

2021 Local Elections

Candidate review of campaign culture



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in Politics**

Background

Survey of candidates who took part in the 2021 local elections in England, Scotland, and Wales.

72 candidates took part in the online survey.

Candidates represented at least six different parties, including the Conservatives, Labour, Liberal Democrats, Greens, and SNP.

Candidates had signed the “Fair Play Pledge”, a coalition campaign led by FairVoteUK and including Compassion in Politics.

Survey carried out by Compassion in Politics.

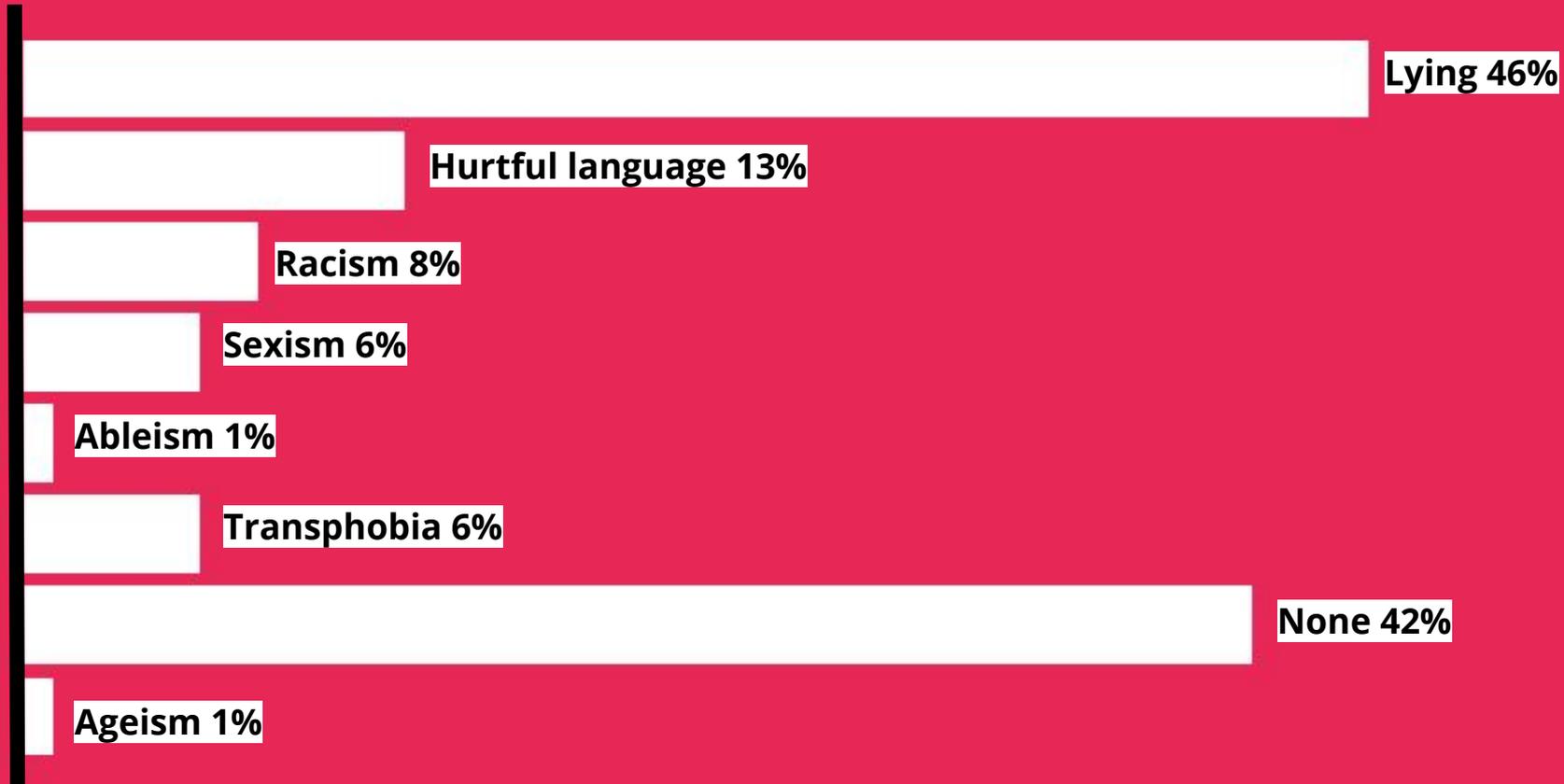
Culture

Abuse and misinformation



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Did you experience or witness any of the following by OPPOSITION candidates during the election campaign?



Did you experience or witness any of the following from WITHIN YOUR OWN PARTY during the election campaign?



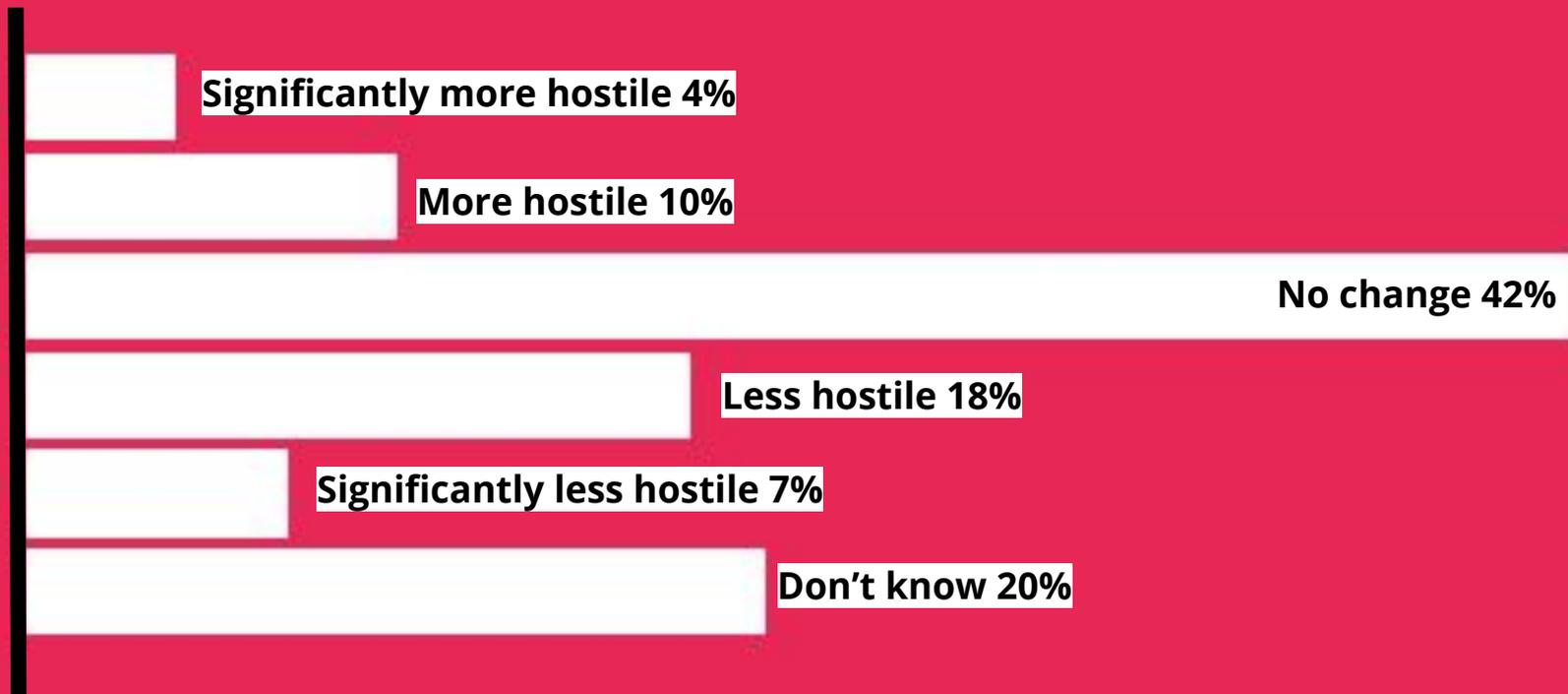
Culture

Comparison with previous elections

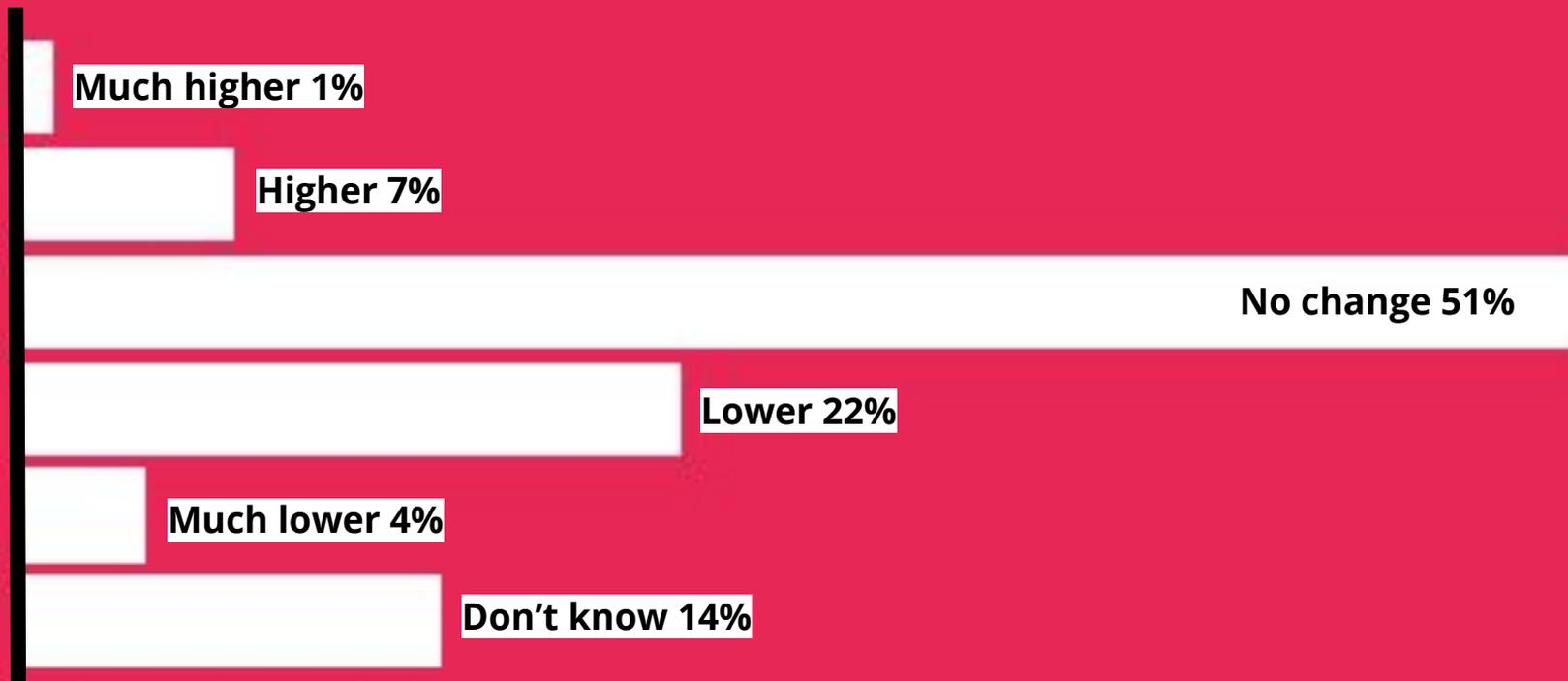


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Do you think the culture of this campaign was more or less hostile than previous elections you have been involved with?



Do you think the levels of honesty in this campaign were higher or lower than in previous elections?



Quotes

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Abuse

“I was made to feel like an outsider in my own town. Social media trolls were terrible and many hurtful and untrue things were said about me, just because of my party”

“Three different hustings contained a line of questioning that descended - so quickly - into absolutely horrendous transphobia and utter falsehoods. I felt so disturbed by these events; the first time it happened I was physically shaking and trying to carry on without that coming across. It was so upsetting.”

“We had a group of men wearing swastikas, stars of david and doing salutes and goosesteps turn up at the election count in Glasgow. There were many staff, count workers, security staff and candidates/activists in the hall who were people of colour and/or trans and these men were a highly visible threat.”

“The election was a brutal and bruising one where I was relentlessly targeted on social media and other platforms.”

“One opposition candidate was extremely rude to me during the campaign and at the count and the behaviour of her counting agents was bullying.”

“The levels of latent and blatant transphobia and homophobia were really high. UK society, as a whole, is deeply racist and ableist.”

Lying

“Our opposition misrepresented and lied and seemed to run their campaign in a reactive way, putting us down and misrepresenting us at every opportunity.”

“I think it was tricky, because there was a lot of "half truths" being used. Not explicitly lying, but deliberately not telling the whole truth.”

“The opposition also misrepresented the administration causing a lot of stress for residents brought up again and again on the doorstep and on the phones.”

“The [opposition] put out leaflets with dishonest messaging. We challenged this but they didn't change their approach. Separately someone who we believe was linked to the [opposition] campaign and may even have been standing repeatedly posted stickers all over [local area] with the message that one of our candidates was anti gay on it, including sticking them on the windows of our official hq.”

“Definite rumour mongering by opposition candidate and misuse of statistics”

Standing again

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Would you stand for election (or re-election) again?

