

**2022 PNG ELECTIONS:
EXPECTATIONS,
PREDICTIONS, AND
CONCERNS FROM
PARTICIPANTS**

PACIFIC UPDATE 2021

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AIMS OF SURVEY

- To learn the extent to which voters considered policy issues, when selecting who to vote for
- To learn how female candidates might best win voter support.
- To get a sense of the popularity of particular political parties.

METHODOLOGY

- Survey sent out two weeks prior to by elections and closed the day before voting started
- Link sent out on social media (Facebook, WhatsApp etc.)

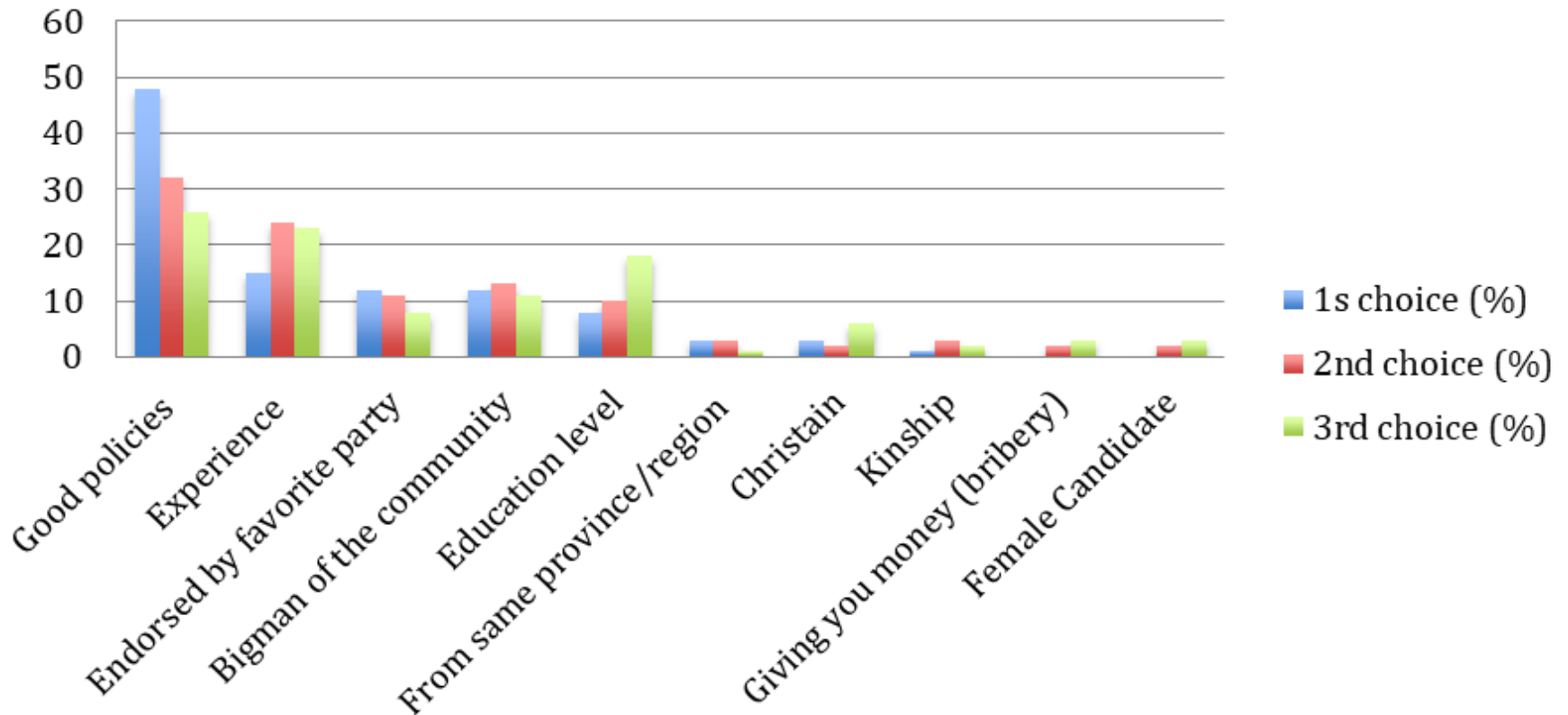
Limitations

- 120 survey participants - Urban and fairly well educated, Moresby Northwest is not a typical PNG electorate, so our findings might not hold true nationwide.
- Nevertheless, the by-election provided a chance to learn more voters' electoral choices.

MAIN FINDINGS

■ Figure 1: Factors influencing Allocation Preference

Determinants of preferences



CONT.

- The level of education may have affected the responses. Of the 120 respondents surveyed, 72% either have a degree or are studying towards a degree.
- Three main issues that voters said the candidates should talk about for Moresby Northwest are the law and order issues in the electorate, economic opportunities (SMEs), and health infrastructure & services .
- The same question was asked for the 2022 national elections. Respondents said candidates and political parties should focus on how to deal with law and order issues, economic development, and corruption.

FEMALE CANDIDATES

- 48% of respondents who voted in 2017 said they would consider allocating one of their preferences to a female candidate in the Moresby Northwest whilst 37% said they would do the same in the 2022 election.
- We asked what it would take for someone who was not planning to vote for a female candidate to allocate one of his or her preferences to a female candidate. Here are some responses:

“She must not play the ‘gender card’ too much and concentrate on policy matters. Being male or female does not bring about changes we hope for but the right person with good quality.”

“My preference on women candidates will depend on their education qualifications and political party and policies of the party that she was endorsed by, her leadership qualities and someone who can fight for the common good for all people..”

POLITICAL PARTY POPULARITY

- We asked the respondents to pick the top political parties that they think would win the most seats in the 2022 elections.
- The names that were mentioned the most are Pangu Pati, The Allegiance Party, National Alliance, and United Labour Party.
- However, the reasons respondents gave for selecting these parties was these parties were either led by, or for NA's case, composed of prominent individuals.

CONCLUSION

- Our survey participants were urban, and well educated, so we cannot claim our findings hold true for all of Papua New Guinea.
- Also, we cannot say for sure that when they actually voted, participants in our survey prioritized policies as much as they said they did. Yet, our findings are still revealing.
- Voters of the sort we surveyed are at least aware that policies should be important in electoral competition.
- Despite being educated and urban our participants did not vote for women often in 2017, which highlights just how tough it is for women candidates, although more support from parties may perhaps help

END OF PRESENTATION

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