

SUMMARY

on the result of the Survey on the Learning the Views of Voters

I. INTRODUCTION

During May-August, 2009 Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center (EMDS) held a survey in the frame of the program – “Learning the Views of Voters”.

The survey was held in the area of 258 precincts with regard to 122 constituencies of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In total, the survey covered 132 administrative territory centers - 41 cities, 51 settlements and 40 villages.

There were included 23 questions in the survey and these questions divided into – a) the level of voters – parliament relations, b) Parliament’s activity, c) local and nationwide problems and d) the participation in election.

EMDS has implemented the project “Learning the Views of Voters” with the financial assistance of the US National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

II. THE GOAL OF THE SURVEY

The goal of this survey was to learn the level of citizen-parliament relations in the Republic of Azerbaijan, voters’ attitude towards local and nationwide problems, and elective governmental body – Parliament’s activity in the protection of voters’ interest.

EMDS held the survey with the object of evaluation the current situation of the tradition of parliamentarism in the eve of 2010 Parliamentary elections and voter’s activity in the country.

III. THE METHODOLOGY OF THE SURVEY

a) Selection

The precincts were chosen with a random selection methodology – by casting lots. For this purpose the casting of lots was held due to existed precincts list of 122 constituencies. EMDS didn’t involve the precincts of 3 constituencies – 17 Yasamal (Baku) third, 25 Nizami (Baku) second and 98 Shamkir city to the casting lots for a random selection, because no deputy was selected from these areas in the country.

The random selection of precincts for survey was implemented by a computer program and 258 precincts were chosen with regard to 122 constituencies. Minimum 4 persons were asked to reply the survey in every chosen precincts.

b) The methodology of survey

Interviewers who held the survey determined the respondents on appropriate precincts due to the following rules:

- 1) Interviewers went to an appropriate address (the building situated in the precinct) in an appropriate precinct and appealed to one of 3-4 homes situated both right and left sides addresses;
- 2) While the survey with respondents interviewers paid attention to a) their citizenship of the Republic of Azerbaijan, b) their registration in an appropriate precinct, c) their 19 age eligibility and d) the most close birthday among family members to a survey day;

It should be noted that holding the survey with two women and two man respondents in every precincts (in gender equality condition) was attempted.

Interviewers explained the respondents about the goal and rules of the survey beforehand. Afterwards, the respondents were provided with survey forms to complete.

c) The collection of information and its analysis

EMDS representatives held the survey among 1351 voters with a face-to-face methodology. 64 survey forms with regard to 1351 survey forms was not included to the survey's results, because of their invalidation.

Valid 1257 survey forms among collected survey forms were included to an information database into 5 groups:

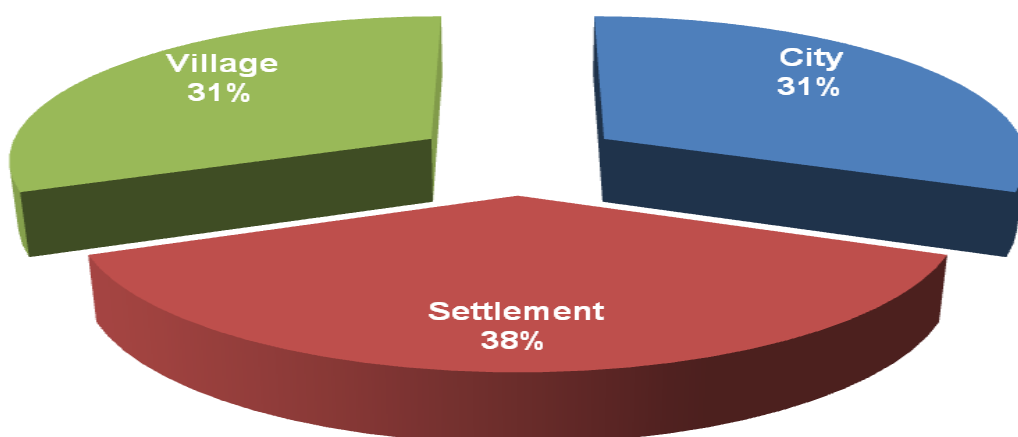
- 1) Personal information of respondents;
- 2) Participation in election;
- 3) The evaluation of the Members of Parliament's activity;
- 4) The evaluation of Parliament –voter relations;
- 5) The evaluation of local and nationwide problems;

IV. THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

1) Personal information of respondents:

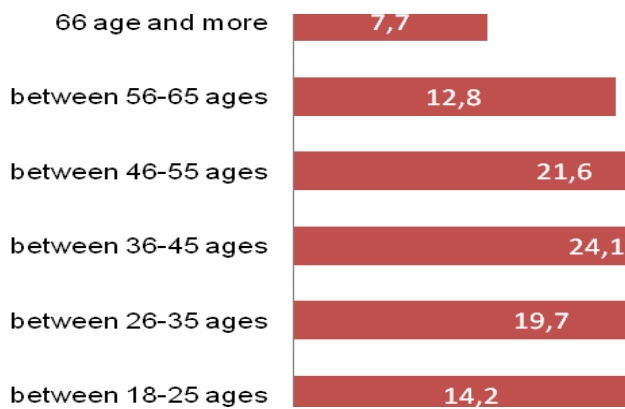
a) The address of the respondents (administrative territorial division)

According to the results of the survey, the indicator of respondents' living in both cities and villages is equal. However, the voters who are living in the settlements exceeded.



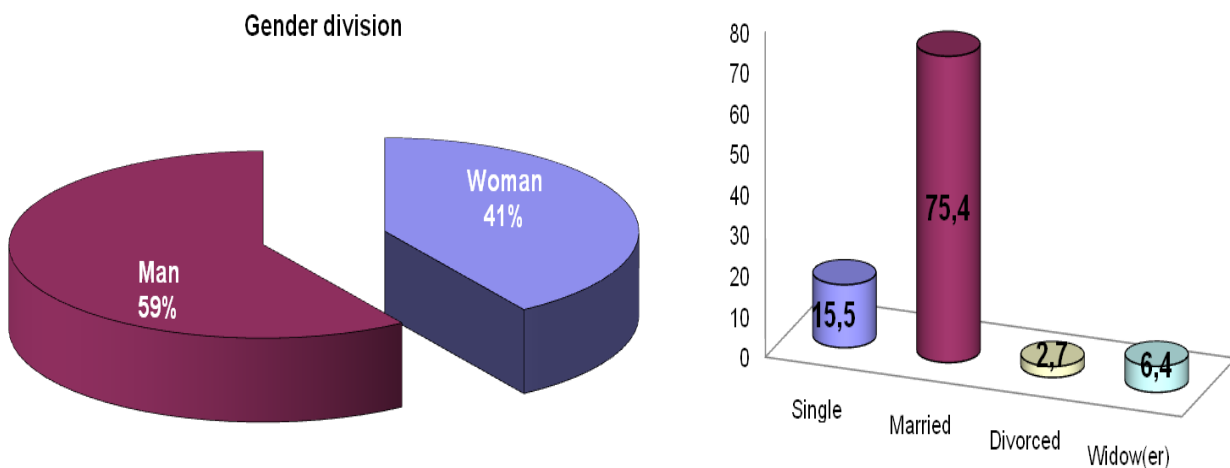
b) The age of respondents

Among the respondents middle ages voters exceeded. The participation of the youth in the election is comparatively low.



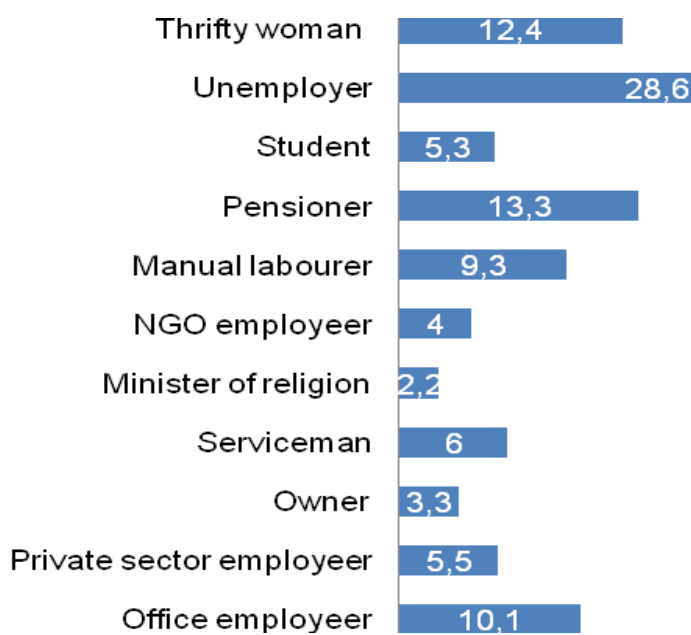
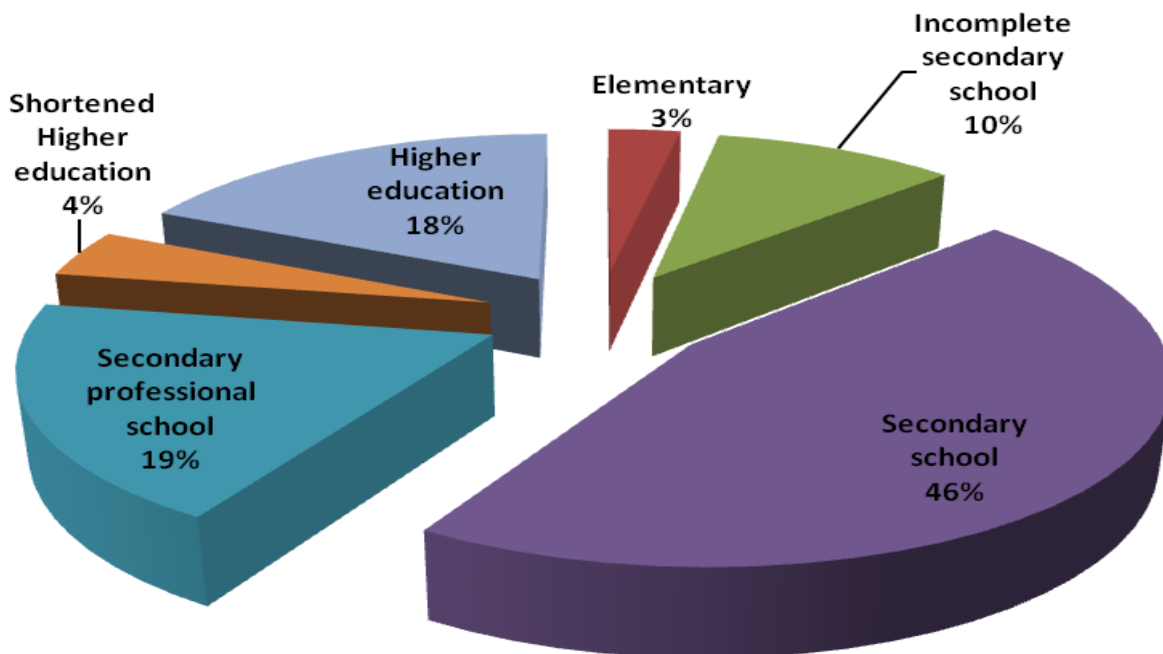
c) The gender and family status of the respondents

59 percent of men, 41 percent of women consist of the survey. Meanwhile, the majority consists of married people.



d) The education and occupation of the respondents

Survey's results show that the majority of respondents consists of people who have not got a shortened or higher education. 10.1 percent of office employer, 5.5 percent of private sector employer, 3.3 percent of owner, 6 percent of serviceman, 2.2 percent of minister of religion, 4 percent of NGO employer, 9.3 percent of manual labourer, 13.3 percent of pensioner, 5.3 percent of student, 28.6 percent of unemployed person and 12.4 percent of thrifty woman consist the survey.

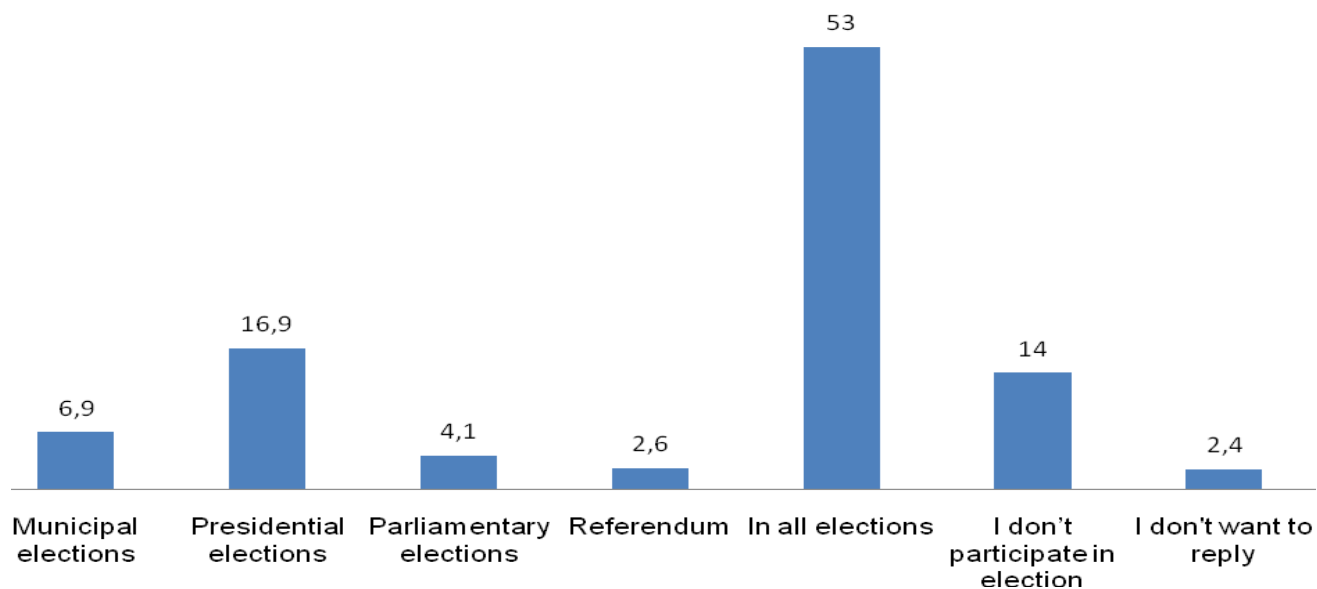


2) The participation in the elections

While the survey, 4 questions were asked to the respondents about the participation in the election:

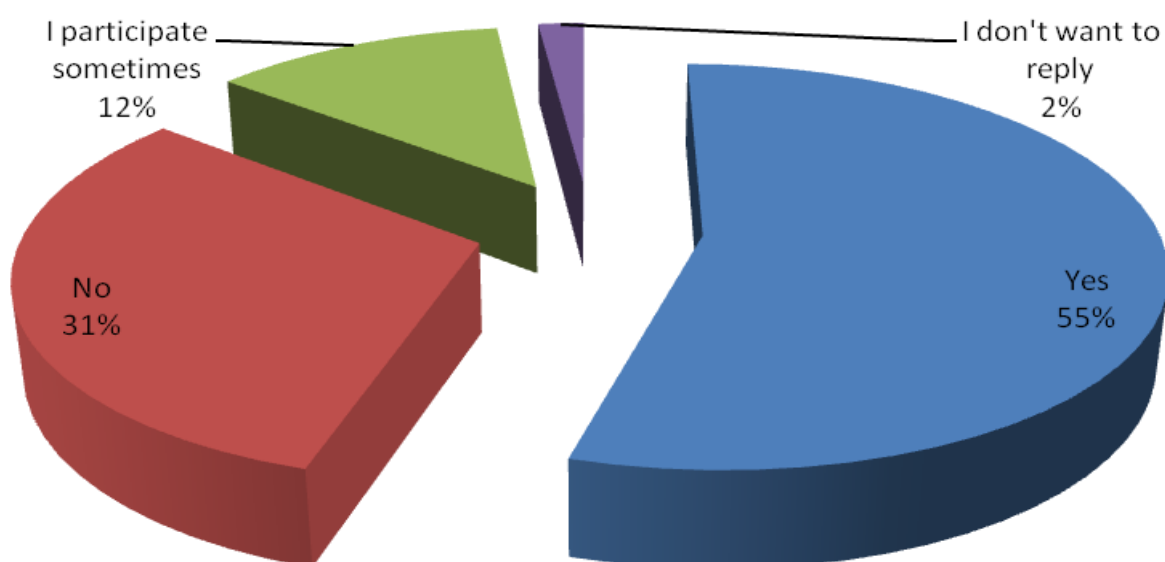
a) In which election do you participate more constantly?

The respondents answered to 6.9 percent of “Municipal Election”, 16.9 percent of “Presidential Election”, 4.1 percent of “Parliamentary Election”, 2.6 percent of “Referendum”, 53 percent of “In all elections”, 14 percent of “I don’t participate in elections” and 2.4 percent of “I don’t want to reply”. Totally, the participation in all election of the respondents is appreciable.



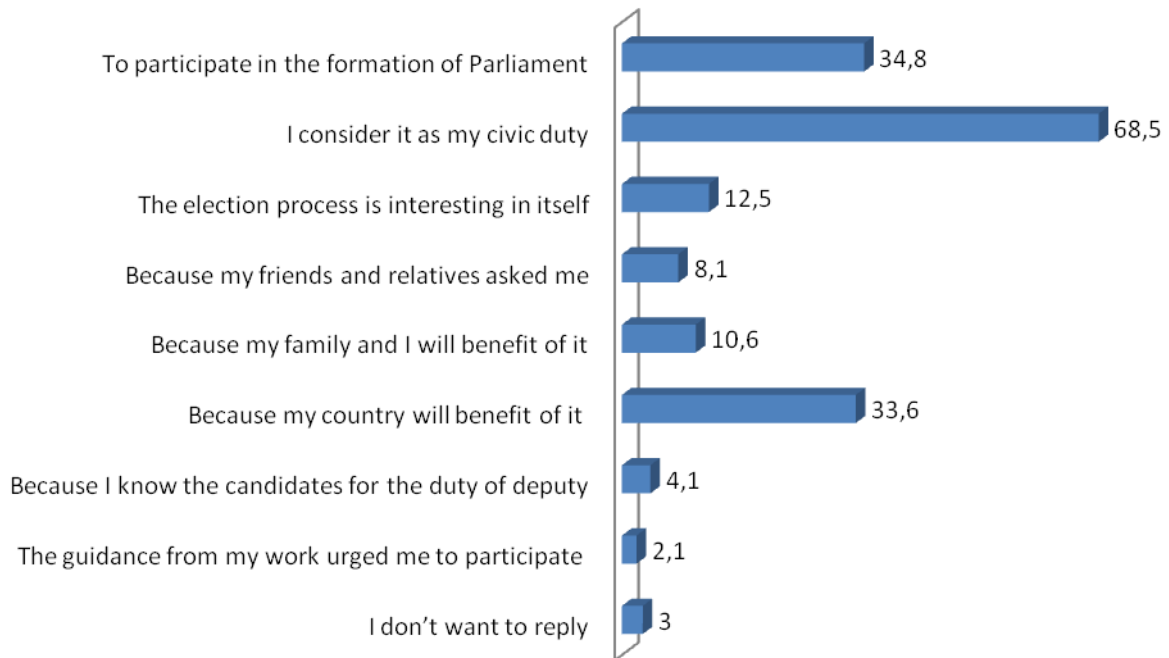
b) Do you participate in Parliamentary elections constantly?

The respondents answered to 54.9 percent of “yes”, 31 percent of “no”, 12.2 percent of “participate sometimes” and 1.9 percent of “I don’t want to reply”.



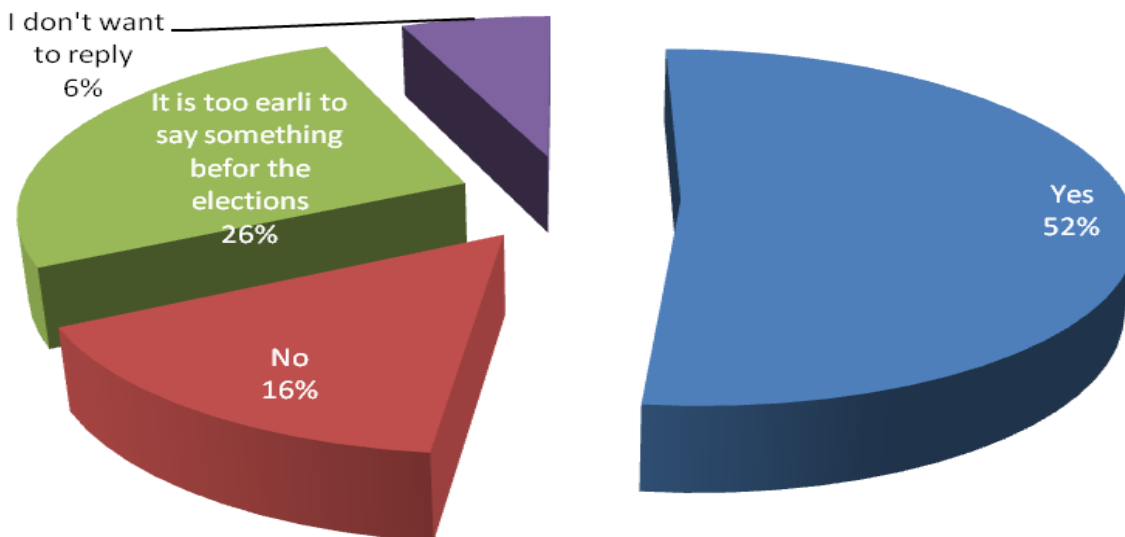
c) If you participate in Parliamentary elections constantly, how can you explain the reason?

This question - “do you participate in Parliamentary elections” question is given to the respondents who replied to “yes” answer and the results were presented in the belowmentioned table:



d) Will you participate in 2010 Parliamentary elections?

This result is very good that 52 percent of the respondents answered positively in the survey.

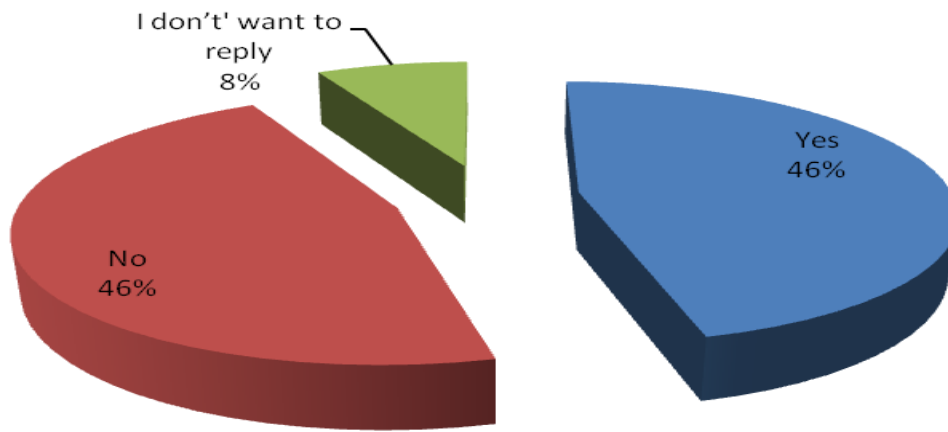


3) The evaluation of Deputies work

a) Did you vote for the deputy current representing your district at last Parliamentary election?

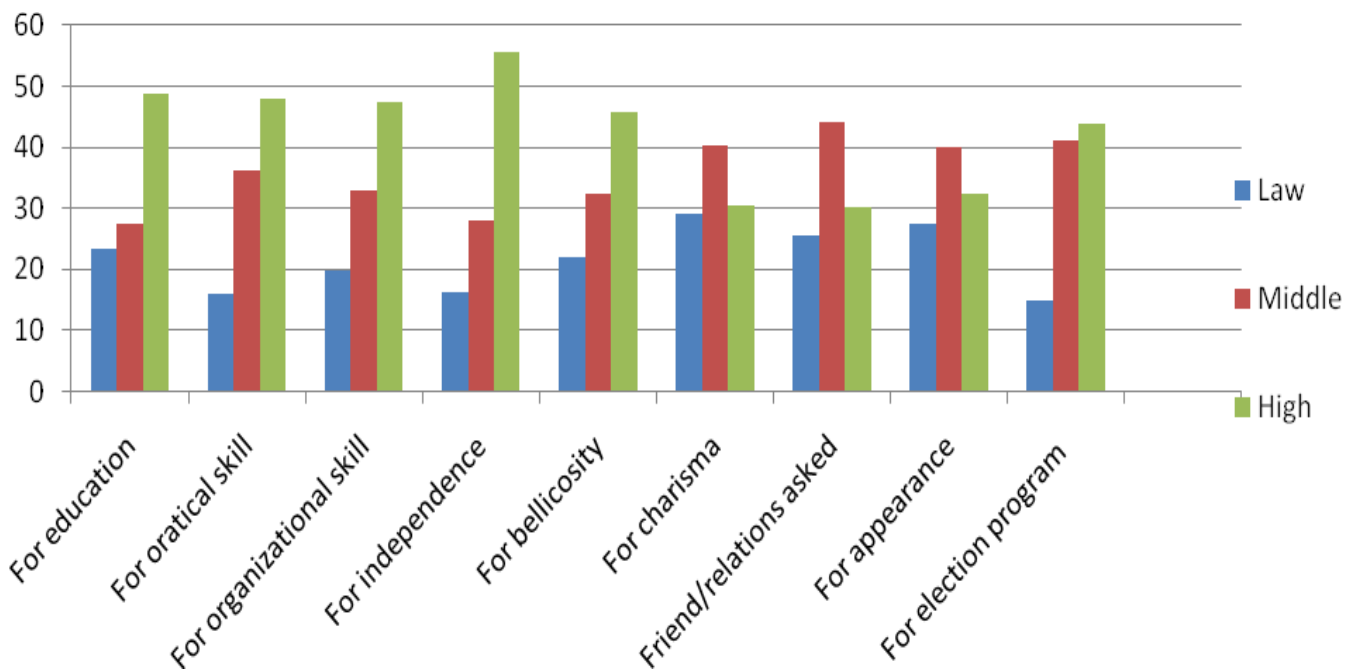
The respondents noted 45.9 percent of “yes”, 46 percent of “no” and 7.7 percent of “I dont want to reply” answers in this question.

According to the answers of this question the respondents answered belowmentioned questions:



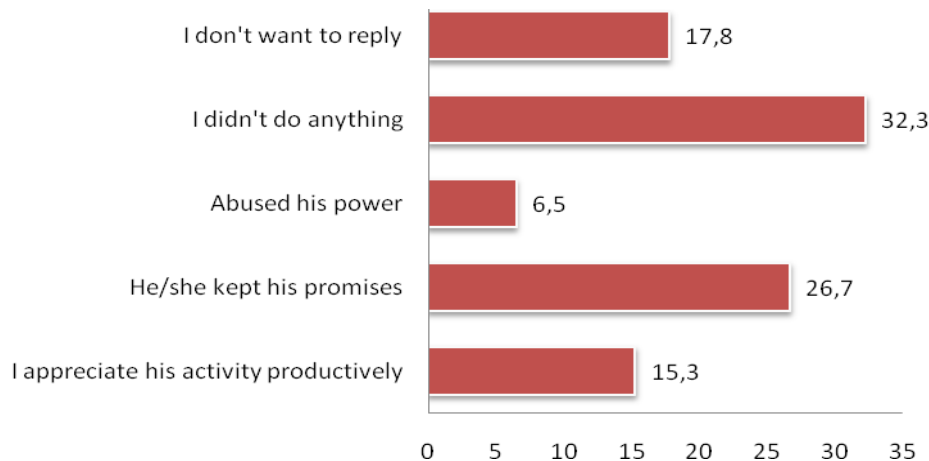
b) If you voted, for which feature and capability had you voted?

“I voted the deputy because his/her independence” answer got “highest” mark (more than 50 percent) among answers presented to the respondents. Moreover, the respondents noted “for his bellicosity”, “for his education”, “for his election platform”, “for his oratical skill” and “for his organization skill” answers as well. Totally, according to the analysis of presented answers, voters preferred 6 main indicators while voting to the deputies.



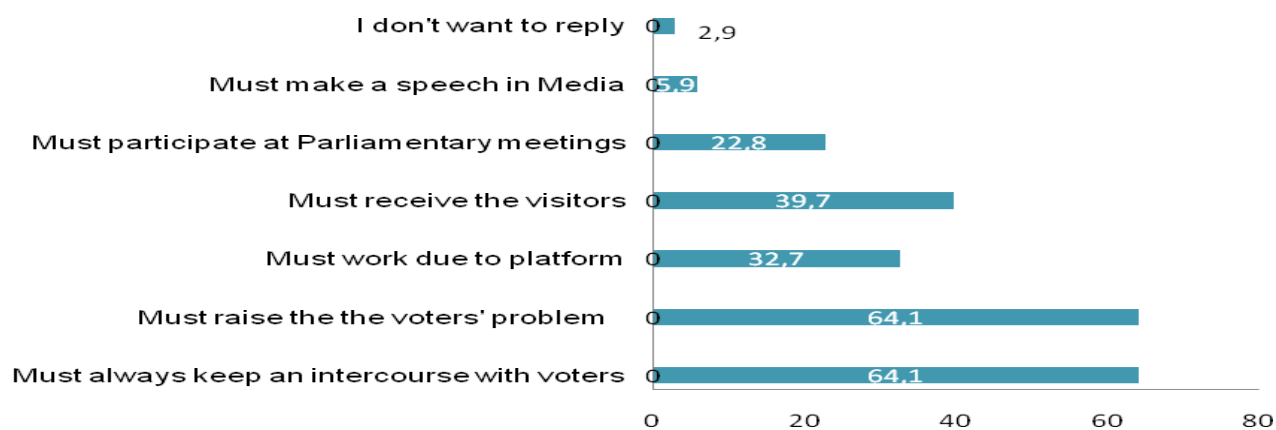
c) How do you appreciate the deputy’s past years activity from your distinct?

According to the analysis of this question, only 42 percent of respondents satisfied with their deputy’s activity and it must not be considered highly.



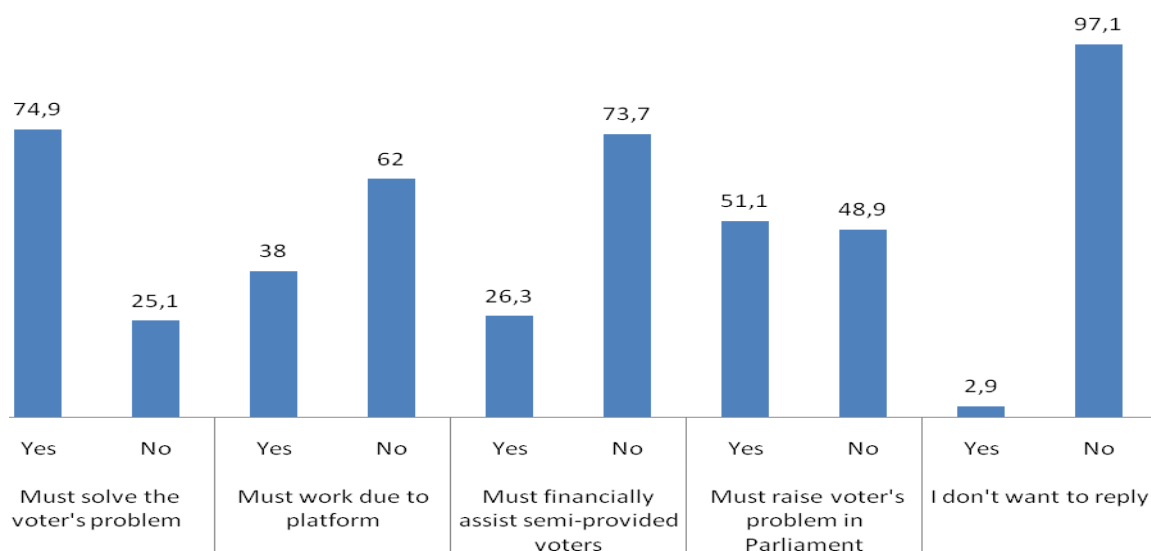
d) How should an active deputy to be?

More than 50 percent of respondents noted “must raise their voters’ problems in the Parliament” and “must keep an active intercourse with voters” answers.



e) What do deputy have to do for his/her voters?

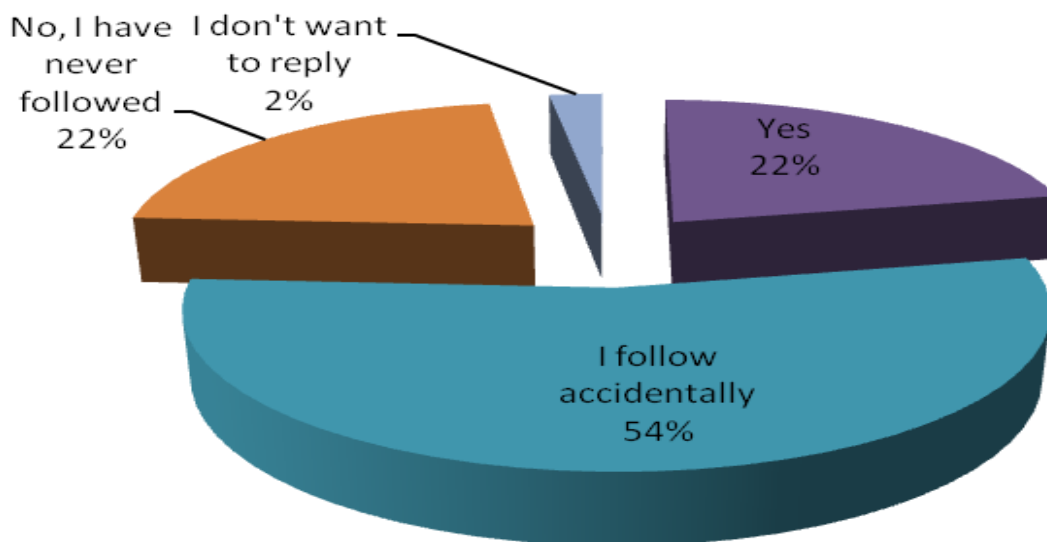
The most majority of respondents (74.9 percent) preferred “must solve the voters’ problem” answer to other presented variants. Approximately same numbers of voters voted against “must help semi-provided voters” answer.



4) The assessment of Parliament – voter relations

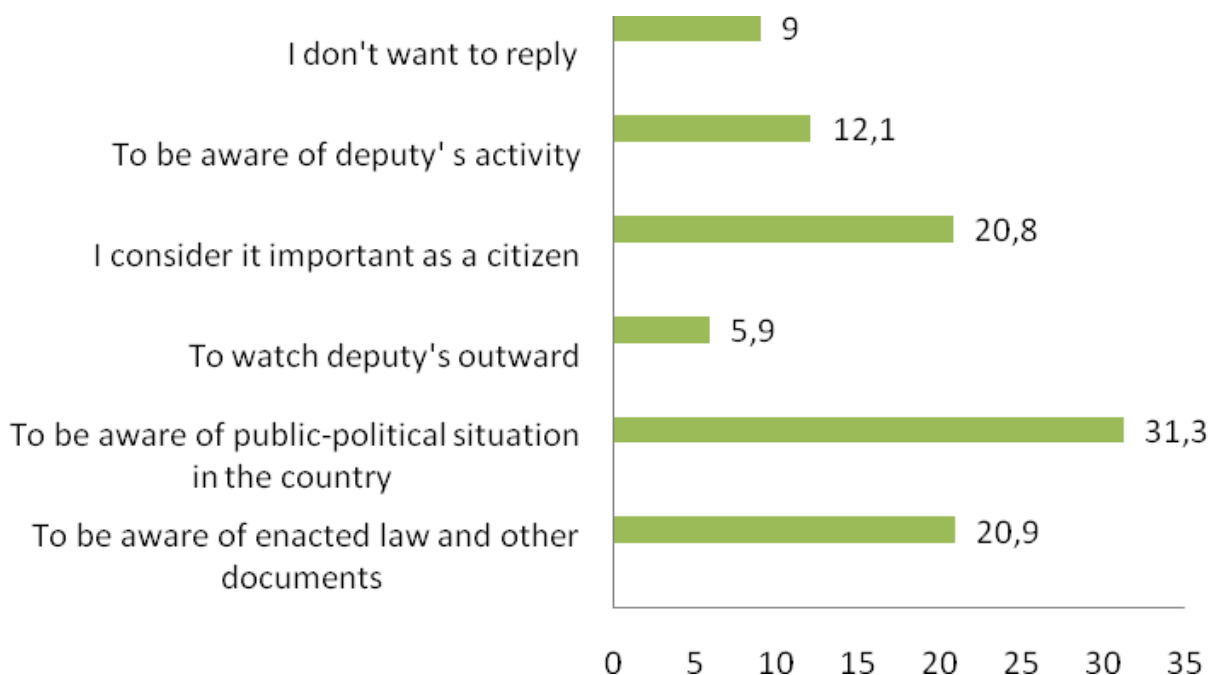
a) Do you follow the Parliamentary meetings constantly?

21 percent of respondents answered “yes”, 54 percent of “follow accidentally” and 21.7 percent of “I have never followed” to this question. The belowmentioned question were asked to the voters who noted “yes” answer:



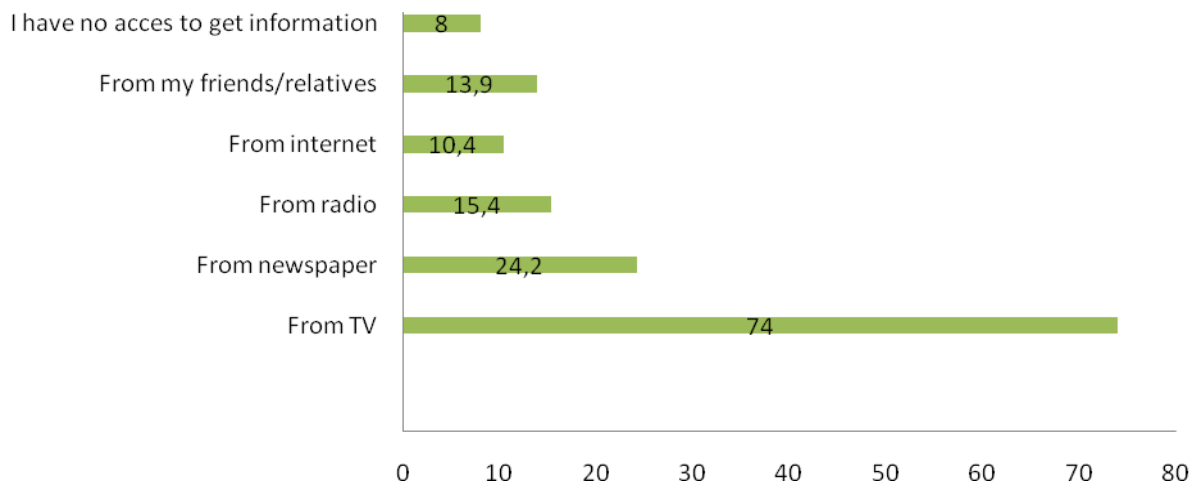
b) Why do you follow the Parliamentary meetings constantly?

29.9 percent of respondents noted “to be aware of enacted laws”, 31.3 percent of “to be aware of political-public situation in the country”, 5.9 percent of “just watching his outward”, 20.8 percent of “I consider it necessary”, 12.1 percent of “to get information about deputy’s activity” and 9 percent of “I don’t want to reply” answers.



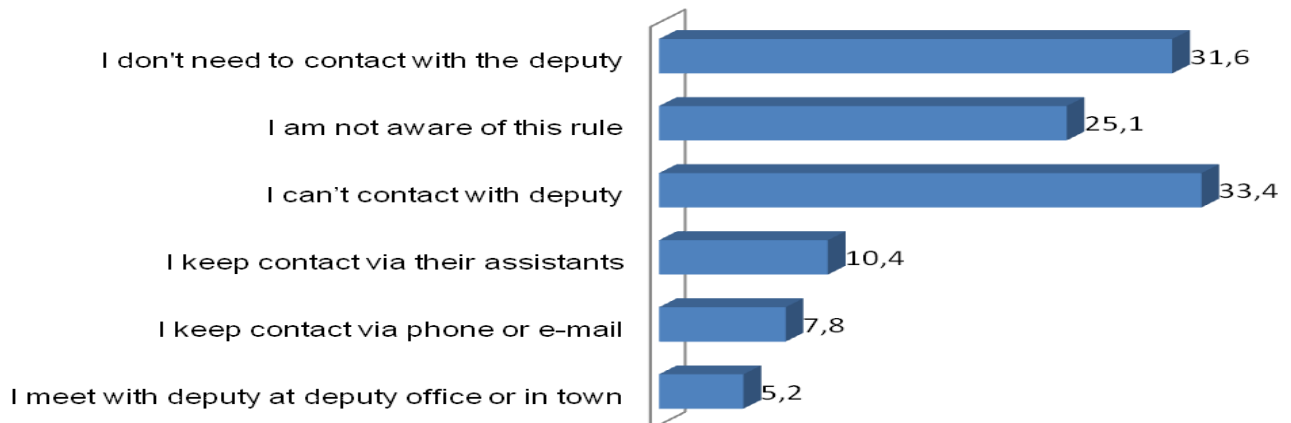
c) How do you get information about Parliament's activity?

Most majority of respondents (74 percent) answered “from TV”, 24.2 percent of “from newspaper” and 15.4 percent of “from radio” to this question.



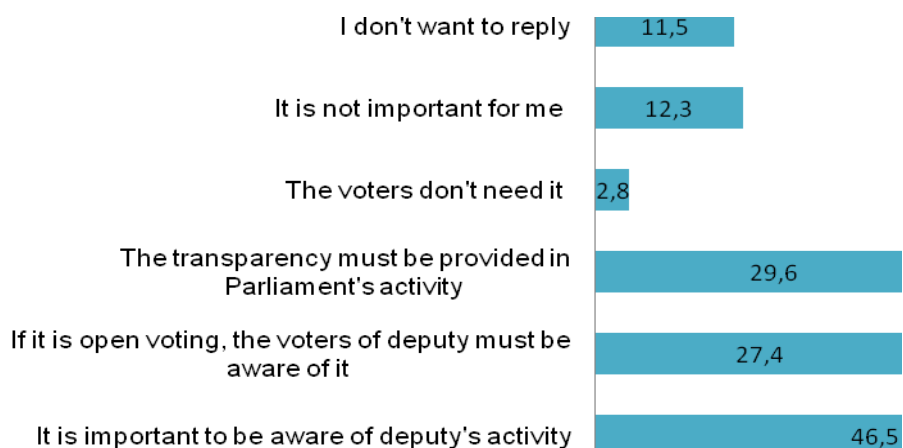
d) How do you keep a contact with deputy?

5.2 percent of respondents noted “I meet with deputy at deputy office or in blocks”, 7.8 percent “via phone or e-mail”, 10.4 percent “I keep contact via their assistants”, 33.4 percent “I can't contact with deputy”, 25.1 percent “I am not aware of this rule” answers.



e) Is it important to be aware of deputy's voting at the Parliamentary meeting?

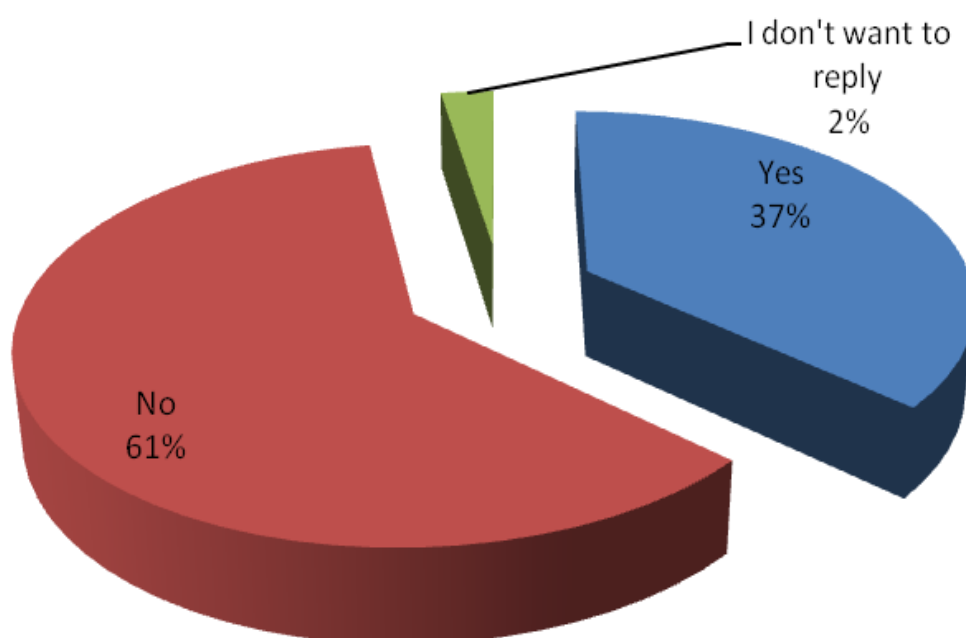
Most majority of respondents (approximately 73 percent) mentioned it is importance while the survey. It should be noted that nowadays, there is no such practice in the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.



f) Do you know the deputy of your district personally?

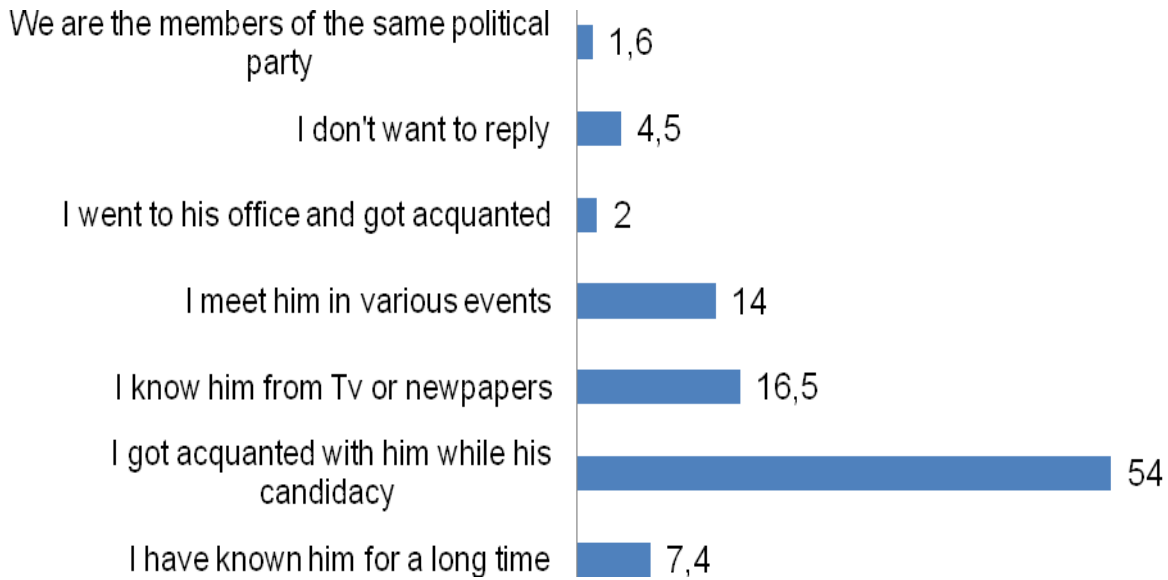
Unfortunately, only 36.6 percent of respondents answered positively to this question. 60.8 percent of respondents answered “no”, 2.6 percent of them answered “I don't want to reply”.

According to these answers, belowmentioned questions were asked the respondent who knew the deputy:



g) How did you get acquainted with the deputy?

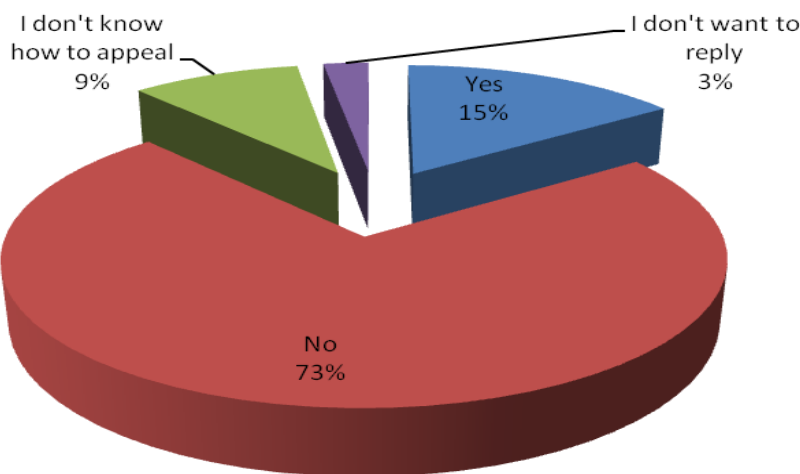
To this questions 52 percent of respondents noted “while his/her candidacy” answer.



h) Have you ever appealed to the appropriate deputy of the election district on the issues which disturbed you?

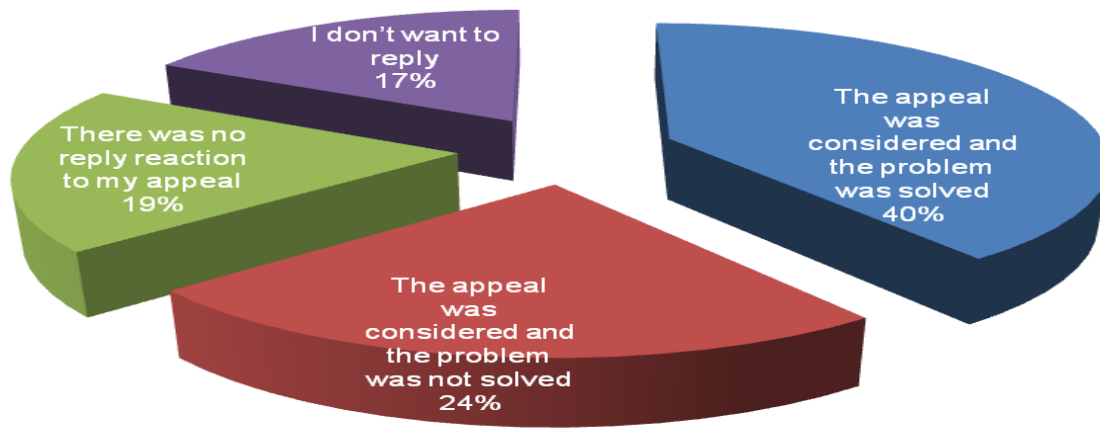
Only 15.4 percent of the respondents noted “yes” answer. Meanwhile, 9.3 percent of respondents answered “I don’t know how to appeal”.

The following question was given to respondents who noted “yes” in abovementioned question:



L) What was the consequence of your appeal to your appropriate deputy?

39.7 percent of respondents noted “the appeal was considered and the problem was solved”, 24 percent “the appeal was considered and the problem was not solved”, 19.1 percent “there was no reply reaction to my appeal” and 17.2 percent “I don’t want to reply” answer.



m) Do you remember any speech of your appropriate deputy in Parliamentary meeting?

More than half of the respondents answered to the question not so positively. 15.7 percent of them also noted “I remember the deputy’s speech about his/her distinct problem” and 13.3 percent “I heard about the deputy’s speech on distinct problem, but do not remember”, 7.9 percent “I remember his/her seppch about nationwide problem” and 8.3 percent “I heard about the deputy’s speech on nationwide problem, but do not remember” answers.

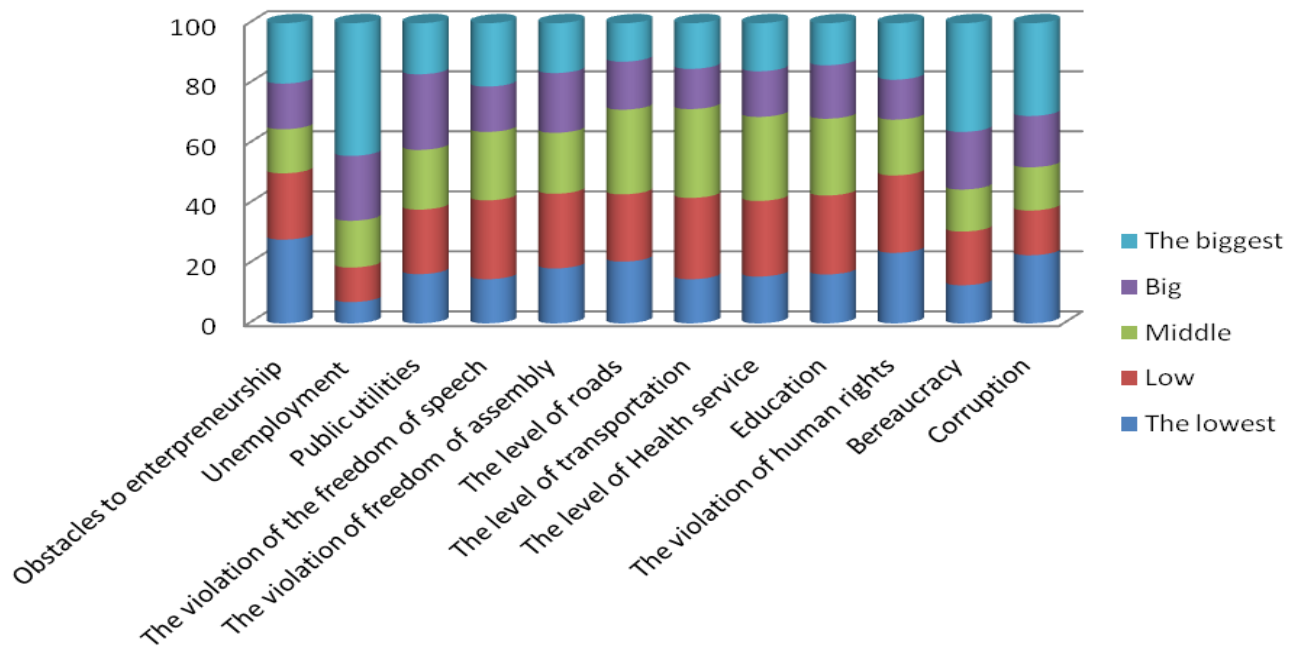


5) The evaluation of local and nationwide problems

a) How do you evaluate the problems in the region where you live in?

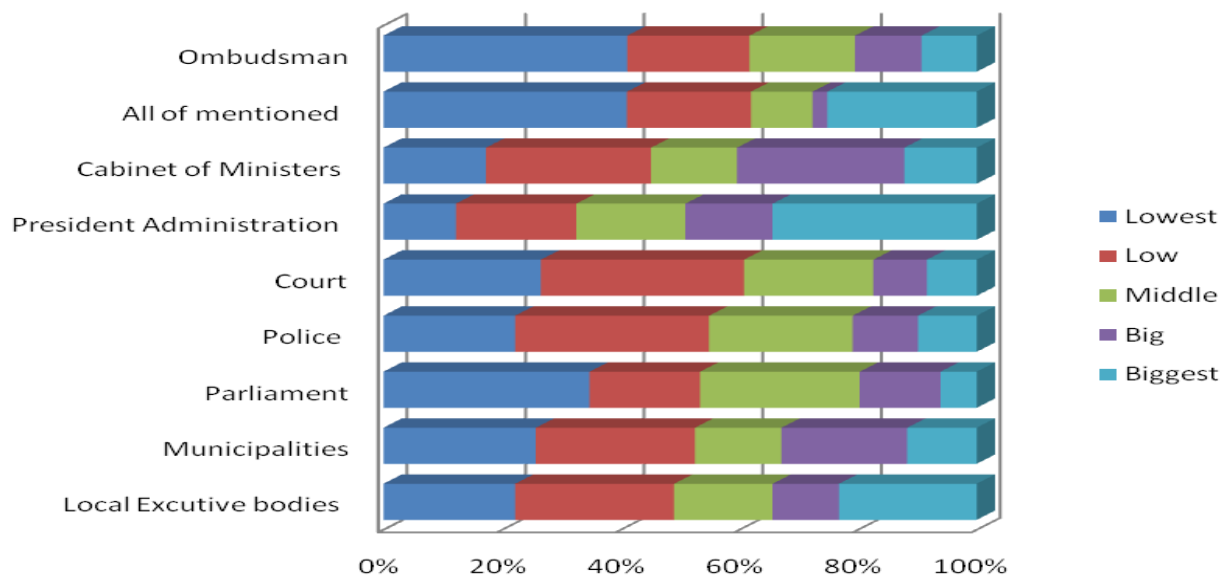
The presented variants - “unemployment”, “bureaucracy”, “corruption” and “public utilities” were evaluated as “big” and “the biggest” problems.

“The violation of the freedom of speech and press”, “the level of education”, “the freedom of assembly”, “the level of roads” and “ the level of transport” were comparatively evaluated as less important problems.



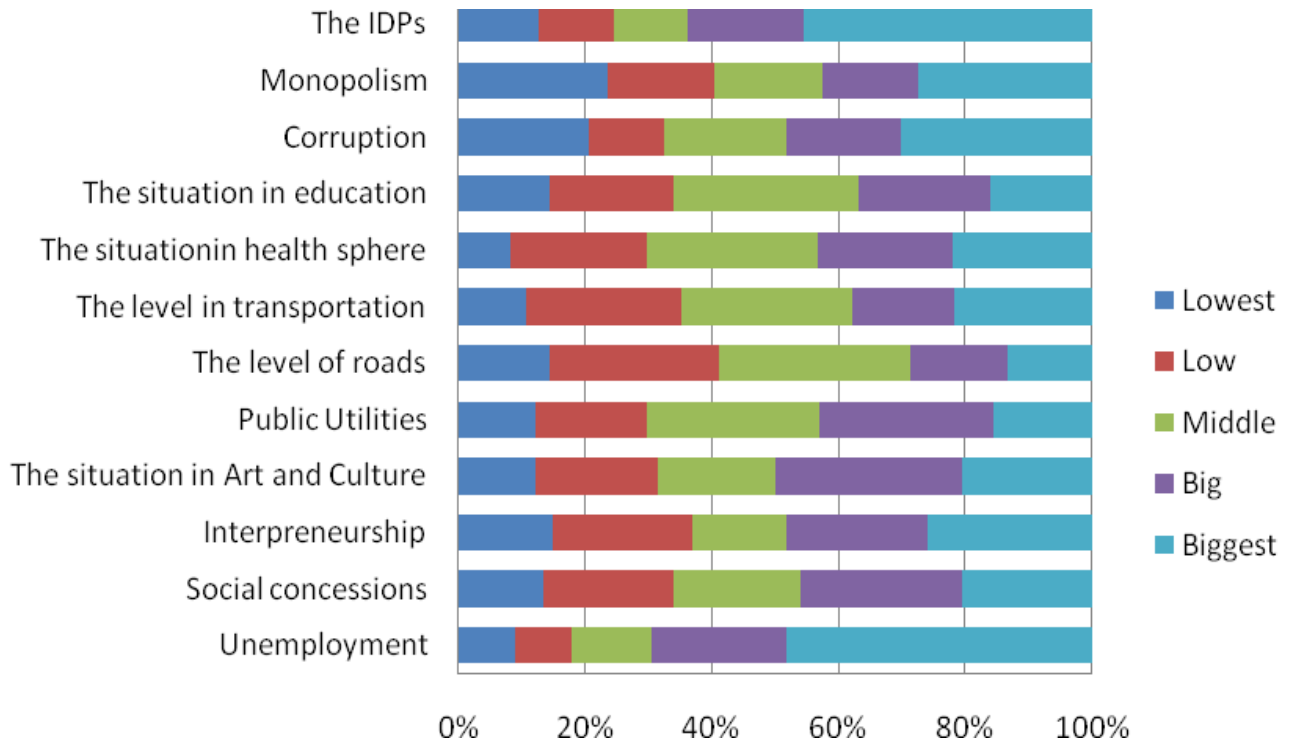
b) How do you think, which body plays most important role in the solution of the problem of the region where you live in?

The respondents appreciated very highly the roles of “President Administration”, “The Cabinet of Ministers”, “Local Executive Powers” and “Municipal Councils”. However, the roles of “Parliament”, “Police”, “The Court” and “Ombudsman” were appreciated low.



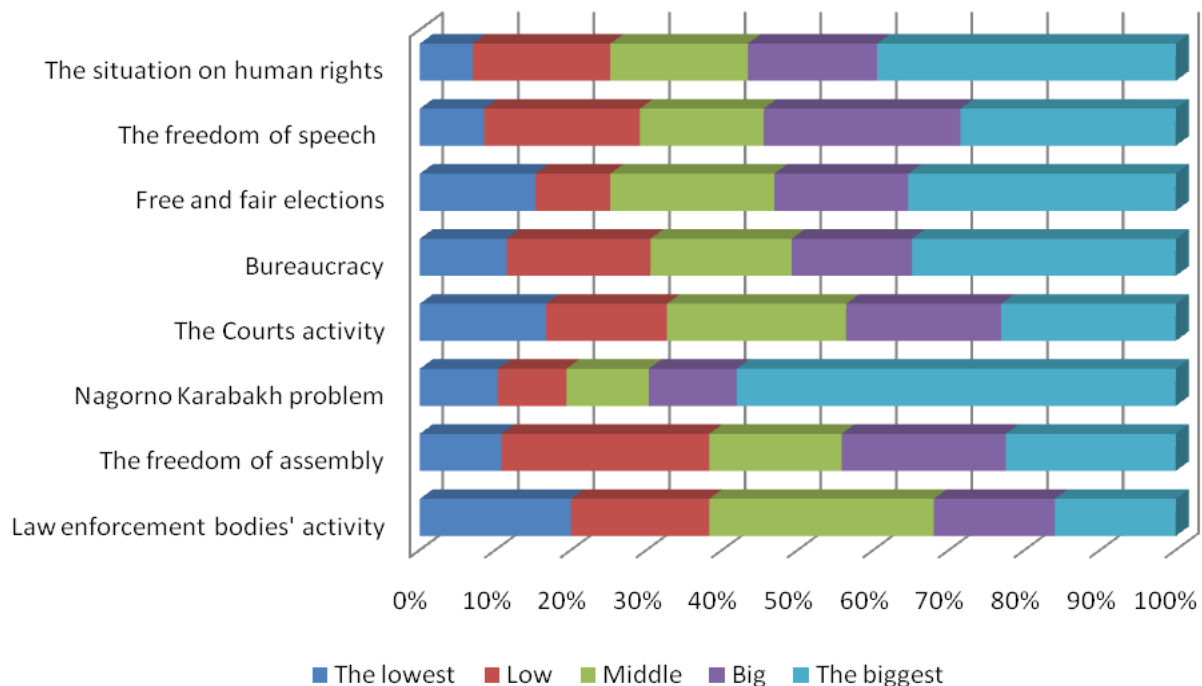
c) Which social-economical issues do you suggest to be discussed at the Parliamentary meetings?

More than 50 percent of respondents suggested the issues on “unemployment” and “the situation of internally displaced persons”. The suggestions – “the situation of roads”, “the situation of education” and “the situation of transport” were given not so occasionally.



d) Which social-economical issues do you suggest to be always discussed at the Parliamentary meetings?

First 4 issues like “Nagorno Karabakh”, “the situation in the field of human rights”, “free and fair elections” and “bureaucracy” were mostly suggested.



This survey was made in the frame of “Learning the Views of Voters” program of EMDS by the financial assistance of USA National Endowment for Democracy (NED).



November 13, 2009
Baku, Azerbaijan

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