



CEPRASS-NED PROJECT: MAYORAL AND CHAIRMANSHIP

Opinion Poll Survey 2023: Key Takeaways

A. Profile of Poll Respondents

1. **Socio-Demographic Characteristics:** The Opinion Poll survey included a balanced representation of gender, with 39% female and 61% male respondents. The largest age group was 35-44, accounting for 30% of respondents, followed by the 25-34 age group at 20%. The majority of the respondents (48%) had informal or no formal education.
2. **Ethnicity:** The survey reflected the diverse ethnic composition of the respondents, with Mandinka as the largest ethnic group consisting of 35% of respondents, followed by Fula at 29% and Wolof at 15%. Other ethnic groups were also represented in smaller proportions.
3. **Geographical Distribution:** The distribution of respondents across different LGAs varied, with Brikama having the highest representation at 22% while 78% is composed of respondents from the other LGAs.
4. **Voting Behavior:** All respondents reported having a voter's card, indicating eligibility to participate in the upcoming elections. A high percentage (98%) expressed an intention to vote, with 39% being first-time voters. More than half of the respondents (57%) were almost certain to vote, highlighting strong civic engagement.



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B. Potential Voters' Intention to Vote

1. **Brikama:** Nearly half (48%) of the respondents in Brikama have not made up their minds or prefer to keep their voting intentions undisclosed. Among the respondents who have indicated their voting intentions, Seedy Sheriff Ceesay of the National People's Party (NPP) leads on the intention to vote with 21% of the respondents' support. Yankuba Darboe, representing the United Democratic Party (UDP), follows closely behind with 19% of the respondents expressing their intention to vote for him. The independent candidates collectively do not garner more than 5% of the intended votes.
2. **Banjul:** More than half of the respondents (52%) have not yet decided or prefer to keep their voting intentions secret, which is the highest in all the LGAs. Among those who have decided, the majority (26%) intends to vote for UDP's Roheyatou Lowe, followed by NPP's Ebou Faye with 23% of the intention to vote.



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3. **Basse:** NPP's Muhamadou Ceesay leads with 55% support, while UDP's Foday Danjo trails behind at just 19%. The undecided and secret voters in Basse do not make up a significant portion, indicating strong support for the NPP in this region.
4. **Janjanbureh:** NPP's Sulayman Sawaneh has 41% of the intended votes, while UDP's Malick Sowe follows with 19%. The percentage of undecided and secret voters is substantial at 38%.
5. **Kerewan:** NPP's Papa Tunkara holds the lead in intention to vote with 37%, followed by UDP's Malamin I. L. Bojang. Approximately 35% of respondents are undecided or said that their intention is secret.
6. **Mansakonko:** UDP's Landing B. Sanneh leads with 32%, followed by NPP's Kebba Dem at 28%. However, 40% of respondents in Mansakonko are undecided or secretive about their voting intentions.
7. **Kuntaur:** NPP's Saihou Jawara leads with 38%, followed by UDP's Alhagie Sillah at 21%. About 41 percent of the potential voters are either undecided or said their vote is secret. Hence, NPP leads in both CRR North and South.
8. **Kanifing:** UDP's Talib Ahmed Bensouda leads with 50% of the respondents, while NPP's Bakary Y. Badjie follows with a significant gap of 28 percentage points. Only 27% of respondents in Kanifing are undecided or secretive about their voting intentions.

C. Potential Voter's Perception of the Likely Candidate to Win

1. **Banjul:** The incumbent UDP candidate, Rohey Malick Lowe leads the likely to win with 26%. The NPP candidate, Ebou Faye, is trailing behind with 14% on the respondent's perception on the likely to win. About 61% of the potential electorates said they "Can't tell", indicating uncertainty and indecision among respondents in Banjul.
2. **Brikama:** The UDP candidate, Yankuba Darboe, leads with 23% on the likely to win, while the NPP candidate, Seedy Sheriff Ceesay, has 22% support. Independent candidates and other parties add unpredictability to the race. Forty-two percent (42%) of respondents cannot tell who the likely winner will be. Thus, no meaningful conclusion can be made for Brikama because the percentage of "cannot tell" is substantial.
3. **Basse:** Mahammad Ceesay, the NPP candidate, leads with 63% on the likely to win. The UDP candidate, Foday Danjo, has 16% likely to win. Nineteen percent (19%) of respondents cannot predict who is likely to win. The PDOIS candidate, Alhagie Karamo Touray, has 1.7% support for the likely to win.



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4. **Janjanbureh:** The NPP candidate, Sulayman Sawaneh, is likely to win with 62% support. The UDP candidate, Malick Sowe, is perceived to likely win by 35% of respondents. Smaller parties and independent candidates add diversity to the race.
5. **Kerewan:** The NPP candidate, Papa Tunkara, leads with 37% of likely to win. 35% of respondents are unable to determine the likely winner. The UDP candidate, Malamin I. L. Bojang, is perceived as the likely candidate to win by 22% of respondents. The GDC candidate, Abdoulie Jallow, and an independent candidate, Babou Kebbeh, have secured smaller percentages of the likely to win.
6. **Kanifing:** The UDP candidate, Talib Ahmed Bensouda, is in the lead with 55% of respondents perceiving him as the likely candidate to win the mayoral seat in this LGA. The NPP candidate, Bakary Y. Badjie, is perceived as the candidate likely to win by only 19% of the respondents. However, 24% of respondents cannot tell who the likely winner will be.
7. **Kuntaur:** Saihou Jawara, the NPP candidate, is regarded as the likely candidate to win by 35% of respondents. The UDP candidate, Alhagie Sillah, follows with 22% of respondents reporting that he is likely to win the seat in this LGA. About 42% of respondents cannot tell who the likely winner in this LGA will be.
8. **Mansakonko:** The UDP candidate, Landing B. Sanneh, holds 39% support. About 35% of respondents are unable to determine the likely winner. The NPP candidate, Kebba Dem, has 25% support on the likely to win, challenging the UDP's dominance in the area.

D. Election and Local Government Issues

1. Most respondents, 61%, believed that candidates were treated fairly during the nomination process. Only 6.4% of the respondents expressed disagreement that all candidates were treated fairly. A considerable portion, 33%, reported that they did not know whether all candidates were treated fairly or not.
2. Road construction is the most important issue for the electorate, with 37% of respondents indicating that it is one of the three most important issues that the candidates must address. Other important issues that potential electorates think candidates should address include food availability (16%), waste collection (14%), and community markets (6%). The respondents considered corruption, revenue mobilization, and rental prices less important at 2%, 1%, and 0.7% of respondents picking them as the three most important issues to be addressed, respectively.
3. On the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry to investigate councils, the opinion poll reveals that a high proportion of respondents, about 33%, viewed the timing of the establishment of the Commission as extremely inappropriate, while a smaller percentage (9%) found the timing as extremely appropriate. Some respondents were unsure about the appropriateness of the timing.



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4. In terms of the purpose of establishing the commission, 58% of respondents believed it was for transparency and accountability, while 41% perceived it as a witch-hunt. A smaller percentage attributed the purpose to corruption or mentioned other reasons. Thus, while majority of respondents perceives the purpose as good, most respondents perceived the timing as wrong.
5. The opinion poll also asked respondents about the occurrence of vote buying, with 46% acknowledging its occurrence, 41% denying it, and 13% expressing uncertainty regarding its existence.
6. The poll gathered opinions on the financial inducement of other parties' candidates to withdraw from an election, which revealed that a substantial proportion of respondents (about 92%) strongly disagreed or disagreed that the practice is good for the country. Only a small percentage of respondents (3.9%) strongly agreed or agreed that the practice is good for the country. While 5% of respondents expressed uncertainty or lack of knowledge regarding the impact of financial inducement on the country's elections.