

A Nation-wide Scientific Survey of Dominican Electors

Commissioned by

Alex Bruno

April 2017.

U.W.P GATHERS SUPPORT BUT D.L.P RETAINS POWER IF GENERAL ELECTIONS ARE HELD TODAY.

I sought to answer the question: *Which Political Party will win Dominica's next General Parliamentary Elections?* Efforts were concentrated on 13 out of 21 constituencies: '*The Crucial 13,*' in determining the response to my question which is found in the following statement.

Survey Statement

According to this survey data I conclude, with 95% confidence, that 58% of the sample agree the Dominica Labour Party will win (+/- 3.91) the next Dominica General Elections.

Introduction

This survey stems from a professional desire to present independently responsible scholarly information on political candidate electability, with the view to determining which party may form the next government of the island of Dominica. It is the second poll conducted by this agency; the first was the by-election snap poll in the Soufriere Constituency in May 2016. We correctly predicted the results of that race. This second poll however is our first nationwide effort.

Dominica is a sovereign independent nation which is situated in the center of the Caribbean chain of islands with a population of 71,183 (Government of Dominica Census Report, 2014). Interestingly, there are 72,279 (Government of Dominica Electoral Commission) registered voters on the island's list of electors; more electors than the nation's population. The parliamentary system of government is in place in that former British Colony which has conducted eight (8) general elections since the country gained independence on November 3, 1978.

Because of this disparity in island's population vis-à-vis that of its declared registered electors, the polls measured data from actual or live votes casted at the last general election: 41, 520, which seems to be the more plausible number, owing to the island's population size and in keeping with best polling practices as far as electoral list sanitization goes.

The legislative constitutional term of government in Dominica is 5 years and the Dominica Labour Party (D.L.P) has enjoyed the reign of power over the past 39 years since independence, ruling for about half the time. D.L.P ruled from July 3, 1978 to July 1980 (including the

tumultuous period when the island had an interim government), the Dominica Freedom Party (D.F.P) ruled from 1980 to 1995, the Dominica United Workers Party was in power from 1995 to 2000 and the D.L.P has been in control of the Dominican government from 2000 to date (2017).

The Honorable Prime Minister, Roosevelt Skerrit, is D.L.P's leader and his D.L.P is the incumbent party with 15 of the 21 constituencies. Lennox Linton who holds the office of Honorable Leader of the Opposition in the parliament of Dominica is the U.W.P leader and U.W.P, his party, holds the remaining 6 seats. As a point of note, Roosevelt Skerrit is the nation's longest serving head of government. His unbroken tenure began on January 8, 2004 to the date of this survey; elections are constitutionally due in 2019.

Leaders of both major political parties, the Dominica Labour Party (D.L.P) and the United Workers Party (U.W.P) were apprised of the polling activity and were granted an opportunity to be briefed on the poll's function. The survey coincides with a heightened general election-type political climate and strong public debate over Dominica's Citizens by Investment program

Method

The research question is: *'Which political party will win Dominica's next General Parliamentary Elections?'* With the dependent variable being *political party* and the independent variable as *general parliamentary election*, we sought to determine which candidates would most likely win in the particular constituencies as it is candidates and not necessarily parties which win elections; parties form the government based on the majority of candidates who win.

The matter of electability of candidates drives our interest in having the electors respond to the research question. In an effort to minimize partisan biases, and other variables which may create inconsistencies in sample responses, the following series of questions were designed.

It is important to note that this survey sought to find the electability of the existing declared candidates from the 2014 Dominica General Elections records, with the exception of the Soufriere Constituency which had a by-election in 2016. This election became necessary because of a vacancy created following the abrupt resignation of Ian Pinard over a much publicized sexual matter involving a minor female.

All efforts to insert different variables, and especially possible or proposed new candidates and other incoherent factors were flushed out of the sampling. Participants were asked the following questions (in that order):

1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?
2. Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?
3. Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizen by Investment (C.B.I) program will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?

4. In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?
5. Which political party has the strongest message?
6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?
7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

This poll was a quantitative exercise, predominantly conducted by the pole commissioner, Alex Bruno. Wherever and whenever assistance was received, data collection followed the strictest supervision, ensuring minimal influence from all outside factors. The cluster sampling method was adopted in our unit of analysis. Areas and samples were randomly selected. Samples had to have been on the official list of registered voters in respective areas.

Respondents were informed of the scientific nature of the polls and what it was designed to measure. Upon receiving respondents' consent, the information gathering process was conducted. All responses were tallied in the presence and in full view of the respondents and each participant was debriefed following the interview. They were asked: (i) was there any detectable bias or biases in the presentation and conduct of this poll, (ii) were you forced or coerced to provide your answers and (iii) did you receive any benefit(s) from participating. The responses were unanimously 'no' 100% of the time.

On average, 60 – 75 samples were taken in each constituency, and the information collected was analyzed by the polls commissioner and statistically presented by trained professionals. Only the data collected during the polling period, April 14 – 30, 2017, was used in the presentation of the following results. At the end, a little over 800 registered voters were polled with a margin of error of +/- 3.91%. The standard formula was used to arrive at this figure. See figure D 4.

This sample greatly outnumbers standard sampling. As advised by Florida Atlantic University's (FAU) Associate Professor of Political Science and renowned pollster, Kevin Wagner, a similar sample size is used in state of Florida electoral polls with a voter population of 12,959,185. A sample size of 1000 was recently used to determine opinion of the 231,556,622 U.S. electors nationwide.

Results

Results of a scientific survey suggest that the D.L.P will hold on to governing power in the parliament of Dominica should elections be held today.

Respondents were of the opinion that the D.L.P will retain eleven (11) seats; the *Vielle Case*, *Portsmouth*, *Cottage*, *Grand Bay*, *Paix Bouche*, *Colihaut*, *Salybia*, *La Plaine*, *Soufriere*, *Castle Bruce* and *Mahaut* constituencies. The *Petite Savanne* constituency is a contingency seat which could also be called for the D.L.P, based on polling data – albeit inconclusive.

It was also the opinion of the respondents that the United Workers Party (U.W.P) will hold on to its six (6) currently held seats: *Marigot, Salisbury, Wesley, Roseau Central, Roseau North and Roseau South*, while becoming more competitive in *Morne Jaune* which this poll declares as a toss-up seat. The U.W.P could grab the *Morne Jaune* seat within the margin of error if the majority of the undecided vote goes U.W.P's way.

The U.W.P also polled competitively in the *St. Joseph* and *Roseau Valley* constituency. *St. Joseph* was found to be the constituency with the highest level of undecided voters/respondents in each of the seven polling categories, and may very well swing either way. *St. Joseph* is certainly the seat which seems most vulnerable.

So, if the poll results hold, the D.L.P shall win the next general election (should it be held today) with a reduced mandate of twelve (12) seats, while U.W.P can possibly take nine (9) seats. However, the latter will require a herculean task which is somewhat impeded by the incoherent messaging of the opposition party, and compounded by the public legal distraction of its leader, Mr. Lennox Linton.

Voter importation was loosely raised as an issue in several key areas. This however cleared the confusion which was represented in polling statistics for *Morne Jaune, La Plaine, Roseau Valley* and *St. Joseph*. *Castle Bruce* also showed similar trends. I have therefore concluded that based on the samples responded to question 7, '*for which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*'), these claims of voter importation (although not part of the survey) seem accurate as they are inadvertently captured in the polls.

In each of those cases or areas cited, it seemed that the proportion of respondents who claimed to have voted for the losing U.W.P candidate was on par with or even greater than the D.L.P winning candidate, especially in the case of *Castle Bruce*. More people (52%) claimed to have voted for U.W.P over the D.L.P (27), with 21% withholding or not confirming for which candidate they voted. The samples suggest that U.W.P enjoyed 45% support at the 2014 polls as opposed to D.L.P's 44%.

My suggestion is that, to borrow a line from one of the samples: "*we see people come, we see them vote and next day they disappear.*" This is explained in the results. Mark you, this is not to say that any voter is qualified or disqualified in any way. My job is to report on the findings of our survey and to try to make sense of what was gathered, especially when certain aspects of the results seemed dubious as that which was just discussed.

Although this survey did not focus outside variables, it was very difficult to ignore voter importation and other related massive spending. The latter is not found in the data but charges of voter importation, illegal or otherwise, seemed to have shown up in the picture. In Mahaut, for instance, a staggering 32% of respondents did not wish to share for which party candidate they voted. On the flipside, the percentage of those who claimed to have voted for the D.L.P in Mahaut was uncharacteristically low - 51%.

This vast undeclared number is therefore an interesting point which neither of the two major parties should ignore. This observation is made on the strength that the declared D.L.P voters drop to under 50% if the margin of error (+/- 3.91%) is negatively factored into that finding.

There is much to be found in those results and my hope is that the analysis continues, as it is with careful analysis of the issues which makes politics intriguing.

Thirteen (13) of the twenty-one (21) constituencies were mainly targeted and 58.3% of the respondents think that the incumbent D.L.P will continue its reign as the governing party. This case was made even stronger by respondents who declared themselves as D.L.P voters; they unanimously suggested that the D.L.P will be given a fresh mandate to lead the affairs of government in the Dominican parliament.

Absolutely no respondent who claimed to have voted for the D.L.P at the last general election deviated from that opinion, while 53% of declared U.W.P voters also supported that view. So, D.L.P wins across the broad spectrum of opinions and this boosts the party's profile as a winning entity, at least in the opinion of our samples.

As was earlier indicated, the polls concentrated on the 13 constituencies which are reasonably expected to play a more significant role in determining the next Dominican government: *Roseau Central, Roseau North, Roseau Valley, Roseau South, Soufriere, Mahaut, St. Joseph, Colihaut, Salybia, Wesley, Morne Jaune, Castle Bruce, La Plaine*. This is so, based on the solid one-sided trend indicated in the early samples, with between 60 - 100% (in certain cases) of responses in all categories going in favor of the incumbent candidate/party in the respective constituencies: *Grand Bay, Vieille Case, Marigot, Portsmouth, Paix Bouche, Salisbury and Cottage*. *Petite Savanne* electors were not sufficiently centrally domiciled to be reliably polled, due to the fact that residents of *Petite Savanne* were displaced by Tropical Storm Erika in 2015.

D.L.P shall hold on to *Grand Bay, Portsmouth, Paix Bouche, Vieille Case* and *Cottage* constituencies based on strong partisan sentiments shared in the polls. The same is true for the U.W.P which is somewhat universally expected to hold on to *Salisbury* and *Marigot*. There simply exists no indication of any paradigm shift in the attitude of the voter which would suggest any change in these chronic partisan voting tendencies of electors in these districts. It will take a significant all-out effort to unseat the incumbent candidates in these areas.

The poll also took the decision not to proceed with critical polling in the aforementioned voting districts (*Grand Bay, Vielle Case, Marigot, Portsmouth, Paix Bouche, Salisbury, Cottage* and *Petite Savanne*), in part as a cost mitigating initiative, as the brunt of the expenses was met by the pole commissioner with a xcd200.00 subsidy coming from one other politically unattached professional.

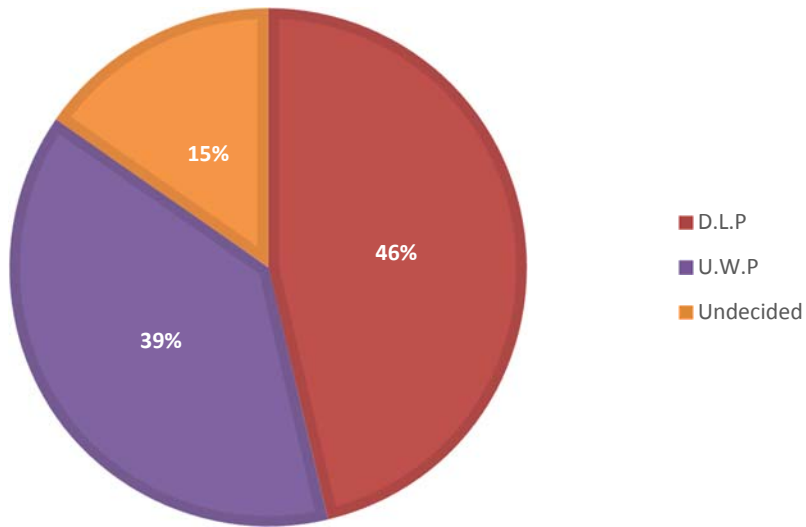
This poll was therefore not financed by any special interest, nor does it have the blessing of any political party, party candidate, party organs/supporter or campaign. It is a middle of the road and unbiased electoral snapshot and the findings represent a true picture of the period in which the polls were conducted (April 14 – 30, 2017).

One of the main functions of this poll is to present a scientific view of the state of affairs on the political landscape of Dominica and the electability of party candidates.

General Polling Results (GPR)

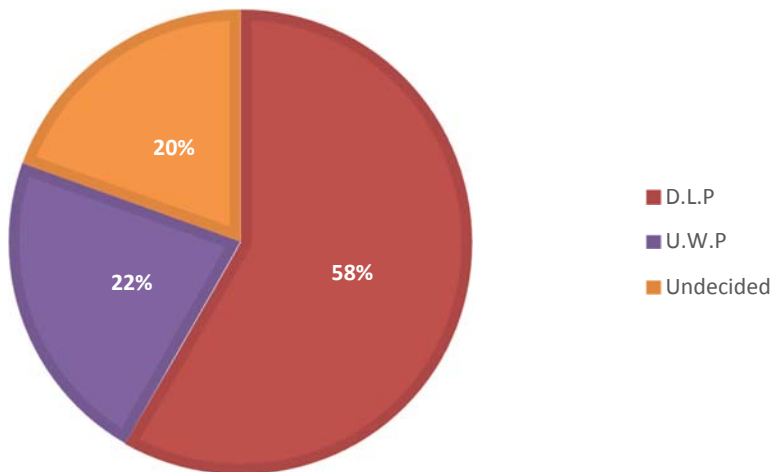
1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P	46.3%
U.W.P	38.4%
Undecided	15.3%



2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P	58.3%
U.W.P	22.2%
Undecided	19.5%

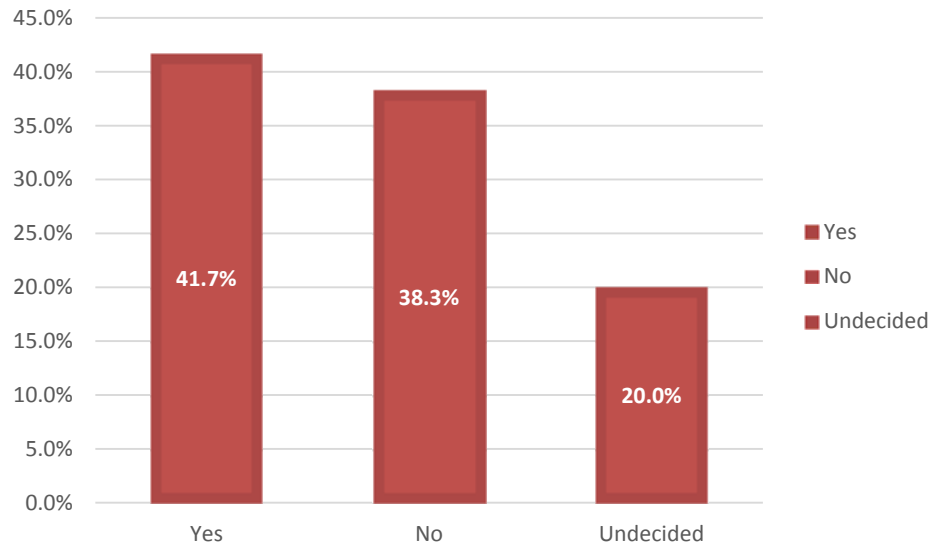


3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 41.7%

No - 38.3%

Undecided - 20%

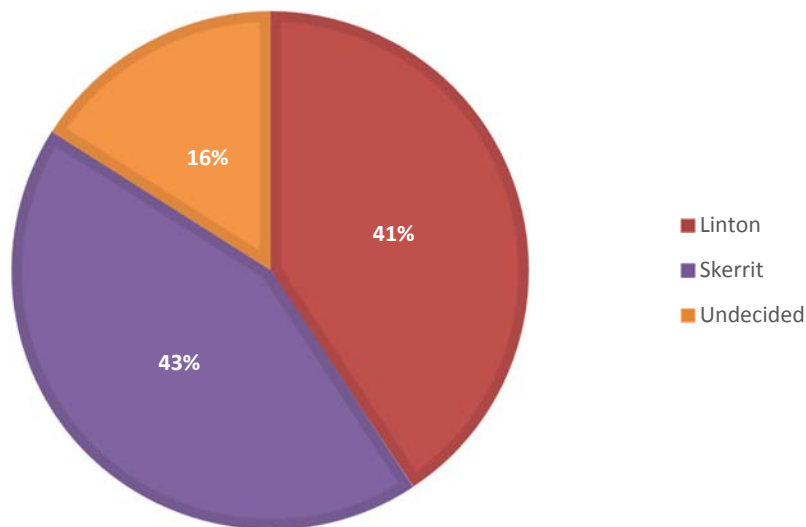


4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 40.7%

Skerrit - 43.3%

Undecided - 16%

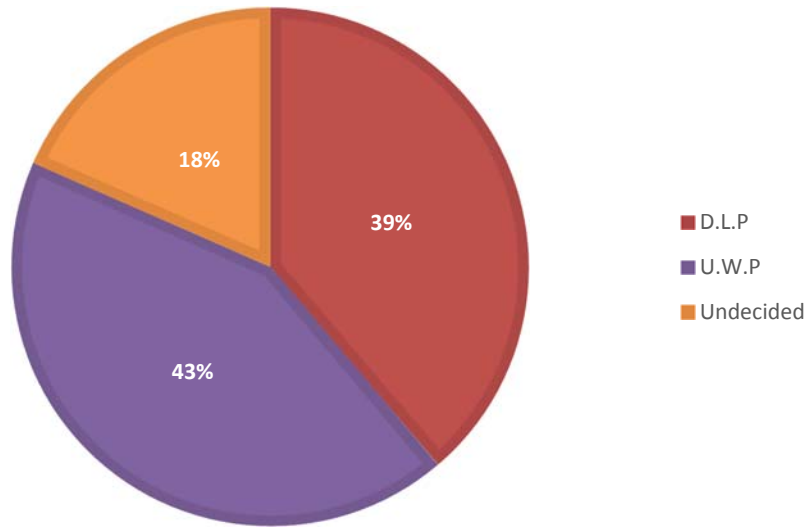


5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 38.8%

U.W.P - 42.8%

Undecided - 18.4%

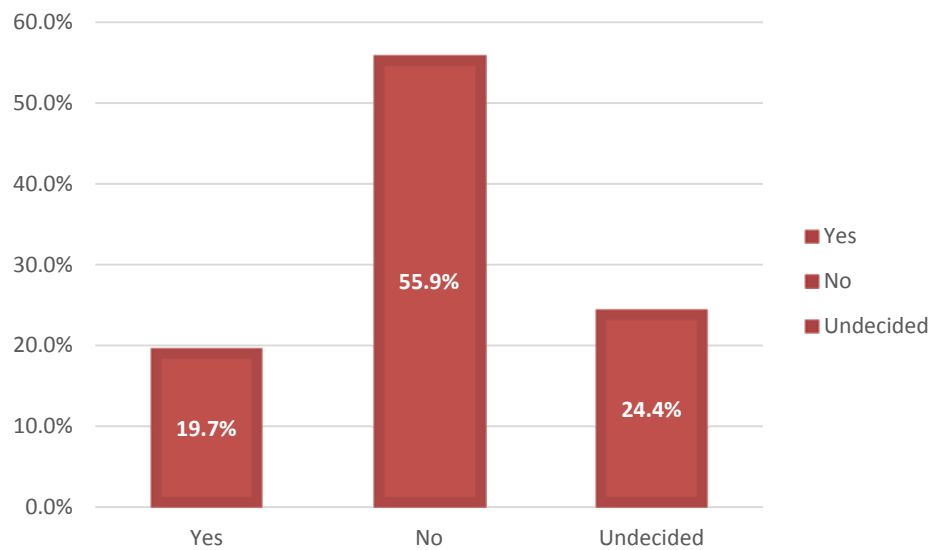


6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 19.7%

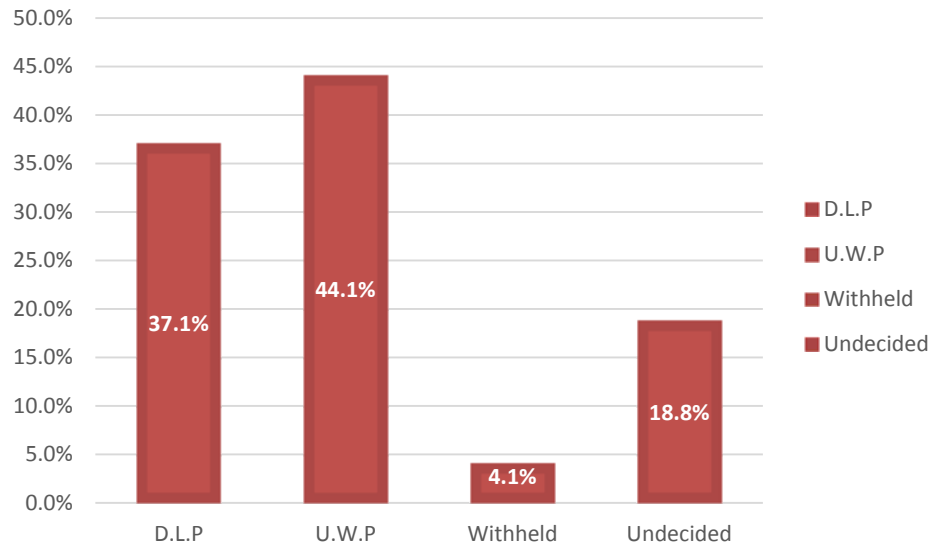
No - 55.9%

Undecided - 24.4%



7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

D.L.P - 37.1%
 U.W.P - 44.1%
 Withheld - 4.1 %
 Did not vote - 18.8%



*Data from the following eight (8) areas was not used to tabulate the GPR.

The Crucial 13 Constituencies

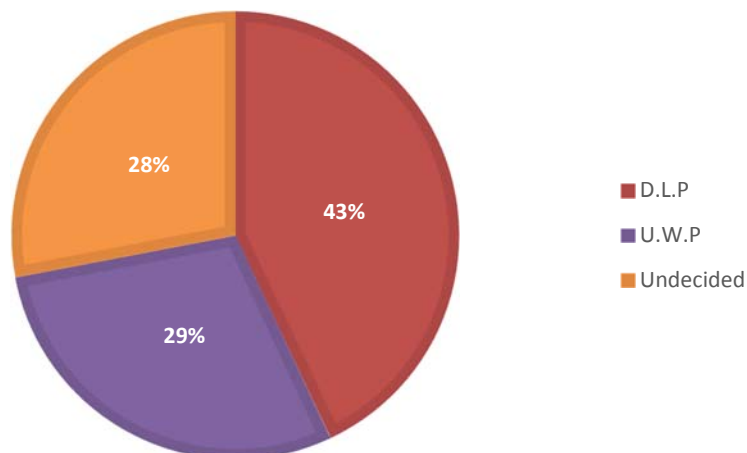
CASTLE BRUCE

Johnson **DRIGO** (D.L.P)

Isaac BAPTISTE (U.W.P)

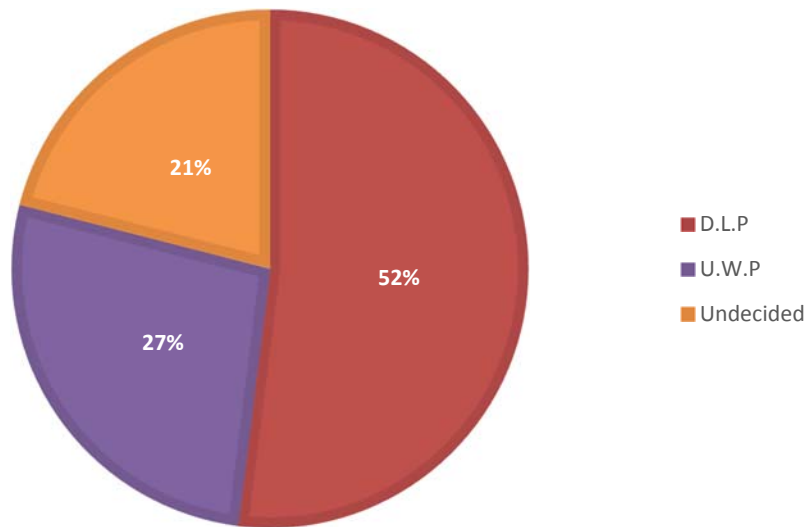
1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 43%
 U.W.P Candidate - 29%
 Undecided - 28%



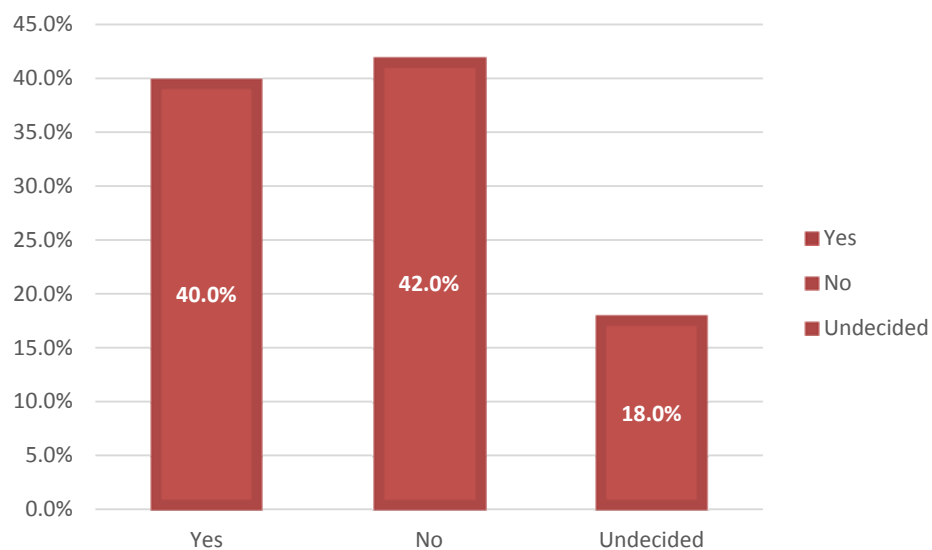
2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 52%
U.W.P - 27%
Undecided - 21%



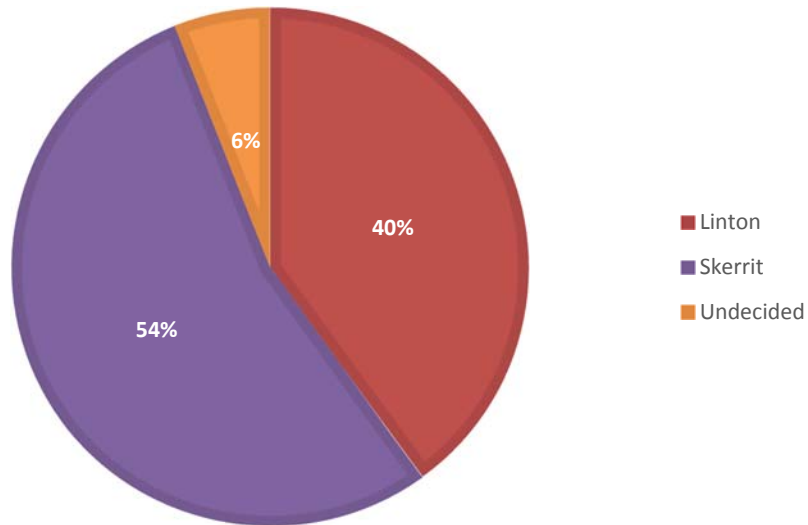
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 40%
No - 42%
Undecided - 18%



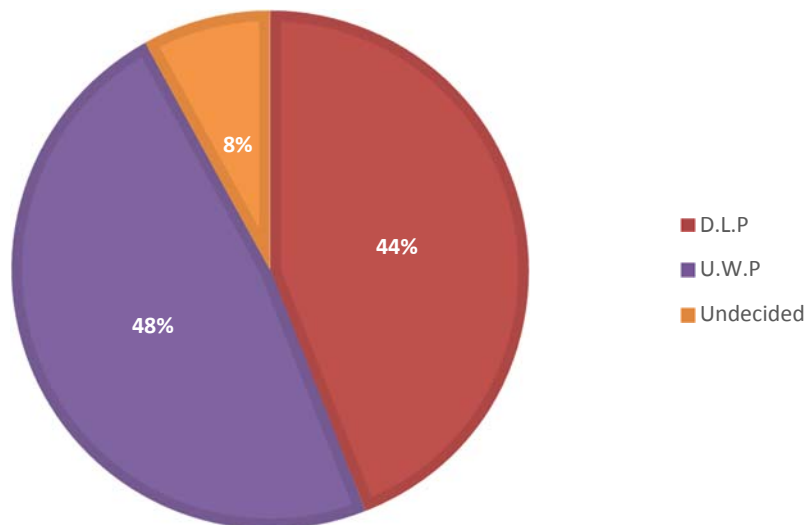
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 40%
Skerrit - 54%
Undecided - 6%



5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 44%
U.W.P - 48%
Undecided - 8%

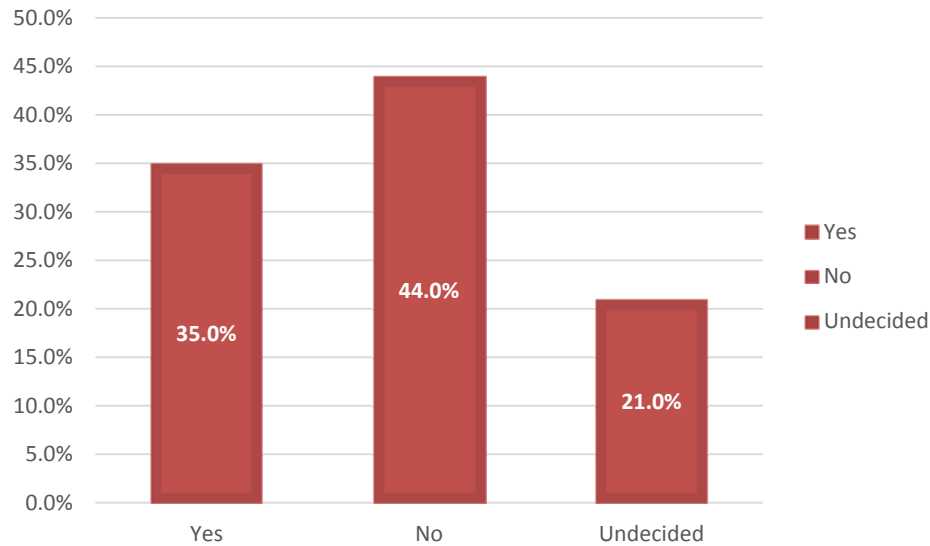


6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 35%

No - 44%

Undecided - 21%

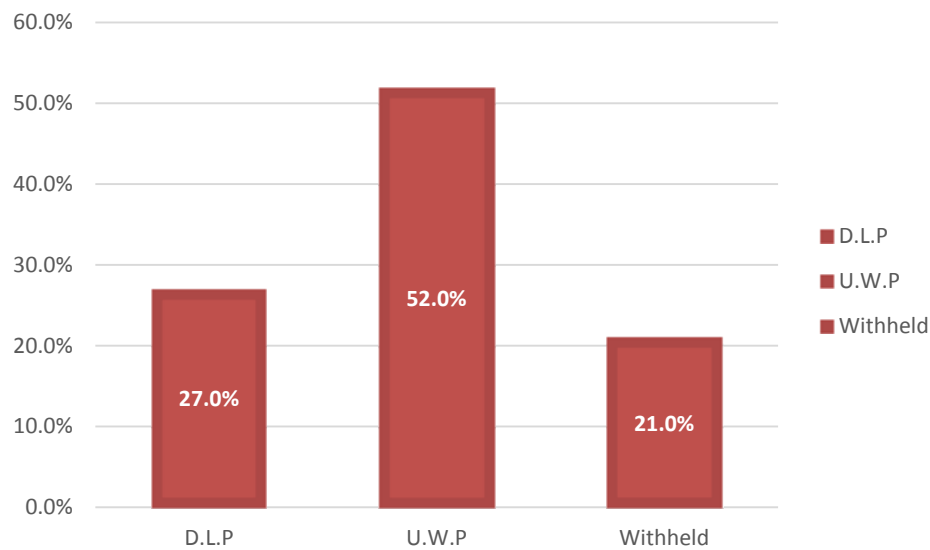


7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 27%

U.W.P - 52%

Withheld - 21%

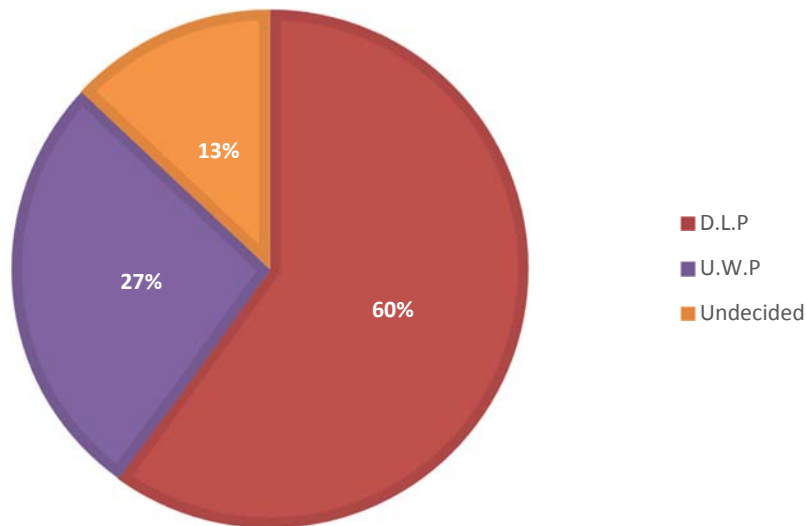


1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P Candidate - 60%

U.W.P Candidate - 27%

Undecided - 13%

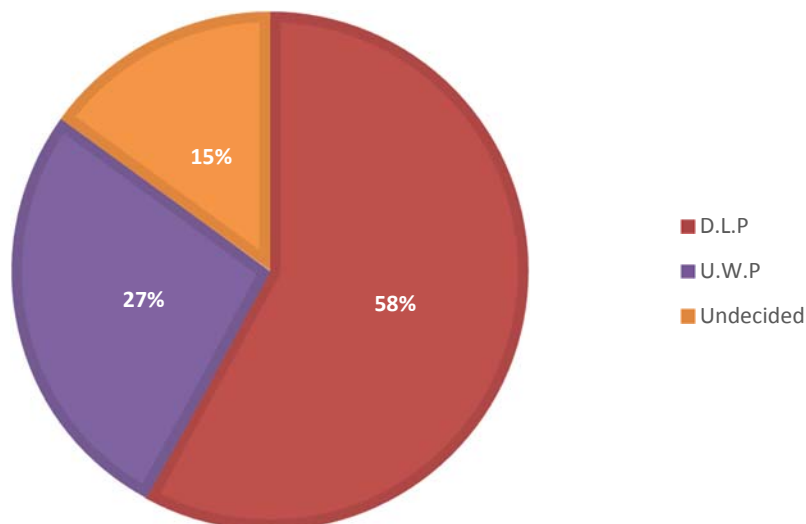


2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 58%

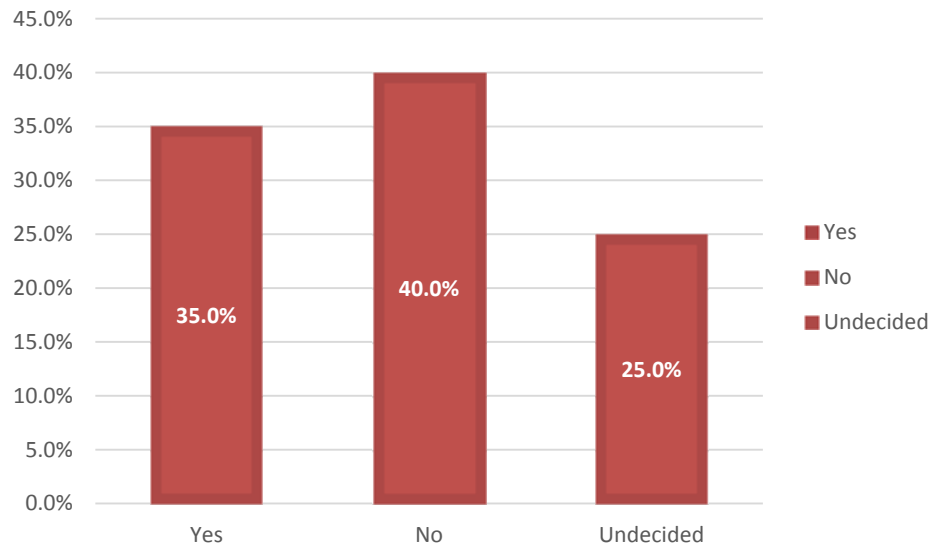
U.W.P - 27%

Undecided - 15%



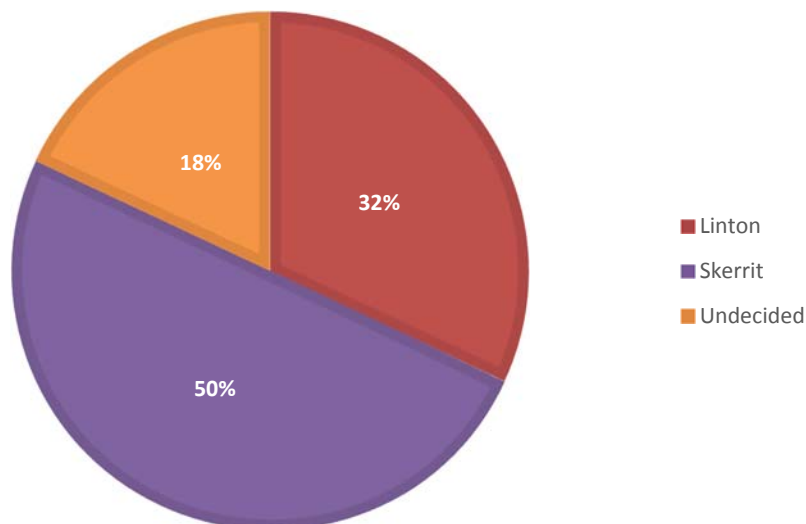
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 35%
No - 40%
Undecided - 25%



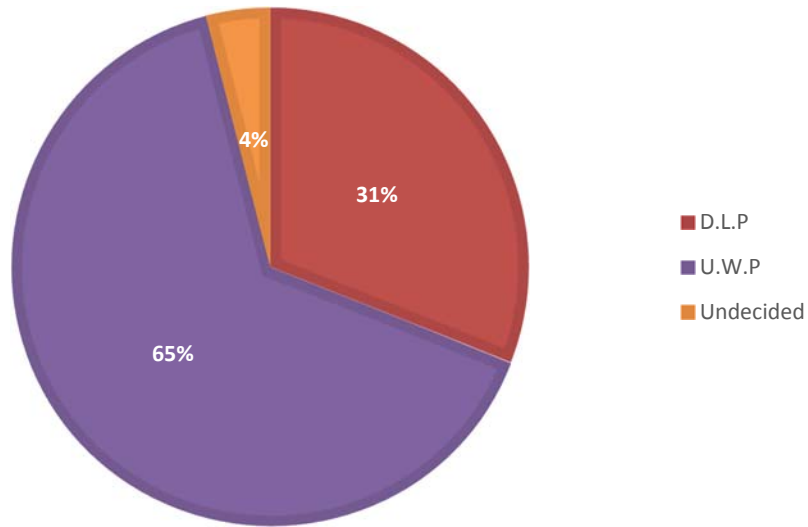
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 32%
Skerrit - 50%
Undecided - 18%



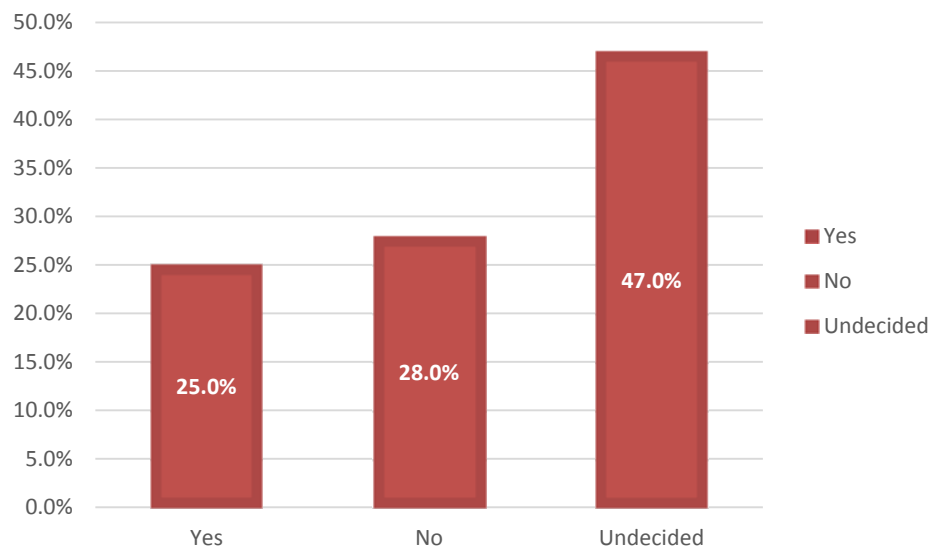
5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 31%
U.W.P - 65%
Undecided - 4%



6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 25%
No - 28%
Undecided - 47%



7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

D.L.P - 37%
 U.W.P - 37%
 Withheld - 26%



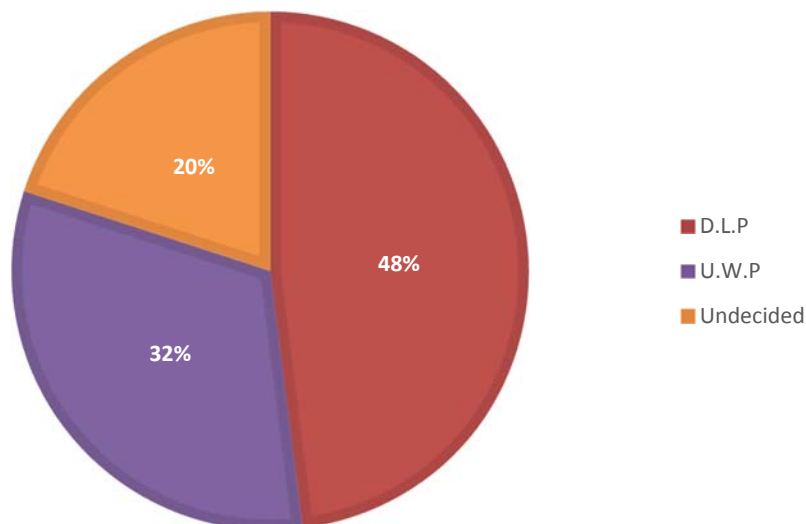
LA PLAINE

Petter **SAINT-JEAN** (D.L.P)

Ronald **GREEN** (U.W.P)

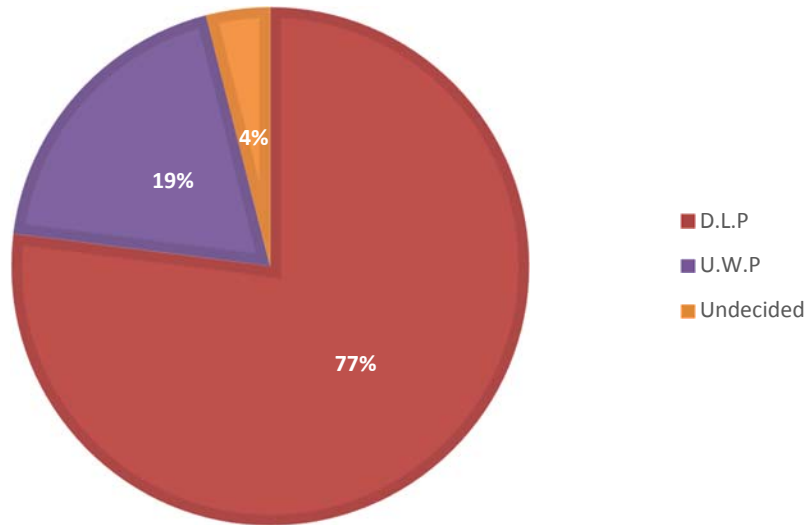
1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 48%
U.W.P Candidate - 32%
Undecided - 20%



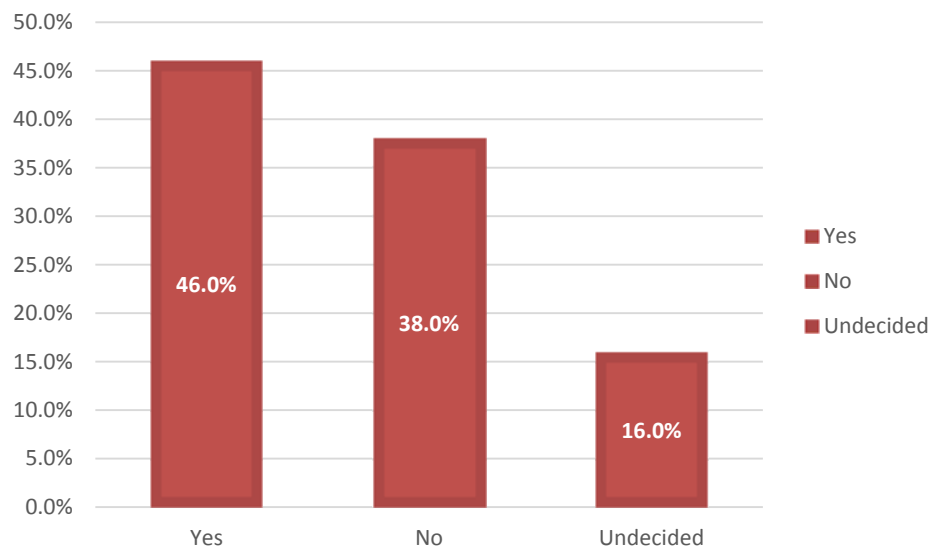
2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 77%
U.W.P - 19%
Undecided - 4%



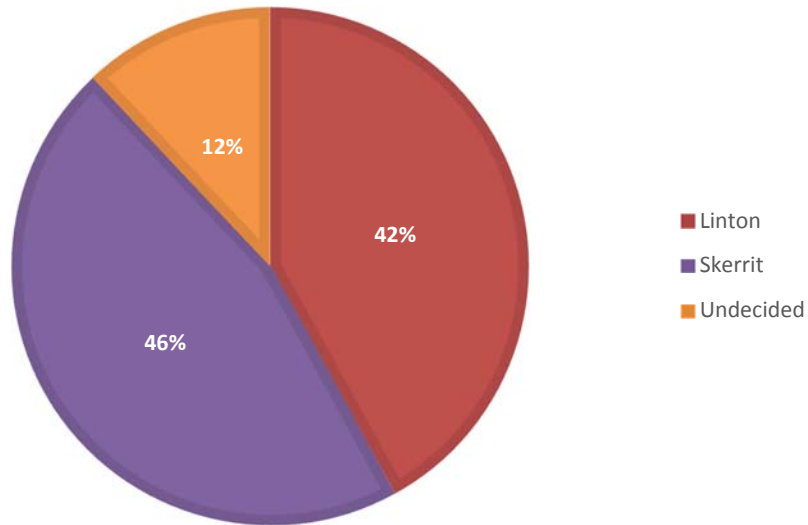
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 46%
No - 38%
Undecided - 16%



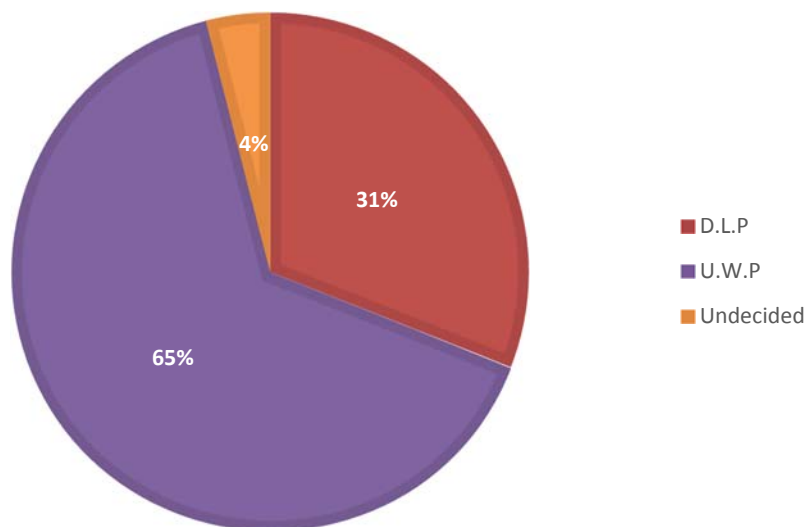
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 42%
Skerrit - 46%
Undecided - 12%



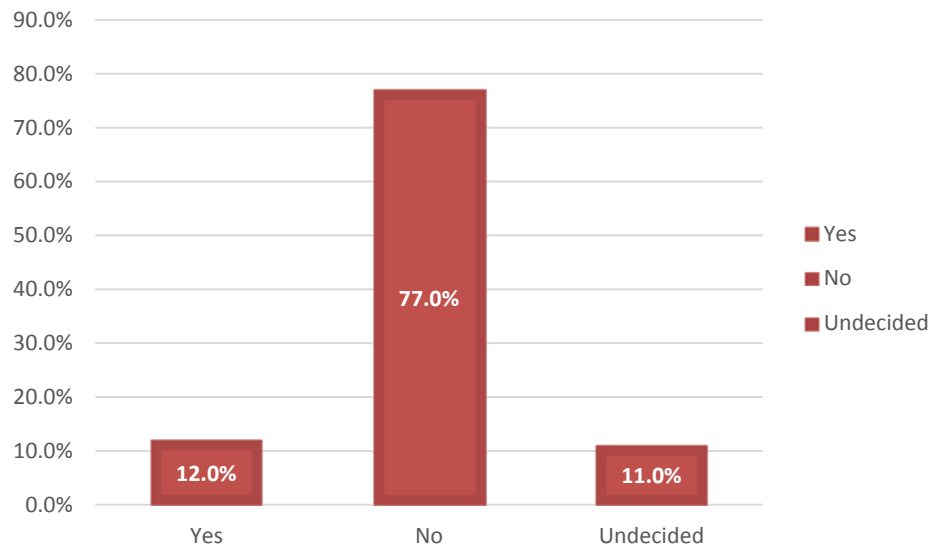
5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 31%
U.W.P - 65%
Undecided - 4%



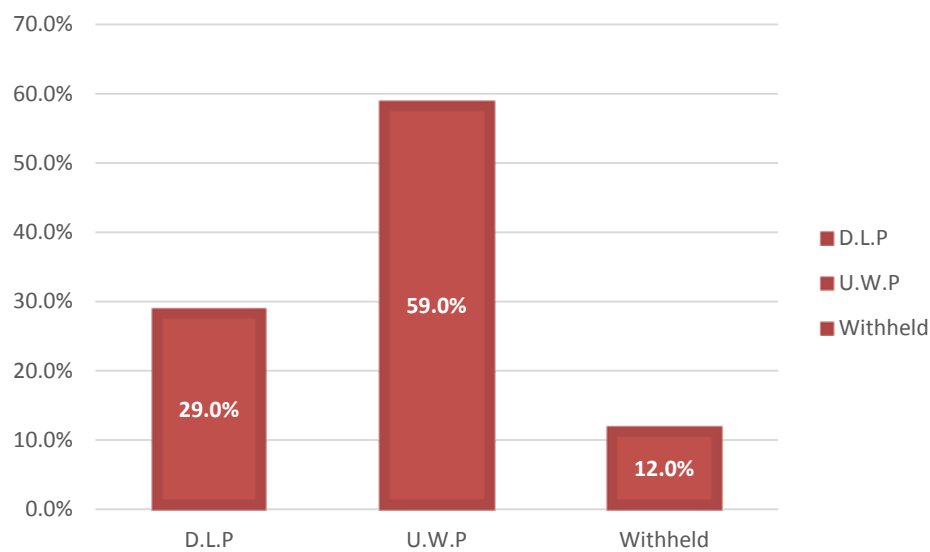
6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 12%
No - 77%
Undecided - 11%



7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 29%
U.W.P - 59%
Withheld - 12%

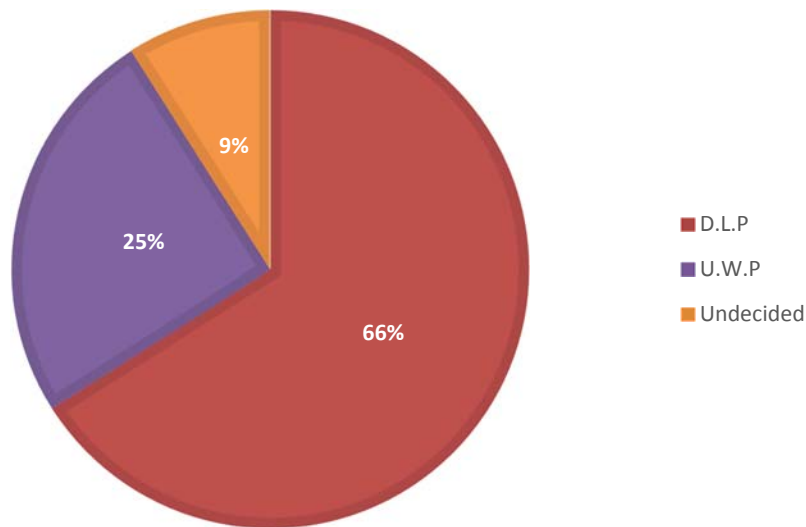


1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P Candidate - 66%

U.W.P Candidate - 25%

Undecided - 9%

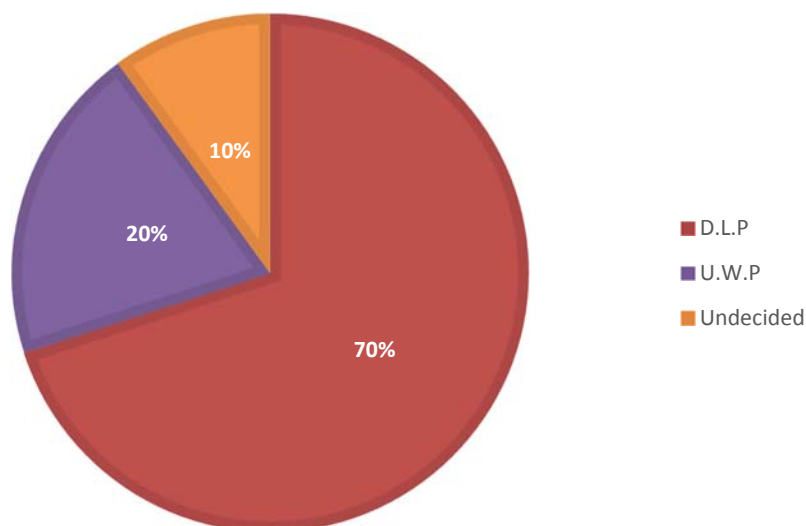


2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 70%

U.W.P - 20%

Undecided - 10%

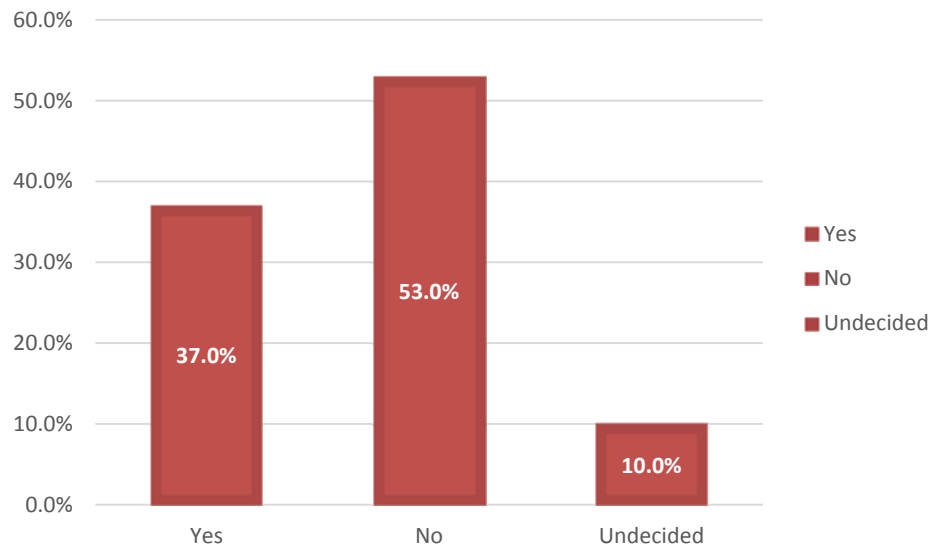


3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 37%

No - 53%

Undecided - 10%

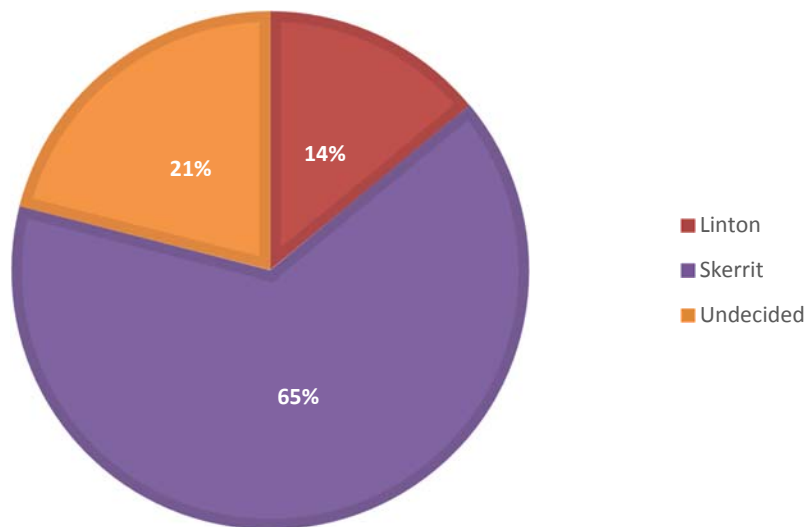


4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 14%

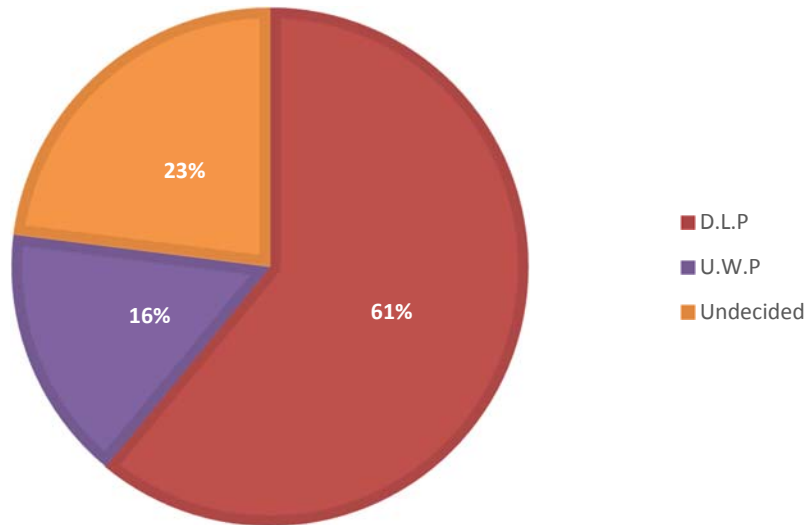
Skerrit - 65%

Undecided - 21%



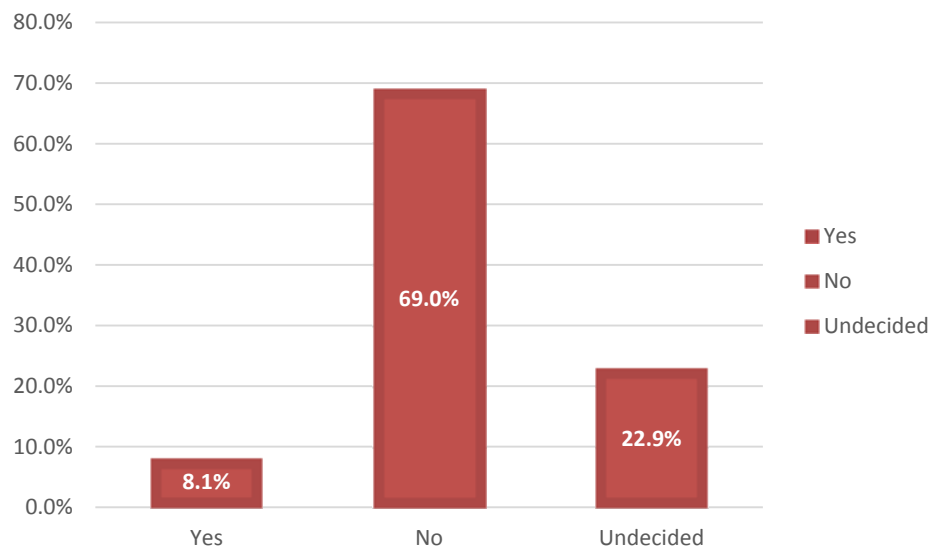
5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 61%
U.W.P - 16%
Undecided - 23%



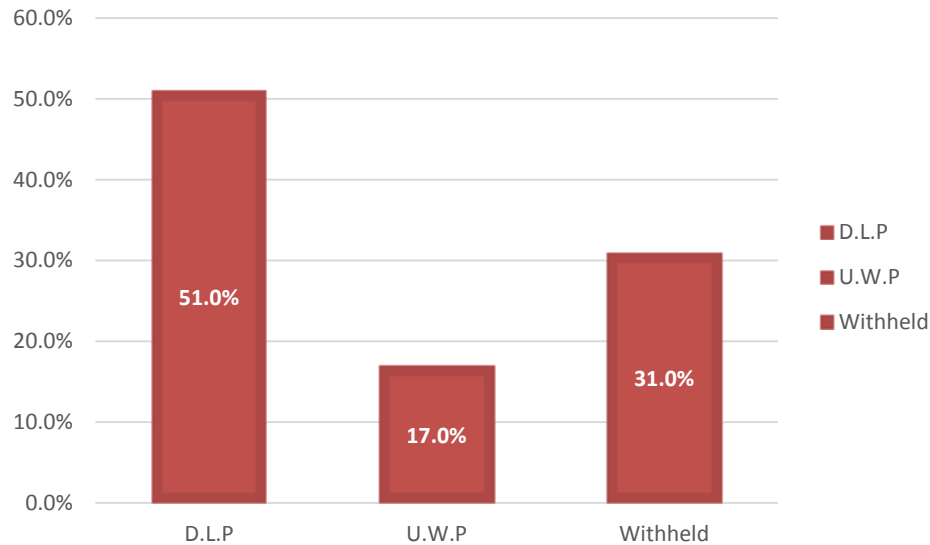
6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 8.1%
No - 69%
Undecided - 22.9%



7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

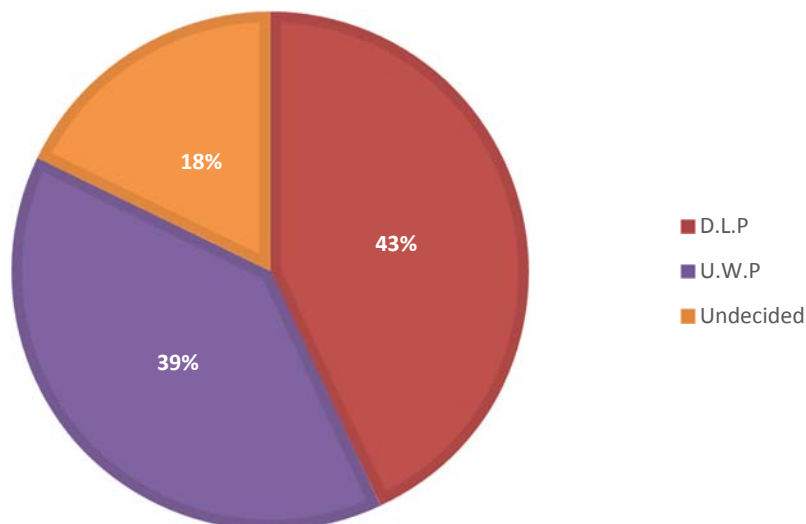
D.L.P - 51%
U.W.P - 17%
Withheld - 31%



MORNE JAUNE Ivor **STEPHENSON** (D.L.P) Thompson **FONTAINE** (U.W.P)

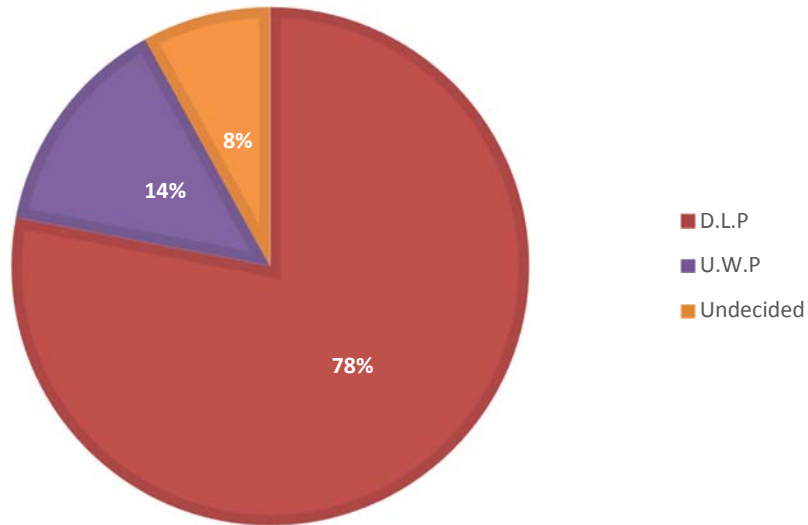
1. Question 1: Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 43%
U.W.P Candidate - 39.2%
Undecided - 17.8%



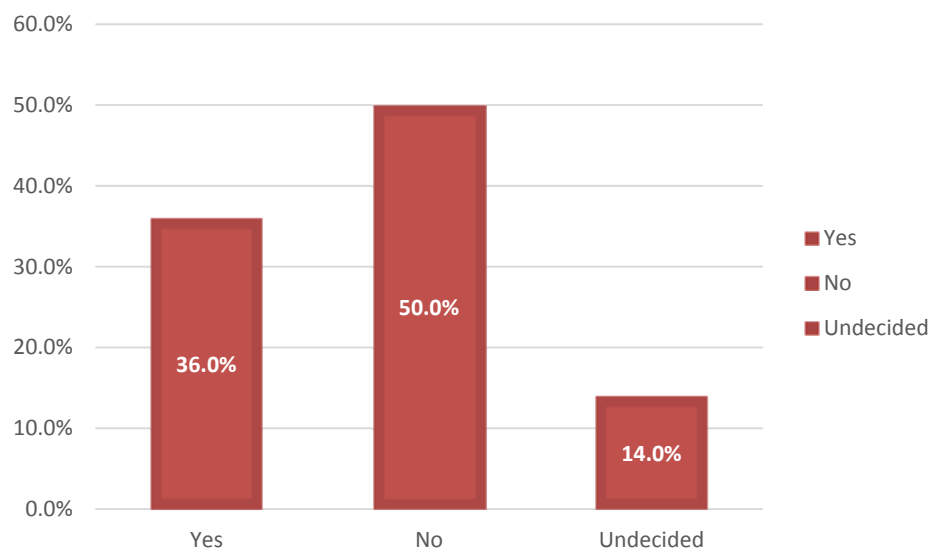
2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 78%
U.W.P - 14%
Undecided - 8%



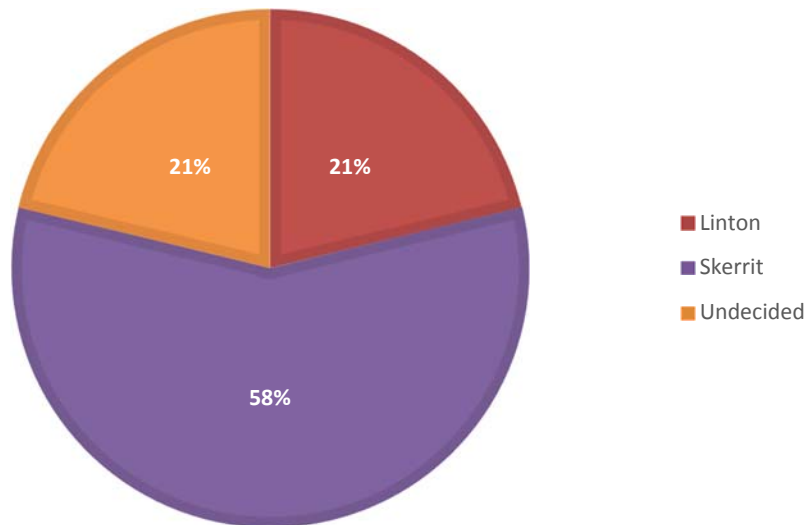
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the *Citizenship* by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 36%
No - 50%
Undecided - 14%



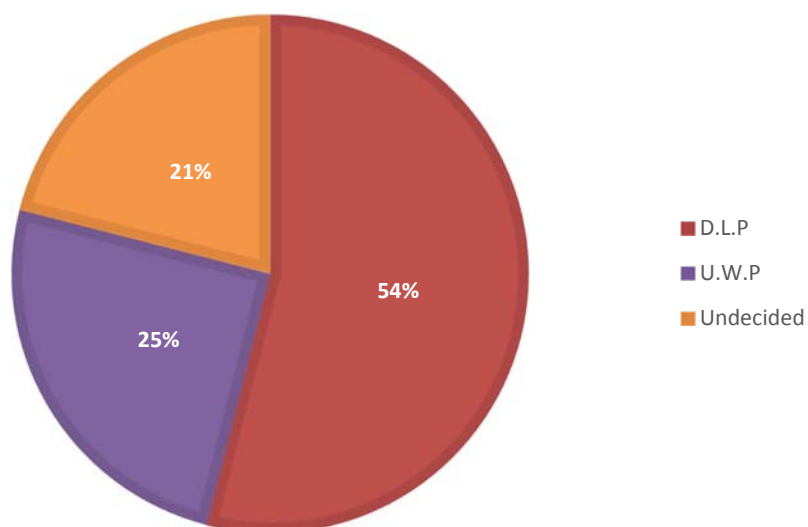
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 21%
Skerrit - 57%
Undecided - 21%



5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 54%
U.W.P - 25%
Undecided - 21%

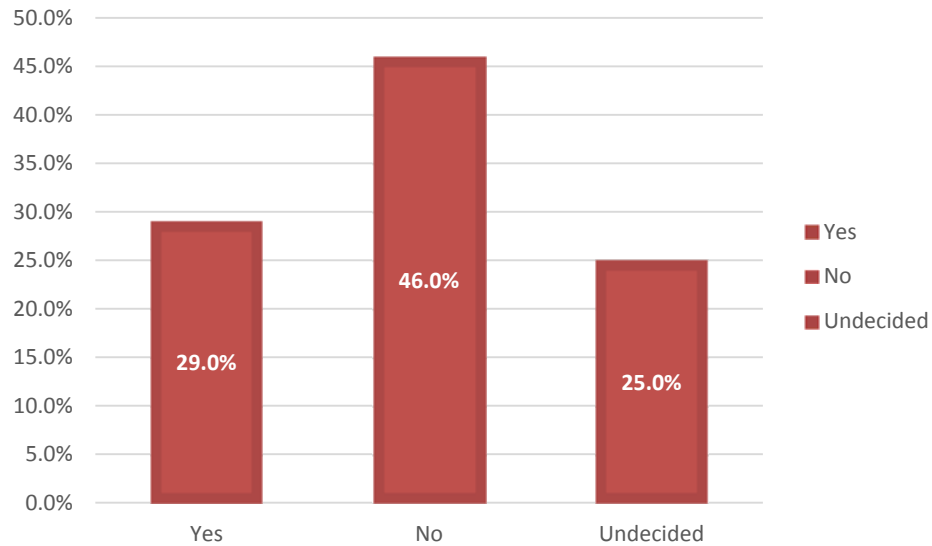


6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 29%

No - 46%

Undecided - 25%

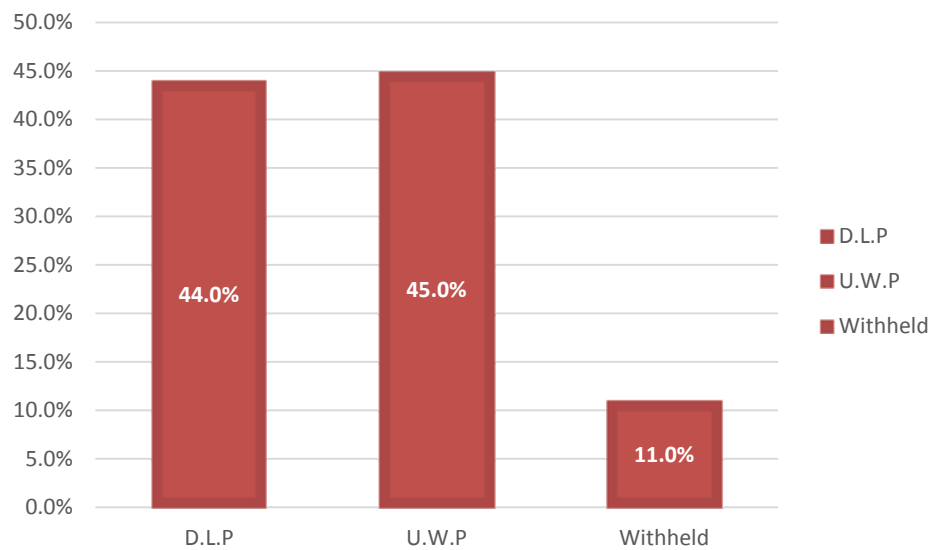


7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 44%

U.W.P - 45%

Withheld - 11%

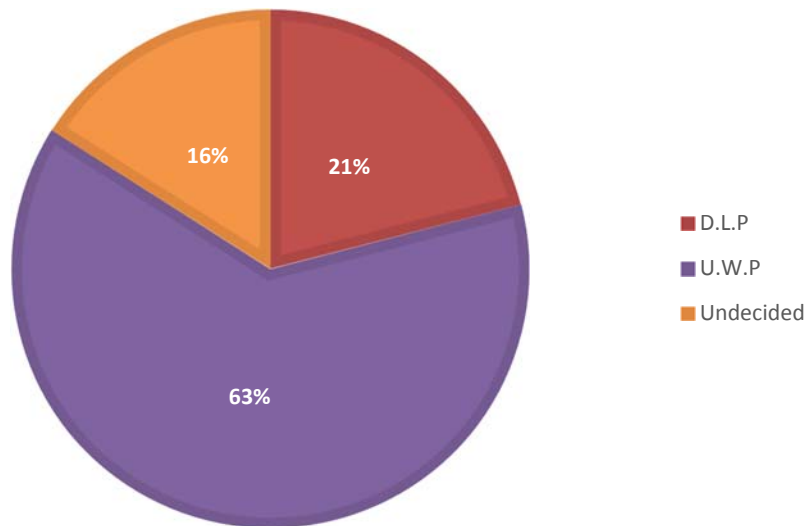


1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P Candidate - 21%

U.W.P Candidate - 63%

Undecided - 16%

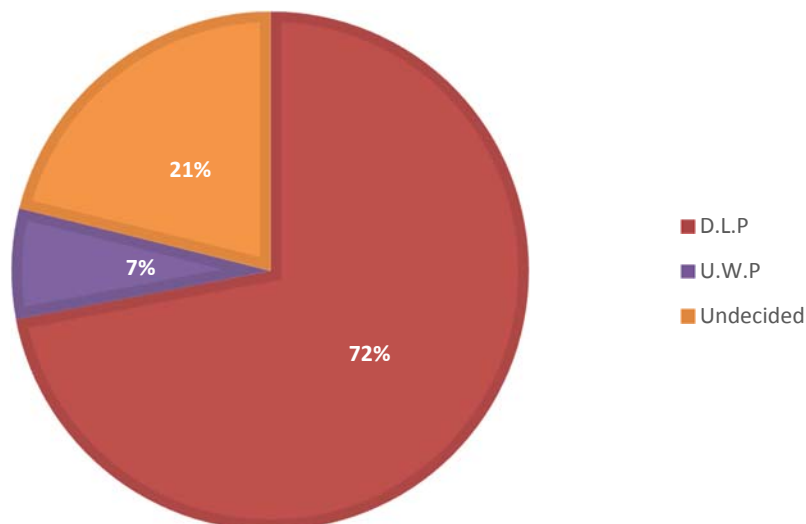


2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 72%

U.W.P - 6.9%

Undecided - 21.1%

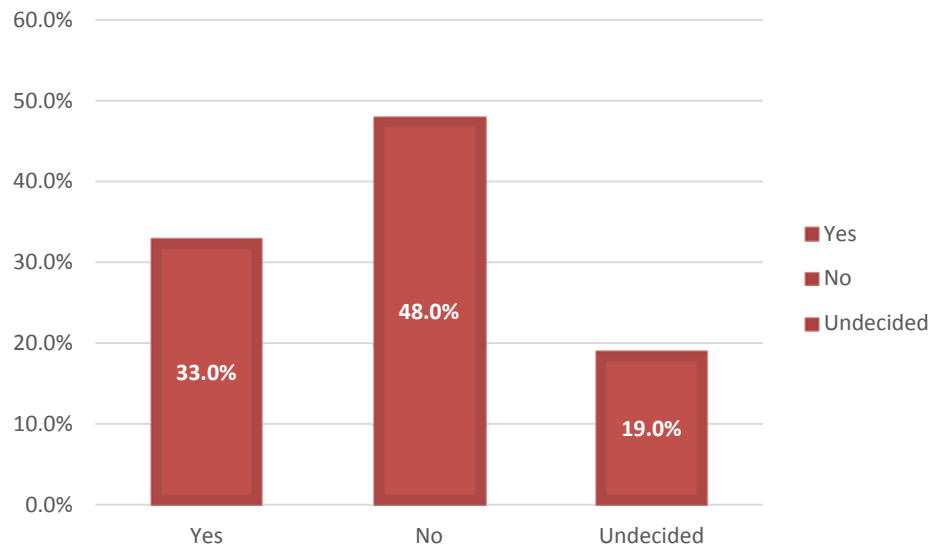


3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 33%

No - 48%

Undecided - 19%

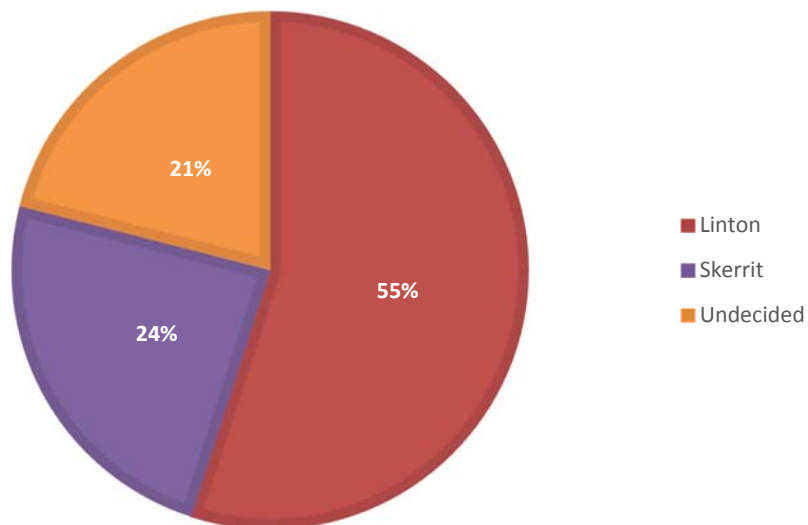


4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 55%

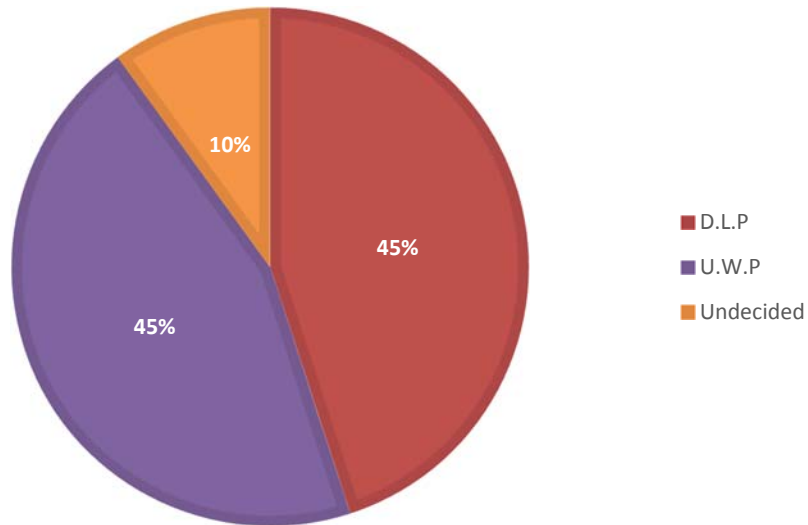
Skerrit - 24%

Undecided - 21%



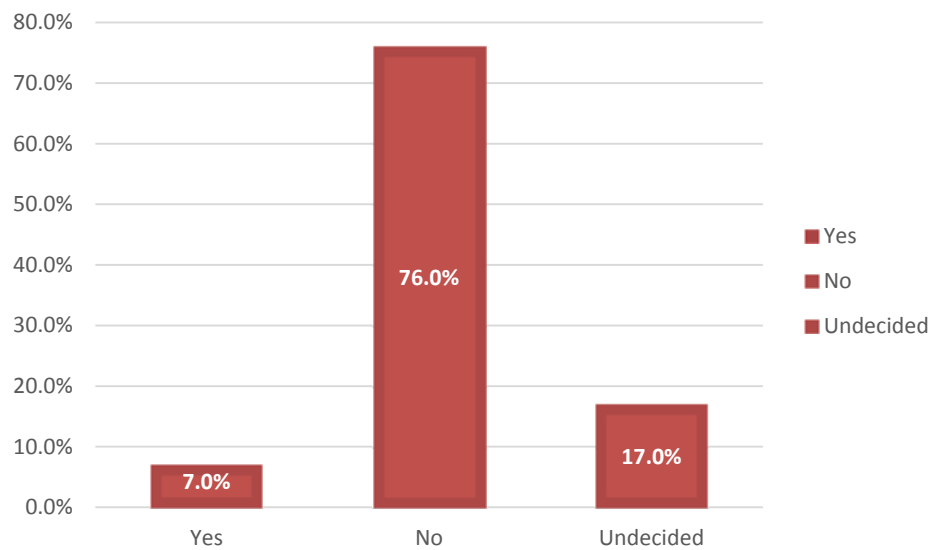
5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 45%
U.W.P - 45%
Undecided - 10%



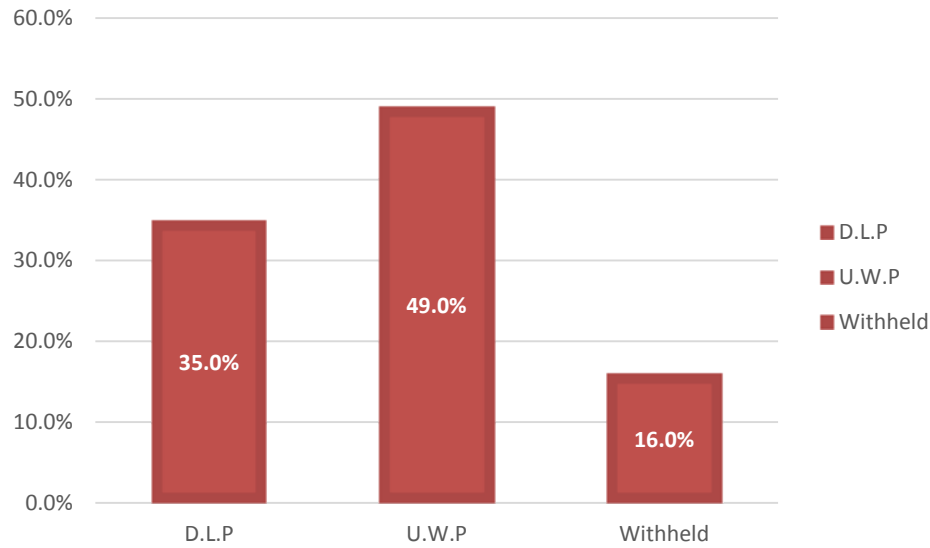
6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 7%
No - 76%
Undecided - 17%



7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

D.L.P - 35%
 U.W.P - 49%
 Withheld - 16 %



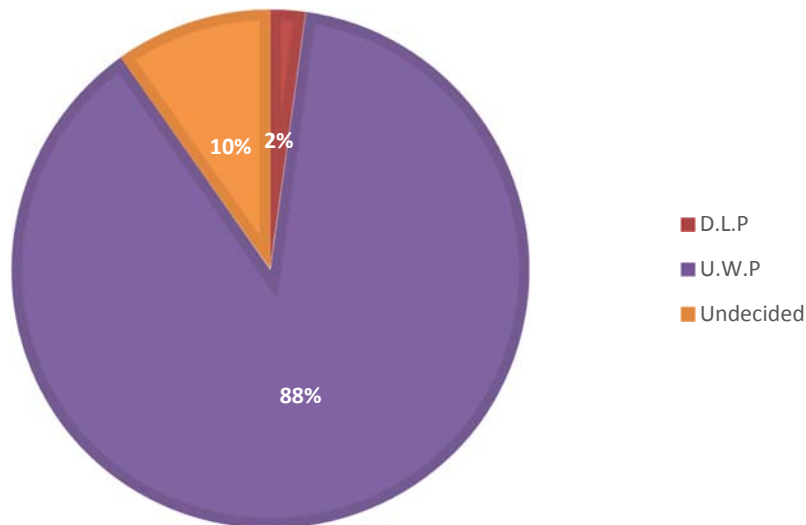
ROSEAU NORTH

Julius C. TIMOTHY (D.L.P)

Daniel LUGAY (U.W.P)

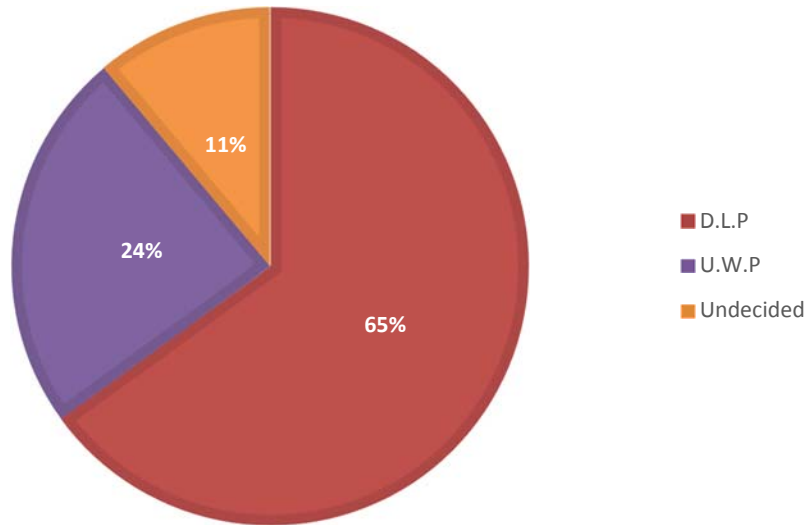
1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 2.2%
U.W.P Candidate - 88%
 Undecided - 9.8%



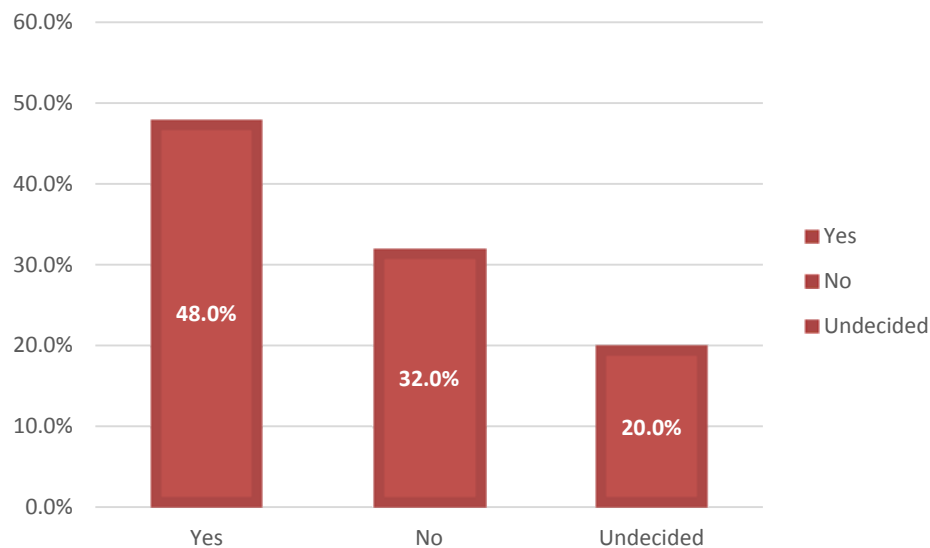
2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 65%
U.W.P - 23.9%
Undecided - 11.1%



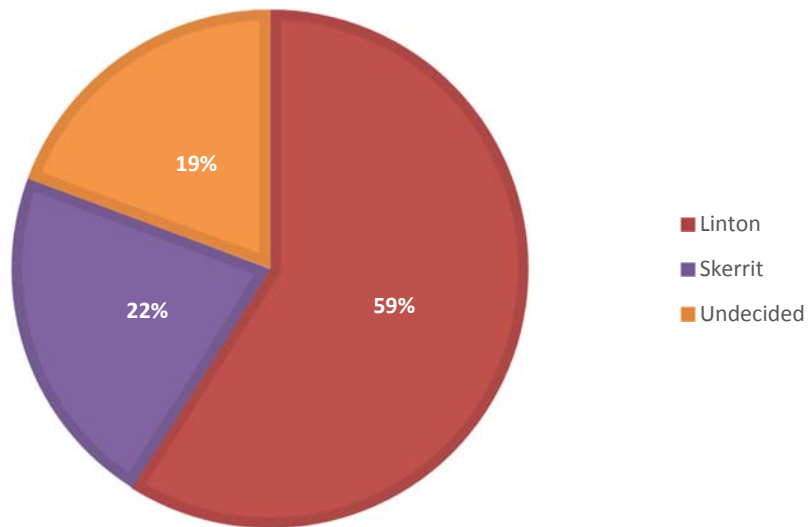
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 48%
No - 32%
Undecided - 20%



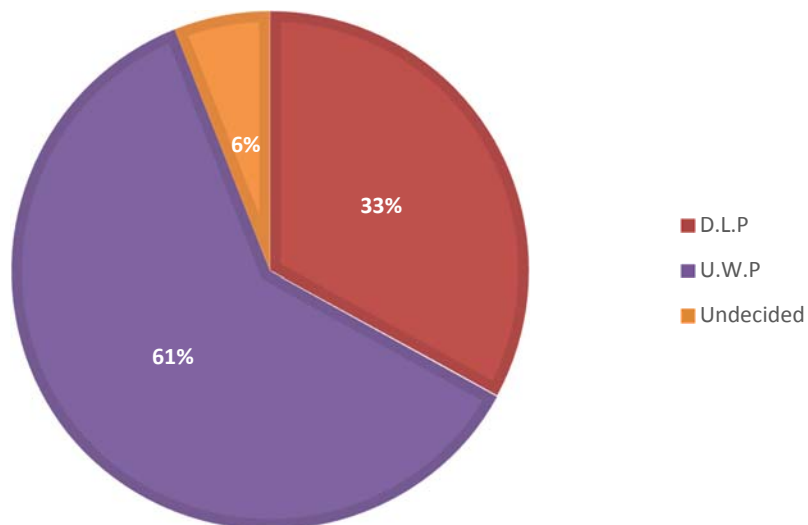
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 59%
Skerrit - 21.7%
Undecided - 19.3%



5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 33%
U.W.P - 61%
Undecided - 6%

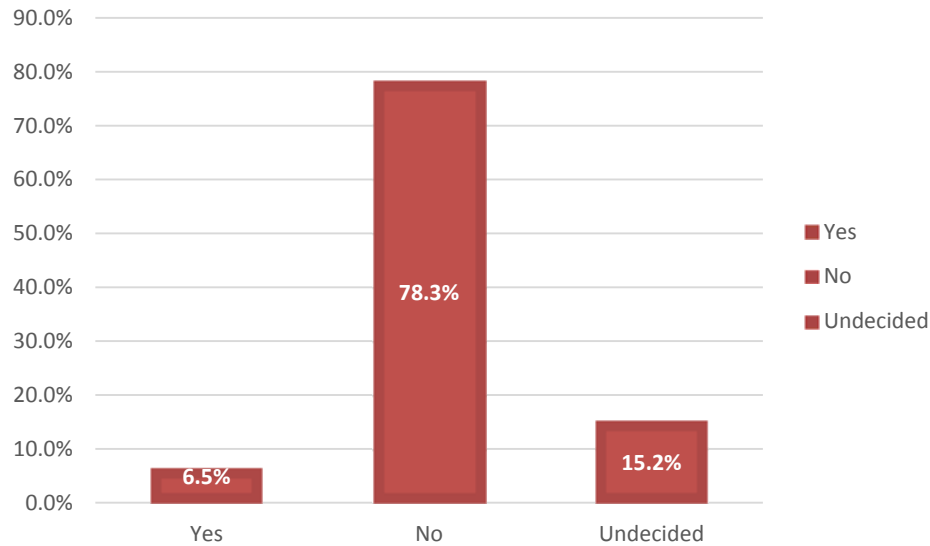


6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 6.5%

No - 78.3%

Undecided - 15.2%

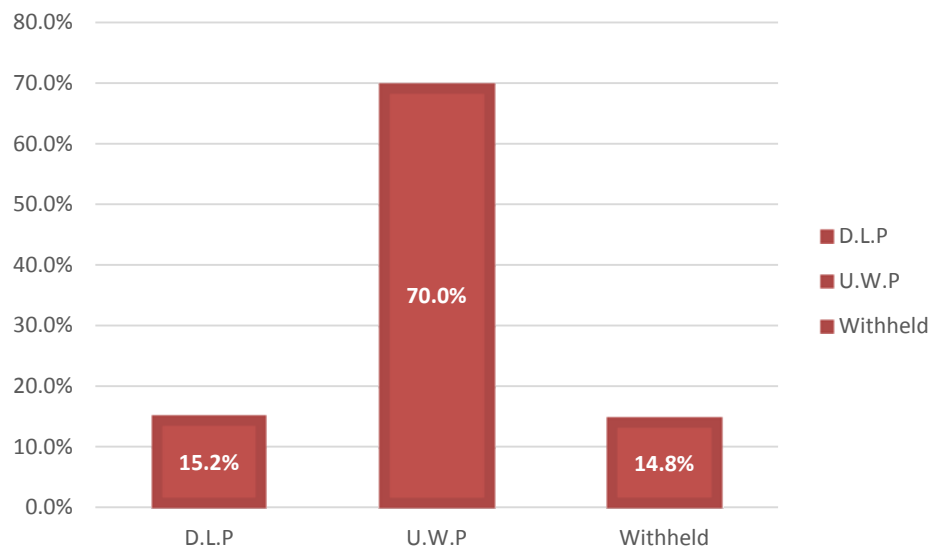


7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 15.2%

U.W.P - 70%

Withheld - 14.8 %

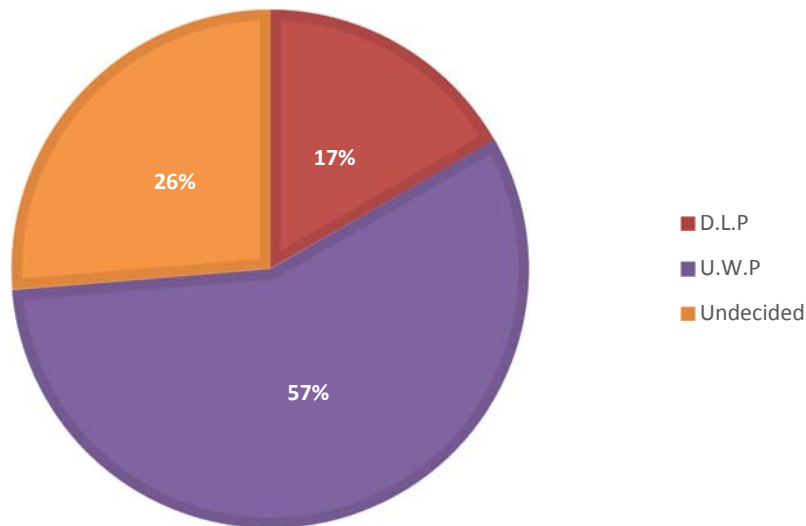


1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P Candidate - 16.7%

U.W.P Candidate - 57%

Undecided - 26.3%

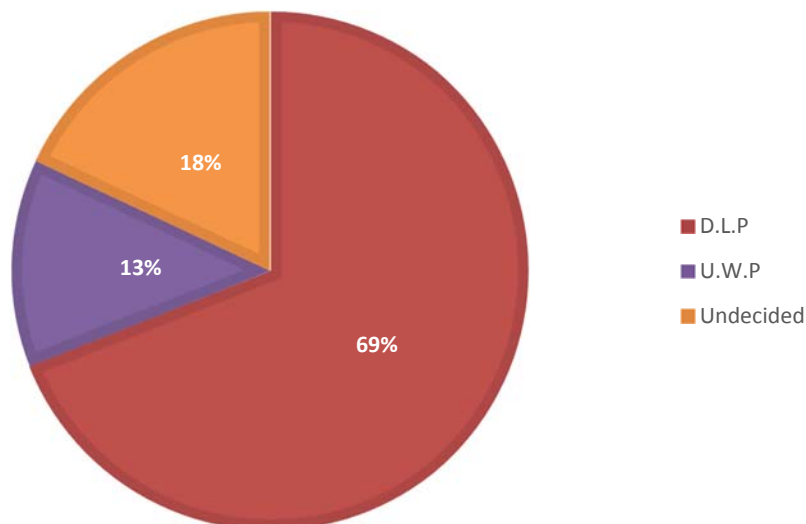


2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 69%

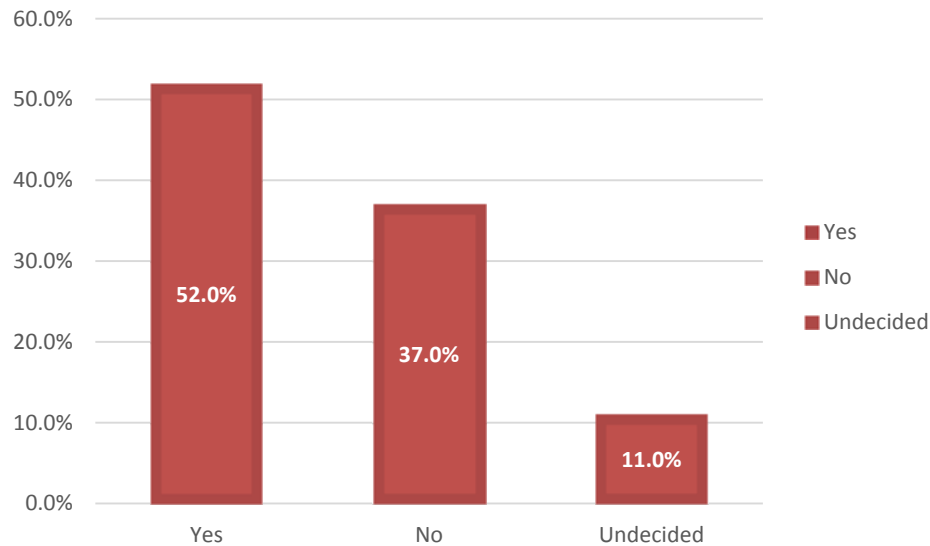
U.W.P - 13%

Undecided - 18%



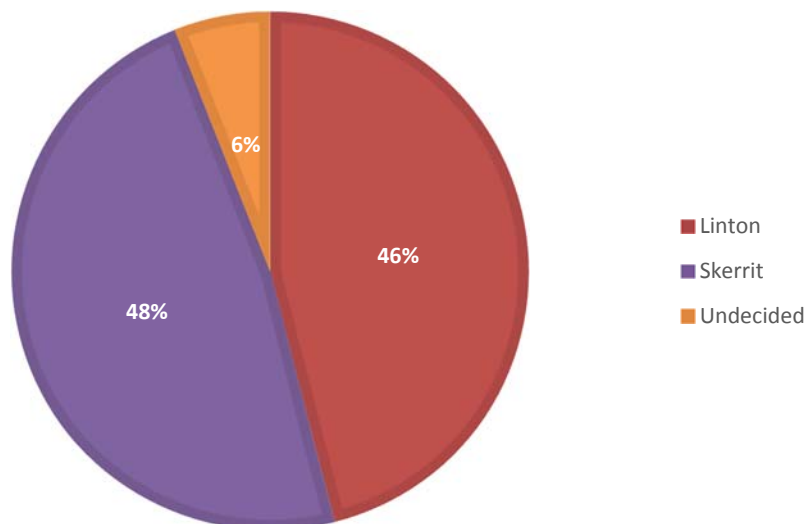
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 52%
No - 37%
Undecided - 11%



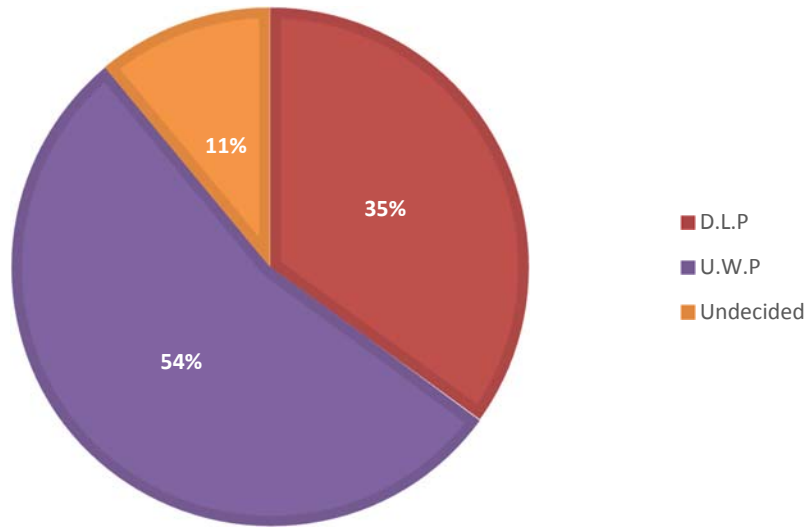
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 46%
Skerrit - 48%
Undecided - 6%



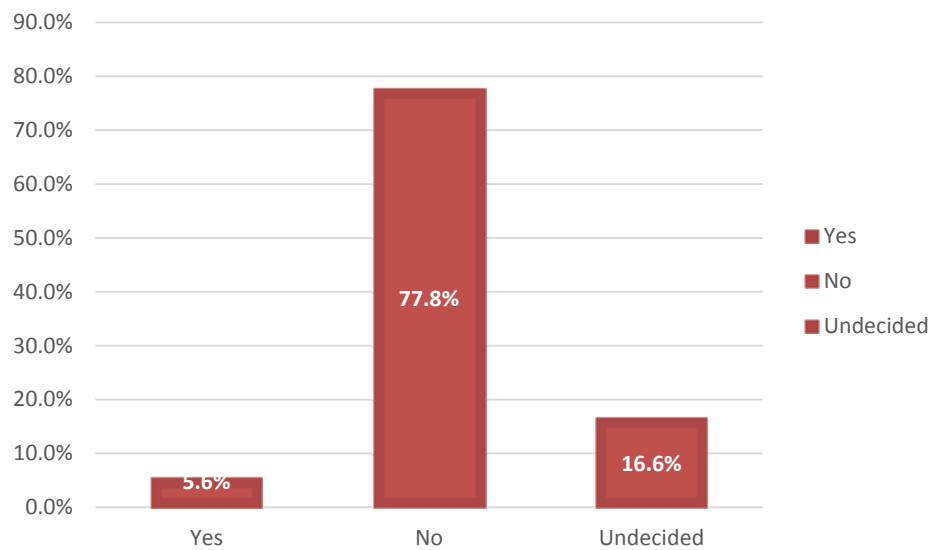
5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 35%
U.W.P - 54%
Undecided - 11%



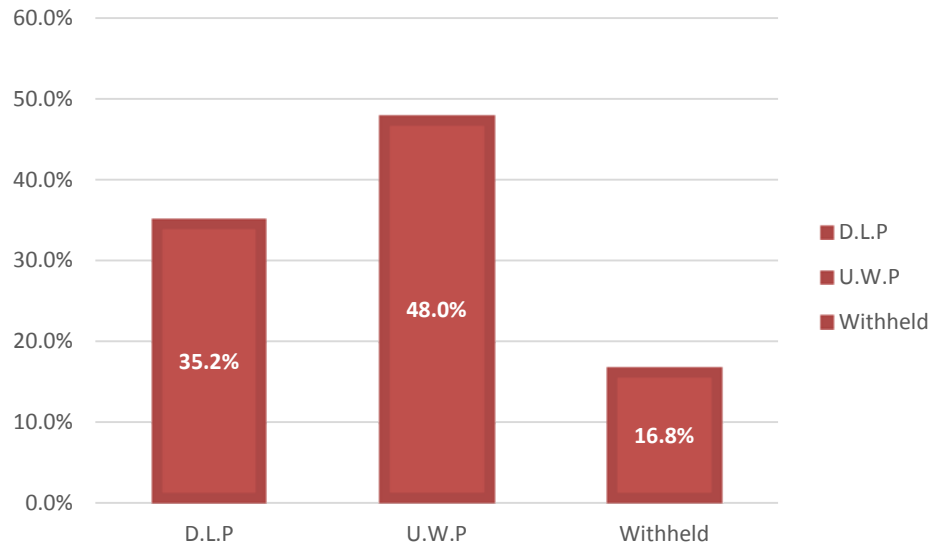
6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 5.6%
No - 77.8%
Undecided - 16.6%



7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

D.L.P - 35.2%
 U.W.P - 48%
 Withheld - 16.8 %



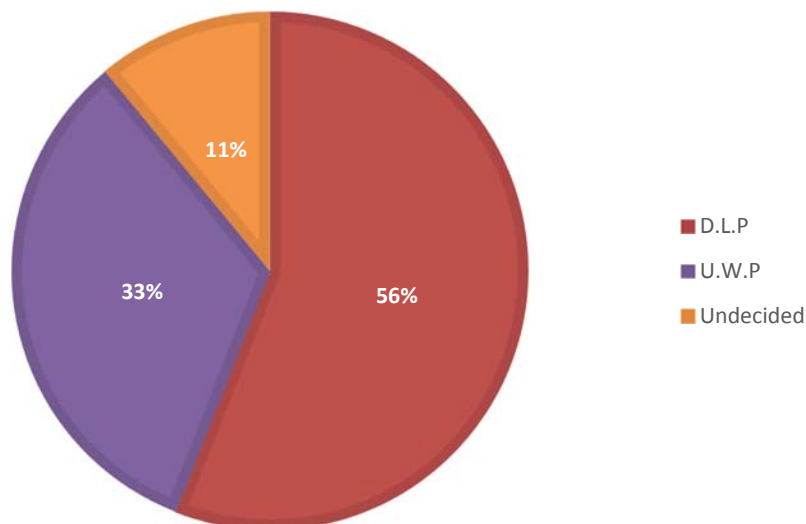
ROSEAU VALLEY

John Collin MCINTYRE (D.L.P)

Ronald CHARLES (U.W.P)

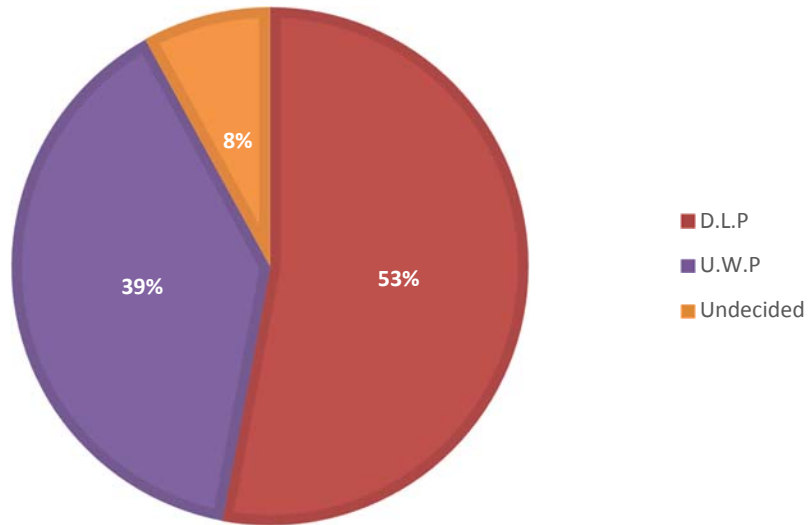
1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 56%
 U.W.P Candidate - 33%
 Undecided - 11%



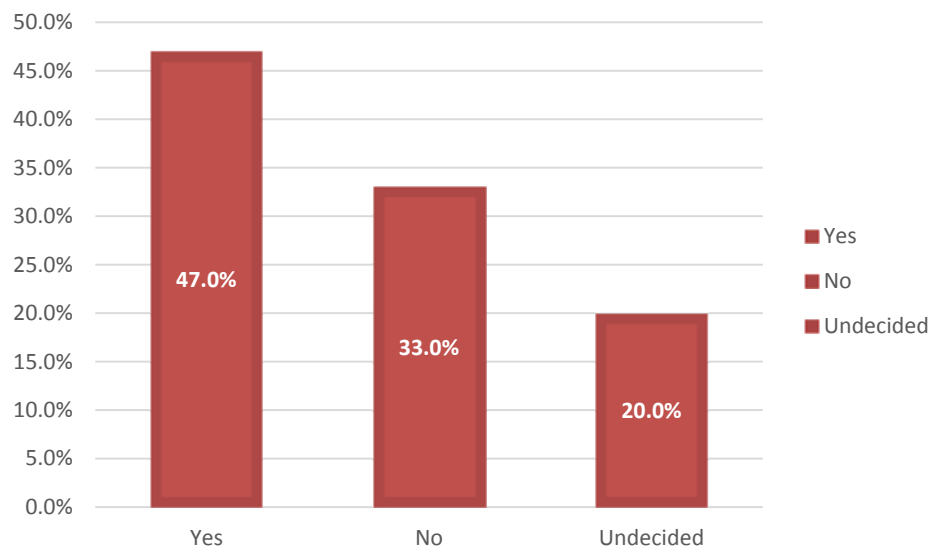
2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 53%
U.W.P - 39%
Undecided - 8%



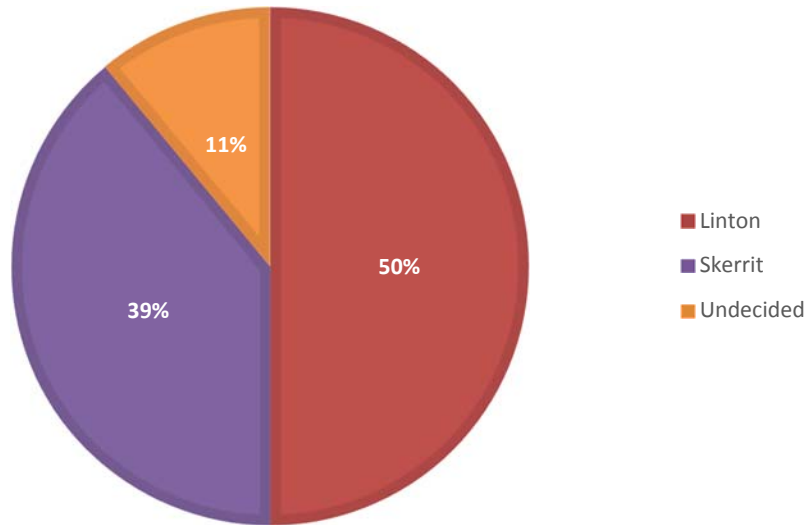
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 47%
No - 33%
Undecided - 20%



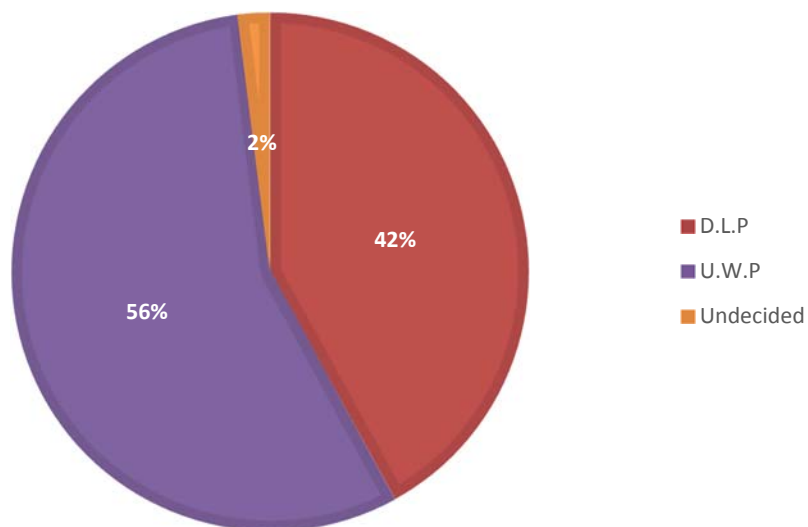
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 50%
Skerrit - 39%
Undecided - 11%



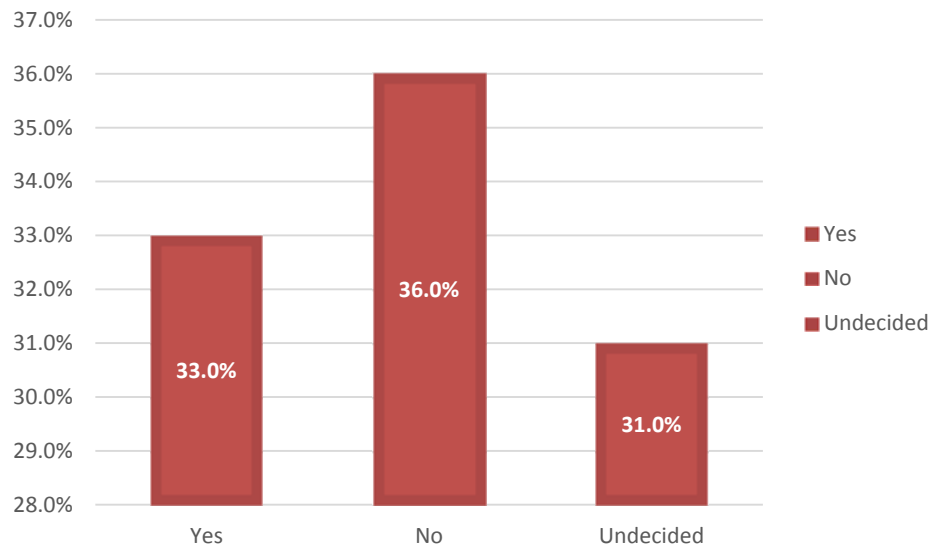
5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 42%
U.W.P - 56%
Undecided - 2%



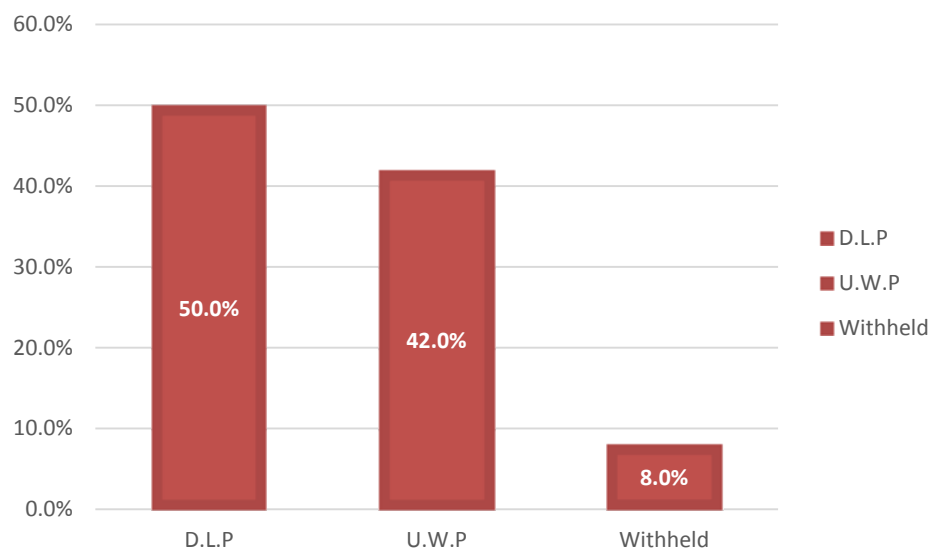
6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 33%
No - 36%
Undecided - 31%



7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 50%
U.W.P - 42%
Withheld - 8 %

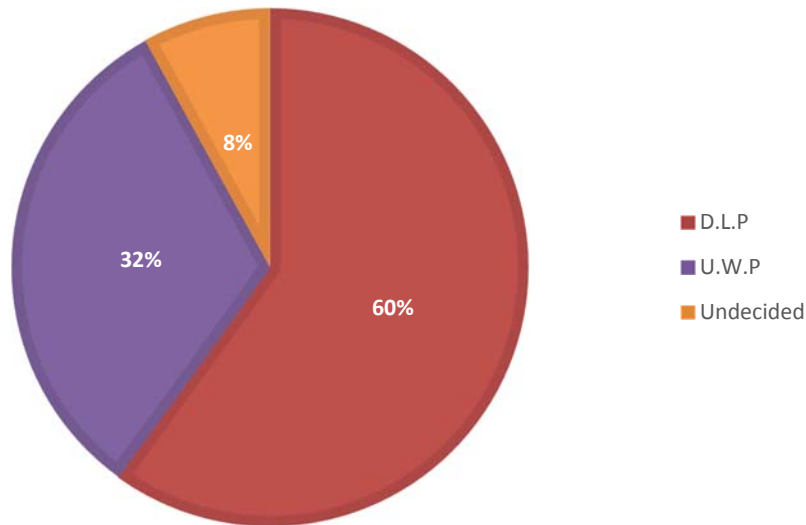


1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P Candidate - 60%

U.W.P Candidate - 32%

Undecided - 8%

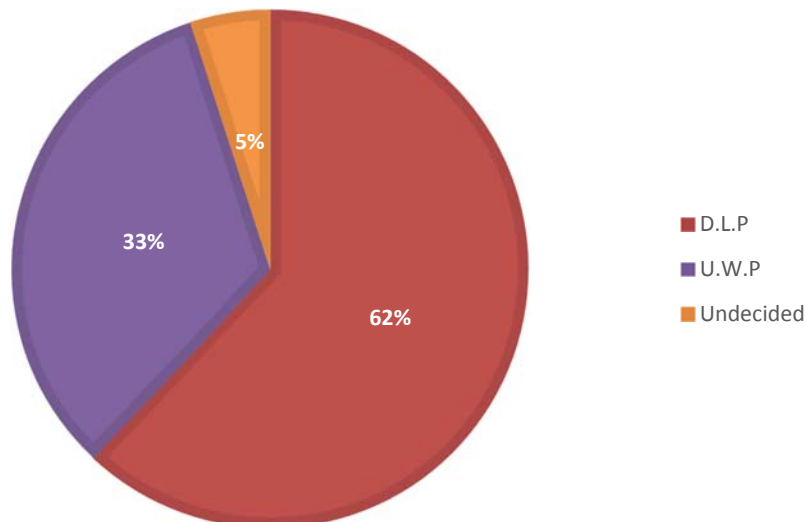


2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 62%

U.W.P - 33%

Undecided - 5%

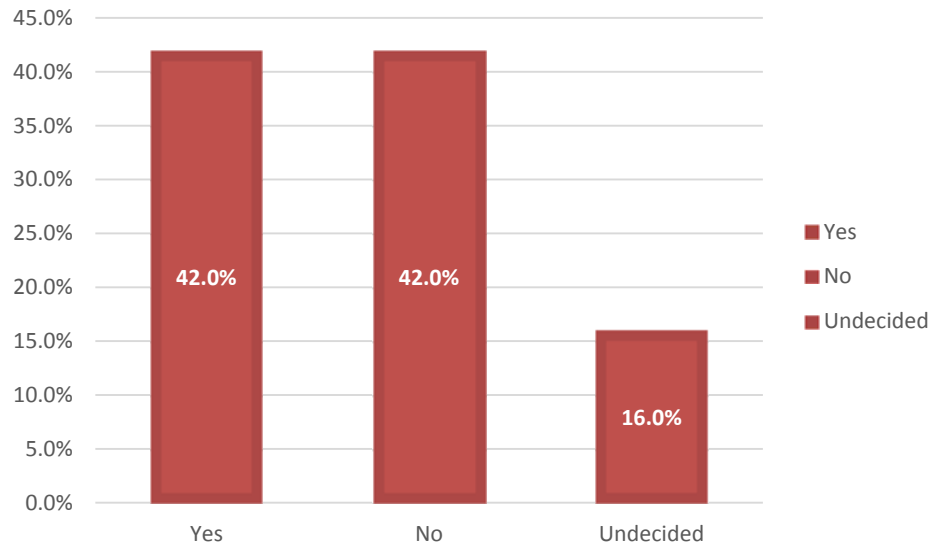


3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 42%

No - 42%

Undecided - 16%

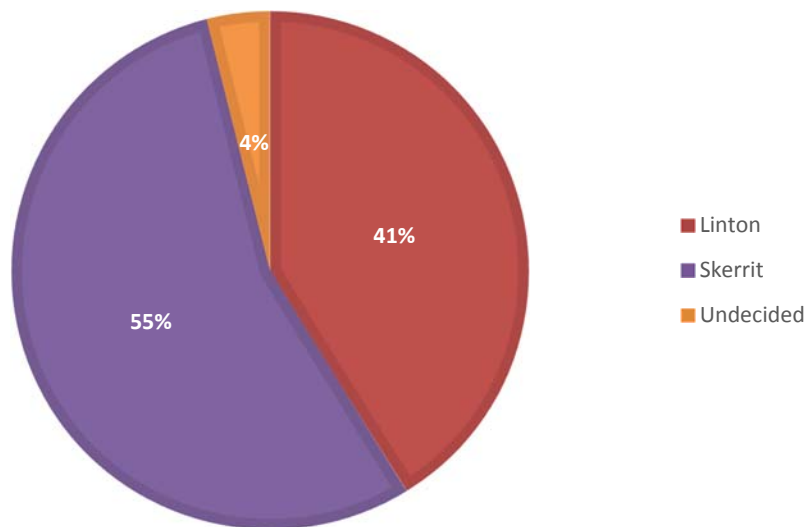


4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 42%

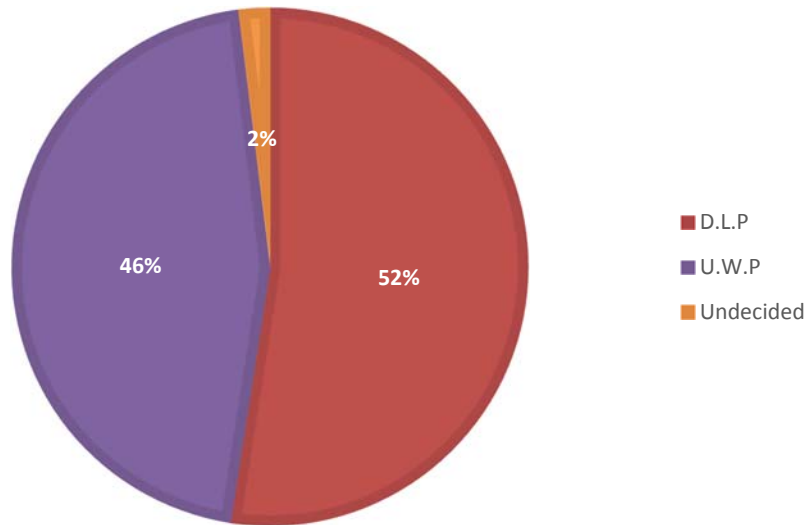
Skerrit - 56%

Undecided - 4%



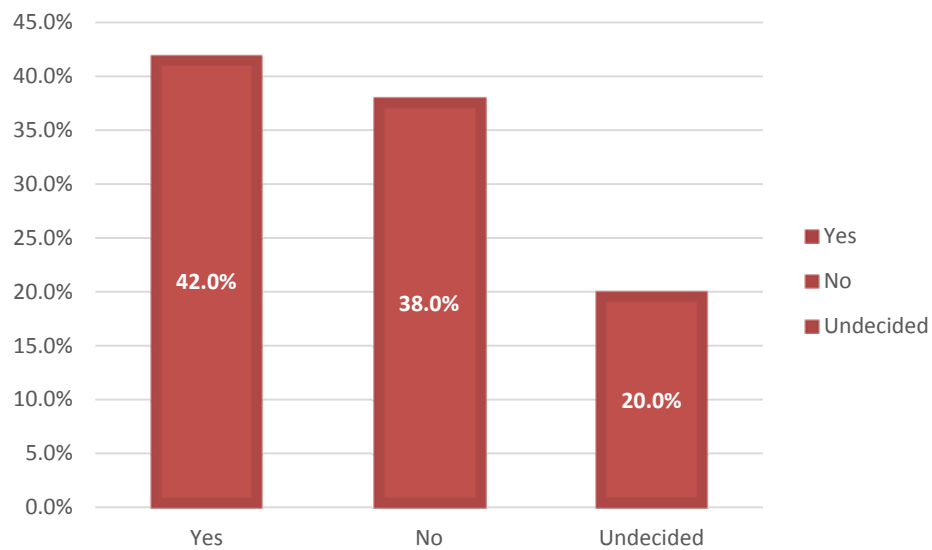
5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 53%
U.W.P - 46%
Undecided - 2%



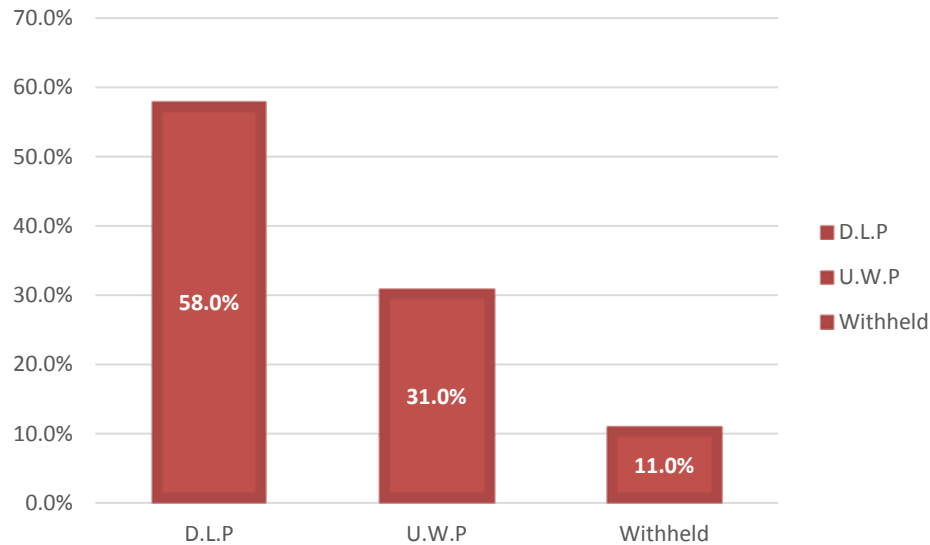
6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 42%
No - 38%
Undecided - 20%



7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

D.L.P - 58%
U.W.P - 31%
Withheld - 11%



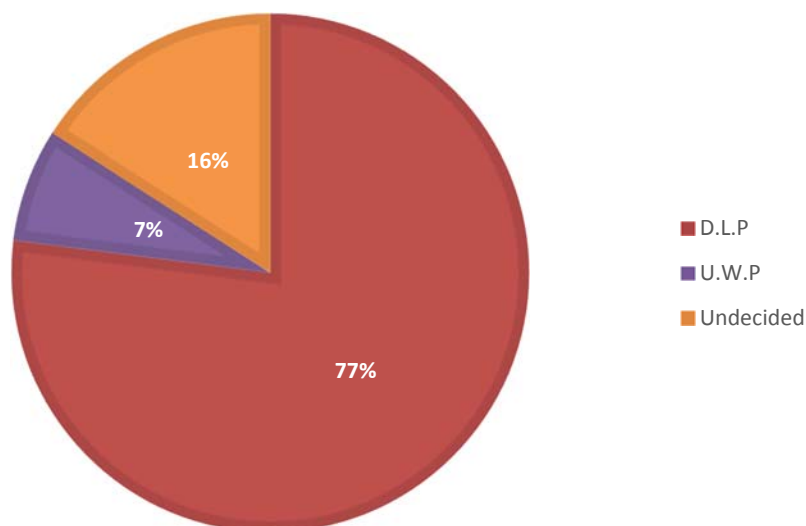
SOUFRIERE

Denise **CHARLES** (D.L.P)

Higgs ADAMS (U.W.P)

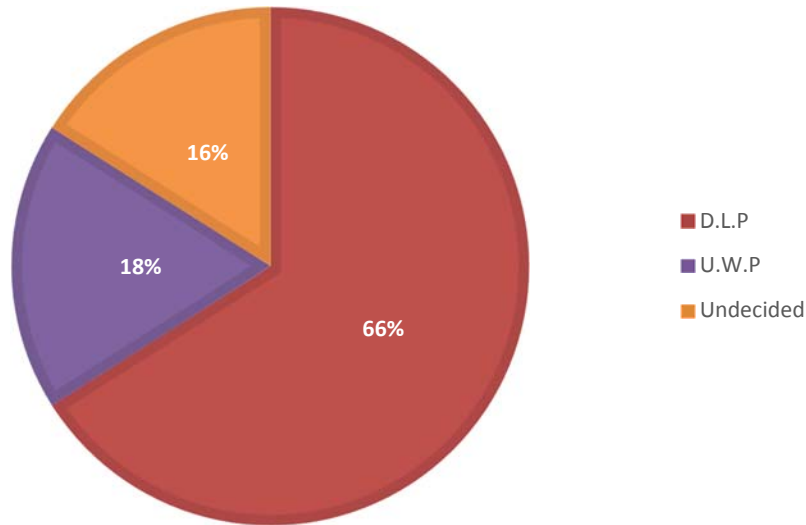
1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 77%
U.W.P Candidate - 7.1%
Undecided - 15.9%



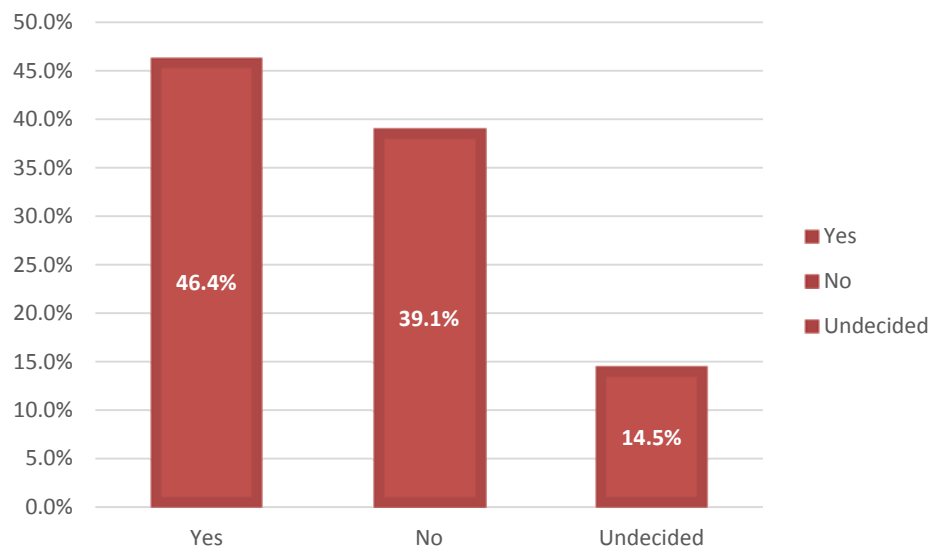
2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 66%
U.W.P - 18%
Undecided - 16%



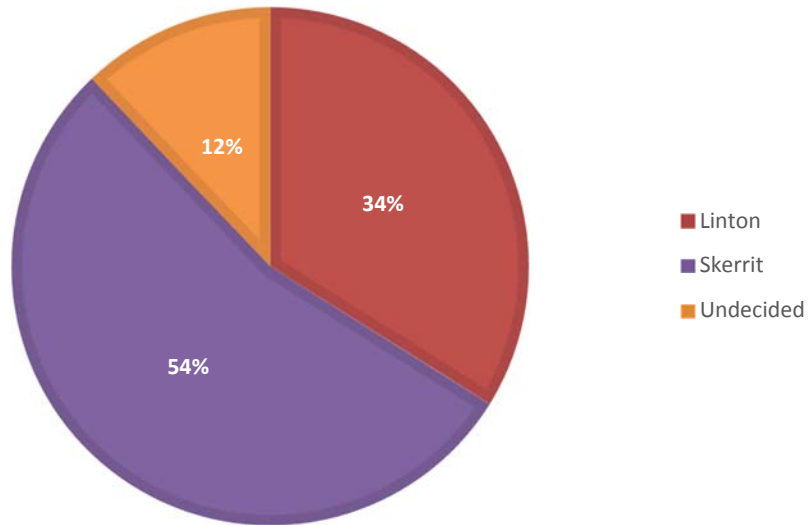
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 46.4%
No - 39.1%
Undecided - 14.5%



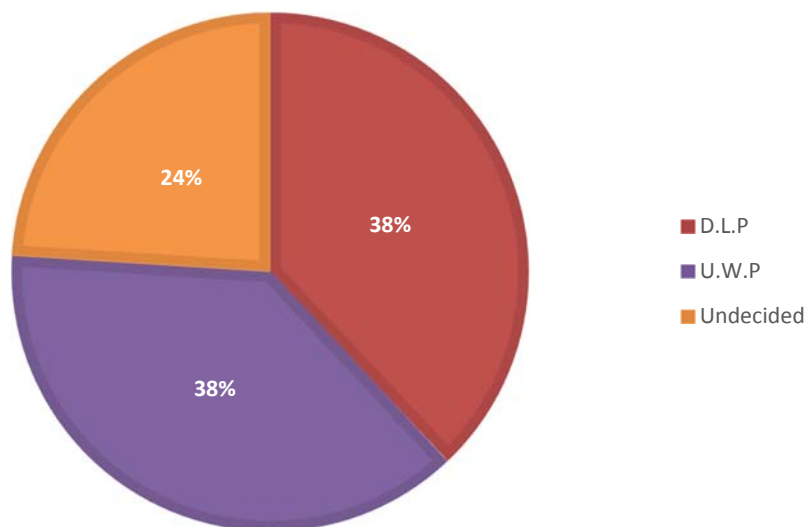
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 33.9%
Skerrit - 54%
Undecided - 12.1%



5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 38%
U.W.P - 38%
Undecided - 24%

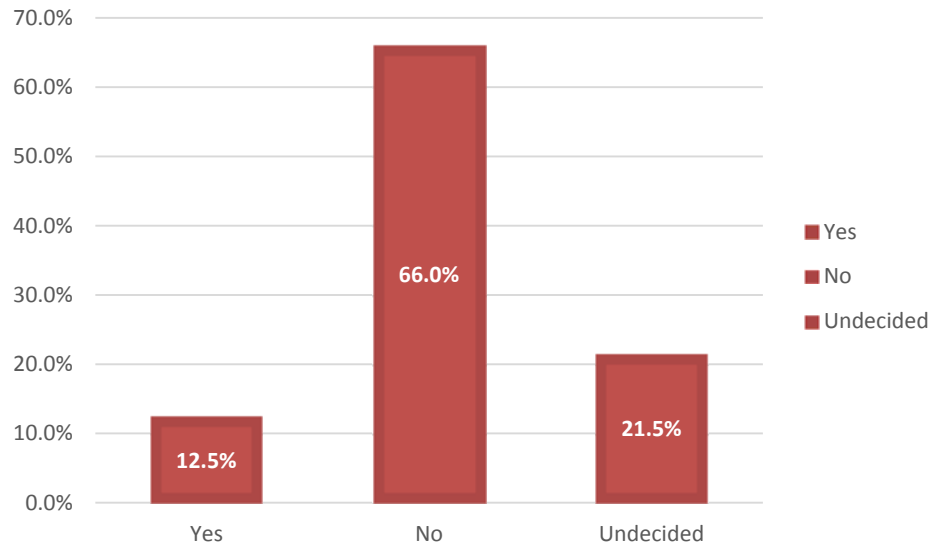


6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 12.5%

No - 66%

Undecided - 21.5%

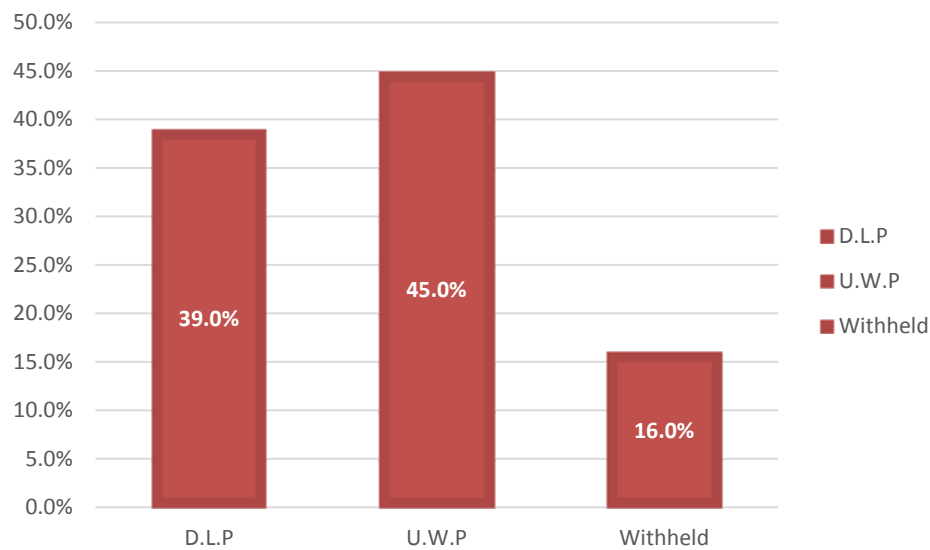


7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 39%

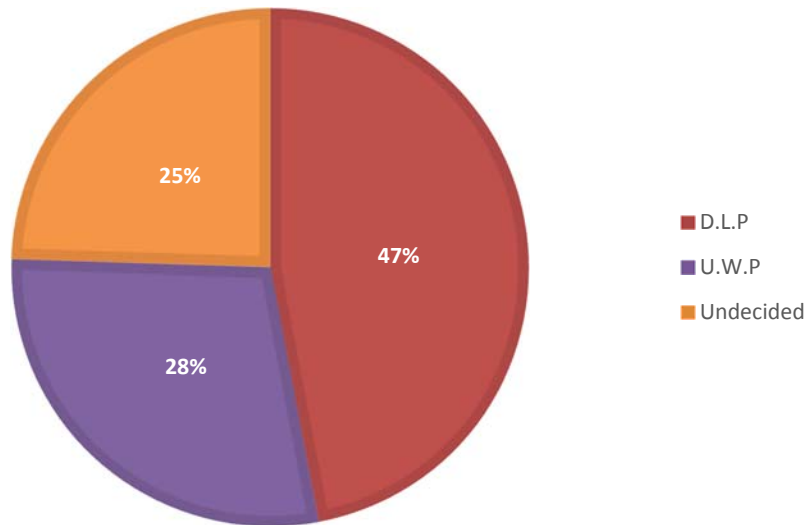
U.W.P - 45%

Withheld - 16%



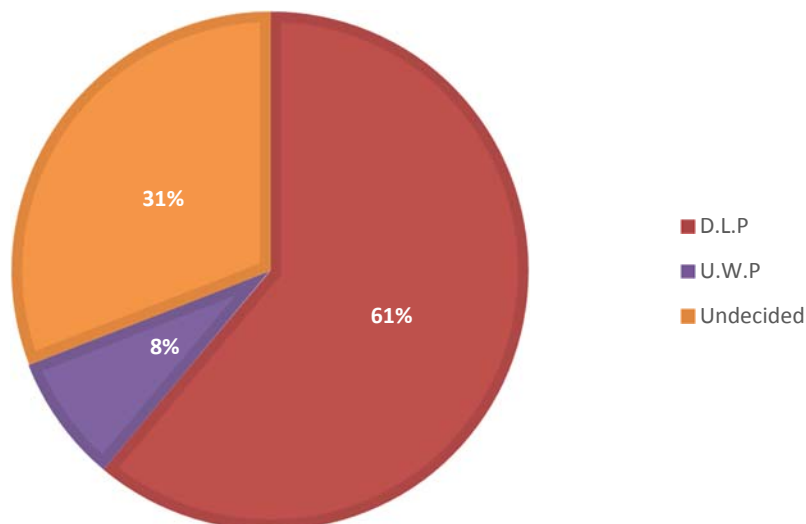
1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P Candidate - 47%
U.W.P Candidate - 28.5%
Undecided - 24.5%



2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 61.1%
U.W.P - 8%
Undecided - 30.9

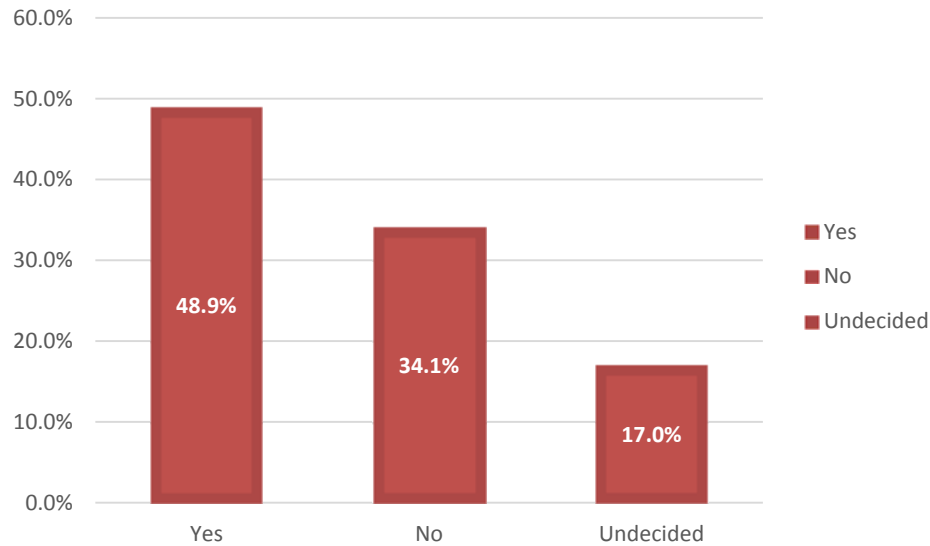


3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 48.9%

No - 34.1%

Undecided - 17%

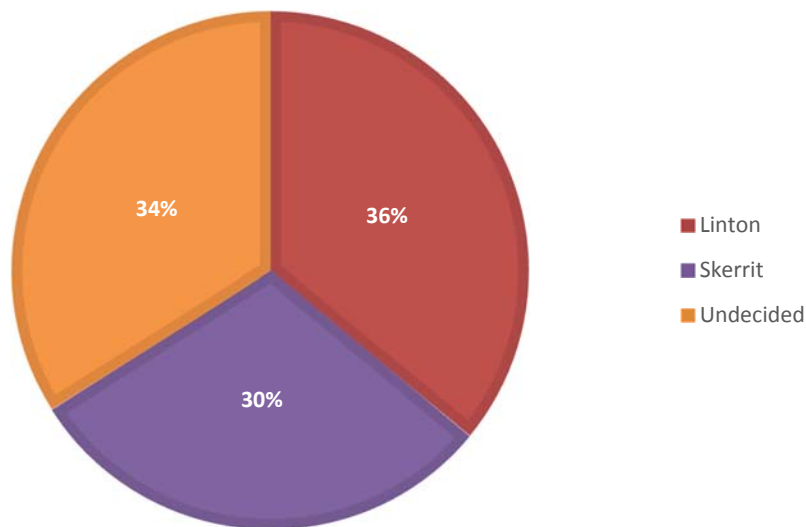


4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 36%

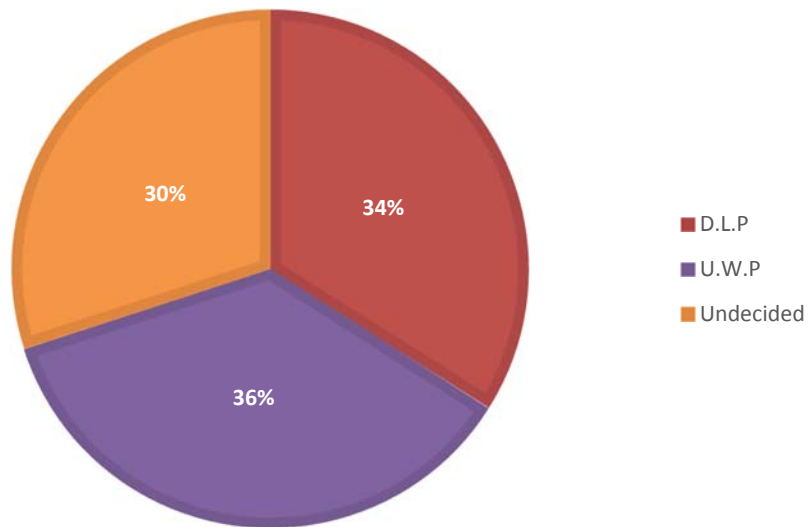
Skerrit - 30%

Undecided - 34%



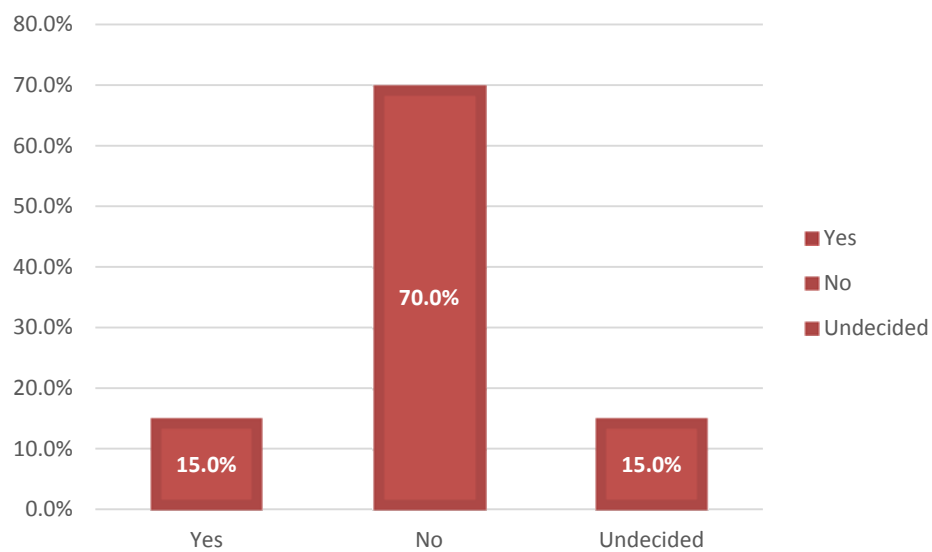
5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 34%
U.W.P - 36%
Undecided - 30%



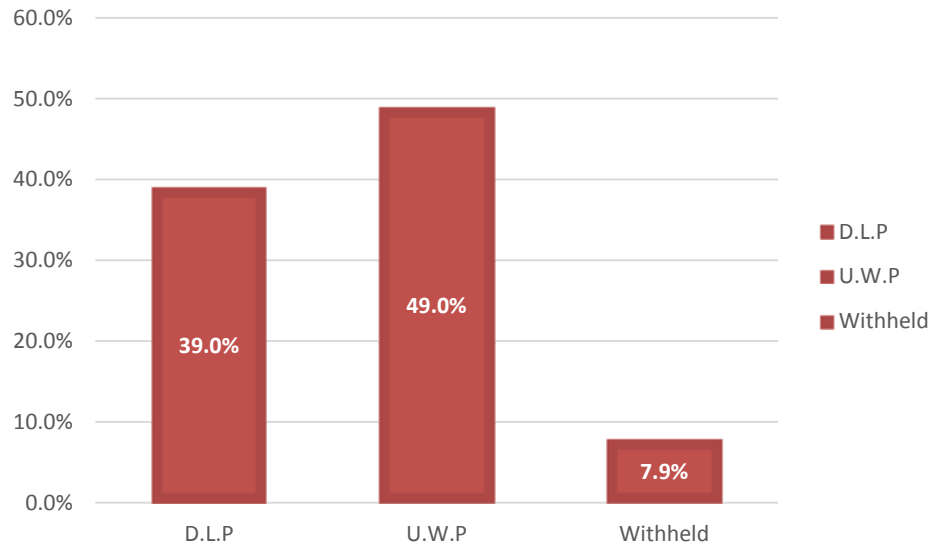
6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 15%
No - 70%
Undecided - 15%



7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

D.L.P - 39%
 U.W.P - 49%
 Withheld - 4.1 %
 Did Not Vote - 7.9%



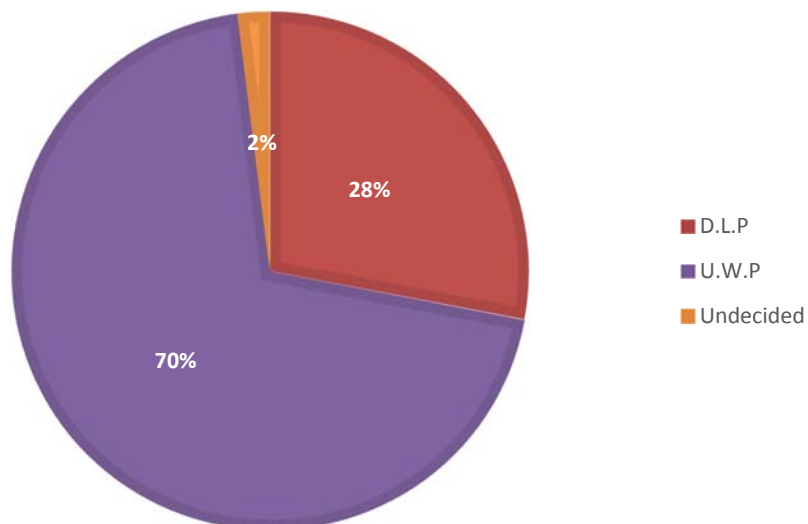
WESLEY

Athenia BENJAMIN (D.L.P)

Ezekiel **BAZIL** (U.W.P)

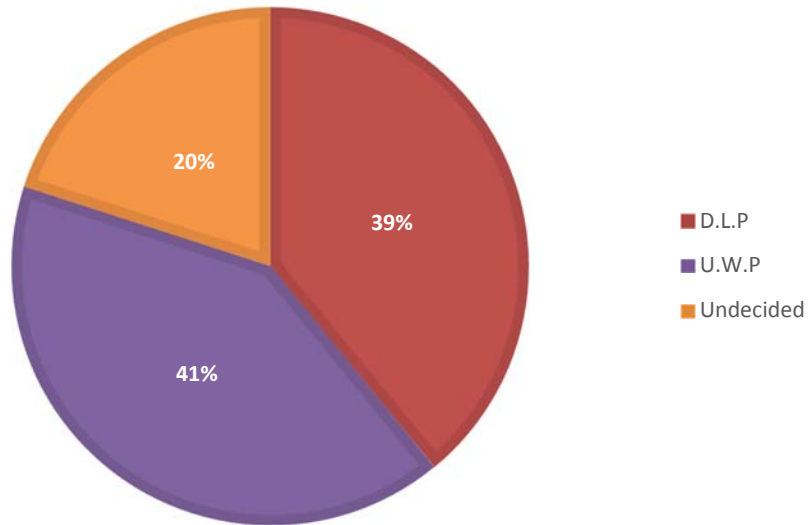
1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 28%
U.W.P Candidate - 70%
 Undecided - 2%



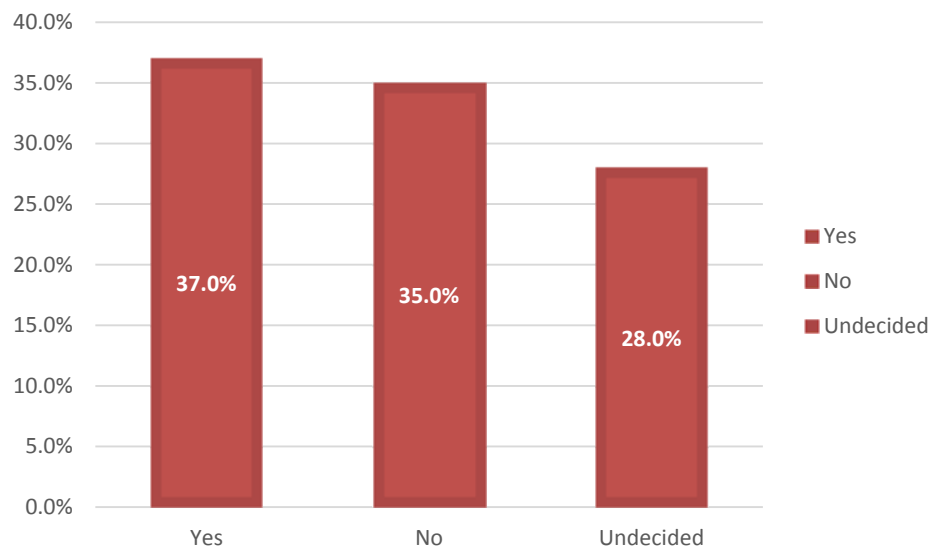
2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 43%
U.W.P - 45%
Undecided - 22%



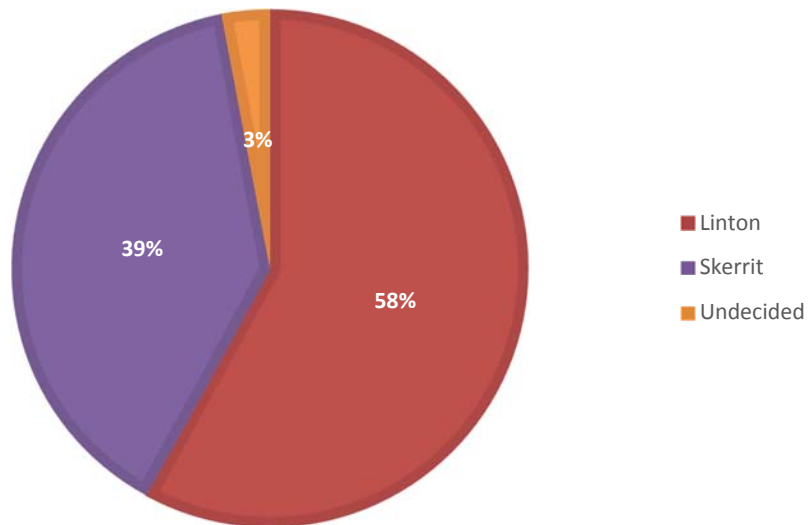
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 37%
No - 35%
Undecided - 28%



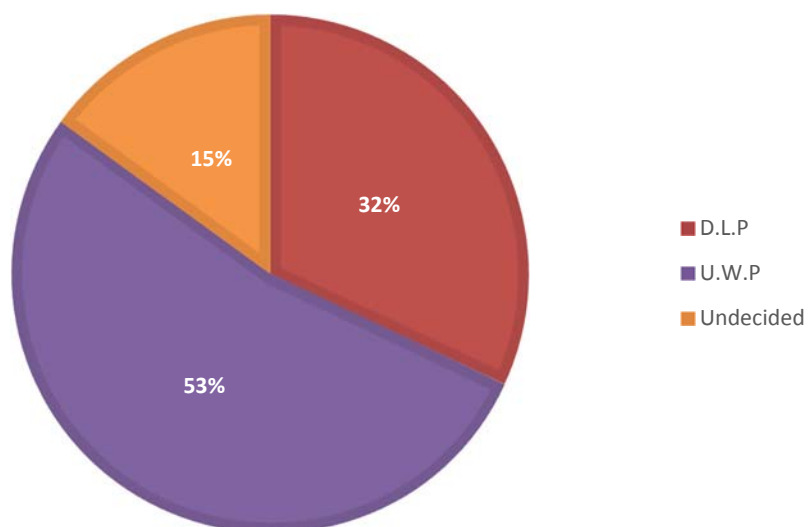
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 58%
Skerrit - 39%
Undecided - 3%



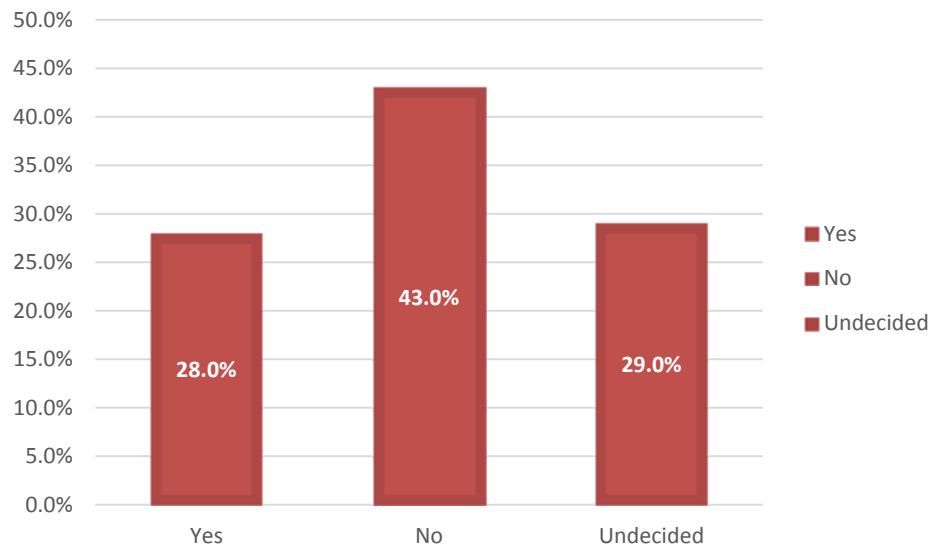
5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 32%
U.W.P - 53%
Undecided - 15%



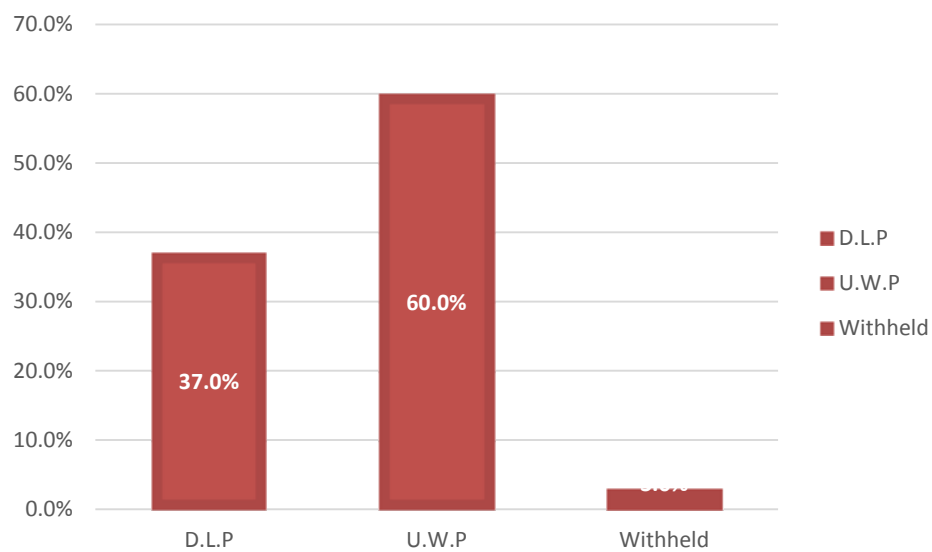
6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 28%
No - 43%
Undecided - 29%



7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 37%
U.W.P - 60%
Withheld - 3%



The Super 8

COTTAGE

Reginald AUSTRIE (D.L.P)

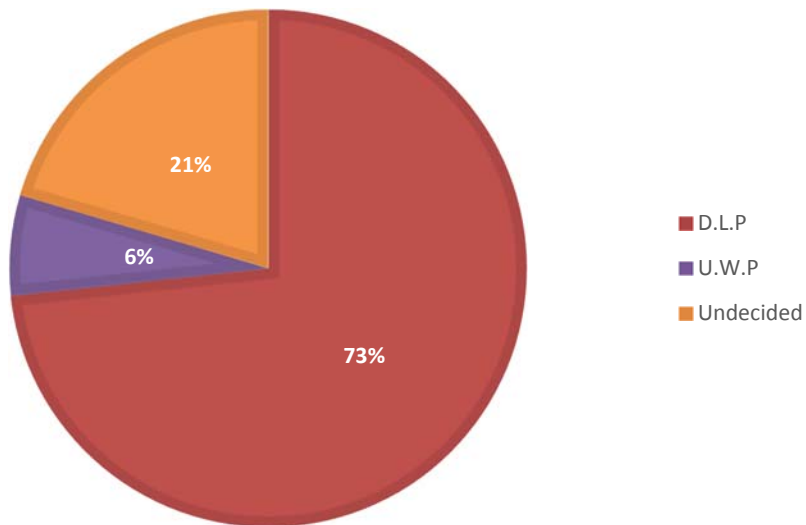
Stewart BURTON (U.W.P)

1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P Candidate - 73.3%

U.W.P Candidate - 6.3%

Undecided - 20.4%

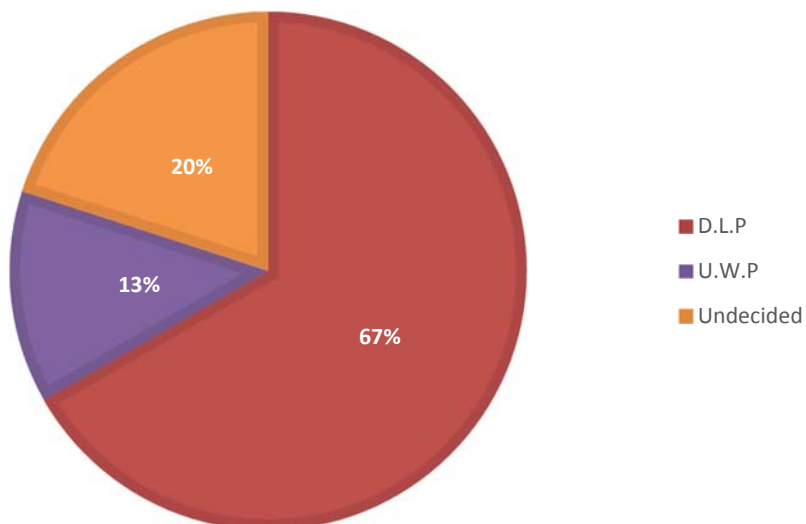


2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 66.7%

U.W.P - 13.3%

Undecided - 20%

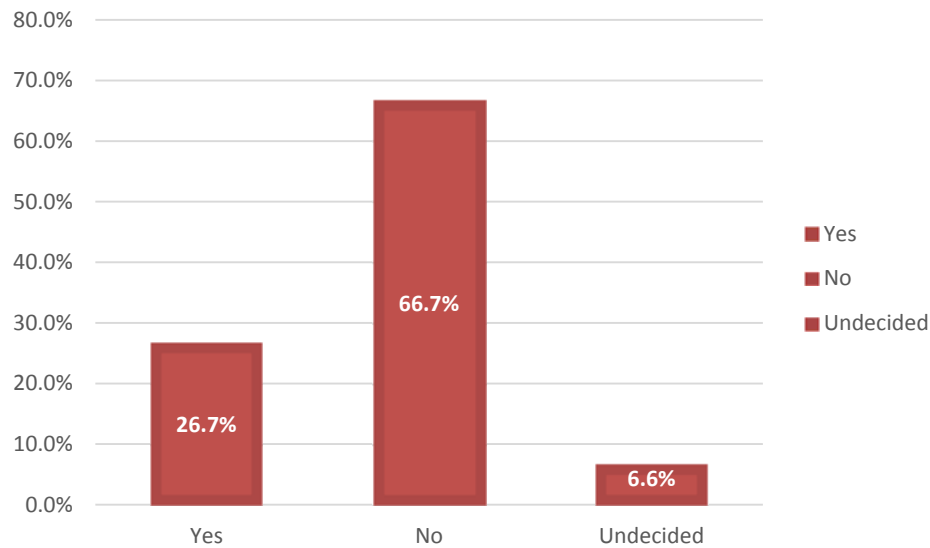


3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 26.7%

No - 66.7%

Undecided - 6.6%

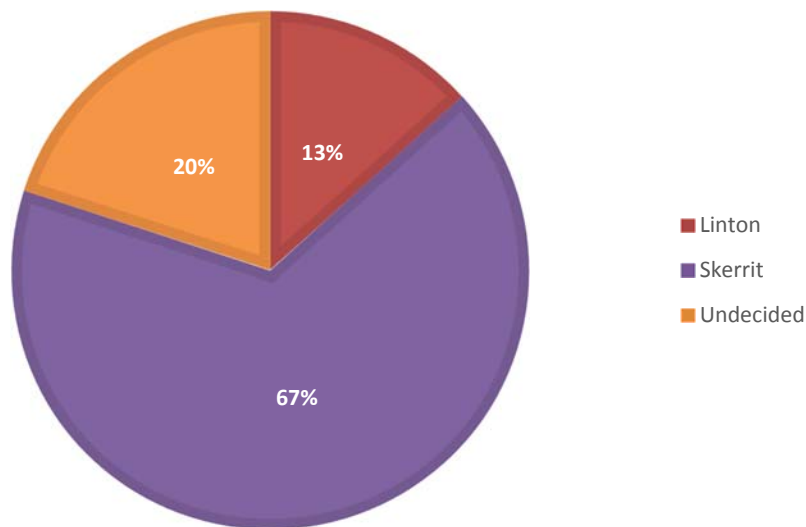


4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 13.3%

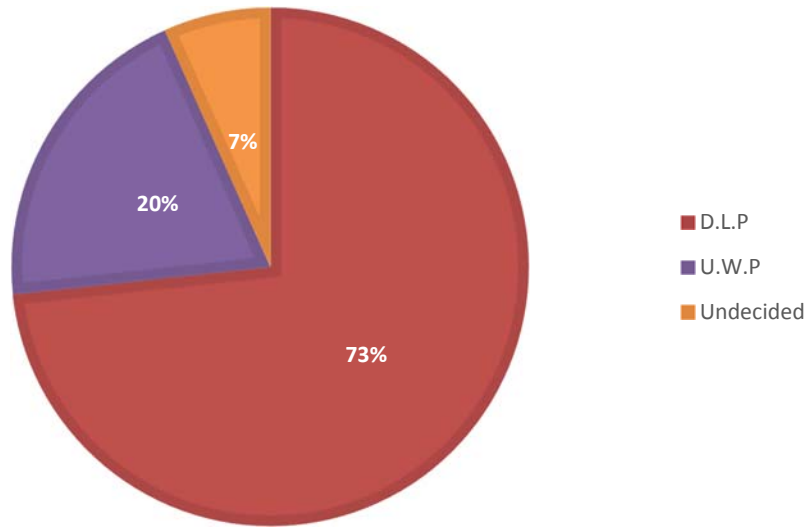
Skerrit - 66.7%

Undecided - 20%



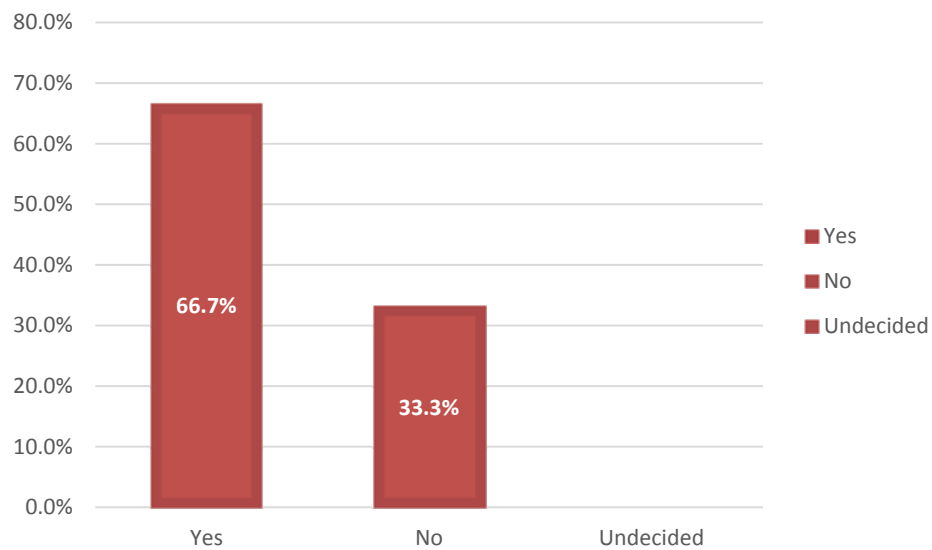
5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 73.3%
U.W.P - 20%
Undecided - 6.7%



6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 66.7%
No - 33.3%
Undecided - 0%

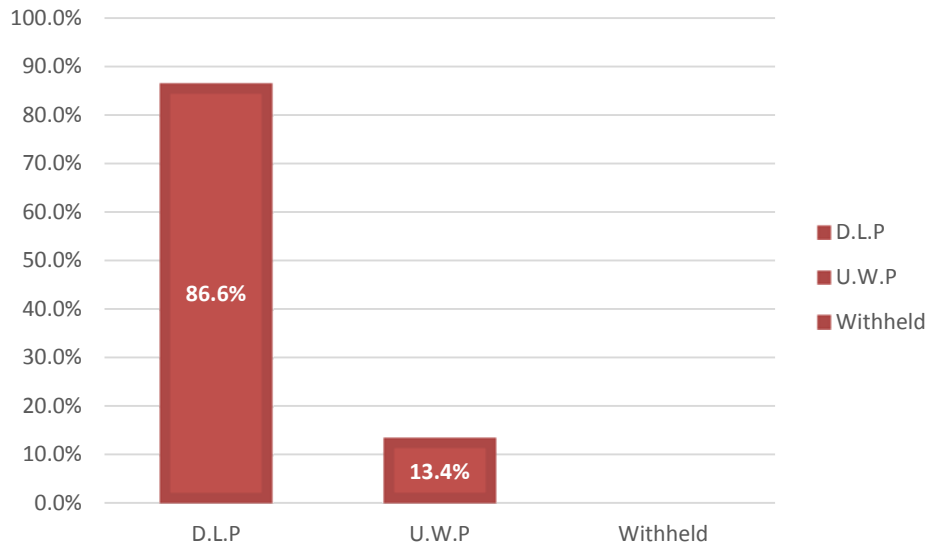


7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

D.L.P - 86.6%

U.W.P - 13.4%

Withheld - 0%



GRAND BAY

Justina CHARLES (D.L.P)

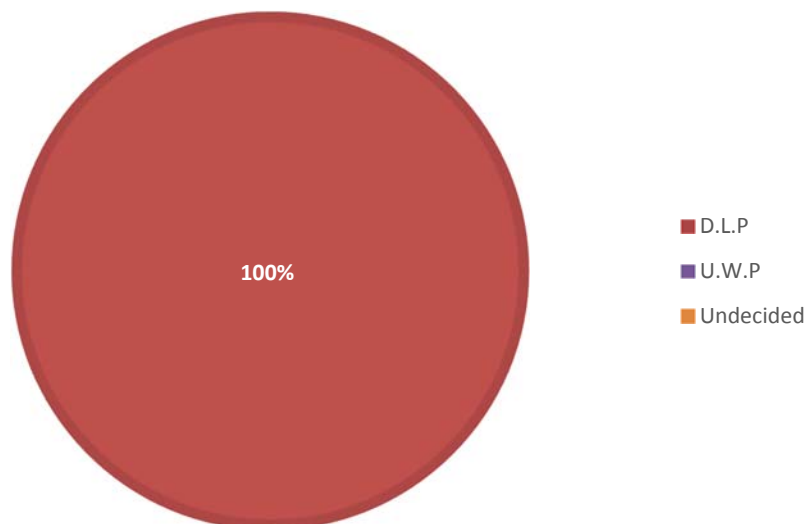
James ALEXANDER (U.W.P)

1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 100%

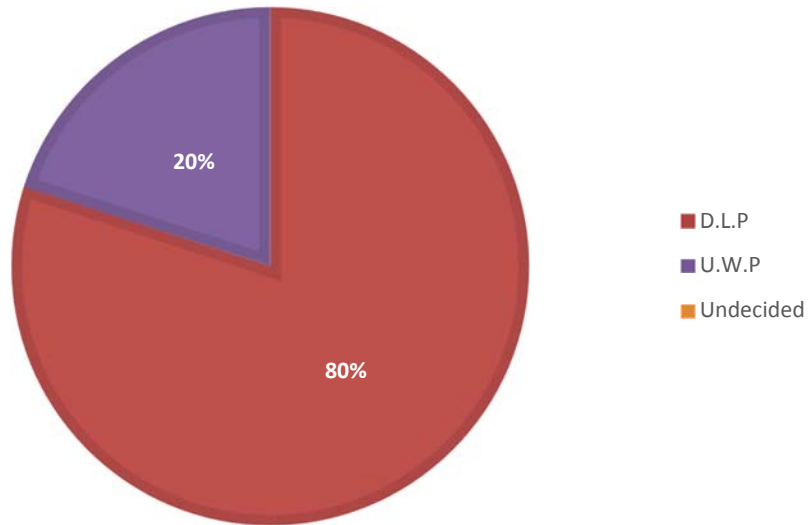
U.W.P Candidate - 0%

Undecided - 0%



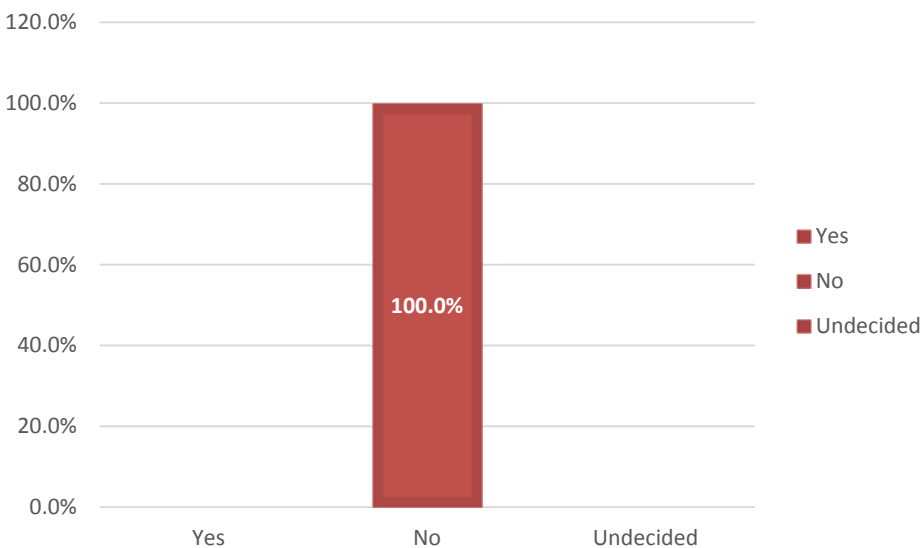
2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 80%
U.W.P - 20%
Undecided - 0%



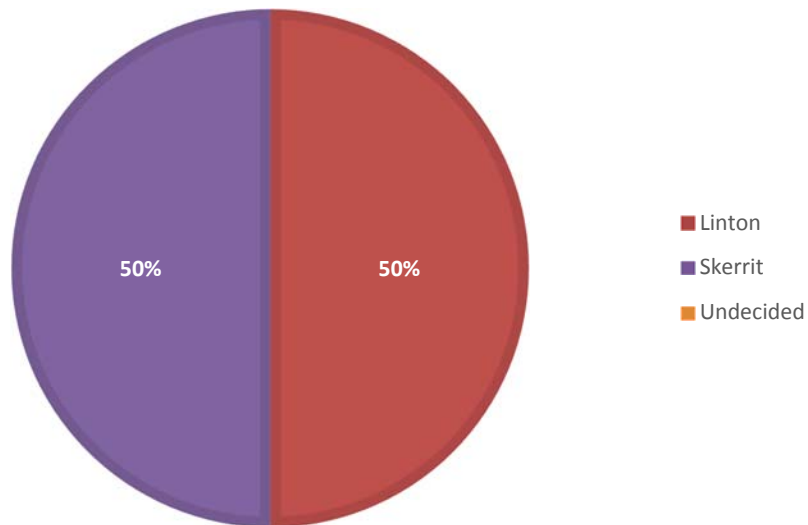
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 0%
No - 100%
Undecided - 0%



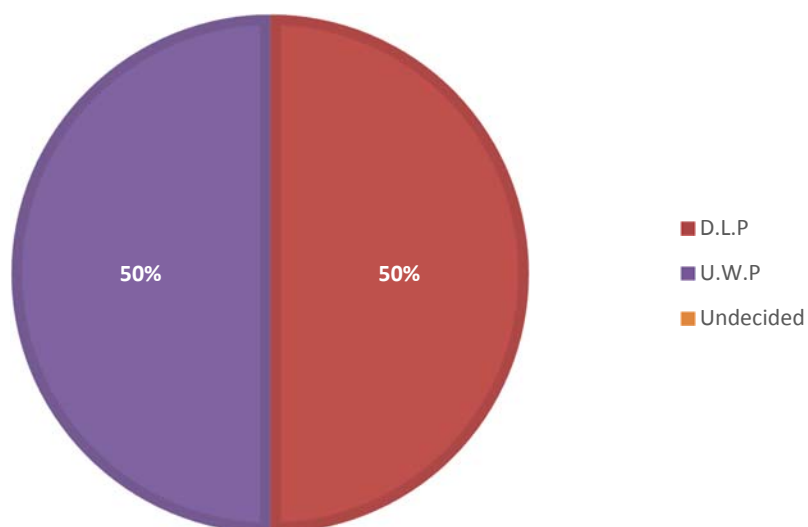
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 50%
Skerrit - 50%
Undecided - 0%



5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 50%
U.W.P - 50%
Undecided - 0%

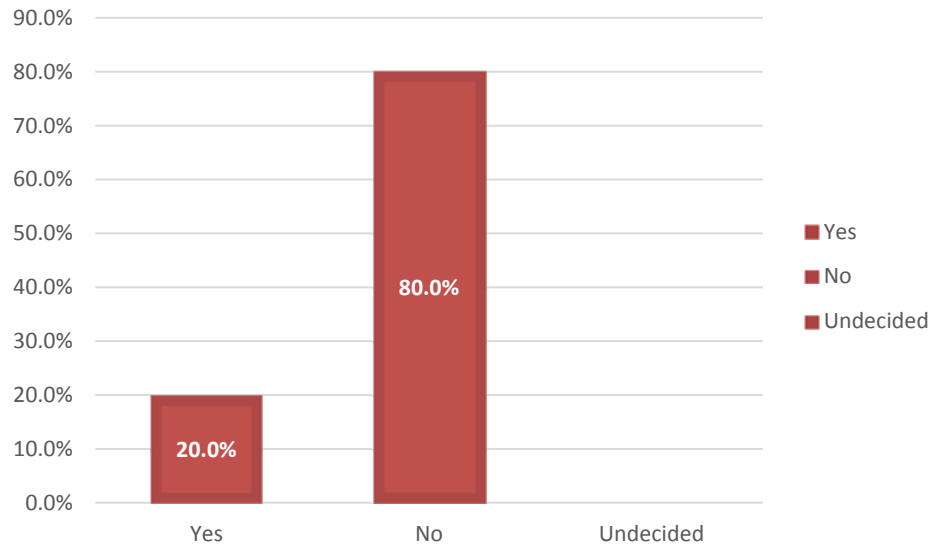


6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 20%

No - 80%

Undecided - 0%

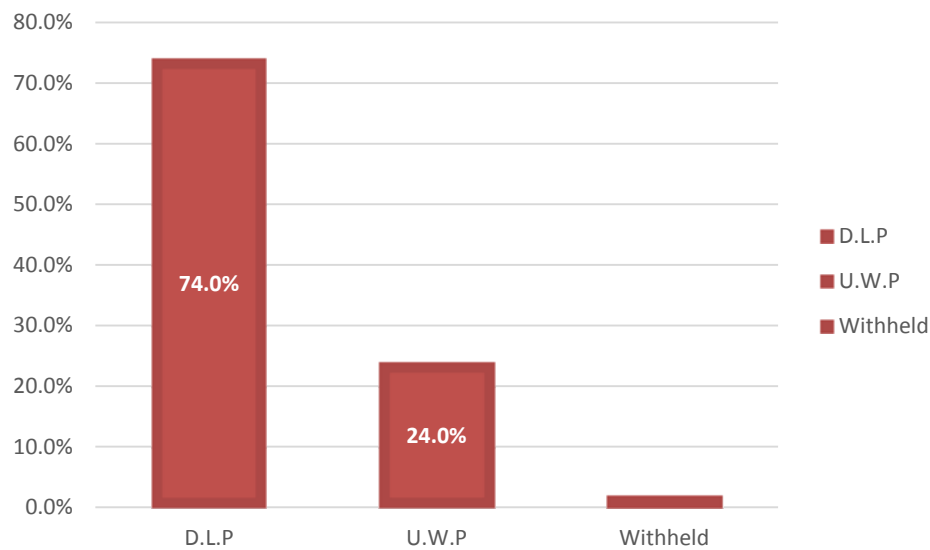


7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 74%

U.W.P - 24%

Withheld - 2%



MARIGOT

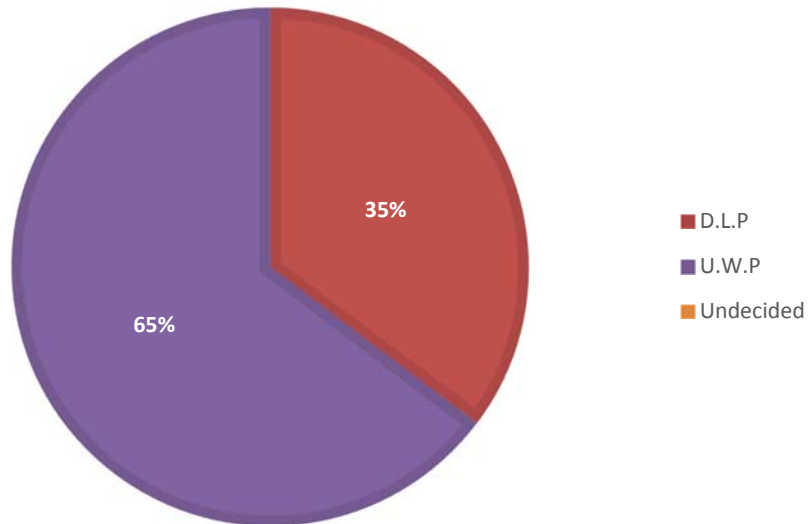
Martin CHARLES (D.L.P) Lennox Irvin LINTON (U.W.P)

1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P Candidate - 35.3%

U.W.P Candidate - 64.7%

Undecided - 0%

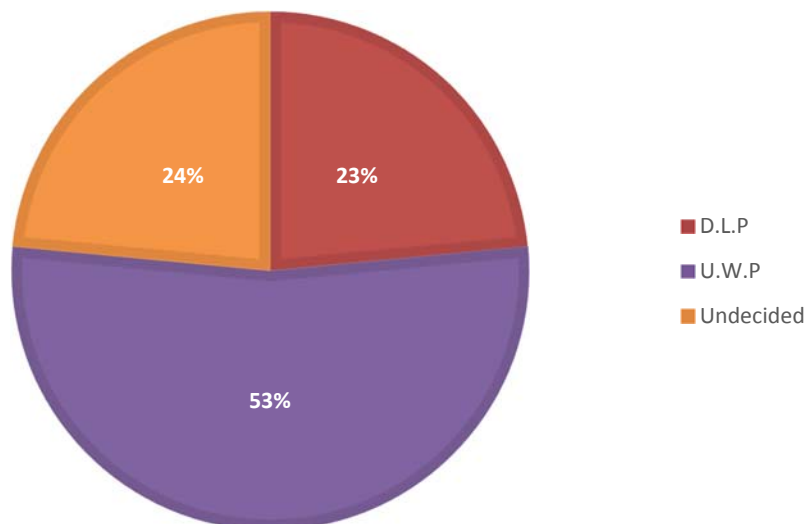


2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 23.5%

U.W.P - 53%

Undecided - 23.5%

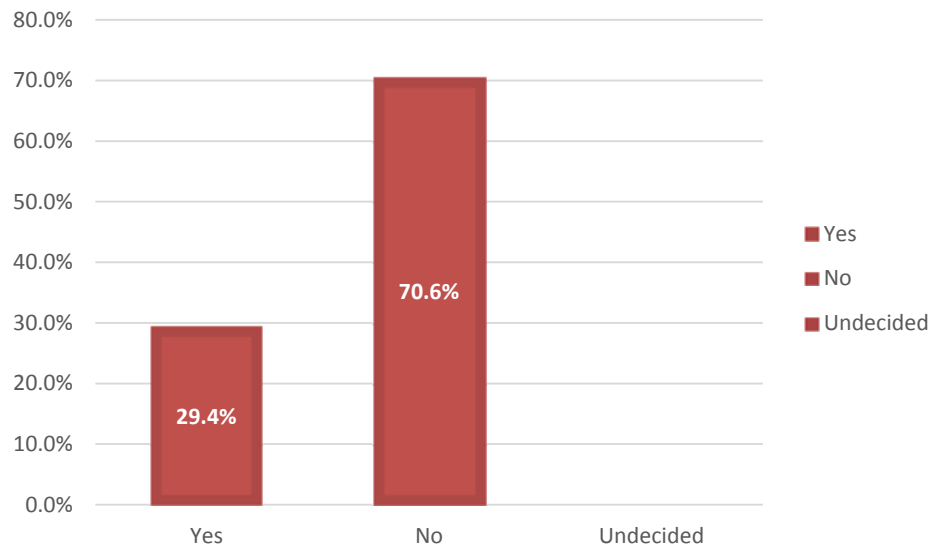


3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 29.4%

No - 70.6%

Undecided - 0%

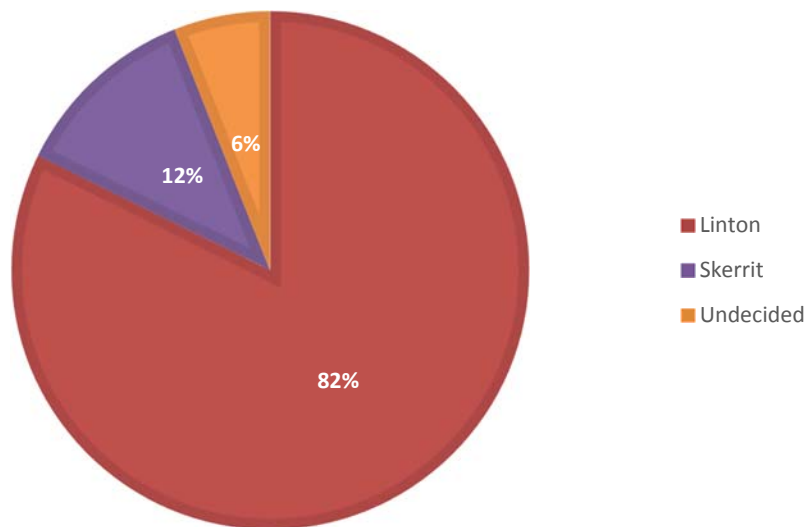


4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 82.3%

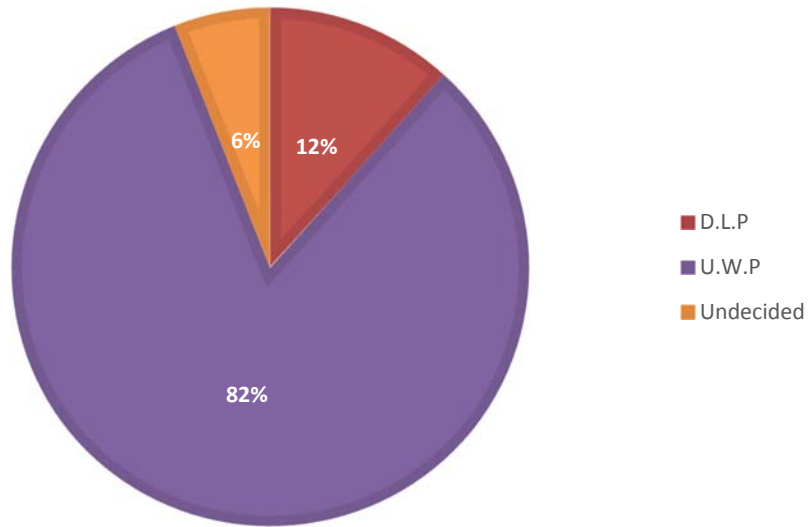
Skerrit - 11.7%

Undecided - 6%



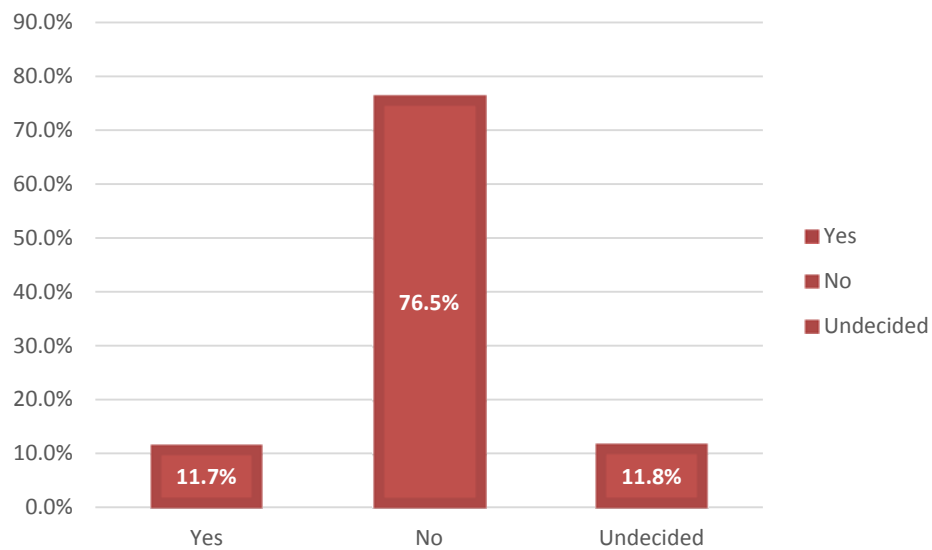
5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 11.7%
U.W.P - 82.3%
Undecided - 6%



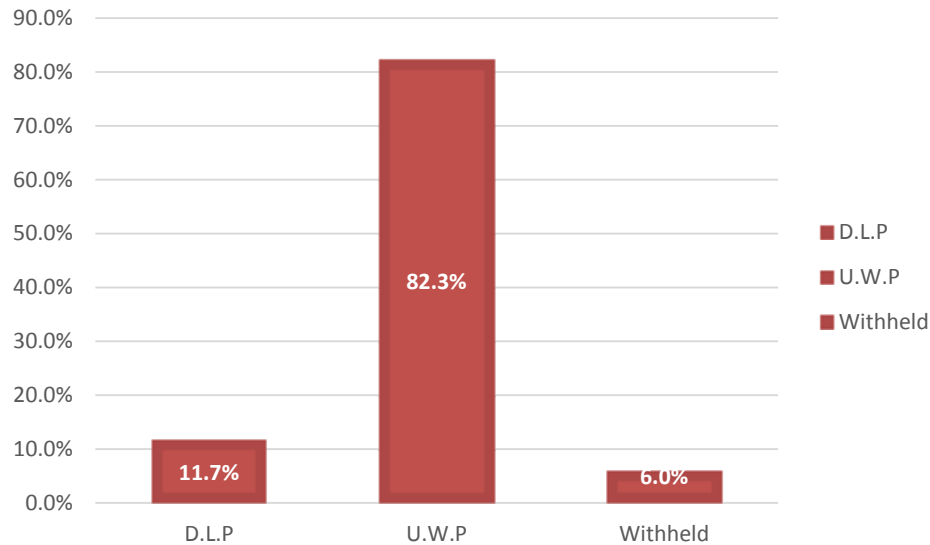
6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 11.7%
No - 76.5%
Undecided - 11.8%



7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

D.L.P - 11.7%
U.W.P - 82.3%
Withheld - 6%



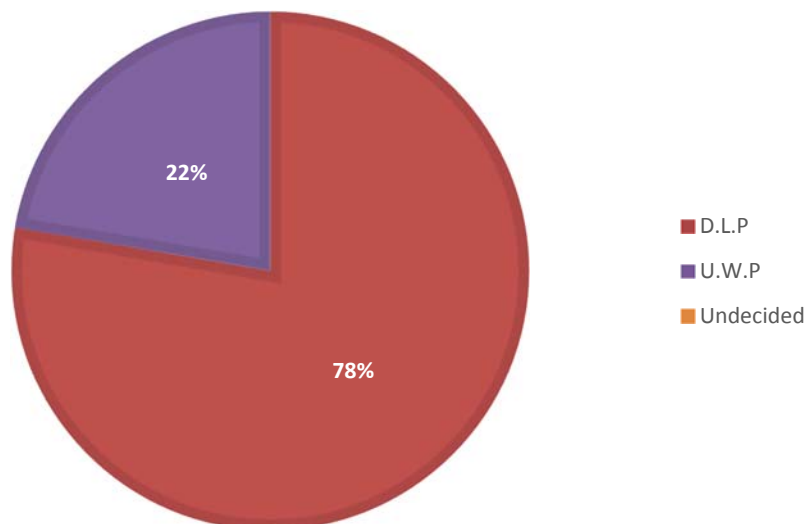
PAIX BOUCHE

Roselyn **PAUL** (D.L.P)

Eunica **ANTHONY-VICTOR** (U.W.P)

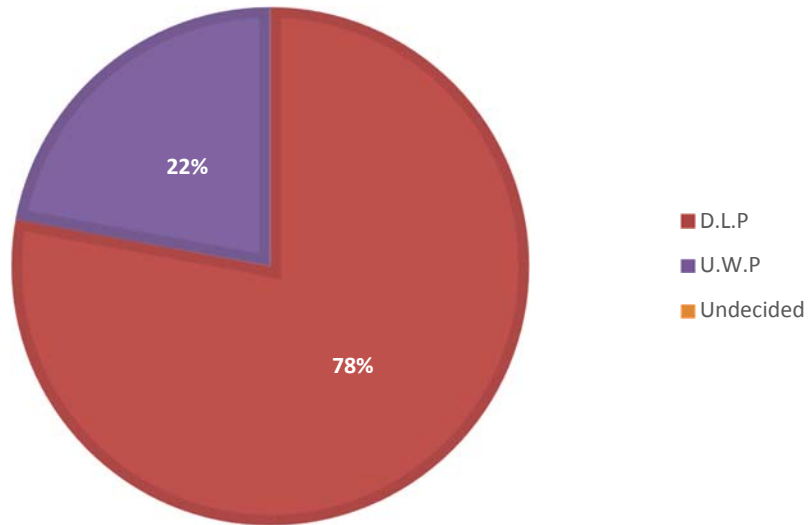
1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 77.7%
U.W.P Candidate - 22.3%
Undecided - 0%



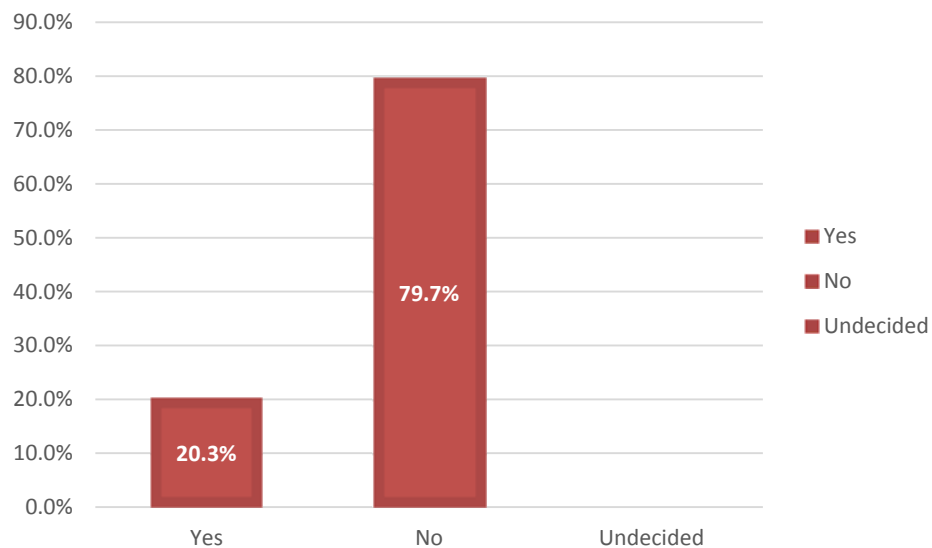
2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 77.9%
U.W.P - 22.1%
Undecided - 0%



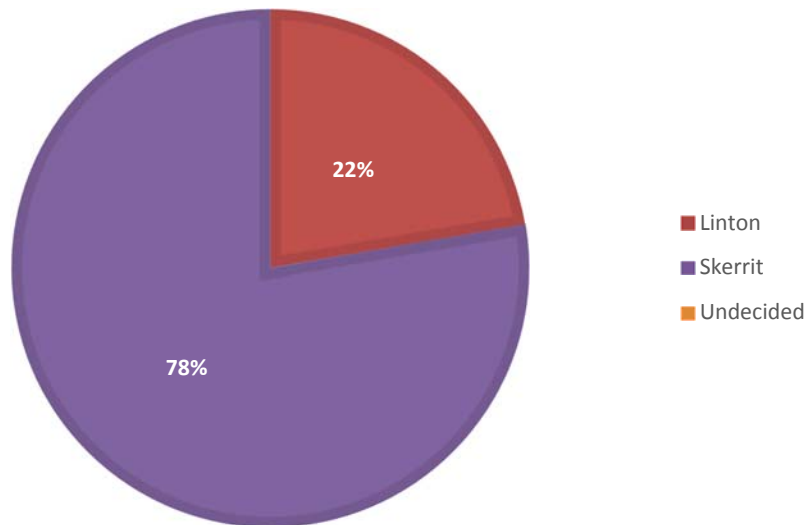
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 20.3%
No - 79.7%
Undecided - 0%



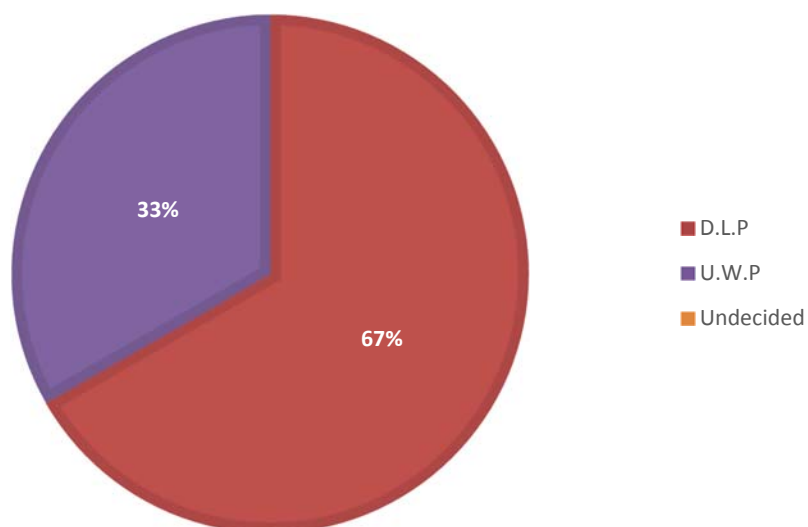
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 22.3%
Skerrit - 77.7%
Undecided - 0%



5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 66.7%
U.W.P - 33.3%
Undecided - 0%

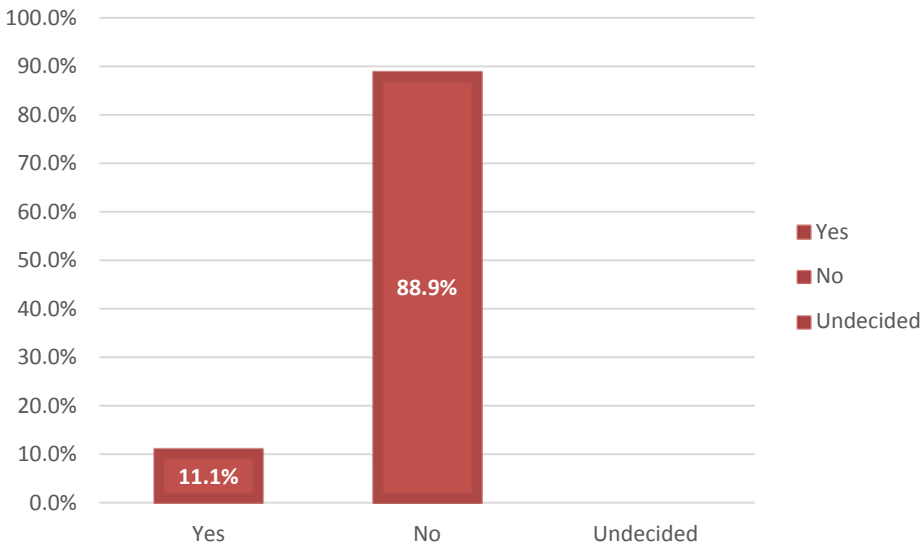


6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 11.1%

No - 88.9%

Undecided - 0%

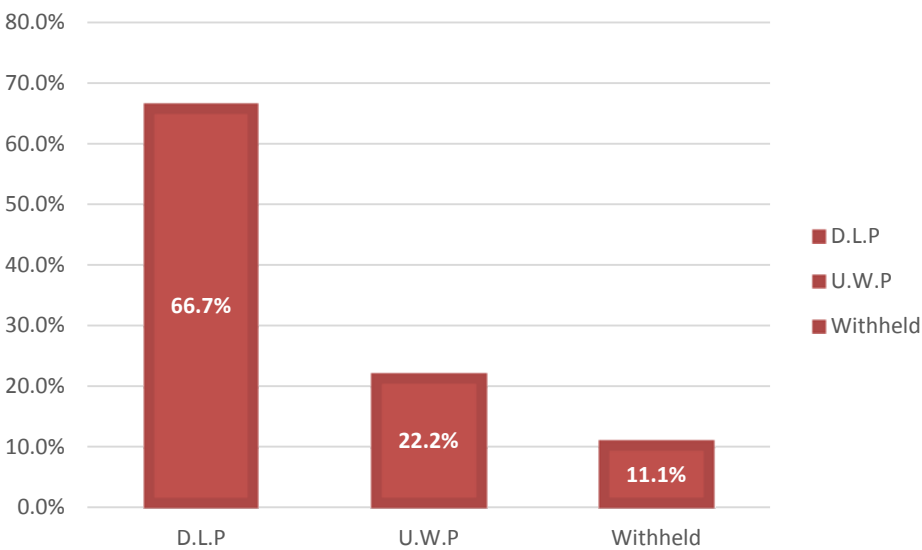


7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 66.7%

U.W.P - 22.2%

Withheld - 11.1%

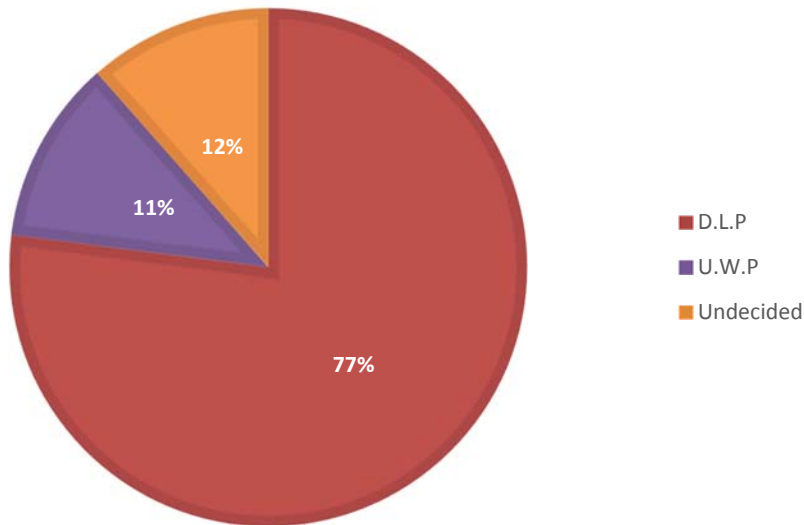


1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P Candidate - 77%

U.W.P Candidate - 11.5%

Undecided - 11.5%

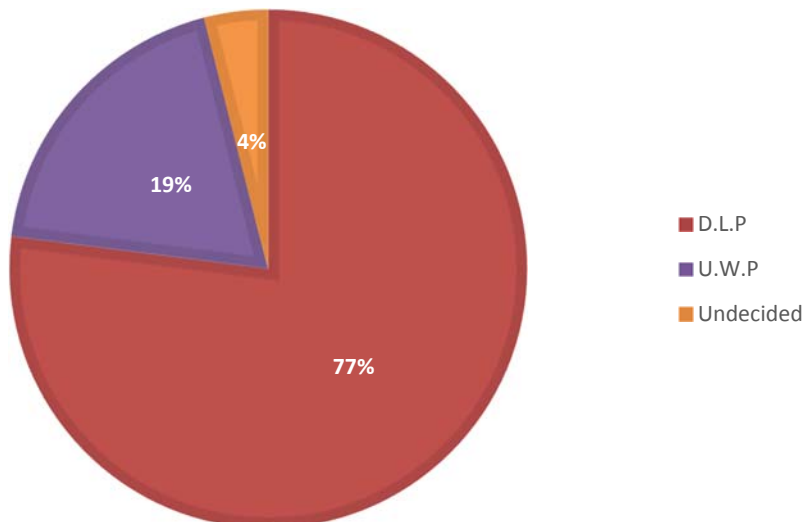


2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 77%

U.W.P - 19%

Undecided - 4%

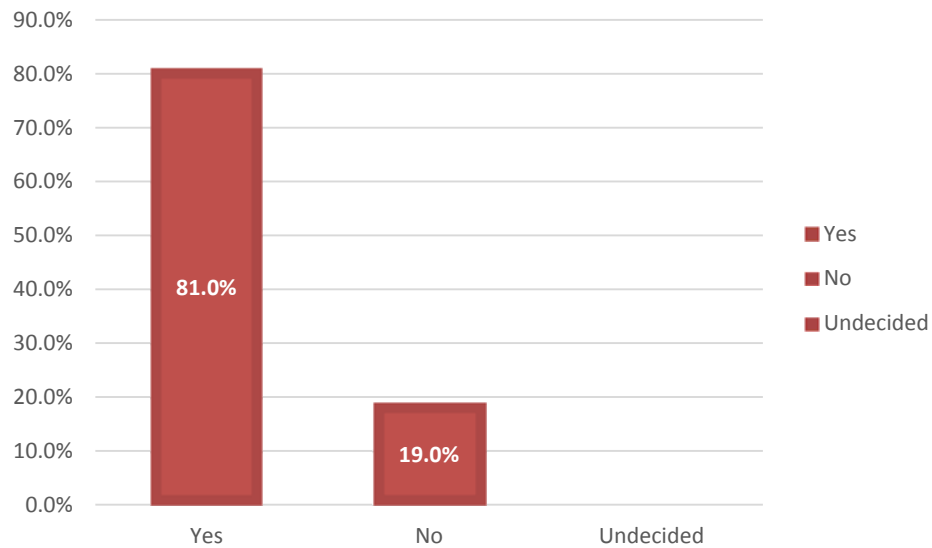


3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 81%

No - 19%

Undecided - 0%

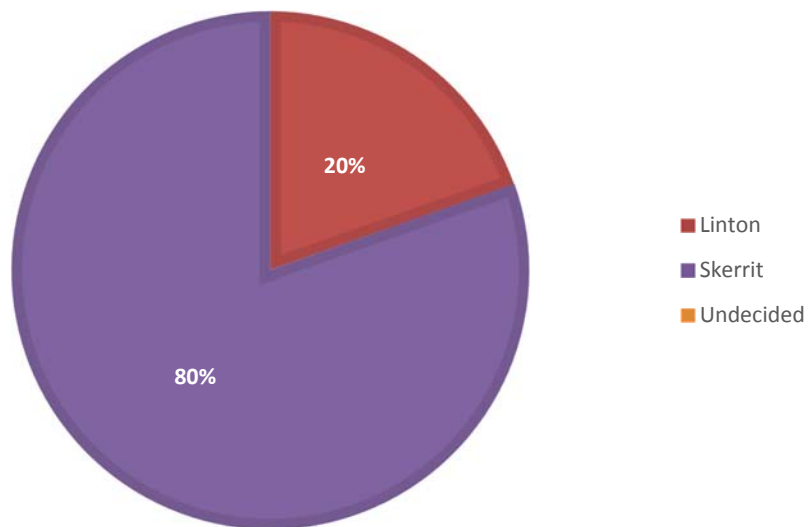


4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 19.6%

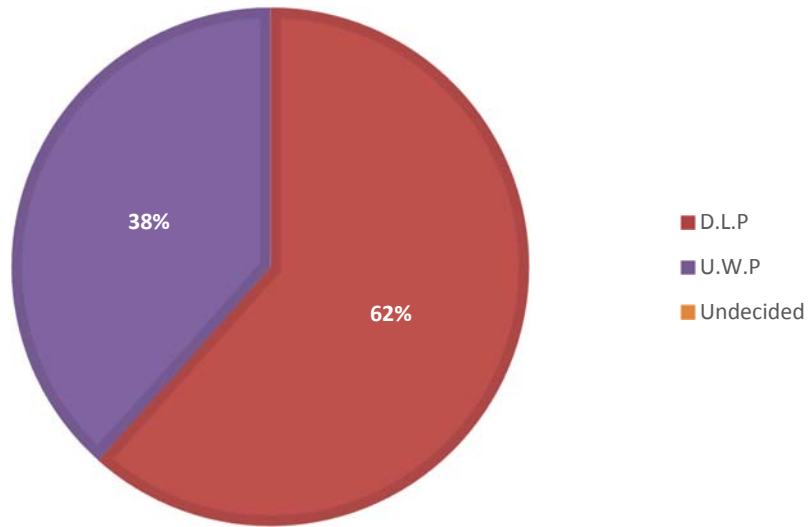
Skerrit - 18.4%

Undecided - 0%



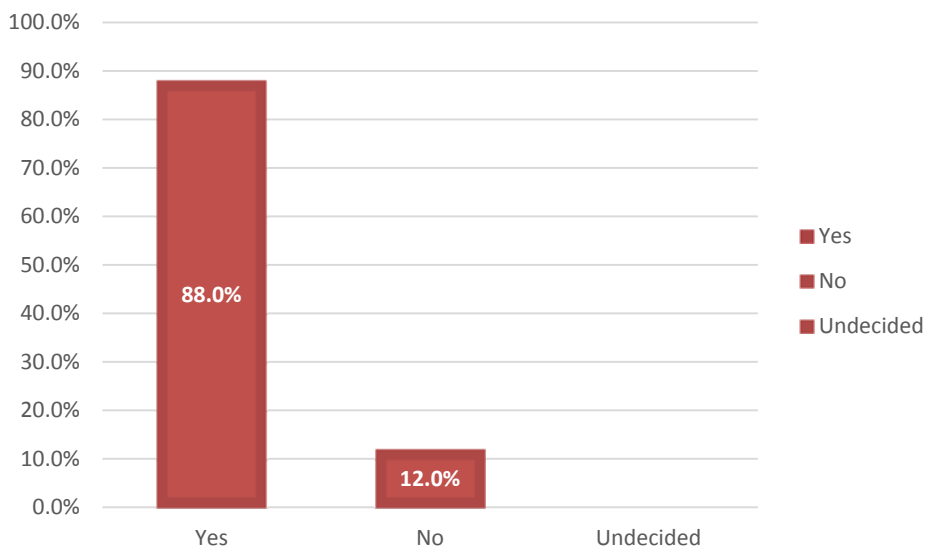
5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 61.6%
U.W.P - 38.4%
Undecided - 0%



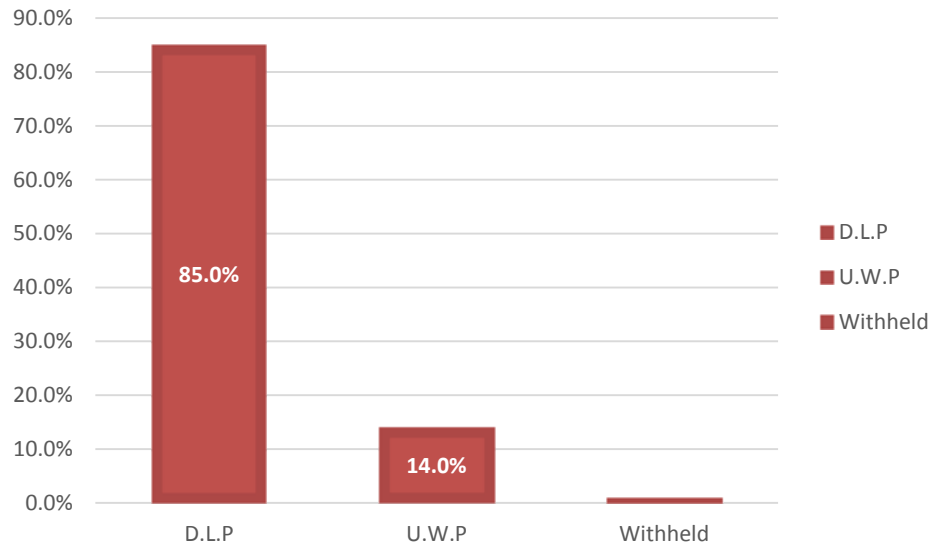
6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 88%
No - 12%
Undecided - 0%



7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

D.L.P - 85%
U.W.P - 14%
Withheld - 1%



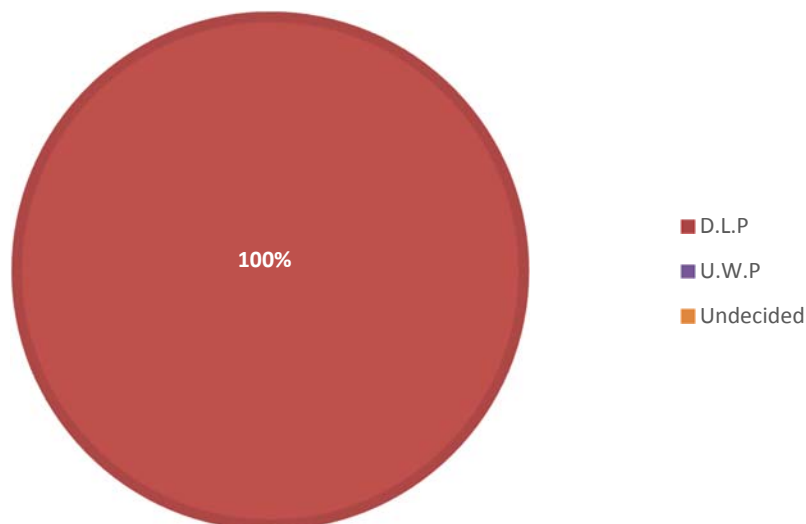
PORTSMOUTH

Ian DOUGLAS (D.L.P)

Jefferson JAMES (U.W.P)

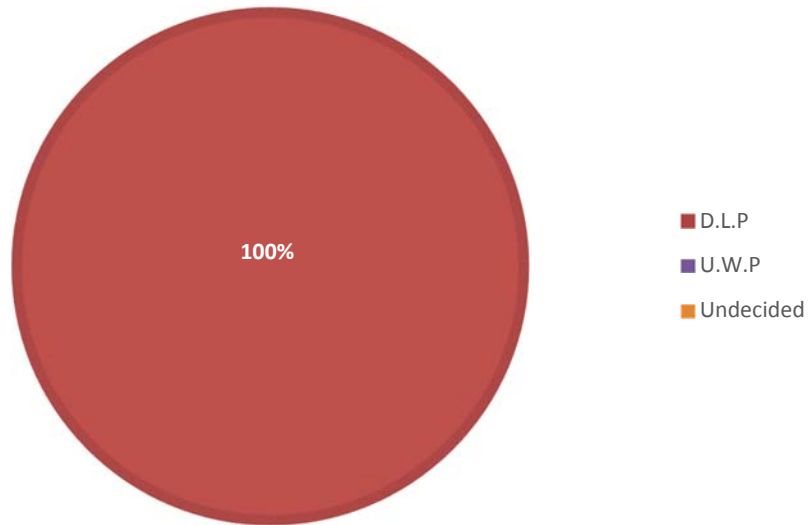
1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 100%
U.W.P Candidate - 0%
Undecided- 0%



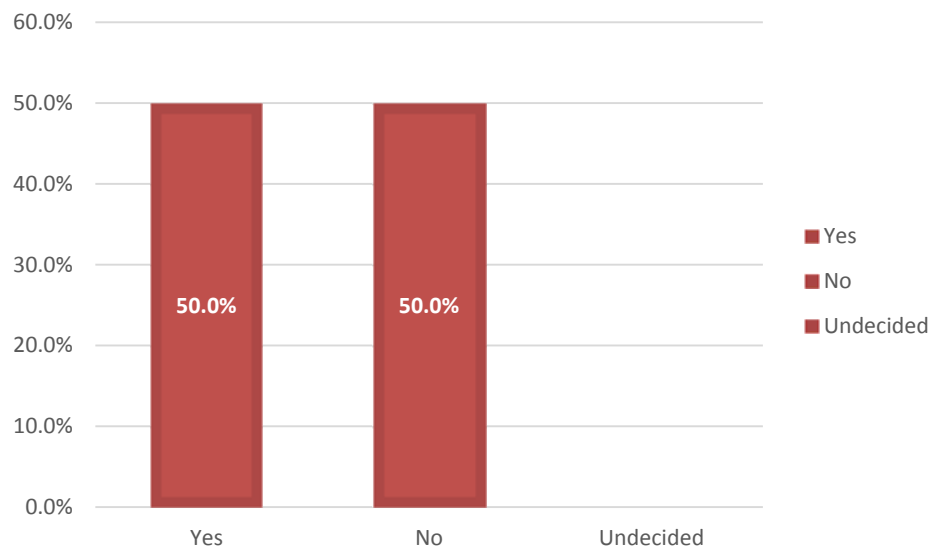
2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 100%
U.W.P - 0%
Undecided - 0%



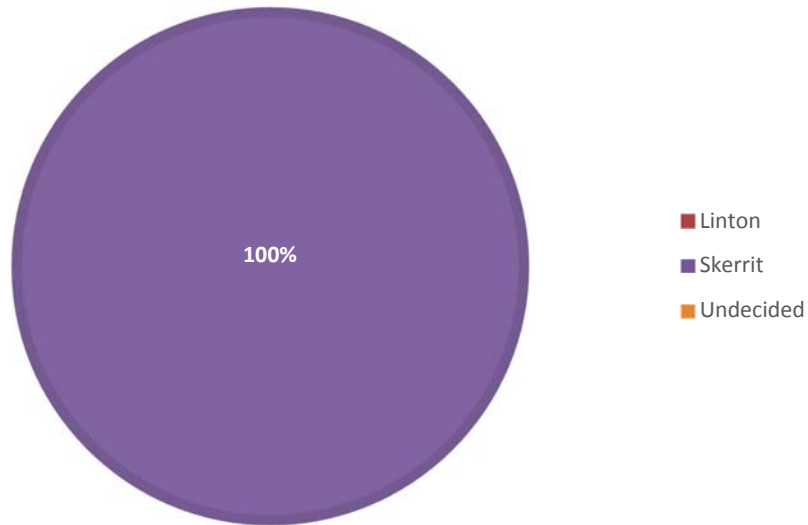
3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 50%
No - 50%
Undecided - 0%



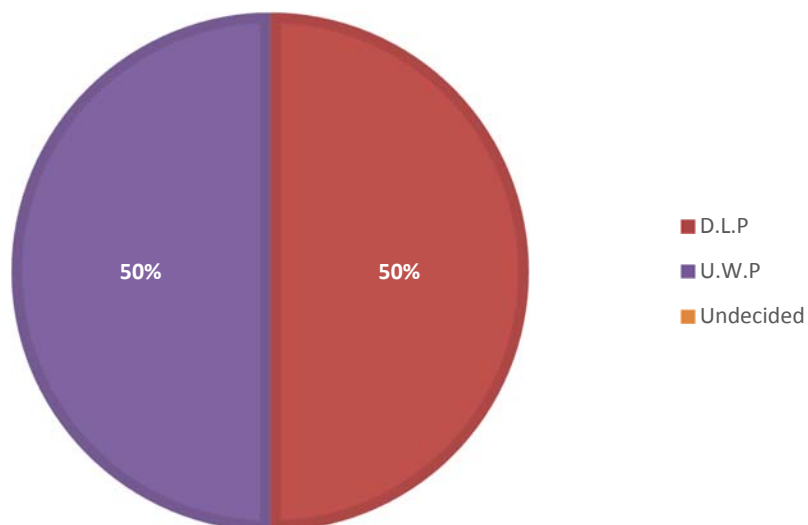
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 0%
Skerrit - 100%
Undecided - 0%



5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 50%
U.W.P - 50%
Undecided - 0%

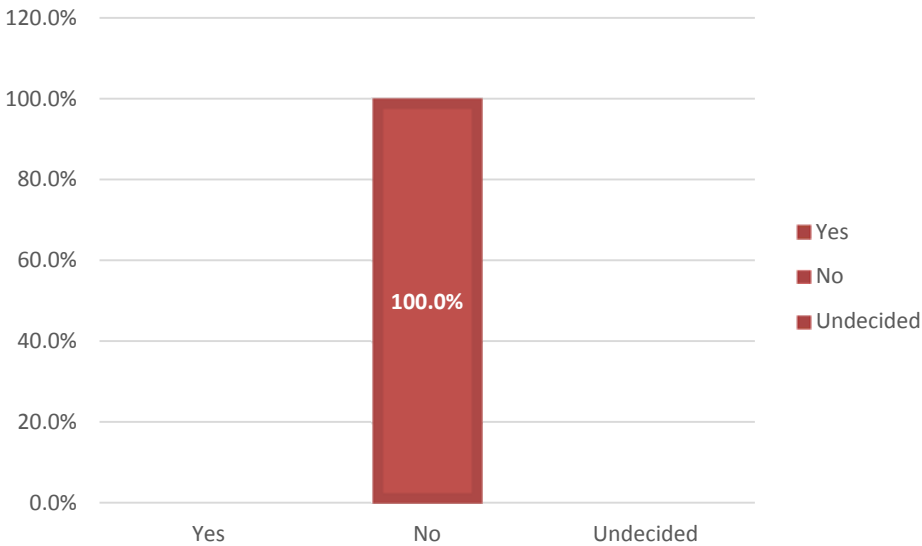


6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 0%

No - 100%

Undecided - 0%

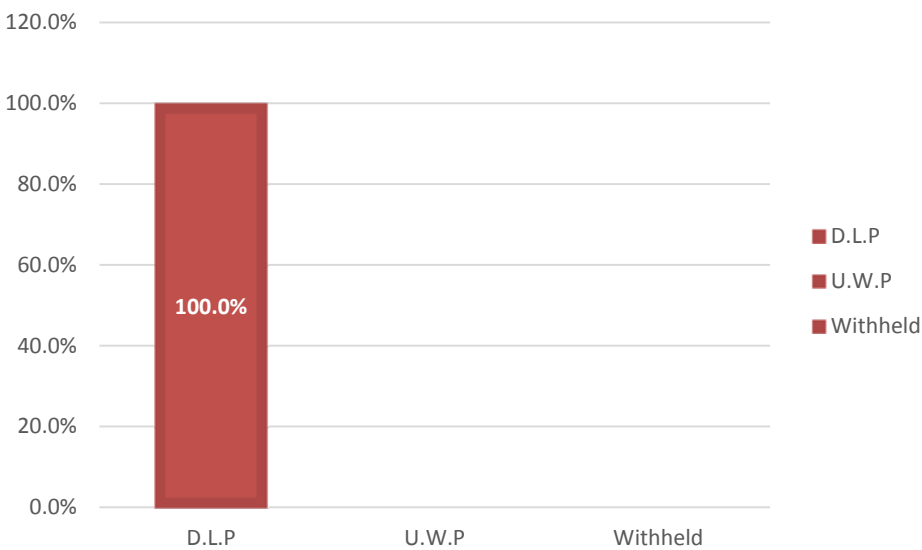


7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 100%

U.W.P - 0%

Withheld - 0%



Ps. Cabral Douglas also contested the *Portsmouth Constituency* as an Independent Candidate in and earned 19 votes. None of our samples voted for nor had any reaction as to the effect of the Independent Douglas candidate.

SALISBURY

Nicholas ESPRIT (D.L.P)

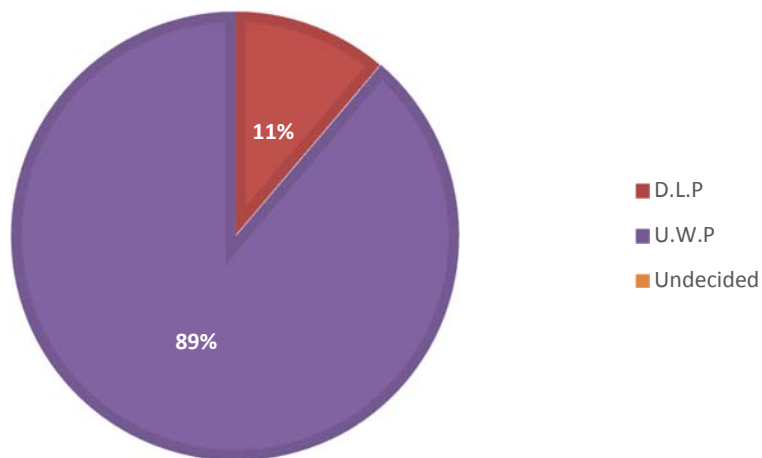
Hector **JOHN** (U.W.P)

1. *Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?*

D.L.P Candidate - 11.2%

U.W.P Candidate - 88.8%

Undecided- 0%

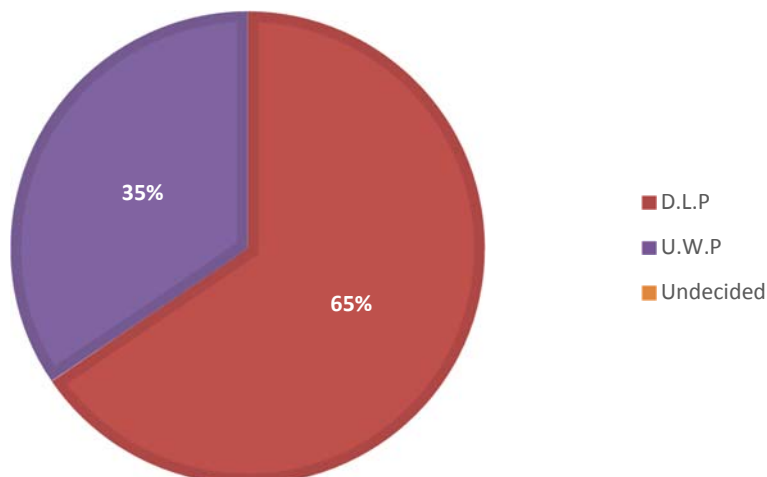


2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 65.5%

U.W.P - 34.5%

Undecided - 0%

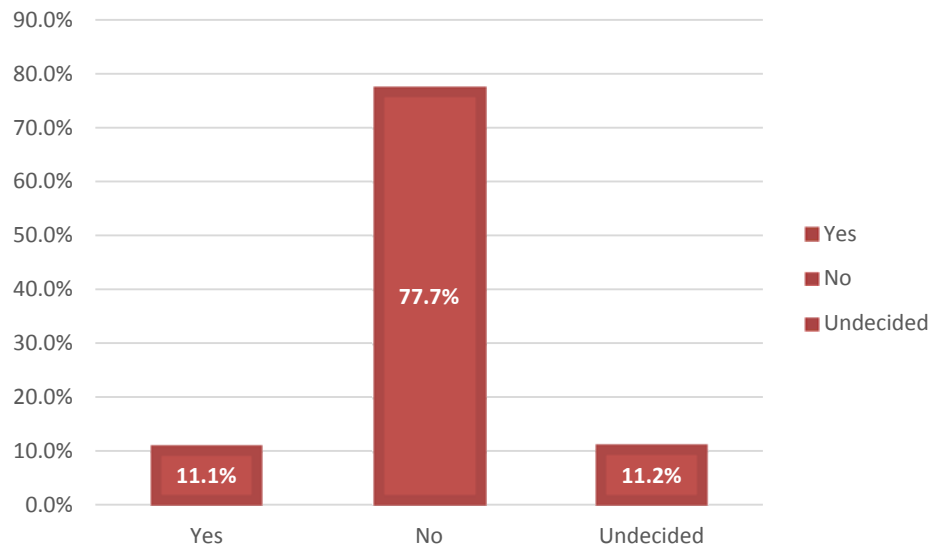


3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 11.1%

No - 77.7%

Undecided - 11.2%

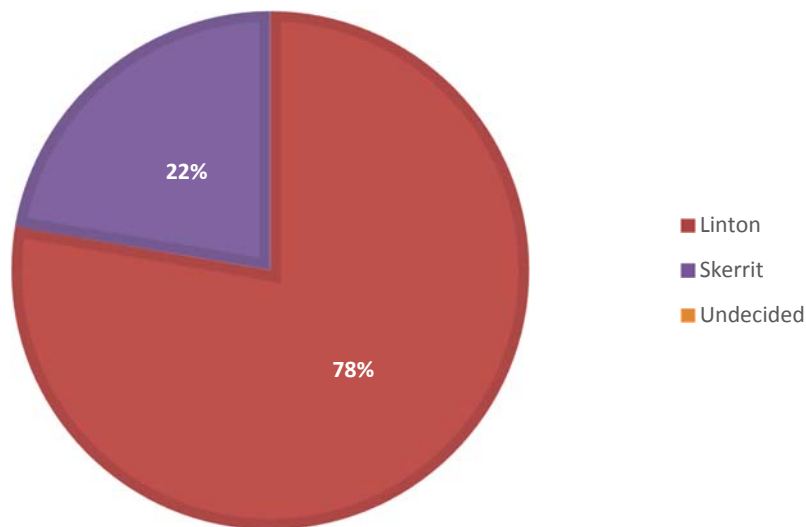


4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 77.7%

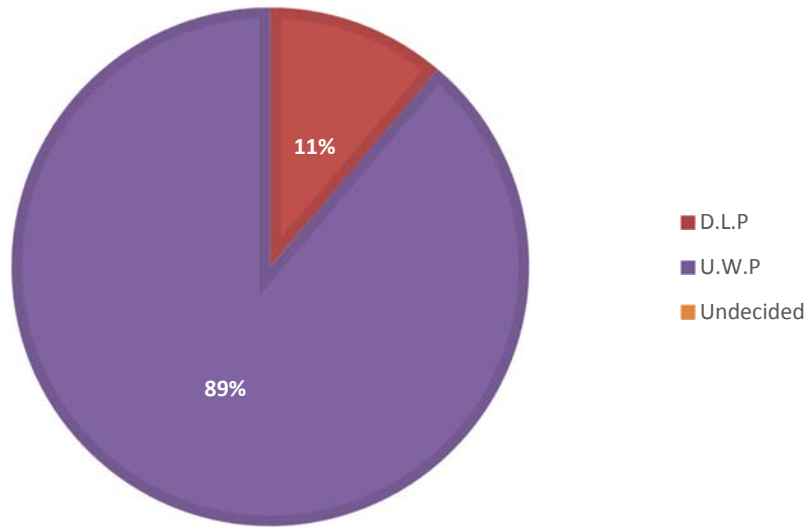
Skerrit - 22.3%

Undecided - 0%



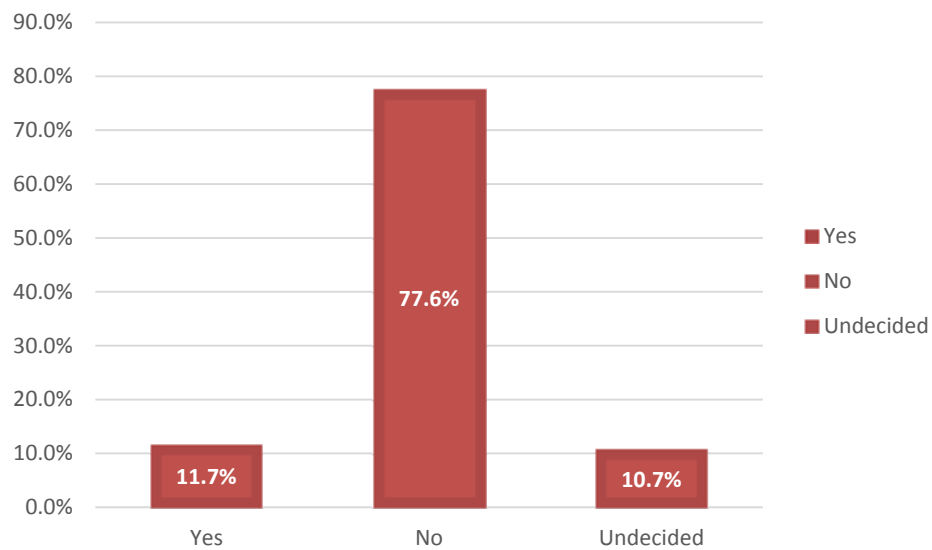
5. Which political party has the strongest message?

D.L.P - 11.2%
U.W.P - 88.8%
Undecided - 0%



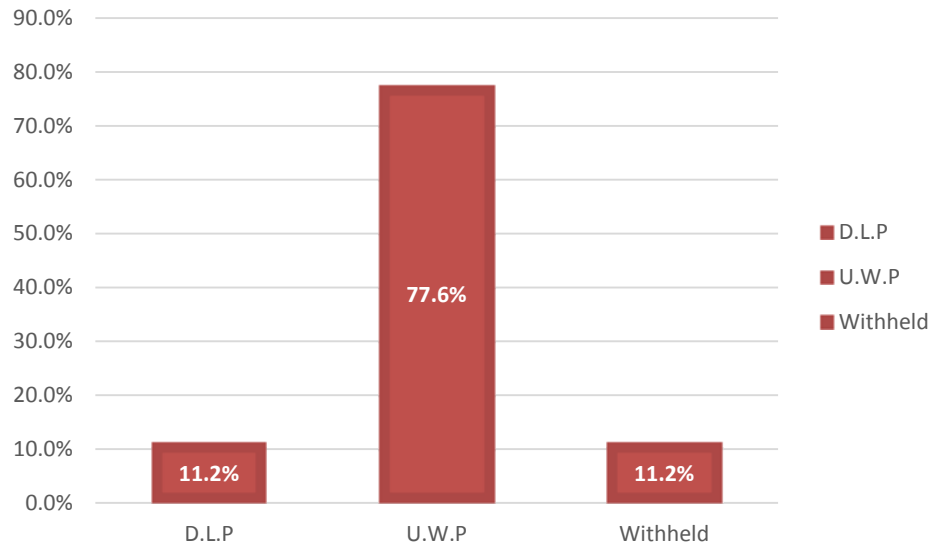
6. Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?

Yes - 11.7%
No - 77.6%
Undecided - 10.7%



7. For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?

D.L.P - 11.2%
U.W.P - 77.6%
Withheld - 11.2%



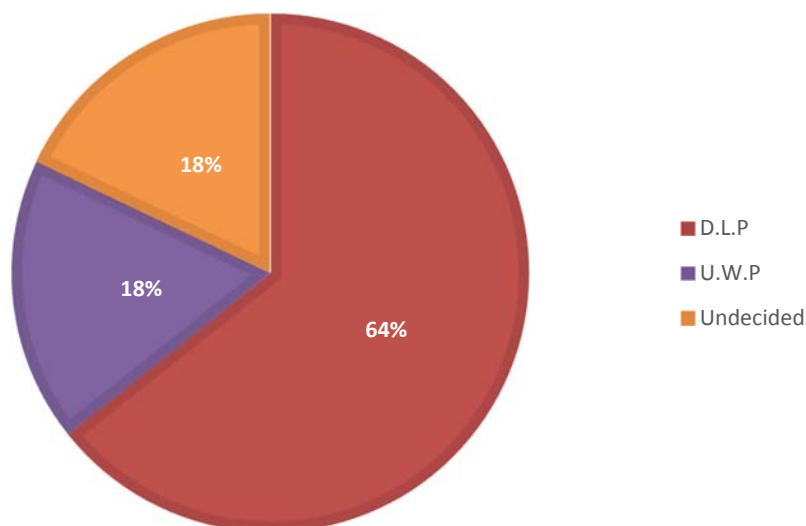
VIEILL CASE

Roosevelt **SKERRIT** (D.L.P)

Alex BIRMINGHAM (U.W.P)

1. Should general elections be held today, which political party candidate, in your opinion, will win your constituency?

D.L.P Candidate - 64.3%
U.W.P Candidate - 17.8%
Undecided - 17.9%

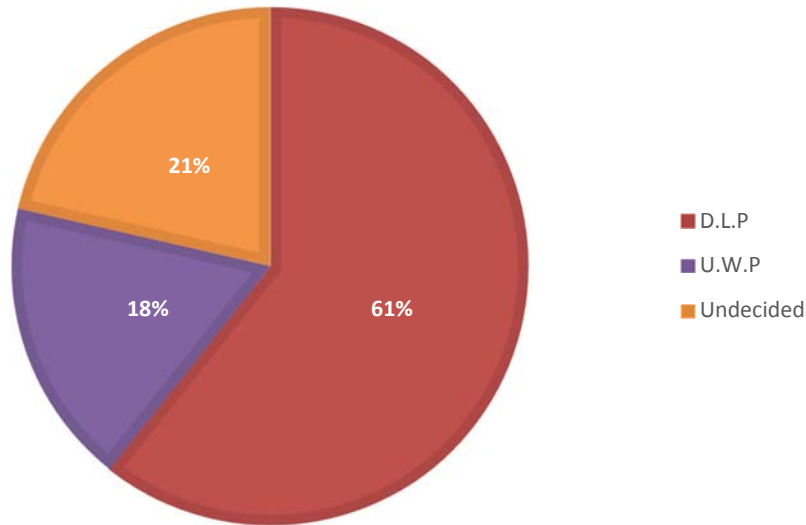


2. *Should general elections be held today, which political party will most likely form the government?*

D.L.P - 60.7%

U.W.P - 17.9%

Undecided - 21.4%

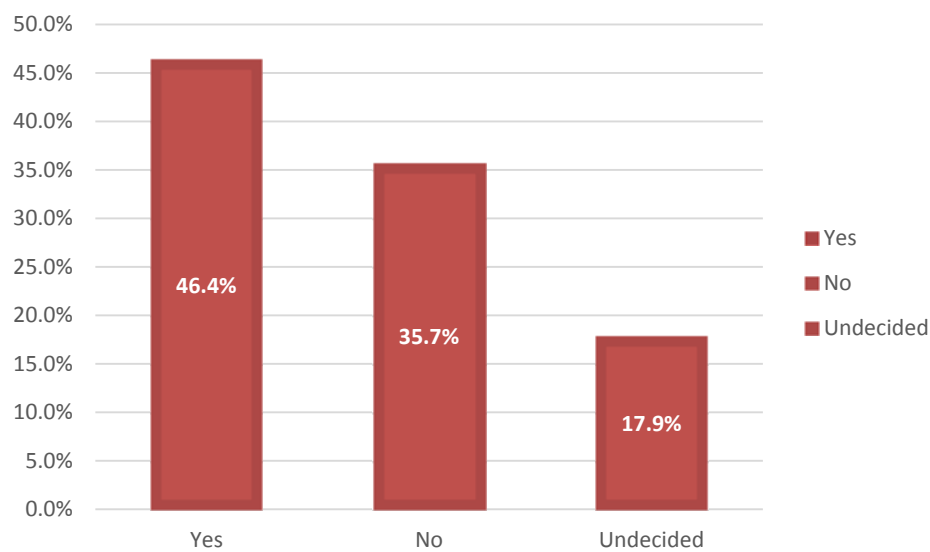


3. *Do you think that issues surrounding the Citizenship by Investment (C.B.I) will have any influence or effect on the result of the next general elections?*

Yes - 46.4%

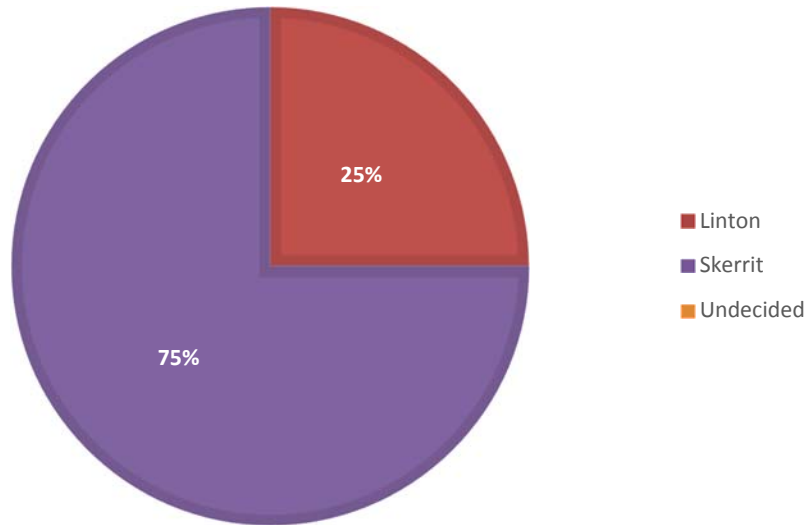
No - 35.7%

Undecided - 17.9%



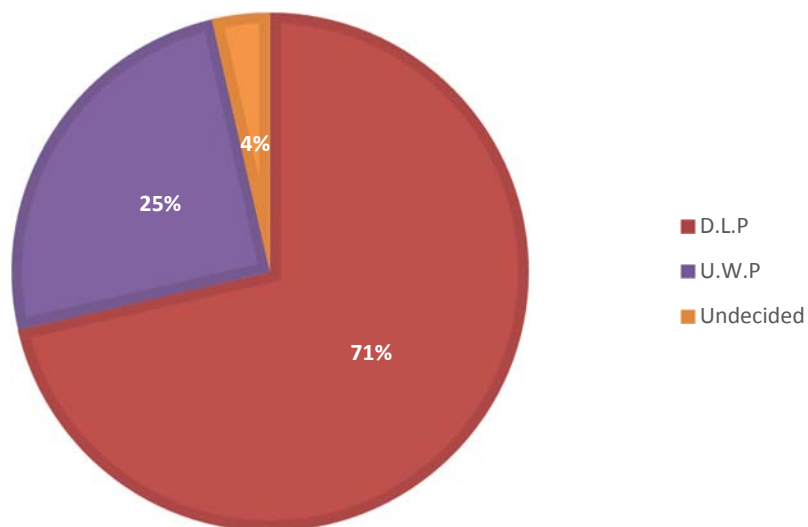
4. *In your view, which political leader of the major parties is more persuasive, credible and believable?*

Linton - 25%
Skerrit - 75%
Undecided - 0%



5. *Which political party has the strongest message?*

D.L.P - 71.4%
U.W.P - 25%
Undecided - 3.6%

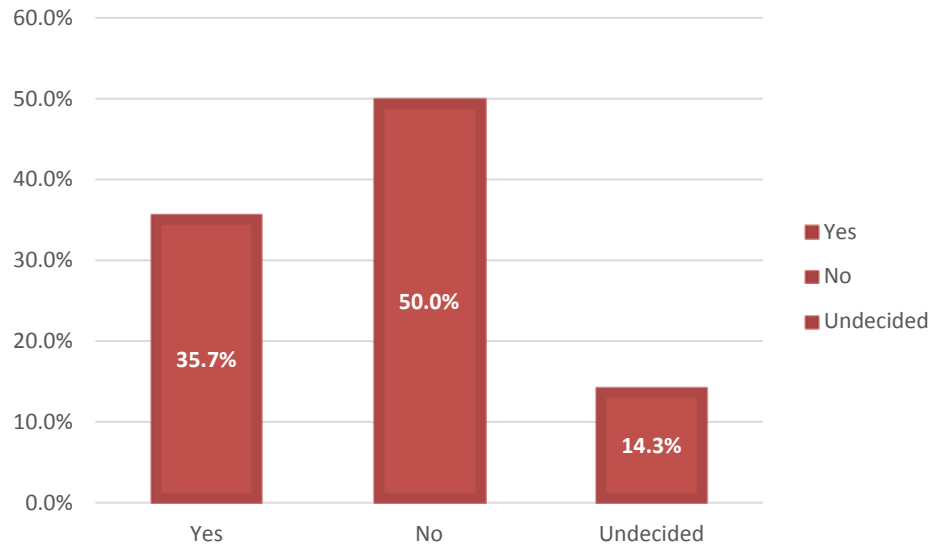


6. *Will you change your vote, meaning will you switch and vote for a different party/candidate if you had to vote today?*

Yes - 35.7%

No - 50%

Undecided - 14.3%

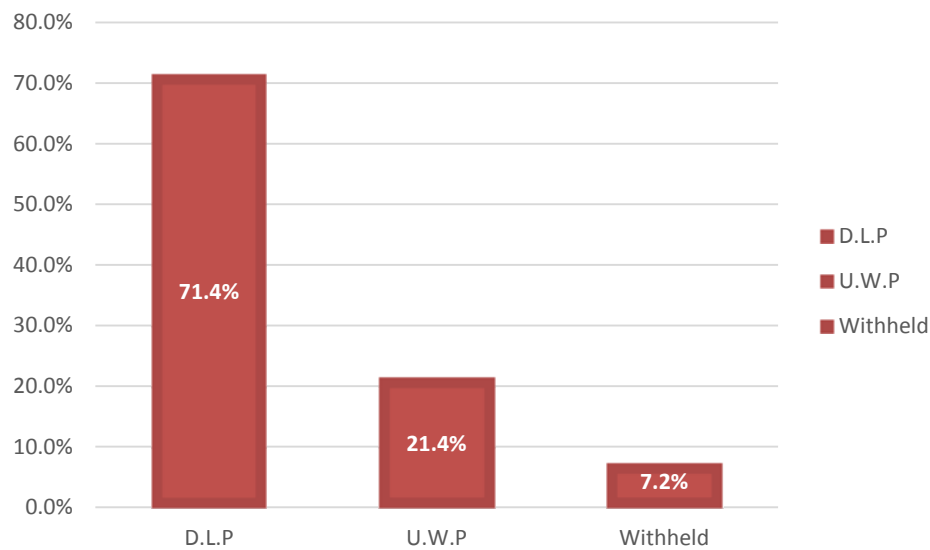


7. *For which candidate/party did you vote at the last elections?*

D.L.P - 71.4%

U.W.P - 21.4%

Withheld - 7.2%



Data Analysis & Statistical Representation

Figure: D 1 (Margin of Error Formula)

$$z^* \sqrt{\frac{\hat{p}(1-\hat{p})}{n}},$$

Recommendations

The opposition U.W.P badly needs to develop an effective and coherent communication strategy, and they must stick to it for an appreciable period so that it can take political root. Distractions posed by Linton's legal troubles and opposition framed questionable public profile could erode the party electability chances if the leader and party do not take urgent stock.

The U.W.P may be well served in engaging the Dominica Freedom Party (D.F.P) in meaningful dialogue, as remnants of support for this once popular political unit still exist in several areas. Several individuals, most of which declined being polled, claimed to have only voted for the D.F.P, boasting that the D.F.P was the last party and shall be the next party for which they will cast a vote.

With D.L.P's acquisition of D.F.P's worth, thanks in great part to the then party leader and now President of Dominica, His Excellency Charles Angello Savarin, and with the recent public rebuke of the D.F.P by no less a person than the Honorable Prime Minister and D.L.P's leader, Mr. Roosevelt Skerrit, a D.F.P/U.W.P campaign arrangement could benefit both parties.

The D.L.P should encourage growth from within party ranks. At present, SKERRIT is the party brand, its image, its symbol – its all. In several of the constituency, samples swear that they indeed voted for candidate SKERRIT, even if other names appeared on the ballot next to the D.L.P/shoe symbol. And there were instances where samples were fervently convinced that they in fact only voted for SKERRIT, claiming that they vote so that SKERRIT could become Prime Minister.

What this suggests is that the party, as a unit, is not strong even as it continues to enjoy “power” and may very well suffer from lack of operational structure in the absence of the current leader. When leadership vacuums occur within the party structure, such institutions could undergo long periods of restructuring; they may also lose party support in the process. It is easier for stronger, more organized and aggressive parties to make inroads in the support base of weaker parties.

There should be more cross-party engagements. Debates, discussions and dialogue must form part of the electoral process. This will help to put a more amicable twist on political affairs because the Dominica electorate is polarized to the point where they only identify with party images and this promotes a sort of blind allegiance. Younger demographics, especially women, must be encouraged to enter the electoral political process, by so doing creating greater opportunities for a wider cross-section of the population.

Both the U.W.P and D.L.P could tone down the rhetoric and embrace a more gentle approach. U.W.P in particular needs to strategize and plan a bit more succinctly, as several of the respondents revealed. According to one sample: *“the boy who cried wolf” approach to U.W.P’s politicking is not working.*” What this means is that the party keeps jumping from issue to issue and when real serious issues surface(s) or may surface, the people may not take them seriously.

A case in point, according to respondents, is the recent C.B.I matter where political mud is indiscriminately splashed, burying the truth of the issue in the process. No side wins this fight, though D.L.P’s seems more urgent and probably even desperate. People don’t know what to believe and this was not achieved by accident. D.L.P’s response was purposeful and focused. The future may reveal on which side of the C.B.I equation of falsehood and truth both U.W.P and D.L.P fell.

Results of this poll clearly suggest that this C.B.I matter may not be a major impact or influence on the results of the next general elections. Most of the samples simply do not believe that there are any truths to “questionable characters” that held Dominican citizenship and even served as ambassadors. The opposition’s message, some respondents claim, was strong but poorly executed; they, the respondents, just do not know to what extent the charges should be taken seriously.

Frankly speaking, it was strongly suggested that U.W.P may need to reshape its narrative, establish a governing philosophy and erect a visible image. A great number of our sample of registered voters seem to favour political or regime change (that is based on their loose chatter around the general survey), but they do not think that the U.W.P presents itself as a viable change entity.

A major thrust of D.L.P’s approach and ongoing campaign seems to suggest a shift in Dominica’s social system, one where mendicancy is allowed to pervade and remedial social response is prescribed by the charismatic leader. This of course is unsustainable and dangerous as an increasing mendicant populace may not meaningfully participate in national economy, and as has been seen in other social dependencies, such programs cannot be maintained. It is dangerous because a hungry people will fight for manna when they are deprived after being voluntarily and freely fed. The D.L.P should be guided by the Chinese proverb: “give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

Messaging, slogans, strategies, public appeal, credibility and success all add up in the + column for political parties. Remember, the ultimate end game for any political party is to win, and incumbents have the leverage within the governing structure to stretch the tenure. This, as was gathered from the samples, seems to be in play in Dominica, as it is in several other ‘democratic’ and especially non-democratic jurisdictions.

The people however ultimately decide, so it is the people whom parties need to target and convince that theirs is the cause which they “the people” should fight for or support or defend. “People” here also refers to those who are placed in positions of authority (elected or otherwise), with the responsibilities to protect peoples’ rights and civil liberties.

Conclusions

Because of the sensitive nature of this document, and in the interest of maintaining its operational independence and integrity, I shall withhold all crucial analytical intelligence and professional opinions of a more personal nature. It is incumbent on all sides to seek to make their candidates electable, no matter how tough, and to get their message out by conventional or non-conventional means.

Elections are meant to be tough because they are paths to power; power grants influence and influence opens the doors to money. There is no other way to state this as everything surrounds money – everything, even decency and morality at times. The Holy Bible warns against the love of money, but it strongly advocates the need of money. This therefore suggests that money be the symbol of power for those who subscribe to this philosophy.

Political parties exist to assume power and a quest for governing power should be their main motivation. The science of politics is as intricate as any other operational science and must be seriously factored into each and every situation. Respect and moral decency should guide campaigns, but politics is a rough and tumble contact sport so players must be prepared to deal with the challenges which will come.

Electoral processes must be fair, as much as can be. The compelling financial might of the incumbent D.L.P and their scientific driven messaging tilt the scale in their favor and may be two of the most compelling factors in the next Dominica General Parliamentary Election. The biggest issue however is the alarming number of electors who are listed as being eligible to vote. If this list is not cleansed, it may result in the erosion of the sanctity of the electoral process. Frankly, the population to electoral list ratio is wholly erroneous and is not in keeping with best electoral standards.

The opposition U.W.P may wish to brush up on its antics in those departments, but it is my view that improprieties with the voter list work in favour of the incumbent and will continue to be a major challenge for the opposition to even have a fair chance at winning. This could even worsen if the election apparatus somehow normalizes the access to and importation of excess votes into the system.

There is need for some balancing in the interest of preserving the integrity of the opposition machinery and its balancing function in government. Opposition here is not restricted to U.W.P; I speak on broader terms as no situation is or should be permanent in a democracy. D.L.P was once the parliamentary opposition and now they are the governing party, and so were D.F.P and U.W.P. If the tenets of democracy hold, the D.L.P will again serve in the opposition and vice versa. Occasional power change is both normal and healthy in a democracy.

It is my view that the Dominican electorate is as educated and astute as any other; it is some of the politicians who may not be adequately accomplished to understand the elector. I am satisfied that the electors, the great majority of them, were honest and truthful with their responses to this survey.

I am professionally optimistic in the political resolve of this and future generations of Dominicans. I thank you for sharing and look forward to future political engagements with you.

Resource and References

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