



**SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS  
LOCAL ELECTIONS  
IN BURGAS, GABROVO, PAZARDZHIK, AND VIDIN**

**JUNE 2003**

*Funded by the National Endowment for Democracy*

**This presentation on public attitudes towards the October 2003 municipal elections is part of a series of public opinion polls conducted by NDI on Bulgarian attitudes towards issues of democratic reform. NDI shared the results of this survey with NGOs, candidates, political parties, and the media to facilitate dialogue on local issues between citizens and candidates in advance of the upcoming elections. NDI has also conducted research on public attitudes toward the following issues:**

- Constitutional Reform (February 2003)**
- Education reform (Summer 2002)**
- NGOs and the Government (November 2001)**

**Before conducting the poll, NDI met with local political and civic leaders to discuss possible issues to explore in the the poll. As a result, questions cover a range of topics, including citizens' perceptions of local problems that need to be addressed; intentions to vote; attitudes towards political parties and incumbents; and the performance of local NGOs as advocates. The information will be used by local NGOs to develop pre-election non-partisan campaigns aimed at increasing dialogue between candidates and citizens before the elections. In the post-election period, NDI will work with these NGOs to utilize the relationships established in the pre-election period to continue to advocate for local issues to the new municipal governments.**

## ***Purpose of the survey:***

- **to identify issues of local priority;**
- **to determine citizens' electoral attitudes, their motivation to vote as well as their political affiliations; and**
- **to share results with NGOs and political parties as they plan activities in advance of the 2003 local elections.**

# Bulgaria- Map of Cities





**SOCIAL AND POLITICAL  
ATTITUDES IN  
BURGAS  
JUNE 2003**

## BURGAS OVERVIEW

- **Population Size:**  
**209, 479 (2001)**
- **Percent Voter Turnout in last municipal election:**  
**46.5%**
- **Mayor (Party Affiliation):**  
**Ioan Kostadinov (BSP)**
- **Local Council (makeup of seats by party):**  
**BSP (16); UDF (15); Green Party (8); Gergiovden (2);  
Bulgarian Euro Left (2); Bulgarian Business Bloc (2)**

## **SURVEY DESCRIPTION:**

- Survey realization:** Alpha Research Ltd.
- Fieldwork Period:** 27 May – 4 June, 2003
- Sample size:** 726 respondents from the city of Burgas
- Representativeness:** Representative for the adult population
- Method of sample-forming:** Quota under the following criteria
- Gender
  - Age
  - Education
- Survey method:** Standardized face-to-face interview  
in respondents' homes
- Margin of Error:** +/- 2-2.5%



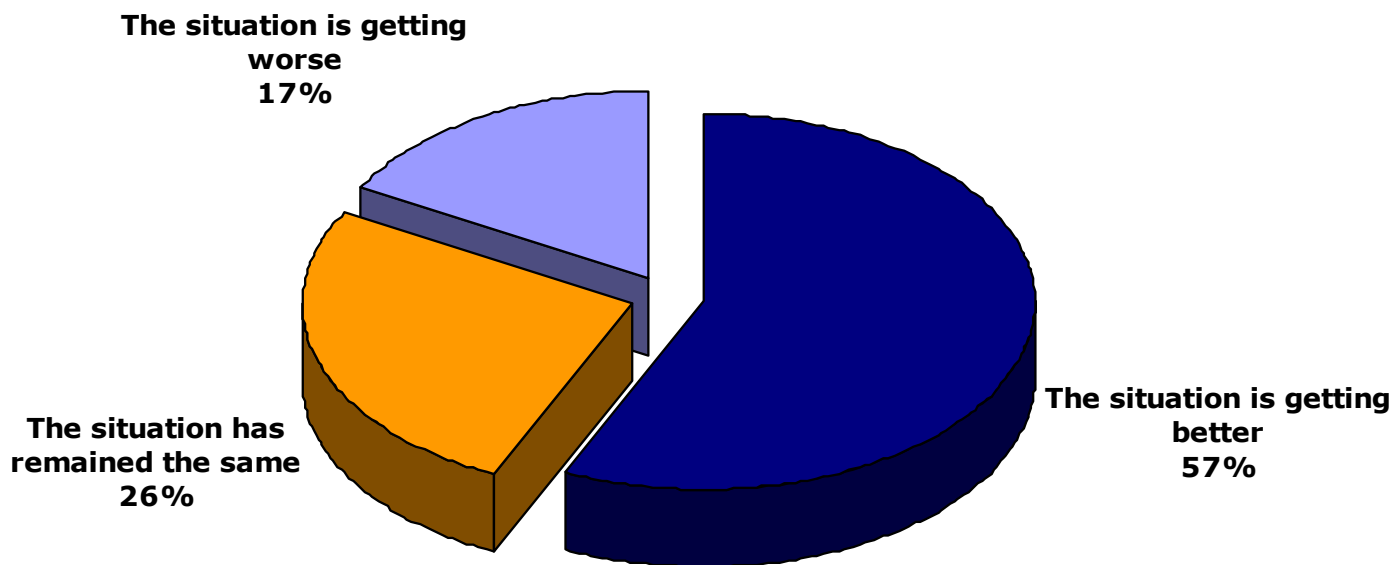
## DEMOGRAPHICS OF REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE:

- Age:**
- 18 – 30 years old – 25%
  - 31 – 40 years old – 17%
  - 41 – 50 years old – 20%
  - 51 – 60 years old – 17%
  - Over 61 years old – 21%

- Gender:**
- Female – 51%
  - Male – 49%

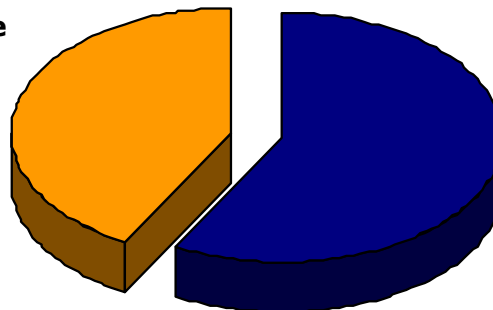
- Education:**
- University degree – 18%
  - College degree – 5%
  - High-school – 54%
  - Primary school – 23%

### How do you think the situation in the city has changed for the last 4 years?



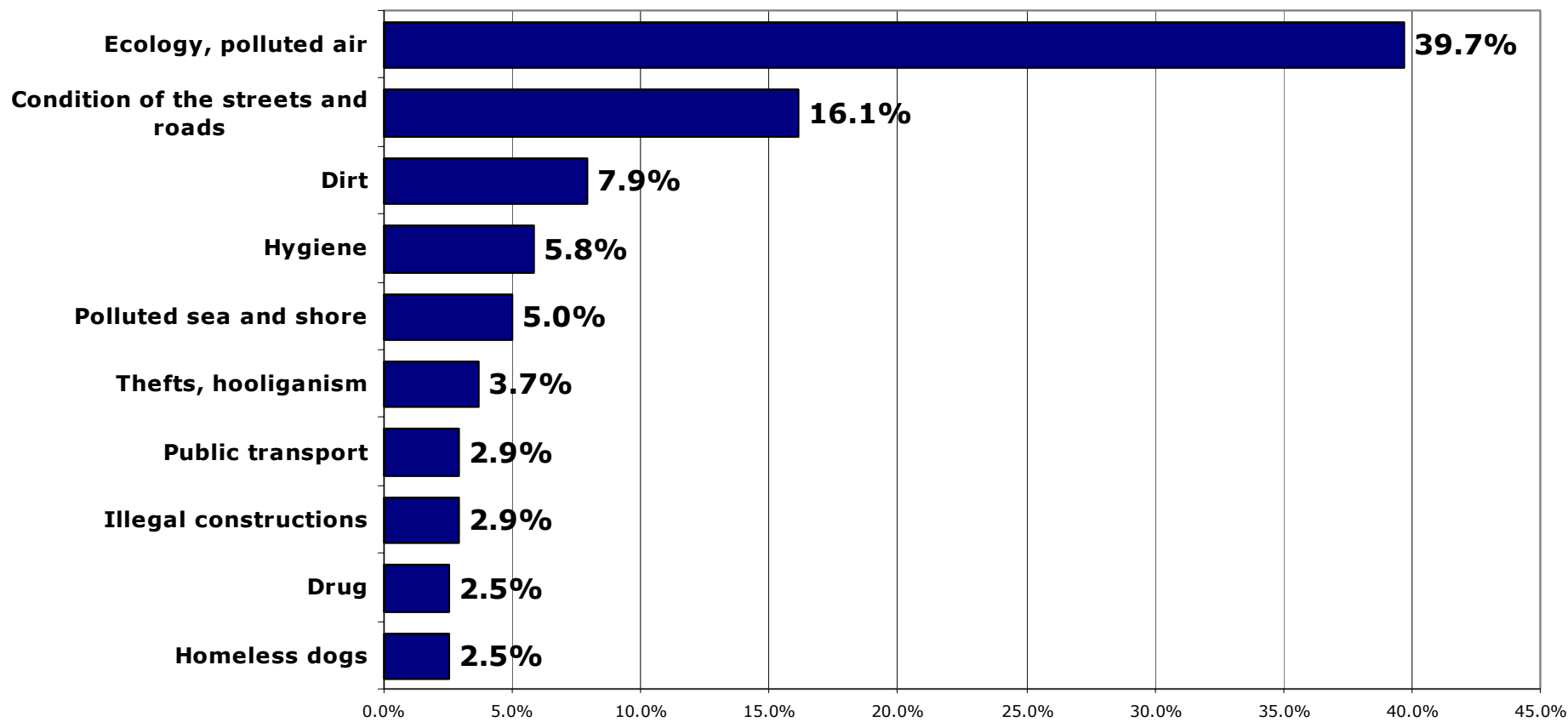
### Who do you think should win the upcoming local elections?

Another mayor should be elected because the present mayor hasn't provided solutions to the city's problems  
42%



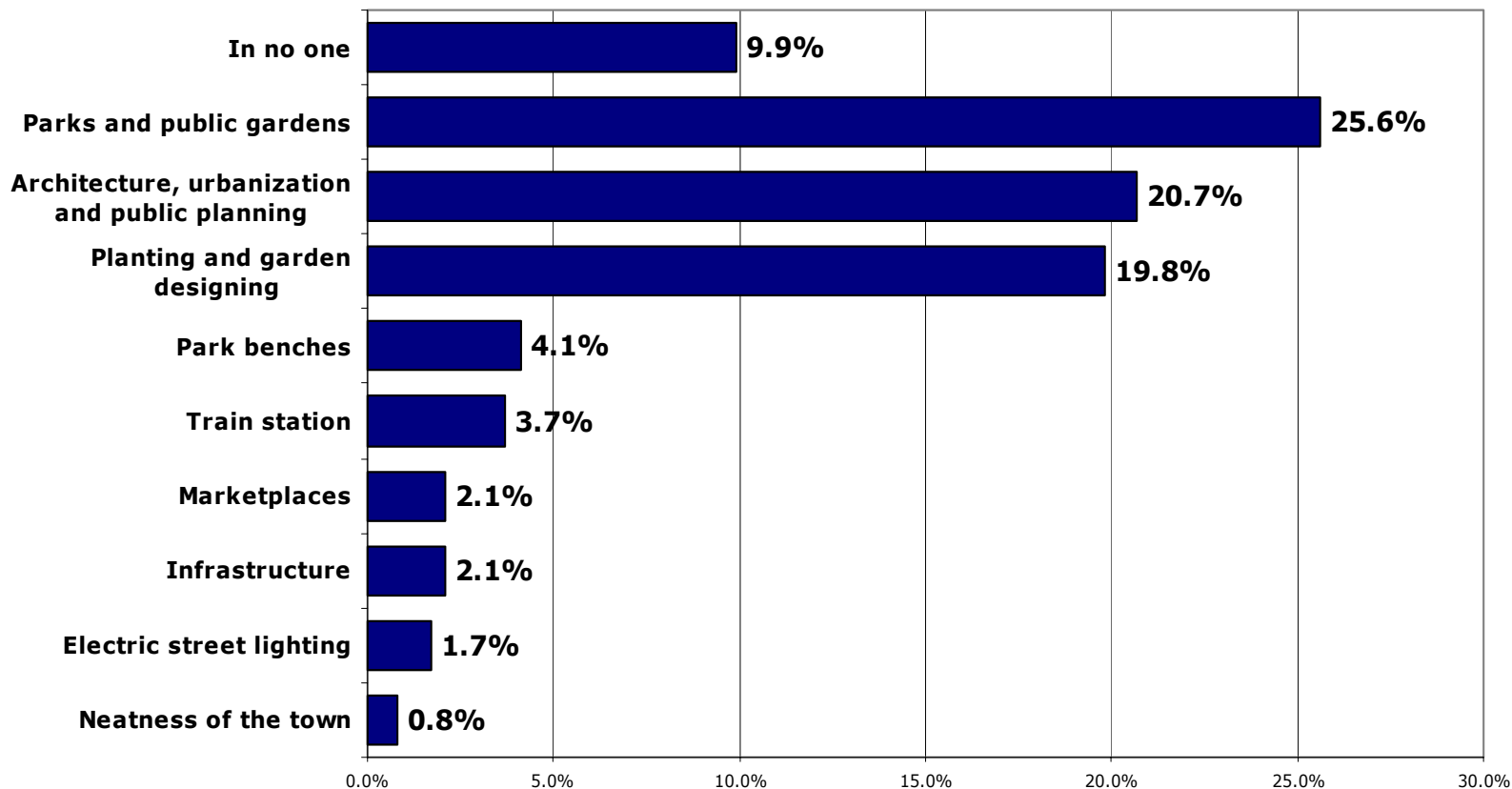
The present mayor should be re-elected because he/she has provided solutions to the city's problems  
58%

## Can you think of any specific problems that are relevant to Burgas only? (open-ended question)

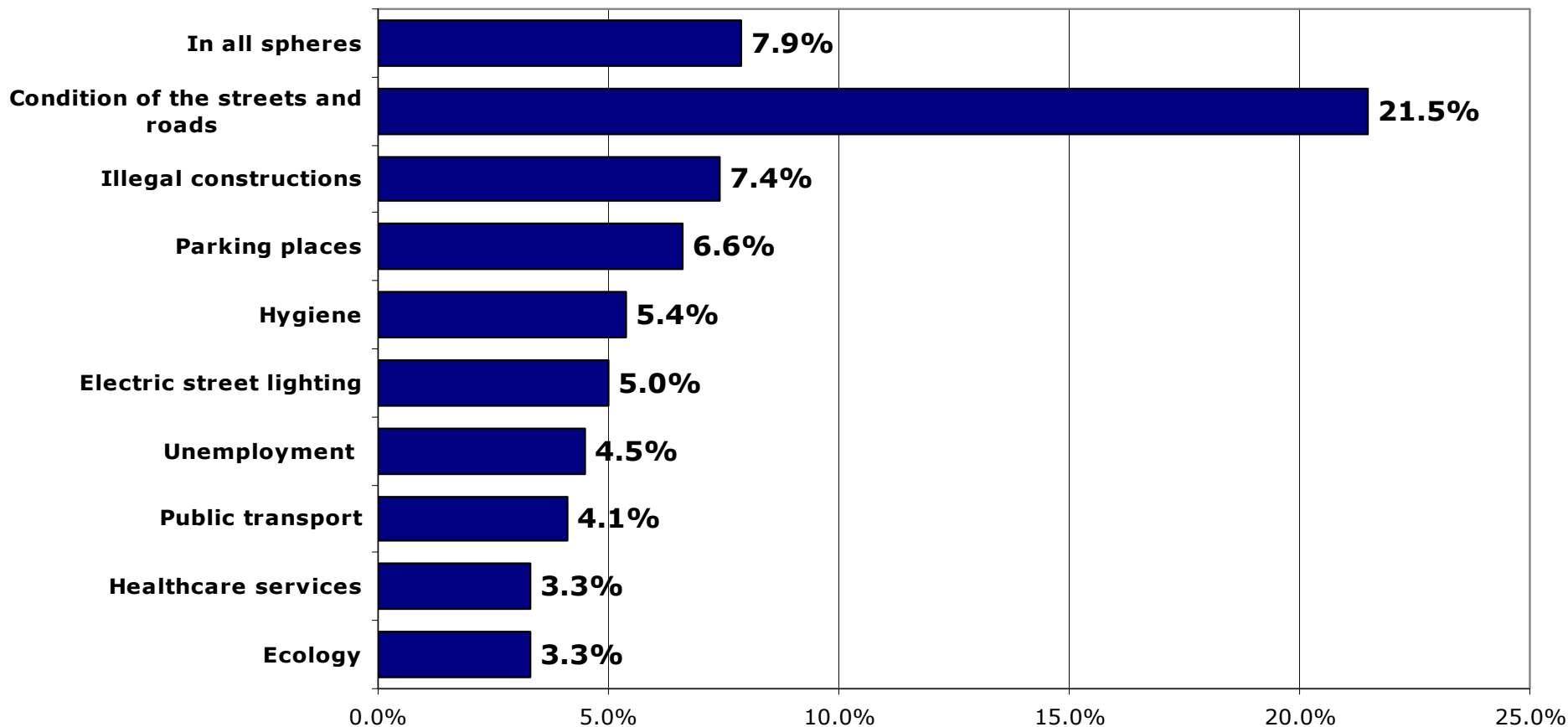


# Social and Political Attitudes in Burgas June 2003

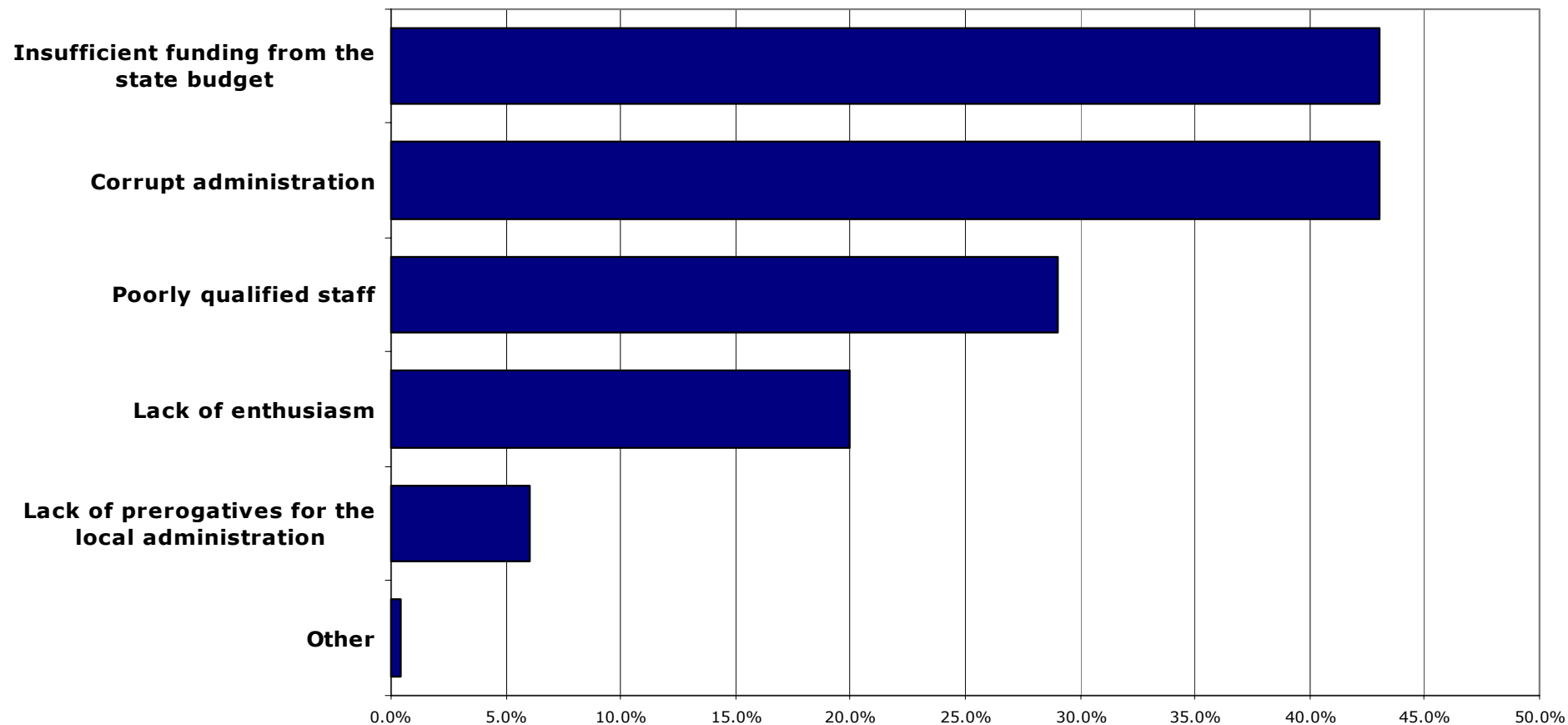
**Throughout their mandate the municipal authorities  
have achieved best results in the fields of?  
(open-ended question)**



**Throughout their mandate the municipal authorities  
have not achieved results in the fields of?  
(open-ended question)**

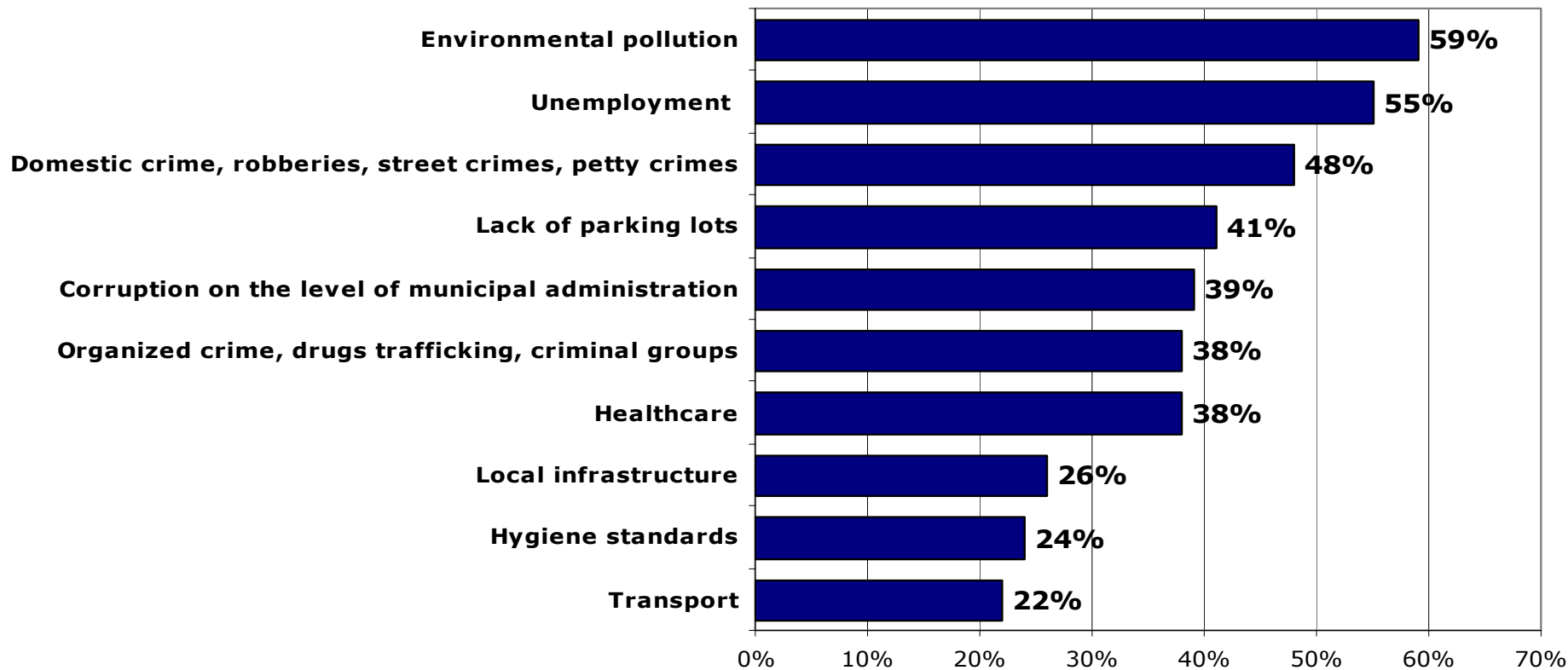


## The municipal authorities haven't made progress due to:\*



\*Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

## What are the most pressing problems that Burgas currently faces?\*



\*Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

Respondents were shown a card with a list of answers. The specific options for each city were developed in coordination with NGOs and local political party leaders.



**Respondents specified pollution of the air, sea water, shore, drinking water and soil as the main environmental problems in Burgas.**

**When asked which sources of pollution they had in mind, respondents mentioned LukOil, transportation, the port and ships, and landfills.**

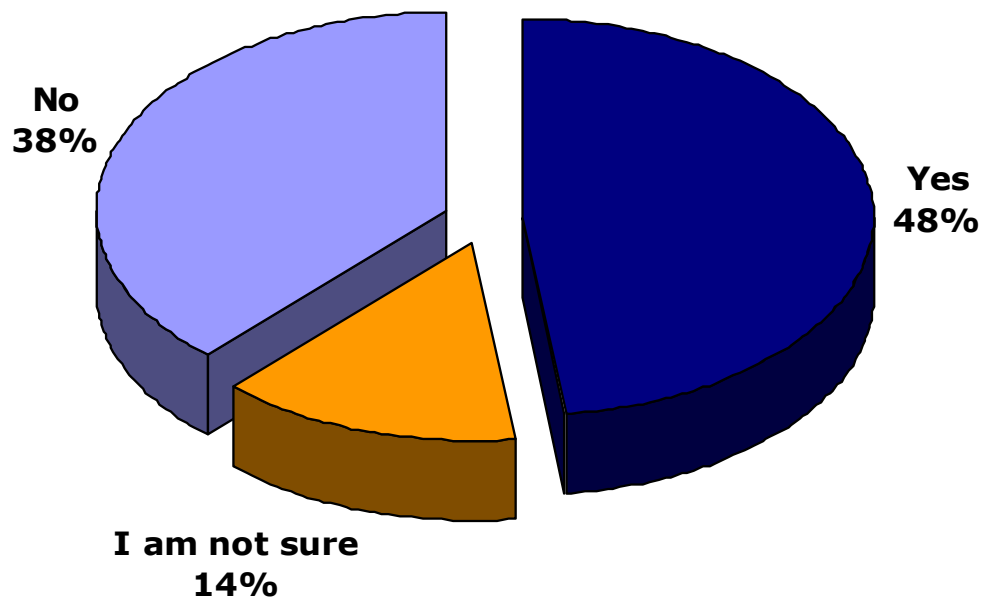
**Specific transportation problems identified by respondents include poor street conditions, unreliable and insufficient public transportation, and heavy traffic.**

**Insufficient garbage collection and unclean sewer and water systems were the top sanitary concerns among participants.**

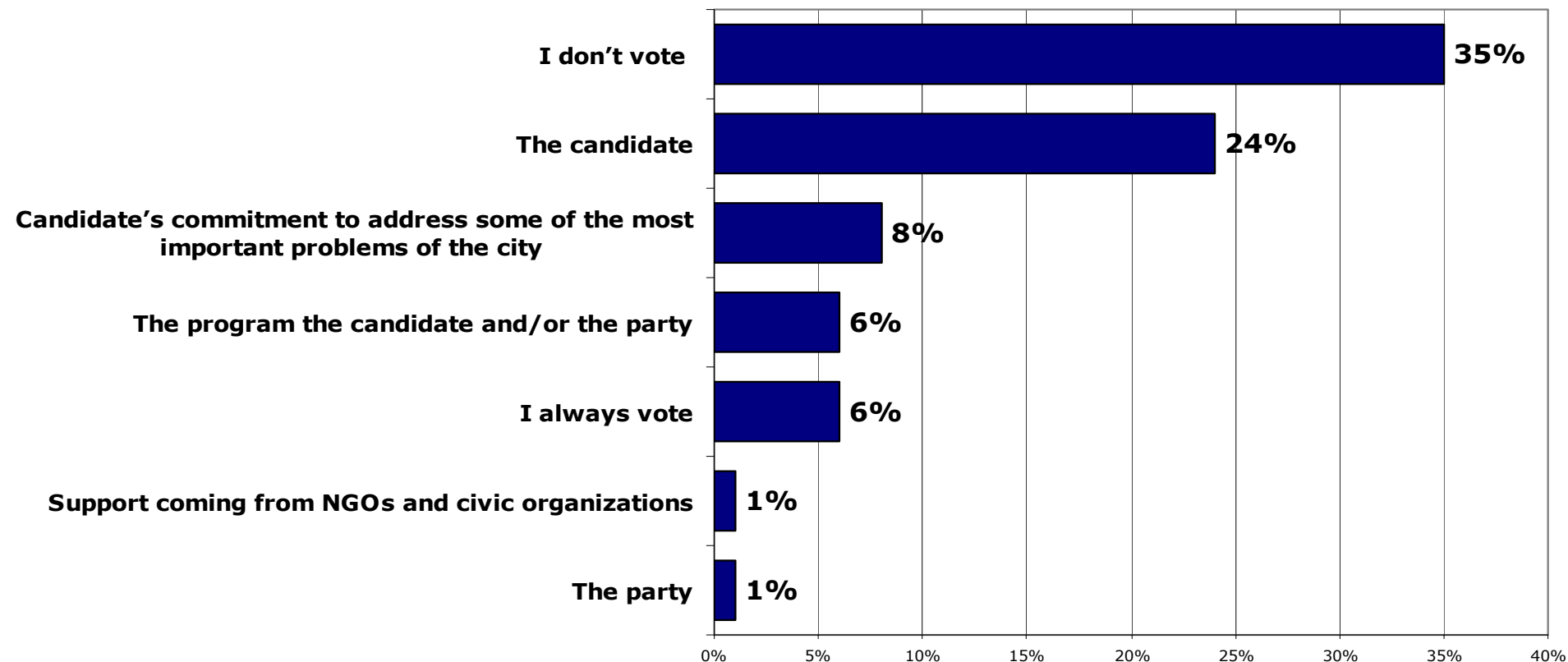
**Respondents mentioned garbage collection, insufficient parking, poor condition of buildings, subways, public places and street lights, unfinished construction sights, and missing street signs and building numbers as the main infrastructure problems in Burgas.**

**When asked what they meant by health care problems, respondents stated that one must pay for qualified medical help; doctors are poorly qualified; there are not enough hospitals and medical centers; and that those hospitals that do exist are closing.**

**As of now, do you plan to vote in the local elections in the fall?**

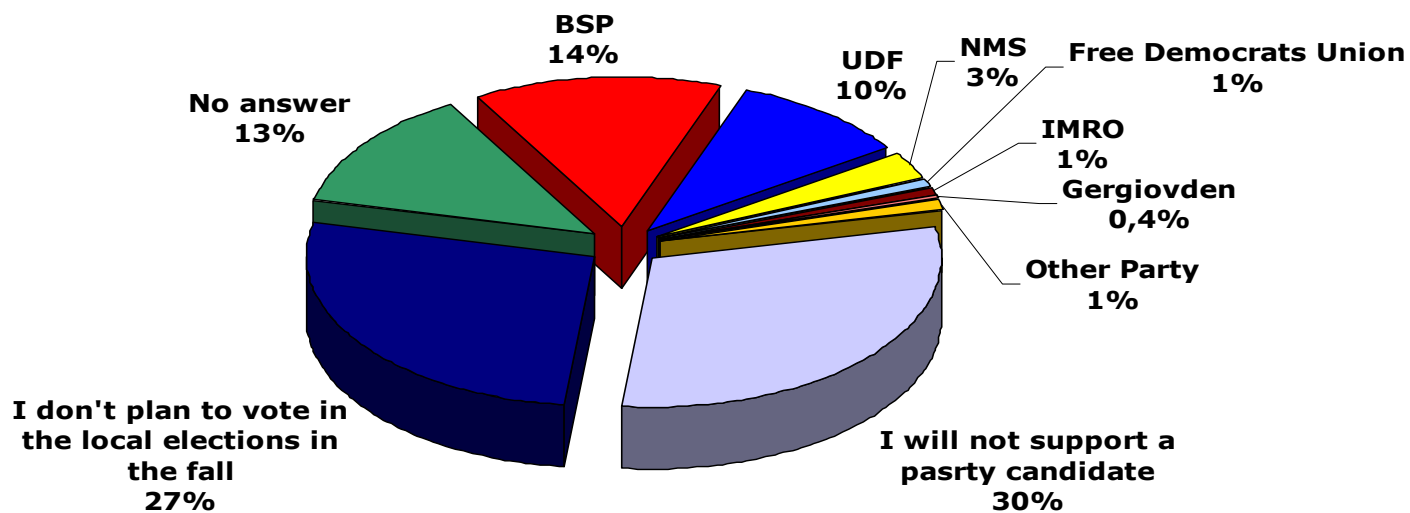


## What would most motivate you to vote at the forthcoming local elections?\*



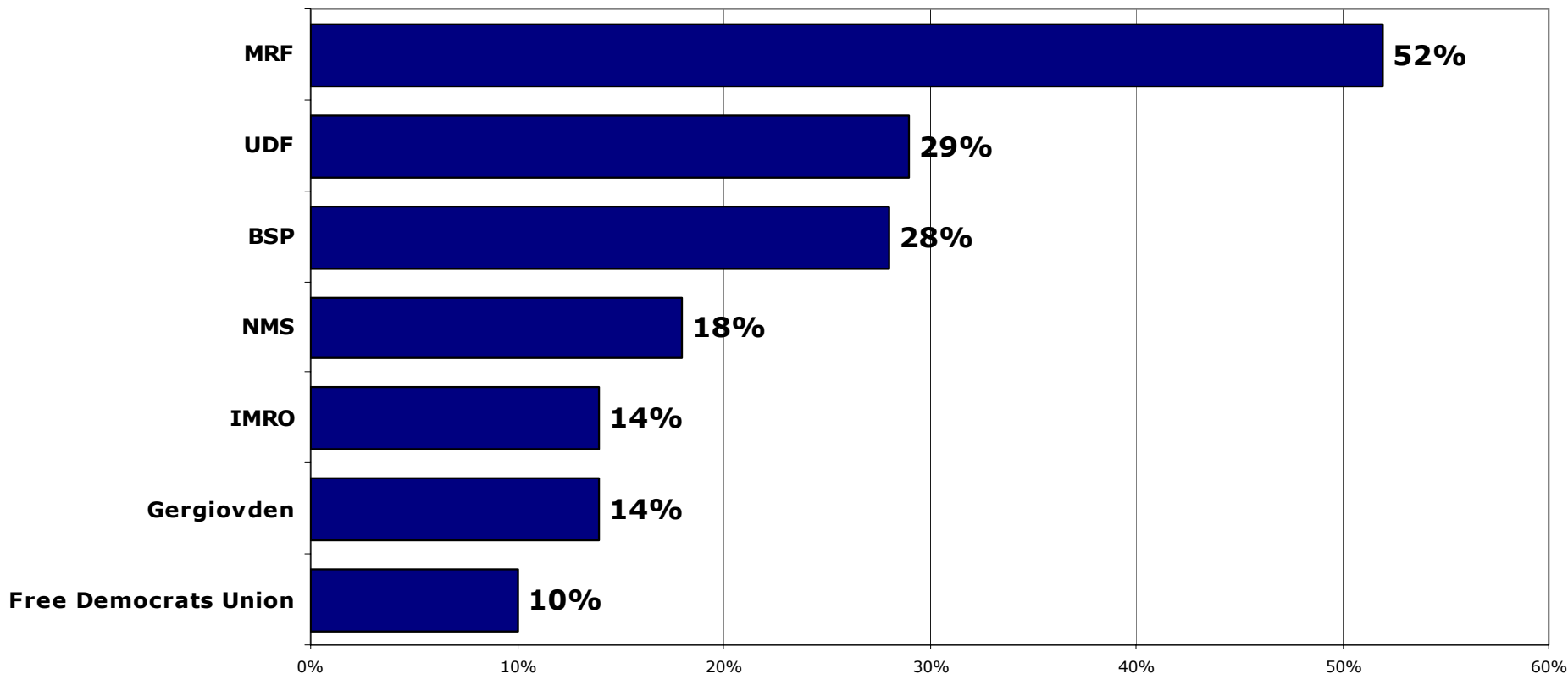
\*Answers were given by respondents who would not vote.

### The candidates of which of the following political parties would you support in the local elections?



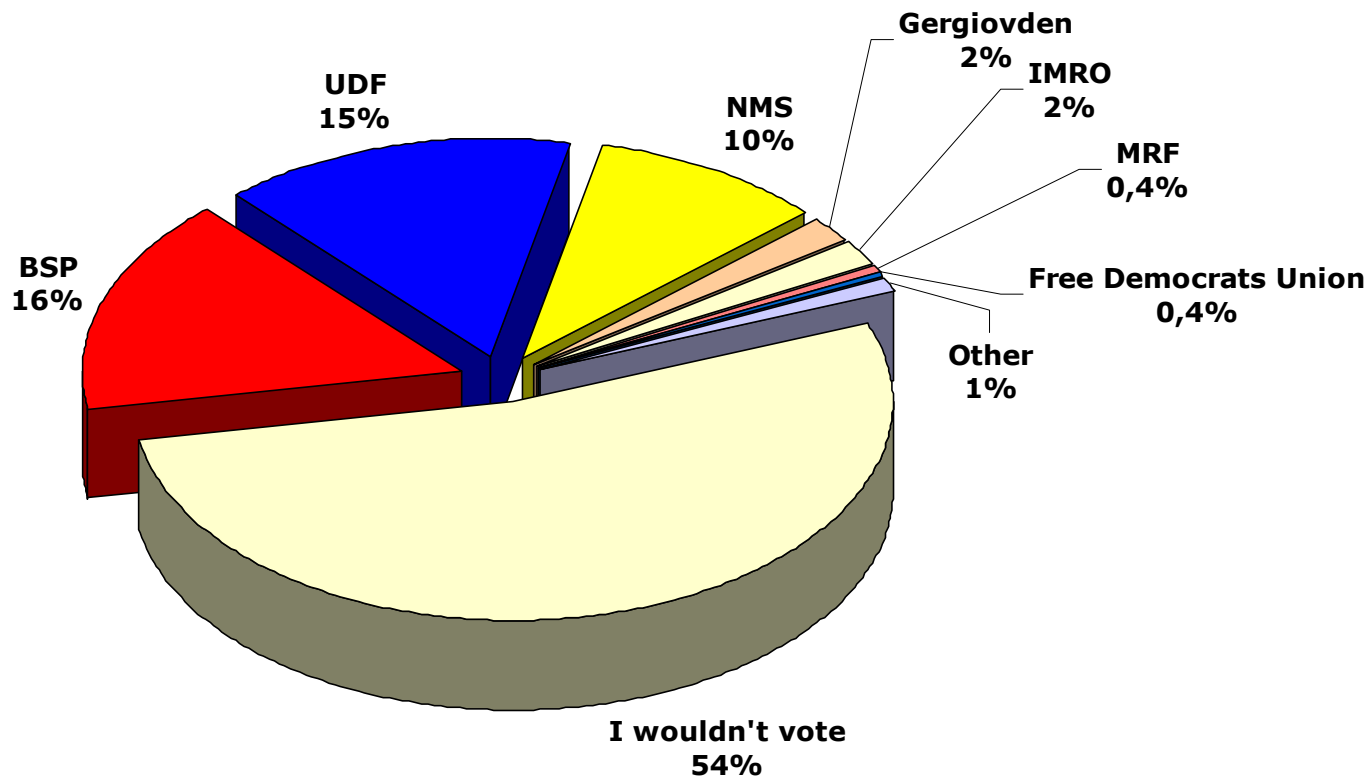
The total percentage of respondents who would not vote or did not answer equals 40%. This is consistent with the 38% of respondents who stated in a prior question that they would not vote. This difference falls within the poll's margin of error.

**The candidates of which of the following parties would you never vote for in the local elections in the fall?\***



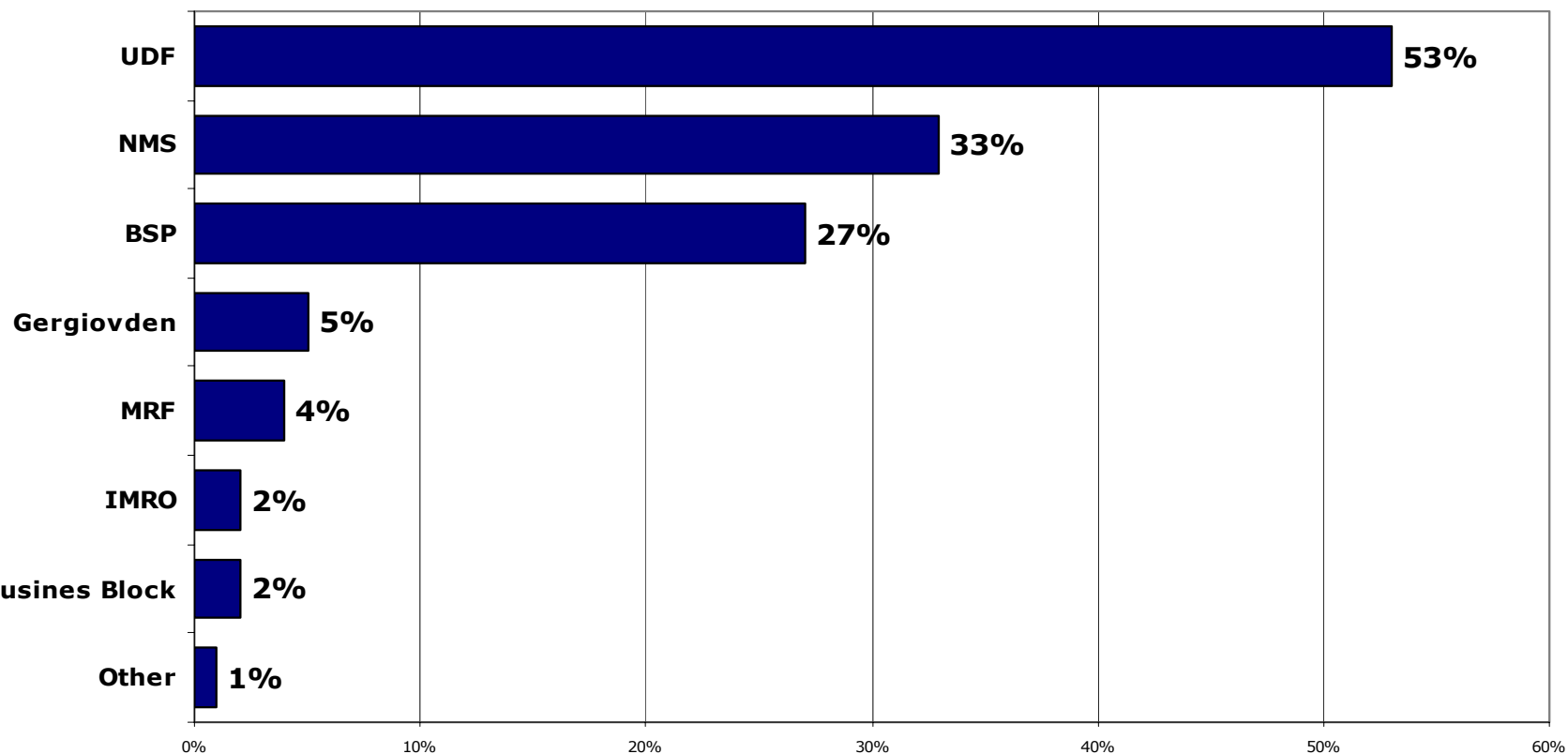
\*Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

**If parliamentary elections were held next Sunday,  
the candidates of which of the following parties would you support?**



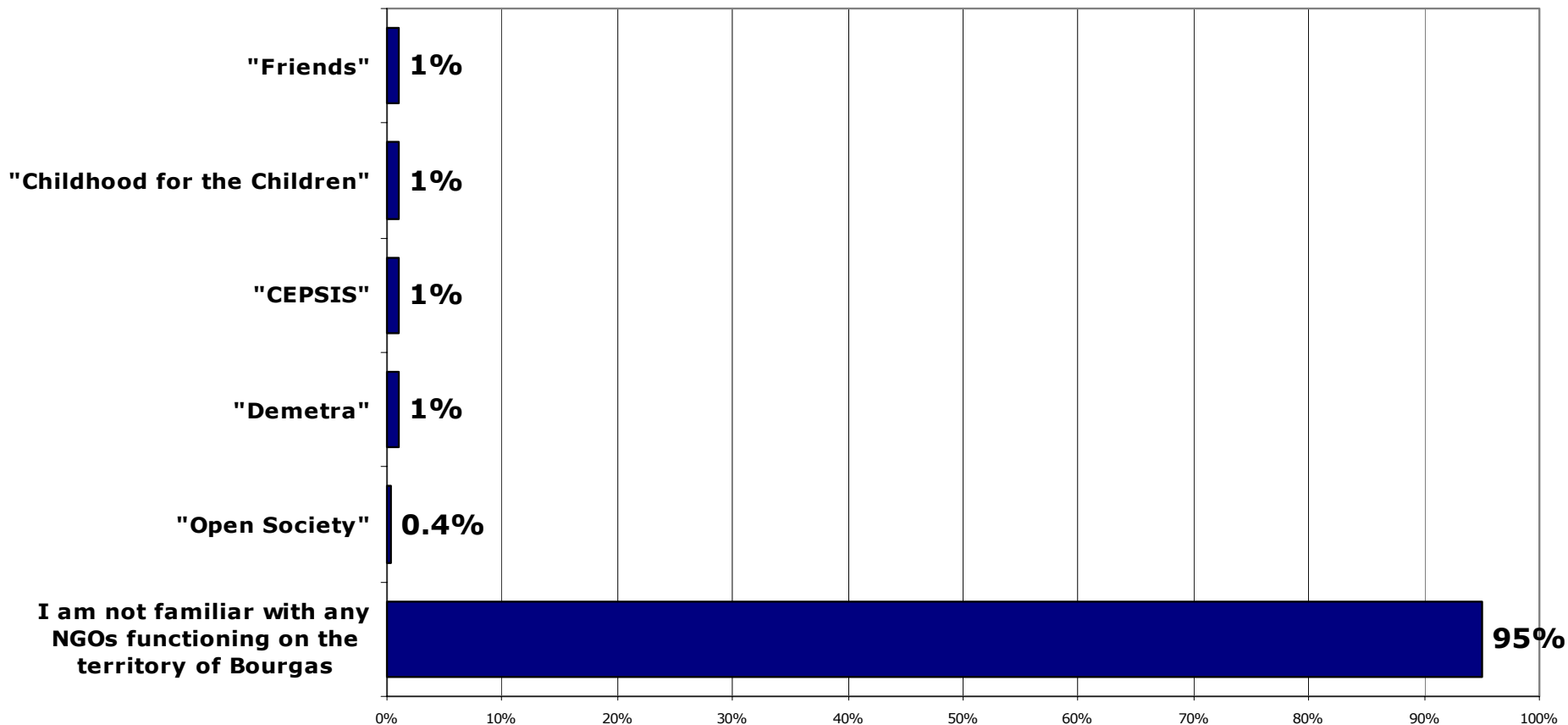


## Which political parties have you supported for the last 13 years?\*

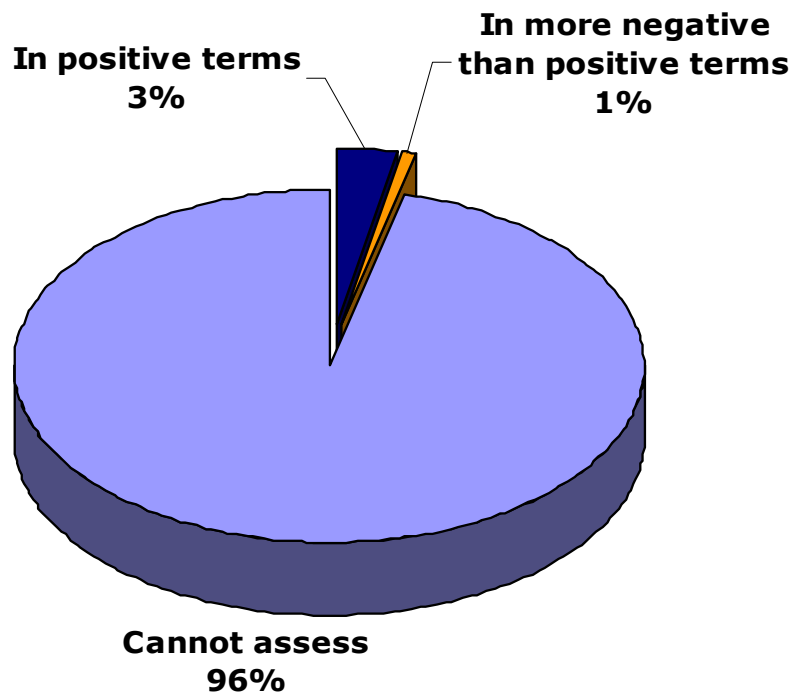


\*Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

### Can you name any NGOs which are functioning on the territory of Burgas?



### How do you assess the work of the NGO sector in Burgas?





**SOCIAL AND POLITICAL  
ATTITUDES IN  
GABROVO  
JUNE 2003**

## Gabrovo

- **Population Size:**  
**74, 949 (2001)**
- **Percent Voter Turnout in last municipal election:**  
**44%**
- **Mayor (Party Affiliation):**  
**Bogomil Belchev (BSP)**
- **Local Council (makeup of seats by party):**  
**BSP (15); UDF (11); For Gabrovo (4); Bulgarian Democratic Bloc (2); "Kingdom Bulgaria" (2)**

## **SURVEY DESCRIPTION:**

- Survey realization:** Alpha Research Ltd.
- Fieldwork Period:** 27 May – 4 June, 2003 r.
- Sample size:** 762 respondents from the city of Gabrovo
- Representativeness:** Representative for the adult population
- Method of sample-forming:** Quota under the following criteria
- Gender
  - Age
  - Education
- Survey method:** Standardized face-to-face interview  
in respondents' homes
- Margin of Error:** +/- 2-2.5%

### DEMOGRAPHICS OF REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE:

- Age:**
- 18 – 30 years old – 23%
  - 31 – 40 years old – 15%
  - 41 – 50 years old – 16%
  - 51 – 60 years old – 20%
  - Over 61 years old – 26%

- Gender:**
- Female – 51%
  - Male – 49%

- Education:**
- University degree – 13%
  - College degree – 7%
  - High-school – 63%
  - Primary school – 17%

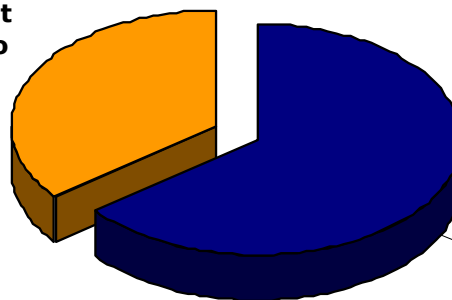
**How do you think the situation in the city has changed for the last 4 years?**





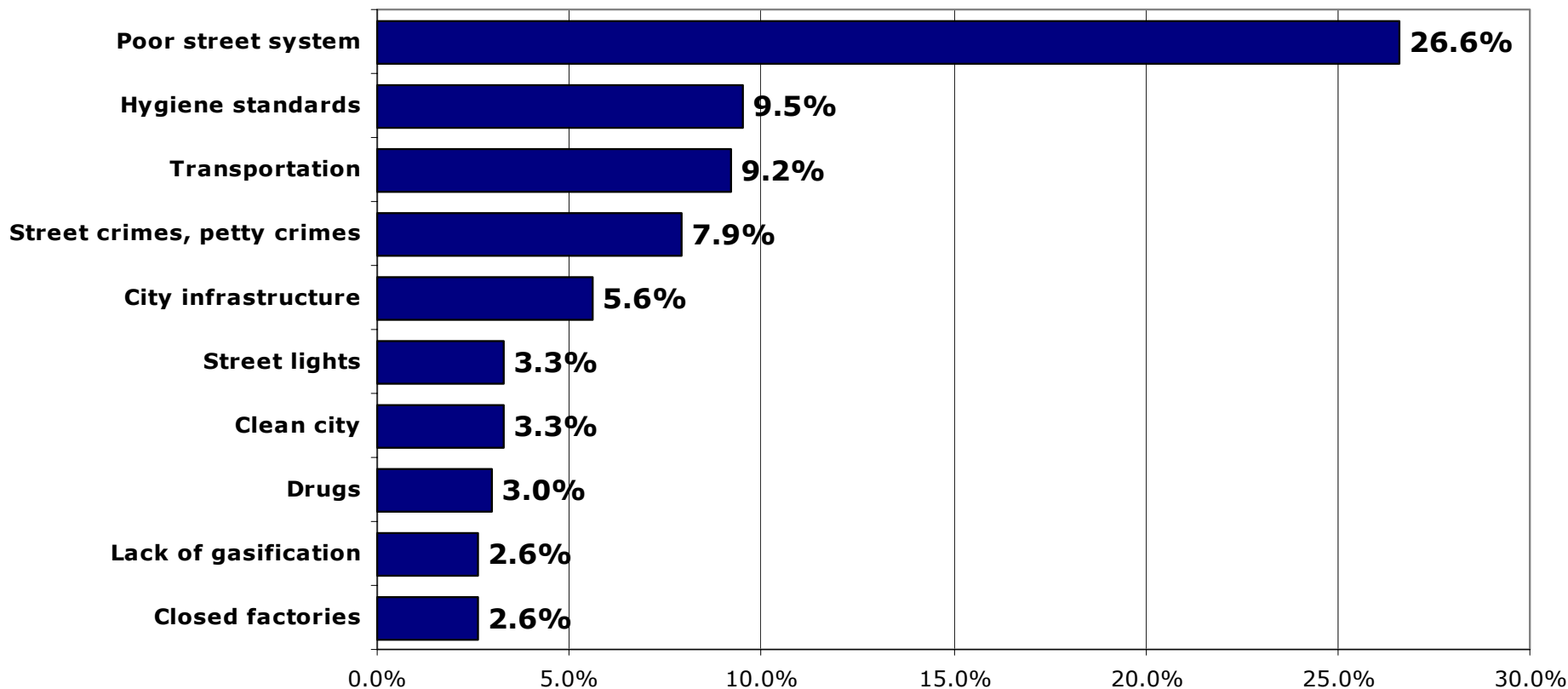
### Who do you think should win the upcoming local elections?

Another mayor should be elected because the present mayor hasn't provided solutions to the city's problems  
35%

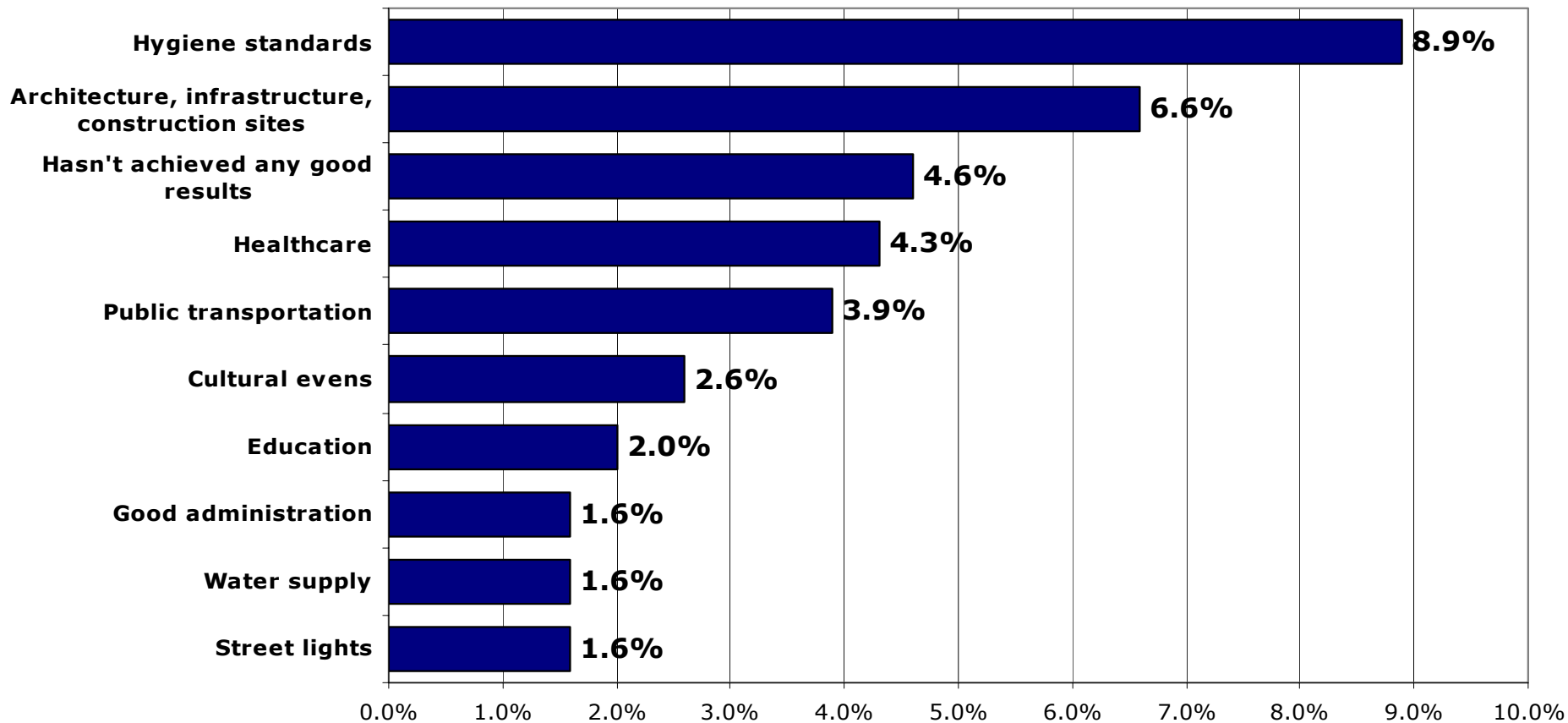


The present mayor should be re-elected because he/she has provided solutions to the city's problems  
65%

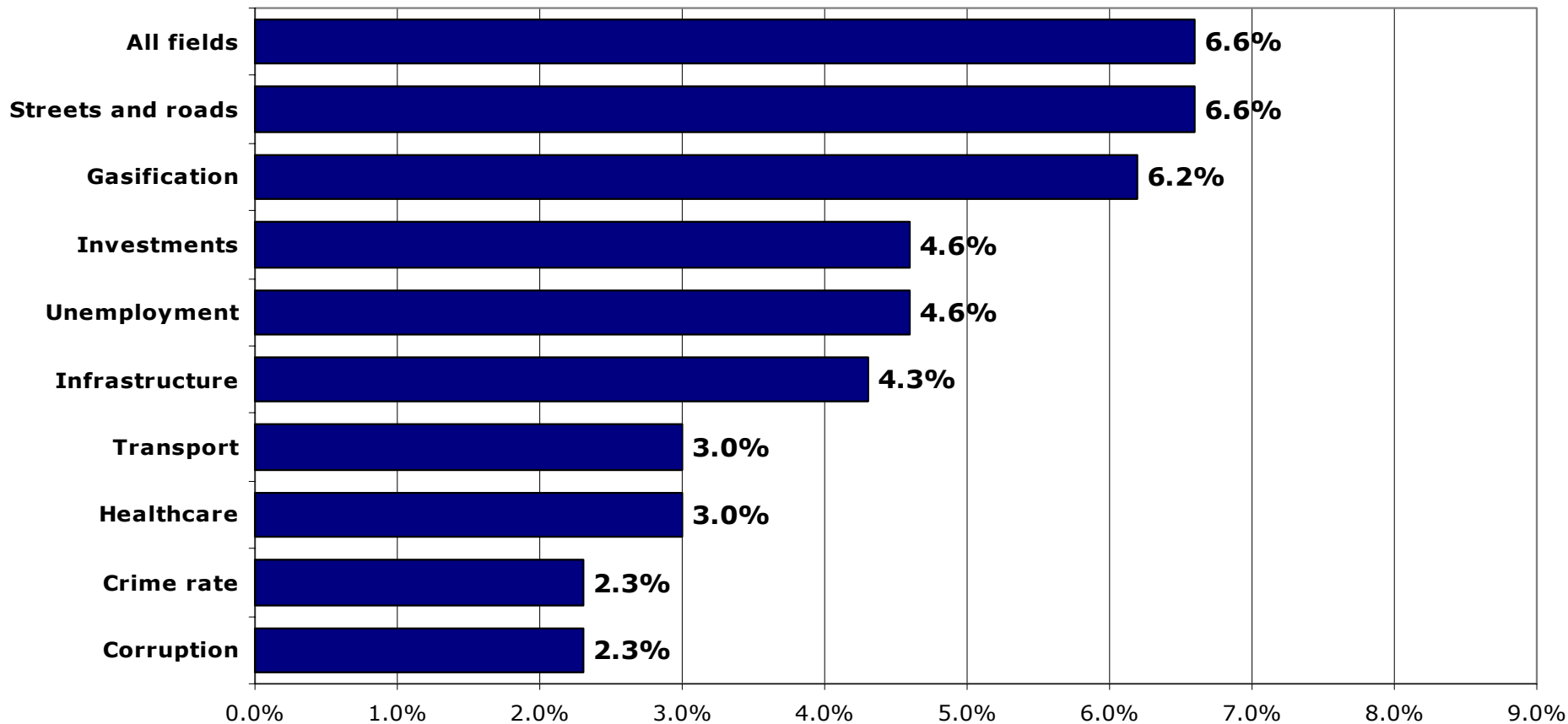
### Specific problems relevant to Gabrovo only: (open-ended question)



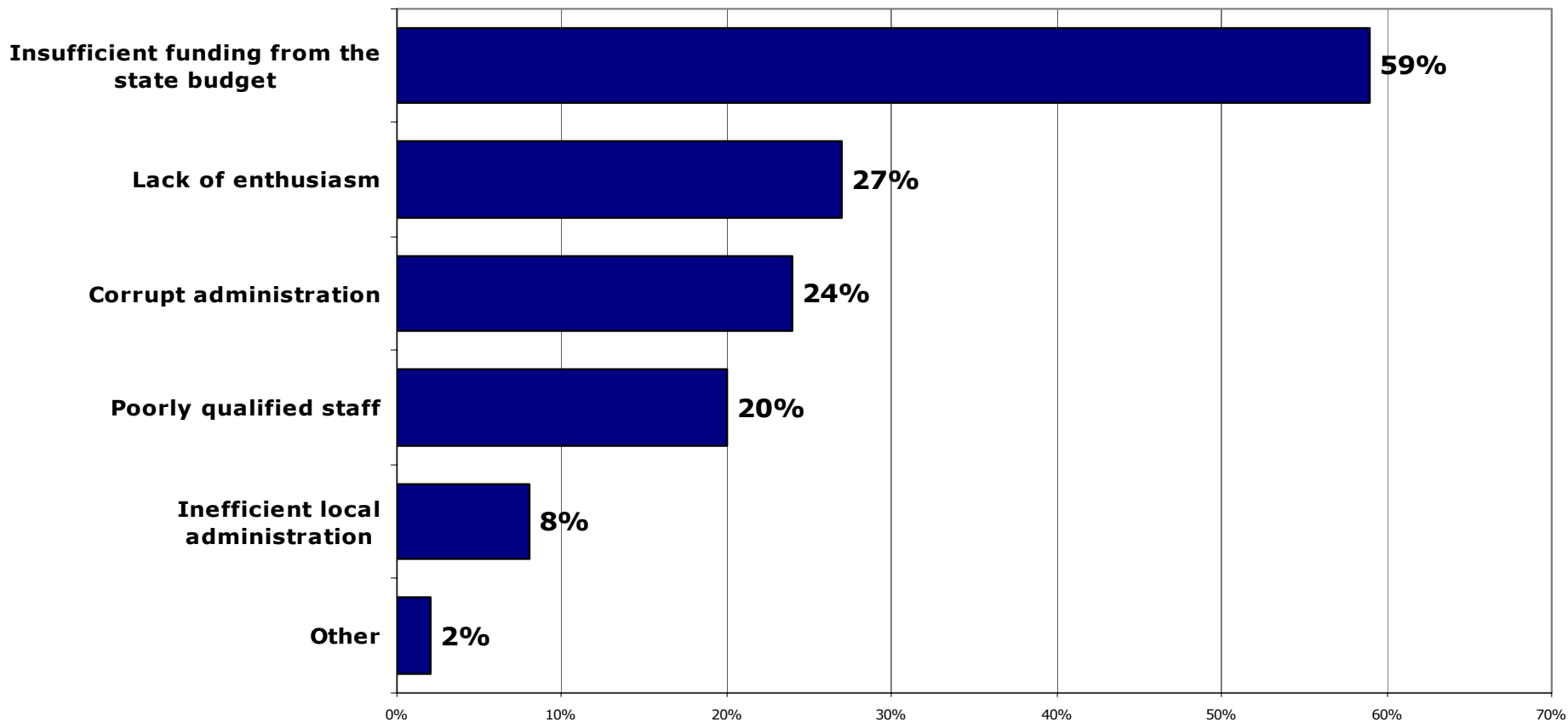
### The municipal authorities have achieved best results in: (open-ended question)



### Municipal authorities have NOT achieved results in the fields of: (open-ended question)

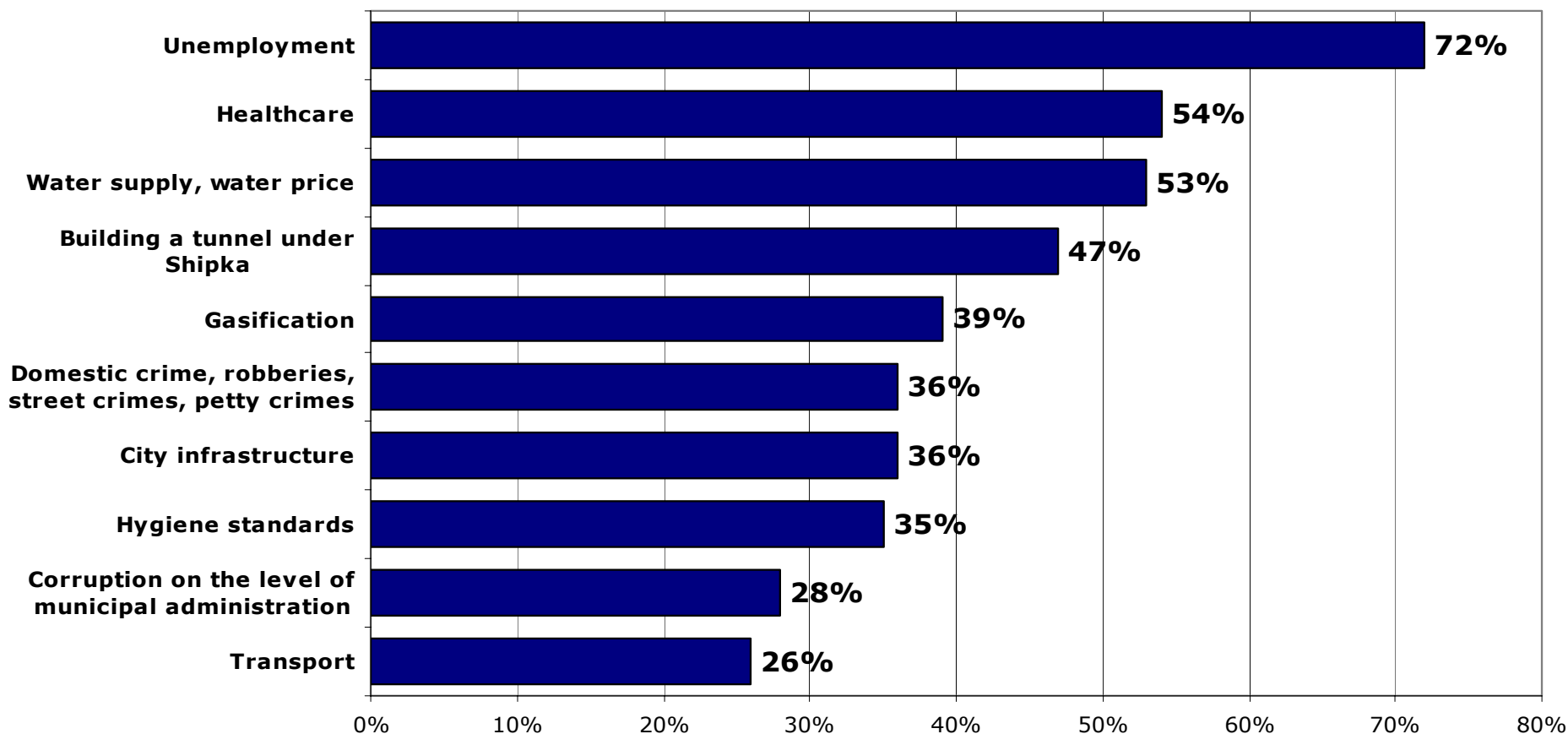


## Municipal authorities haven't made progress due to:\*



\*Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

### What are the most pressing problems Gabrovo currently faces?\*



\*Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

Respondents were shown a card with a list of answers. The specific options for each city were developed in coordination with NGOs and local political party leaders.

**When asked what they meant by unemployment problems, respondents mentioned closing factories; inconsistent enforcement of labor codes; unpaid salaries; and inefficient Labor Bureaus.**

**Respondents cited healthcare as another major problem, and referred to such problems as the fact that one must pay for qualified medical help; there is a lack of food in the local hospital; poor hygiene; expensive medicine; unqualified doctors; insufficient number of hospitals and medical centers; and that those hospitals that do exist are closing.**

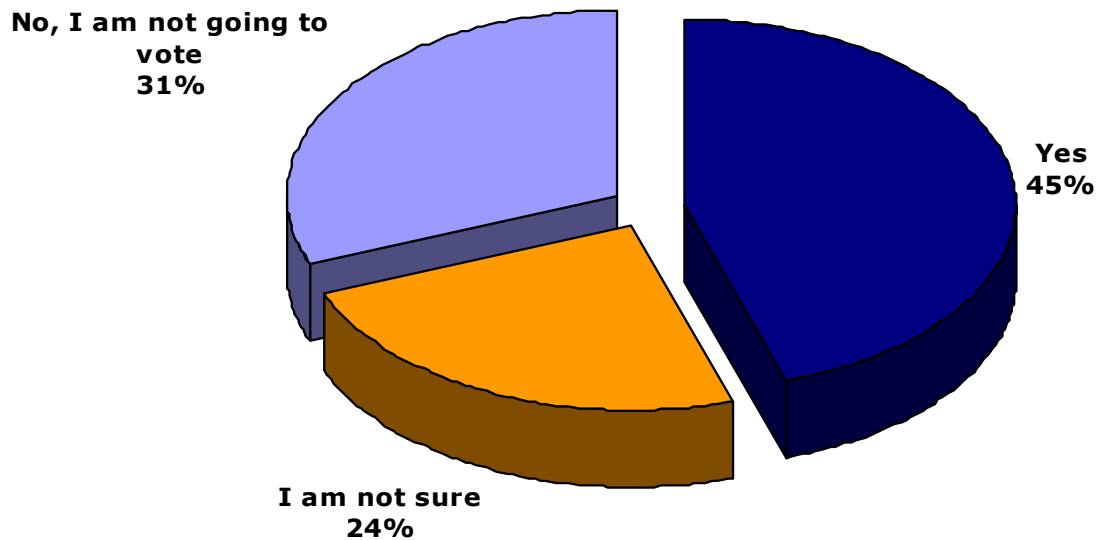
**Infrastructure problems mentioned by respondents include the poor condition of buildings, public places, and street lights; insufficient garbage collection and public parking; and a lack of street signs and building numbers. Building a supermarket and youth center are priorities to respondents.**

**When asked about specific sanitary issues, participants noted insufficient garbage collection and unclean sewer systems and water supplies as the two main problems in Gabrovo.**

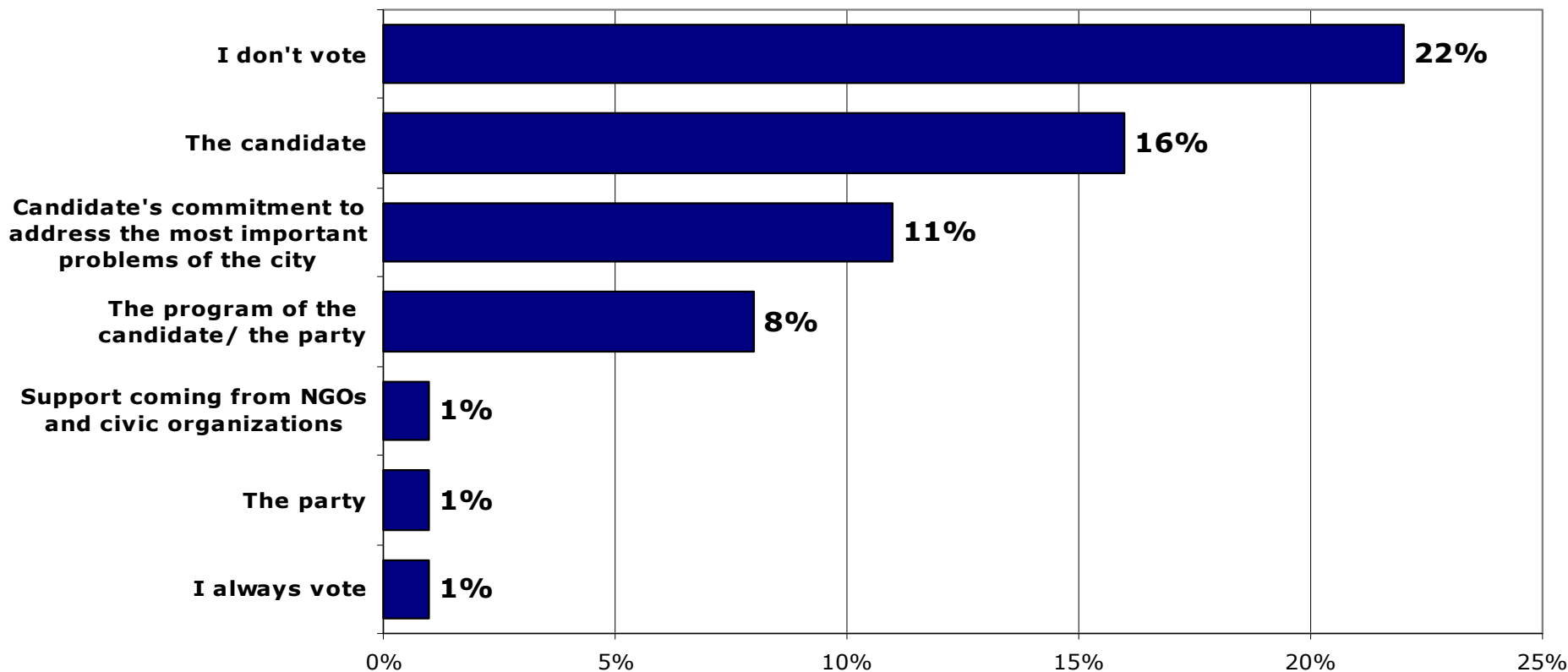
**Transportation problems include poor street conditions; old public transportation vehicles; and the failure of public transport to meet schedules.**



**As of now, do you plan to vote in the local elections in the fall?**

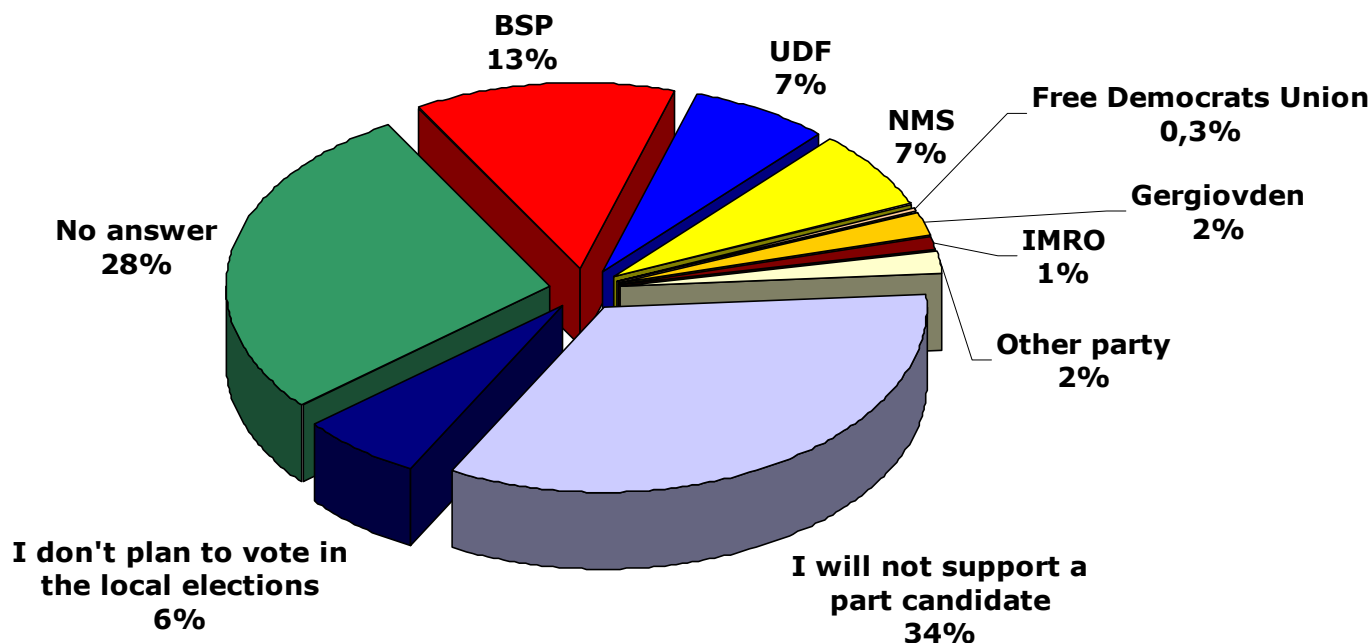


## What would most motivate you to vote at the forthcoming local elections?\*



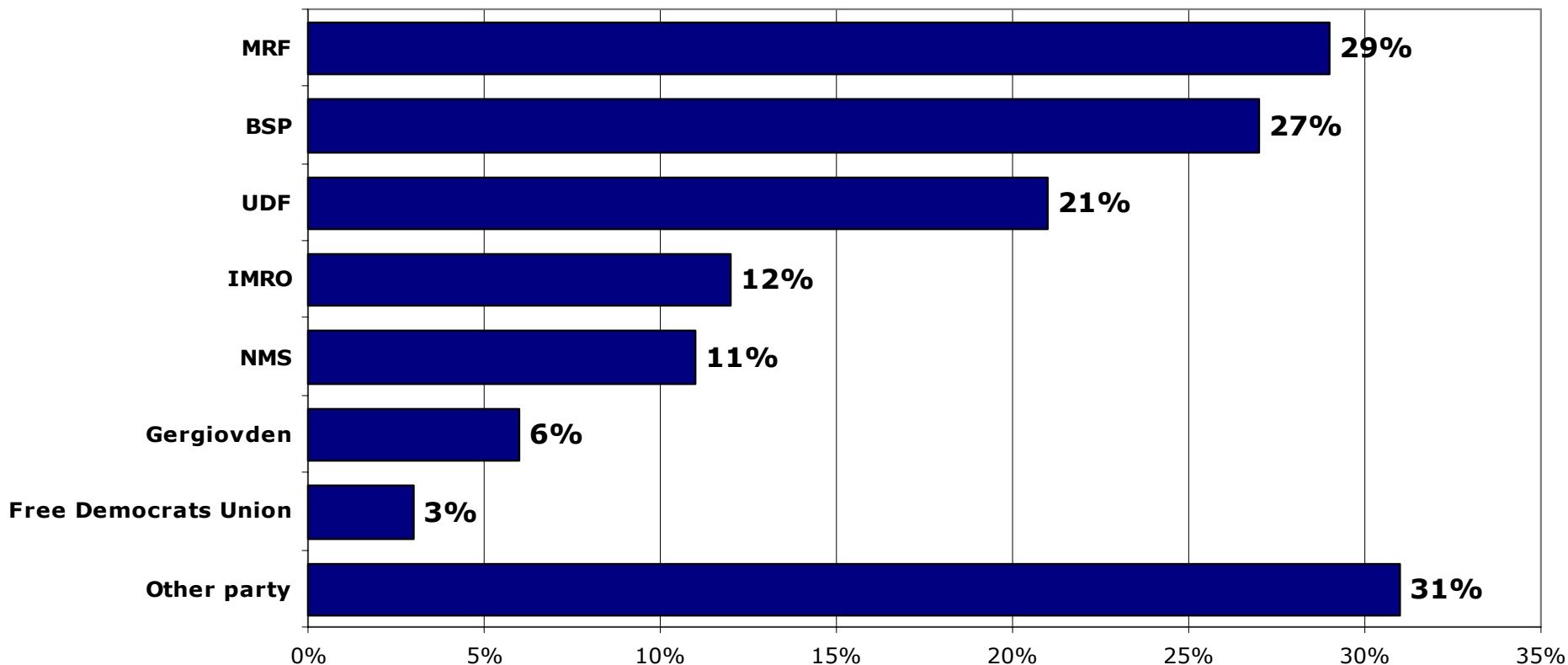
\*Answers were given only by respondents who do not plan to vote.

### The candidate of which of the following parties would you support in the local elections?



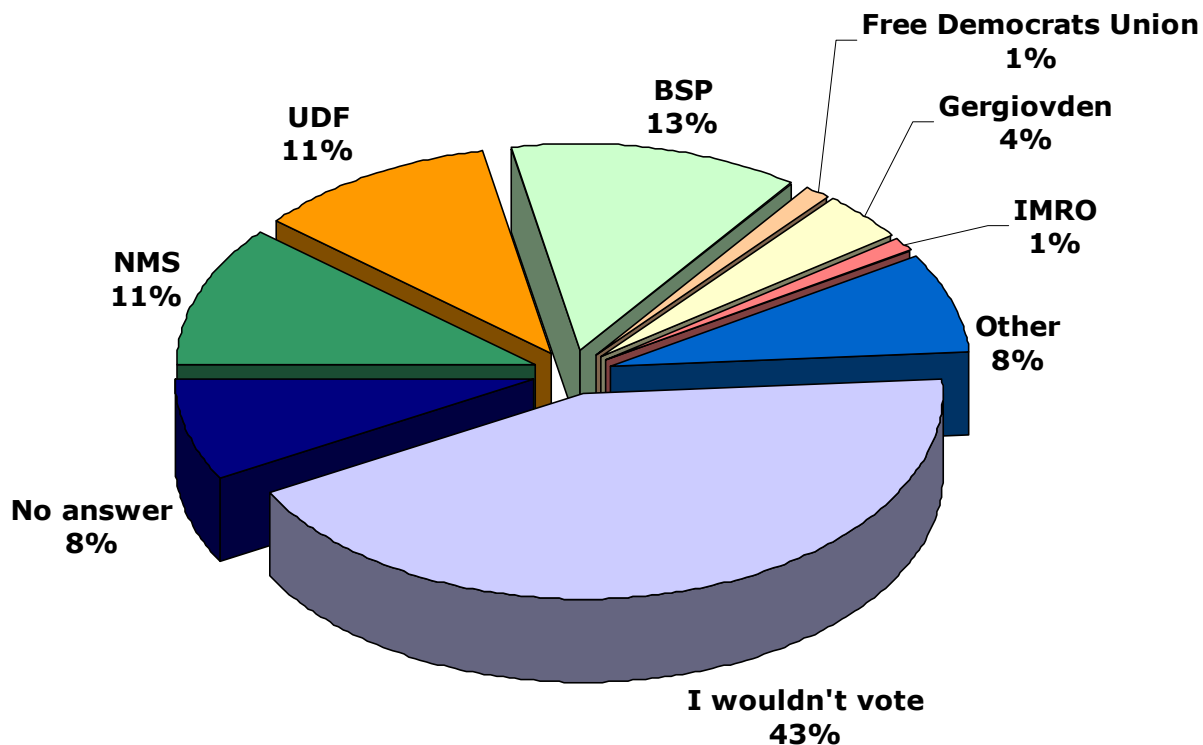
The total percentage of respondents who would not vote or did not answer equals 31%, which is consistent with the 31% of respondents who stated in a prior question that they would not vote.

**The candidate of which of the following parties would you never vote for in the local elections?\***

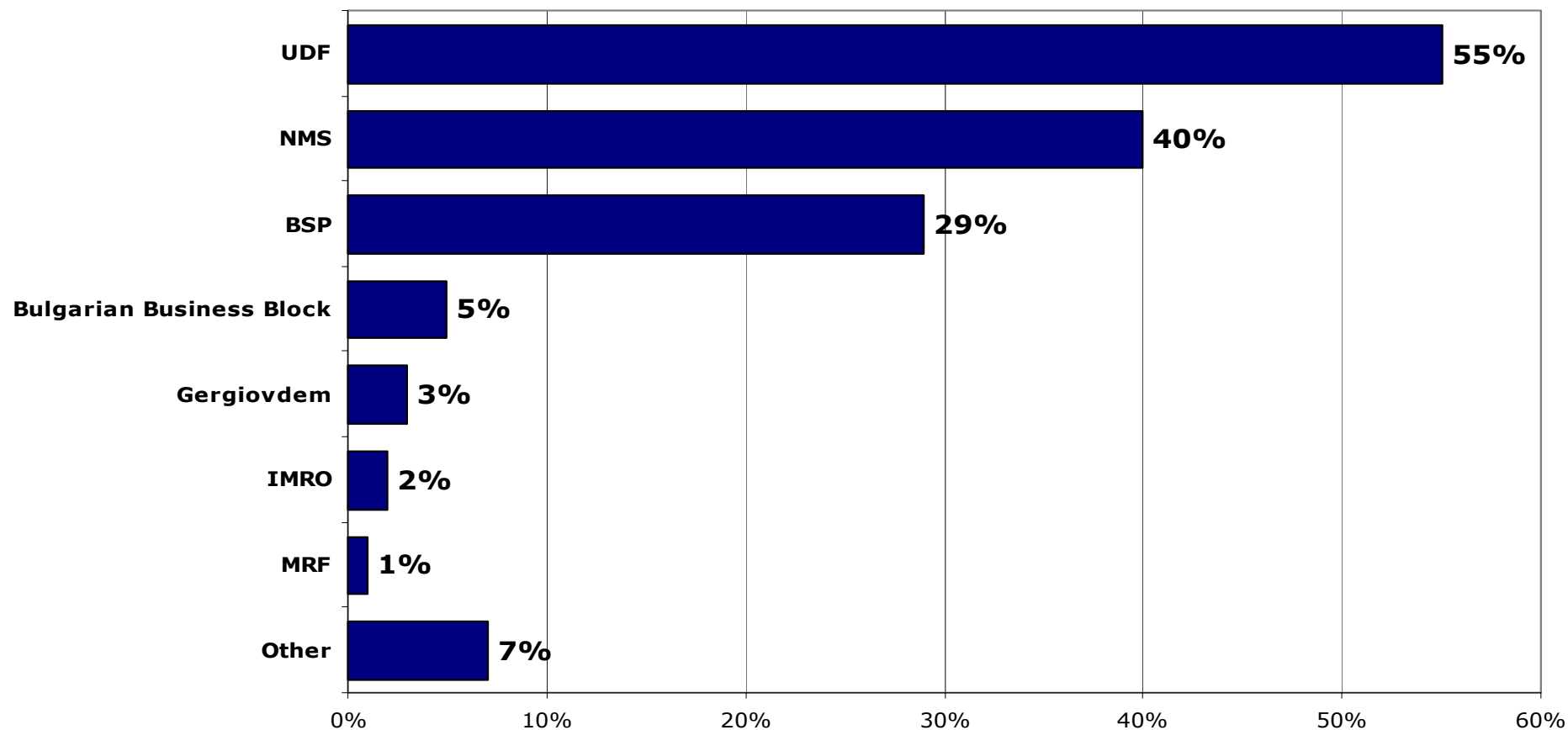


\*Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

**If parliamentary elections were held next Sunday,  
the candidate of which of the following parties would you support?**

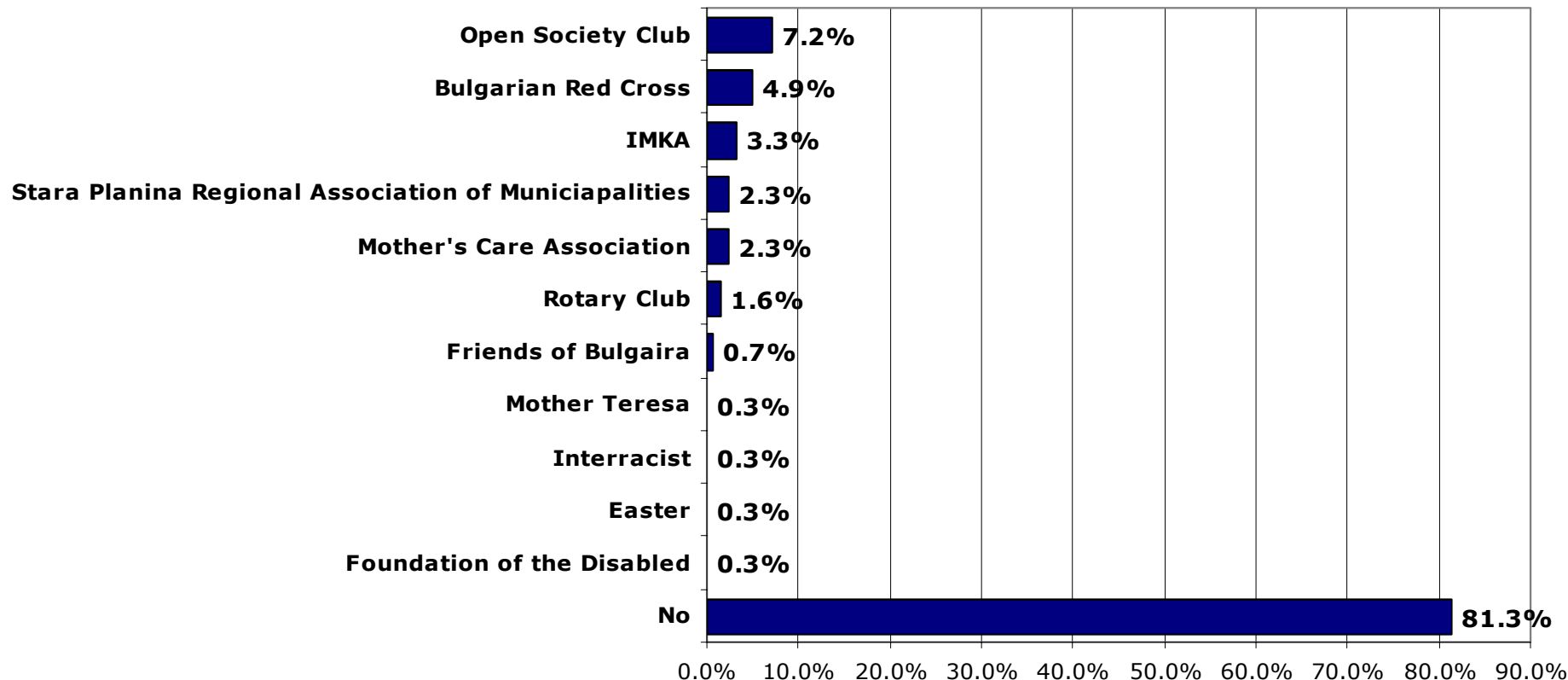


### Which political parties have you supported for the last 13 years?\*



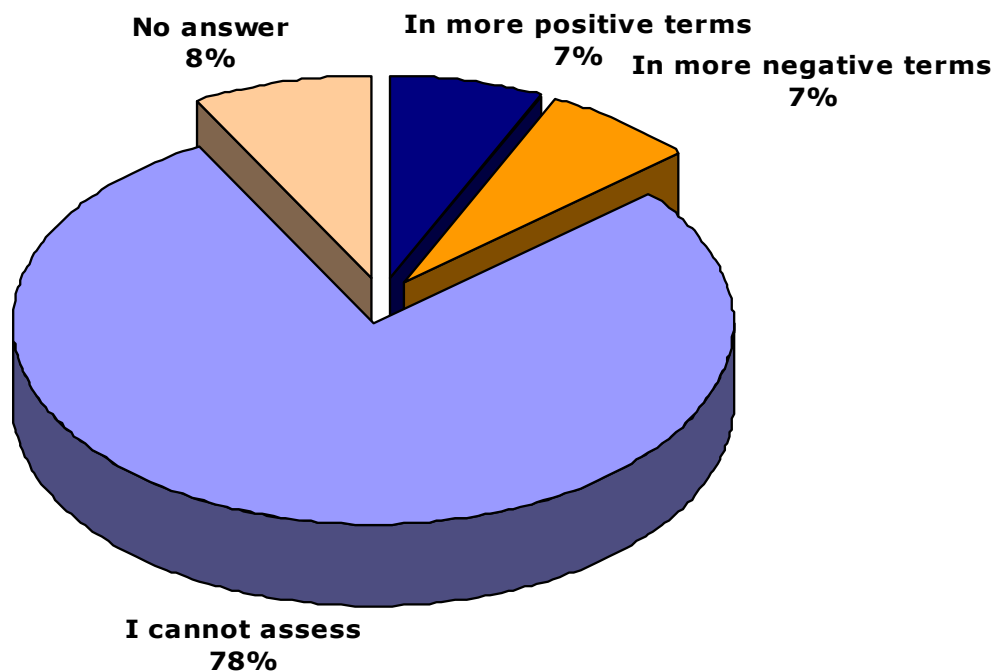
\*Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

### Can you name any NGOs functioning on the territory of Gabrovo?\*



\*Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

### How do you assess the work of the NGO sector in Gabrovo?







**SOCIAL AND POLITICAL  
ATTITUDES IN  
PAZARDZHIK  
JUNE 2003**

## Pazardzhik

- **Population Size:**  
**127, 918 (2001)**
- **Percent Voter Turnout in last municipal election:**  
**46%**
- **Mayor (Party Affiliation):**  
**Ivan Kochlakov (UDF)**
- **Local Council (makeup of seats by party):**  
**UDF (16); BSP (9); Bulgarian Democratic Bloc (3); Free Bulgaria (3); Bulgarian Euro Left (2)**

## **SURVEY DESCRIPTION:**

- Survey realization:** Alpha Research Ltd.
- Fieldwork Period:** 27 May – 4 June, 2003 r.
- Sample size:** 695 respondents from the city of Pazardzhik
- Representativeness:** Representative for the adult population
- Method of sample-forming:** Quota under the following criteria
- Gender
  - Age
  - Education
- Survey method:** Standardized face-to-face interview  
in respondents' homes
- Margin of Error:** +/- 2-2.5%

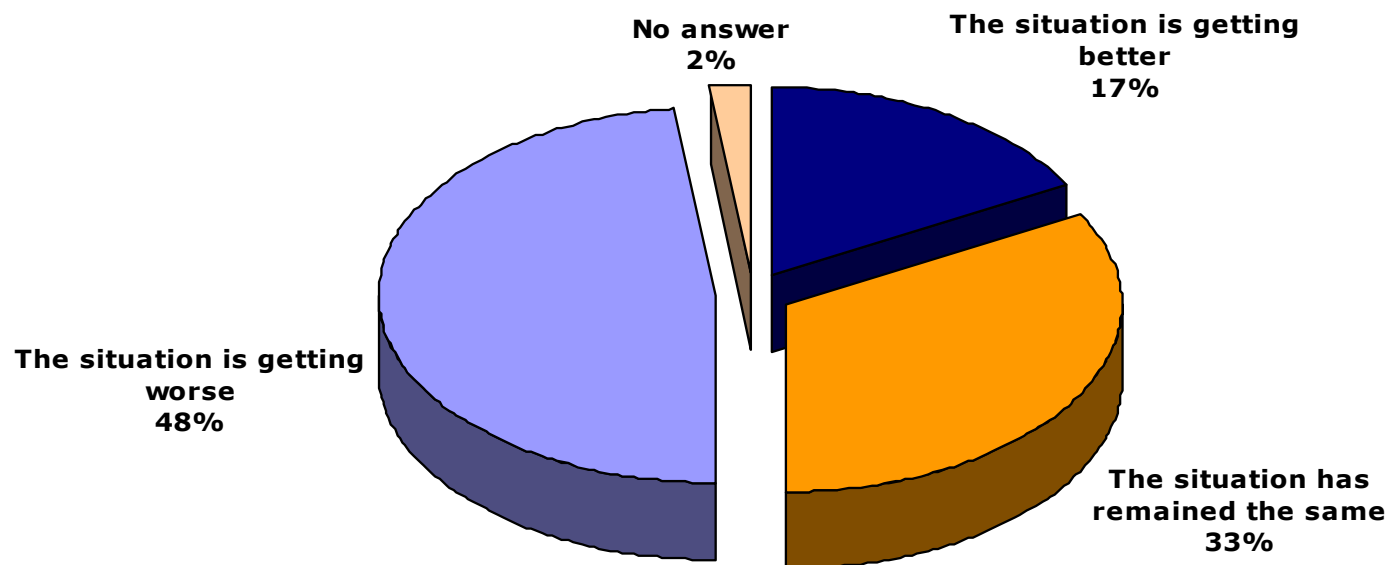
## DEMOGRAPHICS OF REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE:

- Age:**
- 18 – 30 years old – 26%
  - 31 – 40 years old – 19%
  - 41 – 50 years old – 21%
  - 51 – 60 years old – 15%
  - Over 61 years old – 19%

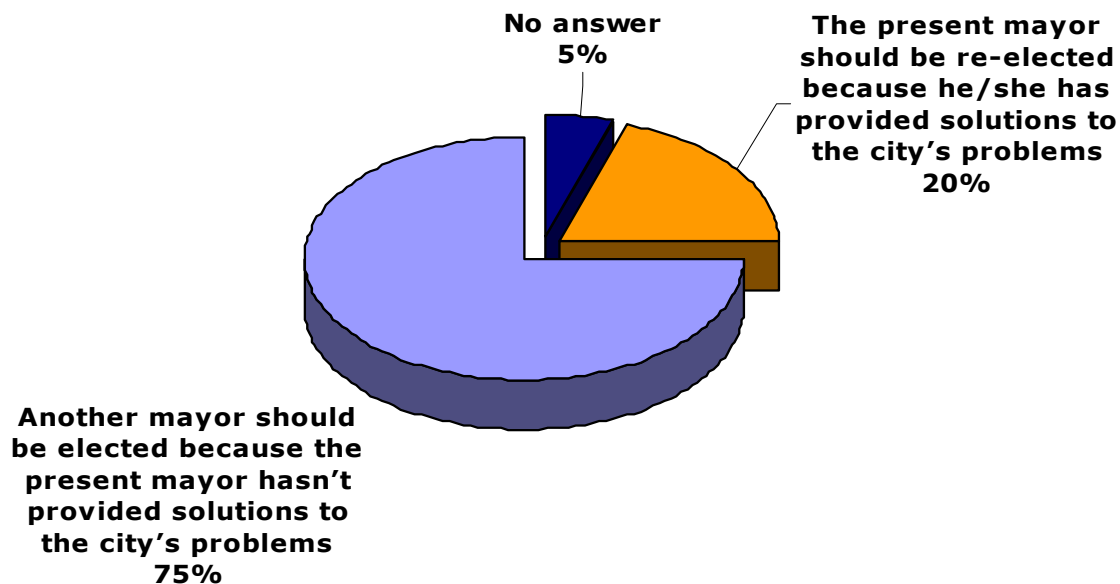
- Gender:**
- Female – 50%
  - Male – 50%

- Education:**
- University degree – 19%
  - College degree – 3%
  - High-school – 48%
  - Primary school – 30%

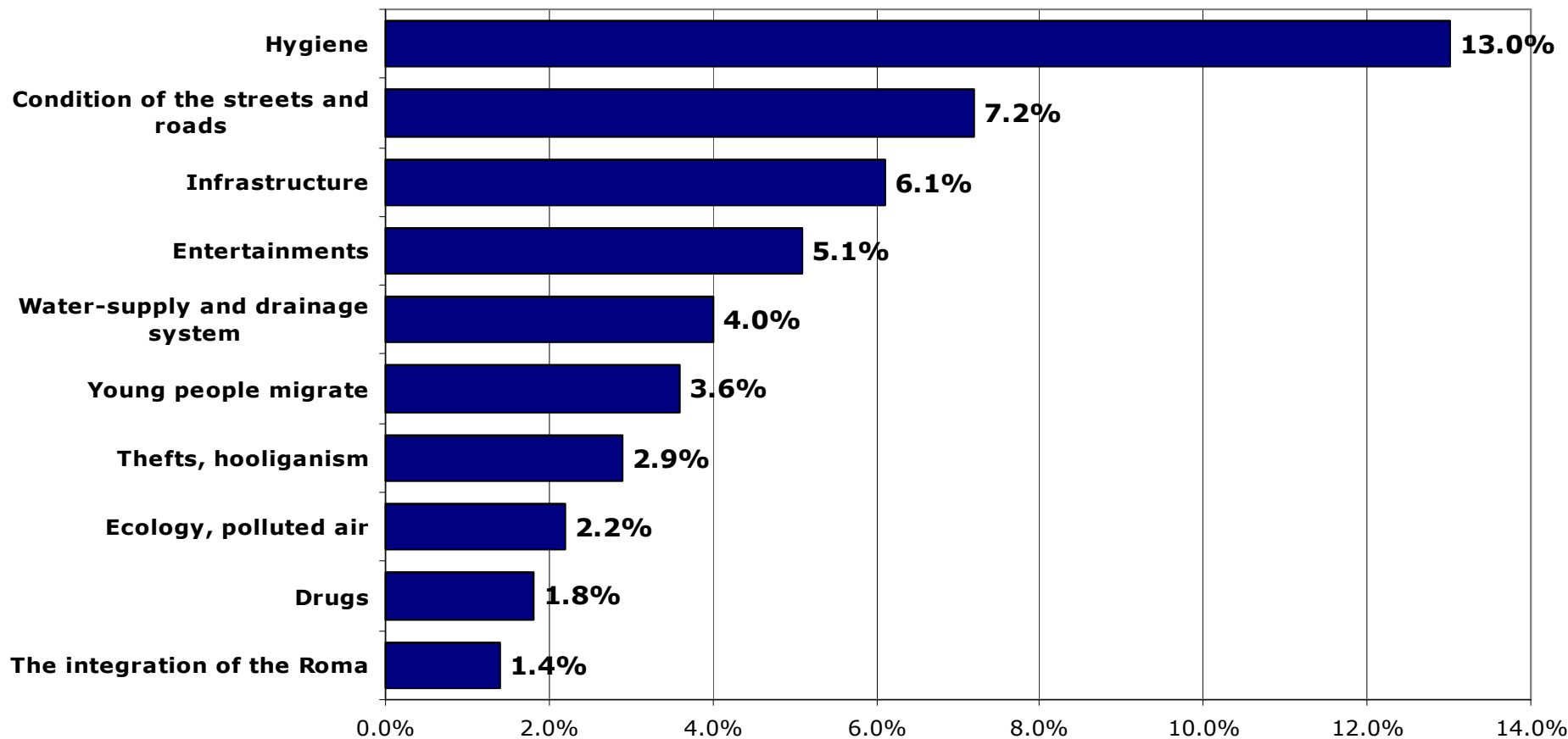
## How do you think the situation in the city has changed for the last 4 years?



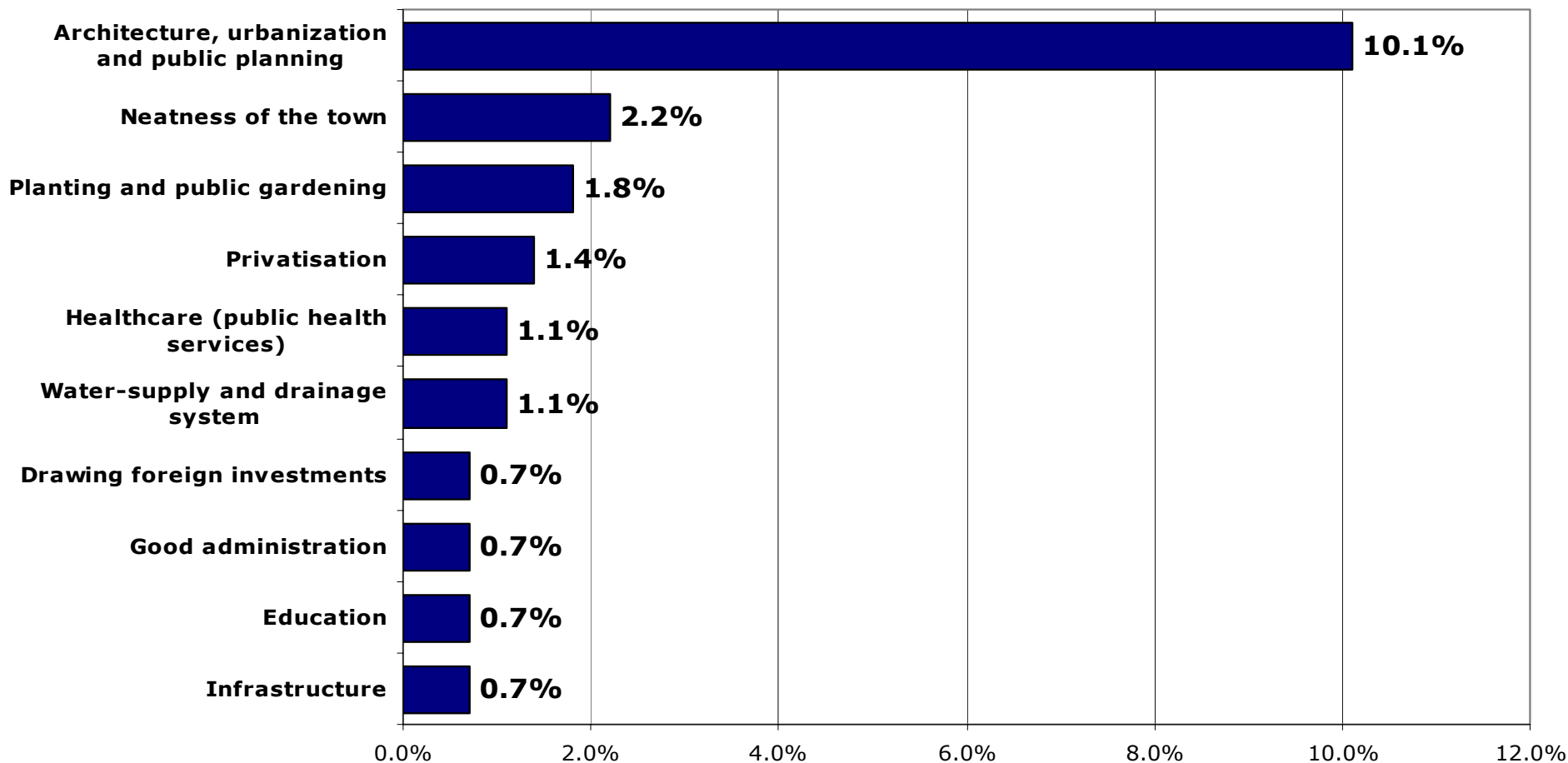
## Who do you think should win the upcoming local elections?



## Specific problems relevant to Pazardzhik only: (open-ended question)

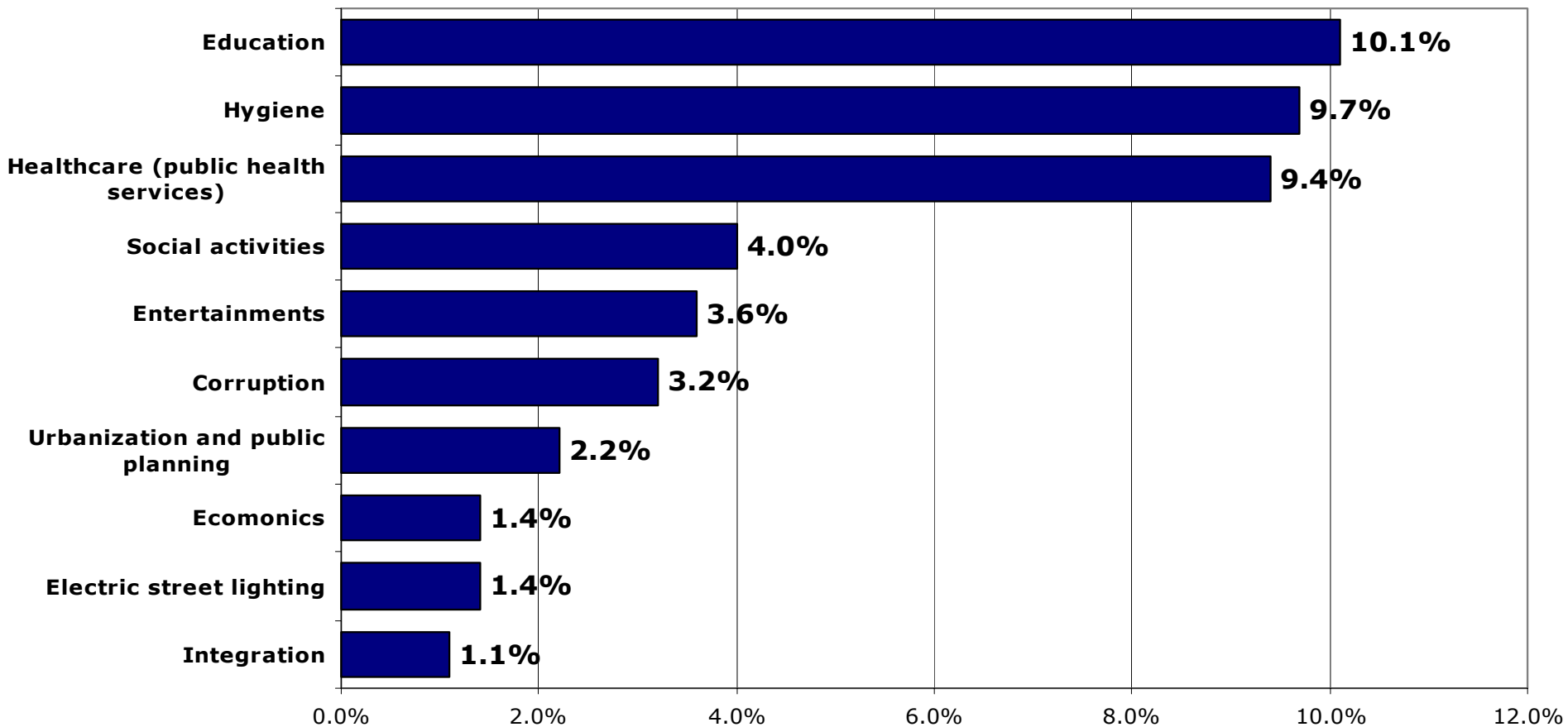


## The municipal authorities have achieved **BEST** results in: (open-ended question)

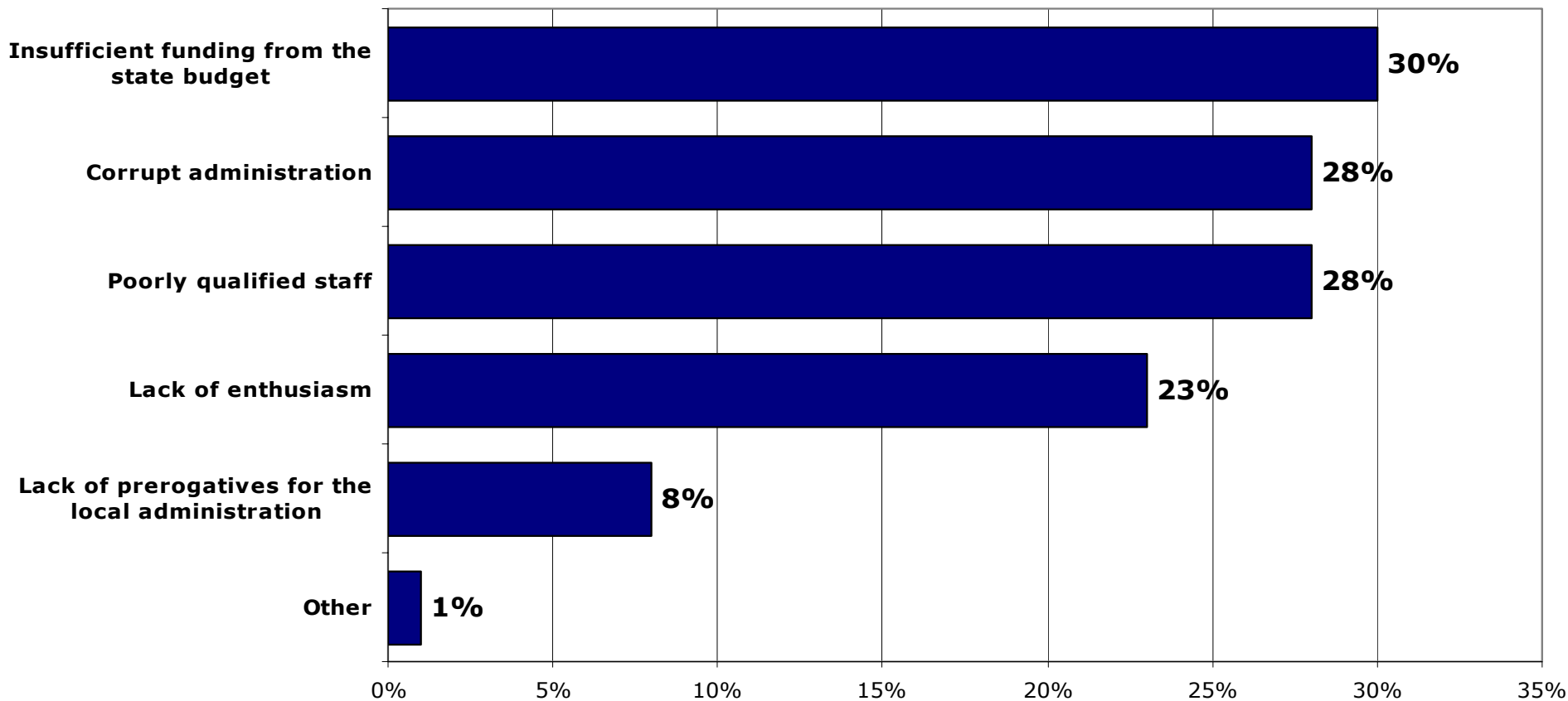




## Municipal authorities have NOT achieved results in the fields of: (open-ended question)

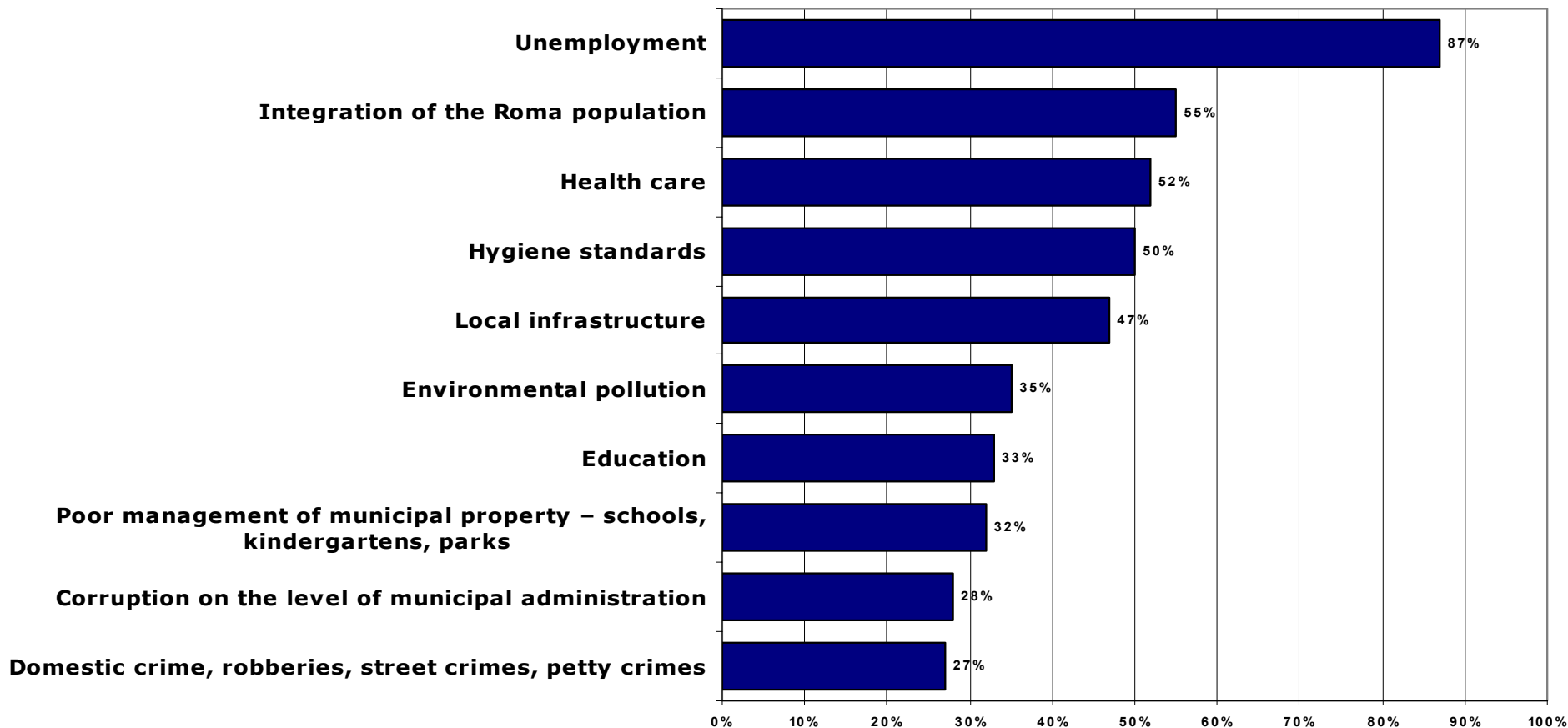


## Municipal authorities haven't made progress due to:\*



Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

## What are the most pressing problems Pazardzhik currently faces?\*



Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

Respondents were shown a card with a list of answers. The specific options for each city were developed in coordination with NGOs and local political party leaders.

**When asked to elaborate on the unemployment problem, respondents mentioned that large enterprises do not operate to their full capacities; crises within the food and wine industries; and inefficient Labor Bureaus as the main issues in Pazardzhik.**

**Respondents also identified the situation of the Roma population as a pressing problem and noted integration with Bulgarians, education, crime, drugs, prostitution, poverty, culture, housing, poor standards of living, social programs, discrimination, and problems with the sewage system as issues of concern.**

**Health care problems cited include paying for qualified medical help; doctors are poorly qualified; insufficient number of hospitals and medical centers; and that those hospitals that do exist are closing at a rapid rate.**

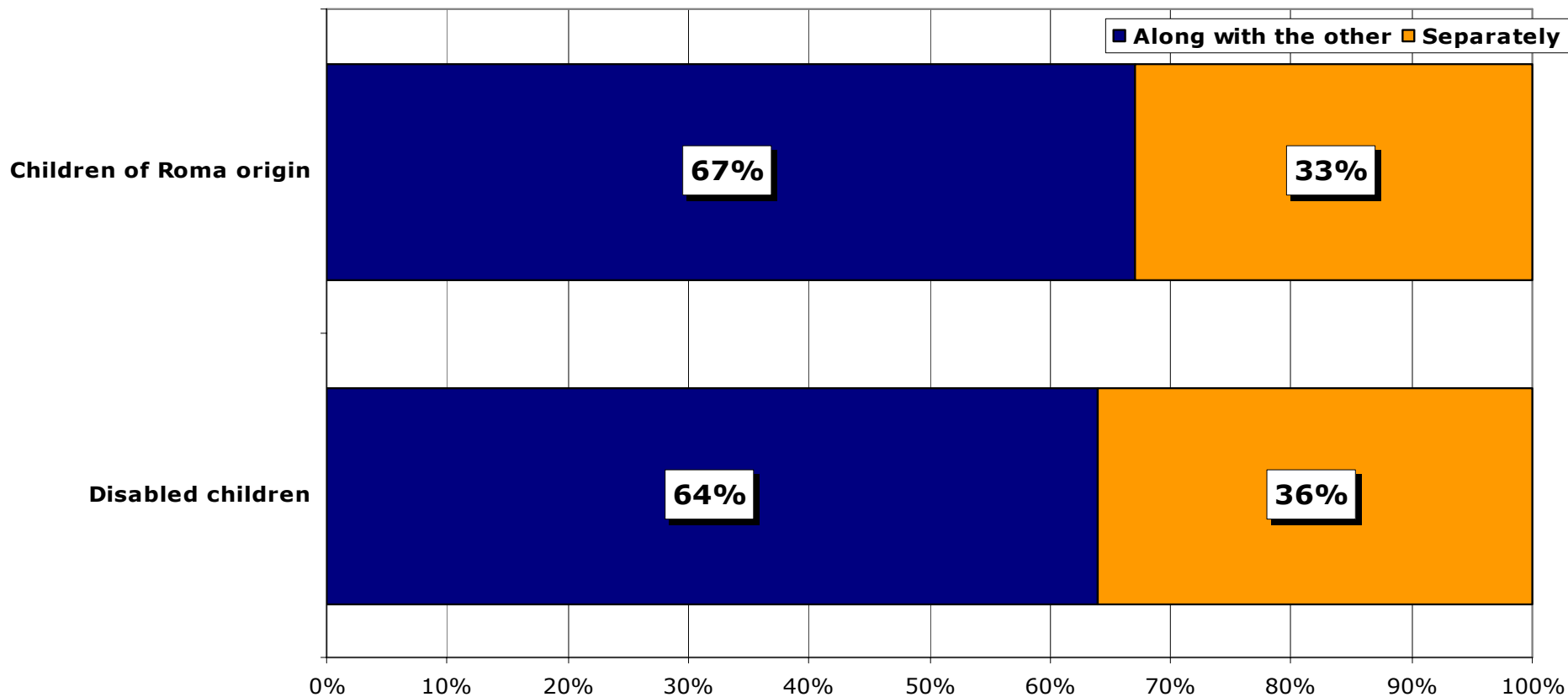
**Respondents mentioned insufficient garbage collection; unhealthy sewage and water systems; and poor maintenance of cemeteries and parks as the most pressing sanitary issues in Pazardzhik.**

**Respondents mentioned missing street lights and consistent garbage collection; poor condition of buildings and public places; unfinished construction sites; and lack of street signs, building numbers and public parking as the main infrastructure problems facing Pazardzhik.**

**Respondents noted that the most pressing environmental problems in Pazardzhik are air, water and soil pollution.**

**Respondents mentioned transportation, landfills, petrol stations and KKBA Trakia (Trakia Paper cellulose production) as the largest sources of pollution in Pazardzhik.**

**How do you think,  
the following groups of children should receive their education?**

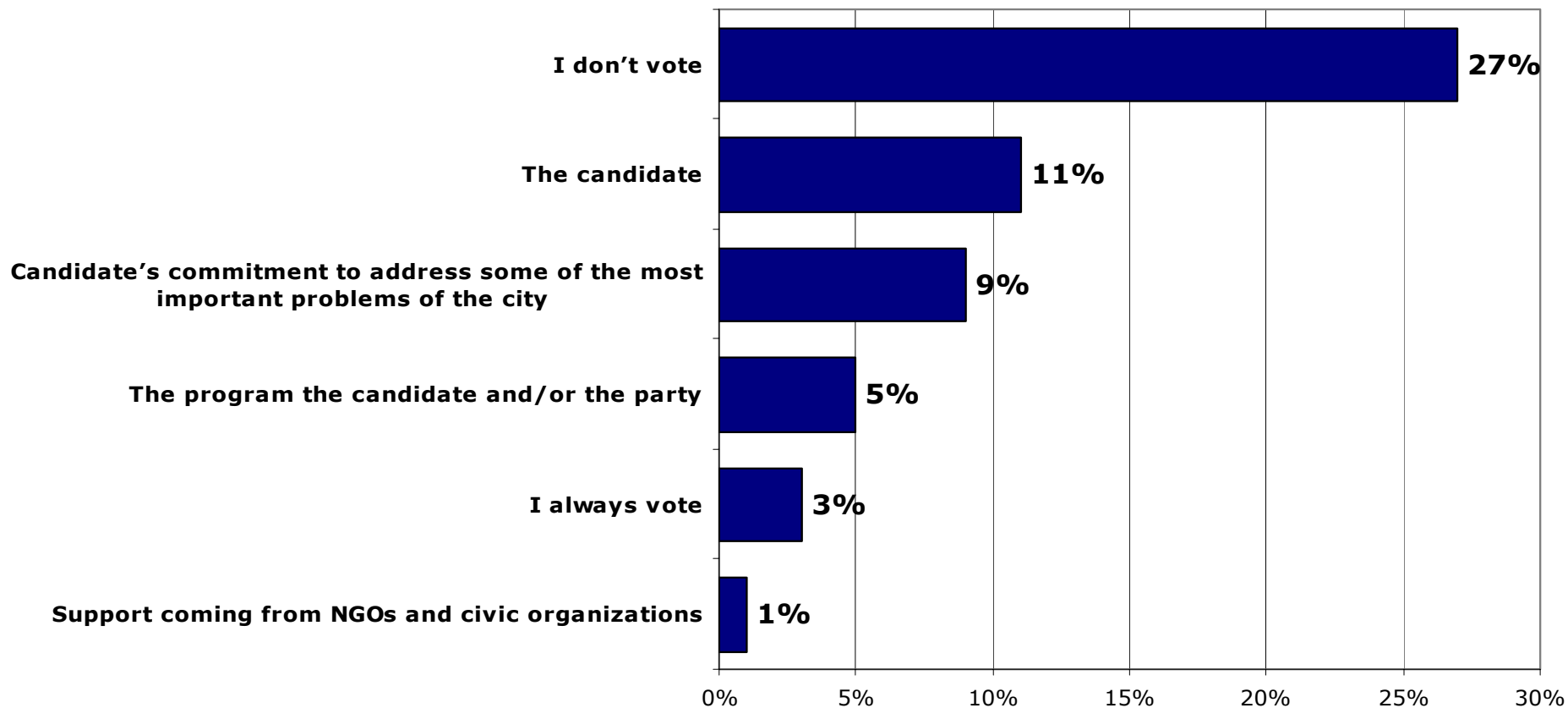




**As of now, do you plan to vote in the local elections in the fall?**

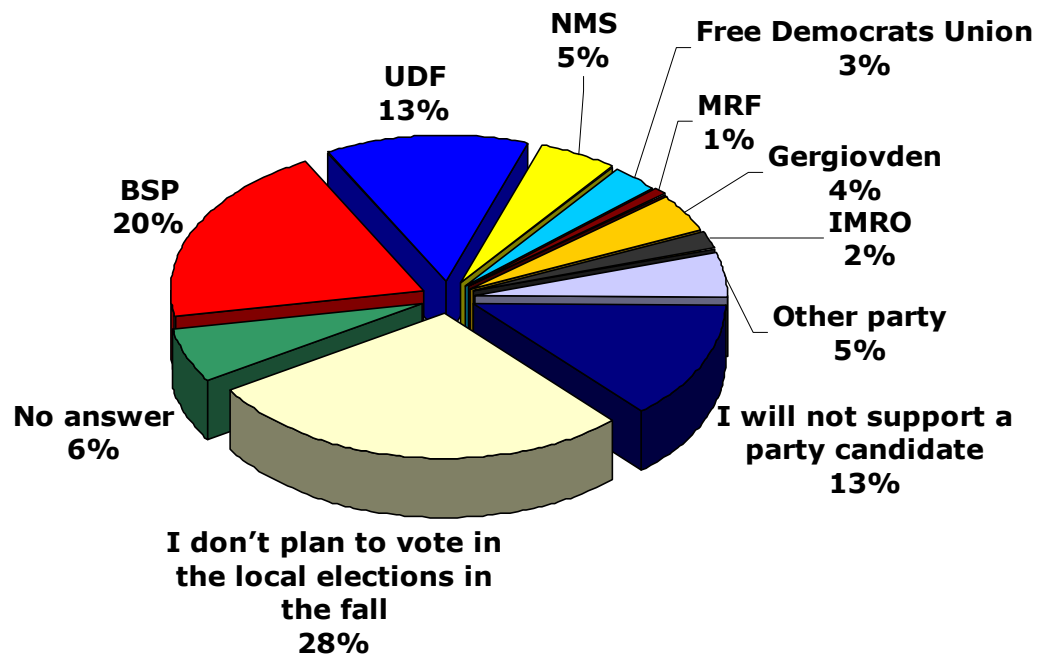


## What would most motivate you to vote at the forthcoming local elections?\*

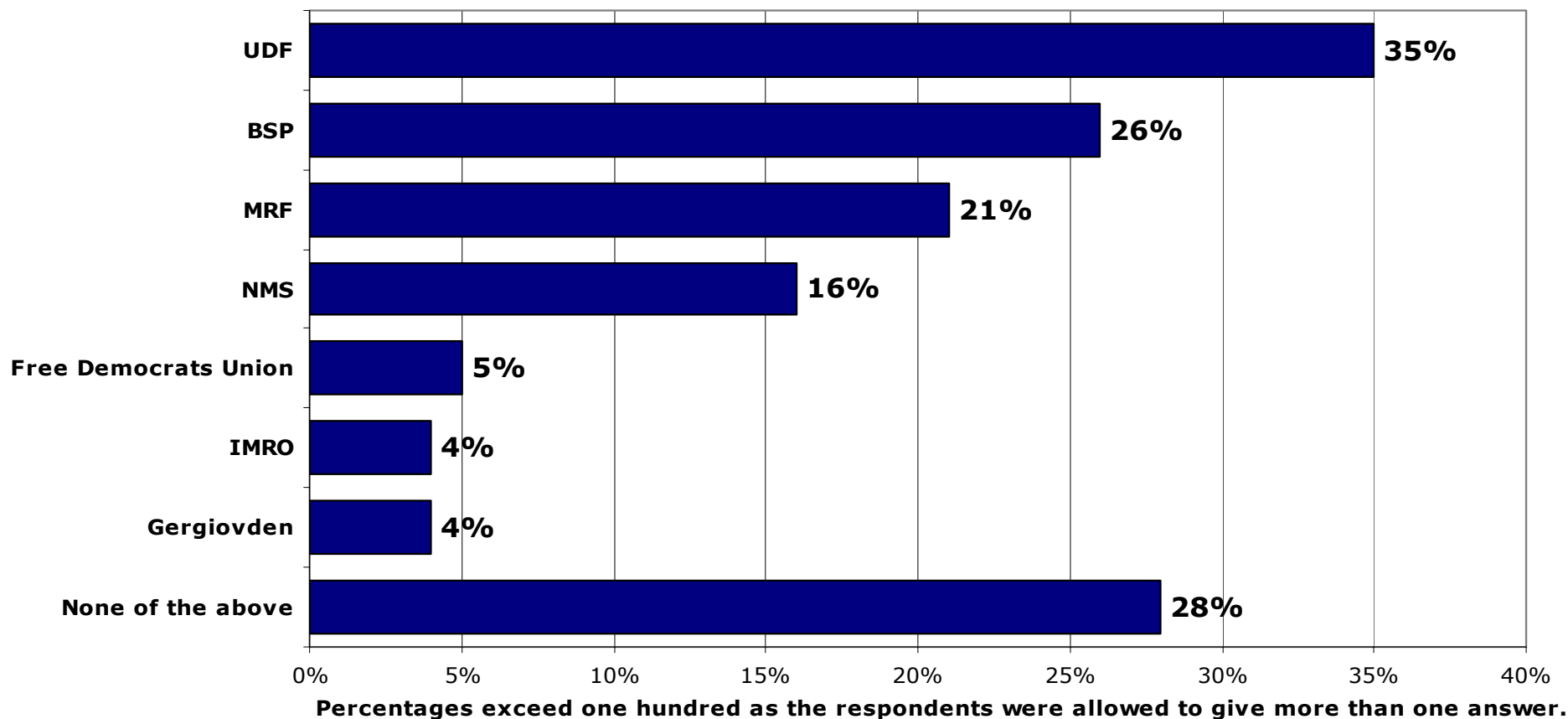


\*Answers were given by respondents who would not vote.

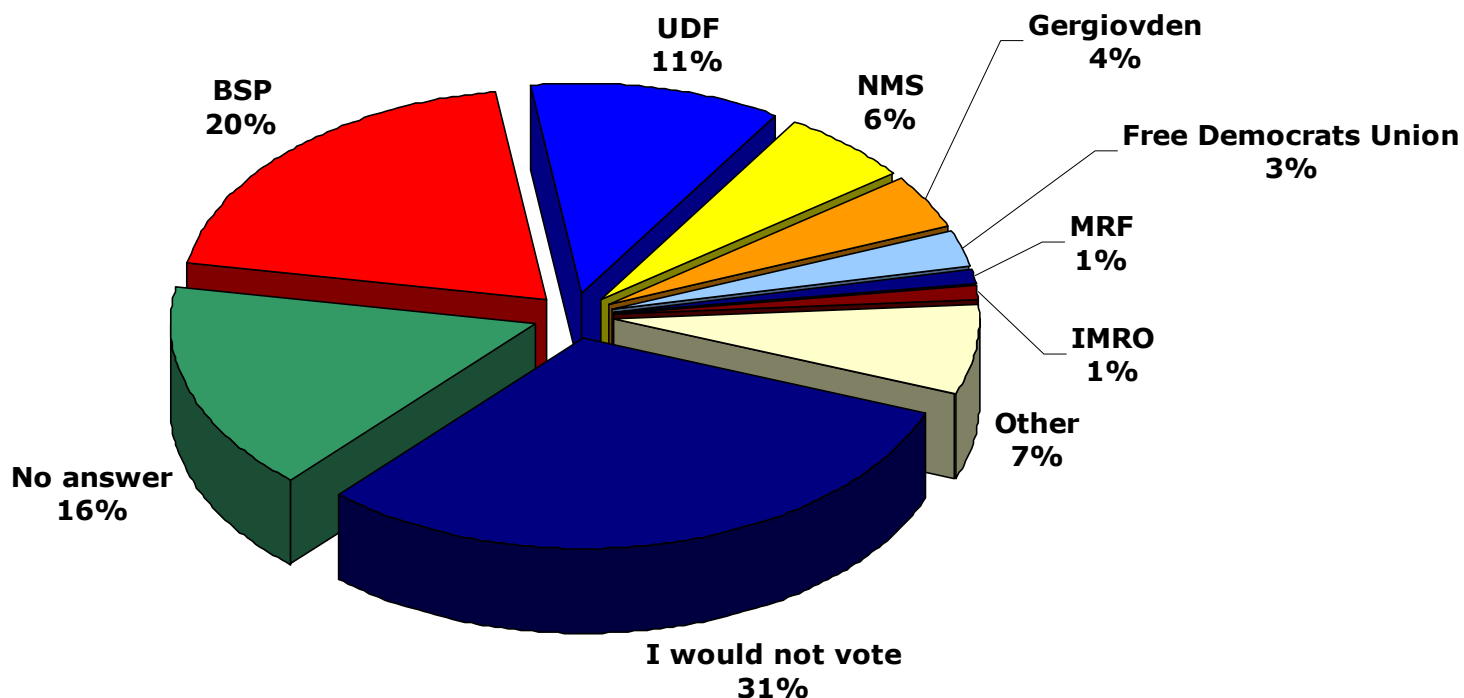
**The candidates of which of the following political parties would you support in the local elections?**



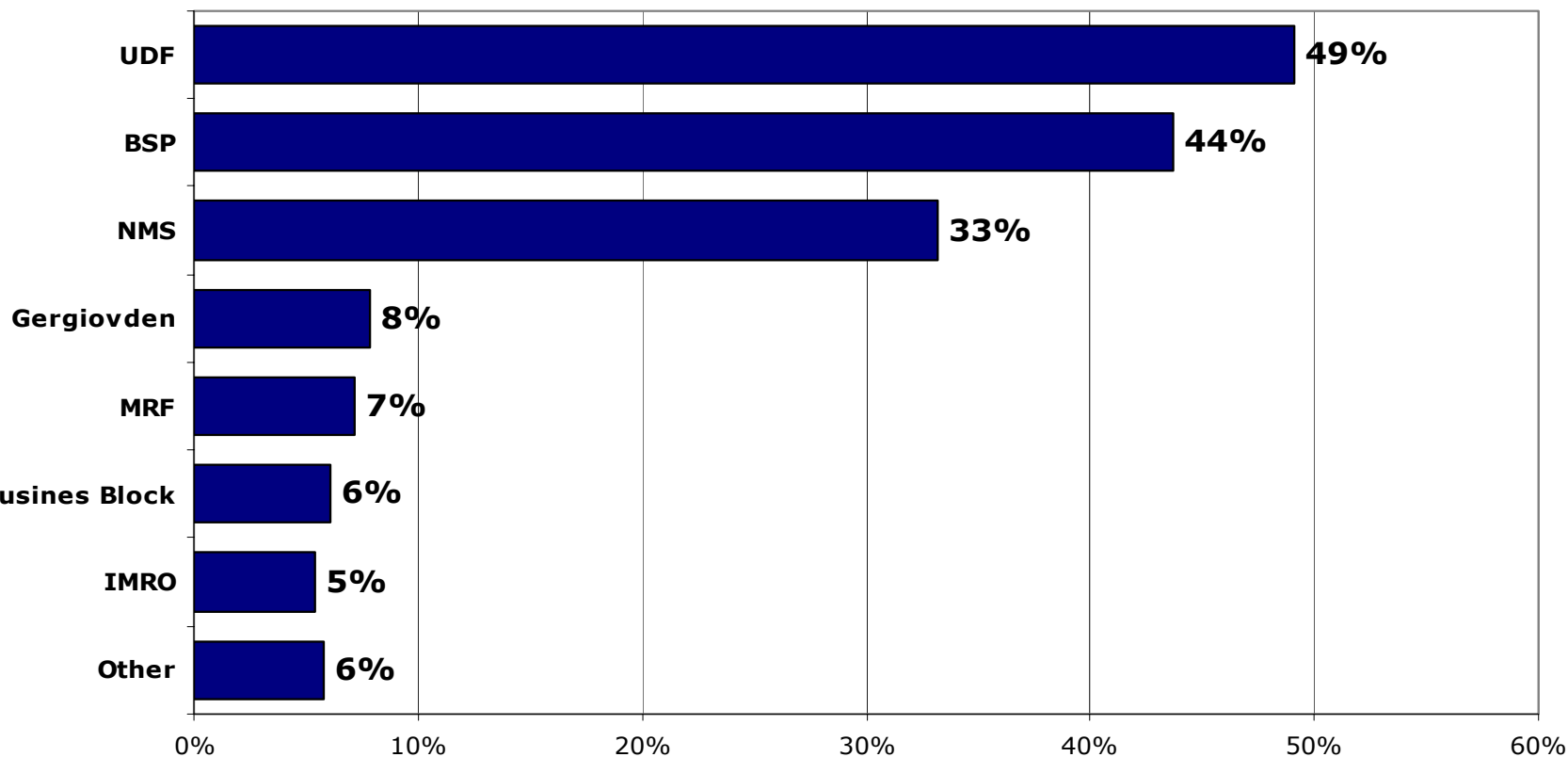
**The candidates of which of the following parties  
would you never vote for in the local elections in the fall?\***



**If parliamentary elections were held next Sunday, the candidates of which of the following parties would you support?**

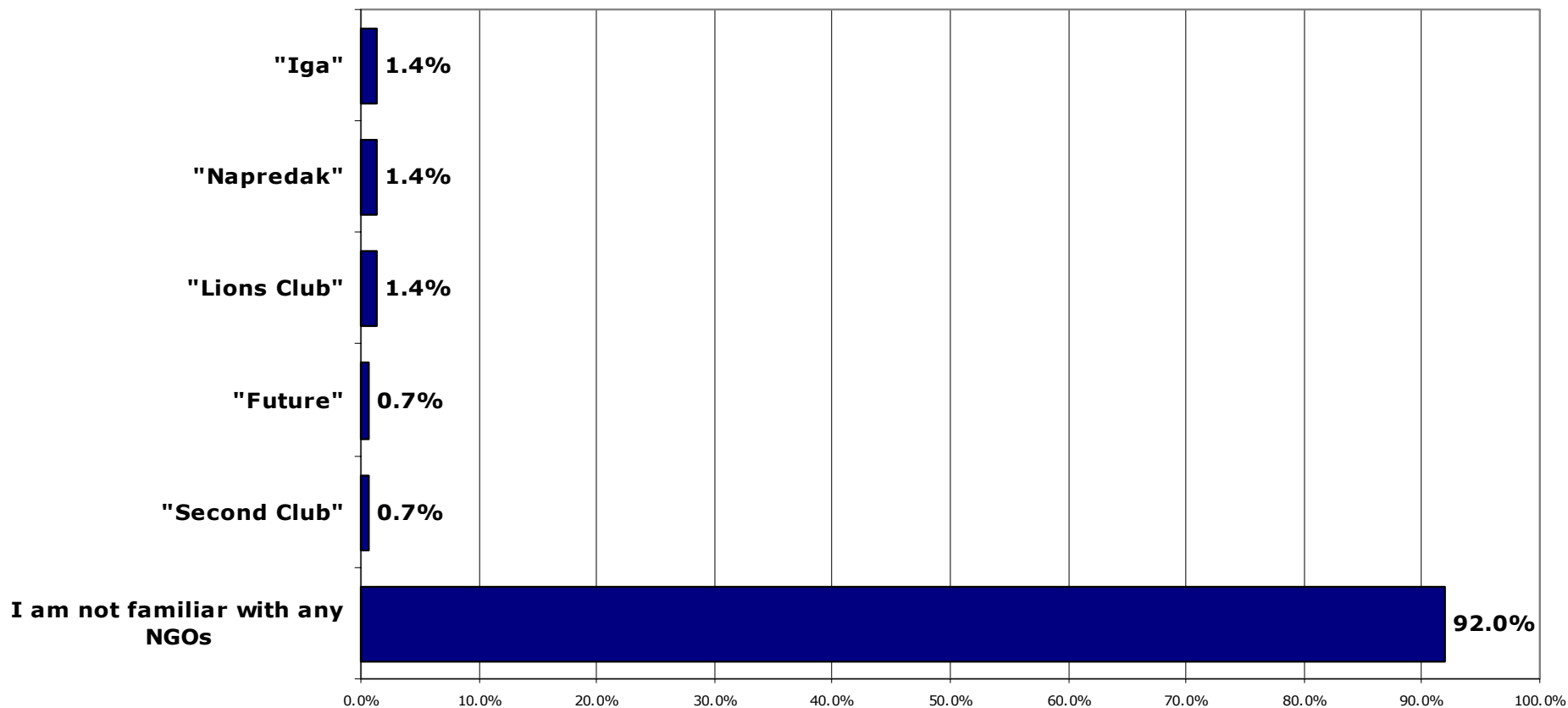


## Which political parties have you supported for the last 13 years?\*

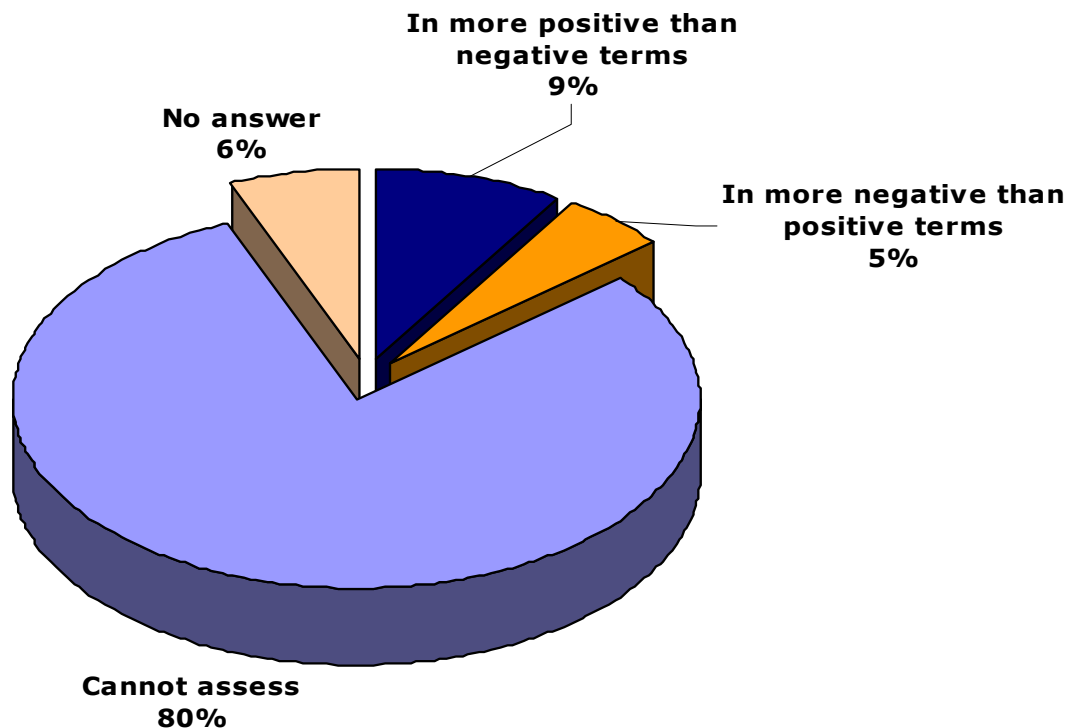


Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

### Can you name any NGOs functioning on the territory of Pazardzhik?



### How do you assess the work of the NGO sector in Pazardzhik?







**SOCIAL AND POLITICAL  
ATTITUDES IN  
VIDIN  
JUNE 2003**

## Vidin

- Population Size:  
77, 500 (2001)
- Percent Voter Turnout in last municipal election:  
46%
- Mayor (Party Affiliation):  
Ivan Nikolov (UDF)
- Local Council (makeup of seats by party):  
UDF (20); BSP (12); Bulgarian Communist Party (1); Social  
Liberal Union-Vidin (1); Bulgarian Euro Left (1); Free Bulgaria  
(1); MRF (1)

## **SURVEY DESCRIPTION:**

<b>Survey realization:</b>	<b>Alpha Research Ltd.</b>
<b>Fieldwork Period:</b>	<b>27 May – 4 June, 2003 r.</b>
<b>Sample size:</b>	<b>636 respondents from the city of Vidin</b>
<b>Representativeness:</b>	<b>Representative for the adult population</b>
<b>Method of sample-forming:</b>	<b>Quota under the following criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ <b>Gender</b></li><li>➤ <b>Age</b></li><li>➤ <b>Education</b></li></ul>
<b>Survey method:</b>	<b>Standardized face-to-face interview in respondents' homes</b>
<b>Margin of Error</b>	<b>+/- 2-2.5%</b>

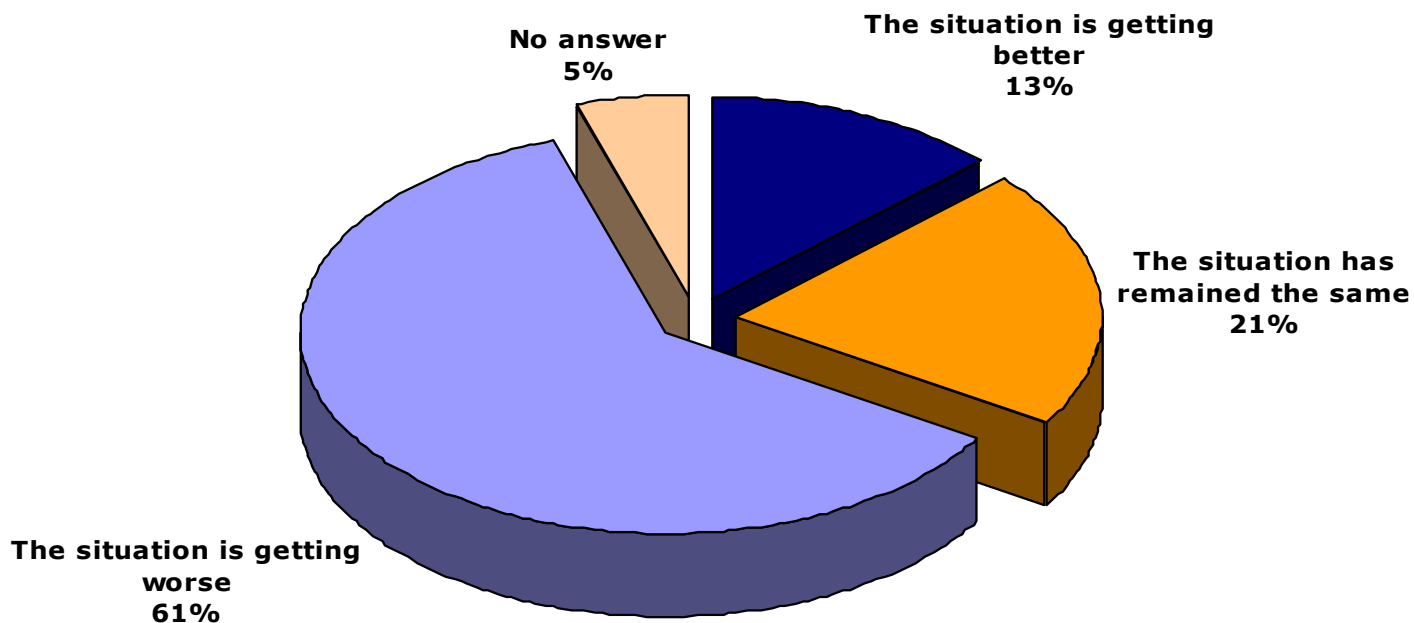
## DEMOGRAPHIC OF REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE:

- Age:**
- 18 – 30 years old – 23%
  - 31 – 40 years old – 20%
  - 41 – 50 years old – 20%
  - 51 – 60 years old – 19%
  - Over 61 years old – 18%

- Gender:**
- Female – 51%
  - Male – 49%

- Education:**
- University degree – 14%
  - College degree – 4%
  - High-school – 57%
  - Primary school – 24%

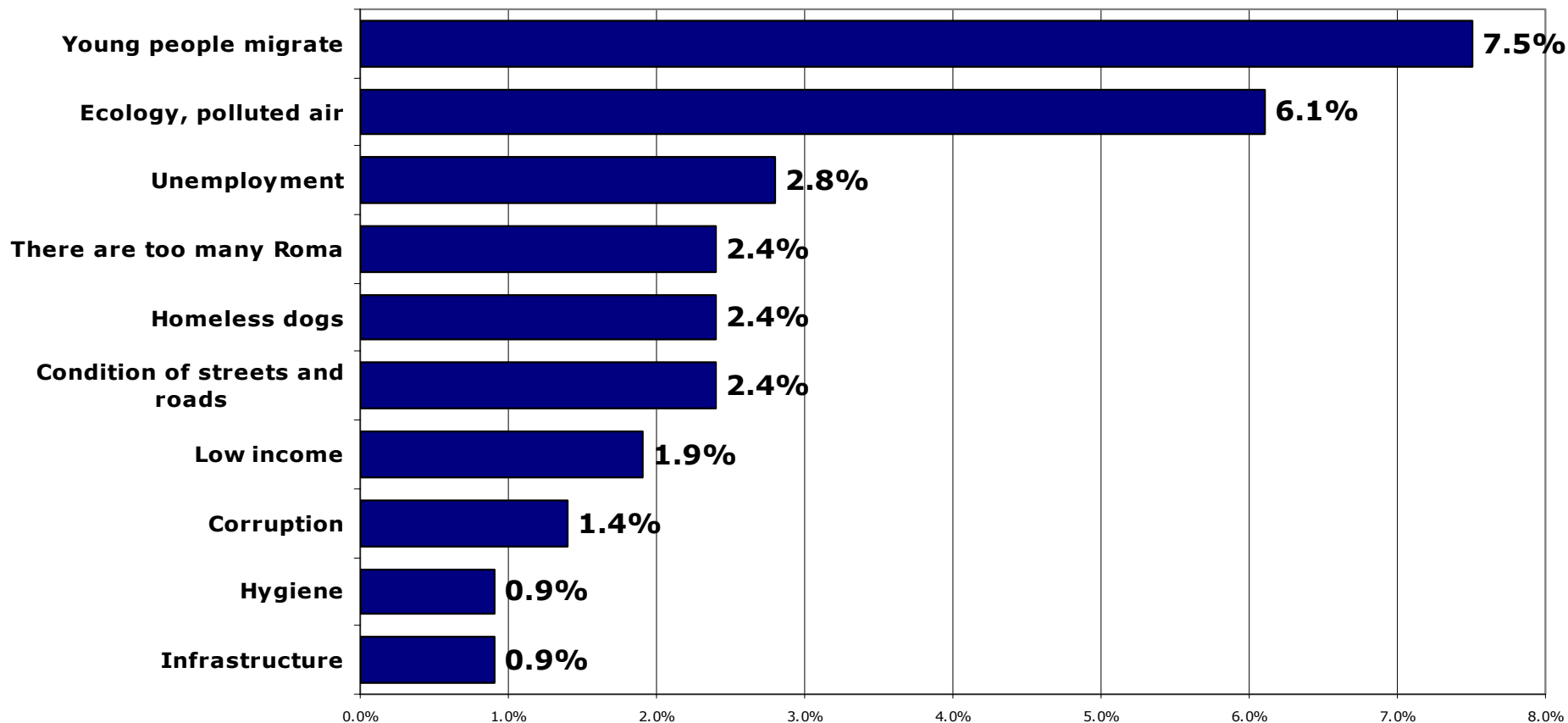
### How do you think the situation in the city has changed for the last 4 years?



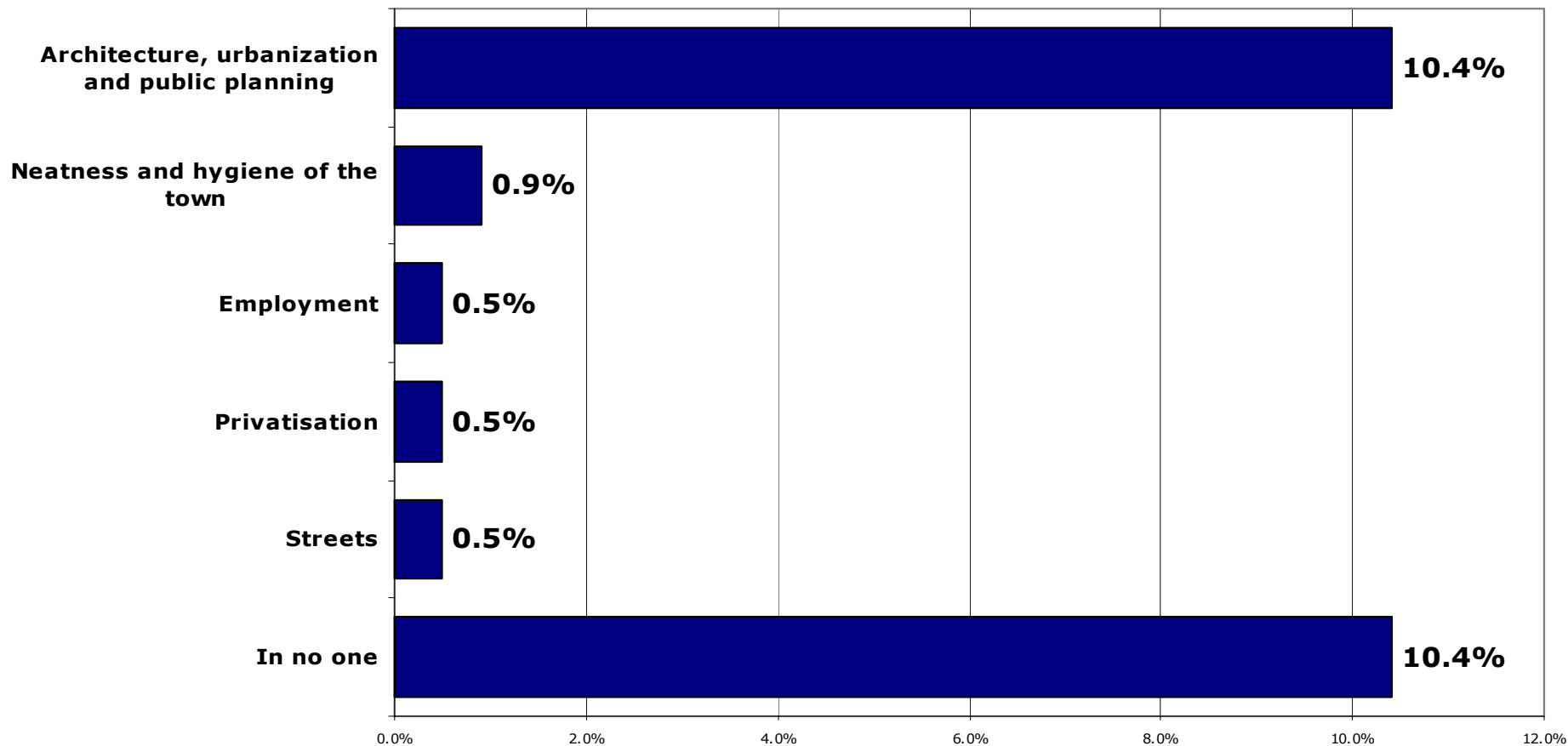
### Who do you think should win the upcoming local elections?



## Specific problems relevant to Vidin only: (open-ended question)

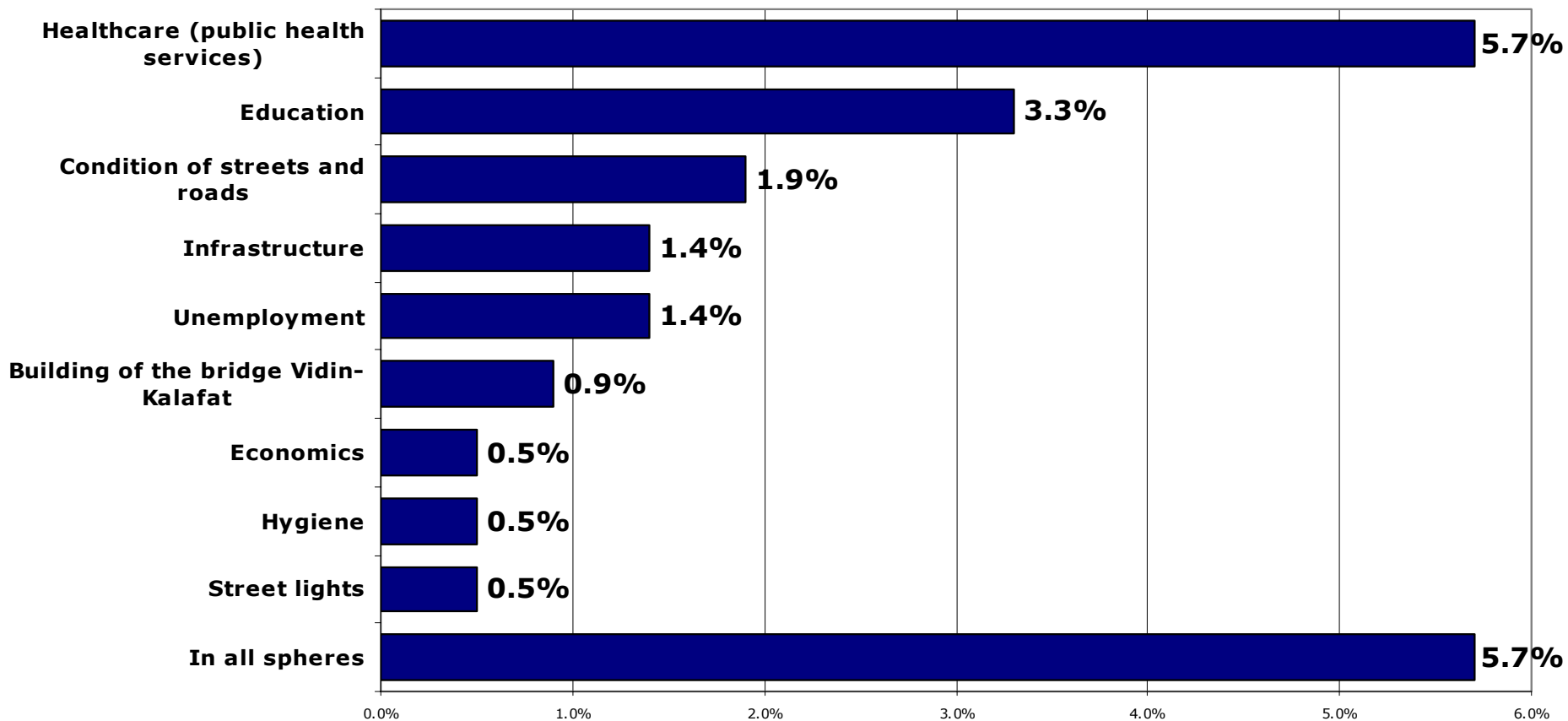


## The municipal authorities have achieved **BEST** results in: (open-ended question)

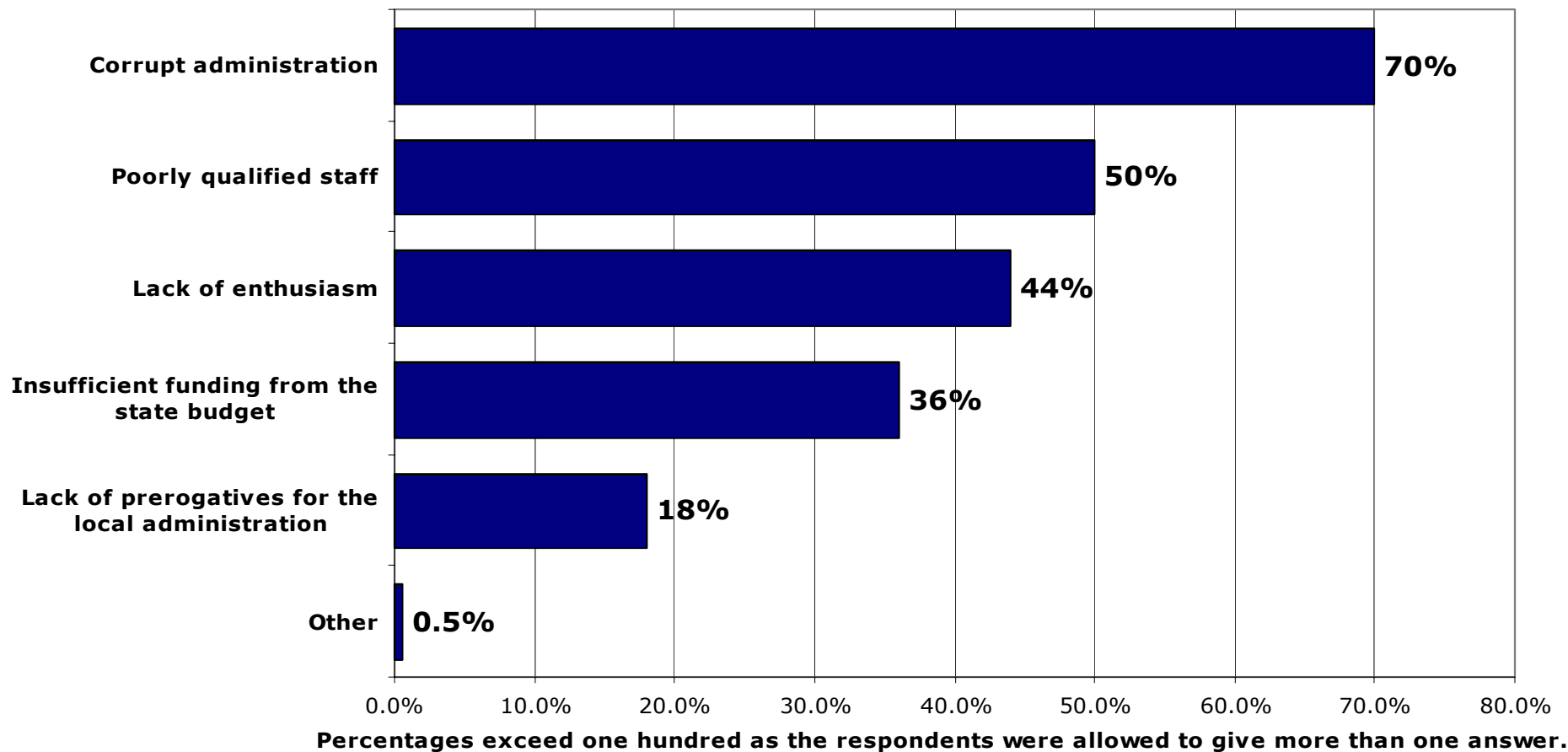




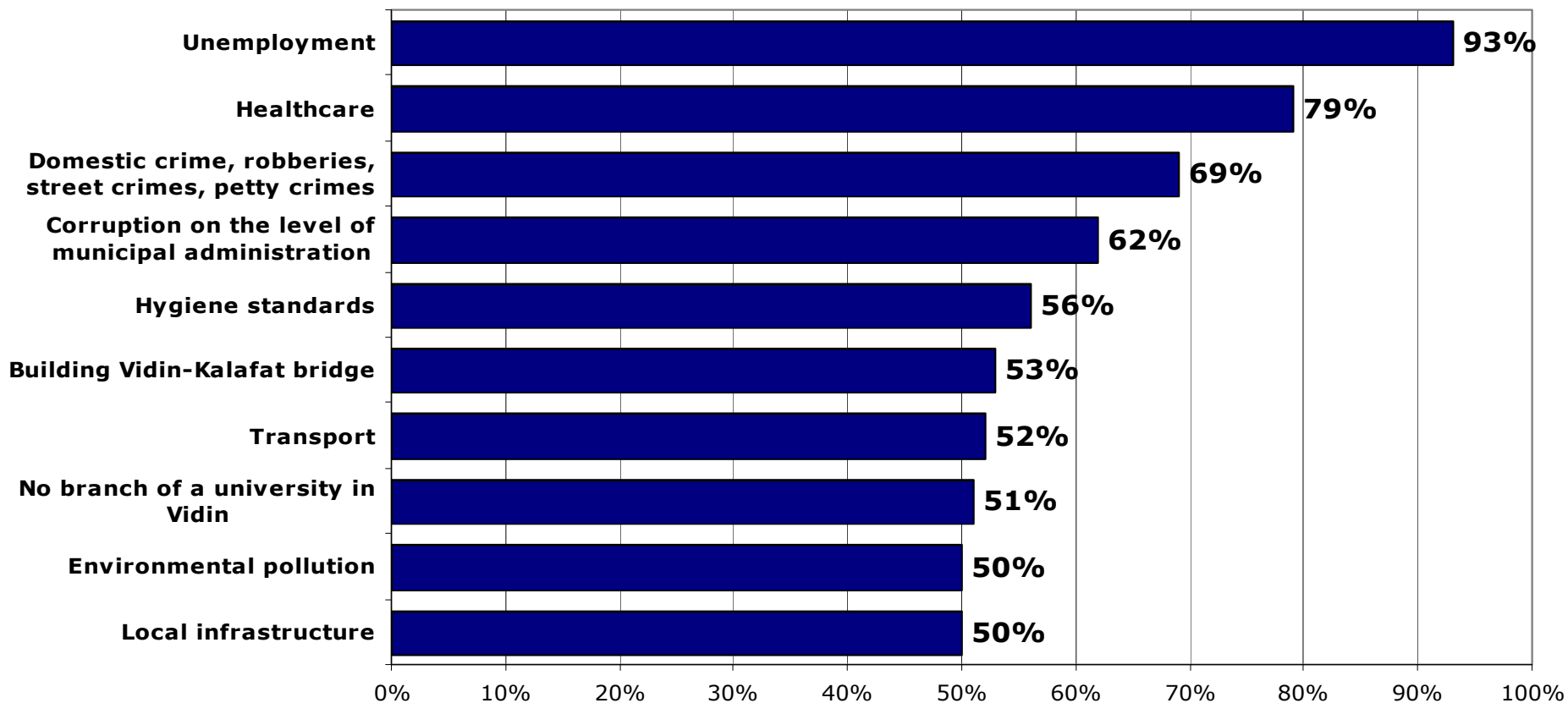
## Municipal authorities have NOT achieved results in the fields of: (open-ended question)



## Municipal authorities haven't made progress due to:\*



## What are the most pressing problems Vidin currently faces?\*



Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

Respondents were shown a card with a list of answers. The specific options for each city were developed in coordination with NGOs and local political party leaders.

**Respondents who named unemployment as the most pressing problem noted that the largest issues are unpaid salaries; inconsistent Labor Code enforcement; the closing of large employers such as the HIMKO factory; and inefficient Labor Bureaus.**

**When asked what the meant by health care problems, respondents mentioned the high cost of hiring qualified medical help; under qualified doctors in public hospitals; a lack of hospitals and medical centers; and a high rate of hospital closures.**

**Respondents in Vidin identified the main sanitary issues as insufficient garbage collection as well as poor sewage and water systems.**

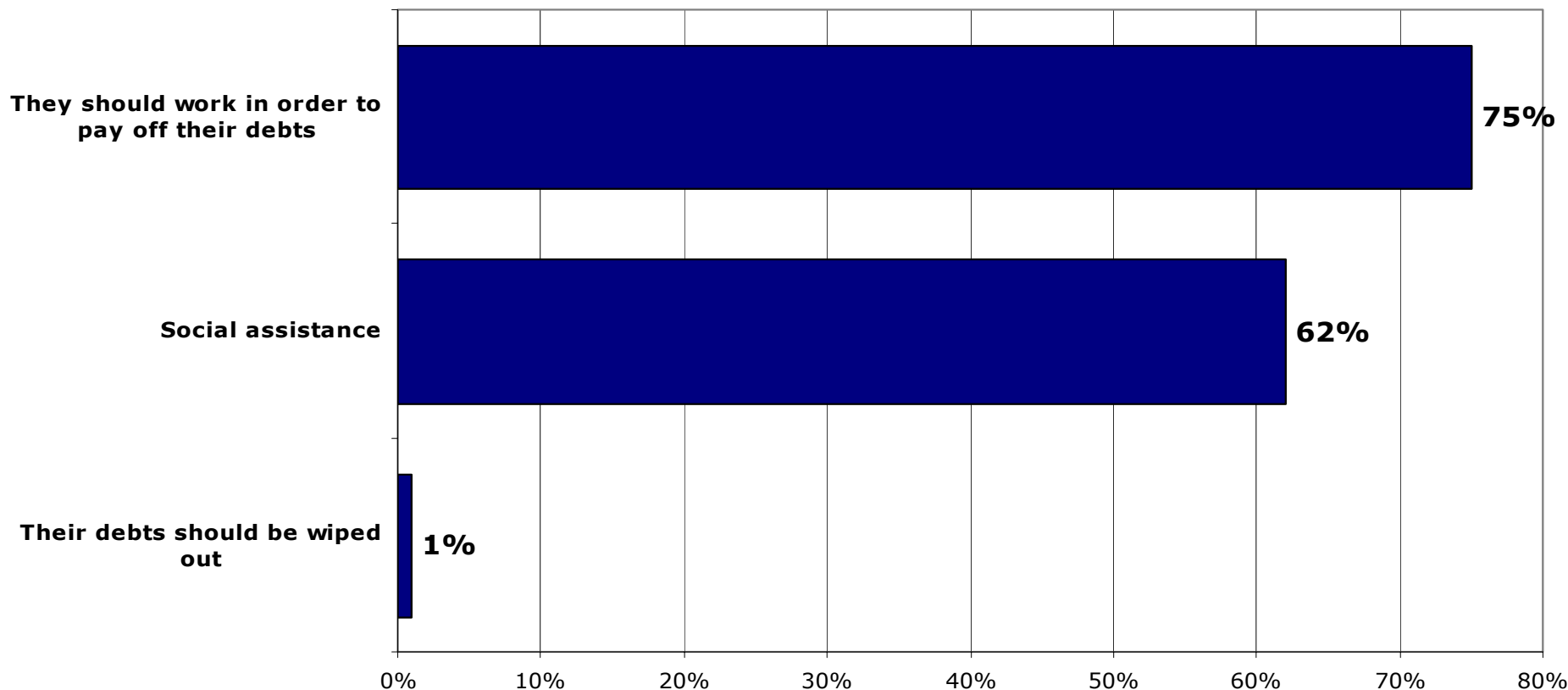
**Respondents noted the poor condition of the street system; inefficient routes and time tables; and old vehicles as the main issues with Vidin's public transportation system.**

**When asked to elaborate on environmental problems, respondents mentioned pollution of the Danube River as well as air, drinking water and soil pollution.**

**Respondents mentioned transportation, mines, street pollution, and the chemical factory in Kalafat, Romania as the main sources of pollution in Vidin.**

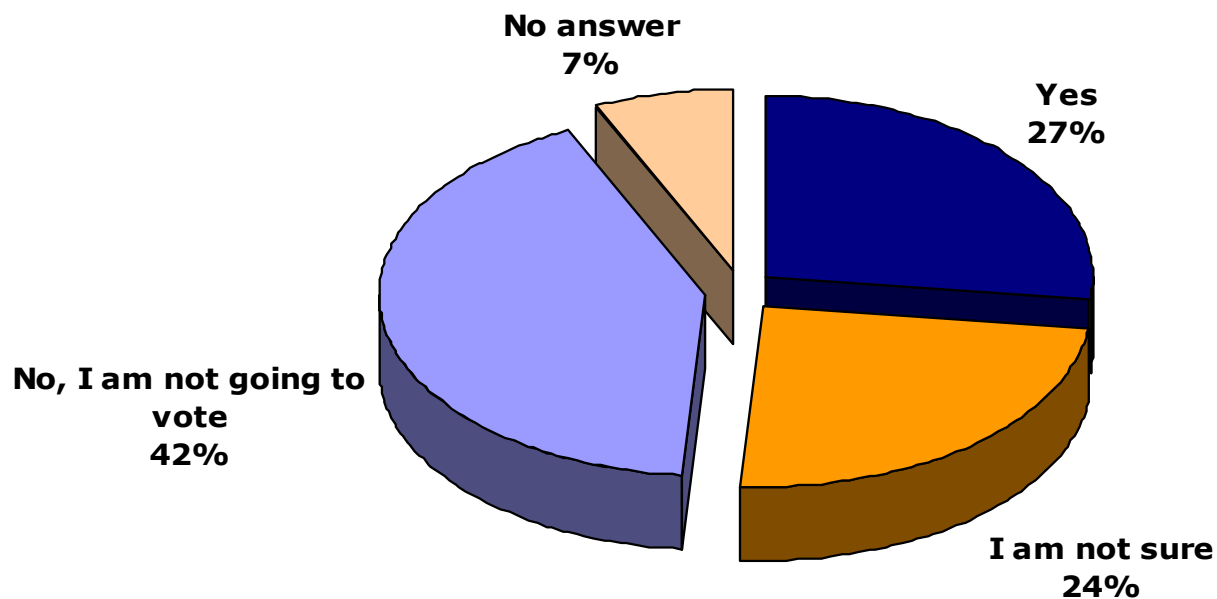
**When asked to further detail specific infrastructure problems, residents of Vidin mentioned a lack of street lights; inconsistent garbage collection; unfinished construction sights, poor condition of buildings and public places; and a lack of street signs, building numbers, and public parking.**

## How do you think the problem with the debts of the Roma community to the electricity company should be solved?\*



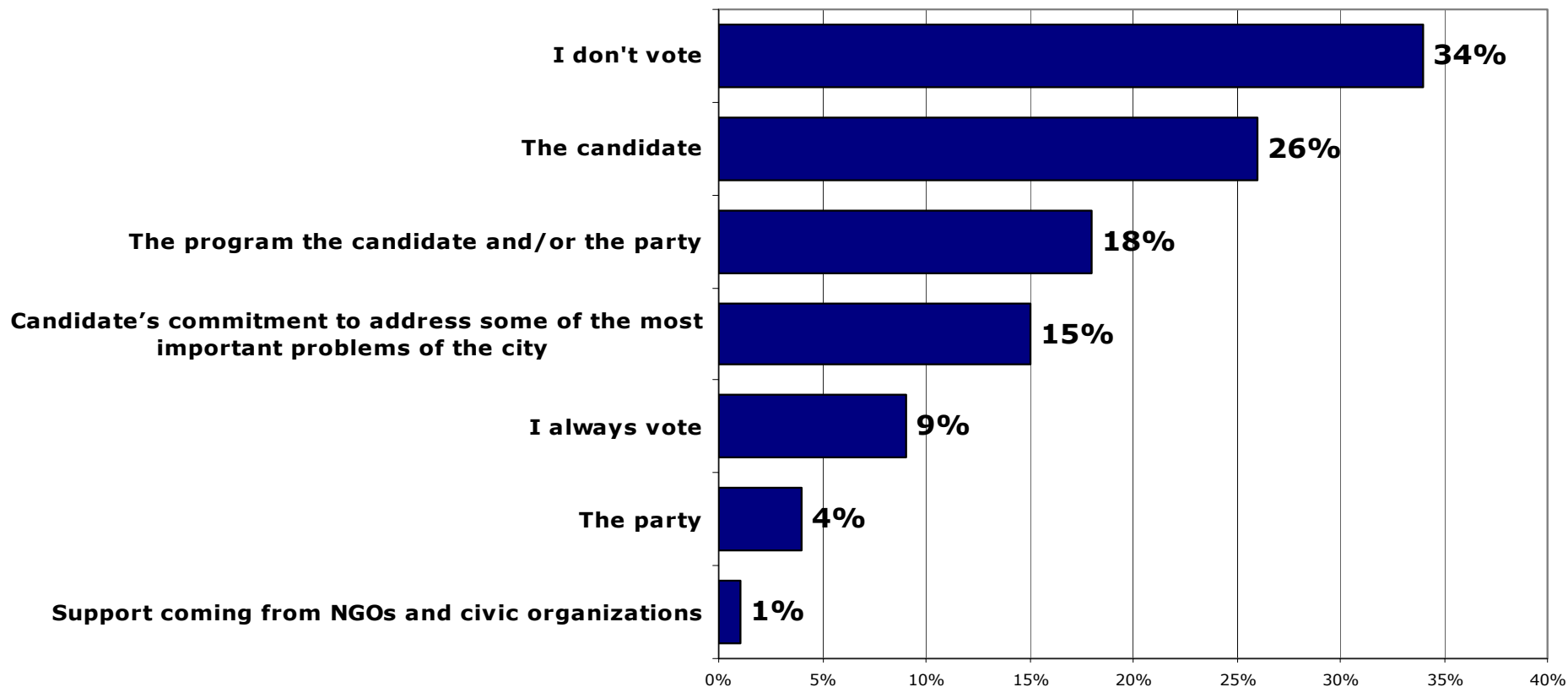
Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

**As of now, do you plan to vote in the local elections in the fall?**





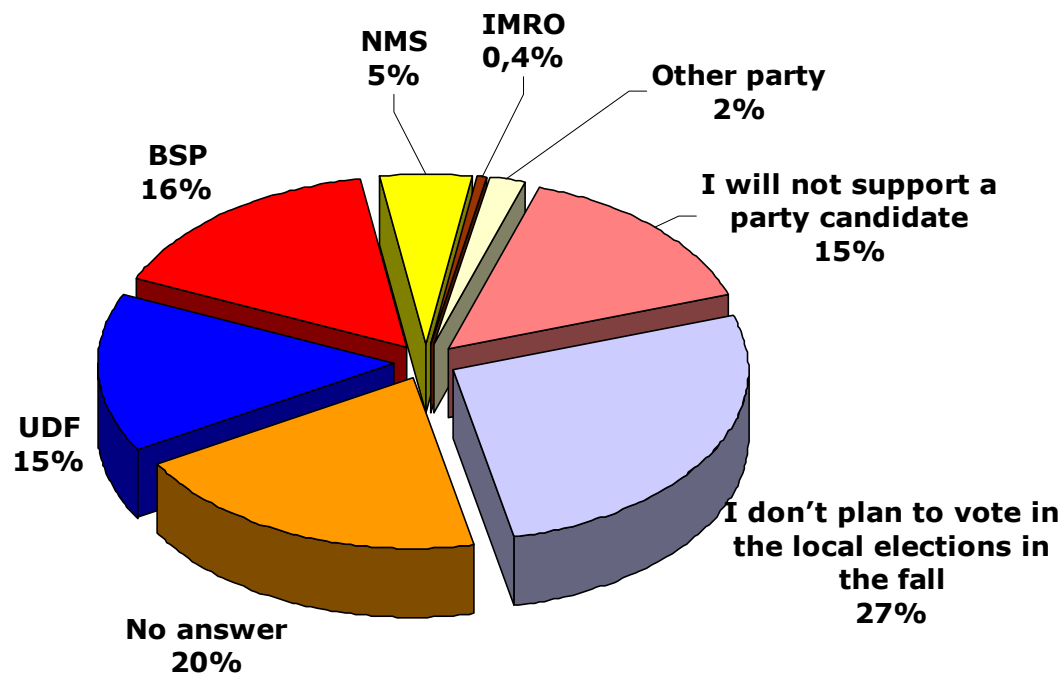
## What would most motivate you to vote at the forthcoming local elections?\*



\*Answers were given by respondents who would not vote.

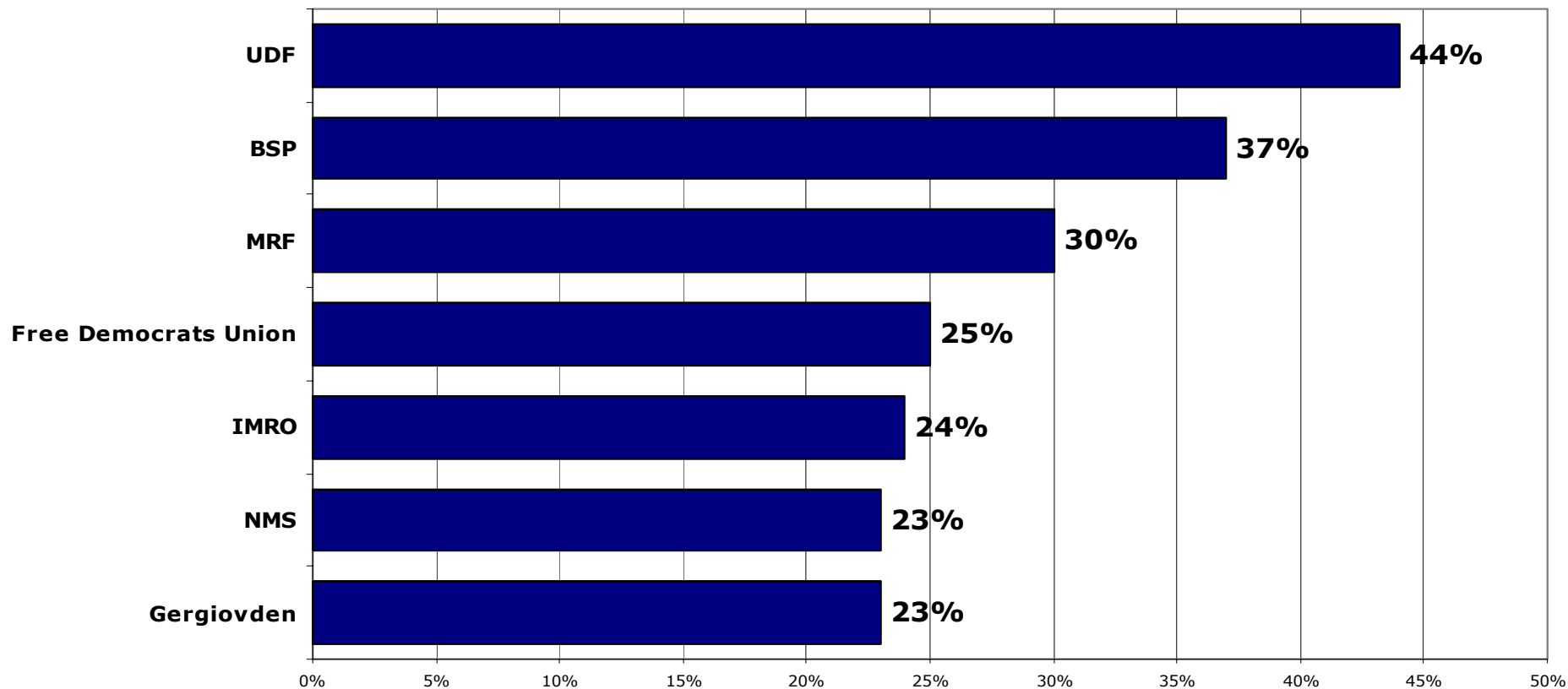
Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

### The candidates of which of the following political parties would you support in the local elections?



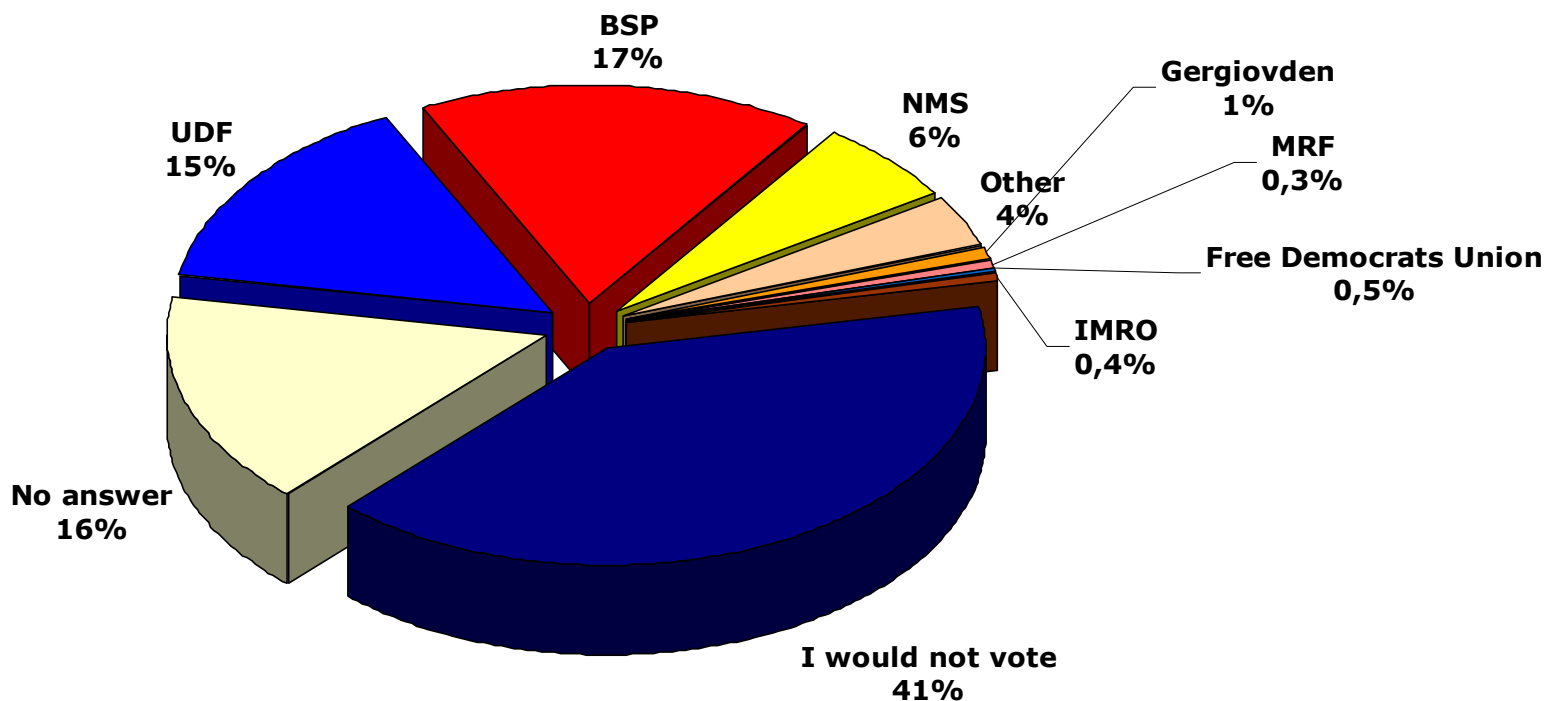
The total percentage of participants who would not vote or did not answer this question equals 47%. 49% of respondents stated in a prior question that they would not vote. This difference falls within the poll's margin of error.

**The candidates of which of the following parties  
would you never vote for in the local elections in the fall?\***

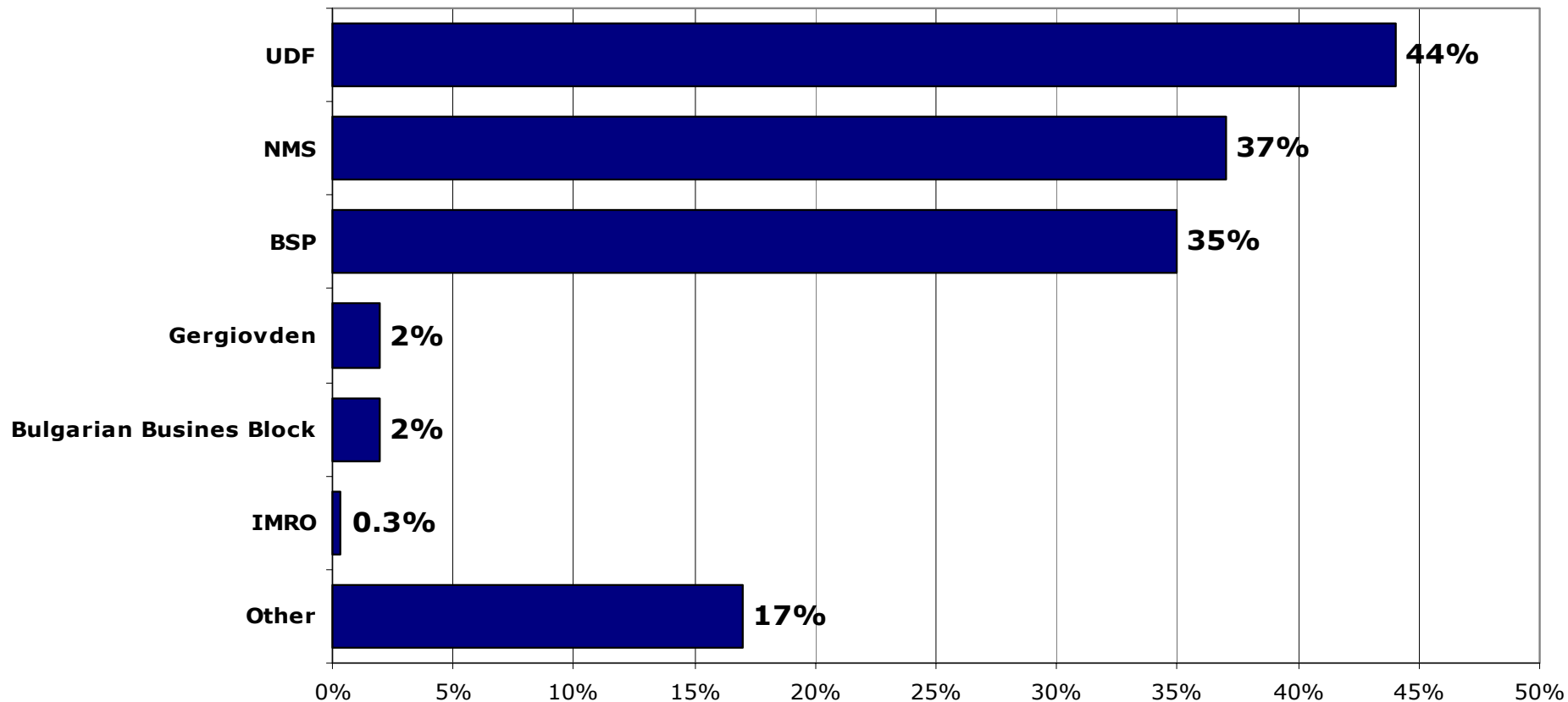


Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

**If parliamentary elections were held next Sunday,  
the candidates of which of the following parties would you support?**

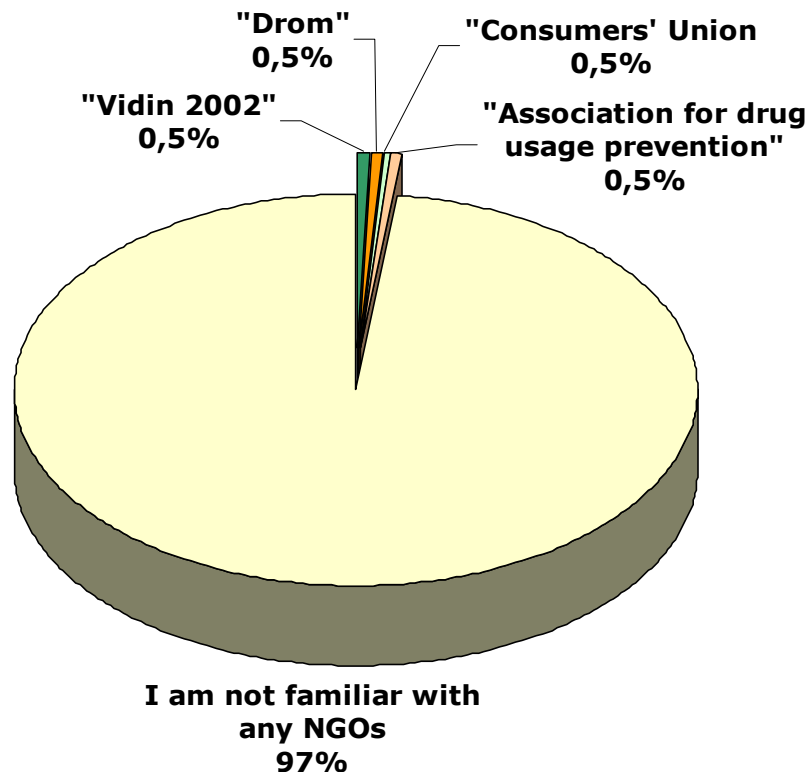


## Which political parties have you supported for the last 13 years?\*



Percentages exceed one hundred as the respondents were allowed to give more than one answer.

**Can you name any NGOs functioning on the territory of Vidin?**



### How do you assess the work of the NGO sector in Vidin?

