



2024 PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS

MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE GHANAIAN VOTER

FOREWORD

As Ghana prepares for the 2024 general elections, the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) remains committed to its mandate of strengthening democracy through civic education and awareness creation.

Established by Act 452 of 1993, the NCCE plays a vital role in promoting democratic resilience, transparency, and accountability.

In line with its constitutional mandate to address the challenges of democracy, the NCCE has been assessing the limitations to achieving true democracy in Ghana, particularly those arising from existing inequalities between different strata of the population. Since 2004, the Commission has conducted research on “Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter,” providing valuable insights into the primary needs of Ghanaian citizens. This study has shed light on issues that matter most to voters, contributing to a more inclusive democratic process.

As the country approaches the 2024 electoral period, fronted by the Electoral Commission, the NCCE’s work is more crucial than ever. Marking its sixth edition since 2004, the 2024 Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter survey explored citizens’ perspectives on the country’s electoral process and what citizens’ demands from their political representatives.

Specifically, the study examined key concerns and demands of voters, the perception of vote-buying practices in the country’s elections, election-related violence and voter participation.

This report is the result of the detailed analysis of the survey data collected in August, 2024 from 9,324 respondents from all the 276 constituencies in Ghana.

The survey identified Education, Employment, Health, Roads & Infrastructure and Economy as the five topmost developmental needs of Ghanaians. Although a considerable number of respondents were aware of the negative effect of vote-buying on growth of Ghana’s democracy, some openly admitted willingness to engage in this harmful practice.

The survey contributes to the discourse on strengthening electoral laws to combat vote-buying and enhance security measures to mitigate election-related violence. The study further provides NCCE with invaluable insights to develop voter education programs and activities before, during and after elections, fostering a more informed and engaged citizenry.

The study recognizes the valuable contributions of the Chairman, Deputy Chairmen, Commission Members, Line Directors, Regional as well as District heads, who actively participated in planning and implementing this study.

The study’s success wouldn’t have been possible without support from the respondents and the 290 Commission staff who devoted themselves to the data collection exercise. Their dedication paid off with a remarkable 99.8% response rate. The 2024 survey received funding from the Central Government of Ghana. Building on previous surveys, this edition leveraged the Commission’s existing electronic platform, Open Data Kit, established with support from the European Union, for seamless data generation and organization.

Under the leadership of Dr. Henrietta Asante-Sarpong, Director of NCCE’s Research Monitoring & Evaluation Department, the survey was successfully carried out.

The hard work and commitment of the entire RM&E department staff is highly appreciated. The staff who supported with the report production exercise were Mr. Michael Amponsah, Ms. Flora Mudey, Ms. Victoria Ama Baiden, Ms. Pascaline Diana Shikor, Mr. Abednego Akutam, Mr. Fredrick Mawuli Agbenu and Mrs. Joana Mensah Aidoo.

The Commission also acknowledges the expert technical support provided by Dr. Doris Oattie-Boakye, Mr. David A. Adumbire all from the University of Ghana and Mr. Eric Osei Owusu.

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SEPTEMBER, 2024

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CCTV	Closed-circuit television
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DAs	District Assemblies
EC	Electoral Commission
E-levy	Electronic Levy
ERV	Election-Related Violence
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
IBM	International Business Management
ICT	Information Communication and Technology
JHS	Junior High School
KVIPs	Kumasi Ventilated-Improved Pits
LEAP	Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty
MP	Member of Parliament
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NON-PWD	Non-Persons with Disability
ODK	Open Data Kit
RAs	Research Assistants
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHS	Senior High School
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences

DEFINITION OF KEYWORDS AND CONCEPTS

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

The duties and obligations that citizens have to actively participate in the democratic process and contribute to the well-being of society.

COMMON FUND:

A portion of national revenue, that is, 5% of national fiscal revenue set aside to be distributed to all local assemblies and parliamentarians for development.

DEMOCRACY:

A system of government in which laws, policies, leadership, and major undertakings of a state or other polity are directly or indirectly decided by the people.

DEVELOPMENT ISSUES:

The key challenges and priorities related to the social, economic, and infrastructural growth of the country.

ELECTORAL SYSTEM:

The set of rules and regulations as well as the accompanying procedures that determine how elections and referendums are conducted and how their results are determined.

ELECTION RELATED VIOLENCE:

Election-related violence includes acts of physical harm, intimidation, threats, and other forms of aggression that occur in connection with election processes

ETHNICITY:

The shared cultural, linguistic, and ancestral identity of a group of people.

FREE, FAIR, AND CREDIBLE ELECTIONS:

An election that is conducted in a transparent, equitable, and just manner.

INFLUENCE:

The power or ability of individuals, groups, organization, or external factors to shape voters opinions, attitudes, and behaviors regarding candidates, parties, policies, or the electoral process itself.

INTEGRITY:

The quality of being trustworthy or incorruptible to a degree that one is incapable of being false to a trust, responsibility, or pledge.

INCENTIVES:

The range of factors whether material or immaterial that motivates or encourages someone to do something eg. influence, a prize, bonus, or award given as an inducement to influence a person's choice or position or actions.

ISSUES OF CONCERN:

The key problems, challenges, and priorities that are most important to voters and will influence their voting decisions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES:

The government agencies responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of law within a specific jurisdiction through the employment and deployment of law enforcement officers and their resources.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE:

The lowest tiers of governance or public administration within a particular sovereign state or the lowest level of government that are closest to the people and therefore responsible for serving the political and material needs of people.

MONETARY INDUCEMENT:

The offer or promise of monetary reward which is intended to persuade someone to alter an outcome or a stated position.

PARTY AFFILIATION:

Political party that a voter identifies with or support.

PARLIAMENTARIAN:

An elected member of Ghana's Parliament, who represents a specific constituency and participates in the legislative process at the national level

PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES DEBATE:

A structured discussion where individuals running for parliamentary seats engage each other on key issues that are of concern to the electorates.

PERSISTENCE:

The quality of a person to continue doing a thing or trying to do something even though it is difficult or opposed by other people. It also refers to the determination to do something despite the challenges.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES DEBATE:

A formal discussion between political actors usually presidential office aspirants on a particular or chosen matter in a public meeting in which opposing arguments are put forward.

PRE-EXISTING VIOLENCE:

The ongoing or previously occurring acts of violence, unrest, or conflict that have shaped the political landscape and social dynamics of the country

RECOMMENDATION:

A suggestion or proposal as to the best course of action.

TRACK RECORD:

The past performance and achievements of political candidates, parties or governments.

VOTE BUYING:

The practice of offering money, goods, or services to voters in exchange for their votes.

VOTER:

Every citizen of Ghana of eighteen years and above and of a sound mind and who has registered to vote.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The generation of information on political governance and election is crucial in policy planning and decision making for national economic growth and development. Elections have become the fundamental tool in democratic processes through which citizens are empowered to actively shape national decisions. Globally, most countries have recognized electoral democracies as the norm of governance. The African Union (AU) of which Ghana is a member through its African Union Commission (AUC), is committed to peaceful, regular, credible, transparent and inclusive electoral processes in all its member states (AU, 2023). This is not only to promote democracy but also further consolidate the pluralist rule of law in Africa (AU, 2023).

Ghana, a sub-Saharan African (SSA) country has enjoyed eight uninterrupted Presidential and Parliamentary elections since 1992 by its Electoral Commission (EC), a body mandated by the 1992 Constitution to conduct and supervise public elections. There is the need for empirical works to support evidence-based and informed decision-making processes in the discourse to promote citizens' rights to participate in governance and ensure continuous electoral processes. The NCCE's flagship research work dubbed "Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter" spearheaded by its Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Department provides this platform. The 'Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter' research work is carried out every four (4) years to gather the views and expectations of Ghanaians prior to the country's general elections. This report covers the concerns and priorities of the Ghanaian voter as well as other emerging and growing occurrences associated with elections, highlighting issues pertaining to vote-buying and violence associated with elections. Specifically, this report projects the expectation of electorates from their political representatives, voter participation and what influences voting behaviours. Also, it explored respondents' perception of vote-buying practices prior to the upcoming 2024 elections, and the triggers and prevention of election-related violence.

Methodology Results from this report are based on a cross-sectional descriptive quantitative study design conducted using the survey data collection method. The study population comprised eligible persons 18 years and over residing across the 276 constituencies in the 16 regions of Ghana. The calculated study sample size was 9,324. For the recruitment of study respondents, the Day's Code method was used to determine the starting point of the field work within an electoral area. Simple random sampling technique was used to select electoral areas by computer-generated random numbers, and the systematic sampling method was utilised in the selection of residential housing units. Further, the random sampling technique was used to select eligible households and respondents using the lottery approach respectively. In some instances, purposive sampling method was used in recruiting respondents with more emphasis on persons with disabilities (PWDs).

As part of the preparation stage of the research project, the data collection tool, a structured questionnaire was pretested and validated for accuracy and relevance. The tool was embedded in an electronic device (Android phones) utilising the Open Data Kit (ODK) Application software. This Application also provides the geo-locations of interviews. Data collected were conducted in-person by trained research assistants, and were in the preferred local languages at convenient places of respondents. These places were mostly the homes of study respondents. The study achieved an overall response rate of 99.8% [(9324/9,341)*100]. Also, monitoring and supervision were carried out during the data collection to ensure timely,

accurate and quality production of data. To adhere to ethical standards in the research work, the principles of ethics in research constituting respondents' privacy, confidentiality and autonomy were observed.

For data management, the daily synchronized data were downloaded and exported into a Micro Soft (MS) Excel (Version 19) application to check for blanks and inconsistencies. Additionally, this was further exported into IBM SPSS (version 26.0) for analysis. Methods of analysis included descriptive. The mean age of the study respondents was 41.4 years. The 30-39 years of age category formed the highest proportion of study respondents. More than half (52.2%) of the respondents were females. More than half (58.6%) were in techniques like frequencies and percentages, and cross tabulations. Also, the Data Wrapper application (version 0.6.1) was used for spatial analysis. Data analysis covered a total of 9,324 observations with complete information of interest to the study's objectives.

FINDINGS

Majority (72.6%) were affiliated to the Christian religion. Majority (84.7%) of the study respondents interviewed had some formal education, with one in every three having obtained Middle school/JSS/JHS level of education. A three (3) in every five (5) were engaged in some form of employment. Close to one-fifth were traders/hawkers/vendors and artisan/skilled manual workers respectively. A few proportion (6.1%) had some form of disability, and this was more pronounced among males relative to females.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

Top five key issues that concerned study respondents most, and must be prioritized by political parties prior to the 2024 elections and beyond, were education, employment, health, roads and infrastructure, and concerns on the economy out of the nineteen themes identified. The least prioritized issues of concern among study respondents were ICT, environmental and climate change, and sports. By respondents' characteristics, overall, females prioritized issues related to women and children's needs, while their male counterparts expressed concerns about sports. There were also variations in terms of top most priority by age. While the younger respondents (18-29 years) had sports, those aged 30-39 years was taxes and tariffs, the needs of PWDs was for those in the 40-49 years age bracket, and for the age group 50-59 years, it was revealed to be issues concerning women and children's needs.

For older persons (60 years and more), it was social intervention policies. While study respondents with no formal education as well as those with primary education had their main issue of concern to be social intervention policies, that of the tertiary was housing with corruption following closely. For persons with disabilities, their foremost concern was education.

SPECIFIC VOTER DEMANDS ON ISSUES

Education was the topmost issue of concern to be addressed by the next government among study respondents. The specific need to address in the education sector were challenges associated with the free Senior High School policy as well as expanding educational infrastructure (build more schools, dormitories, etc). The second top issue of concern was related to employment, and more than half (57.5%) of respondents suggested creating employment opportunities and the building of more factories. Health was the third top issue of concern among study respondents. The expansion of health infrastructure was the specific issue in the health sector the next government is expected to address. Study respondents also raised specific issues in relation to each of the other concerns for which the next government is expected to address. Additionally, study respondents shared their views on how members of Parliament should address their issues of concern using their share of the Common Funds.

VOTE-BUYING IN GHANA'S ELECTIONS

The study highlighted the elements of clientelism in politics, that is, vote-buying, and majority (83.7%) knew what it was. For its prevalence in Ghana's electoral system, 68.7% indicated it was extremely or somewhat prevalent. Study respondents attributed the causes of vote-buying to both demand-driven and supply-side factors. Respondents' attitudes towards vote-buying was very significant with 70.2% indicating that they were less likely to engage in such an activity. However, more than one-third of the respondents had ever witnessed vote-buying in Ghana's previous elections with some regional and constituency variations. About 64% of respondents perceived vote-buying in determining the outcomes of elections in Ghana, and 67.2% expressed some level of concern about the impact of vote buying. Key preventive measures to vote-buying suggested among study respondents were strengthening the enforcement of electoral laws and penalties for vote-buying along with increasing campaigns for voter education and awareness. More than half of the respondents perceived the government as not taking sufficient steps to address the voter-buying menace. Consequently, only one-fourth had confidence that the upcoming 2024 election would be free of vote buying.

ELECTION-RELATED VIOLENCE

On knowledge and experience of election-related violence, 18.7% of the study respondents were aware of pre-existing violence in their constituencies. This was reported to be more prevalent in the Northern region (34.3%) relative to the least in the Western North region (10.4%). By sex of respondents, compared to males, females were more aware of pre-existing violence. The main causes of pre-existing violence in constituencies were attributed to elections (60.8%) while the least cause was religious-related differences (0.9%). A proportion of 12.3% of the study respondents indicated that, they have ever witnessed election-related violence in the past. Further, only 5.2% of respondents had ever experienced such election-related violence. Males were twice as likely to have experienced election-related violence than females. Interestingly, less than one (1) percent of the study respondents were willing to engage in election-related violence to satisfy their political party's interests. Such persons were more likely to be males, in the age bracket 30-39 years old, and residing in the Volta region. The main reason to engage in election-related violence was one's observing any electoral malpractices and would want to fight for justice. Political polarization and fierce rivalry were cited as the main triggers for election-related violence in Ghana. More than 50.0% of the respondents acknowledged some level of effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in the prevention of election-related violence in Ghana. Study respondents also expressed their views on the responsibilities of political leaders and parties in the promotion of peaceful elections.

VOTER PARTICIPATION AND BEHAVIOUR

Voter participation and behaviour reflect how citizens engage in political processes. Only 1 in every 5 respondents had voted in both presidential and parliamentary elections since its inception in 1992. New voters constituted 10.2%. Study respondents' participation in previous elections were mainly due to the good policies and programmes of political parties. Majority (81.8%) of the respondents had the intention to cast their vote in the forthcoming 2024 presidential and parliamentary elections respectively. There were variations by sex, age and region. Significant factors identified by study respondents to influence one's choice of presidential and parliamentary candidates were candidate's policies and promises, and candidate's track record and experience. There was also a significant level of preference for a woman president as well as a woman as a member of parliament for one's constituency respectively among study respondents.

Study respondents highlighted the low participation of women in governance due to culture and social norms.

DEMOCRATIC GROWTH AND CONFIDENCE IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM

The study found the continuous decline from (66.5% in 2016, 62.2% in 2020, and 42.1% in 2024) of confidence in the electoral system and the Electoral Commission's (EC) ability to organize free, fair and credible elections. Study respondents' confidence level varied significantly across regions and other background characteristics. But, respondents who expressed confidence in the electoral system cited the Electoral Commission's track record and its constitutional mandate as key reasons.

However, those without confidence pointed to leadership issues, concerns over transparency, and the political influence on the Electoral Commission. On electoral reforms, close to 20.0% supported the reforms, suggesting improvements in the biometric voting technology and greater neutrality and transparency of the Electoral Commission. On the indicators of democracy, the study found that respondents had some level of satisfaction on freedom of speech but low satisfaction on areas like civic responsibility and living conditions. The study also revealed that there is need for the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) to improve its education and communication strategies due to the low participation in its presidential or parliamentary debates in the quest to strengthen the electoral systems and promote democratic growth.

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Since the year 2004 the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) has been obtaining information on citizens' voting behaviour and on their developmental needs and concerns during presidential and parliamentary elections. The Commission does so in pursuance to Article 231-239 of the country's 1992 Constitution and Act 452 of 1993. The Act established the Commission to among others "assess for the information of government, the limitations to the achievement of true democracy arising from existing inequalities between different strata of the population and make recommendations for addressing these inequalities."

The country's population growth and dynamics implies that the existing inequalities between the different strata of the population and the issues of concern to the populace as well as their needs are not static but evolving over the years. This, thus, requires the collection of recent and current data on the needs of the population, particularly in relation to political governance and election in order to inform policy planning and decision-making for national economic development.

Across the globe, political organisation and democratic governance are often organised and influenced by the growing needs of the population. In view of this, democracy, originating from ancient Greek traditions, has evolved into a sophisticated political system where citizens' engagement through elections is fundamental (Little 2021). Regular, free, and fair elections empower citizens to actively shape national decisions, serving as vital indicators of a country's political health and legitimacy, laying the groundwork for a robust democratic society.

It is therefore not surprising that many countries across the world have adopted electoral democracies which has become the accepted norm of governance (Lago, 2019). Electoral democracy allows citizens to elect their fellow citizens to represent their interests. This has become the structured form of peaceful democratic transition consolidating the gains in democratic governance (Mozaffar, 2002).

Ghana is widely recognized for its stable democracy in the sub-Saharan African (SSA) region (Mozaffar, 2002), having undergone significant political transitions since 1992, overseen by the Electoral Commission (EC). The 2024 general election is the country's ninth since the Fourth Democratic Constitution, after having had eight uninterrupted Presidential and Parliamentary elections with peaceful changes of government from 1992. As stipulated in the country's 1992 Constitution, the Electoral Commission has the mandate to conduct and supervise public elections, and all citizens 18 years and above, and of sound mind have the right to participate in the electoral processes.

Evidence from post COVID-19 pandemic suggests that the country's economic and social livelihood of the population have been greatly affected, just as in the case of many other developed and developing countries. Despite facing global challenges, the country remains committed to upholding its democratic resilience by ensuring the continuity of electoral processes. While this remains a positive giant step towards building the country's democratic credentials and promotion of citizens' rights to participate in governance, it is difficult to project the kind of issues that are shaping voter behaviour and decision-making processes in crucial national elections. Against this background, there are growing need for empirical works to gauge voter's behaviour and to highlight issues that are of importance to

voters in the election and beyond. This to a large extent can foster informed electoral discourse and advance a transparent democratic process.

Generally, election polls are usually the mechanism employed in the form of surveys before, during and after election seasons to predict and explain election outcomes (Lavrakas, 2008). These are often conducted by entities including the media, political scientists and other academics (Lavrakas, 2008) to help in understanding how campaign dynamics affect voting behaviours. However, election polls conducted by private entities are limited in terms of sample size, geographic coverage and scope and may not be relevant and usable by national governments in policy planning and decision making. Therefore, as a body mandated to produce scientific data on limitations to the achievement of true democracy, the Commission, through its Research, Monitoring & Evaluation Department, has conducted the 2024 “Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter” Study to understand voter needs, voter behaviour, the issue of vote buying and evaluated election-related violence, to serve as a cornerstone for evidence-based policy making and electoral transparency.

1.2 Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter Study

The NCCE’s flagship research work dubbed “Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter” spearheaded by its Research, Monitoring and Equality Department began in 2004 when an opinion poll on issues of concern to the voter was carried out using a quantitative research methodology. Primarily, the research work was to help the Commission formulate its educational campaign on the December 2004 elections on important issues of concern to the Ghanaian voter to promote issue-based politics. With the good reception and utilisation of the study findings from varied stakeholders (Parliament, Academia, Media, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)) and the general public interested in electoral processes, ‘Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter’ is conducted every 4 years, usually in the country’s general election year to collate views and expectations of Ghanaians.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The overall objective of the study was to comprehensively investigate concerns and priorities of the Ghanaian voter as well as other emerging and growing occurrences associated with elections such as the menace of vote buying and election-related violence.

1.3.1 Specific Objectives

Specifically, the study sought to:

1. ascertain what electorates demand of their political representatives;
2. examine voter participation and factors influencing voting behaviour in Ghana;
3. examine respondents’ perception of vote-buying practices in the context of the upcoming 2024 elections; and
4. assess respondents’ understanding of the triggers and prevention of election-related violence.

1.4 Study Rationale

The present study aligns with the Commission’s mandate to formulate programmes at the national, regional, and district levels to advance the objectives of the 1992 Constitution.

The study, thus, aims to foster issue-based political and electoral campaigns leading up to the 2024 general elections.

It is anticipated that this study will contribute to promoting political stability and the democratic advancement of Ghana. Notably, similar surveys conducted by the NCCE in 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, and 2020 have played significant roles in reducing the volatility associated with political party campaigns in the country. Limited access to information on the desires and needs of the voter by key stakeholders such as political parties and politicians may influence non-issue-based campaigns. This situation is likely to have negative effects on the general electoral process. Hence, this survey fills the gap by making available relevant information that will contribute and enhance positive political discourse and strategies for the 2024 election and beyond.

Secondly, the need for comprehensive empirical research in an election is critical as it provides data on how voters make decisions in elections. The production of election research provides spotlights and answers to voter behaviour. The need for research work, particularly a quantitative analysis that reflects a national setting is of interest not only to political parties but also the broad citizenry (Gaines, 2005). Engaging electorates improve the overall knowledge of citizens on electoral processes, in addition to empowering them to make informed choices regarding their political representatives. The current survey provides the aggregate views from electorates from across the country to inform key electoral stakeholders including government on how to address such issues. Further, it adds to micro-level empirical data on Ghana's contribution to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 8, 10 and 16 on promoting a just, peaceful and inclusive society, where citizens can freely put across needful concerns that broadens stakeholder involvement in electoral and governance processes. Furthermore, it is expected that the findings of this study will set the stage for public discourse, including dialogue series involving presidential and parliamentary aspirants and other relevant stakeholders, to ensure issue-based political discussions before, during and after the 2024 general elections.

1.5 Organization of Report

The report is organized into ten chapters. The first chapter provides a background to the study, the objectives of the study, and relevance of the study as a crucial aspect of strengthening democratic governance within the Ghanaian context. Chapter two outlines the methodology employed for the study. The third chapter provides an overview of the background characteristics of study respondents. Chapters four and five provide overviews of key issues of concern to the Ghanaian voter in the forthcoming elections and beyond. The chapters provide a detailed analysis of all issues raised and the order of importance or priority given to them as well as how the elected government should address the concerns. The sixth chapter presents results on respondents' knowledge on the causes and effects of vote-buying as well as their experiences with the menace and suggestions on prevention mechanisms. In chapter seven, the findings on citizens' knowledge and experiences with election-related violence and institutional response to addressing the recurring trend are presented. The eighth chapter presents results on respondents' voting history and willingness to vote in the upcoming 2024 presidential and parliamentary elections. Chapter nine highlights citizens' feedback on the growth and development of democracy in Ghana. The report ends with a summary of the major findings of the study including study limitations and challenges, a conclusion, and highlights key policy recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO STUDY METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

This chapter summarizes the methodology used to address the study’s objectives. Further, this chapter outlines the research design used, study area, sampling techniques and sample size determination, as well as the procedure for selecting respondents. Also, it explains the data collection instruments and methods, data management and analysis techniques, and ethical considerations adhered to in the study.

2.2 Study Area, Design and Population

The study was carried out in all the 276 constituencies covering the 16 regions across the country. To meet the objectives of this research work, a cross-sectional descriptive quantitative design was utilized. This approach was used in order to generalize findings from this research work. The study constituted eligible persons 18 years and over, and of sound mind residing in these study areas.

2.3 Sample Size Estimation

Out of a total population of 17,931,673 of persons 18 years and over extracted from the STATS BANK of the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS, 2024), a sample size of 9,341 prospective respondents was calculated using the Krejcie and Morgan formula (Bukhari, 2021), accounting for a 1.0% margin of error and a 0.5% non-response rate.

2.3.1 Sample Size Distribution

The study’s sample size was determined at the constituency level, following the sample size allocation for the corresponding districts where the constituencies are situated. The sample size for each constituency was calculated based on the proportionate share of the 2021 population of Ghana of persons aged 18 years or older. In districts with only one constituency, the sample size allocated for the district was assigned to the constituency. Additionally, in districts with multiple constituencies, the sample size was evenly distributed among the constituencies. Table 2.1 shows the sample size distribution by region. The Ashanti and Greater Accra regions had the highest sampled population by frequency (1,683) and proportion (18.0%) respectively. Nevertheless, North East region had the least with 1.9% (181).

Figure 2.1: Sample size distribution by region

No.	Region	Sample size N (%)
1.	Ahafo	187 (2.0)
2.	Ashanti	1,683 (18.0)
3.	Bono East	319 (3.4)
4.	Bono	357 (3.8)
5.	Central	847 (9.1)
6.	Eastern	936 (10.0)
7.	Greater Accra	1,683 (18.0)

8.	North East	181 (1.9)
9.	Northern	575 (6.2)
10.	Oti	232 (2.5)
11.	Savannah	183 (2.0)
12.	Upper East	416 (4.5)
13.	Upper West	246 (2.8)
14.	Volta	551 (5.9)
15.	Western North	280 (3.0)
16.	Western	647 (6.9)
17.	Total	9,341 (100.0)

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024 N=number

2.4 Respondents Selection Procedure

This research work used multiple sampling techniques in the selection of electoral areas, residential housing units, households and respondents. A simple random sampling technique was applied in the selection of two electoral areas in each constituency. To identify the first residential housing unit in an electoral area, using a popular landmark as the starting point, the ‘Day’s Code’ approach (Box 2.1) was utilized by moving in a clock-wise direction-right to ensure consistency in the selection process.

In addition, a systematic sampling technique was employed in identifying residential housing units. An interval of 3 was maintained in selecting these residential housing units in rural areas while an interval of 5 was used in urban localities. Further, a simple random sampling technique using the lottery approach was adopted in sampling households in residential housing units as well as respondents (18 years or more) respectively. Subsequently, an eligible adult person (18 years or more) was sampled and interviewed in each sampled household in a selected residential housing unit. Further, males and females were purposively sampled where necessary (when most respondents already interviewed are females and males for half of interviewers’ daily earmarked respondents). Also, to promote participation of persons with disability (PWDs) in this study, at least one person with a disability in each constituency was purposively selected as a respondent.

Box 2.1: The Day’s Code Approach

Day’s Code Approach

Day’s code is the addition of the digits of the full day’s date, which should always be in unit i.e. it must not exceed nine (9). **Day’s code tells us the starting point of the day’s job. It is observed only once a day.** For example, for the date 16th August, 2024 (16/08/2024). The day’s code is 5 as derived from the arithmetic below.

$$\begin{aligned}
 16/08/2024 &= (1+6) + (0+8) + (2+0+2+4) \\
 &= 7 + 8 + 8 \\
 &= 23
 \end{aligned}$$

Since 23 is greater than 9, separate the figures and then re-add i.e. $23 = 2+3=5$. (5th structure from landmark).

2.5 Response Rate

The overall response rate for the 2024 “Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter” study was 99.8% ($9,324/9,341 \times 100 = 99.8$). Table 2.2 shows the response rate by region, and the associated variations. One-third (that is 6/16) of the regions had at least a 100.0% response rate. These were Bono, Bono East, Oti, Upper West Western and Western North regions. Other regions like Ahafo, North East, Savannah and Upper East achieved slightly below the overall response rate. Comparatively, the Upper East region had the lowest recorded response rate (98.6%). Generally, the lack of interest in research participation, and torrential rainfalls were some of the plausible reasons associated with not achieving a 100.0 percent response rate in regions without 100.0 completion rate.

Table 2.2: Response rate by region

No.	Region	Number of completed interviews	Response rate (%)
1.	Ahafo	186	99.5
2.	Ashanti	357	100.0
3.	Bono East	319	100.0
4.	Bono	357	100.0
5.	Central	845	99.8
6.	Eastern	935	99.9
7.	Greater Accra	1,680	99.8
8.	North East	180	99.4
9.	Northern	574	99.8
10.	Oti	232	100.0
11.	Savannah	182	99.5
12.	Upper East	410	98.6
13.	Upper West	265	100.0
14.	Volta	550	99.8
15.	Western North	280	100.0
16.	Western	647	100.0
17.	Total	9,324	99.8

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024

2.6 Study Instrument

This research work used a structured questionnaire with some embedded open-ended questions to elicit information from the study respondents. The data collection tool had five sections covering information on the background characteristics of the respondents such as age, sex, marital status, religious affiliation, educational background, employment status, occupation and disability status. Other sections of the instrument included questions on voter participation and factors influencing voting behaviour in Ghana, and the matters of concern to the Ghanaian voter towards Election 2024. The rest of the sections captured information on the perception of vote-buying practices in the context of the upcoming 2024 elections, and on the growth and development of democracy in Ghana.

2.6.1 Pretesting and validation of study instrument

The pretesting and validation of the study instrument were carried out to evaluate and refine the tool and procedures prior to full implementation. This exercise was to improve the validity, reliability, and relevance of the survey questionnaire in accordance with the study’s objectives. A diverse and representative sample of areas were selected factoring in criteria such as migration patterns, affluence, and the indigenous or industrial nature. Additionally, emphasis was placed on inclusivity, encompassing varied demographic and socio-economic statuses, and geographic locations in the selection of study respondents during the pretesting exercise. Data collection was face-to-face interviews with thirty (30) respondents from some selected study areas. Findings from the exercise provided valuable insights into the effectiveness and suitability of the questionnaire, guiding subsequent revisions and refinements. Prior to the pretesting exercise, the study instrument was validated by an expert to ensure clarity of questions and their relevance to the study’s objectives and outcomes.

2.7 Training

Two full days of face-to-face training was organized for 290 trainees to serve as Research Assistants (RAs) in four (4) batches for effective participation. Each batch comprised of averagely 70 trainees. The participants for the training were mainly recruits from the various district offices of the Commission across the country. The languages for which trainees were more likely to use for the data collection were taken into consideration for the groupings to allow uniformity and accuracy in the translation of the study instrument into local languages. The training for the four (4) batches was between 6th August 2024 and 18th August 2024 at a hired venue within a conference setting in the Ashanti region. Figures 1-3 show excerpts from the training.



Figure 1

(Left: Face to face training session in Ashanti region – Pictures depicting the Chairperson with facilitators and trainees, the Director of the Research, Monitoring & Evaluation Department facilitating a training session, and (last picture to your right) a facilitator addressing an application-related issue on a device)



Figure 2



Figure 3

2.8 Data Collection

A 17-day data collection was carried out concurrently in all the 276 constituencies across the country from 12th August 2024 to 28th August 2024. All interviews were in-person and carried out at the household level, mostly in the homes or convenient places for study respondents. Interviews were conducted in the major languages across the 276 constituencies. Data collection was done using an electronic device (Android phones) with the study instrument embedded in with the help of an open-source Android application, the Open Data Kit (ODK) software version 2024 2.4. Information on the geo-location of all interviews were also collected.



A Research Assistant interviewing a respondent in the Lawra Constituency in the Upper West region



A Research Assistant engaging a respondent in an interview in the Bono region.

2.9 Monitoring and Supervision

Field monitoring and supervision of research assistants throughout the data collection period were undertaken by the entire project team comprising of the Executive body and management of the NCCE, the Director of the Research, Monitoring & Evaluation Department and its Officers, and Regional Directors of the Commission. Monitoring and supervision exercises were assigned by region and averagely, two (2) constituencies were visited per monitoring team involved in the exercise. The monitoring and supervision exercise were to ensure the smooth take off of the field work, research assistants follow the methodology guiding the data collection exercise such as authenticating the day's code calculation, and observing how households and individuals were randomly sampled in the field.



Figure 1: Director Administration on a monitoring and supervision exercise in the



Figure 2: Officer from the Research, Monitoring & Evaluation Department observing an interview

To ensure accurate, timely and quality data production, the monitoring and supervision team also observed interviews, carried out spot checks as well as supported the community entry processes.

2.10 Data Management

Research Assistants synchronized their daily interviews conducted into an existing database hosted at the NCCE Head Office. Data were then downloaded into MS Excel software (version 19) for data cleaning, to check for inconsistencies, blanks, and the needed re-coding.

Further, downloaded data were then exported into IBM SPSS Statistics version 26.0 for analysis.

2.11 Data Analysis and Reporting

Descriptive techniques such as percentages, proportions, and cross tabulation were used. Whilst the descriptive analysis was used to describe the general characteristics of study population and issues relating to the study objectives, the cross tabulations were used to establish the relationship between some selected background characteristics of study respondents and election-related issues such as key concerns of voters, vote-buying, election-related violence, and voter participation, behaviour and influence. The IBM SPSS Statistics version 26.0 was the tool for data analysis. Additionally, the Data Wrapper Application Software (Version 0.6.1) was used to explore the spatial distribution of some selected election-related issues.



*The Director and Staff of the Research Monitoring and Evaluation Department of the NCCE
Producing the 2024 MOC Survey Report*

The final report was produced within a residential setting covering ten days of intensive report writing session by the Research, Monitoring and Evaluation department. Results from the data are presented in tables, charts, and graphs with brief narratives.

2.12 Ethical Considerations

The start of this research study was preceded by prior written letters to the respective regional and district offices of NCCE across the country. Community entries were also carried out by the field team to announce the team's presence, and also seek permission from key stakeholders including chiefs, overlords, and assembly members in the respective communities within the selected electoral areas. At the household level, permission was sought from the household head, and consent was verbally obtained from study respondents.

CHAPTER THREE BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS OF STUDY RESPONDENTS

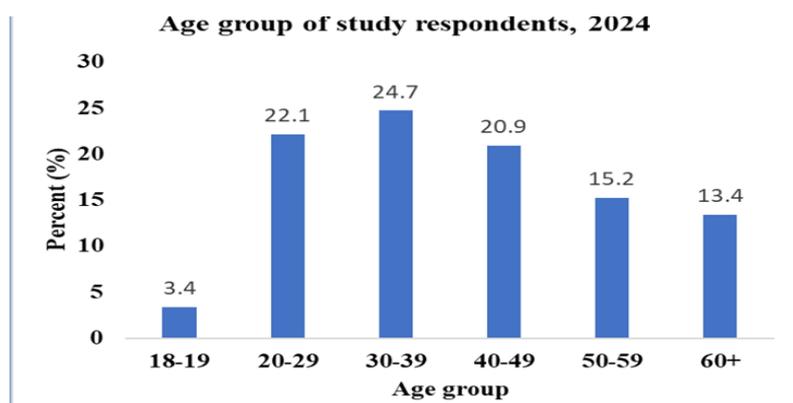
3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents details of the background characteristics of the respondents for the study. Specifically, the chapter presents disaggregated data on the study respondents’ age, sex, marital status, and religious affiliation. Other characteristics presented were education level, employment status, occupation and the disability status. Information on these basic characteristics is necessary for further study analysis and interpretation of findings presented in the subsequent sections of this report.

3.2 Age of respondents

The age range for the study respondents was 18 years (minimum) and 96 years (maximum) with a mean age of 41.3 years (SD±14.9) years. The age group 30-39 years had the highest proportion, and formed about one-fourth (24.7%) of the study respondents (Figure 3.1). Those in the age bracket 18-19 years constituted the least proportion of respondents (3.4%).

Figure 3.1: Age group of respondents (%)

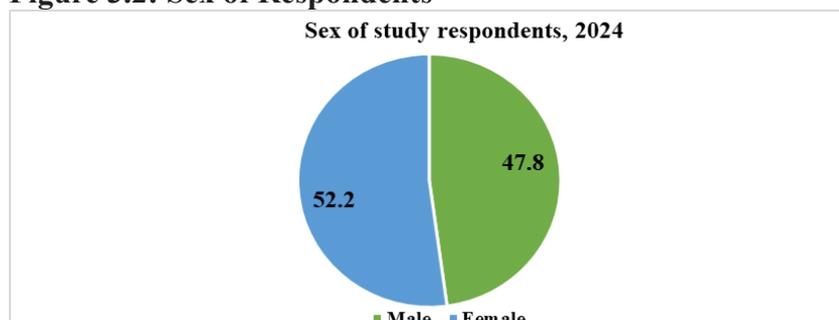


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

3.3 Sex of respondents

Out of the 9,324 respondents interviewed, 52.2% were females with 47.8% being males (Figure 3.2). The result reflects the national situation, where the country’s population has more females (50.7%) than males (49.3%) (Ghana Statistical Service, 2021).

Figure 3.2: Sex of Respondents



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

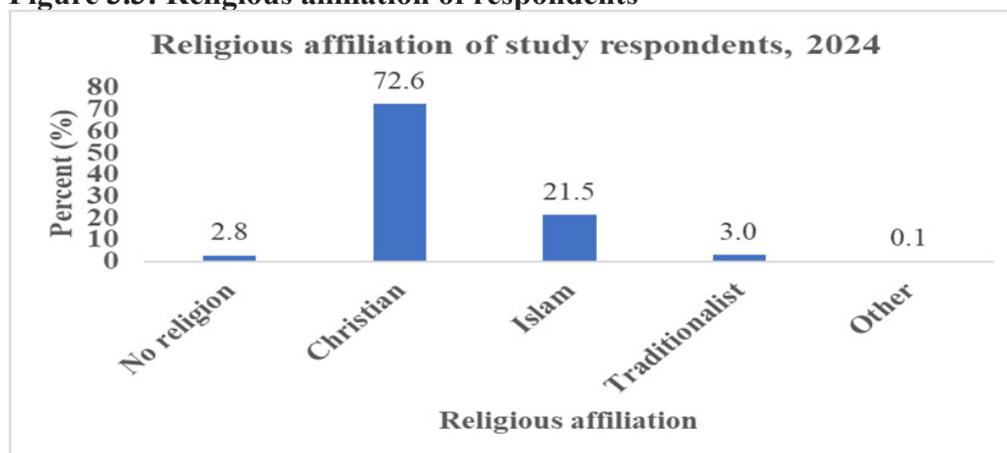
3.4 Marital status of respondents

More than half of the respondents were married (53.2%) while 27.8% were single. The other categorization was respondents who were widowed (6.9%), living together (5.4%), divorced (3.8%), or separated (2.9%).

3.5 Religious affiliation of respondents

Religion is widely known to play a critical role in shaping individual mindsets and behaviours. Majority of the study respondents were Christians (72.6%), with Muslims following (21.5%) as it pertains nationally. Approximately two percent of respondents were not affiliated to any form of religion (Figure 3.3).

Figure 3.3: Religious affiliation of respondents



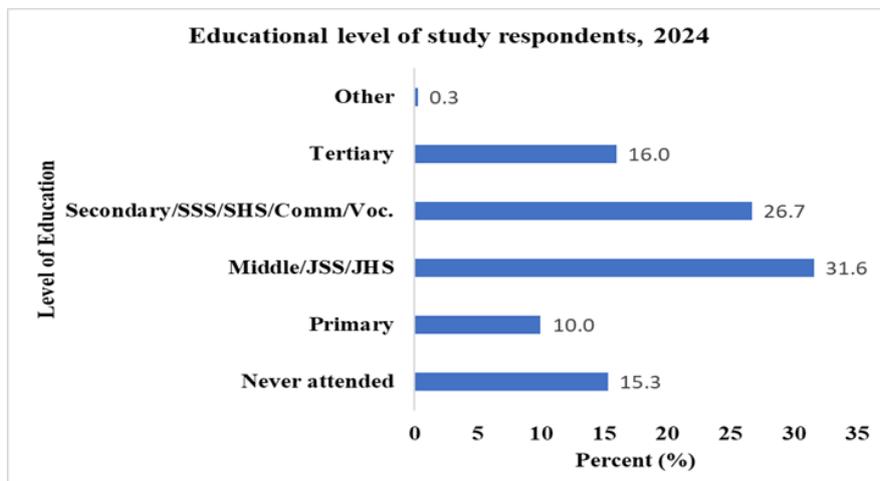
Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

3.6 Educational level of respondents

Education levels of individuals have been found to positively or negatively impact decisions and choices made. The study therefore obtained information on the educational levels of respondents. Figure 3.4 shows that the majority (84.7%) of the respondents interviewed had attained some formal education as only 15.3% had never received such education. The highest proportion of those with formal education had obtained Middle school/JSS/JHS level of education (31.6%), followed by 26.7% who had secondary/SSS/SHS education. Respondents with tertiary education were 16.0%. This option constituted those with post-secondary, certificate, diploma, bachelor, masters and PhD. Other forms of education also received comprised of training from Islamic schools, adult schools or rehabilitation school which are not part of the formalized educational

system’s structure in Ghana. Further analysis of the data showed that there were more females (63.7%) with no education than males.

Figure 3.4: Educational level of respondents (%)

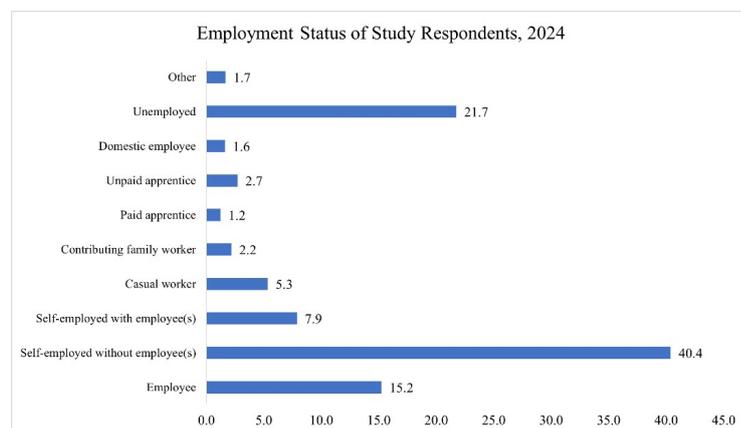


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

3.7 Employment Status of Respondents

The employment status of respondents was classified under 10 broad themes namely; employee, self-employed without employee(s), self-employed with employee(s), and casual worker. The rest included unpaid apprentice, paid apprentice, contributing family worker, domestic employee, and unemployed. Approximately four (4) out of every ten respondents were self-employed without employees (40.4%). A two out of every five respondents (21.7%) were however unemployed. Figure 3.5 provides further details. Other as a category of employment status constituted the aged and retirees.

Figure 3.5: Employment status of respondents



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

3.8 Occupation of respondents

Apart from the employment status of the respondents, the study also ascertained the occupation of the respondents. Table 3.1 shows the different occupations of the respondents. Approximately 2 out of every 10 respondents (19.3%) were traders/hawkers/vendors, followed by artisan/skilled manual workers (18.6%). Respondents occupied with work in agriculture/farming/fishing/forestry were 16.1%. Those working in the security services were in the minority (1.0%). Table 3.1 provides further information on the various occupations of respondents.

Table 3.1: Occupational distribution of respondents

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage %
Housewife/homemaker	131	1.4
Agriculture/farming/fishing/forestry	1,503	16.1
Trader/hawker/vendor	1,799	19.3
Retail/shop attendant	551	5.9
Unskilled manual worker (eg. Cleaner, laborer, domestic help)	296	3.2
Artisan or skilled manual worker	1,731	18.6
Clerical or secretarial	88	0.9
Supervisor/Foreman/Senior Manager	94	1.0
Security services (Police, army, private security)	89	1.0
Mid-level professional (Teacher, nurse, mid-level government officer)	727	7.8
Upper-level professional (eg. Banker/finance, doctor, lawyer, engineer)	108	1.2
Any other	22	0.2
Retired	158	1.7
Total	7297	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024

3.9 Disability status of respondents

Persons living with disability constituted 6.1% of the total sample for the study although the proportion of persons living with disability at the national level is pegged at 8.0% (GSS, 2021). It was further realized that there were more males (58.3%) than females (41.7%) living with disability as shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2. Disability status by sex of respondents

Disability Status	Sex of Respondent (%)				Total (%)	
	Male		Female		Frequency	Percent
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent		
PWD	335	58.3	240	41.7	575	100.0
Non-PWD	4,126	47.2	4,623	52.8	8,749	100.0
Total	4,461	47.8	4,863	52.2	9,324	100.0

CHAPTER FOUR KEY CONCERNS OF VOTERS

4.1 Introduction

This section of the report highlights respondents’ feedback on the key issues that concern them most and should be prioritized by political parties leading up to the 2024 elections. Specifically, respondents were asked to identify and rank the top three issues that they believe political parties and the next government should focus on. Additionally, this section analyzes these critical issues across different demographic and socio-economic groups, including region, age, sex, educational level and disability status (PWD). Overall, the study identified 19 major themes, such as Women and Children’s needs, Education, Youth Development, Corruption, and Social Services. The rest are Agriculture, Economy, Sports, Infrastructure, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Environmental and Climate Change, and Social Intervention policies.

4.2 Ranking of Issues

The findings revealed that Education, Employment, Health, Roads and Infrastructure and issues on the Economy emerged as the top five issues that respondents expect political parties to prioritize towards the 2024 elections and beyond. Education was ranked as the most important, followed by Employment, and then Health. In contrast, ICT, Environmental and Climate Change and Sports ranked the least in priority. These rankings were determined based on how frequently each issue was mentioned by study respondents. Figure 4.1 shows the percentage distribution of how respondents ranked these issues.

To better understand the importance of each issue, the nineteen themes identified from respondents’ feedback were categorized into three groups: Upper group issues (comprising of the 1st to 5th ranked issue), Middle group issues (6th to 14th), and Lower group issues (15th to 19th). This categorization highlights the varying levels of importance assigned to the issues by the study respondents.

Figure 4.1: Respondents ranking of key issues

Rank	Key Issues	Percent
1st	Education	18.3%
2nd	Employment	15.7%
3rd	Health	12.5%
4th	Roads & Infrastructure	10.0%
5th	Economy	7.2%
6th	Agriculture	6.9%

7th	Social Services (Sanitation, KVIPs, Water)	5.5%
8th	Women and Children needs	3.4%
9th	Corruption	3.0%
10th	Youth Development	2.9%
11th	Security	2.8%
12th	Energy	2.3%
13th	Needs of PWDs	1.8%
14th	Social intervention policies	1.7%
15th	Taxes & Tariffs	1.6%
16th	Housing	1.5%
17th	Other (Rule of law, Patriotism etc)	1.3%
18th	ICT	0.6%
19th	Environmental and climate change	0.5%
19th	Sports	0.5%

Source: Survey data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian voter, August 2024*

4.2.1 Upper Group Issues

The upper group issues represent the top five concerns that voters want political parties to address in the upcoming 2024 election (Figure 4.1). These issues included Education, Employment, Health, Road and Infrastructure, and Economy. Education ranked first, with 18.3% of respondents prioritizing it, followed by Employment at 15.7%, Health at 12.5%, Road and Infrastructure (10.0%), and Economy (7.2%). Notably, the first three issues (education, employment, and health) have consistently dominated voters' concerns over four consecutive surveys conducted by the Commission (NCCE, 2012, 2016, 2020). Education has consistently held the top spot, while Employment and Health have alternated between the second and third positions, reflecting the sustained importance voters place on these areas. It is also important to note that, this is the second time Road and infrastructure has been ranked fourth (NCCE, 2020). Similarly, this is also the first time the Economy is ranked among the top five, highlighting growing concerns around standards of living, currency instability, and inflation.

4.2.2 Middle Group Issues

The middle group issues included Agriculture which took sixth place with 6.9%, followed by Social Services (5.5%), Women and Children's Needs (3.4%), and Corruption (3.0%), occupying the seventh, eighth, and ninth positions, respectively (Figure 4.1).

Youth Development was ranked tenth at 2.9%, with Security (2.8%), Energy (2.3%), Needs of Persons with Disabilities (1.8%), and Social Intervention Policies (1.7%) filling the 11th through 14th positions. Additionally, Taxes & Tariffs, placed last in the group with 1.6% occupying the 15th position.

4.2.3 Lower Group Issues

This group consisted of the five lowest issues ranked by study respondents. Specifically, issues on Housing topped the group with 1.5% placing 16th, issues categorized as “Other” (such as rule of law, patriotism) took the 17th position with 1.3% (Figure 4.1). The rest were Information, Communication, and Technology (ICT), Environmental and Climate Change, and Sports, each receiving less than 1.0% of the total responses. ICT ranked 18th with 0.6%, while Environment and Climate Change, along with Sports, tied for 19th place with 0.5% each.

4.3 Ranking of issues of concern by Region

While the regional distribution shows some similarities with the national results, there were some differences in how issues were ranked across the various regions (Appendix 1). Particularly, four of the sixteen regions (Ashanti, Central, Savannah, and Western) followed a ranking pattern similar to the national results; with the top five issues in the following order: Education, Employment, Health, Roads & Infrastructure, and the Economy.

In terms of the top three issues, all but four regions (Greater Accra, Bono East, Eastern, and North East) ranked Education as the most important concern (Appendix 1). The Savannah region had the highest proportion of study respondents prioritizing education (22.7%), followed by the Upper West and Volta regions, both at 20.8%. On the other hand, the Bono region had the lowest proportion of respondents ranking education as their top issue (15.7%).

For Employment, two regions (Greater Accra and Bono East) ranked it as the top concern while five other regions (Ashanti, Central, Savannah, Western, and Western North) ranked it second. Among these regions, the Western and Central regions had the highest proportion of study respondents (17.6% each) ranking Employment as their second most important issue, followed by Ashanti (16.2%). Oti region had the lowest proportion of respondents (9.3%) ranking Employment as their top most concern.

In terms of Health, seven regions (Ahafo, Bono, Northern, Oti, Upper East, Upper West and Volta) ranked it as their second top issue. Oti region had the highest proportion of respondents (19.0%) ranking Health at the second position, followed by the Upper West and Volta regions with 15.2% each. For those who ranked Health as their third issue of concern, the Savannah region had the highest proportion (15.0%), followed by the Western (13.1%), and then Ahafo (12.5%) regions. The Central region had the lowest proportion of respondents (11.4%) ranking Health as the third issue of concern.

4.4 Ranking of issues by Sex

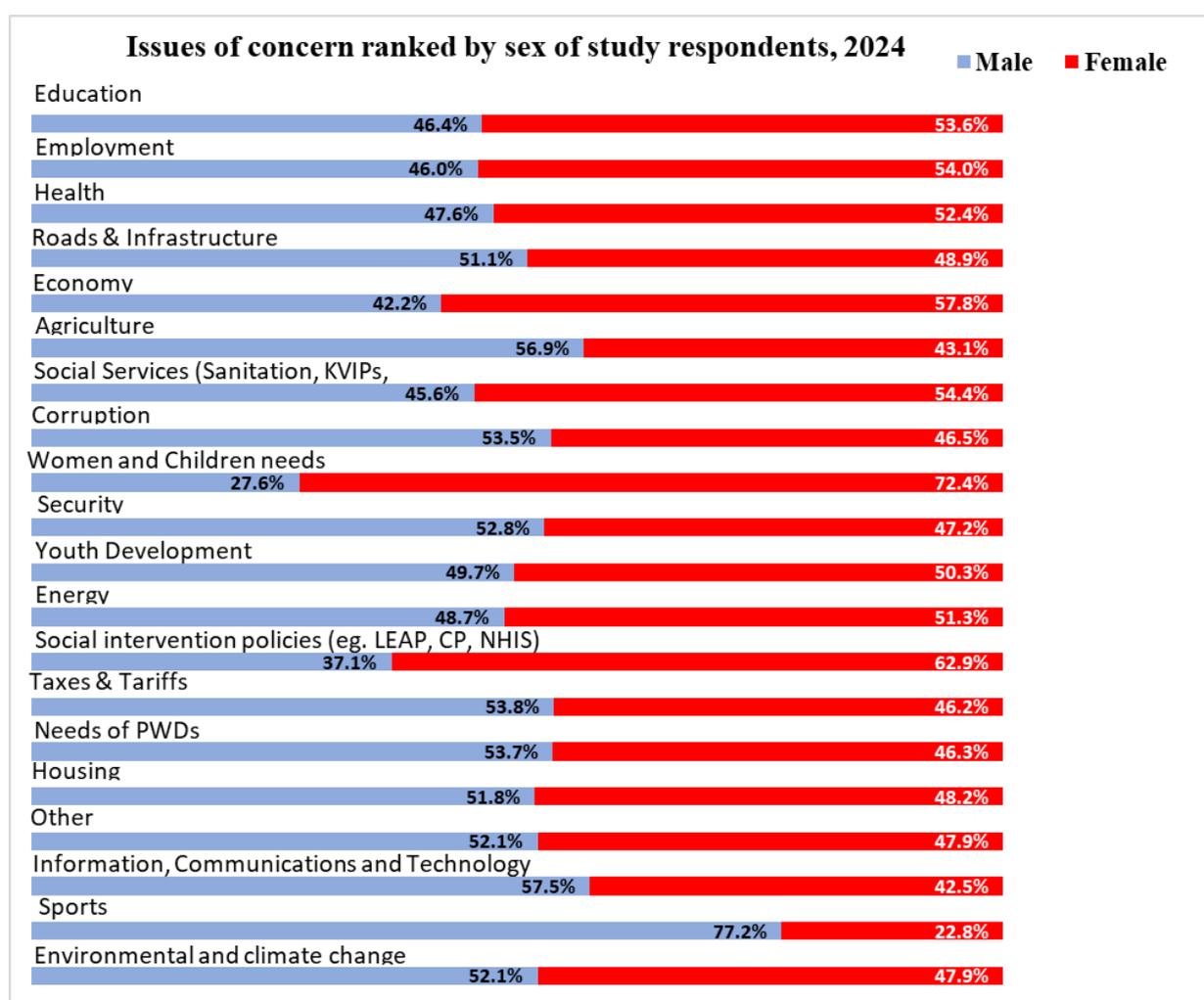
The study also examined how the ranking of key issues varied by the sex of study respondents. While males and females shared some similar concerns, there were differences in their priorities. Out of the 19 issues surveyed, Females showed concern for 9, while the males dominated in 11.

From the study, females were more likely to prioritize issues related to Women and Children’s Needs (72.4%), Social Intervention Policies (62.9%), and the Economy (57.8%).

On the other hand, males were more likely to express concerns about Sports (77.2%), Agriculture (56.9%), Taxes and Tariffs (53.8%), Corruption (53.5%), and Roads and Infrastructure (51.1%), compared to their female counterparts.

With reference to the top three issues, women placed a greater emphasis on Employment (54.0%), Education (53.6%), and Health (52.4%) than men. This is likely due to their roles in household management and child care, which may influence their focus on these areas.

Figure 4.2: Issues ranked by sex of respondent



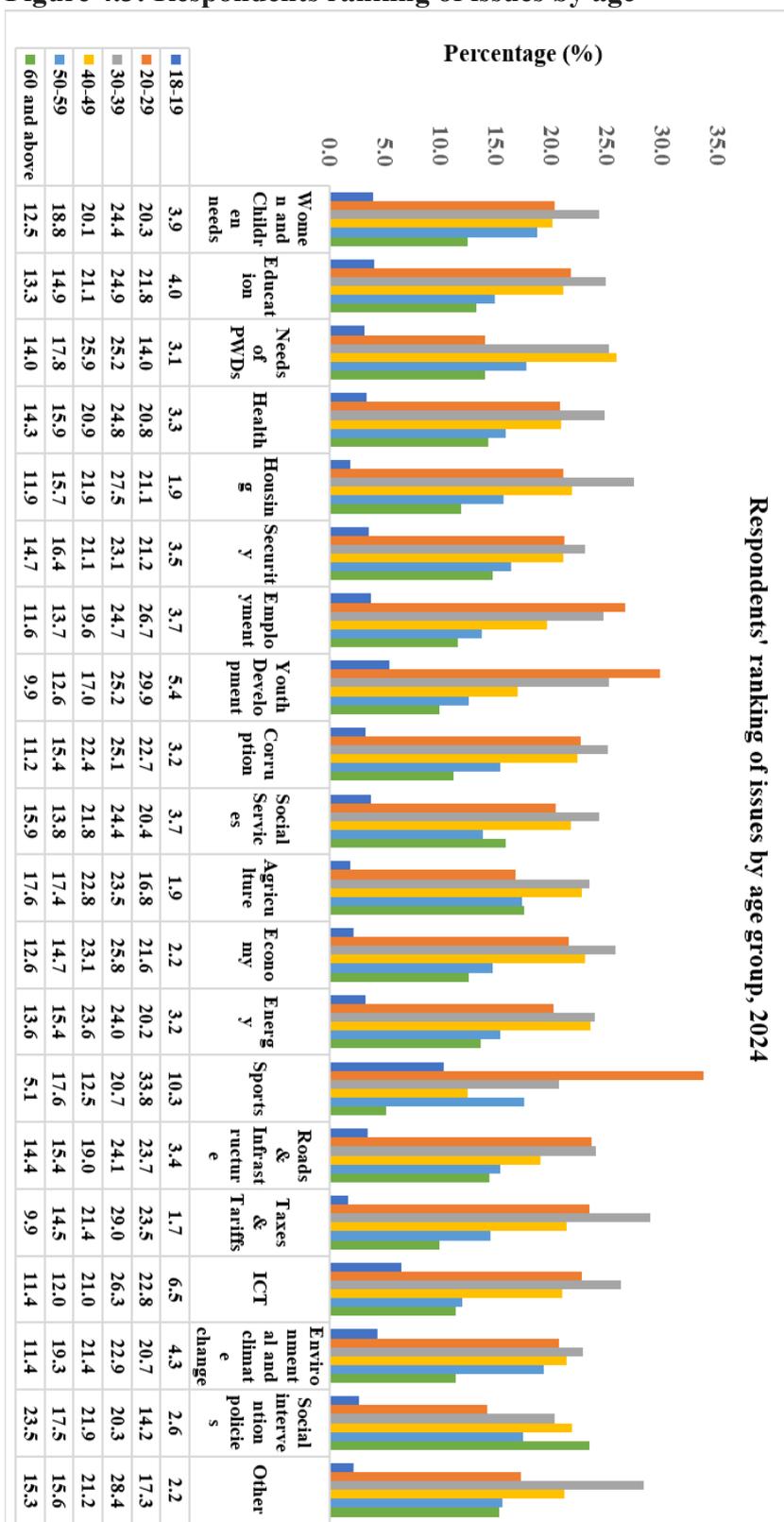
Source: Survey data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian voter, August 2024

4.5 Ranking of Issues by Age

The study also analysed the issues of priorities by respondents’ age groups. Generally, the age group 30-39 had more proportions in expressing concern across all nineteen issues surveyed except on the needs of PWDs, sports, youth development and social intervention policies (Figure 4.3). The findings revealed

that the youngest study respondents (18-19 years) prioritized sports (10.3%) with the least prioritized issue being taxes and tariffs (1.7%). For those aged 20-29 years old, the priority was issues of sports (33.8%) while needs of PWDs was their least. Among the age group 30-39 years, many of them indicated taxes and tariffs (29.0%) while the least cited issue of priority was social intervention policies (20.3%). While the needs of PWDs (25.9%) was the most issue of priority for those in the age bracket 40-49 years old, youth development (17.0%) was the least. For study respondents in the age group 50-59 years old, issues concerning women and children's needs (18.8%) had the highest proportion compared to the least proportion for ICT (12.0%). The aged, considering their specific physical, social and economic challenges and needs ranked the issues differently. Those aged 60 years and older cited social intervention policies (23.5%) compared to 5.1% prioritizing the issue of sports.

Figure 4.3: Respondents ranking of issues by age



Source: Survey data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian voter, August 2024

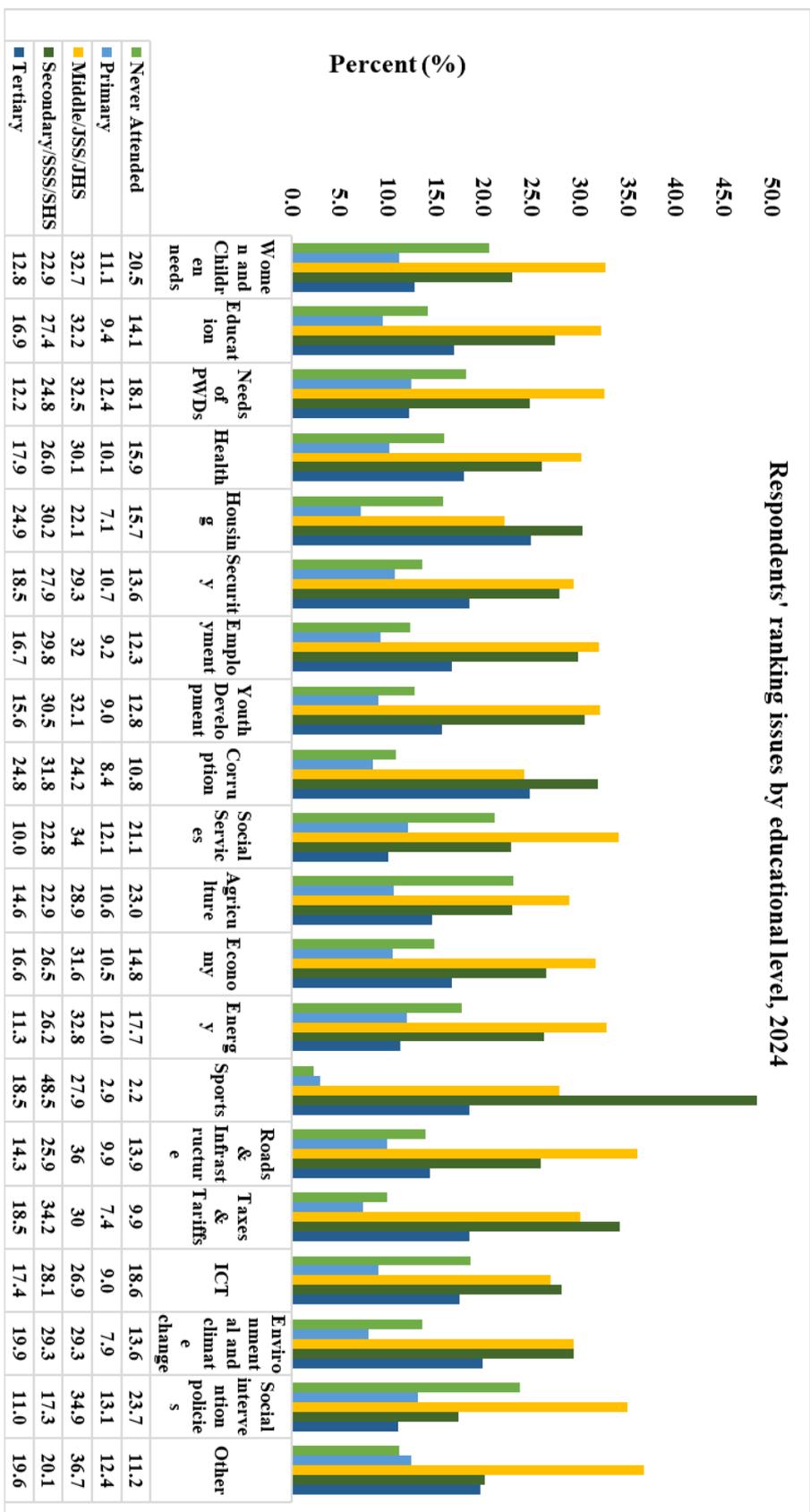
4.6 Ranking of Issues by Education

This section examined the potential influence of respondents' educational backgrounds on their ranking of issues of concern, as shown in Figure 4.4 Overall the results indicated that the topmost concerns varied by educational level.

For respondents without formal education and those with primary education, social intervention policies were the primary concern. Those with middle/JSS/JHS education ranked roads and infrastructure as their top issue, while sports was the main concern for respondents with secondary/SSS/SHS education. Meanwhile, housing was the top concern for respondents with tertiary education and following closing was corruption (Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4: Respondents ranking of issues by respondents' level of education

Respondents' ranking issues by educational level, 2024



Source: Survey data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian voter, August 2024

4.7 Ranking of issues among PWDs

The survey also aimed to examine the perspectives of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) on the most critical issues they required political parties to address in the upcoming 2024 election (Figure 4.5). Out of the 575 PWDs interviewed, 16.3% cited Education as their foremost concern. Health (13.2) and Needs of PWDs (12.0%) followed, placing second and third respectively. This finding slightly deviates from the national ranking, as employment was the fourth priority, cited by 11.3% of PWD respondents. Moreover, issues on Environmental/climate change, Sports and ICT were ranked lowest, with less than 1.0% of respondents considering them as their primary concerns. Figure 4.5 in the report provides detailed results of the responses from PWDs.

Figure 4.5: Ranking of issues among PWDs

Issues	Percent
Education	16.3%
Health	13.2%
Needs of PWDs	12.0%
Employment	11.3%
Roads & Infrastructure	7.7%
Economy	7.0%
Social Services	5.8%
Agriculture	5.2%
Social intervention policies	3.0%
Women and Children needs	2.8%
Security	2.7%
Housing	2.4%
Youth Development	2.4%
Corruption	2.1%
Energy	1.8%
Taxes & Tariffs	1.4%
Other	1.4%
Environmental and climate change	0.7%

Source: Survey data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian voter, August 2024*

CHAPTER FIVE SPECIFIC VOTER DEMANDS

5.1 Introduction

The results of this study, as presented in Chapter four (4) of this report present the key issues respondents would like their elected leaders to prioritise as they roll out national development agenda when they assume office.

Following the identification of the issues that were of concern to the electorates, the study afforded respondents the opportunity to narrow down their concerns to the specific areas or needs within the sectors of national development which they seek redress. This section of the report presents the outcome of this all-important inquiry. The study also pays attention to the specific mandate imposed on elected leaders by law and hence presents demands sought by respondents in accordance with the mandate of the elected officials.

5.2 Specific Issues for Redress by the Next Government

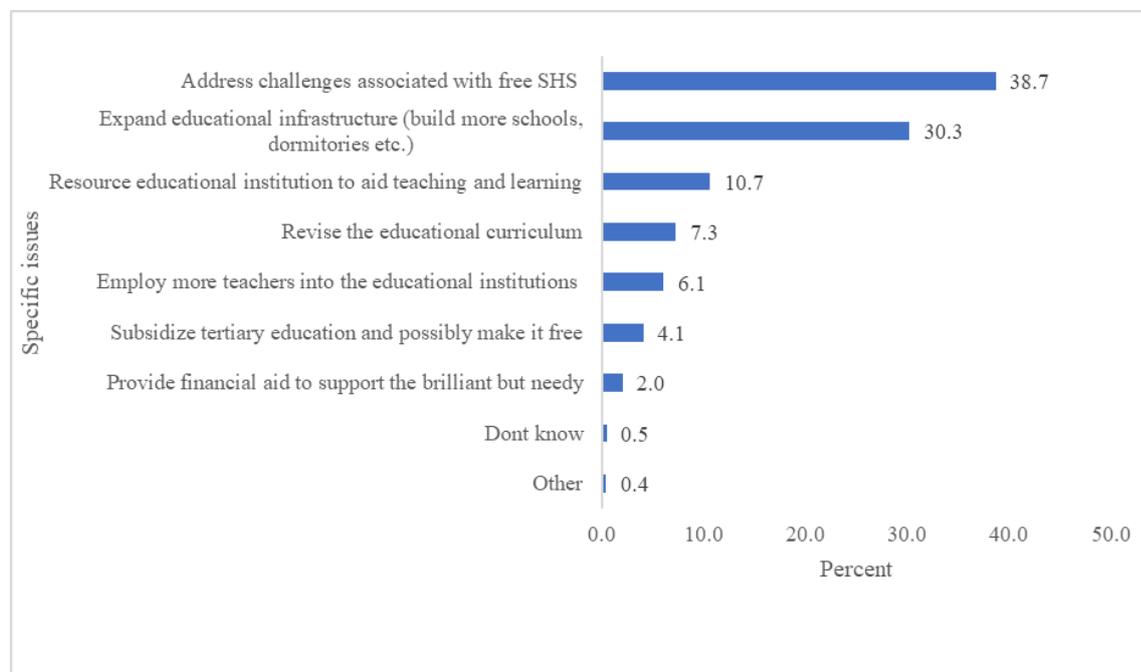
Article 58 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana vest executive powers in the President. The President therefore implements policies, plans and programmes towards realizing the national development agenda. The study therefore sought from respondents the specific measures they would like the next government to put in place to address the challenges they face in the broad sector they mentioned. The specific needs on the first five ranked concerns is presented followed by the other middle-ranked demands and then the bottom five ranked concerns.

5.2.1 Top Five Issues of Concern

Education

Addressing challenges associated with the free SHS policy (38.7%) and expansion in educational infrastructure (30.3%) are the major demands of respondents.

Figure 5.1: Specific issues in Education for redress by the next government

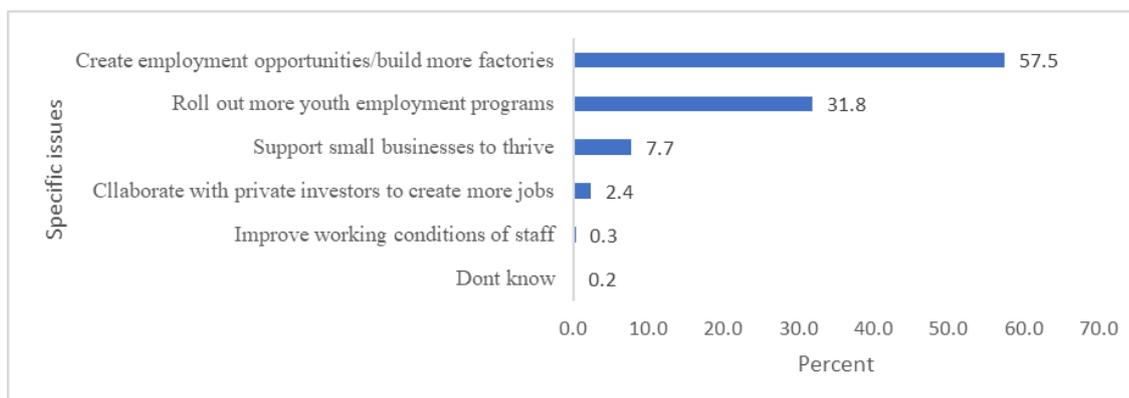


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

Employment

The call to create more job opportunities is the major concern of respondents as 57.5% of respondents are making this call. They are joined by another 31.8% who are calling for more employment programmes for the youth.

Figure 5.2: Specific issues relating to employment for redress by the next government



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.*

Health

Nearly half of the respondents (47.3%) either want new health facilities constructed in their communities or old facilities renovated and expanded.

Table 5.1: Specific issues in the health sector to be addressed by the next government

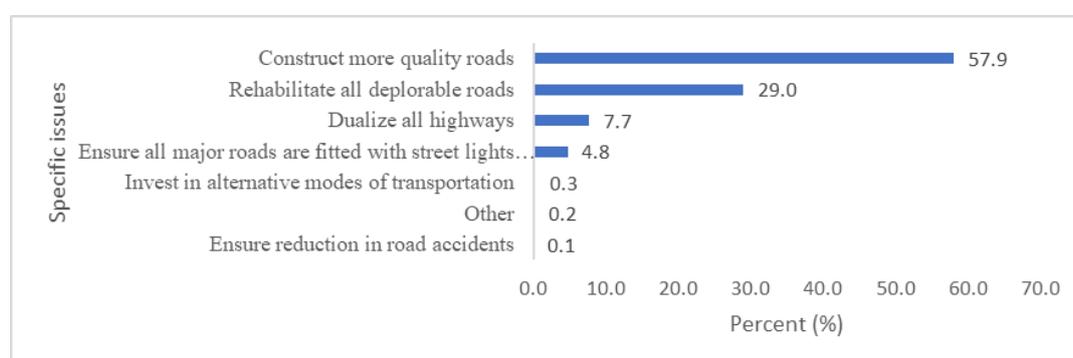
Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Expand health infrastructure	1062	47.3
Improve NHIS to have a wider coverage	375	16.7
Equip health centers with modern facilities	299	13.3
Ensure quality healthcare delivery	195	8.7
Employ more healthcare personnel to man the various health facilities	142	6.3
Make healthcare accessible and affordable	132	5.9
Give health personnel the needed assistance/motivation	25	1.1
Put measures in place to monitor and discipline health workers	9	0.4
Don't know	6	0.3
Other (Free education in NTC's, Ensure hygiene in all eateries)	2	0.1
Total	2247	100.0

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.*

Roads and Infrastructure

Majority of Ghanaians (57.9%) demand the construction of more quality roads in the country. The issue of the rehabilitation of bad roads in the various communities is the concern of a section of the respondents (29.0%).

Figure 5.3: Specific issues in the roads and infrastructure sector for redress by the next government

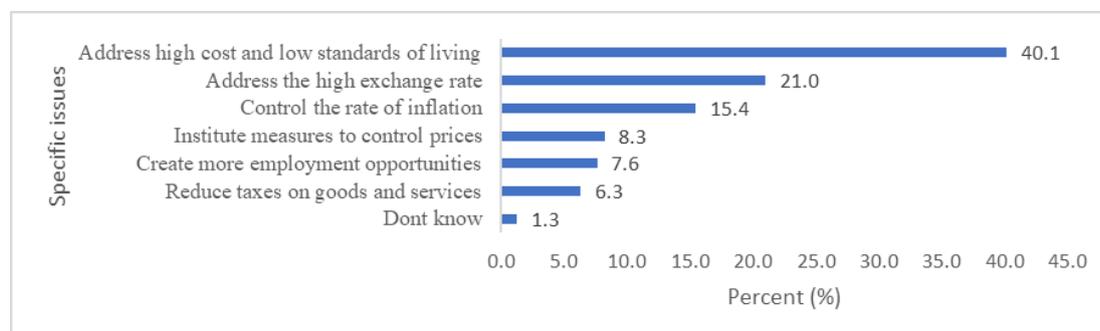


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Economy

Key economic issues Ghanaians want the next government to address are the high cost of living (40.1%), the high exchange rate (21.0%) and controlling the rate of inflation.

Figure 5.4: Specific issues relating to the economy for redress by the next government



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

5.2.2 Middle Ranked Issues

Agriculture

More than half (58.2%) of respondents are calling on the next government to support farmers in the country with farming inputs and equipment.

Table 5.2: Specific issues in the agriculture sector demanding the attention of the next government

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Support farmers with farm inputs and equipment	651	58.2
Support the mechanization of Agriculture	214	19.1
Provide loans and other incentives to farmers	89	8.0
Develop comprehensive policy to guide agriculture	68	6.1
Create market for farm produce	56	5.0
Make extension and other services accessible to farmers	30	2.7
Don't know	8	0.7
Build more agriculture training institutions	2	0.2
Total	1118	100.0

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Social Services

The provision and distribution of potable water across the country is the dominant issue within the social services sector. This was the call of 54.6% of respondents.

Table 5.3: Specific issues in social services delivery for redress by the next government

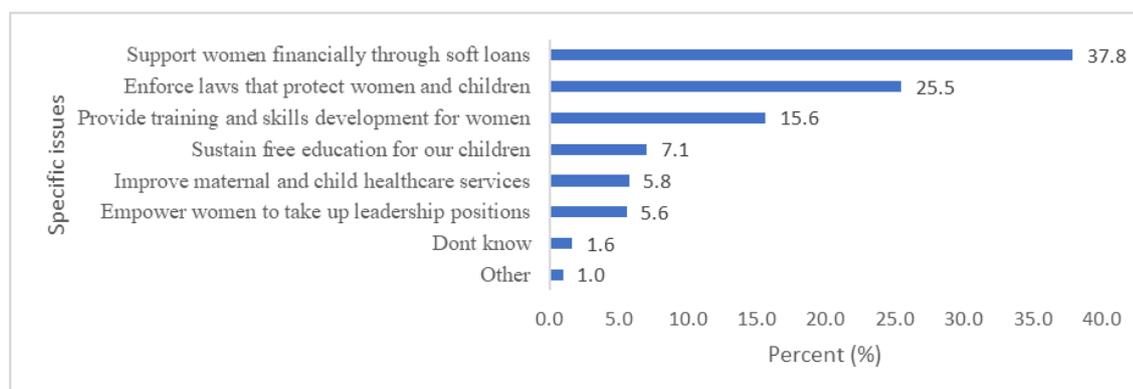
Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Provide potable drinking water	536	54.6
Address issues of sanitation (Gutters, KVIPs, Roads etc)	291	29.6
Improve social infrastructure such as markets, lorry stations etc	127	12.9
Proper management of small scale mining	20	2.0
Extension of electricity to all communities	4	0.4
Don't know	4	0.4
Total	982	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024

Women and children’s needs

Women and children want the next government to prioritise financial support in the form of loans for women (37.8%), protection from abuse and exploitation (25.5%) and training and skills development (15.6%).

Figure 5.5: Specific issues affecting women and children for redress by the next government



Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Corruption

Approximately half of respondents (50.4%) are calling on the next government to expose, arrest and prosecute all persons who have engaged in corruption.

Table 5.4: Proposed measures to tackle corruption by the next government

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Ensure that all corrupt persons are exposed, arrested and prosecuted	283	50.4
Put in measures to combat the menace of corruption	161	28.6
Resource anti-corruption institutions	60	10.7
Ensure transparency and accountability in public institutions	54	9.6
Others (All politicians should swear before idols, those found culpable should face firing squad)	4	0.7
Total	562	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Youth Development

Youth-centered training and development programmes (52.7%) and employment opportunities for the youth (37.8%) are the main issues for the next government in terms of youth development.

Table 5.5: Specific issues for redress by the next government in youth development

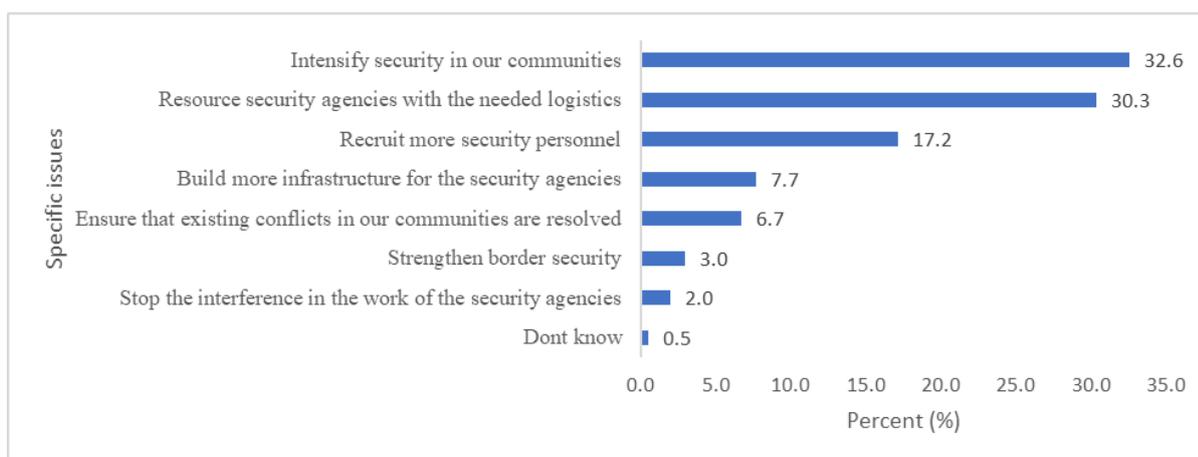
Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Institute training and development programs for youth	245	52.7
Create more employment opportunities for the youth	176	37.8
Provide credit facilities to support youth development	26	5.6
Promote formal education of the youth	5	1.1
Develop a comprehensive youth policy	5	1.1
Involve the youth in decision making	4	0.9
Promote youth in agriculture	3	0.6
Don't know	1	0.2
Total	465	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Security

Respondents want the next government to intensify security in their communities (32.6%) and also resource the various security agencies with the needed logistics to carry out their mandate (30.3%).

Figure 5.6: Specific issues in the security sector for redress by the next government

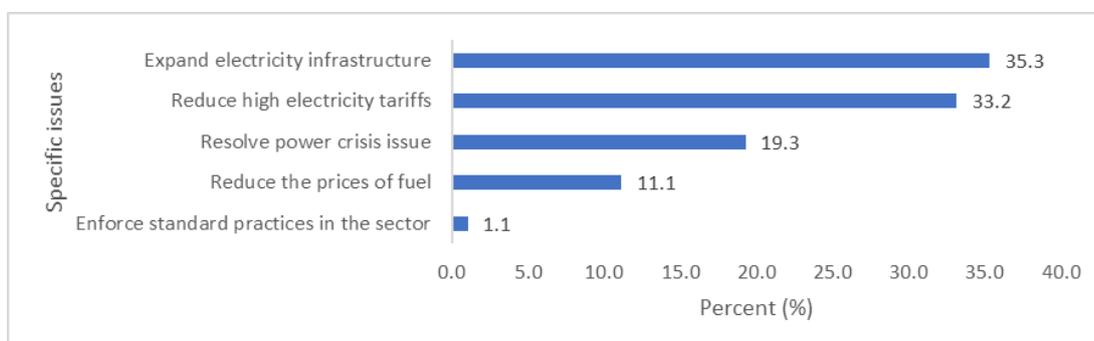


Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Energy

The issue of expansion of electricity to every part of the country (35.3%) and reduction in electricity tariffs are the major concerns in the energy sector that respondents want the next government to address.

Figure 5.7: Specific strategies for the next government to address challenges in the energy sector



Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Needs of PWDs

Approximately forty percent of respondents wants the next government to create a fund to specifically attend to the needs of PWDs (38.3%) and also create more employment opportunities for them (27.5%).

Table 5.6: Proposed strategies for the next government to deal with issues affecting PWDs

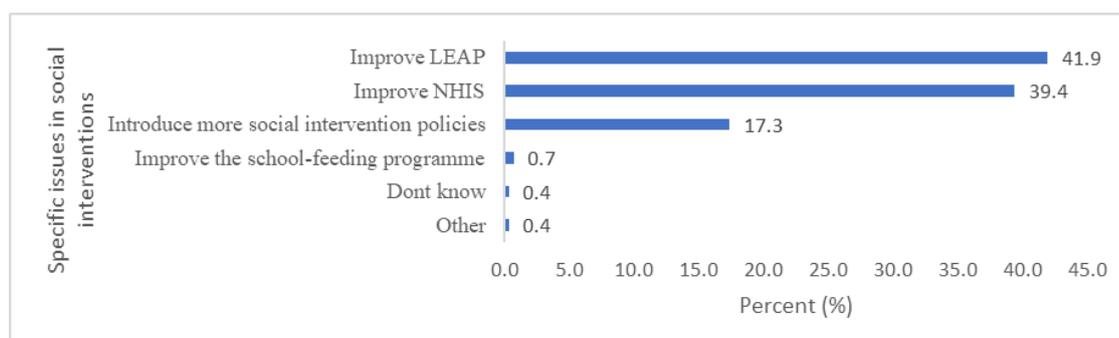
Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Create more funds allocated to PWDs	120	38.3
Create more employment opportunities for PWDs	86	27.5
Initiate policies that favor PWDs and involve them in decision making	54	17.3
Ensure that all public institutions and places are disability friendly	36	11.5
Address discrimination and stigmatisation against PWDs	7	2.2
Provide more education opportunities for PWDs	7	2.2
Involve PWDs in decision making processes	3	1.0
Total	313	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Social Interventions

Generally, respondents want the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) program (41.9%) and the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) – 39.4% to be reviewed and improved.

Figure 5.8: Key suggestions on how to improve social interventions by the next government



Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

5.2.3 Bottom Five Ranked Issues

Taxes and tariffs

Majority (61.1%) concern is for the next government to reduce the taxes and tariffs on goods and services in the country.

Table 5.7: Specific demands of respondents relating to taxes and tariffs for redress by the next government

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Reduce tax on goods and services	168	61.1
Reduce tax on utilities (water and electricity)	46	16.7
Reduce tax on imports	39	14.2
Provide tax incentives for businesses to grow	19	6.9
Educate the citizenry on the need to pay tax	1	0.4
Other (GRA should stop harassing tax payers, Some workers should not be made to pay taxes)	2	0.7
Total	275	100.0

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.*

Housing

Nearly half of respondents (49.8%) want the next government to build more affordable housing units.

Table 5.8: Specific issues in the housing sector for redress by the next government

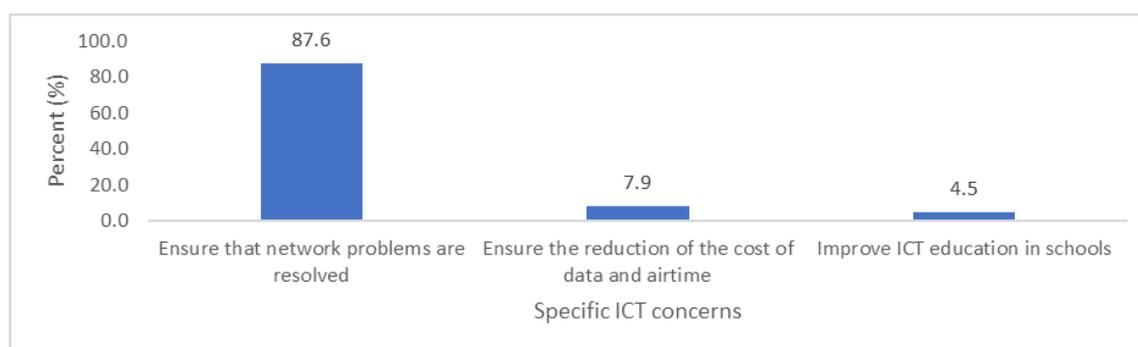
Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Build more affordable housing units	120	49.8
Regulate the current rent tenure to include one year and below	42	17.4
Make housing affordable / Reduce rent	35	14.5
A scheme to regulate housing	28	11.6
Reduce the cost of building materials	8	3.3
Don't know	5	2.1
Continue abandoned housing projects	3	1.2
Total	241	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Information, Communication and Technology

The study respondents generally (87.6%) called for an improvement in the network connectivity within the country.

Figure 5.9: Specific concerns in the ICT sector for redress by the next government

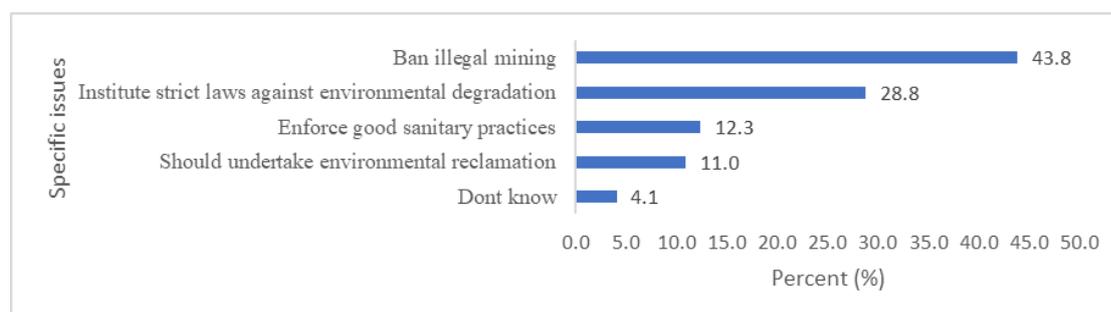


Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Environmental and Climate Change

Respondents want a complete ban on illegal mining (43.8%) and the institution of strict laws against environmental degradation (28.8%).

Figure 5.10: Specific issues relating to Environment and Climate change for redress by the next government

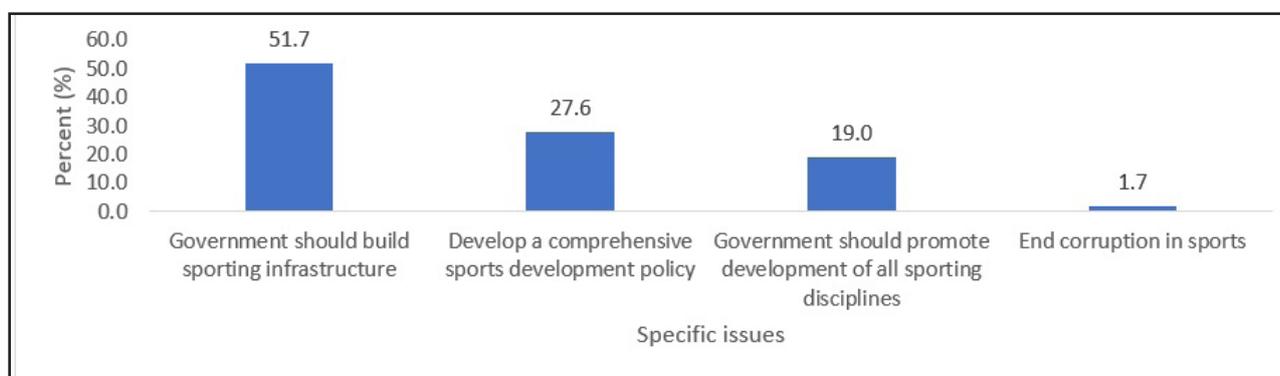


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.*

Sports

The call to build more sporting infrastructure is the key issue raised by more than half of respondents (51.7%). Development of a comprehensive policy to guide sports (27.6%) was also mentioned.

Figure 5.11: Specific issues relating to Environment and Climate change for redress by the next government



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.*

5.3 Specific Issues for Redress by the Parliamentarians as Legislators and Advocates

The 1992 constitution vests legislative and executive oversight functions in the Parliament of Ghana. The study sought to find out from respondents how they want their Parliamentarians to exercise this function to meet their needs. The results are presented below.

5.3.1 Top Five Ranked Issues

Education

Respondents are calling on their parliamentarians to enact laws to improve the free SHS policy (32.9%), advocate for increased funding for the education sector (16.1%) and the construction of more educational facilities within the country (16.4%).

Table 5.9: Specific issues in the educational sector MPs address in Parliament

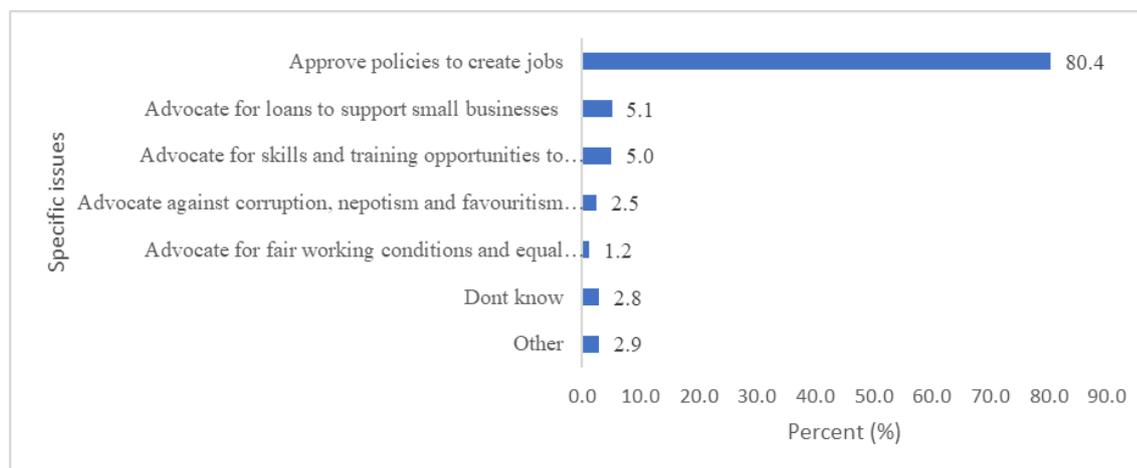
Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Enact laws to improve the free SHS policy	705	32.9
Advocate for the construction of more educational facilities	351	16.4
Advocate for increased funding for education	344	16.1
Enact policies to address the needs of teachers and other educational staff	198	9.2
Approve policies to upgrade our education system to meet work demand	160	7.5
Prevent political influence in education	70	3.3
Reform the educational laws to introduce punitive measures	39	1.8
Other (Pay fees of some constituents, give incentives to teachers in the constituency, visit schools in the constituency frequently etc.)	188	8.8
Don't know	88	4.1
Total	2143	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Employment

To address the unemployment situation in the country, a vast majority of respondents (80.4%) want their MPs to approve policies which will lead to the creation of jobs.

Figure 5.12: Specific issues of respondents in the employment for MPs to articulate in Parliament



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Health

Respondents are calling on their parliamentarians to advocate for equitable distribution of health infrastructure in the country (39.9%) and the widening of the NHIS to cover more medications and illnesses.

Table 5.10: Specific issues on the health sector respondents want MPs to present in Parliament

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Advocate for equitable distribution of health infrastructure and staff	896	39.9
Advocate to widen NHIS to cover more medications and illnesses	724	32.3
Support the government to improve health delivery in the country	213	9.5
Make law to improve the welfare of health workers	114	5.1
Promulgate policies to facilitate implementation of primary health care.	81	3.6
Review policies on health service staff retention to reduce health staff attrition	33	1.5
Enact laws regarding the operations of eatery joints	12	0.5
Other (Pay health bills of constituents, support constituents to purchase medicines, register aged constituents unto the NHIS etc.)	119	5.3
Don't know	52	2.3
Total	2244	100.0

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Roads and Infrastructure

Majority of respondents (86.0%) want Parliamentarians to advocate for the construction and maintenance of roads

Table 5.11: Specific issues in the roads and infrastructure sector respondents want MPs to present in Parliament

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Advocate for the construction and maintenance of road infrastructure	1545	86.0
Enact laws that ensures quality control and contractor accountability	89	5.0
Monitor and oversee road projects	73	4.1
Ensure the construction of safe drainage systems	35	1.9
Other (Should repair/construct our roads, build our lorry station etc)	35	1.9
Don't know	19	1.1
Total	1796	100.0

Economy

The key issue is that respondents (46.4%) want their MPs to enact and approve policies which will stabilize the economy.

Table 5.12: Specific issues in the economy which respondents want their MPs to address in Parliament

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Approve policies for economic stability	643	46.4
Advocate for the creation of more employment and support for businesses	184	13.3
Pass legislation to reduce taxes, tariffs and import duties	181	13.1
Advocate for the enforcement of laws on promotion of local industry	146	10.5
Enact laws to prevent economic mismanagement	128	9.2
Don't know	67	4.8
Other (Stop taking bribes and passing every new tax, should reduce prices of goods in the constituency)	36	2.6
Total	1385	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

5.3.2 Middle Ranked Issues

Agriculture

More than half (52.9%) of respondents want MPs to advocate for laws to subsidize farm inputs for farmers.

Table 5.13: Specific issues relating to agriculture respondents want their MPs to articulate in Parliament

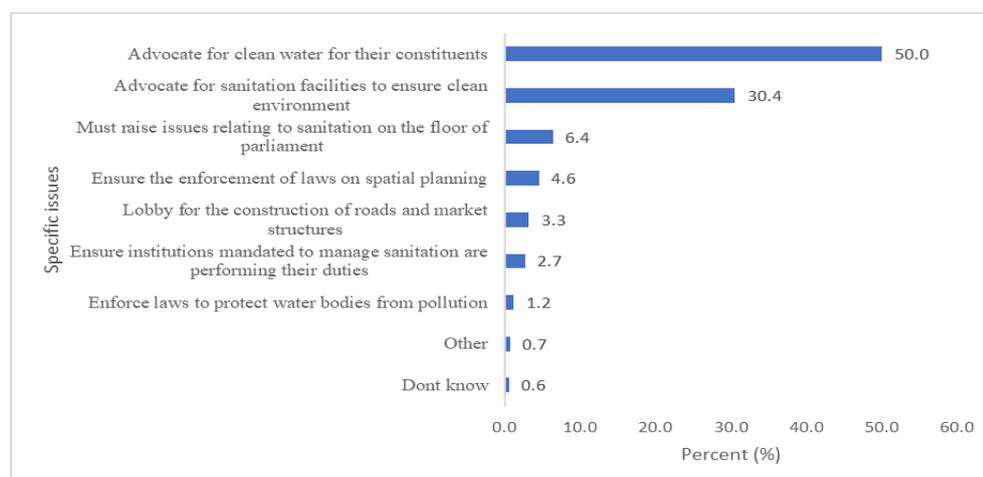
Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Advocate for laws to subsidize farm inputs	590	52.9
Advocate for government to support innovation and new farming techniques	129	11.6
Advocate for incentives to support youth in agriculture	127	11.4
Lobby for better conditions for farmers, including compensation, pension and insurance	97	8.7
Enact laws to restrict the importation of food into the country	64	5.7
Advocate for the enforcement of laws to promote sustainable farming practices	27	2.4
Other (Construct roads leading to our farms, provide free transportation for our produce etc)	61	5.5
Don't know	21	1.9
Total	1116	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Social Services

Half (50.0%) of the study participants are calling on MPs to advocate for clean water for their respective constituencies.

Figure 5.13: Specific issues relating to social services which respondents want their MPs to address in Parliament



Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Women and Children’s Needs

With respect to Women and Children’s needs, respondents call on their MPs to ensure that laws that protect women and children are enforced (25.9%) and to also support policies that promote women’s economic empowerment.

Table 5.14: Specific issues relating to women and children’s needs for MPs to articulate in Parliament

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Ensure laws that protect women and children are enforced	158	25.9
Support policies that promote women’s economic empowerment	136	22.3
Advocate for educational policy and training for women and children	100	16.4
Support policies that enhance women's representation in government	84	13.8
Enact more gender equality laws	47	7.7
Advocate for quality health service to women and children	34	5.6
Other (Support women with loans, provide shelter for street children etc.)	28	4.6
Don’t know	22	3.6
Total	609	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Corruption

Majority of Ghanaians (82.2%) are calling on MPs to review existing laws to strengthen the fight against corruption and punish corrupt persons

Table 5.15: Specific issues relating to corruption which respondents want Parliamentarians to advocate in Parliament

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Review laws to strengthen the fight against corruption and punish corrupt persons	461	82.2
Advocate for more resources to strengthen anti-corruption agencies	35	6.2
Review laws to ban sole sourcing for government contracts	26	4.6
Review electoral laws to address issues relating to political party financing	8	1.4
MPs should lobby for resources to institutions with the mandate to carry out education on the dangers of corruption	4	0.7
Other (Should not personally engage in corruption, Should stop taking kickbacks etc)	18	3.2
Don't know	9	1.6
Total	561	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Youth Development

To support youth development in the country, respondents want their next MPs to enact laws to support youth welfare and economic empowerment

Table 5.16: Specific issues relating to youth development respondents want MPs to address in Parliament

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Enact laws supporting youth welfare and economic empowerment	171	36.9
Advocate for the creation of jobs specifically targeting the youth	147	31.7
Advocate for the enforcement of laws and policies supporting technical and vocational education	120	25.9
Ensure youth participation in decision making process	9	1.9
Other (Sponsor the youth in the constituency to travel outside the country, support the unemployed youth financially etc.)	10	2.2
Don't know	7	1.5
Total	464	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Security

Respondents want their MPs to advocate for adequate resourcing and efficient management of the various security services (40.1%) and also approve programmes aimed at improving efficiency in service delivery of our security services.

Table 5.17: Specific issues in the security sector for MPs to articulate in Parliament

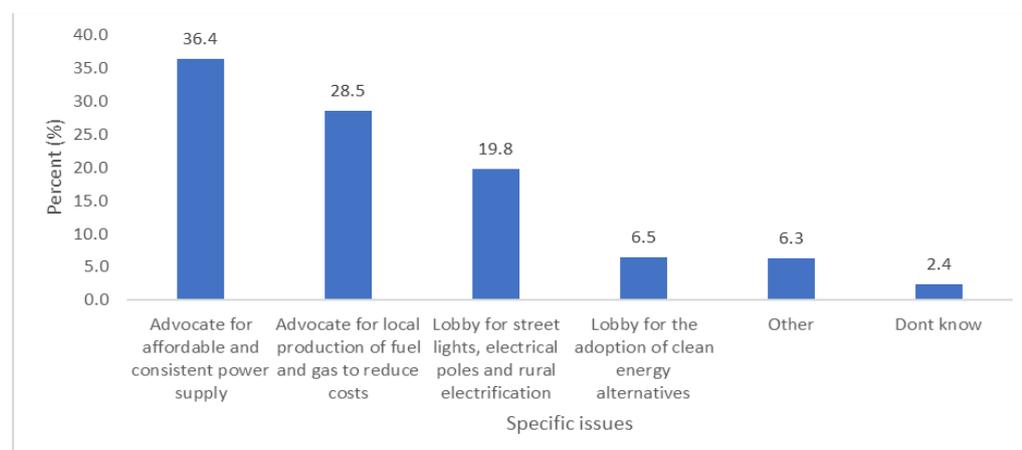
Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Advocate for adequate resourcing and efficient management of the various security services	161	40.1
Approve programmes aimed at improving efficiency of service delivery of our security services	138	34.4
Review existing security protocols to better manage crime	56	14.0
Reform legislation to improve emergency response and disaster management	18	4.5
Review legislation on chieftaincy to solve existing conflicts and other issues relating to chieftaincy	11	2.7
Reform prison laws and rehabilitation programmes to reduce recidivism	5	1.2
Don't know	8	2.0
Other (Stop inciting political rivalry in the constituency, help the youth to get jobs etc.)	4	1.0
Total	401	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Energy

Critical actions which respondents want their MPs to undertake in the energy sector are: advocate for affordable and consistent power supply (36.4%) and also advocate for local production of fuel and gas to reduce costs (28.5%).

Figure 5.14: Specific issues in the energy sector respondents want MPs to address in Parliament



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Needs of PWDs

The study participants and Persons with Disability (PWDs) want their MPs to advocate for job opportunities and skills training for them (25.6%), articulate their specific needs on the floor of parliament (22.0%) and also ensure that laws to protect their rights and interests are effectively implemented (21.1%).

Table 5.18: Specific needs of PWDs which respondents want MPs to articulate in

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Advocate for job opportunities and skills training for PWDs	80	25.6
Articulate the specific needs of PWDs on the floor of parliament	69	22.0
Ensure that laws to protect rights and interests of PWDs are effectively implemented	66	21.1
Pass laws to provide the basic needs and incentives of PWDs	53	16.9
Advocate for an increase in percentage of the PWD share of the common fund	36	11.5
Don't know	5	1.6
Other (Provide PWDs with aids, Support those who are in financial need etc.)	4	1.3
Total	313	100.0

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Social Intervention Schemes

Respondents are generally calling for the review of the LEAP (38.9%) and NHIS (30.9%) policies to expand the scope of these social intervention measures.

Table 5.19: Specific issues relating to social interventions which respondents want MPs to address in Parliament

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Review the NHIS law to expand NHIS coverage and accessibility	107	38.9
Review the LEAP and other pro-poor policies to increase their reach and effect	85	30.9
Should advocate for various social amenities such as roads, boreholes, clean water etc.	22	8.0
Ensure that PWDs share of the common fund is disbursed on time by the DAs	20	7.3
Support policy to advance the economic and political interest of women	18	6.5
Review the free SHS policy to improve education in the country	12	4.4
Don't know	7	2.5
Other (Support the aged register unto the NHIS, personally support the poor people in the constituency etc.)	4	1.5
Total	275	100.0

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

5.3.3 Last Five Ranked Issues

Taxes and tariffs

More than half (52.4%) of respondents want their MPs to approve bills which will reduce the number of taxes and stabilize the tax regime. Another 24.4% called on MPs to advocate for the cancellation of the E-levy and the COVID-19 levy.

Table 5.20: Specific issues in taxes and tariffs which respondents want MPs to address in Parliament

Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Approve bills aimed at reducing and stabilizing the tax regime	144	52.4
Advocate for the cancellation of E-levy and Covid-19 Tax	67	24.4
Approve tax relief for small and medium businesses	32	11.6
Monitor the use of tax revenue	13	4.7
Approve progressive taxation	11	4.0
Other (Support small businesses meet their tax obligations)	8	2.9
Total	275	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Housing

With respect to housing, respondents want their MPs to advocate for affordable housing programmes for all citizens (58.9%) and also ensure that laws that regulate rent are enforced (31.1%).

Figure 5.14: Specific housing concerns respondents want MPs to address in Parliament

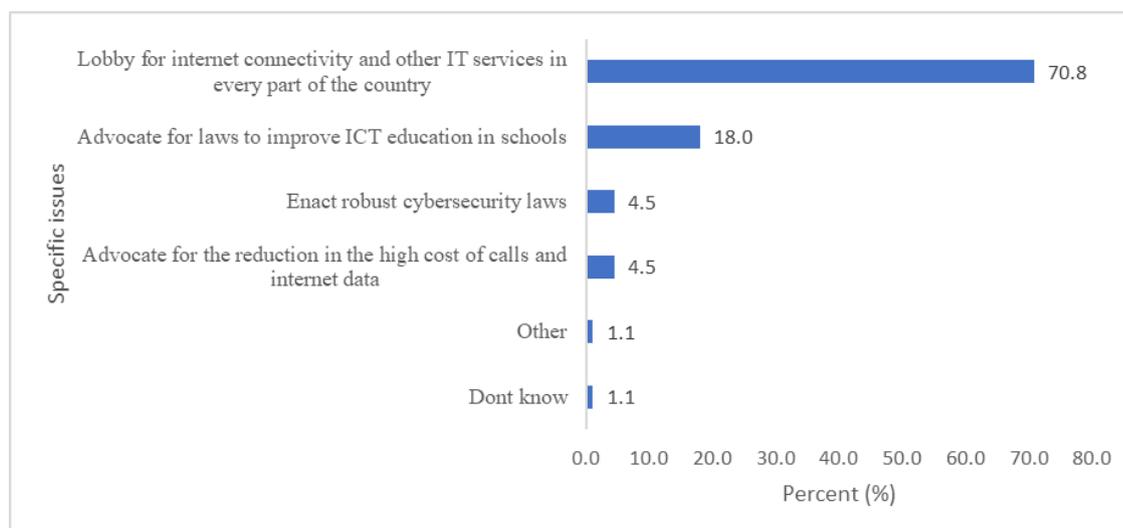


Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Information, Communication and Technology

Majority of respondents (70.8%) want their MPs to lobby for smooth internet connectivity and other IT services in every part of the country.

Figure 5.15: Specific ICT needs for redress by MPs on the floor of Parliament



Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024

Environmental and Climate Change

The electorates are calling on their MPs to advocate for stiffer punishment for those who degrade the environment (44.4%) and also hold government accountable for the protection of the natural environment (26.4%).

Table 5.21: Specific issues relating to Environment and Climate Change for redress by MPs in Parliament

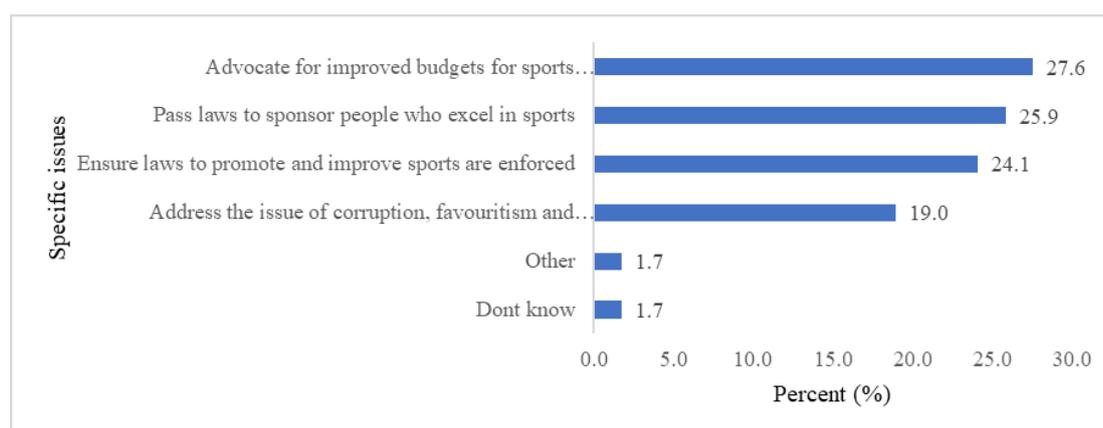
Issues	Frequency	Percent (%)
Advocate for stiffer punishment for those who degrade the environment	32	44.4
Hold government accountable for the protection of the natural environment	19	26.4
Hold the DAs and other institutions responsible for waste management	11	15.3
Advocate for support for NCCE to educate the communities on environment climate issues	6	8.3
Other (Stop engaging in illegal mining, should not allow mining activities in the constituency)	4	5.6
Total	72	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Sports

In sports, respondents want their MPs to advocate for improved budgets for sports infrastructure development (27.6%), pass laws to sponsor people who excel in sports (25.9%) and also ensure that laws to promote and improve sports are enforced (24.1%).

Figure 5.16: Specific issues in sports for redress by MPs in Parliament



Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

5.4 Specific Issues Parliamentarians should address through the use of their Common Fund Allocation

This section presents the views of respondents on what they want their MPs to address through the use of their common fund allocation under Article 252 of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana. The constitutional provision mandates the transfer of at least 5% of total National fiscal revenues to district assembly through the district Assembly Common fund. The nineteen issues were ranked with top and bottom five issues and nine middle issues.

5.4.1 Top Five Ranked Issues

Education

Of the top five ranked issues, Education was the topmost issue mentioned.

On education, the study respondents want their MPs to use part of their common fund allocation to build and renovate schools in their constituencies (29.1%) and offer scholarship for the talented but disadvantaged students (26.0%).

Table 5.22: Specific Educational Issues the MPs should address using Common Fund allocation

Issues on Education	Frequency	Percent (%)
Build and renovate schools in the community	1136	29.1
Offer scholarships to talented but disadvantaged students	1015	26.0
MPs should support with the provision of educational materials in the constituency	970	24.9
Improve and address challenges relating to the free SHS	315	8.1
Support teacher motivation packages (such as awards and accommodation)	239	6.1
Support with basic education activities such as inter-school competitions and vacation classes	99	2.5
Don't know	106	2.7
Other (Support adult education, engage stakeholders in decision-making etc)	18	0.5
Total	3898	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter; August, 2024

Employment

Employment was ranked second among major issues mentioned. A high proportion of respondents want their Members of Parliament to allocate a portion of the common fund to assist constituents with start-up capitals and support with the construction of factories and training centres.

Table 5.23: Specific Employment Issues MPs should address using their share of the Common Fund allocation

Issues on Employment	Frequency	Percent (%)
Support their constituents with start-up capital	933	28.8
Assist in building factories and training centers to create jobs for the unemployed in the constituency	844	26.1
Provide employment in the state security agencies for their constituents	536	16.6
Support artisans and entrepreneurs with equipment	385	11.9
Sponsor training programmes in skills acquisition for constituents	376	11.6
Sponsor the education of the youth and prepare them for the job market	49	1.5
Don't know	114	3.5
Other (Help the youth to get enlisted in the security)	1	0.0
Total	3238	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

5.4.3 Health

Health being one of the most important indicators of national development was ranked third on the list of issues of concern by the respondents

To ensure a healthy population, more than a quarter of the respondents (27.5%) want MPs to finance the development of health infrastructure while (22.2%) upgrading district hospitals. The call to pay for the NHIS premium was also made (20.4%).

Table 5.24: Specific issues on Health to be addressed by MPs using their share of the Common Fund

Issues on Health	Frequency	Percent (%)
Develop health infrastructure and upgrade district hospitals	618	27.5
Equip health facilities with basic amenities (such as equipment, ambulance, beds, water and electricity)	498	22.2
Support with the payment of NHIS premium for the needy and unemployed new entrants	458	20.4

Support communities' access to primary healthcare delivery (provision of drugs and health education)	420	18.7
Support to train more health workers and motivate them	190	8.4
Don't know	61	2.7
Other (Support psychiatric patients in the constituency)	2	0.1
Total	2247	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Roads & Infrastructure

Road and infrastructure secured fourth position on the ranking of issues.

To address issues on roads and infrastructure, 45.3% of the respondents believed that, MPs should utilize their common fund to rehabilitate and construct roads within their constituencies (45.3%). Another group (41.2%) want MPs to construct and renovate schools in their constituency.

Table 5.25: Specific issues on Roads & Infrastructure to be addressed by MPs using their share of the Common Fund.

Issues on Roads & Infrastructure	Frequency	Percent (%)
Use their common fund to help rehabilitate and construct roads within their constituencies	813	45.3
Build and renovate schools in the community	740	41.2
Offer scholarships to talented but disadvantaged students	77	4.3
Use part of the fund to build community centres, hospitals, markets for the communities	39	2.2
Support with the provision of educational materials in the constituency	39	2.2
Don't know	80	4.5
Other (Support the construction of railways, support the constituents with transportation)	6	0.3
Total	1794	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Economy

Concerns about the economy was ranked fifth among the issues ranked.

A high proportion of study respondents emphasized the need for the MPs to use their allocation to support their constituents to either start new businesses or revive existing ones and further offer soft loans and ready market for their produce (37.7%).

Table 5.26: Specific issues on economy to be addressed by MPs using their share of the Common Fund.

Issues on Economy	Frequency	Percent (%)
Support their constituents to establish new businesses and revive old ones with soft loans and ready market	522	37.7
Support to subsidize prices of goods and services, improve standard of living and reduce taxes	203	14.7
Support the aged, needy, PWDs and other vulnerable groups with basic amenities and businesses	196	14.2
Support the provision of skills training, education and other empowerment programmes to their constituents	141	10.2
Improve developmental infrastructure that promote the businesses of constituents	73	5.3
Assist to create decent work with good salaries for their constituents	62	4.5
Provide support to agricultural ventures in the constituency	48	3.5
Don't know (Reduce the number of government appointees, help the poor in the constituency financially etc)	139	10.0
Other	1	0.1
Total	1385	100

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

5.4.2 Middle-Ranked Issues

At the middle of the ranking were nine different issues of concern to the Ghanaian voter. Subsequent discussions present the issues and what respondents specifically want their MPs to address using their common fund allocation.

Agriculture

Ghana is endowed with vast arable land and diverse agricultural produce, especially cocoa, coffee and timber. It ranked sixth among the top issues of national importance and first among the middle-ranked issues.

From the survey, over half of the respondents want their MPs to invest in agriculture by providing subsidies, loan schemes and farm inputs such as fertilizers and seedlings for farmers.

Box 5.1: Specific issues in Agriculture to be addressed by MPs using their share of the Common Fund

- Invest in agriculture through subsidies, loan schemes and other motivation for farmers
- Provide farmers with agricultural equipment and mechanization –
- Construct various agriculture infrastructure to aid farming activities
- Provide agriculture implements to the youth and train them to venture into farming
- Support to acquire the services of agricultural extension officers to train farmers in the constituency
- Provide support to PWDs, women and other vulnerable groups in agriculture
- Set up state farms in their constituency to increase food production
- Assist to address challenges within the agriculture sector in their constituency

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Social Services

Social services are crucial for fostering community development and securing individual well-being. This issue placed seventh on the ranking of issues.

Slightly more than eight out of ten respondents, want their MPs to support in the provision of social amenities in their constituencies.

Table 5.27: Specific issues on Social Services MPs should address with Common Fund allocation

Issues on Social Services	Frequency	Percent (%)
Support in the provision of social amenities in their constituencies	813	82.8
Provide needed funds and facilities to improve waste management services in their constituencies	82	8.4
Provide motivation for the mobilization of their constituents for community work	24	2.5

Support the needs of the needy and vulnerable groups in their constituency	18	1.8
Support in infrastructural development in their constituency	22	2.2
Don't know	20	2.0
Other (Collaborate with private service providers, educate the constituents against open defecation)	3	0.3
Total	982	100

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Women and Children's Needs

Addressing the challenges faced by women and children is also essential, this was ranked eighth.

The study indicated that a proportion of respondents want their MPs to provide them with financial aid and start-up capital to support women entrepreneurs.

Table 5.28: Women and Children's needs to be addressed by MPs using their Common Fund allocation

Issues on Women and Children	Frequency	Percent (%)
Provide financial and start-up capitals to support women entrepreneurs	258	42.4
Support the educational needs of women and children by providing them with scholarships, schools	78	12.8
Create more employment opportunities for women	69	11.3
Support and protect women and children survivors of abuse through setting up shelters and legal aid	62	10.2
Provide women and children with basic social amenities (such as clean water, KVIPs)	39	6.4
Support the healthcare needs of women and children	35	5.8
support with the provision of schools for children with special needs, and build early childhood centers	25	4.1
Support education programmes that enhance the rights of women and children	22	3.6
Don't know	18	3.0
Other	2	0.3
Total	608	100

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Corruption

The study respondents want parliamentarians to advocate for the strengthening of anti-corruption institutions to enable them perform their duties and further arrest/prosecute corrupt officials effectively (Table 5.29).

Table 5.29: Specific issues on Corruption to be addressed by MPs using their share of the Common Fund.

Issues on corruption	Frequency	Percent (%)
Strengthen anti-corruption institutions to carry out their duties and arrest/prosecute corrupt officials	294	52.4
Fair, transparent and accountable to the constituents on the use of their common fund allocation	67	11.9
Ensure equitable distribution of developmental projects and resources	43	7.7
Assist in creating jobs for the unemployed to be financially independent	40	7.1
Sponsored projects should comply with anti-corruption measures	25	4.5
Don't know	91	16.2
Other	1	0.2
Total	561	100

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Youth Development

Ranked tenth among the issues was youth development.

The study participants called on parliamentarians to sponsor training programmes for the youth in skills acquisition.

Table 5.30: Specific Youth Development issues to be addressed by MPs using their share of the Common Fund

Issues on Youth Development	Frequency	Percent (%)
Sponsor training programmes in skills acquisition for constituents	126	27.2
Support artisans and entrepreneurs with equipment	109	23.5
Support their constituents with start-up capital	92	19.8

Provide employment in the state security agencies for their constituents	50	10.8
Sponsor the education of the youth and prepare them for the job market	45	9.7
Assist in building factories, training centers to create jobs for the unemployed in the constituency	18	3.9
Don't know	17	3.7
Other	7	1.5
Total	464	100

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter; August, 2024

Security

Nearly a third of study respondents want MPs to support community surveillance initiatives using part of their Common fund allocation.

Table 5.31: Security issues MPs should address using their Common Fund allocation

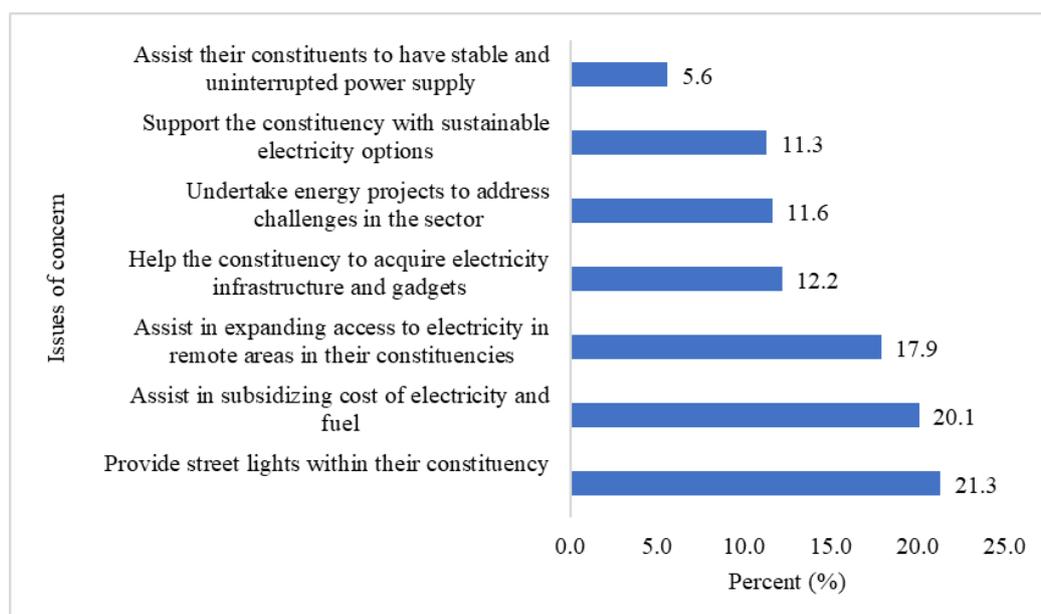
Issues on Security	Frequency	Percent (%)
Strengthen security for the constituency using community surveillance	123	30.6
Support security personnel with motivational packages and supply them with logistics	108	26.9
Support to build/renovate the police station in their constituency	56	13.9
Support to create job for their constituents to prevent them from engaging in criminal activities	30	7.4
Sponsor education and sensitization of citizens on the need to ensure peace in the community	23	5.7
Support with the provision of street lights within the constituency	18	4.4
Support to improve modern security devices that enhances surveillance (such as installation of CCTV)	15	3.7
Don't know	28	6.9
Total	401	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter; August, 2024

Energy

On energy, electorates are calling on MPs to provide street lights for major roads in their constituencies and expansion of electricity to remote areas.

Figure 5.17: Energy Issues MPs should address using Common Fund allocation



Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Needs of PWDs

On addressing the needs of PWDs, more than half of the respondents believe that MPs should support with skills development programs, start-up loans and necessary equipment for PWDs.

Box 5.1: Issues raised concerning the needs of PWDs

- Assist PWDs with skills development and start-up loans and equipment – 55.5%
- Provide PWDs with assistive technological devices at a subsidized rate – 15.6%
- Timely release of disability fund to the PWDs themselves – 10.1%
- Support education for persons with disabilities, through scholarship schemes – 9.0%
- Reserve a percentage of the common fund to provide disability friendly infrastructures – 6.3%
- Increase disability share of the common fund – 3.5%

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Social Intervention Policies

Social intervention policies play a vital role in promoting socio-economic equality and improving the well-being of the vulnerable populations.

The study participants called on MPs to support with the registration and/or renewal of the NHIS cards for the needy and vulnerable in their constituencies.

Table 5.32: Social Intervention policies to be addressed by MPs using Common Fund allocation

Issues on Social Intervention Policies	Frequency	Percent (%)
Register/renew the NHIS of the needy and vulnerable in their constituency to cater for their health needs	101	36.7
help cater for the needs of PWDs/Aged in their constituencies	75	27.2
Assist their constituents to have access to pro-poor policies without discrimination	27	9.8
Offer financial assistance to students, women, traders and small-scale businesses	26	9.4
Set up basic social amenities such as housing, roads, water, KVIP, clinics and good drinking water	23	8.3
Use their common fund to train people to acquire vocational and technical skills	7	2.5
Support educational programmes that sensitizes citizens on the existing social intervention policies	4	1.4
Don't know	11	4.0
Other	1	0.3
Total	275	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter; August, 2024

5.4.3 Bottom Five Issues

The five bottom issues were of the least importance to the respondents. They range from taxes and tariffs, housing, ICT, Environment and Climate Change and Sports.

Taxes & Tariffs

Over half of the respondents emphasized the need for MPs to use part of the common fund allocation generated from taxes and tariffs to build and renovate schools in the community.

Table 5.33: Specific issues on Taxes & Tariffs to be addressed by MPs using their share of the Common Fund.

Issues on Taxes & Tariffs	Frequency	Percent (%)
Build and renovate schools in the community	141	51.3
Reduce taxes, levies, fees and provide subsidies on goods and services	45	16.4
Assist to address challenges with the tax administration, compliance and usage	26	9.5
Provide soft loans from their common fund to small scale businesses in their constituencies	23	8.4
Sponsor tax compliance education in the constituency	11	4.0
Support the needy to pay off their taxes	11	4.0
Don't know	15	5.5
Other	3	1.1
Total	275	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Housing

On housing, over half of the respondents would like their MP to support them with the provision of affordable housing units for their constituents.

Table 5.34: Housing Issues MPs should address using Common Fund allocation

Issues	Percent (%)
Support with the construction of affordable houses for his/her constituents	53.1
Provide accommodation to PWDs and the marginalized	14.9
Provide soft loans to their constituents for building houses	8.7
Assist their constituents to acquire lands for building	4.6
Provide their constituents with basic amenities such as roads, electricity, good drinking water and KVIPs	2.9
Support with housing needs for displaced persons due to disasters	2.1
Other	0.4
Don't know	13.3
Total	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Information and Communication Technology

Table 5.35: ICT issues to be addressed by MPs using their Common Fund allocation

Issues on ICT	Frequency	Percent (%)
Assist to expand telecommunication network coverage by providing telecommunication mast	48	53.9
Assist in establishing ICT centers in their constituencies	19	21.3
Liaise with telecommunication providers to provide better communication network in their constituency	11	12.4
Support with the provision of computers and other ICT accessories to public schools in the constituencies	5	5.6
Don't know	6	6.7
Total	89	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Environmental & climate change

On environmental & climate change respondents called on MPs to support initiatives by the security services and the youth in protecting and preserving the environment.

Table 5.36: Specific issues on Environmental & climate change to be addressed by MPs using their share of the Common Fund

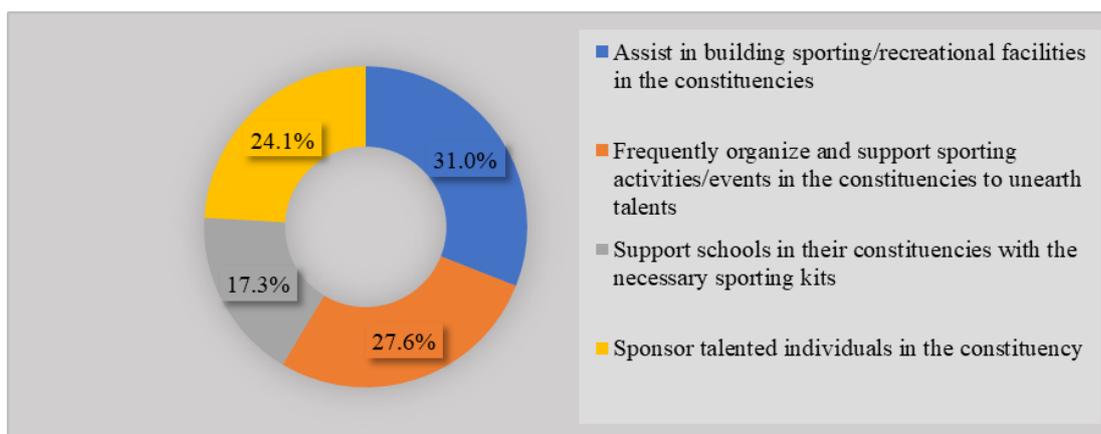
Issues on Environmental & climate change	Frequency	Percent (%)
Engage the services of the youth and security agencies to protect and preserve the environment	15	20.8
Support educational programs that sensitizes citizens on good sanitation practices	13	18.1
Support with tree planting exercise in their constituencies	12	16.7
provide funds and facilities to improve waste management services	9	12.5
Undertake community development project (community centres, roads, public toilets etc)	7	9.7
Help procure and distribute free dustbins to all households in their constituencies	5	6.9
Don't know	10	13.9
Other	1	1.4
Total	72	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Sports

Figure 5.18: Sports Issues MPs should address using Common Fund allocation

The study respondents requested that their MP assist in building sporting and recreational facilities in the constituencies to enhance sports development.



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024

CHAPTER SIX

VOTE-BUYING IN GHANA'S ELECTIONS

6.1 Introduction

The phenomenon of vote-buying is closely linked to the elements of clientelism meaning client politics, which is the exchange of goods and services for political support, either during an election campaign period and/or on an election day (Oliver & Vasil, 2022). It emanated from 18th century England, in the spendthrift elections in Northamptonshire, 1768 where three earls spent over one hundred pounds each for their favourite candidate to win the elections (Burlock, 2024), through to the Gilded Age in the 19th century United States where political parties hire runners to find floating voters, bargain with and pay them to vote for their side (Summers, 2004). Developing democracies such as Ghana and other African countries have not been spared as vote-buying remains a scourge and Ghana's electoral process has faced significant challenges due to the pervasive issue of vote-buying.

Globally, vote-buying is illegal as it weakens the democratic pillars of a nation. To address this, Ghana has enacted several laws among them are Section 33 of the Representation of the People Law, 1992 and Section 21(2)(c) of the Electoral Commission Act. The representation of the people law seeks to ensure free and fair elections in Ghana by preventing bribery and corruption.

In this regard, the chapter investigates vote-buying in Ghana, exploring knowledge, attitudes and experiences surrounding this practice, as well as its impact on democracy and potential prevention strategies.

6.2 Knowledge, Attitudes and Experiences of Vote-buying

This section highlights respondents' level of understanding of the concept of vote-buying, their attitudes and experiences on the menace. Generally, respondents knew what vote-buying was, as a majority of them indicated that vote-buying was offering money or goods in exchange for votes.

Some also were of the view that vote-buying was promising future benefits or favours in exchange for votes (9.2%). Others in the minority explained vote buying as a corrupt way of cheating, deceiving or bribing others for their votes (0.2%) and a situation where an individual sells his/her voting rights or conscience (0.1%). Less than seven percent (6.9%, 639 individuals) however did not know what vote-buying was.



Regionally, the Savannah, Upper East, Western and North East regions had over 10.0% of the respondents who did not know what vote-buying was, with the North East region recording the highest of 21.7%. In addition, more females (8.1%) than males (5.4%) did not understand the term vote-buying.

On the causes of vote-buying, respondents cited both demand and supply-side factors. The demand-side factors mentioned included poverty and economic vulnerability of the voter. Another emerging reason was the fact that the voter would also like to benefit from the national cake and believe the vote-buying offer is from the government coffers.

The supply-side factors highlight the candidate's motivation for engaging in vote-buying. These were for electoral advantage over their opponent, and the desire of some ambitious politicians who would like to be/stay in power at all cost.

Box 6.1: Factors accounting for vote-buying

Demand-side factors

- Poverty and economic vulnerability of voters
- Lack of awareness about the negative consequences of vote-buying
- Electorates desire to benefit from the national cake
- Winner takes it all system and lack of confidence in the politician and government

Supply-side factors

- Political parties' willingness to engage in vote-buying for electoral advantage
- Ambitious politician who wants to be in power at all cost
- To break voter apathy

Institutional Factors

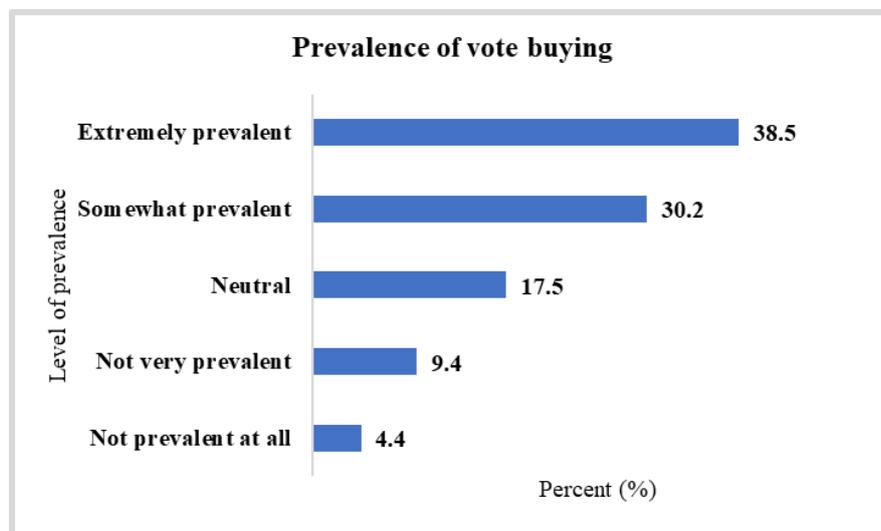
- Lack of enforcement of electoral laws
- Lack of awareness about the negative consequences of vote buying

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August, 2024

Other institutional factors emphasised in the study were the lack of enforcement of electoral laws and the lack of awareness about the negative consequences of vote-buying.

On prevalence of the menace of vote-buying, close to four out of every ten respondents believed that vote-buying is extremely prevalent. Other details on prevalence are presented in figure 6.1.

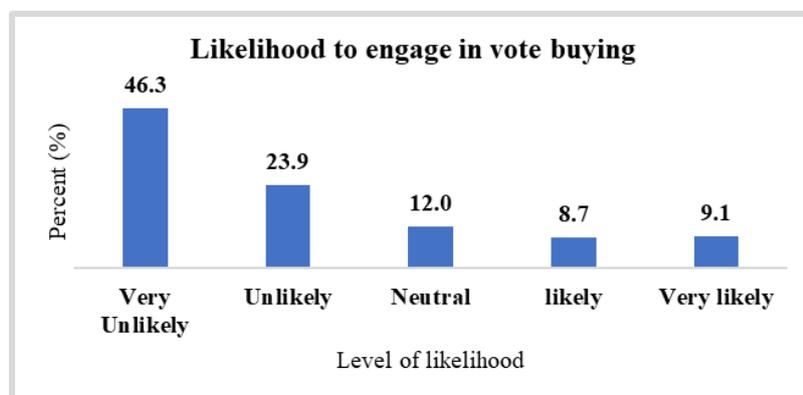
Figure 6.1: Prevalence of vote-buying



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024

The attitude of respondents towards vote-buying was also assessed by exploring the likelihood of an individual to request incentives from political candidates in exchange for their votes. Using the Likert scale, ‘very likely’, ‘likely’, ‘neutral’, ‘unlikely’ and ‘very unlikely’ to assess readiness to engage in such acts, majority were either ‘very unlikely’ (46.3%) or ‘unlikely’ to engage in vote-buying practices (figure 6.2).

Figure 6.2: Likelihood to engage in vote-buying



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024

Close to twenty percent (17.8%) of respondents were however willing to exchange their votes for incentives from political candidates.

The study further found that, females (18.7%) were more likely to request incentives in exchange for votes than their male (16.8%) counterparts.

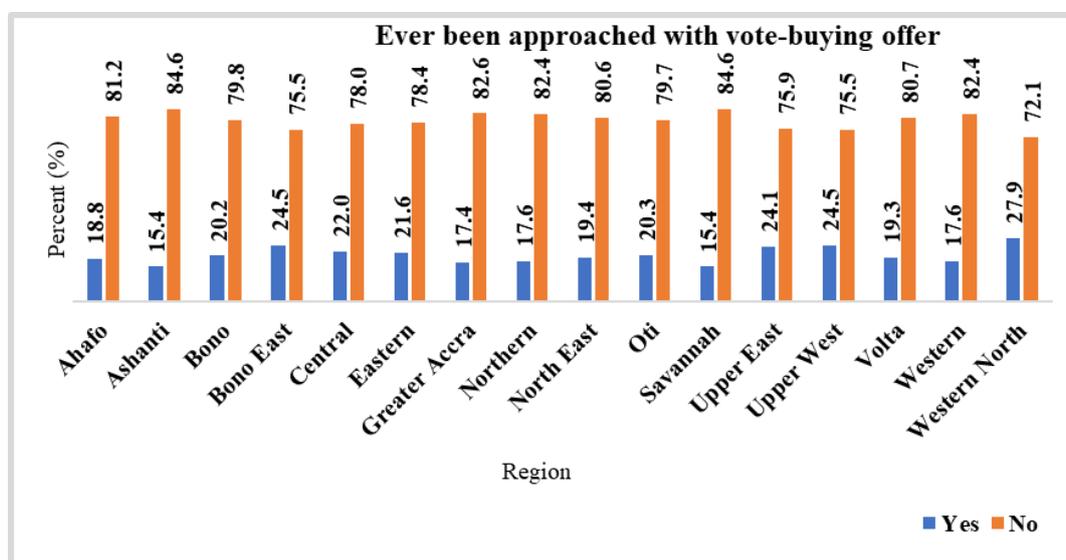
The study also assessed respondents' experiences with vote-buying using 'witnessing vote-buying' and 'approached or others approached with vote-buying offers' as indicators.

Additionally, some respondents indicated that they had ever been approached by a political candidate or their representatives offering them incentives in exchange for their votes.



They were 1,797 representing 19.3% of the total respondents. Regionally, Western North recorded the highest proportion (27.9%) of respondents who had ever been approached with vote-buying offers.

Figure 6.3: Ever been approached with vote-buying by region



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024

Ashanti and Savannah regions recorded the lowest percentage of 15.4 simultaneously. Further regional analysis is presented in figure 6.3.

Among the constituencies, the Garu constituency in the Upper East region recorded as high as 90.0% of study participants who were approached with vote-buying offers. Closely, were Pusiga and Ekumfi in the Upper East and Central regions respectively.

Among the sex of respondents, more males (22.0%) than females (16.8%) were approached with incentives or money for votes. Similarly, a higher proportion of the adult respondents (48.3%) were approached with offers than the youth (39.8%) and the aged (11.9%).

The study respondents further provided information on their awareness of receipt of vote-buying offers by others.

Box 6.2: Approached with vote-buying offers



Close to 4 out of every 10 respondents knows an individual who has been approached with incentives in exchange for vote – 35.1%

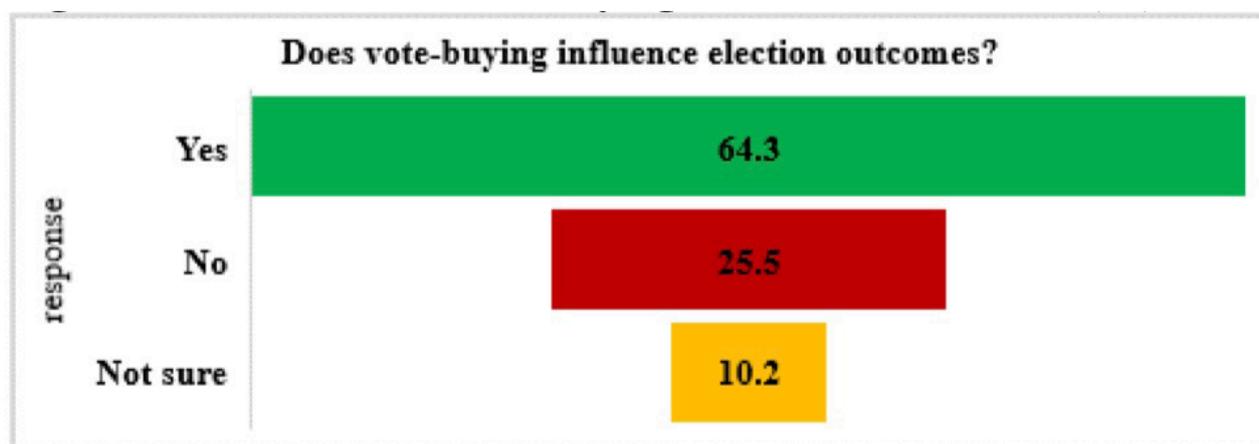
Whiles approximately 1 out of every 5 respondents - 19.3%, had ever been personally approached with vote-buying offer

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024 & shutterstock.com

6.2 Impact of vote-buying on democratic governance

Research has shown that vote-buying significantly impacts election outcomes in Ghana, thereby undermining the democratic process and casting doubt on the legitimacy of elected officials (Baidoo et al, 2018).

Figure 6.4: Influence of vote-buying on election outcomes (%)



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024

From the present study, a high proportion (64.3%) confirmed this fact as depicted in figure 6.4. The direct and indirect impact of this development is highlighted in Box 6.3.

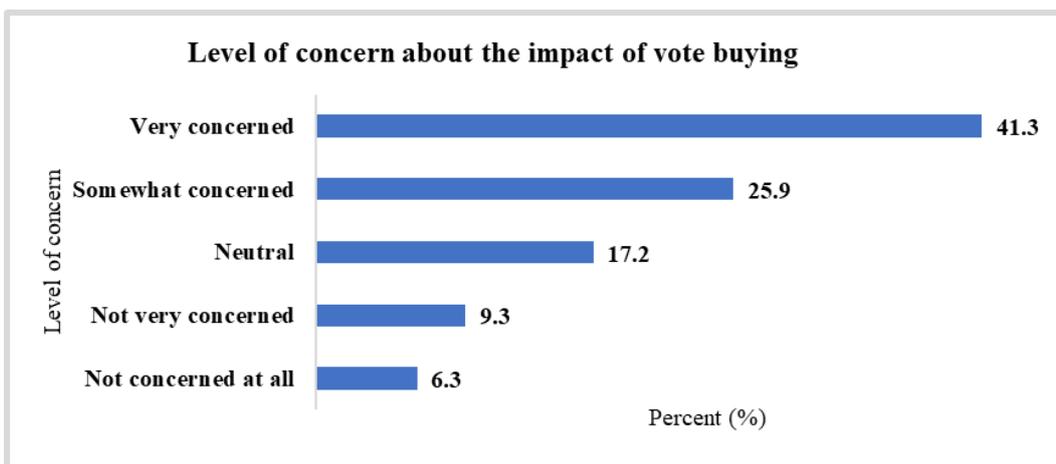
Box 6.3: Impact of vote-buying

- Undermines the principle of free and fair elections
- Perpetuates corruption in politics
- Distorts representation and accountability
- Erodes public trust in the electoral system
- Leads to violence, conflicts and social unrest
- Results in the election of incompetent leaders

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024

The study further explored respondents’ level of concern about the impact of vote-buying on the integrity of the electoral process in Ghana. The results are presented in figure 6.5.

Figure 6.5: Level of concern about the impact of vote-buying



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024

Whereas 67.2% (41.3% very concerned and 25.9% somewhat concerned) were concerned about the impact of vote-buying, 6.3% were not concerned at all.

6.3 Preventing Vote-buying Practices

Preventing vote-buying calls for a multifaceted approach with all stakeholders involved and respondents gave varied responses. A high proportion of them called for strengthening the enforcement of electoral laws and penalties on vote-buying (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1: Level of concern about the impact of vote-buying

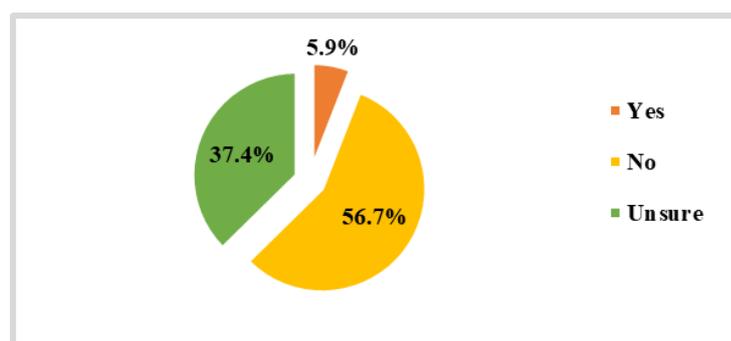
Preventive measures to combat vote-buying	Percent (%)
Strengthening enforcement of electoral laws and penalties for vote-buying	40.5
Increasing voter education and awareness campaigns	38.4
Empowering civil society organizations to monitor and report instances of vote-buying	9.9
Enhancing transparency and oversight of campaign financing	8.3
Nothing can be done about it	1.4
Improving the living standard of electorates	0.8
Other	0.7
Total	100.0

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024

A relatively low proportion of the respondents (0.8%) believed that vote-buying can be prevented when the living standards of electorates are improved. A section of the respondents however (1.4%) believed that nothing can be done to address the issue of vote-buying.

As part of efforts to prevent vote-buying, respondents were asked if they believed the government of Ghana is doing enough to tackle the issue. Over half (56.7%) of the respondents were of the view that, the government was not taking sufficient measures to address the issue. Figure 6.6 shows the categorical distribution of the responses.

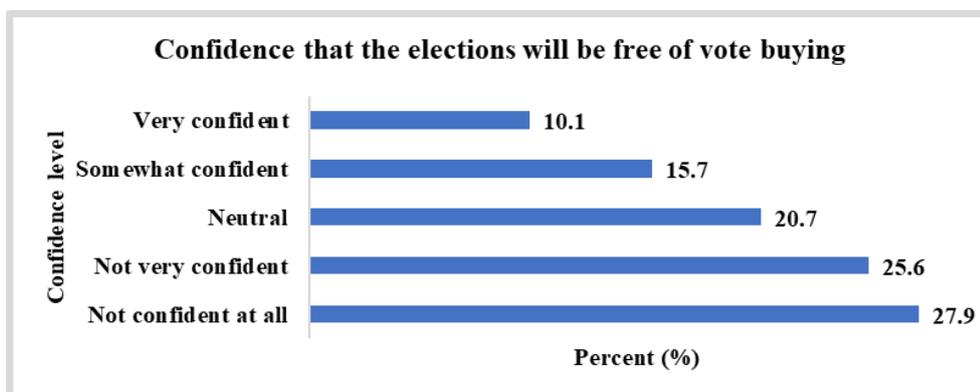
Figure 6.6: Is government of Ghana taking sufficient steps to address vote-buying?



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024

Finally, respondents rated their level of confidence on the extent to which the 2024 elections will be free from vote-buying. Over fifty percent were not confident that the election will be devoid of vote-buying practices.

Figure 6.7: Confidence that the elections will be free of vote-buying



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August, 2024

In figure 6.7 only one out of every 10 respondents were ‘very confident’ that the elections will be free from vote-buying. Two out of every ten respondents remained neutral.

CHAPTER SEVEN

ELECTION-RELATED VIOLENCE

7.1 Introduction

Election-related violence (ERV) is a significant issue of concern in many democracies, including Ghana. Despite being hailed as one of the most stable democracies in West Africa, Ghana has experienced sporadic episodes of violence surrounding its elections. These incidents of violence, often linked to political competition, ethnic tensions, or socioeconomic issues, pose a threat to the country’s democratic stability and social cohesion.

Since the return to multi-party democracy in 1992, the country has held regular elections that have largely been peaceful. However, elections are sometimes marked by tensions, particularly during competitive and closely contested polls. The Electoral Commission (EC) of Ghana has overseen these elections, working to ensure transparency and fairness, but election periods are often characterized by heightened emotions and political rivalries that can escalate into violence.

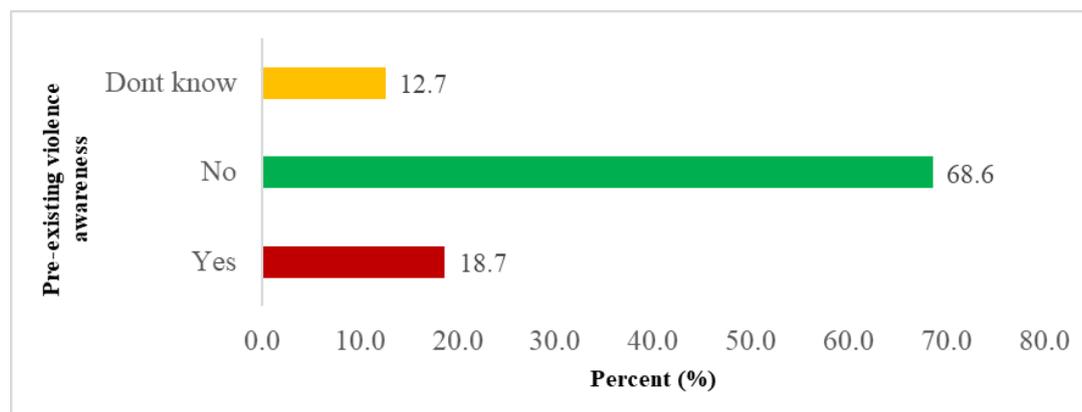
This chapter highlights citizens’ knowledge and experience of election-related violence (ERV) in Ghana. It also highlights citizens’ perspectives on the role of political parties and the Electoral Commission (EC) as well as law enforcement agencies in promoting peaceful elections and safeguarding the country’s democratic process.

7.2 Awareness and Experience of Election-Related Violence

7.2.1 Awareness of election-related violence

Nineteen (19) percent of the respondents indicated that they were aware of pre-existing violence in their constituencies while 69% indicated that they were unaware of such violence in their constituencies.

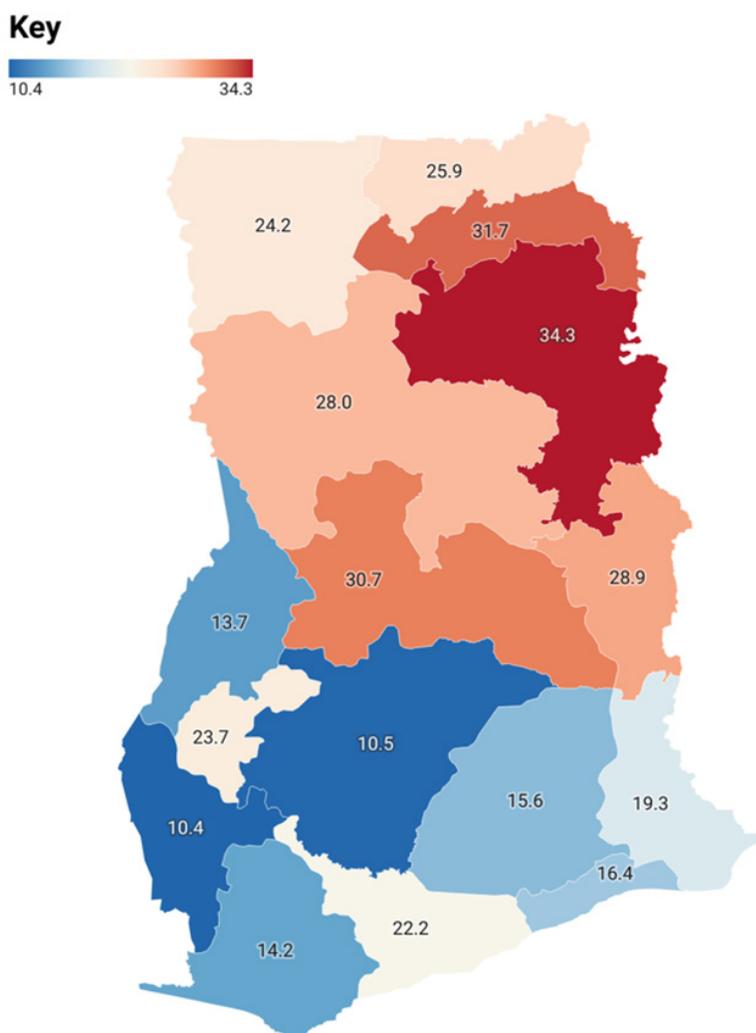
Figure 7.1: Respondents awareness of pre-existing violence



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Regionally, study respondents' awareness of pre-existing violence in the constituencies ranges between 10.4% (in the Western North region) to 34.3% (in the Northern region). Ten (10) regions (Ahafo, Bono East, Central, Northern, North East, Oti, Savannah, Upper East, Upper West and Volta) had more than 19% of the respondents indicating that they were aware of existing violence in their constituency.

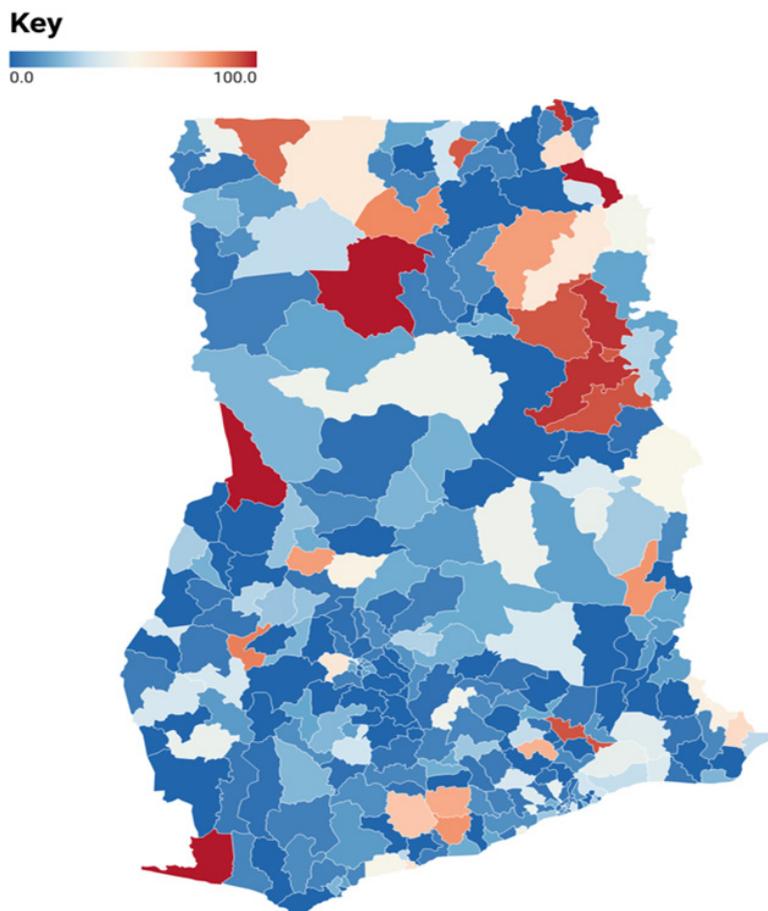
Figure 7.2: Respondents awareness of pre-existing violence (%)



Source: Survey Data; *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

The prevalence of pre-existing violence varied across the 276 constituencies in Ghana. In 215 (77.9%) out of the 276 constituencies, respondents indicated that they were aware of pre-existing violence in their constituencies. For the remaining sixty-one (61) constituencies, respondents in 31 were unaware of any pre-existing violence while in the thirty (30) other constituencies, respondents indicated that there was no pre-existing violence. In 11 constituencies over 90% reported of a protracted violence. These eleven constituencies are Banda Ahenkro, Bunkpurugu, Daboya, Jomoro, Yendi, Bimbilla, Bawku Central, Wulensi, Yilo Krobo, Mion and Bolgatanga Central.

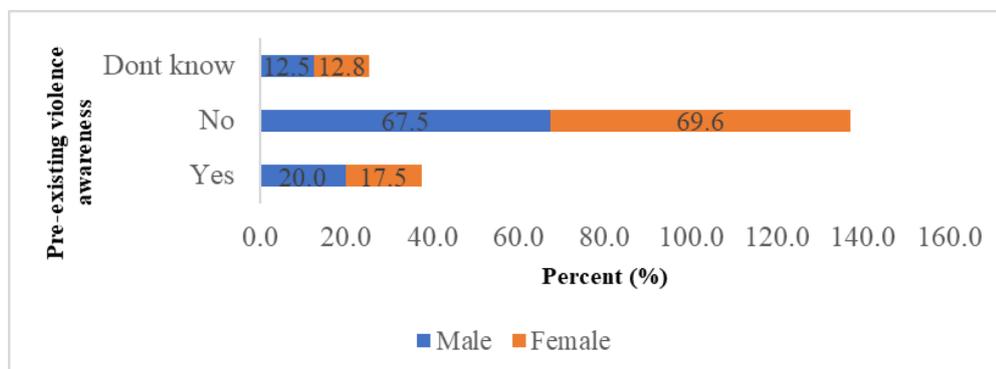
Figure 7.3: Respondents’ awareness of pre-existing violence by constituency



Source: Survey Data; *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

It was further observed that, more males (20.0%) than females (17.5%) were aware of pre-existing violence in their constituencies.

Figure 7.4: Gender and awareness of pre-existing violence



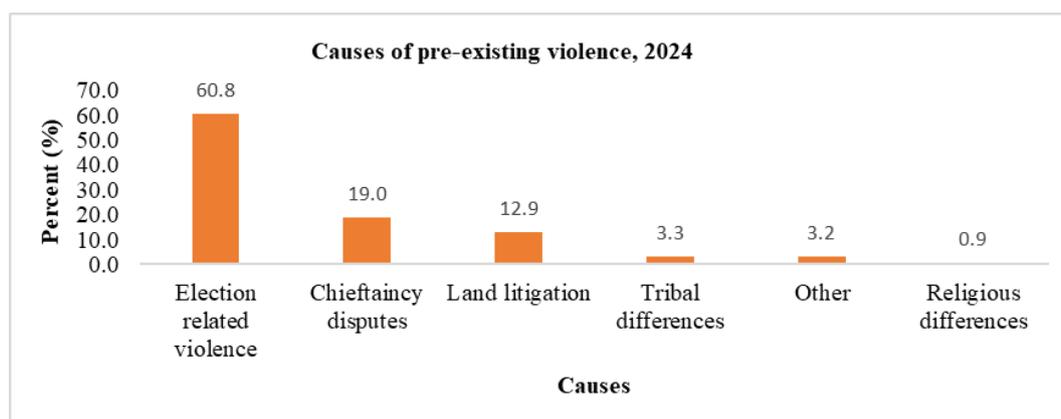
Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

The awareness of pre-existing violence in the constituencies varied by age group. The proportion of individuals being aware of pre-existing violence is lower for those aged below 20 years (14.5%) and slightly higher among those aged 50-59 years (20.8%). A higher proportion (73.0%) of those aged 60 years and above indicated that there was no pre-existing violence in their constituency. More than 2 in 10 (22.2%) of the individuals aged below 20 years indicated that they were unaware of any pre-existing violence in their constituency.

7.3 Main Causes of Pre-Existing Violence in the Constituencies

Of the 1745 respondents who indicated that they were aware of pre-existing violence in their constituencies, 60.8% of them indicated that the main cause of the pre-existing violence in the constituency was due to election while 19.0% said chieftaincy dispute was the cause.

Figure 7.5: Respondents Perspectives on the Main Causes of Pre-Existing Violence

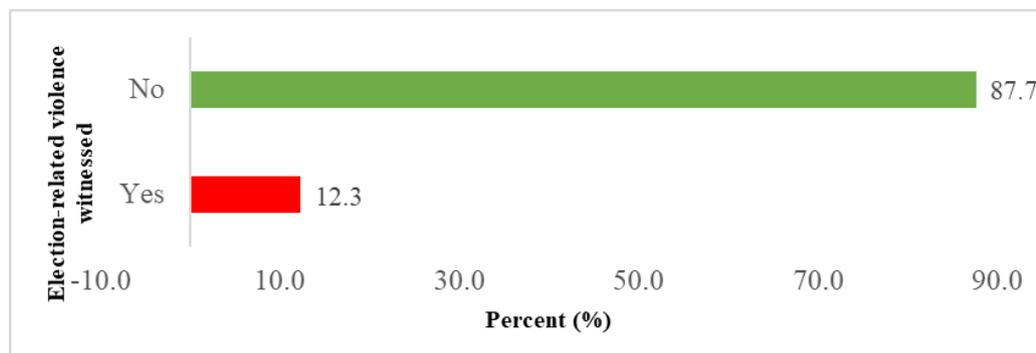


Source: Survey Data; *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

7.4 Witnessing Election-Related Violence

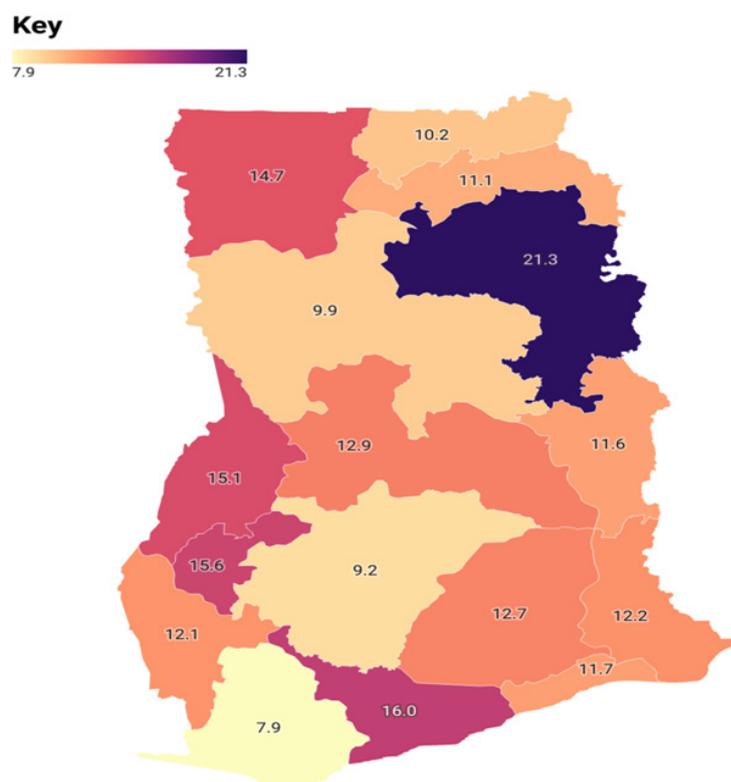
Twelve (12) percent of the study respondents have personally witnessed election-related violence in the past. The proportion of individuals who indicated that they witnessed election-related violence in the past varied across the regions, from 7.9% (in the Western region) to 21.3% (in the Northern region) as shown in Figure 7.6. Thirteen (13) out of the 16 regions had more than a tenth of the respondents indicating that they have witnessed election-related violence in the past. The three (3) regions with less than a tenth of the respondents indicating that they witnessed election-related violence in the past were the Ashanti, Savannah and the Western regions. Relatively, more males (14.6%) than females (10.2%) indicated that they witnessed election-related violence in the past.

Figure 7.6: Have you witnessed Election-Related Violence in the past?



Source: Survey Data; *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Figure 7.7: Regional Distribution on witnessing of Election-Related Violence in the past(%)



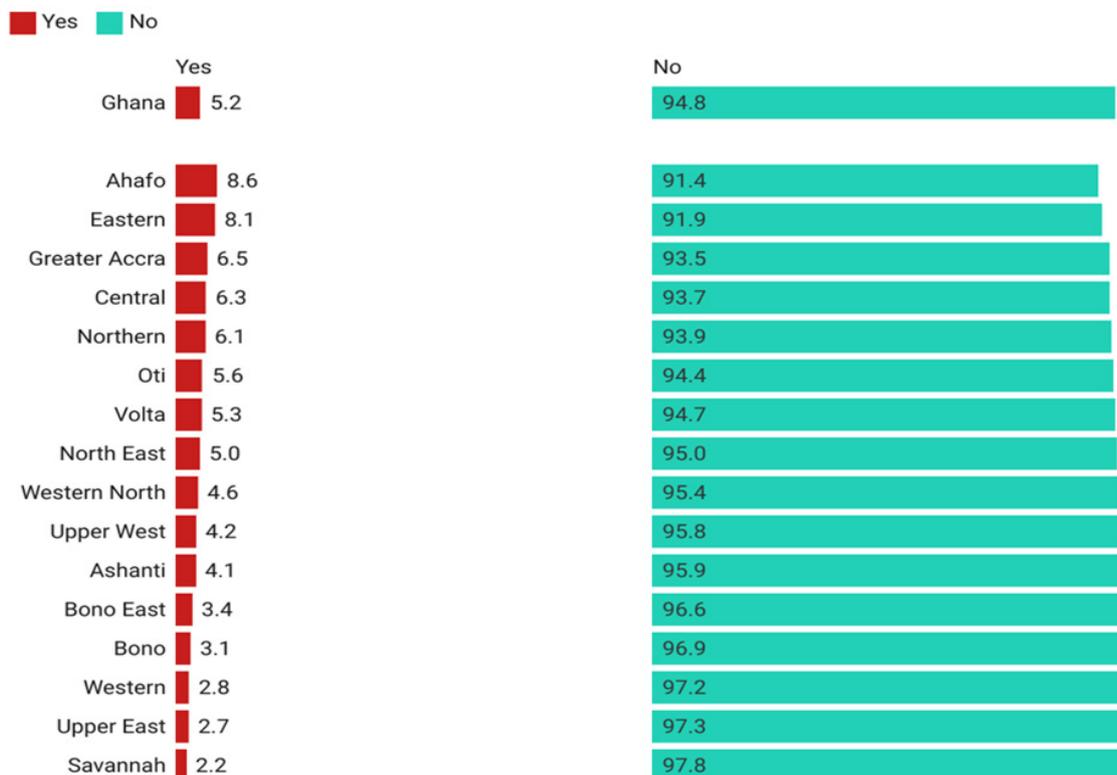
Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

7.5 Experience of Election-Related Violence

488 representing (5.2) percent of the study respondents indicated that they had experienced (participated in or victimized) election-related violence in the past. This proportion varied across the regions, from 2.2% (in the Savannah region) to 8.6% (in the Ahafo region) as shown in Figure 7.8. Over 90% of respondents from all 16 regions indicated that they had not experienced election-related violence in the past.

The proportion of males who indicated that they experienced election-related violence in the past was as twice much as females (6.7% vs 3.8%).

Figure 7.8: Experience of election-related violence across regions



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

7.6 Willingness to Undertake Election-Related Violence

On whether participants will undertake any violent act to further their party’s interest in the elections, almost all (99.1%) of the respondents indicated that they were unwilling to engage in election-related violence to satisfy their party’s interest. However, 84 (0.9%) of the respondents were willing to engage in election-related violence to satisfy their party’s interest.

Of those who indicated their willingness to engage in election-related violence to satisfy their party’s interest, there were more males 54 (64.3%) than females 30 (35.7%). Similarly, a high proportion (29.8%) of persons willing to engage in election-related violence were aged 30-39 years, while those less than 20 years old had the least proportion (4.8%).

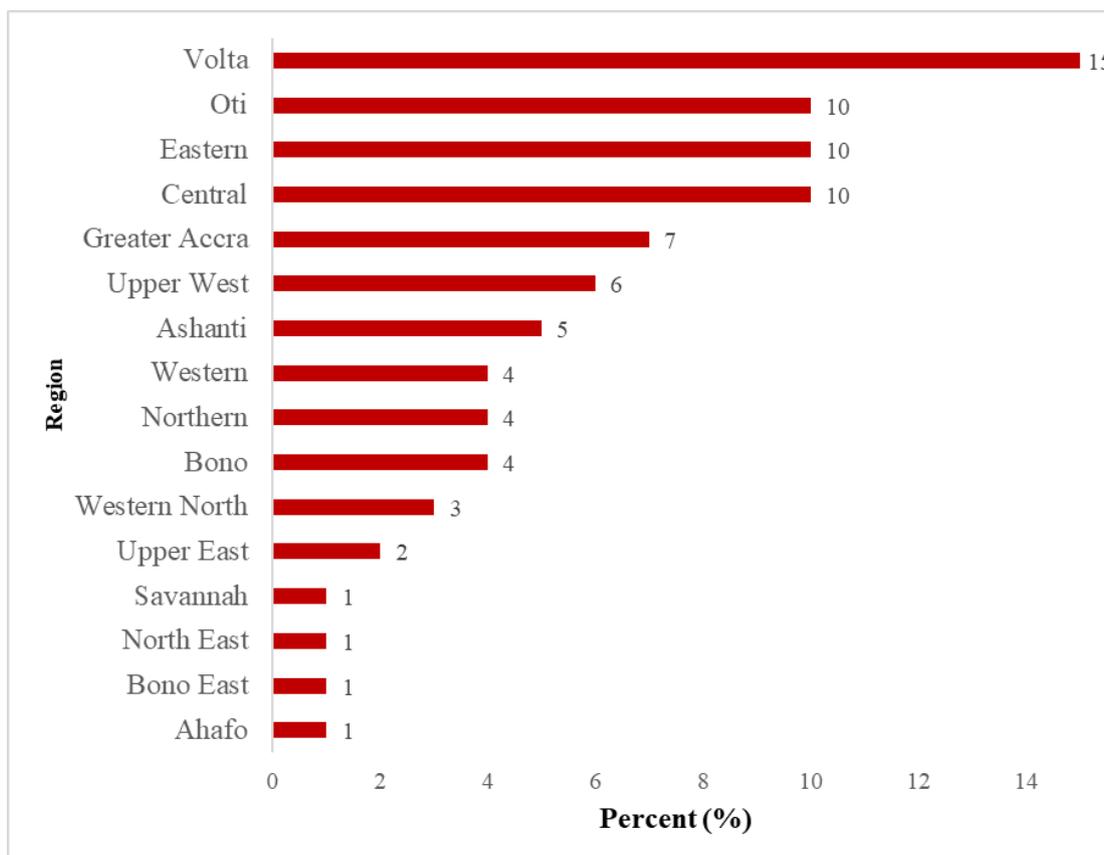
Table 7.1: Distribution of Respondents by Sex, Age Group, and willingness to engage in Election-Related Violence

Variable	Number	Percent
Sex		
Male	54	64.3
Female	30	35.7
Age Group		
18-19	4	4.8
20-29	12	14.3
30-39	25	29.8
40-49	22	26.2
50-59	9	10.7
60 and above	12	14.3
Total	84	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

Regionally, the number of individuals who indicated that they were willing to engage in election-related violence to satisfy their party’s interest varied across the regions, from 1 person (in the Savannah, North East, Bono East and Ahafo regions) to 15 individuals (in the Volta region) as shown in Figure 7.9.

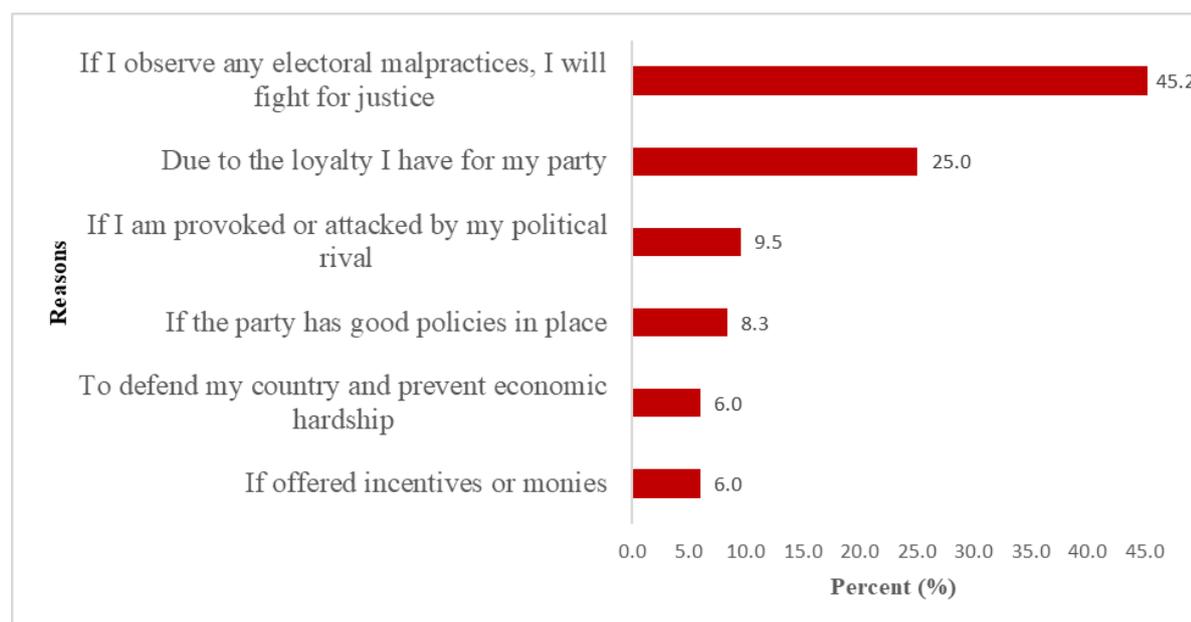
Figure 7.9: Willingness to engage in Election-Related Violence to satisfy party’s interest by region



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Out of the 84 respondents who indicated a willingness to engage in election-related violence, 38 (45.2%) said they would do so if they were to observe any electoral malpractices while 25% would do so because of party loyalty (as shown figure 7.10).

Figure 7.10: Reasons for willingness to engage in Election-Related Violence



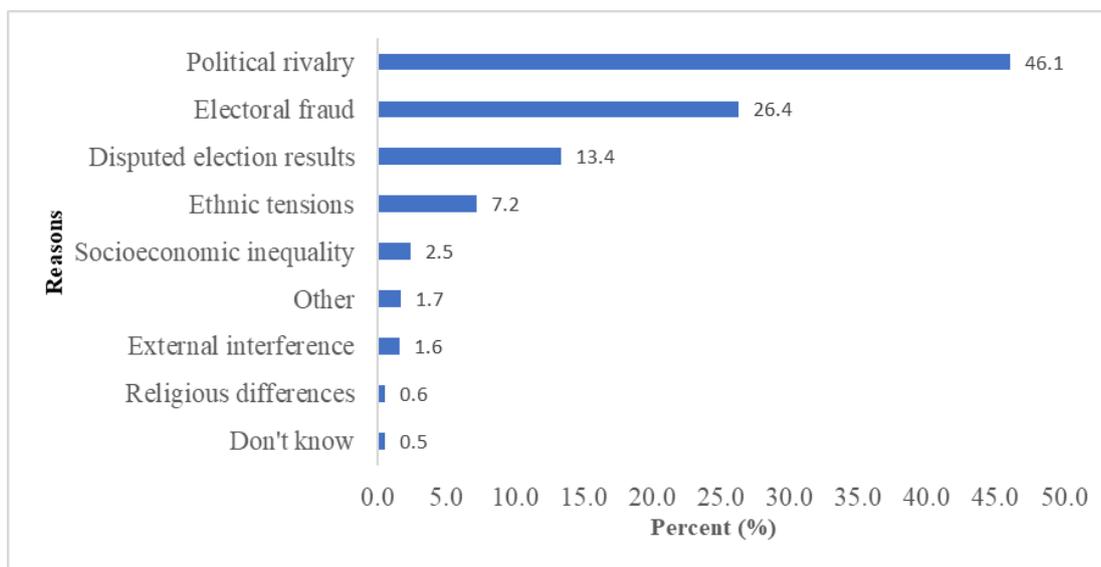
Source: Survey Data; *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

7.7 Primary Triggers of Election-Related Violence

From the perspectives of the study respondents, election-related violence in Ghana is driven by several underlying factors that intensify during the highly competitive electoral period. They indicated that the primary triggers include political polarization and fierce rivalry (46.1%), electoral fraud or irregularities (26.4%), disputed election results (13.4%), and ethnic and regional tensions (7.2%) in that order.

Additionally, some respondents mentioned socioeconomic inequalities (2.5%), external interference (1.6%) and others (1.7%) such as youth unemployment and disenfranchisement as factors contributing to electoral violence and other acts of violence during elections.

Figure 7.11: Primary reasons for Election-Related Violence in Ghana (%)

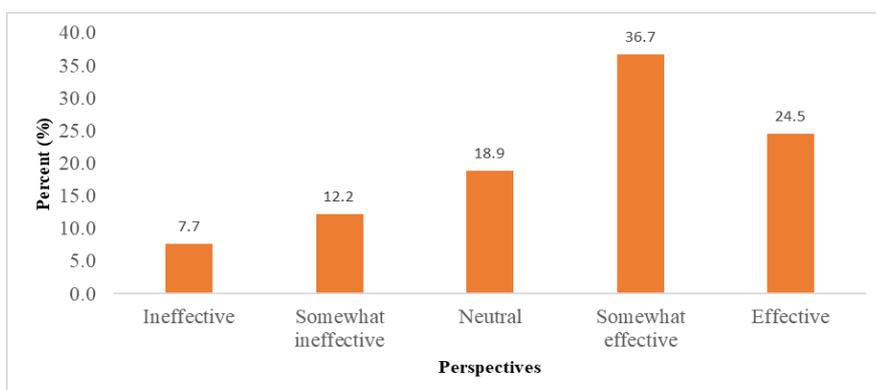


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

7.8 Effectiveness of Law Enforcement and Voter Education in Preventing Election-Related Violence

The role of law enforcement in preventing election-related violence in Ghana is critical. Ghana’s police, military, and other security agencies are responsible for maintaining peace, ensuring the safety of voters, and protecting electoral materials. In recent elections, law enforcement agencies have increased their presence in politically volatile areas to deter violence, with officers deployed at polling stations, collation centres, and hotspot regions. The effectiveness of law enforcement from the perspectives of the study respondents is, however, mixed. More than one-third (36.7%) of the respondents indicated that law enforcement agencies in Ghana were somewhat effective in preventing election-related violence in the country, while about 20% of them indicated that these agencies were ineffective.

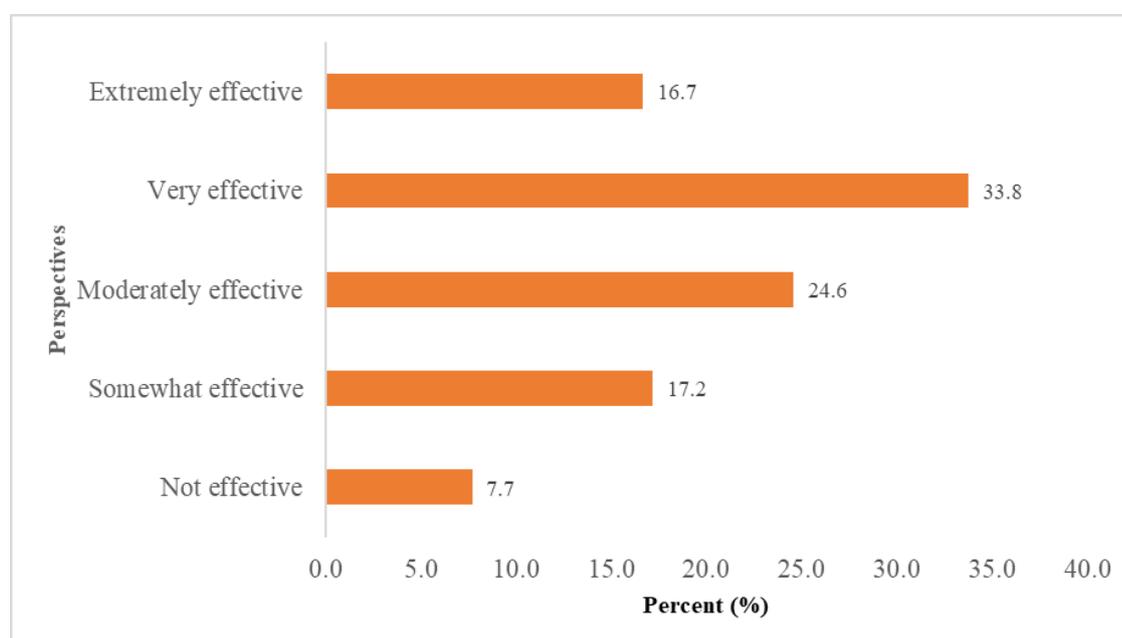
Figure 7.12: Respondents perspective on the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in preventing Election-Related Violence (%)



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Voter education, spearheaded by the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), the Electoral Commission (EC) of Ghana, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), plays a vital role in reducing election-related violence. Initiatives like the NCCE’s media campaigns have helped to diffuse tensions and promote non-violent behaviour among the electorate. Approximately, half (50.5%) of the study respondents indicated that they believed voter education and awareness programs were effective in preventing election-related violence in the country. Less than a tenth (7.7%) of the respondents however believed voter education and awareness programs were ineffective in preventing election-related violence in the country.

Figure 7.13: Effectiveness of Voter education in preventing Election-Related Violence



Source: Survey Data; *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

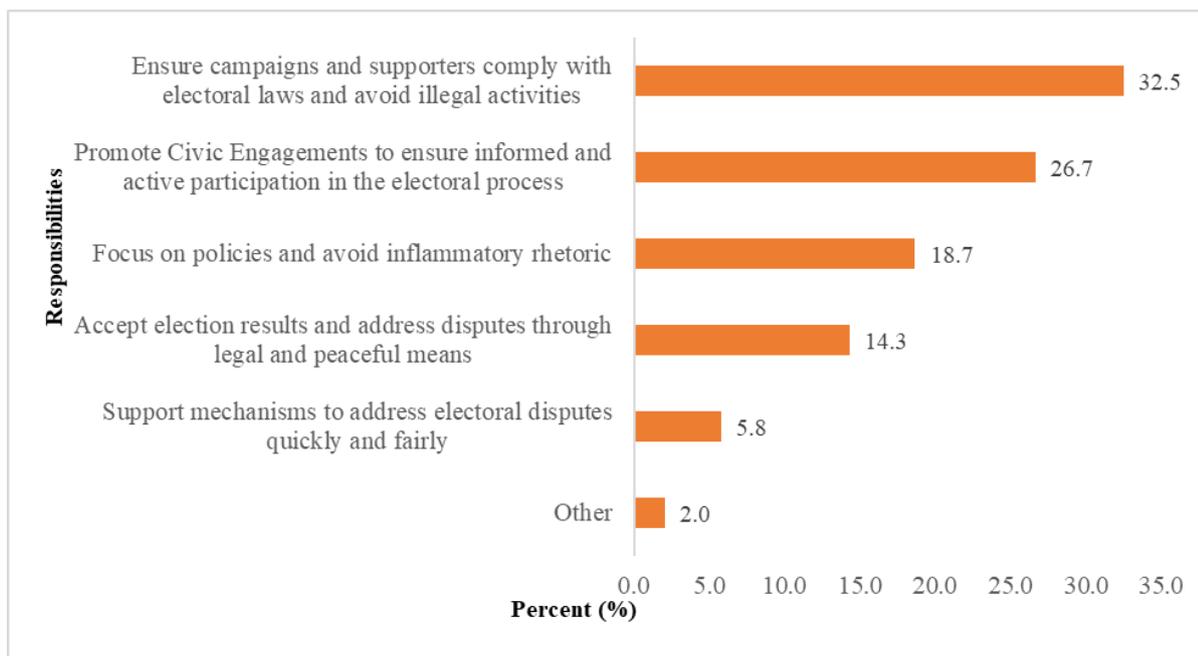
It is worth noting that, while law enforcement and voter education efforts in Ghana have shown effectiveness in reducing election-related violence from citizens’ perspectives, challenges remain in ensuring impartiality, accountability, and wider outreach. A coordinated approach that includes stronger law enforcement, community engagement, and enhanced voter education is necessary to prevent violence in future elections.

7.9 Role of Political Parties and the Electoral Commission in Promoting Peaceful Elections

The political parties and the Electoral Commission (EC) of Ghana play crucial roles in promoting peaceful elections and safeguarding the country’s democratic process. The study assessed the perspectives of the citizenry on the responsibilities of political leaders and parties in promoting peaceful elections in the country. Close to one-third (32.5%) of the respondents indicated that political leaders and parties must ensure that their campaigns and supporters comply with electoral laws and avoid illegal activities. Close to a third expect political leaders and parties to promote civic engagements to ensure informed and active participation in the electoral process, while less than a tenth (5.8%) indicated that there is a need for political leaders and parties to support mechanisms to address electoral disputes quickly and fairly.

Almost 2 in 10 (18.7%) of the respondents believed that political parties have a responsibility to ensure that their campaigns are conducted peacefully, avoiding inflammatory rhetoric and actions that could incite violence among supporters.

Figure 7.14: Responsibilities of political leaders and parties in promoting peaceful elections



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

Regarding the perspectives of respondents on the Electoral Commission’s role of ensuring transparency, fairness, and credibility in the electoral process, to help prevent tensions and violence, 42.1% of them indicated that they believed in the EC to conduct free, fair and credible elections devoid of violence. On the contrary, 15.3% of the respondents do not believe the EC will conduct free, fair and credible elections. Given this, both political parties and the EC must work together to create a stable electoral environment, free from conflict.

CHAPTER EIGHT

VOTER PARTICIPATION, PREFERENCES AND BEHAVIOUR

8.1 Introduction

Voter participation and behavior are critical indicators of democratic governance, reflecting the extent to which citizens are engaged in the political process (Norris, 2002). The 2024 General Elections in Ghana present a critical moment in the country’s democratic evolution, with voter participation, preferences, and behaviour playing pivotal roles in shaping the outcome. Understanding these factors is crucial for predicting electoral outcomes and ensuring a robust democracy. Bratton & Logan (2015) have identified factors such as socioeconomic status, political party affiliation, and key candidate characteristics, playing significant roles in shaping voter behavior. In Ghana, previous elections have demonstrated that while there is generally high voter engagement, patterns of participation and decision-making can vary significantly across regions, age groups, and socio-political factors.

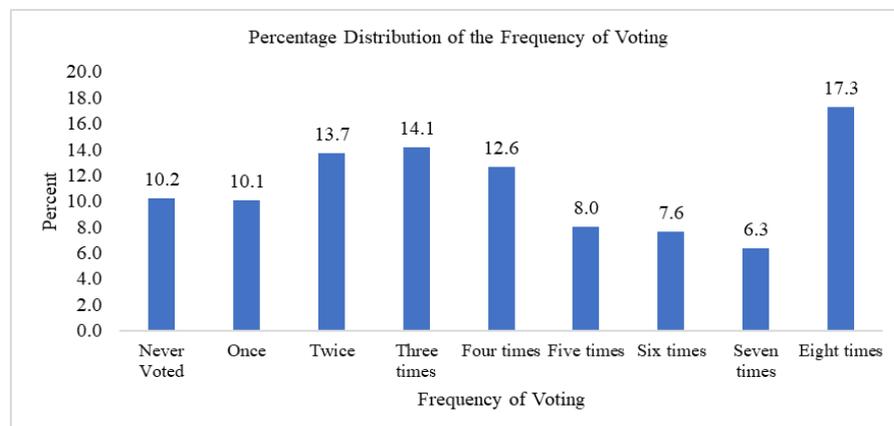
As the 2024 elections draw near, issues such as policy promises, track records, and social influences will likely continue to shape voter preferences. Additionally, concerns around the role of ethnic, religious, and gender considerations in voter behavior remain pertinent, as these elements have historically impacted election outcomes in Ghana (Fridy, 2007). By exploring these dynamics, this chapter seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of factors influencing voter participation, preferences and behavior.

8.2 Voting History and Participation

8.2.1 Voting History

This section presents respondents’ frequency of voting in presidential and parliamentary elections in Ghana since 1992. Close to twenty percent of the study respondents (17.3%) reported having participated in all eight Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. Conversely, approximately a tenth (10.2%) indicated that they had never voted. Following the proportion who had voted in all eight elections were those who had voted three times (14.1%), followed by those who had voted twice (13.7%) and four times (12.6%) while the least had voted six times (7.6%) and seven times (6.3%).

Figure 8.1 Voting History of Participants



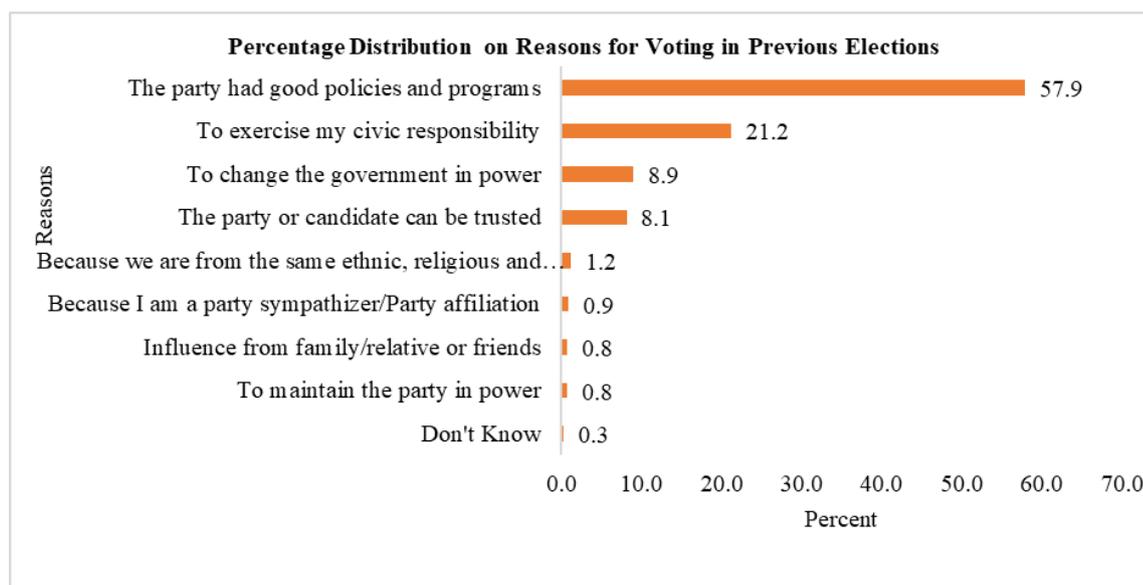
Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

8.2.3 Voter Participation in Previous Election 2020

Respondents' participation in the previous 2020 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections was also assessed. The majority (81.3%) of the respondents reported of participation in the election, while less than a tenth (7.9%) indicated that they did not. A small proportion (0.6%) chose not to disclose their participation in the last elections.

Some reasons given for participation in previous elections included voting based on good policies and programs (57.9%), the exercise of civic responsibility (21.2%), and the intention to change the government in power (8.9%). Additionally, some voters indicated that their participation was influenced by trust in their party or candidate (8.1%), or by shared ethnic, religious, or social backgrounds (1.2%). The least (0.8%) reported voting to maintain the party in power, among other reasons as expressed in Figure 8.3.

Figure 8.2 Reasons for Participating in Previous Elections



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

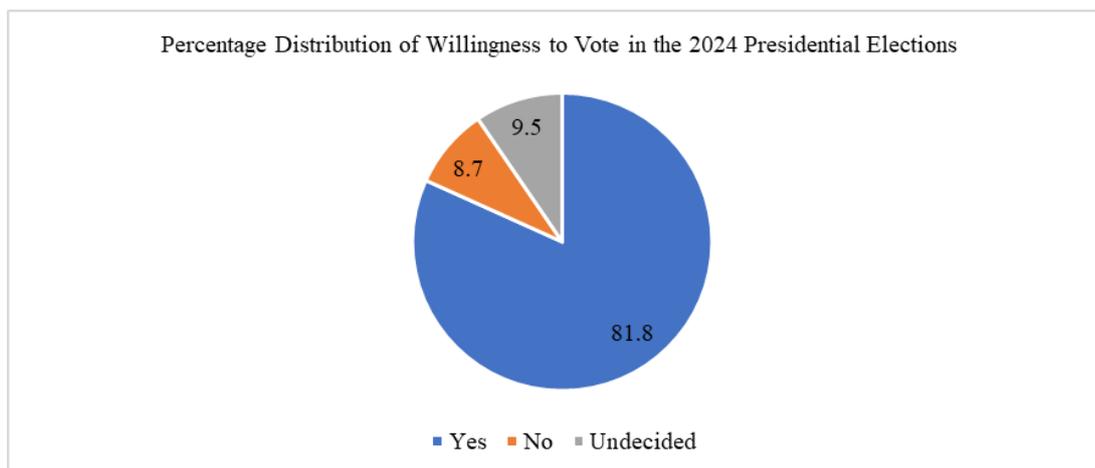
The reasons cited by the 8.8% (737 individuals) who qualified but did not vote in the last elections included their unwillingness to vote (40.8%), indisposed at the time of voting (39.8%), as well as loss of Voter ID card (9.1%). Others included travelling during the elections (5.3%), and the inability to transfer votes to the current location (2.6%).

8.2.3 Voter Participation in the Forthcoming Presidential Elections

Figure 8.3 illustrates respondents' intentions to vote in the forthcoming presidential election. The majority (81.8%) expressed their willingness to vote, indicating a strong anticipated voter turnout and engagement in the forthcoming presidential election.

However, approximately a tenth (9.5%) of respondents remained undecided, while 8.7% expressed their unwillingness to vote. This suggests that while voter commitment is high, there remains a notable portion of the electorate that is either uncertain or disengaged from the electoral process.

Figure 8.3 Voting Intentions in the Forthcoming Presidential Elections



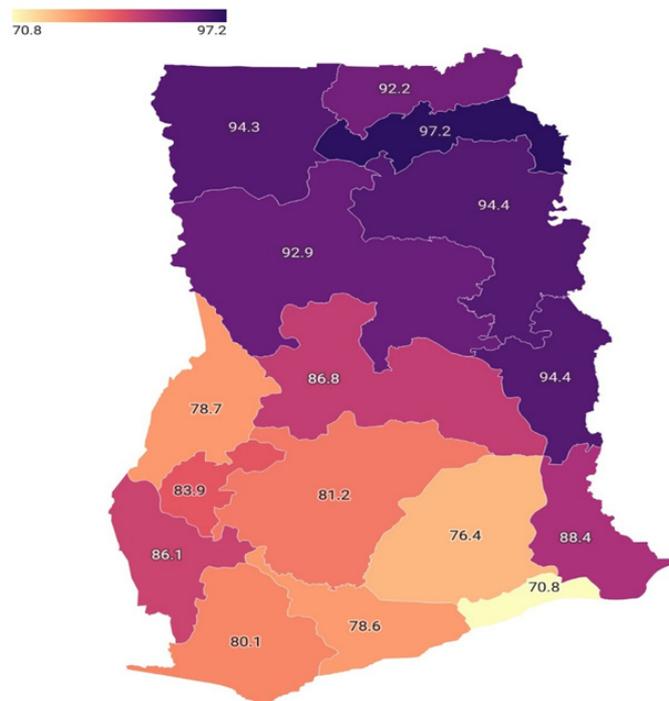
Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024

By sex, more males (84.0%) than females (79.7%) intend to vote in the forthcoming presidential election with relatively higher levels of indecision (10.5%) and non-participation (9.8%) on the part of females than males.

In terms of age, a clear pattern of increased electoral engagement is evident among older respondents with the highest voting intention found among individuals aged 50-59 years (86.1%) and 60 and above (85.5%). In contrast, the younger respondents, particularly those aged 18-20 years (79.4%), and 20-29 years (77.5%) reported relatively lower levels of voting intentions and highest levels of indecision (8.5% and 11.2%) respectively.

Voting intentions in the forthcoming Presidential Election across the sixteen regions showed that North East (97.2%), Northern (94.4%), Upper West and Oti (94.4%) regions had the highest levels of willingness to vote. In contrast, the Greater Accra Region reported the lowest (70.8%), followed by the Central Region (78.6%) and the Bono Region (78.7%) as depicted in Figure 8.5.

Figure 8.4 Voting Intentions in the Forthcoming Presidential Elections by Region (%)

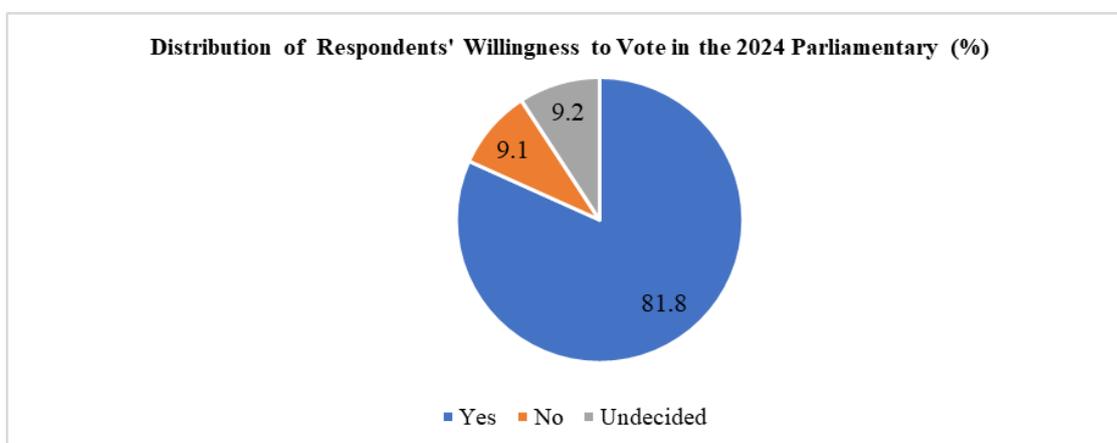


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

8.2.4 Voter Participation in the Forthcoming Parliamentary Elections

Figure 8.7 presents an overview of respondents’ intentions to vote in the forthcoming Parliamentary Elections. The majority of respondents (81.8%) expressed their intention to vote, while 9.1% (843) indicated their unwillingness with 9.2% (856) of respondents remaining undecided.

Figure 8.5 Voting Intentions in the Forthcoming Presidential Elections by Region



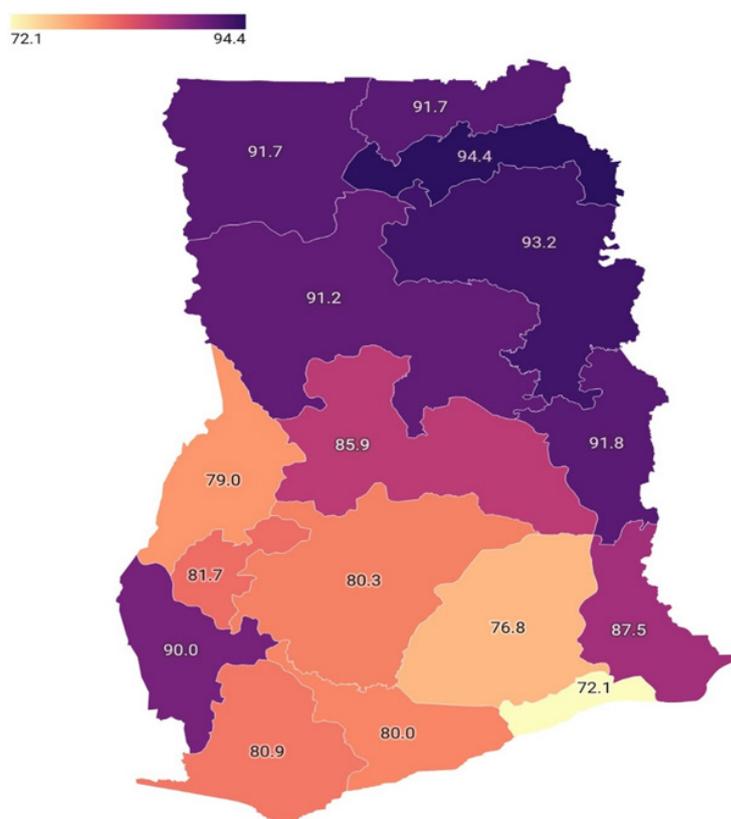
Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

By sex, more males (84.1%) than females (79.6%) expressed willingness to vote in the forthcoming parliamentary elections. More females than males showed slightly lower voter engagement, with relatively higher intention not to vote (10.6%) and indecision (9.8%).

Among the various age groups, a clear trend of increasing voter engagement was also observed among older age groups 50-59 (85.8%), 60 and above (84.8%), and 40-49 (83.1%) compared to younger age groups 30-39 (79.4%), 18-19 (79.4%) 20-29 (78.8%) who showed a slight decline in willingness to vote and a relatively higher levels of indecision.

Across the sixteen regions North East (94.4%), Northern (93.2%), and Upper West and Upper East (91.7%) regions had the highest levels of voter commitment. On the other hand, Greater Accra (72.1%), Eastern (76.8%), and Bono (79.0%) showed the least intention to vote with relatively high levels of unwillingness and indecision as represented in Figure 8.8.

Figure 8.6 Willingness to Vote in Forthcoming Parliamentary Elections (%)



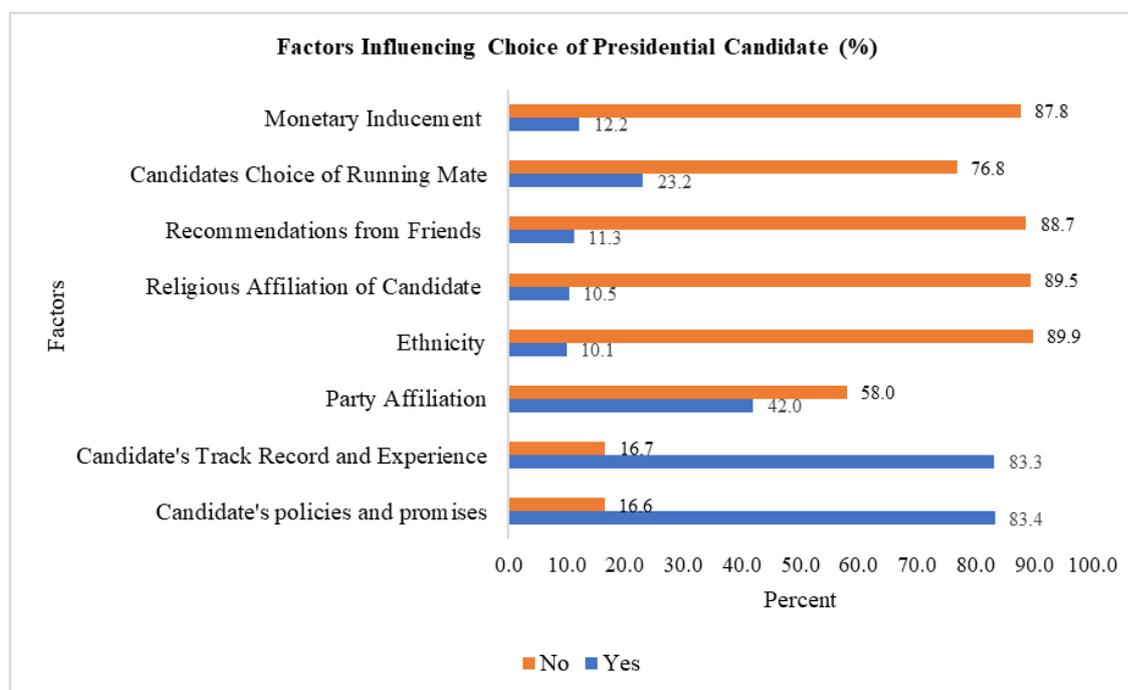
Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

8.3 Voter Preference and Behaviour

8.3.1 Factors Influencing the Choice of Presidential Candidate

Figure 8.10 outlines factors that would influence voters’ choice of presidential candidate in the 2024 elections. The most influential factors found were the candidate’s policies and promises (83.4%) and the candidate’s track record and experience (83.3%). This suggests that the electorate prioritizes substantive qualities related to leadership capabilities and political vision. In contrast, less than half (42.0%), and close to a fourth (23.2%) of respondents respectively consider party affiliation and the candidate’s choice of running mate as significant factors in determining the choice of candidate to vote for. Other factors such as monetary inducements (12.2%), recommendations from friends (11.3%), ethnicity (10.1%), and religious affiliation (10.5%) have minimal influence on voters’ choices.

Figure 8.7 Factors Influencing the Choice of a Presidential Candidate



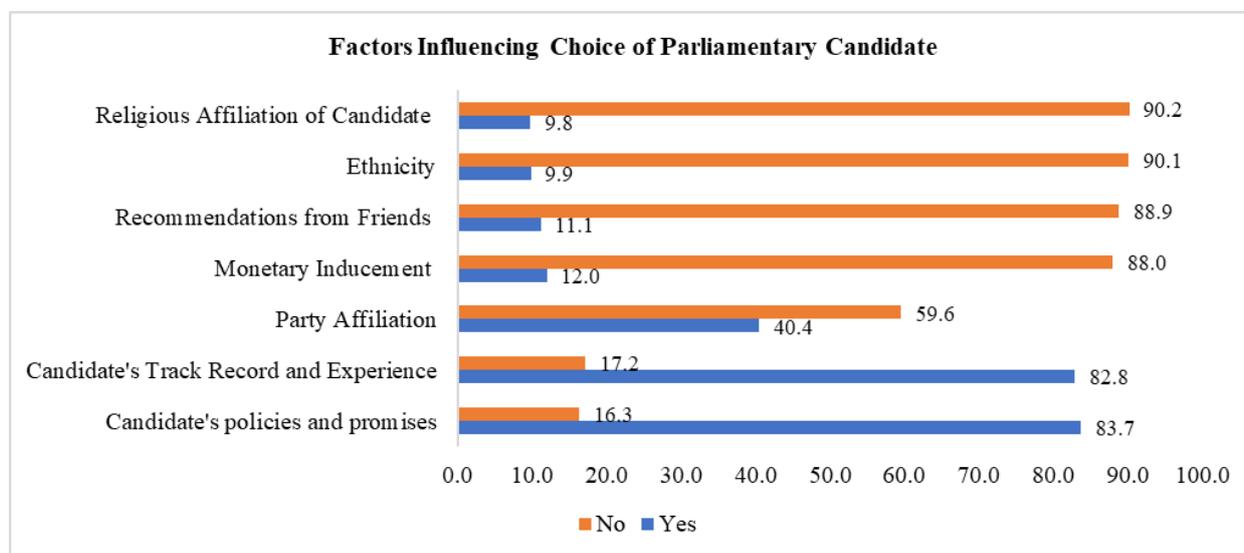
Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024

8.3.3 Factors Influencing the Choice of Parliamentary Candidate

Similar to that of determinants for choice of a presidential candidate, factors influencing the choice of a parliamentary candidate in the 2024 elections had the candidate’s policies and promises (83.7%) and the candidate’s track record and experience (82.8%) as the most significant influencing factors.

In contrast, factors such as party affiliation (40.4%), monetary inducements (12.0%), recommendations from friends (11.1%), ethnicity (9.9%), and religious affiliation (9.8%) were observed as having minimal impact on voters’ decisions, similar to the findings for presidential candidates.

Figure 8.8 Factors Influencing Choice of Parliamentary Candidate



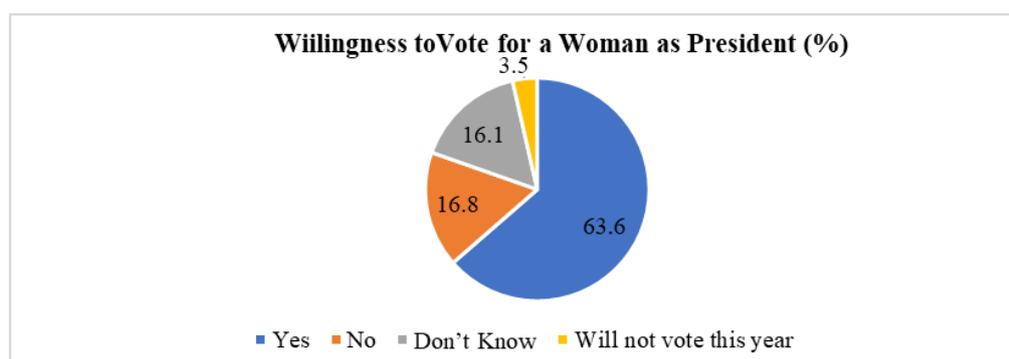
Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

8.4 The Role of Gender on Voter Preferences

8.4.1 Voter Preference for a Female President

Respondents were asked whether they would vote for a woman as president if a female candidate were to run for the forthcoming presidential elections. The majority, 63.6% indicated they would vote for a woman as president. However, 16.8% were not in support while others were undecided (16.1%).

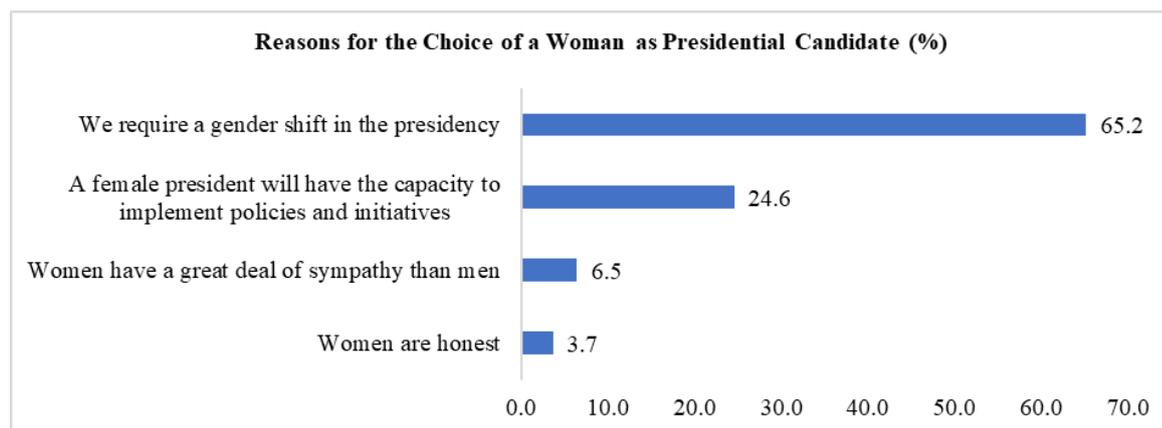
Figure 8.9 Voter Preference for a Woman Candidate



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

The most frequently cited reason was the need for a gender shift in the presidency (65.2%) followed by the belief that a female president would have the capacity to effectively implement policies and initiatives (24.6%). Other reasons cited included the fact that, women are more sympathetic (6.5%) and honest (3.7%) than men as depicted in Figure 8.11.

Figure 8.10 Reasons for the Choice of a Woman Presidential Candidate

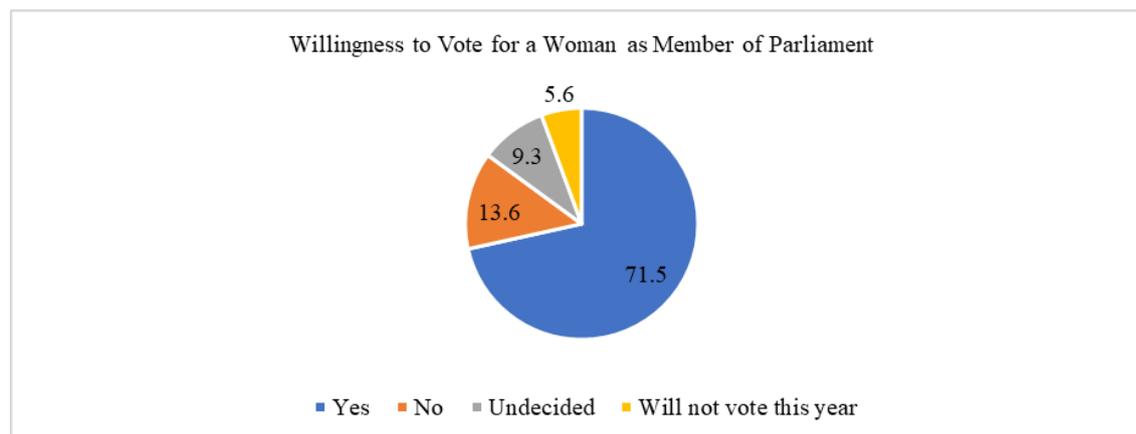


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

8.4.2 Voter Preference for a Woman as Presidential Candidate

On the willingness to vote for a woman as a Member of Parliament (MP) if a female candidate was presented, a strong majority (71.5%) responded in the affirmative, suggesting broad support for female representation in Parliament. In contrast, 13.6% stated otherwise while 9.3% were undecided.

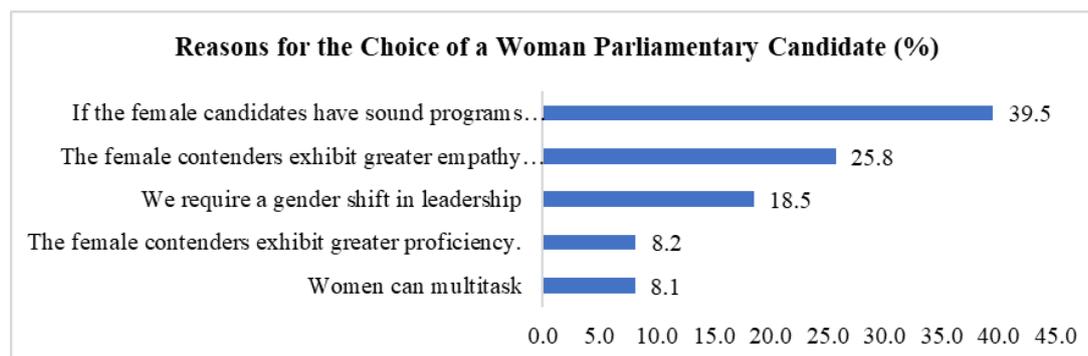
Figure 8.11 Voter Preference for a Woman as Parliamentary Candidate



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

The topmost reason cited for the preference for a female MP is the expectation that female candidates would present sound programs and policies (39.5%). This was followed by those who value female contenders’ empathy and sympathy in leadership (25.8%) and support a gender shift in leadership (18.5%). A smaller percentage mentioned perceived proficiency (8.2%) and multitasking ability (8.1%) as factors.

Figure 8.12 Reasons for the Choice of a Woman Parliamentary Candidate



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

8.4.3 Reasons for Low Participation of Women in Governance

The study further explored the key factors contributing to the low participation of women in both national and local governance.

The perceived factors by respondents included culture and social norms, specifically the need for husband’s permission (22.2%) followed by negative attitudes toward women in leadership positions (20.8%). Other reasons include the unwillingness of women to present themselves as candidates for elections (18.6%) and financial challenges (7.2%).

CHAPTER NINE

CONFIDENCE IN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND DEMOCRATIC GROWTH

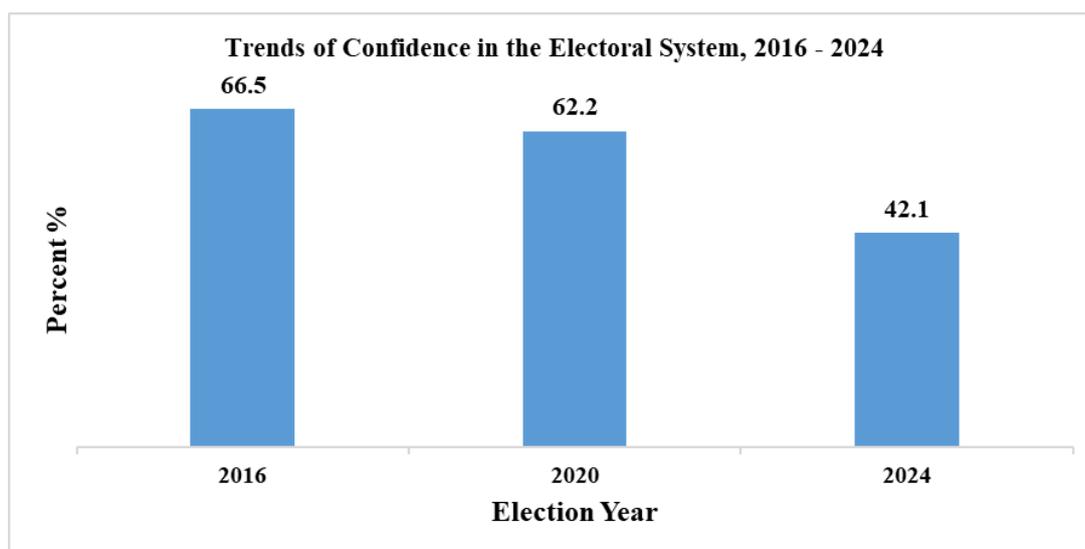
9.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the perspectives of citizens on the electoral system in Ghana. It also assessed the respondents’ perspective on the country’s democratic growth focusing on some indicators of democratic governance and development. The chapter highlights study respondents’ perceptions about the electoral system in the conduct of free, fair and credible elections by the constitutionally mandated body, the Electoral Commission (EC). It also assessed the Electoral Commission’s ability to uphold the democratic principles as well as the need for electoral reforms. Of particular, the section also explored these issues in relation to some selected background characteristics of the study respondents. Also, this section explored study respondents’ participation in the National Commission for Civic Education’s activities like the presidential and parliamentary candidates’ debates as well as its relevance to democratic growth. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for maintaining a strong and responsive democracy in Ghana.

9.2 Trends of Confidence in the Electoral System

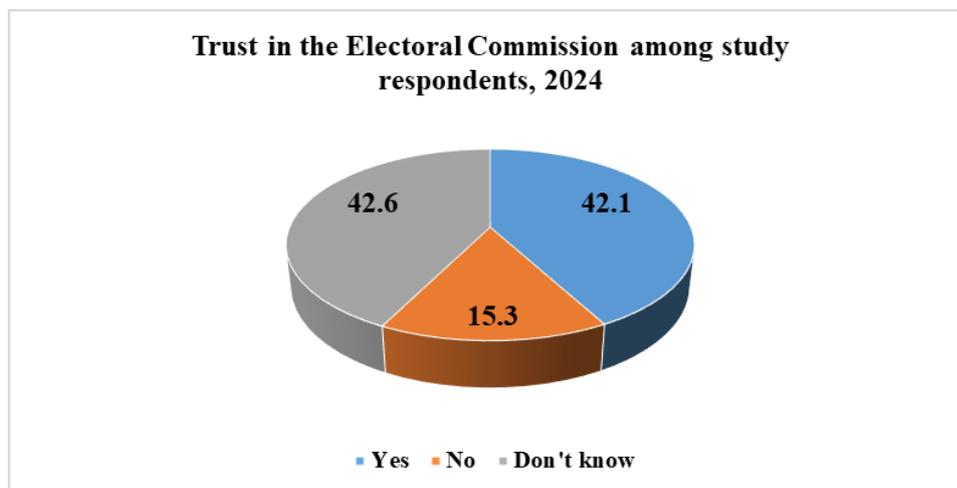
Comparatively, there has been an observed decline in the proportion of respondents who had confidence in the electoral system in terms of the EC conducting free, fair and credible elections (Figure 9.1). This has implications for the country’s electoral process. In 2016, the proportion of respondents who indicated that they trusted the EC to conduct a free, fair and credible election was 66.5%. This declined to 62.2% in 2020 and further to 42.1% in 2024. Given this trend, there is a need for the Electoral Commission to strengthen its transparency and communication efforts to build trust and re-assure the electorates to boost their confidence in the Commission, especially, given that nearly half of the study respondents in 2024 remained doubtful or unsure about its capabilities.

Figure 9.1: Trends of confidence in the Electoral System



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

Figure 9.2: Trust in the Electoral Commission



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

9.3 Trust in the Electoral Commission

The study assessed perspectives regarding the confidence in the Electoral Commission to conduct free, fair and credible elections (Figure 9.2). A total of 42.1% (3,924) of respondents indicated that they had confidence in the EC to conduct free, fair and credible elections while 42.6% (3,969) were uncertain. The proportion of respondents who did not have confidence in the EC to conduct free, fair and credible elections were 15.3% (1,431).

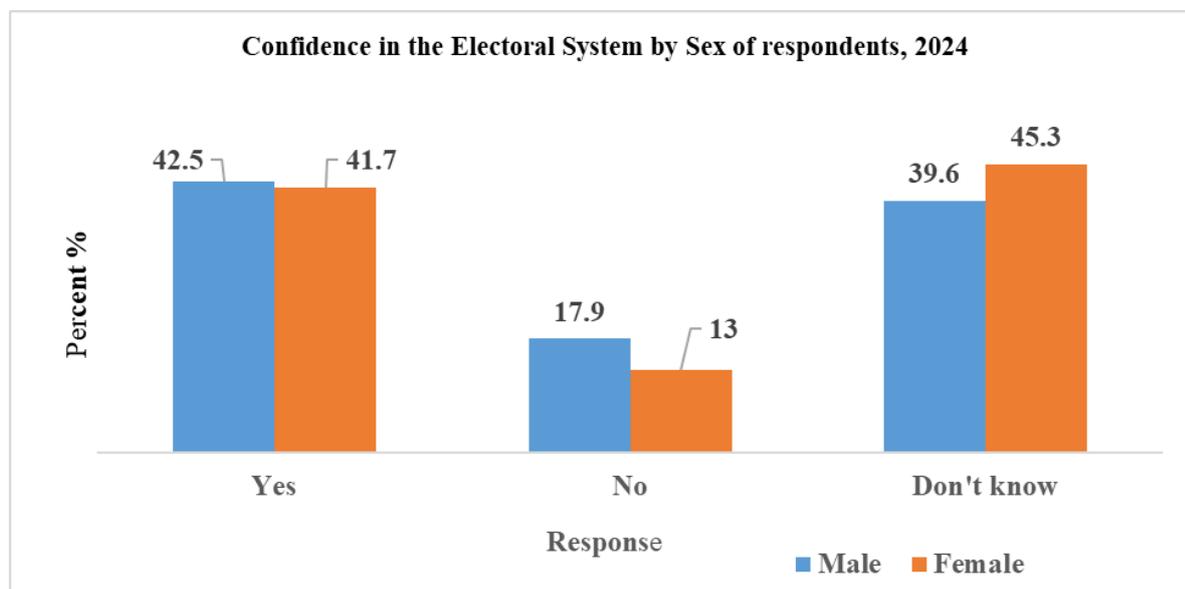
9.3.1 Confidence in the Electoral System by Age

In relation to age and perception of whether the Electoral Commission (EC) will conduct free, fair, and credible elections, the result was mixed and varied significantly across different age groups. The proportion of individuals who had trust and confidence in EC increased as age increased. Approximately 3 in every 10 (29.7%) of study respondents aged 18-19 years indicated they had confidence in the EC, and more than one-third (39.2%) of those aged 20-29 years held similar opinions. It was further observed that almost half (47.9%) of those aged 60 and above expressed confidence in the EC’s ability to conduct credible elections.

9.3.2 Confidence in the Electoral System by Sex

With reference to sex and confidence in the EC, slightly more males (42.5%) than females (41.7%) had confidence in the EC to conduct free, fair, and credible elections (Figure 9.3).

Figure 9.3: Confidence in the Electoral System by Sex

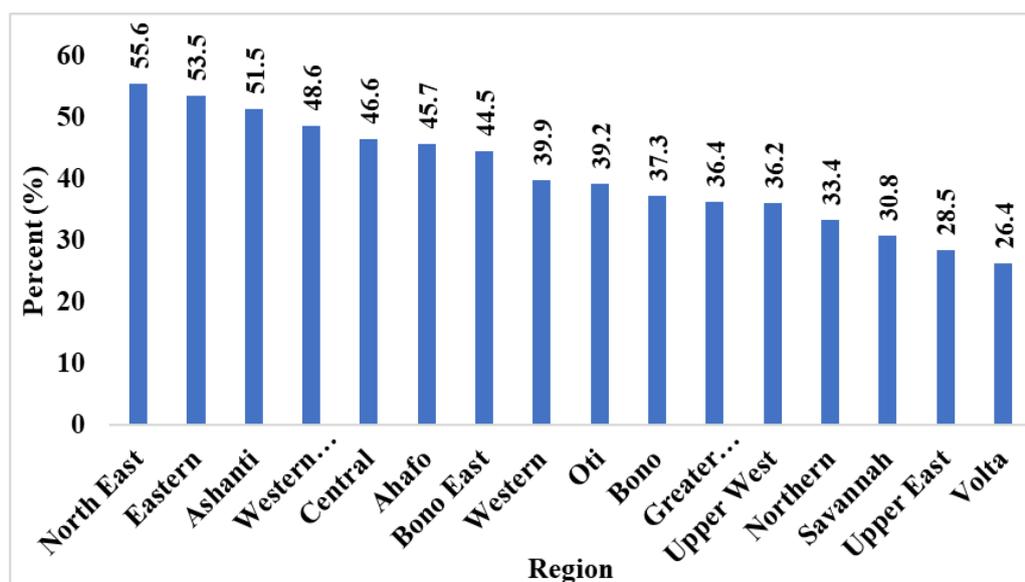


Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024

9.3.3 Confidence in the Electoral System by Region of study respondents

Regionally, the proportion of the respondents who indicated that they had confidence in the EC to conduct free, fair, and credible elections, ranged from 26.4% (Volta region) to 55.6% (North East region) as shown in Figure 9.4.

Figure 9.4: Confidence in the electoral system by Region

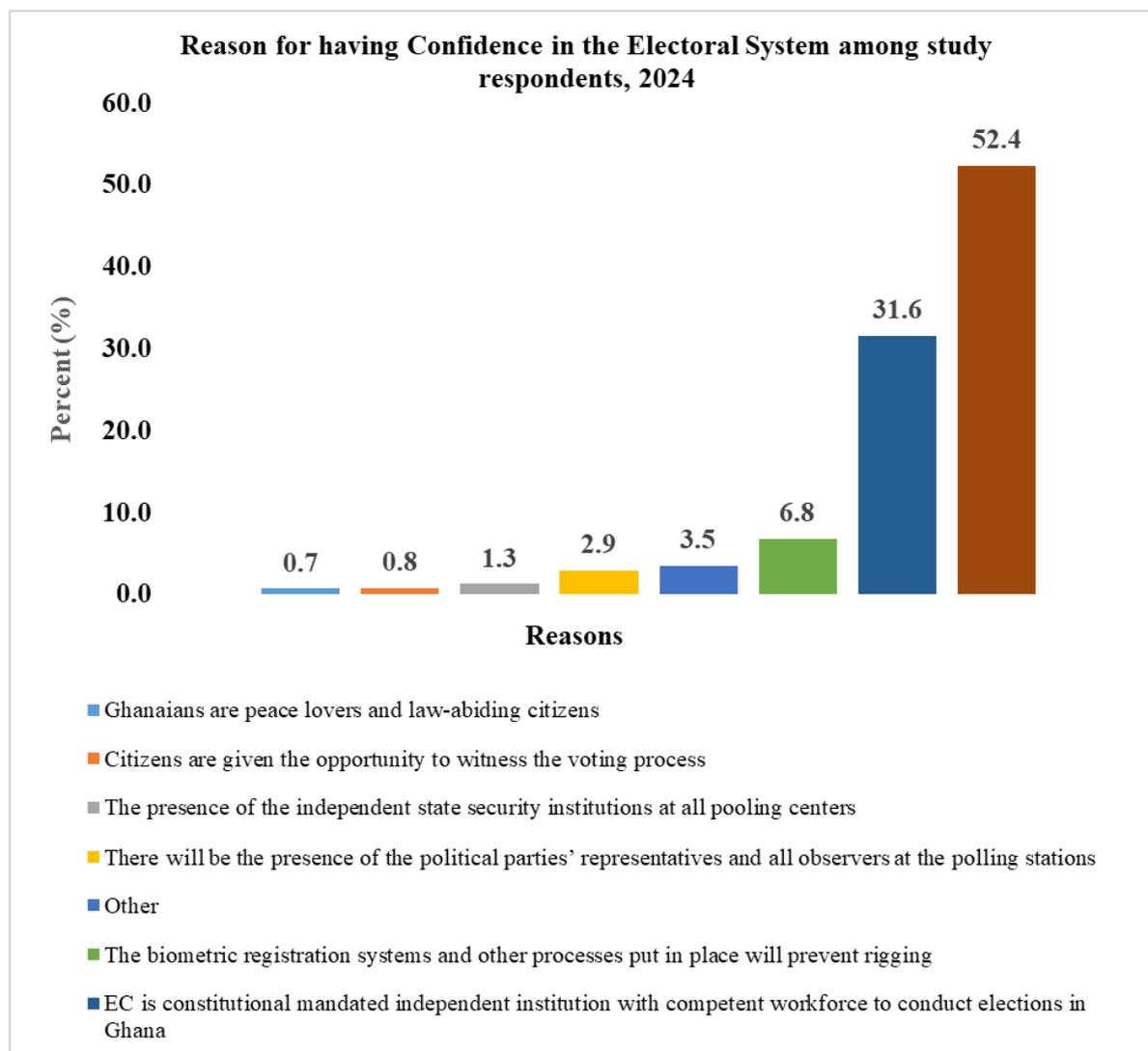


Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024.

9.4 Reasons associated with Confidence in the Electoral System

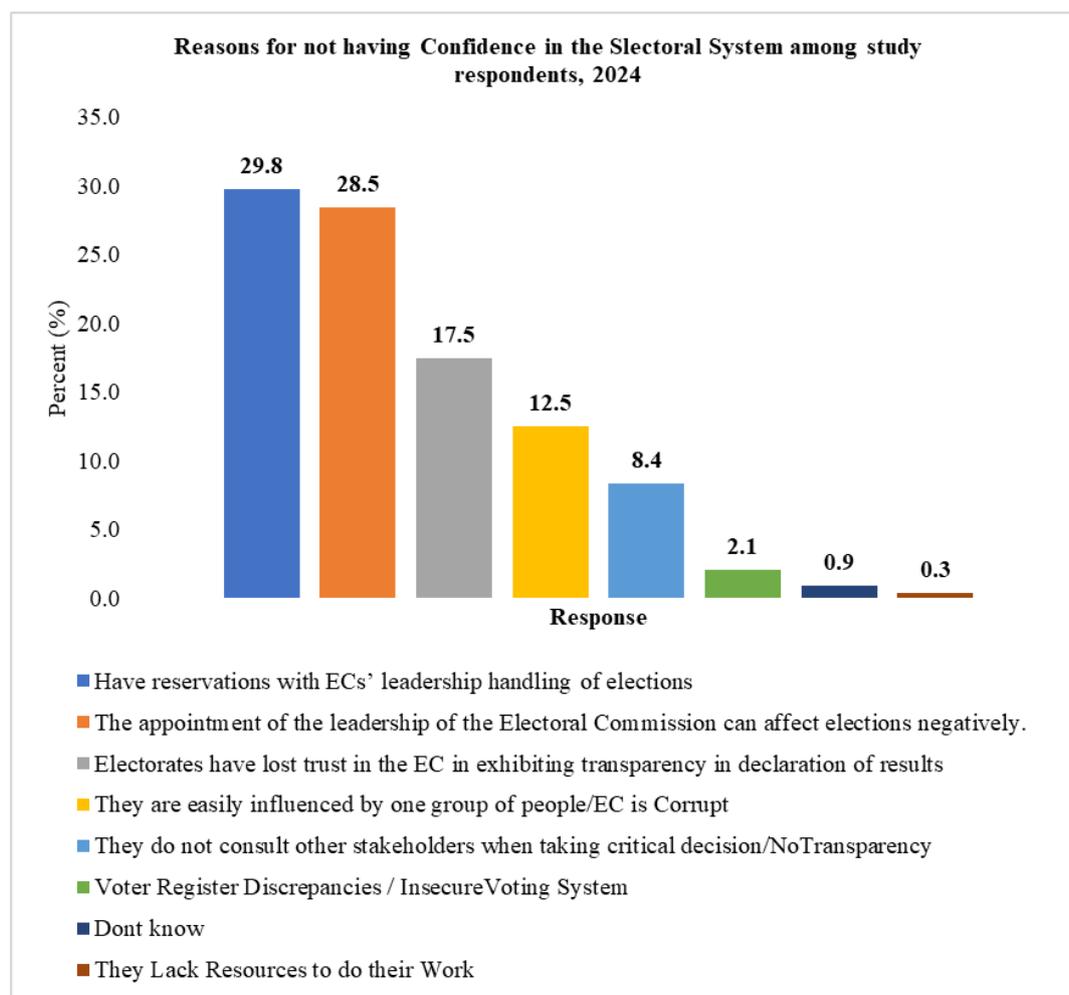
Respondents who expressed confidence as well as those who did not expressed confidence in the EC to carry out a free, fair and credible election were asked to elaborate on their responses. Among study respondents who indicated confidence in the EC, more than half (52.4%) averred that the EC has a track record of organizing successful free, fair and credible elections (Figure 9.5). Other key cited reasons included “EC is a constitutional mandated independent institution with competent workforce to conduct elections in Ghana” mentioned by 31.6% and 6.8% indicated that the biometric registration systems and other processes put in place will prevent rigging.

Figure 9. 5: Reasons for having Confidence in the Electoral System



On the other hand, among those who expressed no confidence in the EC to carry out its mandate, 29.8% indicated that they have reservations with EC’s leadership’s handling of the upcoming elections (Figure 9.6). While 28.5% said the appointment of the leadership of EC can affect elections negatively, 17.5% mentioned that electorates have lost trust in the EC in exhibiting transparency in declaration of results. The least proportion (0.3%) indicated reason was the lack of resources for EC to perform their work.

Figure 9. 6:Reasons for not having Confidence in the Electoral System

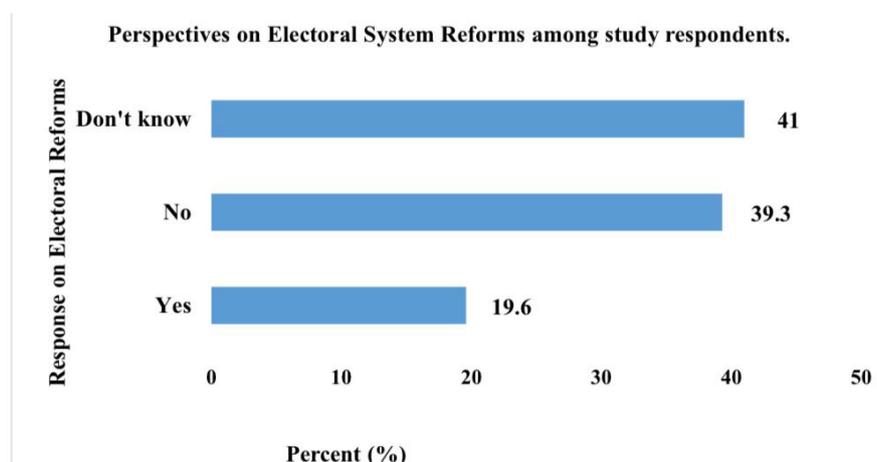


Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024

9.4 Perspectives on Electoral System Reforms

On the issue of proposed Electoral System Reforms, Figure 9.7 shows that about 1 in every 5 (19.6%) wanted the current system to be changed while 2 in 5 (39.3%) suggested otherwise. A proportion of 41.1% were unsure of the need for a change in Electoral System Reform.

Figure 9.7: Perspectives on Electoral System Reforms among respondents

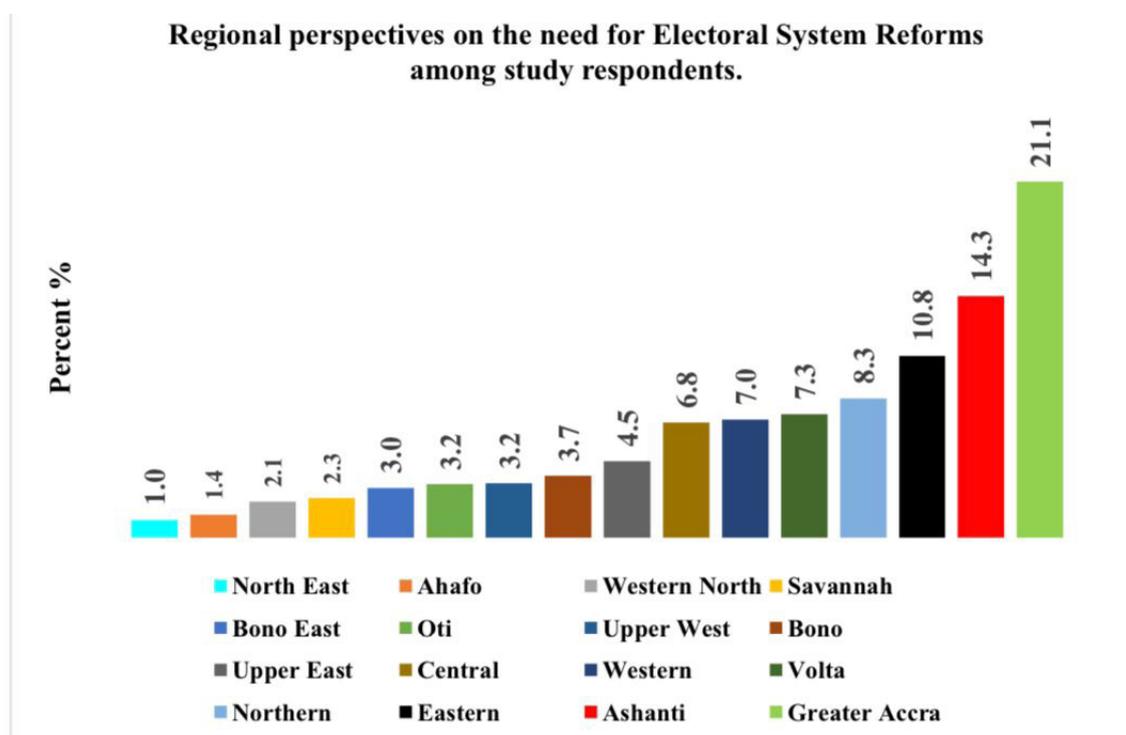


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

9.4.1 Perspectives on Electoral System Reforms by Region

Regionally, the proportion of the respondents who indicated that they wanted changes in the Electoral system of Ghana was highest in Greater Accra (21.1%), followed by Ashanti (14.3%) and then the Eastern region (10.3%) (Figure 9.8). The rest of the regions had less than 10.0% of the share of the need for electoral system reforms. North East region had the least with a proportion of 1.0%.

Figure 9.8: Regional perspectives on the need for Electoral System Reforms

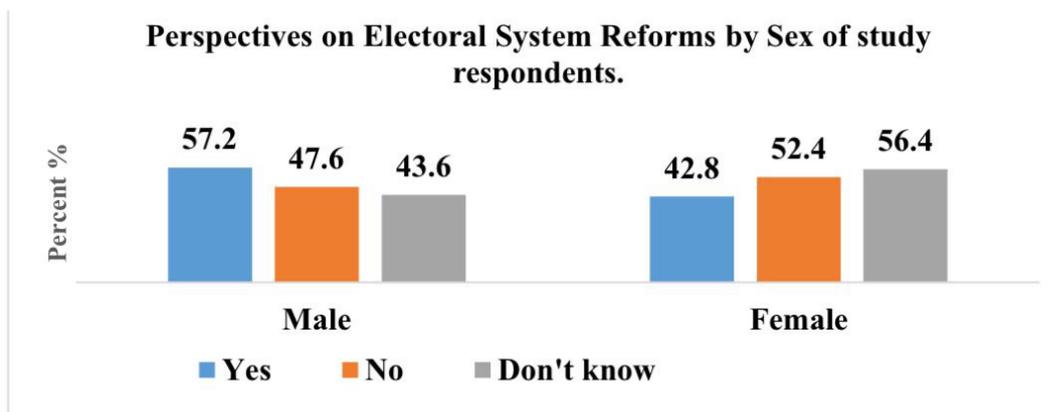


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

9.4.2 Perspectives on Electoral System Reforms by Sex

With respect to sex, slightly more males (57.2%) than females (42.8%) of the respondents indicated that they wanted changes in the Electoral system of Ghana (Figure 9.9). The reverse was true for those who did not expect any changes in the country’s electoral reforms by sex.

Figure 9.9: Perspectives on Electoral System Reforms by Sex

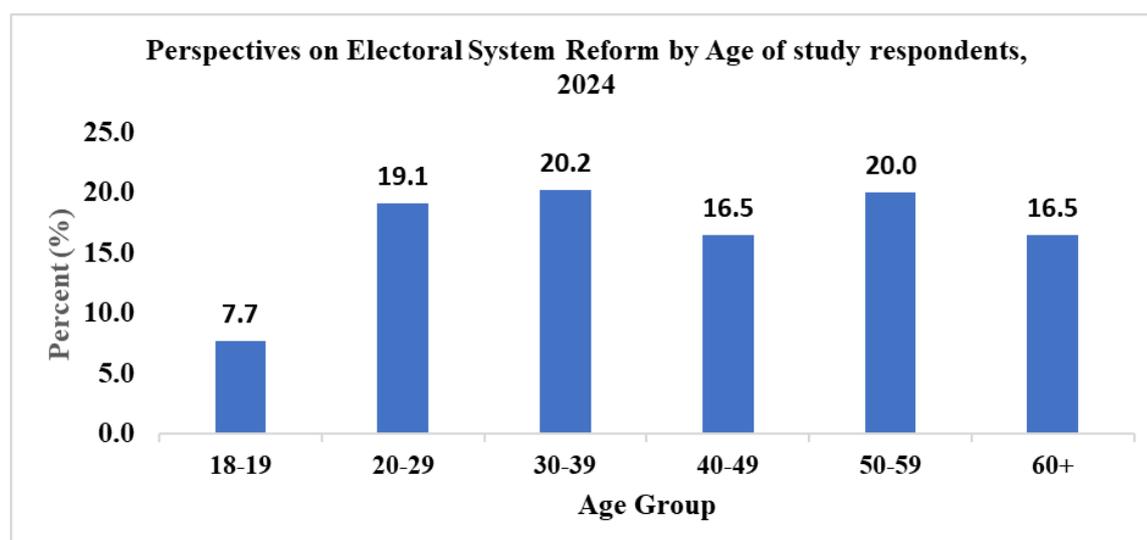


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

9.4.2 Perspectives on Electoral System Reforms by Age

Among respondents who expected to see reforms, 7.7% were in the adolescent age group (18-19 years) while 1 in every 5 were in the age brackets 30-39 years and 50-59 years respectively (Figure 9.10). On the other hand, those in the age groups 40-49 years and 60 years or older constituted 16.5% respectively.

Figure 9.10: Perspectives on Electoral System Reforms by Age



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024.

9.5 Recommended reforms to Ghana’s Electoral System

Among study respondents who suggested the need for electoral system reforms, more than one-third (35.4%) advocated for improvements in the biometric voting technology to ensure timely registration of new voters (Table 9.1). Further, 26.7% called for the neutrality and transparency of the Electoral Commission in free and fair conducts of elections. Some 9.5% of the study respondents suggested the election of Chairmen of the Commission rather than by appointment. Additionally, less than one percent of these respondents recommended the need for the Electoral Commission to work in unity with all political parties (0.8%) and lastly, the need to prosecute persons engaged in election-related offences (0.5%).

Table 9.1 Recommended reforms to Ghana’s Electoral System among study respondents.

Response	Percent (%)
EC should improve upon/ advance the biometric voting technology to capture new registrants timely	35.4
EC should be neutral, transparent, free and fair in the conduct of the elections	26.7
EC’s Chairman should not be appointed/ EC Chairman should be elected	9.5
Electoral laws on voting procedure should be strictly adhered to	5.5
Change the EC Chairman	5.4
Create more polling stations	4.0
Security personnel should act professionally/ tight security during voting	3.9
Don't know	3.3
Adequate training for polling agents/ EC officials/ party agents to act professionally	2.0
Educate the Electorate	1.8
EC should involve stakeholders	1.1
EC should work in unity with all political parties	0.8
Persons who engage in election related offences must be prosecuted	0.5
Others	0.1
TOTAL	100

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

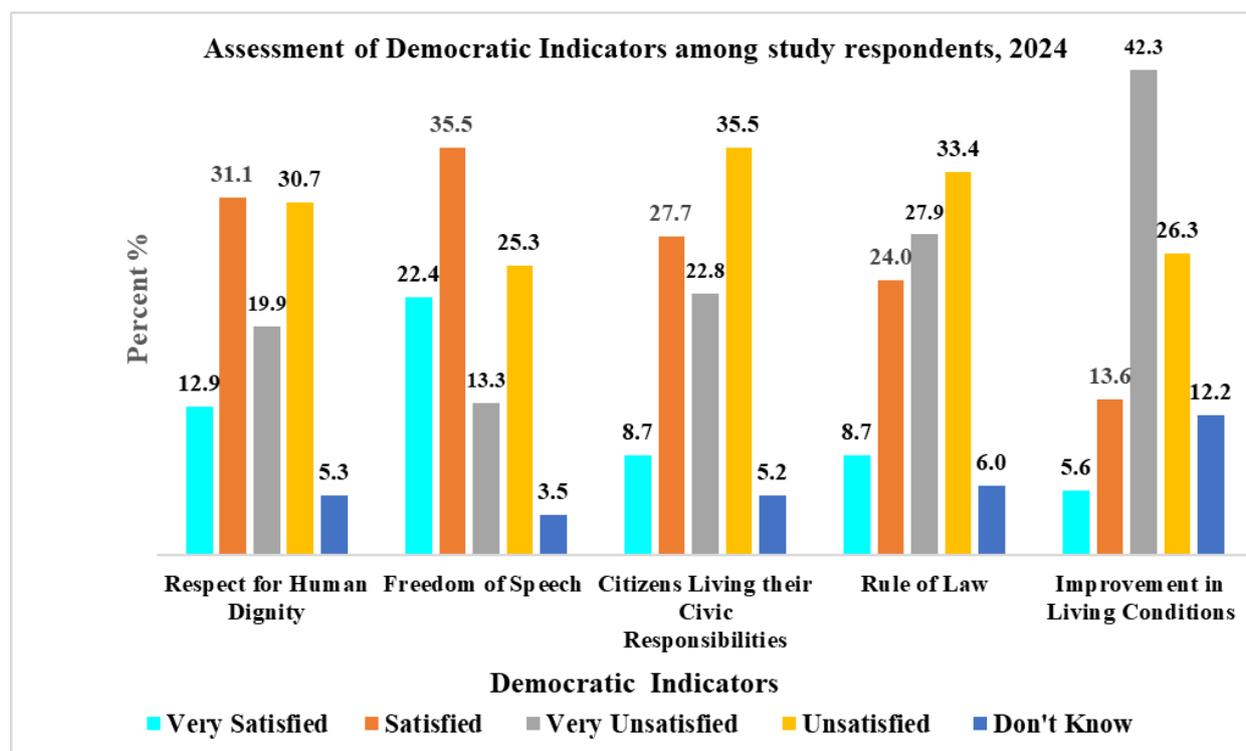
9.6 Assessments of Democratic Indicators: Performance and Challenges

Respondents provided their opinions on the country’s performance across five essential democratic indicators (Figure 9.11). The key indicators of democracy included on the list were respect for human dignity, freedom of speech, citizens living to their civic responsibilities, rule of law, and improvements in living conditions. About 58.0% of the respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with the progress made in freedom of speech while that of respect for human dignity was 44.0%.

However, almost half or more than half of the study respondents were not very satisfied or not satisfied with the country’s progress on democratic elements such as citizens living up to their civic responsibilities, the rule of law and improvement in the living conditions respectively.

Many Ghanaians feel there is more work to be done to improve these areas, especially in ensuring that all citizens actively participate in civic duties and uphold the principles of the law. The perceived lack of improvement in living standards is a critical component of democratic satisfaction and stability. Hence, the connection between economic conditions and the stability of democracy is well-documented, and in Ghana, this is an area of concern.

Figure 9.11: Assessments of Democratic Indicators



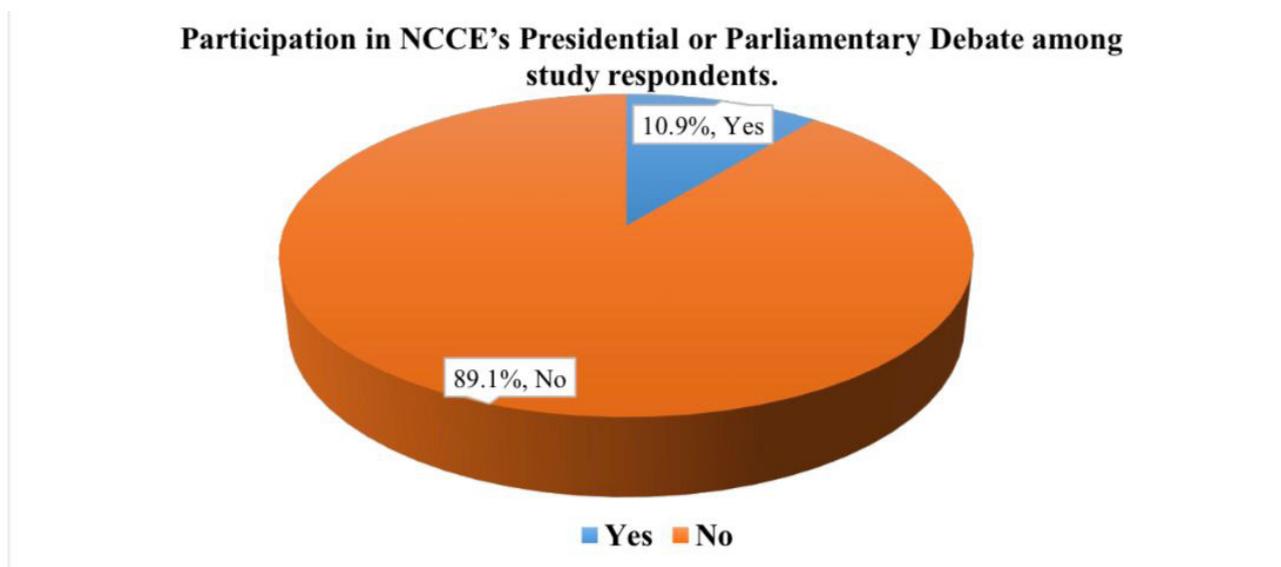
Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

9.7 Respondents' involvements in NCCE's Presidential or Parliamentary Candidates'

Debates

A one in every 10 of the study respondents reported to have ever participated in NCCE's Presidential or Parliamentary Debate exercises (Figure 9.12). This comprised of 1,012 respondents compared to 8,312 (89.1%) who had never taken advantage of this opportunity. This shows the low participation of citizens in the activities of the NCCE. There is the need for NCCE to strengthen its communication and education to improve participation and involvements.

Figure 9.12: Participation in NCCE’s Presidential or Parliamentary Debate

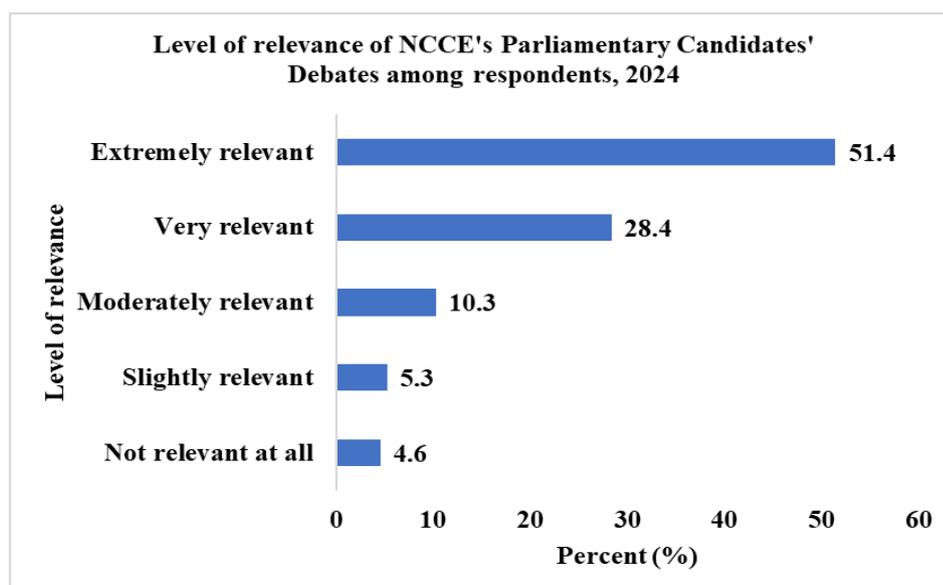


Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

9.7.1 Relevance of NCCE’s Parliamentary Candidates’ Debates

On study respondents’ views on NCCE’s Parliamentary Candidates’ Debates, Figure 10.13 showed that 51.4% averred that it fosters engagements with their parliamentary candidates on their developmental needs. Hence, the exercise is extremely relevant. Additionally, 28.4% indicated that the debates were very relevant in fostering engagements with their parliamentary candidates on developmental needs. Only 1 in every 20 of the study respondents stated that such debate activities were not relevant at all in meeting their developmental needs with the parliamentary candidates.

Figure 9.13: Relevance of NCCE’s Parliamentary Candidates’ Debate



Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024



9.7.2 Reasons associated with the Relevance of NCCE’s Parliamentary Candidates’ Debates

Table 9.2 displays the level of relevance and associated reasons among respondents who reported that the NCCE’s debate activities were either extremely or moderately relevant. A 58.8% of those who mentioned that the Debate activities were extremely relevant and 43.0% of those who said moderately relevant attributed it to the reason that such dialogues create platforms for candidates to dialogue with the citizens on their policies and manifestoes.

The other most cited reasons for study respondents who viewed the debate activities to be very relevant were the dialogue provides an avenue for NCCE to educate the electorates on the need to ensure peace and tolerant (20.0%), and the activities helping voters to make informed decisions and decide who to vote for (13.6%). Among those who asserted that the debate activities were moderately relevant, other most mentioned were that the exercise helped the voters make informed decisions and decide who to vote for (17.7%), and that previous dialogues had fostered the redress of citizens concerns (12.1%). While the least cited reason among those who viewed these debates to be moderately relevant was that the dialogue creates cordiality and unity among the candidates and political parties (2.5%), this did not feature for those who saw such activities to be extremely relevant (Table 9.2).

These findings indicate that while the dialogues are seen as highly relevant for policy discussions and voter education, skepticism remains regarding their impact on accountability and meaningful development outcomes.

Table 9.2: Relevance of NCCE’s Parliamentary Candidates’ Debates as cited among respondents

Level of Relevance	Reasons for the Relevance of NCCE’s Parliamentary Candidates’ Debates								TOTAL
	It creates a platform for candidates to dialogue with the citizens on their policies and manifestoes	It enables the citizens to hold the candidate accountable to their promises	Previous dialogues have fostered the redress of citizens concerns	It helps the voters make informed decisions and decide who to vote for	The dialogue provides an avenue for NCCE to educate the electorates on the need to ensure peace and tolerant	Don’t know	Other	The dialogue creates cordiality and unity among the candidates and political parties	
EXTREMELY RELEVANT (%)	58.8	4.2	1.0	13.6	20.0	2.2	0.2	0.0	100.0
MODERATELY RELEVANT (%)	43.0	3.8	12.0	17.7	9.5	3.8	7.6	2.5	100.0

Source: Survey Data, Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, August 2024

Table 10.3 shows the reasons cited among those who viewed the debate activities to be slightly relevant or not relevant at all. While 44.7% attributed it to the fact that the debates do not lead to any meaningful engagement and positive outcome on developmental needs, 29.8% mentioned that candidates do not fulfil their promises, so there was no need for them to engage in such dialogues.

The lack of participation from major political parties also made such debates not relevant. This was indicated among 8.5% of those who viewed such activities to be slightly relevant or not relevant at all (Table 10.3).

Table 9.3: Non-Relevance of NCCE’s Parliamentary Debate among study respondents

Reasons for the non-relevance of NCCE's Parliamentary Debates	Not Relevant (%)
There is lack of participation from the major political parties	8.5
The candidates do not fulfil their promises, so there is no need for them to engage in dialogue	29.8
Participation of the electorates/citizens is normally low	8.5
The debate does not lead to any meaningful engagement and positive outcome on developmental needs	44.7
Don't know	8.5
TOTAL	100

Source: Survey Data, *Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter*, August 2024

CHAPTER TEN

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Introduction

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) has been instrumental in collecting data on citizens' concerns through its "Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter" study, initiated in 2004. In accordance with the 1992 Constitution's mandate of addressing democratic challenges arising from social inequalities, the study has provided critical insights into voter behavior and electoral issues. This 2024 edition sought to thoroughly examine the concerns and priorities of voters, including emerging issues of vote-buying, election-related violence, and the factors shaping voter behavior. Understanding these dynamics is essential for fostering informed electoral discourse, and strengthening the inclusivity and transparency of Ghana's democratic process.

The survey was conducted across all 16 regions of Ghana. The research utilized a cross-sectional descriptive quantitative design to generalize findings from a sample of 9,324 respondents, derived from a total eligible population of 17,931,673. The sampling involved a combination of simple random sampling and systematic sampling techniques to ensure representative participation from both urban and rural settings, with a focus on inclusivity for women and persons with disabilities. The study achieved a high response rate of 99.8%, and data was collected using a structured questionnaire, validated through pretesting, and administered by trained research assistants. The data collection spanned 17 days, employing electronic devices for efficient management and monitoring. Data analysis was conducted using IBM SPSS Statistics. Ethical considerations included obtaining necessary permissions and consent from relevant stakeholders and respondents.

10.2 Summary of Findings

Profile of Study Respondents

The age range of respondents is 18 to 96 years, with a mean age of 41. The sample comprised 52.2% females and 47.8% males, aligning with national demographics. The majority (84.7%) had received formal education while 15.3% had never attended school, with a higher proportion of uneducated respondents being females. Employment status revealed that 40.4% were self-employed without employees, while 21.7% were unemployed, and the most common occupations included trading (19.3%) and skilled manual work (18.6%). More than half of the respondents were married (53.2%), and the predominant religious affiliation was Christianity (72.6%). Lastly, 6.1% of respondents were identified as persons with disabilities, which is lower than the national average of 8%, with a higher proportion of males living with disabilities compared to females.

Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter

On Matters of Concern to the Ghanaian Voter, the study identified 19 major themes including Education, Employment, Health, Economy, Roads & Infrastructure, Agriculture, Social Services (Sanitation, KVIPs, Water), Women and Children's needs, Corruption, Youth Development, Security, Energy, Needs of

PWDs, Social Intervention Policies, Taxes & Tariffs, Housing, Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Environmental and Climate Change, Sports, and others (Rule of law, Patriotism etc.).

Of the issues mentioned, Education, Employment, Health, Roads and Infrastructure and Economic issues were ranked as the top five concerns, while ICT, Environmental and Climate Change, and Sports were least prioritized. Issues were categorized into upper, middle, and lower groups based on their rankings. There were variations in the ranking of these issues across demographic groups, including region, sex, age, educational level, and disability status, revealing distinct priorities influenced by these factors. For instance, Education was the most important concern across most regions.

Four regions (Ashanti, Central, Savannah, and Western) emulated the national ranking of Education, Employment, Health, Roads & Infrastructure, and Economy as top five concerns. Other regions displayed differences with Education being the top concern in most regions, particularly Savannah (22.7%). Health ranked second in seven regions while Employment was ranked the highest in Greater Accra and Bono East.

In terms of Sex, female voters prioritized Women and Children's Needs more than males. Younger voters were more focused on Sports and ICT, while older voters emphasized Security and Agriculture. Among Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Education, Health, and Specific Needs of PWDs were the top concerns. Overall, the study provided a comprehensive analysis of voter priorities, illustrating how different groups' concerns influenced the ranking of issues.

Specific Voter Demands

The study assessed the respondents on the specific demands they would want the Government to address regarding their identified developmental concern. In education, respondents prioritized the expansion of educational facilities, improving funding, and reforming policies. Employment demands focused on job creation, skills training, and better working conditions. In health, voters sought the expansion of health infrastructure, improved National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) coverage, and the provision of modern facilities. Roads and infrastructure concerns centered on constructing and maintaining roads and ensuring contractor accountability. Economic issues included calls for policies to stabilize the economy, reduce taxes, and support for local industries. Middle-ranked concerns encompassed agriculture, social services, women's and children's needs, and anti-corruption measures, while lowest-ranked demands addressed taxes, housing, and environmental protection.

Vote-Buying in Ghana's Elections

The study assessed study participants knowledge, attitudes, and experiences on vote-buying. Generally, respondents understood the concept of Vote-Buying, with the majority identifying it as offering money or goods in exchange for votes. A smaller proportion (9.2 percent) saw it as promising future benefits, and fewer considered it a corrupt act or the selling of voting rights. A notable minority (6.9%) did not know what vote-buying was. This knowledge gap was notable in the North East region and among females.

On the causes of vote-buying, respondents highlighted both demand-side and supply-side factors. Poverty and economic vulnerability were major reasons for voters to engage in vote-buying, while candidates engaged in it to gain electoral advantage or remain in power.

The study also pointed out institutional factors such as weak enforcement of electoral laws. Regarding the prevalence of vote-buying, 38.5% of respondents believed it was extremely prevalent,

while 13.8% thought it was not prevalent. Over 70% of the respondents indicated that they were unlikely to engage in vote-buying. However, about 18% of them reported that they were willing to exchange votes for incentives, with females more likely to do so than males.

In terms of experience with vote-buying, more than one-third (36.3%) of the respondents reported witnessing it, and approximately one out of every five (19.3%) had been approached with vote-buying offers. The Western North region had the highest number of respondents approached for vote-buying (27.9%), with males and adult respondents more likely to be approached than their counterparts. The impact of vote-buying on Ghana's democratic governance was significant, with 64.3% of respondents stating that it influenced election outcomes. Vote-buying was seen as undermining free and fair elections, perpetuating corruption, distorting accountability, and eroding public trust in the electoral system. Preventing vote-buying was seen as requiring stronger enforcement of electoral laws (40.5%), increased voter education (38.4%), and empowering civil society to monitor elections. However, more than half (56.7%) of the respondents believed the government was not doing enough to tackle the issue, and only 10% of respondents were very confident that future elections would be free from vote-buying.

Election-Related Violence

The study respondents identified political competition, ethnic tensions, electoral fraud and disputed results, and socioeconomic issues as primary triggers of electoral violence, threatening the country's democratic stability.

On the awareness of Pre-Existing Violence, close to twenty percent (19%) of the respondents were aware of pre-existing violence in their constituencies, with knowledge and awareness varying by region and constituency. For instance, the Northern region had the highest awareness at 34.3%, while the Western North region had the lowest at 10.4%. Awareness was also higher among older adults and males. In terms of causes, 60.8% of respondents attributed pre-existing violence to election-related issues, while 19% cited chieftaincy disputes.

On witnessing of Election-Related Violence, twelve percent of the respondents indicated that they had witnessed election-related violence, with regional variations, with 5% experiencing it personally. Eighty-four (0.9%) of the respondents indicated a willingness to engage in election-related violence to satisfy their party's interest, 54 (64.3%) males and 30 (35.7%) females. Many (29.8%) of them were aged 30-39 years and were from the Volta region. Perception of electoral malpractices and loyalty to one's party were the dominant reasons cited by respondents for their willingness to engage in Election-Related Violence.

Regarding the effectiveness of law enforcement and voter education in preventing violence, there were mixed perspectives. About 37% of the respondents believed that law enforcement agencies were somewhat effective, while 50.5% thought voter education played a significant role in reducing violence. However, there is room for improvement in these areas to enhance impartiality and accountability.

Lastly, political parties and the Electoral Commission (EC) are crucial in promoting peaceful elections. Approximately thirty-three (32.5%) of the respondents believed political leaders should ensure lawful campaigns, and 42.1% trusted the EC to conduct free and fair elections devoid of violence.

Voter Participation, Behavior and Influence

The analysis on voting history and participation among Ghanaian voters showed that, 17.3% of respondents had participated in all eight Presidential and Parliamentary Elections since 1992. Approximately, ten percent (10.2%) never voted. In the 2020 elections, 81.3% of respondents participated, with key motivators being good policies, fulfilment of civic duty, and the desire for change. For upcoming elections, 81.8% intended to vote, though indecision and unwillingness were noted, particularly among females and younger voters. Notable factors influencing candidate's choice include policies, experience, and track record of candidate, with minimal impact from ethnicity or inducements. A majority expressed support for female candidates, citing a desire for gender shift and effective policy implementation, while cultural norms and financial challenges were seen as barriers to women's participation in governance.

Confidence in the Electoral System and Democratic Growth

The study examined citizens' confidence in Ghana's Electoral System and its implications for democratic growth. It also explored respondents' perceptions of the Electoral Commission's (EC) ability to conduct free, fair, and credible elections. It highlighted a declining trend in public confidence in the EC, from 66.5% in 2016 to 42.1% in 2024, suggesting a growing distrust in the electoral process. The analysis also showed variations in trust based on age, sex, and region, with older individuals and those in the North East region expressing higher confidence in the EC. The reasons behind varying levels of confidence, include satisfaction with the EC's track record and concerns over its leadership and transparency. Many respondents advocated for improvements in biometric voting technology (35.4 percent), enhanced neutrality (26.7 percent), and transparency of the EC.

An assessment of the country's performance across five essential democratic indicators showed that more than half (58.0%) of the respondents were satisfied with the progress made in freedom of speech while that of respect for human dignity was 44.0%. However, more than half of the study respondents were not satisfied with the country's progress on democratic elements such as citizens living up to their civic responsibilities, the rule of law and improvement in living conditions. Additionally, the study explored respondents' engagement with the NCCE's activities, emphasizing the need for greater public involvement to strengthen Ghana's democratic framework.

Conclusion

The study examined the key Matters of Concern to Ghanaian Voter and explored voting behaviors, attitudes and experiences and perspectives on Vote Buying, providing insights into key electoral issues ahead of the 2024 elections.

Findings highlighted that education, employment, and health were the top priorities for the citizens (voters) while vote-buying and election-related violence posed significant threats to democratic stability.

The data underscored the critical need for improved voter education, enhanced law enforcement, and targeted policy interventions to address voters' demands and foster peaceful elections.

The findings emphasized the importance of addressing social inequalities and ensuring issue-based political discourse to enhance voter participation and trust in the electoral process.

Ultimately, this research provides valuable guidance for policymakers, electoral bodies, Civil Society Organisations and political parties in shaping a more inclusive, transparent, and responsive democratic environment in Ghana.

1.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the following are recommended;

1. Strengthening Enforcement of Electoral Laws to Combat Vote-Buying and Violence

It was observed that the citizen's trust and confidence in the Electoral Commission was on the decline and some called for reforms of the electoral systems and laws. Therefore, the Electoral Commission, Police, and Judiciary must collaborate to enforce existing electoral laws, prosecute offenders, and ensure a transparent and accountable electoral process to address the issues of vote-buying and election-related violence. Public confidence in law enforcement agencies should be bolstered through impartial and effective actions.

2. Address Socioeconomic Drivers of Electoral Misconduct

Socioeconomic vulnerabilities such as poverty and unemployment were observed to be key drivers of Vote-Buying and Election-Related Violence. It was recommended that policymakers prioritize job creation, skills development, and social protection programs to reduce economic hardship and discourage voters from engaging in electoral misconduct.

3. Promote Issue-Based Campaigns and Address Voter Concerns

Inflammatory rhetoric and actions by political leaders and party members were observed to drive and incite party supporters to gravitate towards acts of violence. It was recommended that political parties avoid inflammatory rhetoric and actions and focus on issue-based campaigns that address the pressing concerns of voters, including education, employment, and healthcare. Tailoring campaign messages to the needs of various demographic groups, such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities, will enhance voter engagement and trust.

4. Enhance Inclusivity and Representation in the Electoral Processes

To foster greater participation, there should be deliberate efforts to increase the representation of marginalized groups, including women, youth, and persons with disabilities, in political leadership. This can be achieved through targeted support, mentorship programs, and policy reforms that reduce barriers to entry for these groups in the electoral process.

5. Strengthen the Transparency and Communication Efforts of the Electoral Commission

To address the declining confidence in the electoral system, the EC should prioritize enhancing its transparency and communication with the public. This can include clear and regular updates on electoral processes, greater engagement with stakeholders, and open forums to address public concerns.

Implementing technology-driven transparency measures, such as real-time results tracking and ensuring the neutrality of its leadership, will help rebuild trust and reassure citizens of the EC's commitment to conducting free, fair, and credible elections.

6. Enhance Public Interest in Voter Education and Civic Engagement Programs

The study highlighted low public participation in NCCE activities, which are essential for strengthening democratic growth. There is a need to expand and intensify civic education programs that inform citizens about their civic responsibilities, the rule of law, voter education, the importance of active participation in the electoral process and the dangers associated with vote-buying and electoral violence.

This can be achieved through community outreach, social media campaigns, and interactive platforms that encourage dialogue between citizens and electoral bodies. By increasing awareness and fostering active participation, the NCCE can help empower citizens to hold institutions accountable, thereby enhancing democratic governance in Ghana.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1: REGIONAL RANKING OF ISSUES

Ahafo region	
Issues	Percent
Education	19.9%
Health	13.1%
Employment	12.7%
Agriculture	10.6%
Roads & Infrastructure	9.1%
Social Services	7.2%
Economy	6.1%
Women and Children needs	3.9%
Youth Development	3.6%
Corruption	3.2%
Needs of PWDs	2.2%
Taxes & Tariffs	1.8%
Social intervention policies	1.8%
Energy	1.5%
Security	1.1%
Sports	0.7%
Other	0.5%
Housing	0.4%
ICT	0.4%
Environmental and climate change	0.2%

Bono Region	
Issues	Percent
Education	15.7%
Health	14.0%
Employment	14.0%
Roads & Infrastructure	13.3%
Economy	6.6%
Agriculture	6.5%
Social Services	5.6%
Women and Children needs	3.5%
Corruption	3.4%
Energy	3.0%
Youth Development	2.6%
Taxes & Tariffs	2.6%
Other	2.1%
Social intervention policies	2.0%
Security	1.6%
Needs of PWDs	1.5%
Housing	0.7%
ICT	0.7%
Sports	0.4%
Environmental and climate change	0.2%

Ashanti region	
Issues	Percent
Education	19.1%
Employment	16.2%
Health	12.5%
Roads & Infrastructure	10.3%
Economy	7.8%
Agriculture	5.3%
Social Services	5.0%
Security	3.3%
Corruption	3.3%
Energy	2.7%
Social intervention policies	2.3%
Youth Development	2.1%
Taxes & Tariffs	2.1%
Women and Children needs	2.0%
Other	1.8%
Housing	1.3%
Needs of PWDs	1.1%
Sports	0.7%
ICT	0.6%
Environmental and climate change	0.5%

Central Region	
Issues	Percent
Education	17.8%
Employment	17.6%
Health	11.4%
Roads & Infrastructure	10.3%
Economy	7.6%
Agriculture	6.0%
Social Services	4.3%
Youth Development	4.1%
Women and Children needs	3.4%
Security	3.2%
Corruption	3.2%
Social intervention policies)	2.3%
Other	1.9%
Needs of PWDs	1.8%
Energy	1.6%
Taxes & Tariffs	1.5%
Housing	0.9%
ICT	0.5%
Sports	0.4%
Environmental and climate change	0.2%

Bono East Region	
Issue	Percent
Employment	17.6%
Education	17.5%
Agriculture	10.3%
Health	10.1%
Economy	8.4%
Roads & Infrastructure	7.7%
Corruption	6.4%
Social Services	4.6%
Security	3.4%
Youth Development	2.4%
Women and Children needs	2.2%
Housing	2.1%
Energy	1.9%
Social intervention policies	1.6%
Needs of PWDs	1.5%
Taxes & Tariffs	0.7%
Other	0.6%
Sports	0.4%
Environmental and climate change	0.4%
ICT	0.2%

Northern	
Issues	Percent
Education	18.1%
Health	14.7%
Social Services	12.4%
Employment	11.8%
Agriculture	10.6%
Roads & Infrastructure	5.6%
Economy	4.8%
Women and Children needs	4.4%
Corruption	4.2%
Youth Development	3.0%
Security	2.9%
Social intervention policies	2.1%
Energy	1.6%
Environmental and climate change	1.2%
Needs of PWDs	1.0%
Housing	0.8%
Taxes & Tariffs	0.3%
ICT	0.3%
Other	0.2%

Eastern Region	
Issue	Percent
Women and Children needs	30.1%
Education	14.1%
Employment	9.6%
Health	9.5%
Roads & Infrastructure	7.9%
Agriculture	4.3%
Economy	3.8%
Social Services	3.7%
Needs of PWDs	2.6%
Youth Development	2.2%
Corruption	2.1%
Security	1.8%
Taxes & Tariffs	1.7%
Social intervention policies	1.5%
Energy	1.4%
Other	1.4%
Housing	0.9%
ICT	0.6%
Sports	0.4%
Environmental and climate change	0.4%

North East	
Issues	Percent
Health	20.0%
Education	16.7%
Agriculture	15.9%
Employment	11.8%
Economy	10.1%
Roads & Infrastructure	5.5%
Social Services	4.2%
Youth Development	3.5%
Security	2.2%
Women and Children needs	1.9%
Needs of PWDs	1.9%
Energy	1.7%
Corruption	1.5%
ICT	0.9%
Taxes & Tariffs	0.6%
Housing	0.4%
Environmental and climate change	0.4%
Other	0.4%
Sports	0.2%
Social intervention policies	0.2%

Greater Accra Region	
Issues	Percent
Employment	18.0%
Education	16.9%
Health	12.0%
Roads & Infrastructure	9.6%
Economy	9.3%
Social Services	4.8%
Corruption	4.3%
Agriculture	3.5%
Housing	3.0%
Women and Children needs	2.7%
Security	2.7%
Youth Development	2.7%
Taxes & Tariffs	2.4%
Energy	2.2%
Other	1.7%
Needs of PWDs	1.4%
Social intervention policies	1.1%
Sports	0.9%
Environmental and climate change	0.5%
ICT	0.3%

Oti Region	
Issues	Percent
Education	19.0%
Health	14.1%
Roads & Infrastructure	12.4%
Employment	9.3%
Social Services	9.2%
Agriculture	7.5%
Youth Development	6.0%
Security	4.0%
Economy	3.2%
Women and Children needs	3.0%
Corruption	3.0%
Other	2.0%
Social intervention policies	1.7%
Needs of PWDs	1.4%
Energy	1.3%
ICT	1.3%
Housing	0.7%
Taxes & Tariffs	0.5%
Sports	0.3%
Environmental and climate change	0.1%

Savannah Region	
Issues	Percent
Education	22.7%
Employment	15.8%
Health	15.0%
Social Services	9.2%
Roads & Infrastructure	8.1%
Agriculture	7.3%
Women and Children needs	4.0%
Economy	3.8%
Energy	3.5%
Needs of PWDs	2.4%
Youth Development	2.4%
Security	1.6%
Corruption	1.1%
Social intervention policies	0.9%
Taxes & Tariffs	0.7%
Housing	0.5%
Other	0.5%
ICT	0.3%
Environmental and climate change	0.2%

Upper West Region	
Issues	Percent
Education	20.8%
Health	15.2%
Agriculture	12.8%
Employment	10.9%
Roads & Infrastructure	7.8%
Social Services	6.2%
Economy	5.4%
Security	4.2%
Women and Children needs	3.0%
Energy	2.8%
Social intervention policies	2.1%
Youth Development	1.9%
Needs of PWDs	1.6%
ICT	1.6%
Corruption	1.1%
Housing	1.0%
Taxes & Tariffs	0.8%
Other	0.6%
Sports	0.1%
Environmental and climate change	0.1%

Upper East Region	
Issues	Percent
Education	18.7%
Health	14.0%
Agriculture	11.6%
Employment	9.8%
Roads & Infrastructure	9.8%
Women and Children needs	5.3%
Social Services	5.2%
Economy	5.2%
Security	4.9%
Youth Development	3.9%
Energy	2.8%
Needs of PWDs	2.4%
Corruption	2.3%
Social intervention policies	1.7%
Housing	1.1%
Taxes & Tariffs	0.4%
Other	0.4%
ICT	0.3%
Sports	0.2%

Volta Region	
Issues	Percent
Education	20.8%
Health	15.2%
Agriculture	12.8%
Employment	10.9%
Roads & Infrastructure	7.8%
Social Services	6.2%
Economy	5.4%
Security	4.2%
Women and Children needs	3.0%
Energy	2.8%
Social intervention policies	2.0%
Youth Development	1.9%
Needs of PWDs	1.6%
ICT	1.6%
Corruption	1.1%
Housing	1.0%
Taxes & Tariffs	0.8%
Other	0.6%
Environmental and climate change	0.2%
Sports	0.1%

Western Region	
Issues	Percent
Education	17.7%
Employment	17.6%
Health	13.1%
Roads & Infrastructure	11.6%
Agriculture	6.4%
Economy	5.7%
Corruption	3.9%
Social Services	3.4%
Women and Children needs	2.7%
Housing	2.4%
Youth Development	2.3%
Energy	2.3%
Security	1.9%
Needs of PWDs	1.8%
Social intervention policies	1.8%
Other	1.6%
Taxes & Tariffs	1.3%
Environmental and climate change	1.0%
ICT	0.9%
Sports	0.6%

Western North	
Issues	Percent
Education	17.9%
Employment	14.4%
Roads & Infrastructure	12.3%
Health	10.7%
Economy	9.6%
Agriculture	8.2%
Social Services	4.8%
Social intervention policies	3.1%
ICT	2.7%
Taxes & Tariffs	2.5%
Youth Development	2.1%
Corruption	2.1%
Energy	2.0%
Environmental and climate change	1.6%
Women and Children needs	1.5%
Needs of PWDs	1.4%
Other	1.3%
Housing	1.2%
Security	0.6%

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF CONSTITUENCIES

No.	Constituency
1	Abetifi
2	Abirem
3	Ablekuma Central
4	Ablekuma North
5	Ablekuma South
6	Ablekuma West
7	Abuakwa North
8	Abuakwa South
9	Abura/Asebu/Kwamankese
10	Achiase
11	Ada
12	Adaklu
13	Adansi Asokwa
14	Adenta
15	Afadjato South
16	Afigya Kwabre North
17	Afigya Kwabre South
18	Afigya Sekyere East
19	Afram Plains North
20	Afram Plains South
21	Agona East
22	Agona West
23	Agotime-Ziope
24	Ahafo Ano North
25	Ahafo Ano South East
26	Ahafo Ano South West
27	Ahanta West
28	Ajumako/Enyan/Essiam
29	Akan

No.	Constituency
30	Akatsi North
31	Akatsi South
32	Akim Oda
33	Akim Swedru
34	Akrofuom
35	Akropong
36	Akwapem South
37	Akwatia
38	Amasaman
39	Amenfi Central
40	Amenfi East
41	Amenfi West
42	Anlo
43	Anyaa-Sowutuom
44	Aowin
45	Asante Akim Central
46	Asante Akim North
47	Asante Akim South
48	Asawase
49	Asene-Akroso-Manso
50	Ashaiman
51	Asikuma/Odoben/Brakwa
52	Asokwa
53	Assin Central
54	Assin North
55	Assin South
56	Asunafo North
57	Asunafo South
58	Asuogyaman

No.	Constituency
59	Asutifi North
60	Asutifi South
61	Atebubu-Amantin
62	Atiwa East
63	Atiwa West
64	Atwima Kwanwoma
65	Atwima Mponua
66	Atwima Nwabiagya North
67	Atwima Nwabiagya South
68	Awutu Senya East
69	Awutu Senya West
70	Ayawaso Central
71	Ayawaso East
72	Ayawaso North
73	Ayawaso West Wuogon
74	Ayensuano
75	Banda Ahenkro
76	Bantama
77	Bawku Central
78	Bekwai
79	Berekum East
80	Berekum West
81	Bia East
82	Bia West
83	Biakoye
84	Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai
85	Bimbilla
86	Binduri
87	Bodi

No.	Constituency
88	Bole Bamboi
89	Bolgatanga Central
90	Bolgatanga East
91	Bongo
92	Bortianor-Ngleshie Amanfro
93	Bosome Freho
94	Bosomtwe
95	Buem
96	Builsa North
97	Builsa South
98	Bunkpurugu
99	Cape Coast North
100	Cape Coast South
101	Central Tongu
102	Chereponi
103	Chiana-Paga
104	Daboya-Mankarigu
105	Dade Kotopon
106	Daffiama Bussie Issa
107	Damongo
108	Domeabra-Obom
109	Dome-Kwabenya
110	Dormaa Central
111	Dormaa East
112	Dormaa West
113	Effia
114	Effiduase / Asokore
115	Effutu
116	Ejisu

No.	Constituency
117	Ejura Sekyedumase
118	Ekumfi
119	Ellembelle
120	Essikado-Ketan
121	Evalue-Gwira
122	Fanteakwa North
123	Fanteakwa South
124	Fomena
125	Garu
126	Gomoa Central
127	Gomoa East
128	Gomoa West
129	Guan
130	Gushiegu
131	Hemang Lower Denkyira
132	Ho Central
133	Ho West
134	Hohoe
135	Jaman North
136	Jaman South
137	Jirapa
138	Jomoro
139	Juaben
140	Juaboso
141	Kade
142	Karaga
143	Keta
144	Ketu North
145	Ketu South

No.	Constituency
146	Kintampo North
147	Kintampo South
148	Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirem
149	Korle Klottey
150	Kpandai
151	Kpando
152	Kpone-Katamanso
153	Krachi East
154	Krachi Nchumuru
155	Krachi West
156	Krowor
157	Kumawu
158	Kumbungu
159	Kwabre East
160	Kwadaso
161	Kwesimintsim
162	Lambussie
163	Lawra
164	Ledzokuku
165	Lower Manya Krobo
166	Lower West Akim
167	Madina
168	Mampong
169	Manhyia North
170	Manhyia South
171	Manso Adubia
172	Manso Nkwanta
173	Mfantseman
174	Mion

No.	Constituency
175	Mpohor
176	Mpraeso
177	Nabdam
178	Nadowli Kaleo
179	Nalerigu Gambaga
180	Nandom
181	Nanton
182	Navrongo Central
183	New Edubiase
184	New Juaben North
185	New Juaben South
186	Nhyiaeso
187	Ningo-Prampram
188	Nkawkaw
189	Nkoranza North
190	Nkoranza South
191	Nkwanta North
192	Nkwanta South
193	North Dayi
194	North Tongu
195	Nsawam Adoagyiri
196	Nsuta/Kwamang/Beposo
197	Obuasi East
198	Obuasi West
199	Odododiodoo
200	Odotobiri
201	Offinso North
202	Offinso South
203	Ofoase-Ayirebi

No.	Constituency
204	Oforikrom
205	Okaikwei Central
206	Okaikwei North
207	Okaikwei South
208	Okere
209	Old Tafo
210	Prestea-Huni Valley
211	Pru East
212	Pru West
213	Pusiga
214	Saboba
215	Sagnarigu
216	Salaga North
217	Salaga South
218	Savelugu
219	Sawla-Tuna-Kalba
220	Sefwi Wiawso
221	Sefwi Akontombra
222	Sege
223	Sekondi
224	Sekyere Afram Plains
225	Sene East
226	Sene West
227	Shai Osudoku
228	Shama
229	Sissala East
230	Sissala West
231	South Dayi
232	South Tongu

No.	Constituency
233	Suaman
234	Suame
235	Subin
236	Suhum
237	Sunyani East
238	Sunyani West
239	Tain
240	Takoradi
241	Talensi
242	Tamale Central
243	Tamale North
244	Tamale South
245	Tano North
246	Tano South
247	Tarkwa-Nsuaem
248	Tatale-Sanguli
249	Techiman North
250	Techiman South
251	Tema Central
252	Tema East
253	Tema West
254	Tempane
255	Tolon
256	Trobu
257	Twifo-Ati Morkwa
258	Upper Denkyira East
259	Upper Denkyira West
260	Upper Manya Krobo
261	Upper West Akyem

No.	Constituency
262	Wa Central
263	Wa East
264	Wa West
265	Walewale
266	Wassa East
267	Weija-Gbawe
268	Wenchi
269	Wulensi
270	Yagaba-Kubori
271	Yapei-Kusawgu
272	Yendi
273	Yilo Krobo
274	Yunyoo
275	Zabzugu
276	Zebilla

**APPENDIX 3:
SURVEY INSTRUMENT**

QUESTIONNAIRE

TITLE: “ELECTION 2024: MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE GHANAIAAN VOTER”

THE STUDY COMPREHENSIVELY INVESTIGATES THE PRIMARY ISSUES OF CONCERNS OF GHANAIAAN VOTERS AS THEY APPROACH THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS.

ARE YOU WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY? 1. YES 2. NO
(PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT YOUR RESPONSES WILL BE TREATED WITH UTMOST CONFIDENTIALITY. CONSEQUENTLY, YOU NEED NOT PROVIDE YOUR NAME).

NAME OF INTERVIEWER:

REGION:

CONSTITUENCY NAME:

NAME OF ELECTORAL AREA:

DATE OF INTERVIEW:

SECTION A BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS

1. Sex:
i. Male ii. Female.....

Disability Status:
i. PWD..... ii. Non- PWD.....

2. Age: How old are you in complete years? _____ years

-
3. Educational background: (highest attainment)
- i. Never Attended.....
- ii. Primary
- iii. Middle/JSS/JHS.....
- iv. Secondary/SSS/SHS.....
- v. Commercial/Vocational.....
- vi. Post-Secondary (diploma)
- vii. Tertiary (Bachelor, Cert. Diploma, masters, Ph.D., etc.)
- viii. Other (specify)
4. What is your employment status?
- i. Employee
- ii. Self-employed without employee(s).....
- iii. Self-employed with employee(s).....
- iv. Casual worker.....
- v. Contributing family worker.....
- vi. Paid apprentice.....
- vii. Unpaid apprentice.....
- viii. Domestic employee
- xi. Unemployed.....
- viii. Other (Specify).....

[If unemployed to Que 4 skip to question 6]

5. Occupation

- i. Housewife/homemaker.....
- ii. Agriculture/farming/fishing/forestry.....
- iii. Trader/hawker/vendor
- iv. Retail/shop attendant.....
- v. Unskilled manual worker (e.g. Cleaner, laborer, domestic help, unskilled manufacture worker)
- vi. Artisan or skilled manual worker (e.g. trade like electricians, mechanic, machinist)
- vii. Clerical or secretarial
- viii. Supervisor/Foreman/Senior Manager.....
- ix. Security services (Police, army, private security)
- x. Mid-level professional (e.g. Teacher, nurse, mid-level government officer)
- xi. Upper-level professional (e.g. Banker/finance, doctor, lawyer, engineer, accountant, professor, senior-level government officer)
- x. Any Other (Please specify)
- x. Any Other (Please specify)

6. Marital status

- i. Single/Never married
- ii. Living together/Cohabiting
- ii. Married
- iii. Widowed
- iv. Separated
- v. Divorced

7. Religious affiliation

- i. No religion.....
- ii. Christian
- iii. Islam.....
- iv. Traditionalist.....
- v. Any Other (Please specify)

SECTION B: VOTER PARTICIPATION AND FACTORS INFLUENCING VOTING BEHAVIOR IN GHANA

8. How many times have you voted in presidential elections since 1992? [select one]

- i) Nil... ii) Once. iii) Twice iv) Three times v) Four times
- vi) Five times vii) Six times viii) Seven times ix) Eight times

9. a) Did you vote in the last presidential and parliamentary elections?
- i) Yes.... ii) No.... iii) Cannot remember...

- b) If No, give one reason why you did not vote [Select one]
- i. Indisposed at the time of voting.....
- ii. Loss of Voter ID card.....
- iii. Was not yet of voting age.....
- iv. Just did not want to vote.....
- v. Any Other (specify).....

If yes to Question 9 answer Question 10, otherwise go to Question 11

10. a) Why did you vote for the particular candidate or party?
- i) The party had good policies and programs.....
- ii) To exercise my civic responsibility.....
- iii) To change the government in power.....
- iv) Because we are from the same ethnic, religious or social background ...
- v) The party or candidate can be trusted.....
- vi) Party Affiliation.....
- vii) Any Other (specify).....

11. (a) Will you vote in the forthcoming presidential election?
- i) Yes.... ii) No.... iii) Undecided....

b) If yes to question 11a, In the upcoming elections, will you vote for the same party you voted for in the 2020 Presidential election?

- i) Yes.... ii) No.... iii) Undecided....

c) If No or Undecided, what will make you change your mind to vote in the forthcoming presidential election?
.....

- 12 (a) Will you vote in the forthcoming parliamentary election?
- i) Yes.... ii) No.... iii) Undecided....

b) If yes to question 12a, in the upcoming elections, will you vote for the same party you voted for in the 2020 parliamentary election?

- i) Yes.... ii) No.... iii) Undecided....

iv) Did not vote in the last election (Year 2020)

c) If No or Undecided, what will make you change your mind to vote in the forthcoming parliamentary elections?
.....

iv) Did not vote in the last election (Year 2020)

c) If No or Undecided, what will make you change your mind to vote in the forthcoming parliamentary elections?

.....

13. Indicate whether any of the following factors will influence your choice of presidential candidate in the 2024 elections.

Factors	Yes	No
a. Candidate's policies and promises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Candidate's track record and experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Party affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Religious affiliation of the candidate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Recommendations from friends and family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Candidates' choice of running mate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Monetary Inducement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14. Indicate whether any of the following factors will influence your choice of parliamentary candidate in the 2024 elections.

Factors	Yes	No
a. Candidate's policies and promises	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Candidate's track record and experience	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Party affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Religious affiliation of the candidate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Recommendations from friends and family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Monetary Inducement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

15. Will you vote for a woman as President if we had a woman candidate?

i) Yes... ii) No... iii) Don't know... iv) Will not vote this year..

b) Give one reason for your answer

.....

16. Will you vote for a woman as MP for your constituency if we had a woman candidate?

- i) Yes... ii) No... iii. Undecided ... iv) Will not vote this year..

b) Give one reason for your answer

.....

17. Why do you think there is low participation of women in national and local **governance**?

[select one]

- i. Political parties have done little to effectively encourage women standing for offices.....
- ii. Negative attitudes to women's leadership position.....
- iii. Female political candidates are often subjected to hate speech, threats or violence.....
- iv. Culture and social norms (husband permission)
- v. Women do not usually present themselves to be elected.....
- vi. Financial Challenge.....
- vii. Other (specify).....

18. What can be done to increase women's participation in governance? **[Select one]**

- i. **Effectively implement the affirmative action law**.....
- ii. All state institutions should be made to reserve a percentage of their employment for women.
- iii. Political parties must adopt voluntary party quotas to promote women's participation in party politics.....

- iv. Women must be empowered through formal education in order to increase their level of confidence to enable them assume key decision-making roles....
- v. Other (specify).....

SECTION C: MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE VOTER

19. Which three (3) broad development issues are of importance to you and should be **prioritized** by political parties towards Election 2024?

(PLEASE RANK 1 – 3, 1 is most important and 3 is least important)

- i. Women and Children needs
- ii. Education.....
- iii. Needs of PWDs
- iv. Health.....
- v. Housing.....
- vi. Security.....
- vii. Employment.....
- viii. **Youth Development**.....
- ix. Corruption.....
- x. Social Services (Sanitation, KVIPs, Water)....
- xi. Agriculture.....
- xii. Economy (inflation, weak currency, standard of living)



- xiii. Energy (Electricity, Oil and Gas, renewable energy)
- xiv. Sports.....
- xv. Roads & Infrastructure.....
- xvi. Taxes & Tariffs.....
- xvii. Information, Communications and Technology
- xvii. Environmental and climate change
- xviii. **Social intervention policies** (eg. LEAP, CP, NHIS)
- xix. Other (please specify)

20a. Regarding the issue ranked first, what specific concern do you want the **next Government** to address?

1st Ranked (Specify).....

20b. What specifically do you want your **Parliamentarian** to address concerning the issue ranked first, as a law and policy maker?

1st Ranked (Specify).....

20c. What specific critical matter do you want your **Parliamentarian** to address concerning the issue ranked first through their share of the common fund?

1st Ranked (Specify).....

21a. Regarding the issue ranked second, what specific concern do you want the **next Government** to address?

2nd Ranked (Specify).....

21b. What specifically do you want your **Parliamentarian** to address concerning issue ranked second, as a law and policy maker.

2nd Ranked (Specify).....

21c What specifically do you want your **Parliamentarian** to address concerning the issue ranked second, through their share of the common fund.

2nd Ranked (Specify).....

22a. Regarding the issue ranked third, what specific concern do you want the **next Government** to address??

3rd Ranked (Specify).....

22b. What specifically do you want your **Parliamentarian** to address concerning the issue ranked third, as a law and policy maker.

3rd Ranked (Specify).....

22c. What specifically do you want your **Parliamentarian** to address concerning the issue ranked third, through their share of common fund?

3rd Ranked (Specify).....

SECTION D: PERCEPTION OF VOTE-BUYING PRACTICES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UPCOMING 2024 ELECTIONS.

23. How would you define vote-buying?

- a) Offering money or goods in exchange for votes
- b) Promising future benefits or favors in exchange for votes
- c) Don't know
- d) Other (please specify)

24. Have you ever witnessed any instance of vote-buying during previous elections in Ghana?

- a) Yes



b) No

25. Do you believe that vote-buying influences election outcomes in Ghana?

a) Yes

b) No

c) Unsure

26. On a scale of 1 to 5, how prevalent do you think vote-buying practices are in Ghanaian elections? (1 being not prevalent at all, 5 being extremely prevalent)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Not prevalent at all | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Not very prevalent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Neutral | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Somewhat prevalent | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Extremely prevalent | <input type="checkbox"/> |

27. How concerned are you about the impact of vote-buying on the integrity of the electoral process in Ghana?

(1 being not concerned at all, 5 being very concerned)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Not concerned at all | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Not very concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Neutral | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Somewhat concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Very concerned | <input type="checkbox"/> |

28. What do you think are the main reasons behind the persistence of vote-buying in Ghanaian elections?

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| a) Lack of enforcement of electoral laws | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Poverty and economic vulnerability of voters | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Lack of awareness about the negative consequences of vote-buying | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Political parties' willingness to engage in vote-buying for electoral advantage | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) An ambitious politician who wants to be in power at all costs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Other (please specify) | |

29. How do you think vote-buying affects the democratic process in Ghana?

a) Undermines the principle of free and fair elections

b) Erodes public trust in the electoral system

c) Perpetuates corruption in politics

d) Distorts representation and accountability

e) Other (please specify)

30. Have you ever been approached by a political candidate or their representatives offering incentives in exchange for votes?

a) Yes

b) No

31. Do you know anyone who has ever been approached by a political candidate or their representatives offering incentives in exchange for votes?

a) Yes

b) No

32. How likely are you to request incentives from political candidates in exchange for your vote?

(1 being very unlikely, 5 being very likely)

1. Very Unlikely

2. Unlikely

3. Neutral

4. Likely

5. Very Likely

33. Do you think the government in Ghana is taking sufficient measures to address the issue of vote-buying?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Unsure

34. What steps do you believe should be taken to combat vote-buying and ensure the integrity of the electoral process in Ghana?

- a) Strengthening enforcement of electoral laws and penalties for vote-buying
- b) Increasing voter education and awareness campaigns
- c) Empowering civil society organizations to monitor and report instances of vote-buying
- d) Enhancing transparency and oversight of campaign financing
- e) Other (please specify).....

35. How confident are you that the 2024 elections in Ghana will be free from vote-buying?

(1 being not confident at all, 5 being very confident)

- 1. Not confident at all
- 2. Not very confident
- 3. Neutral
- 4. Somewhat confident
- 5. Very confident

SECTION E: KNOWLEDGE ON TRIGGERS OF ELECTION-RELATED VIOLENCE

36a). Are you aware of any pre-existing violence in your constituency?

- i. Yes
- ii. No ...
- iii. Don't know...

36.b) If yes, what has been the **main** cause of this violence in your constituency?

[Select one]

- i. Land litigation
- ii. Chieftaincy disputes
- iii. Election-related violence.....
- iv. Religious differences
- v. Tribal differences
- vi. Any other

37. Have you personally witnessed election-related violence in the past?

- a) Yes
- b) No

37b) If yes to question 37, where did it happen?

.....

38. Have you personally experienced election-related violence in the past?

- a) Yes
- b) No

38b) If yes, how did it happen?

.....

39a. Will you undertake any violence to further your party's interest in the elections?

- a) Yes
- b) No

39b) If yes to 39a), What will influence your decision to do so?.....

40. What, in your opinion, are the primary triggers of election-related violence? (Select all that apply)

- a) Ethnic tensions

- b) Political rivalry
- c) Electoral fraud
- d) Disputed election results
- e) Socioeconomic inequality
- f) Religious differences
- g) External interference
- h) Other specify

41. On a scale of 1 to 5, how effective do you believe voter education and awareness programs are in preventing election-related violence? (1 being not effective , 5 being extremely effective)

- 1. Not effective
- 2. Somewhat effective
- 3. Moderately effective
- 4. Very effective
- 5. Extremely effective

42. In your opinion, how would you rate the performance of law enforcement agencies in preventing and managing election-related violence? (1 being not effective, 5 being extremely effective)

- 1. Not effective
- 2. Somewhat effective
- 3. Moderately effective
- 4. Very effective
- 5. Extremely effective

43. What responsibilities do you think political leaders and parties have to promote peaceful elections?

- a. Focus on policies and avoid inflammatory rhetoric.

- b. Promote Civic Engagements to ensure informed and active participation in the electoral process.
- c. Ensure campaigns and supporters comply with electoral laws and avoid illegal activities.
- d. Accept election results and address disputes through legal and peaceful means.
- e. Support mechanisms to address electoral disputes quickly and fairly.
- f. Other (Specify).....

44. How confident are you in the ability of the Electoral Commission to conduct free and fair elections, thereby reducing the likelihood of violence?

(1 being not confident at all, 5 being very confident)

- 1. Not confident at all
- 2. Not very confident
- 3. Neutral
- 4. Somewhat confident
- 5. Very confident

45. What additional measures do you believe should be taken to prevent election-related violence

.....

SECTION G: GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY IN GHANA

46a. Do you believe the Electoral Commission (EC) will **conduct free, fair and credible elections?**

- i) Yes...
- ii) No...
- Don't know.

b) Give one reason for your answer.

.....

47a. Would you like to see some changes with regards to the **Electoral system** of Ghana?

- i) Yes...
- ii) No...
- iii) Don't know....



b) If yes, what change would you recommend?

.....

48. What is your overall assessment of how well Ghana is growing her democracy in terms of the underlisted using the scale 0-4 where,

1- Very Unsatisfactorily 2- Unsatisfactorily 3- Satisfactorily 4- Very Satisfactorily 0 – Don't know

Elements of Democracy	0	1	2	3	4
Respect for Human Dignity	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Freedom of Speech					
Citizens living up to their civic responsibilities					
Rule of Law					
Improvement in living conditions					

49a. Have you ever participated in NCCE's presidential or parliamentary candidates' debates

i. Yes ii. No iii. Don't know

b. On a scale of 1 to 5, how relevant do you believe the NCCE Parliamentary candidate debate is fostering engagements with your parliamentary candidate on your developmental needs?

(1 being not relevant at all, 5 being extremely relevant)

- 1. Not relevant at all
- 2. Slightly relevant
- 3. Moderately relevant
- 4. Very relevant
- 5. Extremely relevant

c. Briefly explain your response to Question 49b

.....

50a. Would you wish to change or maintain this current government?

i) Change..... ii) Maintain..... iii) Don't know.....

50b. Provide one reason for your answer.....

51a. Between now and December if the issues of concern you raised are fixed, would it affect your choice of party to vote for?

i. Yes ii. No iii. Don't Know

51b. Provide one reason for your answer

.....

52. Would you consider allowing your vote to be influenced by offers of money, goods or other incentives from political candidates or their representatives on the day of voting?

- a) Yes, I would consider it
- b) No, I would not consider it
- c) Unsure

THANK YOU

