



RESEARCH & ANALYTICS
INSTITUTE (RAI)

**Insights into Political Leadership,
Governance, and Economic Stability
(January 2026)**

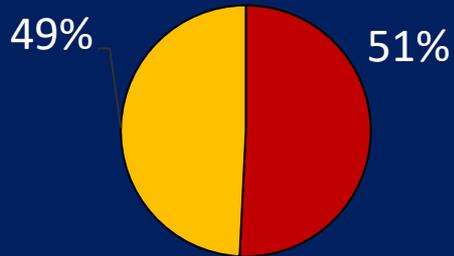
Annual Youth Political Pulse

The Political Survey 2026 was shared with 25,000+ youth and the findings of the survey are reported at a 95% confidence level ($Z = 1.96$) with an estimated margin of error of $\pm 3.6\%$, indicating statistically reliable findings.

Demographics of the study

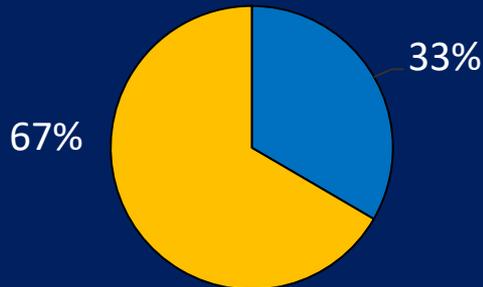
Gender

Male Female

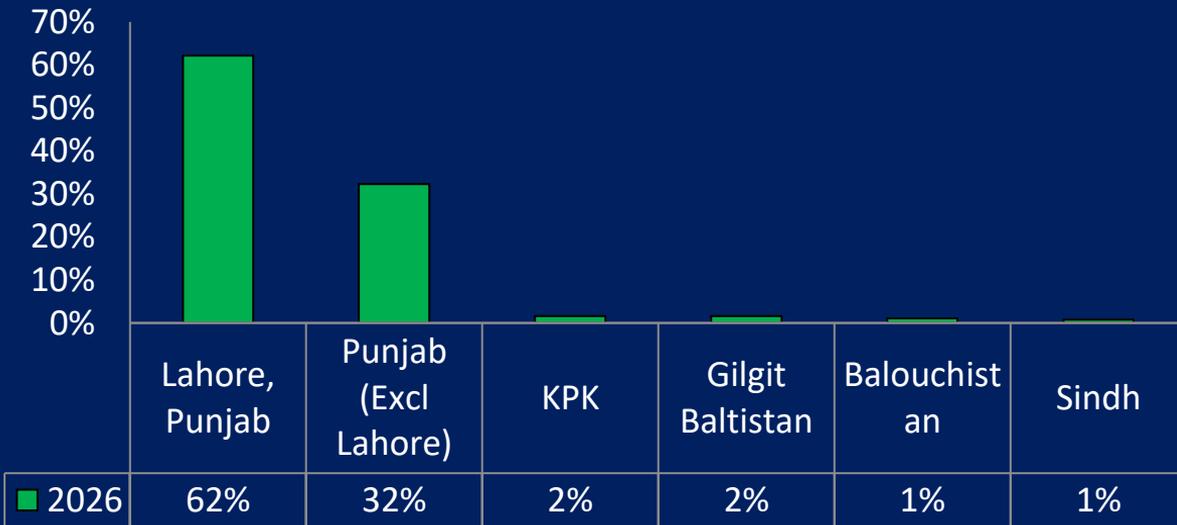
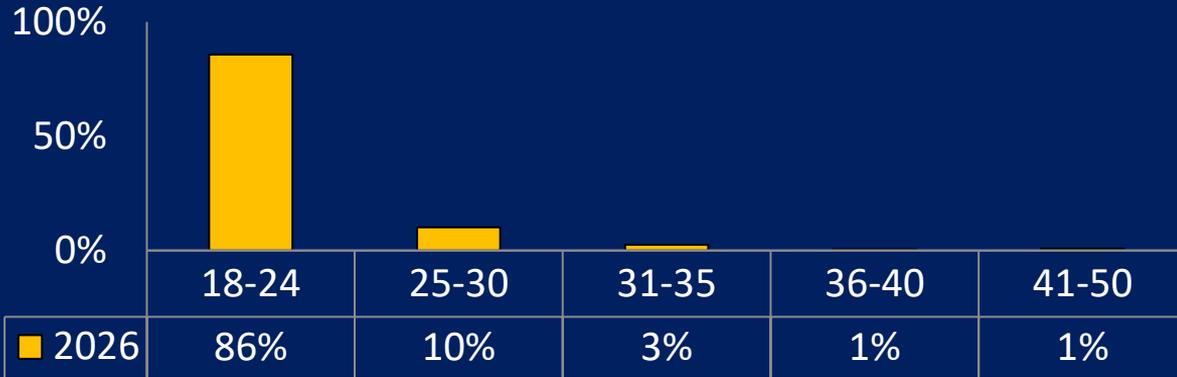


Area

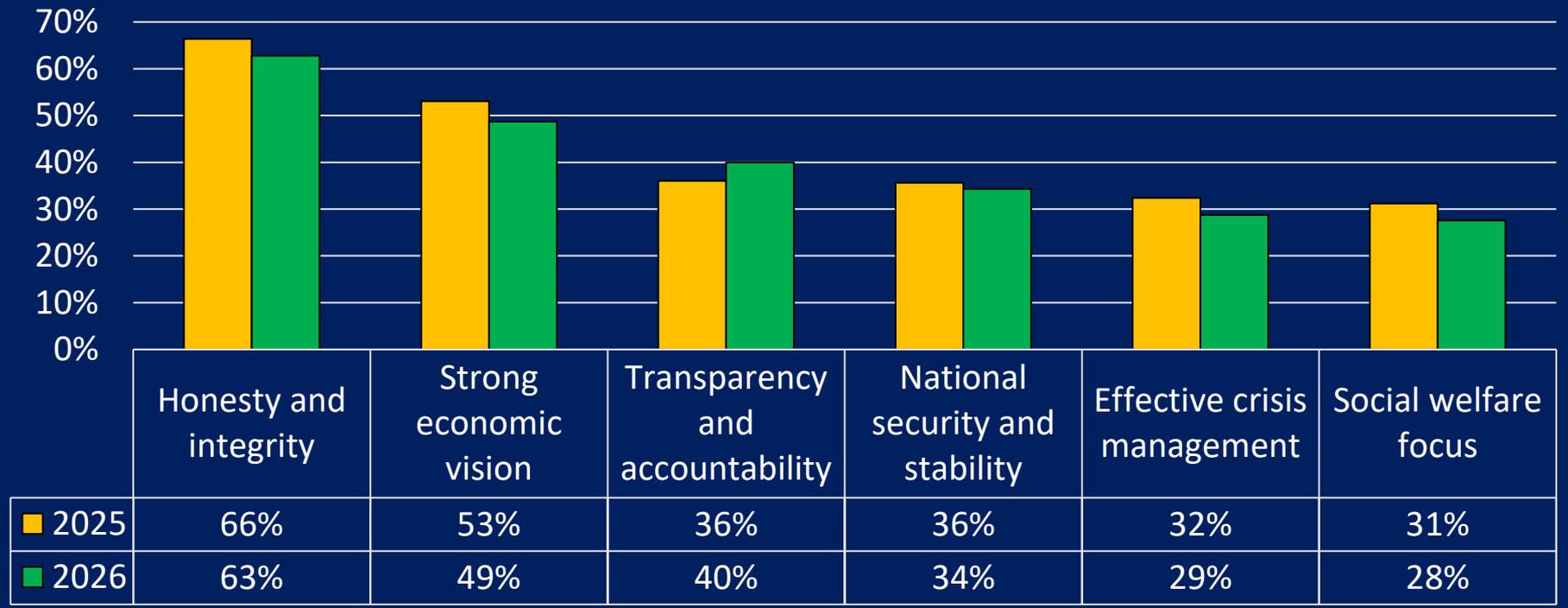
Rural Urban



Age group

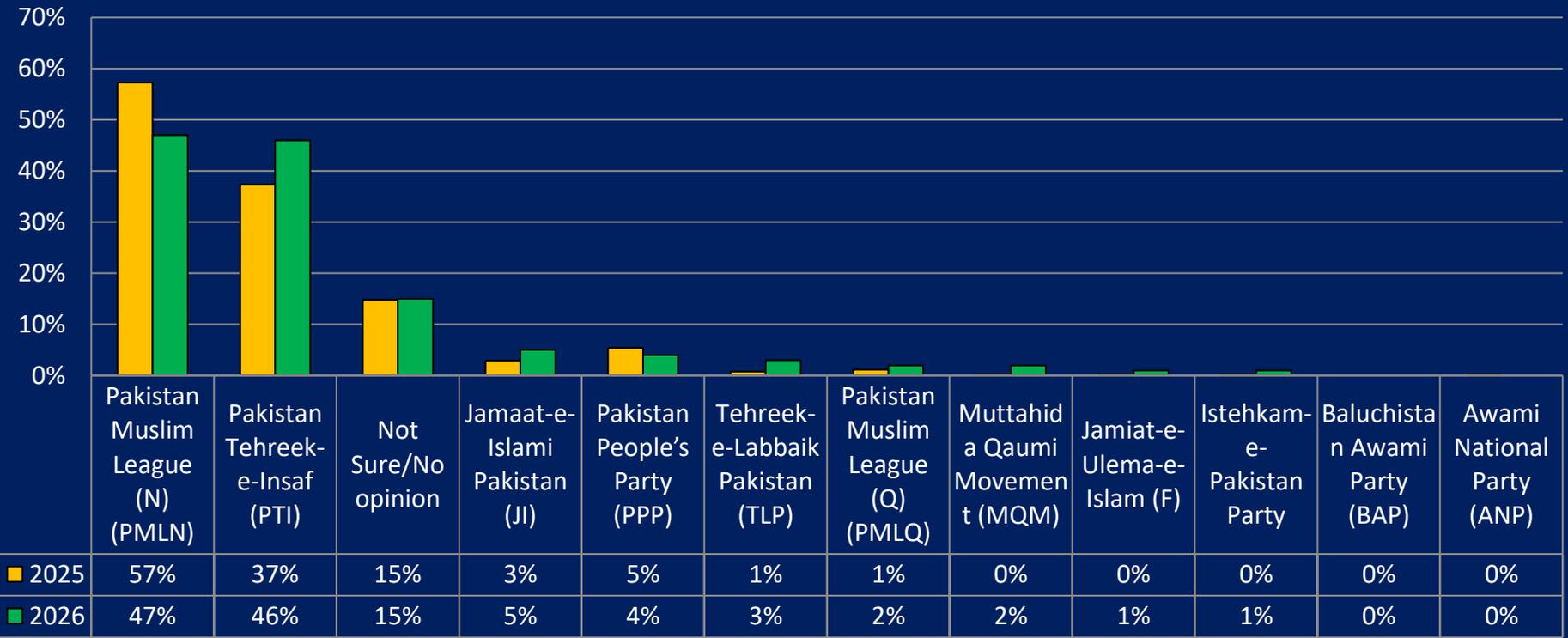


Q: What are the most important leadership qualities you expect from Pakistan's political leaders?



Youth needs leadership with honesty, integrity, strong economic vision and transparency.

Q: Which political party or leadership do you believe has contributed most to Pakistan's development in the past decade?



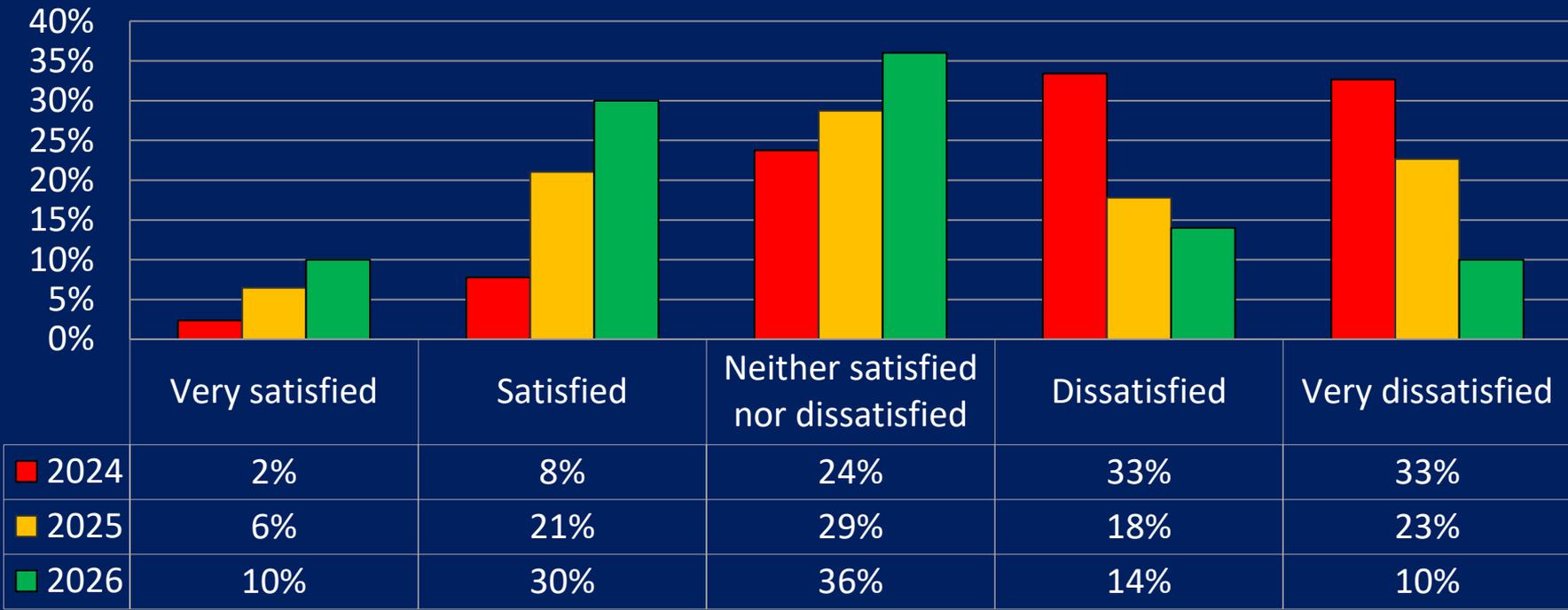
Majority think PML-N has contributed most to the development.

Q: In your opinion, is Pakistan heading in the right or wrong direction?



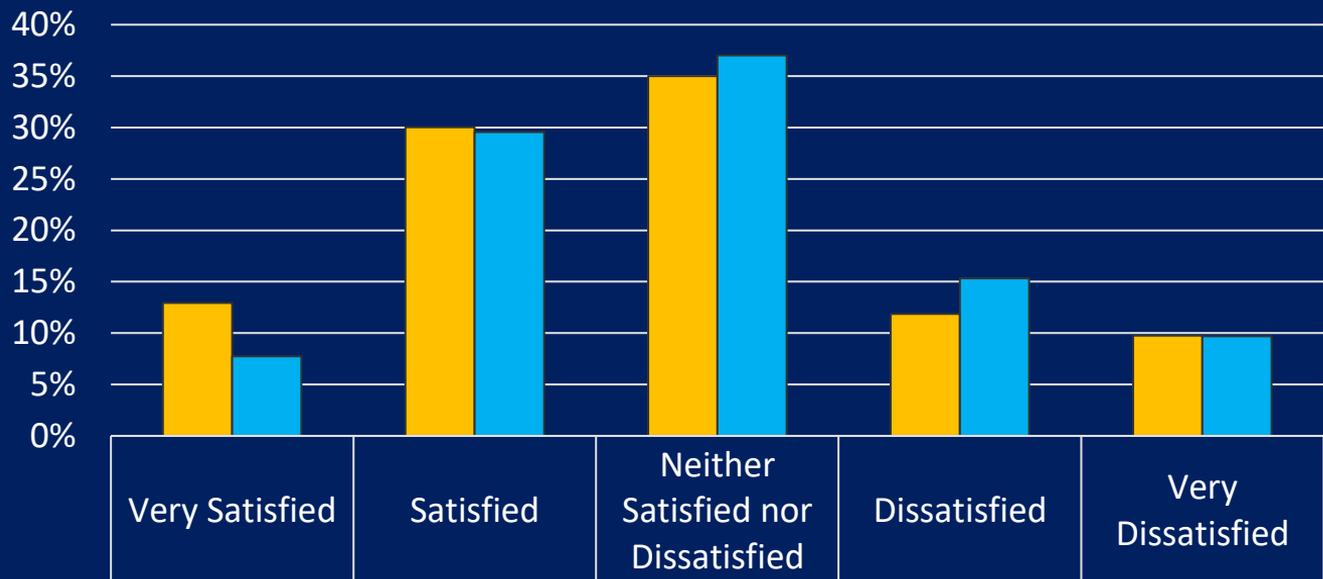
26% Youth believe that Pakistan is headed in right direction compared to 21% last year .

Q11: How satisfied are you with the performance of the current government?



40% satisfaction with Govt. performance compared to 27% last year.

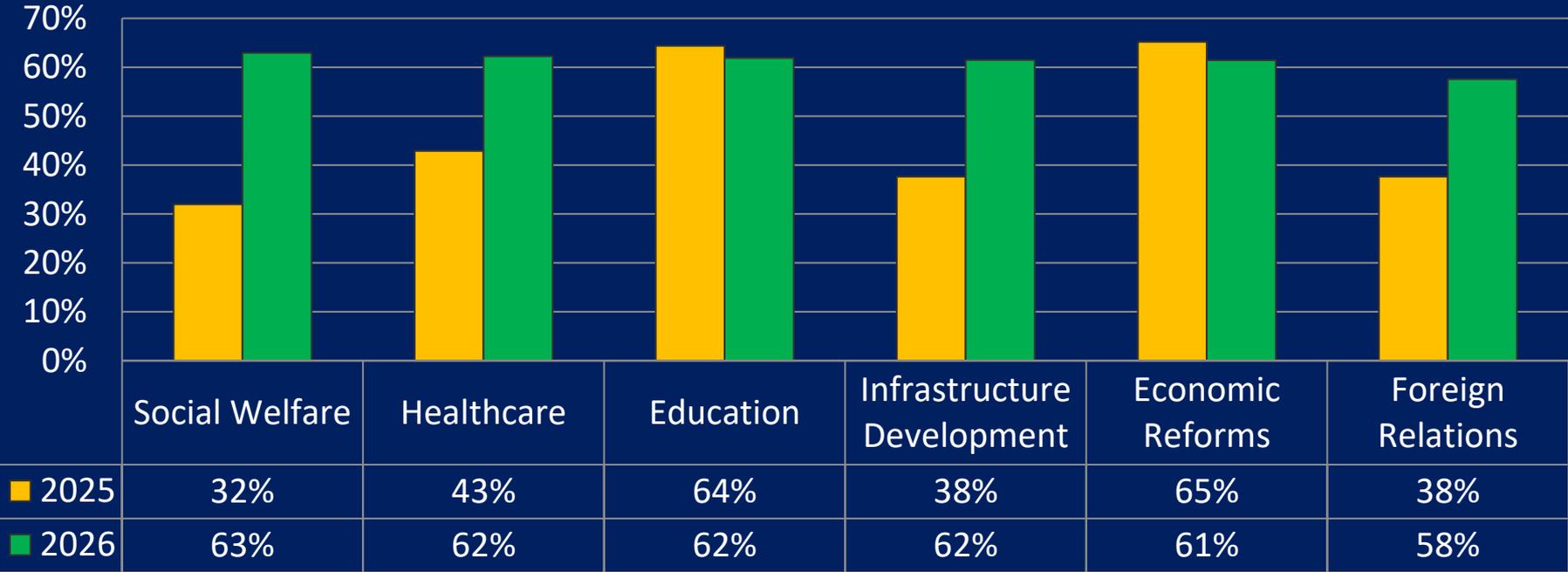
Q11: How satisfied are you with the performance of the current government at Federal and Provincial levels?



■ Provincial Govt. Performance	13%	30%	35%	12%	10%
■ Federal Govt. Performance	8%	30%	37%	15%	10%

Youth is more satisfied with the performance of Provincial Govt (43%) as compared to the performance of Federal Govt. (38%)

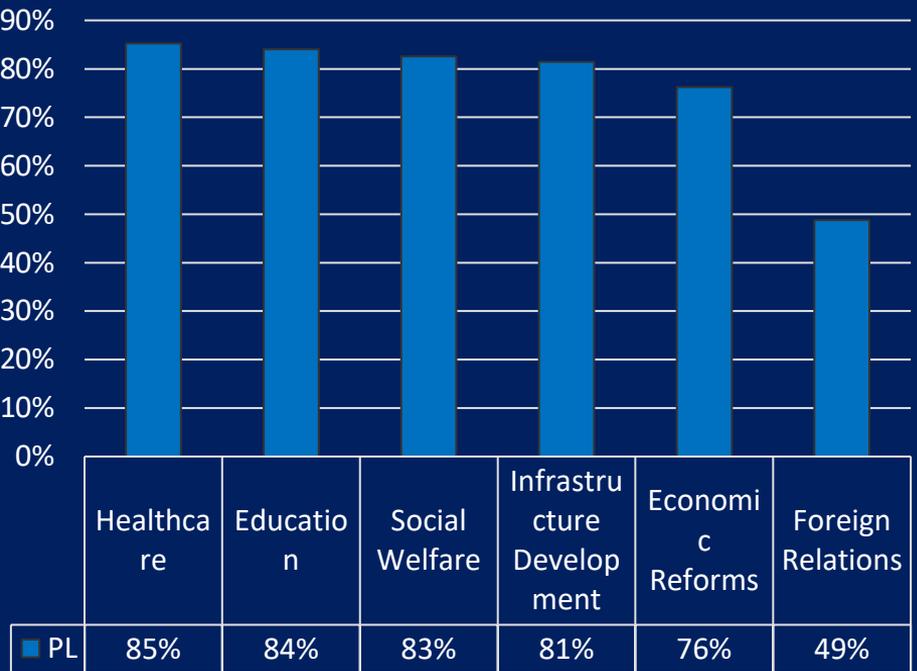
Q: In your opinion, which area should be the top priority for the government?



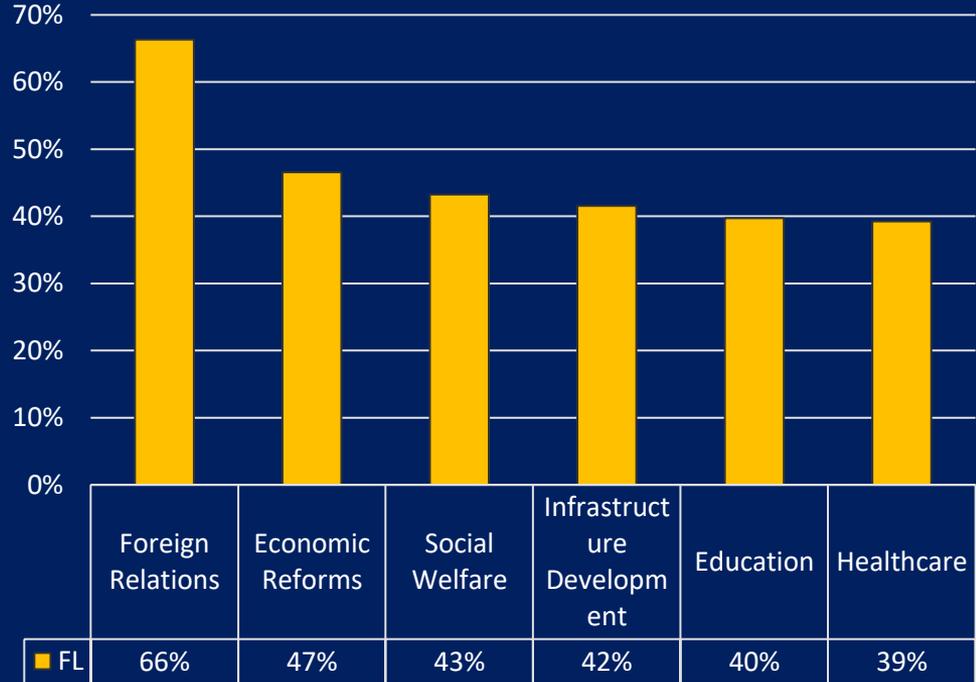
Social Welfare, Healthcare and education – Biggest issues for youth

Q: In your opinion, which area should be the top priority for the government?

Provincial Level



Federal Level

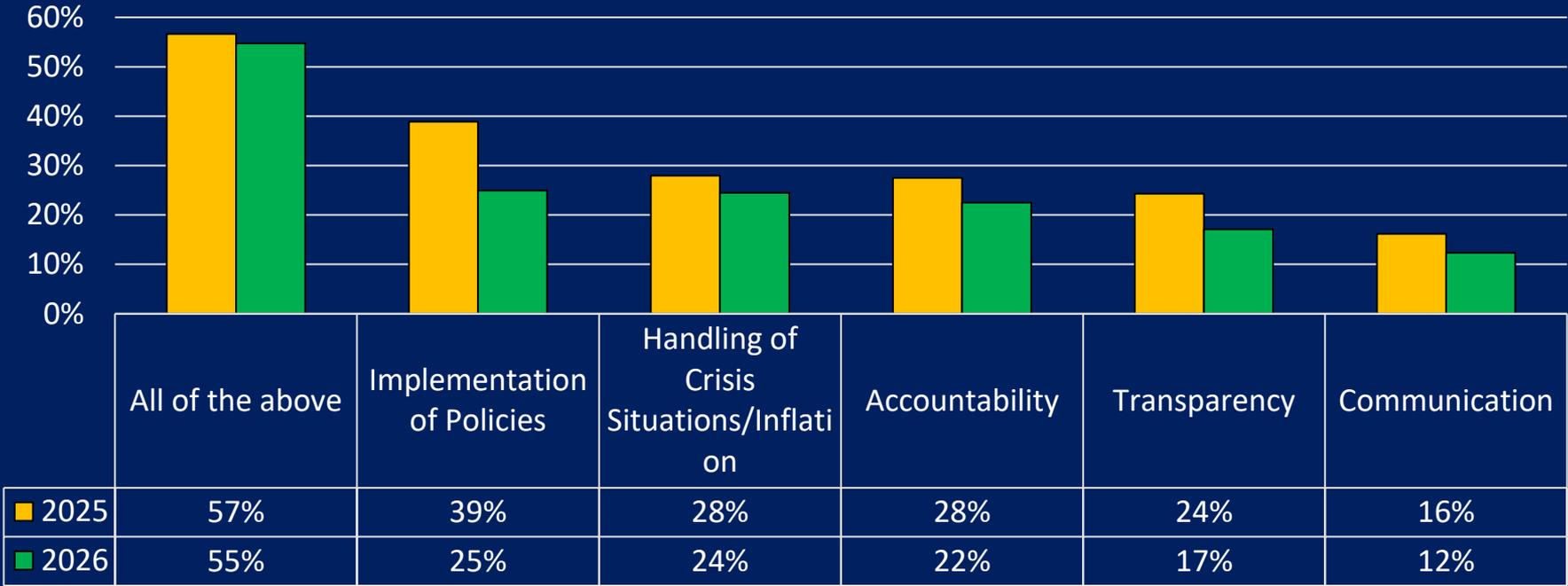


Q: How would you rate the situation in Pakistan based on the following indicators?



All the indicators show improvement as compared to the last year.

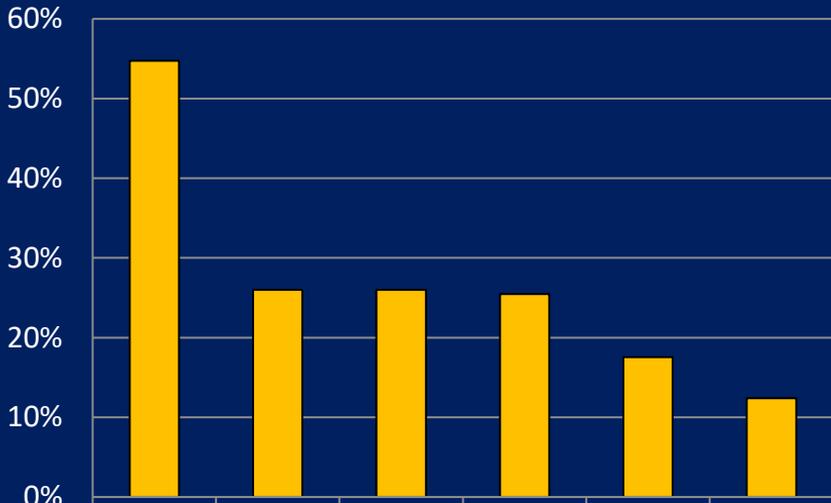
Q: In your opinion, which aspect of government performance needs the most improvement?



Youth thinks Implementation of policies, handling of crises situations/inflation and accountability need most improvement.

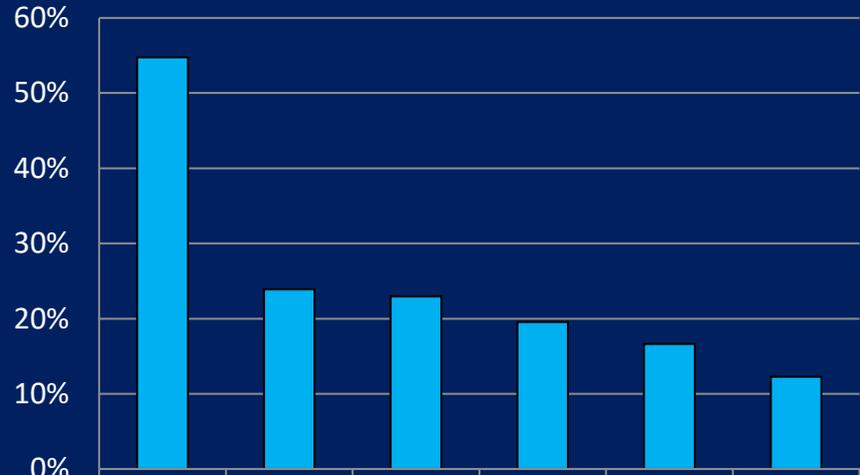
Q: In your opinion, which aspect of government performance needs the most improvement?

Federal



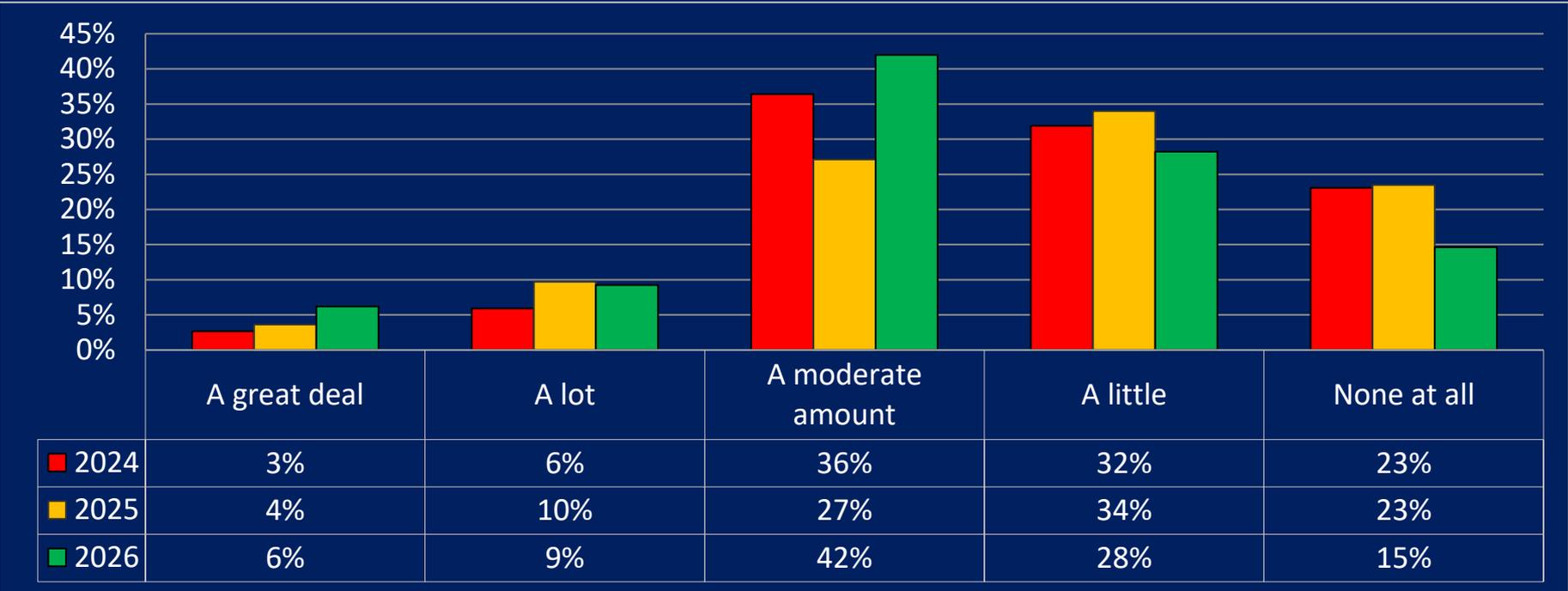
■ Federal	55%	26%	26%	25%	18%	12%
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Provincial



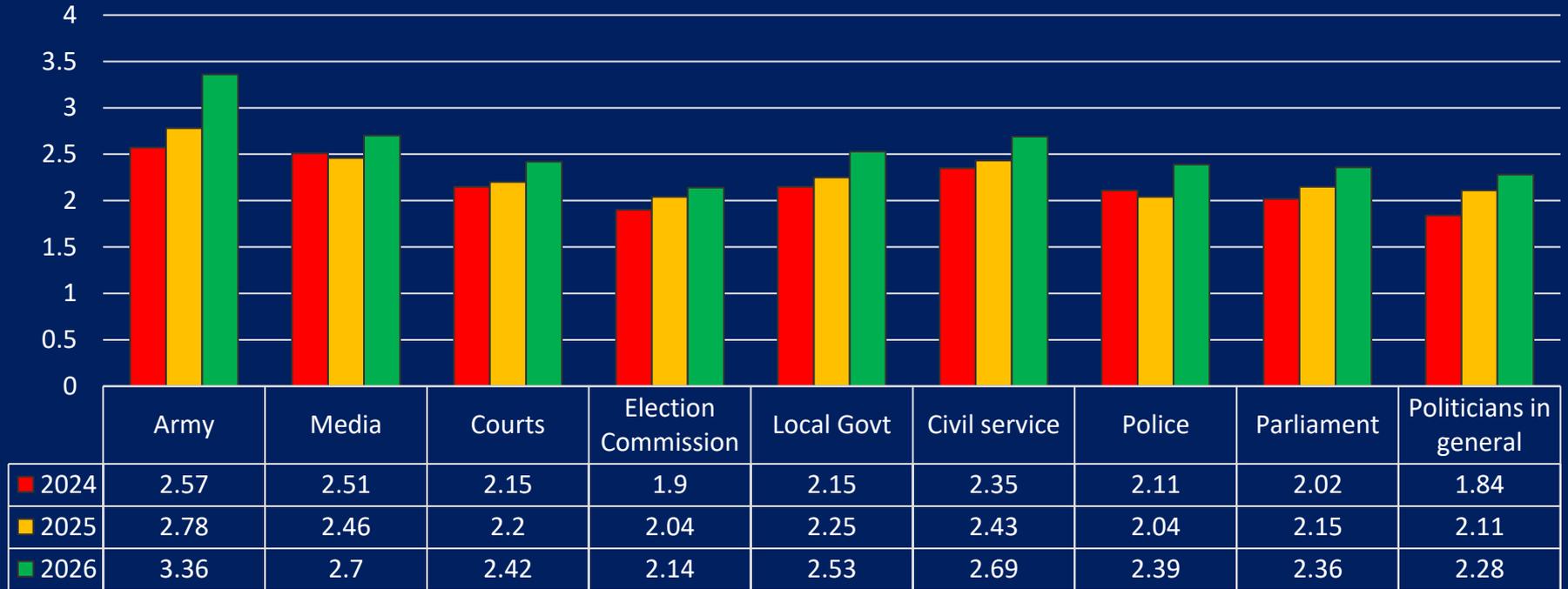
■ Provincial	55%	24%	23%	20%	17%	12%
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Q: How much do you trust government institutions in the country?



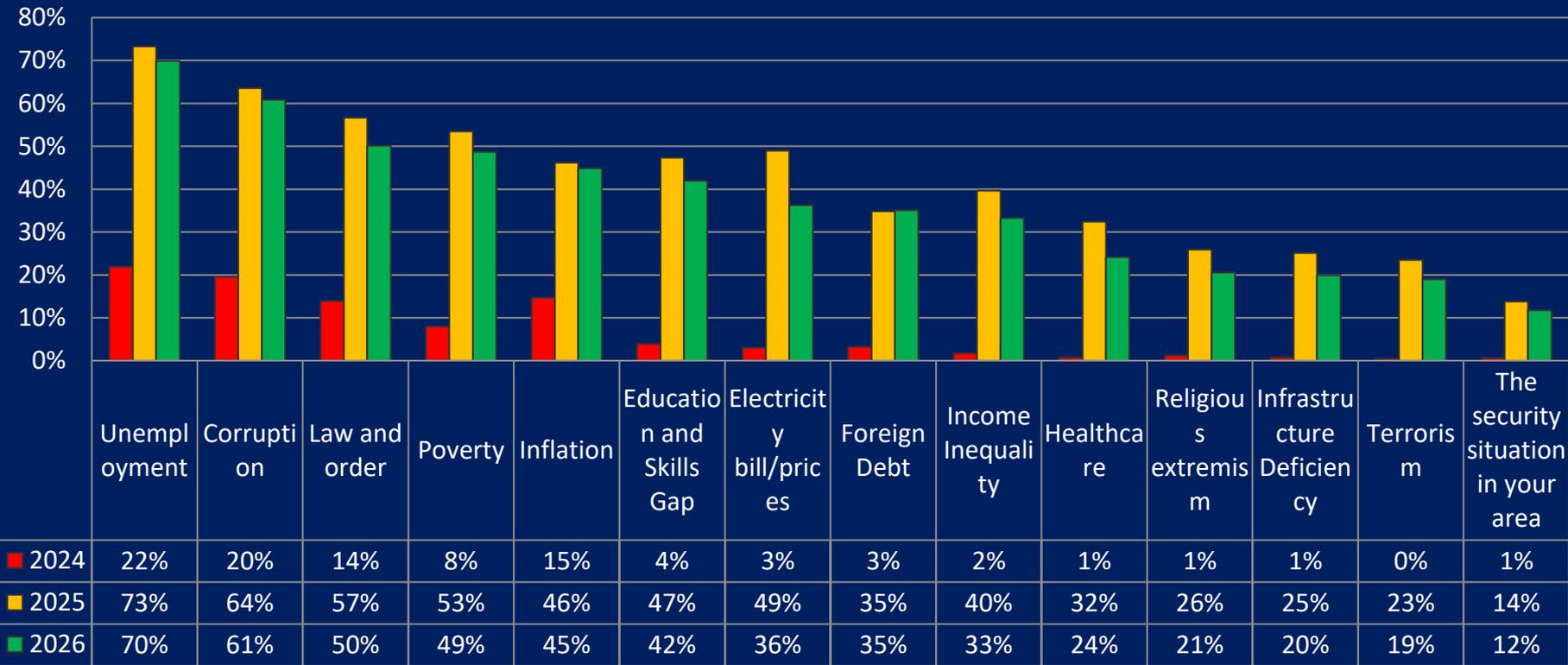
Youth trust on Govt. institutions has increased to 15% as compared to 14% last year. Little/no trust has also decreased to 43% (57% last year)

Q: Thinking now about the following institutions, to what extent do you approve or disapprove of the job they are doing?



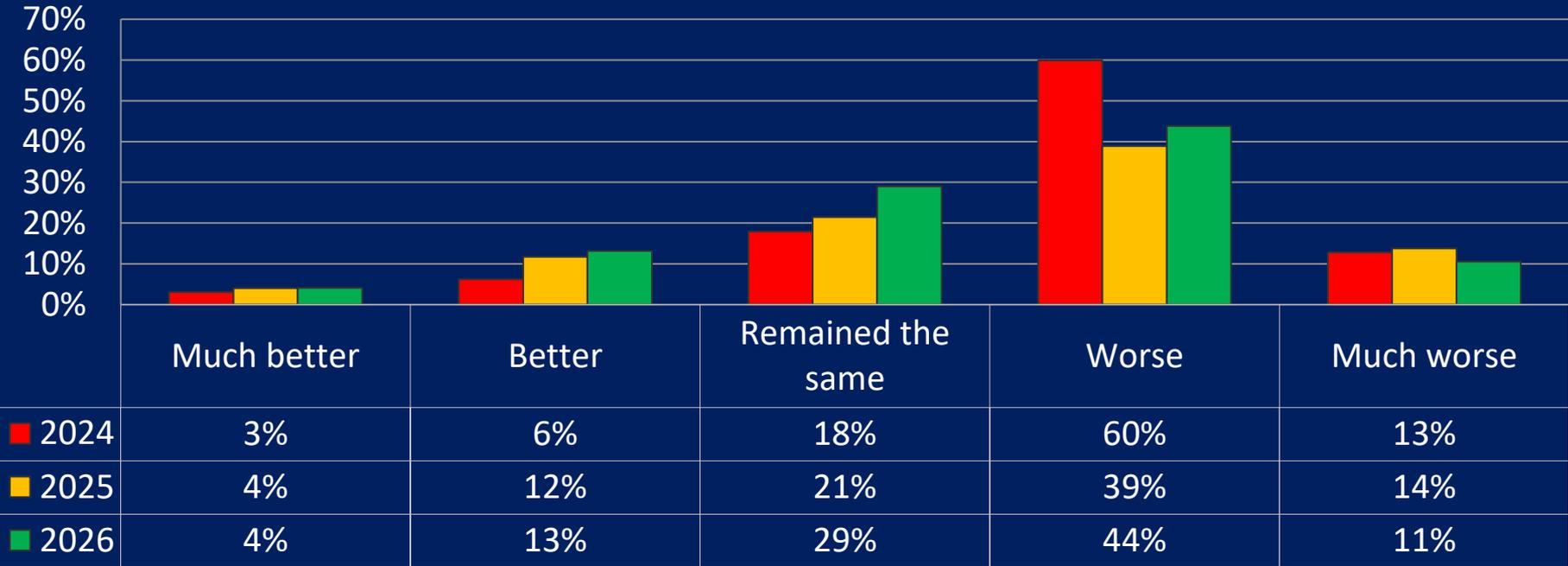
All the ratings show improvement.

Q: What do you believe is the most significant economic challenge(s) facing the country?



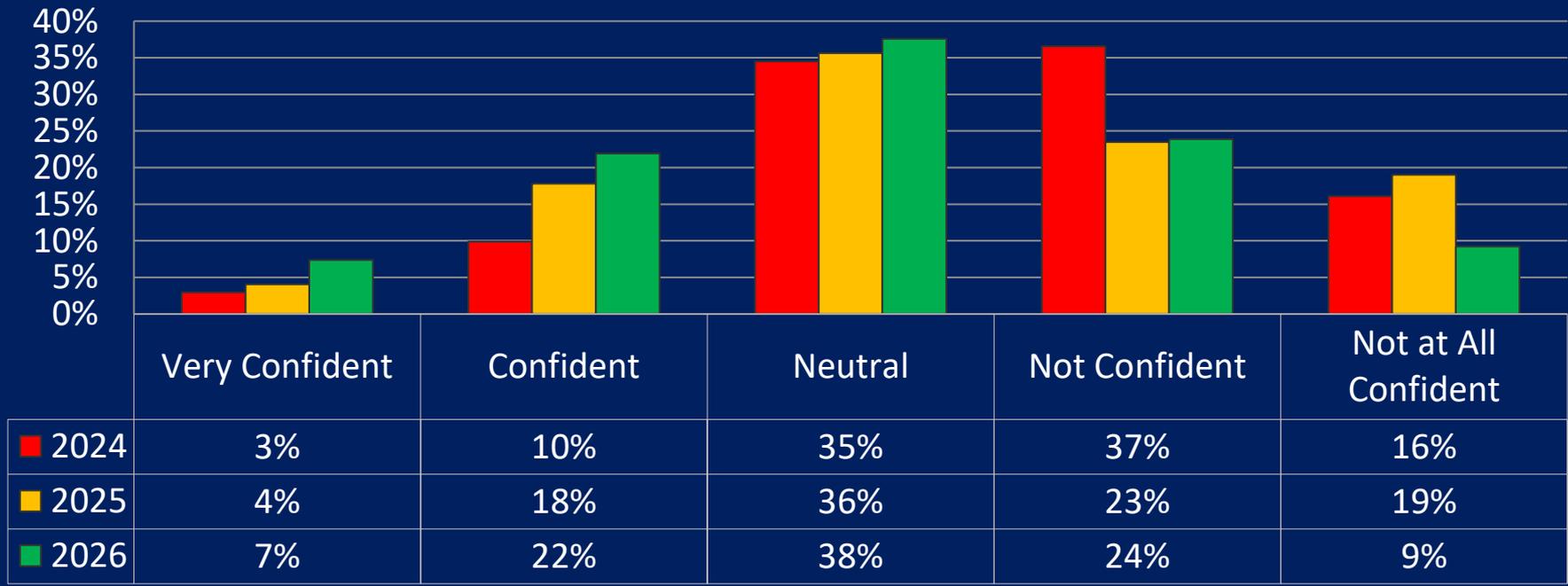
Biggest Challenges for youth are unemployment, corruption, law & order and the poverty.

Q: How has the economic situation in Pakistan impacted your personal financial well-being?



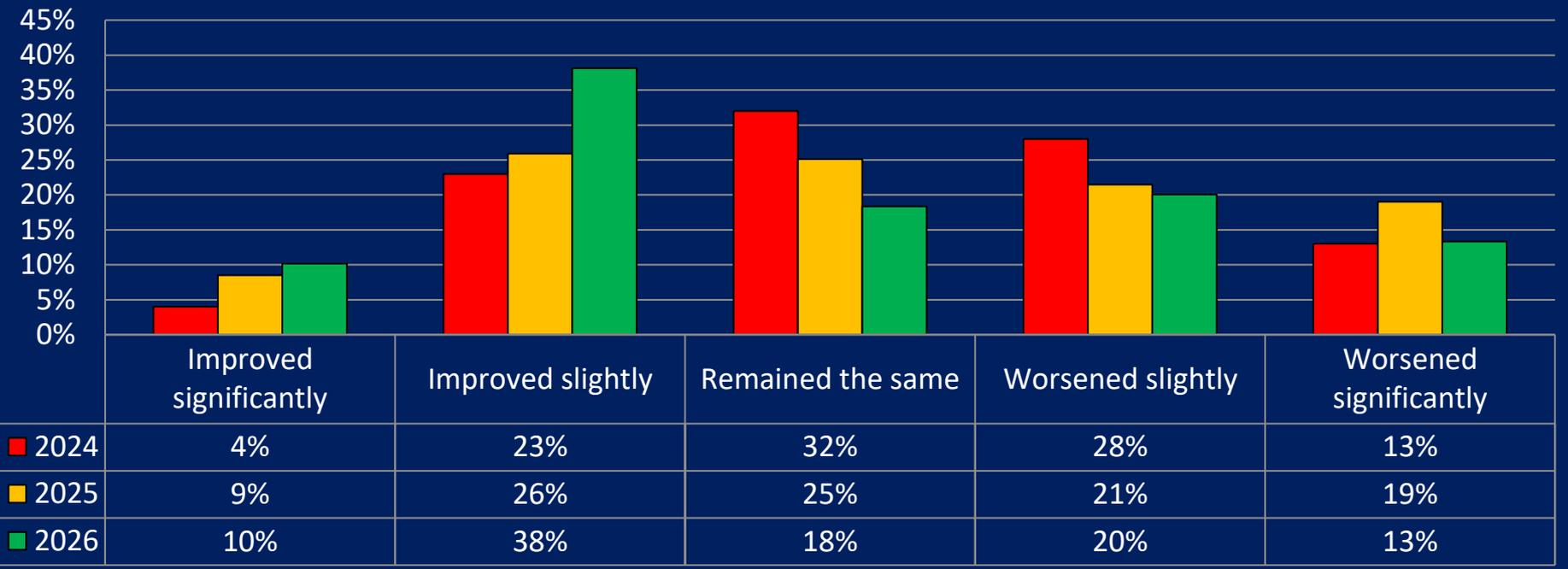
Financial well-being of 17% youth has improved as compared to 16% last year (1% improvement).

Q: How confident are you in the government's ability to effectively implement policy changes?



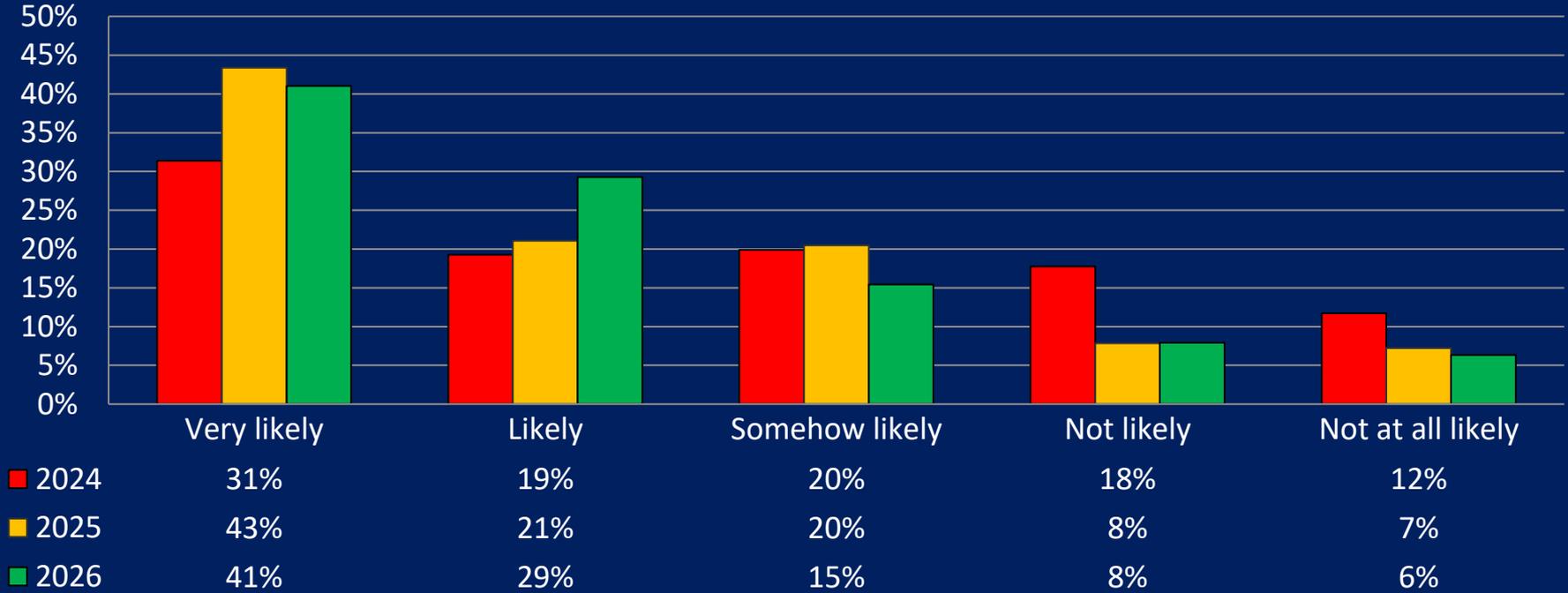
29% youth is confident in Govt's ability to effectively implement policy changes as compared to 22% last year.

Q: Has Pakistan's political landscape improved, worsened, or remained the same in the past year?



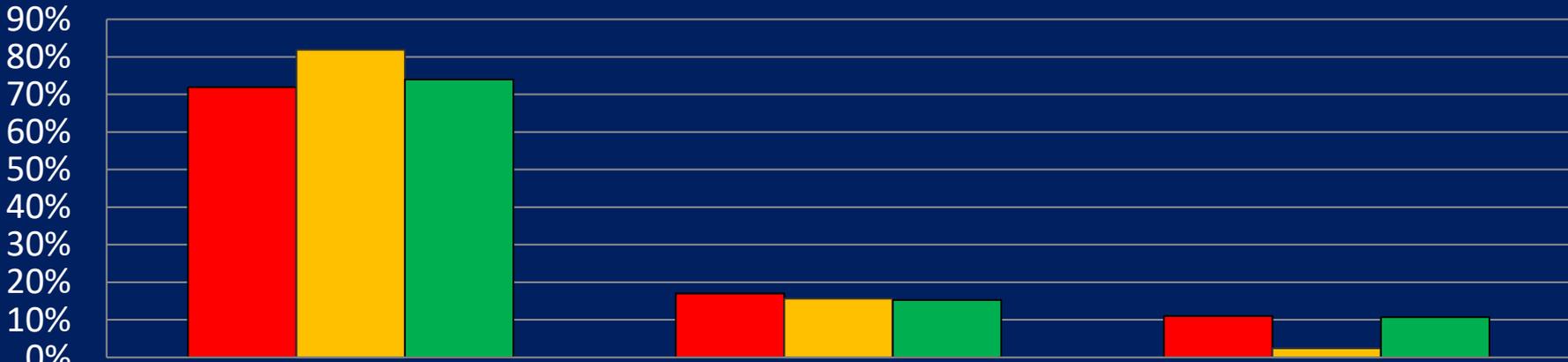
48% youth think Pakistan's political landscape has improved as compared to 34% last year. 33% think it's worse which was 40% last year.

Q: If elections are to be held today, how likely are you to vote?



70% youth is likely to vote as compared to 64% last year.

Q: Are you registered to vote in the elections?

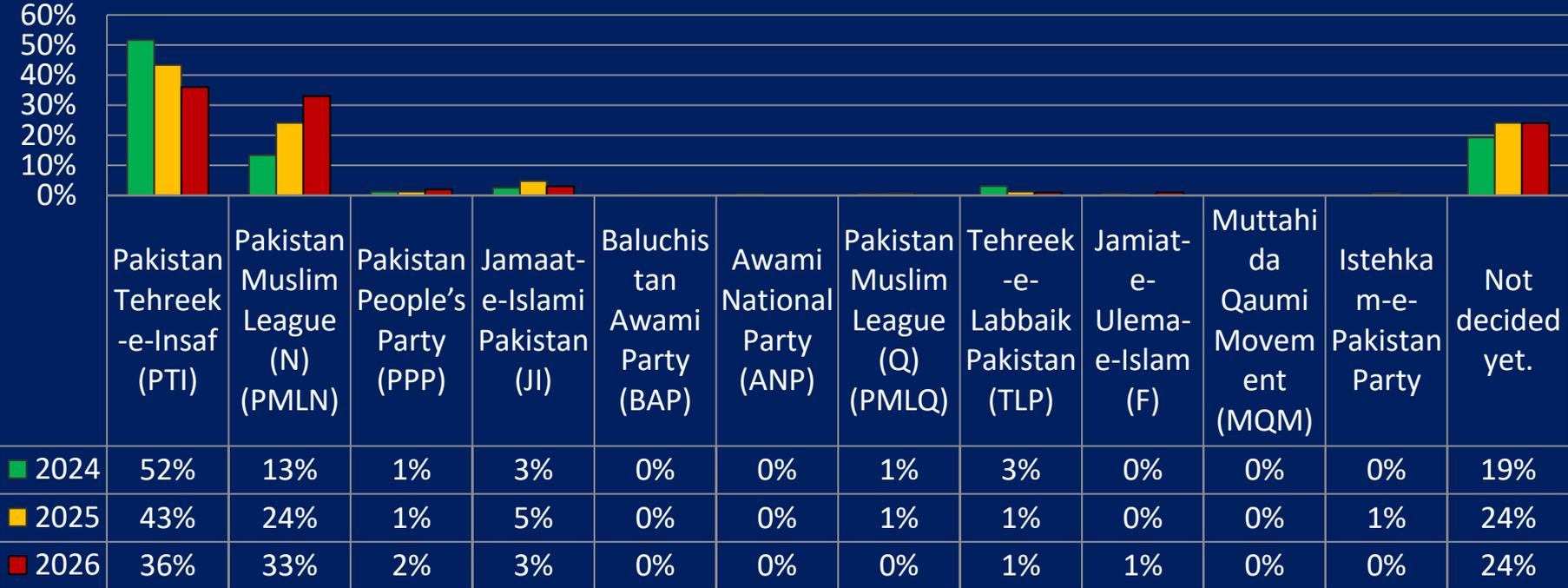


■ 2024
■ 2025
■ 2026

	Yes	No	Not sure
2024	72%	17%	11%
2025	82%	16%	2%
2026	74%	15%	11%

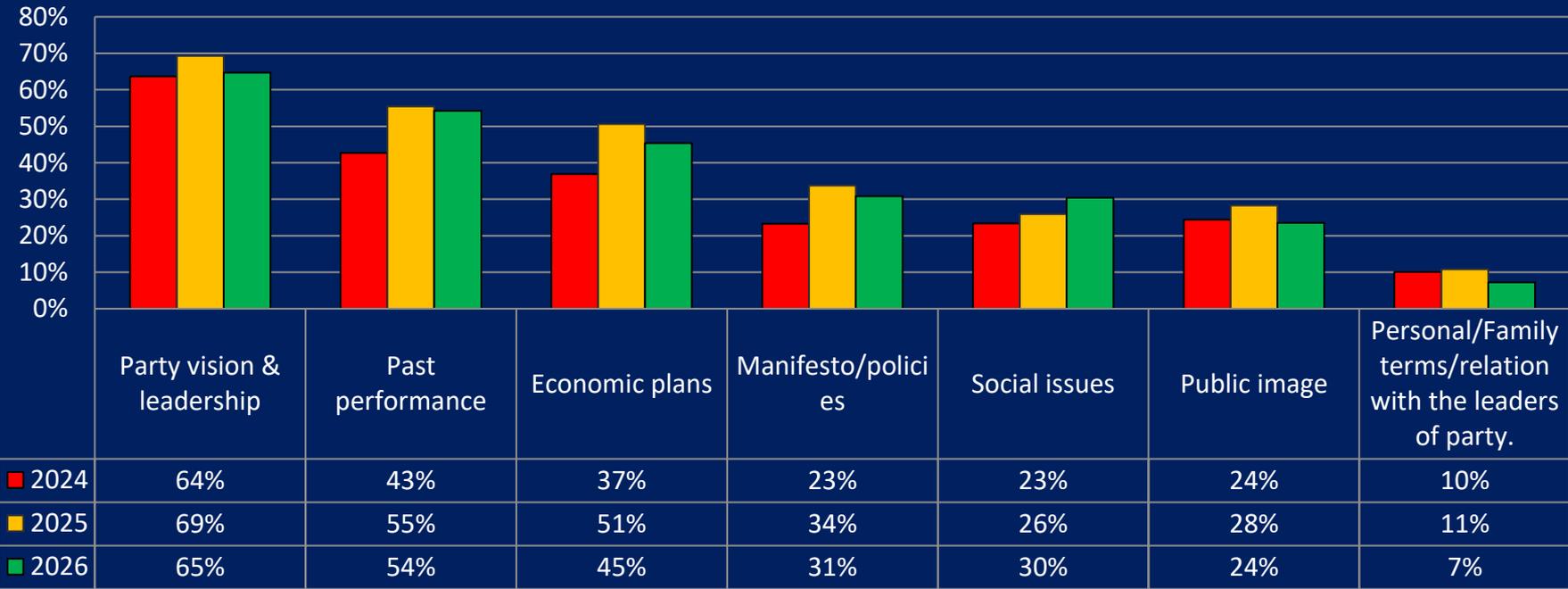
74% youth is registered voter.

Q: If elections are to be held today, which party would you vote for?



36% youth will vote PTI whereas 33% will vote to PML-N. however, PTI's voters have decreased by 7% and PML-N voters have increased to 9% as compared to last year.

Q: What factors influence your choice of political party?



For youth, party vision & leadership, past performance and economic plans are the most influencing factors for choosing any political party.

Brief Summary

- The Political Survey 2026 reflects a **gradual improvement in youth perceptions** regarding governance, political stability, and economic outlook compared to previous years, though significant concerns remain.
- Overall optimism has increased, with **26% of respondents believing Pakistan is moving in the right direction**, up from 21% in 2025. Satisfaction with the **current government's performance** has also improved, reaching **40%**, while dissatisfaction has declined notably. Respondents express **greater satisfaction with provincial governments (43%) than the federal government (38%)**.
- Youth continue to value **honesty, integrity, transparency, and a strong economic vision** as the most important leadership qualities. While **PML-N is viewed as the party contributing most to national development**, the gap with PTI has narrowed considerably, indicating a more competitive political landscape.
- Priority areas identified for government action include **education, healthcare, social welfare, infrastructure development, and economic reforms**, with strong emphasis at both federal and provincial levels. Perceptions of key national indicators—**political stability, law and order, security, and the economy**—have shown improvement compared to previous years.

- Despite some positive trends, **trust in government institutions remains mixed**. While moderate trust has increased, a substantial proportion of youth still report little or no trust. The areas requiring the most improvement include **policy implementation, crisis and inflation management, accountability, and transparency**.
- Economically, **unemployment, corruption, law and order, poverty, and inflation** remain the most pressing challenges. Although a small improvement is seen in personal financial well-being, a large segment of respondents continues to report worsening conditions.
- Political engagement among youth is rising, with **70% indicating they are likely to vote** and **74% registered as voters**. Voting intentions show a close contest between **PTI (36%)** and **PML-N (33%)**, with party vision, leadership quality, past performance, and economic plans being the key drivers of voter choice.

Overall, the findings suggest **cautious optimism among youth**, marked by improving perceptions and engagement, alongside persistent demands for better governance, accountability, and economic management.

The End



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