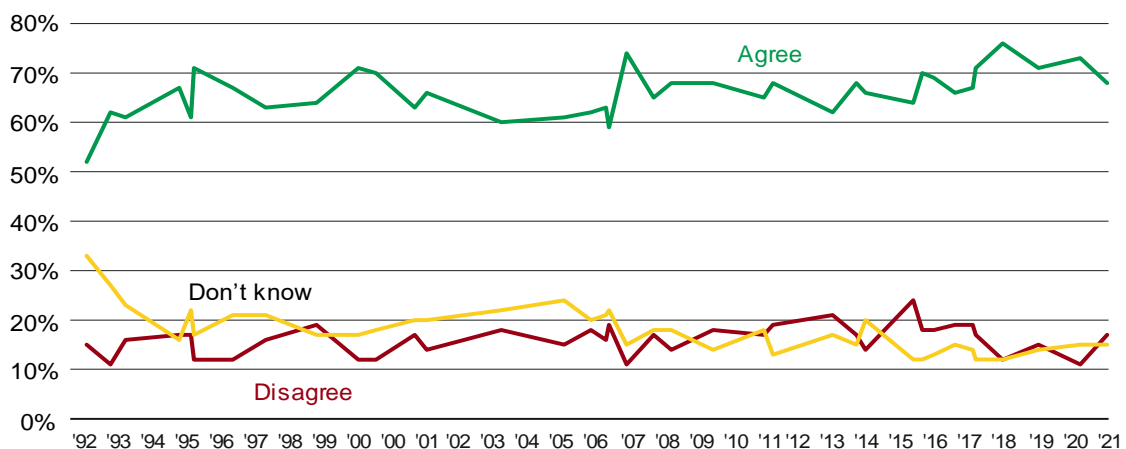


## Democracy in Poland

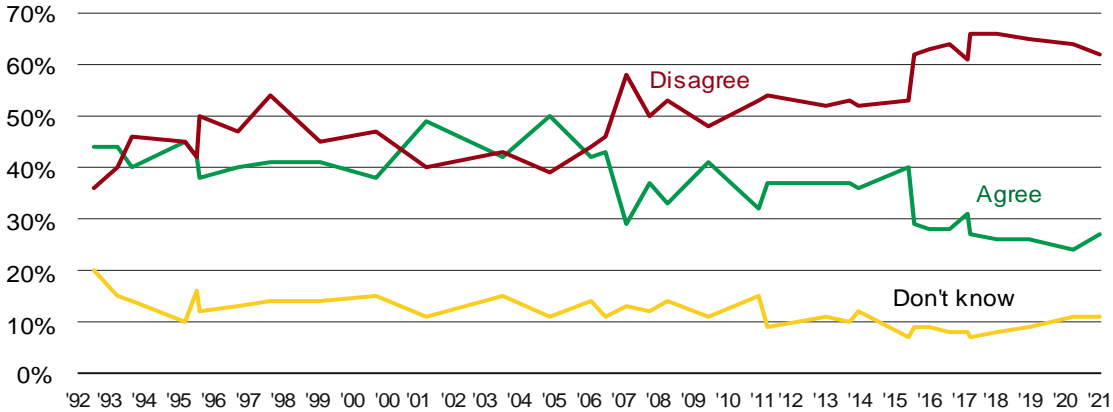
In all subsequent CBOS studies, starting from the first half of the 1990s, Poles have invariably declared their approval of democracy, expressing their conviction that the democratic system is superior to other forms of government. In April 2021, more than two-thirds of respondents (68%) agreed with the statement that democracy is superior to other systems of exercising power. The percentage of supporters of democracy is now slightly lower than it was in 2018-2020, when support for democracy regularly exceeded 70%, reaching a record 76% in May 2018.

### Do you agree that democracy is superior to all other forms of government?



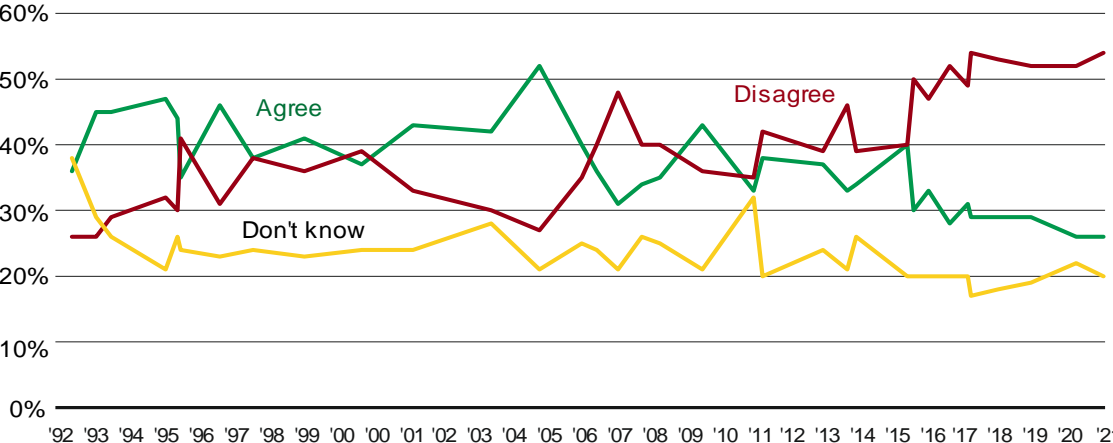
Since 2016, the level of identification with the democratic system has been higher than in previous years (starting from 1992): the percentage of people who are not indifferent to whether the government is democratic or not systematically exceeds 60%. In April this year, 62% said it mattered to them whether government is democratic or not.

**Do you agree that, for people like you, it does not really matter whether the government is democratic or undemocratic?**



Social consent to undemocratic forms of exercising power is currently the lowest in the history of CBOS research. Only slightly more than one-fourth (26%) agree with the statement that sometimes undemocratic rule may be more desirable than democracy. More than half (54%) are of the opposite opinion.

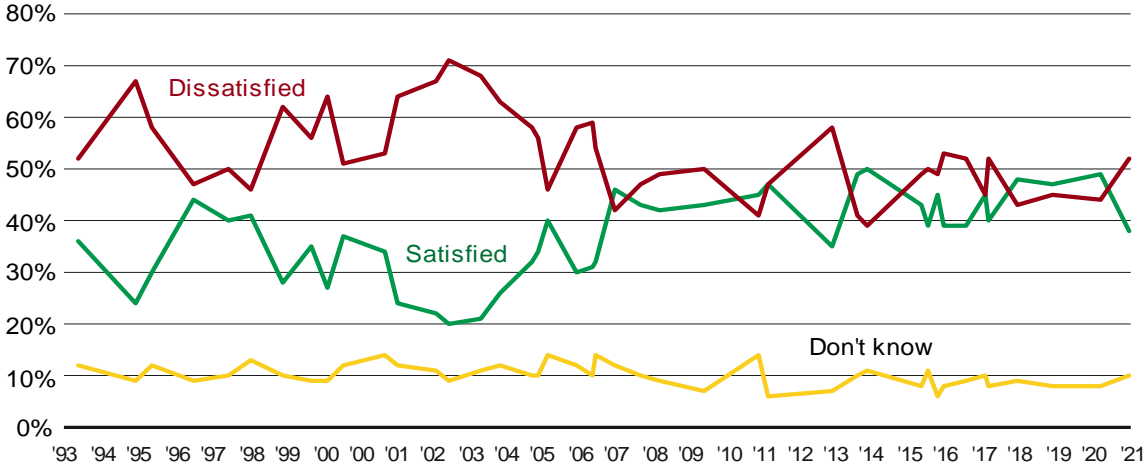
**Do you agree that undemocratic government can sometimes be better than democratic?**



In recent years, i.e. from 2018 to July 2020, not only have we recorded record-breaking rates of approval for the democratic order, but also positive assessments of the functioning of democracy in Poland prevailed at that time. In the last few months, however, the

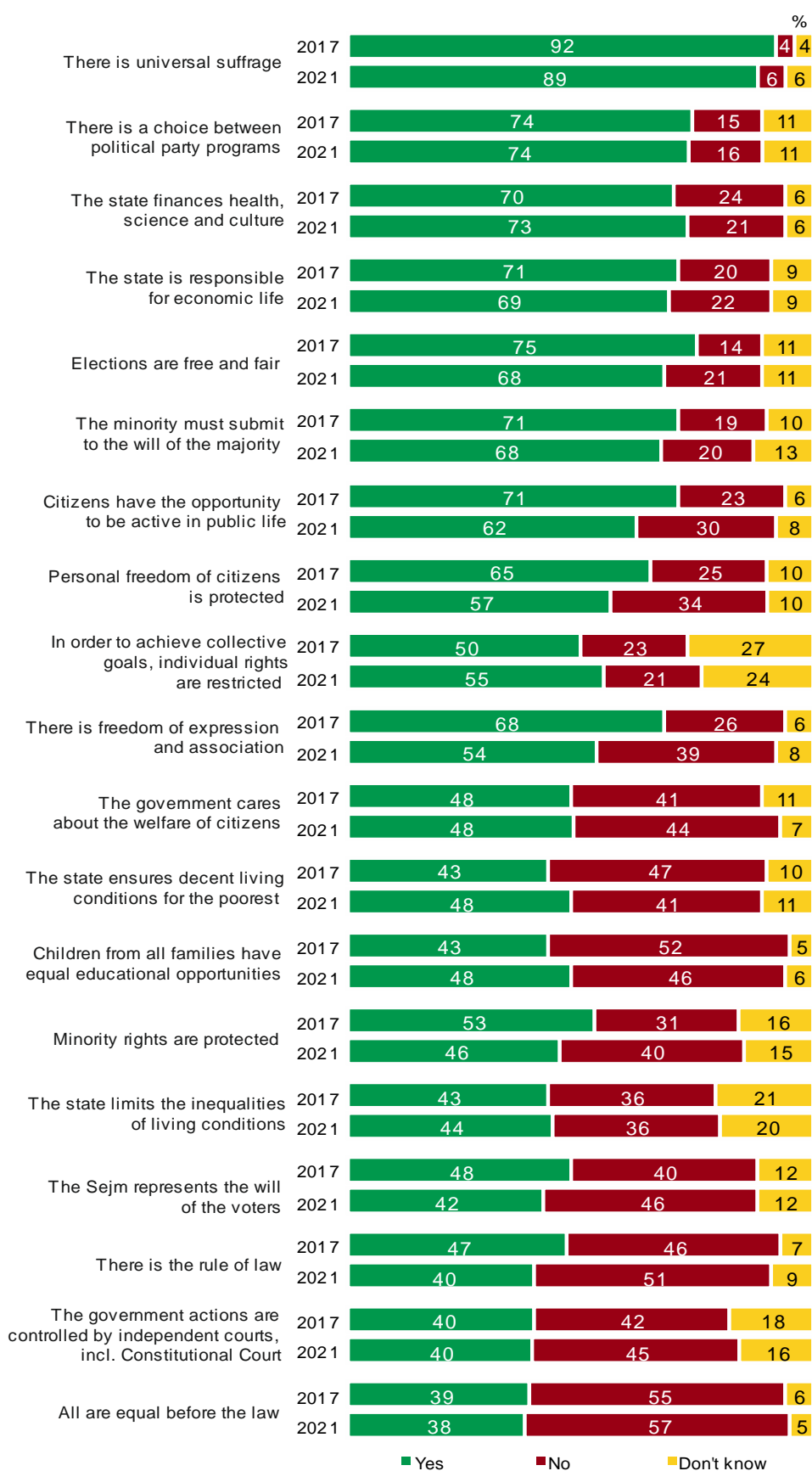
assessment of the condition of Polish democracy has deteriorated significantly. People dissatisfied with the way democracy works in our country are in majority (52% dissatisfied, 38% satisfied).

**Evaluation of functioning of democracy in Poland**

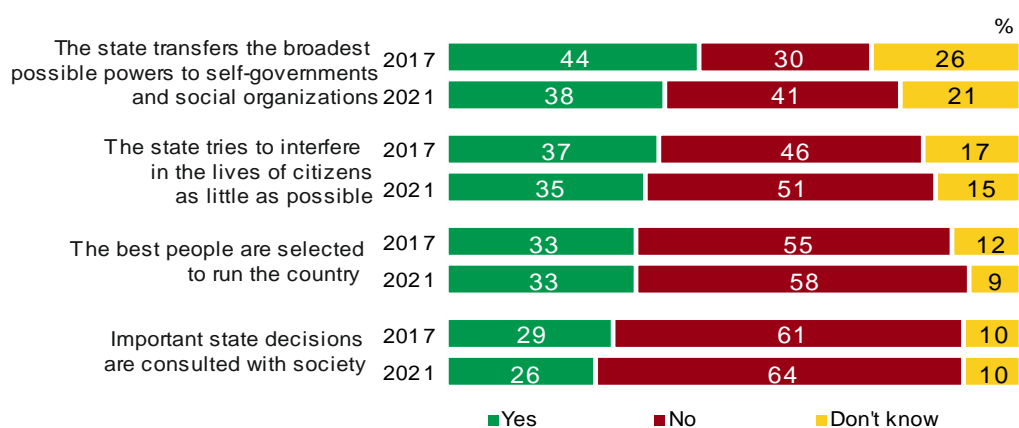


Over the last four years, there have been changes in the assessment of the implementation of certain democratic principles in our country. This applies primarily to the principles of liberalism: there is a deterioration in the perception of the freedom of expression and association in Poland, of the personal freedom of citizens, of the level of protection of the rights of minorities, and of citizens' opportunity to be active in the public sphere. At the same time, there is an increase in the percentage of people declaring that in Poland the rights of an individual are limited in order to achieve collective goals. Other standards of the democratic state have also deteriorated. Fewer people believe that our country is governed by the rule of law, that the Sejm represents the will of voters, and that important state decisions are consulted with society. Moreover, there is an increase in the number of citizens questioning freedom and fairness of elections. On the other hand, there is a noticeable improvement in the components of democracy related to social policy, which we observed already four years ago: ensuring equal opportunities to obtain education, regardless of material status, and decent living conditions for the most disadvantaged.

## Are the following rules observed in Poland?



## Are the following rules observed in Poland?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Attitude to Democracy and Opinions about Its Functioning", May 2021 and "The Principles of Democracy", June 2021. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2021, N=1131. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.