

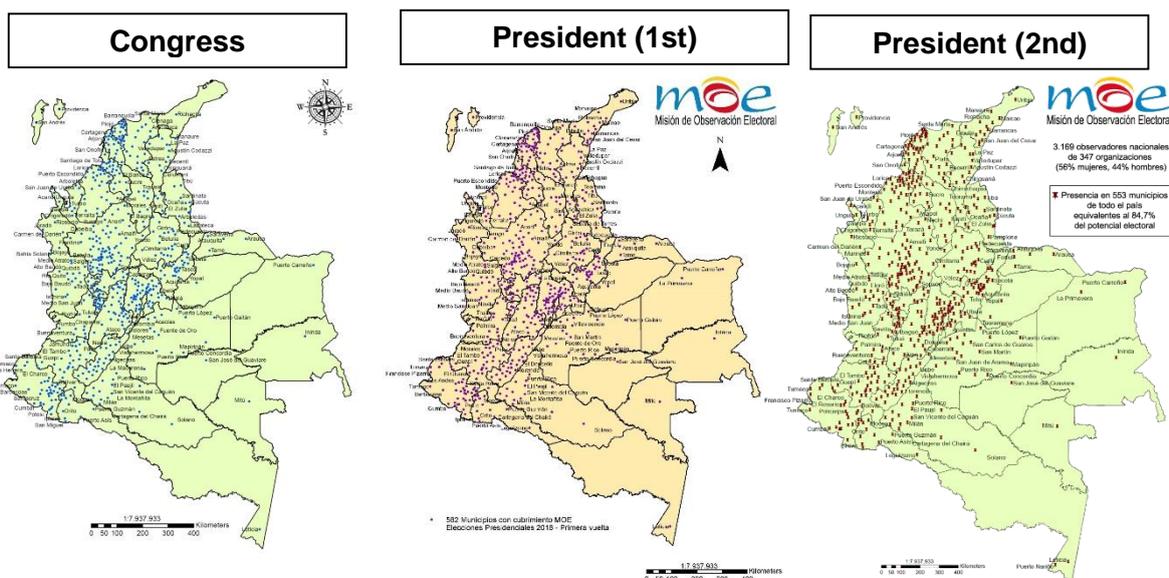


ELECTORAL OBSERVATION REPORT ON THE SECOND ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN COLOMBIA

June 18, 2018

Misión de Observación Electoral
MOE

1. MOE'S ELECTORAL OBSERVATION COVERAGE IN 2018



During the first trimester of 2018, Colombia held congressional elections (March) and two rounds of presidential elections (May and June). For these processes, MOE deployed a total of 10,091 national observers that were present at least once in 634 municipalities of the 32 Departments of the country. The deployment covered 85,71% of the electoral potential and was possible because of the participation of 347 civil society organizations coordinated from 35 regional offices.

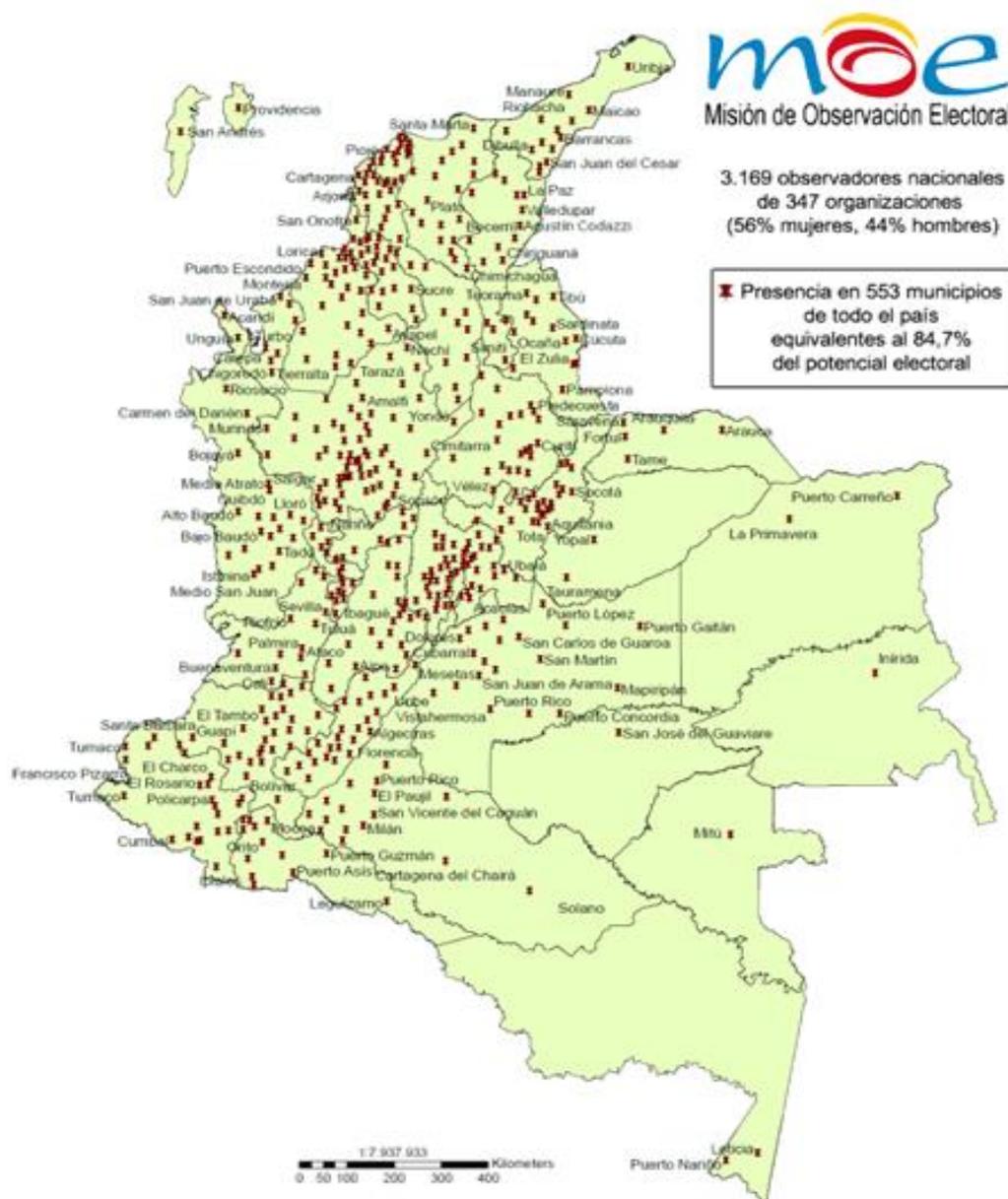
For these three electoral processes, 1,097 international observers were with us in Colombia and abroad. In Colombia 792 international observers were deployed in 26 cities in 20 Departments for these three elections. Abroad, 305 Colombian nationals and foreign citizens participated in the observation of polling stations in 25 countries across the world.



2. DEPLOYMENT OF ELECTORAL OBSERVERS FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

For the second round of the presidential election, MOE deployed 3.169 national observers from 347 civil society organizations that were present in voting sites across 533 municipalities of all the Departments of Colombia.

This presence covered 84,7% of the electoral observers. Additionally, 245 foreign citizens from 28 nationalities volunteered to observe the elections in the country (139) and abroad (106).



In Colombia, the 139 international volunteers that participated in the observation were present in 23 cities in 16 Departments of Colombia (Antioquia, Atlántico, Bolívar, Caldas, Cauca, Cesar, Córdoba, Cundinamarca, Magdalena, Meta, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Risaralda, Santander, Tolima, Valle del Cauca and Bogota D.C).

From the total of 3.169 national observers, 55% were women (1.776) and 44% were men (1.393). They were present in 139 municipalities that were the most affected by the armed conflict (81,8% of the municipalities participating in the PDETs). They looked over the elections in 71,6% of the municipalities declared in an extreme risk of violence and electoral fraud and crime and 68,1% with some level of risk.

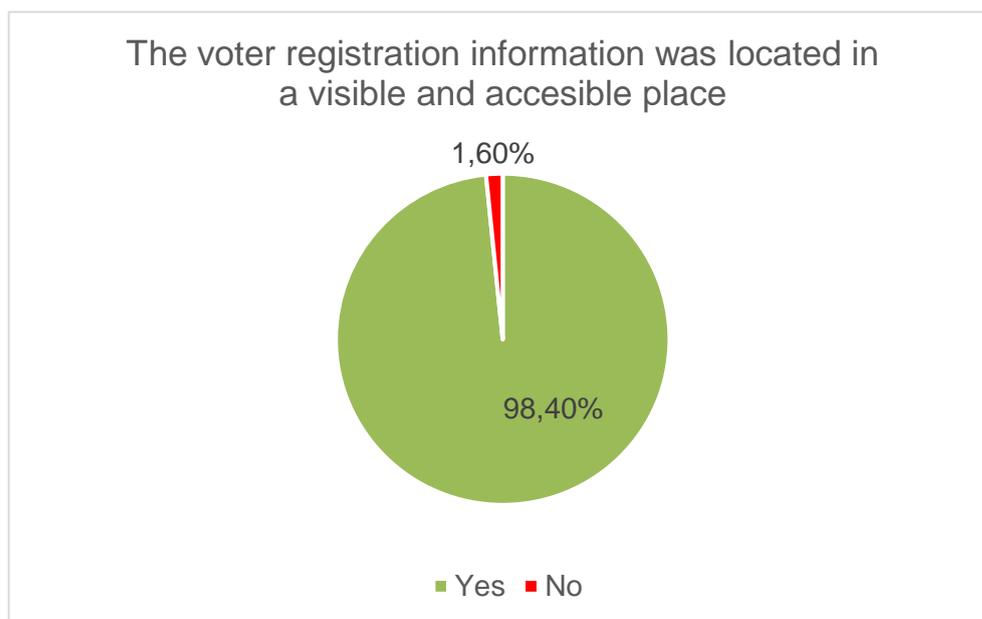
Internationally, 106 observers were deployed (45 women and 61 men) that observed polling stations in 31 cities and 19 countries – including Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Spain, United States, Philippines, France, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, United Kingdom, Dominican Republic, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

3. RESULTS OF THE ELECTORAL OBSERVATION ON THE SECOND ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

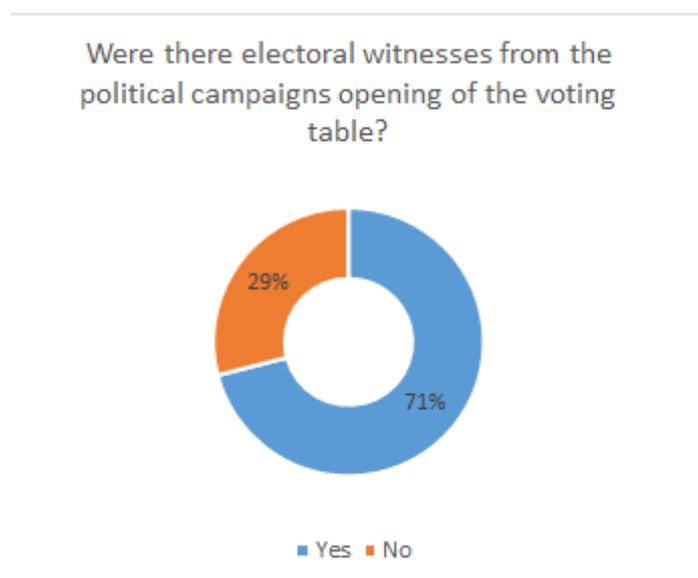
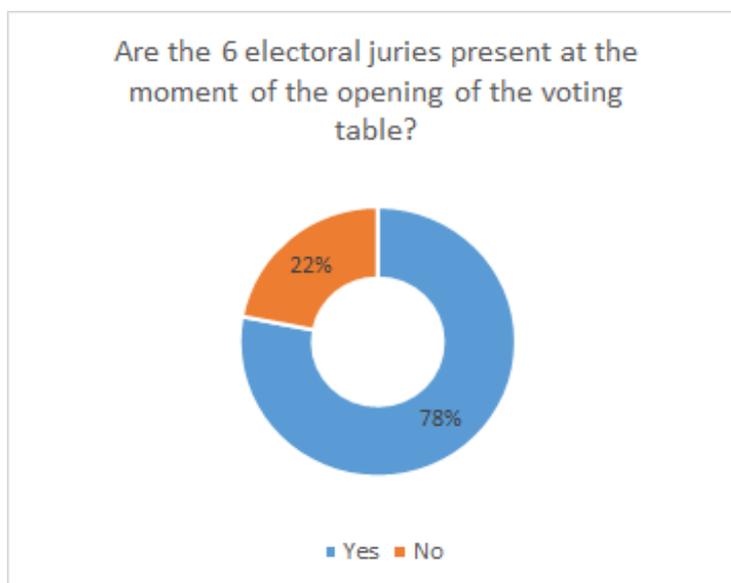
This report presents the results of the observation submitted by 2.351 electoral observers in 35 regions and 32 Departments of Colombia on the day of the election between 7:30am and 7:00pm.

3.1 OPENING OF THE POLLING STATION AND VOTING

In the voting sites where MOE observers were present, the place where citizens can verify if they have the proper authorization to vote is located in a visible and accessible place in 98,4% of the cases - allowing for people with physical and visual limitations to have this information before entering the polling stations.



22% of the observed tables did not have the 6 members of the electoral jury present when they were inaugurated at 8:00am today. This percentage is the same compared to the one for to the first round of the presidential election the past 27th of May, 2018 and only slightly higher than for the congressional elections in March (21%).

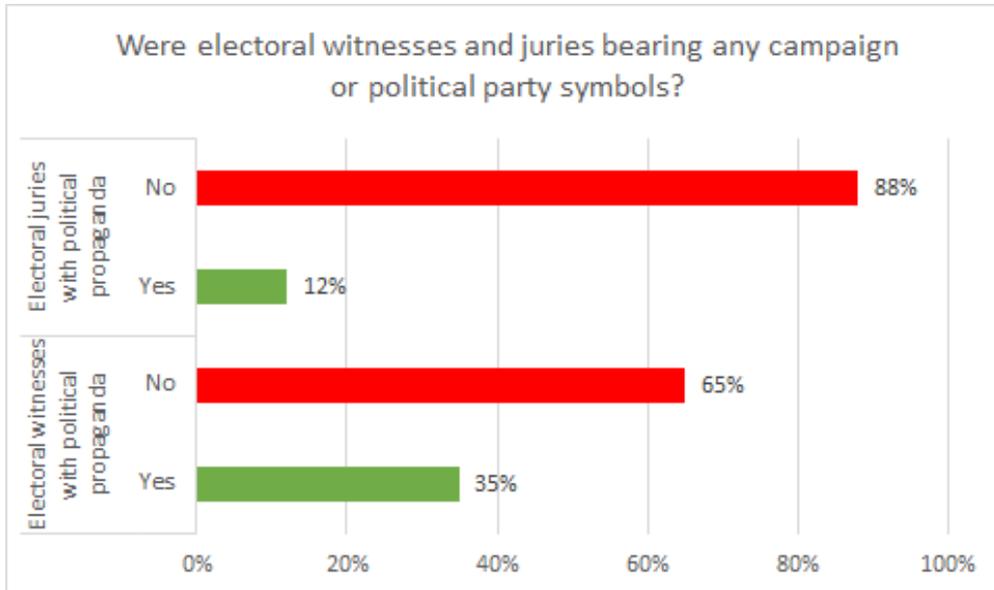


Observers report that electoral witnesses from the different campaigns were present in 71% of the observed polling stations. This number is similar to that for the first round of the presidential election (72%). It is evident that the political campaigns made a special effort to have electoral witnesses at the polling stations.

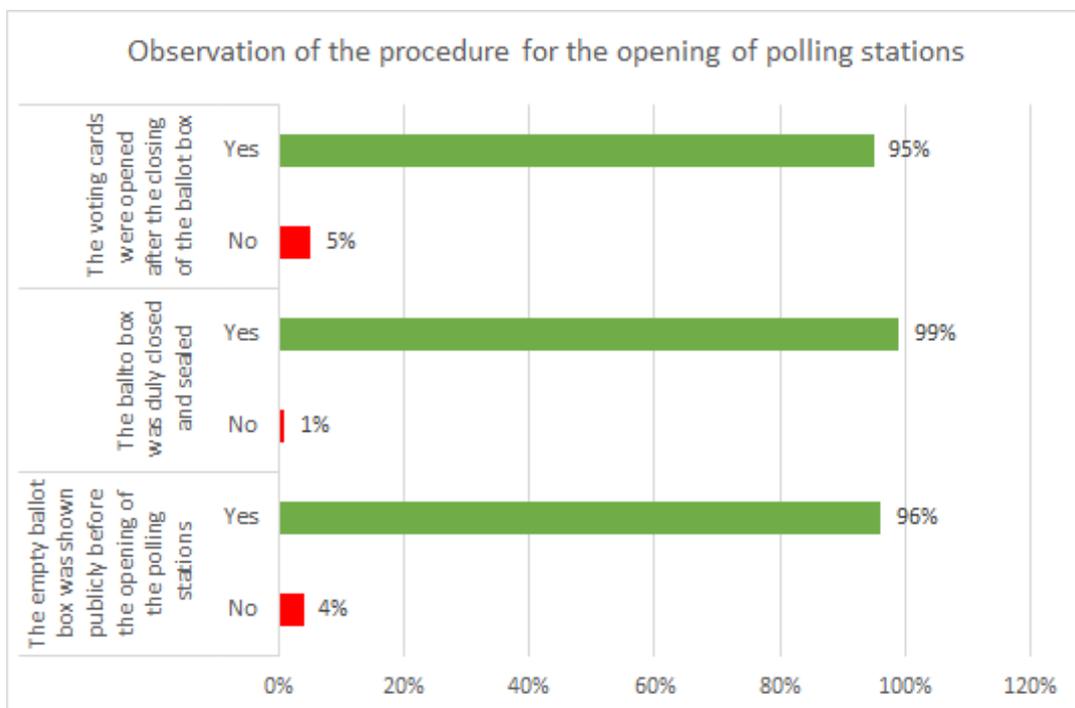
Electoral witnesses and juries are not allowed to bear campaign or political party symbols on the day of the election. MOE calls attention upon the reports by observers of electoral witnesses and juries bearing campaign propaganda in 35% and 12% of voting stations observed respectively.



Compared to the first round of the presidential election this year, the number of electoral witnesses with political campaign and party symbols was reduced by a 4% for this second round and a 6% for the case of electoral juries.

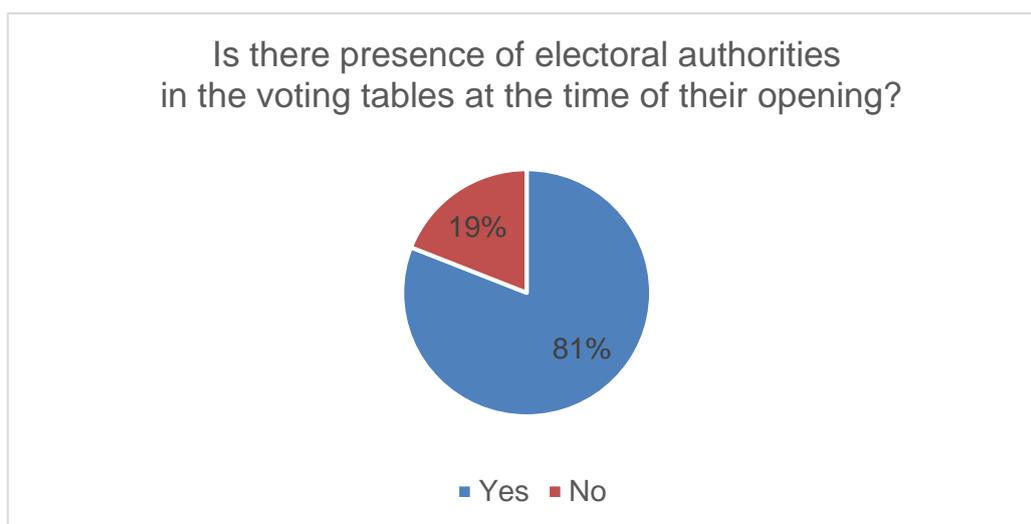


In the voting tables observed by the MOE, the rules and procedures for the inauguration of the polling stations were duly complied with. According to the observers, the electoral juries and delegates showed a good knowledge and understanding of the process.



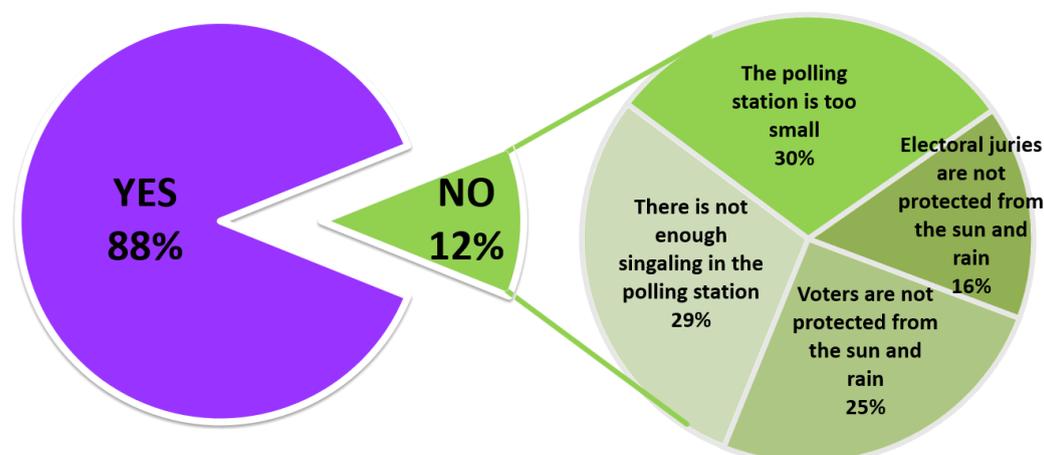
The three procedures observed on the opening of the polling stations allow us to confirm that voting has started without any votes inside the ballot boxes. In 96% of the cases, the ballot box was publicly shown empty before the voting started and in 99% of the tables the ballot boxes were properly closed and sealed.

MOE observers also reported that electoral authorities were present in 81% of the polling stations observed during their inauguration - including the offices of the attorney general, the prosecutor general and the ombudsman. Compared to the first round of the presidential election, this percentage improved 19 percentage points - from a 62% to an 81% coverage.

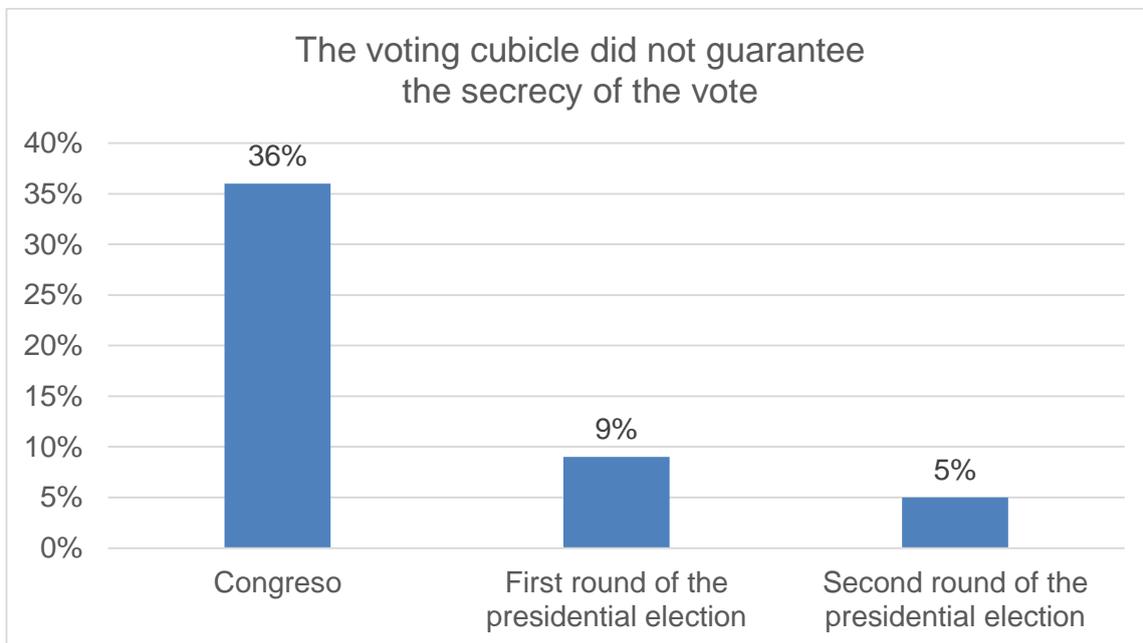


MOE observers deployed reported that 12% of the polling stations did not present the appropriate conditions to vote. Compared to the first round of the presidential election, this percentage remained the same. The majority of the reports concerned the insufficient space (33%) and the lack of sufficient signaling inside the polling stations (29%).

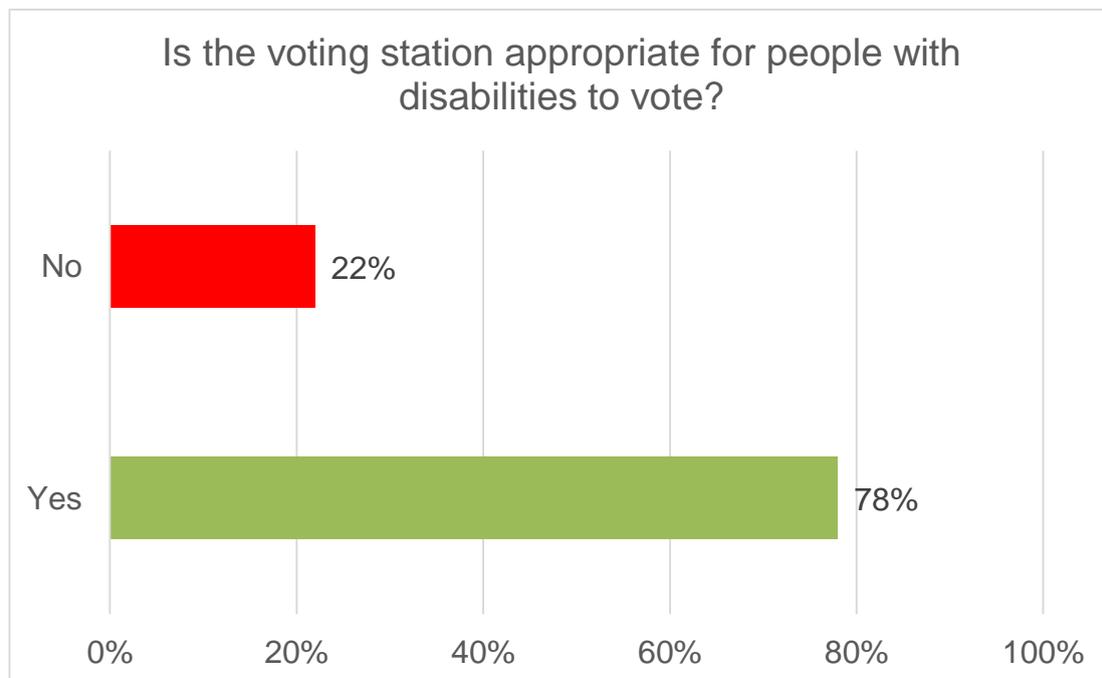
Was the voting site appropriate?



Also, observers reported that 5% of the cubicles used for voting failed to guarantee privacy and secrecy - compared to the 36% for the congressional elections and 9% the first round of the presidential election.



It is important to note that, according to our observers, the 78% of the polling stations presented the necessary conditions for people with disabilities to vote. This percentage has improved compared to the first round of elections by 3%. However, authorities still need to make an additional effort to guarantee that all people with disabilities can vote.



3.2 IDENTIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

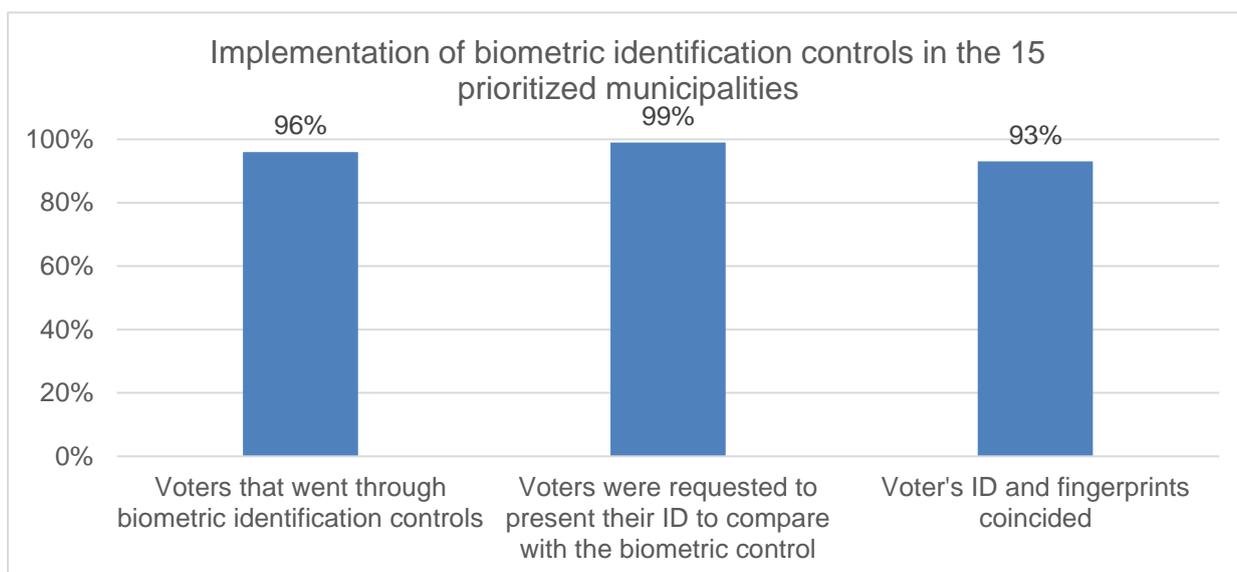
Similar to what happened during the first round of the presidential election, only 15 municipalities in 5 Departments in the Caribbean Coast had biometric identification controls in place.

From the municipalities for which it was planned that there would be biometric identification controls in place, observers noted that 92% of them had them in place and working normally. No information was received from the de Ibirico (César). However, in Magangué (Bolívar) and Manaure (La Guajira) observers noted that not all the biometric identification posts are working properly.

MUNICIPALITIES	BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS
Barranquilla, Atlántico	Present and working
Soledad, Atlántico	Present and working
Magangué, Bolívar	Present in 15 of the voting stations observed
Becerril, Cesar	Present and working
Curumaní, Cesar	Present and working
La Jagua De Ibirico, Cesar	No information
Pueblo Bello, Cesar	Present and working
Chinú, Córdoba	Present and working
Sahagún, Córdoba	Present and working
San Andrés De Sotavento, Córdoba	Present and working
San José De Uré, Córdoba	Present and working
Maicao, La Guajira	Present and working
Manaure, La Guajira	It is not working in 2 polling stations
Riohacha, La Guajira	Present and working
Uribia, La Guajira	Present and working

Different to what happened for the first round, in this occasion, in the 15 municipalities prioritized for the implementation of biometric identification of observers it was reported that these filters were effectively and massively put in place.

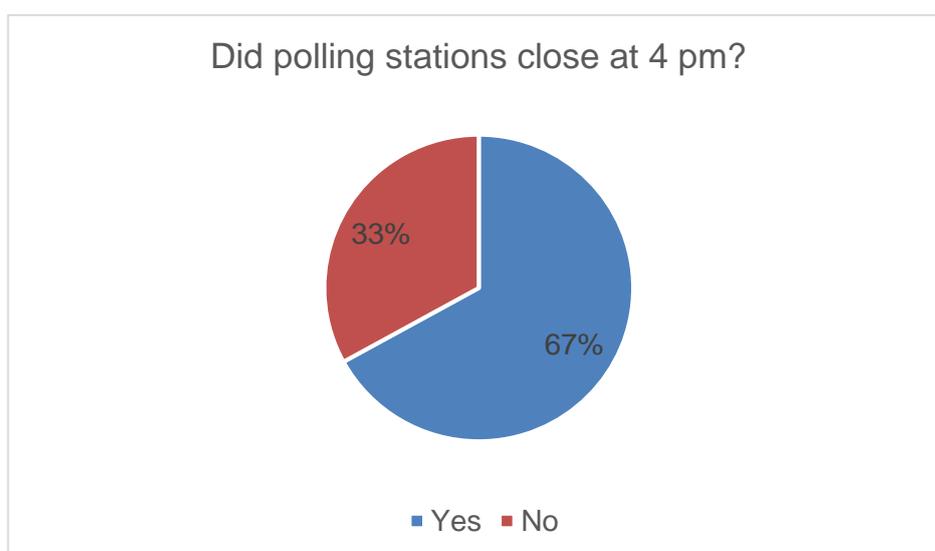
Observers noted that 96% of citizens who voted in those polling stations went through those controls and 99% of people who were biometrically identified had to present their IDs for verification. 93% of people who underwent these controls had their finger print and ID coincide.



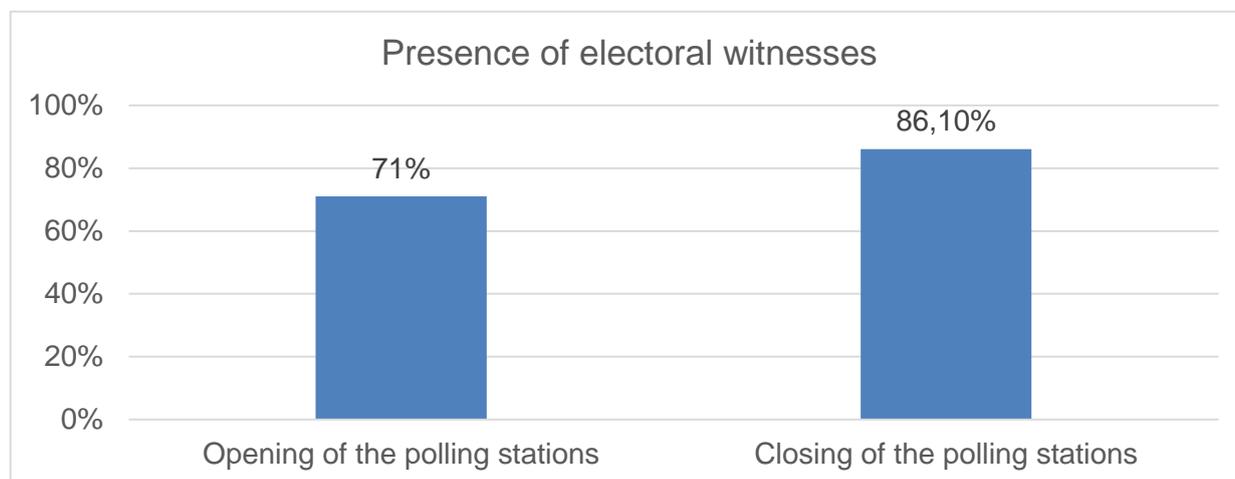
MOE observers reported that, at 2 pm the biometric identification stations ran out of ink – making it difficult for voters to be verified through this mechanism. It is absolutely necessary that the National Civil Registry purchases the necessary equipment to guarantee that the total number of voters are biometrically identified. This is crucial to improve the transparency and the quality of elections.

3.3 CLOSURE OF THE POLLING STATIONS AND VOTE COUNT

In their role as observers, all volunteers were allowed to be present during the closure of the polling stations. Bearing in mind that polling stations should close at 4.00 pm, MOE highlights that in 32% of the tables, ballot boxes were open after that time – a lower percentage than for the Plebiscite (41%).

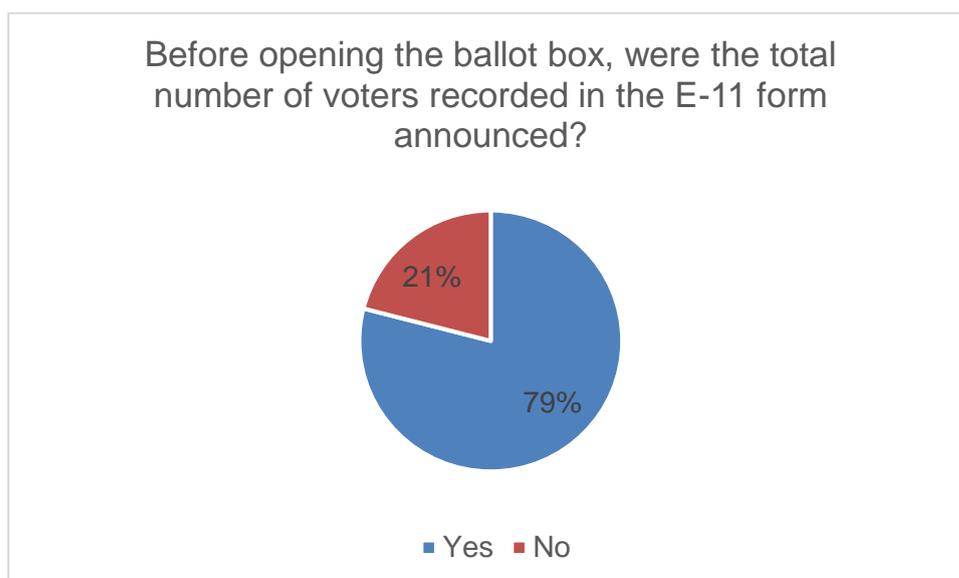


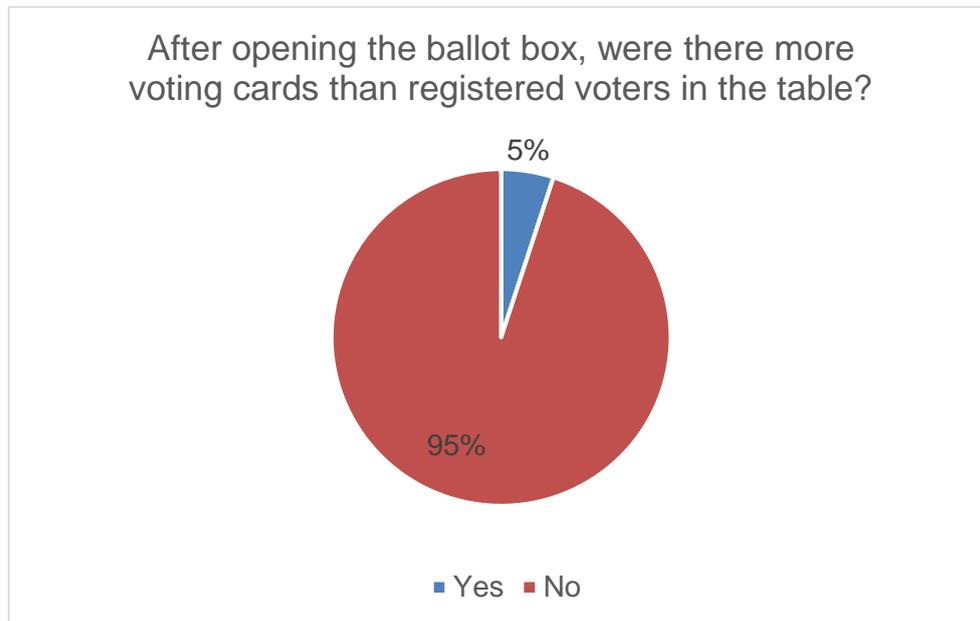
MOE observers reported that electoral witnesses were present in 87,7% of the voting tables during their closure and 75% during their opening. This percentage remains similar to the previous presidential election in 2014 and congressional elections of 2018.



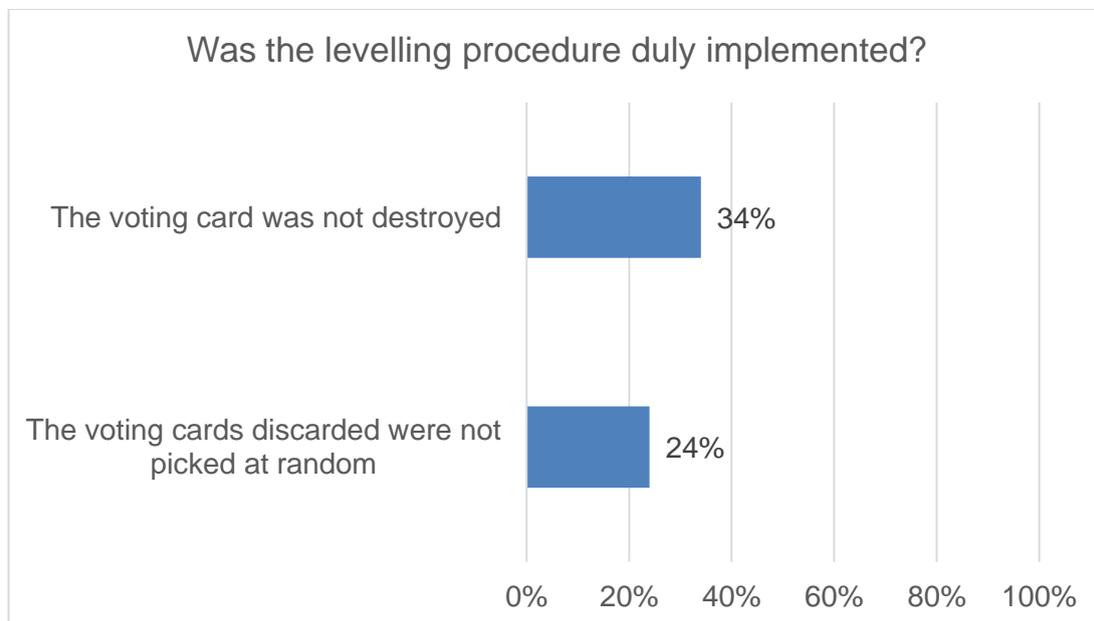
People other than the electoral juries, witnesses, observers and authorities were present in only 2% of the voting tables. Also, in 93.4% of the observed tables, all 6 electoral juries were present – showing an improvement in this percentage in comparison to the congressional elections of this year.

More attention needs to be paid to the sealing of the envelopes given that in 9% of the voting tables these were not properly sealed. Electoral observers reported that contradictory instructions were given to the electoral juries by the delegates of the National Registry – while some said they were meant to be closed, others said they should be handed in open. In the process of levelling of the results of the voting tables, MOE verified that the due procedure was implemented for the vote count.



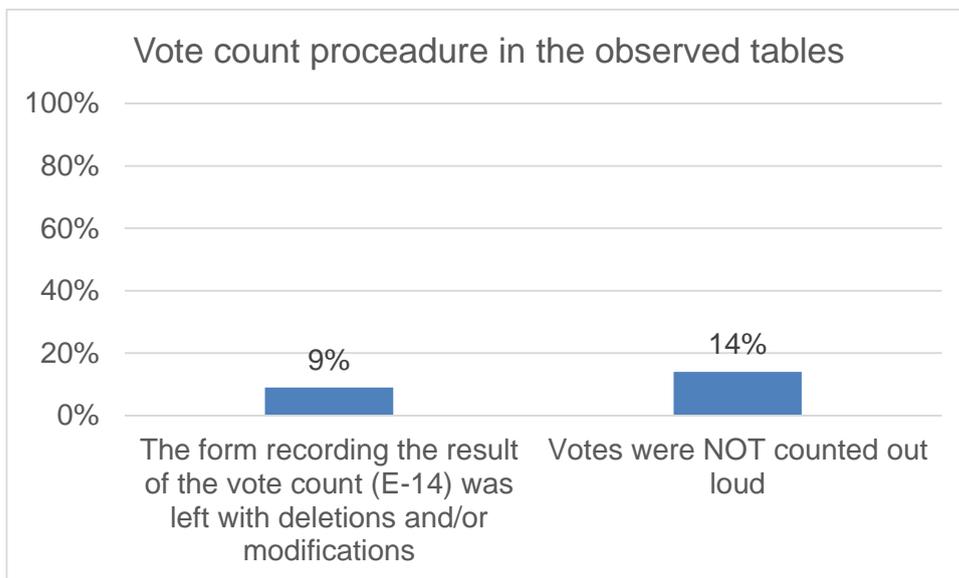


Observers reported that the number of votes on the ballot box was higher than that of the recorder voters on the E-11 registration form in 22% of the tables. In the tables where there were spare voting cards, 22% were not discarded at random and 29% of those discarded were not destroyed.

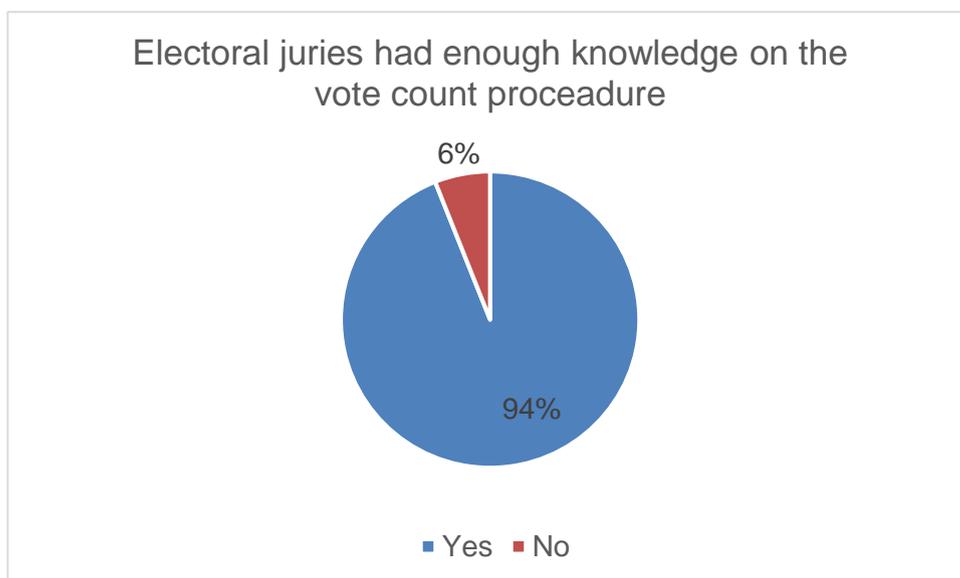


MOE recommends that more and better training be given to electoral juries in the implementation of the vote levelling procedure to guarantee more transparency for the vote count and prevent these voting cards to affect the trust the citizenry has in the electoral process.

During the vote count, observers reported that in 13% of the tables the results were not read out loud and that 9% of the records on the E-14 forms were left with deletions and/or modifications. Compared to the March congressional elections, this percentage improved in 6 points for the reading out loud of the results and remained at the same level for the portion of E-14 forms left with scratches or alterations.

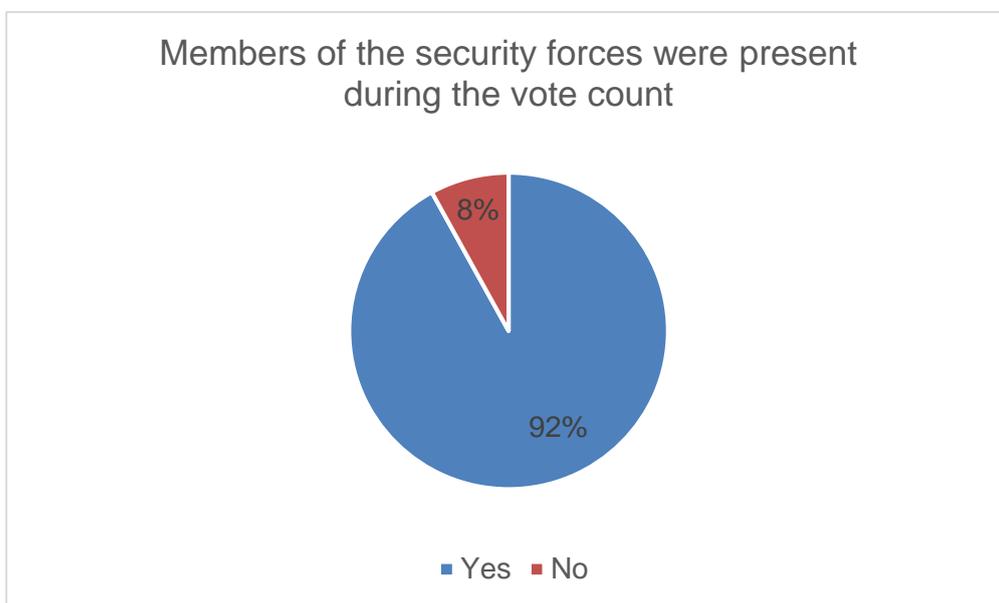


The overall perception of MOE observers was that electoral juries had enough knowledge on how to handle the vote count. The filling and submitting of the vote record forms of the vote in the table were done in a normal manner.

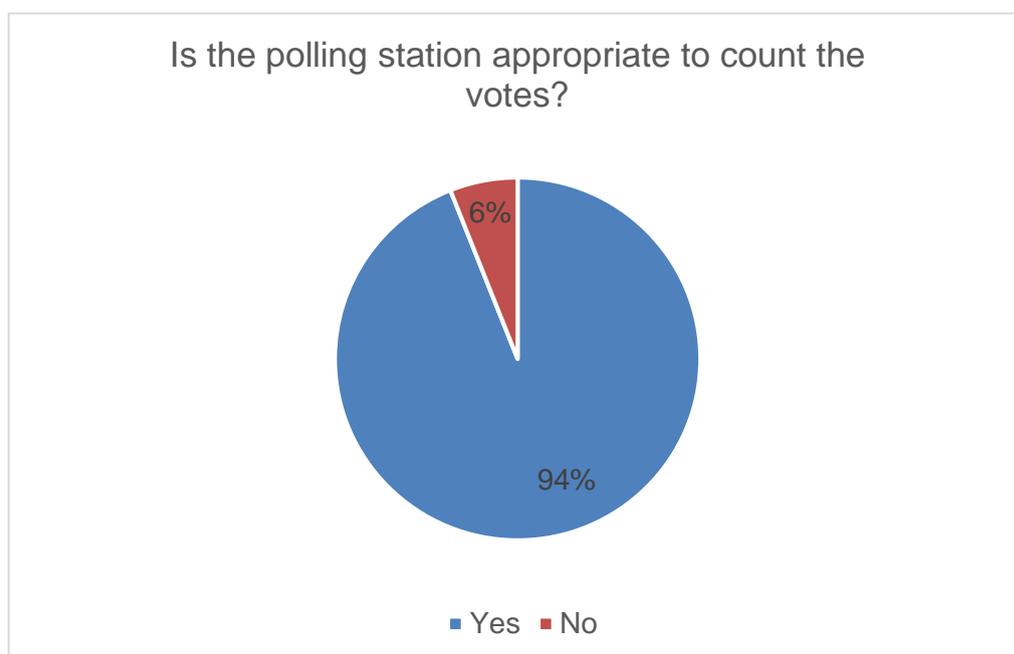


MOE recommends that more and better training be given to electoral juries in the implementation of the vote levelling procedure to guarantee more transparency for the vote count and prevent these voting cards to affect the trust the citizenry has in the electoral process.

Observers noted that members of the security forces were present in 92% of the voting stations during the vote count.



Furthermore, observers reported that only 6% of the voting tables did not have appropriate conditions or space for all the people present to count the votes. MOE observers reported that out of these 6%, in 46% of the cases the juries and witnesses were outdoors, in 32% they were crowded to do the vote count, and in 22% of the tables lacked proper lighting.



4. ELECTORAL OBSERVATION ABROAD

In the 19 where the MOE had presence, observer reported that the election day developed in total normalcy. In Venezuela and Peru, the number of voters was starkly lower than for the first round of the presidential election. Observers abroad reported that the average voter turnout increased after midday.

The only incident reported took place in Buenos Aires, where a person reacted violently because he failed to find the voting card for the anti-corruption consultation scheduled for September this year. The same person later took a picture of his vote and refused to delete the photo. The authorities present reacted appropriately and managed to delete that picture.

Also in Argentina, observers reported that there was not enough signaling for voters to find the polling station given that it was not located in the Consulate and the proper information to find the voting table was not displayed.

It should be noted that in all the polling stations where the MOE was present, observers were allowed to fulfill their duties in a normal manner.

For more information, contact:

Fabián Hernández Cadena
MOE Communications Coordinator
comunicacion@moe.org.co
Mobile phone: 301 370 96 68
www.pilasconelvoto.com
www.moe.org.co
www.datoselectorales.org