

Evaluation of validity of presidential elections

The vast majority of adult Poles (81%) claim that they did not notice any irregularities in the conduct of this year's presidential elections. The belief that some irregularities had occurred was expressed by 12% of respondents, which is much more than after last year's elections to the Sejm and Senate, when only one in a hundred respondents believed that there were some irregularities during those elections. The assessment of the correctness of the presidential elections is differentiated by respondents' vote in the second round of the elections. In the group of Andrzej Duda's voters, only 4% claim that there were some irregularities in the conduct of these elections. The voters of Rafał Trzaskowski, the rival of the incumbent president, have noticed irregularities in the last presidential elections much more often (27%).

Did you notice any irregularities in the conduct of the last presidential elections?

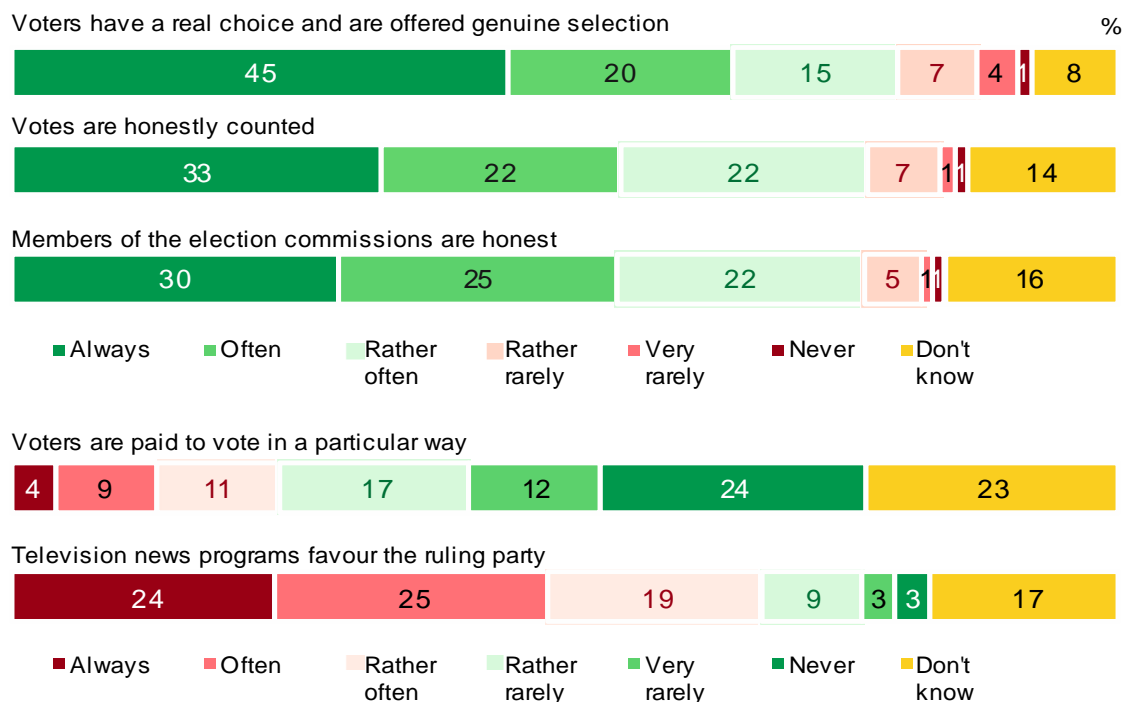


People who noticed electoral irregularities most often (22% in this group, i.e. 3% of all respondents) pointed to one-sided broadcasts on public television in support of Andrzej Duda's candidacy and unequal access of candidates to public media. Organizational problems with holding presidential elections abroad were indicated relatively often, which may have resulted in decreased participation of the Polish community abroad (19% of those who noticed any irregularities, which constitutes 2% of all respondents). Moreover, concerns were expressed about possible electoral fraud, including doubts about the conduct of these elections among people staying in nursing homes (18%, i.e. 2% of the total). Other irregularities were mentioned less frequently.

In general, in the opinion of most adult Poles, electoral procedures work properly in Poland. Four-fifths (80%) feel that voters have a real choice and are offered genuine selection. Slightly fewer people believe that members of election commissions are generally honest (78%) and the votes are counted correctly (77%). Moreover, over half of respondents (53%) believe that in Poland voters are paid to vote rarely or never at all. The picture is much worse as regards the impartiality of the media in Poland. According to over two-thirds of respondents (68%), TV news programs favour the candidates of the ruling party.

Assessments of the television stations in election campaigns are significantly differentiated by the vote in the second round of the last presidential election. The conviction that TV news programs during the elections in Poland generally favour the ruling party is more often shared by Rafał Trzaskowski's voters from the second round (87%) than by voters of Andrzej Duda (57%).

How often, in your opinion, the following situations take place during the elections in Poland?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: “Evaluation of the Course of Presidential Elections and Functioning of Democratic Mechanisms and Electoral Procedures”, September 2020. Fieldwork for national sample: August 2020, N=1149. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.