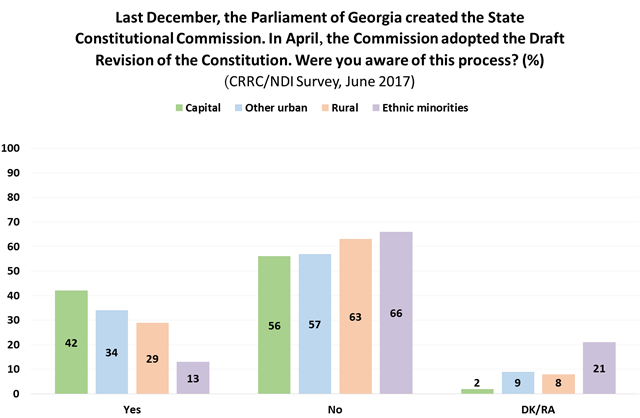
**Was the population informed about the constitutional reform in Georgia?**

After 10 months of discussions, the parliament of Georgia adopted amendments to the [constitution](http://constitution.parliament.ge/uploads/masalebi/konstitucia-gadasinjva-cvlileba.pdf) of the country on September 29th and overrode the president’s veto on [October](https://imedinews.ge/ge/saqartvelo/32162/kobakhidze-prezidentis-mier-sakonstitutsio-tsvlilebebze-khelmotsera-teqnikuri-protsesia) 13th, , 2017. The most widely [discussed](https://imedinews.ge/ge/saqartvelo/11480/opozitsia-da-arasamtavroboebi-sakonstitutsio-tsvlilebebze-dokuments-dges-gaasajaroeben) amendments are about rules for electing the president, self-governance principles, the definition of marriage, the sale of agricultural land to foreigners, the minimum age of judges and the country’s foreign policy orientation. Because of the importance of the amendments, one would expect a high level of awareness among the population. However, despite the public meetings held and media coverage of the issue, according to the CRRC/NDI survey from June 2017, a majority of the population of Georgia was not aware of the constitutional reform process.

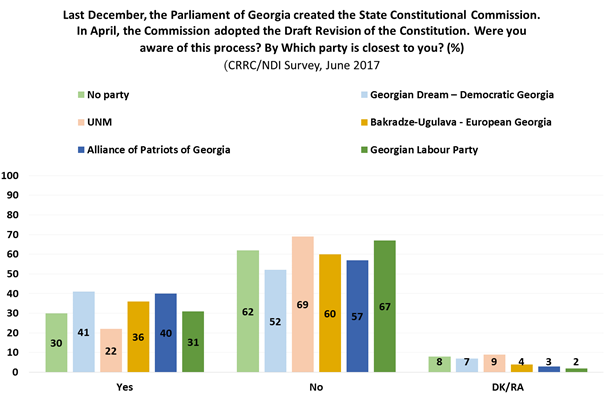
Survey fieldwork was conducted before the process of amending the constitution finished. Thus, people were asked whether they were aware or not that the State Constitutional Commission had adopted a Draft Revision of the Constitution. Thirty two percent of the population answered they were [aware](http://caucasusbarometer.org/en/nj2017ge/DRFCONS/), while 60% stated that they were not. Of those who said they were aware, only 39% said they [felt](http://caucasusbarometer.org/en/nj2017ge/CONSKNW/) they had enough information about the proposed changes. Moreover, only 6% of people who were aware of the changes said they thought the changes fully reflected citizens’ opinions, and 47% said they partially reflected citizens’ opinions. A third (32%) said the proposed changes did not reflect people’s opinions at [all](http://caucasusbarometer.org/en/nj2017ge/CNREFPEP-by-DRFCONS/).

People living in the capital were more informed compared to people living outside the capital. Notably, only 13% of people living in ethnic minority settlements reported being aware of the constitutional reform.



Younger people and those with lower levels of education were less aware of the the constitutional reform. Only 26% of people between the ages of 18 and 35 said they were aware. By comparison, 33% of people between the ages of 36 and 55 and 37% of those 56 and older said the [same](http://caucasusbarometer.org/en/nj2017ge/DRFCONS-by-AGEGROUP/). Similarly, only 19% of people with secondary or lower education were aware of the changes, while 34% of people with secondary technical and 50% of people with tertiary education said they were [aware](http://caucasusbarometer.org/en/nj2017ge/DRFCONS-by-RESPEDU/).

Besides differences by age and the level of education, people naming different political parties as closest to them reported being aware of the process at different frequencies. Those who named Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia, the Alliance of Patriots of Georgia and Bakradze-Ugulava - European Georgia were more informed than people who said that the United National Movement (UNM) or Georgian Labor Party were closest to them. The UNM’s and Labour Party’s supporters were least aware of the process surrounding constitutional amendments.



Awareness of the constitutional reform was low even after public meetings were held to discuss the changes. Younger people, people with secondary or lower education and people living outside Tbilisi were less informed about the process compared to older people, people with tertiary education and people living in the capital. The low level of awareness is especially striking in ethnic minority settlements and among people who named the United National Movement as the party closest to them. As for attitudes towards the changes, a majority of those who were aware felt they did not have enough information about the process and thought that the draft constitution either partially reflected, or did not at all reflect citizens’ opinions.

The data used in this blog post and other survey data is available at our [Online Data Analysis](http://caucasusbarometer.org/en/) portal.