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15 August 2021
8:20 pm

Results of Online Poll: The Political State of Tobago Survey 2021

Tobago CivilNET took the initiative to create an online poll to capture the Tobago public's sentiment regarding the major political issues of 2021: the THA Impasse and Tobago Autonomy under the context of the COVID19 pandemic. The poll was advertised on Facebook and required around 2 minutes to complete. Results are summarized below as of the date and time above. The poll has been closed.

Interpreting this poll

The aim of this poll is to get opinions of the public on this important issue. Though not a strict scientific poll, it points us in the direction of public sentiment and our hope is that it is used, along with other relevant data, by leaders to decide how to proceed in governance of the island. The comments at the end are also very useful. We recommend that polls of the public be used in all major future decisions.

Poll Results

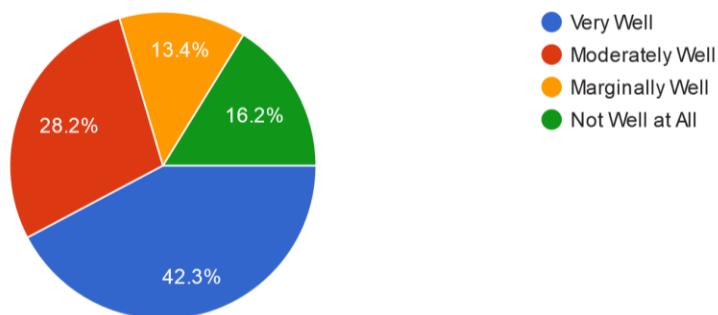
Total responses (from Wednesday 28 July to date and time above): **142**

SECTION ON THA GOVERNANCE AND IMPASSE

Question: How well would you describe your ability to explain the state of THA's Impasse?

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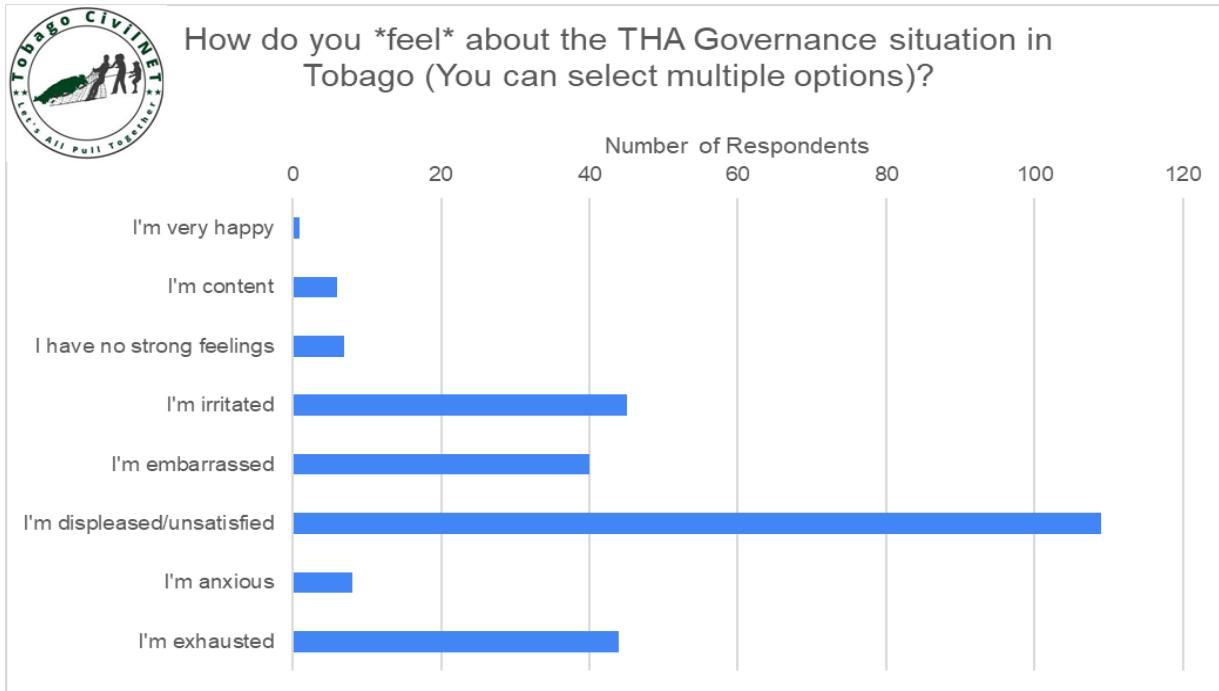
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Question: How do you *feel* about the THA Governance situation in Tobago (You can select multiple options)?



Additional Answers Written in (verbatim):

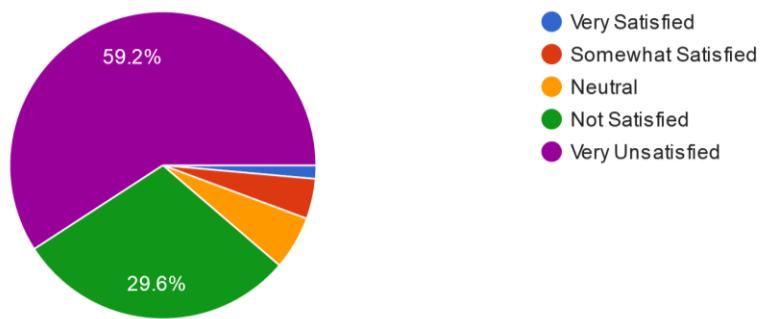
Disappointed
Frustrated
The entire political development needs to be revamped
We need savvy leadership
I feel enslave
Apathetic
Fed up
It's time for the PNM government who is currently holding Tobago and the THA at ransom to get up, dust off their seats and go home, take a rest and give someone else a chance. We need new faces with bright ideas who actually listens and communicates with people. Not those who passing in their vehicles and screwing up their glasses when we the people trying to get our views across.
Frustrated saddened, despairing
Secondly, this is NOT ABOUT FEELINGS. It should be based on the FACTS, the facts are, Tobago is a mess.



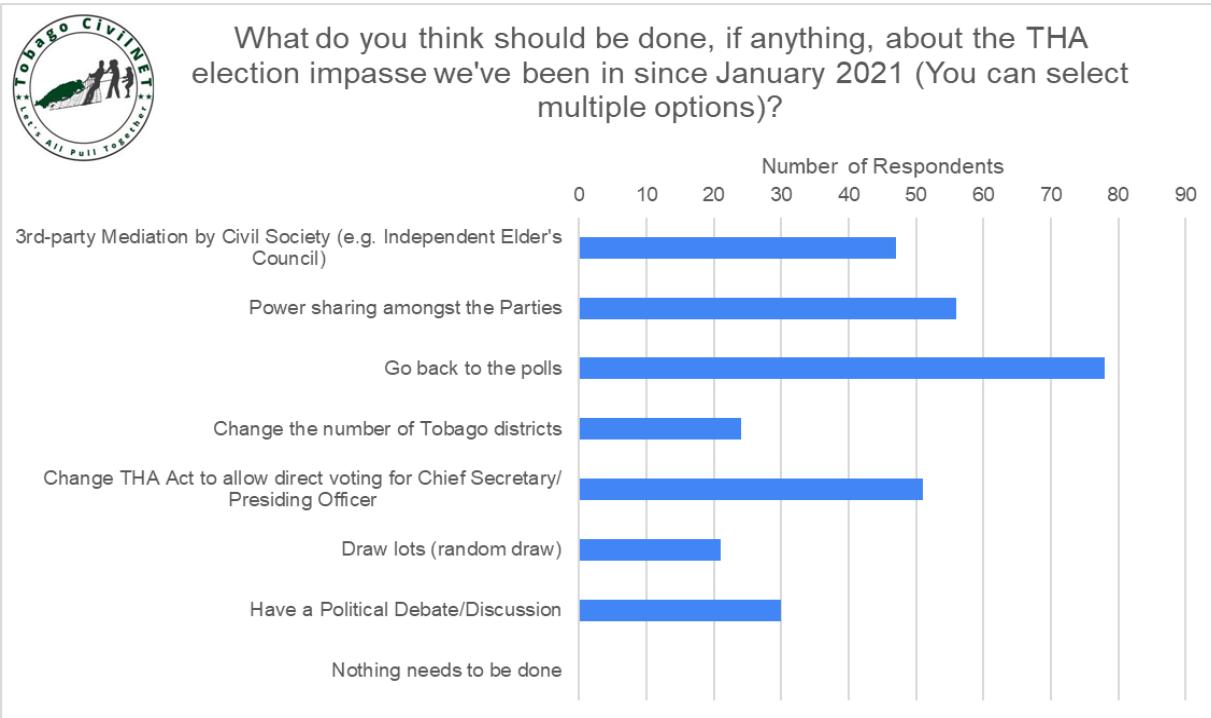
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Question: How satisfied are you with the governance of Tobago since the January election (6 months)?

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142 responses



Question: What do you think should be done, if anything, about the THA election impasse we've been in since January 2021 (You can select multiple options)?



Additional Answers Written in (verbatim):

Go back to the polls, Only back to the polls because of PNM's unwillingness to agree. Any agreements at this stage will be used as a love for Tobago campaign.
Giving full autonomy or separation from Trinidad
Return to the polls with 12 seats immediately



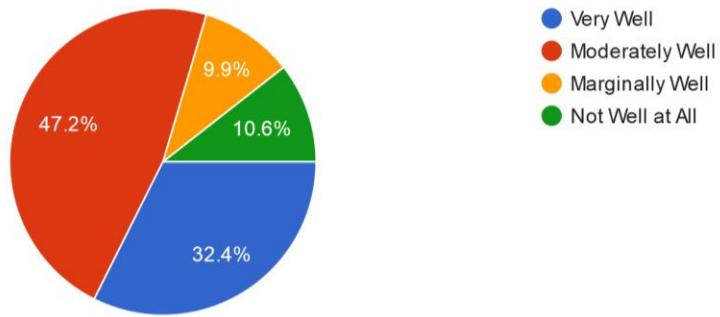
Reform the constitution to give way for the choice for the both islands to self determine by the way of referendum
Redefine to 1 single district, remove party politics and focus on individuals
Have them govern for 2 yrs each
It doesn't matter our voice will have no say. You do live in a democracy it's a lie
The electorate spoke, the 12 persons are entitled to be there. Draw lots of leadership.

SECTION ON TOBAGO AUTONOMY

Question: How well would you describe your ability to explain what "autonomy for Tobago" means?

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142 responses



Question: Which best describes your familiarity with the current Tobago Autonomy Debate and Bills?

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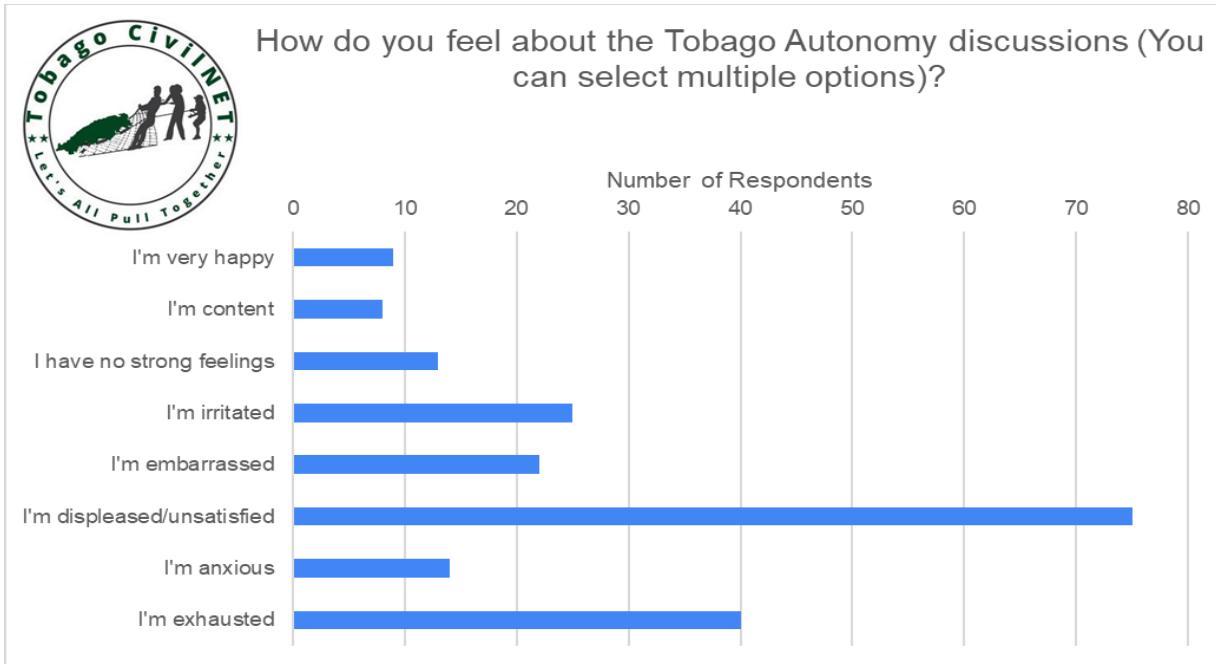
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Question: How do you feel about the Tobago Autonomy discussions (You can select multiple options)?



Additional Answers Written in (verbatim):

I take comfort in knowing that Tobagonians are voicing their concerns after reading the details within the bills
There were robust
Discussions are not geared towards the layman
Ambivalent, are the discussions going to bring a shared vision and shared goals
Too limited
Hopeful
Apathetic
I like the fact that certain issues are being brought forward, but I'm unhappy with the position the Tobago PNM is taking on the matter
Unnecessary
It does not matter how I feel. FACT: TOBAGONIANS who live here did not have the chance to participate in real Forward Discussions in the island best interest. If you are PNM sure but the framework to what they are calling injections are just horrible.



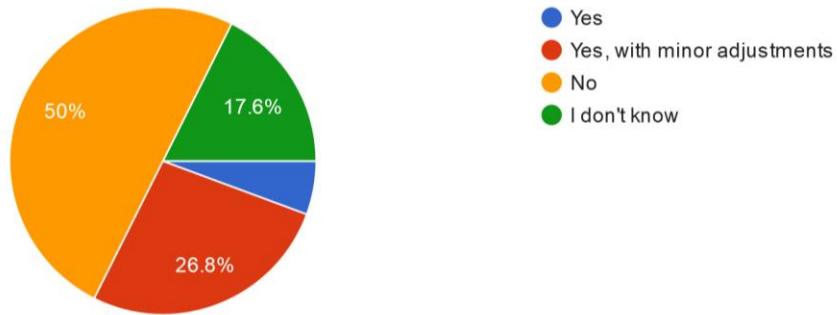
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Question: If there were a referendum on the most recent Tobago Autonomy bills proposed, would you vote Yes to support them as written?

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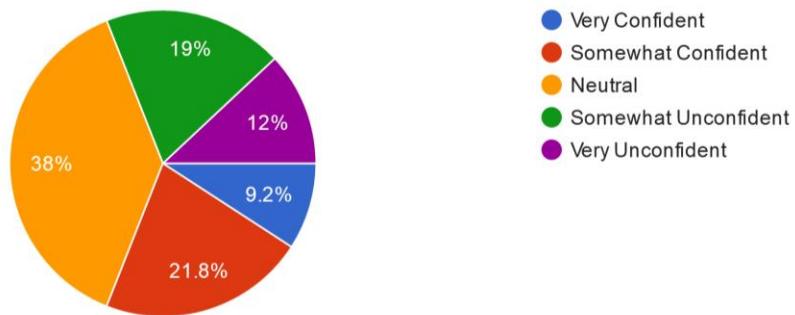
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Question: Several persons in Tobago's political and civil society groups are in the public domain supporting or criticizing the Autonomy bills. How confident are you that these persons will achieve the best outcome for Tobago?

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142 responses



OPEN ENDED SECTION

Question: Feel free to add any additional opinions you may have about Tobago's Status or CivilNET.:

40 Comments were added and have been included below verbatim.

Something needs to be done to change the status quo. The island is suffering!

Civil net should push to have an actual leaders and/or Candidates debates. Similar to the US style of Debates.

My only concern is that Tobagonians are not speaking with one voice we still have some Tobagonians trapped in the wilderness because of loyalty towards there political party. After all Tobago belongs to the natives of this land and we are the ones to protect it without compromise.



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It needs to be settled. The holdover Executive has assumed 100% dominance of the Assembly and that it wrong.

I know not every single opinion can be considered in the making of a decision but I also believe such important decisions demand more buy in and breaking down so those that stand to be impacted have even the most basic understanding of what is expected even if they choose to not actively participate.

I feel good to know that true Tobagonians and Tobago CivilNet has done something so wonderful in support of Tobago voices whom been crying for help so long.

It's time we get it right. There is too much delay in getting autonomy for Tobago.

None

We need to move away from the political power struggles towards a collective , sustainable development model.

Our borders sea space

Nil

Time have come for us as a people to put aside our differences for a common good.

Tobago needs to remove it self of the political culture of Trinidad and culture our selfs to the honest society we once was.

We MUST demand that the 12 NEED to talk again to find a Tobago solution to return to the polls soon and not just wait on the Parliament. When T&T was 18 18, we tried and the country had no 1 to wait on to find a solution, and as such we returned to the polls with the same 36, to get a clear mandate from T&T. Only after that, did 41 seats come in play following EBC process for the next election years later. As such Six (6) months later with 6 6, let's operate like we have no 1 to solve our problem, using the Act find a Tobago solution (convene and dissolve according to the Act) and similarly trust Tobago to solve the deadlock and give a clear mandate using the same 12.

CivilNET is the watchdog for Tobago affairs. I am pleased with that.

The amalgamation of Tobago with Trinidad clearly has not gone well, therefore the conversation at the point of our history should be independence ! .. we will never realize our full potential socially, culturally, politically and geopolitically being in an unjust relationship with Trinidad masquerading as Trinidad and Tobago.

The union between Trinidad and Tobago needs a reset, the best option is a confederation similarly to the EU and OECS or a federal Republic. Tobago cannot achieve the autonomy it desires with the current unitary system.

Keep pushing

The people are suffering because of political egos and greed

Full autonomy should lead to independence. I don't know what platform Tobago would stand on for its independence.

Civilnet is important and doing a good job on half of Tobago.

The questions seems to reflect PDP perspectives. Is that by accident or design?

I am of the opinion that the PNM purposely ignored the Will of the people expressed in the January 2021 YHA elections, and drove Tobago back to the Polls, because they, the PNM, was uncomfortable with the results

Continue to keep the fire burning, i can see you all truly have Tobago at heart. ☺️ ❤️ ☺️



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I just want the PNM out I was in support of them for years but my eyes are open and I realize they're only for their family and friends.

We want our freedom the time is now for everyone to stand firm.

I think Civilnet is trying to create a hegemony; they are not independent as they have a biased political agenda.

The government have stopped tertiary assistance (GATE) and due to the pandemic there have been job loss. Most tertiary student especially graduate studies are dropping out of there program. What is put in place to support, why is unemployment rate so high? Going to college seem as a waste of time because there is no opportunity.

CivilNET needs to do proper research. If you are trying to reach the average man the street, he/she will not comprehend "IMPASSE" keep it simple, stupid.

greedy

Tobago doesn't have a cash flow problem, our problem is management. We lack the skillset in the current crop of persons to manage on both sides

The Prime Minister need to follow the provisions made in Law. "Casting Lots" is an option, the PM refused to pivot within the framework of the Law. Tobago is without governance because PM refused to adhere to what is available for the solution. According to the THA ACT 1976, there is a Chamber with two parties sitting facing each other as it is important that there must be collaboration with both sides. Hence when the PDP, presented the proposal for both to come together for the "common good" of the Island, the PNM, disrespected 50% of the Electorate by refusing to share the responsibility of the running/functioning of the THA.

We need a titanic shift in the polictical struture of Tobago,we need people power over polictical party power Campain finance most be look at.

I am interested in seeing Tobago with a legitimate administration functioning for Tobago and it's people with transparency in it's best manner for Tobago.

Who are the members of this organisation?

That fact is that in the current and proposed definition of Tobago, there is too much natural resources located in "Tobago" that is being left out.

It's quite unambiguous that as a country and Tobago by extension we are suffering from ignorance and illiteracy in most sections of society. This has lead to major malfunction of these sectors which has simultaneously resulted in an island void of progress. I'm of the belief that political leaders thrive on these societal flaws and make a concerted effort to keep the society in it's current state. Any man or country without a goal clearly has no plan and any man or country without a plan will be left behind. My wish is for us as a people is to unite and STOP ALLOWING POLITICS TO DIVIDE US, find a common sustainable and attainable developmental goal for our island and ardously work towards accomplishing such.

I think the CiviNet is trying their best and want to see the best out of these arrangements for Tobago, however I don't think the PNM assemble is interested in anything except to spend the 4 years in power. The

Letthis be free of political influence.

The Civil Net is informative and I am glad they have such forums to educate the public