

## CONTENTS

### Opinions about democracy

### Evaluation of local government and its competences

### Engagement in the local community

### State policy towards families: evaluation and expectations

## IN ADDITION

TO THE REPORTS REFERRED TO ABOVE, THE FOLLOWING HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED RECENTLY (IN POLISH):

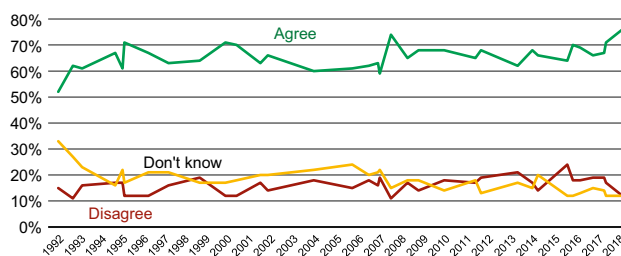
- Poles about NATO and International Security
- Professional Situation and Readiness to Change Jobs
- What Income Taxes Do Poles Expect?
- Political Party Preferences in June
- Interest in the World Cup and Assessment of Chances of Polish Representation
- Opinions about Parliament, President and Local Authorities
- Attitude to Government in June
- Social Moods in June
- Trust in Politicians in June
- Volhynia 1943 – Memory Restored

## Opinions about democracy

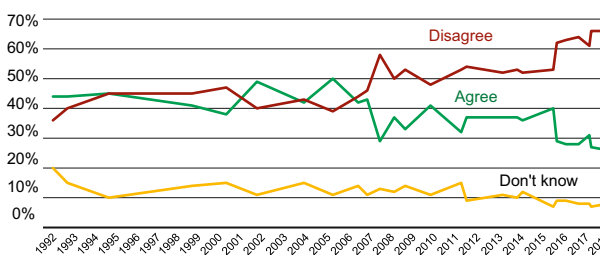
In democracy research, the two-and-a-half-year period after the last parliamentary elections won by the Law and Justice (PiS) is characterized by high level of declared attachment to the democratic system.

Three-quarters of Poles agree with the statement that democracy has an advantage over all other forms of government (76%), while one in eight (12%) has the opposite opinion. Currently, the level of approval of democracy is not only higher than in August last year (an increase of 5 percentage points), but also the highest in the history of CBOS research, i.e. since 1992.

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



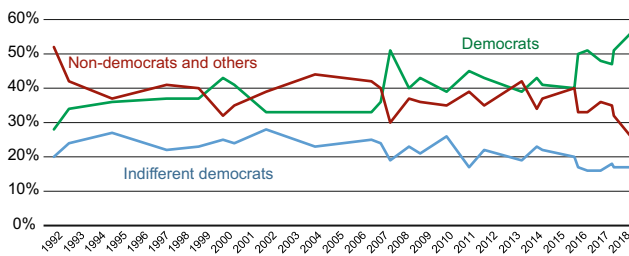
### Do you agree that, for people like you, it does not really matter whether the government is democratic or undemocratic?



more than a quarter (26%), while those who declare that it does matter to them constitute two-thirds of Poles (66%).

After separating from the group approving democracy as the best form of government those who declare that the political system is indifferent to them (and those having no opinion in this matter), we obtain "net" support for democracy. Such a "pure" pro-democratic attitude characterizes more than half of Poles (56%), and its range is currently the largest in the history of CBOS research.

### Attitude to democracy

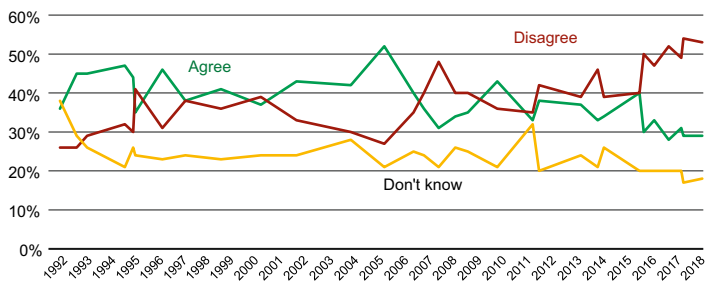


After the recent parliamentary elections, there has been an increase in criticism of undemocratic political solutions. The current results are similar to those from nine months ago, in which we observed a record high level of disapproval of non-democratic rule. Almost one-third of respondents agree with the statement that

Since the beginning of last year, the level of political alienation has been lowest in the last quarter century. Respondents claiming that it does not matter to them whether the government in the country is democratic or undemocratic represent

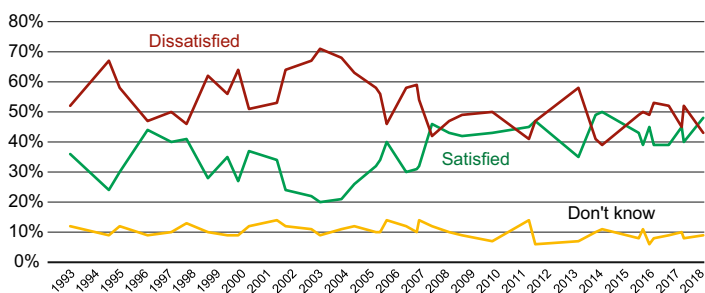
in some situations undemocratic governments are better than democracies (29%), and more than half (53%) question it.

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



Opinions about the quality of democracy in Poland have been very diverse, but in general negative opinions have prevailed over approval. Currently, the first time since the last parliamentary election, respondents satisfied with the functioning of democracy in our country (48%, an increase of 8 percentage points since August 2017) prevail numerically over the dissatisfied (43%, decrease by 9 points).

### Evaluation of functioning of democracy in Poland



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Opinions on Democracy", June 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2018, N=1121. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

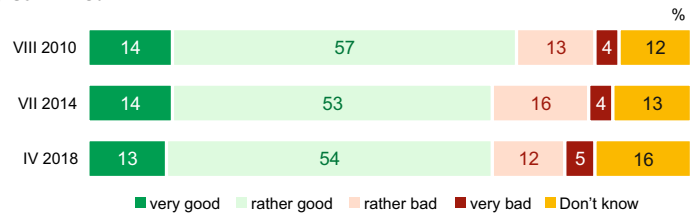
## Evaluation of local government and its competences

In the autumn, Poles will decide on the shape of local government in their places of residence in the next five years. They will decide about the composition of councils at various levels and choose mayors, making current local government accountable.

The vast majority of Poles positively assess current local government in their place of residence: their mayor and the city or commune council.

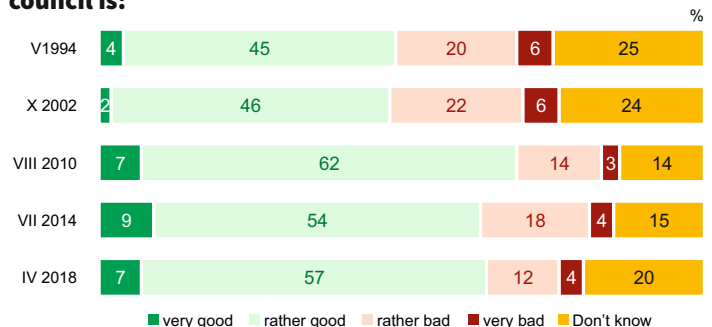
Over two-thirds of respondents (67%) are of the opinion that the current local government executive (mayor) works well, 17% are of the opposite opinion. From the perspective of several terms, it is clear that the assessment of the activities of mayors does not change much.

### In general, your opinion about the mayor of your commune / town is:



The work of councils of cities and communes is also positively evaluated: 64% of respondents think that the council is doing a good job, whereas 16% have a negative opinion. From the long-term perspective, dating back to the first half of the 1990s, there was a sharp improvement in evaluation of councils between 2002 and 2010. During this period, positive assessments of the activities of local government authorities (city and commune councils) increased by over 20 percentage points. Poland joined the EU in 2004 and EU funds began to flow into our country. They were largely used by local authorities, e.g. for the infrastructure of local communities, such as water supply, sewage treatment or local roads.

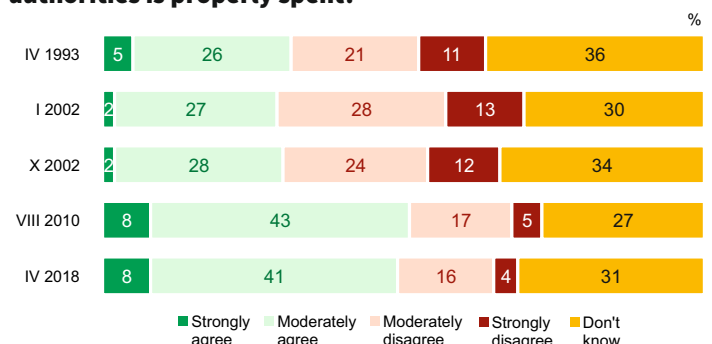
### In general, your opinion about your commune / town council is:



Nearly half of respondents think that their city or commune authorities properly manage the financial resources at their disposal (49%). The opposite opinion on the financial management of their local governments is expressed by one fifth of respondents (20%).

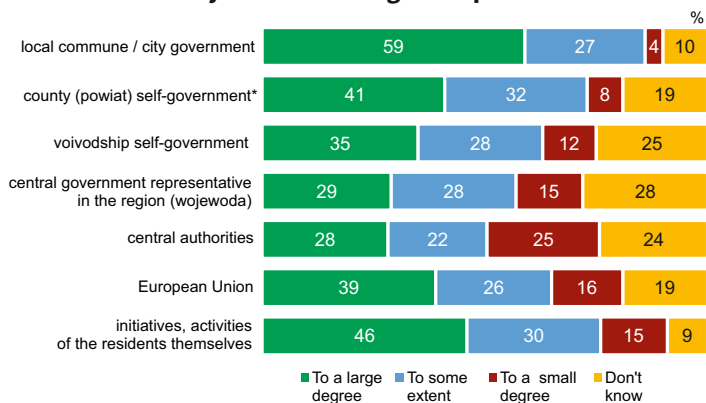
What is most striking in the long-term, in terms of financial spending there was a twenty-point increase in positive ratings and a slightly lower decrease in negative assessments between 2002 and 2010, during Poland's accession to the EU and the inflow of EU funds to local governments.

### Do you agree that money at the disposal of your local authorities is properly spent?



Poles are convinced that the local city or commune government decides most about the development of their place of residence. In their opinion, the activity and initiative of the citizens themselves, as well as the activities of the county (powiat) self-government are also relatively significant. Poles clearly see the importance of EU funds. According to respondents, the development of their towns depends more on the European Union than on the local representative of the central government (województwo), or on central authorities understood broadly.

### To what extent does the development of your place of residence and your nearest region depend on:



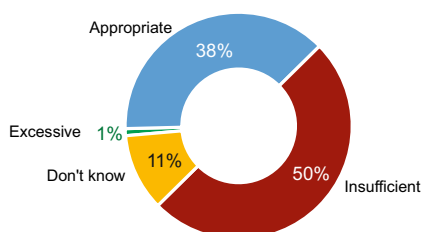
\* Question not asked to residents of towns with county rights

More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Assessment of Local Authorities and Their Competences", June 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: April 2018, N=1140. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

## Engagement in the local community

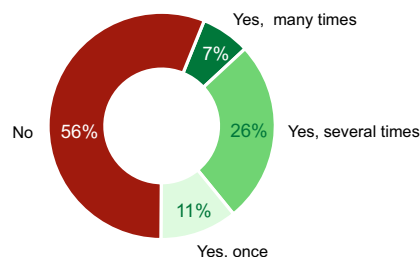
Half of Poles assess the impact of residents on local issues as insufficient. Less than two-fifths (38%) think that it is appropriate, and only a few (1%) consider it to be excessive.

### How would you rate the impact of residents on the affairs of city / commune?



Although the majority of Poles declare their interest in local affairs (76%), they are not very active when it comes to involvement in the development of their commune, city or district. Most respondents (56%) admit that they never took part in a meeting of local government representatives with residents about the proposed changes or plans for the local development.

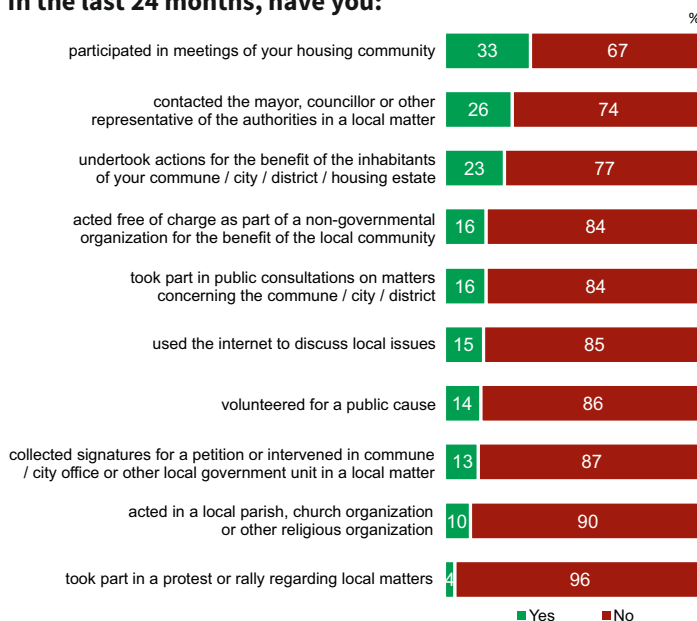
### Have you ever taken part in a meeting of representatives of the local (commune, city or district) government with residents, which concerned proposed changes or development plans of the locality?



Participation (at least once) in a meeting of residents and representatives of the authorities on local issues is declared relatively often by: rural residents (52%, especially farmers - 74%), people aged 55-64 (52%), the most religiously active (53%), respondents achieving the highest per capita income (50%) and business owners (55%). Passivity is most often declared by the youngest respondents (78%), especially students (82%).

The level of involvement in other forms of activities for the benefit of the local community is not high either. In the last twenty-four months before the survey, every third respondent (33%) took part in the meeting of a housing community or cooperative, slightly more than one in four (26%) personally contacted the mayor or other representative of the authorities regarding local affairs, less than a fourth (23%), according to the declarations, undertook some activities for the benefit of residents of their own commune, city, district or housing estate. Other ways of getting involved in local affairs were declared less frequently.

### In the last 24 months, have you:



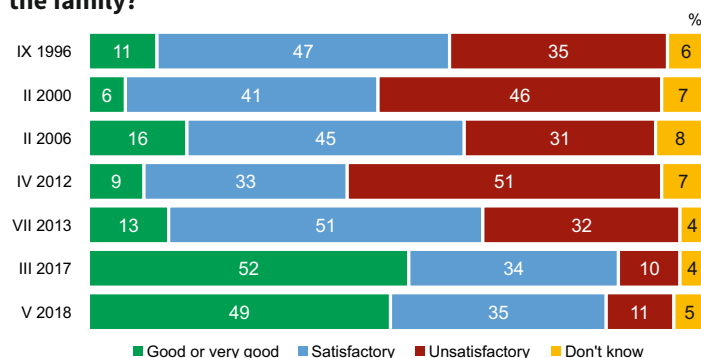
More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Polish People's Involvement in Local Community", June 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2018, N=1121. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

# State policy towards families: evaluation and expectations

CBOS surveys summarizing the achievements of Beata Szydło government after two years of activity showed that policy towards the family belonged to the strongest sides of that government. This was due to the entry into force of the “Family 500 plus” program, under which families receive a benefit in the amount of PLN 500 for each second and subsequent child, and for each child in low income families. The government of Mateusz Morawiecki announced the continuation of activities aimed at supporting families and facilitating the implementation of procreation plans. Soon the “Good Start” program will be implemented, providing for the payment of PLN 300 for all students once a year. From 2019, the solutions comprising the “Mama plus” program are to be implemented: guaranteed payment of the minimum pension for mothers of at least four children, free medicines for pregnant women, facilities for mothers who study, a bonus for quick birth of another child. Deputy Prime Minister Beata Szydło also announced vouchers for sport and culture for young people.

The introduction of the “Family 500 plus” program radically changed the perception of the state policy towards the family. In CBOS surveys carried out from 1996 to 2013, the activities of the state towards the family were assessed as satisfactory or even unsatisfactory. After the introduction of the “Family 500 plus” program, good and very good grades have prevailed.

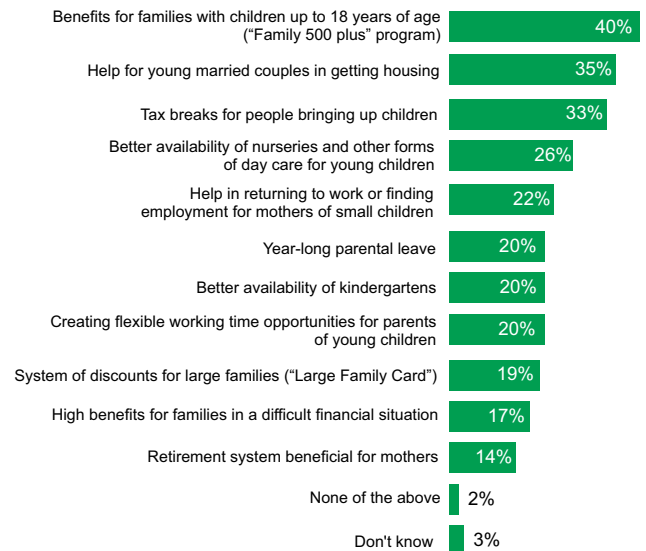
**Using the grade scale from "very good" to "unsatisfactory", how do you assess the current state policy towards the family?**



In public opinion, the state should prioritize provision of adequate living conditions for families with children.

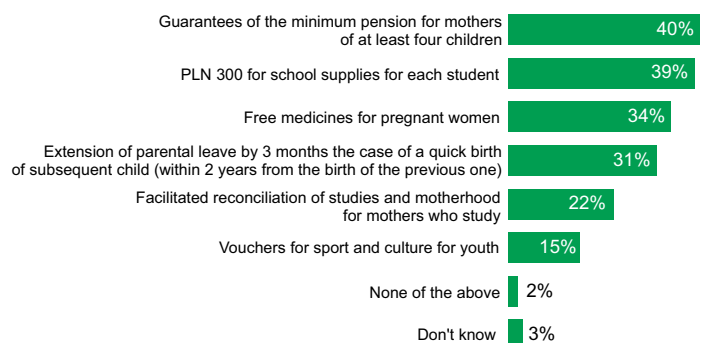
Among the three most useful instruments to support families that could encourage having children are: parental benefit from the “Family 500 plus” program, help for young married couples in obtaining housing and tax breaks for families with children. Relatively many people pointed to the need to guarantee better access to nurseries and other forms of care for young children.

**What forms of family support, currently functioning or postulated, are the most useful and can encourage having children?**



According to respondents, the most needed solutions among those announced by the government are the guarantees of the minimum pension for mothers of at least four children and PLN 300 for school supplies for each student. The relatively least needed are, in public opinion, vouchers for sport and culture for young people.

**Which of these solutions are the most needed?**



More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "State Policy towards Families - Evaluation and Expectations", June 2018. Fieldwork for national sample: May 2018, N=1121. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.

**For more information on CBOS services and publications please contact:**

**CBOS**

5/7, Świętojerska, 00-236 Warsaw, Poland

Phones: **(48) 22 629 35 69, 22 628 37 04** Fax: **(48) 22 629 40 89**

e-mail: [sekretariat@cbos.pl](mailto:sekretariat@cbos.pl) [www.cbos.pl](http://www.cbos.pl)

Yearly subscription rate for “Polish Public Opinion” is 80 USD  
Circulation: 60 copies

**CBOS EXPERTISE**

in providing professional, accurate and timely research has made us the leading authority in political, social and consumer research in Poland.

All sources must be credited when any part of this publication is reproduced

© COPYRIGHT BY **CBOS, 2018**