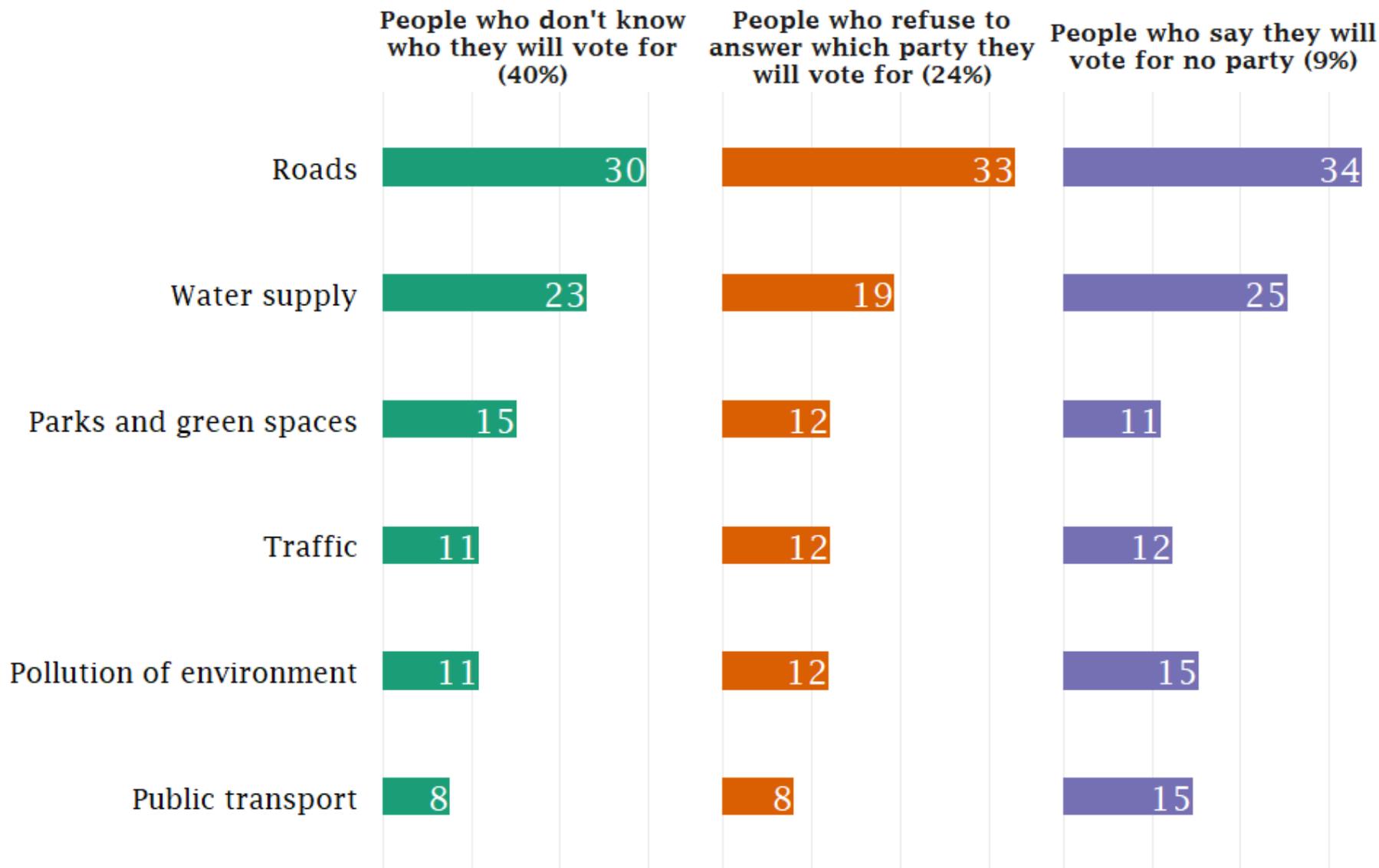
National issues

What are the most important national level issues facing you and your family? Please name up to three. (q7 X If parliamentary elections were tomorrow which party would you vote for?) Open question



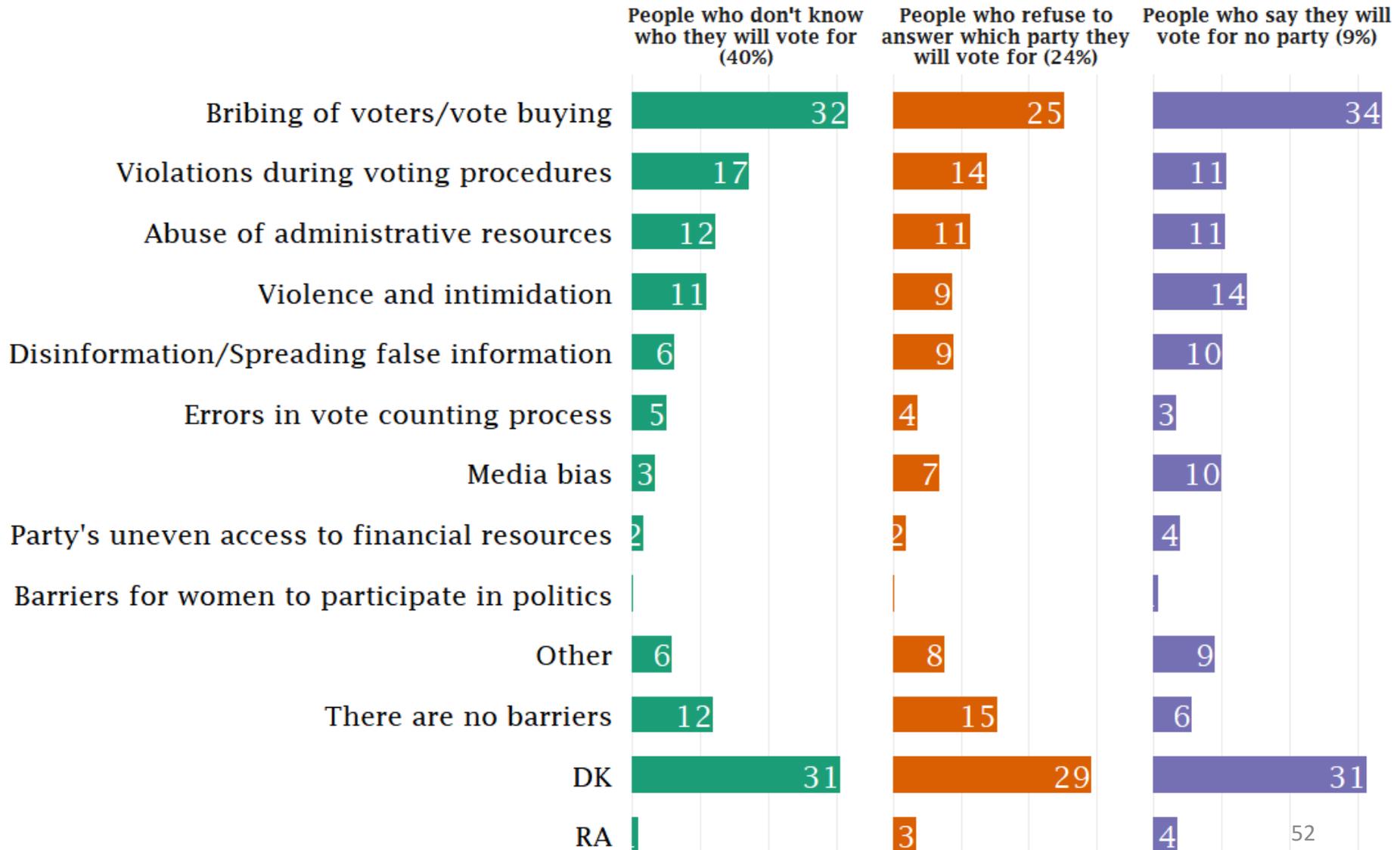
Local issues

What are three most important infrastructural issues in your city/village? Up to three answers (q8 X If parliamentary elections were tomorrow which party would you vote for?) Open question



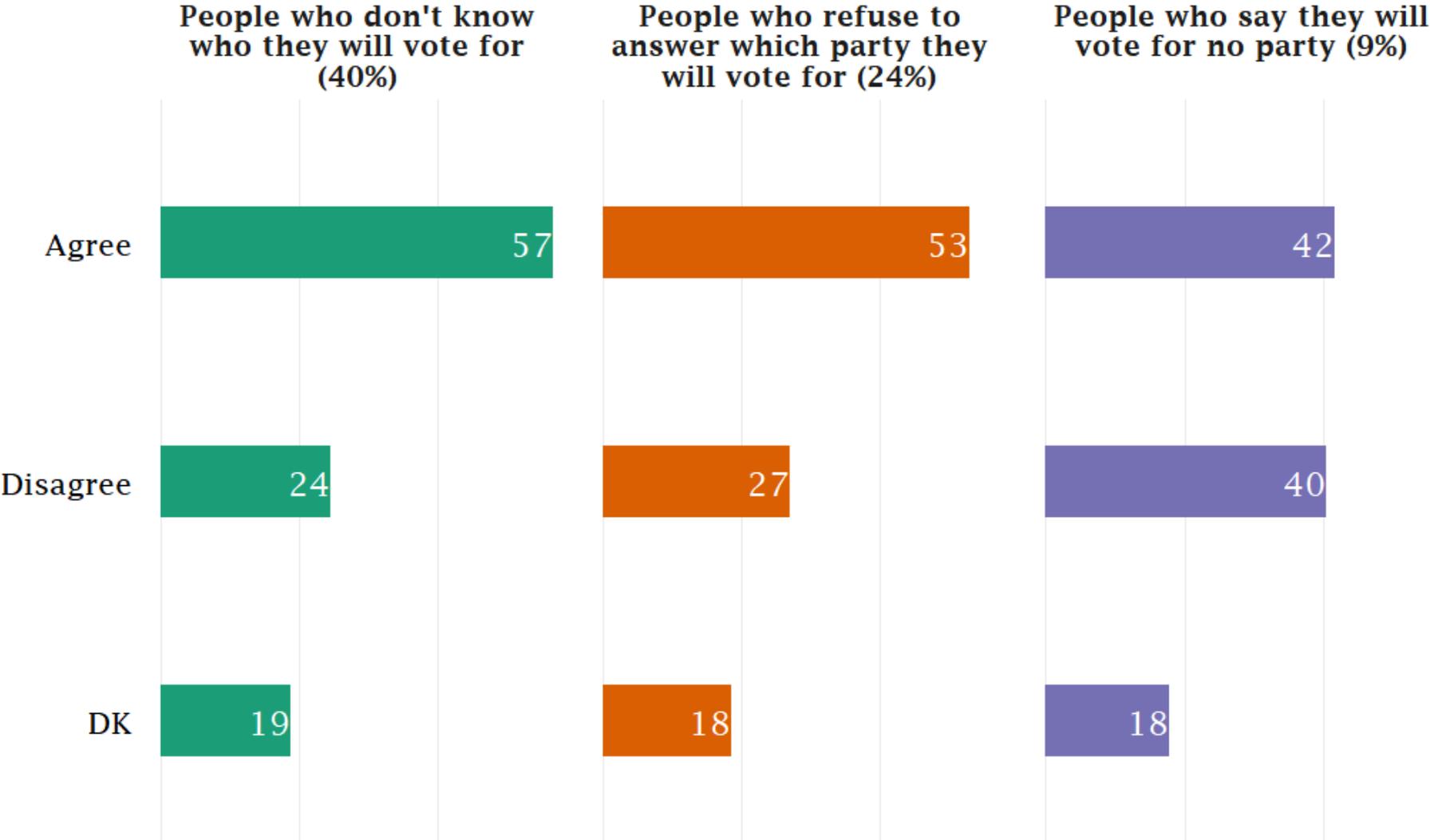
Barriers to elections

What, if any, do you think are 3 biggest barriers to free and fair elections in Georgia?
Up to three answers (q31 X If parliamentary elections were tomorrow which party would you vote for?) Open question.



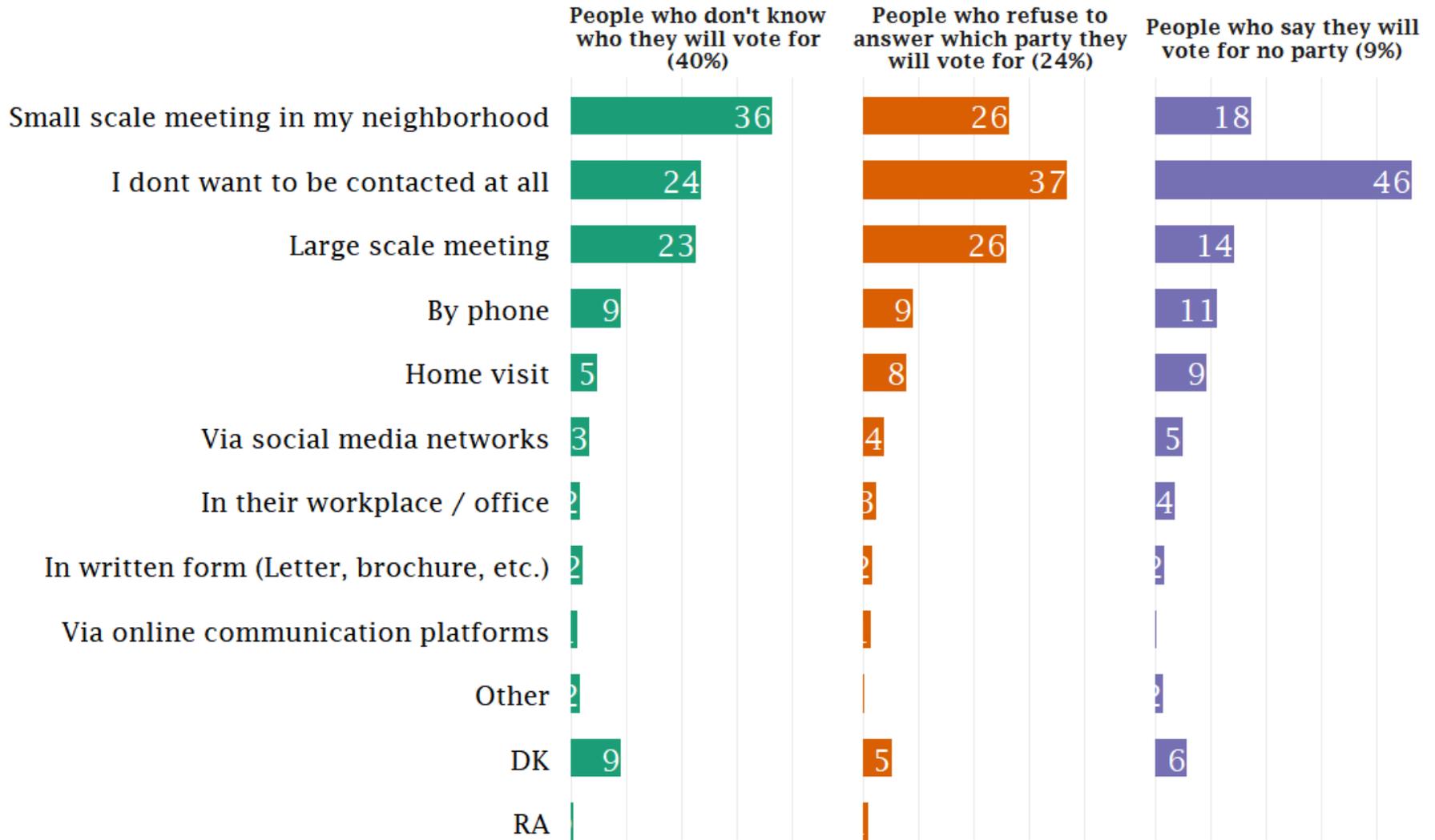
Confidence in the elections

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: October 2020 parliamentary elections will be conducted in a free and fair environment. (q32 X If parliamentary elections were tomorrow which party would you vote for?)



Forms of communication

Election campaign for 2020 parliamentary elections has already begun and parties and candidates are trying to contact the voters in various ways. What would be the best form to contact you? (q26 X If parliamentary elections were tomorrow which party would you vote for?) Open question.



NDI-CRRC POLLS AVAILABLE AT:

- www.ndi.org/georgia-polls
- ww.caucasusbarometer.org