

What do we know about uncertain voters before the elections?

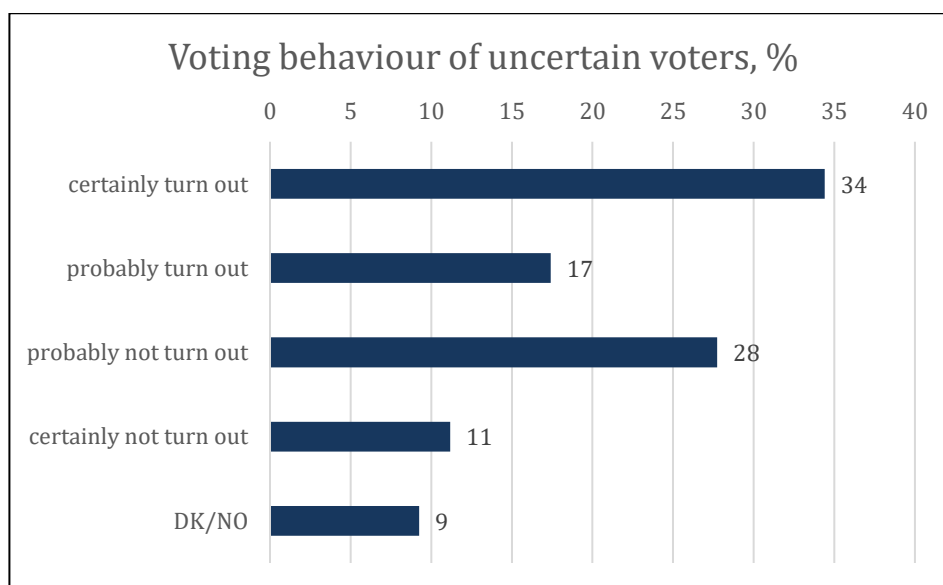
ANALYSIS BY REPUBLIKON INSTITUTE



MARCH 2022

INTRODUCTION

The 2022 parliamentary election is expected to be the tightest one of the last more than 10 years. According to opinion polls, just a few weeks prior to the elections, the support for Fidesz-KDNP and Egységben Magyarországért (united opposition) is head-to-head. Due to these results, besides voter mobilization, the role of uncertain voters in elections has recently also been a key talking point more and more frequently. In such tense electoral situations, the not quite homogenous group of uncertain voters can really play a key role, therefore, it is worth analysing, what do we know about this electoral group. In the following analysis of Republikon Institute, based on the opinion polls of the last three months¹ as well as the 5000-strong survey of 2021², we examine the voter propensity, demographic characteristics as well as the attitudes toward change of government and government performance among voters without party preference³. It is important to note that since 2021 the composition and the opinion of the group of uncertain voters might have changed, therefore, what used to be true regarding this group in 2021, is not necessarily valid for uncertain voters in 2022, thus the data should be interpreted accordingly.

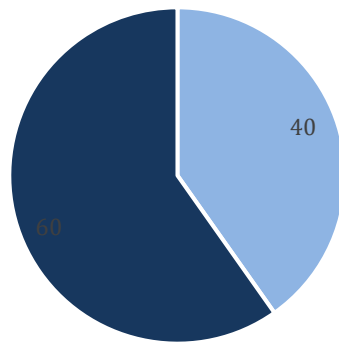


¹ Our party preference surveys of January, February and March were conducted through telephone interviews of 1000 people between 19-24 January, 18-24 February and 16-18 March, 2022. The surveys are representative to the adult population of the country by gender, age-group, type of settlement and education. Margin of error: + -3,2%.

² The survey is representative to the adult population of the country by gender, age, type of settlement and education, based on a sample of 5000 people, was conducted through in-person interviews between 8 January and 4 February 2021. The survey was conducted by Závecz Research.

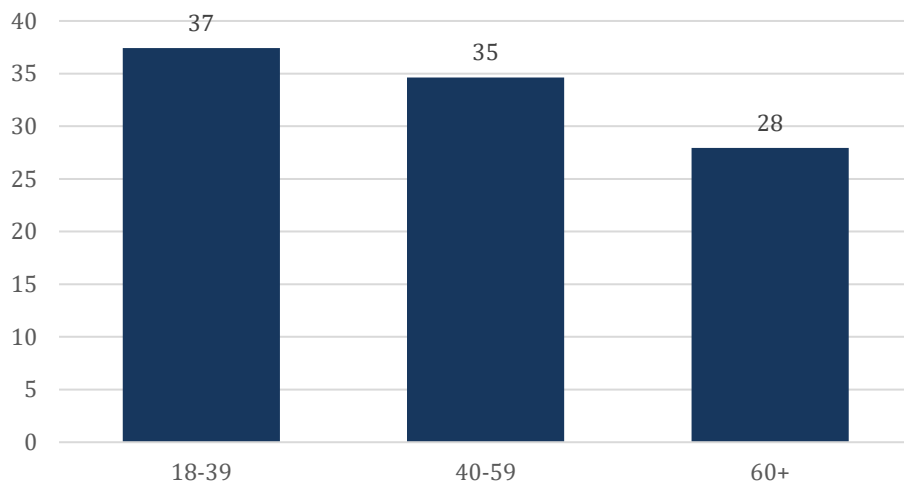
³ The group of uncertain is defined as those respondents, who during the party preference survey did not choose a party.

Uncertain voters by gender, %

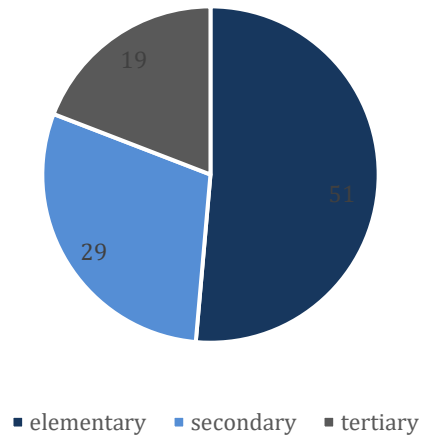


■ male ■ female

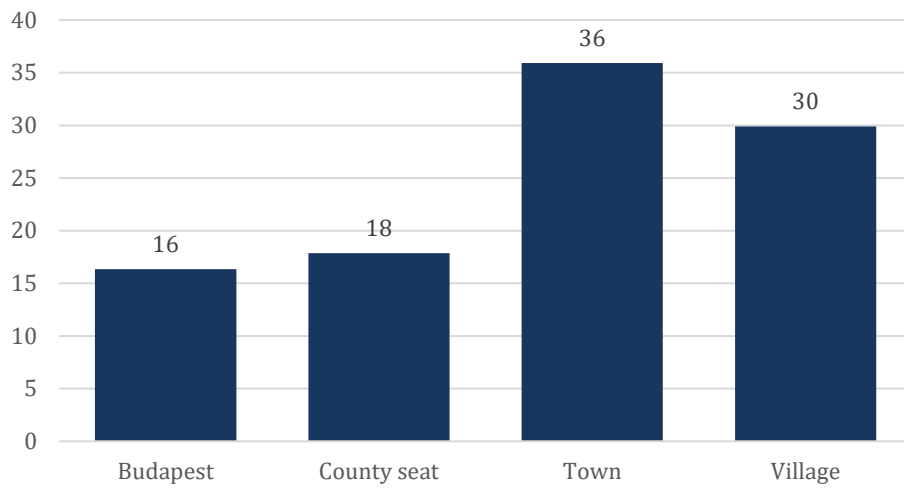
Uncertain voters by age, %



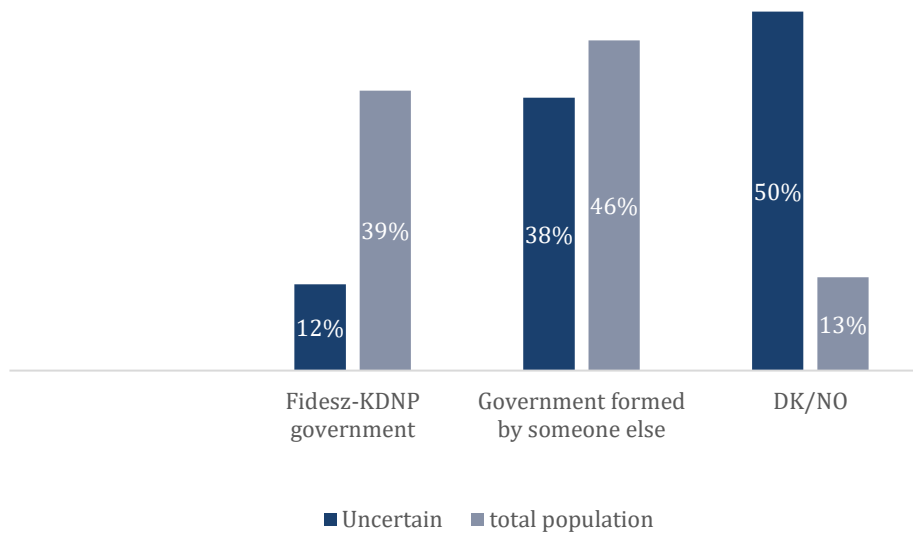
Uncertain voters by educational attainment, %



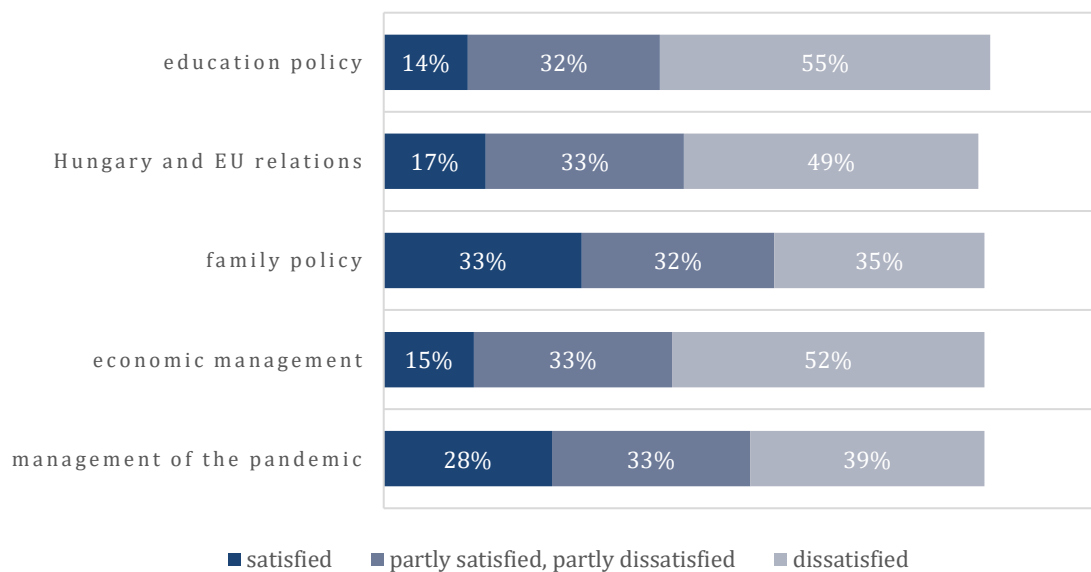
Uncertain voters by settlement area type, %



What are your preferred election outcomes ...?



Satisfaction with the government



SUMMARY

The proportion of uncertain voters has significantly decreased during the months prior to the elections, and it is a priority for both blocks to mobilize the remaining active uncertain voters. However, it is difficult to assess that how many of these uncertain voters can be still mobilized and how many of them will remain passive. A homogenous pattern cannot be created about uncertain voters, nonetheless, it can be stated that the average uncertain voters is younger, has a low level of education, typically woman, who does not live in Budapest or in a county seat but rather in villages or towns in the country. However, this would be a forced generalization of an overall heterogenous social group.

A significant part of uncertain voters belongs the younger age-group. The mobilization of young voters has been an important question for a long time and now in such a tight electoral competition it can be decisive whether the opposition can address this group more. Although the ideological attitude does not emerge during the last week of the electoral campaign, this is when many of these people decide whether they will vote or not.

We can assume that in the case of a tight electoral competition party voters will participate in the elections, therefore the role of uncertain voters will be even more significant. Opinions regarding government performance suggest that the opposition might have larger reserves among uncertain voters. The only question is whether these reserves will participate in the elections.