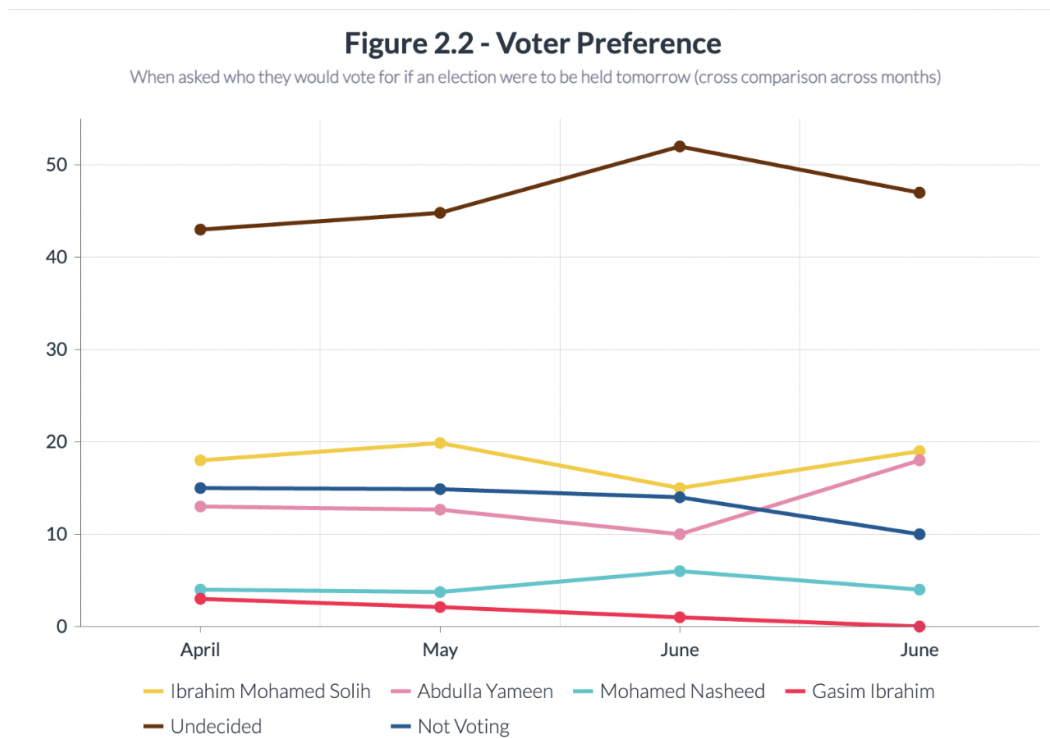


July’s Baani Opinion Poll Reveals Jump in Support for Former President Yameen

25 July 2023, MALE: Voter support for former President Yameen has increased over the past month, with 18% of voters saying they would vote for the jailed former president if there was an election tomorrow and he was able to stand.

These are the results of the latest monthly opinion poll by the Baani Centre for International Policy, a Maldives-based, independent think tank.

Yameen’s support has increased from the 10% support he garnered in Baani’s June opinion poll.



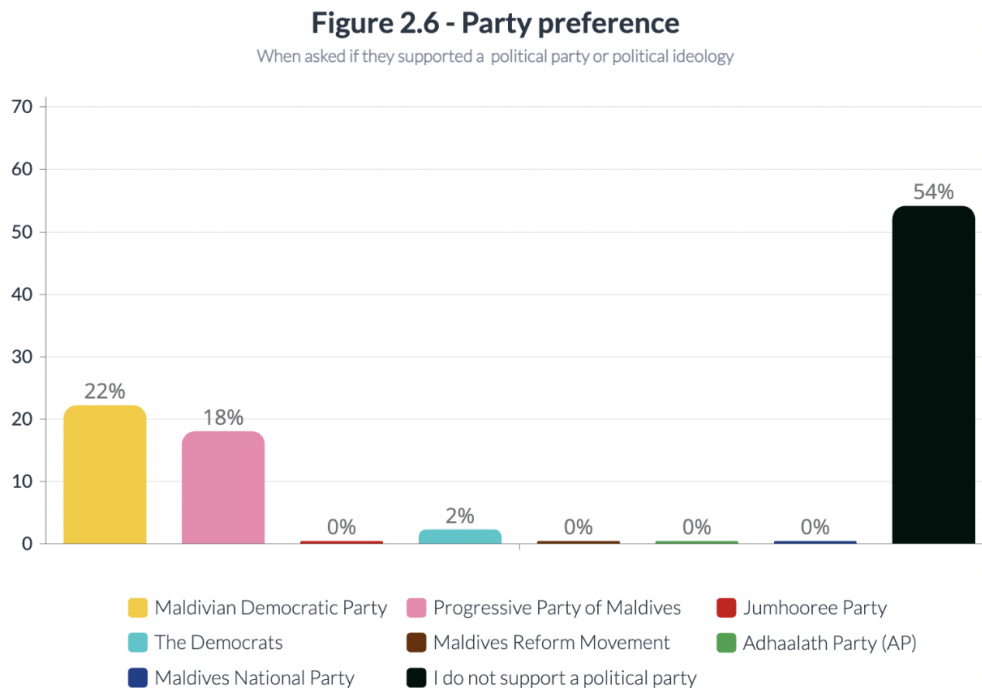
The poll, conducted with a 5 percent margin of error, showed that support for President Solih also improved over the past month, from 15% in June to 19% in July. Former President Nasheed’s popularity dipped from 6% in June to 4% in July, while support for Gasim Ibrahim vanished in July, leaving him on 0%.

With undecided voters still stubbornly high, at 47% in July (down from 52% in June), the election still remains inherently difficult to predict. Since Baani started conducting the monthly tracker poll in April, those saying they are undecided on who they will vote for have remained well above 40%.

The Elections Commission will announce the list of candidates in early August. It will be interesting to see if the number of undecided voters decreases once people are sure of who will stand in the election, or whether the outcome of the election will remain highly uncertain right up until voting day. Baani's August opinion poll will shed some light on this question.

Support for Political Parties

July's opinion poll also revealed an increase in support for the opposition Progressive Party of Maldives. The party's support increased from 12% in June to 18% in July.



The ruling Maldivian Democratic Party remains the most popular party, with 22% support (up from 17 in June), while the newly-registered The Democrats attracted 2% support in July. Fifty-four percent of voters said they did not support any party.



The poll results are representative of the voting population of the Maldives, with a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error. This means that if the poll was conducted multiple times, 95% of the time the results would be within 5% of the results from our poll.

Baani will conduct monthly polls up to the presidential elections in September. The full results are available online at <https://baanicentre.org/research/>.

ENDS

12% 18% 22% 0% 2% 0% 0% 0% 54%

2022

2021

2020

2019

2018

Figure 2.6 - Party preference

When asked if they supported a political party or political ideology

