

16th September 2025

IEA PRESS RELEASE

Most Ghanaians Prefer the Election of MMDCEs on a Non-Partisan Basis – IEA Poll Reveals

Following persistent calls for the election of Metropolitan, Municipal and District Chief Executives (MMDCEs), an attempt was made in 2019 to amend Articles 55(3) and 243(1) to respectively allow for political party participation in local level elections and to make the position of MMDCEs an elective one. This was, however, discontinued due to ‘a lack of broad national consensus.’ The most recent debate on the election of MMDCEs relates to a call by President John Dramani Mahama, to have MMDCEs elected on a non-partisan basis in line with the promise in the 2024 *Resetting Ghana Manifesto* of the National Democratic Congress (NDC).

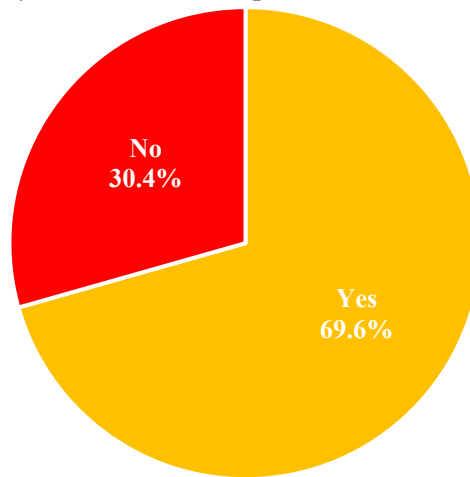
The IEA, therefore, conducted a nationwide poll to solicit citizens’ views on how MMDCEs should get into office. Data was collected from all 16 regions of Ghana between 15 and 26 August 2025, targeting Ghanaians aged 18 years and above. The poll revealed that:

1. Almost seven out of ten Ghanaians (69.6%) know how MMDCEs get into office.
2. A significant majority of Ghanaians (67.9%) prefer that MMCEs be elected to office.
3. On the mode of election, more than six out of every ten Ghanaians (63.5%) prefer the election of MMDCEs on a non-partisan basis.

There is a high level of awareness among citizens on how MMDCEs get into office.

To settle any lingering questions on the level of public knowledge regarding the current appointment process of MMDCEs, respondents were asked if they knew how the MMDCE position is filled. The results show a high awareness of the process with 69.6% of respondents indicating that they know how MMDCEs get into office. On the contrary, 30.4% of respondents indicated that they did not know how MMDCEs get into office under the current system. Despite this high level of awareness, the 30.4% respondents who lack knowledge on the current process is significant enough to require civic education on the subject.

Fig. 1: Do you know how the position of MMDCE is filled?

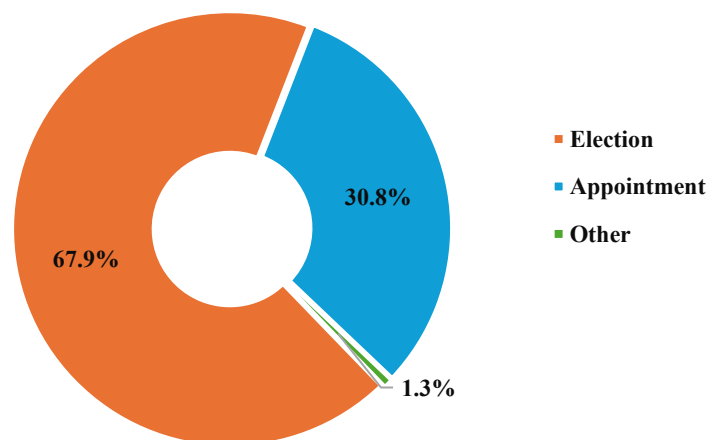


Source: IEA Poll on Election of MMDCEs, 2025

Majority of Ghanaians prefer that MMDCEs should be elected

In light of continuing debates about whether MMDCEs should be elected or appointed, the IEA sought to find out the views of Ghanaians on how MMDCEs should get into office. The results showed a preference for electing MMDCEs over other methods, such as presidential appointment. More than two-thirds of the respondents (67.9%) preferred elections (there is a similarly significant preference for election on a non-partisan basis as noted below), while the remaining three out of ten (32.1%) preferred appointment and other modes of filling the position. This strong preference supports recent calls for the election of MMDCEs.

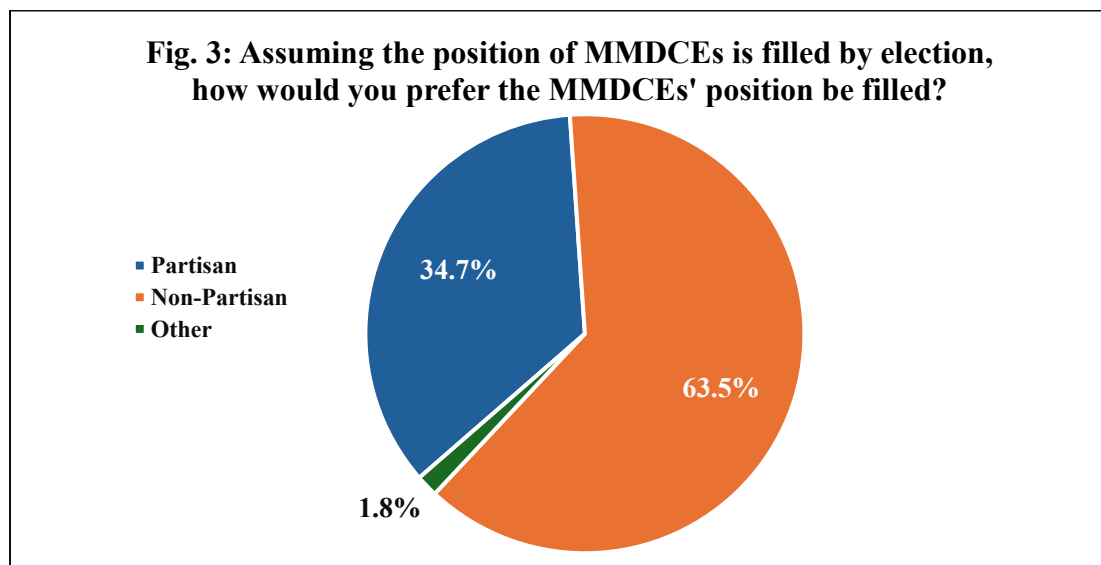
Fig. 2: How would you prefer the MMDCE's position be filled?



Source: IEA Poll on Election of MMDCEs, 2025

Majority of Ghanaians prefer election of MMDCEs on a non-partisan basis

While debates persist about whether MMDCEs should be elected on a partisan or non-partisan basis, the poll asked respondents that assuming MMDCEs are to be elected, what approach should Ghana adopt. Citizens' opinion on this question is critical because political party participation is currently prohibited in all local level elections. The results showed a preference for the non-partisan election of MMDCEs, with a significant majority of 63.5% of respondents indicating their support for non-partisan elections. A minority of 36.5%, however, indicated their support for either partisan elections (34.7%) or other forms of election (1.8%). This majority preference for the non-partisan election of MMDCEs seems to suggest a lack of trust for political parties in local level elections.



Source: IEA Poll on Election of MMDCEs, 2025

Summary of Results

1. Majority of Ghanaians prefer the election of MMDCEs over other methods of filling the position.
2. Further to the above, a clear majority of Ghanaians prefer the election of MMDCEs on a non-partisan basis.
3. The findings of the poll suggest that most of the people polled seem to lack confidence in political parties when it comes to local level elections.

END.