



INCLUSIVE SOCIETY INSTITUTE

Media release

ANC SUPPORT DIPS, BUT IT IS STILL BEST PLACED TO WIN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION Voter turnout the key

There can be no doubt that, across the board, the electorate believe that things in the country are going in the wrong direction and that they are dissatisfied with the performance of their local governments. This emerged from the Inclusive Society Institute's (ISI) GovDemPoll conducted by IPSOS.

- As of September 2021, 85% of the population believe that the country is, to various degrees, moving in the wrong direction, whereas only 15% believe it is moving in the right direction.
- As of mid-2021, 30% of the population believe standards are deteriorating, 22% believe it is improving, whilst 48% believe they are remaining the same.
- Similarly, 56% of the population think that their local government is not doing well. Only 35% believe their local government is doing well.

In the ISI's opinion, the perceived poor performance is feeding voter apathy and to many voters being demotivated to vote. This is especially true amongst the youth. That said, in the provinces where the metro's are being contested, a relatively high voter turnout (want to vote and likely to vote) can be expected. It should also be noted that these are the provinces in which the opposition have their strongholds. As of September 2021, just before campaigning begun, the poll pointed to a voter turnout of:

- Gauteng – 73%
- Western Cape – 73%
- Eastern Cape – 76%
- Kwazulu-Natal – 71%

Nationally, as of September 2021, the ANC support was hovering around 50%, the DA 18% and the EFF 15%. However, the voter turnout on election day will influence the results. Whether the ANC gets an outright majority in the aforementioned provinces is linked to their ability to get voters to the polls. They can achieve this by ensuring a medium to high voter turnout.

An **important factor not to be discounted**, which will have a direct bearing on the results, is that the ANC has much in its favour.

- President Ramaphosa is by far the most popular political leader in the country. Some 66% of the population as a whole evaluate him positively.
- President Ramaphosa also has a positive trust index score of 38, as opposed to the DA leader's minus 37 and the EFF leader's minus 24.
- Also, the ANC is the only party with a positive indexed trust score. It stands at a positive 19%, as opposed to the negative score of 39 for the DA and negative 27 for the EFF.

- Add to this the fact that around 37% of South Africans eligible to vote say that there is no political party that expresses their views.

The aforementioned statistics lead the ISI to believe that there will not be a massive voter swing away from the ANC to the opposition. The ANC success will rest on its ability to in the next few days motivate their voters to exercise their vote on election day.

Based on the expected voter turnout and party-political support trends, the ISI ventures to predict that nationally the ANC will get an overall majority. And in all the Gauteng metro's the ANC will emerge as the largest party, whereas in the Cape Town metro, the DA will emerge as the largest party. As alluded to, whether the ANC gets an outright majority in the three Gauteng metro's depends on the ability to ensure a medium to high voter turnout. A low voter turnout will see them dip below the 50% mark, albeit that they will be in the best position to form a government in those metros. The ISI does not venture a prediction for the Nelson Mandela Bay metro.

Issued by: Inclusive Society Institute
Contact: Berenice Marks
Mobile: 081 352 6202
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