



Press Release

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Battle lines are drawn for some close races in the provinces

Overview of trends in political party support - provincial elections

- Apart from KwaZulu-Natal and the Northern Cape, the ANC has seen a drop in support in all other provinces; the most noticeable and significant drop being in the Western Cape (see section on Western Cape below).
- Support for the DA has dramatically increased in the Western Cape. The party maintains similar levels of support to those it obtained in the 2004 election for the Provincial Legislatures. (See section on Western Cape)
- IFP support is limited to KZN and has tumbled from 36% in the 2004 election for the KZN Provincial Legislature to around 15% at the end of October 2008. (See section on KZN)
- The UDM, FF+ and the ID are essentially regional parties with their support bases mainly in the Eastern Cape (UDM), Free State (FF+) and the Western Cape (ID). Their support bases in other provinces are insignificant.
- Although a very small player, the ACDP manages to maintain support across most provinces
- Around 13% of likely voters – those persons who are registered and indicated that they are likely to and want to vote – are uncertain and they potentially hold the key in provinces such as Gauteng and the Eastern Cape and could determine whether the ANC would be able to achieve an outright majority or whether the ANC would have to seek a coalition partner in order to govern in these provinces.
- The percentage of likely voters who are uncertain correlates strongly with the average percentage of ANC supporters who indicated that they would vote for an opposition party in the 2009 election – maybe the first unofficial glimmer of support for the Congress of the People (COPE), which had not yet been established when the survey was conducted.

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Western Cape (%)

	2004 Election	Oct-'08
DA	27.11	42.8
ANC	45.25	26
ID	7.84	7.9
ACDP	3.44	1.8
PAC	0.42	1.2
IFP	0.14	1.1
FF+	0.62	1.1
AMP	0.70	0.9
UDM	1.75	0.4
Other	12.73	1.6
Uncertain		15.2
	100.00	100

- Complete switching of positions – the Democratic Alliance has managed to leverage off their performance at local government level as well as capitalise on internal strife within the ANC and would have been able to secure around 42.8% of support amongst likely voters in the Western Cape should an election have been held at the end of October 2008.
- The period of instability and strife that marked the ANC in the Western Cape over the past few months has taken its toll and the party, although competitive, would not have been able to repeat its performance in the 2004 election in the Western Cape if an election were to be held at the end of October 2008. It doesn't seem as if the change in leadership (Lynne Brown replacing Ebrahim Rasool as premier) has brought improved stability in the support base of the ANC.
- Although the ID is maintaining its position, it seems as if other parties such as the ACDP and the UDM have lost ground.
- Within the margin of error, the PAC and FF+ have marginally improved the trend in their support.
- 15% of likely voters – those who are registered and have indicated that they are likely to go out and vote – remain uncertain.
- 18% of ANC supporters in the Western Cape indicated that they might vote for an opposition party in the 2009 election. Should some of these intentions convert into action, the ANC could see some of its support going to COPE and other opposition parties in the Western Cape.

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KZN (%)

	2004 Election	Oct-'08
ANC	46.98	64.3
IFP	36.82	15.2
DA	8.35	8.7
ACDP	1.78	2.1
MF	2.61	1.4
ID	0.49	0.6
UDM	0.75	0.3
FF+	0.28	0.1
PAC	0.19	0
Other	1.75	0.2
Uncertain		7.1
	100.00	100

- A steep downward trend that started in the 2004 election has probably culminated into the final decline of a trademark KwaZulu-Natal party, the Inkatha Freedom Party. Although still in the position of official opposition party in this province, the IFP has lost considerable support since the 2004 election.
- The ANC is clearly capitalising on winning over traditional IFP support and hence some indication that the Zulu-Zuma factor is real and will make for interesting politics in the 2009 election. Support for the ANC in this province is significantly up from 47% in the 2004 election to around 64% at the end of October 2008
- It seems a foregone conclusion that the ANC would be able to rule this traditionally IFP province without the help of the IFP. .
- Although only 7% of likely voters in KZN are uncertain and, therefore, does not play the same 'kingmaker' role in this province as in other provinces, it must be a concern to the ANC that 14% of their supporters could be voting for the opposition in the next election. Again, should some of this translate into actual ANC voter defections on the day, the ANC could find itself in a less convincing position and could be seeking a coalition partner to govern the KZN provincial legislature. Are we seeing the emergence of a new hidden vote in KwaZulu-Natal? In previous elections we observed that traditional IFP voters are somewhat reluctant to reveal that they vote IFP and, therefore, often either claim to be undecided or claim to vote ANC – thus resulting in an over-claim for the ANC.

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Gauteng (%)

	2004 Election	Oct-'08
ANC	68.40	59
DA	20.78	18.6
IFP	2.51	1.1
ID	1.52	1.1
UDM	0.99	0.8
ACDP	1.64	0.8
FF+	1.34	0.3
PAC	0.85	0.2
Other	1.97	0.9
Uncertain		17.2
	100.00	100

- Whereas the ANC managed to secure a strong victory in the 2004 election, it seems as if the level of contestation in this province is on the increase and that opposition parties could prove to be quite a challenge to an outright majority for the ANC
- While ANC support is down from 68% in the 2004 election to around 59% at the end of October 2008, the DA is maintaining its support at around 19%.
- This province has the highest percentage of uncertain voters (17.2%) and this could be the group that could rob the ANC of an outright majority. In addition, in this province 16% of ANC supporters reported that they would consider voting for an opposition party in the upcoming election.
- Early indications are that the ANC will not take this province easily and would either have to work very hard at wooing back their supporters during the election campaign or should start looking for coalition partners to govern the province after the election.

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Eastern Cape (%)

	2004 Election	Oct-'08
ANC	79.27	67.1
UDM	9.23	7.8
DA	7.34	7.2
ID	0.78	1.4
ACDP	0.78	1
PAC	1.00	0.7
IFP	0.20	0.2
FF+	0.26	0
Other	1.14	1
Uncertain		13.6
	100.00	100

- Although ANC support is down significantly, the party remains in a dominant position and should be competitive in this province.
- However, having said this, 13.6% of likely voters in this province are uncertain and still needs to pledge their support to a political party, while 11% of likely ANC voters in that province indicated that they could be voting with their feet and support an opposition party. This could see ANC support at the polls dwindling.
- The other political parties, the DA and UDM, are roughly maintaining the same levels of support that they enjoyed in the 2004 election.

Free State (%)

	2004 Election	Oct-'08
ANC	81.78	72.7
DA	8.47	8
ACDP	1.30	2.8
FF+	2.47	2.5
PAC	1.18	0.3
IFP	0.35	0
ID	0.52	0
UDM	0.88	0
Dikwankwetla	0.97	0
Other	2.08	
Uncertain		13.7
	100.00	100

- Support for the ANC is also down in this province – from 82% in the 2004 election to 73% at the end of October 2008. ANC support could potentially drop even further if any of the 11% of current ANC voters who reported that they would consider voting for an opposition party, actually carry out their threat on election day and vote for another party.

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- The DA and FF+ are maintaining their support levels attained in 2004, while nearly 14% of likely voters in this province are uncertain about which party they should be supporting.
- Support for the ACDP has increased ever so slightly.

North West (%)

	2004 Election	Oct-'08
ANC	80.71	75.6
DA	5.00	6.2
UCDP	8.49	3.1
ID	0.44	2.1
IFP	0.25	1
ACDP	1.17	0.9
UDM	0.96	0
FF+	1.32	0
PAC	0.84	0
Other	0.82	0.1
Uncertain		11
	100.00	100

- Similar to the situation in the Limpopo province, the support for the ANC is down slightly and it seems that these 2 provinces, on face value, are least affected by the fluidity in ANC support.
- Below the surface, however, 17% of current ANC supporters in this province are uneasy about the ANC and indicated that they would consider voting for an opposition party in the 2009 election. This could negatively affect ANC support in this province.
- Support for the second strongest party in the 2004 election, the UCDP, is down and this position has been usurped by the DA, who has managed to increase its support marginally.
- Around 11% of likely voters in this province still need to decide which party they would be supporting in next year's election.

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Mpumalanga (%)

	2004 Election	Oct-'08
ANC	86.30	73.6
DA	6.94	10.5
UDM	1.00	0.9
PAC	0.69	0.9
IFP	0.96	0
ID	0.31	0
ACDP	1.09	0
FF+	1.24	0
SPP	0.53	0
Other	0.94	1.5
Uncertain		12.6
	100.00	100

- In this province, we see ANC support down from 86% to 74% and when we factor in the possible ANC defector vote of 8%, support for the ANC may dip below 60% in this province. So, while the ANC will probably again take this province with an outright majority, the journey will not be as easy as in previous years.
- The DA seems to be more competitive and has increased its support from 7% to just over 10%.
- The 12.6% uncertain voters could play a decisive role in this province.
- The FF+ registered 1.24% of the vote in the 2004 elections, but has failed to register at all in the survey at the end of October 2008.

Limpopo (%)

	2004 Election	Oct-'08
ANC	89.18	81.7
DA	3.59	5.1
ACDP	1.26	0.9
FF+	0.60	0.8
IFP	0.00	0
ID	0.17	0
UDM	1.72	0
PAC	0.94	0
Other	2.54	0.8
Uncertain		10.7
	100.00	100

- Traditionally an ANC stronghold, 82% of likely voters in Limpopo will again vote for the ANC. Although ANC support is down marginally, the party's dominant position will most probably remain, even if 19% of current ANC supporters in this province vote for an opposition party.
- The DA is the only other party to register any significant support in this province.

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- 11% of likely voters in this province, however, claim to be undecided or uncertain about whom they should support.

Northern Cape (%)

	2004 Election	Oct-'08
ANC	68.83	70
DA	11.08	5.7
ID	7.06	3.7
IFP	0.24	0
UDM	0.45	0
ACDP	1.88	0
FF+	1.55	0
PAC	0.43	0
Other	8.48	6.3
Uncertain		14.3
	100.00	100

IMPORTANT NOTE: The sample size for this sub-sample (Northern Cape) is very small, thus the data is merely indicative and does not provide a stable picture when viewed over time.

- While this province traditionally was one of the more contested provinces, it seems as if the ANC has consolidated their position as the dominant party.
- However, 23% of current ANC voters could be voting for an opposition party in 2009, while around 14% of likely voters are still undecided.

About the survey

- Very important to note that this survey was conducted prior to the establishment of the Congress of the People (COPE), but immediately after the recall of Thabo Mbeki.
- Limited inferences can be made to the impact of these events on the electorate – the most important is based on likelihood of current ANC supporters to vote for an opposition party (a party other than the ANC)
- The survey was conducted between 3 and 22 October and was an in-home, face-to-face survey with a random sample of 3,500 adults, 16 years and older. The sample provides a mirror image of the population and is representative of the South African population to a margin of error between 0.6-1.7%.
- Data reflected in this report is representative of the so-called likely voter, i.e. persons aged 18 years and older, who are registered or intend to register and who indicated that they are likely to vote and want to vote.

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