



Institute for Justice and Reconciliation
Cape Town, South Africa
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News release

Premiers lead the way among elected leaders' performance

Premiers – currently enjoy the highest levels of public approval among elected leaders in South Africa after significant declines in evaluations of President Zuma and members of parliament's performances since the last round of surveys in 2011.

Over half of South Africans approve of their provincial leaders and only a third disapproving. Further analysis by province shows that residents of the opposition-led Western Cape are the most satisfied (62%), followed by those in KwaZulu-Natal (60%) and the Free State (55%) (see Afrobarometer dispatch No. 65, available at www.afrobarometer.org).

Key findings

- South Africans' evaluations of their elected leaders' performance in the past year is generally low: Premiers are the leaders in South Africa who enjoy a majority (53%) of public approval. In contrast, only four in 10 citizens approve of their members of parliament (42%), local government councillors (36%) and President Zuma (36%).
- South Africans' evaluations of their provincial leaders has been stable since the last round of surveys in 2011 (54%). President Zuma experienced the largest decline in positive evaluations (28 percentage points), followed by MPs (12 points) and local government councillors (4 points).
- Although Western Cape residents gave Premier Helen Zille the highest overall approval ratings in the country (62%), outright disapproval was lowest in KwaZulu-Natal.

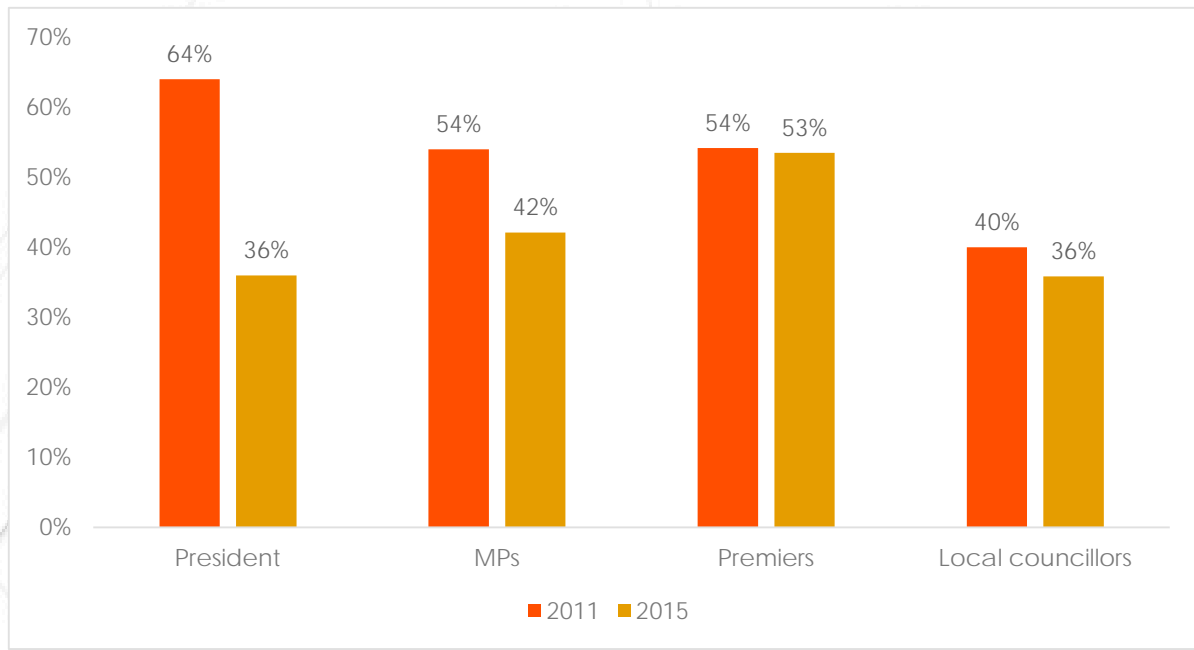
Afrobarometer

Afrobarometer is an African-led, non-partisan research network that conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, economic conditions, and related issues across more than 30 countries in Africa. Five rounds of surveys were conducted between 1999 and 2013, and Round 6 surveys are currently under way (2014-2015). Afrobarometer conducts face-to-face interviews in the language of the respondent's choice with nationally representative samples of between 1,200 and 2,400 respondents.

The Afrobarometer team in South Africa, led by Institute for Justice and Reconciliation and Plus 94 Research interviewed 2,400 adult South Africans in August and September 2015. A sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level. Previous surveys have been conducted in South Africa in 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, and 2011.

Charts

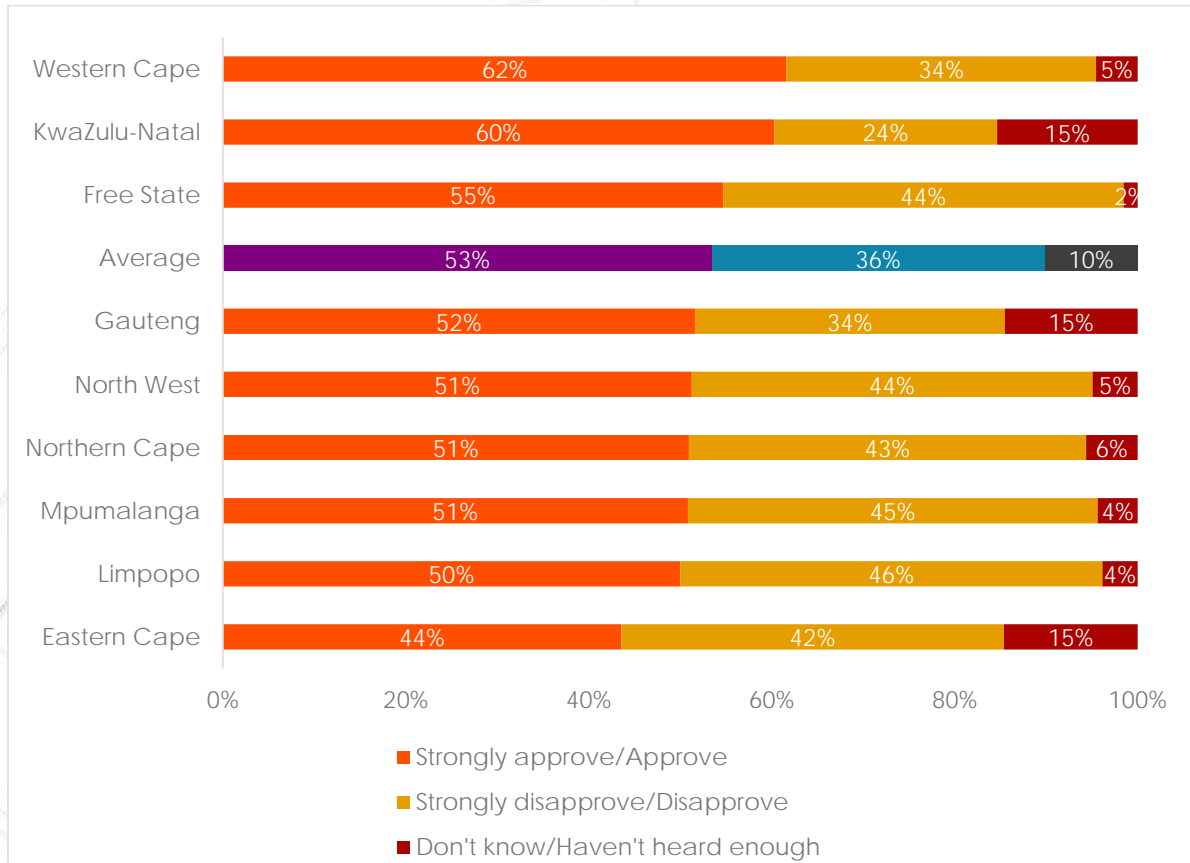
Figure 1: Elected leaders' approval ratings | South Africa | 2011 vs. 2015



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past twelve months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say?

- President [insert name].
- Your Member of Parliament.
- The Premier of this province.
- Your elected local government councillor.

Figure 2: Performance evaluations of Premiers | by province | South Africa | 2015



Respondents were asked: Do you approve or disapprove of the way that the following people have performed their jobs over the past twelve months, or haven't you heard enough about them to say? The Premier of this province.

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