

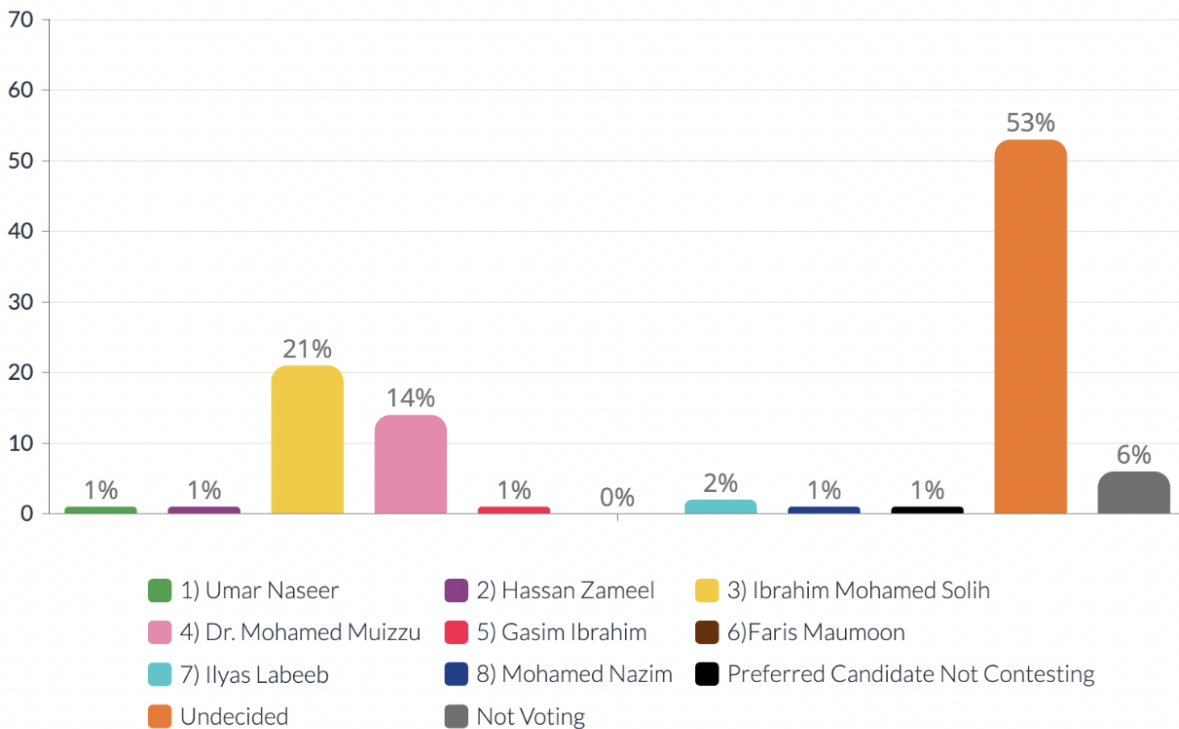
Undecided Voters Likely to Determine Outcome of Presidential Election, as Half of Electorate Still Uncertain Who to Vote For

24 August 2023, MALE: Undecided voters will likely determine the outcome of the Maldivian presidential election on 9 September, according to the results of a new opinion poll conducted by local think tank, the Baani Centre for International Policy.

With voting day just two weeks away, over half the electorate (53%) are still undecided on who they will vote for — despite the poll being conducted after the Elections Commission released the names of presidential candidates, and after President Yameen lost his Supreme Court challenge to his disqualification.

Figure 2.1 - Voter Preference

When asked who they would vote for if an election were to be held tomorrow (weighted)





As the election approaches, voters appear increasingly unsure of which candidate they will pick. August's poll saw the highest number of people in the 'undecideds' category since the Baani Centre began its monthly poll in April (42% of voters said they were undecided in April).

The 'undecideds' category is also much bigger than typical polls conducted in other democracies. This leaves the Maldivian presidential election inherently difficult to predict.

President Solih maintains his lead

President Solih nevertheless remains the most popular candidate, as he has been since Baani started its monthly polls. The President scored 21% in August's poll – his best figure to date and the first time he has crossed the 20% threshold. Solih scored 19% in July's poll.

Dr Muizz came second in this month's poll, with 14% of the vote. This suggests that former President Yameen's vote has largely transferred to Dr. Muizz, who Yameen has endorsed (Yameen polled 18% in Baani's July poll). Only 1% of the voters indicated that their preferred candidate is not on the ballot.

The Democrat's candidate, Ilyas Labeeb, polled 2% in August's poll (former President Nasheed scored 4% in July's poll). Meanwhile, Umar Naseer, Hassan Zameel, Gasim Ibrahim, and Mohamed Nazim all scored 1%.

The final numbers for all the candidates are likely to be much higher on voting day, compared to those shown in our opinion poll, as the 52% undecided voters choose a candidate and their votes are distributed accordingly. However, it is impossible to say whether the undecided voters are leaning towards any candidate.

The poll results are representative of the Maldivian voting population, 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's detailed polling reports are available at: <https://baanicentre.org/research/>.

ENDS



أكثر من نصف المشاركين في مؤتمر بااني في عام 2021 كانوا من النساء، مما يدل على التزام بااني بالتنوع والشمول في جميع برامجنا.

مخرجات مؤتمر بااني في مؤتمر بااني في مؤتمر بااني

في مؤتمر بااني في مؤتمر بااني في مؤتمر بااني، تم مناقشة عدد من الموضوعات الهامة. تم إجراء استطلاعات رأي في مؤتمر بااني في مؤتمر بااني في مؤتمر بااني. تم إجراء استطلاعات رأي في مؤتمر بااني في مؤتمر بااني في مؤتمر بااني.

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