

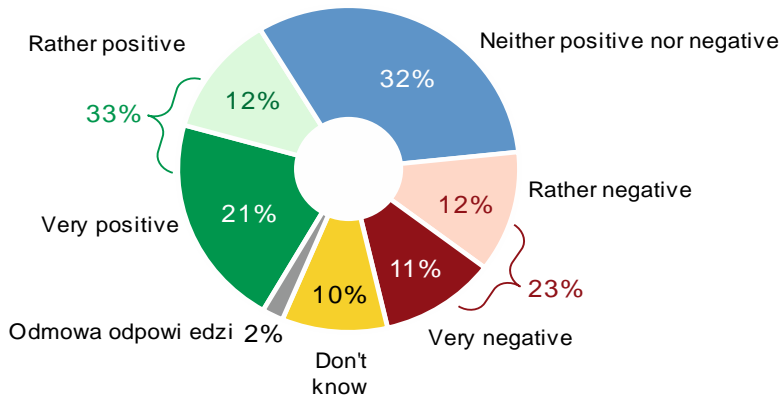
Political moods before the autumn parliamentary elections

On the anniversary of the first partially free elections to the parliament in 1989, on June 4, an anti-government protest march was held in Warsaw on the initiative of the Civic Platform (PO). The turnout exceeded the expectations of the organizers as, according to various estimates, it was attended by 300,000 - 500,000 participants. Therefore, it could have been one of the most numerous manifestations in the history of the Poland after 1989. At the same time, much smaller protests, in terms of scale, also took place in other cities.

Among all respondents, 3% admit to participating in the June 4 march in Warsaw, and another 3% declare that they took part in protests in other cities. In total, therefore, 6% identify with the goals of this manifestation to such an extent that they actively participated in it or would have liked to participate.

The march on June 4 more often aroused positive (33%) rather than negative (23%) emotions in Poles. Almost one-third of adults (32%), however, remained indifferent to the June 4 march and it did not evoke any emotions in them.

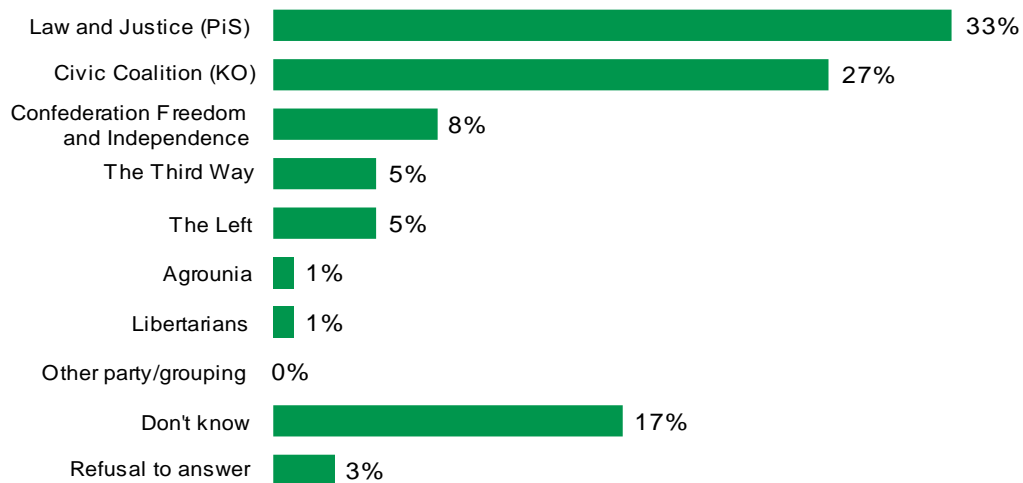
What emotions did you have in relation to the march on June 4?



For two-fifths of respondents, the march on June 4 in Warsaw was primarily a manifestation of citizens dissatisfied with the current government (40%). Slightly more than one-fifth of adult Poles (22%) interpreted this event as an individual political success of the main initiator of this march, i.e. Donald Tusk, the leader of the Civic Coalition. Less than one-fifth (19%) paid attention primarily to the political dimension of this manifestation, namely to the fact that - in their opinion - it was a manifestation in defence of democracy, for Poland's membership in the EU and in defence of European values. The same percentage of respondents (19%) were most satisfied with the statement that it was simply a march of supporters of the opposition. Only one-ninth (11%) agreed that the June 4 march in Warsaw was primarily a march of hatred aimed at the authorities and their supporters.

The turnout success of the June 4 March is related to the increase in support for the main opposition force. From May to June, support for the Civic Coalition increased by 4 percentage points, from 23% to 27%. June is the third month in a row in which we note a decrease in the distance between the ruling party and the strongest opposition group. The advantage of the ruling camp over its most dangerous competitor is currently 6 percentage points, while in March this year it was even 20 points in CBOS research.

Which party/grouping candidate would you vote for in the elections to the Sejm?



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS reports in Polish: “Opinions about the march on 4 June”, July 2023, and “Political Party Preferences in June”. Fieldwork for national sample: June 2023, N=1056, mixed-mode interviews. The random sample is representative for adult population of Poland.