SOUTH AFRICA’S POLITICAL STATE OF PLAY AT END MARCH 2023

This report investigates the political balance of power in South Africa at the end of March 2023. It is based on a survey of 1,517 demographically and geographically representative registered voters commissioned by the Foundation.

That survey had a national margin of error of 4%. The comparisons to 2022 are drawn to a prior Foundation survey of 3,204 demographically and geographically representative voters conducted in July 2022. That survey had a national margin of error of 1.7%. Totals may not add up to 100% where respondents could not answer a question. The survey data is not a forecast of South Africa’s 2024 national election result.

PARTY SUPPORT LEVELS

Change in support levels compared to July 2022 poll
Political support levels by party modeled for turnout

Change in party support levels modeled for turnout compared to July 2022 poll and the 2019 national election results (in 2019 the turnout level was 65%)
TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS

The raw data shows that the ANC is polling at 45.9%, the DA at 23.3% and the EFF at 8.4%. The raw data for the smaller parties is near to, or within, the margin of error and should therefore be interpreted with caution. When the data is modeled for turnout, support for the ANC rises to between 52% and 53% and that for the DA to between 24% and 25%. This is on par with the figures recorded in 2022. Again we caution that the data for smaller parties should at best be cautiously read as indicative of trends. Our interpretation of the data is that ANC support is stable at just over 50%, that for the DA is stable at just under 25%, that for the EFF is down sharply (although the precise numbers recorded are very low, which may in part be ascribed to a group of voters which ping-pongs between the ANC and the EFF), that for the IFP is up sharply (reflecting findings in KwaZulu-Natal that will be published in due course), that for the FF+ is up a bit, and that for ASA is down a bit. Further granular detail on party support, leader favourability, and perceptions of South Africa’s progress will be published over coming weeks.

This report was produced by the Social Research Foundation, a think-tank focusing on public policy issues and the promotion of democracy.

Enquiries can be sent to info@sorefo.org