

Survey of South African Voter Opinion

September/October 2023



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Methodology



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- Nationally representative phone survey of South Africa (RDD).
- Only registered voters.
- N = 1500.
- Margin of Error: 3% at the 95% confidence interval.
- Fieldwork: 11 September – 03 October 2023.
- 15-minute questionnaire.
- Weighted to national statistics on gender, age and province.
- Comparison to a November 2022 Brenthurst/SABI survey.

2024 General Election

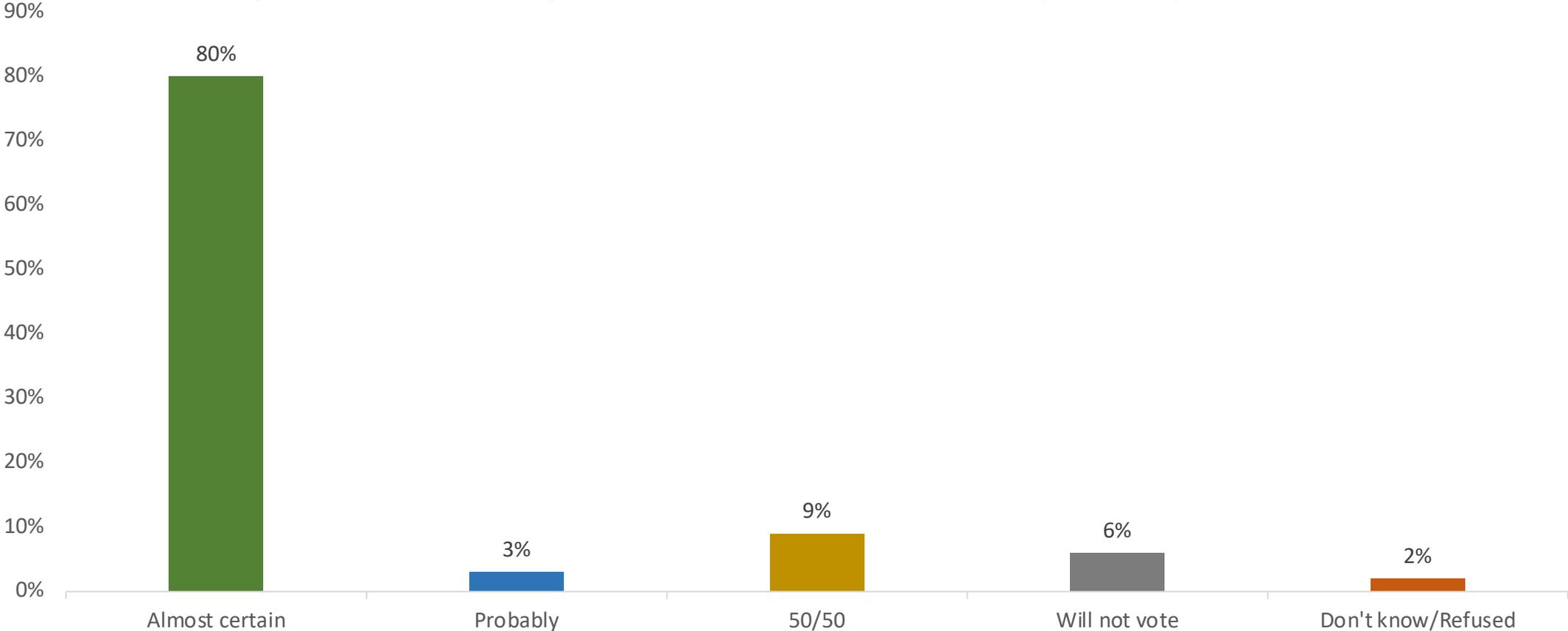


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80% of respondents indicated they are almost certain to vote in the 2024 election



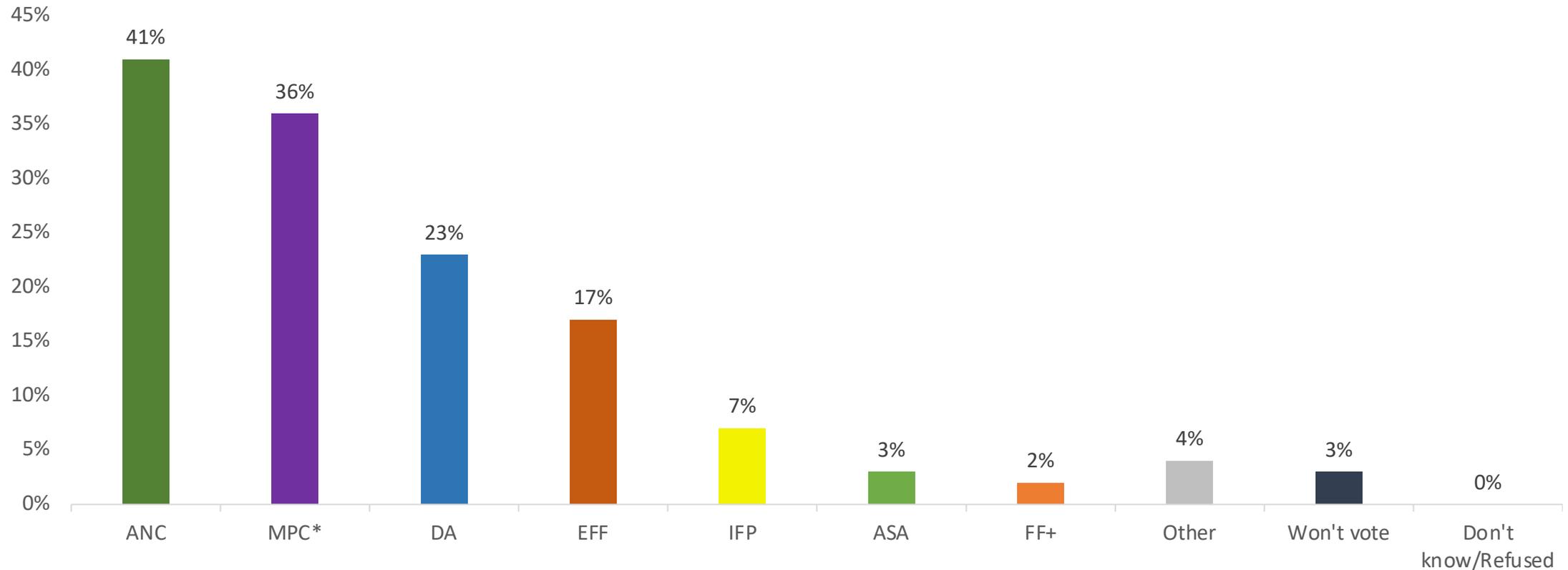
Thinking ahead to the next general election, how certain are you that you will vote?



The ANC wins 41% of the vote, the DA 23%, and the Multi-Party Charter (MPC) 36%



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

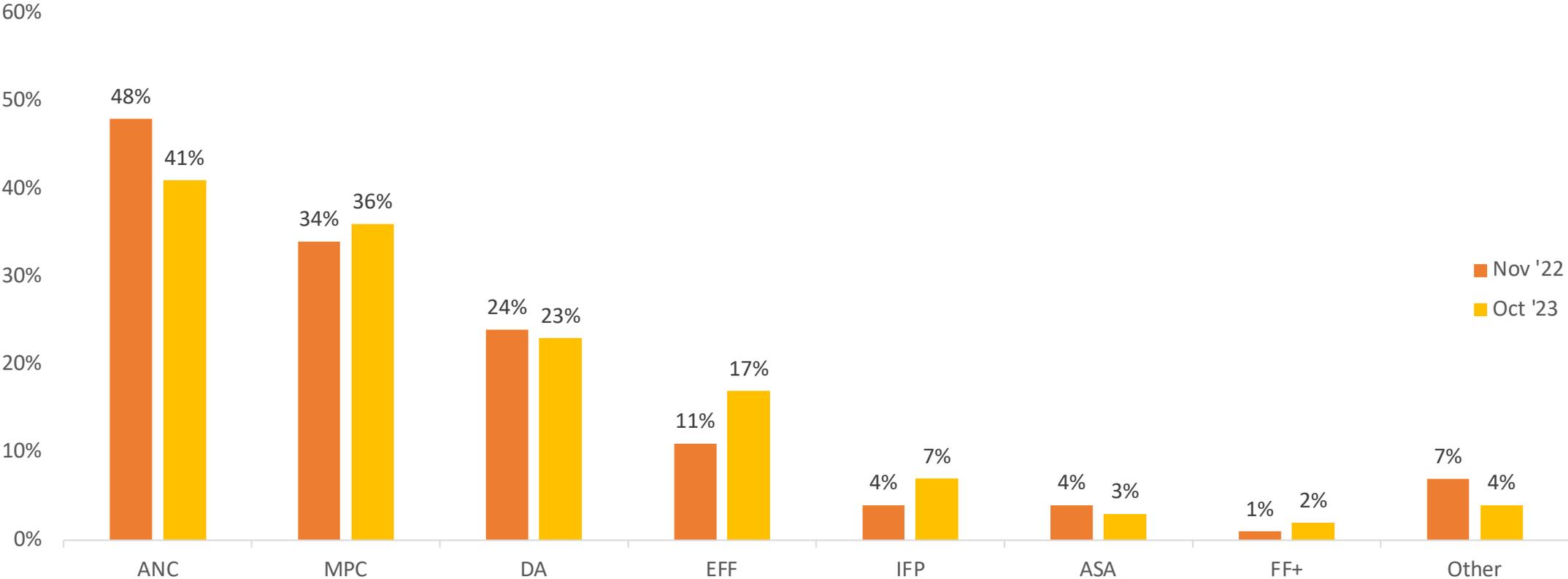


*Pooling the votes of the DA, IFP, ASA, FF+, United Independent Movement and others

The ANC has dropped 7 points since November 2022 while parties comprising the MPC have gained 2 points



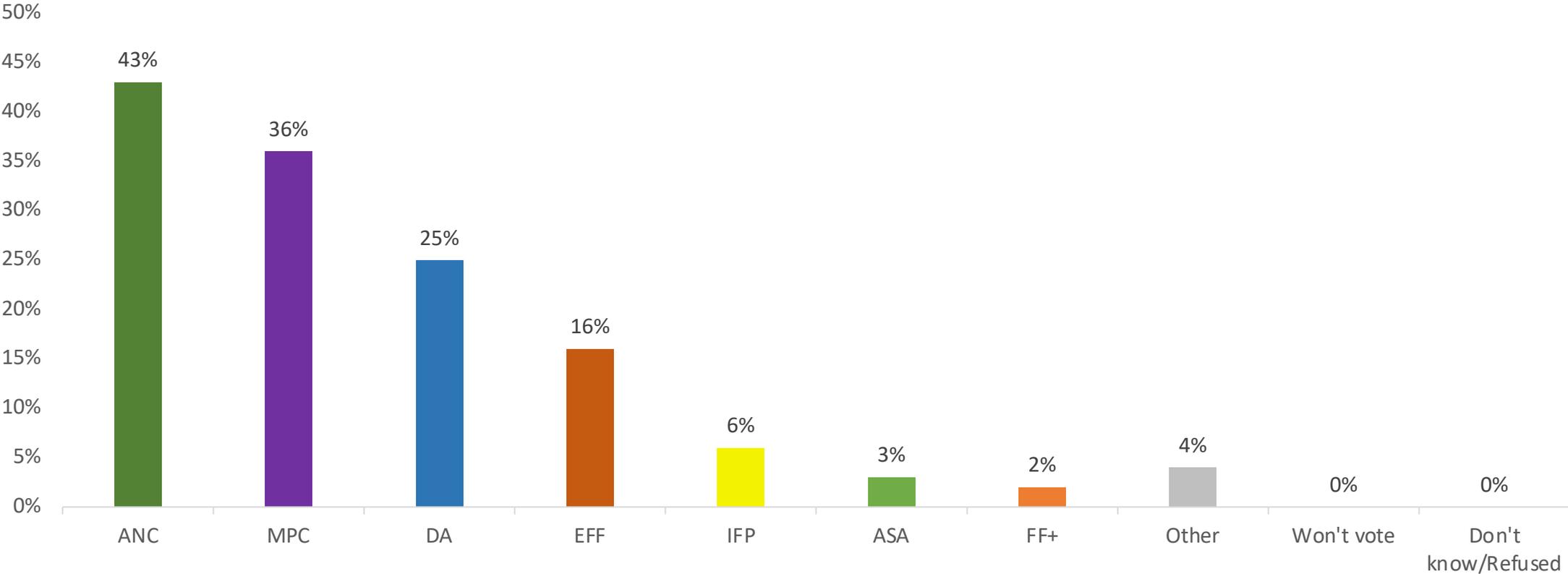
Thinking ahead to the next general election, which party will you vote for?



In a 'high turnout scenario', the ANC wins 43% of the vote, the DA 25%, and the MPC 36%



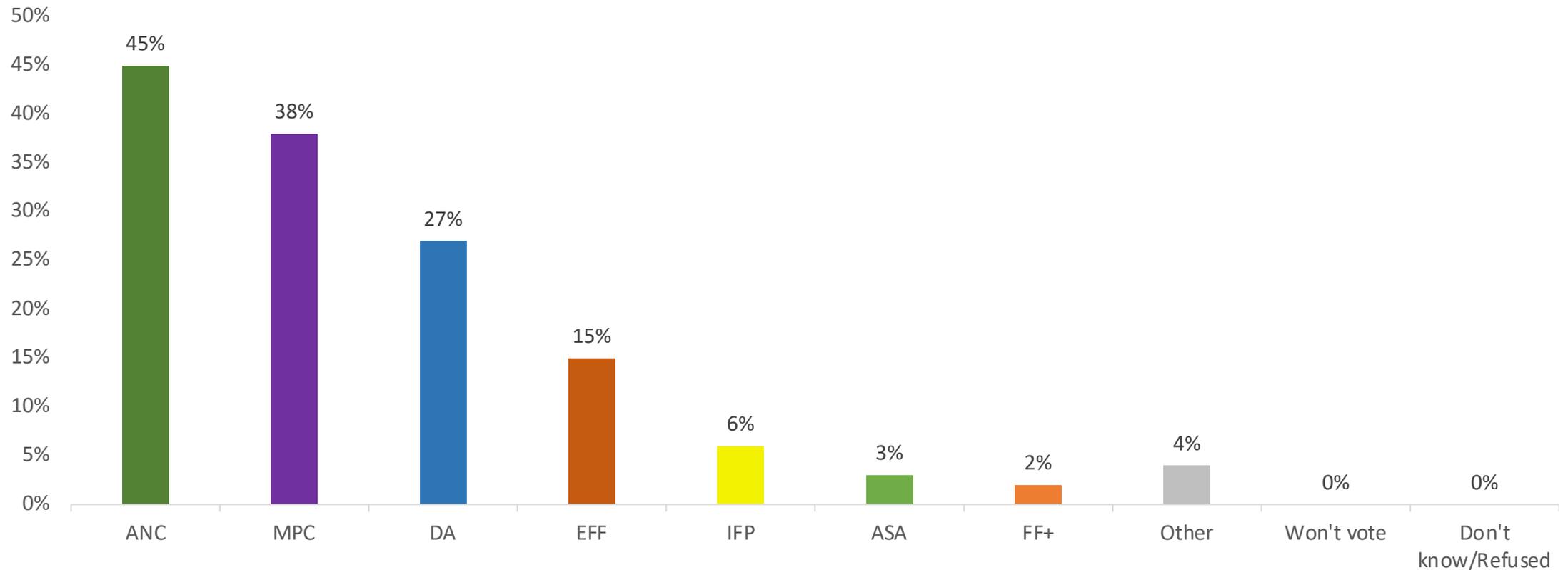
Thinking ahead to the next general election, which party will you vote for?



In a 'low turnout scenario', the ANC wins 45% of the vote, the DA 27%, and the MPC 38%



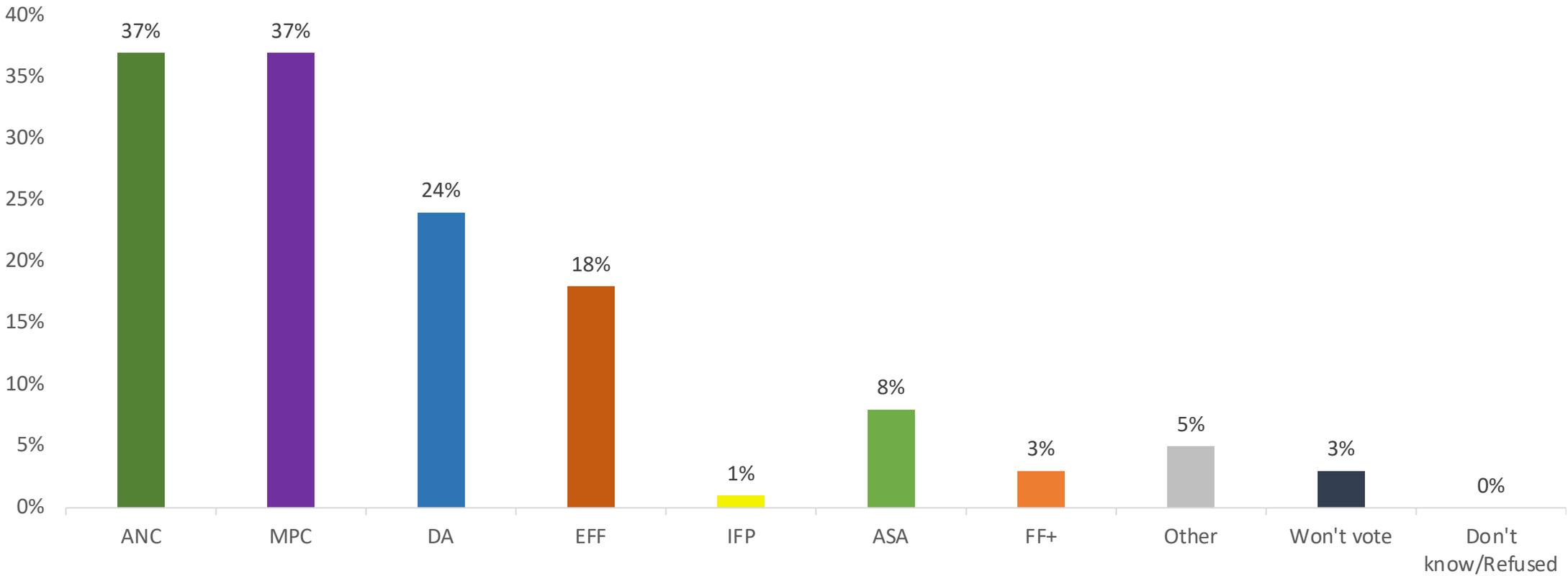
Thinking ahead to the next general election, which party will you vote for?



In Gauteng, the ANC sits on 37%, the DA on 24%, and the MPC 37%



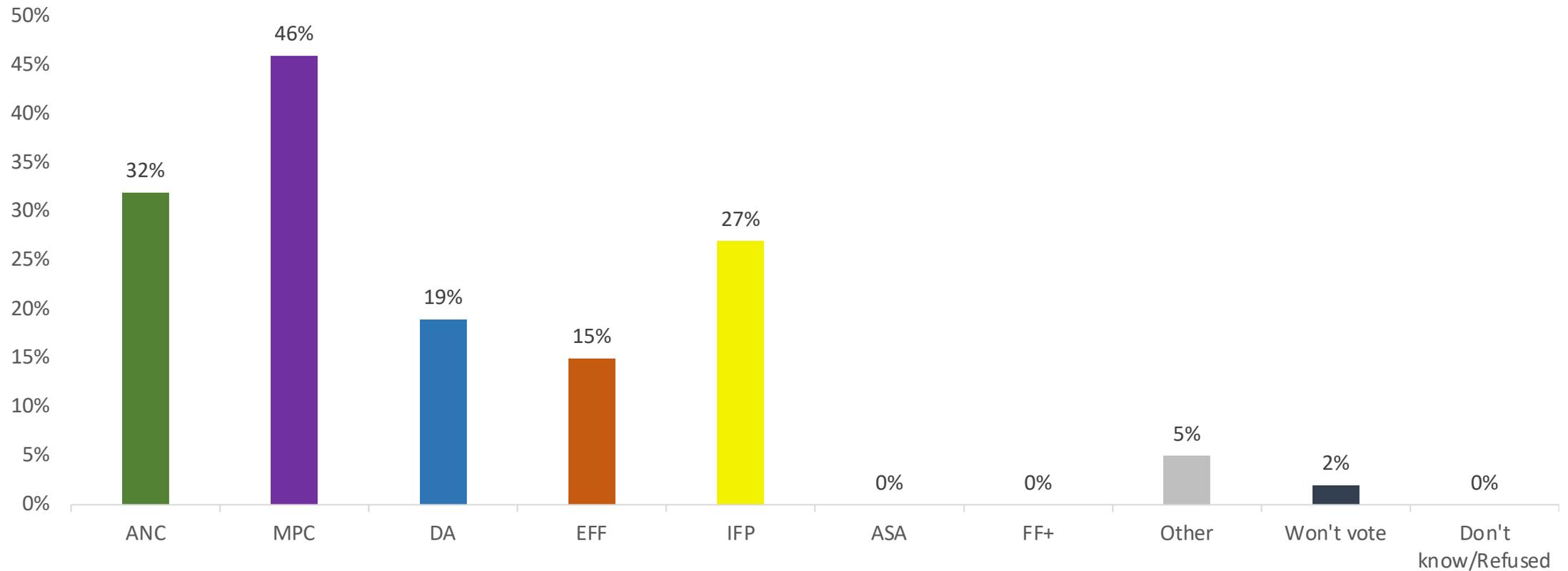
Thinking ahead to the next general election, which party will you vote for?



In KZN, the ANC sits on 32%, the IFP on 27%, and the MPC 46%



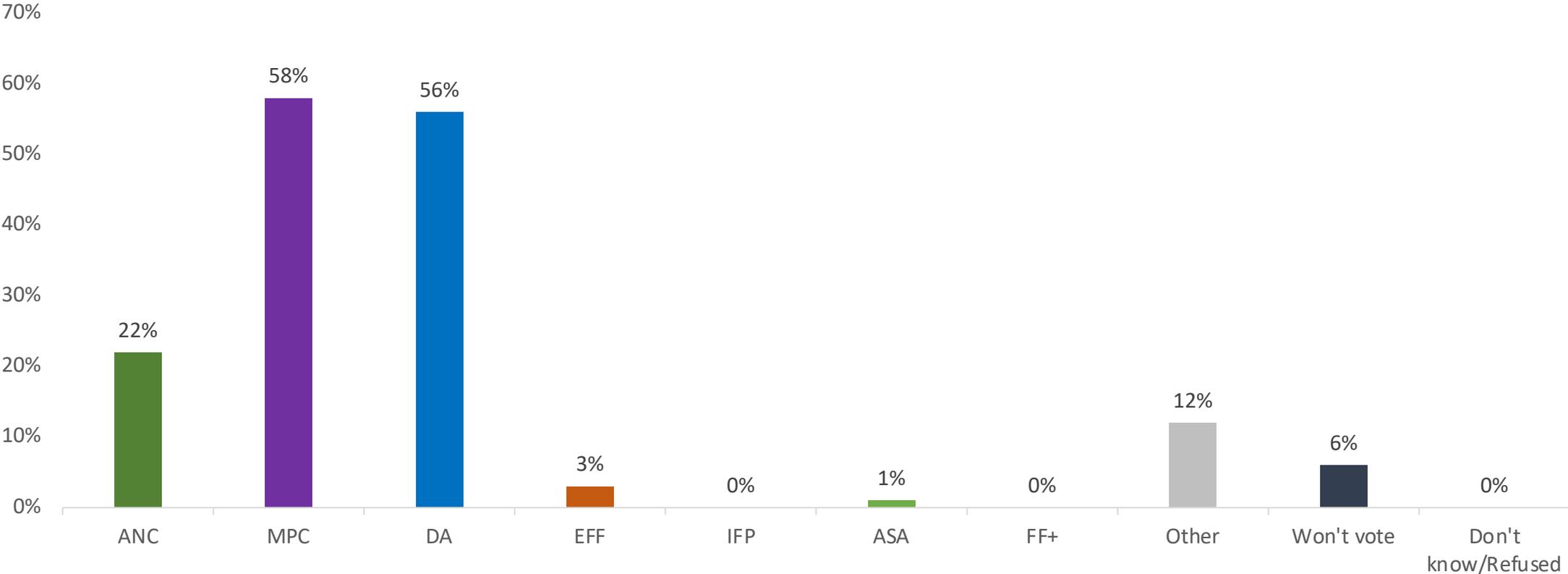
Thinking ahead to the next general election, which party will you vote for?



In Western Cape, the DA is polling at 56% and the ANC 22%



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



Governance

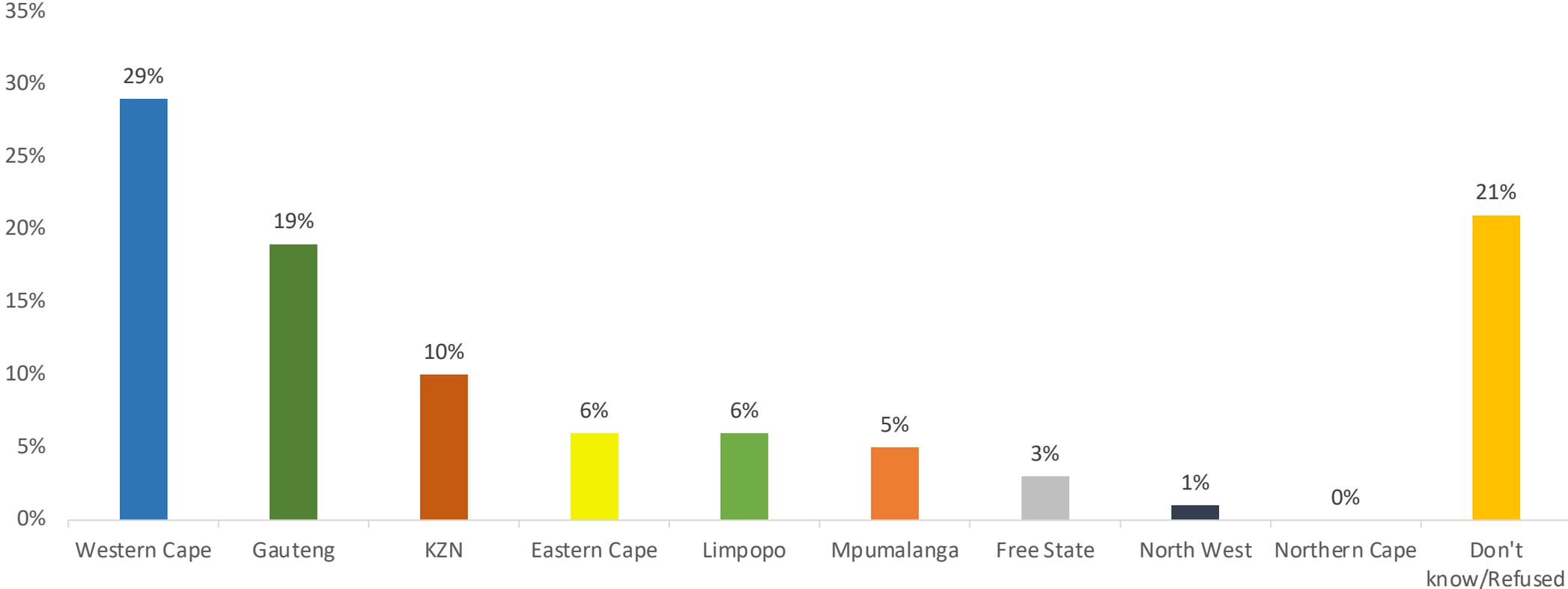


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29% of respondents indicate that Western Cape – home to 12% of the country’s population – is SA’s best governed province



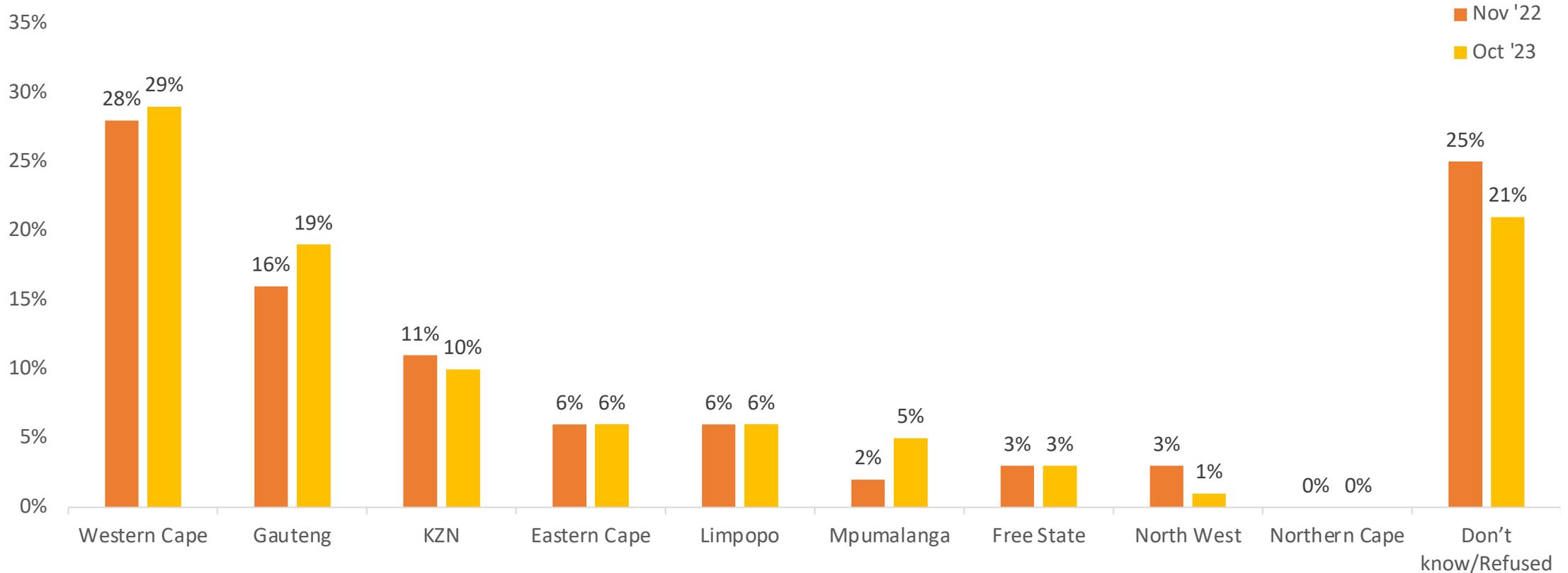
Which province do you believe is best governed?



More respondents believe Western Cape, Gauteng and Mpumalanga are better governed than in November 2022



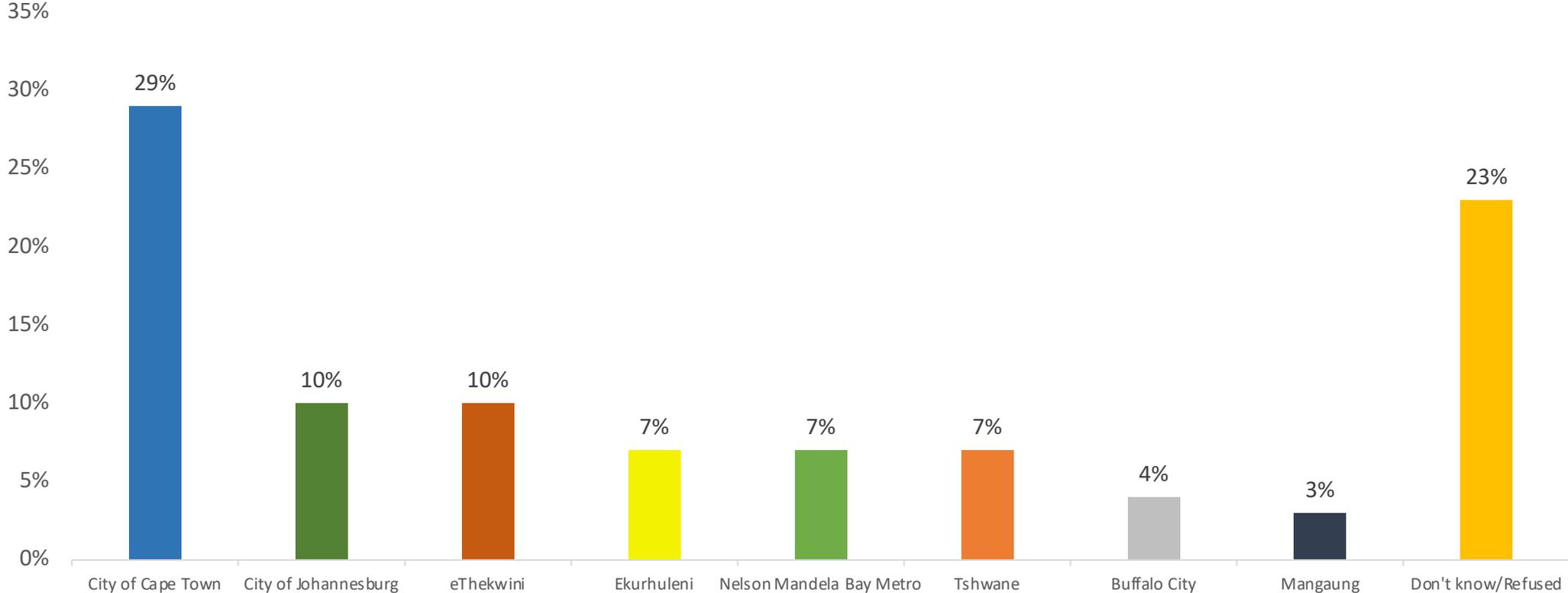
Which province do you believe is best governed?



29% of respondents believe the City of Cape Town is South Africa's best governed metro



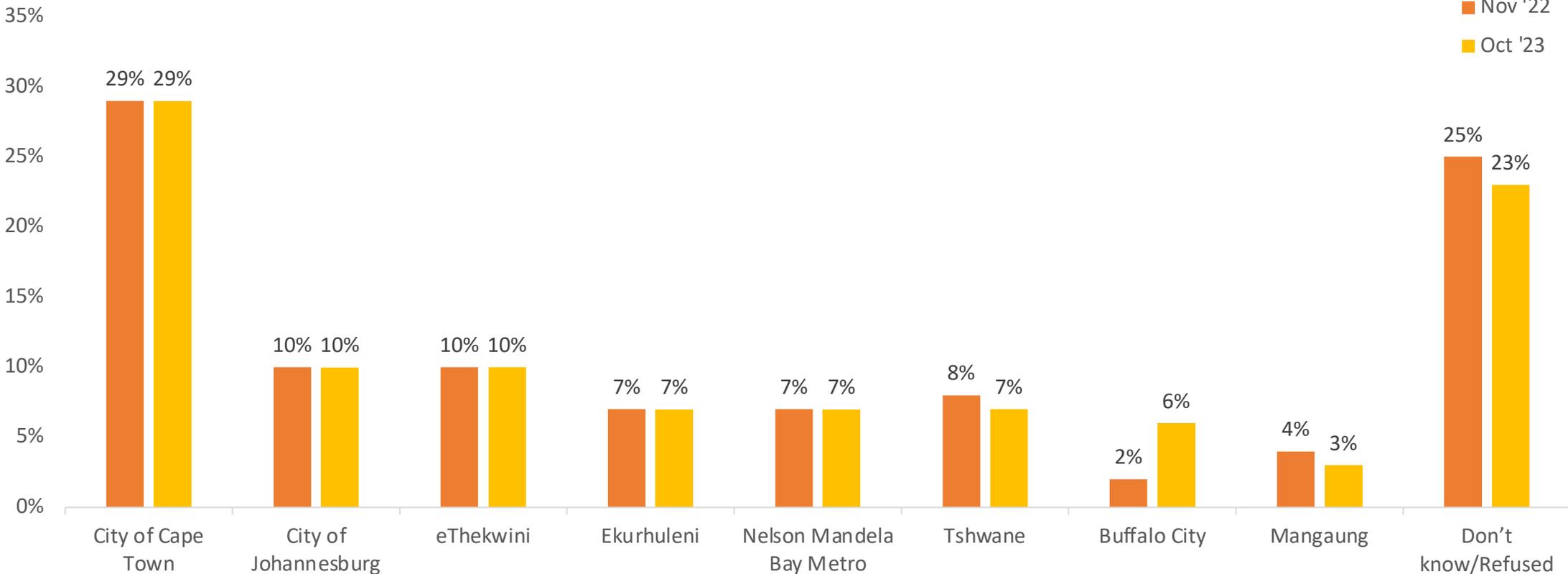
Which metro do you believe is best governed?



Buffalo City has seen the biggest improvement in terms of governance amongst metros, according to respondents



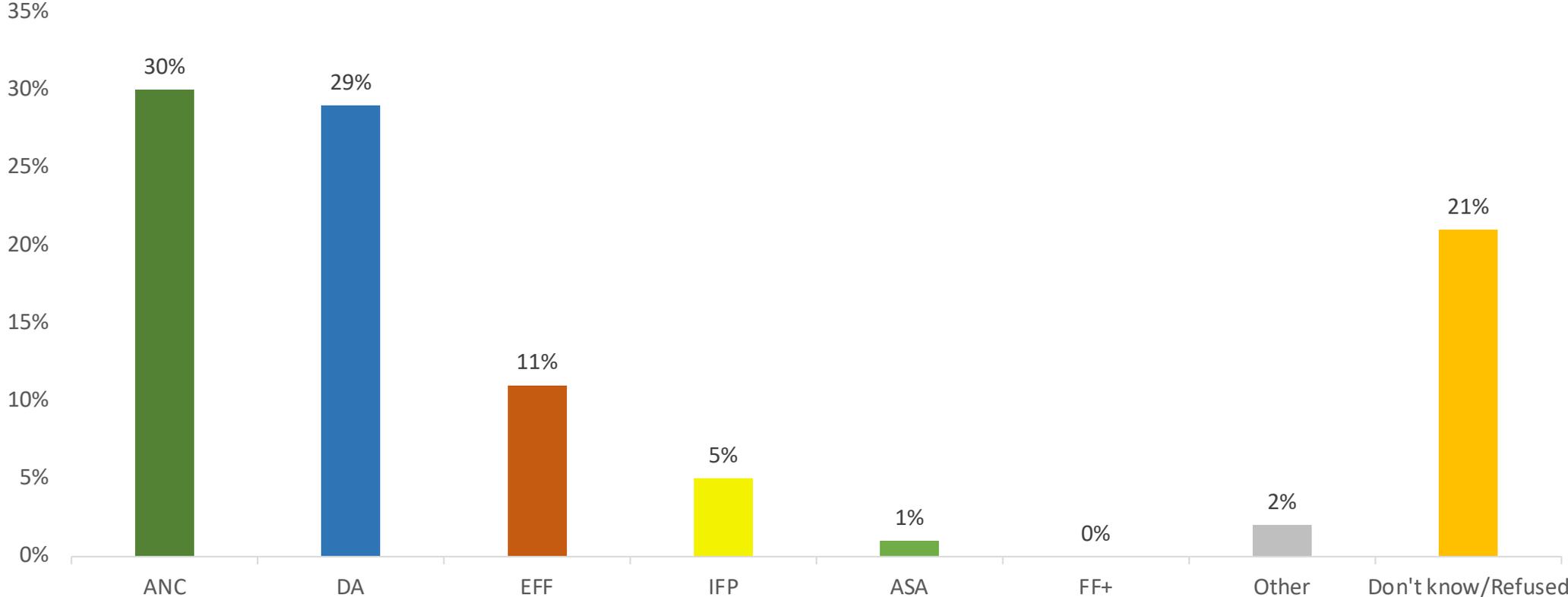
Which metro do you believe is best governed?



30% of respondents believe the ANC is the party most effective at governing, just ahead of the DA on 29%



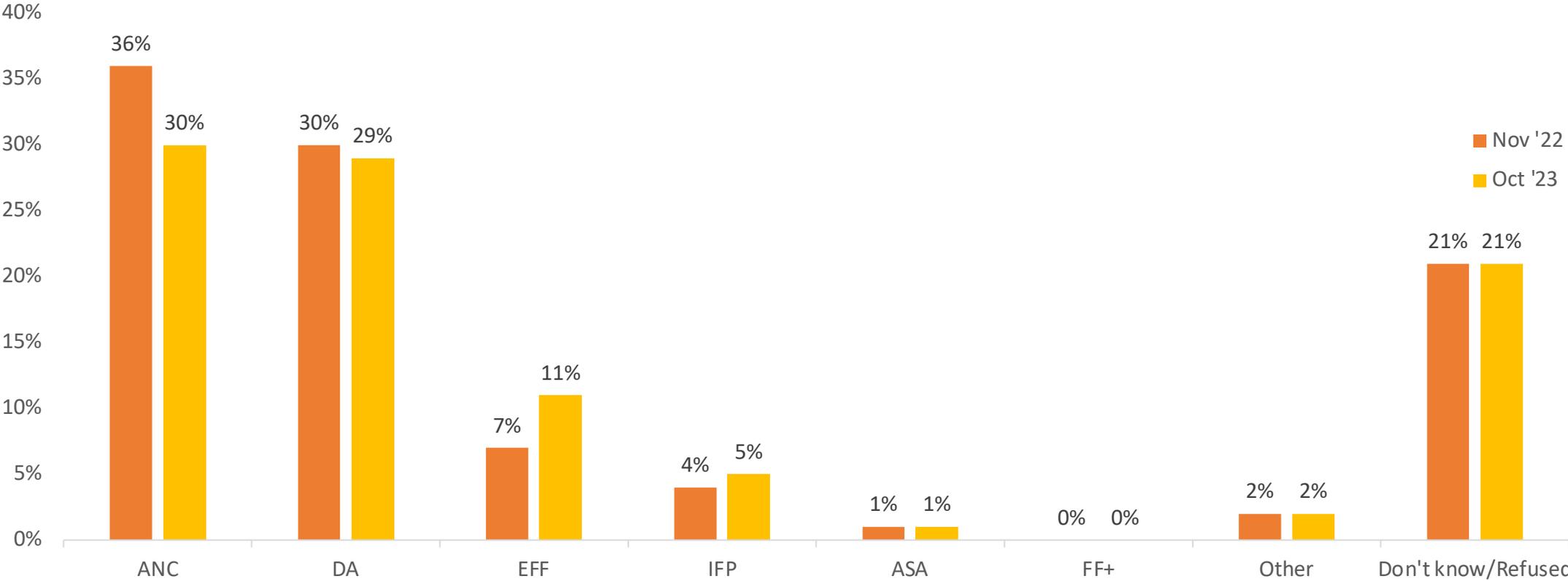
Which party do you believe is the most effective at governing?



30% of respondents believe the ANC is the party most effective at governing, down from 36% in 2022



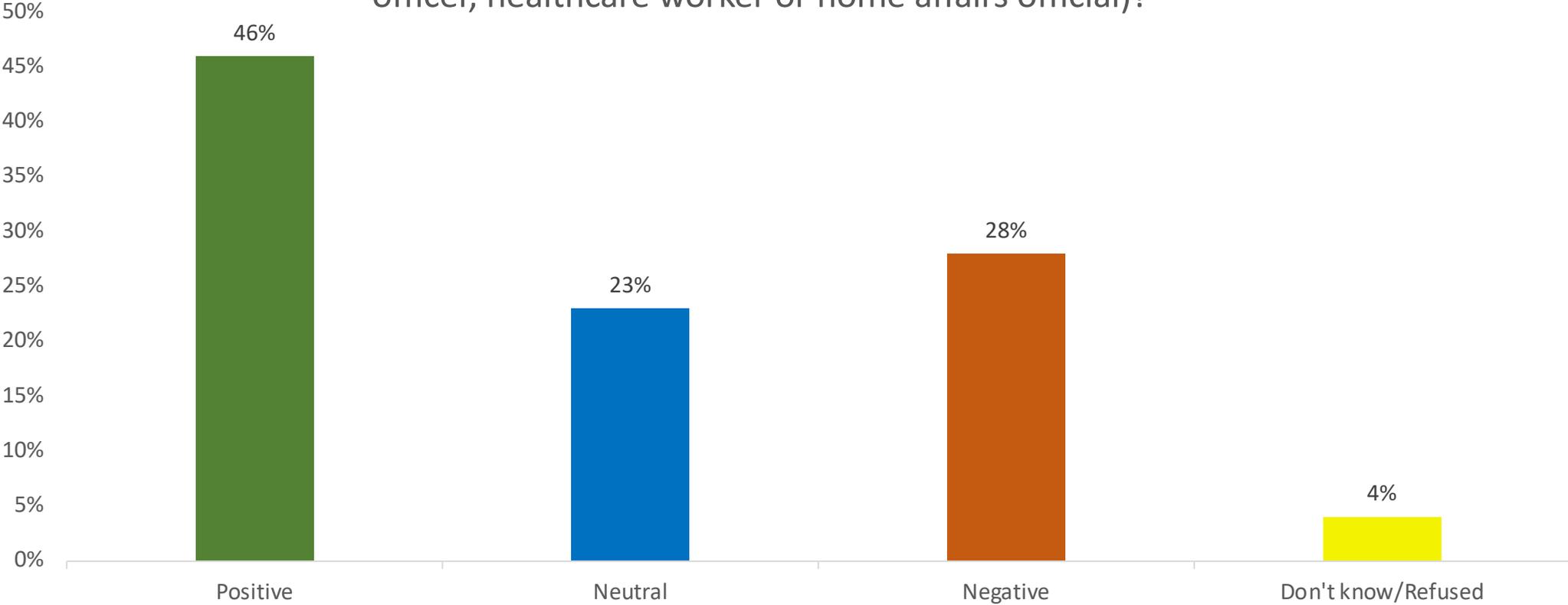
Which party do you believe is the most effective at governing?



46% of respondents describe their last interaction with a government official as positive



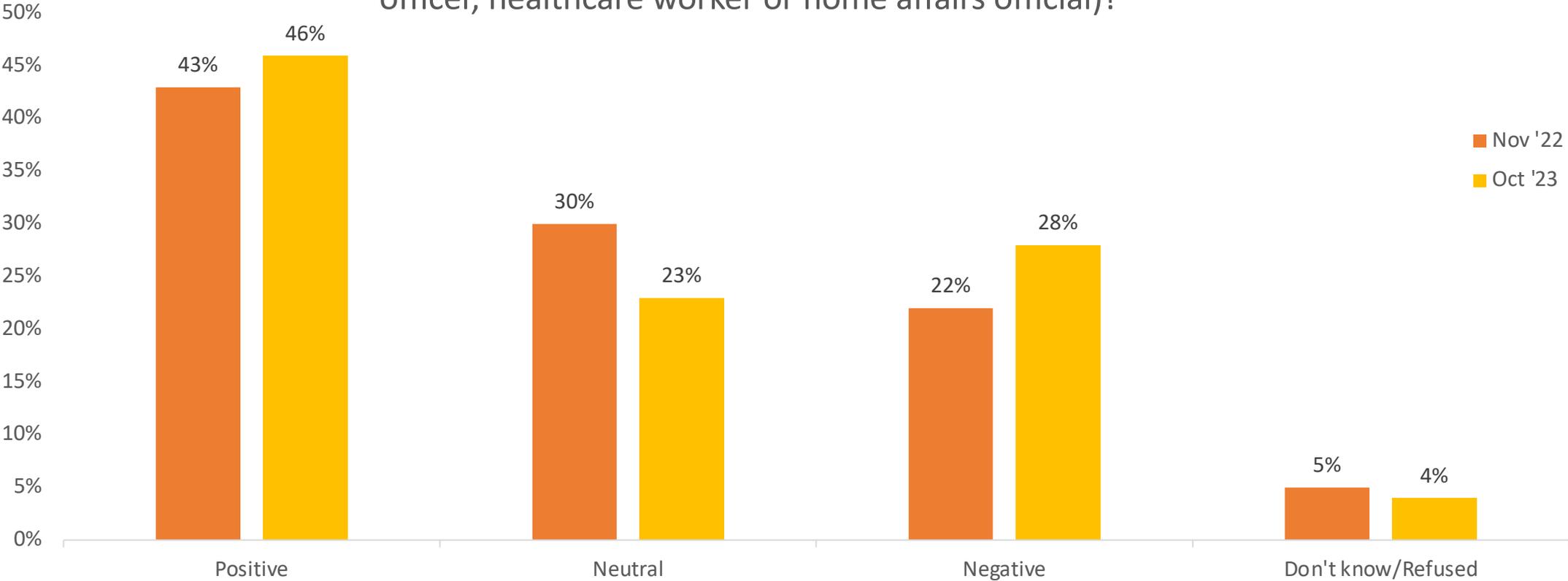
How would you describe your last interaction with a government official (like a police officer, healthcare worker or home affairs official)?



28% of respondents would characterise their last interaction with a government official as negative, compared with 22% in November 2022



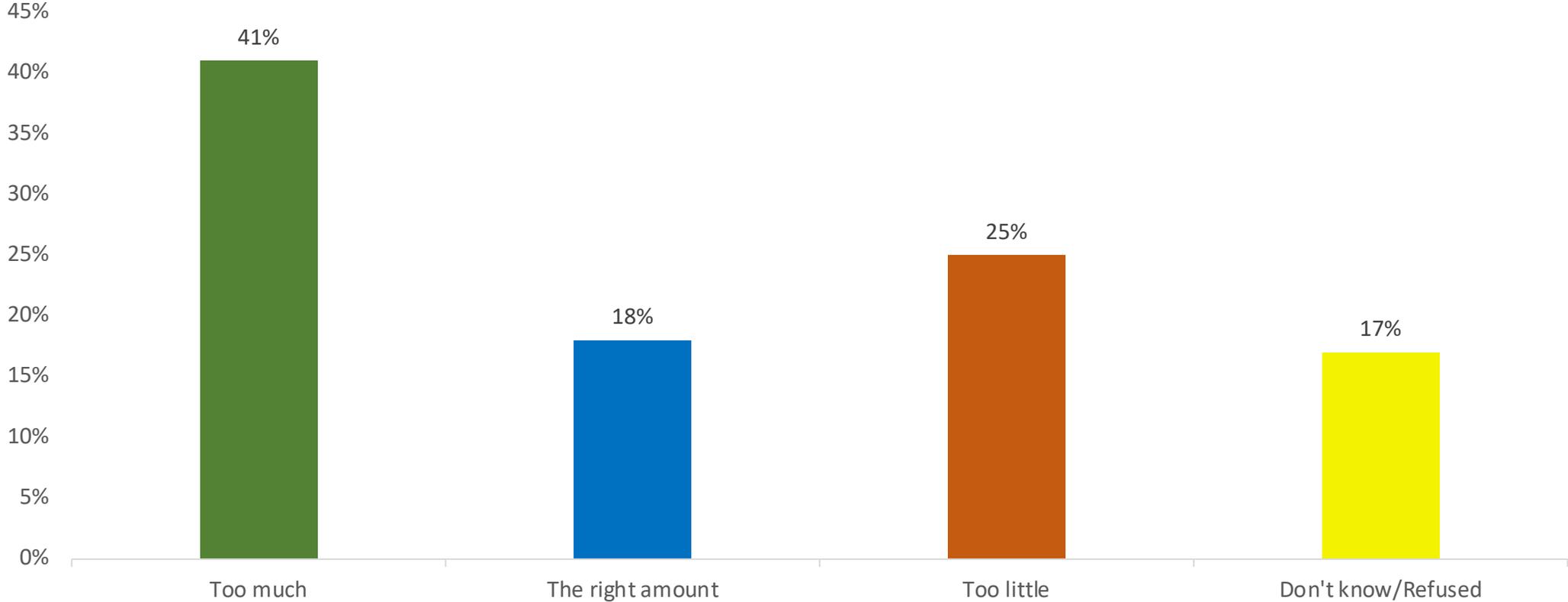
How would you describe your last interaction with a government official (like a police officer, healthcare worker or home affairs official)?



41% of respondents believe government officials earn too much



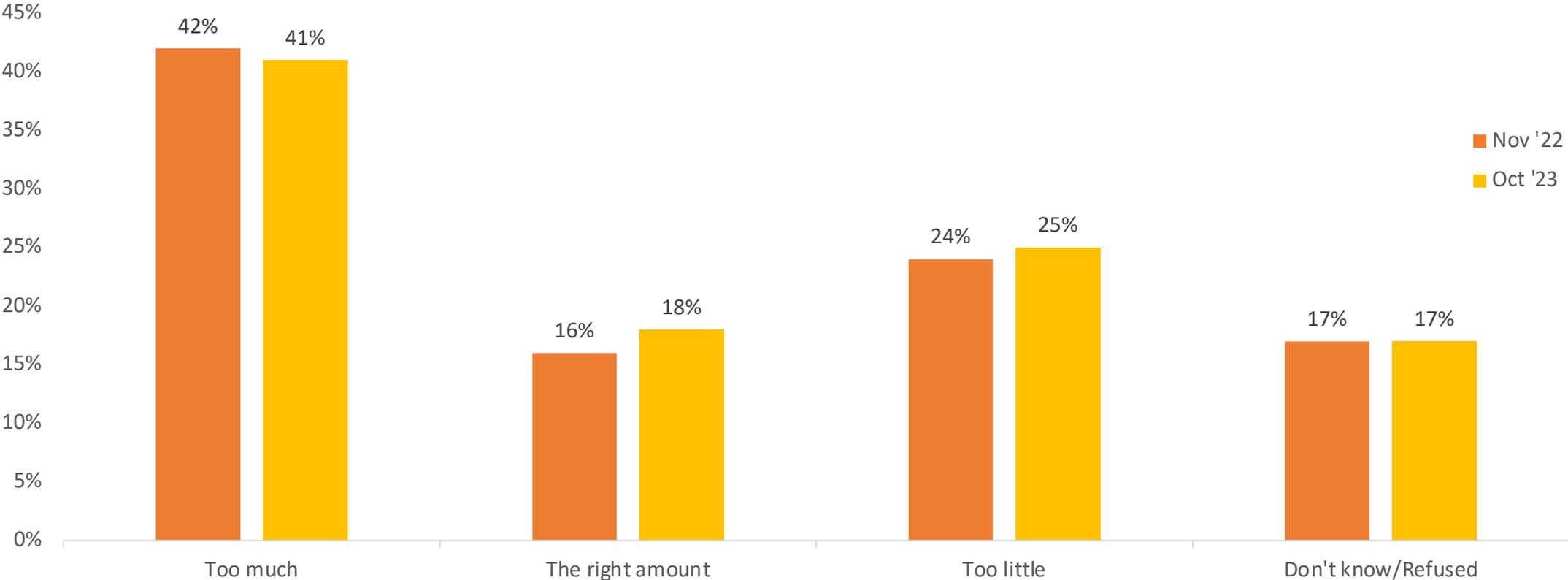
Do you think that government officials earn too much, too little, or the right amount?



Attitudes towards the pay of government officials have only moved marginally



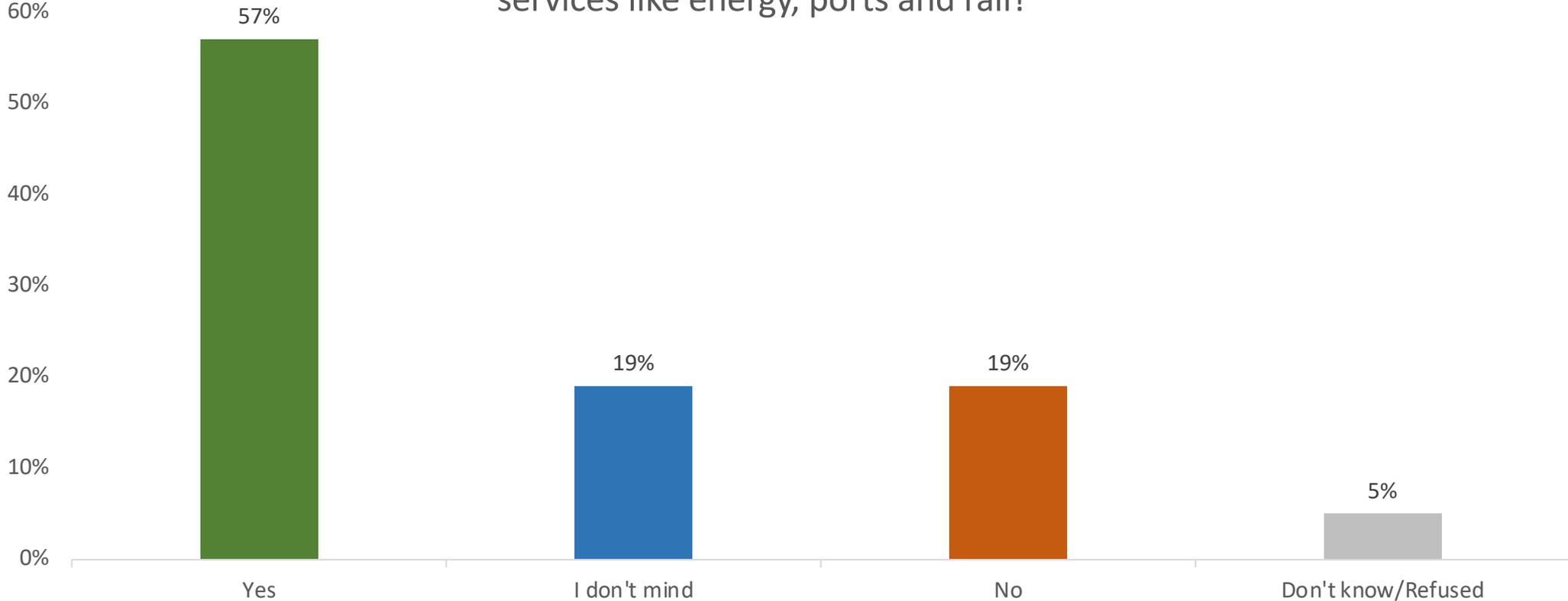
Do you think that government officials earn too much, too little, or the right amount?



4 out of 5 South Africans agree the private sector should be allowed to participate in providing services like energy, ports and rail



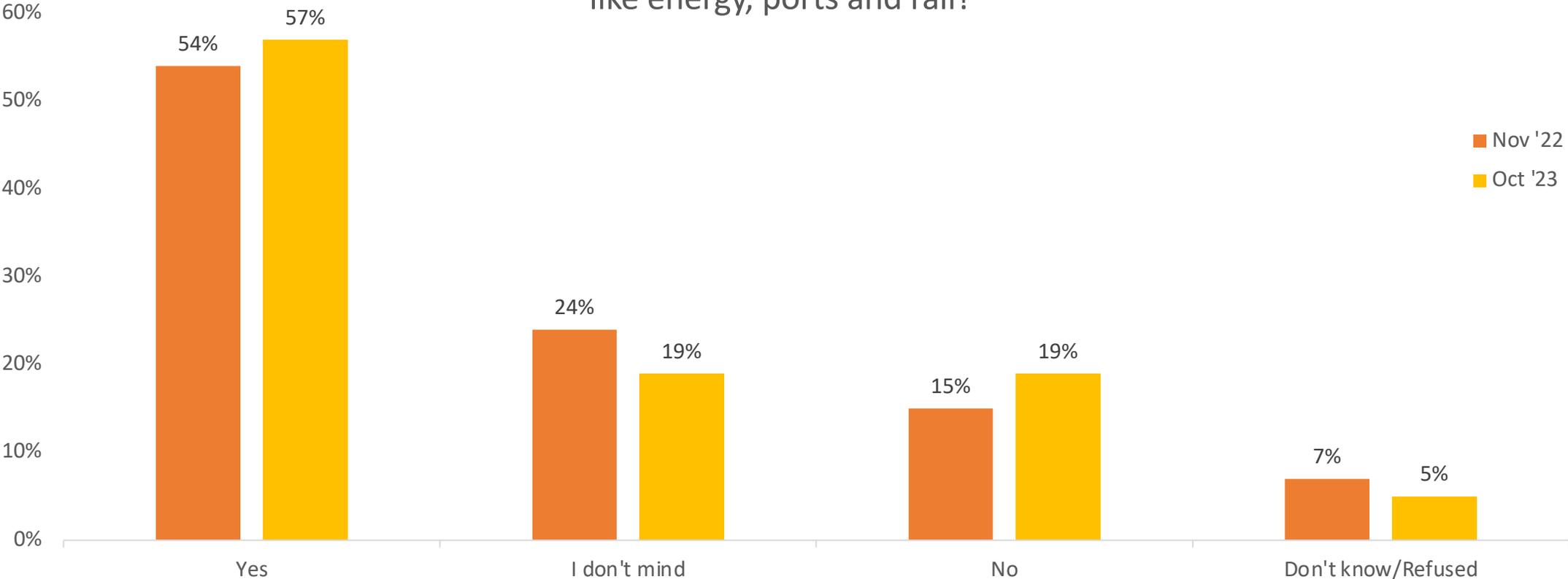
Do you think that the private sector should be allowed to participate in providing services like energy, ports and rail?



More South Africans today would like to see the involvement of the private sector in the provision of services than in November 2022



Do you think that the private sector should be allowed to participate in providing services like energy, ports and rail?



Issues

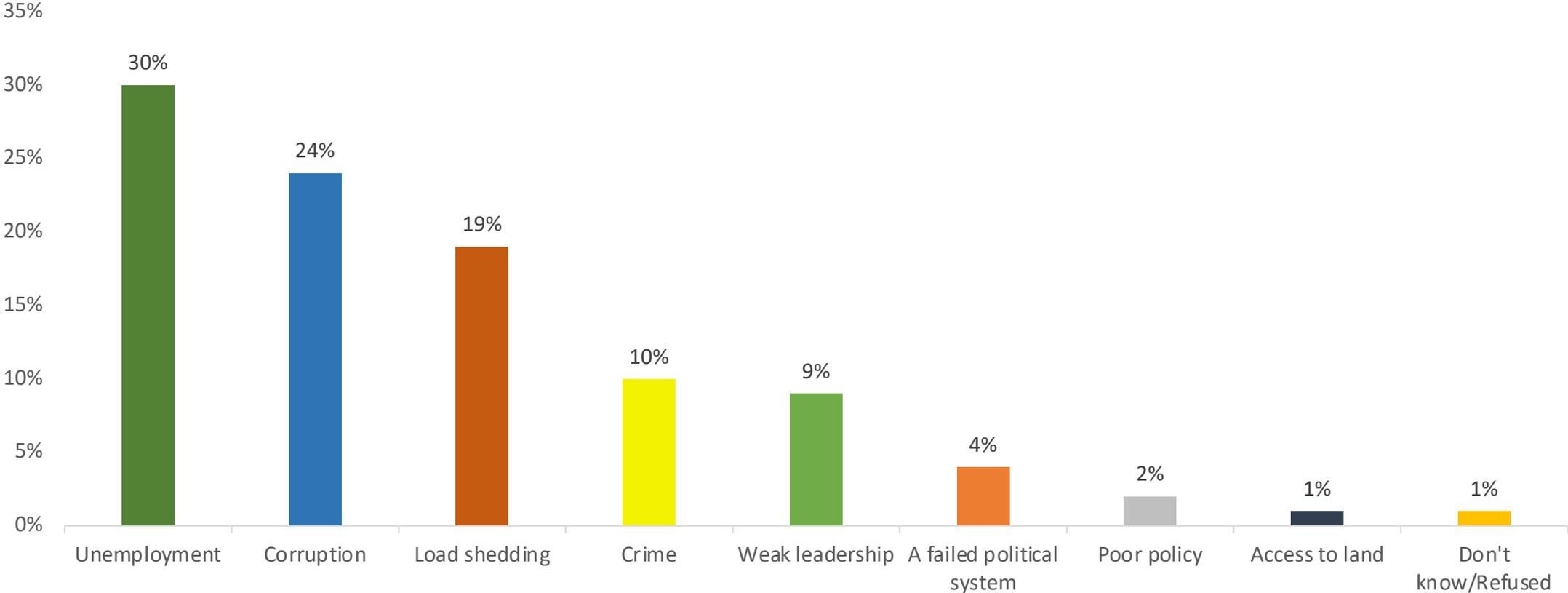


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83% of respondents cite unemployment, corruption, load shedding and crime as the top issues



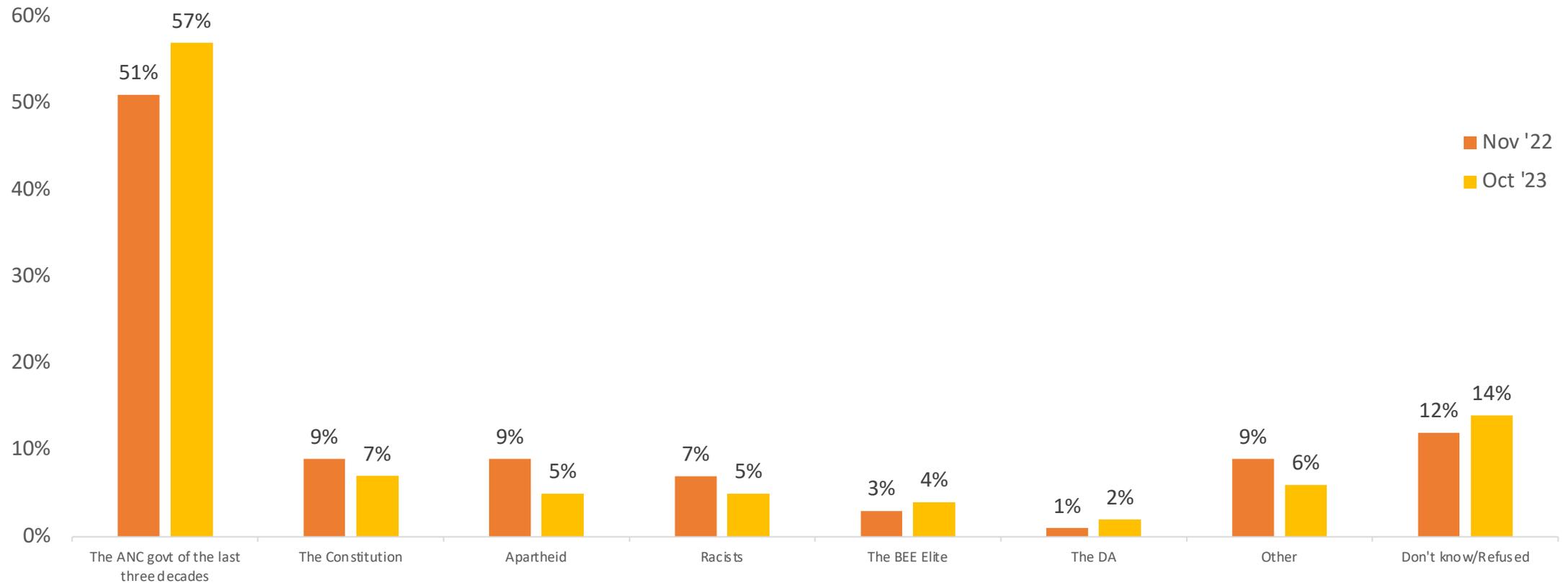
What do you think is the biggest problem facing South Africa right now?



Most South Africans hold the ANC government of the past three decades responsible for their issues of concern



Who is principally responsible for these problems?



Favourabilities

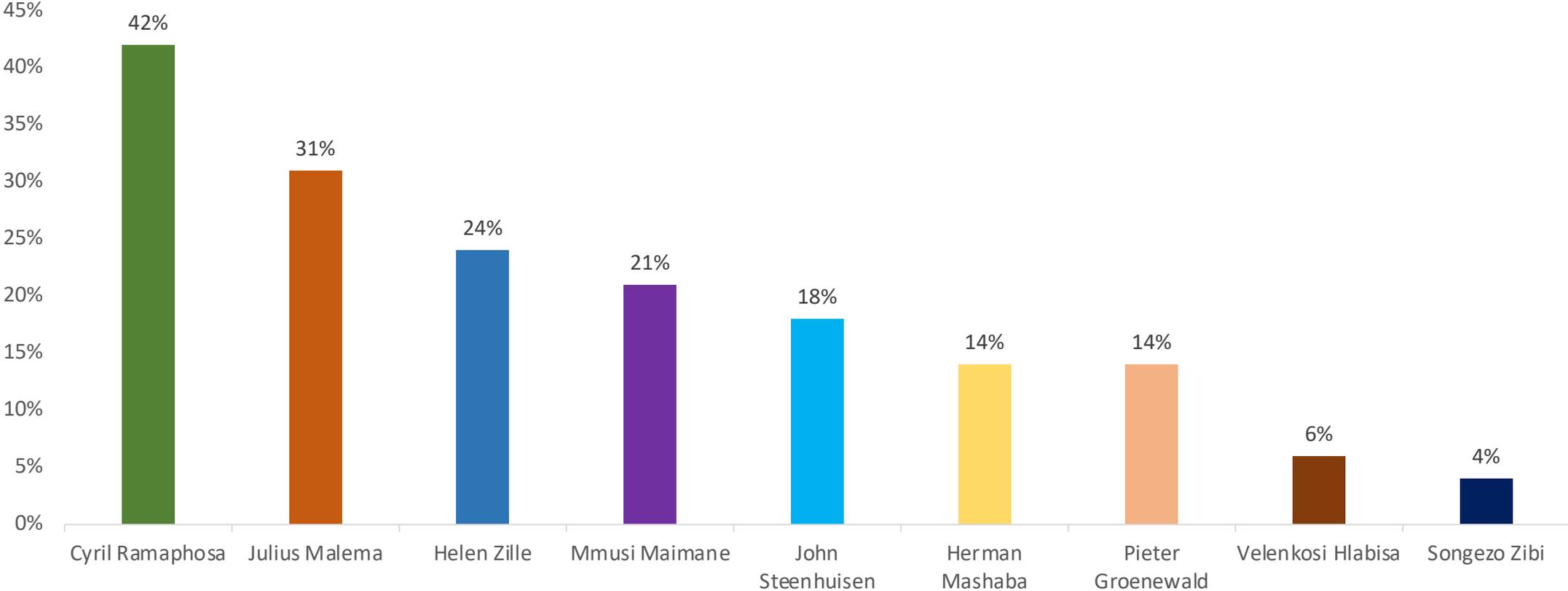


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Cyril Ramaphosa enjoys the highest positive favourability rating of politicians tested



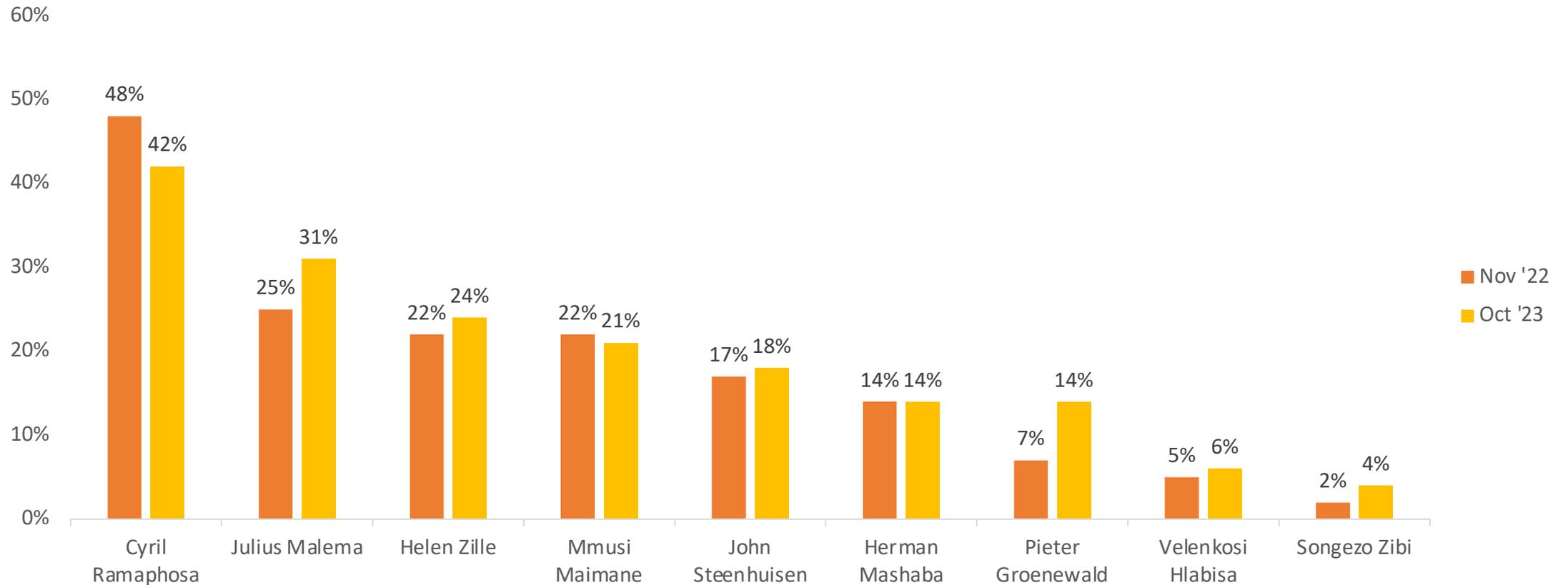
Strongly and somewhat favourable: Public figures



Cyril Ramaphosa's positive favourability has dropped 6 points since November last year while Julius Malema's has risen by 6 points



Strongly and somewhat favourable: Public figures

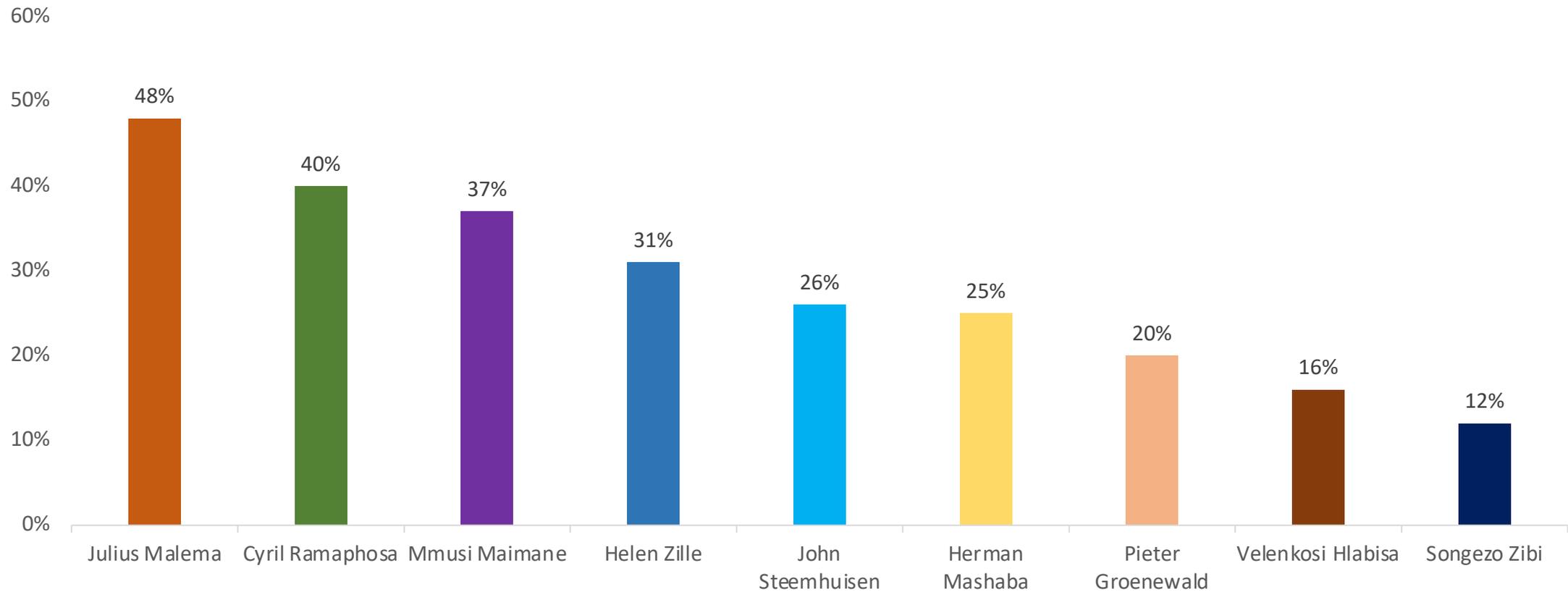


Julius Malema is viewed most unfavourably amongst politicians tested



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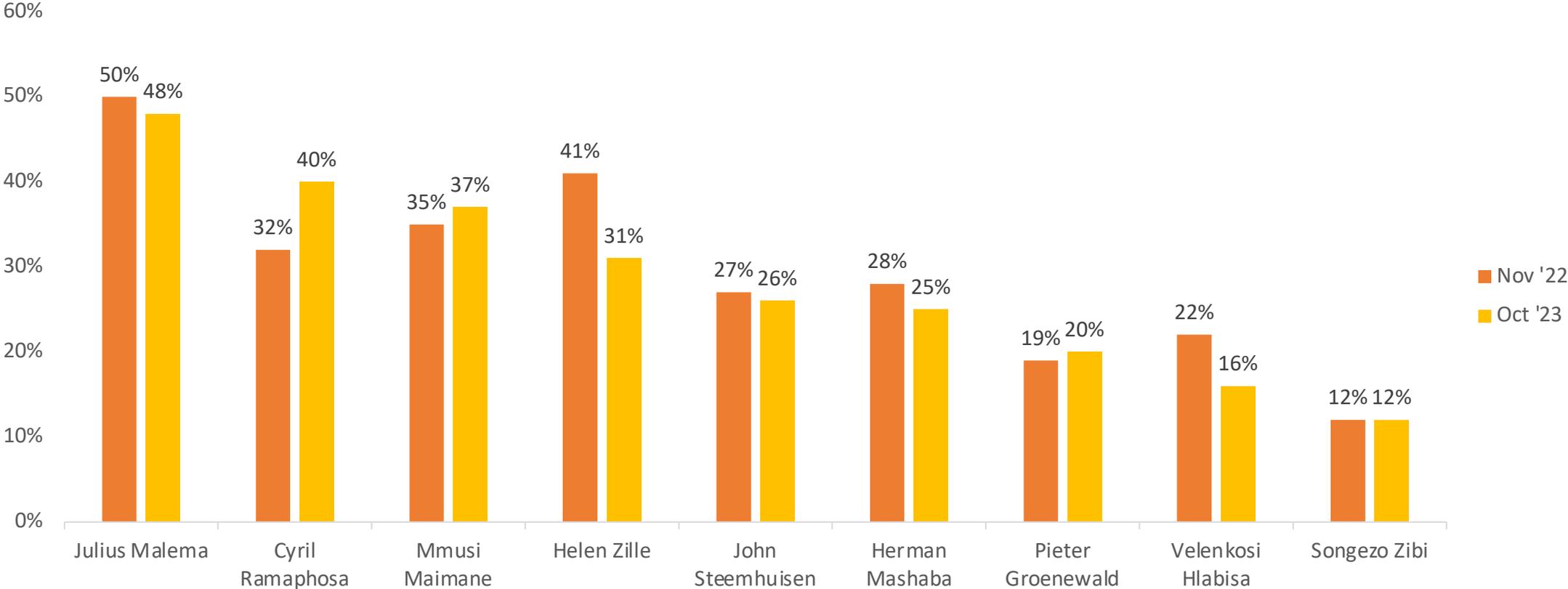
Strongly and somewhat unfavourable: Public figures



Cyril Ramaphosa's negative favourability has risen 8 points since November last year, while that of Helen Zille, VF Hlabisa and John Steenhuisen has fallen



Strongly and somewhat unfavourable: Public figures

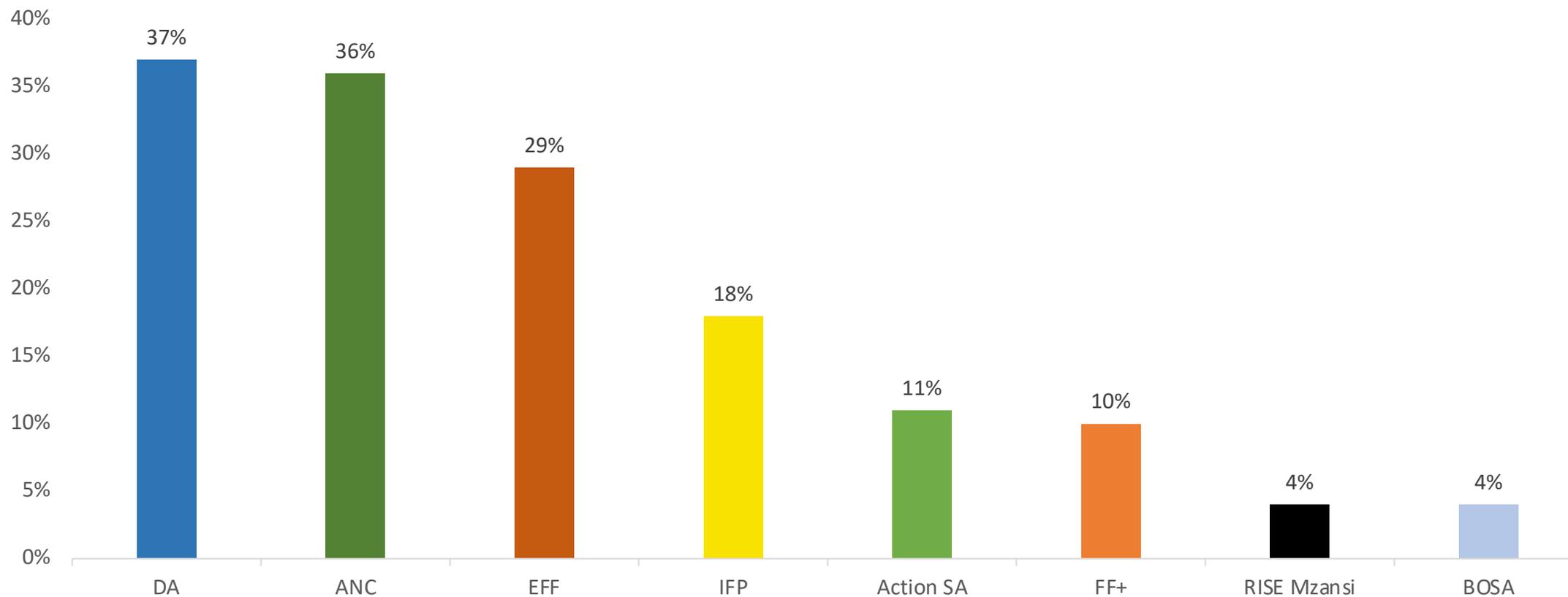


The DA (37%) is now viewed more favourably than than ANC (36%)



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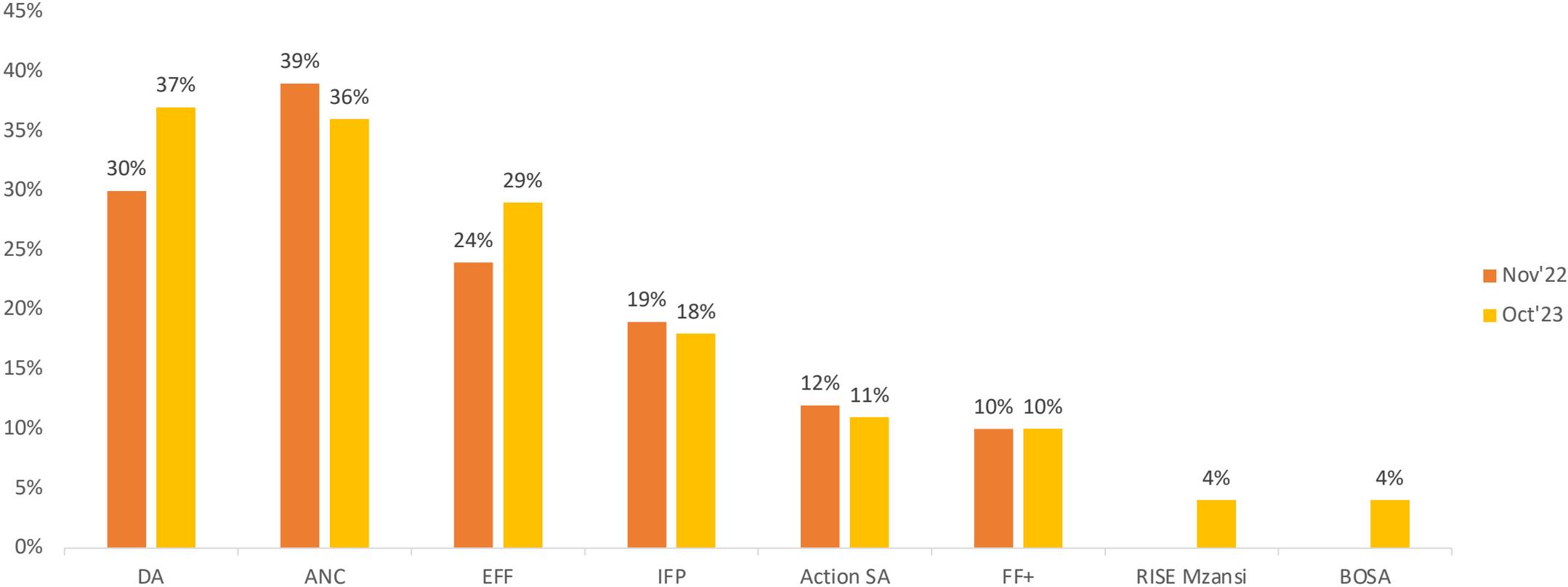
Strongly and somewhat favourable: Political parties



The DA's positive favourability has increased by 7 points since November last year, while the ANC's has decreased by 3 points



Strongly and somewhat favourable: Political parties

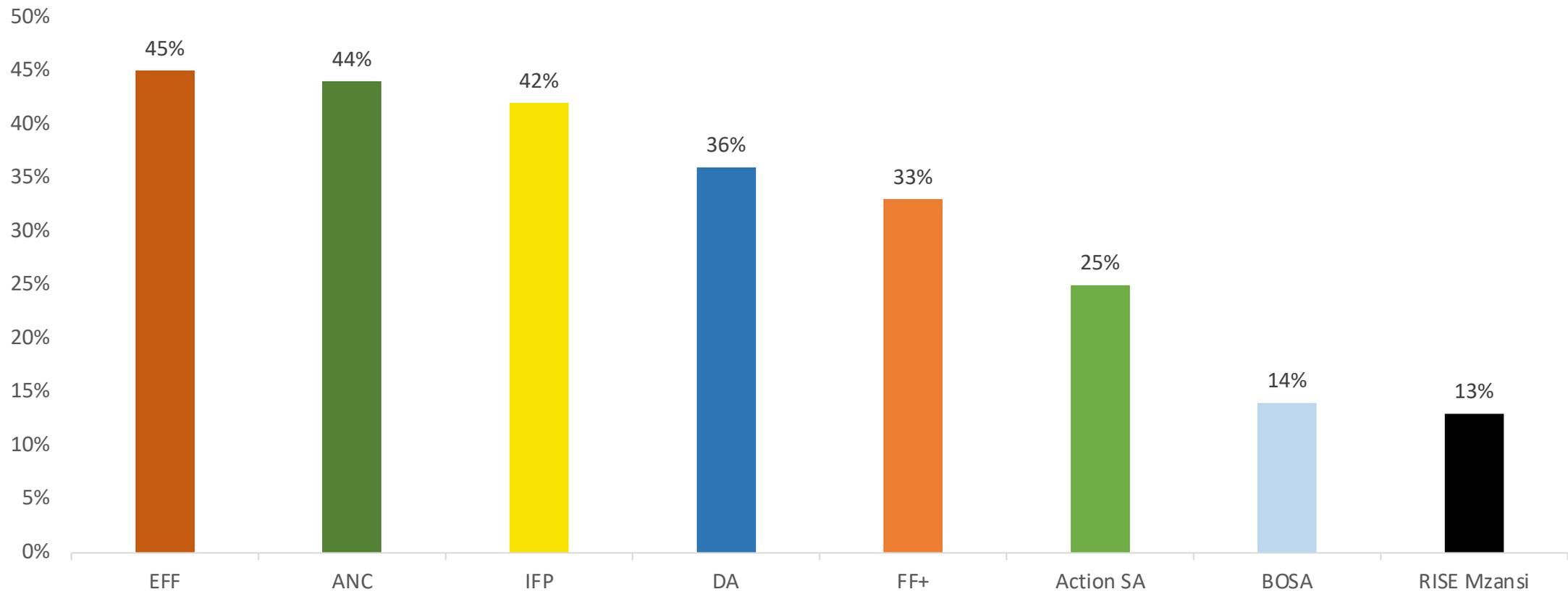


The EFF is the most unfavourable political party amongst those that were tested



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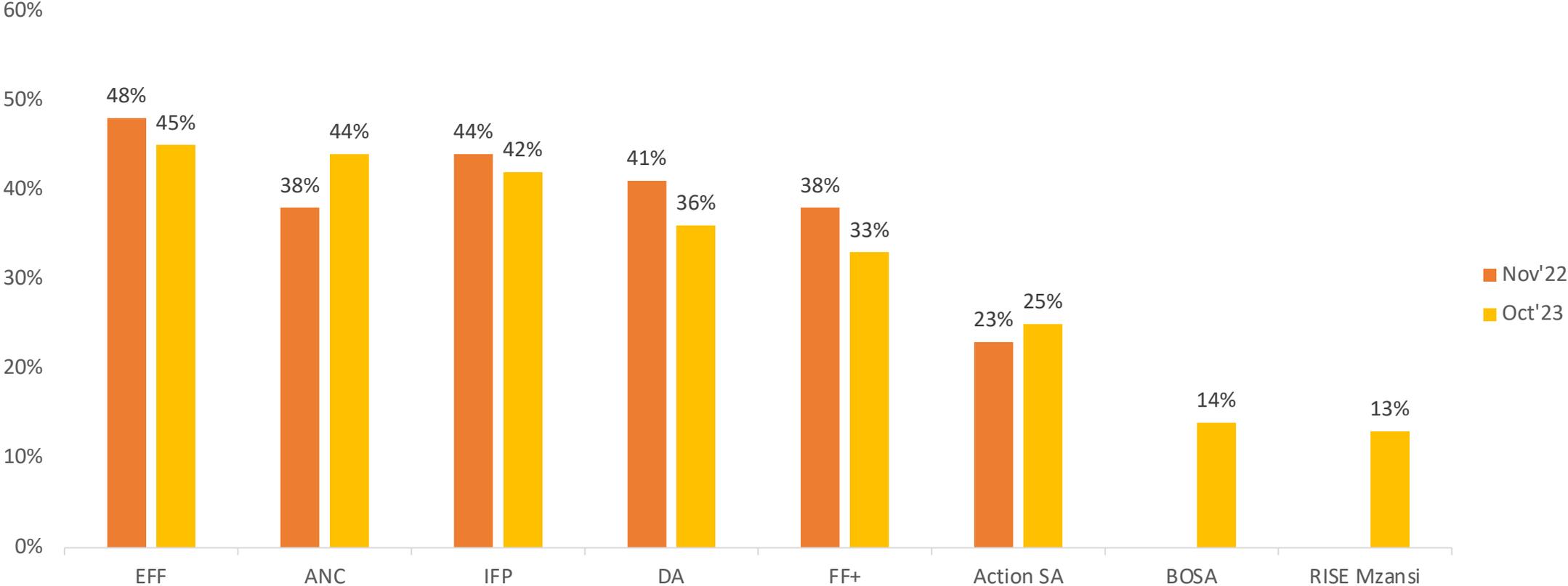
Strongly and somewhat unfavourable: Political parties



The ANC's negative favourability has increased by 6 points since November last year while the DA's has improved by 5 points



Strongly and somewhat unfavourable: Political parties



Coalitions



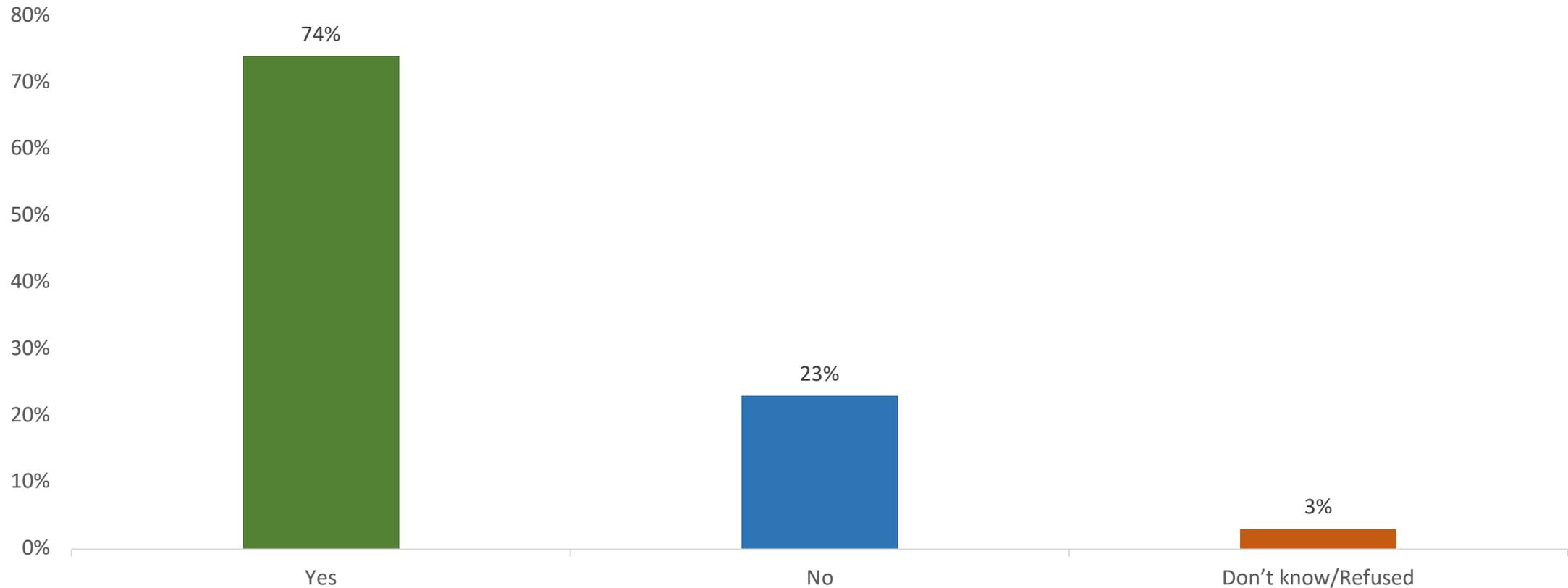
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Three-quarters of respondents would be happy to see a coalition govern South Africa



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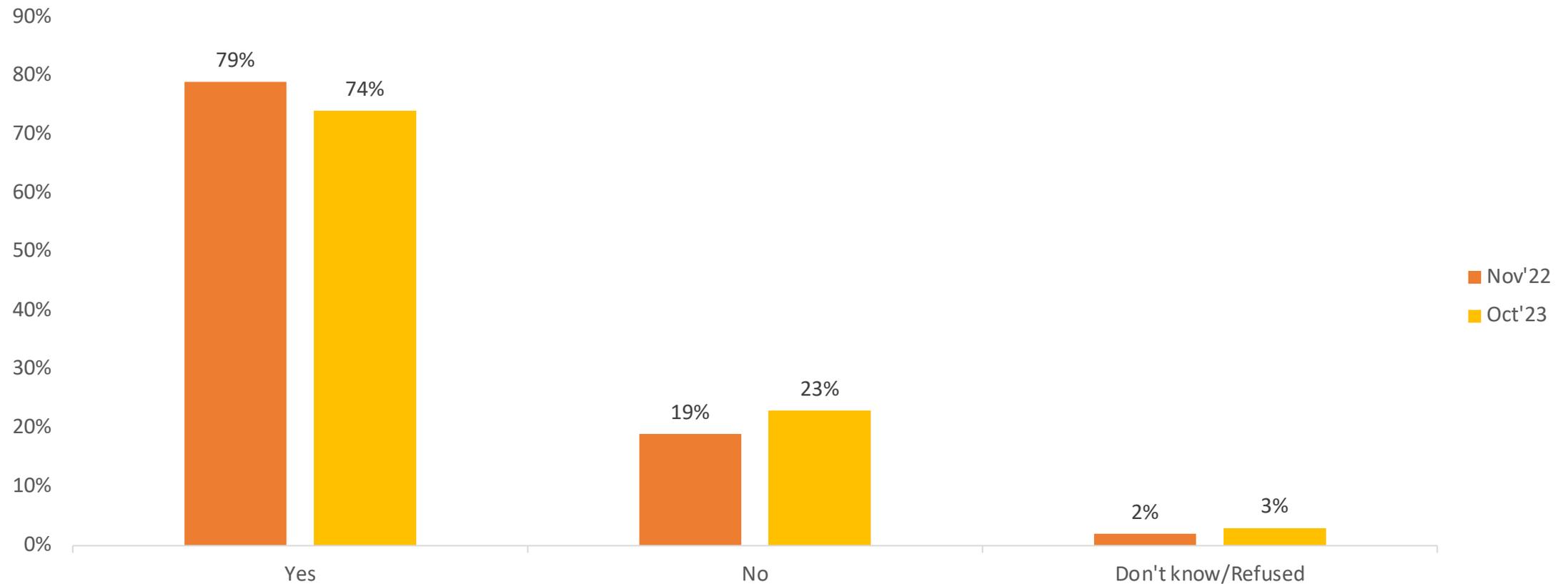
Would you be happy to see a coalition of parties govern South Africa?



The idea of a coalition governing South Africa is less favourable than it was last year



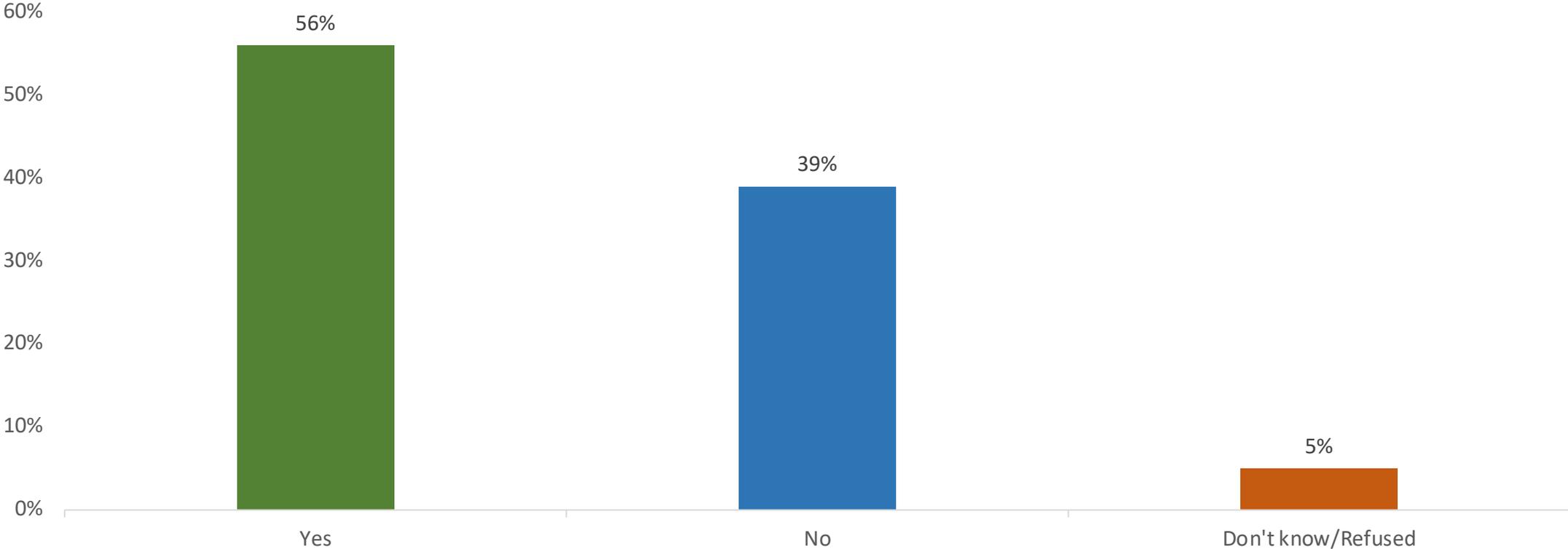
Would you be happy to see a coalition of parties govern South Africa?



Most respondents believe a broad coalition could effectively govern the country



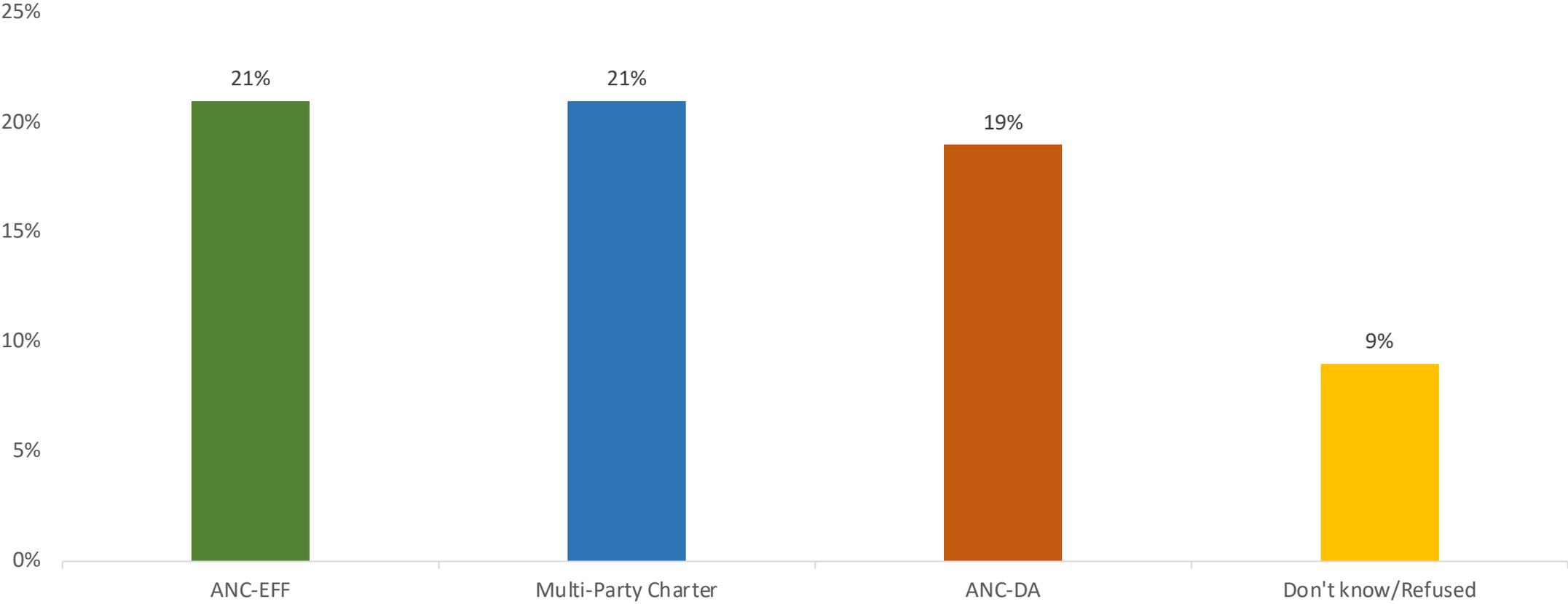
Do you think a broad coalition involving lots of different parties can effectively govern South Africa?



Respondents in favour of a coalition are divided over which formation of coalition they would prefer



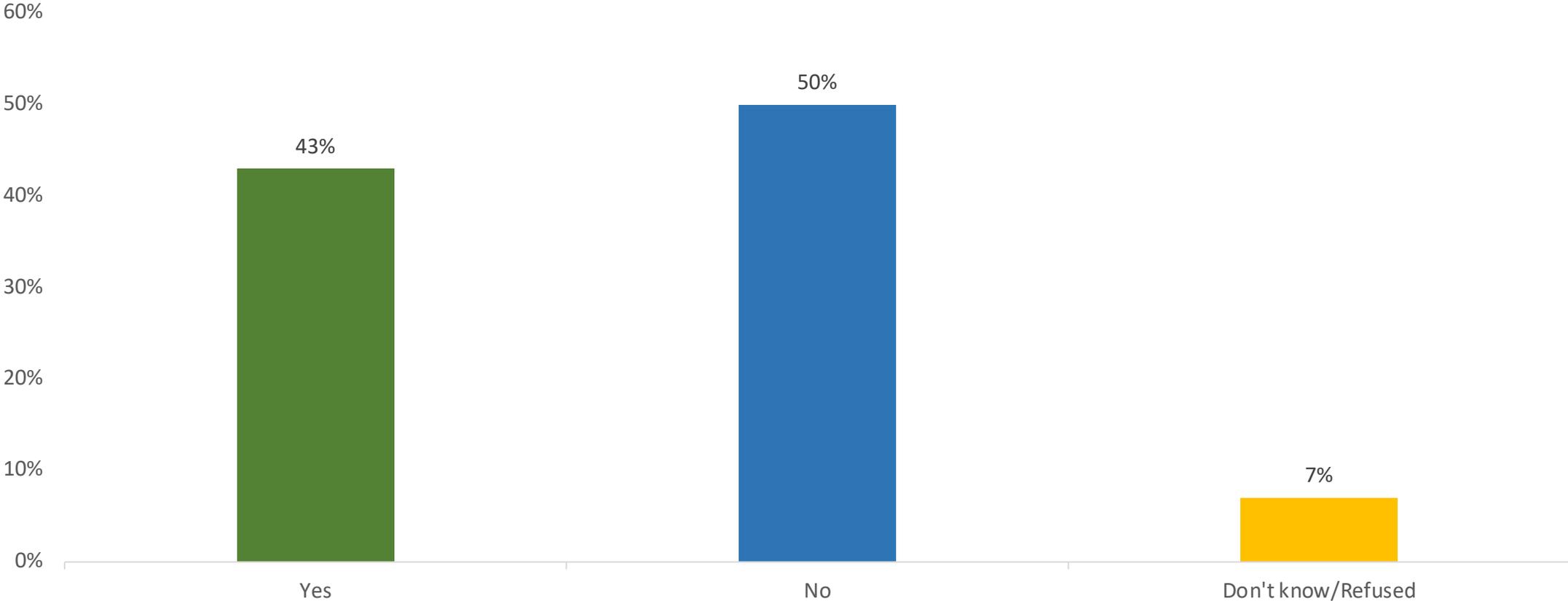
Which coalition would you prefer to govern the country?



50% believe parties that hold fundamentally different principles cannot run government



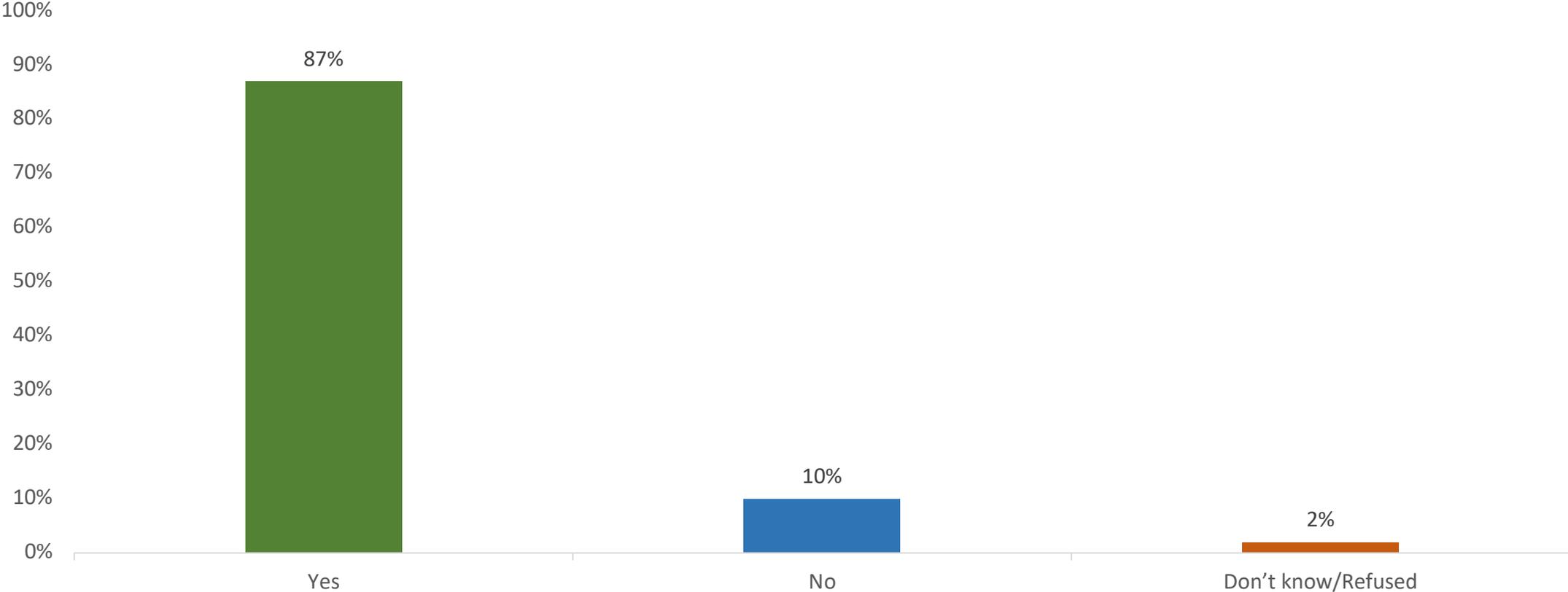
Can parties that believe in fundamentally different principles run government?



87% of respondents believe you should vote for what you want, rather than against what you do not



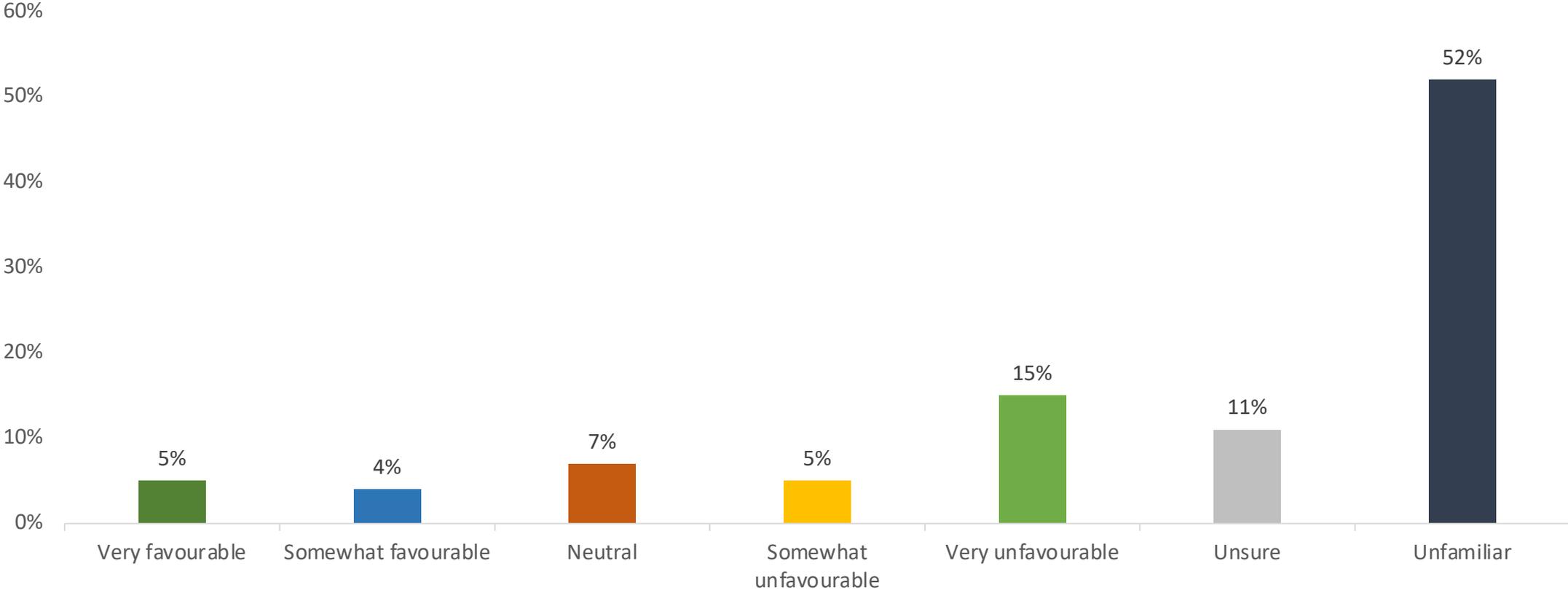
Is it more important to vote for what you want, rather than against what you do not?



Half of South Africa is familiar with the Multi-Party Charter



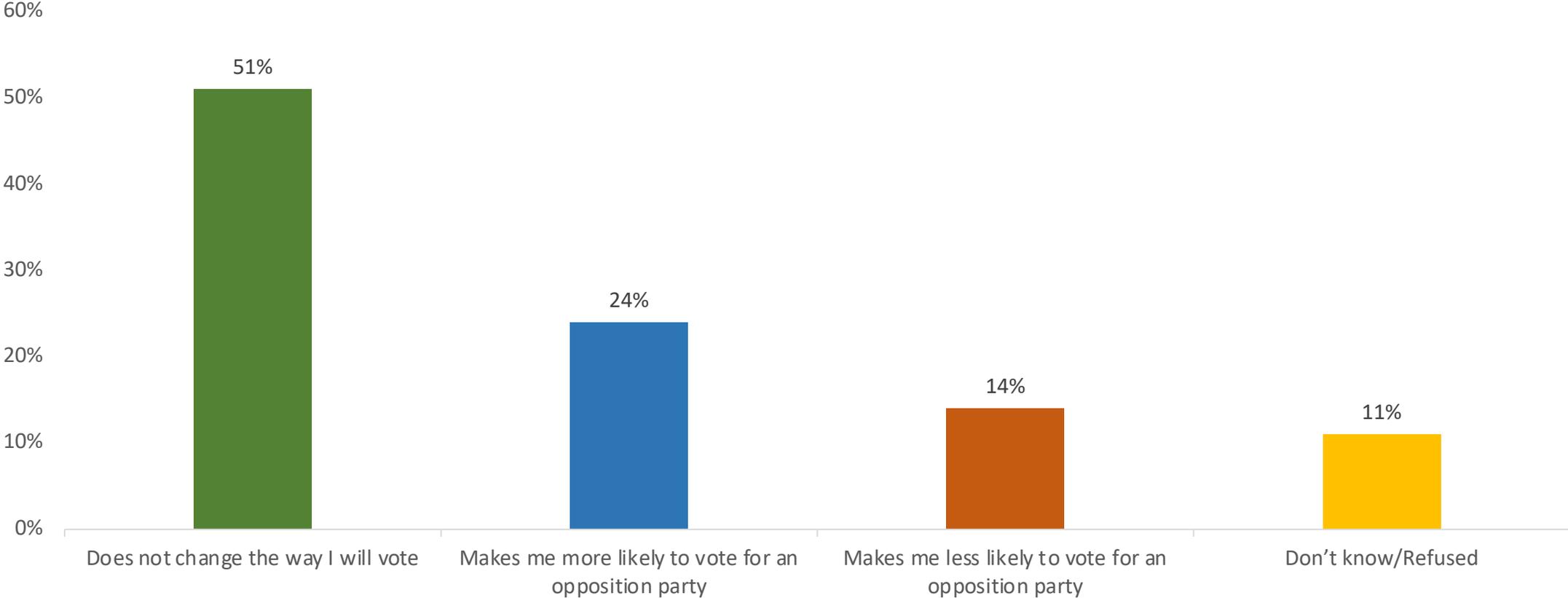
How do you feel about the Multi-Party Charter?



Close to a quarter of South Africans are more likely to vote for an opposition party following the MPC launch



The launch of the Multi-Party Charter

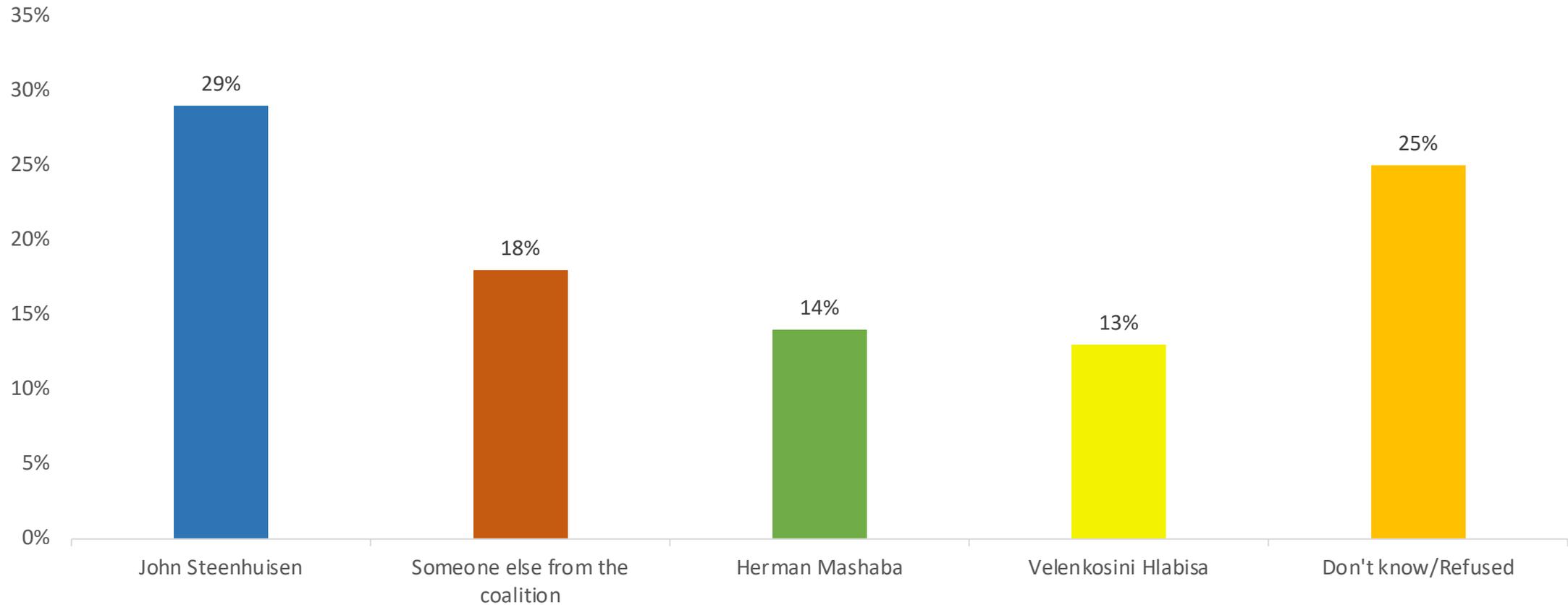


John Steenhuisen is the preferred candidate amongst respondents to run the Multi-Party Charter



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Who should lead the Multi-Party Charter and be its presidential candidate?



The BRICS

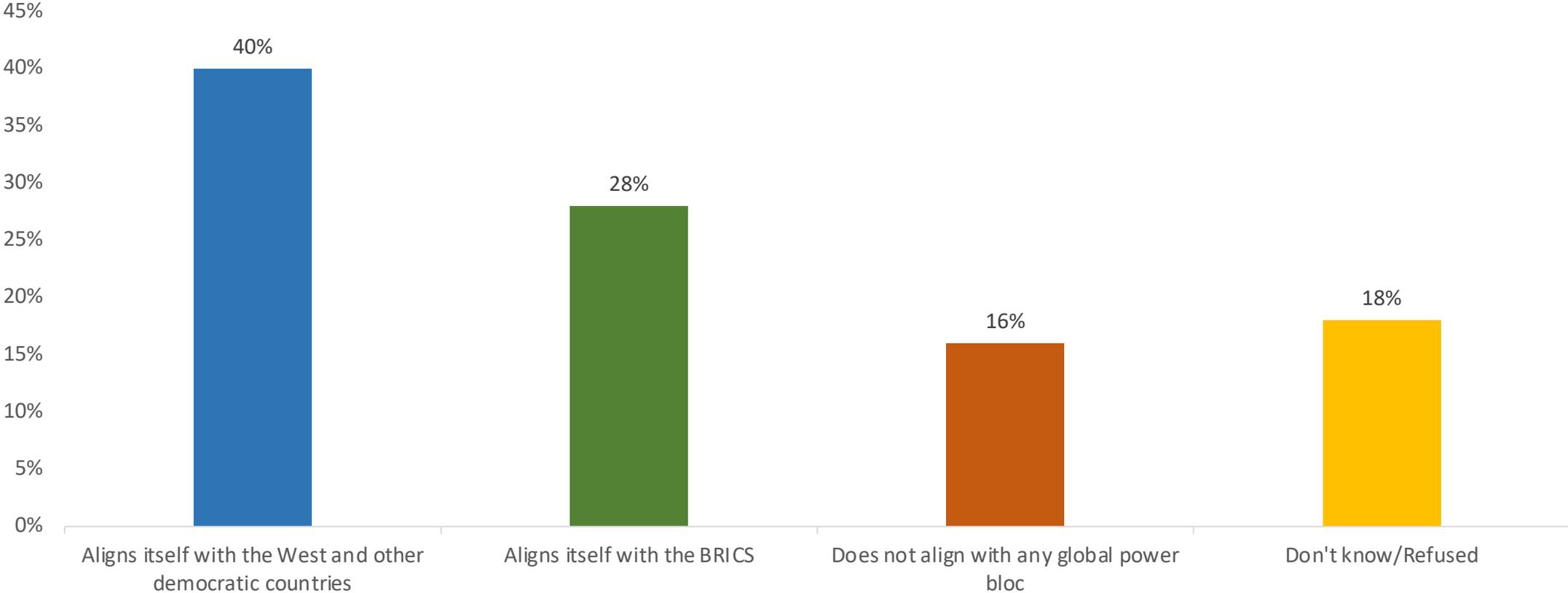


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More respondents favour aligning with democracies and the West than to the BRICS



South Africa's economy will do best if it



Summary of key findings



- If an election were to be held tomorrow, the ANC would not achieve an outright majority.
- The ANC has dropped 7 points since November 2022, from 48% to 41%.
- Parties of the Multi-Party Charter have a combined total support of 36% and are ahead in KZN, the Western Cape and Gauteng.
- The vast majority of respondents (74%) would be happy to see a coalition of parties govern South Africa.
- President Cyril Ramaphosa's favourability rating has fallen since November 2022, from 48% to 42%.
- The EFF has gained support from 11% in November 2022 to 17% today.
- Most respondents hold the ANC government of the past three decades responsible for South Africa's problems.
- Close to a quarter of South Africans (24%) are more likely to vote for an opposition party following the Multi-Party Charter launch.
- More respondents favour aligning to democracies and the West (40%) than to the BRICS (28%).

Analysis of key findings



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- A coalition government is more likely than 12 months ago, with ANC support dropping from 48% to 41%.
- The ANC faces serious political competition with the formation of the Multi-Party Charter (MPC), an alliance of opposition parties that includes the DA, IFP, Action SA and FF+, with a five point difference between the combined vote of the MPC and the ANC.
- Although the MPC had been in existence for less than two months at the time of this survey, half of respondents recognised its brand. A quarter of respondents said they were more likely to vote for an opposition party following the launch of the MPC. This suggests there may be significant voter support upside in greater name recognition for the MPC and greater clarity on its policy focus and narrative.
- South Africans still prefer association with the West and other democracies over the BRICS, calling South Africa's foreign policy investment in the BRICS into question.
- Rising support for the EFF and declining support for the ANC portends a greater possibility of an EFF-ANC coalition, raising questions for the moderate centre about its political options.