

ARMENIAN CENTER FOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Constitutional and Electoral Reforms

Presentation of Public Opinion Poll Results
(1500 citizens from Yerevan and all Armenia)

About the Respondents

Age Groups						
17-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71 and above
7.2%	24.8%	23.1%	22.8%	14.2%	7.1%	0.8%

Gender	
Male	Female
47.2%	52.8%

Education					
Incomplete secondary	Secondary	Specialized secondary	Incomplete higher	Higher	Refused to answer
2.3%	16%	20.5%	12.8%	44.4%	4%

Place of Residence	
Urban	Rural
61.9%	38.1%

Yerevan	30.7%
Aragatsotn region	4.6%
Armavir region	9.7%
Ararat region	9.2%
Kotaik region	8.2%
Siunik region	5.2%
Gegharkunik region	7.2%
Tavush region	4.2%
Lori region	9.2%
Vayots Dzor region	2%
Shirak region	9.8%

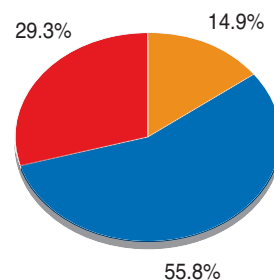
Occupation					
Employed	Unemployed	Pensioner	Welfare recipient	Student	Refused to answer
58.3%	23.9%	5.2%	1.7%	10.4%	0.5%

Status of Workplace	
State-run	53.7%
Non-governmental	43.9%
International organization	2.4%

Sphere of occupation	
State administration, local government	3.4%
Administrative work in private sector	2%
Health care and social service	4.2%
Education	14.5%
Science	1%
Art and culture	1.7%
Spirituality and religion	0.3%
Media	0.7%
Law	1.1%
Military, law enforcement	1.1%
Agriculture, forestry	4%
Energy, gas, water supply	1.5%
Transport	2.4%
Telecommunications	0.8%
Finance and economy	2%
Real-estate service	0.7%
Communal, social services	0.8%
Library and archive	0.5%
Document preparation	0.4%
Computer science, high technologies	0.7%
Trade and commerce	6.2%
Tourism, hotel and restaurant management	0.7%
Construction	3.2%
Industry	1.1%
Blue-collar work	3%
Job abroad	0.4%

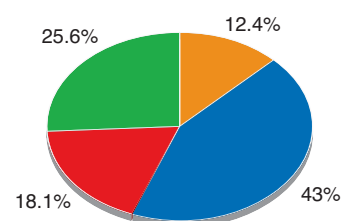
1. Are you familiar with the content of the Armenian Constitution?

1. Completely	14.9%
2. Partially	55.8%
3. Not at all	29.3%



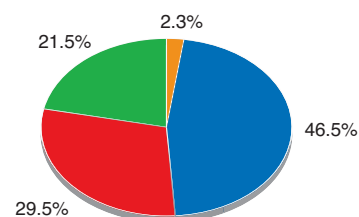
2. To what extent is the content of the Constitution comprehensible?

1. It is clearly explained and understandable	12.4%
2. Some provisions are incomprehensible	43%
3. It is complicated and incomprehensible	18.1%
4. I am unfamiliar with it	25.6%
5. Refused to answer	0.9%



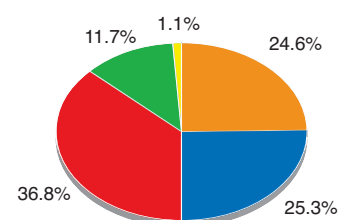
3. To what extent is the Constitution being implemented in Armenia's national and public life?

1. Whatever is written in the Constitution is being completely implemented	2.3%
2. Whatever is written in the Constitution is being partially implemented	46.5%
3. Nothing is being implemented	29.5%
4. Difficult to answer	21.5%
5. Refused to answer	0.2%



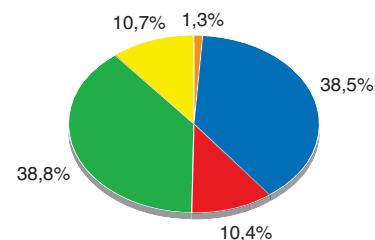
4. If the Constitution is not working, then why?

1. Nobody is held accountable for violating it	24.6%
2. Society does not struggle against violations	25.3%
3. Its implementation does not suit the authorities	36.8%
4. Difficult to answer	11.7%
5. Other	0.5%
✓ It is unrealistic and contradicts real life; it is not whole and does not reflect many phenomena in life	
✓ There is no cooperation between state and society	
✓ It is not equally applied to all strata of society	
6. Refused to answer	1.1%



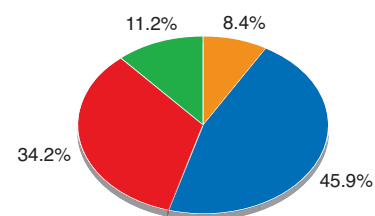
5. In your opinion the Constitution...

1. Works completely and there is no need for reform	1.3%
2. Has shortcomings and needs reforms	38.5%
3. Is not good at all and a new Constitution is necessary	10.4%
4. Reforms do not matter, important is the implementation of its provisions	38.8%
5. Difficult to answer	10.7%
6. Refused to answer	0.3%



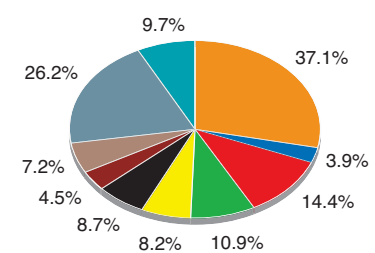
6. Are you familiar with the constitutional reform drafts?

1. I am familiar with the content of the proposed changes	8.4%
2. I have merely heard of them	45.9%
3. I am unfamiliar with them as the people are not informed about them	34.2%
4. I am not interested in them	11.2%
5. Refused to answer	0.3%



7. What are your main expectations of the constitutional reforms?

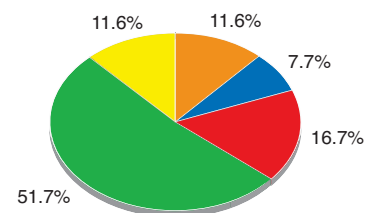
1. Expansion of human rights and improvement of constitutional guarantees for their protection	37.1%
2. Restriction of human rights and freedoms	3.9%
3. Clarification of relations among the president, parliament, government, and judicial branch of power	14.4%
4. Limitation of the president's prerogatives	10.9%
5. Raising the role of the National Assembly	8.2%
6. Stipulation of mechanisms for real independence of judicial authority	8.7%
7. Raising the self-sufficiency of local government	4.5%
8. Fulfillment of Armenia's commitments before the Council of Europe	7.2%
9. I have no expectations	26.2%
10. Difficult to answer	9.7%
11. Refused to answer	0.3%



Note: The respondents were given the opportunity to choose two answers. Hence the indices do not total 100%.

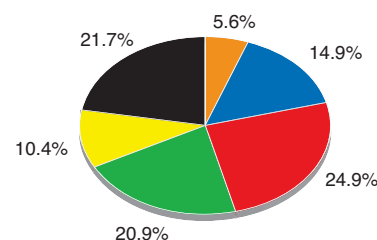
8. Which system of government do you prefer?

1. Presidential (President's authority is stronger)	11.6%
2. Parliamentary (National Assembly is stronger)	7.7%
3. Semi-presidential (National Assembly and President have nearly equal power)	16.7%
4. It does not matter which one is stronger, what is important is democracy	51.7%
5. Difficult to answer	11.6%
6. Other	0.2%
✓ Monarchy	
7. Refused to answer	0.5%



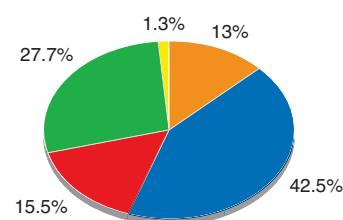
9. In your opinion the prime minister should be appointed by...

1. The President without the National Assembly's consent	5.6%
2. The National Assembly without the President's consent	14.9%
3. The President with the National Assembly's consent	24.9%
4. The National Assembly with the President's consent	20.9%
5. The post of prime minister should be removed and its duties carried out by the President	10.4%
6. Difficult to answer	21.7%
7. Other	0.7%
✓ The prime minister should be elected by the people	
✓ The President should propose candidates for election by the people	
8. Refused to answer	0.9%



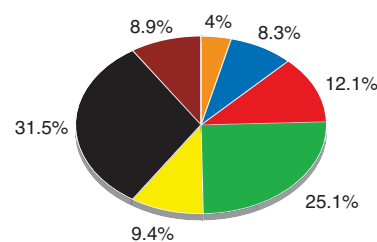
10. How should the parliament be dissolved?

1. The President dissolves the parliament and calls new elections	13%
2. Through a referendum held by demand of a certain (fixed) number of voters	42.5%
3. I am generally against its dissolution	15.5%
4. Difficult to answer	27.7%
5. Refused to answer	1.3%



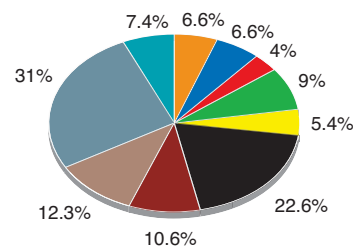
11. Courts will be just and impartial if...

1. The President appoints and dismisses judges	4%
2. The National Assembly appoints and dismisses judges	8.3%
3. A special body independent of the President and government appoints and dismisses judges	12.1%
4. Judges are elected by the people	25.1%
5. Judges are highly secured with material and technical means	9.4%
6. That depends on the country's administration methods, not on the appointment	31.5%
7. Difficult to answer	8.9%
8. Refused to answer	0.7%



12. Which institute is the primary protector of your rights?

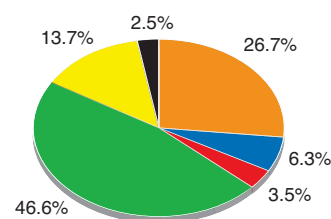
1. Presidency	6.6%
2. National Assembly	6.6%
3. Government (law enforcement agencies)	4%
4. Courts	9%
5. Local government	5.4%
6. Ombudsman	22.6%
7. Non-governmental advocacy organizations	10.6%
8. Attorney services	12.3%
9. None	31%
10. Difficult to answer	7.4%
11. Refused to answer	0.6%



Note: The respondents were given the opportunity to choose two answers. Hence the indices do not total 100%.

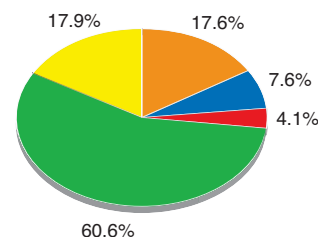
13. Which elections do you consider more important?

1. Presidential	26.7%
2. Parliamentary	6.3%
3. Local government	3.5%
4. All of the above and equally	46.6%
5. None	13.7%
6. Difficult to answer	2.5%
7. Refused to answer	0.7%



14. In which elections of recent years have you taken part?

1. Presidential elections of 2003	17.6%
2. Parliamentary elections of 2003	7.6%
3. Local government elections of 2002	4.1%
4. All of the above	60.6%
5. None	17.9%
6. Refused to answer	0.3%



Note: The respondents were given the opportunity to choose two answers. Hence the indices do not total 100%.

15. If you have not taken part in them, then why?

	Presidential	Parliamentary	Local government
I am not interested in politics	15%	12.3%	10.1%
Because of falsifications	35.2%	40.8%	33.2%
No candidate deserved to be elected	11.3%	11.2%	15.7%
I was a minor	17.6%	13.3%	14.1%
I was absent	18.3%	18.5%	22.9%
<i>Other</i>	2.6%	3.9%	4%
✓ I was not included in the voters' list			
✓ I did not have a passport			
✓ I did not have Armenian citizenship			
✓ I gave no importance to them			
✓ I did not want to vote			

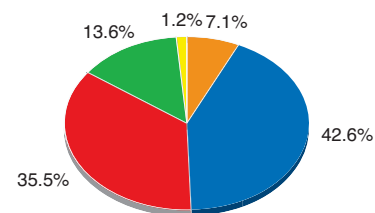
16. Which results of elections held in Armenia to date raise more doubt from the point of view of their legality?

Presidential elections		Parliamentary elections		Local elections	
1991	1.8%	1990	1.5%	1996	4.7%
1996	24.8%	1995	13.7%	1999	6.4%
1998	22.2%	1999	16.4%	2002	16.7%
2003	40.9%	2003	38.9%	All of them and equally	48.1%
All of the above and equally	33.6%	All of them and equally	37.9%	None	19.1%
None	6.8%	None	7.9%	Refused to answer	8.3%
Refused to answer	3.1%	Refused to answer	7%		

Note: The respondents were given the opportunity to choose three answers in the first and second categories, two in the third. Hence the indices do not total 100%.

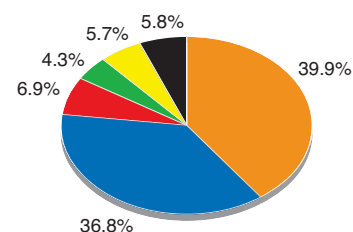
17. Are you familiar with the electoral reform drafts?

1. I am familiar with the content of the proposed changes	7.1%
2. I have merely heard of them	42.6%
3. I am unfamiliar with them as the people are not informed about them	35.5%
4. I am not interested in them	13.6%
5. Refused to answer	1.2%



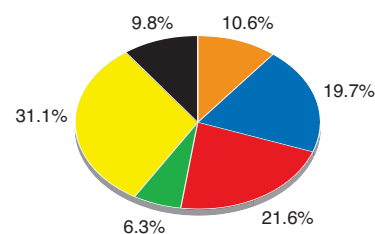
18. The major factor influencing elections held in Armenia is...

1. Money	39.9%
2. Administrative levers (abuse of position by officials)	36.8%
3. Television, radio, press	6.9%
4. The candidate's ideological and party belonging	4.3%
5. The candidate's personal characteristics	5.7%
6. Difficult to answer	5.8%
7. Other	0.3%
✓ The voters' lack of knowledge about their rights	
✓ The institution of "local bosses"	
✓ The candidate's entourage	
8. Refused to answer	0.3%



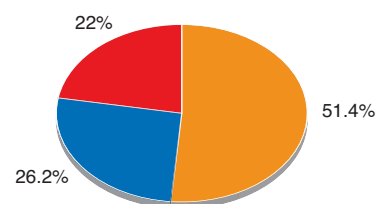
19. Which is the main reason for falsification of election results?

1. Imperfection of the election code	10.6%
2. Absence of the authorities' political will	19.7%
3. The Armenian people's mindset, psychology	21.6%
4. Political parties' lack of perseverance	6.3%
5. Absence of developed traditions of holding fair elections	31.1%
6. Difficult to answer	9.8%
7. Other	0.5%
✓ Unpunishability of people violating the law	
✓ Criminogenic elements in politics, the mafia	
✓ Bribery	
✓ Making elections a business	
8. Refused to answer	0.4%



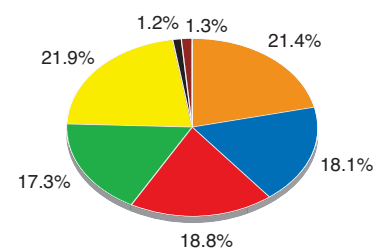
20. Will the elections be freer and fairer if the army is deprived of the right to vote?

1. Yes	51.4%
2. No	26.2%
3. Difficult to answer	22%
4. Refused to answer	0.4%



21. Elections will not be falsified, or will be falsified in smaller measure, if...

1. The election commissions represent equally all the competing parties in the electoral process	21.4%
2. The commissions are composed not of political party representatives, but of neutral specialists (state and community servants)	18.1%
3. The commission head or certain members are appointed by the international observation missions	18.8%
4. Armenia's president does not have the prerogative to appoint commission members	17.3%
5. Difficult to answer	21.9%
6. Other	1.2%
✓ People violating the law are held accountable and not sponsored by the authorities	
✓ Commission members have no need to take bribes, and corruption in the country is reduced	
✓ The commission head is not threatened or pressured	
✓ The National Assembly appoints the commission head and members	
✓ The commission head and proxies are elected by the voters of the district	
✓ The highest authority displays political will and desire	
✓ It's all the same, elections will always be falsified in Armenia	
7. Refused to answer	1.3%



22. You are in favor of parliamentary elections being held on the basis of a...

1. 100% majoritarian system (where one parliamentarian is elected from your district)	12.7%
2. 100% proportional system (where party or coalition lists are voted upon throughout the republic)	17.3%
3. Simultaneously majoritarian and proportional system with corresponding percentages	37.8%
4. Difficult to answer	29.6%
5. Refused to answer	2.6%

