



SOUTH AFRICA



HSRC
Human Sciences
Research Council

ELECTION INDICATORS REPORT

2021

WESTERN CAPE



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 Western Cape 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 report was prepared by a Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) team led by Benjamin Roberts, Jarè Struwig, Steven L. Gordon, and also comprising Thobeka Zondi, Joleen Steyn-Kotze, Samela Mtyingizane, Ngqapheli Mchunu, 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



CONTENTS

FOREWORD	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4
1 ASSESSING ELECTORAL INTEGRITY IN SOUTH AFRICA	9
1.1 Introducing the report series	9
1.2 Conceptual framework	10
1.3 Guide to indicators and their interpretation	13
2 PRE-ELECTION PHASE	15
2.1 Support for the political system	15
2.1.1 National Pride	15
2.1.2 Demand for democracy: Support for democratic ideals	16
2.1.3 Supply of democracy: Satisfaction with the functioning of democracy	17
2.1.4 Supply of democracy: Country going in the right direction	18
2.1.5 Supply of democracy: Evaluation of performance against democratic ideals	19
2.1.6 Satisfaction with municipal performance	20
2.2. Public trust in political and social institutions	21
2.2.1. Trust in the Electoral Commission	21
2.2.2 Trust in National Government	22
2.2.3 Trust in Provincial Government	23
2.2.4 Trust in Local Government	24
2.2.5 Trust in Parliament	25
2.2.6 Trust in Courts	26
2.2.7 Trust in Political Parties	27
2.2.8 Trust in Traditional Authorities/Leaders	28
2.2.9 Confidence in Political Leaders	29
2.2.10 Trust in Religious Institutions	30



2.3	Electoral predispositions: Psychological involvement in electoral politics	31
2.3.1	Political interest	31
2.3.2	Politics easy to understand	32
2.3.3	Belief in the power of one's vote	33
2.3.4	Views on the conduct of politicians and its effect on the meaning of voting	34
2.3.5	Duty to vote	35
2.3.6	Voting intention	36
2.3.7	Administrative barriers leading to non-voting behaviour	37
2.3.8	Voter registration patterns	38
2.3.9	Ease of registration	39
2.3.10	Duration of registration process	40
3	CAMPAIGN PERIOD	42
3.1.	Campaign integrity	42
3.1.1	Political party tolerance during campaigning	44
3.2	Voter education	45
3.2.1	Sources of information on voting	45
3.2.2	Preferred source of information on voting	46
3.2.3	Demand for information on voting	47
3.2.4	Number of Civic and Democracy Education (CDE) events	48
3.2.5	Perceived effectiveness of voter education campaigns	49
4	ELECTION DAY	51
4.1	Voting station evaluations	51
4.1.1	Time to get to voting station	51
4.1.2	Queuing time at voting stations	52
4.1.3	Safety and security	53

4.1.4	Accessibility of voting station to persons with disabilities/the elderly	54
4.1.5	Quality of service rendered by IEC officials	55
4.2	Voting procedure	56
4.2.1	Assessment of electoral procedures	56
4.2.2	Assessment of procedural accommodation of the elderly	57
4.2.3	Assessment of procedural accommodation of persons with disabilities	58
4.2.4	Assessment of procedural accommodation of blind and visually impaired voters	59
4.2.5	Assessing the secrecy of the vote at voting stations	60
4.2.6	Ballot paper usability and satisfaction	61
4.3	Coercion	62
4.4	Election turnout	63
4.4.1	Total votes cast, valid votes and spoilt votes in National and Provincial Elections (national vote)	63
4.4.2	Total votes cast, valid votes and spoilt votes in Local Government Elections (provincial summary, ward plus proportional representation votes)	64
4.4.3	Spoilt ballots	65
4.4.4	Turnout in National and Provincial Elections as a percentage of registered voters	66
4.4.5	Turnout in Local Government Elections as a percentage of registered voters	67
5	POST-ELECTION	69
5.1	Evaluation of the elections as free and fair	69
5.2	Vote count	70
6	ELECTORAL REFORM	72
6.1	Electoral outcomes - best possible government	72
6.2	Electronic voting	73
6.2.1	Perceived effectiveness of electronic voting	73
6.2.2	Concerns of possible fraud associated with electronic voting	74
	REFERENCES	75



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

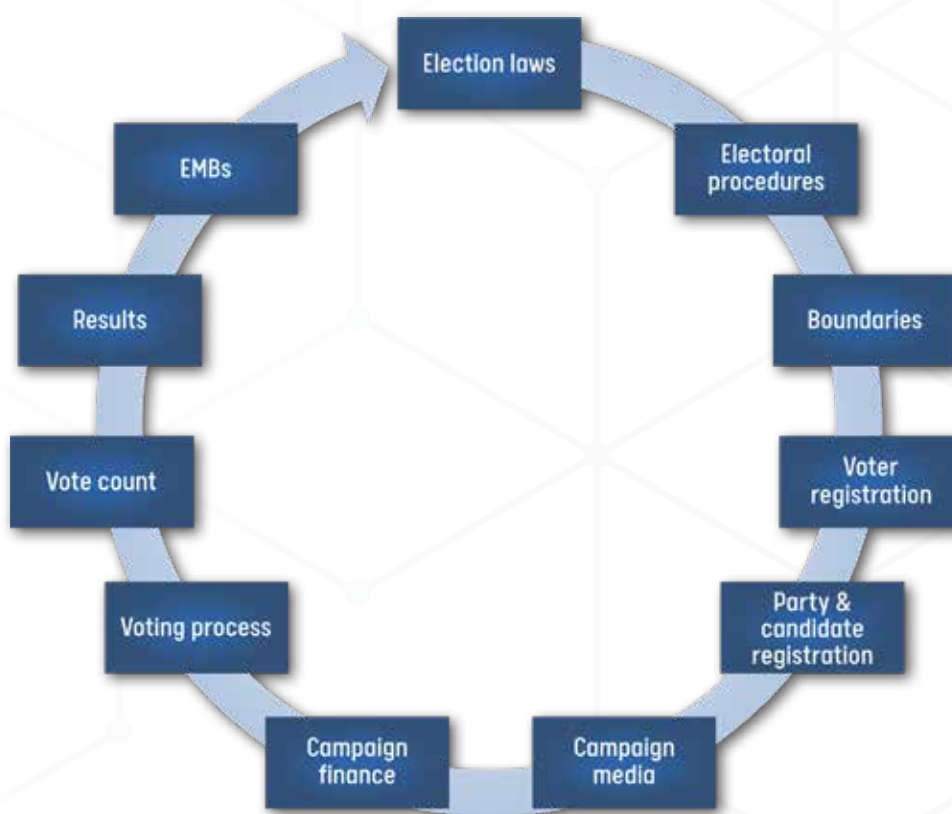
In planning this report series, we drew on three strands of the conceptual literature relating to models of political support, electoral integrity and election management. We briefly outline some of the ideas and components of these models, particularly those that had an influence on the decisions regarding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

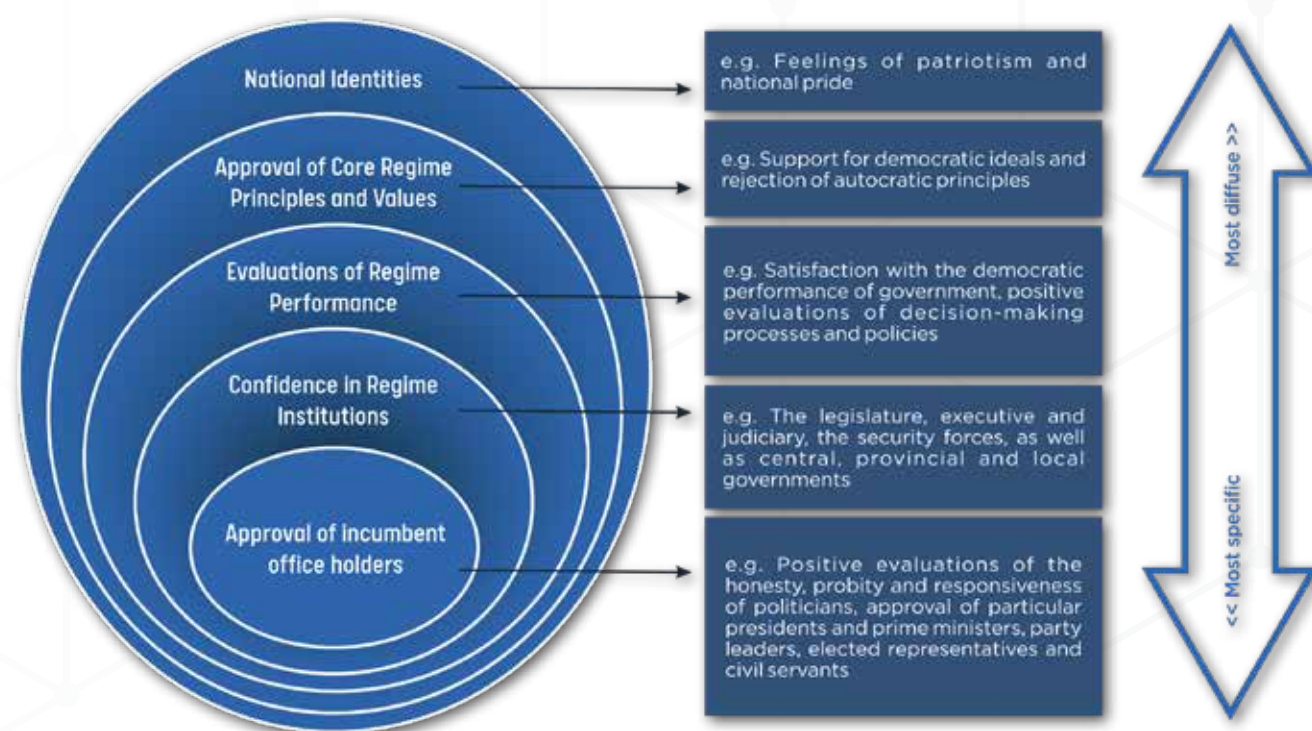
Political support

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



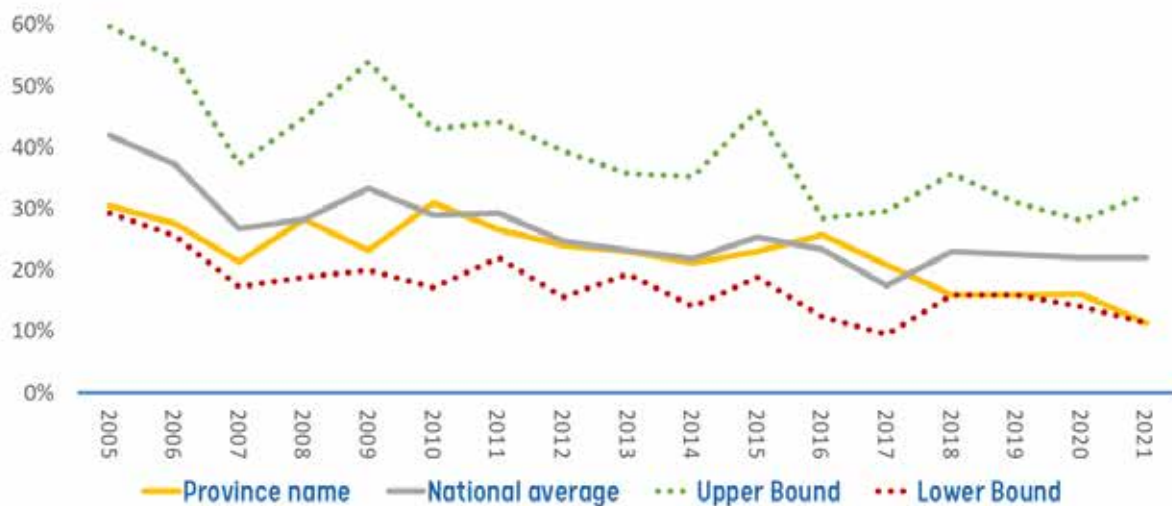
Source: Norris (2011:24) Democratic Deficit: Critical Citizens Revisited

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 and lasting 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

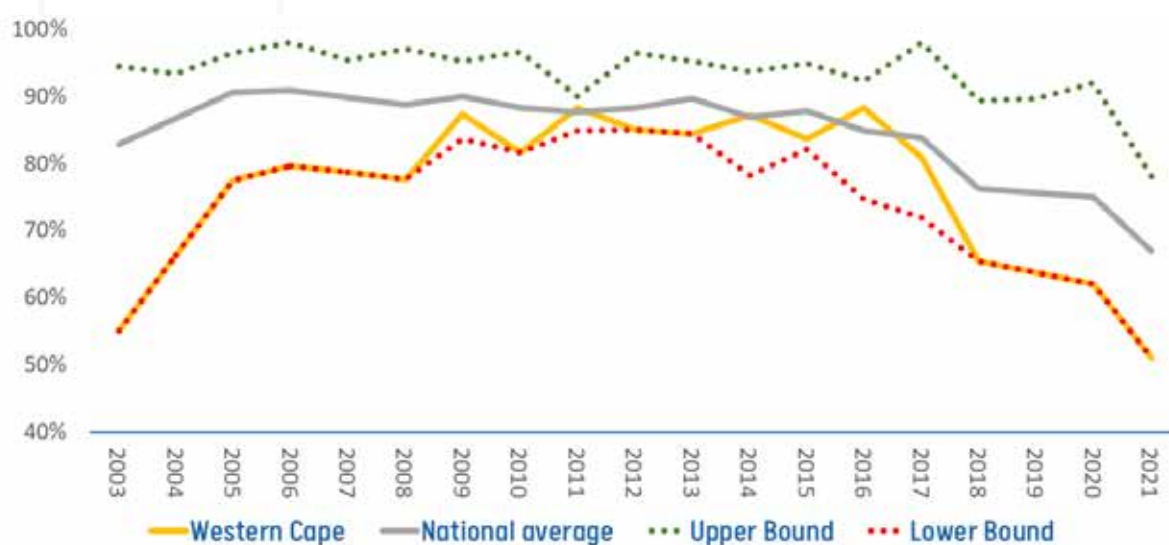
QUESTION

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

The adult public in the Western Cape exhibits relatively high levels of attachment to the state. Between 2005 and 2017, between 77% and 88% agreed that they would rather be a citizen of the country than any other nation. In line with the national trend, pride in the Western Cape dropped substantially in 2021, falling from 81% in 2017 to 51% in 2021. Relatively little interprovincial variation on this indicator was noted during most of the period. However, between 2017 and 2021, the level of variation in pride between provinces grew to more than 25 percentage points between the lower and upper bounds.

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	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	55	77	80	78	87	82	88	85	84	87	84	88	81	65	62	51	77
National Avg.	83	91	91	89	90	88	88	88	90	87	88	85	84	76	75	67	85
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	84	82	85	85	84	78	82	75	72	65	62	51	76
Rank (1-high; 9-low)	9	9	9	9	8	9	5	9	9	5	8	6	8	9	9	9	9

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 six components of democracy, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they believed each were 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 Western Cape, the importance attached to the six democratic ideals remained relatively high, with scores ranging between 6.9 and 8.3 on a 0-10 scale between 2013 and 2021. The highest-rated ideal has consistently been 'free and fair elections', followed by 'expression of freedom'. Between 2013 and 2021 period, there have been slight fluctuations to all six ideals, with the largest drop evident for 'participation in protest'. The trends correlate to the national average in terms of relative ranking of ideals and the scale of decline over the five years. The only exceptions are 'free and fair elections' and 'the elected listen to the public', which have not declined since 2016. The Western Cape was ranked seventh in free and fair election in the country in 2018, but this shifted to 5th in 2021. The provincial ranking for the Western Cape has remained consistent between 2013 and 2021, due to larger declines in other provinces.

DEMAND FOR DEMOCRACY: Importance attached to difference 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
Western Cape	8,2	8,3	8,0	6,7	7,4	7,8	7,5	6,8	7,1	7,8	7,5	6,8
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	3	2	7	5	6	4	2	3	6	3	2	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
Western Cape	7,1	7,4	6,9	6,7	7,3	7,5	6,9	7,8	6,9	7,8	6,9	6,9
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	7,4	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)	7	6	5	3	8	5	5	3	7	3	4	3

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

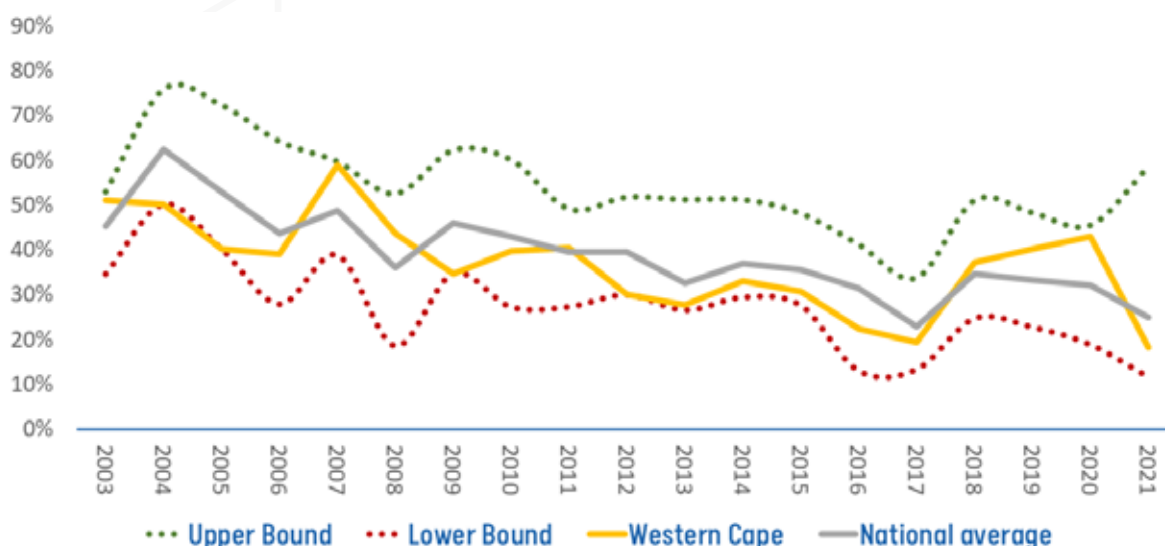
QUESTION

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 Western Cape residents since 2007, largely mirroring national trends. Between 2007 and 2021, satisfaction dropped from 59% to a low-point of 18%. There was, however, a slight recovery by the time of surveying in late 2018, with satisfaction rising to 37%. Relative to other provinces, Western Cape residents tend to be fairly critical in their assessment of the supply of democracy in the county, ranking in the bottom half for most years during the 2003-2021 period. In 2021, there was a 47-percentage point disparity between the lower and upper bounds, indicated an unprecedented level of variation in provincial satisfaction levels. In the last survey round, the Western Cape was ranked eighth, only below KwaZulu Natal in terms of this measure.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	51	50	40	39	59	44	35	40	40	30	28	33	31	22	19	37	43	18	37
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)	3	9	9	7	2	3	9	7	6	9	8	7	8	8	7	4	2	8	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 trajectory

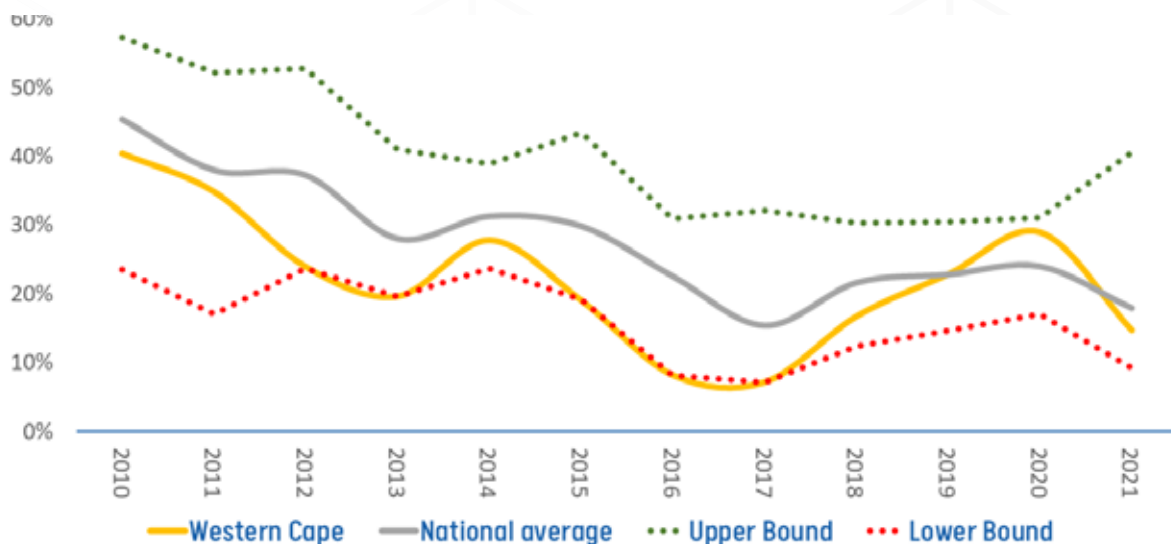
QUESTION

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, less than half (40%) of the adult population in the Western Cape indicated that the nation was heading in the right direction. Over the subsequent decade, there was a sustained general downward pattern, reaching a low point of 7% by late 2017. The provincial trend largely reflects the reduced confidence in the country's direction that can be observed nationally over this period. The Western Cape public does however tend to be more critical on average. Despite the appreciable decline, a slight improvement occurred between 2017 and 2018, with a 10-percentage point increase in the province. However, there is a slight decline from 29% the previous year to 15% in 2021. The average provincial ranking on this measure across the 2010-2021 period was ninth.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	40	35	24	20	28	19	8	7	17	29	15	22
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	33	37
Lower Bound	24	17	24	20	24	19	8	7	12	17	8	22
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	8	8	9	6	9	9	8	6	2	6	9

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 Western Cape, the evaluation of the six dimensions of democracy ranged between 3.7 and 7.5 on a 0-10 scale. On average, 'free and fair elections', received the most favourable rating, followed by the belief that our democracy offers 'viable opposition', 'freedom of expression' and allows 'participation in protest'. The Western Cape public was less convinced that the 'elected listen to the public' or that there is 'electoral accountability' (parties punished during elections for poor performance). Despite large declines in 2016 in the latter two dimensions, the evaluations have remained broadly consistent overall during the 2013 to 2021 period.

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
Western Cape	7.5	7.4	7.0	5.7	5.3	4.1	5.2	4.3	5.1	3.7	5.3	4.3
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)	3	4	2	6	2	9	1	4	2	9	1	4

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
Western Cape	6.2	6.3	6.5	4.4	6.4	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.9	6.7	6.6
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)	4	4	2	4	4	4	3	2	6	4	4	1

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

2.1.6 Satisfaction with municipal performance

GOAL

Determine levels of satisfaction with municipal performance

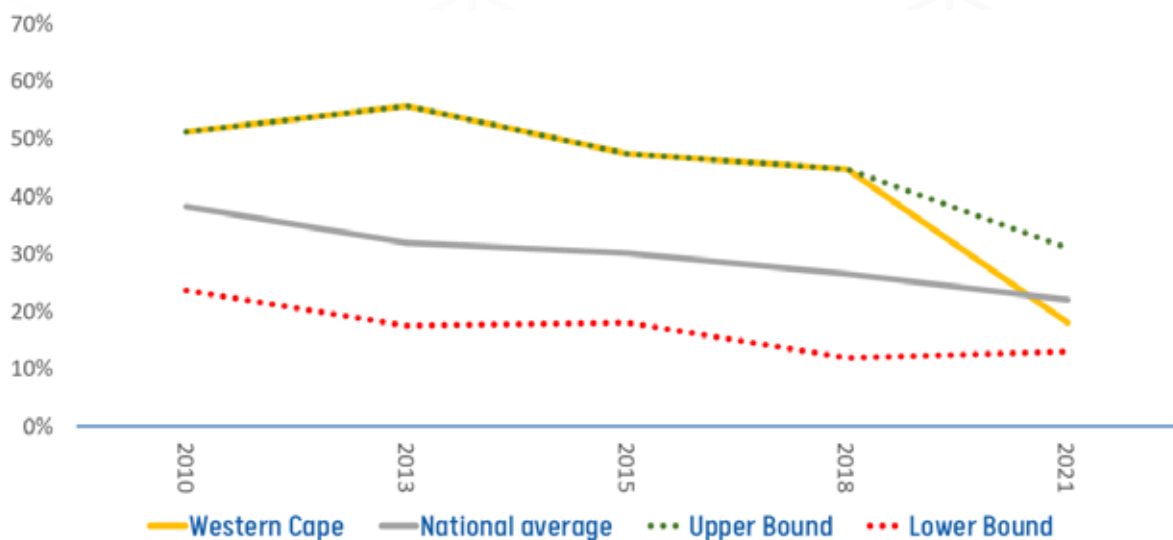
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2010, barely half of the Western Cape public (51%) expressed contentment with the performance of municipalities. The share that was satisfied with municipal functioning rose modestly from 51% in 2010 to 56% in 2013, but then declined to 47% in 2015 and 18% in 2021. Generally, municipal satisfaction is relatively low across all provinces, ranging between 12% and 18% in 2021, and with an average 43% across all four survey rounds. The level of variance between provinces was greater in earlier survey rounds, suggesting that there is relative convergence in views on municipal performance, with generally negative evaluations increasingly common across provinces. Compared to other provinces, the rank position of the Western Cape has been first in all years of evaluation however 2021 dropped to seventh position.

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



%	2010	2013	2015	2018	2021	Average
Western Cape	51	56	47	45	18	43
National Avg.	38	32	30	27	22	30
Upper Bound	51	56	47	45	31	46
Lower Bound	24	18	18	12	13	17
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	1	1	7	7	1

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2010, 2013, 2015, 2018, 2020, 2021

2.2. Public trust in political and social institutions

2.2.1. Trust in the Electoral Commission

GOAL

Public confidence in the Electoral Commission

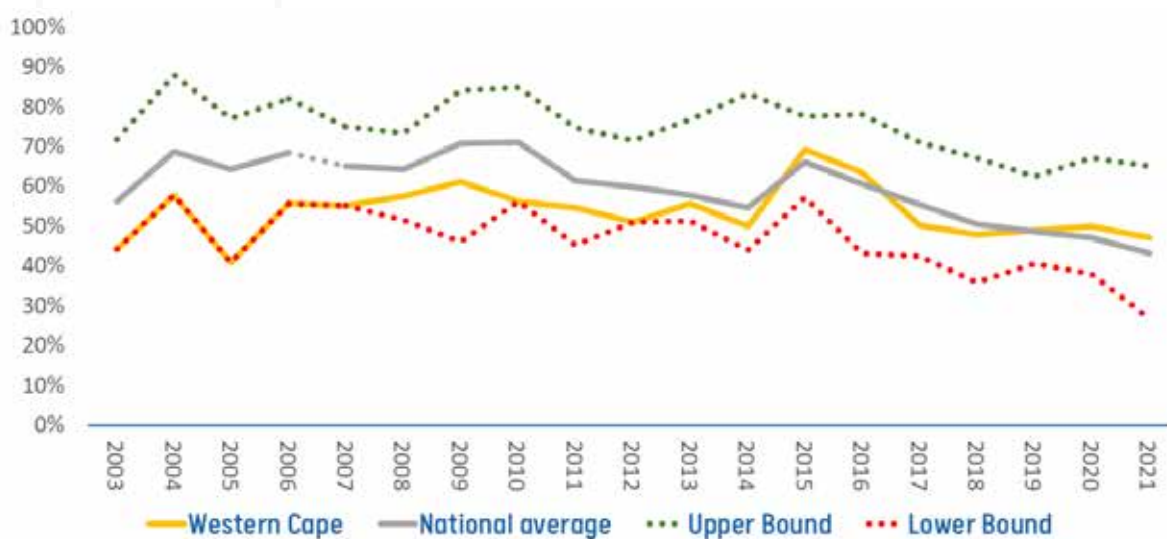
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In late 2018, about half (48%) of the Western Cape public expressed trust in the Electoral Commission. Trust in the Commission in the province has varied over time, ranging from a low of 41% in 2005 to a high of 69% in 2015, and with an average of 53% over the full 2003-2021 period. After a period of relatively stable trust between 2006 and 2014 (50-61%), there was a rising tendency in 2015-2016 (63-69%), after which a significant decline was observed in 2017. Between 2003 and 2014, the province displayed a below-average level of trust in the Commission. This was followed in the 2015-2018 period by a provincial pattern that closely mirrored the national average. Compared to other provinces, the Western Cape ranks fifth in terms of trust in the Commission across the full period and was in eighth and ninth place in 12 of the 18 years of surveying. Trust in the Commission is influenced by general views on democracy.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	44	58	41	55	55	57	61	56	55	51	56	50	69	63	50	48	50	47	54
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	53
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	9	9	9	8	8	9	8	9	5	8	3	4	8	6	2	3	9

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

2.2.2 Trust in National Government

GOAL

Public confidence in National Government

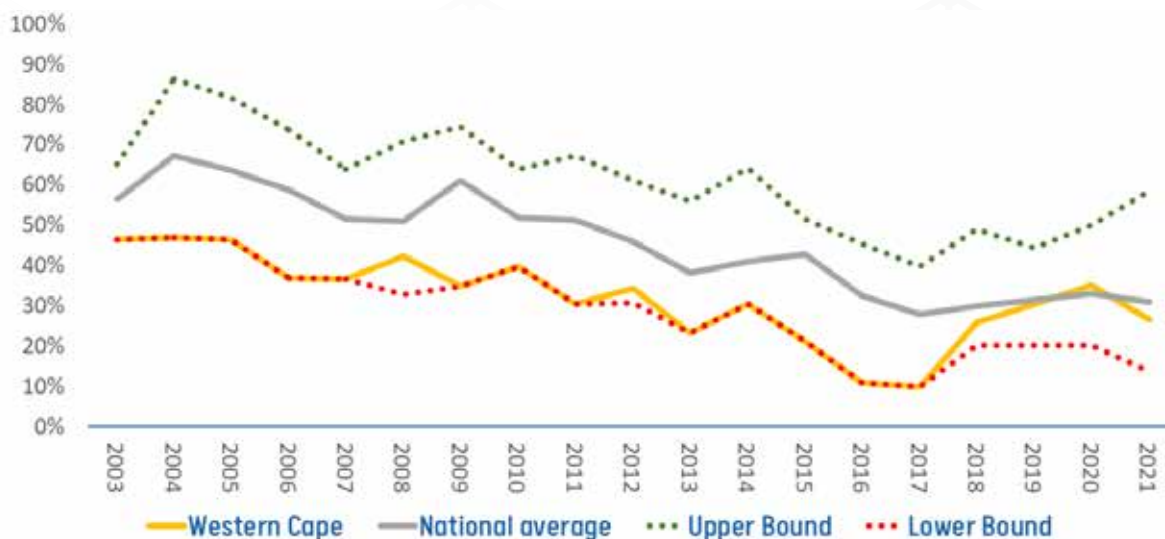
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Between 2003 and 2021, Western Cape residents were less trusting of national government than average. Over these 18 years of surveying, the province was ranked ninth in all but three years, when it was in eighth position. Initial signs of diminishing trust are evident in the 2006 to 2010 period, but it was during the 2010-2017 period that a substantive and progressive decline in trust occurred in the province, as it did in the country. A low point was reached in 2017, when only 10% voiced trust in national government. This represented a decrease of 30 percentage points since 2010. There was a discernible recovery between 2017, 2018 and 2020 with trust more than doubling to 35%. However, it's been a short-lived improvement process of recovered confidence it has dropped to 25% in 2021.

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
Western Cape	46	47	46	37	37	42	35	40	30	34	23	30	21	11	10	26	...	35	27	32
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)	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	9	9	8	...	4	7	9

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

2.2.3 Trust in Provincial Government

GOAL

Public confidence in provincial government

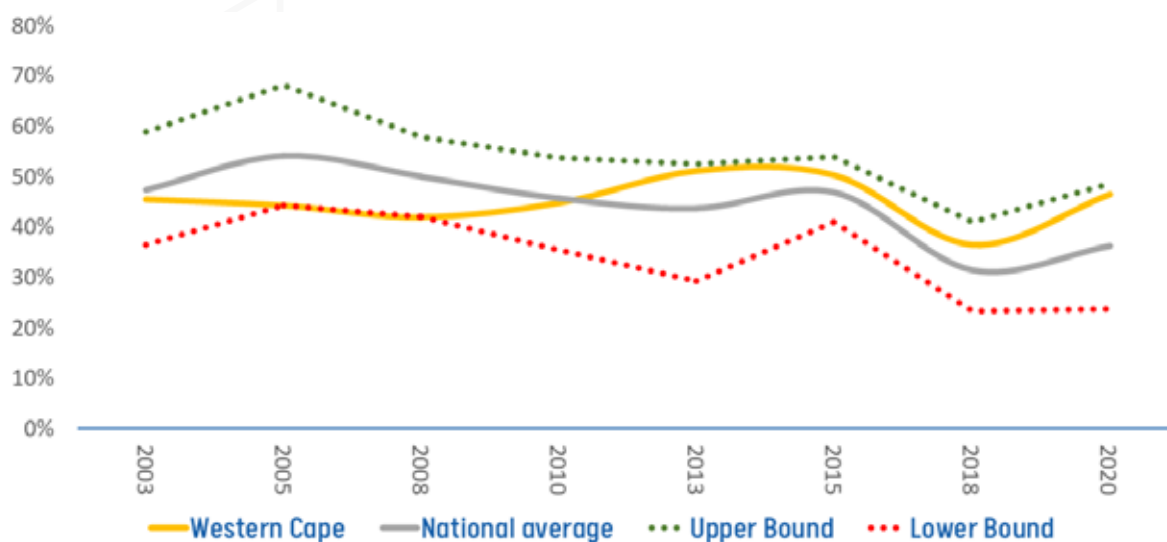
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Western Cape residents are fairly unhappy with the performance of their provincial government, averaging 45% between 2003 and 2018. Confidence in this sphere of government was relatively stable between 2010 and 2013, varying between 42% and 46%. There was a slight rise in trust in the province between 2010 and 2015. Nonetheless, as with trust in national government, confidence fell appreciably between 2015 and 2018 (from 50% to 36%). Between 2003 and 2010, Western Cape residents were less trusting than the national average, but trust levels have been slightly above average over the post-2010 period. Trust in provincial government in the Western Cape ranked fourth on average. In 2005 and 2008 the province has the lowest trust in provincial government figures, but the province was ranked fourth in the 2018 and 2020 survey years.

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



%	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	46	...	44	...	...	42	...	45	...	...	51	...	50	...	...	36	...	57	...	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)	7	...	9	...	...	9	...	5	...	...	2	...	4	...	...	4	...	2	...	4

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

2.2.4 Trust in Local Government

GOAL

Public confidence in provincial government

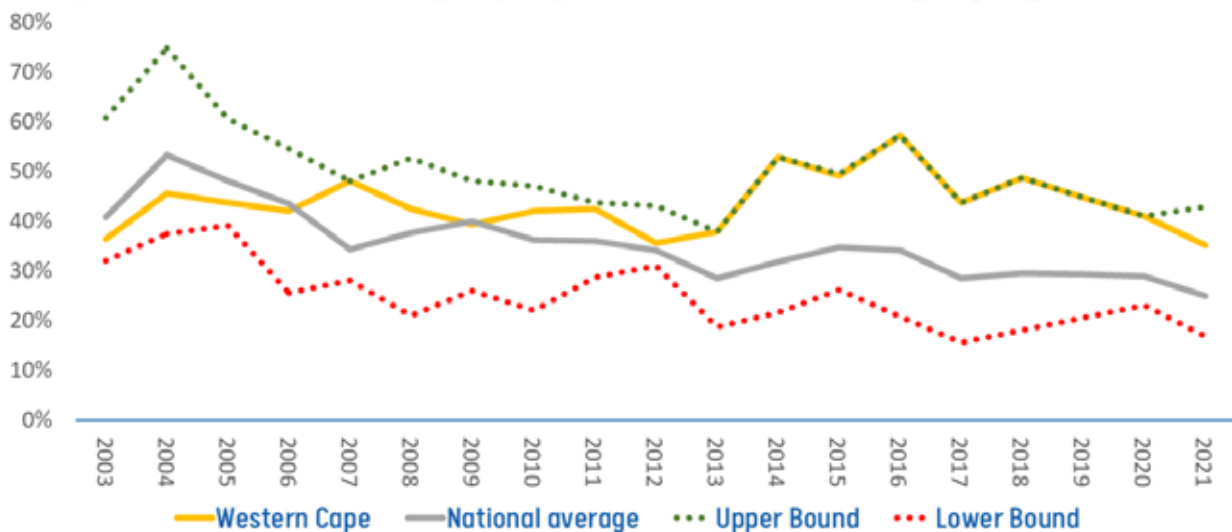
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Trust in local government is averaging 44% across the 2003-2021 period in the Western Cape. This is similar to the level of trust vested in provincial government, but higher than trust in national government. Between 2004 and 2013, trust in municipal government rose and fell within a range between 36% and 48%. A decline in trust in local government occurred in Western Cape between 2008 and 2013. The period between 2013 and 2018 was characterised by moderately higher trust levels in the province, reaching a high of 57% in 2016. The provincial trust ranking of the Western Cape was first on average over the full period. This is largely a reflection of the province being ranked first almost every year between 2013 and 2021.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	37	46	44	42	48	43	39	42	42	36	38	53	49	57	44	49	41	36	44
National Avg.	41	53	48	43	34	38	40	36	36	34	29	32	35	34	28	30	29	24	36
Upper Bound	61	75	61	55	48	53	48	47	44	43	38	53	50	57	44	49	41	36	44
Lower Bound	32	37	39	26	28	21	26	22	29	31	19	22	26	21	16	18	23	17	30
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	8	7	6	1	4	5	2	3	5	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1

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

2.2.5 Trust in Parliament

GOAL

Public confidence in parliament

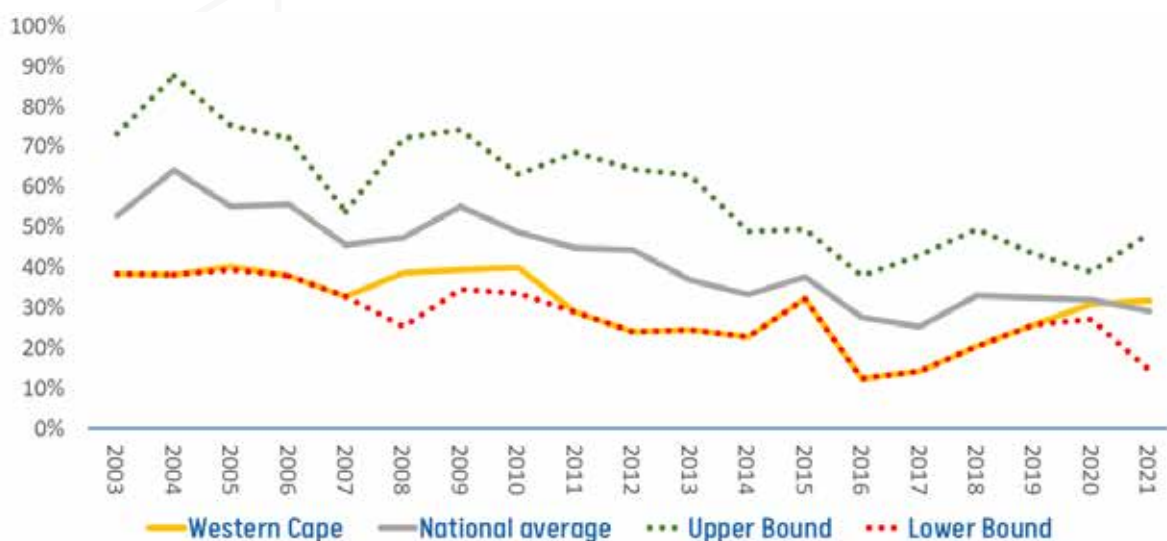
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

The data for Western Cape reveal that trust in Parliament remained low between 2003 and 2018, ranging between 12% and 40%. Between 2003 and 2010, confidence in parliament was relatively stable. Except for 2007, trust was consistently at the 38-40% level. Trust in this institution has deteriorated markedly since, dropping by 18 percentage points from 40% in 2010 to 21% in 2018, with a low point of 12% in 2016. In this regard, the pattern in the Western Cape reflects the national decline in parliamentary trust that occurred during the 2010s. In terms of provincial variation, Western Cape was ranked ninth on average across the full 2003-2021 period, with an average of 29% trust in Parliament. Between 2003 and 2018, Western Cape possessed the lowest trust levels in all but four years (2005, 2008-2010), where it ranked eighth and 2021 ranked fourth.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	38	38	40	38	33	39	40	40	29	24	24	23	32	12	14	21	31	32	30
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	25	35	34	29	24	24	23	32	12	14	21	27	14	30
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	8	9	9	8	8	8	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	5	4	9

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

2.2.6 Trust in Courts

GOAL

Public confidence in the courts

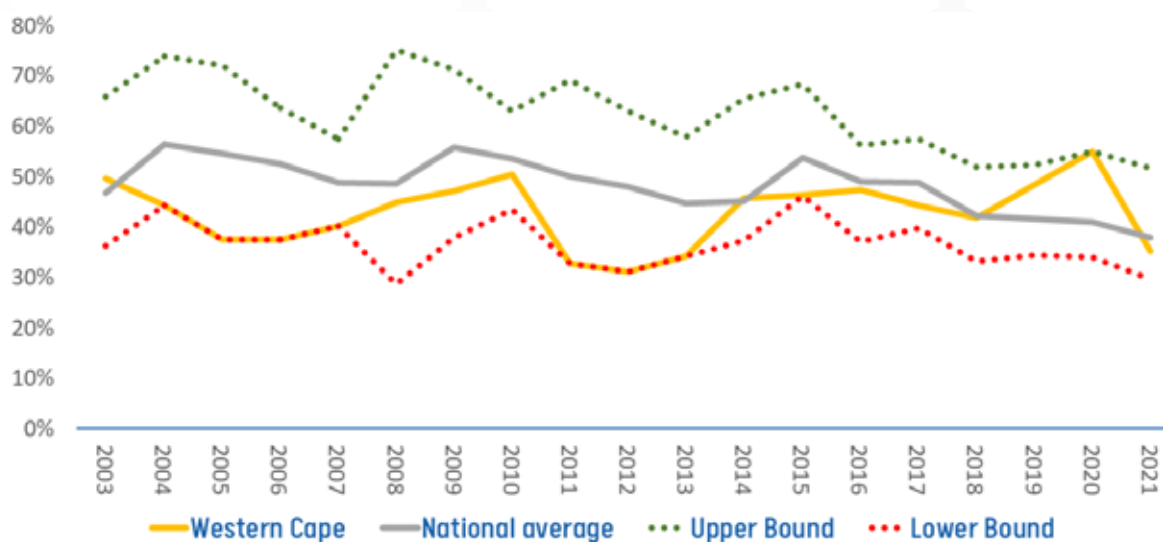
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Over the 2003 to 2021 period, trust in the courts varied substantially in the Western Cape. At the beginning of the period under examination, 50% of Western Cape residents trusted the courts and the province was ranked eighth. From 2003 to 2006, there was a general decrease in trust with trust levels dropping by 13 percentage points. This trend was however reversed between 2007 and 2010. Between 2011 and 2013 trust fell sharply to between 31-34% but was followed in the 2014-2018 period by trust levels ranging between 42%-47%. Apart from five years (2003, 2014, 2016 and 2018, 2021), the Western Cape was ranked among the provinces with the lowest trust levels, with the province placed ninth over the full 2003-2021 period.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	50	44	38	37	40	45	47	50	33	31	34	46	46	47	44	42	55	35	43
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	64	57	75	71	63	69	63	58	66	68	56	58	52	55	52	57
Lower Bound	36	44	38	37	40	29	38	44	33	31	34	37	46	37	40	33	34	30	43
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	9	9	9	9	7	7	7	9	9	9	5	8	5	8	5	1	6	9

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

2.2.7 Trust in Political Parties

GOAL

Public confidence in political parties

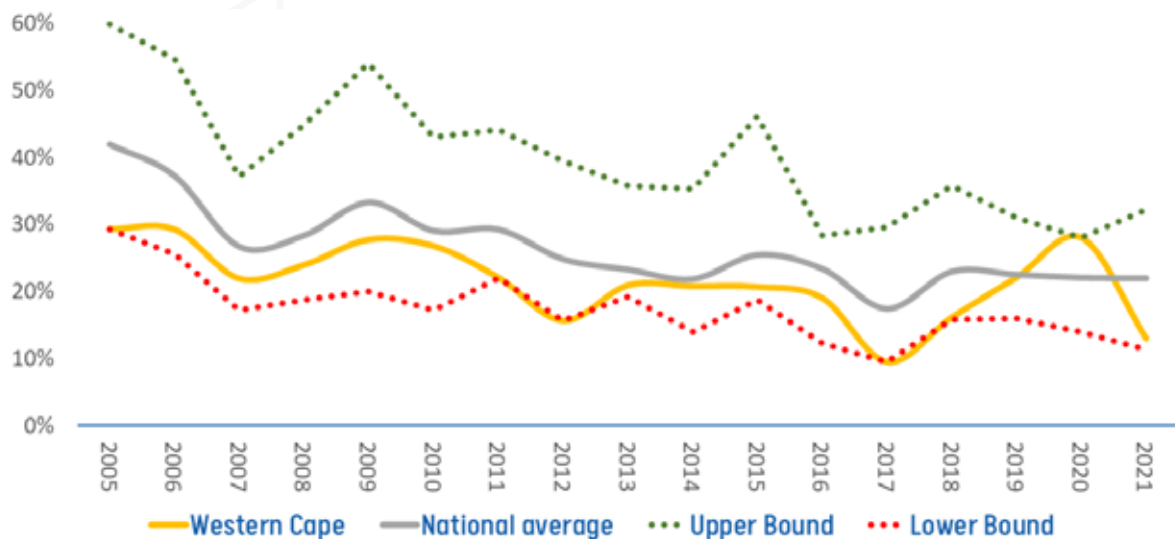
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

The data for Western Cape demonstrate that trust in political parties have remained low over the period, averaging 22% from 2005 to 2021. This was consistent with the national average, the mean score on this measure was 27% across the 2005-2021 period. Provincial variation on this indicator averaged 15 percentage points between 2005 and 2021. Western Cape residents' trust in political parties are lower than the national average. Western Cape on average ranked the lowest, and the province was in the bottom half in all years of observation apart from 2009. The change between 2015 and 2018 is noteworthy, where a larger decline in trust relative to other provinces resulted in the provincial ranking for the Western Cape being in the bottom two in 2017, 2018 and 2021.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	29	29	22	24	28	27	22	16	21	21	21	19	9	16	28	13	22
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)	9	7	7	6	5	6	9	9	7	6	8	6	9	8	1	8	8

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

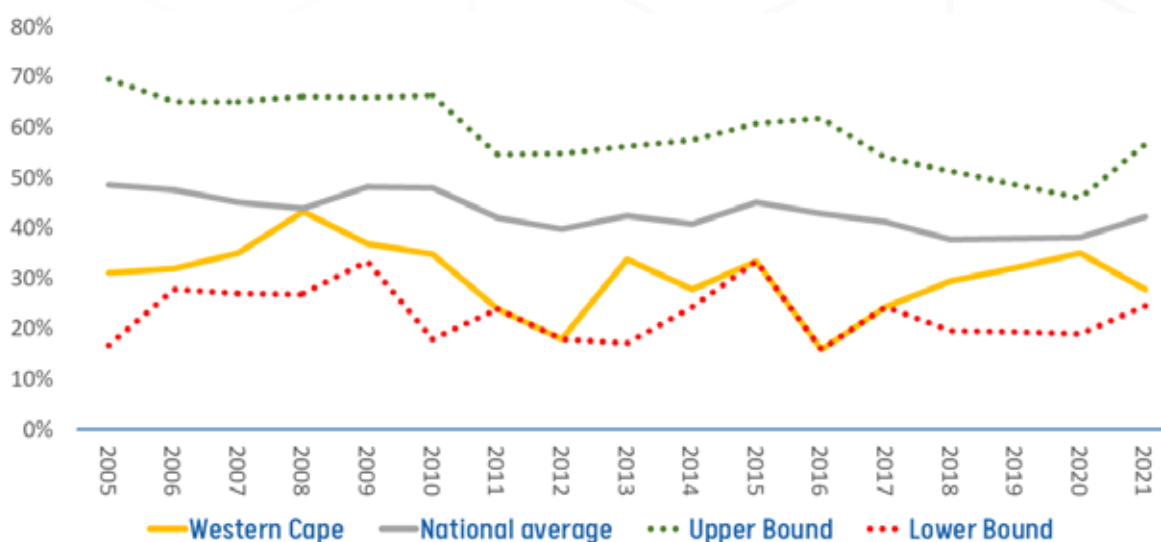
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

The Western Cape holds low levels of trust in traditional authorities. Levels of trust in traditional authorities also fluctuates from 2005 to 2018. In 2008, trust in traditional authorities/leaders rose to 43%, but was followed by a period of progressive decline between 2008 and 2012, with confidence falling by 25 percentage points. Between 2013 and 2018, we note some volatility, with an increase in trust in traditional leaders between 2013 and 2015. In 2016, we note an observable decline of 17 percentage points. Between 2017 and 2020 we note an increase in trust in traditional authorities, followed by a slight decline in levels of trust in 2021. Western Cape residents are far less trusting of traditional authorities/leaders than the national average. In term of provincial ranking, on average, Western Cape ranked eighth overall and did not rank in the top half of provinces during the entire period.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	31	32	35	43	37	35	24	18	34	28	33	16	24	29	35	28	30
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)	8	8	8	5	8	7	9	9	7	8	8	9	9	8	7	8	8

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

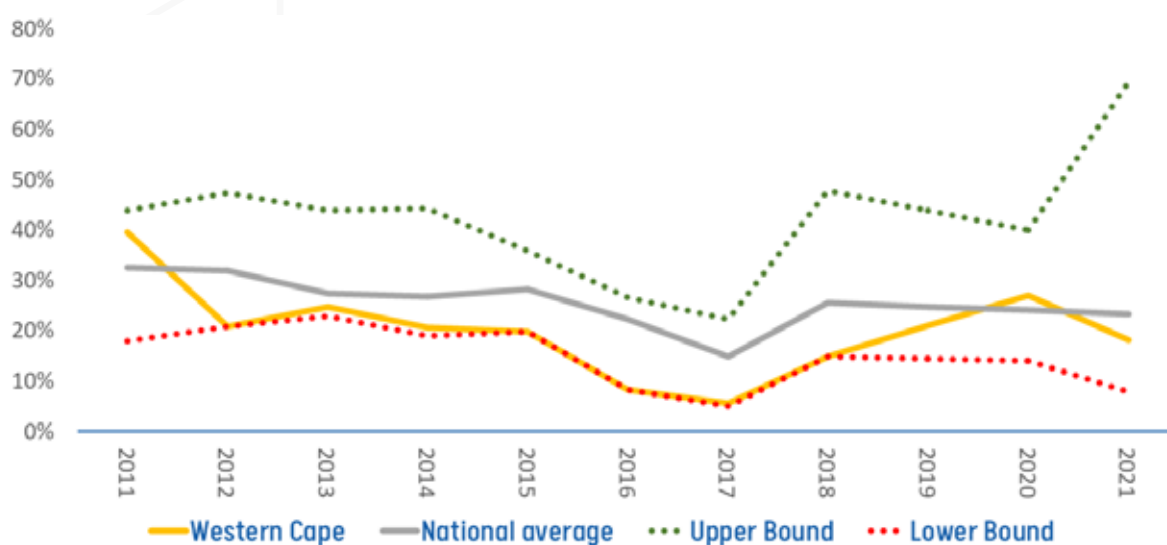
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2011, Western Cape residents were discontent with political leadership in the country, with only 40% of the population expressing satisfaction. Over the 2011-2018 period, we observe a general decline in public confidence in political leadership in Western Cape. After a significant drop of 19 percentage points between 2011 and 2012, satisfaction levels were steady in the 20-25% range between 2012 and 2015. The next two years brought a 15 percentage point fall in satisfaction, reaching a low-point in 2017, when only 5% of the public in the province were satisfied with political leadership. Despite an improvement in 2018, satisfaction levels are still extremely low. Over the 2011-2021 period, the Western Cape ranks ninth overall compared to other provinces and is placed in the bottom three in all years apart from 2011.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	40	21	25	21	20	8	5	15	27	18	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)	3	9	7	7	9	9	8	8	3	7	9

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

2.2.10 Trust in Religious Institutions

GOAL

Public confidence in religious institutions

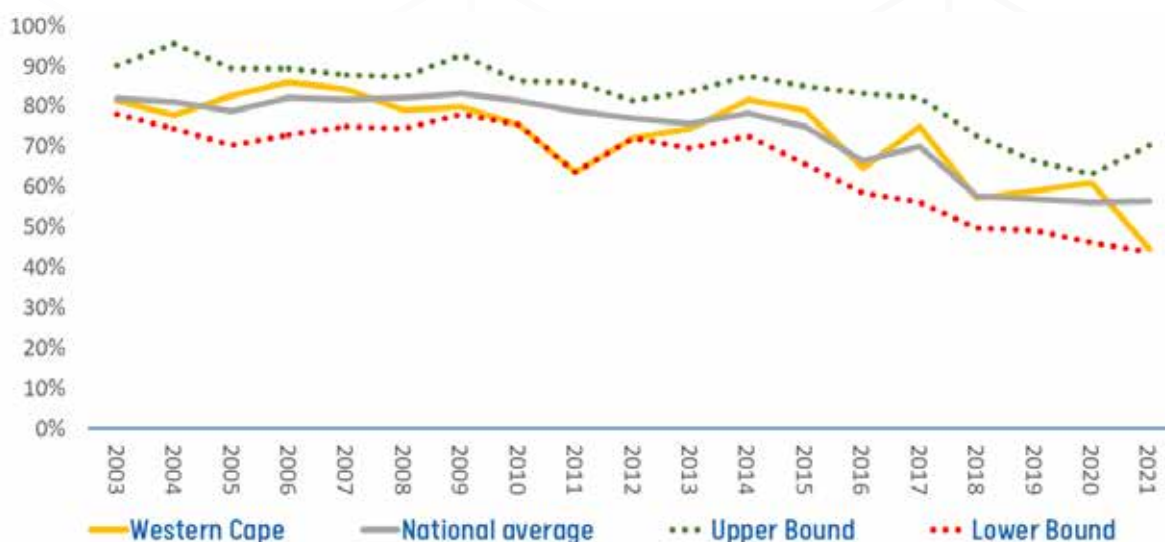
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Western Cape residents are rather trusting of religious institutions. In 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2014, more than 80% of the public in the province expressed trust in religious institutions. Between 2014 and 2018, we observe a general decline in trust in religious institutions, dropping 21 percentage points from 82% in 2014 to 61% in 2020 and to 45% in 2021. Western Cape residents, however, were less trusting than the national average. In term of provincial ranking, the Western Cape on average ranked eighth and was in the bottom three in 2004 and from 2008 to 2013. It is noteworthy that dissatisfaction with political institutions, especially since 2008, as shown earlier, seems to have spilled over and affected confidence in other socio-cultural institutions, including even religious institutions, which have historically been highly trusted.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	81	78	83	86	84	79	80	75	64	72	74	82	79	65	75	57	61	45	73
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)	5	8	6	4	3	7	7	9	9	9	7	3	2	6	5	5	3	8	8

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

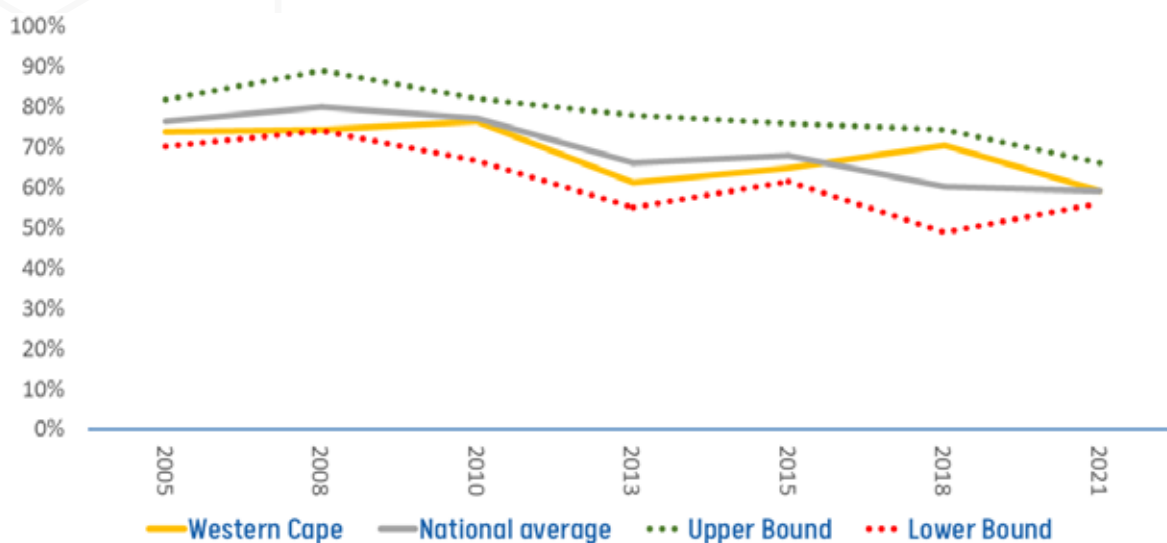
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

It is apparent that a significant majority of Western Cape residents reported an interest in elections. In late 2005, 74% indicated a fair or high level of interest in government elections. Between 2005 and 2010, electoral interest remained relatively stable but significantly declined from 76% in 2010 to 61% in 2013. By late 2018, we observe a recovery to the 70% mark. In 2021 this decreased to 59%. The gap between the provincial upper and lower provincial bounds was generally quite small in most rounds of surveying. The results for the Western Cape are slightly below the national average. The Western Cape on average ranked sixth over the period. It is noteworthy that in 2018, the provincial ranked rose to third highest in terms of interest, compared to seventh position in 2015.

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
Western Cape	74	74	76	61	65	70	59	68
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)	6	8	6	7	7	3	5	6

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

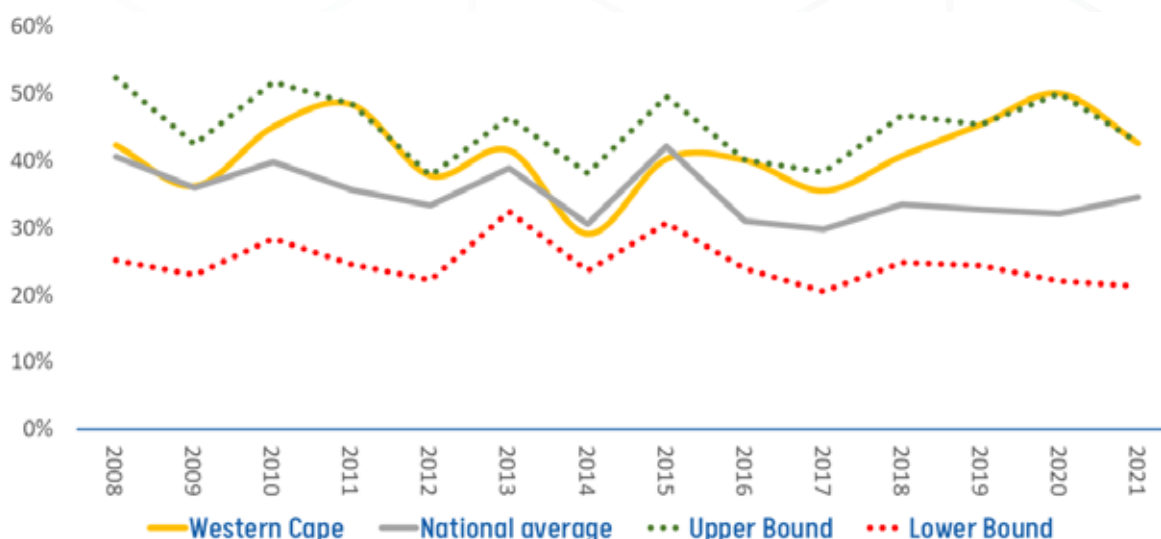
QUESTION

How often does politics seem so complicated that you cannot really understand what is going on? (% never or seldom)

ANALYSIS

Western Cape residents are generally ambivalent about whether politics is difficult to understand. On average between 2008 and 2018, only 40% never or rarely found politics too difficult to understand. This figure fluctuated from a low of 29% in 2014 to a high of 48% in 2011. In most years, the Western Cape figure is above the national average, suggesting that a sizeable proportion of South Africans struggle with the complexity of politics in the country. Levels of interprovincial variance observed on this indicator were high for most of the period. The provincial difference in political efficacy values was 24 percentage points between 2018 and 2021. The provincial ranking of Western Cape was first on average over the full period. The only years where this placement moved into the bottom four was in 2014.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	42	36	45	48	38	42	29	40	40	36	41	50	43	35
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)	5	3	4	1	1	3	6	4	1	2	2	1	1	1

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

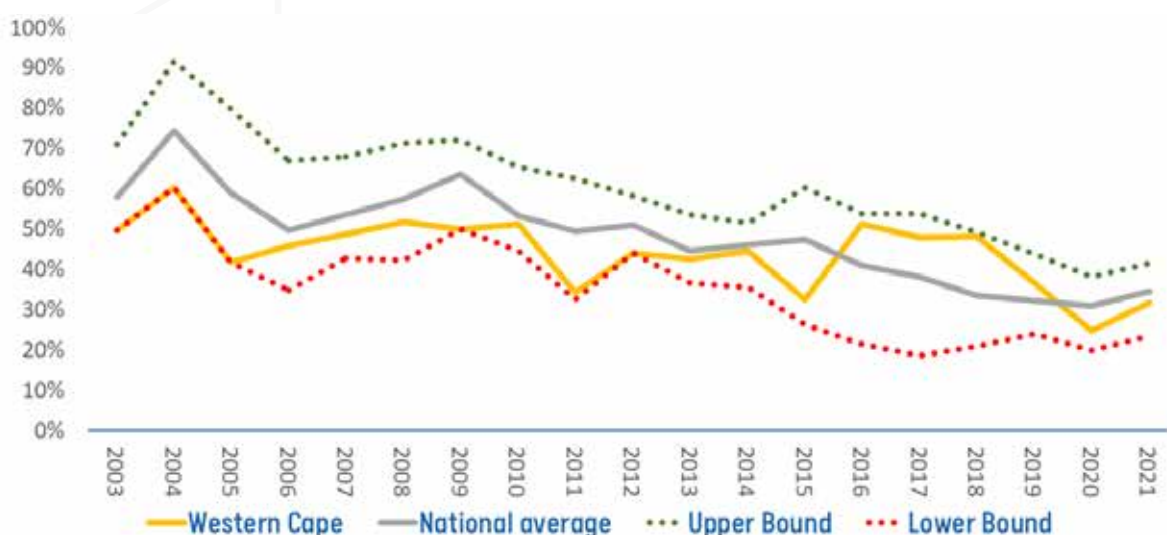
QUESTION

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about voting: I vote because my vote makes a difference? (% agree or strongly agree)

ANALYSIS

Many people in Western Cape were inclined to believe in their power to change the system in 2011. A significant share of the provincial public became sceptical about their ability to change the status quo through voting after this period. Between 2011 and 2014 belief in the power of the vote dropped by twenty percentage points. However, by 2015 it would appear that faith in the power of one's vote was somewhat restored with an increasing share of the provincial public showing faith in the effect of voting. In 2021 a smaller share (32%) of Western Cape residents disagreed with the statement than was observed in 2018 (48%). For the full period, we note only 44% of the Western Cape public disagreed with the statement. The provincial ranking of Western Cape was eighth on average over the full period. The only years when the Western Cape was placed in the top five was in 2004, 2005, 2008-2013, 2015 and 2016.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	50	60	42%	46%	52%	50	51	34	44	43	45	32	51	48	48	25	32	44
National Avg.	58	74	59%	50%	57%	63	53	49	51	45	46	47	41	38	34	31	35	49
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)	9	9	9	6	7	9	6	8	9	7	8	8	2	2	2	8	8	8

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

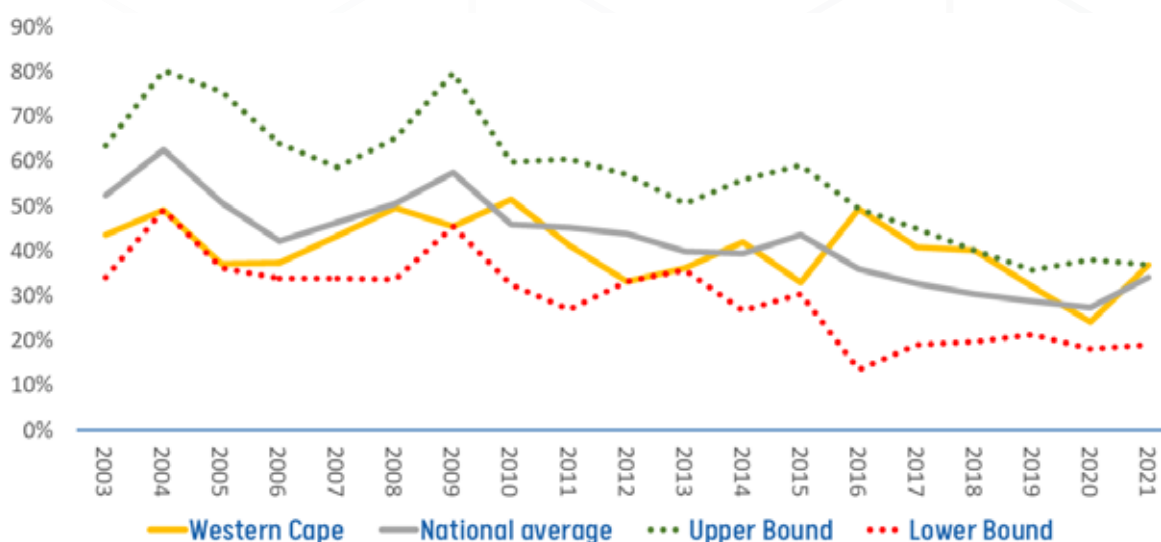
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Almost half majority (49%) of the Western Cape population disagreed that voting was worthless because politicians were unreliable in 2004. Disagreement levels remained approximate to the national average and showed a stable (albeit uneven) trend between 2005 and 2011. Levels of interprovincial variation were quite high during this period, and the Western Cape rank was seventh between 2005 and 2011. Western Cape disagreement with the statement fell in 2012 before rebounding in 2013 and 2014. Another decline was observed in 2015 before a recovery in 2016, since that survey rounds disagreement levels declined and only 24% of the provincial public disagreed in 2020. Following this period, the share who disagreed increased and was 37% of the provincial public in 2021. Interprovincial variation declined between 2016 and 2021 period, and the provincial ranking of the Western Cape was third during this period.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	44	49	37	37	50	45	51	41	33	36	42	33	49	41	40	24	37	40
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)	8	9	8	6	7	9	3	7	9	7	3	7	1	2	1	6	1	7

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

2.3.5 Duty to vote

GOAL

Determine public allegiance in participation in elections

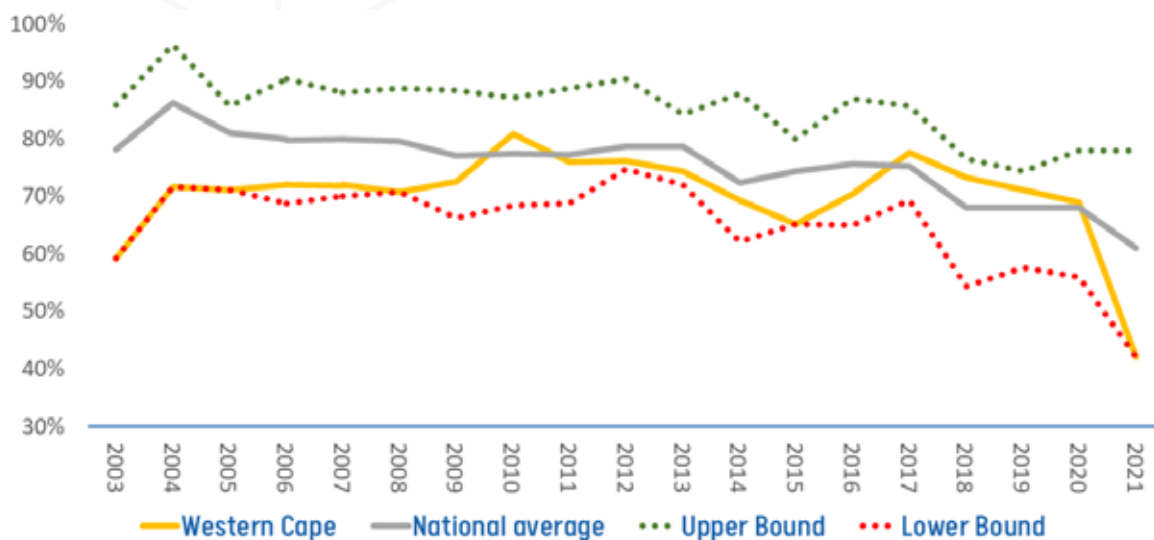
QUESTION

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 Western Cape public remains robust. The provincial population was more positive on this metric than the national average. However, the level of disparity here was not large. There are indications of decline over the most recent period 2017 and 2021 and there seems to be a growing sense of discontent with the utility of electoral process amongst the Western Cape population. Of all provinces in 2021, Western Cape ranked as the ninth most likely to agree with the statement. The provincial ranking of Western Cape was ninth on average over the full period.

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
Western Cape	59	72	71	72	72	71	73	81	76	76	74	69	65	70	78	73	71	69	42	70
National Avg.	78	86	81	80	80	80	77	77	77	79	79	72	74	76	75	68	68	68	61	76
Upper Bound	86	96	86	90	88	89	88	87	89	90	84	88	80	87	86	76	...	78	78	81
Lower Bound	59	72	71	69	70	71	66	68	69	75	72	62	65	65	69	54	...	56	42	70
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	9	7	8	9	7	3	5	7	8	7	9	8	3	2	4	4	9	9

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

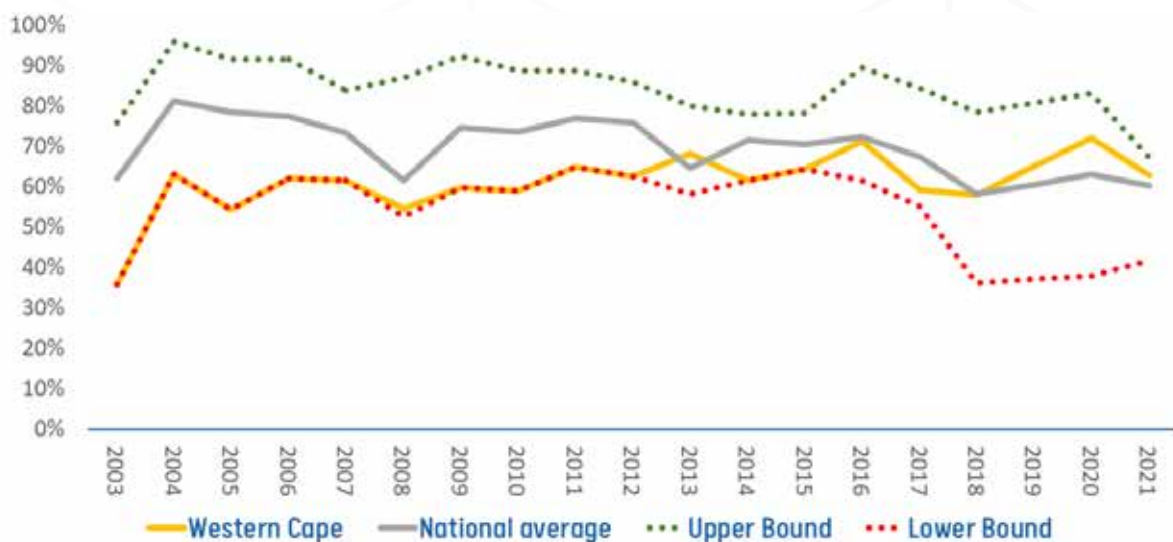
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In each round of the SASAS survey between 2003 and 2021, respondents were asked whether or not they would vote if a government election was to be held tomorrow. In late 2018, 49% of the Western Cape public stated that they would turn out to vote if government elections were to be held tomorrow. During the full period, the disparity between the upper and lower provincial bounds fluctuated significantly, with larger than average provincial variation in 2003-2006, 2008-2010 and 2018-2020. The Western Cape was near or slightly below the national average, since 2016 the percentage dropped considerably from 71 % to 63 % in 2021. In 2021 the interprovincial disparity was 26-percentage points, and the Western Cape ranked third. In most survey rounds, the province was in the bottom four of all nine provinces., and on average the Western Cape was ranked the lowest on this indicator.

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	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	36	63	54	62	61	55	60	59	65	62	68	61	64	71	59	58	72	63	60
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)	9	9	9	9	9	8	9	9	9	9	3	9	9	5	7	6	3	3	9

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

2.3.7 Administrative barriers leading to non-voting behaviour

GOAL

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

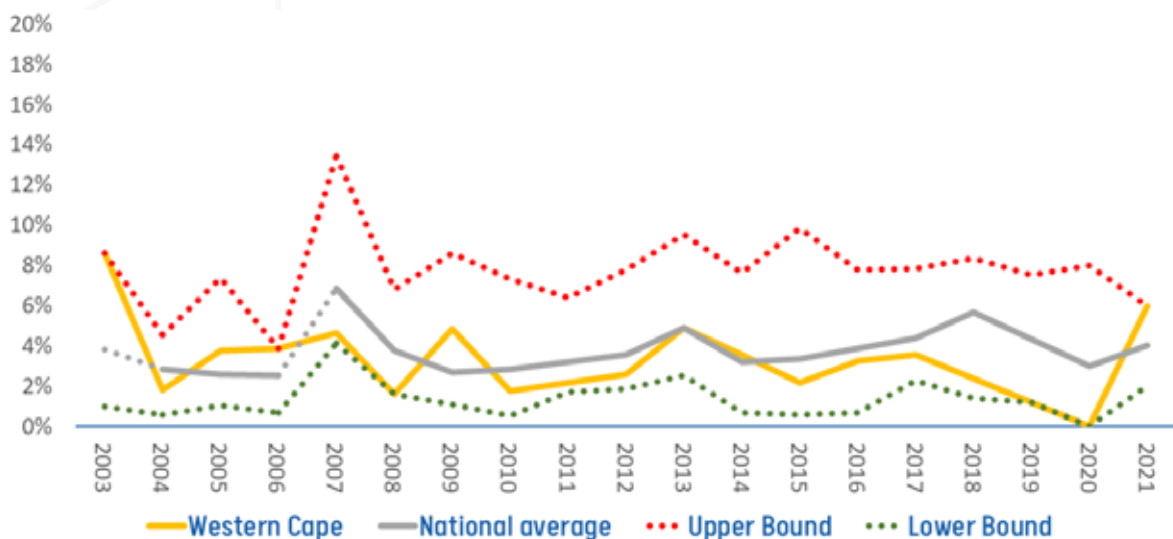
QUESTION

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 Western Cape do not vote. In 2021 only 6% of eligible adults in the province 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 potential voters between 2003 and 2015. In the most recent period (2013-2021), the share that claimed administrative barriers prevented them from voting increased. However, the proportion of the population who give this reason for not voting remains quite small. The provincial ranking of the Western Cape was third on average over the full period, implying that administrative barriers are not a substantial hindrance with regards to participating in elections. However, the province went up to first position in the 2021 SASAS round.

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	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2020	2021	Average
Western Cape	9	2	4	4	5	2	5	2	3	5	4	2	3	4	2	0	6	4
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)	1	5	3	2	7	9	2	6	7	6	4	7	4	7	7	8	1	3

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

2.3.8 Voter registration patterns

GOAL

Ensure that eligible voters are registered

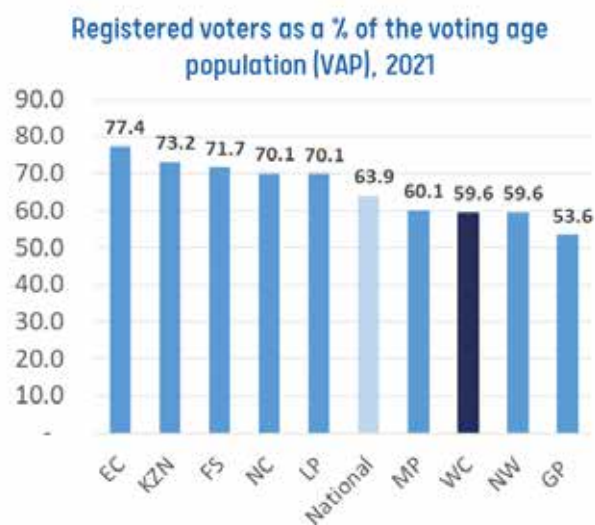
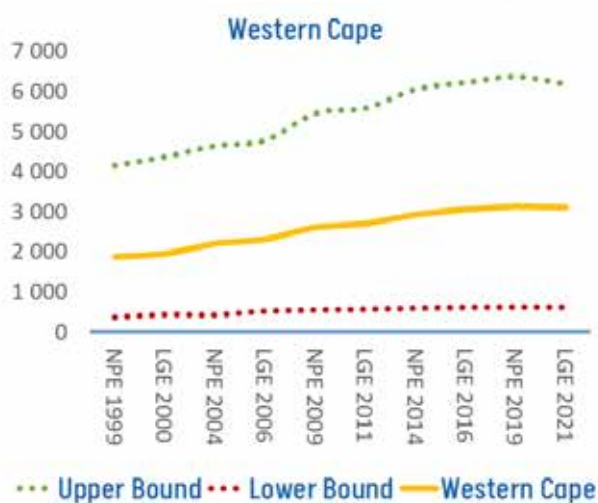
QUESTION

Number of South Africans that are registered to vote in National and Provincial Elections (NPE) and Local Government Elections (LGE); percentage of voting age population that is registered

ANALYSIS

In 1999, 3.12 million eligible voters were registered to vote in the National and Provincial Elections in Western Cape. Over successive elections, through sustained efforts by The Commission, an additional 2.08 million voters were added to the provincial Voter's Roll over the two decades between 1999 and 2019. Given the province's demography, it is unsurprising that the Western Cape consistently has the fourth largest number of registered voters. In 2019, the share of the voting age population (VAP) in the province that was registered was 71.5%, which is 3 percentage points lower than the national average (74.6%). The province figure was also substantially higher than other provinces with large numbers of eligible voters, such as Gauteng, where 67.1% of the VAP is registered. In coming years, voter registration drives in the province will need to try and reduce the share that remains unregistered, while also ensuring that young, first-time voters are encouraged to register.

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
Western Cape	1 864	1 943	2 220	2 301	2 634	2 707	2 941	3 067	3 129	3 112	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

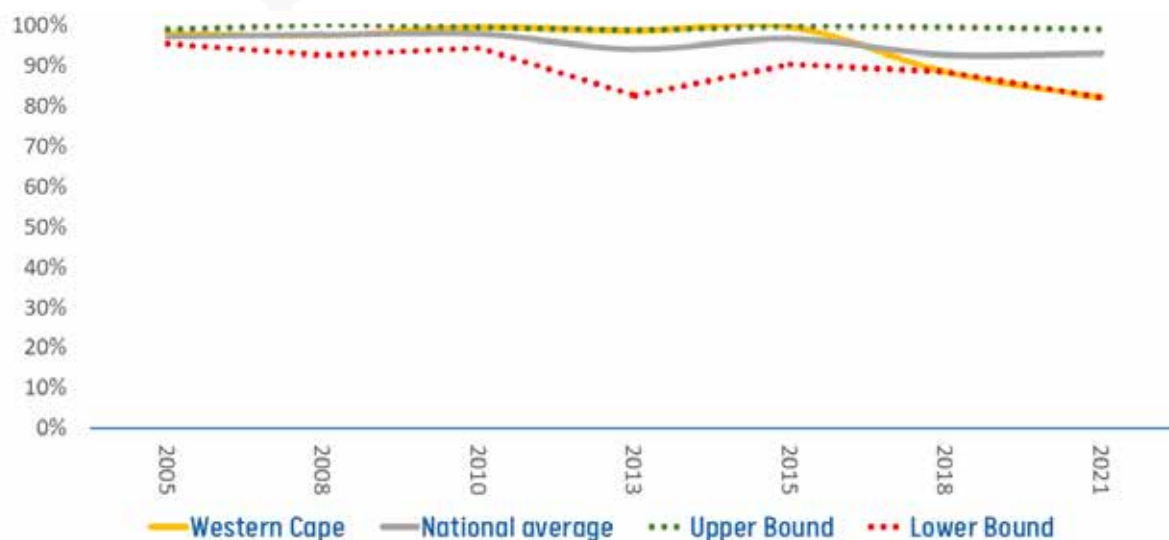
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2005, 2008 and 2010, there was near universal agreement among registered voters in Western Cape that the voting registration process was easy. Western Cape ranked among the top five provinces with regard to the share evaluating the process as easy. However, in 2021 there was a significant decline in the proportion reporting that the process was easy, resulting in the province being ranked seventh on this indicator. The factors that led to this change in perspective on registration in the province bears further consideration. Despite these fluctuations, the view that the registration process is straightforward is widespread, and commonly observed across provinces.

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
Western Cape	98	97	99	99	100	88	82	95
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)	5	6	1	2	1	9	9	7

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

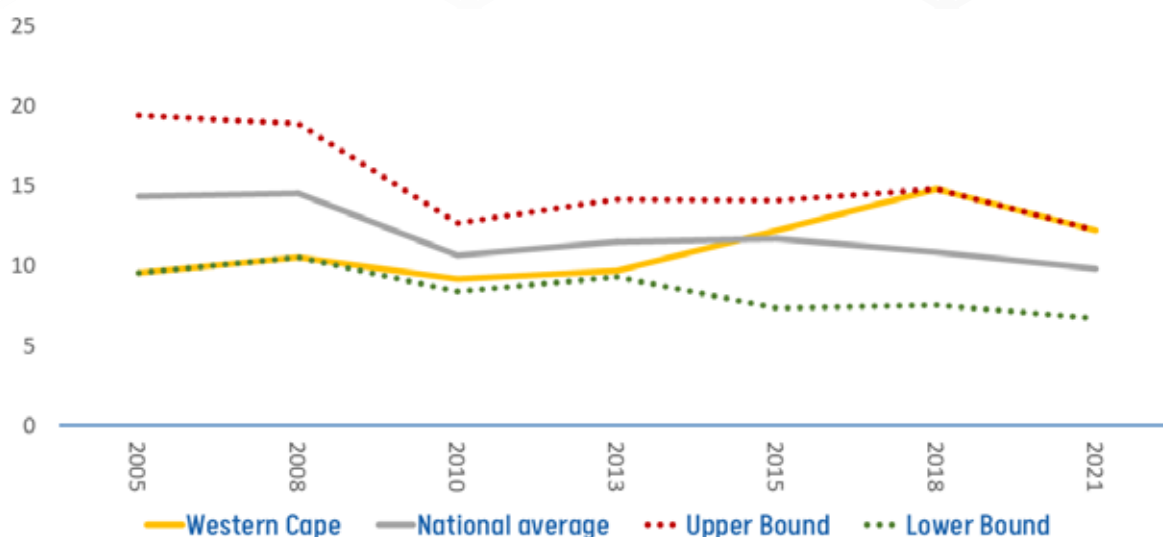
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

The average length of time to register in Western Cape is quite short, averaging ten minutes in 2005. Since then, the mean time has decreased in 2018 from sixteen to thirteen minutes in 2021. In most VPS rounds, the discrepancy between the provincial and national averages was not large. In 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. 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
Western Cape	10	12	9	11	12	16	12	11
National Avg.	16	17	11	13	12	12	10	12
Upper Bound	23	22	14	16	15	16	12	14
Lower Bound	10	12	9	10	7	8	7	10
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1

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

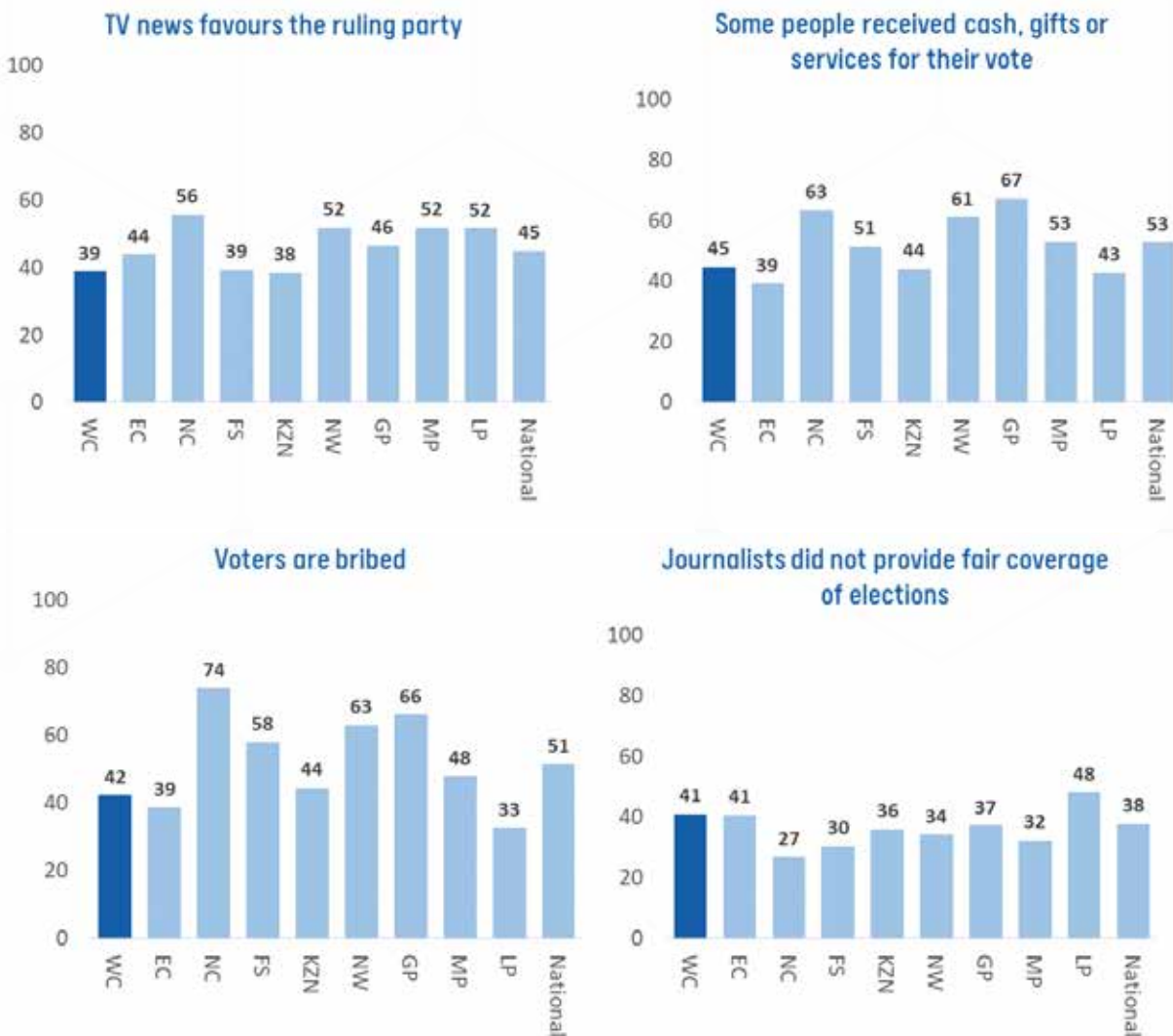
QUESTION

In your view, how often do the following six things occur in this country's elections. Respondent is then a read a list of six statements (%% very or fairly often)

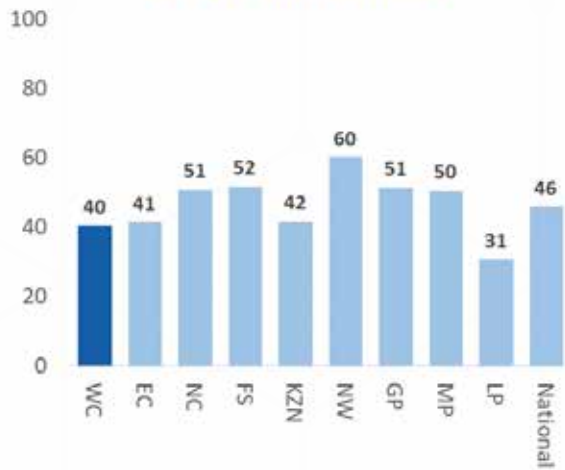
ANALYSIS

In 2021, adults in the Western Cape displayed high levels of cynicism with regard to the integrity of electoral campaigns. About two-fifths (39%) of the adult population believed that TV news favoured the ruling party while 41% thought that journalists did not provide fair coverage of elections. Corruption concerns were also evident with 53% of the provincial public saying people were receiving cash, gifts or services in exchange for their vote. In addition, almost half (45%) of provincial adults stated that voters were being bribed and 40% believed that wealthy elites were influencing elections. Only a third (31%) of citizens in the province felt that voters were not being offered a genuine choice at the ballot box.

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



Rich people buy elections



Voters are not offered a genuine choice at the ballot box



	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
Western Cape	52	53	48	32	50	21
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)	2	4	5	7	5	8

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

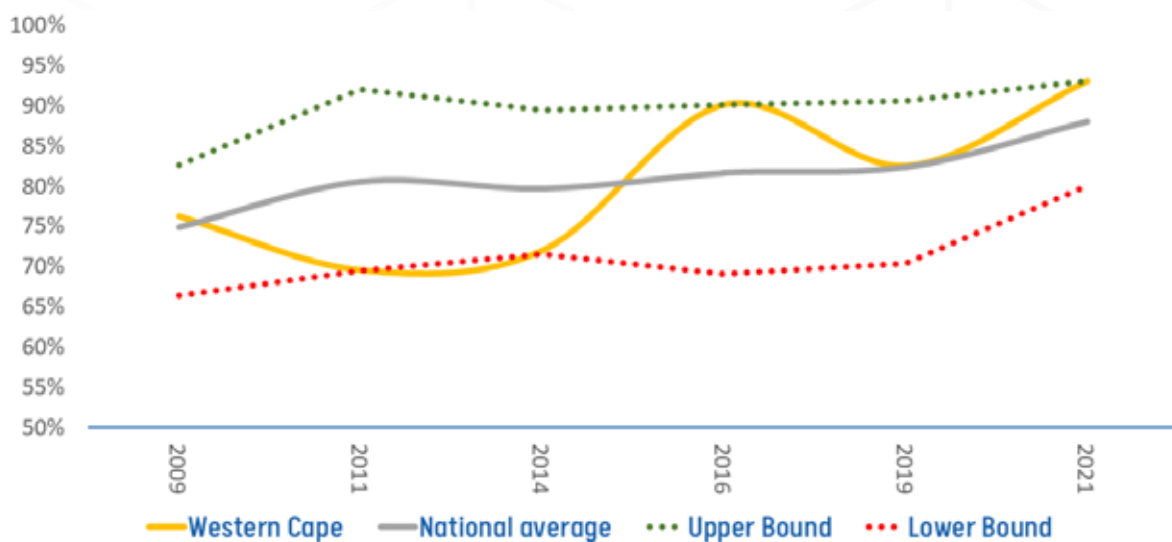
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2009, 76% of voters in the Western Cape 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, 2016 and 2019, ranging between 70% and 82% over this period, and with an average of 78% over the five elections. Voters in the province were generally more positive, with a rank position of 1 in 2016, but Western Cape slipped to first place in 2021. This was due to other provinces improving their assessment of party tolerance rather than a significant decline taking place in Western Cape. Furthermore, the Western Cape ranks seventh on average over the 2009-2021 full period.

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
Western Cape	76	70	72	90	82	93	81
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)	3	9	8	1	6	1	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 between 2008 and 2021 is broadly consistent. Broadcast media was the most popular source of information in the Western Cape, with 62% relying on television and 24% on radio in 2021. In both instances, these sources were more popular in the province relative to the national average. In terms of provincial ranking, the public in the Western Cape are on average more likely to use these information sources than those in all other provinces. Newspapers were also more common in the province than average, with 25% using this print media in 2018 and 2021. Posters were only mentioned by a quarter of the Western Cape public. Despite its contemporary popularity, social media was mentioned by only a small proportion (8%) in the Western Cape in 2021. Citizens in the Western Cape were less likely to list social media as a source than those living in most other parts of the country.

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							
Western Cape	44	42	37	30	68	62	47
National Average	47	50	43	48	57	59	51
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	6	7	8	8	1	3	6
Radio							
Western Cape	32	23	23	23	39	24	27
National Average	39	36	30	30	39	27	35
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	9	8	8	4	8	9
Newspaper							
Western Cape	32	29	25	25	42	25	30
National Average	34	31	24	24	28	23	27
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	6	6	6	1	3	2
Poster							
Western Cape	18	18	20	20	24	8	18
National Average	19	24	22	22	22	17	21
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	8	7	7	4	9	8
Informal social networks							
Western Cape	1	8	9	9	5	7	2
National Average	12	15	12	12	16	7	4
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	8	8	8	9		
Social media							
Western Cape	1	0	1%	2	2	8	10
National Average	2	2	2%	6	4	8	12
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	9	7	7	8	4	9

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 2018, when asked about a preferred channel of electoral information, 51% of the Western Cape public opted for television. By 2021 television was still the most preferred source of information, but there was a three-percentage point decline to 49%. Television was also the most popular source nationally. The average provincial ranking across this period was ninth out of the nine provinces. Radio was also found to be a comparatively popular preferred channel in the province. In 2018 radio as a preferred source of information was 8% and we note a two-percentage point to 10% in 2021. Considering the 2008-2021 period, posters and newspapers were preferred by 10% and 7% respectively (a two-percentage point decline from 2018), while informal social networks were mentioned as a preferred source of voting information by a mere 6 percent in 2018 and 3% in 2021. Social media has become more popular over the 2008-2018 period, growing from less than 4% in 2008 and 2010 to 6% by 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							
Western Cape	50	53	52	49	51	61	54
National Average	57	57	58	60	53	55	57
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	8	6	8	6	2	6
Radio							
Western Cape	16	14	12	4	8	12	11
National Average	21	15	13	12	15	14	15
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	7	6	7	9	8	7	8
Newspaper							
Western Cape	11	11	11	11	12	6	10
National Average	8	7	6	5	5	6	6
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	2	2	1	1	3	1
Poster							
Western Cape	6	4	11	5	9	4	6
National Average	3	7	8	5	8	5	6
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	6	2	5	5	6	2
Informal social networks							
Western Cape	4	2	4	14	0	2	4
National Average	2	2	4	5	5	3	3
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	5	6	1	9	5	3
Social media							
Western Cape	2	1	1	0	15	8	4
National Average	1	1	2	4	5	8	3
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	4	9	9	1	2	2

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

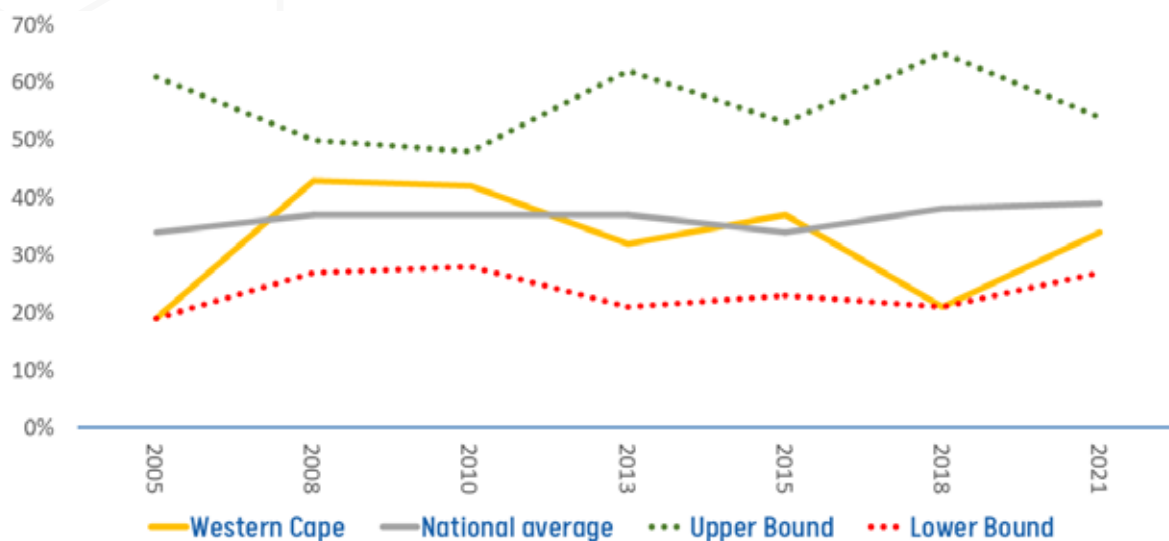
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Among the voting age public in the Western Cape, 19% expressed a desire for more information on voting in 2005. This subsequently increased to 43% in 2008, after which it dropped again to range between 42 and 37% in the 2010, 2013 and 2015 survey rounds. In 2018, this figure dropped to a low of 21%. This suggesting a declining demand for electoral information in the province. However, by 2021, this increased to 34 % indicating a strong demand for information on elections. In 2018 and 2021, the demand for information in Western Cape approximated or was below the national average. Relative to other provinces, the Western Cape was ranked last in 2005, third in 2008 and 2010, and seventh in 2013 and fifth 2015. The drop in informational demand in 2018 and 2021 resulted in a significant increase in rank, from ninth to sixth. In coming years, the Electoral Commission will have to focus its civic and democracy education (CDE) efforts on responding to this rapid decrease in demand for electoral information in this province.

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
Western Cape	19	43	42	32	37	21	34	33
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)	9	3	3	7	5	9	6	8

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

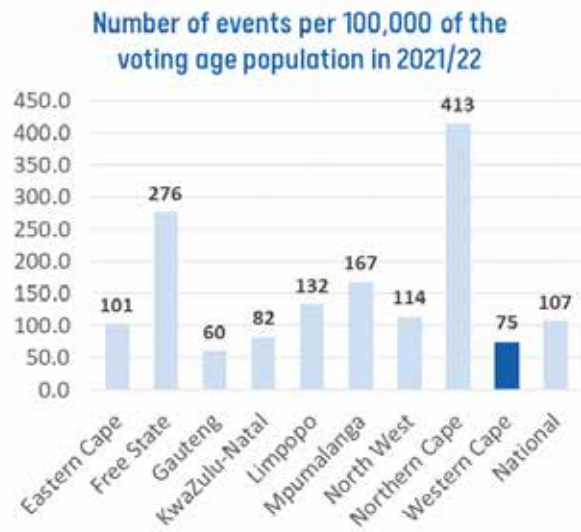
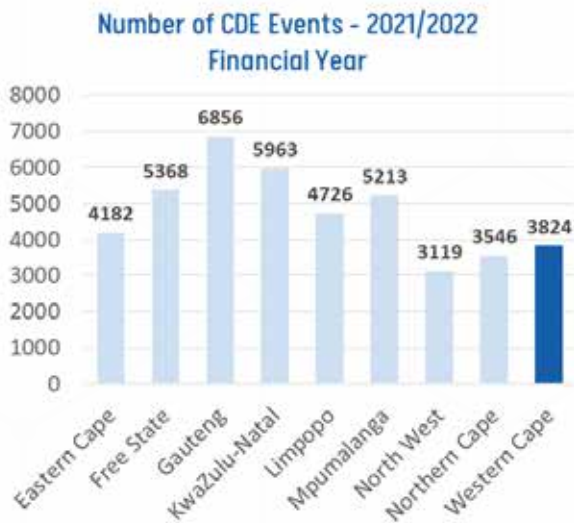
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

More than 40,000 civic and democracy education (CDE) events were held during the 2021/2022 financial year. In comparing the reach of these events across the country, it is advisable to consider the size of the voting age population (VAP) per province. Nationally, 107 events per 100,000 of the VAP were recorded in the 2021/2022 financial year. Of all the provinces, the Western Cape had the second lowest number of events at 75 per 100,000 VAP. Due to economies of scale, the ratio is more likely to be higher in smaller provinces, but the population size of a province is a variable that needs to be considered when planning CDE events. More specifically, consideration should be given to retaining the number of events in a less densely populated provinces (such as Mpumalanga) and increase them in more densely populated areas (like KwaZulu Natal). This will ensure that reach and impact are achieved more uniformly across provinces. 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 2019/2021

3.2.5 Perceived effectiveness of voter education campaigns

GOAL

Appraising the effectiveness of voter education campaigns

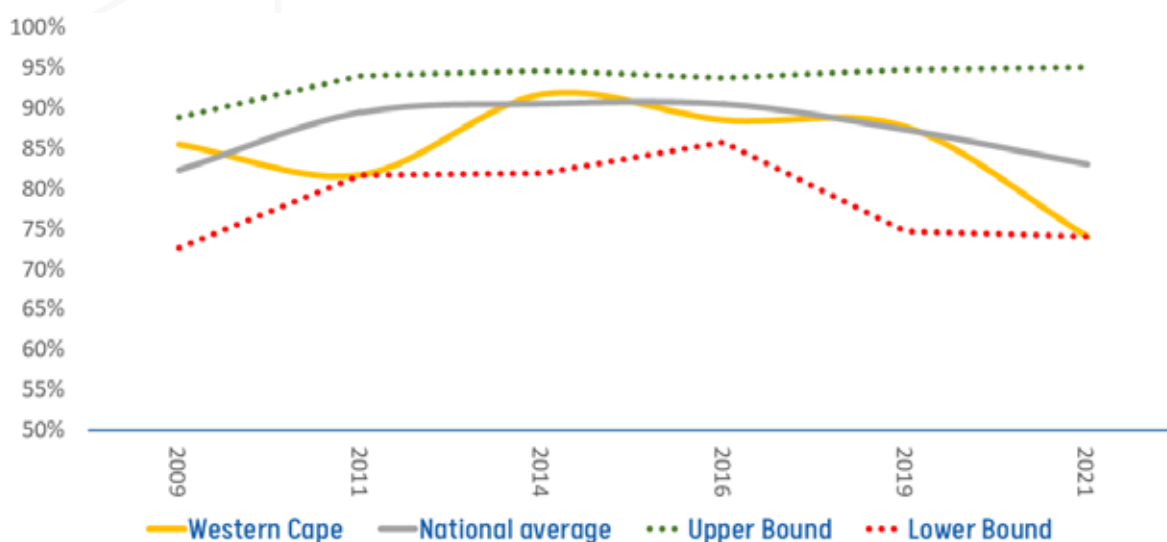
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2009 nearly three-quarters (85%) of voters in Western Cape believed that the Commission’s voter education campaigns were effective. Attitudes on this indicator improved in 2014, reaching 92% in the province. Similar views were expressed between 2016 and 2021. Although there were minor differences over this period, these variances were so small that it shouldn’t be concerning to the Electoral Commission. Although there were minor differences over this period, these variances were so small that it shouldn’t be concerning to the Electoral Commission. These patterns remained consistent for the 2021 election period. The rank position of the Western Cape relative to other provinces has varied over time, from lowest in 2011 to sixth in 2019, and ranking ninth overall across the full period. However, these rank differences were based on negligible variances between provinces.

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
Western Cape	85	82	92	88	88	74	85
National Avg.	82	89	91	90	87	83	87
Upper Bound	89	94	95	94	95	95	91
Lower Bound	73	82	82	86	75	74	85
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	4	9	3	7	6	9	9

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

Determining the average time taken to get to voting stations

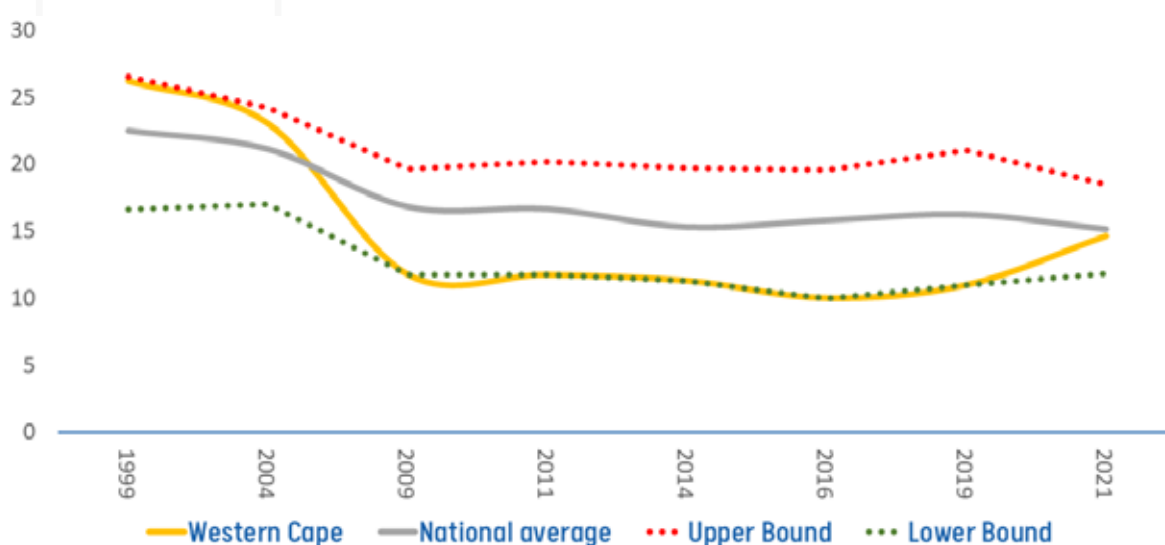
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

The mean travel time minutes taken to reach one's voting station in the Western Cape has improved, falling from 26 in 1999 to 15 in 2021. This finding was consistent with the national average. Between 1999 and 2021 the average time it took for voters in the Western Cape to get to their voting station was 18 minutes. Mean travel time has remained fairly stable during the 2008-2021 period, and, with the exception of 1999, has consistently been higher than the national average. Given this, it is not surprising to find that the Western Cape ranks highest on this indicator, implying that voters in Western Cape take less time to get to their voting station. Apart from 1999, Western Cape has been ranked in this indicator.

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
Western Cape	26	16	23	12	12	11	10	11	15	15
National Avg.	22	21	21	17	17	15	16	16	15	18
Upper Bound	27	24	24	20	20	20	20	21	18	21
Lower Bound	17	16	17	12	12	11	10	11	12	15
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	1	7	1	1	1	1	1	5	1

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

4.1.2 Queuing time at voting stations

GOAL

Determining the average queuing time at voting stations

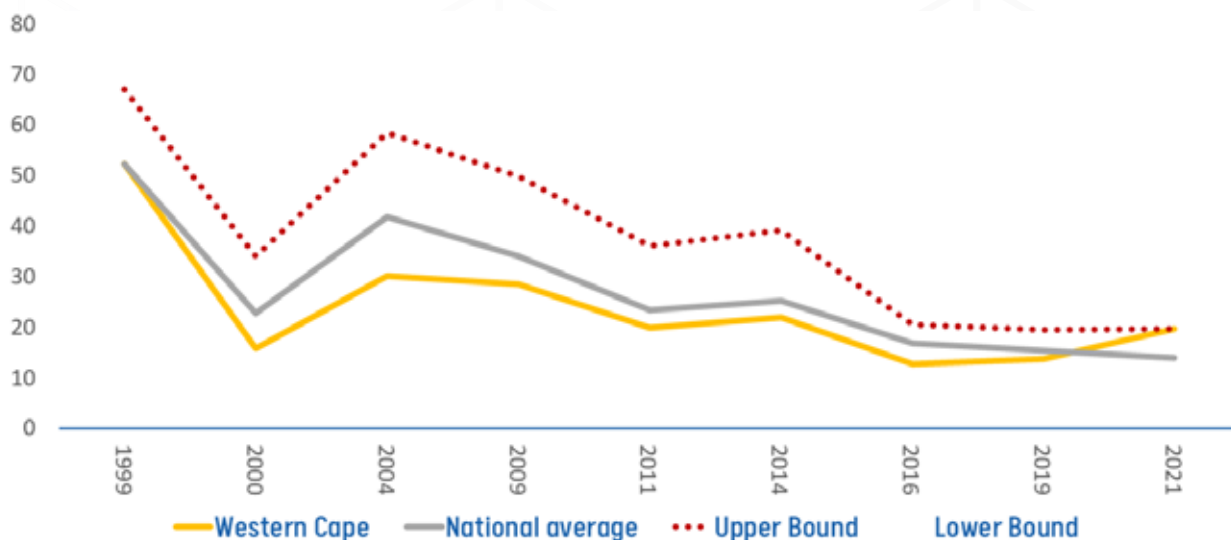
QUESTION

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 Western Cape was 24 minutes, which is above the national average of 24 minutes. Between 1999 and 2016 average queuing time in the Western Cape has steadily improved, falling 39 minutes on average over the period. The mean queue time remained stable between 2016 and 2019 before declining during the last government elections. In 2021 the mean time remained the same 20 minutes which was six minutes more than what was observed in 2019. Although the discrepancy was much smaller in the 2021 period, substantial interprovincial variation was observed on this measure between 1999 and 2021. The Western Cape ranks last on average on this indicator in 2021 and was ranked second for the full period.

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
Western Cape	52	16	30	28	20	22	13	14	20	24
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)	6	1	1	5	4	7	2	5	9	2

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

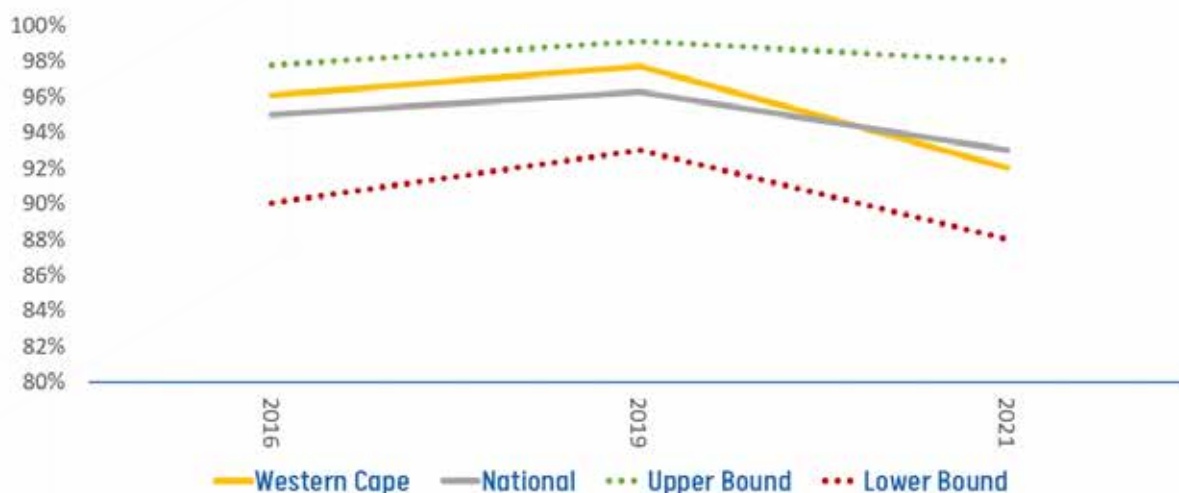
QUESTION

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. In 2016, 96% of voters in Western Cape expressed satisfaction with the safety and security at their voting stations, decreased to 92% in 2021. It is important to note that, relative to other provinces, Western Cape ranked fairly high on this indicator – 3rd in 2016 and however 7th 2021, with an average of 5th overall across the two survey rounds. Therefore, despite the high level of satisfaction and the increase observed between 2016 and 2019, the comparative findings indicate that the Western Cape 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
Western Cape	96	98	92	95
National Avg.	95	96	93	95
Upper Bound	98	99	98	92
Lower Bound	90	93	98	95
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	4	7	5

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

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

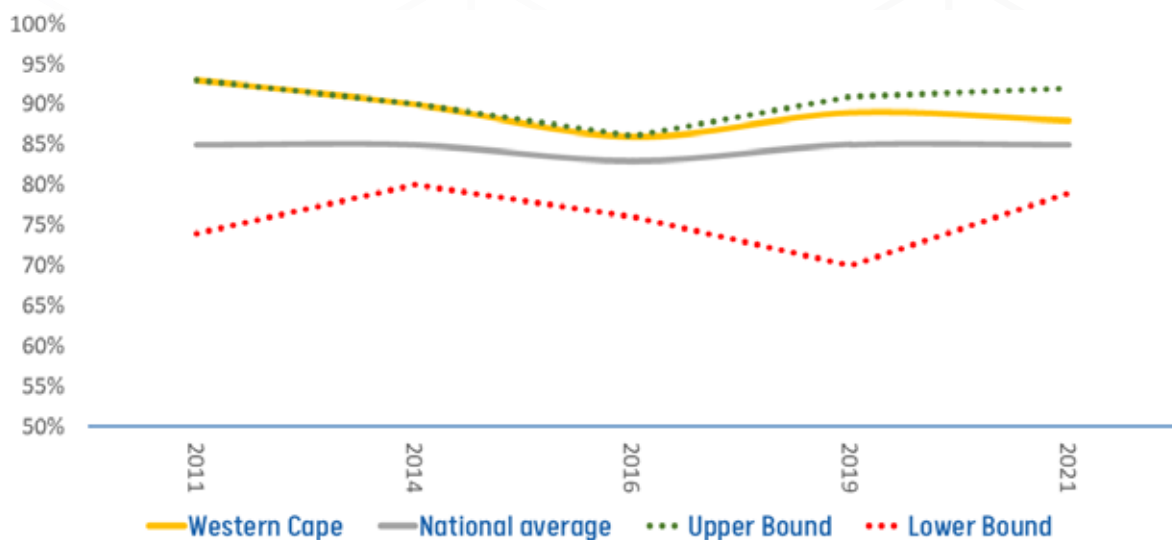
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Almost all (93%) of voters in the Western Cape felt that voting stations were accessible to persons with disabilities and or the elderly in 2011. The Western Cape was ranked the highest on this indicator during that survey round. In subsequent rounds, the proportion of Western Cape voters satisfied with these voting station provisions has decreased somewhat but has remained above the 80% threshold. However, fluctuations on this indicator during the period, the Western Cape was ranked in the top three on this indicator in all rounds apart from 2021. Fairly considerable interprovincial variation was noted on this measure in 2019 but much less was noted in 2021. Overall Western Cape ranked first out of nine provinces on aggregate over the 2009-2021 period and the province placed fourth in 2021.

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
Western Cape	93	90	86	89	88	89
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)	1	1	1	3	4	1

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

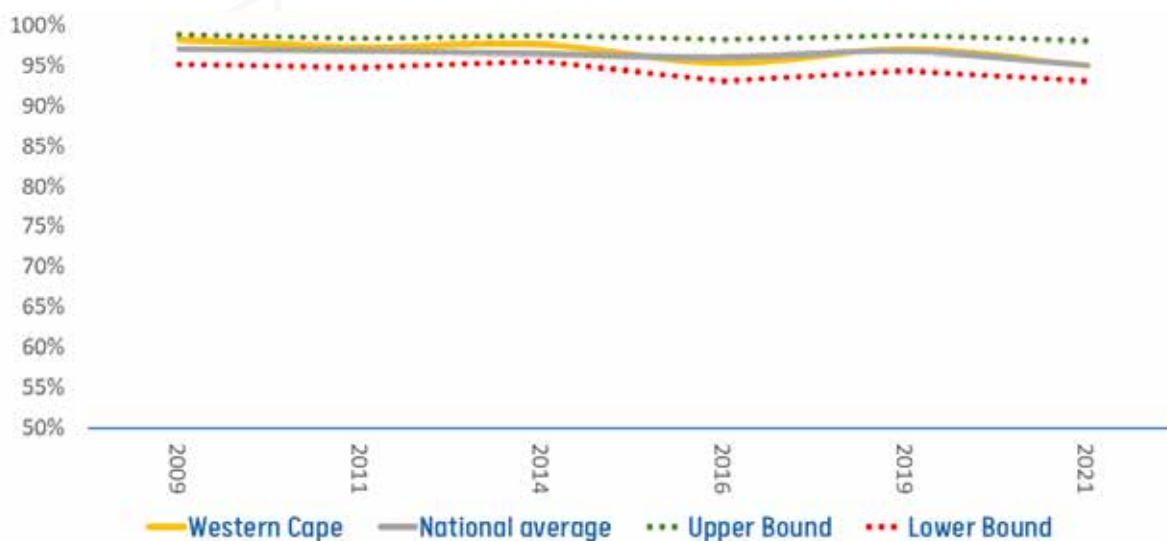
QUESTION

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 IEC to voters on Election Day in five successive elections held between 2009 and 2021. In the Western Cape, satisfaction levels fluctuated in a very narrow band between 95% and 98%, mirroring the national average. Despite this positive assessment, Western Cape ranked high relative to other provinces and, except for 2016 and 2021, ranked in the bottom five provinces. In 2016, Western Cape ranked seventh on this indicator, while it was ranked fourth on average over the full 2009-2021 period. This is largely a reflection of the high satisfaction levels recorded across all provinces over time, rather than significantly poorer performance relative to other provincial contexts.

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



	2009	2011	2014	2016	2019	2021	Average
Western Cape	98	97	98	95	97	95	97
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)	1	3	5	7	7	5	4

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

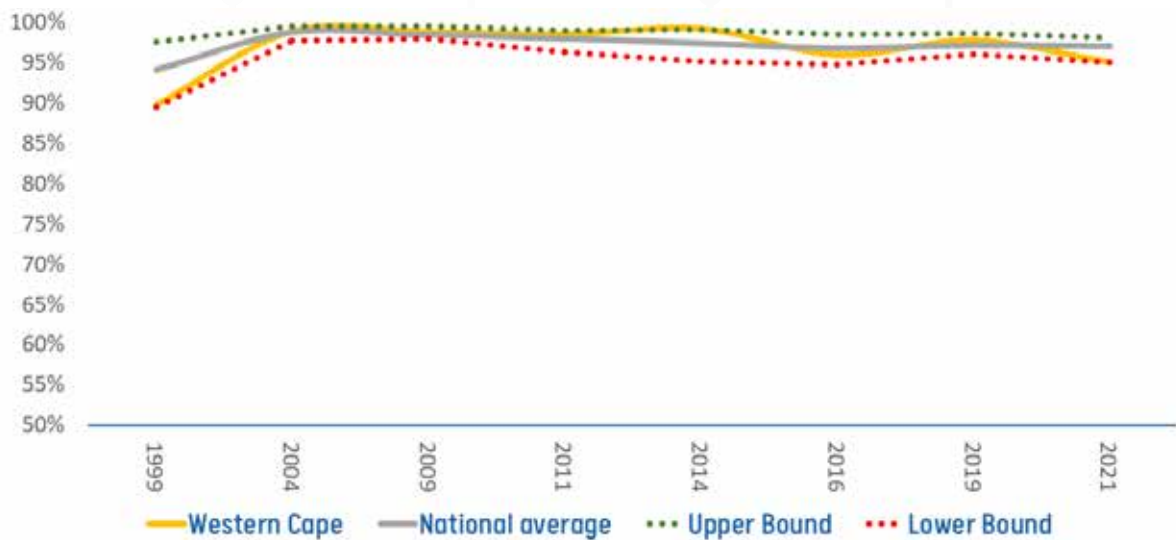
QUESTION

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 Western Cape 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 90% and 99%. The position of the Western Cape relative to other provinces has fluctuated over the last two decades, rising from eighth lowest in 1999 to highest in 2014. These rank differences nonetheless reflect subtle inter-provincial variations due to the clustering of satisfaction levels at an extremely high level.

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
Western Cape	90	98	99	99	98	99	96	98	95	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)	8	1	5	3	2	1	8	4	8	4

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

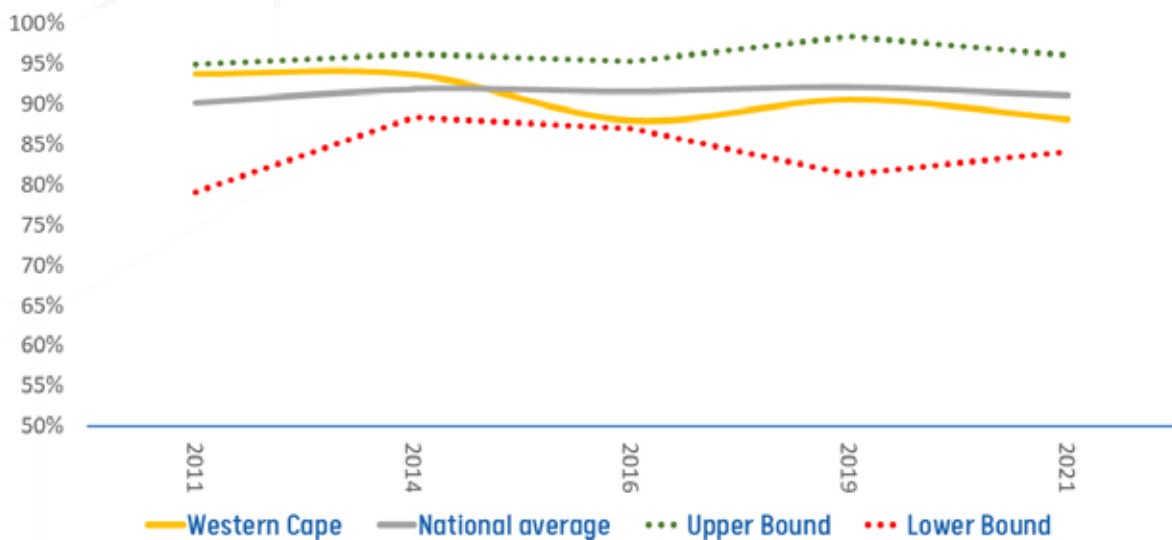
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2019, 90% of voters in the Western Cape thought that voting stations accommodated the needs of the elderly. These results are very similar to previous survey rounds, and only negligible differences were observed over this period. On aggregate over the 2011-2021 period, 88% of voters in the province felt that the voting procedures considered the needs of the elderly. This suggests that voters were suitably convinced that the procedures in place at voting stations addressed the needs of the elderly. Although there has been modest variation in the share believing that the needs of the elderly had be accommodated (80-93% range), the provincial rank position of the Western Cape on this indicator has fluctuated from seventh position in 2011 to first in 2019 and decreased to 8th position in 2021. This is again largely a reflection of negligible differences in evaluation between provinces, so that small changes produce more sizeable shifts in rank order position.

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
Western Cape	94	94	88	90	88	91
National Avg.	90	92	91	92	91	91
Upper Bound	95	96	95	98	96	94
Lower Bound	79	88	87	81	84	88
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	3	2	8	7	8	5

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

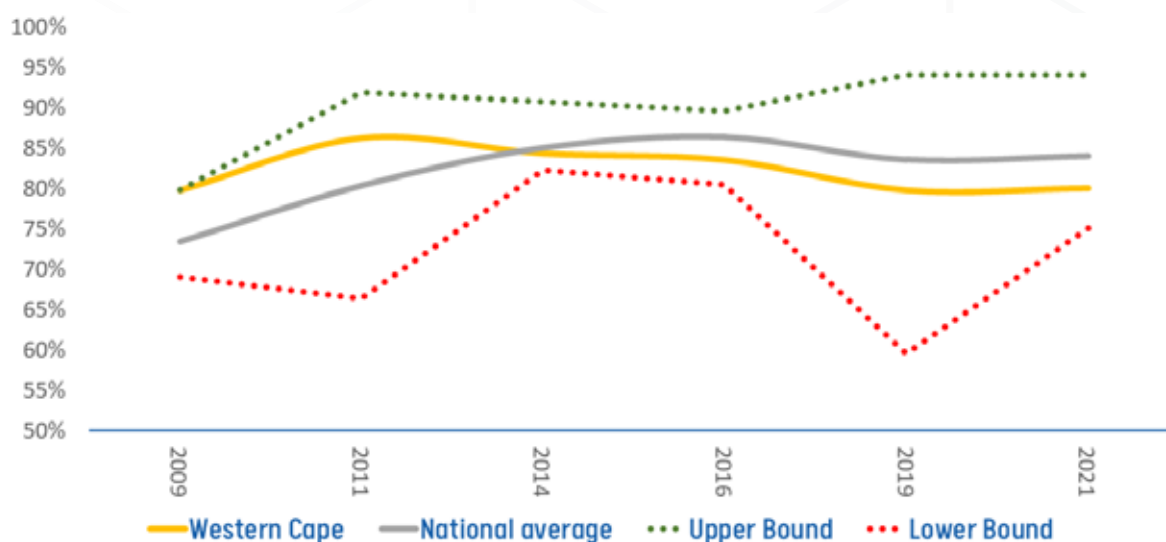
QUESTION

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, 69% of voters in the Western Cape in general said that the voting stations accommodated the needs of persons with disabilities. These results significantly improved to 86% by the time of the next round of surveying in 2011. Over the 2014-2021 period, only minor differences were observed, varying between 82% and 86%. On average, 82% of voters thought that procedures at the voting station considered the needs of this group over the full 2009-2021 period. This shows that voters in the province were fairly contented with the procedural arrangements made at voting station for persons with disabilities. Relative to other provinces, the rank of the Western Cape has dropped over the last decade, from first position in 2009 to seventh in 2014, 2016, 2019 and last position in 2021.

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
Western Cape	80	86	82	86	83	80	82
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)	1	2	7	7	7	8	5

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

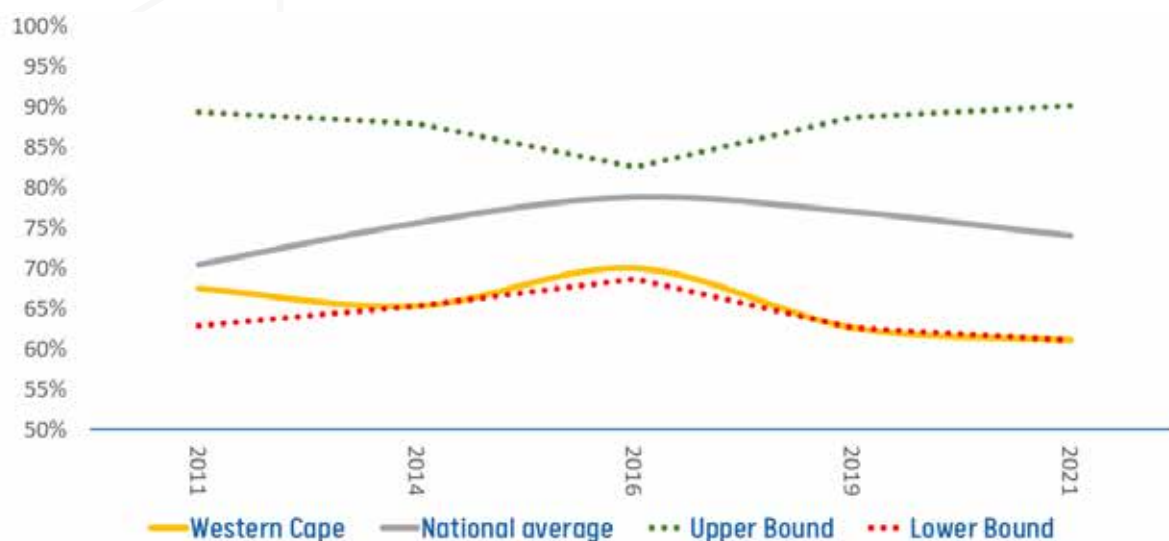
QUESTION

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, 61% of voters in the Western Cape believed that the voting stations had put in place procedures that considered the needs of blind and visually impaired people. These outcomes are quite analogous to previous survey rounds and only small variances were noted over this period. Between 2011 and 2021, an average of 65% 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 rank of the Western Cape relative to other provinces has not varied much over the last decade, remaining at about eight or ninth position for most of the period.

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
Western Cape	67	65	70	63	61	65
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)	7	9	8	9	9	9

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

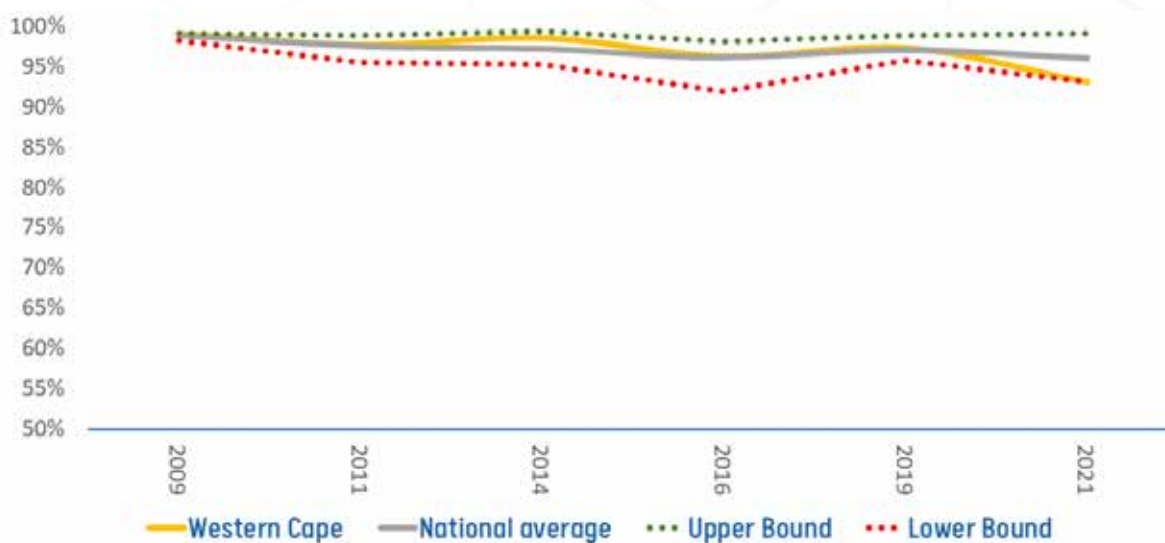
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2021, 93% of the voters in the Western Cape 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 2009-2021 period. The average share of voters in the province who were content with the secrecy of the vote during the period 2009-2021 was 97%. Overall, voters were therefore relatively satisfied with how the voting stations are performing in relation to ensuring the confidentiality of votes cast. The rank position of the Western Cape relative to other provinces has fluctuated over time, falling from second position in 2009 to last in 2021. Notwithstanding these observed variations, the level of difference between provinces is marginal, and the changes in rank position should not be a cause for concern.

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
Western Cape	96	97	93	97	99	98	98
National Avg.	96	97	96	97	99	97	97
Upper Bound	98	99	99	98	99	99	99
Lower Bound	92	96	93	96	98	96	95
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	7	9	6	2	5	2

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

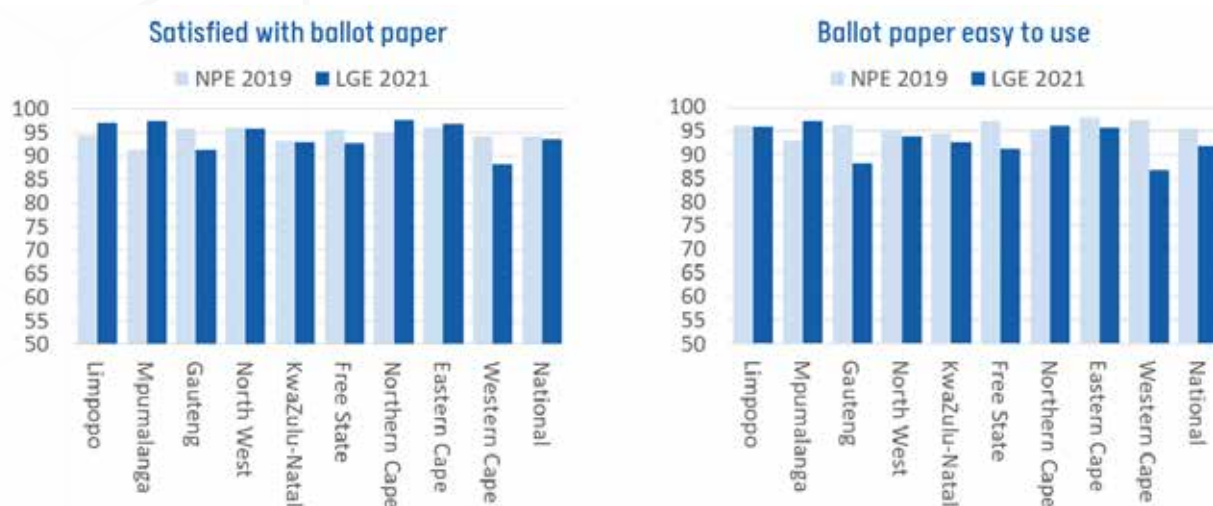
QUESTION

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 2021, the majority (88%) of voters in the Western Cape were voiced satisfaction with the ballot paper used in the national and provincial elections. This was a six-percentage decline from 2019. This figure approximates the national average (93%). This demonstrates that, overall, voters were fairly pleased with the ballot paper design. Reinforcing this message, 87% of voters in the province found it easy in general to find their party of choice on the ballot paper in 2019 elections. Relative to other provinces, the Western Cape ranked last on both usability and overall satisfaction. But only small percentage point differences were observed between the upper and lower bounds, which implies a low level of interprovincial variation. In other words, the level of difference between provinces is minor and not a source of concern.

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
Western Cape	94	88	97	87
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

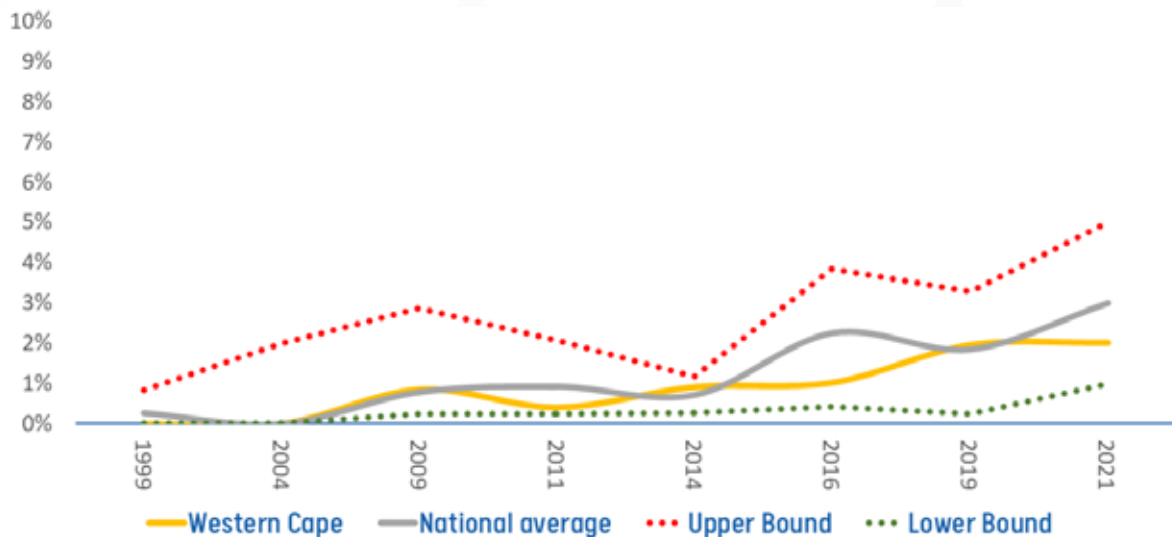
QUESTION

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. Although it remains rare, there is evidence that there has been a slight increase in coercion at voting stations since 2021. This is especially apparent in the Western Cape, where 2% of voters reported experiencing political coercion. On this indicator, the Western Cape ranks low relative to other provinces and, except for 2004, 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2021 ranked either second or fourth. On average, over the full 1999-2021 period, the Western Cape ranked low on this indicator. Political coercion at voting stations in the Western Cape therefore appears to be less common occurrence than in other provinces.

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
Western Cape	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	1
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	8	2	2	7	2	8	3	4	7

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

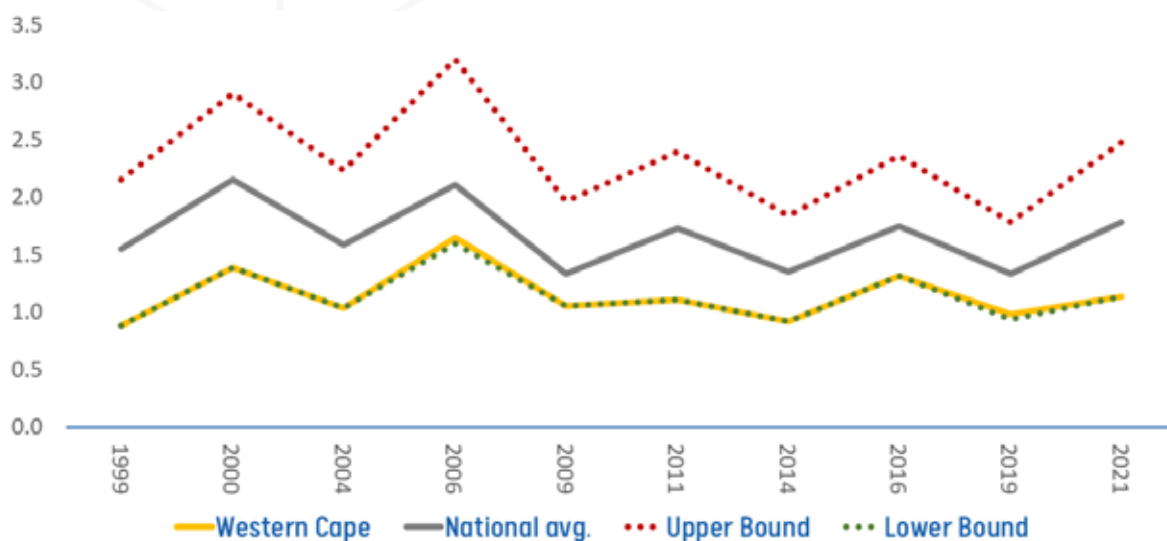
GOAL

Determining the share of total votes cast that were spoilt by voters

ANALYSIS

Of the total votes cast in National and Provincial Elections as well as Local Government Elections conducted between 1999 and 2019, the percentage of ballots that were spoilt in the Western Cape averaged 1.1% on aggregate. This ranged between 0.9% and 1.4% across the full period. The provincial figures approximated below the national average, with the provincial rank order it was either 1st or 2nd position over the 1999-2019 period respectively. 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 in ensuring 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
Western Cape	0.9	1.4	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.9	1.3	1.0	1.1	1.1
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)	9	9	9	8	8	9	9	9	8	9	9

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

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

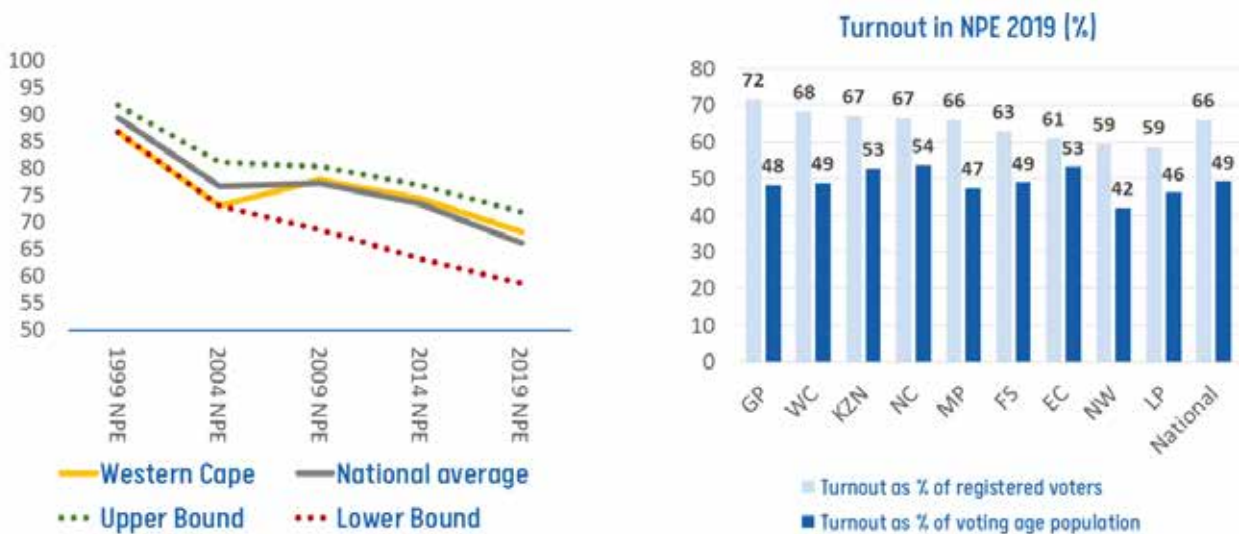
GOAL

Determining electoral turnout as a percentage of registered voters

ANALYSIS

Turnout in National and Provincial Elections in the Western Cape between 1999 and 2019 has fluctuated over time. In 1999, it stood at 87%, but fell to 73% in 2004. Although it rebounded in 2009, there was a substantial decline to 68% in 2019. Compared to other provinces, the Western Cape ranks sixth on aggregate over the five elections, despite the recent fall in turnout. 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 49% of the voting age public, which is significantly lower than the 68% 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
Western Cape	87	73	78	74	68	87
National Avg.	89	77	77	73	66	89
Upper Bound	92	81	80	77	72	92
Lower Bound	87	73	69	63	59	87
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	9	9	4	4	2	9

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

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

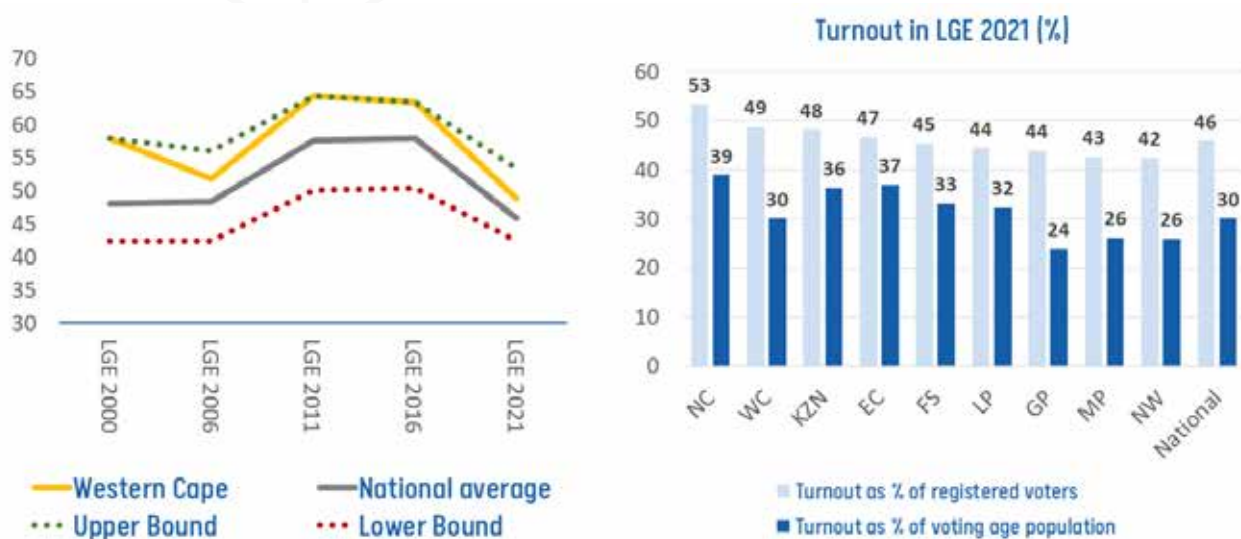
GOAL

Determining electoral turnout as a percentage of registered voters

ANALYSIS

Between 2000 and 2011, turnout in local government elections in KwaZulu Natal displayed an increasing tendency, rising from 47% in 2000 to 62% in 2011. It remained stable at 61% in the 2016 Local Government Election. Despite this, the turnout of registered voters in the province in the 2021 Election fell sharply to 48%, representing a return to the 2000 level. The pattern of turnout in KwaZulu Natal between 2000 and 2021 largely mirrors trends nationally. Compared to other provinces, turnout in KwaZulu Natal ranks third lowest on aggregate over the five elections. The observed changes between 2000 and 2016 meant that the ranking of turnout the province relative to the other eight increased from fifth highest in 2000 to second highest in 2016, with a slight reversal to third position in 2021. 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 (36% in KZN in 2021).

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
Western Cape	58	52	64	63	49	57
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)	1	3	1	1	2	2

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

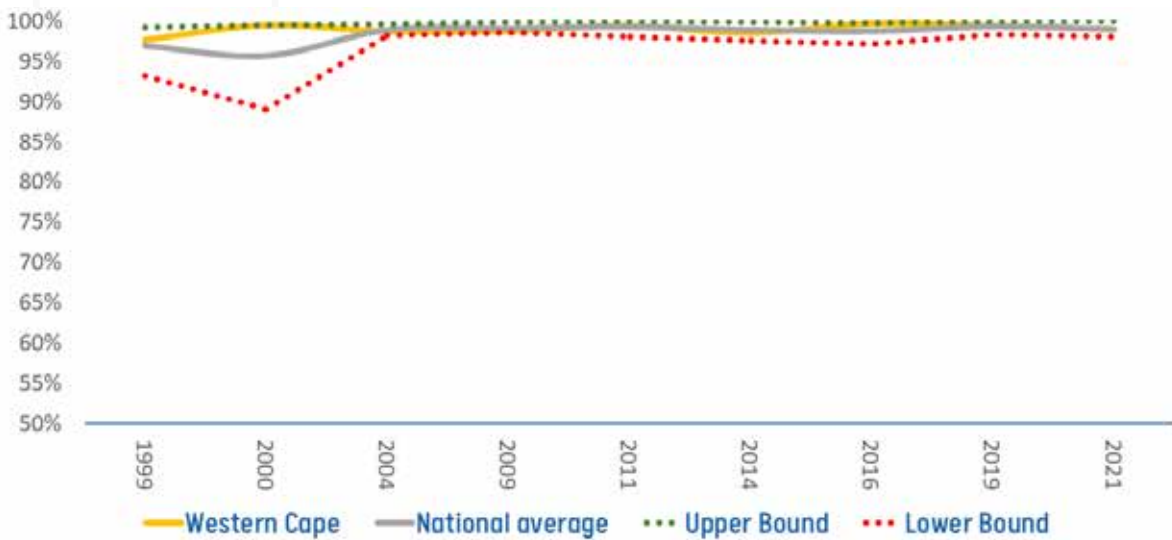
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

Looking at the 2019 and 2021 elections survey results, an overwhelming majority of voters in the Western Cape (99%) felt that the election procedures were free and fair. This was a resolutely positive result and is consistent with previous survey rounds. On average over the full 2004-2019 period, the share of voters in the province who thought that the voting procedures were both free and fair was 99%. Voters were satisfied with the election procedures in the context of the eight elections being considered. The rank of the Western Cape relative to other provinces has changed over time, but has generally been high and low, resulting in an overall rank position 1st in 2021. Given that the levels of satisfaction among voters is at a high level in all provinces, these rank differences reflect subtle percentage point changes rather than sizeable shifts in perspective.

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
Western Cape	98	99	99	99	99	99	100	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)	3	1	8	8	5	7	1	6	3	1

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

5.2 Vote count

GOAL

Assess confidence in the accuracy of the vote count

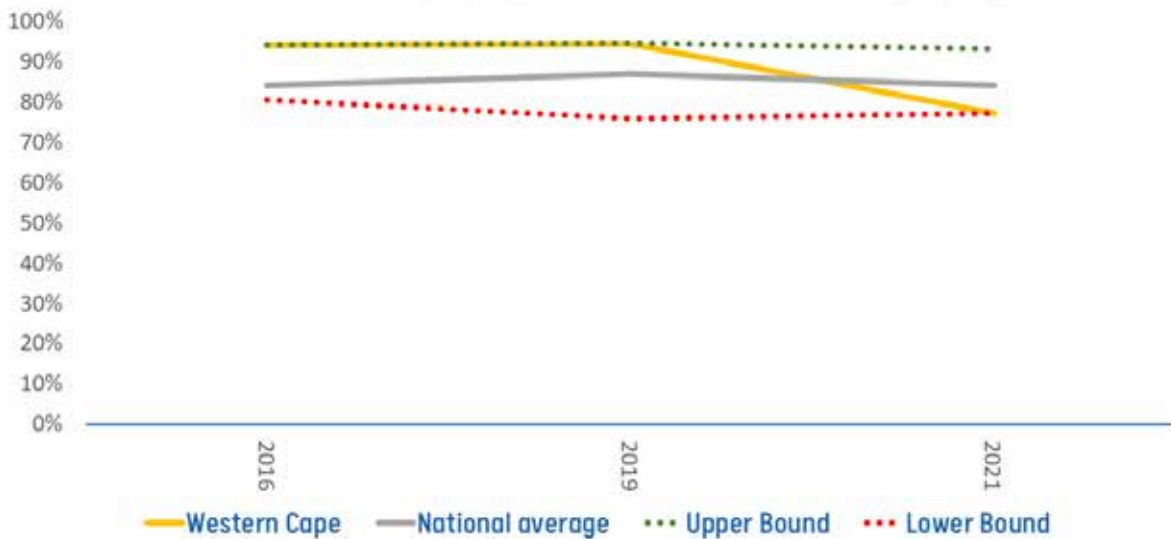
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In the 2021 local government elections, an overwhelming majority of voters in the Western Cape (77%) believed that their vote would be accurately counted. This is an encouraging finding that speaks to confidence in electoral staff in performing this duty and is consistent with the 2016 survey results. Between 2016 and 2021, the average proportion of voters in the province who had confidence in the count was 88%. The provincial figures in these two elections are virtually above to the national average. In comparison with other provinces, voters in the Western Cape ranked first or second on average for the two elections however Cape Town is ranked last in the 2021 elections.

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
Western Cape	94	94	77	88
National Avg.	84	87	84	85
Upper Bound	94	94	93	91
Lower Bound	80	76	77	79
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	1	2	9	3

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

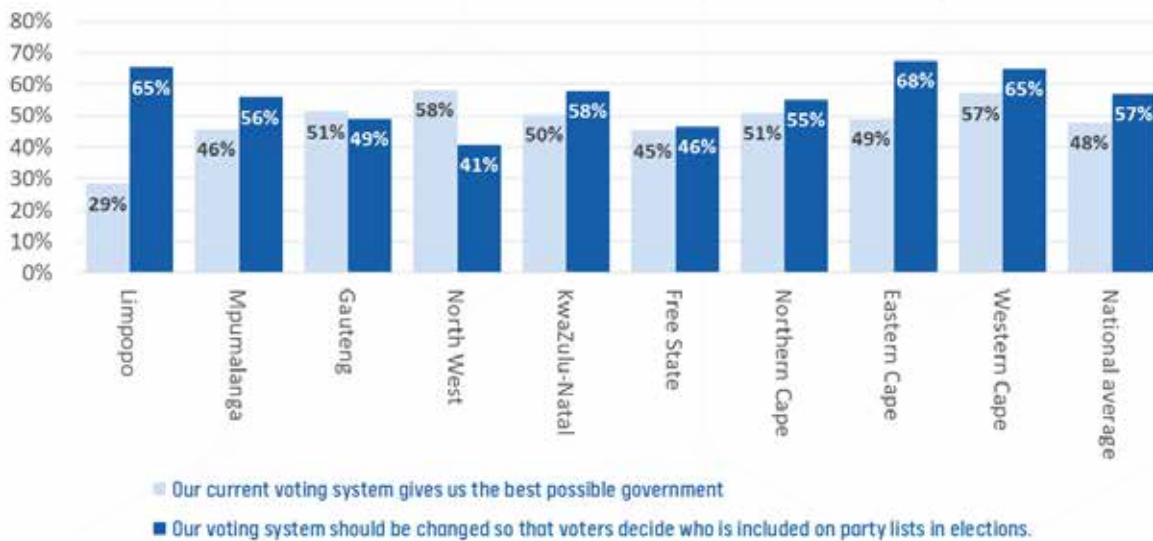
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2021, citizens in the Western Cape were generally divided over whether the voting system delivers the best possible government. This figure was above the national average (57%). This demonstrated a degree of ambivalence in the province about whether the electoral system is functioning in accordance with expectations of democracy. More than half (65%) of citizens in the Western Cape thought that they should have more say over who is included on party lists in elections. Relative to other provinces, Western Cape was ranked second. This suggests high levels for support for this type of reform in the country, and perhaps reflects a demand for greater levels of accountability.

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, 2018 (%)



	Current electoral system provides the best possible government 2019	Voting system should be change so voters decide on party list candidates 2019
Western Cape	57	65
National Avg.	58	57
Upper Bound	58	68
Lower Bound	59	41
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	2	3

Data Source: IEC Voter Participation Survey (VPS) 2018

6.2. Electronic voting

6.2.1. Perceived effectiveness of electronic voting

GOAL

Evaluation of the perceived effectiveness of electronic voting

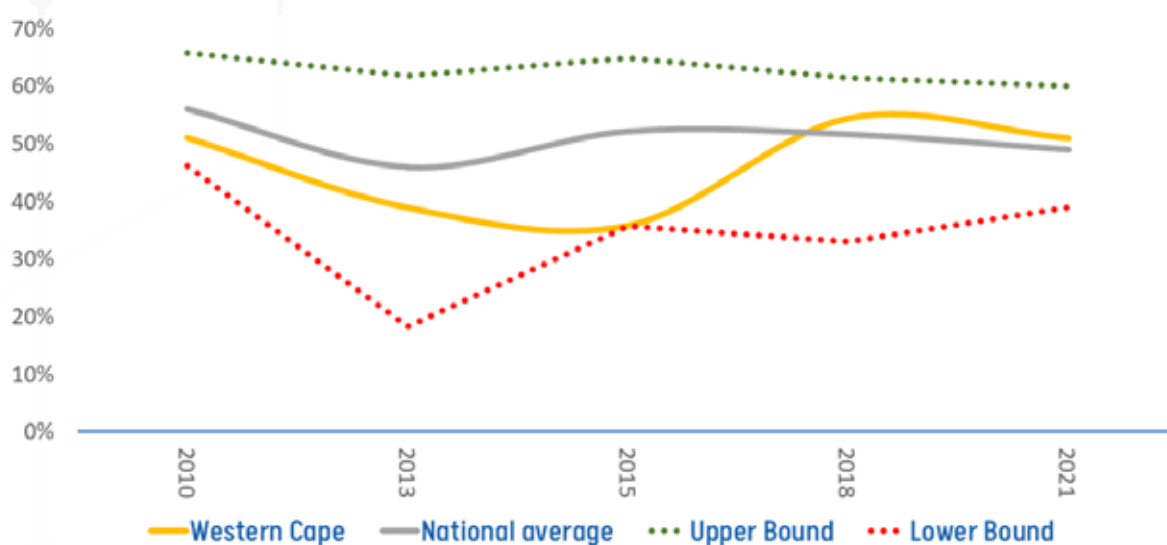
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2021, about more than half (51%) of citizens in the Western Cape thought 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. On average across the 2010-2021 period, 45% of citizens in the province thought that electronic voting would make voting easier and more effective. Relative to other provinces, the rank of the Western Cape has been quite consistent over time except for 2018 and 2021 ranking seventh overall across the full 2010-2021 period. 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.

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
Western Cape	51	39	36	54	51	45
National Avg.	56	46	52	52	49	51
Upper Bound	66	62	65	62	60	59
Lower Bound	46	18	36	33	39	39
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	8	8	9	3	4	7

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

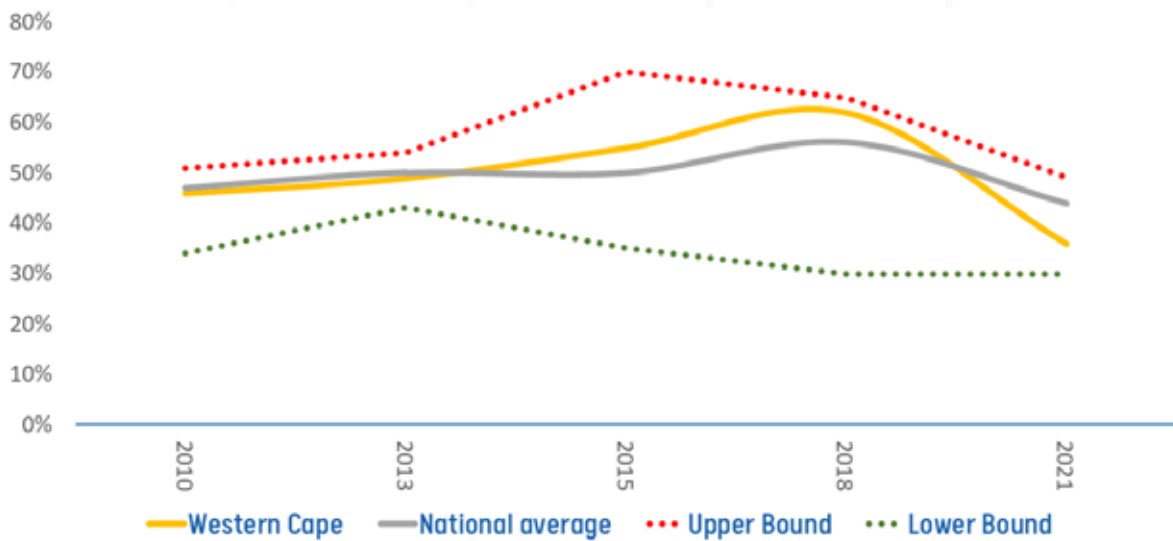
QUESTION

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

ANALYSIS

In 2021, 36% of adult citizens in Western Cape believed that an electronic voting system would introduce more fraud relative to the current electoral system. This indicates that the public in the province is quite concerned about potential negative consequences associated with electronic voting. Fears of voter fraud in an electronic voting system have remained fairly steady since 2010, suggesting persisting concern about this issue. In the 2010 survey round, 46% of citizens in the province expressed this concern over e-voting, increasing across each election, ranging between 49-55% over the two successive survey rounds between 2013 and 2015. This provincial trend largely reflects national apprehension about this issue. Compared with other provinces, Western Cape ranked seventh in 2021. These findings suggest that the Electoral Commission would need to convince citizens of the security of any e-voting system that is considered for introduction in future elections.

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
Western Cape	46	49	55	62	36	53
National Avg.	47	50	50	56	44	51
Upper Bound	51	54	71	65	49	54
Lower Bound	34	43	35	30	30	37
Rank (1=high; 9=low)	5	5	3	2	7	2

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

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