

The 2017 elections in PNG: what we can learn from election results

Data Explorer



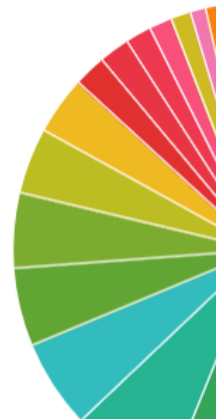
Papua New Guinea Election Explorer

Select an electorate and a year below to see the available list of candidates and trends in the electorate over time.

**Note: PNG used a 'first past the post' system in the 1977-2002 elections and the 2012 elections used preferential voting.*

Candidate list and first preference votes

	Votes Won (First Prefs)	First Preference Vote Share	Winner Vote Share (%)
Puka Temu	10,428	35.4	39.5
Evele Kala	3,631	12.3	
Wari Iam o	2,496	8.5	
Iati Ai	2,002	6.8	
Kelly Onne	1,701	5.8	
Stanley Miles	1,510	5.1	
Kilroy Koirobete Genia	1,457	4.9	
Tipo Vuatha	1,258	4.3	
Eric Enari Omuru	1,129	3.8	
Wari Varage	631	2.1	



The 2017 election in Papua New Guinea

Terence Wood and Maholopa Laveil

Abstract

This paper draws on the Papua New Guinea Election Results Database alongside other data to study the 2017 General Election in Papua New Guinea. The paper shows that the 2017 elections suffered significant problems, even by the standards of other countries of similar levels of development. Amongst other issues, the paper finds worrying patterns of roll inflation in parts of the Highlands. In terms of election outcomes, we find some evidence that women candidates are becoming more competitive, although improvements are modest and trends uncertain. We also demonstrate that the relationship between candidate numbers and incumbent re-election, first found by David Hegarty in the 1980s still exists and is statistically robust. Finally, we conduct an in-depth study into the Limited Preferential Voting (LPV) system. We find LPV brought an increase in invalid ballots and a boost in women candidate competitiveness, but that many other anticipated changes appear not to have eventuated. However, importantly, in 2017 it appears some voters cast their second and third preferences along national lines as a protest vote against the Prime Minister's party. Voting on national issues is thought to be rare in Papua New Guinea, and if LPV is facilitating it, the system may ultimately bring larger political changes, although this is far from guaranteed.

Discussion Paper 83

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Talk outline

1. The roll & turnout
2. Malapportionment
3. Did sitting MPs lose their seats more or less often than usual
4. What happened to women in 2017?

5. LPV reconsidered – spoilt ballots
6. LPV reconsidered – MP mandate
7. LPV reconsidered – does LPV help women?
8. LPV reconsidered – the PNC effect and national voting

9. Concluding thoughts

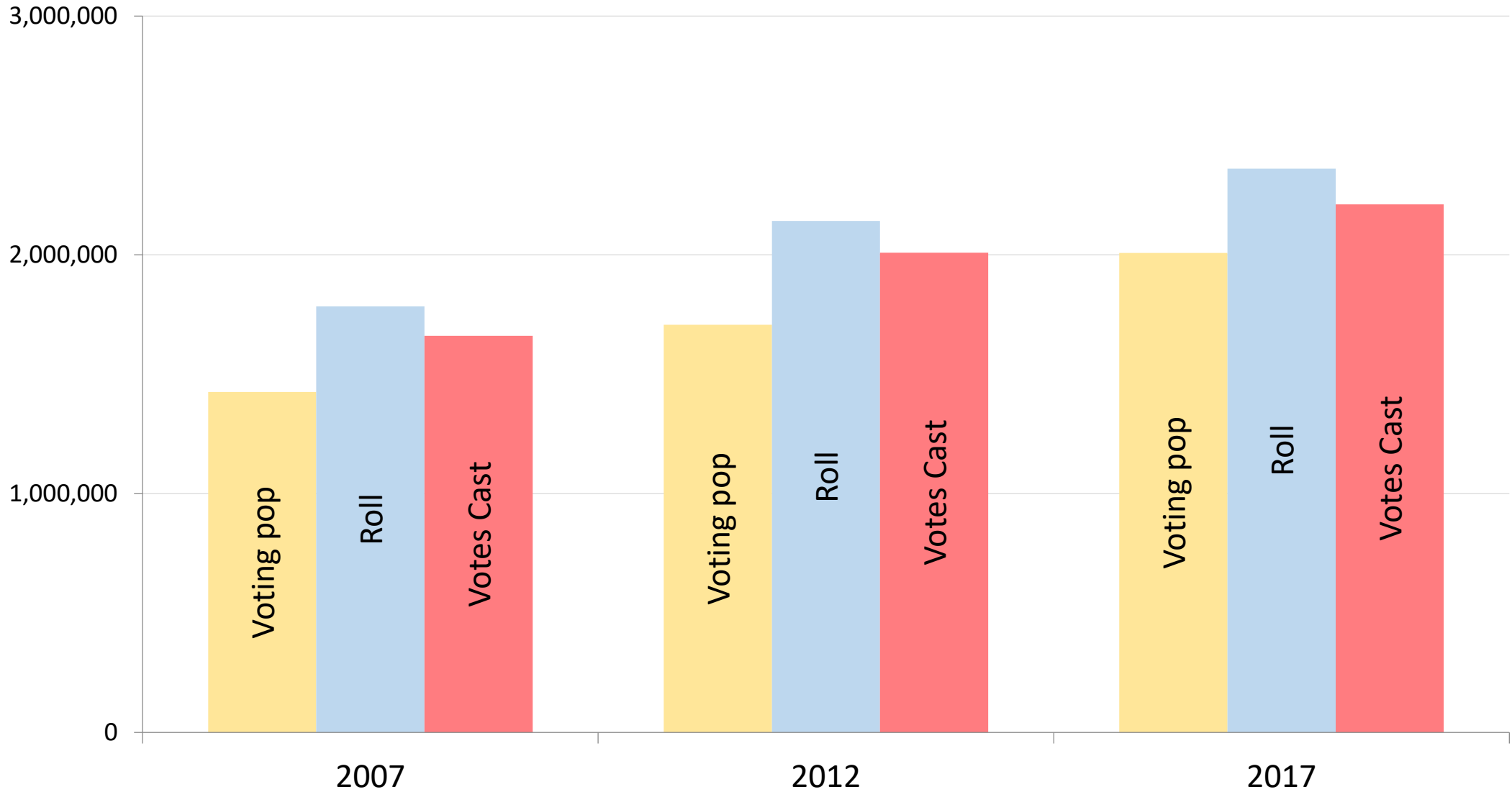
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Whole country



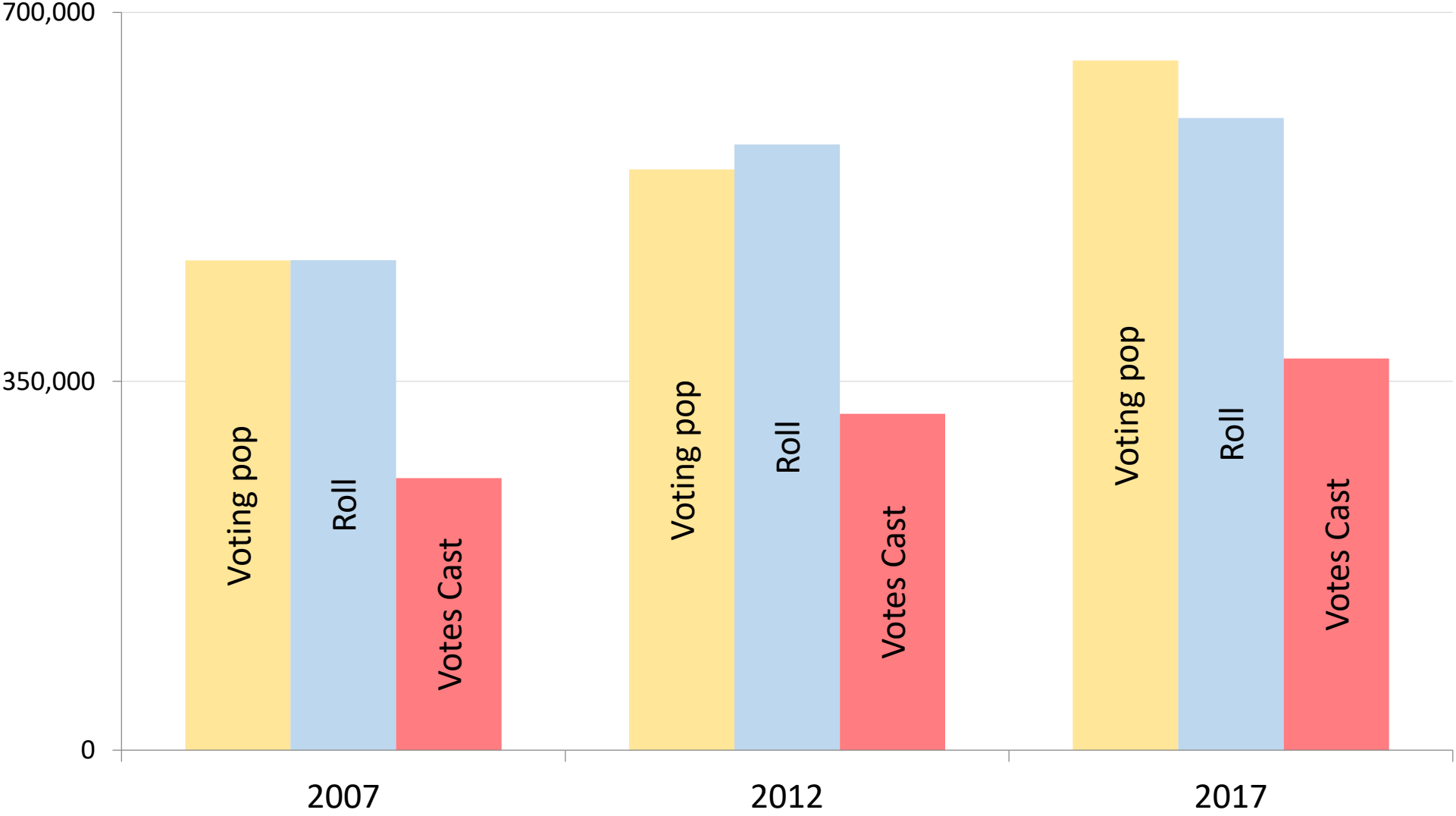
2017 nationally votes cast = 90% of est voting aged population

The Highlands



2017 Highlands votes cast = 110% of est voting aged population

The Islands



2017 Islands votes cast = 57% of est voting aged population

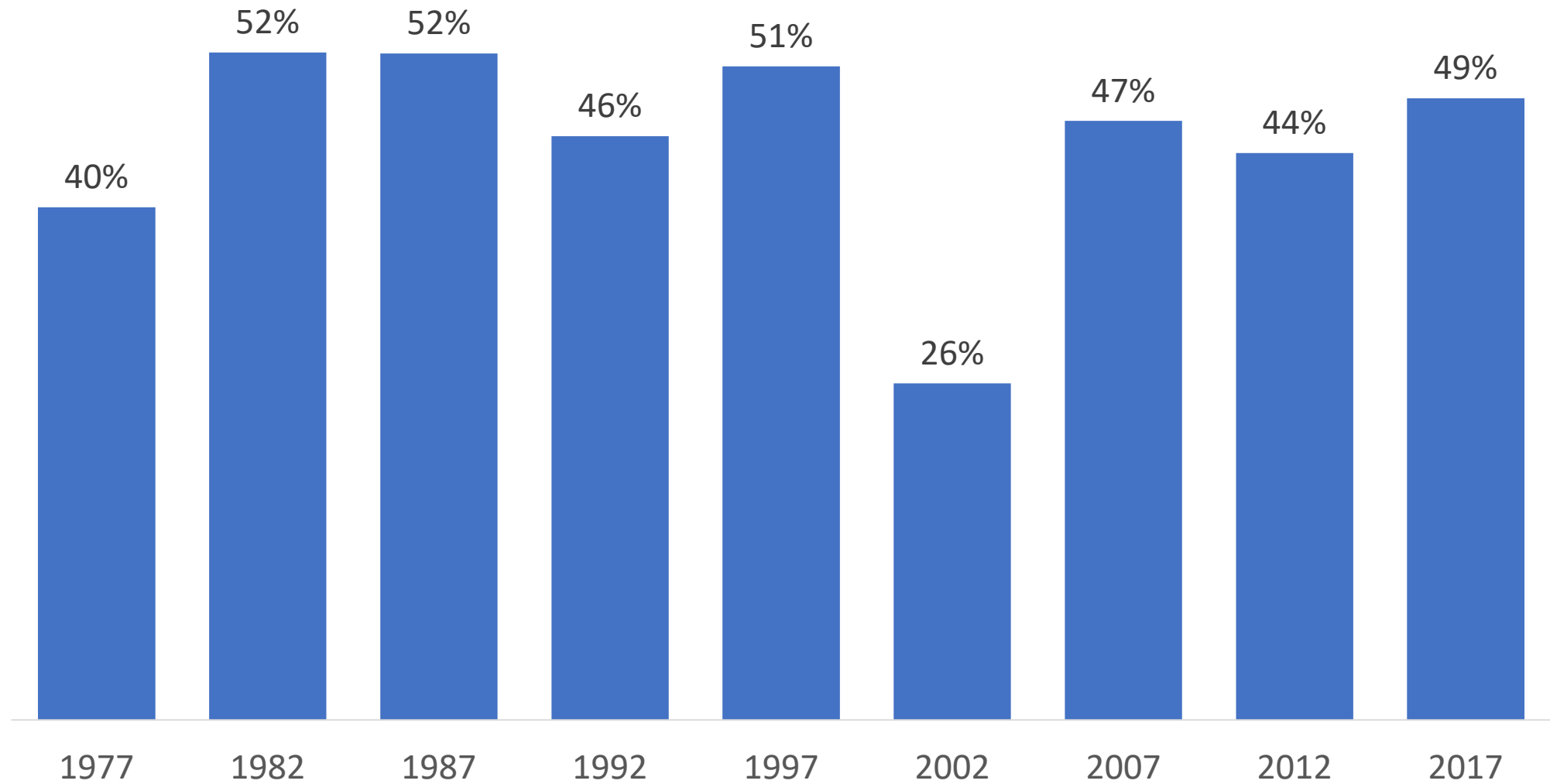
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Malapportionment

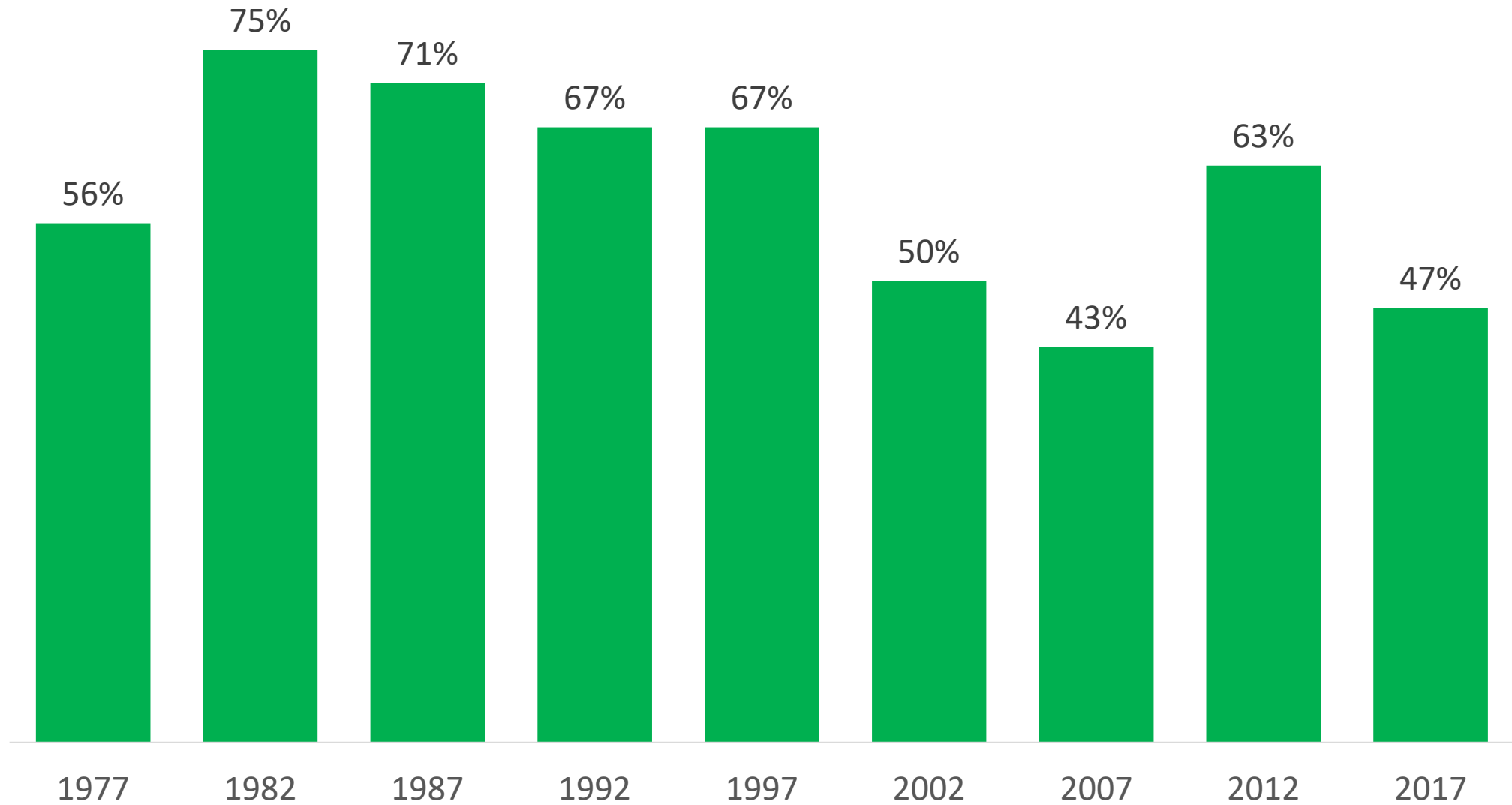
	Open Seats	Provincial Seats
Minimum	22,361	31,833
Median	49,267	197,261
Maximum	143,497	486,384
Ratio Max to Min	6.4	15.3

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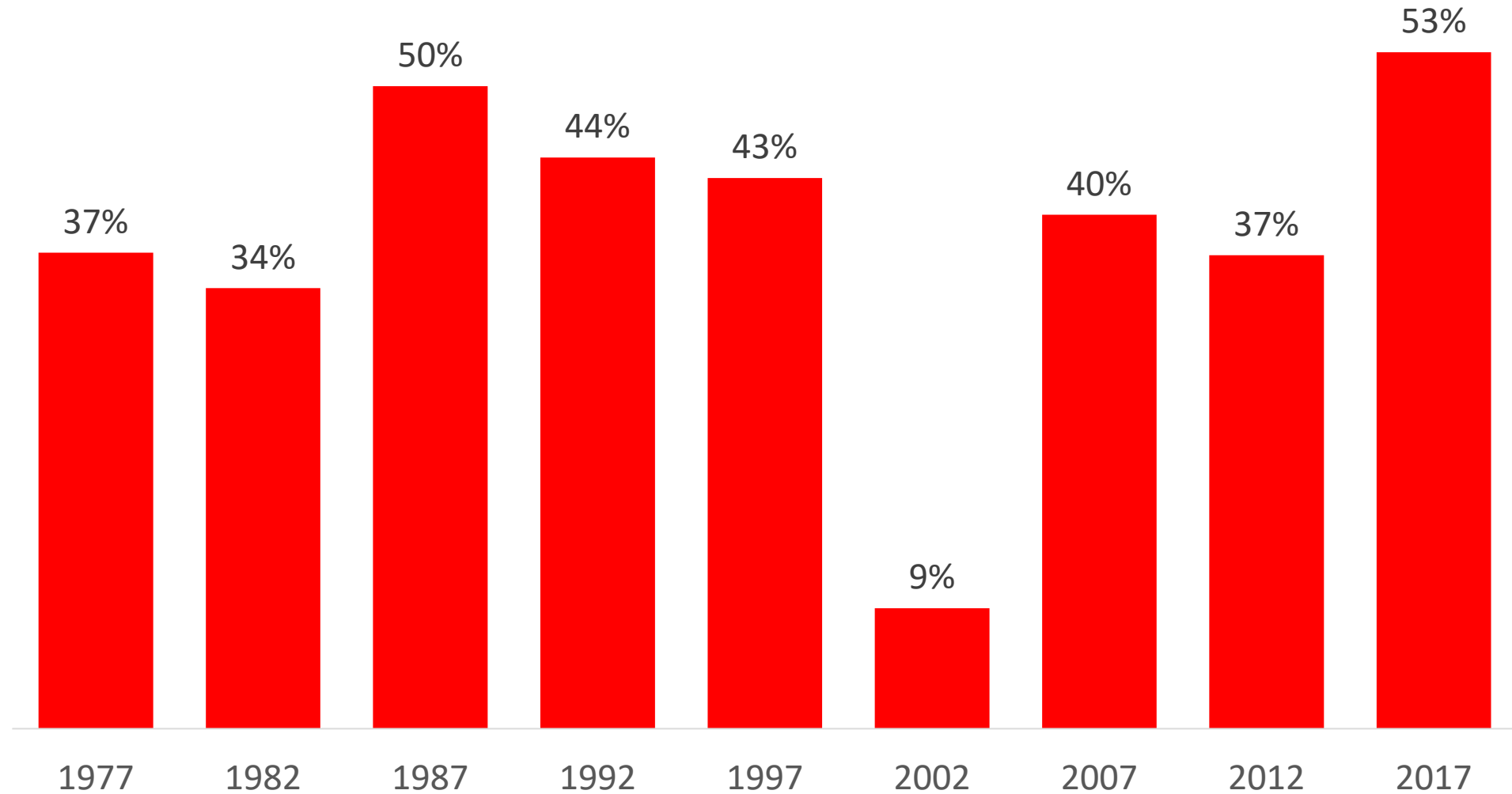
Percentage of sitting MPs who contested their seats and won



Islands – incumbent wins seat



Highlands – incumbent wins seat

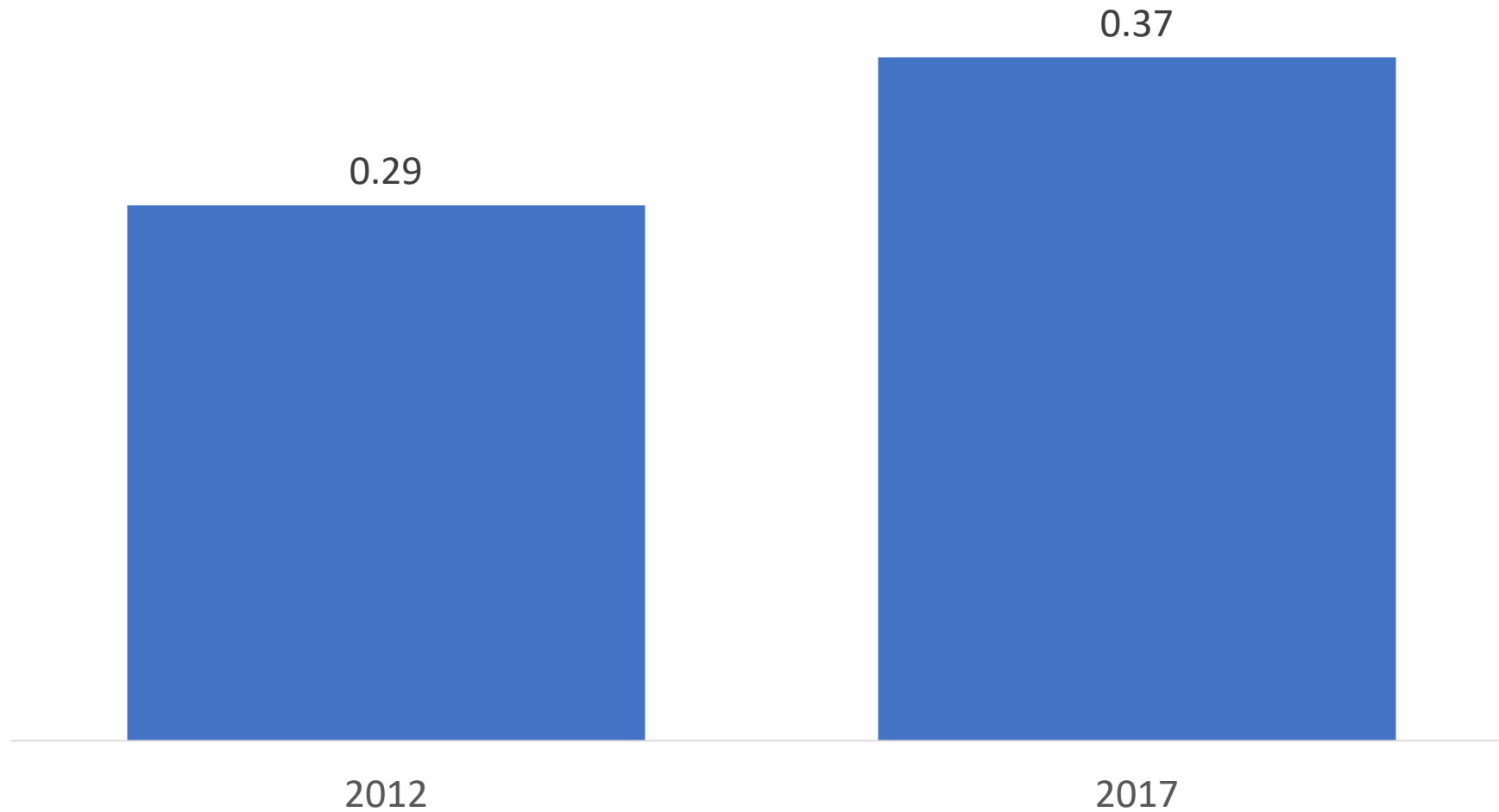


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Number of women who won seats in 2017

0

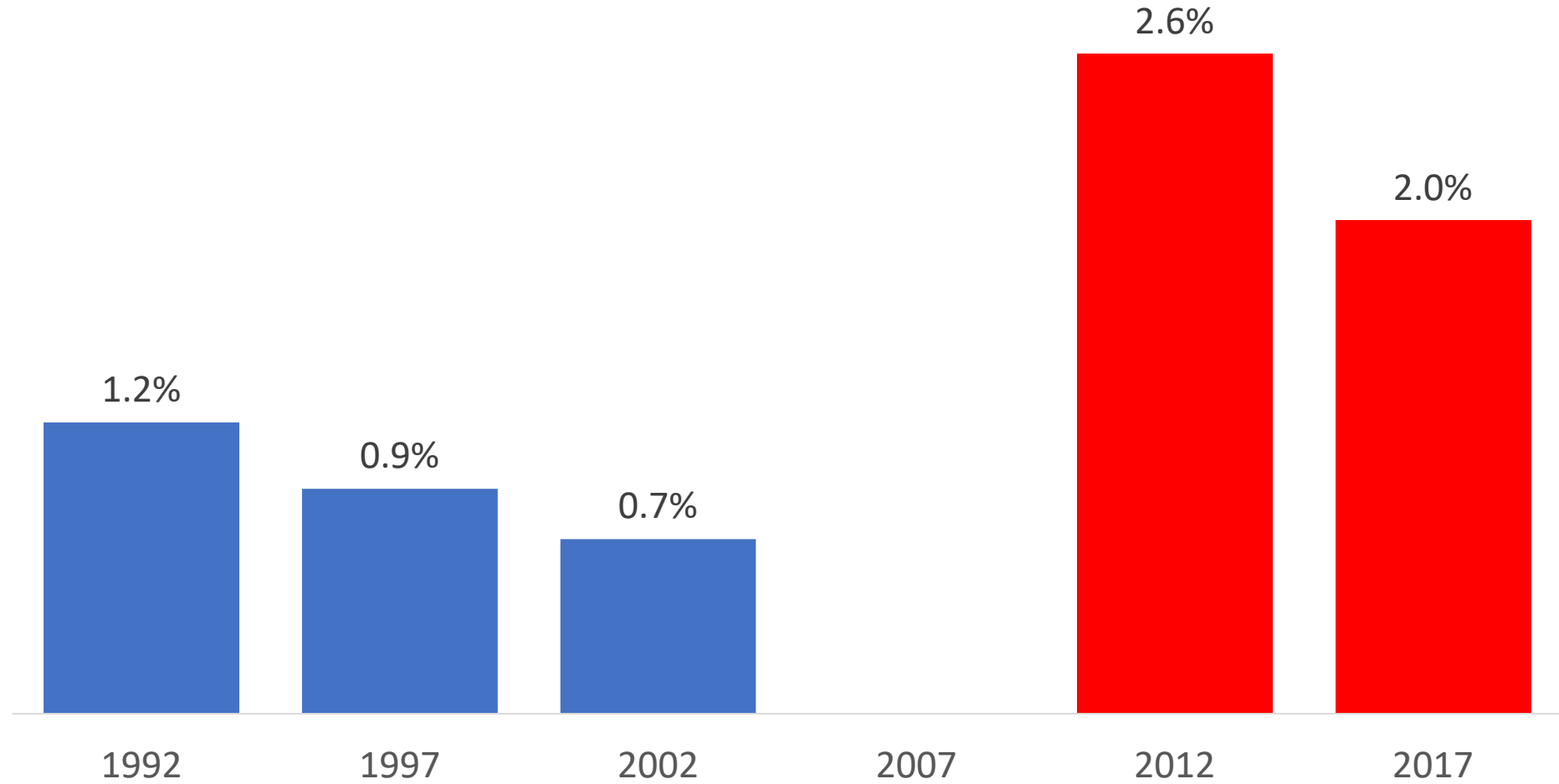
Did women become more competitive after preferences?



(Complement of) female after preference competitiveness score

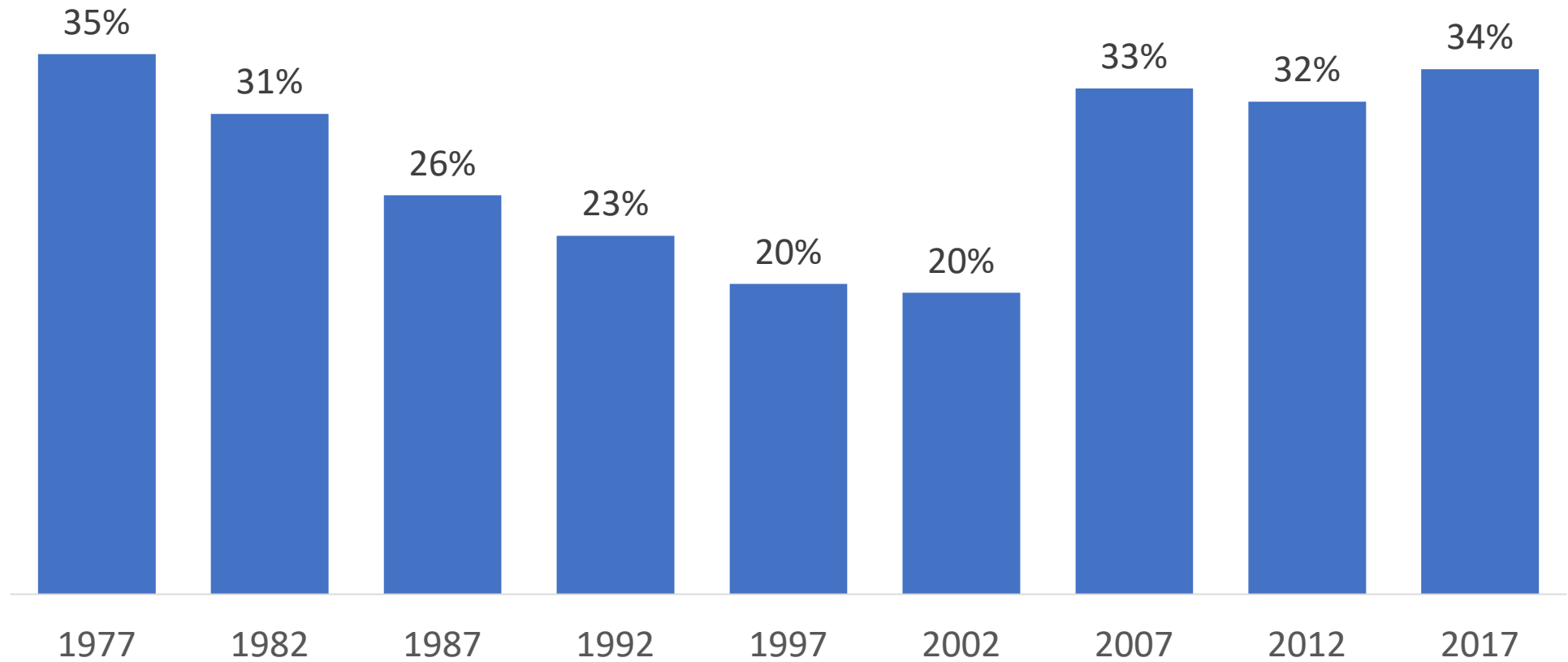
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Average percentage of spoilt ballots each election



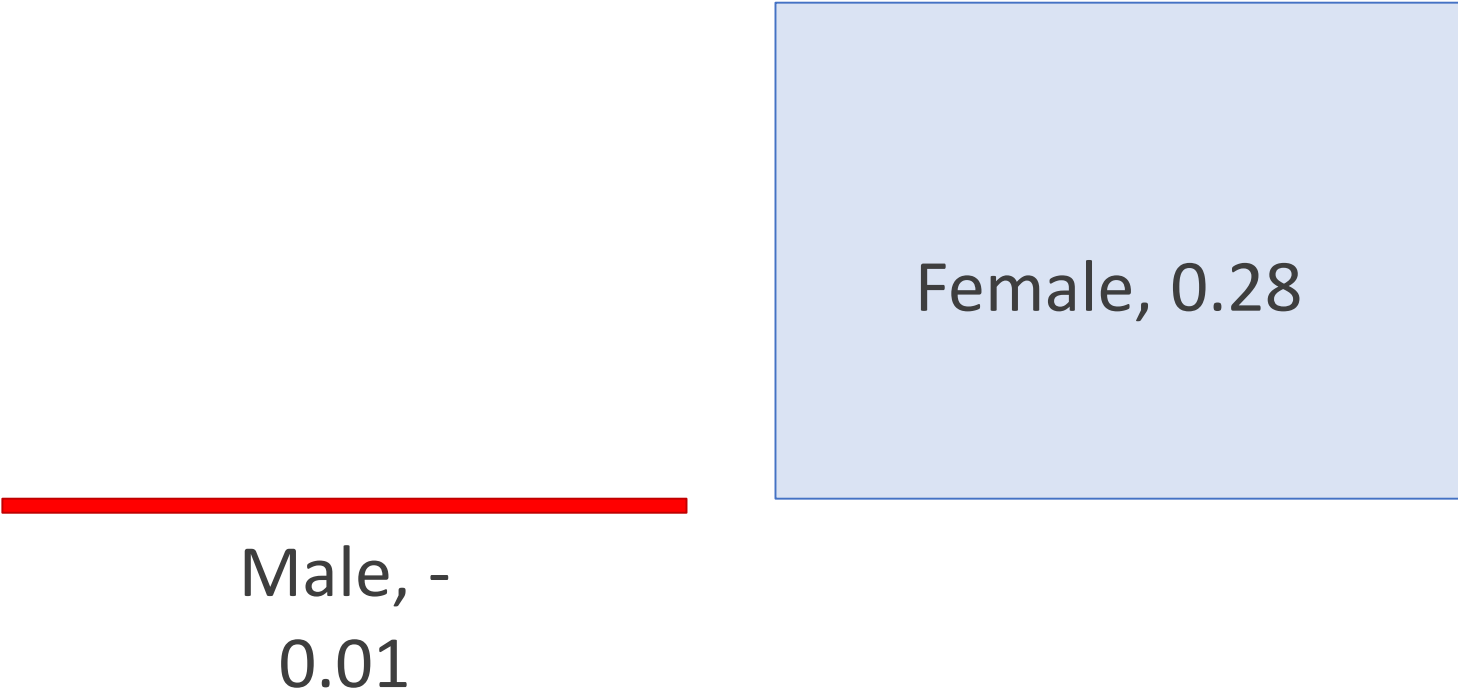
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Do MPs win a majority with LPV?



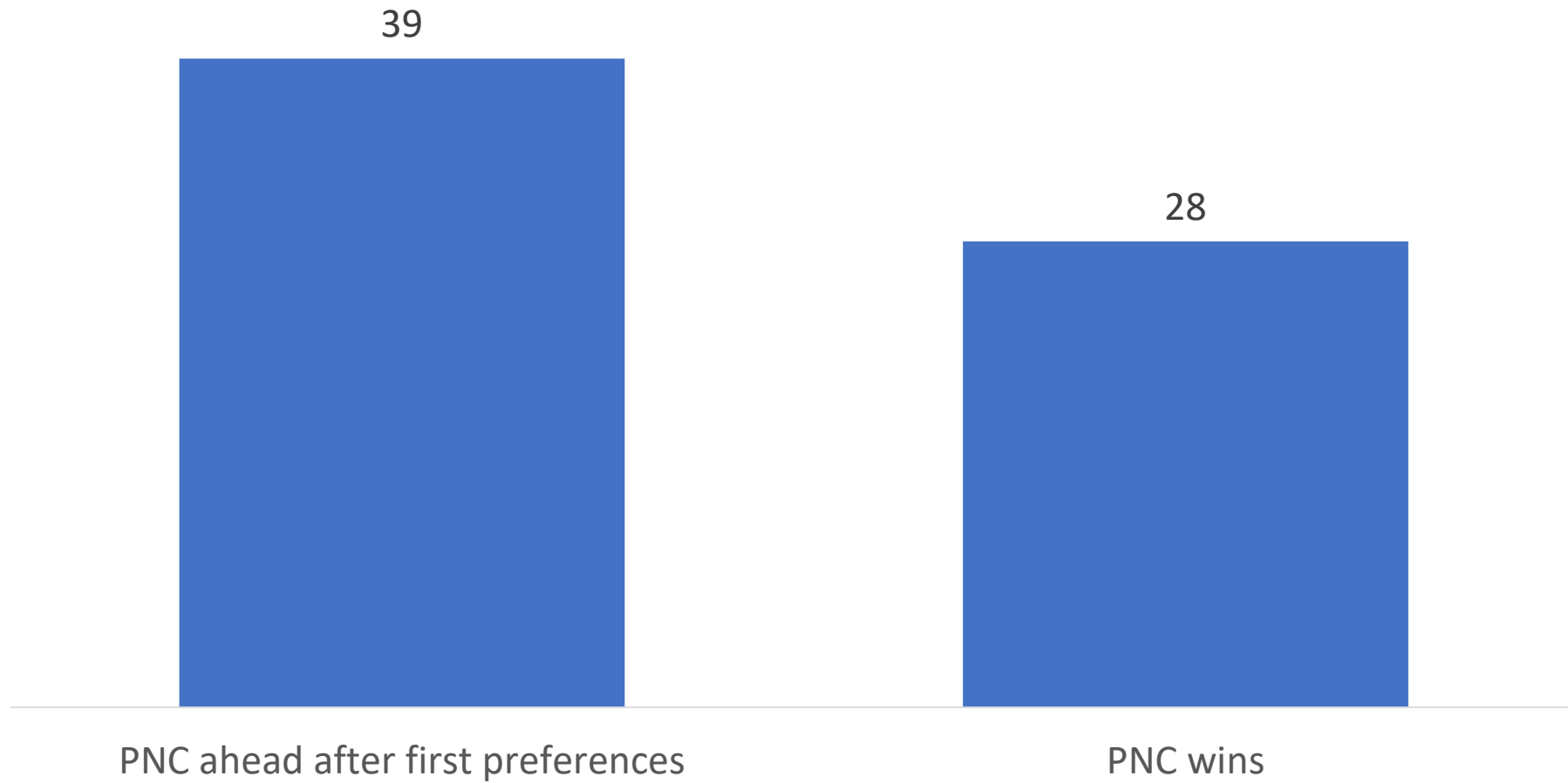
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Average women's rankings went up after preferences, men went down

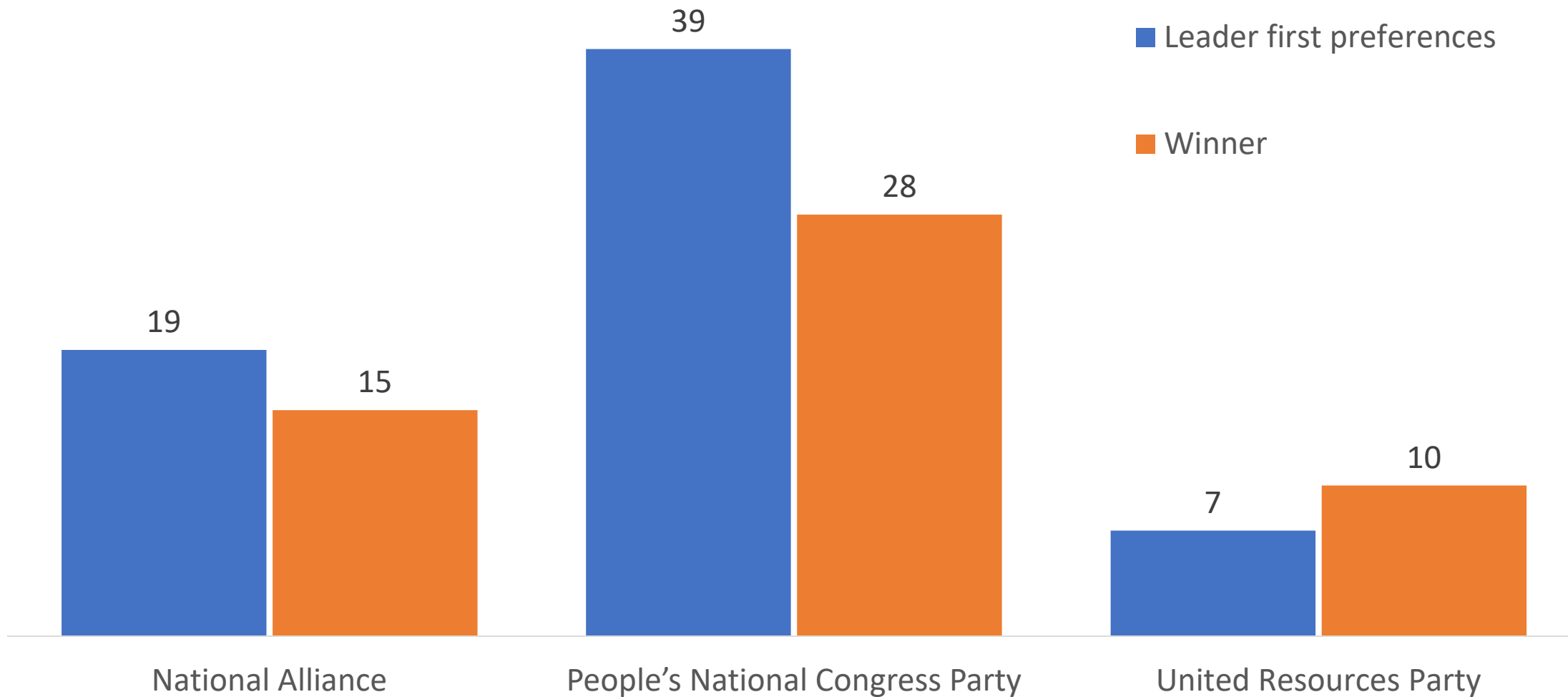


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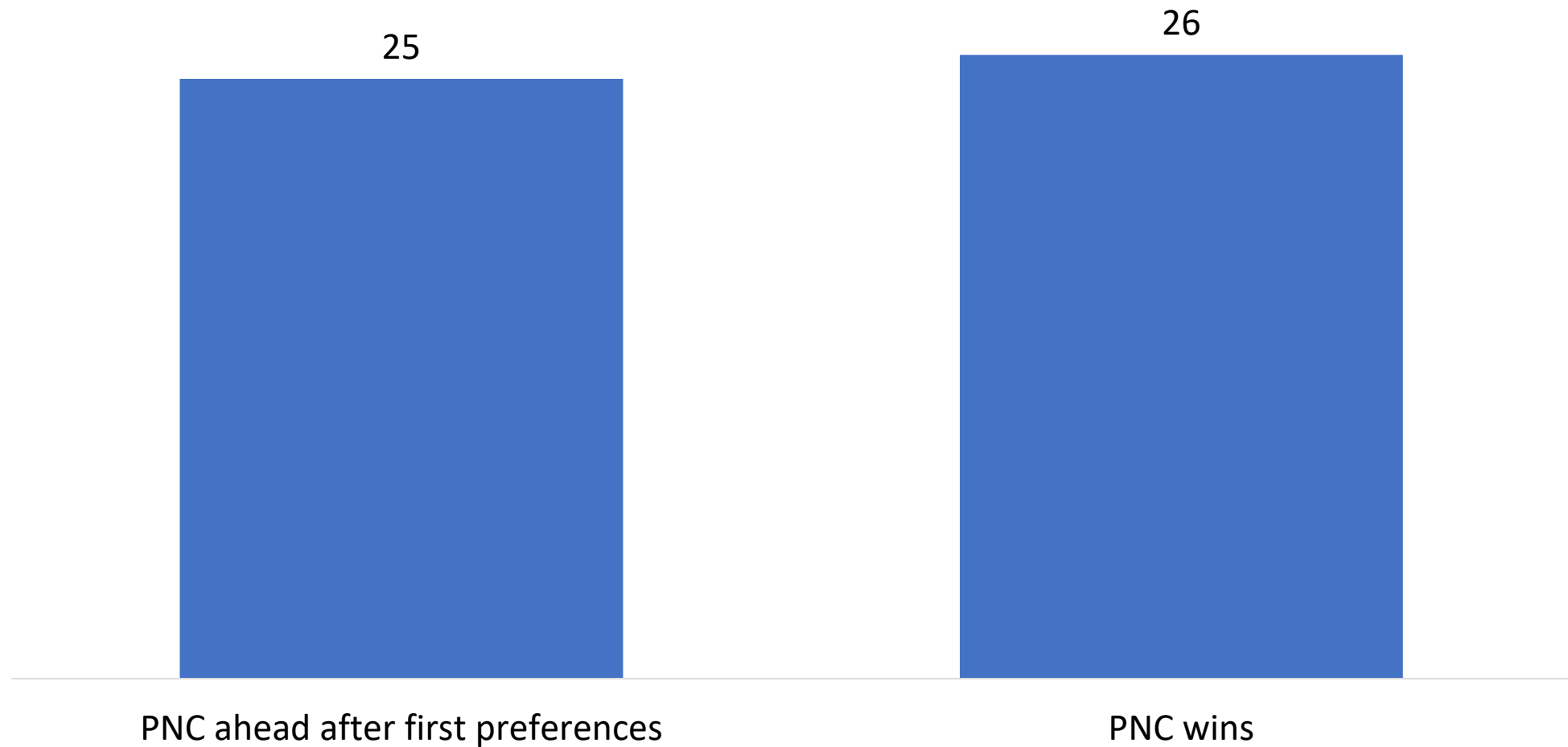
PNC first preference leaders versus PNC winners, 2017



Changes on preferences 2017, the three largest parties



PNC first preference leaders versus PNC winners, 2012



	Basic	Incumbent	Major party	Top ten	Ratio
PNC	-0.25** (0.04)	-0.08 (0.46)	-0.19 (0.11)	-0.26** (0.02)	-0.09* (0.09)
Incumbency		-0.30*** (0.00)	-0.34** (0.01)	-0.43*** (0.00)	-0.16*** (0.00)
Region (vs Highlands)					
Islands		0.00 (0.96)	-0.13 (0.51)	-0.10 (0.65)	-0.35*** (0.00)
Momase		-0.00 (0.97)	-0.29 (0.11)	-0.26 (0.23)	-0.25*** (0.01)
Southern		-0.01 (0.86)	-0.29 (0.10)	-0.27 (0.19)	-0.32*** (0.00)
Female		0.19** (0.02)	0.03 (0.94)	0.50 (0.48)	-0.06 (0.85)
Constant	0.01 (0.75)	0.00 (0.92)	0.29* (0.07)	0.33 (0.10)	1.89*** (0.00)
Observations	2943	2943	382	275	275

Other areas where LPV may have helped a bit (violence) and also areas where it hasn't helped (quality of governance) but in our view the assistance to women and possible assistance of voting on national issues are reason enough to keep it.

But we would really like to see a good survey of the views of the people of PNG.

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