



SOUTH AFRICA



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

ELECTION INDICATORS REPORT

2021

NORTH WEST



Report Prepared for

**Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC)
National Office**

Election House, Riverside Office Park,
1303 Heuwel Avenue, Centurion

By

Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)

Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES)
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This report is the first in a developed ‘Elections Indicators Report’ series, which is the culmination of a five-year project that builds on the longstanding research partnership between the Commission and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC)



Simon Mamabolo
Chief Electoral Officer
Electoral Commission of South Africa

The Electoral Commission conducts research and supports researchers in the area of electoral democracy and politics. The research products or reports influence the planning and electoral projects continuously. It is therefore that from time to time, we all have a duty to pause and reflect on our work with a view to enhancing what we are doing well and changing course wherever we need to. To this effect, the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) has published an important tool to enable such reflection: The Elections Indicators Report. We believe this report will contribute to the necessary, collective effort of all in our country to deepen and grow our electoral democracy.

This report is the first in a developed ‘Elections Indicators Report’ series, which is the culmination of a five-year project that builds on the longstanding research partnership between the Commission and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). The Commission prides itself on being an evidence-based election management body that places a strong emphasis on high-quality research to inform its operational planning. This new series is a reflection of this commitment.

The project focuses on obtaining an understanding of the views, preferences, evaluative and behavioural

predispositions of the South African voting public on election days, the young and the old: rural and urban with gender sensitivity and spread.

Apart from a national report, nine provincial reports have been prepared to better understand sub-national variation in trends and how these compare to the national picture. This report on North West contains key indicators which are important guidelines upon which the Commission will base its work in the fulfilment of its constitutional obligation to deliver quality, free and fair elections. The report is useful to political parties and election contestants to influence and direct their campaigns. The report is equally useful for researchers and opinion makers in the political environment.

The four main sources for this report, and for those that will follow in the series, are:

- ***The IEC Voter Participation Surveys.***
- ***The IEC Election Satisfaction Surveys.***
- ***The HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) series.***
- ***The IEC statistics on voter registration and electoral results.***

This first Elections Indicators Report is produced

soon after the publication of a global report by the Electoral Integrity Project on electoral democracy and electoral integrity, which strongly affirmed the work of the Electoral Commission. According to the Electoral Integrity Global Report 2019-2021 assessment, which provides an update on the quality of elections around the world, South Africa has the 2nd highest electoral integrity in Africa. Election management is regarded as one of the best ways in which electoral integrity can be advanced, and these findings are a powerful tribute to the quality of the work done by the Commission.

The Commission is greatly encouraged by the finding, contained in this Elections Indicators Report, that the Commission continues to be one of the most trusted institutions in South Africa. However, we remain concerned at the overall decline in levels of trust. We note that, when trust in other social and political institutions diminishes, confidence in the Electoral Commission is influenced by how people feel about the performance of those they have elected to political structures and who lead government. If satisfaction with political parties and government declines, institutional trust will follow the downward trend and faith in democratic elections will be undermined.

The Commission is pleased that the focus of the Elections Indicators Report goes beyond the dynamics of the election day. Importantly, it includes a range of measures from the pre-election period that provides a sense of the pre-electoral mood, to views and experiences of registration procedures, the campaign period, and the immediate aftermath following the election day.

South Africans love and are loyal to our country, with many stating that they would rather be citizens of South Africa than of any other nation in the world. What should concern all of us is that, despite this national pride, the number of citizens unhappy with the functioning of democracy exceeds those who are satisfied with our democracy. This dissatisfaction is driven by widespread discontent with government

performance. This is reflected particularly in the findings on the evaluations of the performance of local municipalities. The report shows that South Africans are generally unhappy with, among others, the services offered by municipalities.

It is concerning that many South Africans have concerns about the effectiveness of their vote. The Elections Indicators Report shows that in 2021 less than half of South Africans believe in the power of the vote and that the votes cast on election day makes a difference. Similarly, many South Africans voice concern about the degree to which elected representatives are responsive to their needs. However, 61% of South Africans believe in the duty to vote nationally, and this tendency remains common to most provinces. The Electoral Commission pledges to continue sustained efforts to encourage all eligible voters to join the 26.2-million who are registered on the voters roll.

While we continue to identify further opportunities for improvement, we are pleased to note that voters in this province found the registration process easy and that our voter education campaigns were effective. Voters also had good experiences at voting stations and were generally happy with the quality of services rendered by the Commission's officials. Almost all in the province expressed faith in the arrangements at voting stations to ensure the secrecy of their vote. The vast majority were also happy with the ballot paper used.

These are important foundations on which we will build and strive to improve.

This report contains vital information that is important, not only for the Electoral Commission, but for all in South Africa. Accordingly, the Commission invites South Africans to read the report and to use it, as we will, to guide our efforts to strengthen our democracy.

The Commission expresses its gratitude to the HRSC for an excellent body of work and to South Africans for participating in the surveys.

Simon Mamabolo

Chief Electoral Officer

Electoral Commission of South Africa

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report represents the first in a newly developed Election Indicators Report series, which is the culmination of a two-year data curation project. It builds on a longstanding research partnership between the Electoral Commission of South Africa and the Human Sciences Research Council, focusing on understanding the views, preferences, evaluative and behavioural predispositions of the South African adult public as well as the voting public on Election Days.

This study and report were prepared by a Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) team led by Benjamin Roberts, Jarè Struwig and Steven L. Gordon, and also comprising Ngqapheli Mchunu, Samela Mtyingizane, Thobeka Zondi, Kombi Sausi and Mercy Ngungu.

The work was carried out under the general direction of Narnia Bohler-Muller, the Divisional Executive of the HSRC's Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) Research Programme.

The team would like to acknowledge the generous support of the managing team at the Electoral Commission of South Africa. Special mention needs to be made of Shameme Manjoo and her successor, Moagisi Sibanda, as well as Dr Thabo Rapoo for their guidance, advice, support and input throughout the study. Electoral Commissioner, Dr Nomsa Masuku, is also to be thanked for her insight. The comments received from various members of the Commission's executive leadership at different stages of the research process are also gratefully acknowledged, in particular Mr Mawethu Mosery.

We would like to express our profound appreciation to the thousands of South Africans who have generously given their time to participate in the Voter Participation Survey and Election Satisfaction Survey series since the late 1990s. The opinions, preferences and experiences that were shared with our interviewing teams has made, and continues to make, and invaluable contribution to electoral planning and management in the country, as well as our understanding of the Electorate and how it is changing over time. The HSRC's provincial supervisors and data collectors were instrumental in ensuring that high quality information was collected.

A debt of gratitude is also due to the HSRC's administrative team, consisting of Busisiwe Mamba, Koshen Govender, Deshanie Reddy and Tanya Shanker, as well as to Keneilwe Dikobe of the Commission, for all their assistance.

Dr Benjamin Roberts and Jarè Struwig
South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) Coordinators
Human Sciences Research Council



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PART

A

**ASSESSING
ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN
SOUTH AFRICA**

1. ASSESSING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN SOUTH AFRICA

1.1 Introducing the report series

Elections in South Africa follow a five-year cycle, with national/provincial elections held together and municipal/local government elections held two years later. The Electoral Commission of South Africa has been involved in all South African elections and has successfully managed six national/provincial elections (1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019) and six municipal/local government elections (1995, 2000, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021). According to the South African Constitution (Act 108 of 1996) and the Electoral Commission Act (1996), the central roles of the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) are to strengthen constitutional democracy and promote democratic electoral processes in the country. An important element of this mandate is to encourage voter participation. To this end, the Commission places great focus on increasing voter registration and turnout by investing in civic education and outreach programmes to encourage citizens to register and ultimately vote.

Since the late 1990s, the Electoral Commission of South Africa has partnered with the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC), a statutory research institute, to undertake a programme of electoral research. This focuses on generating survey-based as well as qualitative insight to inform operational planning and outreach. In order to better understand the Electorate and maximise the reach and impact of outreach efforts, the Electoral Commission follows a specific framework of survey-based research on electoral matters. This framework of surveying includes a pre-election survey, the Voter Participation Survey (VPS), and an Election Day survey, the Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS). Both surveys are nationally representative series which have been conducted in a similar format for national and provincial, as well as municipal elections for more than a decade. Additional *ad hoc* research studies have been conducted, focusing on internal surveying of electoral staff on issues such as gender mainstreaming and the institutional vision, as well as research into ballot paper design, usability and spoiling.

This partnership between the Electoral Commission and the HSRC has generated datasets that relate to

the socio-political dynamics of voter turnout, voter behaviour and voter participation in South Africa. A challenge associated with these longitudinal projects is that voluminous amounts of data are generated, but are often treated as stand-alone projects and not merged to form longitudinal data series that can be used to readily identify trends and emerging patterns, as well as benchmark performance. Another challenge pertains to the risk that the technology used to analyse, manage and store data is at high risk of becoming obsolete over time, rendering existing data unusable.

In order to address these challenges, the Electoral Commission contracted the HSRC to undertake a project entitled: *Trends in Voter Participation and Election Satisfaction in South Africa: Curating, Mining and Analysing Successive Electoral Commission Surveys conducted by the HSRC*. The project entailed locating data from previous rounds of the Voter Participation Survey and Election Satisfaction Survey and analysing them in order to provide a longitudinal perspective of changing electoral attitudes, experiences and behaviour, as well as democratic values in South Africa. A secondary objective of this project is to embark on a data curation exercise in order to preserve the Electoral Commission datasets for future use. This will ensure that these datasets do not become obsolete and will also enable the Commission to grant data access to external researchers or stakeholders.

This report is the output of the first objective and the result of the tracing, combining and mining of Voter Participation Surveys (VPS) as well as Election Satisfaction Surveys (ESS) and analysing the combined datasets in order to give a longitudinal perspective of changing democratic values and behaviour in South Africa. Select indicators are presented in this volume, which represent the first in a planned statistical publication series on electoral indicators. Our hope is to produce a series that will serve as a key reference for those interested in gaining insight into emerging trends on key aspects of electoral performance and voter predispositions.

1.2 Conceptual framework

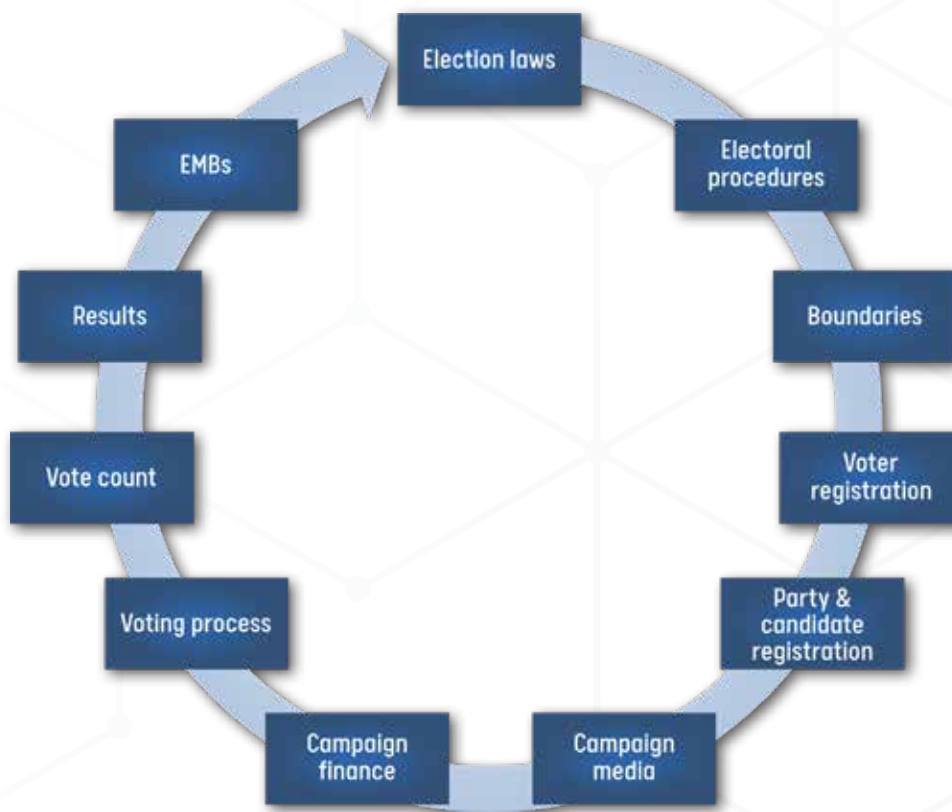
In planning this report series, we drew on three strands of the conceptual literature relating to models of political support, electoral integrity and election management. We briefly outline some of the ideas and components of these models, particularly those that had an influence on the decisions regarding the structure, content and scope of what ultimately appears in the reports.

Electoral integrity

The last decade has witnessed a rapid growth in interest in the concept of ‘electoral integrity’ and an associated demand for policy-relevant research, evaluating different election management structures

and processes – with the aim of measuring and assessing the quality of elections over time (Norris et al., 2013). This priority has emanated, in part, from a range of challenges facing ongoing efforts to deepen and consolidate liberal democracies around the world. This includes claims of democratic ‘deficits’, ‘recession’ and ‘reversals’, a rise in authoritarian populism, instances of electoral malpractice, and declining patterns of electoral participation (LeDuc et al., 2002; Plattner, 2015; Diamond, 2015, 2020; Levitsky & Way, 2015; Foa & Mounk, 2016). This agenda is founded on a recognition that elections serve as the lifeblood of liberal democracy, by promoting policy debate, electing representatives, and determining the composition of legislatures.

Figure 1: The electoral cycle used to guide the Electoral Integrity Project’s Perceptions of Electoral Integrity (PEI) research



Source: Electoral Integrity Project, Perceptions of Electoral Integrity (PEI) (Norris et al. 2014)

Electoral integrity can be understood in different ways. Some have tended to conceptualise it negatively by focusing on problems experienced in specific electoral contests, such as manipulation, fraud and malpractice (Schedler, 2002, 2013; Birch, 2010, 2011). Other accounts have adopted a positive approach to understanding integrity by concentrating more on whether elections are free and fair, credible,

competitive and democratic in character (Elklit & Reynolds, 2005; Munck, 2009; Norris, 2017). The Electoral Integrity Project (EIP, established 2012)¹ has argued for a definitional approach that draws on a positive, human rights framing of electoral integrity, which may be understood as the degree to which any given election meets “international conventions and global norms governing the appropriate conduct

¹ More details on the EIP can be found at: <https://www.electoralintegrityproject.com>

of elections, applying universally to all countries worldwide throughout the electoral cycle” (Norris, 2013: 564; 2014, 2017, 2019). Accordingly, election integrity is achieved when electoral procedures meet established norms and standards at each of the different stages in the full election cycle. The latter covers the pre-election period, the campaigning phase, the election day itself, as well as the immediate post-election period.

It is this positive perspective and broader periodisation of the electoral cycle that are of significance for the present report series. The examination of election-related indicators in the South African case extends beyond measures that exclusively focus on the dynamics of election day itself. We also include a range of measures on the pre-election period in particular, to provide a sense of the pre-electoral mood, views and experiences of registration procedures, the campaign period, and the immediate aftermath of the election.

Election management and popular confidence in the electoral process

Measuring and monitoring levels of public confidence in electoral processes are central to determining the integrity of elections. The legitimacy of the electoral process is widely considered as essential for the establishment, sustainability and consolidation of well-functioning democracies (Goodwin-Gill, 1998; Elklit & Reynolds, 2005). Research has suggested that in country contexts where the bonds of trust have eroded and citizens express doubt that elections are free and fair, the consequence may be diminishing turnout levels among voters and even public protest action as an extreme response to such discontent (Bratton & van de Walle, 1997; Elklit & Reynolds, 2002; Schedler, 2006; Birch, 2008).

This leads us to the salient institutional role of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) in administering elections and promoting voter education (Maphunye, 2019). The quality of elections and the way they are delivered by EMBs are thought to influence confidence in the electoral process and, by extension, processes of democratic consolidation (James et al., 2019). From an organisational perspective, election management is regarded as one of the ways in which electoral integrity can be advanced. This is based on an understanding that the institutional design features of an EMB will indelibly shape electoral performance and outcomes (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Envisaged causal linkages between EMB design, performance and outcomes



Source: James et al. (2019), p.302

Before the turn of the century, many well-established survey infrastructures did not include indicators examining perceptions of the legitimacy and procedural fairness of elections. This has begun to change, with many comparative and national surveys starting to routinely include at least some measures to gauge popular legitimacy. In the South African case, the Electoral Commission has since its inception been concerned about the public voice and evaluations of different aspects of electoral administration. The indicators presented in the report draw from Commissioned survey research by the EMB, and touch on various aspects of public confidence in electoral

processes and assessments of preparations and performance in relation to elections in the country. While measurement tools have been developed in recent years that draw on expert opinion on electoral design, readiness and outcomes, some in conjunction with public opinion research, the focus of our report series is on the voices of the adult public and voters, more specifically on election day assessments. This does not preclude these views being compared at a later stage with expert opinion using common indicators, but for the present we limit ourselves to better understanding popular confidence in electoral processes.

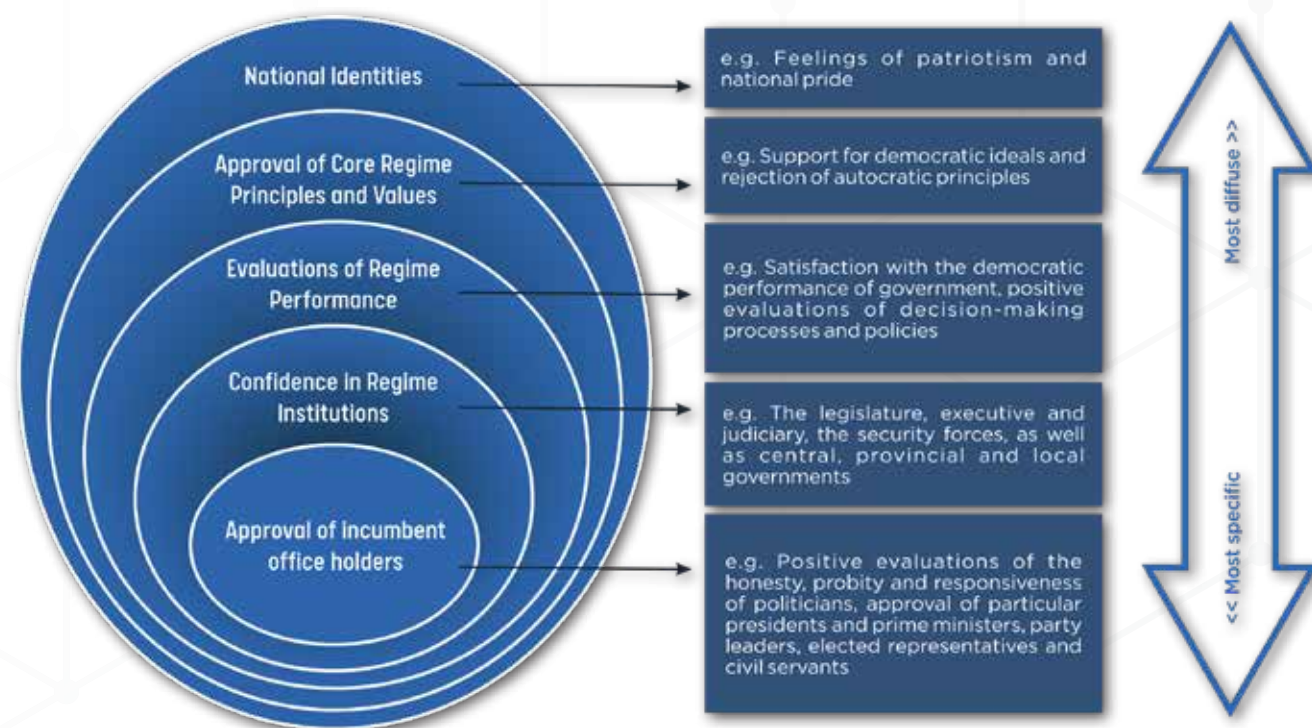
Political support

To adequately capture political system support and general regime approval among the public, we make use of a conceptual framework developed by Norris (2011) that draws primarily on the work of David Easton (1975). Accordingly, indicators of political support are clustered into a multi-dimensional framework consisting of five components, ranging from the most generalised to the most specific. These components are: (i) national identities; (ii) approval of regime principles and values; (iii) evaluations of regime performance; (iv) confidence in regime institutions; and (v) approval of incumbent office-holders. Figure 3 depicts how these components are structured, moving from the most diffuse towards the most specific.

The first component identified by Norris, namely national identities, represents the most general set of attitudes towards belonging or attachment to the state. Common survey-based measures

and indicators for this dimension include national pride, patriotism and feelings of national identity. The second dimension of support - approval of regime principles and values - addresses support for fundamental democratic principles and values. The third dimension is evaluations of regime performance and is conceived as the views of citizens towards the democratic performance of the government, as well as assessments of decision-making processes, policies and policy outcomes. Fourthly, confidence in regime institutions refers to trust in public sector institutions. Norris (2011) views the following as public institutions: the government legislature, the executive, the judiciary and courts, the security forces, the different tiers of government (national, provincial, local) and the civil service, in addition to political parties. The press and trade unions can also be included here. The last level of support is the approval of incumbent office-holders, which entails public attitudes towards the president, ministers, party leaders and elected representatives.

Figure 3: Conceptual overview of indicators of political system support



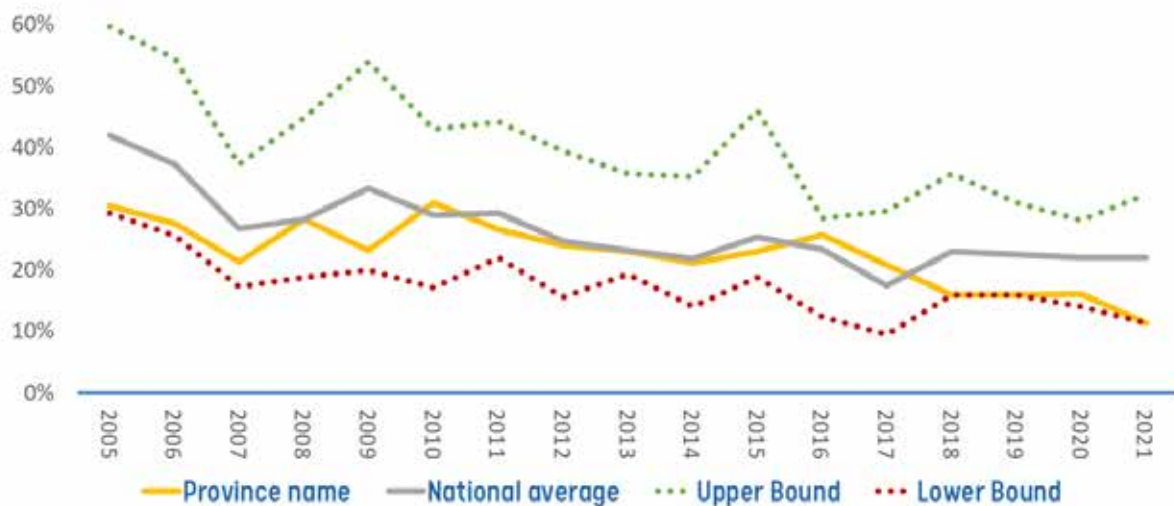
Source: Norris (2011:24) Democratic Deficit: Critical Citizens Revisited

1.3 Guide to indicators and their interpretation

The set of electoral indicators that presented in this report have been presented using a particular visual format that requires a brief explanation.

Trends in province of focus compared to national trends

In the example graph below, the trend line corresponding to the province of focus in the report is highlighted in a bold yellow colour. For comparative purposes, the national average on the indicator is presented in a dark grey colour. This is important for determining whether the province fares better or worse in any given survey year than the average for the country. This allows for quick inferences to be drawn on provincial performance in this specific area of evaluation.



Determining performance in province of focus relative to other provinces

Displaying the trends of each of the nine provinces as well as the national average over multiple survey years on a single graph would be impractical, since many of the lines would intersect, making it difficult to interpret. However, it is crucially important that we understand how the province of focus fares relative to other provinces, as well as the relative spread in provincial responses to the indicator in question. As such, we have inserted two additional lines in the graph, as follows:

- **Upper bound:** This is the highest provincial value on the measure in the specified survey year. Due to fluctuations in public evaluations, it should be noted that the highest value in each year will not necessarily correspond to the same province over time.
- **Lower bound:** This is the lowest provincial value on the measure in the specified survey year. Again, it is important to note that the lowest value in each year will not necessarily correspond

to the same province over time, due to variations in assessment among the public over time.

Table of statistics

For those wanting the exact numbers associated with each data point in the graph, we have provided a table of statistics. This displays the provincial average, the national average, and the upper and lower bound figures. In addition, the province's rank position in each survey year is provided, with one indicating that the province has the highest value of all nine provinces, and nine the lowest relative value.

Data sources

Four principal sources have been used: the IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) series, which is representative of citizens aged 16 years and older; the IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) series, which is a representative sample of the voting public on Election Day; the HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS) series, which is representative of the adult public older than 15 years; and official IEC statistics on registration and electoral results.



PART

B

**PRE-ELECTION
PHASE**

2. PRE-ELECTION PHASE

2.1 Support for the political system

2.1.1 National Pride

GOAL

To determine the general sense of belonging or attachment to the nation-state. This relates to general bonds of political support, as expressed through feelings of national pride. It underpins the priority of promoting social cohesion and national identity in the country

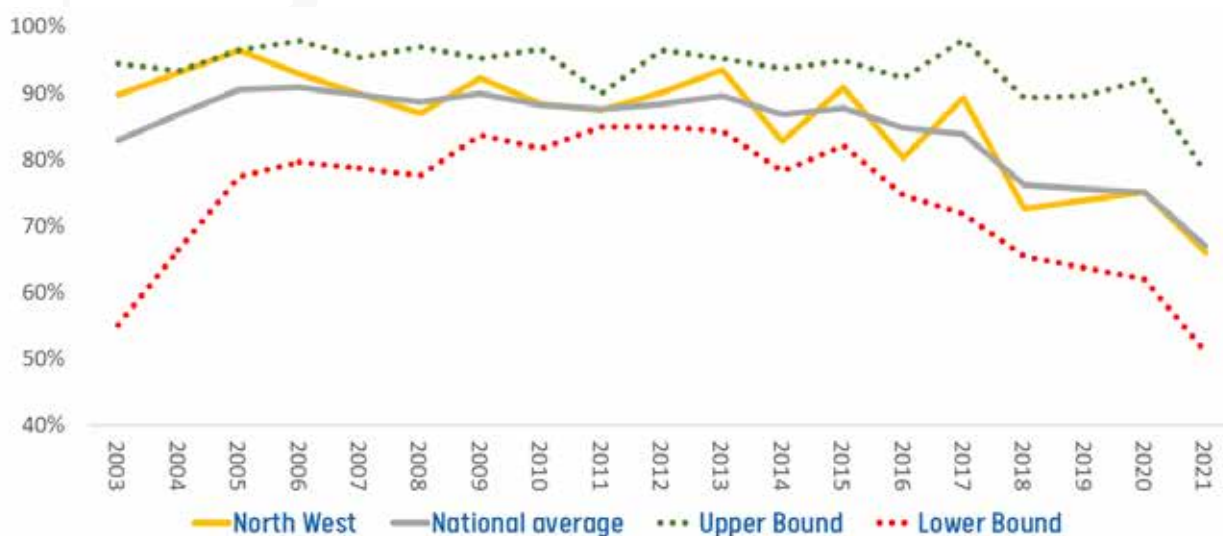
QUESTION

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I would rather be a citizen of South Africa than of any other country in the world." (% agree/strongly agree)

ANALYSIS

As is the case nationally, residents of the North West province are generally loyal to their country and exhibit relatively high levels of attachment to the state. From 2003 to 2021, more than four-fifths (86%) of the respondents on average agreed that they would rather be a citizen of this country than any other nation. In line with the national trend, pride in the North West dropped after 2015, falling from 91% in 2015 to slightly under less than three-quarters (73%) in 2018. This was accompanied by a further decline to slightly less than two-thirds (66%) in 2021. The rank position of the North West, relative to other provinces has varied over time, from second highest in 2003 to tied third lowest in 2018 and 2021, and ranking sixth overall across the full period.

NATIONAL PRIDE: "I would rather be a citizen of South Africa than of any other country in the world", 2003-2021 (% agreeing)



%	2003	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	90	96	93	...	87	92	88	87	90	93	83	91	80	89	73	...	75	66	86
National Avg.	83	91	91	...	89	90	88	88	88	90	87	88	85	84	76	...	75	67	84
Upper Bound	94	96	98	...	97	95	97	90	96	95	94	95	92	98	89	...	92	78	89
Lower Bound	55	77	80	...	78	87	82	85	85	84	78	84	75	72	65	...	62	51	76
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	1	3	4	6	3	5	4	4	2	8	5	7	4	7	...	5	7	6

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.1.2 Demand for democracy: Support for democratic ideals

GOAL

Evaluation of the importance of elements of democracy. This provides a sense of the demand for democracy by examining the salience attached to democratic ideals

QUESTION

For each of the six components of democracy, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they believed each was important (mean score, 0-10 importance scale, where 0=not important and 10=very important)

...that elections are free and fair?

...that politicians listen to people before making decisions?

...that ruling parties are punished in elections when they have done a bad job?

...that citizens are able to take part in peaceful and legal protest action to express their dissatisfaction?

...that everyone is free to express their political views openly, even if they are extreme?

...that opposition parties are free to criticise the government?

ANALYSIS

In the North West, the importance attached to the six dimensions of democratic ideals remained relatively high, the average score of the ideals was slightly over two-thirds at 6.7 on a 0-10 scale for the 2021 elections. In 2021, on average, the highest rated ideal has been 'Freedom of Expression' followed by 'Participation in Protest'. Over the 2013 to 2021 period, there has been a decline in the importance attached to all six ideals. This decline is highlighted by a noticeable decline of the province's ranking in the national context. In 2013, the North West was ranked highest in the ideal for 'Free and Fair Elections'. However, as of 2021, the province is now ranked last in this demand, suggesting declining importance attached to this ideal in the election.

DEMAND FOR DEMOCRACY: Importance attached to different democratic values or ideals, 2013-2021 (mean scores based on a 0-10 importance scale)

Mean score, 0-10 scale	Ideal 1 Free and Fair Elections				Ideal 2 Elected Listen to the Public				Ideal 3 Electoral Accountability			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
North West	8,8	7,2	5,5	5,6	8,1	5,4	4,5	5,5	8,5	5,5	5,3	5,0
National Avg.	8,2	8,1	7,2	6,7	7,4	7,5	7,0	6,4	7,4	7,4	6,9	6,4
Upper Bound	8,8	8,7	8,0	7,4	8,7	8,2	7,6	7,4	8,5	8,4	7,5	7,6
Lower Bound	7,3	6,7	5,5	5,6	6,5	5,4	4,5	5,0	6,5	5,5	5,3	5,0
Lower Bound	1	8	9	9	2	9	9	7	2	9	9	9

Mean score, 0-10 scale	Ideal 4 Participation in Protest				Ideal 5 Freedom of Expression				Ideal 6 Viable Opposition			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
North West	8,2	8,0	6,5	5,9	8,8	6,9	5,6	7,0	7,8	7,2	5,6	5,8
National Avg.	7,6	7,5	6,9	6,4	7,8	7,6	6,9	7,5	7,0	7,4	6,8	6,4
Upper Bound	8,5	8,2	7,5	7,6	8,8	8,2	7,5	8,4	7,9	8,6	7,6	7,4
Lower Bound	6,7	6,5	5,9	5,1	7,1	6,5	5,6	6,1	6,1	5,6	5,6	5,2
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	2	8	9	6	1	7	9	6	3	6	9	7

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2013-2021

2.1.3 Supply of democracy: Satisfaction with the functioning of democracy

GOAL

Determine support for the way the country's political system is functioning

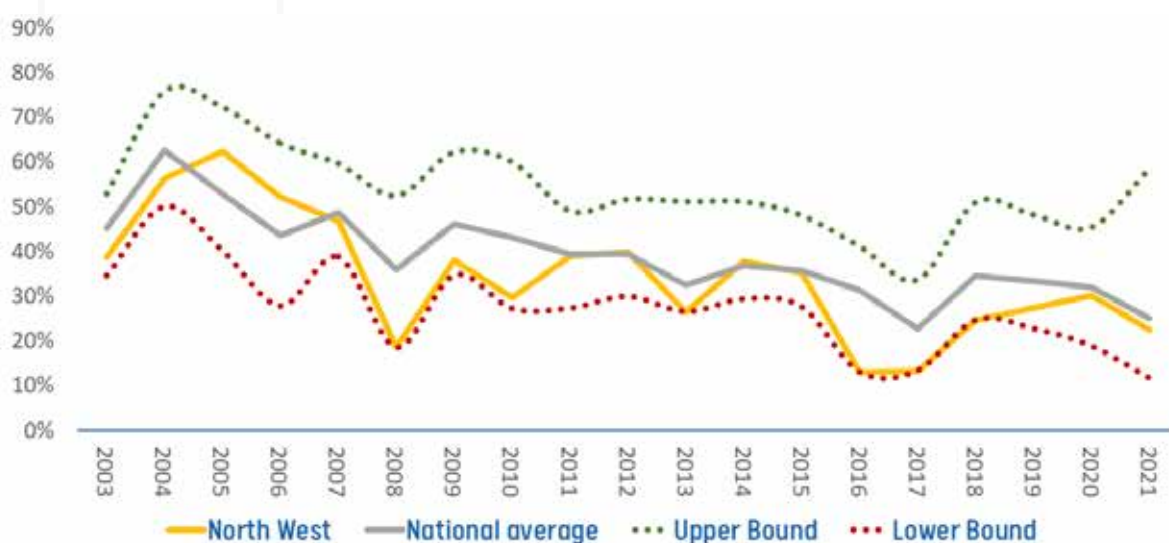
QUESTION

How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in South Africa? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

ANALYSIS

There has been a general decline in satisfaction with the functioning of democracy among North West residents. After an upward swing from 2004 to 2007, where satisfaction with democracy climbed up to just under two-thirds (62%) in 2005, a sharp decrease is observable. In 2008, only 18% of North West residents expressed satisfaction with how democracy was working in South Africa. This was an all-time low ranking for the province. There was a favourable upswing between 2009 and 2015, when satisfaction with democracy ranged between 30% and 40%. However, a sharp decline followed in 2016 to 2017, with 13% saying they were happy with how democracy was working in the country. This was now a new all-time for the province and was significantly lower than the national average of 31% in 2016. There was a favourable upswing the following year in 2018 where a quarter (25%) of the North West respondents said they were happy with how democracy was working. When contrasted with the rest of the country, North West respondents are extremely dissatisfied with how democracy is working in South Africa and while there is general dissatisfaction across the board, residents of the North West are ranking third lowest at 34% when looking at satisfaction with democracy on average.

SUPPLY OF DEMOCRACY: Satisfaction with the way democracy is working in South Africa, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	39	56	62	52	47	18	38	30	39	40	26	38	35	13	13	25	...	30	22	34
National Avg.	45	62	53	44	49	36	46	43	39	39	33	37	36	31	23	35	...	32	25	39
Upper Bound	53	76	72	64	60	52	62	60	49	52	51	51	48	41	34	51	...	45	58	51
Lower Bound	35	50	40	28	39	18	35	27	27	30	26	29	28	13	13	25	...	19	12	34
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	7	3	3	6	9	7	8	7	6	9	3	5	9	9	9	...	7	5	7

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.1.4 Supply of democracy: Country going in the right direction

GOAL

Determine support for the country's current direction

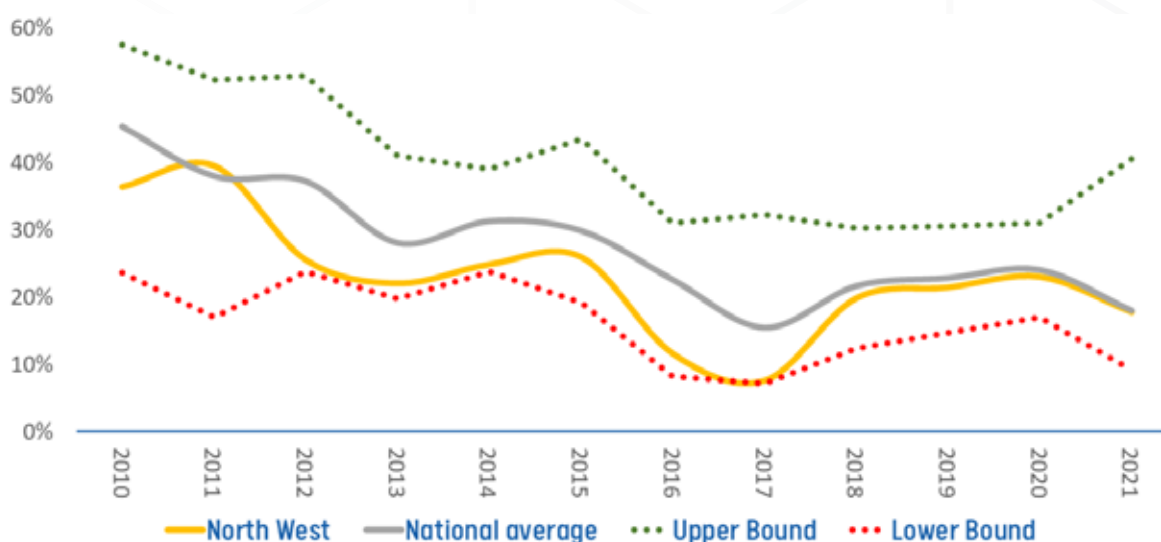
QUESTION

Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction or going in the wrong direction? (% right direction)

ANALYSIS

In late 2010, slightly over a third (36%) of the North West population indicated that the country was headed in the right direction. From 2012 to 2015 that figure dropped to slightly above a quarter (26%). Despite fluctuations in this outlook in recent years, there has been a sustained general downward pattern during the decade, reaching a low point of 12% by late 2016. Although the trend in the province reflects the national tendency of reduced confidence in the country's direction, the province continued to show a massive decline which resulted in only eight percent of the North West residents saying they believe the country was headed in the right direction towards the end of 2017. This was an all-time low for the province and the trend continued throughout 2020 and 2021. Overall, the province of the North West averages slightly under a quarter (23%) in terms of residents who believe that the country is going in the right direction, which is the second lowest in the country.

COUNTY GOING IN RIGHT DIRECTION: Percentage who believe the country is going in the right direction, 2010-2021 (%)



%	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	36	39	25	22	25	26	12	8	20	...	23	18	23
National Avg.	45	38	37	28	31	30	23	15	22	...	24	18	28
Upper Bound	57	52	53	41	39	43	31	32	30	...	31	41	37
Lower Bound	24	17	24	20	24	19	8	7	12	...	17	9	22
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	5	7	7	8	7	7	8	6	...	6	3	8

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2010-2021

2.1.5 Supply of democracy: Evaluation of performance against democratic ideals

GOAL

Evaluation of elements of democracy. This provides a sense of perceived effectiveness in relation to the progressive realisation of democratic ideals

QUESTION

For each of the six components of democracy, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they believed each applied to South Africa today (mean score, 0-10 applicability scale, where 0=does not apply at all; 10= applies completely).

...Elections in South Africa are free and fair.

...Politicians in South Africa listen to people before making decisions.

...Ruling parties in South Africa are punished in elections when they have done a bad job.

...Citizens in South Africa are able to take part in peaceful and legal protest action to express their dissatisfaction.

...In South Africa, everyone is free to express their political views openly, even if they are extreme.

...Opposition parties in South Africa are free to criticise the government.

ANALYSIS

In the North West, the evaluation of the six dimensions of democracy varied, with scores ranging between 3.4 and 7.4 on a 0-10 scale. On average, the 'Freedom of Expression' ideal received the most favourable rating, followed by 'Free and Fair Elections' and 'Viable Opposition'. Residents of the North West were less convinced that citizens can participate in protests, politicians listen to the public and that political parties punished during elections for poor performance. The 'Elected Listen to the Public' and 'Electoral Accountability' ideal ranked lowest in 2021 and this was followed by 'Viable Opposition'. The value which improved most between 2018 and 2021 was 'Free and Fair Elections'. Nevertheless, North West was still above the national average in four of these six ideals in the 2021 elections.

SUPPLY OF DEMOCRACY: Evaluations of different democratic values or ideals, 2013-2021 (mean scores based on a 0-10 scale)

Mean score, 0-10 scale	Ideal 1 Free and Fair Elections				Ideal 2 Elected Listen to the Public				Ideal 3 Electoral Accountability			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
North West	6,2	7,4	5,1	6,1	3,5	4,3	3,8	4,8	3,4	4,2	3,6	4,8
National Avg.	7,3	7,3	6,6	5,7	4,6	4,5	4,2	4,0	4,4	4,5	4,5	4,0
Upper Bound	7,8	8,0	7,2	6,7	5,3	5,2	5,2	4,8	5,5	5,2	5,3	5,0
Lower Bound	6,2	6,5	5,1	5,1	3,4	4,1	2,8	3,2	3,4	3,7	3,3	3,5
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	5	9	7	8	8	7	1	9	7	8	3

Mean score, 0-10 scale	Ideal 4 Participation in Protest				Ideal 5 Freedom of Expression				Ideal 6 Viable Opposition			
	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021	2013	2016	2018	2021
North West	5,8	6,1	5,6	4,7	5,7	6,3	6,2	6,7	6,4	6,8	5,9	5,3
National Avg.	6,1	6,4	6,0	5,8	6,2	6,6	6,1	5,7	6,3	6,8	6,5	6,1
Upper Bound	6,8	7,3	6,5	6,5	6,7	7,7	6,6	6,6	6,8	7,8	6,9	6,9
Lower Bound	5,2	5,2	4,6	4,9	5,5	5,6	5,0	5,3	5,8	5,6	5,9	4,8
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	6	7	4	6	4	8	7	5	5	9	8

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2013-2021

2.1.6 Satisfaction with municipal performance

GOAL

Determine levels of satisfaction with municipal performance

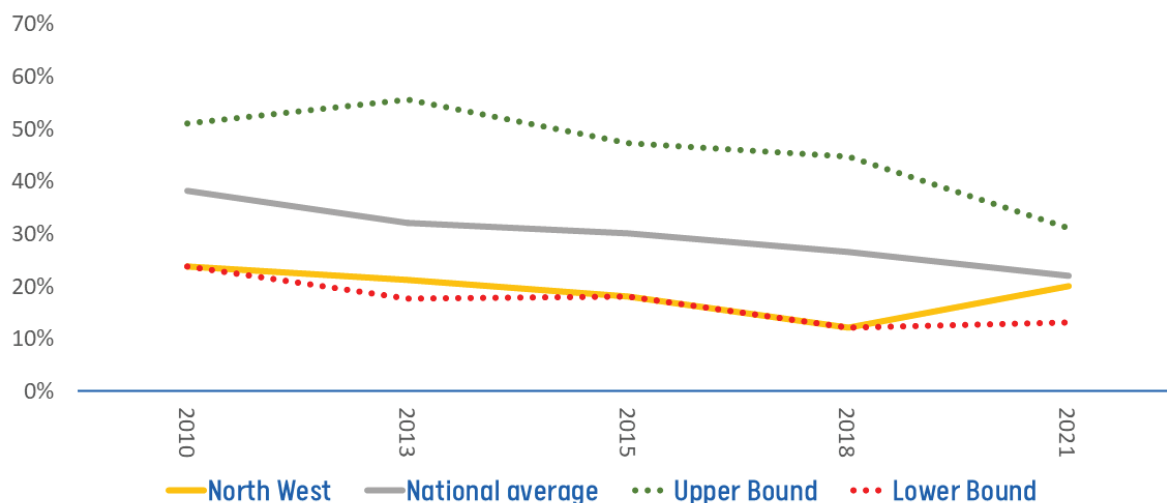
QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way your municipality is performing its job at present? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

ANALYSIS

As the graph demonstrates, there was general discontentment about the functioning of municipalities in 2010 among the North-West public. The share indicating that they were satisfied with municipal functioning fell from just under a quarter (24%) in 2010 to slightly over a tenth (12%) in 2018. The downward trajectory is observable in the graph below, whereby satisfaction with municipal performance plummeted year on year. At 12% in 2018, the province of the North West accounted for the least satisfied adult population in the country since tracking began in 2010. However, this has improved slightly as of 2021 with the province now ranking fifth highest with about 20% of the citizens stating that they are satisfied with how the municipality is performing.

MUNICIPAL SATISFACTION: Satisfaction with municipal performance, 2010-2021 (%)



%	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
North West	24	21	18	12	20	19
National Avg.	38	32	30	27	22	30
Upper Bound	51	56	47	45	31	43
Lower Bound	24	18	18	12	13	19
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	7	9	9	5	9

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010-2021

2.2. Public trust in political and social institutions

2.2.1. Electoral Commission's Favourability Rating

GOAL

Public confidence in the Electoral Commission

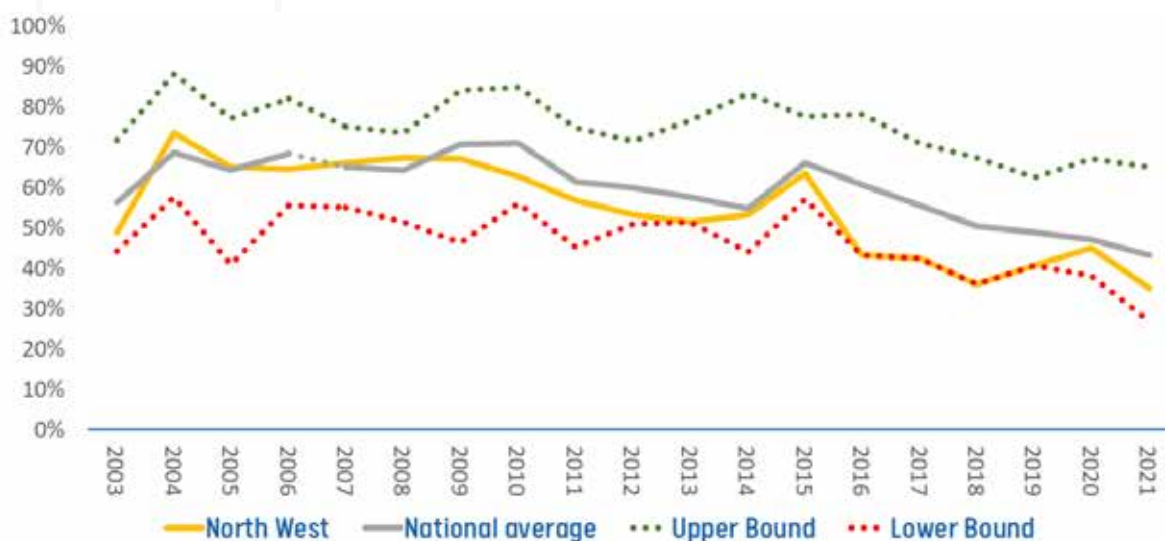
QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust the Electoral Commission? (% trust / strongly trust)

ANALYSIS

In 2003, almost a decade into the country's democracy, nearly half (49%) of the North-West adult population indicated that they trusted the Electoral Commission. After the 2004 elections, that number jumped up significantly to just under three-quarters (73%) before settling in the two-thirds region (65% to 63%) between 2005 and 2010. Trust in the Electoral Commission began to decline between 2011 to 2013 going from just under two-thirds (63%) in 2010 to 53% in 2014, a ten percent decline. Despite an increase in 2015, trust in the Commission has continued to plummet and as of 2018, trust in the institution was at 36%, a record low across the country since the survey began. However, in 2020 there has been a significant improvement in satisfaction with how the IEC is performing in the North West, where almost half (45%) of the survey respondents in the North West indicated that they trust the IEC. Unfortunately, in 2021 this figure dropped with more than ten percentage points to 35%. This trend should be monitored in future.

CONFIDENCE IN THE COMMISSION: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust the Electoral Commission, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	49	73	65	65	66	67	67	63	57	53	51	53	64	43	42	36	...	45	35	55
National Avg.	56	69	64	68	65	64	71	71	61	60	58	55	66	60	55	50	...	47	43	60
Upper Bound	72	88	77	82	80	70	84	82	75	69	77	62	76	67	71	67	...	67	65	72
Lower Bound	44	58	41	55	53	51	46	56	45	51	51	44	57	45	51	36	...	38	27	54
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	5	5	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	9	6	5	9	9	9	...	7	8	7

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.2.2 Trust in National Government

GOAL

Public confidence in National Government

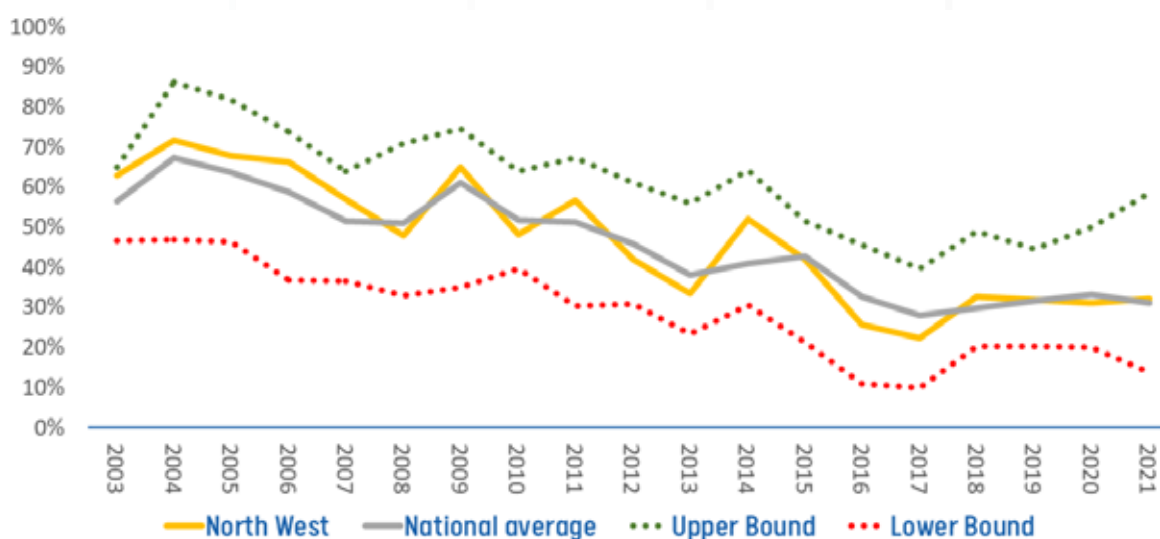
QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust National Government? (% trust / strongly trust)

ANALYSIS

In 2003, just under two-thirds (63%) of the North West population indicated that they trusted national government. Reviewing the results for the province, it is evident that during the initial years (between 2003 and 2006) residents were quite trusting of this important political institution and ranked higher than the national average score throughout this period. During the period between 2007 to 2010, trust in the national government among North West residents fluctuated and settled at 48% in 2010. There was a slight increase in trust in 2011, whereafter trust in national government began to decline and in 2017, less than a quarter (22%) of the North West population said they trusted national government. This was the lowest rating in the province since the survey began. In the subsequent years, there has been a slight improvement in those figures; as of 2020 over 30% of the participants expressed satisfaction with national government in the North-West, an improvement of more than 10% from 2017. This improvement has also reflected on the national ranking with the province improving its position from sixth place in 2020 to fourth place in 2021 and fifth place overall.

CONFIDENCE IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust National Government, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	63	72	68	66	57	48	65	48	57	42	33	52	42	26	22	33	...	31	32	47
National Avg.	56	67	64	59	52	51	61	52	51	46	38	41	43	32	28	30	...	33	31	46
Upper Bound	65	86	82	74	64	71	73	64	67	61	56	64	51	45	40	49	...	50	58	56
Lower Bound	46	47	46	37	37	33	35	40	30	31	23	30	21	11	10	20	...	20	14	32
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	2	5	5	5	5	6	4	6	4	5	7	2	6	7	7	5	...	6	4	5

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.2.3 Trust in Provincial Government

GOAL

Public confidence in provincial government

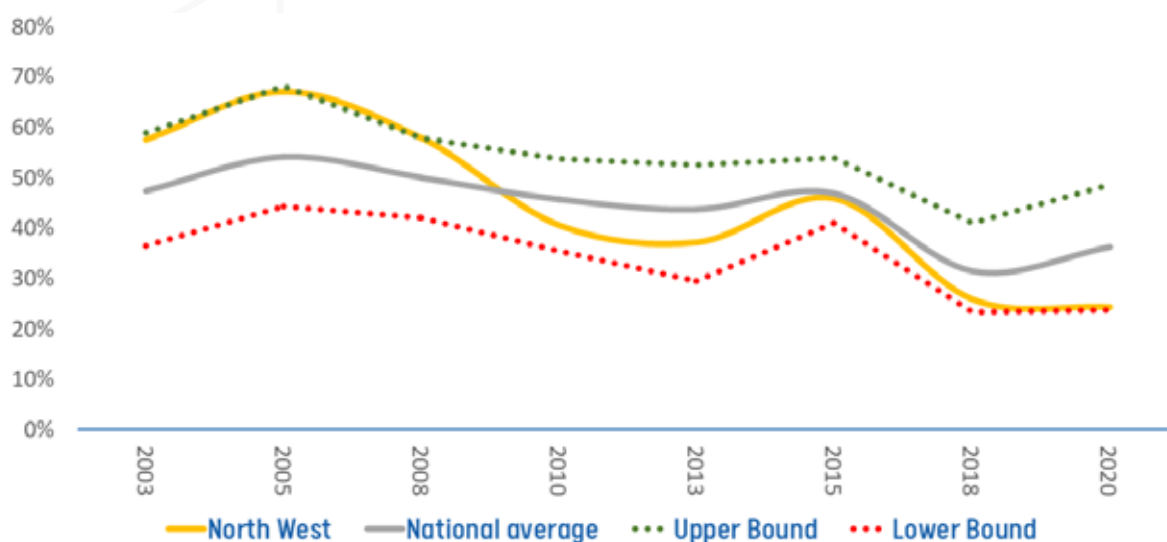
QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust provincial government? (% trust / strongly trust)

ANALYSIS

For the first five years of the SASAS rounds, residents in the North-West were fairly happy with the performance of their provincial government. In 2008, just under two-thirds (58%) of the North West population indicated that they were happy with the performance of the provincial government. Since 2010, trust in the provincial government has been declining and had reached an all-time low of 26% in 2018. The decline in provincial government trust is highlighted by the fact that between 2003 and 2008, North-West ranked among the top two provinces which are most trusting of the provincial government. However, between 2010 and 2020, except for 2015, it was among the bottom three and least trusting provinces in the country. Overall, the province ranks fifth and is among the least trusting provinces when it comes to trust in provincial government.

CONFIDENCE IN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust provincial government, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2020	Average
North West	58	67	58	41	37	46	26	24	45
National Avg.	47	54	50	46	44	47	31	36	44
Upper Bound	59	68	58	54	53	54	41	49	51
Lower Bound	37	44	42	36	29	41	23	24	37
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	2	2	1	7	8	6	8	8	5

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.2.4 Trust in Local Government

GOAL

Public confidence in local government

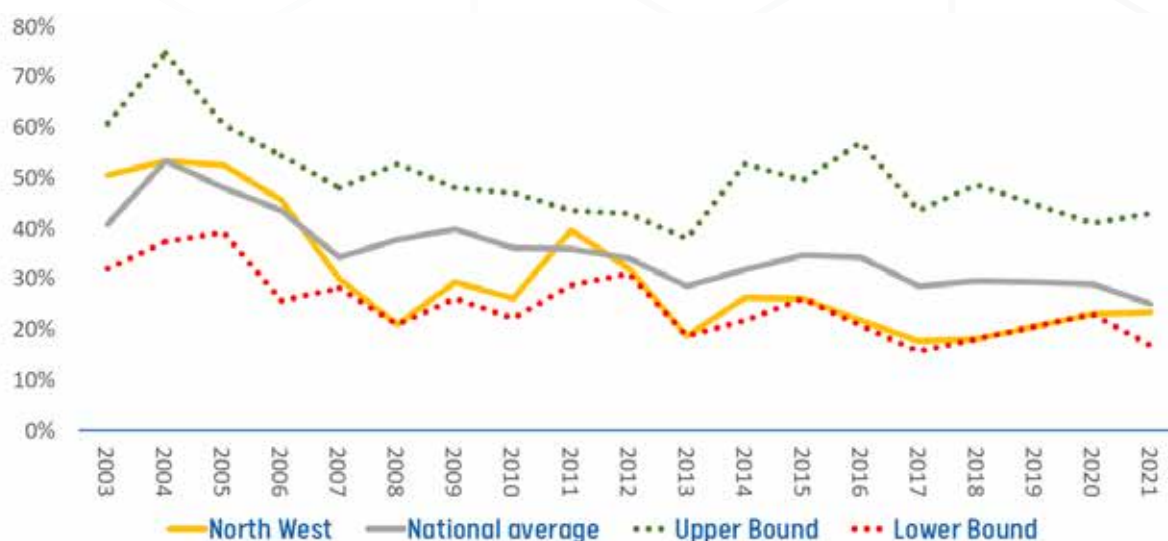
QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust local government? (% trust / strongly trust)

ANALYSIS

After hovering around the 50% percent region between 2003 and 2005, trust in local government in the North West began to plummet. Trust in local government slipped from slightly under half (46%) of the adult population signalling their trust for local government in 2006, to just over a quarter (26%) in 2010. A twenty percentage points decrease in four years. The data presented shows a decline in trust in local government between 2006 and 2010 for North West residents. There was an increase in trust in 2011, whereafter the level of confidence in this indispensable political body continued to plunge to 18% in 2018. However, the province of the North West showed signs of improvement in 2021 with 23% of the respondents indicating that they trust local government, this was the highest percentage of trusting citizens the province has had since 2015. As a result, the province was ranked as the fifth most trusting province in terms of trust in local government in the last election. Overall, the province was ranked last on this indicator.

CONFIDENCE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust local government, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	51	53	53	46	30	21	29	26	40	32	19	26	26	22	18	18	...	23	23	30
National Avg.	41	53	48	43	34	38	40	36	36	34	29	32	35	34	28	30	...	29	25	36
Upper Bound	61	75	61	55	48	53	48	47	44	43	38	53	50	57	44	49	...	41	43	44
Lower Bound	32	37	39	26	28	21	26	22	29	31	19	22	26	21	18	18	...	23	17	30
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	5	3	3	7	9	7	8	4	7	9	7	9	8	8	9	...	8	5	9

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.2.5 Trust in Parliament

GOAL

Public confidence in parliament

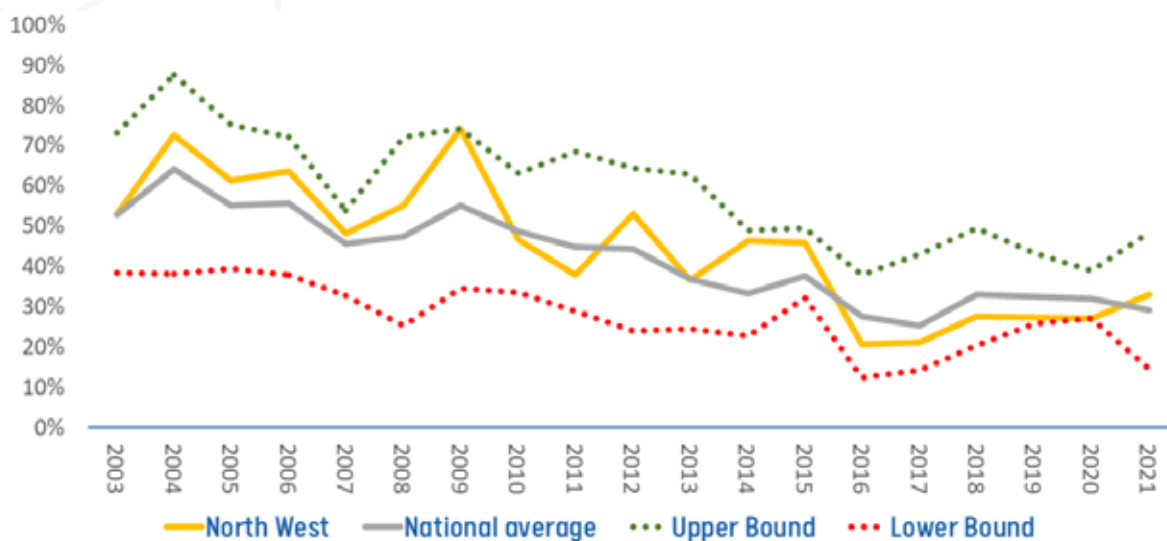
QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust parliament? (% trust / strongly trust)

ANALYSIS

After the 2004 National and Provincial Elections, nearly three-quarters (73%) of the North-West population had indicated that they trust the institution of Parliament. The data for the North West shows that trust in parliament fluctuated between 2005 to 2010, ranging from 61% in 2005, down to 48% in 2007, before climbing up to just under three-quarters (74%) in 2009, before dropping to almost half of the population trusting parliament (47%) in 2010. This trend continued between 2011 and 2015 whereby trust in parliament continued to fluctuate, going from 38% in 2011, up to 52% the following year and down to 37% in 2013. In 2015, a decline in trust is observable, slightly under half of the population (46%) indicated that they trusted parliament, however, that number fell significantly to less than a quarter (21%) the following year, although a slight increase is observable for the year 2020 with a six percentage point increase to 27%. Generally, the North West shows fluctuation in its overall scores and is ranked as the fifth most trusting province when it comes to trust in parliament.

CONFIDENCE IN PARLIAMENT: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust parliament, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	53	73	61	64	48	55	74	47	38	52	37	47	46	21	21	27	...	27	33	45
National Avg.	53	64	55	56	46	48	55	49	45	44	37	33	38	28	25	33	...	32	29	42
Upper Bound	73	88	75	72	54	72	74	59	68	64	63	49	49	38	43	49	...	39	49	54
Lower Bound	38	38	39	38	33	39	35	34	29	24	24	23	32	12	14	21	...	27	14	30
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	5	4	3	5	5	3	7	7	6	6	3	2	8	6	6	...	6	6	5

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.2.6 Trust in Courts

GOAL

Public confidence in the courts

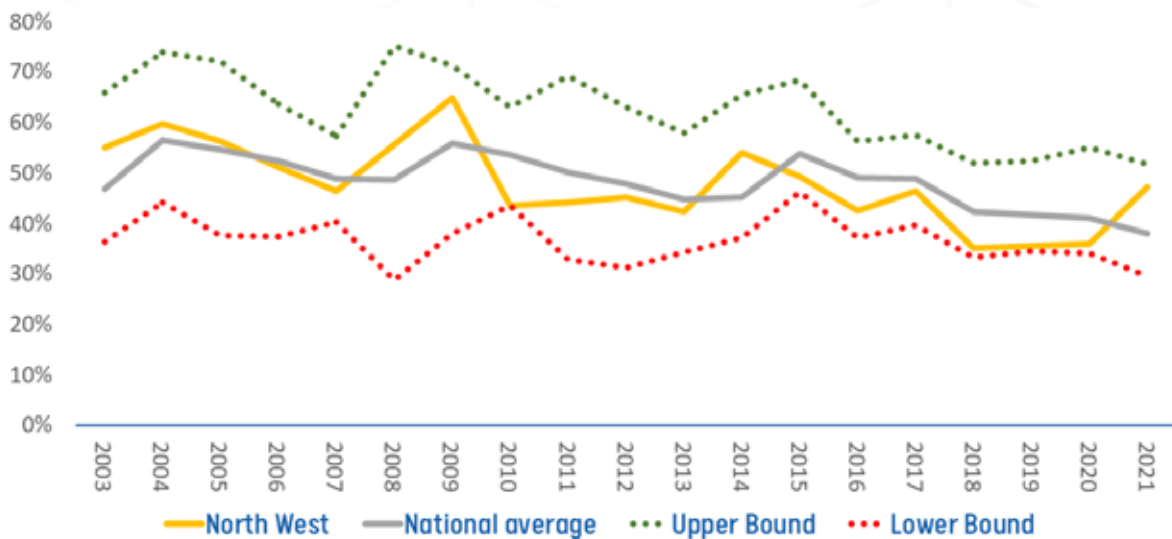
QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust the courts? (% trust / strongly trust)

ANALYSIS

Over the 2003-2021 period, trust in the courts in the province of the North West has remained fairly stable. In the initial years of tracking (2003-2005), trust in Courts hovered around the 55-60% region. From 2006-2011, trust in the courts remained fairly stable, slightly over half (51%) the adult population of the North West express their trust in 2006 and as of 2011, that number had dropped slightly by seven percentage points. It continued to stabilise between the 40-50% mark during this current decade, although there was a significant decrease in 2018 whereby 35% of the North West population expressed trust in the Courts, this was the lowest rating for the province since tracking began. Overall, the provincial ranking of the North West was sixth lowest when it comes to trust in the courts system.

CONFIDENCE IN COURTS: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust the courts, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	55	60	56	51	46	56	65	44	44	45	42	54	49	42	46	35	...	36	47	48
National Avg.	47	56	55	52	49	49	56	54	50	48	45	45	54	49	49	42	...	41	38	48
Upper Bound	66	74	72	59	57	75	71	63	69	63	58	66	68	56	58	52	...	55	52	57
Lower Bound	36	44	38	37	40	29	38	47	33	31	34	37	46	37	40	33	...	34	30	43
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	6	4	5	6	4	3	9	6	6	7	4	7	8	7	7	...	7	3	6

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.2.7 Trust in Political Parties

GOAL

Public confidence in political parties

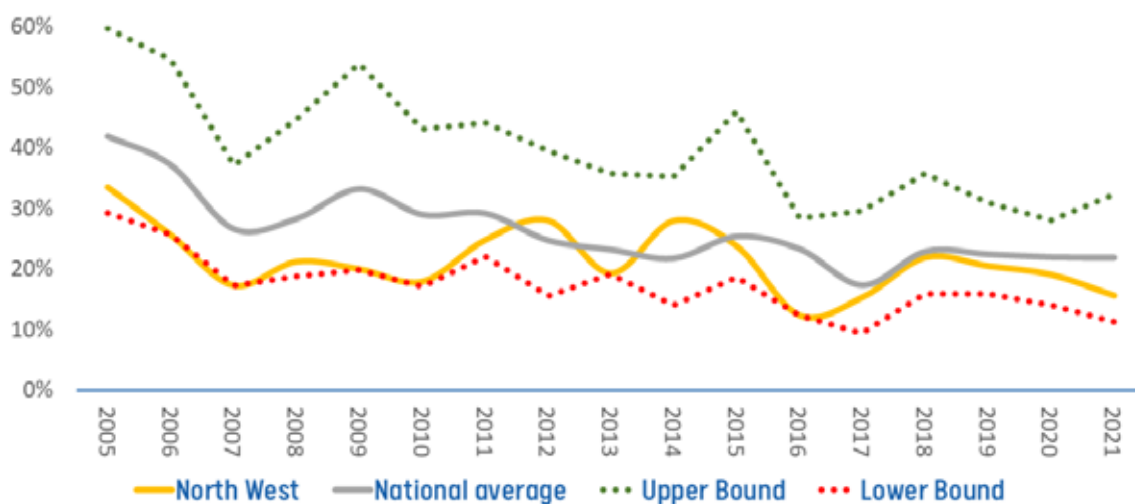
QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust political parties? (% trust / strongly trust)

ANALYSIS

The data for the North West reveals that trust in political parties has remained low over the period, averaging 27% across the 2003 to 2021 period. Trust in political parties only averaged over a quarter of the population (25%) five times over a fourteen-year period, on other occasions, it was less than 25%. In 2016, after the local municipal elections, trust in political parties in the North West was at 12%, which was an all-time low for the province. Over the years, the figure has since fluctuated and settled at 16% in 2021. Provincial variation on this indicator averaged 21 percentage points between 2005 and 2021. Overall, the North West province ranks lowest, in ninth place when it comes to trust in political parties.

CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL PARTIES: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust political parties, 2005-2021 (%)



%	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	33	26	17	21	20	18	25	28	19	28	24	12	15	22	...	19	16	21
National Avg.	42	37	27	28	33	29	29	25	23	22	25	23	17	23	...	22	22	27
Upper Bound	60	52	37	45	54	43	44	39	36	35	46	28	30	36	...	28	32	37
Lower Bound	29	26	17	19	20	17	22	16	19	14	13	15	9	16	...	14	11	21
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	9	9	7	9	8	8	4	9	4	5	9	8	5	...	7	7	9

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2005-2021

2.2.8 Trust in Traditional Authorities/Leaders

GOAL

Public confidence in traditional authorities/leaders

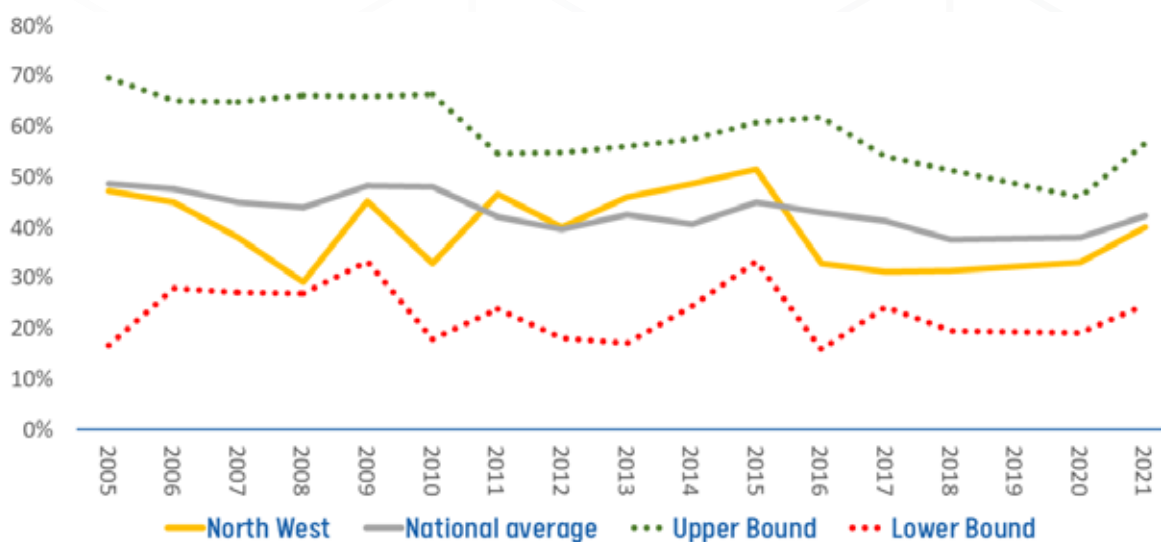
QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust traditional authorities/leaders? (% trust / strongly trust)

ANALYSIS

From the data for the North West, it is evident that faith in traditional authorities was relatively low. From 2005 and 2010, trust in traditional leaders fluctuated from 47% to 29%. The trend continued during the last decade (2011 to 2018), whereby trust in traditional authorities in the North West once again fluctuated from 47% in 2011 to 33% in 2020. In 2021, 40% of North West residents placed their trust in traditional leaders. Relative to the rest of the country, trust in traditional leadership in the North West remained fairly modest throughout the period of tracking. There was substantial provincial variation on this indicator during much of the 2003 to 2021 period, with an aggregate 28 percentage points difference between the upper and lower bounds. Overall, the North West ranks sixth in terms of trust in traditional leadership.

CONFIDENCE IN TRADITIONAL AUTHORITIES/LEADERS: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust traditional authorities/leaders, 2005-2021 (%)



%	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	47	45	38	29	45	33	47	40	46	49	52	33	31	31	...	33	40	40
National Avg.	49	48	45	44	48	48	42	40	42	41	45	43	41	38	...	38	42	43
Upper Bound	70	65	65	66	66	66	55	55	56	57	61	62	54	51	...	46	57	55
Lower Bound	17	28	27	27	33	18	24	18	17	24	33	16	24	20	...	19	25	27
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	5	6	8	5	8	5	4	5	5	3	7	8	7	...	8	6	6

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2005-2021

2.2.9 Confidence in Political Leaders

GOAL

Determine support for the country's political leadership

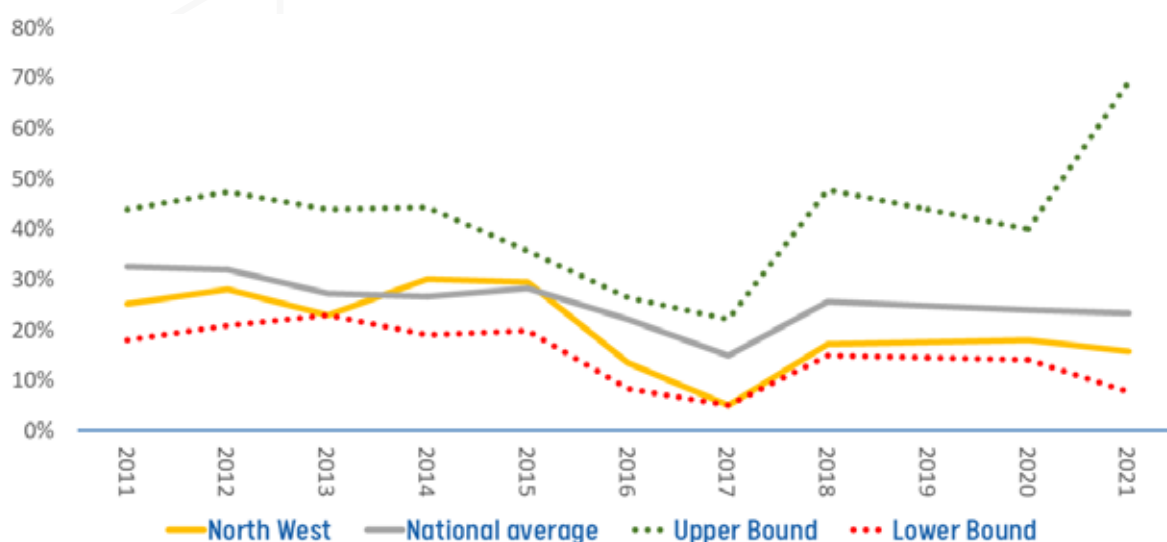
QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the current political leaders in South Africa? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

ANALYSIS

North-West residents were generally dissatisfied with political leaders and only a quarter (25%) of the North West adult population indicated that they trusted political leaders in 2011. Examining evaluations of political leadership at country level, this was eight percentage points below the national average. From 2011 to 2018, trust in political leaders remained low, ranging between 25% and 30%. In 2017, trust in politicians in the North West stood at five percent, which was an all-time low in the province. It improved in subsequent survey rounds and reached 16% in 2021, this was still seven percentage points below the national average. Across provinces, the differences in evaluation of political leadership varied by almost 20 percentage points on average across the 2011 to 2021 period. Overall, the province of the North West ranks as the second least trusting province of political leaders in the country.

CONFIDENCE IN POLITICAL LEADERS: Proportion of the public who are satisfied or very satisfied with political leaders, 2011-2021 (%)



%	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	25	28	23	30	29	13	5	17	...	18	16	20
National Avg.	33	32	27	27	28	22	15	25	...	24	23	26
Upper Bound	44	47	44	44	36	26	22	48	...	40	69	39
Lower Bound	18	21	23	19	20	8	5	15	...	14	8	20
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	6	9	4	6	8	9	7	...	7	8	8

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2011-2021

2.2.10 Trust in Religious Institutions

GOAL

Public confidence in religious institutions

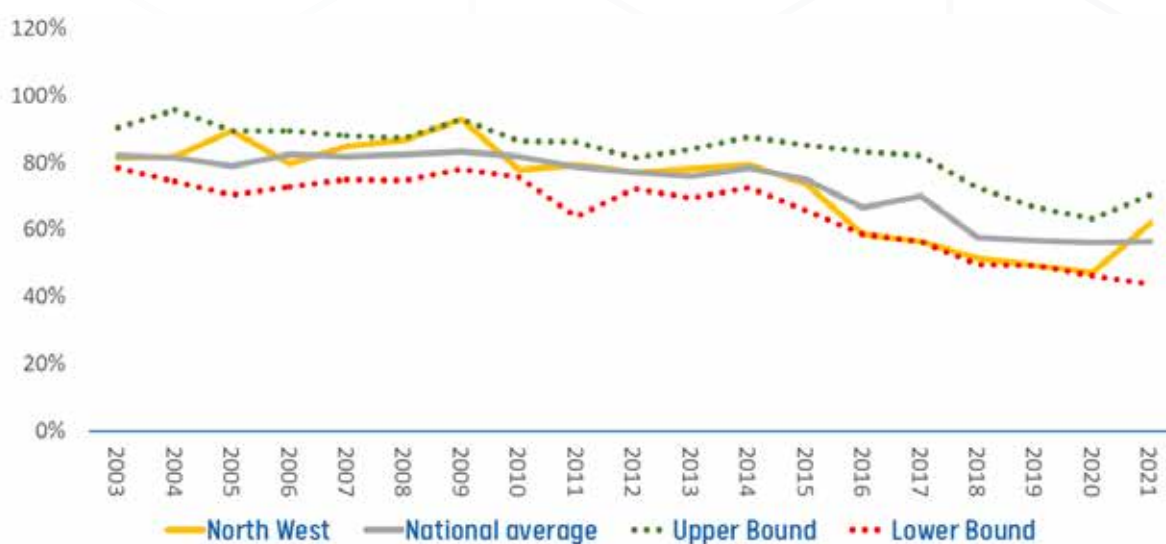
QUESTION

To what extent do you trust or distrust religious institutions? (% trust / strongly trust)

ANALYSIS

North West residents were rather trusting of religious institutions for most of the period under consideration. Between 2003 and 2008, more than three-quarters of the North West population trusted religious institutions, ranging from 79% and 89% for that period. In 2009, trust in religious institution was measured at 93%, which was the highest rating since tracking began. In the last decade, trust in religious institutions began to decline; trust in religious institutions slipped from over three-quarters (79%) in 2011 to under three-quarters (58%) in 2016, a twenty-one percentage points decline over a five-year period. Between 2017 and 2021, trust in religious institutions fluctuated in the province, hovering between 47% and 58%. Overall, trust in religious institutions is high and with an average of just under three-quarters (74%), the province ranks as the seventh most trusting province in a highly trusted institution in the country.

CONFIDENCE IN RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS: Proportion of the public who trust or strongly trust religious organisations, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	81	82	89	79	85	86	93	78	79	77	78	79	74	58	56	51	...	47	62	74
National Avg.	82	81	79	82	82	82	83	81	79	77	76	78	75	66	70	58	...	56	56	74
Upper Bound	90	96	89	89	88	87	93	86	86	81	84	87	85	83	82	72	...	63	70	78
Lower Bound	78	74	70	73	75	74	78	75	64	72	69	72	66	58	56	50	...	46	44	71
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	5	1	7	2	2	1	6	5	5	5	5	4	9	9	7	...	8	7	7

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.3 Electoral predispositions: Psychological involvement in electoral politics

2.3.1 Political interest

GOAL

Determine public interest in South African electoral politics

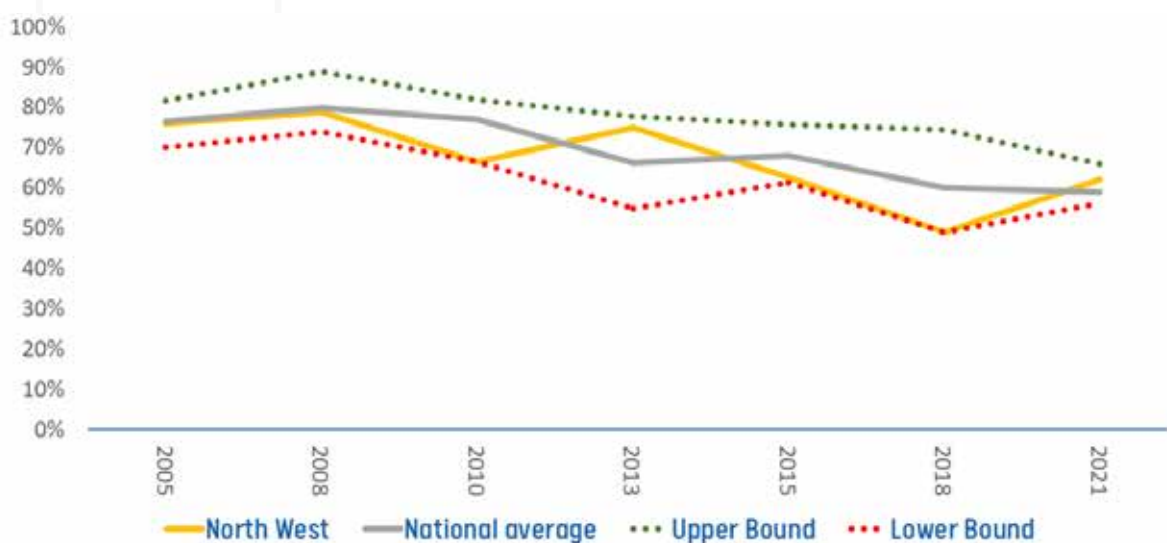
QUESTION

In general, how interested are you in government elections? (% very / quite interested)

ANALYSIS

It is apparent that a significant majority of North West residents reported an interest in elections. In late 2005 slightly over three-quarters (76%) of the adult population expressed interest in government elections. Looking at how levels of interest changed over time, we find that this picture has remained relatively stable between 2005 and 2013, but thereafter there has been a steady decline in interest, with an increase in 2021. The share indicating that they were interested in government elections fell from 67% in 2010 to 49% in 2018, with an increase in interest to 62% in 2021. This change in attitudes seems to imply a decrease in political interest. The results for the North West generally mirror the national results. However, the decline in interest was much higher in the North West in 2018 when compared with the rest of the country. This is further highlighted by the fact that the North West province ranks as the least interested province in the country coming in at number nine overall.

POLITICAL INTEREST: Proportion of the public who was either very or quite interested in government elections, 2005-2021 (%)



%	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
North West	76	79	67	75	62	49	62	67
National Avg.	76	80	77	66	68	60	59	69
Upper Bound	82	89	82	78	76	74	66	74
Lower Bound	70	74	67	55	61	49	56	67
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	4	9	2	8	9	3	9

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS), 2005-2021

2.3.2 Politics easy to understand

GOAL

Determine how easy the public finds it to understand politics in the country. This relates to the concept of internal political efficacy, which addresses the belief that one can understand politics and therefore participate in politics

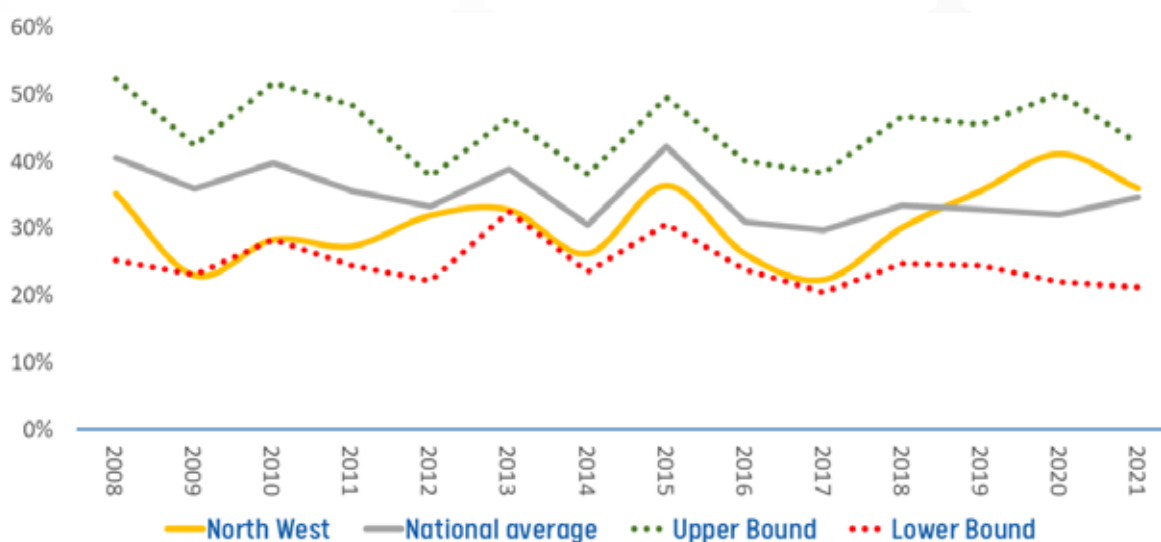
QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement about voting? 'Politics is too complicated for me to understand.' (% never / seldom find it too complicated)

ANALYSIS

The South African public generally tends to think that politics is difficult to understand. From the data collected between 2008 to 2021, barely a third (30%) on average reported that politics is easy to understand. North West residents generally tend to score below the national average (35%), indicating greater ignorance in the province. The provincial public scored below the national expected average each and every year. Overall, the province of the North West ranks lowest out of the nine provinces and averages 30%, five percentage points lower than the national average.

INTERNAL POLITICAL EFFICACY: Proportion of the public who think that politics is relatively easy to understand, 2008-2021 (%)



%	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	35	23	28	27	32	33	26	36	26	22	30	...	41	36	30
National Avg.	41	36	40	36	33	39	30	42	31	30	33	...	32	35	35
Upper Bound	52	42	52	48	38	46	38	49	40	38	47	...	50	43	41
Lower Bound	25	23	28	24	22	32	23	31	24	20	25	...	22	21	29
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	9	9	8	7	7	7	8	7	7	5	...	2	4	8

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2008-2021

2.3.3 Belief in the power of one's vote

GOAL

Determine internal political efficacy

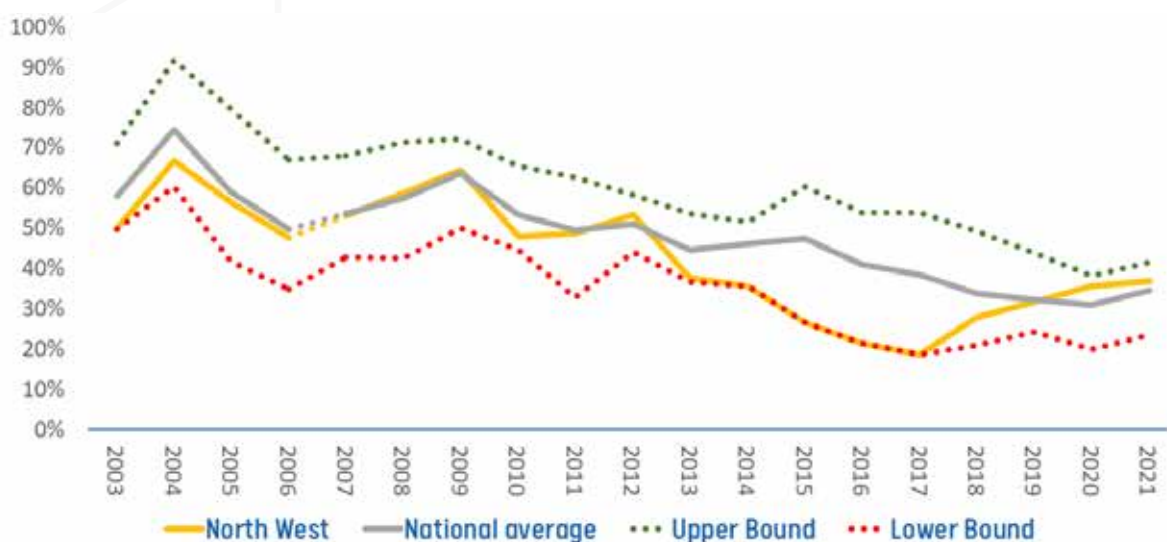
QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement about voting? 'Whether I vote or not makes no difference.' (% disagree / strongly disagree)

ANALYSIS

Initially, belief in the power to change the system was low among North West residents. For the first five years between 2003 and 2009, belief that voting makes a difference ranged between 48% and 67%. In 2008 and 2009, this belief in voting making a difference remained higher than the national average. From 2012 to 2017, the sense of internal political efficacy fell from 53% to 19%, a decline of 34 percentage points. This is consistent with the national figures which also experienced a significant decline during this period. There was a rebound between 2018 and 2021, in the last survey round 37% of the provincial public disagreed with the statement. The province of the North West ranks lowest out of the nine provinces for the full period, but had a placement of second in 2021. If one examines the pattern of upper and lower provincial bounds over time, it is apparent that interprovincial variation has declined between 2012 and 2021.

INTERNAL POLITICAL EFFICACY: Proportion of the public who disagreed with the statement: "whether or not I vote makes no difference", 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	50	67	56	48	59	64	48	49	53	38	36	26	21	19	28	...	36	37	43
National Avg.	58	74	59	50	57	63	53	49	51	45	46	47	41	38	34	...	31	35	48
Upper Bound	71	92	80	67	71	72	65	63	58	54	51	60	54	54	49	...	38	42	58
Lower Bound	50	60	42	35	42	50	45	33	44	37	36	26	21	19	21	...	20	23	43
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	8	5	5	5	6	8	5	5	8	9	9	9	9	7	...	3	2	9

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.3.4 Views on the conduct of politicians and its effect on the meaning of voting

GOAL

Determine external political efficacy

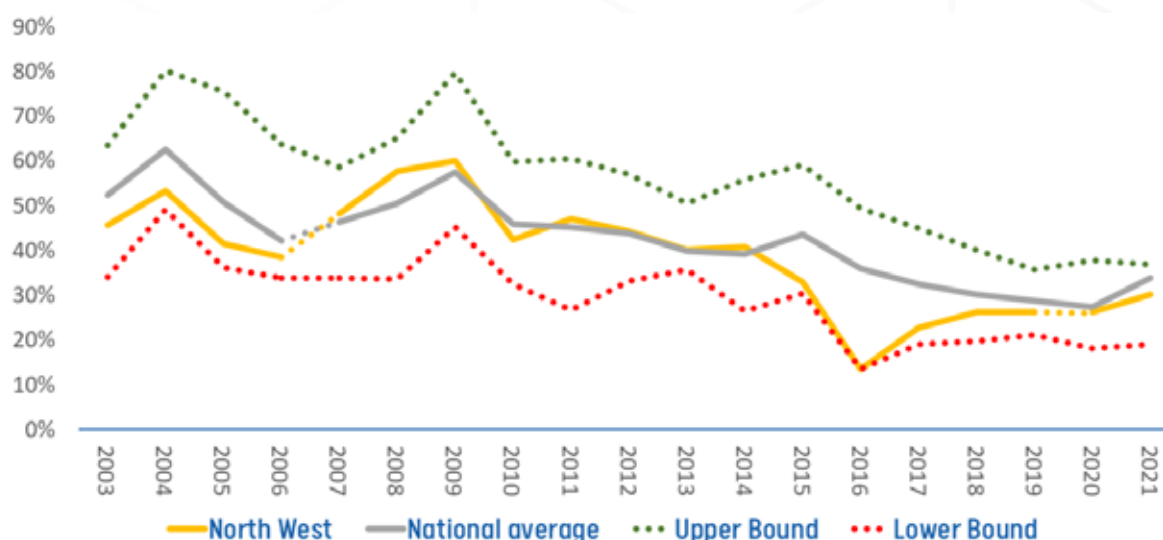
QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement about voting? 'Voting is meaningless because no politician can be trusted?' (% disagree or strongly disagree)

ANALYSIS

Almost half (46%) of the North West population disagreed that voting was worthless because politicians were unreliable in 2003. For the decade between 2004 and 2014, attitudes on the issue remained relatively stable. However, there was a definitive upswing of 18 percentage points on this indicator between 2006 and 2009. A steep decrease followed in 2016, falling from 33% in 2015 to 13% in 2016. Slight increases followed over the next few years and 30% of the provincial public disagreed with the statement in 2021. As with internal political efficacy, the upper and lower provincial bounds also show a distinct downward tendency over time, suggesting that the national pattern is mirrored at the provincial level. The province ranked third-last in 2021 and overall placement of North West on this measure was nine.

EXTERNAL POLITICAL EFFICACY: Proportion of the public who disagreed with the statement: "Voting is meaningless because no politician can be trusted", 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	46	53	41	39	58	60	42	47	44	40	41	33	13	23	26	...	26	30	39
National Avg.	52	63	51	42	51	57	46	45	44	40	39	44	36	33	30	...	27	34	43
Upper Bound	64	80	75	64	65	80	60	60	57	51	56	59	49	45	40	...	38	37	51
Lower Bound	34	49	36	34	34	45	32	27	33	36	27	30	13	19	20	...	18	19	39
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	8	7	5	4	3	7	5	6	6	5	8	9	8	8	...	5	7	9

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.3.5 Duty to vote

GOAL

Determine the public belief in the civic duty to participate in elections

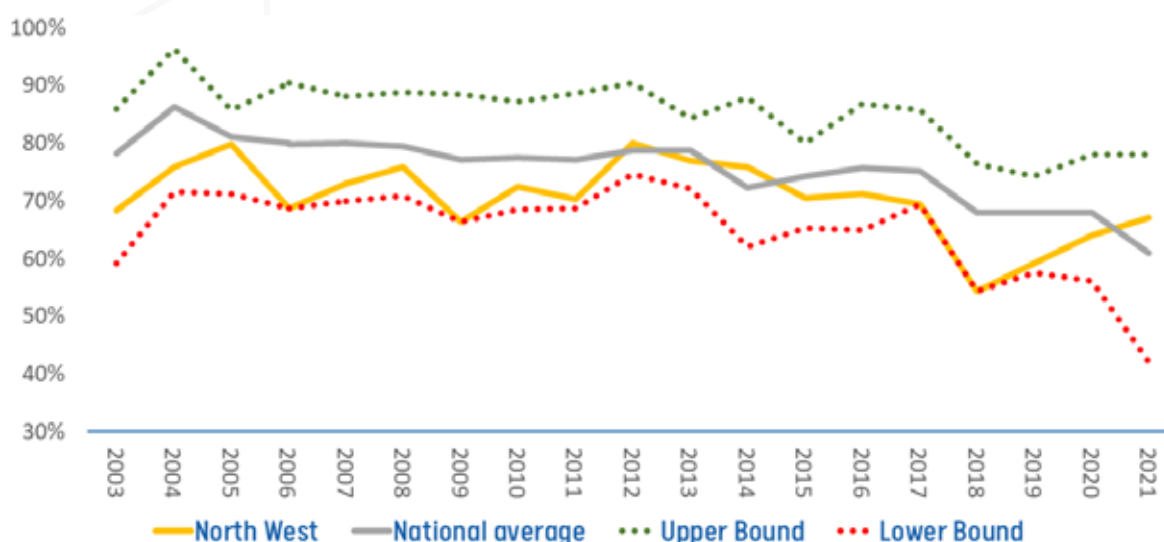
QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about voting?: It is the duty of all citizens to vote. (% agree or strongly agree)

ANALYSIS

The belief in the duty to vote among the North West public remains robust. However, in most SASAS rounds, the provincial population was less positive on this metric than the national average. While the sense of having a duty to vote remained high over the years, there was a serious decline in 2018. Between 2017 and 2018, there was a 15 % decline in the number of respondents who felt a duty to vote. Meaning that the number of SASAS participants who felt that they had a duty to vote went from 69% in 2017, to 54 in 2018. Of all provinces in 2018, the North West ranked as the least likely to agree with the statement. However, the province did observe a slight improvement in 2021, thus improving the ranking from last place in 2018 to third place in 2021. The province came second-last on average.

DUTY TO VOTE: Proportion of the public who agreed with the statement: "It is the duty of all citizens to vote", 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	68	76	80	69	73	76	66	73	70	80	77	76	70	71	69	54	...	64	67	44
National Avg.	78	86	81	80	80	80	77	77	77	79	79	72	74	76	75	68	...	68	61	76
Upper Bound	86	96	86	90	90	86	88	87	89	90	84	84	80	87	86	76	...	78	78	81
Lower Bound	62	76	71	69	70	71	66	68	76	75	72	62	65	65	69	54	...	56	42	70
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	8	6	9	7	6	9	7	7	4	6	5	8	7	9	9	...	7	3	8

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.3.6 Voting intention

GOAL

Evaluate the voting intention of the general population

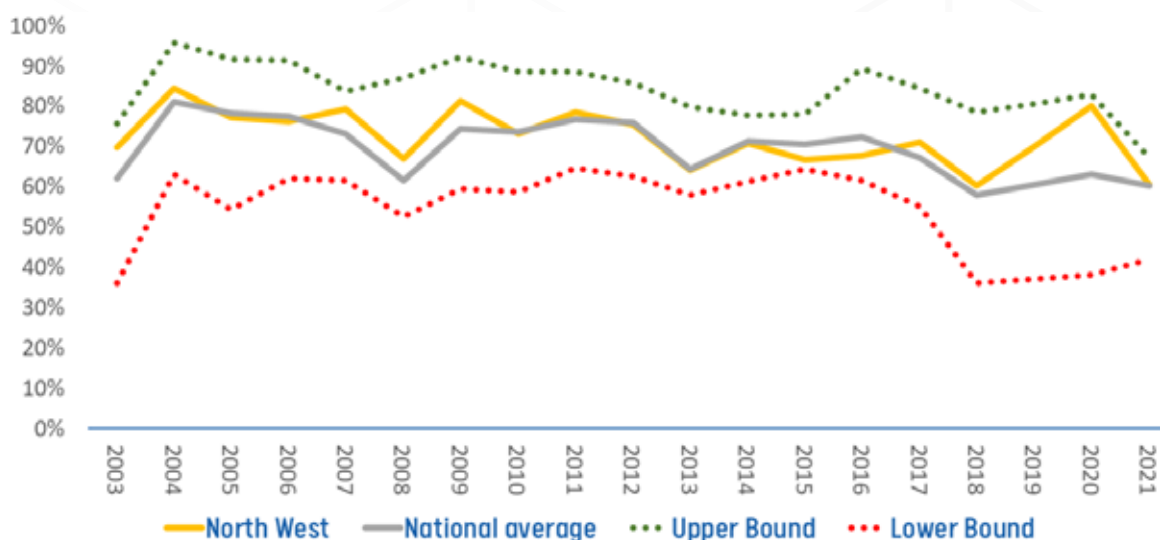
QUESTION

If a government election was held tomorrow, would you vote? (% who would vote)

ANALYSIS

In each survey round, at the time of interviewing, respondents were asked if government elections were to be held tomorrow, would you vote? In late 2018, 60% of the North West public stated that they would turn out to vote if such elections were to be held tomorrow. This was the lowest intention to vote observed in the province since the survey began. For most of the period under review, North West was near or slightly above the national average. During 2015 and 2016, the provincial average was below the national average. In these two rounds, the province was in the bottom three of all nine provinces. From 2017 to 2021, North West performed above the national average, ranking second in 2020. On average, the North West ranked third overall compared to other provinces on voting intentions.

VOTING INTENTION: Proportion of the public who would vote if a government election was held tomorrow, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	70	85	77	76	79	67	81	73	78	76	64	71	67	68	71	60	...	80	61	72
National Avg.	62	81	78	77	73	62	74	74	77	76	64	71	71	72	67	58	...	63	60	70
Upper Bound	76	96	92	91	84	87	92	89	87	86	80	78	78	89	84	68	...	83	67	79
Lower Bound	36	63	54	62	61	53	60	59	65	62	58	61	64	61	55	36	...	38	42	61
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	4	6	5	3	4	4	6	6	6	6	5	8	7	4	5	...	2	4	3

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.3.7 Planned abstention due to administrative barriers

GOAL

Examining the share planning to abstain from elections due to administrative barriers

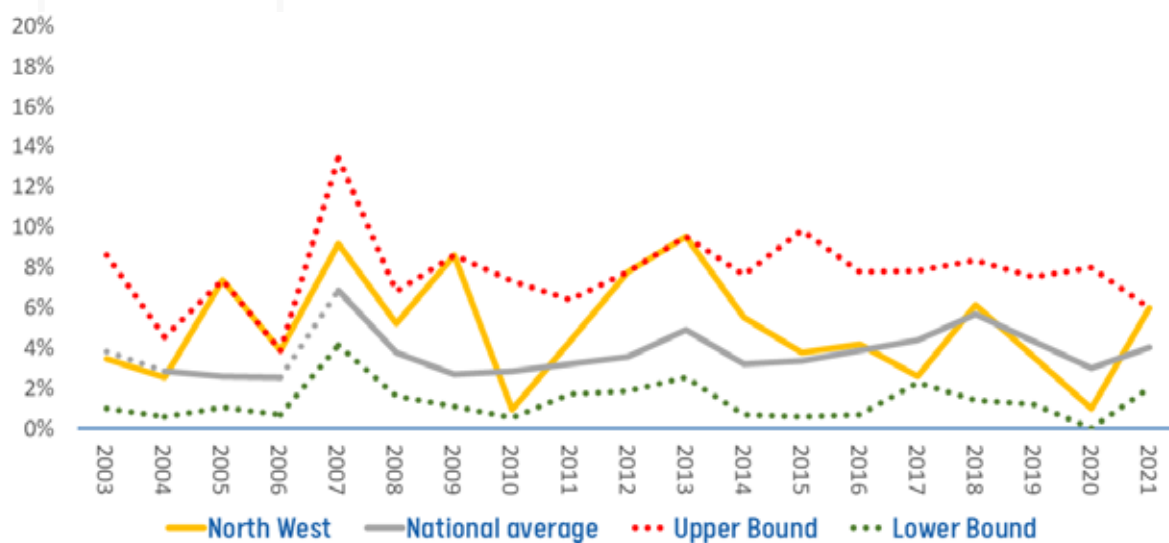
QUESTION

What is your main reason for thinking that you would not vote if an election were held tomorrow? (% mentioning administrative barriers, averaged across voting age population)

ANALYSIS

Administrative barriers are not the primary reason that people in North West do not vote. In 2004 only three percent of eligible adults cited administrative hurdles (such as polling place location or documentation) as the main reason that they would not vote in a hypothetical election. Reviewing how these results changed in the province over the period under discussion, it was apparent that they remained a low priority for the North West population. The percentage mentioning administrative barriers reached above eight percent only in the following SASAS rounds of 2007, 2009 and 2013. The fraction of the population who gave this answer when asked about voting was only six percent of eligible adults in 2018, one percent in 2020 and six percent in 2021. During the entire period under review, only three percent of the eligible provincial population cited administrative factors as the main reason that they would not vote if an election was to be held tomorrow. Over the full period, the provincial ranking of the province was sixth inferring that, when weighed against other provinces, administration is not a major barrier to participating in elections in the North West.

ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS: Proportion of the public who would not vote due to administrative barriers if government elections were held tomorrow, 2003-2021 (%)



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
North West	3	3	7	4	9	5	9	1	...	8	10	6	4	4	3	6	...	1	6	3
National Avg.	4	3	3	3	7	4	3	3	...	4	5	3	3	4	4	6	...	3	4	4
Upper Bound	1	1	1	1	4	2	1	1	...	2	3	1	1	1	2	1	...	8	6	5
Lower Bound	9	5	7	4	13	7	9	7	...	8	10	8	10	8	8	8	...	0	2	3
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	6	4	1	1	2	3	1	8	...	1	1	2	3	3	8	4	...	3	1	6

Data Source: HSRC South African Social Attitudes Survey (SASAS), 2003-2021

2.3.8 Voter registration patterns

GOAL

Ensure that eligible voters are registered

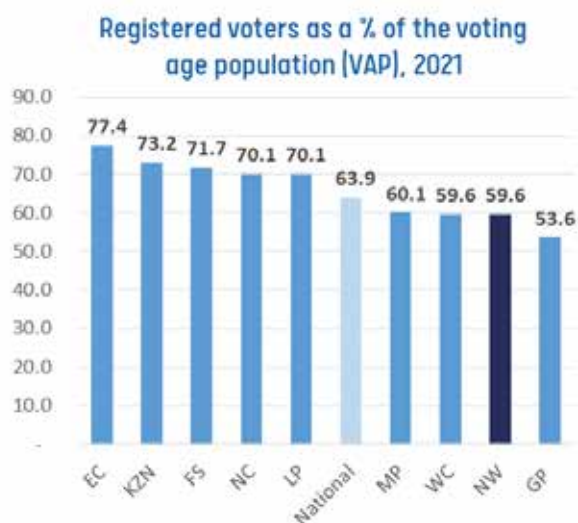
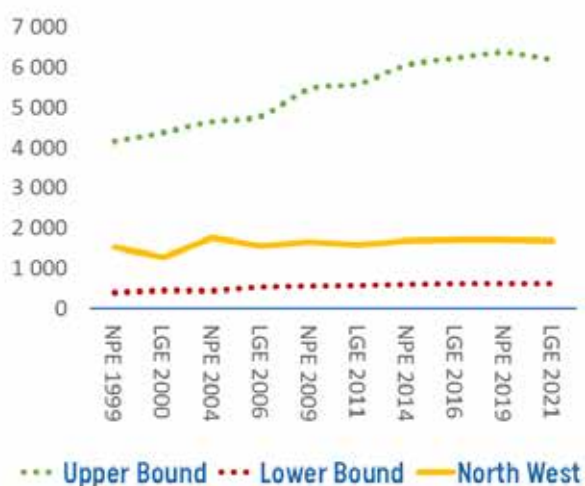
QUESTION

Number of South Africans that are registered to vote in National and Provincial Elections; percentage of voting age population that is registered

ANALYSIS

In 1999, 1.5 million eligible voters were registered to vote in the National and Provincial Elections in the North West. In the next elections of 2004, an additional 221 857 eligible voters were registered to vote, taking the total of eligible voters who registered to vote to over 1.7 million. Overall, the province of the North West has been among the three lowest ranked provinces which is not too much of a surprise given the province's demographic dynamics. However, the data also suggests that even though demographic and population dynamics are to be factored in, the province of the North West has a lower-than-average voting age population registration turnout. In 2019, the share of the voting age population (VAP) in the province that was registered was 70.9%, which is four percentage points lower than the national average (74.6%). With this average, the province was also ranked second lowest when it came to provinces with the highest number of registered voters from the voting age population. In 2021, the share of registered voters was 59.6%, which is more than four percent lower than the national average of 63.9%. The province once again ranked second lowest.

REGISTRATION PATTERNS: Number of registered voters, 1999-2021 [in thousands], and percentage of the voting age population that was registered in 2021



	1999	2000	2004	2006	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	2021 as a % of voting age population
North West	1 528	1 263	1 750	1 555	1 658	1 577	1 669	1 715	1 703	1 903	59.6
National Avg.	18 173	18 478	20 675	21 055	23 182	23 654	25 383	26 333	26 750	26 205	63.9
Upper Bound	4 154	4 373	4 651	4 786	5 462	5 593	6 064	6 235	6 381	6 196	77.4
Lower Bound	377	443	434	529	555	572	601	621	626	623	53.6

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official registration statistics, 1999-2021

2.3.9 Perceived ease of the registration process

GOAL

Ease of registration

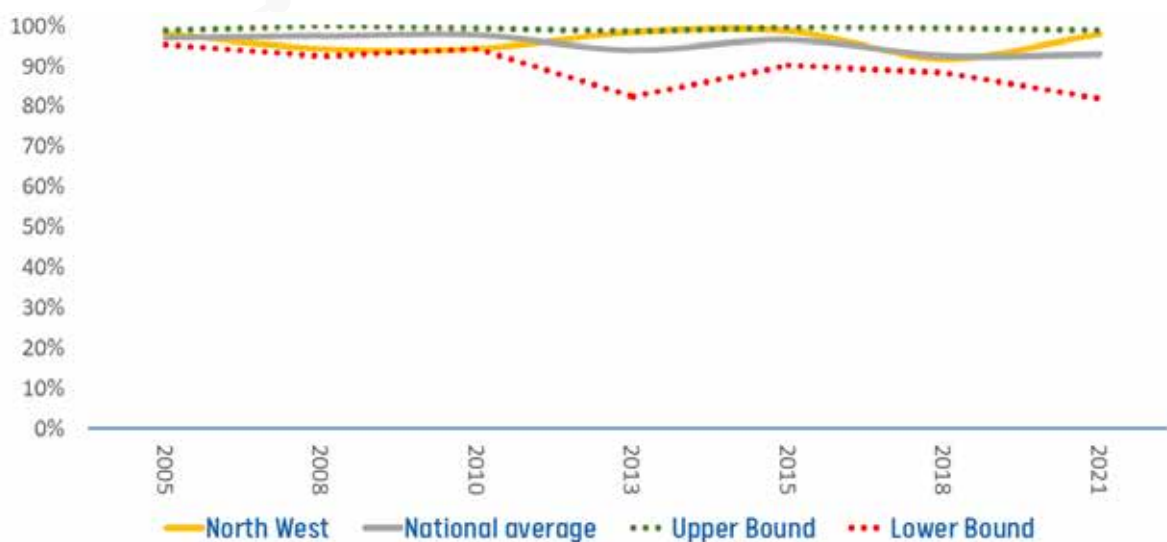
QUESTION

How easy or difficult did you find it to register as a voter? (% easy / very easy)

ANALYSIS

In 2005, 2008 and 2010, there was near universal agreement among registered voters in North West that the voting registration process was easy. This is consistent with the national average across all seven survey rounds, 96% of all voters characterised the process as easy. However, North West ranked lower than other provinces when it came to respondents who felt that the registration process was easy. Between 2010 and 2018, the number of respondents who stated that voting was easy declined by two percent, although a six percent increase is observed between 2018 and 2021. Overall, the province of North West ranked fifth on this indicator.

EASE OF REGISTRATION: Perceived ease of the registration process, 2005-2021 (% finding it 'easy' or 'very easy')



	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
North West	98	94	94	98	99	92	98	96
National Avg.	97	97	98	94	97	93	93	96
Upper Bound	99	100	99	99	100	99	99	97
Lower Bound	95	92	94	82	90	88	82	94
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	3	8	9	3	3	6	3	5

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2005-2021

2.3.10 Duration of registration process

GOAL

Determine the time taken to register as a voter

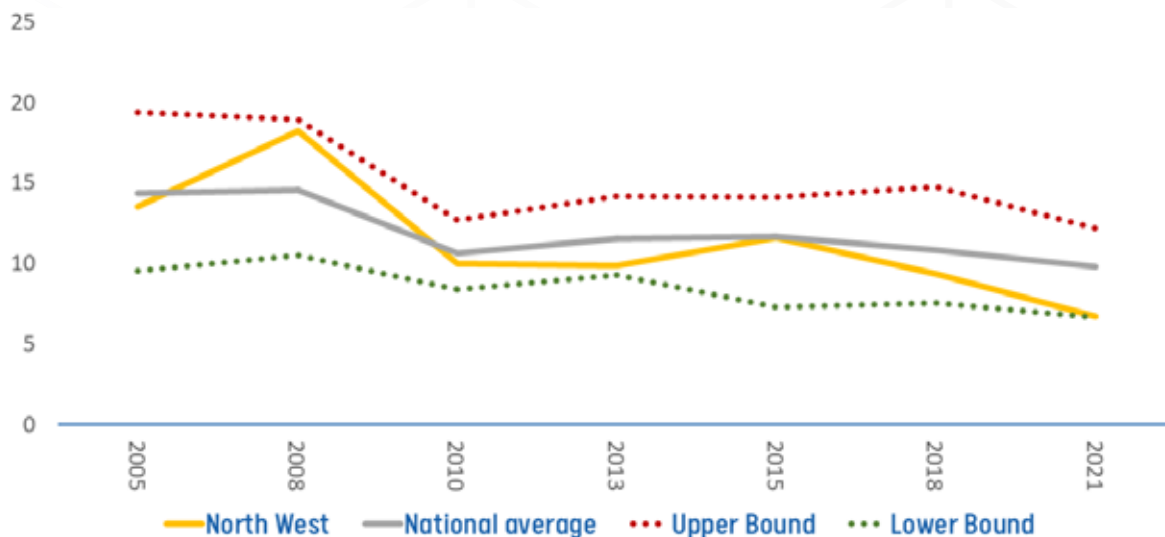
QUESTION

How many minutes did it take you to register to vote? (average number of minutes)

ANALYSIS

The average length of time to register in the North West is quite short, averaging 14 minutes in 2005. Since then, the mean time has declined, and was only nine minutes in 2018 and even shorter in 2021 at seven minutes on average. In most VPS rounds, the discrepancy between the provincial and national averages was not large. In both 2018 and 2021, the disparity between the two was just three minutes. This result is consistent with the general finding that administrative barriers do not prevent voters from participating in government elections in South Africa. On average, North West ranks among the top four provinces when looking at how long it took to register. Based on this evaluation of the ease of voting, it would appear that for most the registration process is fast and easy.

TIME TAKEN TO REGISTER: Average number of minutes that it took citizens to register to vote, 2005-2021



	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
North West	14	18	10	10	12	9	7	11
National Avg.	16	17	11	13	12	12	10	12
Upper Bound	19	19	13	14	14	15	12	14
Lower Bound	10	10	8	9	7	8	7	10
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	6	3	4	4	2	2	4

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2005-2021



PART

C

**CAMPAIGN
PERIOD**

3. CAMPAIGN PERIOD

3.1. Campaign integrity

GOAL

Determine public views on the integrity of aspects of the election campaign period

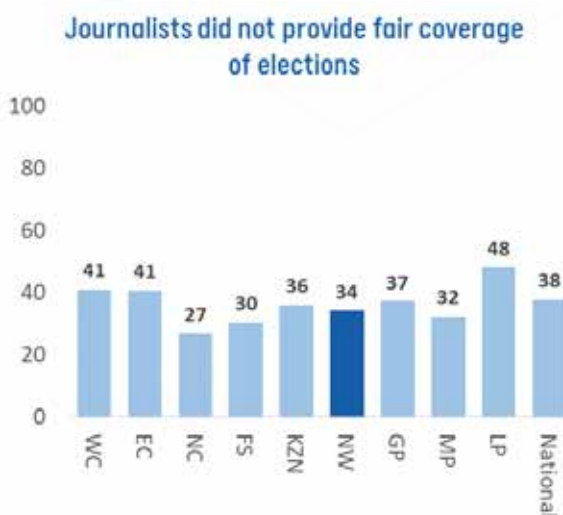
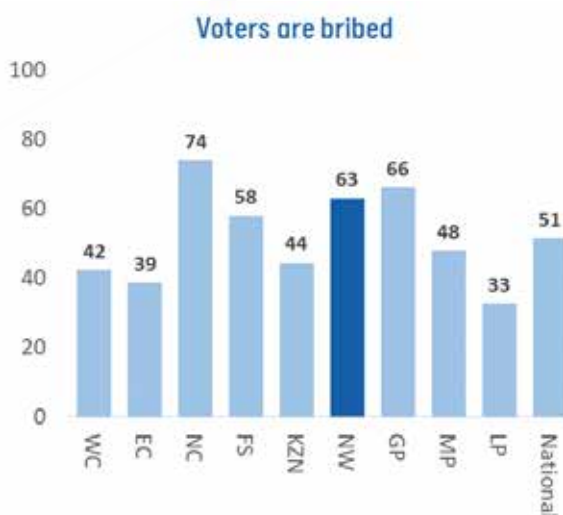
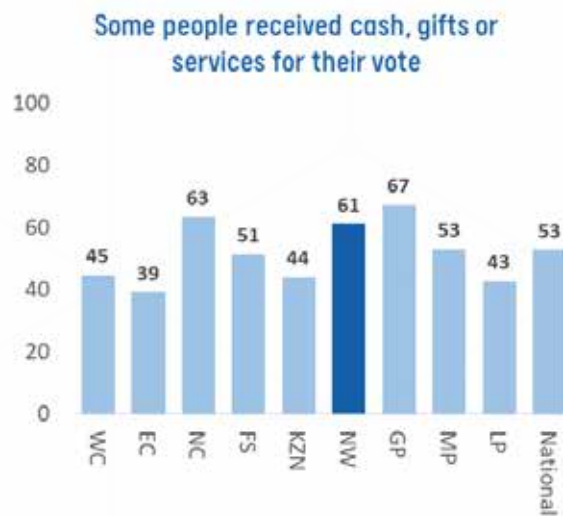
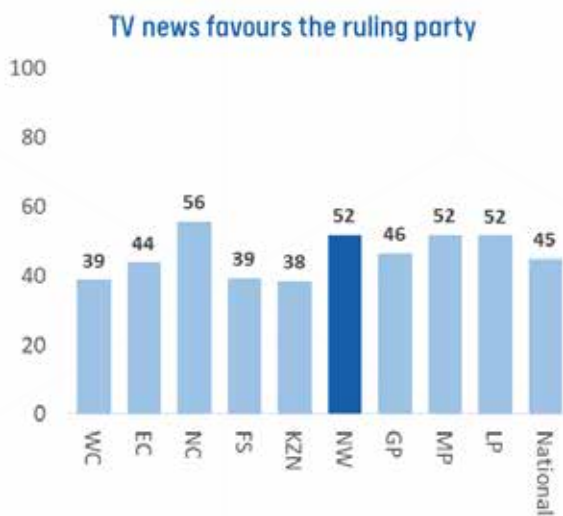
QUESTION

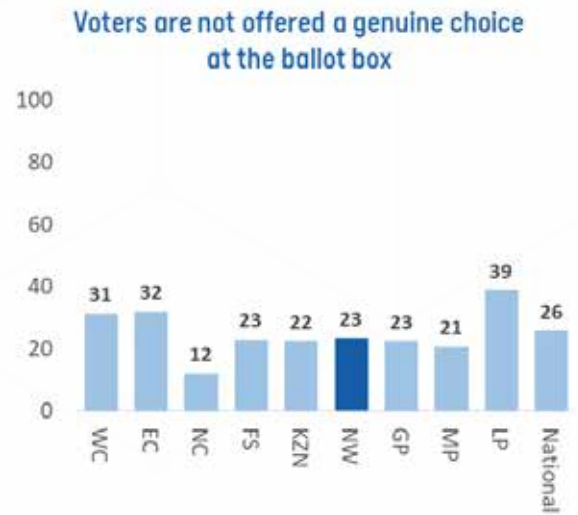
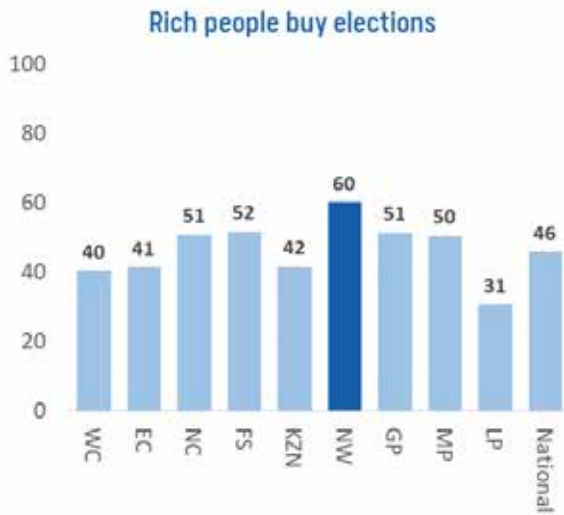
In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections? (i) TV news favours the ruling party; (ii) some people received cash, gifts or services in exchange for their vote; (iii) voters are bribed; (iv) journalists did not provide fair coverage of elections; (v) rich people buy elections; (vi) voters are not offered a genuine choice at the ballot box. (% very / fairly often)

ANALYSIS

The number of voters who believed that TV news favours the ruling party in the North West stood at 52%. Sixty-one percent of the voters believed that some people received cash, gifts or services for their vote. A similar percentage (63%) believed voters are bribed and that rich people buy elections (60%). Only 34% believed that journalists did not provide fair coverage of elections and 23% of the voters believed that voters were not afforded a choice in the ballot.

CAMPAIGN INTEGRITY: Percentage saying different electoral occurrences happen very or fairly often in the country, 2021 (%)





	TV news favours the ruling party	Some people received cash, gifts or services for their vote	Voters are bribed	Journalists did <u>not</u> provide fair coverage	Rich people buy elections	Voters are <u>not</u> offered a genuine choice
North West	52	61	63	34	60	23
National Avg.	45	53	51	38	46	26
Upper Bound	56	67	74	48	60	39
Lower Bound	38	39	33	27	31	12
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	8	8	7	8	5

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2021



3.1.1 Political party tolerance during campaigning

GOAL

Establish whether the voting public felt that political parties and candidates demonstrated tolerance during the campaign period

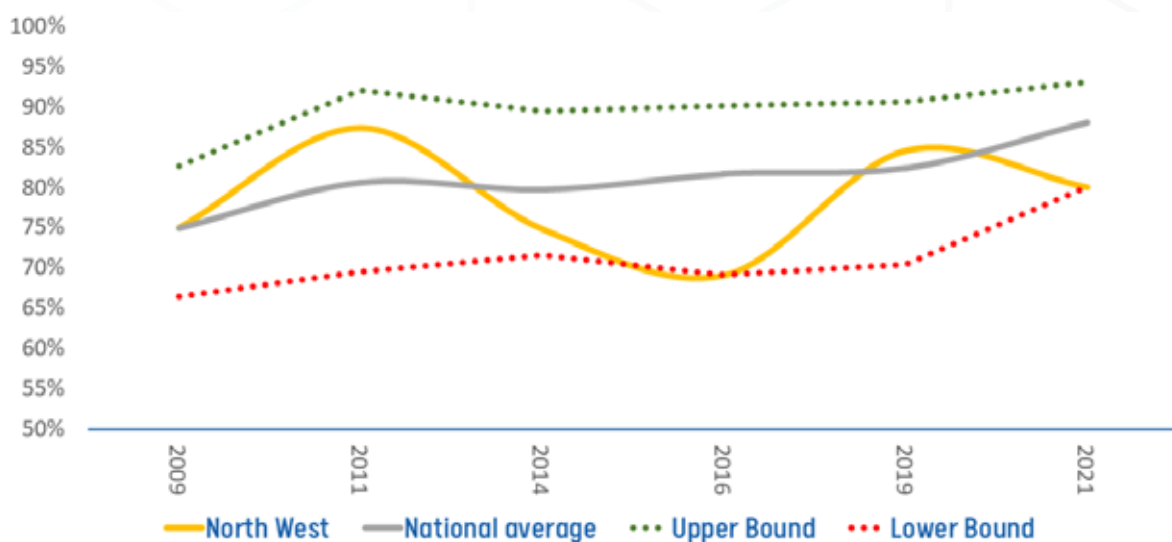
QUESTION

Do you think that political parties/independent candidates were tolerant of one another during campaigns for these elections? (% very / somewhat tolerant)

ANALYSIS

In 2009, three-quarters (75%) of voters in the North West indicated that political parties and independent candidates demonstrated general tolerance during the campaigning period ahead of elections. This positive assessment of party and candidate conduct is reflected in subsequent electoral contexts in 2011, 2014, 2019 and 2021, ranging between 75% and 87% over this period. Voters in the North West were generally positive, however, in 2016, at 69% the province ranked the lowest in terms of respondents who believed that there was political party tolerance during campaigning. An improvement could be noted in 2021 where over three-quarters (80%) of the adult population in the province had indicated that they felt that there was party tolerance during campaigning. However, the North West ranked fourth when it came to views on political party tolerance with an average of 78%.

POLITICAL PARTY TOLERANCE: Percentage of voters that believed political parties / independent candidates displayed tolerance during the campaigning period, 2009-2021 (% tolerant)



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	75	87	75	69	85	80	78
National Avg.	75	81	80	82	82	88	81
Upper Bound	83	92	89	90	91	93	86
Lower Bound	66	70	71	69	70	80	77
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	2	6	9	4	9	4

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (VPS) 2009-2021

3.2 Voter education

3.2.1 Sources of information on voting

GOAL

Determine the main voting information sources used by the public

QUESTION

Where do you usually get information about voting? (Multiple response - percentage mentioning each information source)

ANALYSIS

In accessing information about voting, the pattern observed among the voting age public over the period 2008 to 2018 is broadly consistent. Broadcast media was the most popular source of information in the North West, with 50% relying on television and 38% on radio in 2021. This is consistent with national trends, where television was the most popular national source in 2021 (59%), followed by radio (33%). Television popularity is somewhat less than the national average, but is a bit higher than the national average when it comes to radio. In terms of ranking, the North West position ranks eighth when it comes to respondents who are likely to use a television as a main source of information. Despite their popularity in contemporary times, social media was mentioned as an information source by nine percent of the public in 2018 and this declined to four percent in 2021. This is dissimilar to what was observed at national level where usage of social media is on the rise.

VOTING INFORMATION SOURCES: Percentage of voting age public that used different information sources about voting, 2008-2021 [% mentioning each source]

	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Total
Television							
North West	77%	58%	60%	51%	48%	42%	56%
National Average	57%	57%	58%	60%	53%	55%	57%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	5	4	7	7	8	5
Radio							
North West	17%	26%	18%	24%	19%	19%	20%
National Average	21%	15%	13%	12%	15%	14%	15%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	2	2	1	2	3	2
Newspaper							
North West	3%	10%	8%	4%	4%	6%	6%
National Average	8%	7%	6%	5%	5%	6%	6%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	3	4	6	6	3	5
Poster							
North West	0%	3%	8%	7%	10%	5%	5%
National Average	3%	7%	8%	5%	8%	5%	6%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	5	3	2	5	5
Informal social networks							
North West	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%
National Average	2%	2%	4%	5%	5%	3%	3%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	6	8	7	8	5	9
Social media							
North West	0%	0%	3%	6%	9%	4%	4%
National Average	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%	8%	3%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	7	5	3	3	4	4

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2008-2021

3.2.2 Preferred source of information on voting

GOAL

Determine the preferred sources of information on voting

QUESTION

What would be your preferred channel to get information on voting? (Single response)

ANALYSIS

In 2008, when asked about a preferred channel of electoral information, over three-quarters (77%) of the North West public opted for television. Television was also the most popular source nationally. In the North West television was largely more popular and ranked five percentage points higher than the national average in 2021. On posters, in contrast, the North West averaged the same (more or less) as the national average. Radio was found to be a comparatively more popular preferred channel in the province than it was at national level. Preference for this source has remained fairly level since 2013, in the 16% to 18% range. Social media was mentioned by a small share of the public in 2021 and this represents a decline from what we saw in the 2013 to 2018 period. Although this indicator declined to one percent in 2021, it had risen over time, growing from 0% in 2008 to 7% in 2018.

PREFERRED INFORMATION SOURCE: Most preferred source of information about voting among the voting age public, 2008-2021 (%)

	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Total
Television							
North West	77%	58%	60%	60%	48%	50%	58%
National Average	57%	57%	58%	58%	53%	45%	57%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	5	4	4	7	6	3
Radio							
North West	17%	26%	18%	18%	19%	16%	19%
National Average	21%	15%	13%	13%	15%	11%	15%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	2	2	2	2	3	2
Newspaper							
North West	3%	10%	8%	8%	4%	5%	6%
National Average	8%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	6%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	3	4	4	6	3	4
Poster							
North West	0%	3%	8%	8%	10%	4%	5%
National Average	3%	7%	8%	8%	8%	4%	6%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	5	5	2	4	5
Informal social networks							
North West	100%	0%	3%	6%	9%	2%	3%
National Average	2%	2%	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	7	5	3	3	2	2
Social media							
North West	0%	0%	3%	4%	7%	1%	3%
National Average	1%	1%	2%	4%	5%	3%	3%
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	7	5	3	3	8	3

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2008-2021

3.2.3 Demand for information on voting

GOAL

Establish demand for more information on voting

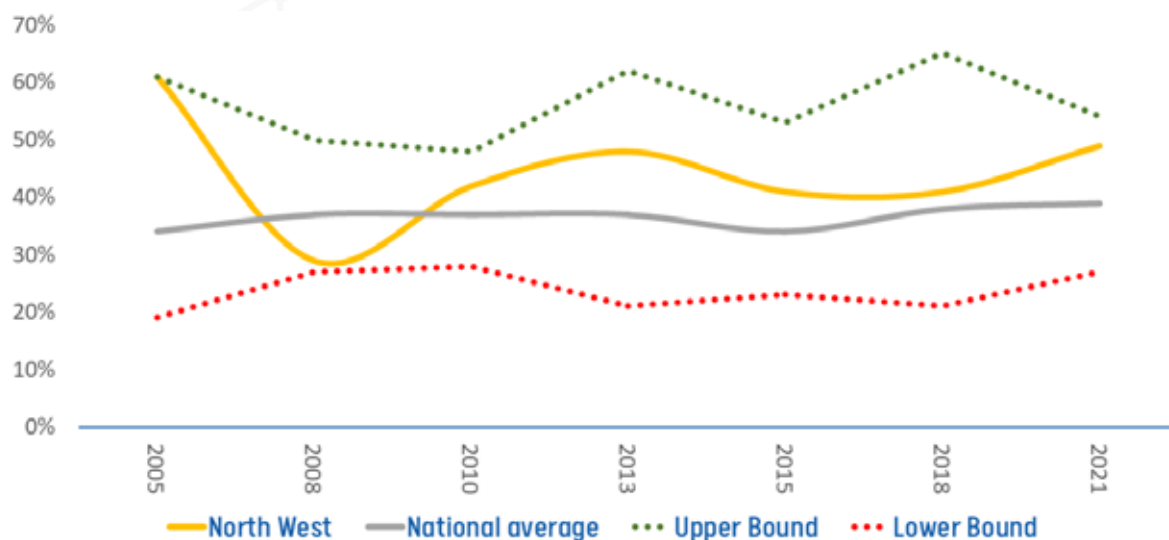
QUESTION

Do you think you have too little or too much information on how to vote? (% Too little / far too little information)

ANALYSIS

In 2010, slightly less than half (42%) of the North West respondents expressed a desire to vote. This increased to 48% in 2013. The demand hovered around slightly less than half (49%) in 2021 and the average settled at 44% overall. This is somewhat higher than the national average, where 37% expressed a desire for more information on voting during the 2005 to 2021 period. The discrepancy in most VPS rounds between the upper and lower provincial bounds was quite sizeable. The disparity between the two was 42 percentage points in 2005, while interprovincial variance was relatively smaller in 2021 when it was only 27 points. This also results in the province ranking second overall for this indicator.

DEMAND FOR VOTING INFORMATION: Reported demand for more information on voting, 2005-2021 [% stating that they receive 'too little' or 'far too little' voting information]



	2005	2008	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
North West	61	29	42	48	41	41	49	44
National Avg.	34	37	37	37	34	38	39	37
Upper Bound	61	50	48	62	53	65	54	51
Lower Bound	19	27	28	21	23	21	27	31
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	8	2	2	3	3	4	2

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2005-2021

3.2.4 Number of Civic and Democracy Education (CDE) events

GOAL

To determine the number of CDE events per 100, 000 of the voting age population

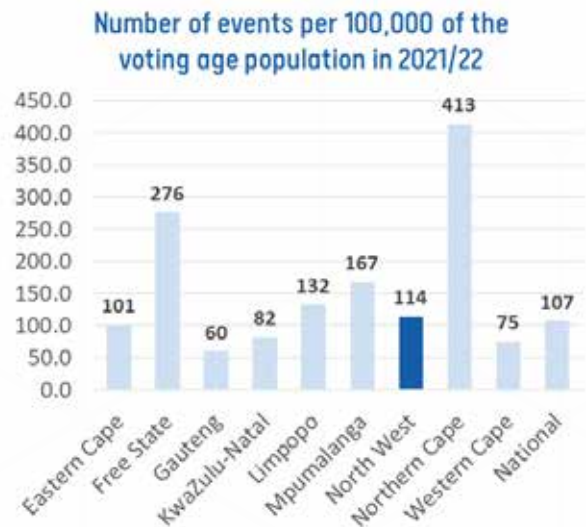
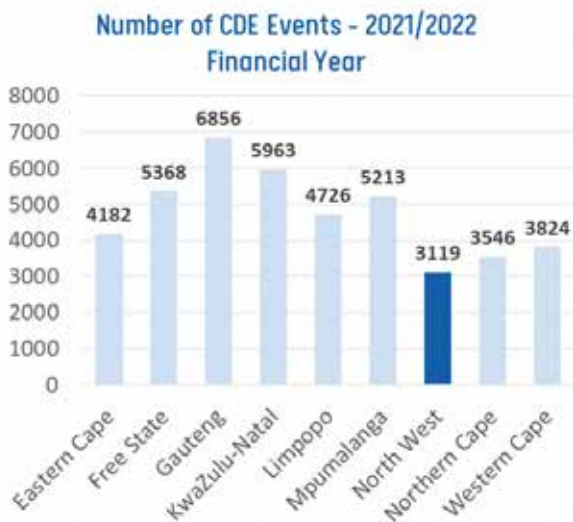
QUESTION

How many CDE events were offered in each province in 2021/2022?

ANALYSIS

In the North West, 3 119 CDE events were held during the 2021/2022 financial year, implying that the province had the lowest number of events over this period (in absolute numbers). However, in order to compare the reach of these events across provinces, it is advisable to take into account the size of the voting age population (VAP) per province. Doing so, it is evident that the North West has the sixth lowest (114 events per 100,000 of the voting age population) of all provinces, well above the national average of 107 events per 100,000. Due to economies of scale, the ratio is more likely to be higher in smaller provinces, such as the Northern Cape.

NUMBER OF CDE EVENTS: Absolute number of CDE events, and number of events per 100,000 of the voting age population for the 2021/2022 year



	Number of CDE events				Number of events per 100,000 of the voting age population (VAP)			
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Eastern Cape	11022	4175	1132	4182	280.5	101.2	27.2	101.5
Free State	5768	2262	1497	5368	297.7	118.7	76.9	276.0
Gauteng	11272	5774	2714	6856	107.4	52.8	24.2	59.9
KwaZulu Natal	15275	4108	2218	5963	212.5	57.6	30.7	81.8
Limpopo	9179	3719	2068	4726	263.2	101.2	58.1	132.3
Mpumalanga	9232	2336	294	5213	323.0	78.4	9.6	167.4
North West	6114	3000	1716	3119	769.3	113.6	63.3	113.8
Northern Cape	6142	2343	1022	3546	240.8	280.5	119.7	413.4
Western Cape	8383	3009	375	3824	182.1	62.0	7.5	75.4
National	82 388	30 726	13 036	42 797	217.7	78.6	32.8	106.6

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official statistics 2019-2022

3.2.5 Perceived effectiveness of voter education campaigns

GOAL

Appraising the effectiveness of voter education campaigns

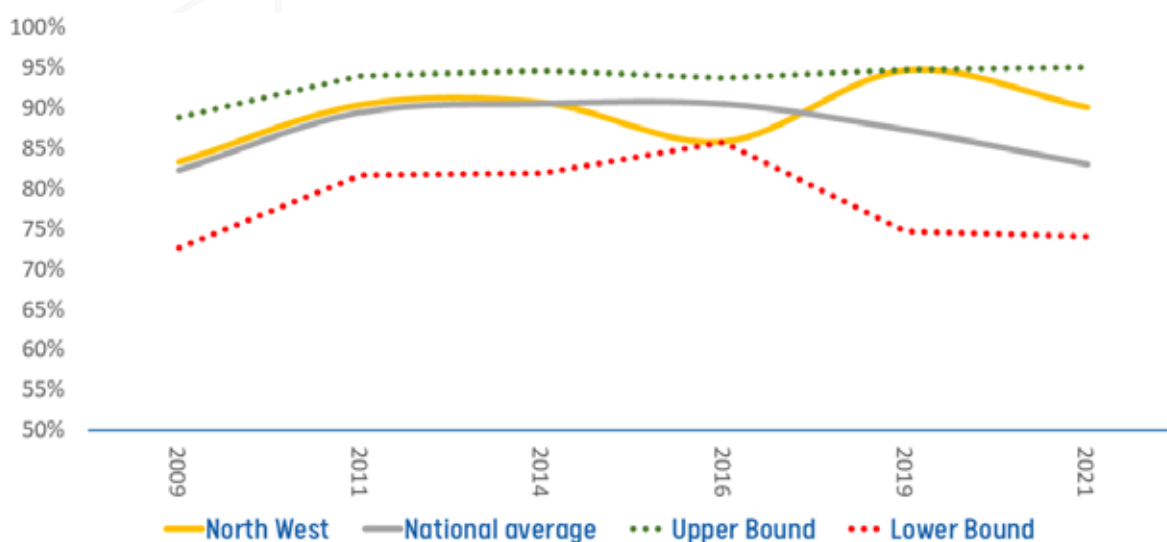
QUESTION

How effective was the IEC’s voter education campaign for these elections? (% very effective, somewhat effective).

ANALYSIS

In 2009 over three-quarters (83%) of voters in the North West believed that the Commission’s voter education campaigns were effective. Attitudes on this indicator improved in 2011, reaching 90% in the province. Similar views were expressed in the 2014 to 2019 with views on the effectiveness of these campaigns remaining in the 90% region. This position did not change throughout the 2019 NPE and 2021 LGE. The disproportion between the lower and upper bounds was quite small in most survey rounds and was only eight percentage points in 2016. However, interprovincial variation grew significantly and was 21 percentage points in 2021. The rank position of the North West has remained fairly high. The province ranked first in 2021 and second overall regarding the effectiveness of campaigns.

CAMPAIGN EFFECTIVENESS: Percentage of voters who thought that the IEC’s voter education campaign for elections was effective, 2009-2021 (% effective)



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	83	90	91	86	95	90	89
National Avg.	82	89	91	90	87	83	88
Upper Bound	89	94	95	94	95	95	90
Lower Bound	73	82	82	86	75	74	87
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	4	5	9	1	2	2

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2009-2021

PART

D

ELECTION DAY

4. ELECTION DAY

4.1 Voting station evaluations

4.1.1 Time to get to voting station

GOAL

Determine the average time taken to get to voting stations

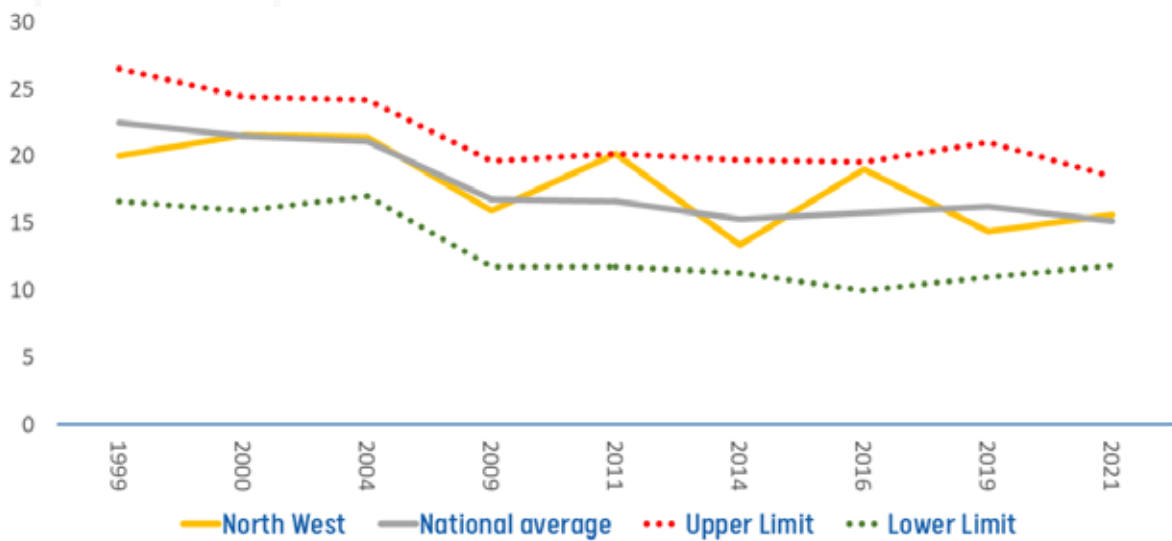
QUESTION

How long did it take you to get to the voting station? (average number of minutes)

ANALYSIS

Over the 1999 to 2019 period, the average time it took for voters in the North West to get to their voting station was 21 minutes, six minute more than the national average of 15 minutes. At the national level there was an improvement over time on this indicator, with the mean number of minutes falling from 22 in 1999 to 16 minutes in 2021. A similar improvement has not been noted in the province with scores remaining fairly stable (albeit some fluctuations) over the period. In the 2004 elections as well as the 2021 elections, the province of the North West ranked sixth in terms of the time it took for them to get to the voting station. Overall, the North West ranks fifth in terms of how long it took for voters to get to the voting station.

TIME TO GET TO THE VOTING STATION: Average number of minutes that it took citizens to get to the voting station, 1999-2021



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	20	22	21	16	20	13	19	14	16	18
National Avg.	22	21	21	17	17	17	15	16	16	15
Upper Bound	27	24	24	20	20	20	20	20	21	18
Lower Bound	17	16	17	12	12	12	11	10	11	12
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	4	6	4	9	4	8	4	6	5

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

4.1.2 Queuing time at voting stations

GOAL

Determine the average queuing time at voting stations

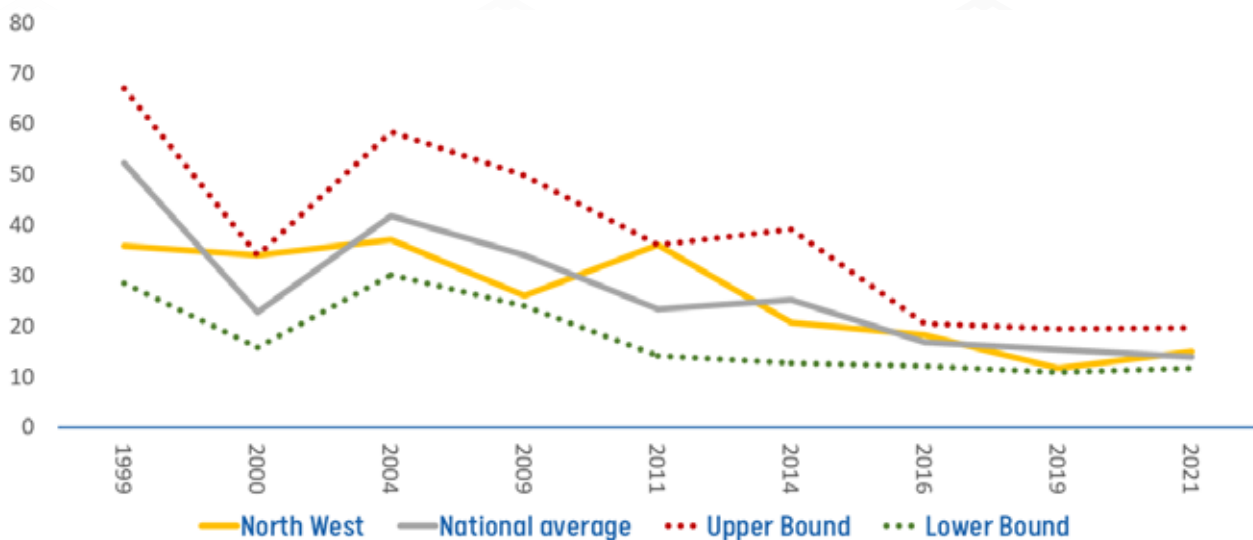
QUESTION

How long did you queue before voting? (average number of minutes)

ANALYSIS

Between 1999 and 2021, the average length of time voters spent queuing in the North West was 26 minutes. The average queuing time for voters in the province has steadily improved since 1999 and the mean time declined to only 12 minutes in 2019. These improvements follow national trends and are likely to mainly reflect gains in the efficiency of electoral operations. However, mean queue time increased to 15 minutes in 2021. Considerable interprovincial variation was observed on this measure during much of the 1999 to 2014 period. This discrepancy was much smaller in the 2016 to 2021 period and was only eight minutes in 2021. The North West was placed third out of all provinces for the 1999 to 2021 period, but was eighth in 2021.

TIME TAKEN TO QUEUE: Average number of minutes that it took citizens to queue, 1999-2021



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	36	34	37	26	36	21	18	12	15	26
National Avg.	52	23	42	34	23	25	17	15	14	27
Upper Bound	67	34	58	50	36	39	20	19	20	31
Lower Bound	29	16	30	24	14	13	12	11	12	19
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	9	5	3	9	6	7	3	8	3

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

4.1.3 Safety and security

GOAL

Determine the perceived effectiveness of safety and security measures at voting stations

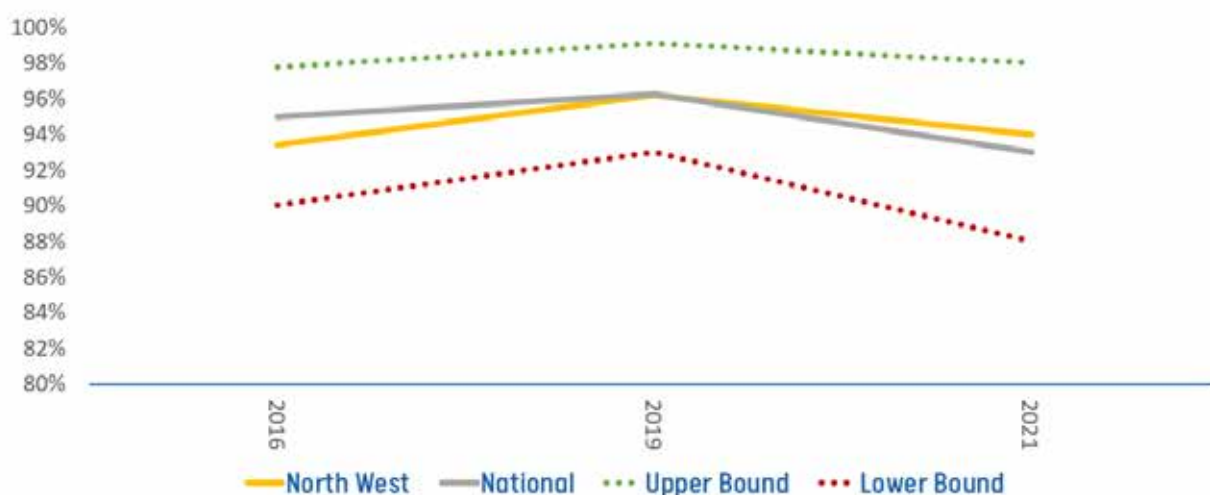
QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the safety and security provided at the voting station? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

ANALYSIS

On average, voters appear broadly satisfied with the safety and security provided at voting stations. Throughout the period of tracking, satisfaction with safety and security at the voting station has fluctuated. In 2016, 93% of voters in the North West expressed satisfaction with the safety and security at their voting stations, increasing to 96% in 2019. It then decreased by two percentage points in 2021 to 94%. Despite this positive rating, it is important to note that, relative to other provinces, the North West ranked fairly low on this indicator – eighth in 2016 and sixth in 2019. Although there was an observable improvement in 2021, where the province was ranked amongst the four provinces with the highest safety satisfaction rating. Despite this improvement, the province averages seventh overall across the three survey rounds. Therefore, despite the high level of satisfaction and the increase observed after 2016, the comparative findings indicate that the North West is one of the provinces where more attention could be devoted to the issue of safety and security.

SAFETY AND SECURITY AT VOTING STATION: Satisfaction with the safety and security at the voting station, 2016-2021 [%]



	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	93	96	94	95
National Avg.	95	96	93	95
Upper Bound	98	99	98	98
Lower Bound	90	93	88	92
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	6	4	7

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2016-2019

4.1.4 Accessibility of voting station to persons with disabilities/the elderly

GOAL

Determine accessibility of voter stations to persons with disabilities and/or the elderly

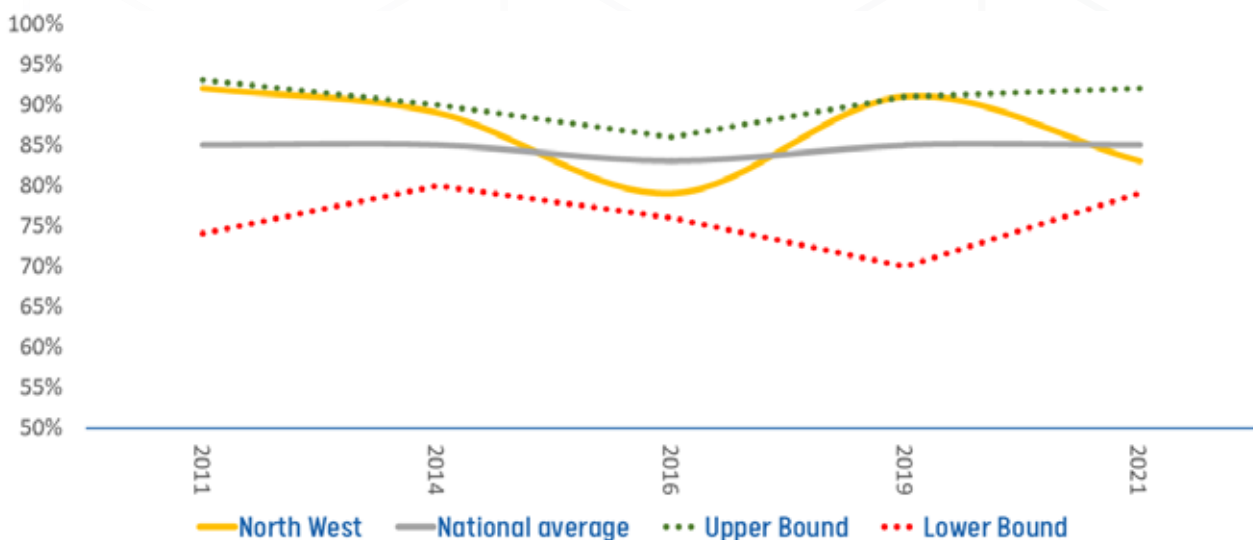
QUESTION

How easily accessible was the voting station to persons with disabilities or the elderly? (% accessible / very accessible)

ANALYSIS

The proportion of North West voters who felt that voting stations were accessible to persons with disabilities and or the elderly was high in all survey rounds. We can observe a gradually decrease in satisfaction on this issue between 2011-2016, falling from 92% at the beginning of the period to 79% at the end. There was an increase in satisfaction in 2019, 91% of voters in that round were satisfied with the accessibility provided to the disabled and elderly. But satisfaction fell in 2021 and was only 83% in that survey round, the North West only ranked sixth in 2021. Fairly low interprovincial variations were noted on this measure for this period with the exception of 2011 and 2019. In those survey rounds there was a 19-percentage point difference between the upper and lower bounds.

ACCESSIBILITY OF VOTING STATIONS FOR THE DISABLED/ELDERLY: Percentage who believed that the voting station was accessible to persons with disabilities or the elderly, 2011-2021 (% accessible)



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	92	89	79	91	83	87
National Avg.	85	85	83	85	85	85
Upper Bound	93	90	86	91	92	89
Lower Bound	74	80	76	70	79	77
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	3	7	1	6	3

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2011-2021

4.1.5 Quality of service rendered by IEC officials

GOAL

Determine the perceived quality of service rendered by IEC officials at voting stations

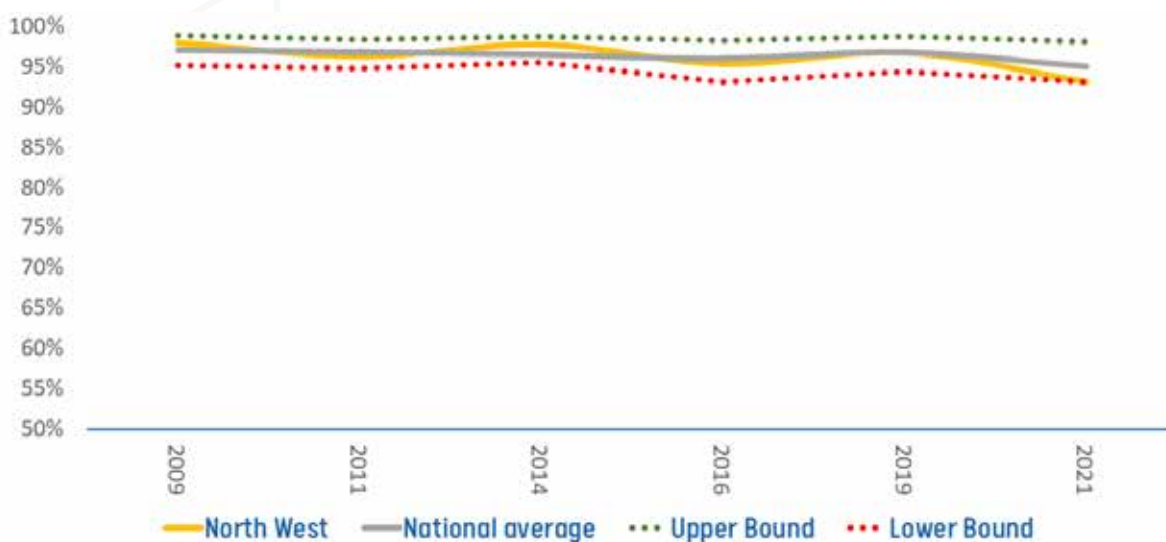
QUESTION

Are you satisfied with the quality of service that the IEC officials provided to voters? (% satisfied / very satisfied)

ANALYSIS

Among voters, almost universal satisfaction was recorded regarding the quality of services provided by the IEC to voters on Election Day in the six successive elections held between 2009 and 2021. In the North West, satisfaction in 2009 was particularly high at 98 %, ranking third for that year. This is consistent with national trends. The proportion of voters that was satisfied remained above the 90% threshold for this period. In some survey rounds there was considerable interprovincial variation on this measure, the highest in the last three survey rounds. Overall, and despite this positive assessment, the North West ranked low relative to other provinces and, with the exception of 2009 and 2014, ranked in the bottom four provinces. Overall, the province ranks seventh on this indicator.

QUALITY OF IEC SERVICE: Satisfaction with quality of service rendered by IEC officials, 2009-2021 (%)



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	98	96	98	95	97	93	96
National Avg.	97	97	96	96	97	95	96
Upper Bound	99	98	99	98	99	98	98
Lower Bound	95	95	95	93	94	93	95
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	7	3	6	8	8	7

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2009-2021

4.2 Voting procedure

4.2.1 Assessment of electoral procedures

GOAL

Assessing how the voting procedure was perceived

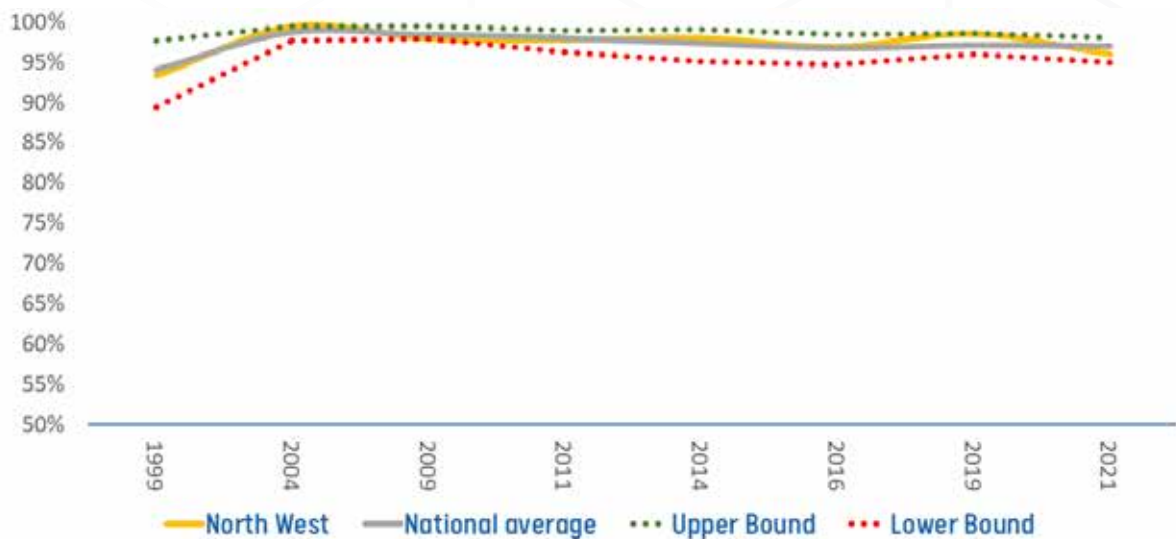
QUESTION

Was the voting procedure inside the voting station easy or difficult to understand? (% easy / very easy to understand)

ANALYSIS

When examining public opinion on the user experience of voting procedures in the North West between 1999 and 2021, a largely positive picture emerges. Over this period, the vast majority (97%) of voters in the province found the voting procedures inside the voting station easy to understand. We find a broadly consistent pattern of results across National and Provincial as well as Local Government elections, with the share indicating that the voting procedures were “easy” ranging between 93% and 99%. The position of the North West relative to other provinces has remained high, although ranking sixth overall out of nine provinces.

ELECTORAL PROCEDURAL ASSESSMENT: Proportion of voters who believed that the voting procedure inside the voting station was easy to understand, 1999-2021 (% easy / very easy to understand)



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	93	92	99	98	98	98	97	99	96	97
National Avg.	94	94	99	98	98	97	97	97	97	97
Upper Bound	98	98	99	99	99	99	98	99	98	98
Lower Bound	89	92	98	98	96	95	95	96	95	96
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	8	2	9	8	6	4	1	6	6

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

4.2.2 Assessment of procedural accommodation of the elderly

GOAL

Assessing whether the voting procedure accommodated the elderly

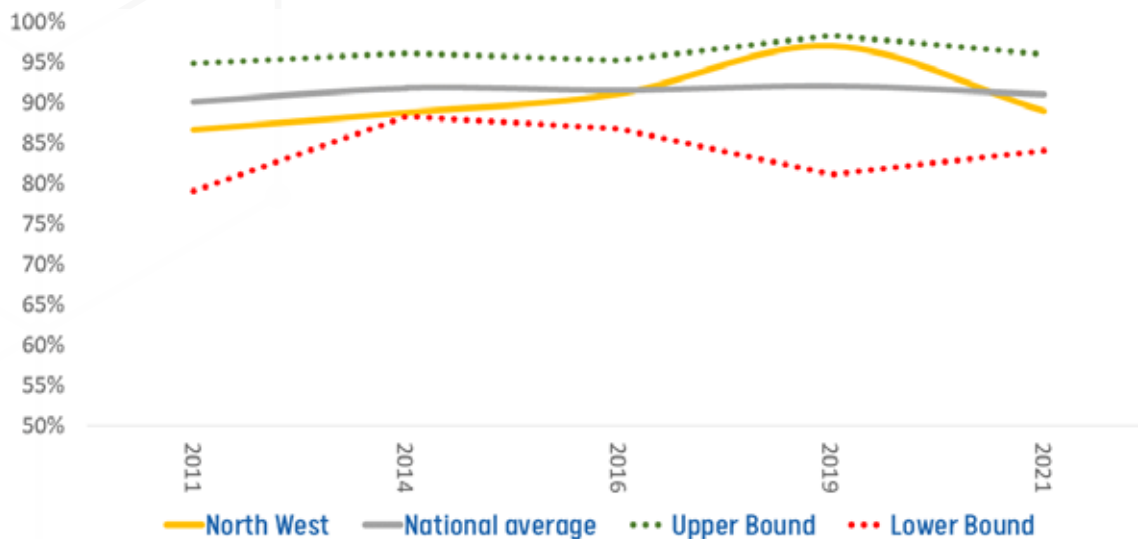
QUESTION

To what extent did the voting procedure at this voting station consider the needs of the elderly? (% to a great / some extent)

ANALYSIS

In 2011, 89 % of the voters in the North West felt that voting stations accommodated the needs of the elderly. Relative to other provinces, this figure was quite low and as a result, the province of the North West ranked eighth in this measure. In 2014, this figure improved slightly to 91%, but remained lower than other provinces and North West, as a result, still ranked eighth overall. However, there was a significant improvement in this rating and in 2016, this figure improved to 97 % and the province ranked sixth for that year. In 2019 the province ranked second with 97%. However, it declined by eight percentage points in 2021 slipping down to seventh in the ranking for that year. As a result, the province of the North West ranks sixth on average on this measure and is only three percentage points lower than the national average of 91 %.

ELDERLY PROCEDURAL ACCOMMODATION: Percentage of voters who thought that the voting procedure at the voting station considered the needs of the elderly, 2011-2021 (% to a great/ some extent)



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	87	91	97	97	89	91
National Avg.	90	92	91	92	91	91
Upper Bound	95	96	95	98	96	94
Lower Bound	79	88	87	81	84	84
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	8	6	2	7	6

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2011-2021

4.2.3 Assessment of procedural accommodation of persons with disabilities

GOAL

Assessing whether the voting procedure accommodated the needs of persons with disabilities

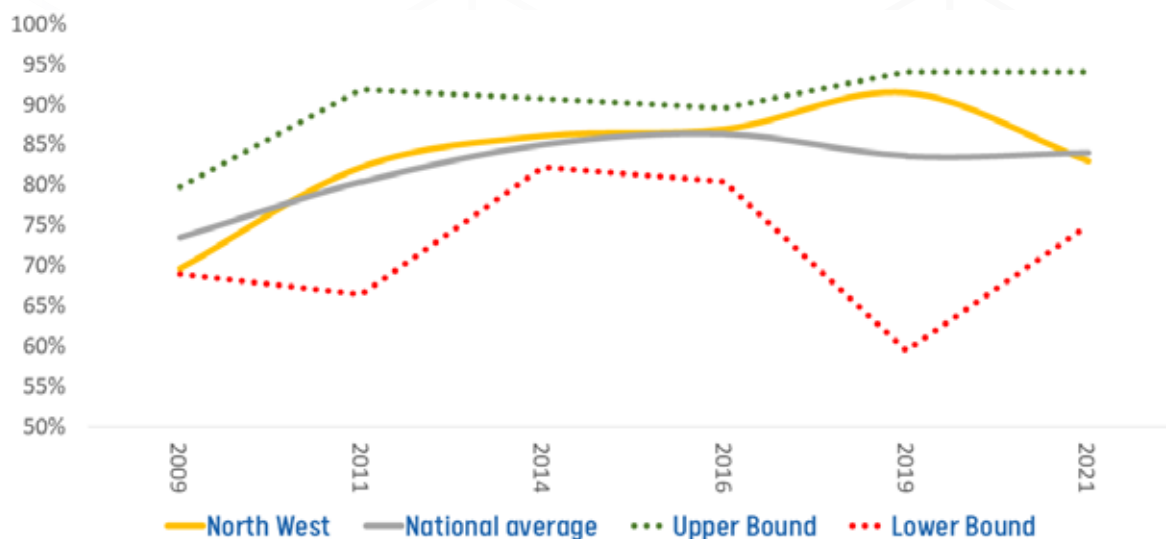
QUESTION

To what extent did the voting procedure at this voting station consider the needs of persons with disabilities? (% to a great / some extent)

ANALYSIS

In 2009, slightly over two-thirds (70%) of the voters in the North West said that the voting stations accommodate the needs of persons with disabilities. This figure was lower than the national average of 73% for that year, as a result, the North West ranked eighth when it came to views on accommodating the needs of persons with disabilities. In subsequent years, the province improved significantly and in 2019, 91% of the respondents felt that voting stations accommodated the needs of persons with disabilities. Between 2019 and 2021, the number of respondents who expressed satisfaction with this measure decreased from 91% to 83%. Overall, the province of the North West ranks third on this measure.

PROCEDURAL ACCOMMODATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: Percentage of voters who thought that the voting procedure at the voting station considered the needs of persons with disabilities, 2009-2021 (% to a great/ some extent)



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	70	82	86	87	91	83	83
National Avg.	73	80	85	86	84	84	82
Upper Bound	80	92	91	90	94	94	85
Lower Bound	69	66	82	80	59	75	76
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	5	4	3	3	4	3

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2009-2021

4.2.4 Assessment of procedural accommodation of blind and visually impaired voters

GOAL

Assessing whether the voting procedure accommodated the needs of visually impaired voters

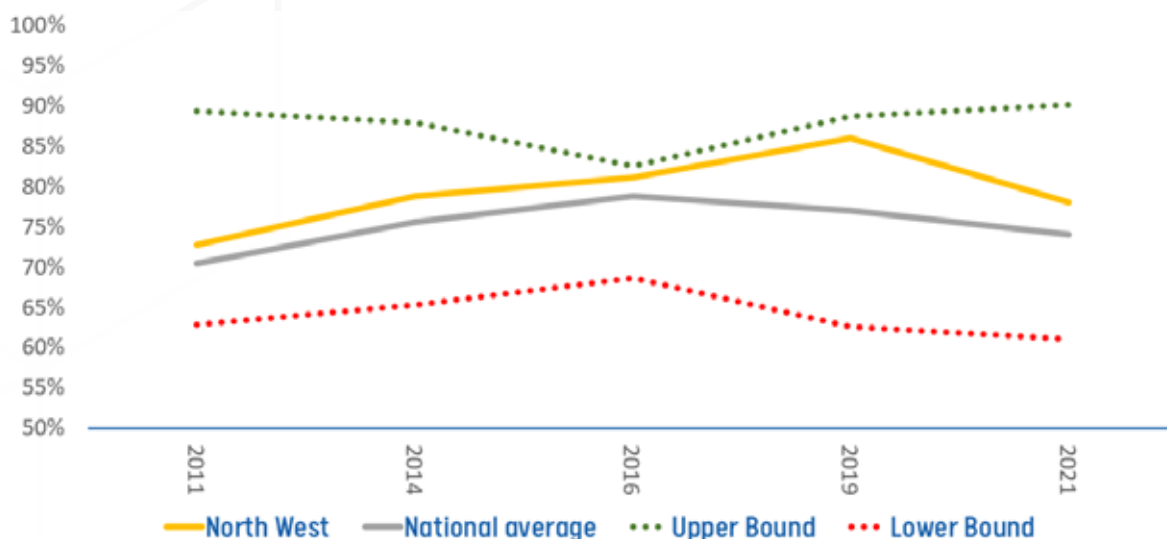
QUESTION

To what extent did the voting procedure at this voting station consider the needs of the partially-sighted or blind? (% to a great / some extent)

ANALYSIS

In 2021, over three-quarters (78%) of voters in the North West believed that the voting stations had put in place procedures that considered the needs of blind and visually impaired people. These outcomes are quite similar to previous survey rounds and only small variances were noted over this period. Over the 2011 to 2021 period, an average of 79% of voters in the province expressed the view that the voting procedures accommodated the special needs of blind and visually impaired people. By and large, voters were relatively satisfied with how voting stations are performing in relation to this issue. The ranking of North West relative to other provinces has not varied much over the last decade. Overall, the province of the North West ranked third overall when it comes to this indicator measure.

PROCEDURAL ACCOMMODATION OF BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED VOTERS: Percentage of voters who thought that the voting procedures at the voting station considered the needs of partially sighted or blind voters, 2011-2021 (% to a great/ some extent)



	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	73	79	81	86	78	79
National Avg.	70	76	79	77	74	75
Upper Bound	89	88	83	89	90	83
Lower Bound	63	65	69	63	61	65
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	5	3	3	3	3

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2011-2021

4.2.5 Assessing the secrecy of the vote at voting stations

GOAL

Assessing whether voters were satisfied that the voting station procedures ensured the secrecy of their vote

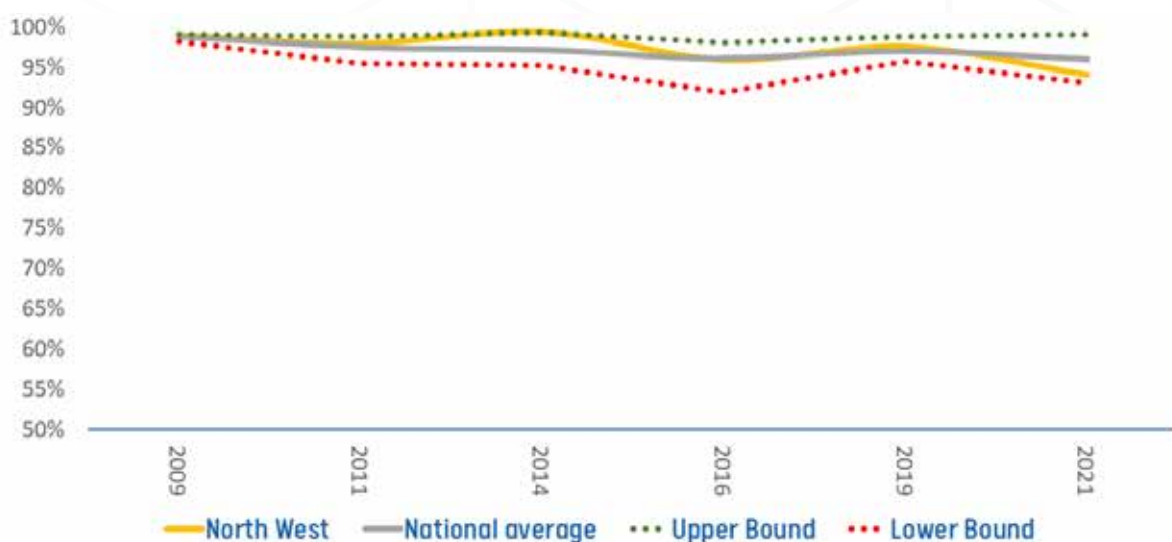
QUESTION

Are you satisfied that your vote in this voting station was secret? (% very satisfied / satisfied)

ANALYSIS

In 2019, 97% of the voters in the North West had faith in the arrangements made by voting stations to ensure the secrecy of their vote. This finding is comparable to previous survey rounds, and only nominal differences were observed in the province over the 2009 to 2021 period. The average share of voters in the province who were content with the secrecy of the vote during the period 2009-2019 was 98%. This percentage dropped by four percent to 94% in 2021. However, voters were relatively satisfied with how the voting stations are performing in relation to ensuring the confidentiality of votes cast. The rank position of the North West relative to other provinces has remained fairly consistent throughout this period. Overall, the province of the North West ranks third on this measure and is ranked among the top three provinces in the country.

SATISFIED WITH SECRECY OF VOTE: Percentage of voters who were satisfied with the measures to ensure the secrecy of their vote at their voting station, 2009-2021 (%)



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	99	98	99	96	97	94	97
National Avg.	99	97	97	96	97	96	97
Upper Bound	99	99	99	98	99	99	98
Lower Bound	98	96	95	92	96	93	93
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	4	1	6	6	8	3

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2009-2021

4.2.6. Ballot paper usability and satisfaction

GOAL

Overall satisfaction with ballot paper used in the 2019 national and provincial elections

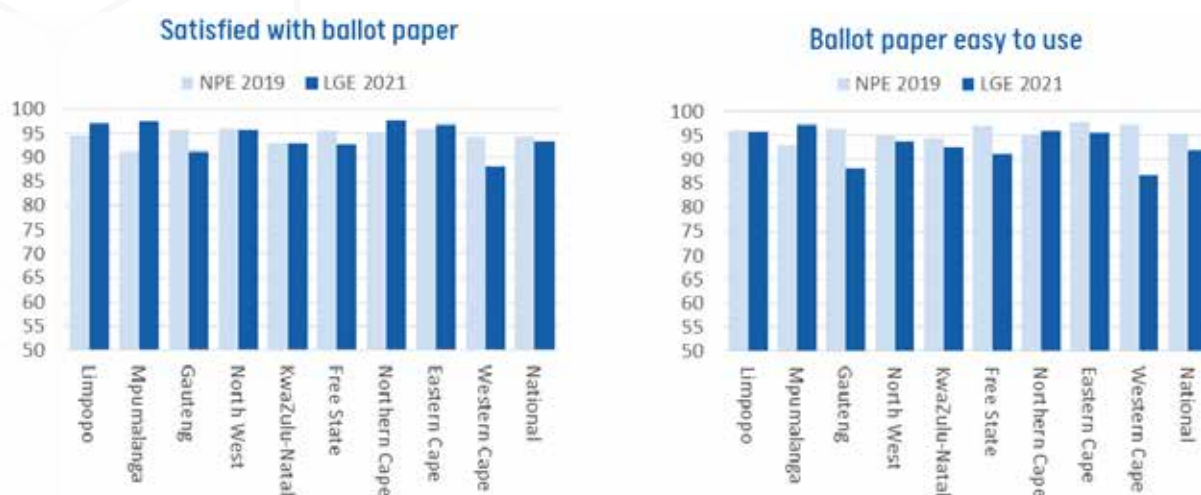
QUESTION

How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the ballot papers used in this election? (% very satisfied / satisfied)
How easy or difficult was it to find your party of choice on the ballot papers? (% very satisfied / satisfied)

ANALYSIS

In 2019, the majority (96%) of voters in the North West voiced satisfaction with the ballot paper used in the national and provincial elections. This did not change much in the 2021 local government elections with 95% of the voters once again voicing satisfaction with the ballot paper used. As in 2019, the provincial satisfaction was higher than the national average of 93% in 2021. A further 94% found the ballot paper easy to use in 2021, once again reinforcing the message that voters were fairly pleased with the ballot design. The change in both ballot paper evaluations between 2019 and 2021 on the other provinces is minor on aggregate. Only small percentage point differences were observed between the upper and lower bounds, which implies a low level of interprovincial variation.

BALLOT PAPER SATISFACTION: Percentage of voters who were satisfied with the overall design of ballot papers and their usability, 2019-2021 (%)



	Overall satisfaction with ballot paper		Ballot paper usability	
	2019	2021	2019	2021
North West	96	95	96	94
National Avg.	94	93	95	92
Upper Bound	96	98	98	97
Lower Bound	94	97	96	87

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2019-2021

4.3 Coercion

GOAL

Determining experiences of political coercion at the voting station

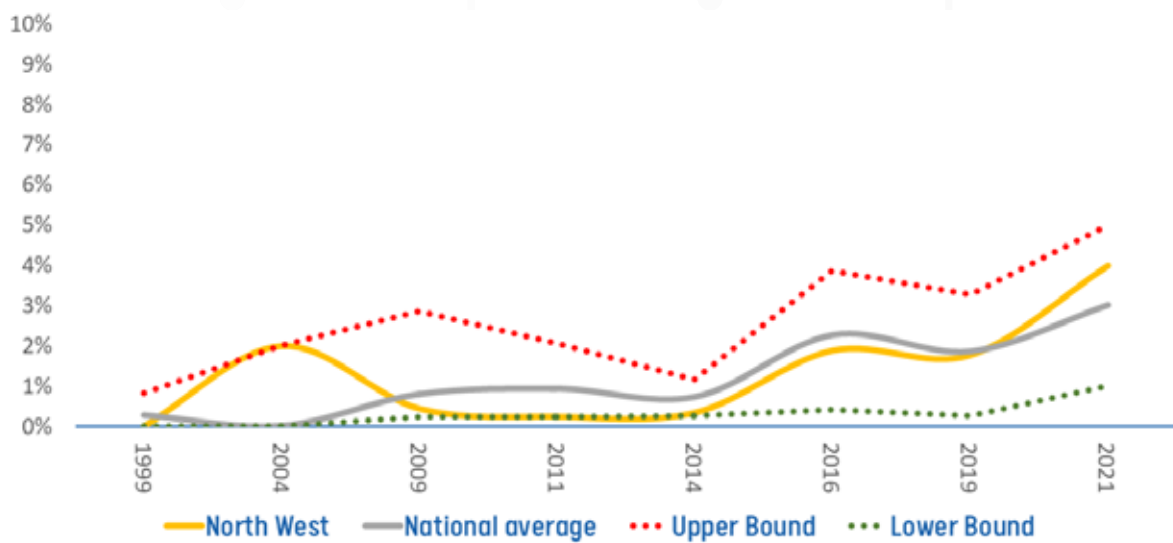
QUESTION

Did anyone try to force you to vote for a certain political party or independent candidate at the voting station (while outside or inside)?

ANALYSIS

Overall, it is evident that political coercion at the voting station is not a common occurrence. In the North West, the number of voters who reported coercion has remained low, with the only exception being in the local government elections in 2000 where four percent of voters reported experiencing coercion. This is similar to what was observed at national level. Two percent of voters reported experiencing political coercion in 2019 and four percent in 2021. Overall, the North West province ranks second which means that political coercion at voting stations in the North West is more common than in other provinces, despite the low number of voters who reported it. While the shares reporting this experience remain nominal, the 2021 data demonstrates that there may be a need for the Electoral Commission to monitor coercion in North West in future elections.

POLITICAL COERCION: Proportion of voters who said that they had experienced political coercion at the voting station (outside or inside), 1999-2021 (% experienced)



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	0	4	2	0	0	0	2	2	4	2
National Avg.	0	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	3	1
Upper Bound	1	4	2	3	2	1	4	3	5	2
Lower Bound	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	1	1	4	9	8	6	5	2	2

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

4.4 Election turnout

4.4.1. Total votes cast, valid votes and spoilt votes in National and Provincial Elections (national vote)

	EC	FS	GP	KZN	MP	NC	LP	NW	WC	Out of country	Total
1999 National Election											
Total votes cast	2 222 394	1 115 326	3 744 958	3 011 732	1 157 229	335 177	1 691 609	1 333 858	1 616 179	...	16 228 462
Valid votes	2 188 184	1 094 776	3 704 449	2 958 963	1 132 517	327 950	1 660 849	1 307 532	1 601 922	...	15 977 142
Spoilt votes	34 210	20 550	40 509	52 769	24 712	7 227	30 760	26 326	14 257	...	251 320
% spoilt	1.5	1.8	1.1	1.8	2.1	2.2	1.8	2.0	0.9	...	1.5
2004 National Election											
Total votes cast	2 310 226	1 042 120	3 553 098	2 807 885	1 157 963	329 707	1 686 757	1 353 963	1 621 839	...	15 863 558
Valid votes	2 277 391	1 022 044	3 504 363	2 765 203	1 134 092	323 201	1 657 596	1 323 761	1 605 020	...	15 612 671
Spoilt votes	32 835	20 076	48 735	42 682	23 871	6 506	29 161	30 202	16 819	...	250 887
% spoilt	1.4	1.9	1.4	1.5	2.1	2.0	1.7	2.2	1.0	...	1.6
2009 National Election											
Total votes cast	2 344 098	1 069 127	4 391 699	3 574 326	1 363 836	421 490	1 570 592	1 135 701	2 049 097	...	17 919 966
Valid votes	2 309 643	1 051 858	4 345 613	3 527 234	1 343 253	414 502	1 547 636	1 113 411	2 027 579	...	17 680 729
Spoilt votes	34 455	17 269	46 086	47 092	20 583	6 988	22 956	22 290	21 518	...	239 237
% spoilt	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.5	2.0	1.1	...	1.3
2014 National Election											
Total votes cast	2 278 555	1 051 027	4 638 981	3 935 771	1 408 269	443 714	1 543 986	1 147 786	2 188 236	18 446	18 654 771
Valid votes	2 243 497	1 034 337	4 592 219	3 874 833	1 385 407	436 065	1 523 169	1 126 691	2 168 147	18 132	18 402 497
Spoilt votes	35 058	16 690	46 762	60 938	22 862	7 649	20 817	21 095	20 089	314	252 274
% spoilt	1.5	1.6	1.0	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.8	0.9	1.7	1.4
2019 National Election											
Total votes cast	2 052 818	919 549	4 580 285	3 715 985	1 290 908	417 248	1 530 837	1 012 250	2 133 062	19 909	17 672 851
Valid votes	2 020 527	907 212	4 537 402	3 652 577	1 271 979	410 842	1 510 568	994 220	2 112 170	19 882	17 437 379
Spoilt votes	32 291	12 337	42 883	63 408	18 929	6 406	20 269	18 030	20 892	27	235 472
% spoilt	1.6	1.3	0.9	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.8	1.0	0.1	1.3

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, national and provincial elections 1999-2019

4.4.2 Total votes cast, valid votes and spoilt votes in Local Government Elections (provincial summary, ward plus proportional representation votes)

	EC	FS	GP	KZN	MP	NC	LP	NW	WC	Total
2000 Local Government Elections										
Total votes cast	2 782 038	1 203 821	3 779 947	3 258 711	1 260 857	507 471	1 475 846	1 125 276	2 240 990	17 634 957
Valid votes	2 713 773	1 176 898	3 710 595	3 188 189	1 224 228	493 674	1 444 308	1 094 270	2 209 911	17 255 846
Spoilt votes	68 265	26 923	69 352	70 522	36 629	13 797	31 538	31 006	31 079	379 111
% spoilt	2,5	2,2	1,8	2,2	2,9	2,7	2,1	2,8	1,4	2,1
2006 Local Government Elections										
Total votes cast	3 237 836	1 245 605	4 035 819	3 945 826	1 432 103	558 645	1 920 089	1 419 621	2 352 316	20 147 860
Valid votes	3 159 626	1 213 162	3 971 580	3 867 456	1 393 452	545 594	1 883 661	1 374 183	2 313 646	19 722 360
Spoilt votes	78 210	32 443	64 239	78 370	38 651	13 051	36 428	45 438	38 670	425 500
% spoilt	2,4	2,6	1,6	2,0	2,7	2,3	1,9	3,2	1,6	2,1
2011 Local Government Elections										
Total votes cast	3 600 649	1 528 612	6 214 394	5 707 689	1 914 850	724 878	2 337 728	1 677 863	3 475 194	27 181 857
Valid votes	3 517 267	1 500 732	6 127 020	5 607 192	1 880 599	711 431	2 293 052	1 637 592	3 436 613	26 711 498
Spoilt votes	83 382	27 880	87 374	100 497	34 251	13 447	44 676	40 271	38 581	470 359
% spoilt	2,3	1,8	1,4	1,8	1,8	1,9	1,9	2,4	1,1	1,7
2016 Local Government Elections										
Total votes cast	3 748 448	1 649 073	7 196 467	6 622 974	2 149 917	758 390	2 565 627	1 823 458	3 881 005	30 395 359
Valid votes	3 667 247	1 616 890	7 095 642	6 487 321	2 114 364	746 162	2 525 600	1 780 478	3 829 967	29 863 671
Spoilt votes	81 201	32 183	100 825	135 653	35 553	12 228	40 027	42 980	51 038	531 688
% spoilt	2,2	2,0	1,4	2,0	1,7	1,6	1,6	2,4	1,3	1,7
2021 Local Government Elections										
Total votes cast	3 017 803	1 278 484	5 385 382	5 224 937	1 615 109	663 326	2 288 999	1 404 152	3 015 332	23 893 524
Valid votes	2 951 848	1 254 836	5 311 565	5 118 308	1 583 282	650 123	2 247 577	1 369 308	2 981 077	23 467 924
Spoilt votes	65 955	23 648	73 817	106 629	31 827	13 203	41 422	34 844	34 255	425 600
% spoilt	2,2	1,8	1,4	2,0	2,0	2,0	1,8	2,5	1,1	1,8

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, local government elections 2000-2021

4.4.3 Spoilt ballots

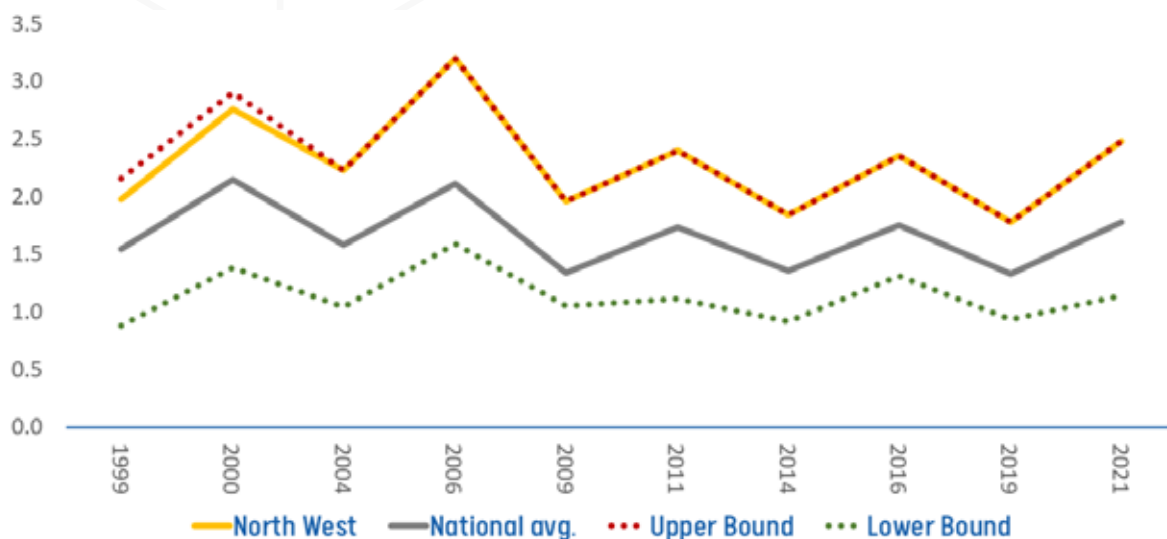
GOAL

Determining the share of total votes cast spoilt by voters

ANALYSIS

Of the total votes cast in National and Provincial Elections, as well as Local Government Elections conducted between 1999 and 2021, the percentage of ballots that was spoilt in the North West averaged 2.3% on aggregate. This is 0.6 % higher than the national average of 1.7%. As a result, the North West ranked highest on the total number of votes spoilt by voters between 2004 to 2021 and also ranks highest on average. Spoiling may reflect unintentional error in filling in ballot papers on Election Day, as well as a form of deliberate electoral protest. Understanding the character of spoiling will be important in future to ensure that unintentional spoiling is addressed through improved ballot paper design and balloting education activities.

SPOILT BALLOTS: Percentage of total votes cast that were spoilt by voters on Election Day in National and Provincial Elections and Local Government Elections, 1999-2021 (%)



	1999	2000	2004	2006	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	2.0	2.8	2.2	3.2	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.4	1.8	2.5	2.3
National Avg.	1.5	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.7
Upper Bound	2.2	2.9	2.2	3.2	2.0	2.4	1.8	2.4	1.8	2.5	2.3
Lower Bound	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.6	1.0	1.1	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.1
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, 1999-2021

4.4.4 Turnout in National and Provincial Elections as a percentage of registered voters

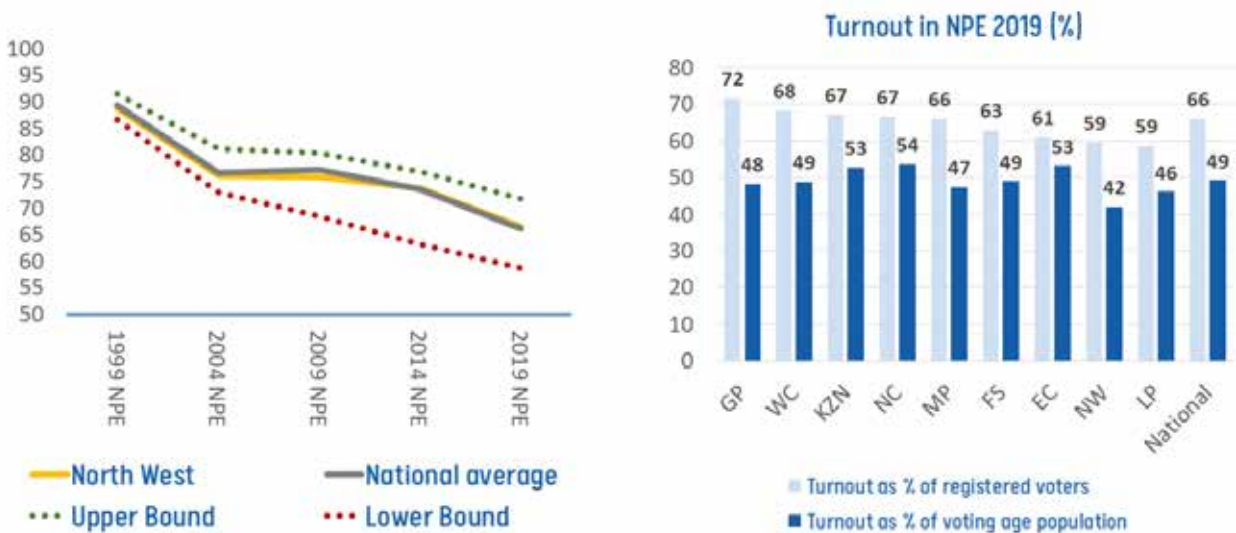
GOAL

Determining electoral turnout as a percentage of registered voters

ANALYSIS

Turnout in National and Provincial Elections in the North West between 1999 and 2019 has fluctuated overtime. In 1999, it stood at 89% but fell to 76% in 2004. It further declined to 74 % in 2014 and then 67% in 2019. This decline has therefore affected the province's overall ranking. Over the five elections, the North West has only ranked in the top four provinces once, in 2019. Overall, the province ranks fifth on this measure. Another factor to consider is that these turnout statistics are expressed as a percentage of registered voters. The figures are lower if one looks at turnout as a percentage of the voting age public. For instance, in 2019, turnout in the province was 42% of the voting age public, which is significantly lower than the 59% of registered voters that turned out.

ELECTORAL TURNOUT: Percentage of registered voters that turned out to cast their vote on Election Day in National and Provincial Elections, 1999-2019 (%)



	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019	Average
North West	89	76	76	74	67	76
National Avg.	89	77	77	73	66	77
Upper Bound	92	81	80	77	72	79
Lower Bound	87	73	69	63	59	72
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	7	7	5	4	5

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, 1999-2019

4.4.5 Turnout in Local Government Elections as a percentage of registered voters

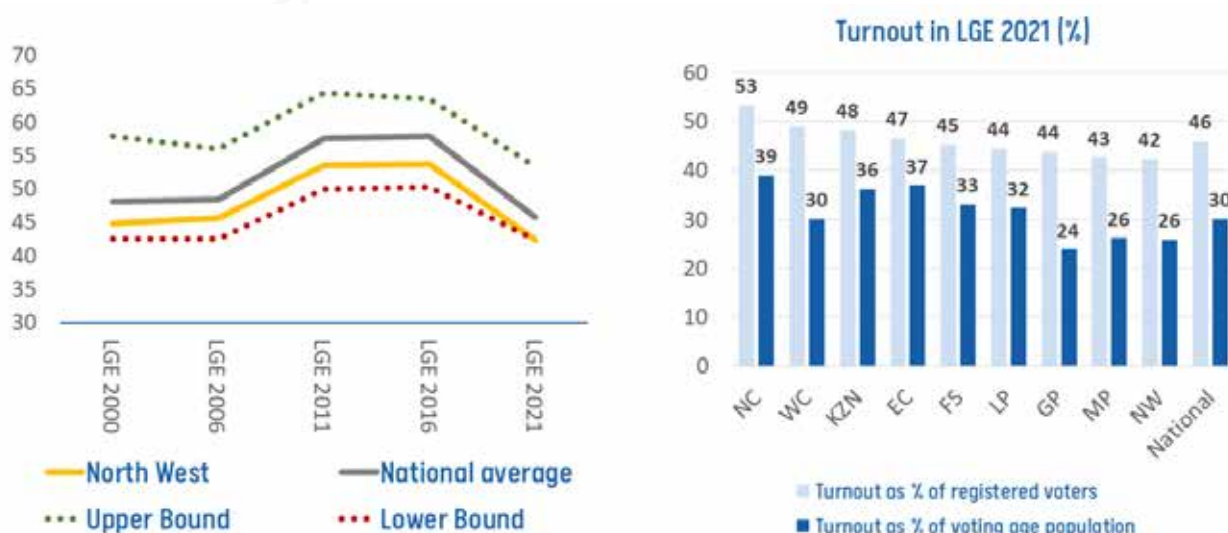
GOAL

Determining electoral turnout as a percentage of registered voters

ANALYSIS

Between 2000 and 2011, turnout in local government elections in North West displayed an increasing tendency, rising from 45% in 2000 to 53% in 2011. It remained stable between 2011 and 2016. Despite this, the turnout of registered voters in the province in the 2021 fell sharply to 42%, almost representing a return to the 2000 level. The pattern of turnout in North West between 2000 and 2021 largely mirrors trends nationally. The lowest percentage is observed in 2021, where North West also ranked relatively low. Another factor to consider is that these turnout statistics are expressed as a percentage of registered voters. The figures are lower if one looks at turnout as a percentage of the voting age population (26% in North West in 2021). At a provincial level, turnout in 2021 as a percentage of VAP ranged between a low of 24% in Gauteng to a high of 39% in the Northern Cape.

ELECTORAL TURNOUT: Percentage of registered voters that turned out to cast their vote on Election Day in Local Government Elections, 2000-2021 (%)



	2000	2006	2011	2016	2021	Average
North West	45	46	53	54	42	48
National Avg.	48	48	58	58	46	52
Upper Bound	58	56	64	63	53	58
Lower Bound	42	42	50	50	42	46
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	7	8	8	9	8

Data Source: Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) official election results, 2000-2021



PART

E

POST-ELECTION

5. POST-ELECTION

5.1. Evaluation of the elections as free and fair

GOAL

Determine the extent to which voters rate the elections as free and fair

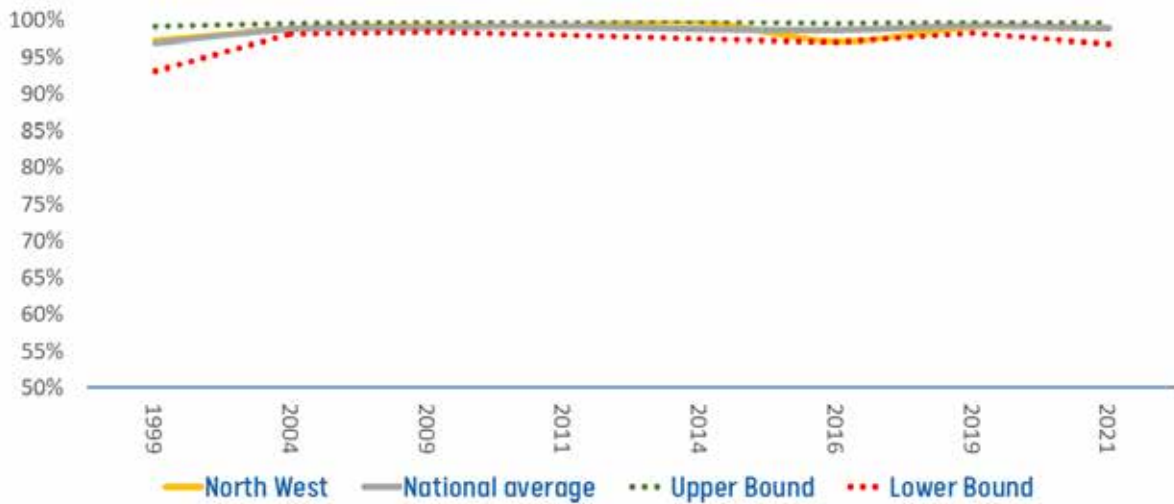
QUESTION

Do you think that the election procedures were free and fair? (% yes)

ANALYSIS

Looking at the 2021 elections survey results, an overwhelming majority of voters in the North West (99%) felt that the election procedures were free and fair. This was a resolutely positive result and is consistent with the previous survey rounds. On average over the full 2004 to 2019 period, the share of voters in the province who thought that the voting procedures were both free and fair was 99%. It is clear that North West voters were satisfied with the election procedures in the context of the nine elections under consideration. The ranking of North West relative to other provinces has fluctuated over time, going from a ranking of fourth in 2009, to first in 2014, eighth in 2019 and third in 2021. Overall, the province ranks fifth on the measure of free and fair elections.

PERCEPTIONS OF ELECTION FREENESS AND FAIRNESS: Proportion of voters who thought that the voting procedures were free and fair, 1999-2021 (% yes)



	1999	2000	2004	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	97	97	99	99	99	100	97	99	99	99
National Avg.	97	96	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	98
Upper Bound	99	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99
Lower Bound	93	89	98	98	98	98	97	98	98	97
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	7	7	4	6	1	9	8	3	8

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 1999-2021

5.2 Vote count

GOAL

Assess confidence in the accuracy of the vote count

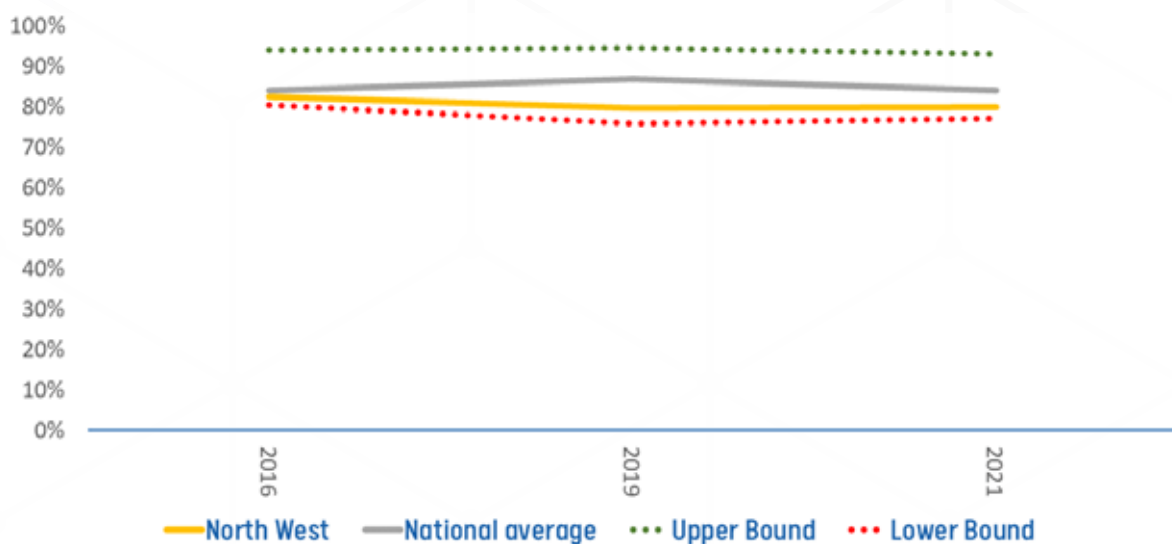
QUESTION

How confident are you that your vote will be accurately counted? (% completely confident / very confident)

ANALYSIS

In the 2021 elections 82% of the voters in the North West believed that their vote would be accurately counted. This is an encouraging finding that speaks of confidence in electoral staff in performing this duty and is consistent with the 2016 survey results. During the 2016 to 2021 period, the average proportion of voters in the province who had confidence in the count was 81%. The provincial figures in these elections are slightly below the national average. In comparison with other provinces, voters in the province ranked sixth in the 2016 local elections, seventh in the 2019 national and provincial elections and sixth in the 2021 local government elections. Overall, North West ranked eighth.

CONFIDENCE IN THE ACCURACY OF THE VOTE COUNT: Proportion of voters who thought that the vote would be accurately counted, 2016-2021 (%)



	2016	2019	2021	Average
North West	82	80	82	81
National Avg.	84	87	84	85
Upper Bound	94	94	93	91
Lower Bound	80	76	77	79
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	7	6	8

Data Source: IEC Election Satisfaction Survey (ESS) 2016-2021



PART

F

**ELECTORAL
REFORM**

6. ELECTORAL REFORM

6.1. Electoral outcomes - best possible government

GOAL

Overall satisfaction with the electoral system and support for electoral reform

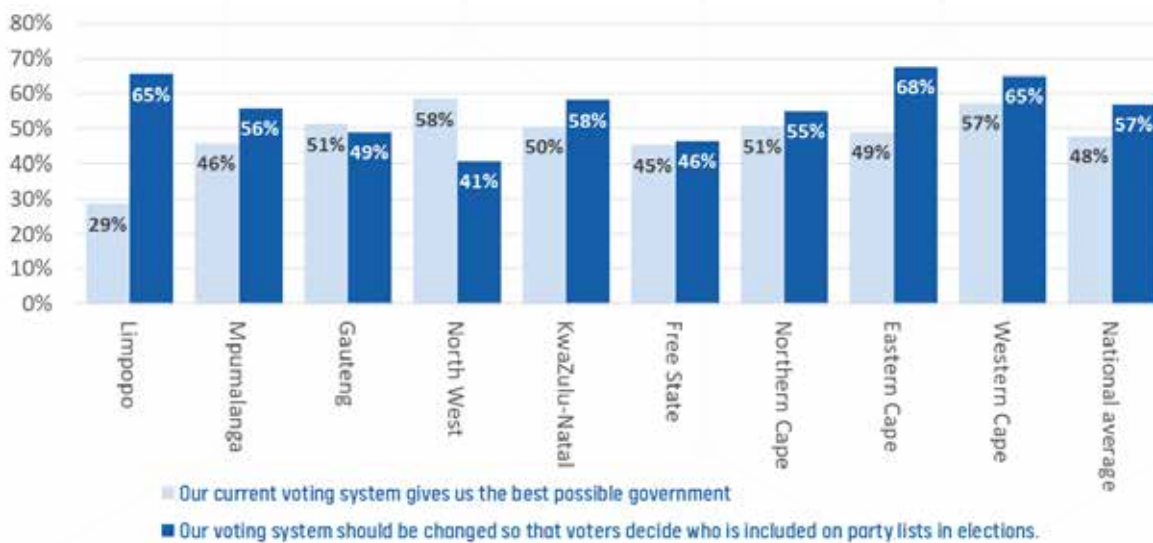
QUESTION

Our current voting system gives us the best possible government. (% strongly agree / agree)
 Our voting system should be changed so that voters decide who to include on party lists in elections. (% strongly agree / agree)

ANALYSIS

Well over half (58%) of the voters in the North West felt that the current system delivers the best possible government. This figure was ten percent higher than the national average of 48% when it came to this question. As a result, the North West ranks first when it comes to this question. On the other hand, over a third (41%) of citizens in the North West thought that they should have more say over who to include on party lists in elections. Relative to other provinces, the North West was ranked ninth on this measure. This suggests moderate levels of support for this type of reform in the country and indicates that perhaps, voters in the North West do not see the need for this type of electoral reform.

SATISFACTION WITH THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM: Percentage of citizens who agree that the voting system provides the best possible government, and believe that the system should be reformed to allow greater voter influence on party list candidates, 2019 (%)



	Current electoral system provides the best possible government 2019	Voting system should be change so voters decide on party list candidates 2019
North West	58	41
National Avg.	58	57
Upper Bound	58	68
Lower Bound	59	41
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	9

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2019

6.2. Electronic voting

6.2.1. Perceived effectiveness of electronic voting

GOAL

Evaluation of the perceived effectiveness of electronic voting

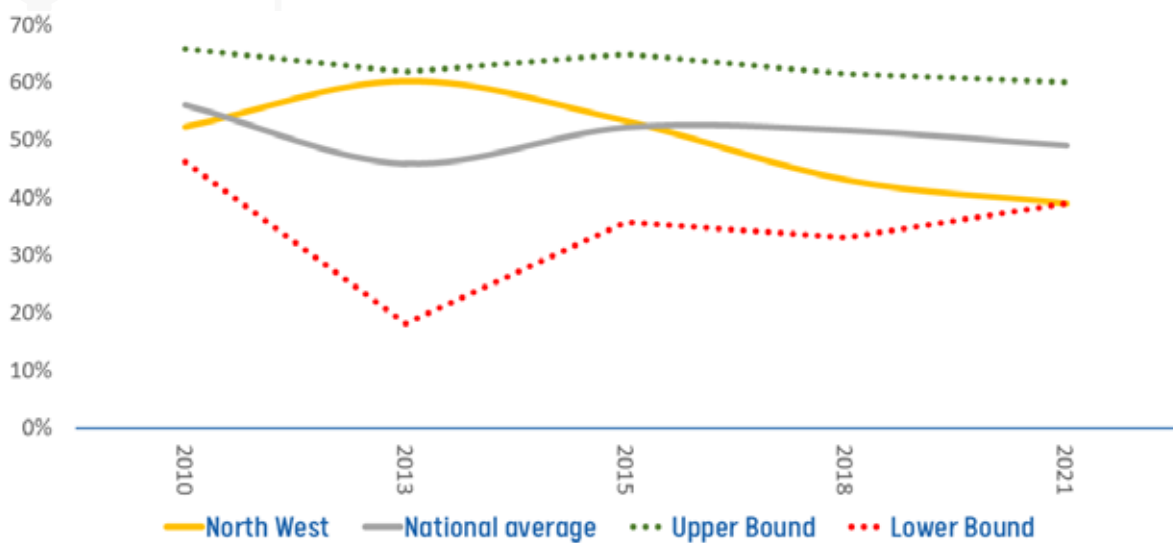
QUESTION

Electronic voting will make voting easier and more effective. (% strongly agree / agree)

ANALYSIS

In 2010, slightly over half (52%) of the North West population indicated that electronic voting would be easier and more effective than the present system of paper ballots. This suggests that the public in the province remains fairly divided on the issue of electronic voting. There is little variation in view across successive survey rounds. Over the period, as in 2010, slightly over half (52%) of the North West respondents said they would welcome the idea of electronic voting. It is evident that some citizens would be quite sceptical if the Election Commission decided to introduce an electronic voting system, while others would openly welcome it. Overall, the province of the North West ranks fifth on this measure.

EASE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ELECTRONIC VOTING: Proportion of adult citizens who thought that electronic voting would make the system more efficient, 2010-2021 (% agreeing)



	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
North West	52	60	53	32	39	52
National Avg.	56	46	52	56	49	51
Upper Bound	66	62	65	65	60	59
Lower Bound	46	18	36	30	39	38
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	2	4	7	8	5

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010-2021

6.2.2 Concerns of possible fraud associated with electronic voting

GOAL

Assess concern over possible fraud associated with electronic voting

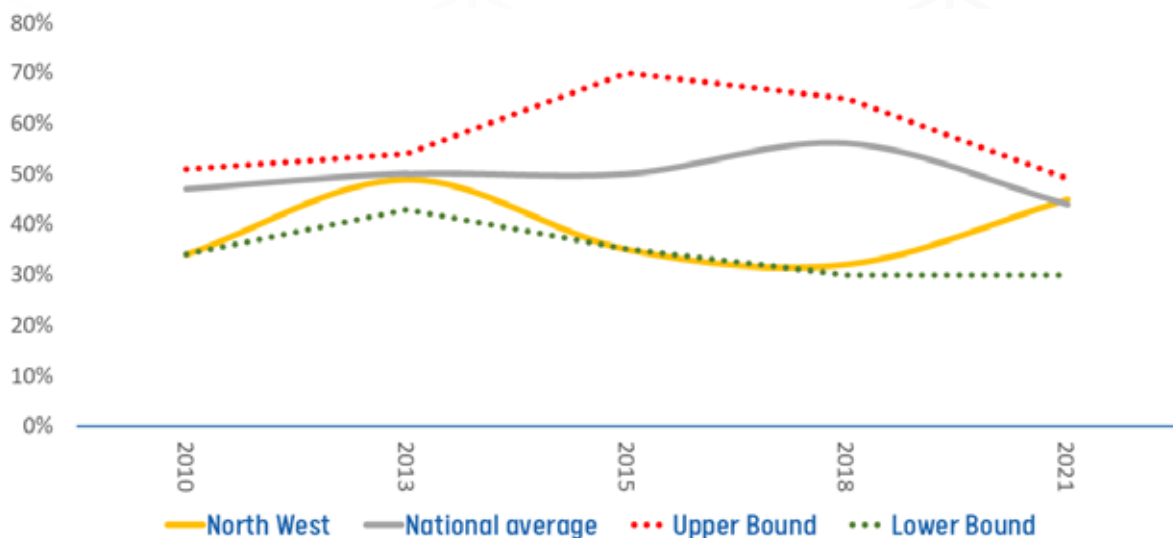
QUESTION

Electronic voting will introduce more electoral fraud. (% strongly agree / agree)

ANALYSIS

In 2010, slightly over a third (34%) of the North West voters believed that an electronic voting system would introduce more fraud relative to the current system. This figure increased significantly to 49% in 2013, a 15% jump. Throughout the period, the North West figures fluctuated and eventually settled at an average of 37%, fourteen percentage points lower than the national average. Relative to other provinces, the North West seems to be the least concerned with fraud as a result of electronic voting. Overall, the North West province ranks ninth when it comes to concerns with potential voting fraud in an electoral system.

ELECTRONIC VOTING AND CONCERN OVER FRAUD: Share of adult citizens who believe that electronic voting would introduce more fraud into the election system, 2010-2021 (% agreeing)



	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
North West	34	49	35	57	45	37
National Avg.	47	50	50	50	44	51
Upper Bound	51	54	71	62	49	54
Lower Bound	34	43	35	40	30	37
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	5	9	2	5	9

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010-2021

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