

Presidential Race Appears to Tighten, but Majority of Maldivians Undecided Who They Will Vote For

27 June, 2023 MALE: A majority of Maldivians are undecided who they will vote for in a presidential election, according to the results of the latest opinion poll by the Baani Centre for International Policy, an independent Maldives-based think tank.

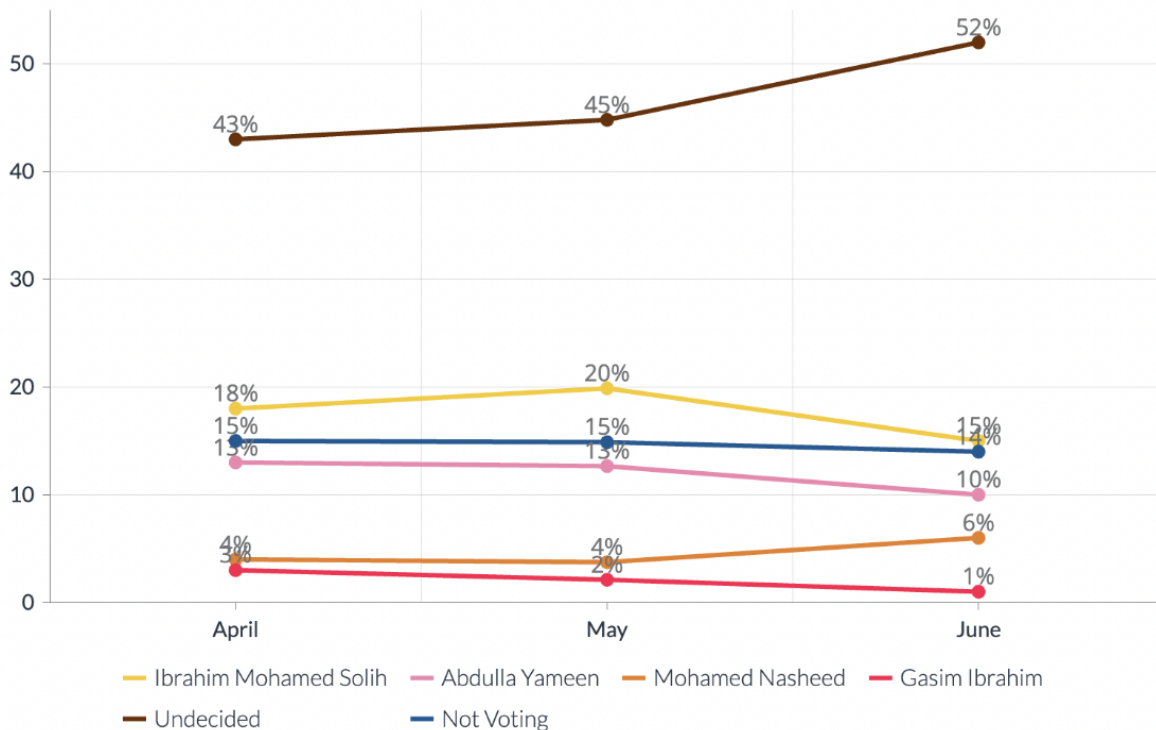
Fifty-two percent of those surveyed in June said they were undecided on who they would vote for, an increase of 7% since May, when 45% of poll respondents were undecided. In April, 43% of respondents were undecided. As the election approaches, voters appear increasingly unsure of their preferred presidential candidate (see Figure 2.2).

The results of June’s opinion poll also saw support for President Solih fall to 15%, from 20% in May. Support for former President Yameen also fell to 10% in June, from 13% in May. Support for former President Nasheed increased to 6% in June, from 4% in May. Support for former President Nasheed increased to 6% in June, from 4% in May.

These changes in support for the three leading politicians fall within the poll’s 5% margin of error, and should therefore be taken lightly. Nevertheless, the poll results

Figure 2.2 - Voter Preference

When asked who they would vote for if an election were to be held tomorrow (cross comparison across months)



Support for Gasim Ibrahim fell to 1% in June, from 2% in May, and 3% in April, suggesting his campaign is struggling to gain traction among voters.

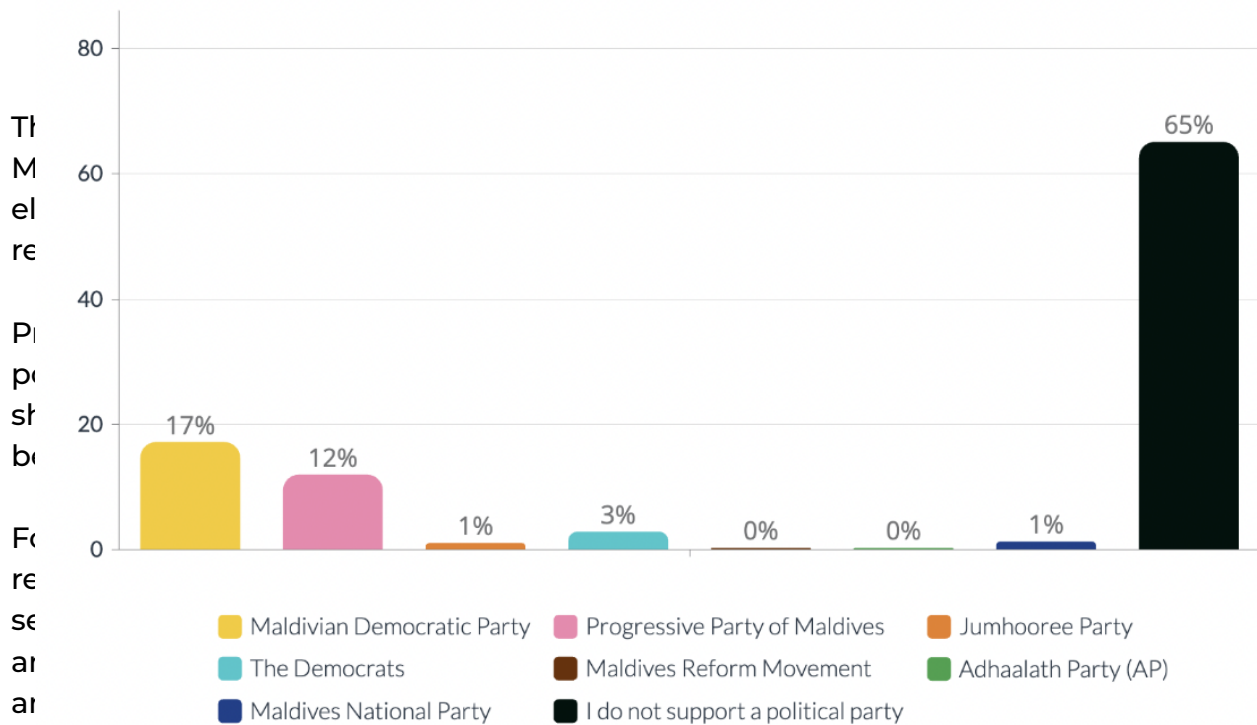
Fourteen percent of respondents in June’s poll said they did not intend to vote, down slightly from 15% in May and April.

Support for Political Parties

June’s opinion poll also asked voters if they preferred any political party. Sixty-five percent of voters said they do not support, nor have a preference, for any political party (see Figure 2.6).

Figure 2.6 - Party preference

When asked if they supported a political party or political ideology



The ruling Maldivian Democratic Party was supported by 17% of respondents, while 12% supported the PPM, 3% supported the newly-established The Democrats, 1% supported Gasim’s Jumhooree Party, and 1% supported the Maldives National Party.



The Baani Centre poll asked 384 respondents about their voting intention in a randomized telephone interview, conducted between June 19-22. The poll has a 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error. This means that if the survey was conducted multiple times, 95% of the time the results would be within 5% of the results shown.

The Baani Centre will continue to conduct monthly polls in the lead-up to the presidential election.

The June opinion poll report is available in full at: <https://baanicentre.org/research/>.

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