Survey of Voter Opinion

Zimbabwe – January/February 2023
Methodology

• Nationally representative phone survey of Zimbabwe.
• Only registered voters.
• N = 1000.
• Margin of Error: 4%.
• 15-minute questionnaire.
• Weighted to national statistics on gender, age and province.
2023 General Election
75% of respondents indicated they will definitely vote in the 2023 election.
Chamisa wins 53% of the vote and Mnangagwa 40%

Thinking ahead to the next presidential election, which candidate will you vote for?
CCC wins 52% with ZANU-PF obtaining only 40% in the parliamentary vote

Thinking ahead to the next general election, which party will you cast your vote for?

- CCC: 52%
- ZANU-PF: 40%
- Other: 8%
Favourabilities
Nelson Chamisa enjoys the highest positive favourability rating

Strongly and somewhat favourable: Public figures
Douglas Mwonzora has the highest negative favourability rating amongst public figures tested.

Strongly and somewhat unfavourable: Public figures
The CCC enjoys the highest positive favourability rating among parties tested

Strongly and somewhat favourable: Political parties

- CCC: 58%
- ZANU-PF: 41%
- MDC: 19%
The MDC has the highest negative favourability rating among parties tested.

Strongly and somewhat unfavourable: Political parties

- MDC: 55.0%
- ZANU-PF: 45%
- CCC: 27%
Governance
47% of respondents believe the CCC governs most effectively.
Context & Issues
54% of respondents believe Zimbabwe is moving in the wrong direction

Thinking about Zimbabwe as a whole, do you think the country is moving in the right direction or the wrong direction?

- Wrong Direction: 54%
- Right Direction: 37%
- Don't know/Refused: 9%
Corruption and jobs are the most important issues for respondents

What is the most important national issue facing Zimbabwe as a whole right now that you would like someone to do something about?
Respondents hold the ZANU-PF government of the past 4 decades responsible for their issues of concern.

Who is principally responsible for these problems?

- The ZANU-PF government of the past 4 decades: 60%
- Sanctions: 14%
- The MDC/CCC: 5%
- The West: 3%
- The colonial past: 2%
- Racists: 1%
- Don't know/Refused: 16%
Countries
51% of respondents surveyed admire ‘the West’ the most

Which country do you admire the most?

- UK: 20%
- European countries: 18%
- US: 13%
- South Africa: 12%
- China: 5%
- Russia: 2%
- None of the above: 28%
- Don’t know/Refused: 2%
Coalitions
51% of respondents would be happy to see a coalition govern Zimbabwe.
Ukraine
58% of respondents agree that Russia’s invasion of Ukraine is an act of aggression that should be condemned.
Emigration
46% of respondents would leave Zimbabwe immediately if they had the opportunity to do so.

If you had the opportunity to leave Zimbabwe, would you:

- Go immediately: 46%
- I will not want to leave Zimbabwe: 27%
- Wait until after the next general election: 22%
- Stay: 4%
- Don’t know/Refused: 1%
A majority of respondents would go to ‘the West’ if they left Zimbabwe.

If you left Zimbabwe, where would you prefer to go?

- UK: 22%
- Somewhere Else: 18%
- Australia/NZ: 17%
- South Africa: 13%
- US: 13%
- Europe: 13%
- Don’t know/Somewhere else: 3%
78% of respondents have a close family member living outside Zimbabwe.
Of the respondents with a close family member living outside Zimbabwe, a majority live in South Africa.
Free & Fair Elections
47% of respondents believe that the general election will not be free or fair

Do you believe that the upcoming general election will be free and fair?

- No: 47%
- Yes: 38%
- Don't know/Refused: 15%
41% of respondents who believe the election will not be free or fair believe there will be cheating in the counting process.
Summary of Key Findings

- If an election were to be held tomorrow, Nelson Chamisa would win 53% of the vote.
- If an election were to be held tomorrow, the CCC would win 52% of the parliamentary vote.
- Nelson Chamisa has a positive favourability rating of 16 points higher than Emmerson Mnangagwa.
- On governance, 47% of respondents believe the CCC can govern more effectively while 33% believe ZANU-PF can govern more effectively.
- 54% of respondents believe Zimbabwe is moving in the wrong direction. The most important issues are corruption and jobs.
- A majority of respondents believe the ZANU-PF government of the past four decades is the main reason for the country’s current problems.
Summary of Key Findings

- A majority of respondents (51%) would be happy to see a coalition govern Zimbabwe.
- 58% of respondents surveyed believe that Russia’s invasion of the Ukraine is an act of aggression that should be condemned.
- 78% of respondents have a close family member living outside Zimbabwe. Of these respondents, 51% say their close family member is living in South Africa.
- 47% of respondents believe the upcoming election will not be free and fair mainly due to cheating in the counting process.