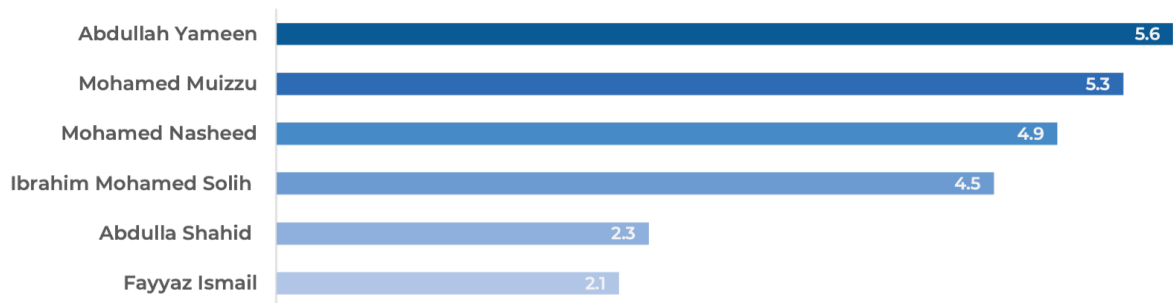




Yameen Maldives' Most Popular Political Leader shows Baani opinion poll

17 January, 2026, MALE: Former president Abdullah Yameen is the Maldives' most popular political leader, according to the results of the Baani Centre for International Policy's latest public opinion poll.

The Baani Centre asked Maldivian voters to rank six political leaders, who we judged most likely to either stand in the 2028 presidential elections or contest their party's primary. Those politicians are: President Yameen, President Muizzu, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President Nasheed, Abdulla Shahid, and Fayyaz Ismail. Voters were asked to give each politician a score out of 10, with 10 being the best.



President Yameen topped the list of political leaders, with an average score of 5.6 out of 10, giving him a clear lead.

President Muizzu – who enjoys a strong net approval rating of +24 points according to Baani's previously published results – was ranked the second most popular politician. Maldivian voters gave the incumbent president a score of 5.3 out of 10.



MDP Politicians' Popularity

Former president Mohamed Nasheed topped the list of political leaders aligned to the opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP). Maldivian voters gave President Nasheed a score of 4.9 out of 10.

Former president Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, meanwhile, was given a score of 4.5 out of 10.

Abdulla Shahid, the former foreign minister, and former MDP Chairperson Fayyaz Ismail trailed the former presidents by a significant margin. Shahid scored 2.3 out of 10 and Fayyaz scored 2.1 out of 10.

Methodology

The Baani Centre, an independent think tank based in Male', conducted the opinion poll between 23 November and 1 December 2025, using random telephone interviews. We collected 391 responses, which is slightly above the target required for a population size of Maldives to conduct a statistically significant poll with a 5% margin of error and 95% confidence level. The results have been weighted to ensure a representative sample of voters.

Today's results are from the second set of questions asked during Baani's opinion poll. We had previously published President Muizzu's approval ratings. We also asked voters for their views of foreign countries. Those results will be published in the coming weeks.

To read the whole opinion survey report, see: <https://baanicentre.org/research/>

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