



CITIZENS' PRIORITIES FOR CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT REVIEW BILLS

FOR



Policy and Legal Advocacy Center

Promoting good governance and citizen's access

April, 2026

Presentation highlights for the Town Hall Dialogue Session on Priority Constitution Review Bills

Thursday, 16 April 2026

Abuja Continental Hotel

Why this poll matters

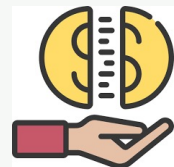
Purpose



Provide citizen evidence to support the National Assembly’s constitution review process.



Test public preferences on key reform bills: local government autonomy, electoral reform, judicial reform, gender inclusion, state police, and federalism.



Show where there is a strong public mandate and where opinion is divided.

Method at a glance

3,177



Adults interviewed

Nationwide sample across 36 states, the FCT, and all six geopolitical zones.

Nov 2025



Fieldwork period

Telephone interviews using a fully structured questionnaire.

5



Interview languages

English, Yoruba, Hausa, Igbo, and Pidgin English.

60



Call-centre seats

Survey implemented through the NOIPolls Opinion Polling Centre.

Sampling used a proportionate stratified random approach from the NOIPolls numbers database.

Respondent demographics

Weighted sample to reflect the Nigerian adult population

Base: N = 3,177

GENDER

50% Male
50% Female

AGE

57% 18–35
33% 36–60
10% 61+

GEOPOLITICAL ZONE

15% North	20% South West
Central	12% South East
14% North East	15% South South
24% North West	

EDUCATION

22% Primary
37% Secondary
41% Post-secondary

INCOME

33% Low (Below 80,000)
34% Middle (80,000 – 160,000)
33% High (Above 160,000)

SETTLEMENT

45% Urban
55% Rural

The headline story

Across most tested issues, the survey points to a strong reform mandate, with just a few areas still contested.

89%



Local government autonomy

Say full financial and administrative autonomy would improve grassroots development.

91%



E-transmission of results

Support making electronic transmission of election results mandatory.

90%



Special seats for women

Support reserved legislative seats for women.

92%



Election petitions

Want strict constitutional time limits for election-related court cases.

87%



Party defection

Back lawmakers vacating their seats before crossing to another political party.

70%



State police

Support state police, although safeguards matter.

61%



Devolution of powers

Prefer more powers and responsibilities transferred from the centre to states.

57%



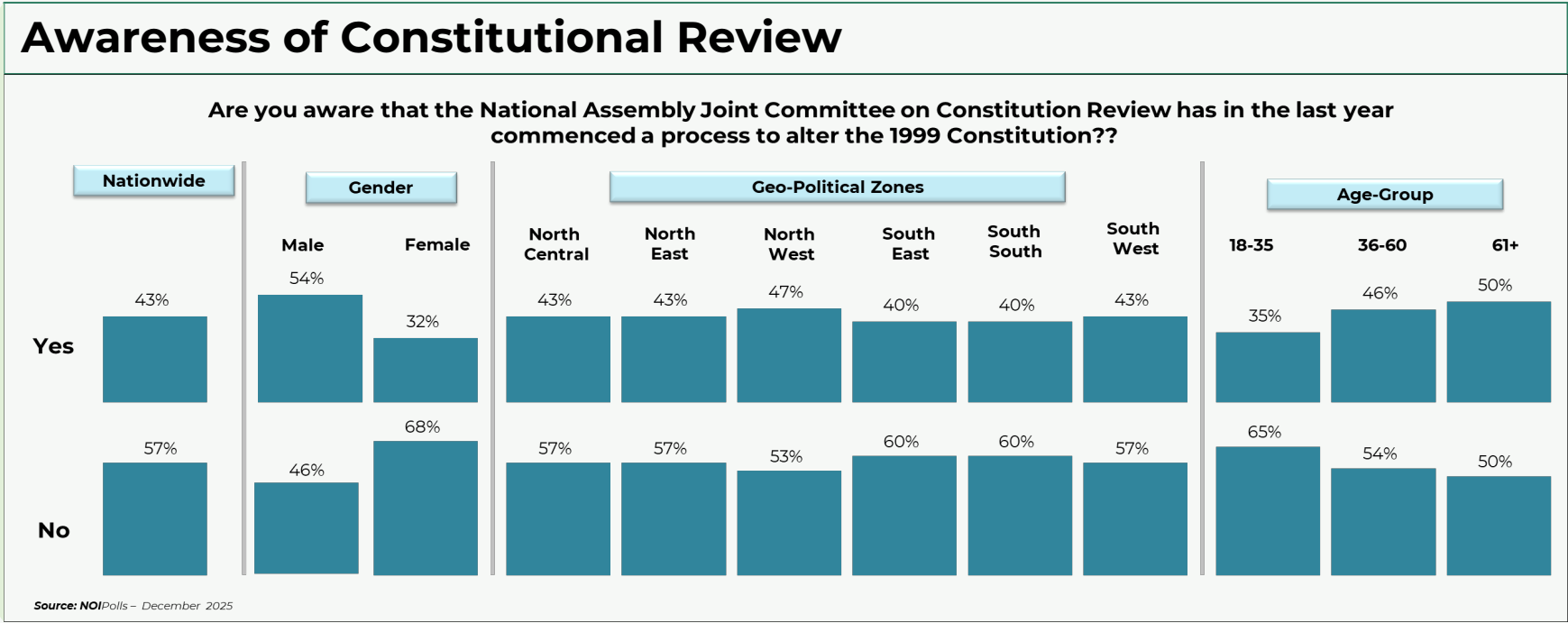
Awareness gap

Are unaware of the ongoing constitutional review process.

Awareness is the biggest process risk

The review has substantive public support, but many Nigerians still do not know enough about it.

57%
of Nigerians are unaware of the ongoing constitutional review process.



- A significant majority of Nigerians, 57%, are unaware of the ongoing constitutional review process, revealing an important public information gap.
- This lack of awareness is most pronounced among women (32% aware) and youth (35% aware), highlighting deep demographic disparities in engagement.
- These findings underscore an urgent need for targeted sensitization campaigns to ensure the reform process is inclusive and widely understood by all citizens.

Strongest mandates: local governance and electoral credibility

What the public is saying?

89%

LG autonomy

Support full autonomy for local governments.

86%

LG tribunal

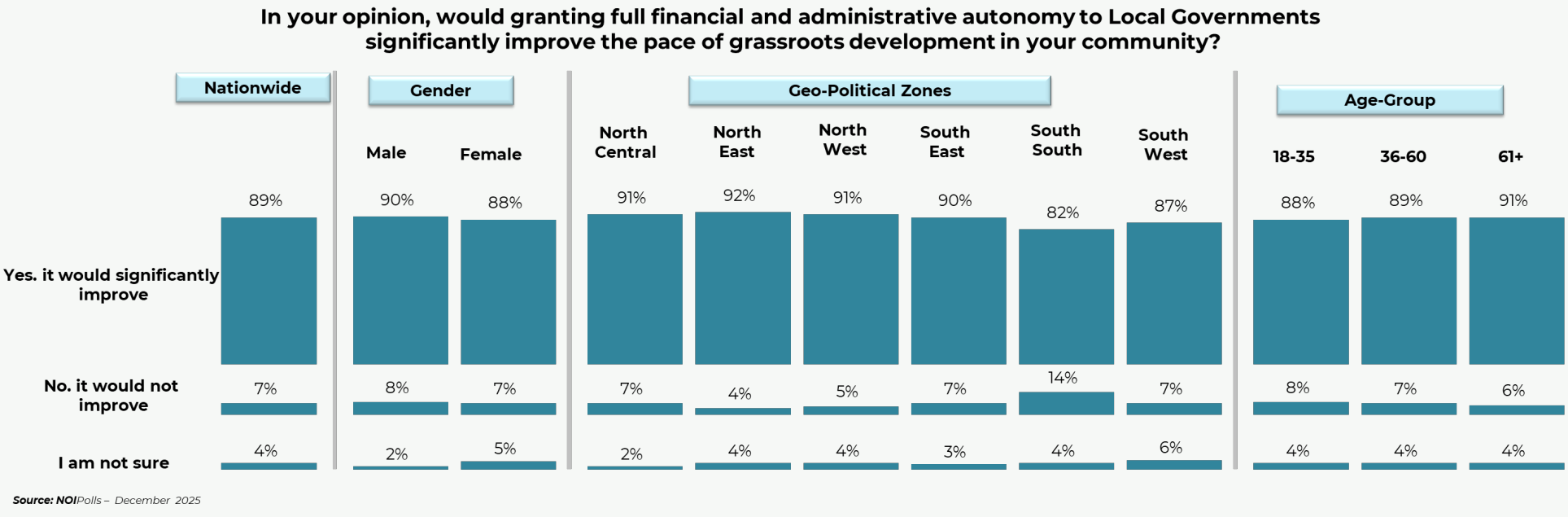
Back an independent local government election tribunal.

77%

INEC for LG polls

Prefer INEC over SIECs for local elections.

Local Government Autonomy



- The survey reveals an overwhelming national consensus, with 89% of Nigerians believing that granting full autonomy to local governments will significantly improve grassroots development.
- This strong support is remarkably consistent across all demographics, showing almost no variation by gender, age group, or even across the six geopolitical zones. Such unified public opinion provides a powerful and unambiguous mandate for the National Assembly to prioritize the constitutional alteration for full local government autonomy.

The review shows strong National consensus for mandatory electronic transmission of election results in Nigeria

What the public is saying?

91%

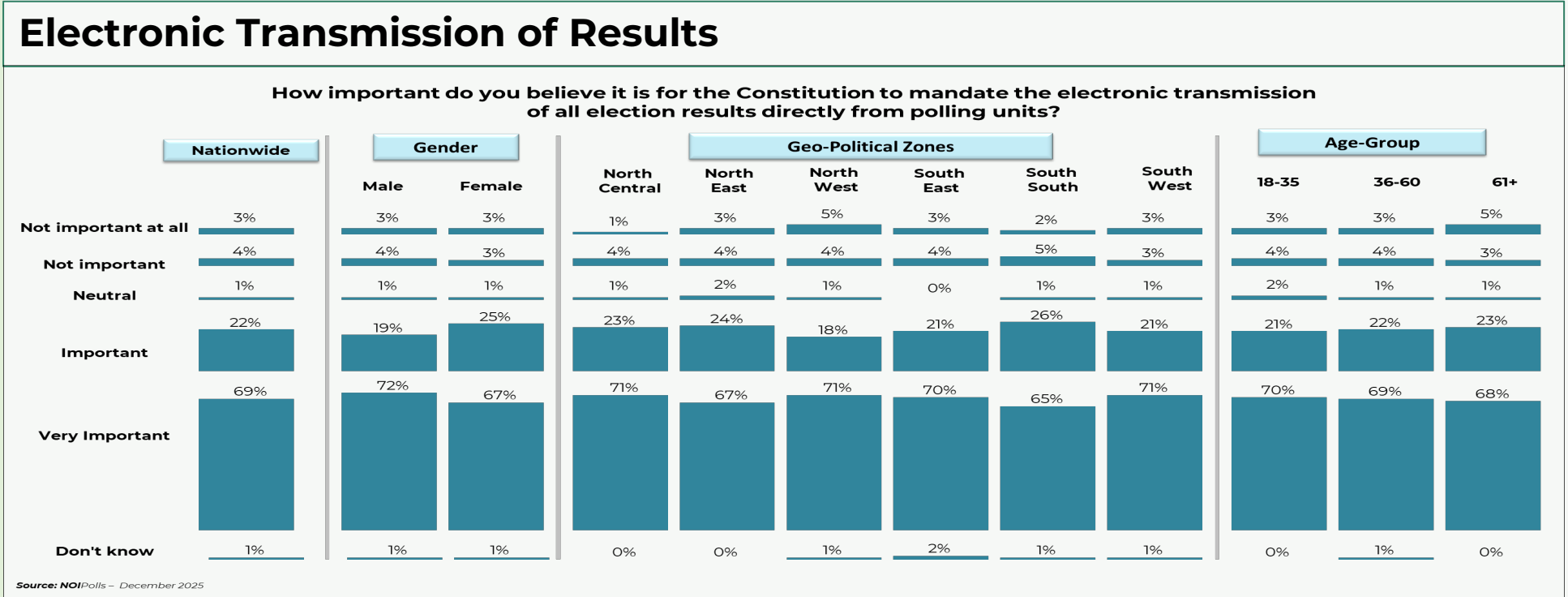
E-results

Want mandatory electronic transmission of results.

49/49

Same-day elections

Public opinion is evenly split —no clear mandate.



- The survey reveals a near-unanimous national demand for electoral reform, with an overwhelming 91% of Nigerians stating it is important for the constitution to make the electronic transmission of election results mandatory.
- This weighty consensus transcends demographic lines, showing consistently high support across all gender, age, and geopolitical zones, particularly in the North-Central (94%) and South-West (92%). Such widespread agreement provides an unequivocal mandate for the National Assembly to entrench this measure in the constitution, reflecting a strong public desire for greater transparency and credibility in Nigeria's electoral process.

The public is clearly ahead of the communication effort, support is high and awareness is not

Gender inclusion

40%

Aware of bill

Awareness of the women's special seats bill remains low.

90%

Support special seats

One of the strongest pro-reform findings in the survey.

71%

Preferred allocation

Prefer allocation by geopolitical zones rather than a fixed number.

The review shows strong National consensus for mandatory electronic transmission of election results in Nigeria

What the public is saying?

70%

Support

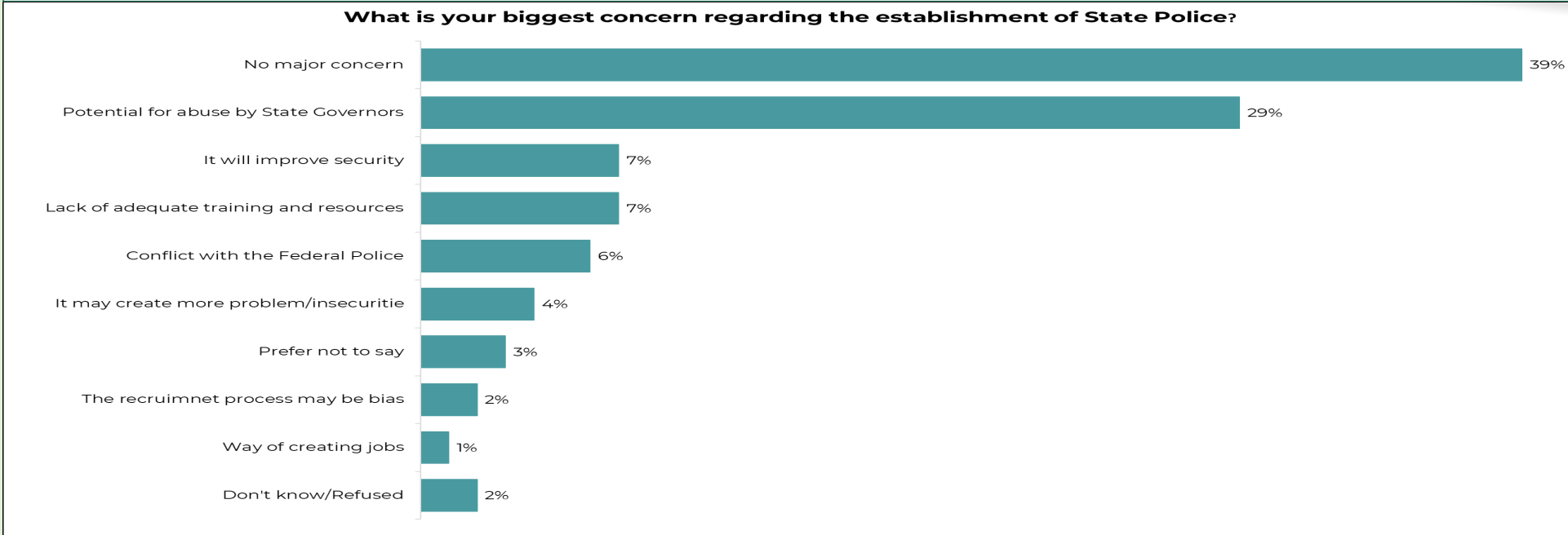
Support the establishment of state police.

29%

Main concern

Fear of abuse by state governors is the most important concern.

State Police Concern

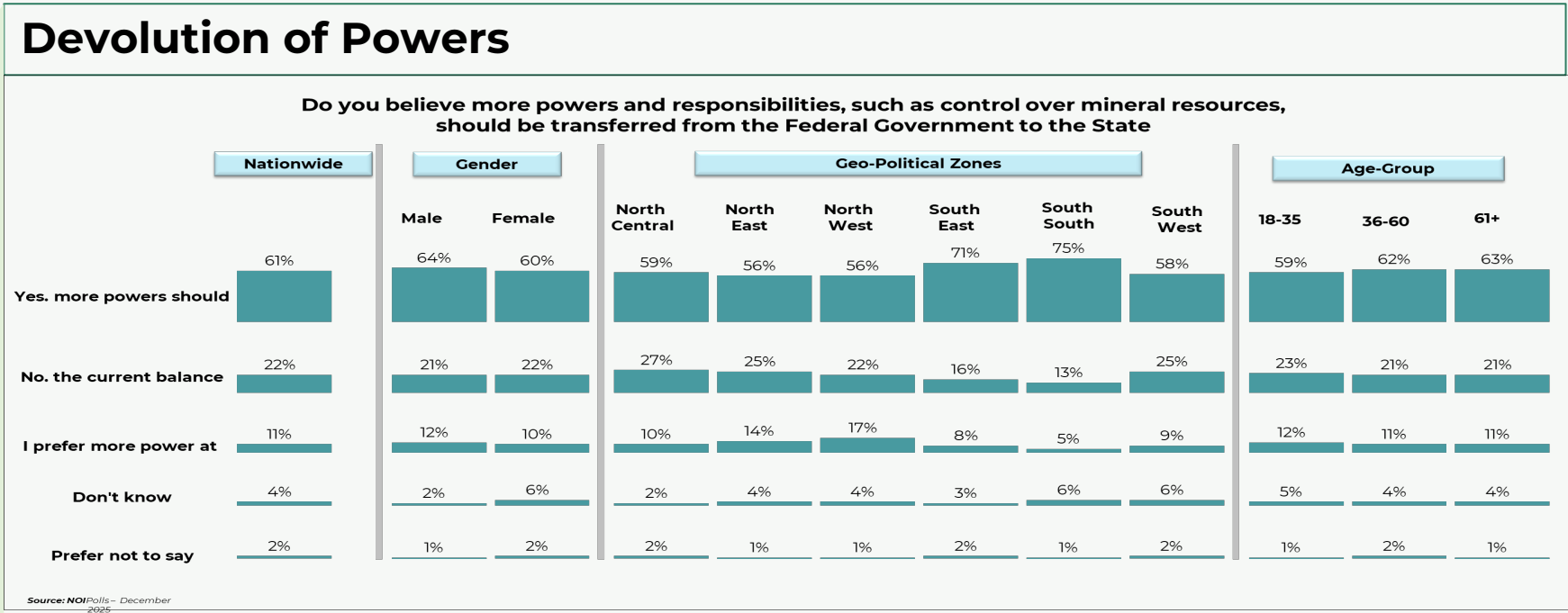


- Despite the overwhelming support for State Police, the largest single response regarding concerns is that 39% of Nigerians have no major concern about the establishment of State Police, while the primary worry among those with concerns is the potential for abuse by State Governors at 29%.
- Other concerns are relatively minor, with lack of adequate training and resources (7%), the belief that it will improve security (7%), and potential conflict with Federal Police (6%) each garnering minimal attention.
- This pattern suggests that while there is broad support for the concept, policymakers must address governance safeguards and accountability mechanisms to mitigate fears of executive overreach at the state level

Public support for power devolution: A call for greater state control over mineral resources

61%

want more powers and responsibilities transferred from the Federal Government to the states.



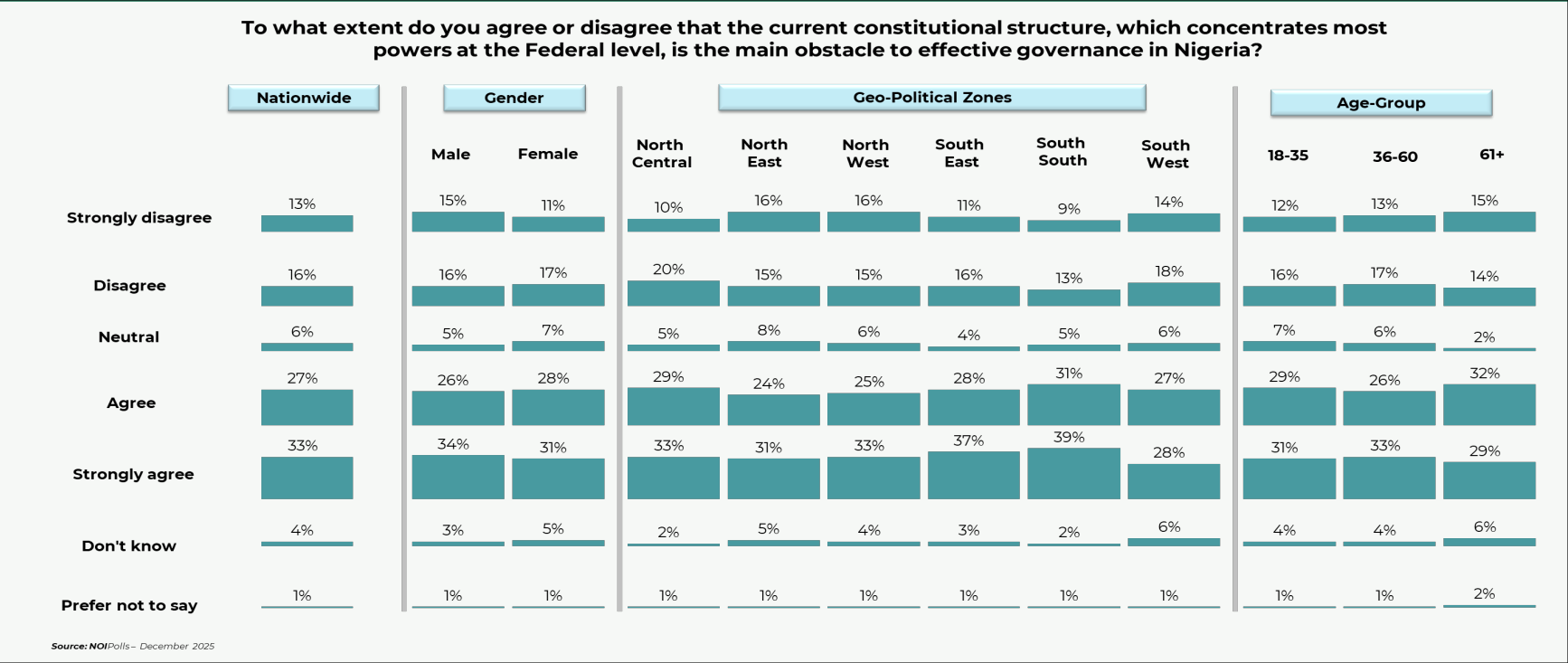
- A clear majority of Nigerians (61%) believe that more powers and responsibilities, such as control over mineral resources, should be transferred from the Federal Government to the State level, with only 22% preferring to maintain the current balance of power.
- Support is notably stronger in resource-rich southern regions, particularly the South-South (75%) and South-East (71%), compared to northern zones where support ranges from 56-59%, while gender differences are minimal (64% male vs. 60% female).
- This strong endorsement for devolution, especially from regions that have historically felt marginalized in resource control decisions, signals a clear public mandate for constitutional reforms that grant states greater autonomy over their natural resources.

There is a high public backing for constitutional reform and regional support for devolving powers to state

60%

of Nigerians agree and strongly agree that the current constitutional structure, which concentrates most powers at the Federal level, is the main obstacle to effective governance in Nigeria

Federal Power Concentration as Obstacle



- Regional variations show the strongest agreement in the South-South (70% combined) and South East (65% combined), compared to more moderate agreement levels in northern zones (ranging from 55-62% combined), while gender and age differences are minimal.
- This widespread perception that federal power concentration impedes good governance provides strong public backing for constitutional reforms aimed at devolving powers and responsibilities to state and local levels.

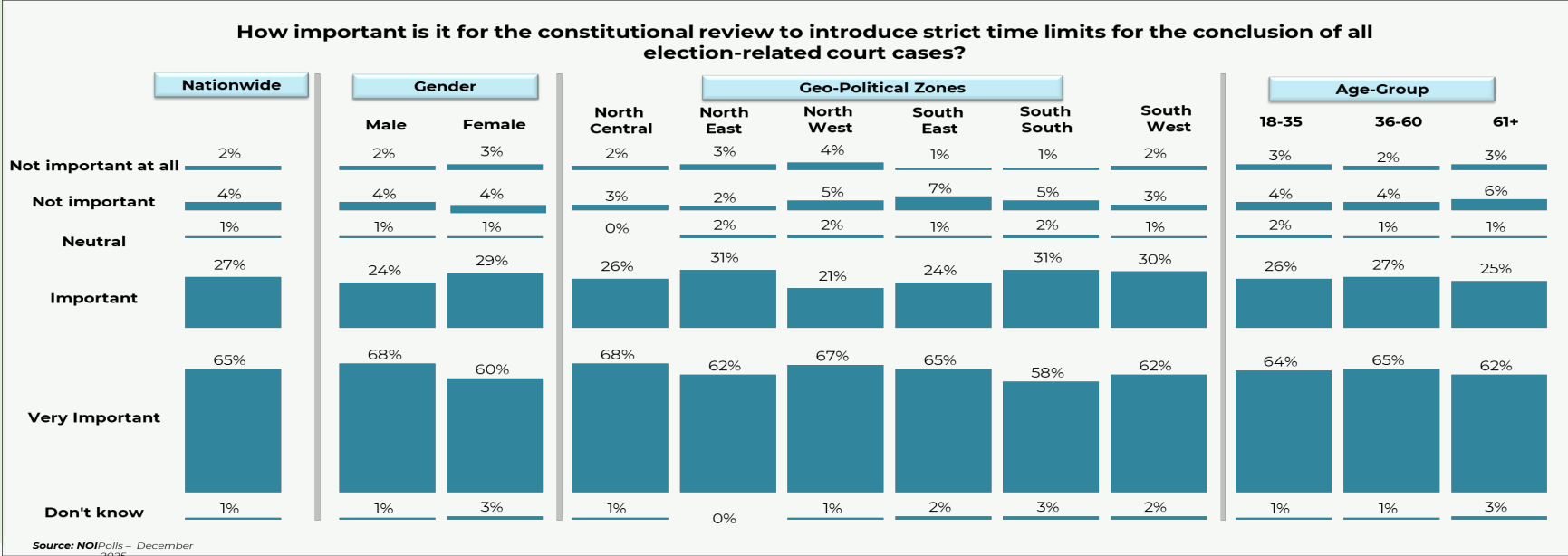
There is a high public demand for judicial efficiency and support for constitutional amendment on election-related court cases

92%

Support

Support strict constitutional time limits for all election-related court cases.

Time Limits for Election Petitions



- The survey reveals a public demand for judicial efficiency, with an overwhelming 92% of Nigerians supporting a constitutional amendment to set strict time limits for the resolution of all election-related court cases.
- This strong consensus is consistent across all demographic groups, but it is particularly high among men (92%) and in the North-Central (94%) and North-East (93%) geopolitical zones.
- The data clearly indicates that Nigerians are frustrated with protracted legal battles following elections and see constitutional time limits as a critical reform for ensuring timely justice and political stability.

Judicial reform and political accountability

Citizens strongly back measures that can improve speed, integrity, and discipline.

83%

NJC autonomy

Support full financial autonomy for the National Judicial Council.

66%

More justices

Support increasing the number of Supreme Court and Court of Appeal justices.

87%

Vacate seat before defection

A strong signal against political opportunism and for party discipline.

Where reform promises faster justice and clearer accountability, the public response is emphatic.

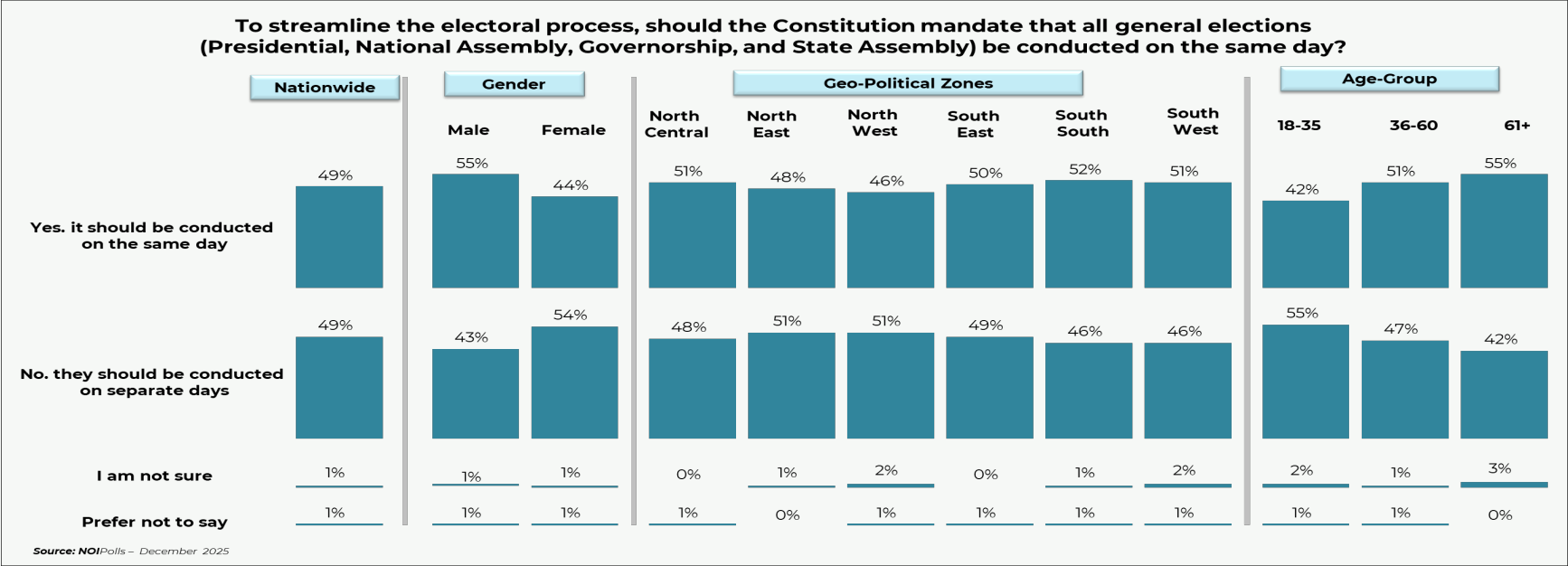
Nation divided on proposal for same-day general elections with regional and generational differences1

49% support vs
49% oppose

Synchronized elections

Regional and generational differences make this the clearest deadlock in the survey.

Constitutional Mandate for Synchronized Elections



- The survey reveals a nation perfectly split on the proposal to conduct all general elections on the same day, with 49% of citizens in support and an equal 49% in opposition.
- This deep division is largely driven by regional and generational differences, as support is strongest in the southern geopolitical zones and among older Nigerians, while opposition is highest in the northern zones and among youth.
- The absence of a clear national consensus makes this a highly contentious issue for constitutional reform, presenting a significant challenge for lawmakers who lack a clear public mandate to proceed in either direction.

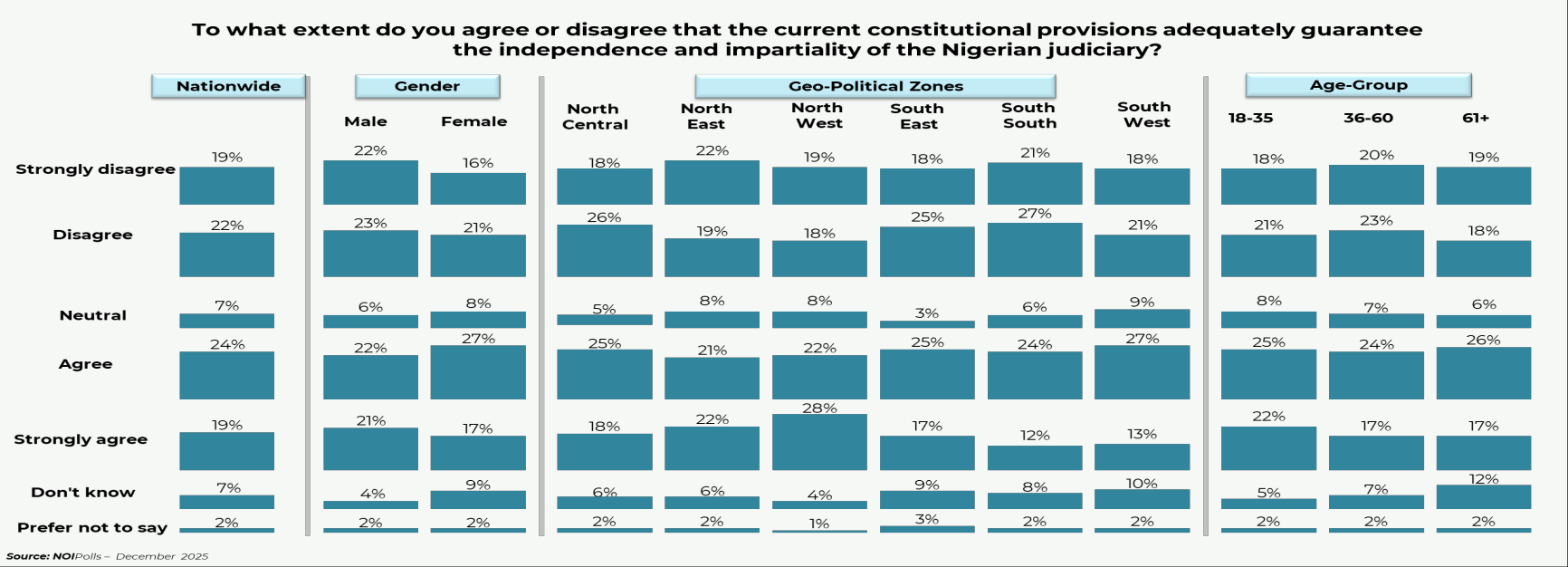
There is a divided opinion on judicial independence and constitutional provisions across regions

43% say current provisions are sufficient; 41% disagree

Judicial independence provisions

This does not show a decisive public verdict. It suggests uncertainty and a need for careful framing of any proposed changes.

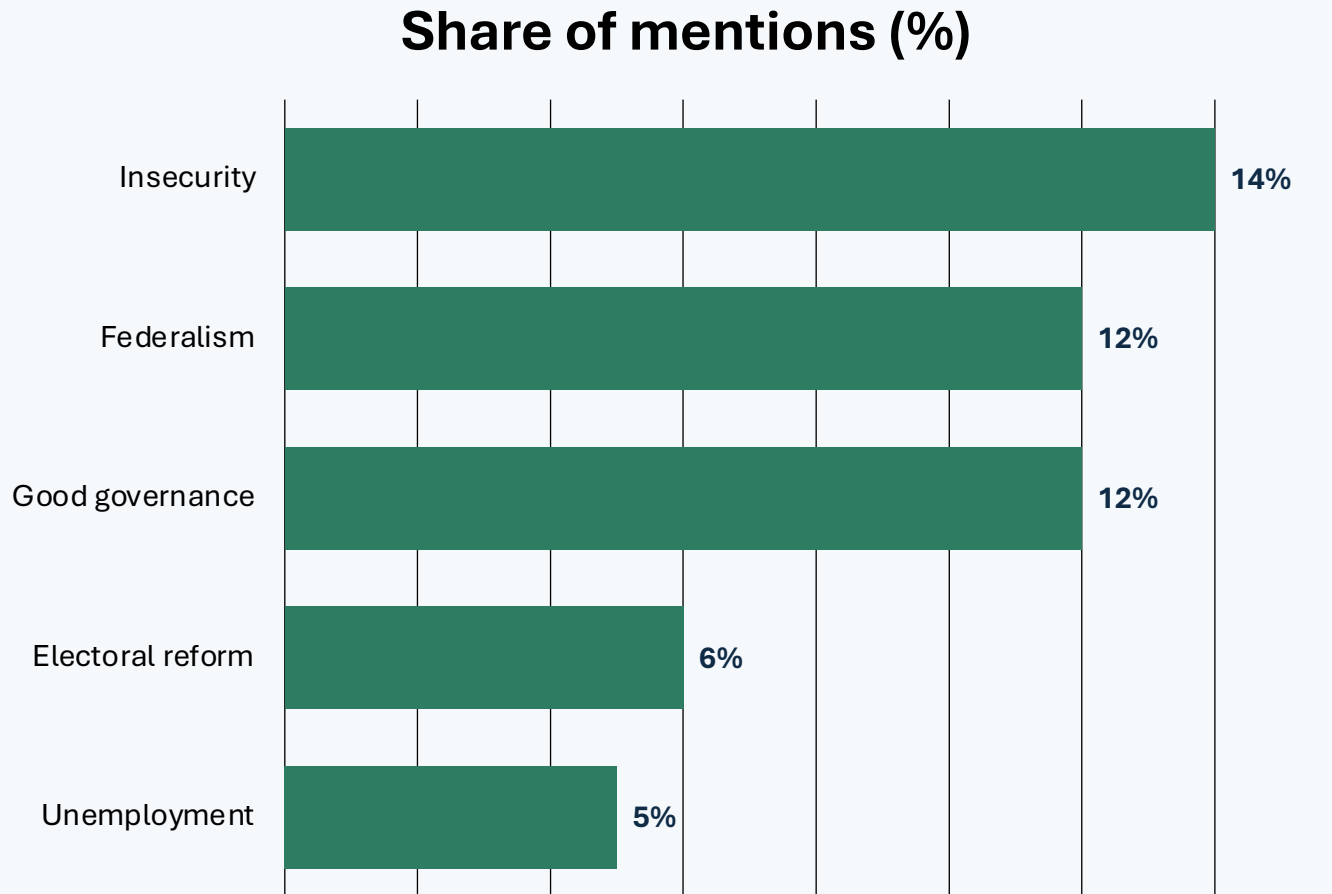
Constitutional Guarantee on Judicial Independence



- The survey reveals a deeply fractured public opinion on the adequacy of constitutional provisions for judicial independence, with 43% of Nigerians believing they are sufficient while a nearly equal 41% disagree.
- This division is most pronounced along regional lines, with a majority in the North-West (50%) and North-East (43%) expressing confidence in the current provisions, while skepticism is highest in the South-South (48% disagree).
- The lack of a clear majority view indicates that there is no public consensus on whether the judiciary is sufficiently protected from external influence, making this a complex and contentious area for constitutional reform.

Beyond the tested bills: other issues Nigerians still want addressed

Open-ended responses on one additional issue the National Assembly should consider in the constitutional review



What stands out

The leading open-ended priorities are not marginal. They point back to the same broader concerns already visible across the survey:

Security and public safety

Federal restructuring and devolution

Quality of governance and accountability

14% named no additional issue; 18% were unsure or declined to answer.

Implications for the constitutional review agenda

1

Communicate better

The biggest process weakness is low awareness. Public education and stakeholder engagement need to intensify.

2

Move on high-consensus reforms

Local government autonomy, electoral transparency, time limits for petitions, women's seats, and anti-defection reforms have clear public backing.

3

Build safeguards where needed

State police can move forward, but concerns about gubernatorial abuse must be answered with firm accountability mechanisms.

4

Keep dialogue open on contested issues

Synchronized elections and judicial independence need deeper dialogue because the public signal is mixed rather than decisive.

Thank you

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
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