



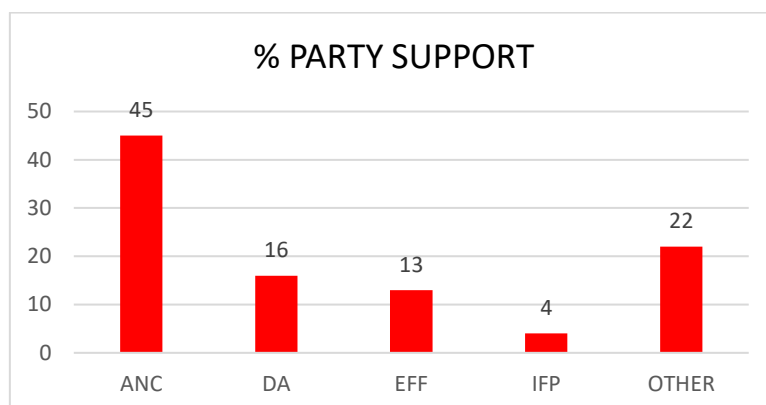
INCLUSIVE SOCIETY INSTITUTE

Media Release

AN OPPOSITION COALITION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY **Findings of Inclusive Society's *GovDem* Poll**

Should an election be held “tomorrow” (i.e., the day after the interviews were conducted), it is highly unlikely that the opposition would have been able to cobble a cohesive coalition together to form a government at the national level. Furthermore, currently no opposition coalition can be ushered in without the support of the EFF. This is the main finding of the Inclusive Society's *GovDem* poll undertaken in cooperation with IPSOS in November-December 2022.

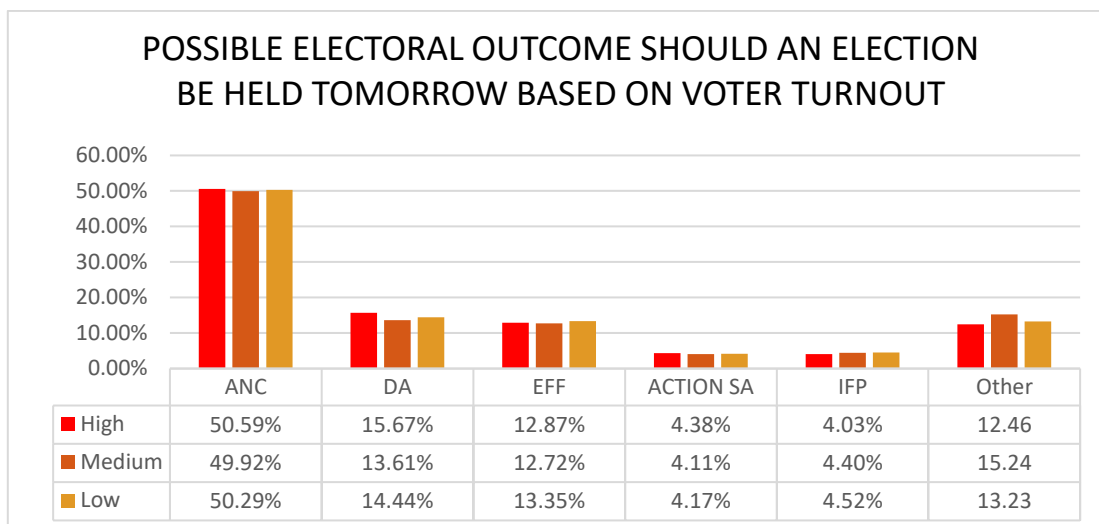
Respondents from the aforementioned poll suggest electoral support from those registered to vote is distributed as indicated in the graph below¹.



This is, however, not necessarily a true indication as to the level of electoral support political parties would receive in the event of an election the next day, since included in the 22 percent “Other” are responses in favour of smaller parties, and from those that don't yet know whom they will vote for, or who do not wish to indicate their preferences. In addition, it can be argued that the possible voter turnout will be the “wild card” in the 2024 election – being even more important than in previous elections. Still, the 22 percent “Other” has to be further analysed and distributed. Firstly, by eliminating those respondents that indicated that they are not going to vote, and secondly, by distributing “don't know” and “refusing to say” responses. The latter is done through an analysis of a series of back-end questions that show the affinity of the respondents for particular parties or leaders. And then a further adjustment is required to contemplate the various outcomes based on voter turnout, that is, a high, medium, or low voter turnout.

The outcome of the Institute's analysis suggests a possible outcome closer to that indicated in the graph below:

¹ 69% of eligible voters indicated that they were also registered to vote.



The distribution of party support as reflected in the graph above shows that whilst an opposition coalition will require a mishmash of parties drawn from all types of ideological and policy persuasions, the ANC will probably require only one ideologically and policy-aligned partner to form a government.

Furthermore, it is clear that any opposition coalition will require the support of the EFF. In a high voter turnout scenario, the combined opposition excluding the ANC is 49,41 percent (36,54 percent excluding the EFF); in a medium voter turnout scenario it is 50,08 percent (37,36 percent excluding the EFF); and in a low voter turnout Scenario it is 49,71 percent (36,36 percent excluding the EFF).

The stark choice confronting voters is a more policy-cohesive coalition versus a policy-incohesive coalition, the likes of which compare to those in Johannesburg, Tshwane, and Ekurhuleni. The electorate – and political parties - have some deep introspection to do in the run-up to next year's general election.

Coalitions in some provinces a certainty

Whilst it is improbable as things stand now that an opposition coalition will be probable at the national level, the picture is different at the provincial level where opposition coalitions are possible in at least three provinces, namely Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, and the Western Cape, due to the ANC's much more modest support in these provinces. However, in most cases opposition coalitions will probably require the support of the EFF, which in itself will present challenges with regard to coalition cohesiveness.

Loadshedding may change the outlook

A year is a long time in politics. So, we reiterate that the position reflected herein is the present picture. The *GovDem* poll revealed that 65% of the electorate indicated that loadshedding by Eskom will have a negative influence on support for the ANC, and 45% considered not voting in the future, as a result of the regular loadshedding by Eskom. This is a definite risk for the ANC in the run-up to the 2024 election, as it may push party support considerably below 50 percent if the government does not get an urgent grip on the situation.

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