KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

Positioning of the Political Parties and Alliances in Armenia 2026

Comparative Analysis of Party Responses on the VoteArmenia Platform

Foreword

Armenia's 2026 parliamentary election campaign is being conducted with remarkable intensity. Public debate is highly polarized, emotions often run high, and political discourse is at times overshadowed by personal attacks, accusations, and conspiracy narratives. In such an environment, it can be difficult for voters and even experts to distinguish between rhetoric and substance and to gain a clear understanding of where political parties actually stand on the key issues shaping Armenia's future.

To contribute to a more informed public debate, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, in partnership with VoteMatchInternational, Yerevan State University, TREE Company, and IMEA Systems, developed a digital platform that enables citizens to compare their own policy preferences with the positions of competing political parties and alliances: VoteArmenia.am

The project brought together Armenian experts and young citizens from diverse professional backgrounds to identify sixty questions / statements addressing some of the most important challenges the country needs to face and decisions its leadership needs to take. These questions were submitted to all parties and electoral alliances participating in the 2026 parliamentary elections. Nearly all responded. Unfortunately, as of now, one of the few exceptions was the prominent opposition party Strong Armenia. However, the coalition within which it runs in the elections is represented by the party "Country for Life". Nevertheless, the responses received provide a unique and highly valuable dataset on the policy positions of the participating political actors. Thirty of those questions / statements made it into the final version of VoteArmenia.am.

The online tool has already attracted close to 200,000 visits. Importantly, no personal user data is collected or stored and all servers are located inside the Republic of Armenia. At the same time, the publicly available responses of participating parties have created an unprecedented resource for understanding Armenia's political landscape.

This publication visualizes the answer patterns for each question from the platform and examines some preliminary findings: which issues generate the greatest polarization, where is a broad consensus, and on which questions do parties appear more reluctant to take clear positions? We also explore the degree of similarity between parties across the full set of policy questions, offering insights into political proximity, ideological clustering, and potential avenues for future cooperation. Some findings confirm well-known public positions. Others reveal less obvious patterns and provide fresh perspectives on the structure and dynamics of Armenia's party system.

Beyond the 2026 elections, the evolution of Armenia's political landscape will continue. The data presented here may therefore offer valuable clues about future developments, alignments, and coalition possibilities. We hope that this analysis will serve as a useful resource for voters, researchers, journalists, and all those interested in Armenia's democratic development and political future. Furthermore, we hope that the platform created for VoteArmenia.am will also be able to serve as a useful tool in future elections of Armenia such as the upcoming regional elections in autumn 2026.

We wish you an insightful and stimulating read.

Jakob Wöllenstein
Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Acknowledgements

Special Thanks for the work on the VoteArmenia Platform to go our partners VoteMatchInternational, Yerevan State University, TREE Company, IMEA Systems and Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung.
Harutyun Vermishyan, Michiel Nuytemans, Arpi Janyan, Hrachya Hovhannisyan and Pamela Brandt

From the side of KAS Armenia, special thanks go to Florian Binder, Liana Marukyan and Mariam Arakelyan as well as Seda Grigorian for compiling the data and assisting in preparing the report.

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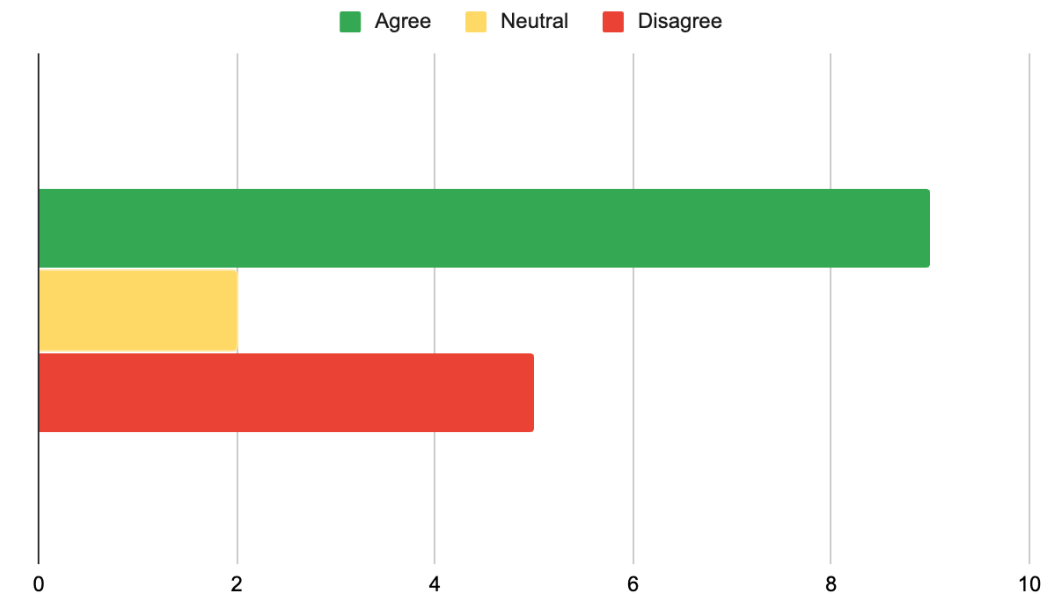
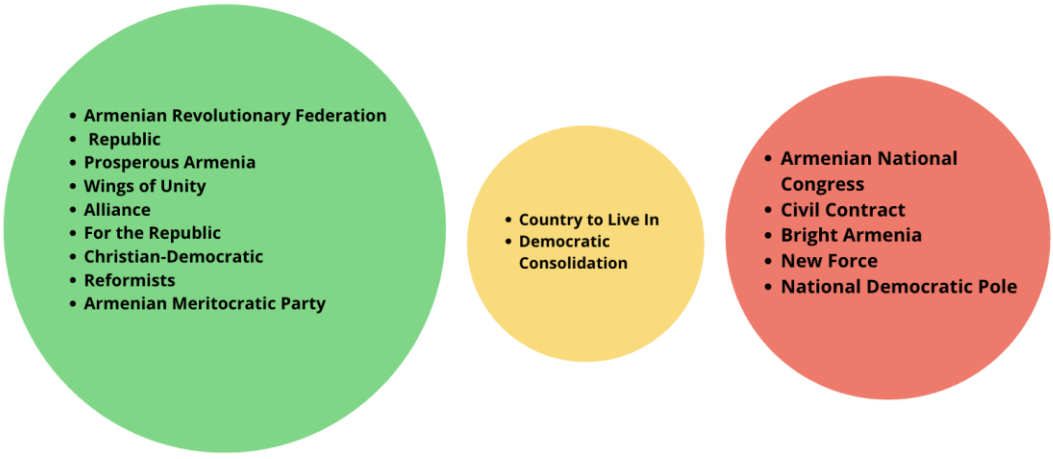
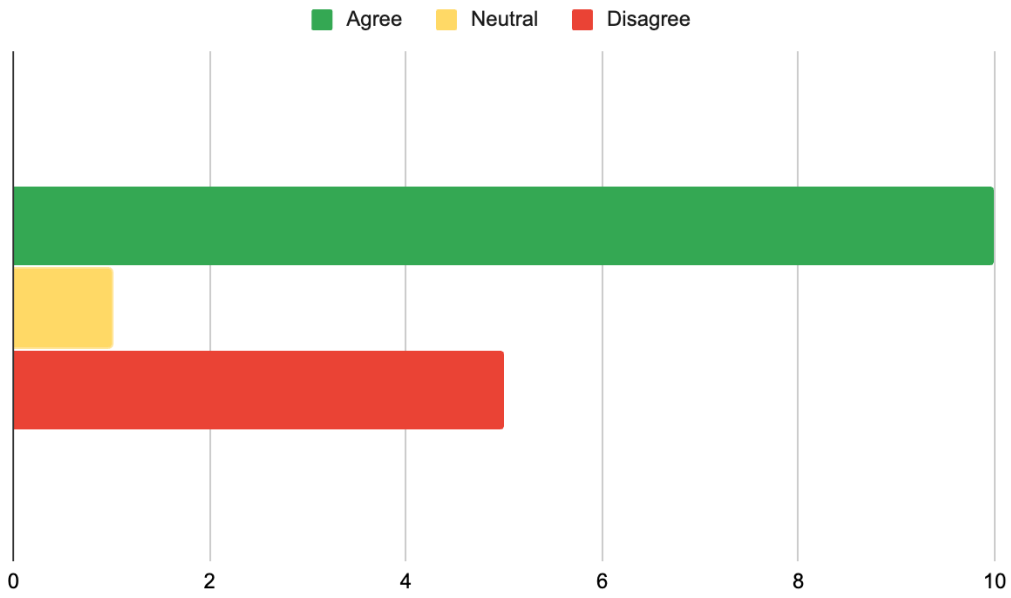
Section One:
The 30 Questions / Statements

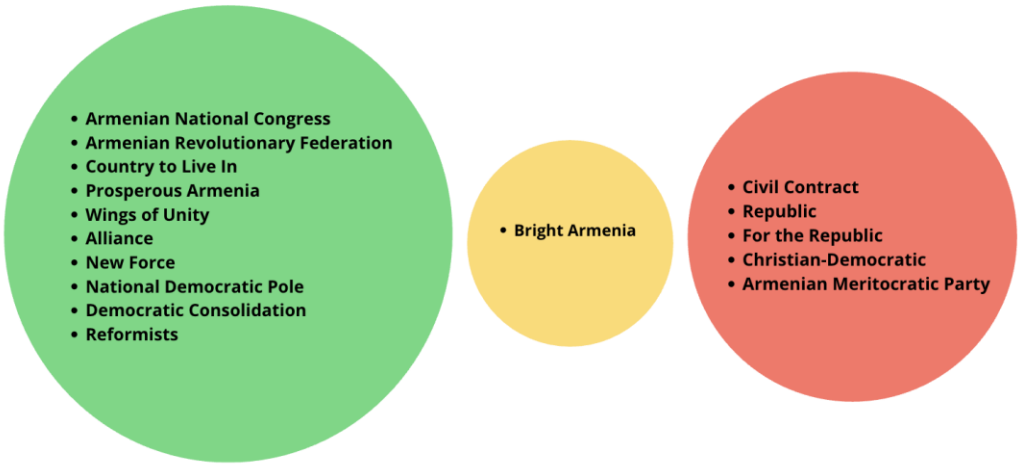
Question 1: Job creation is primarily the responsibility of the state.



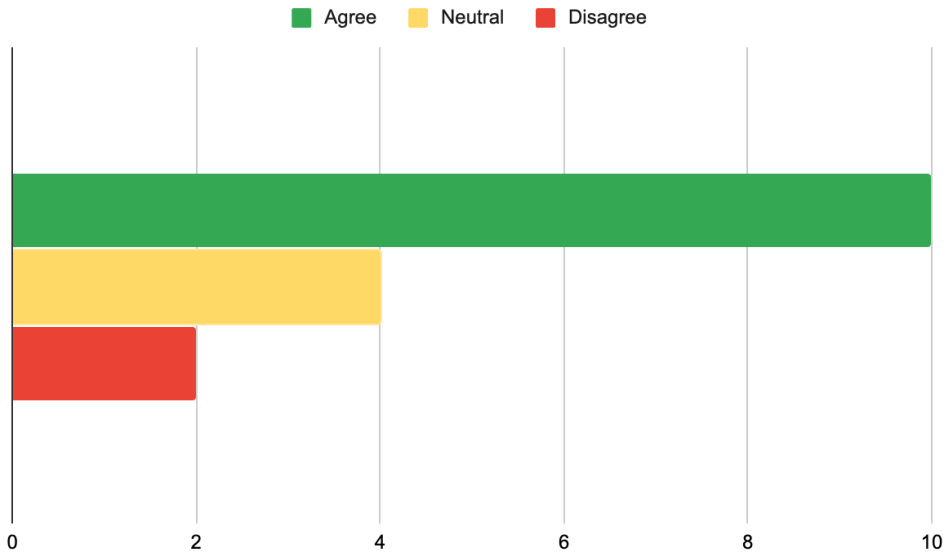


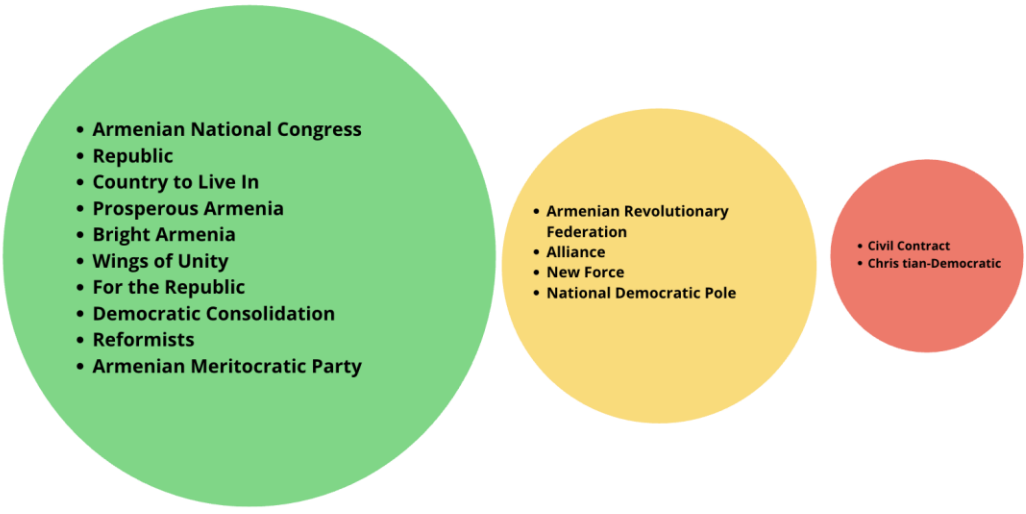
Question 2: Allowances granted to high-ranking officials should be reduced.



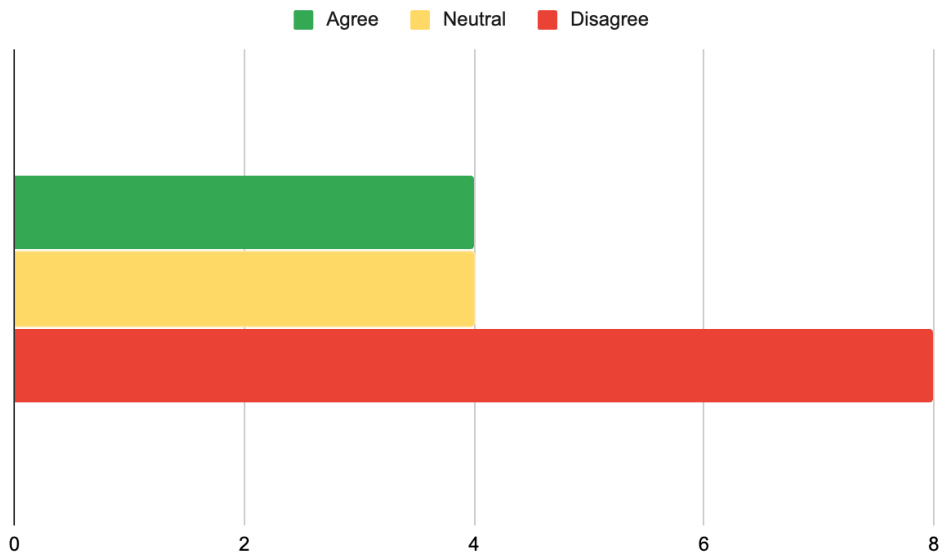


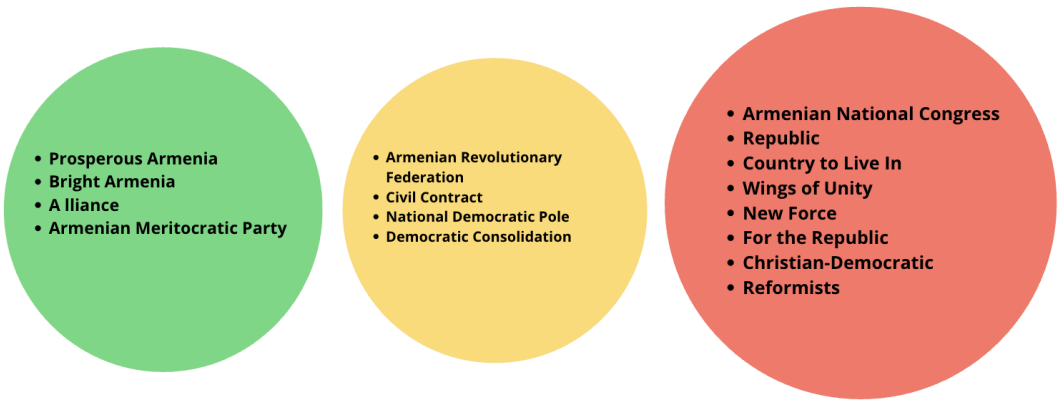
Question 3: The state should leverage the reopening of old factories to promote regional development and employment.



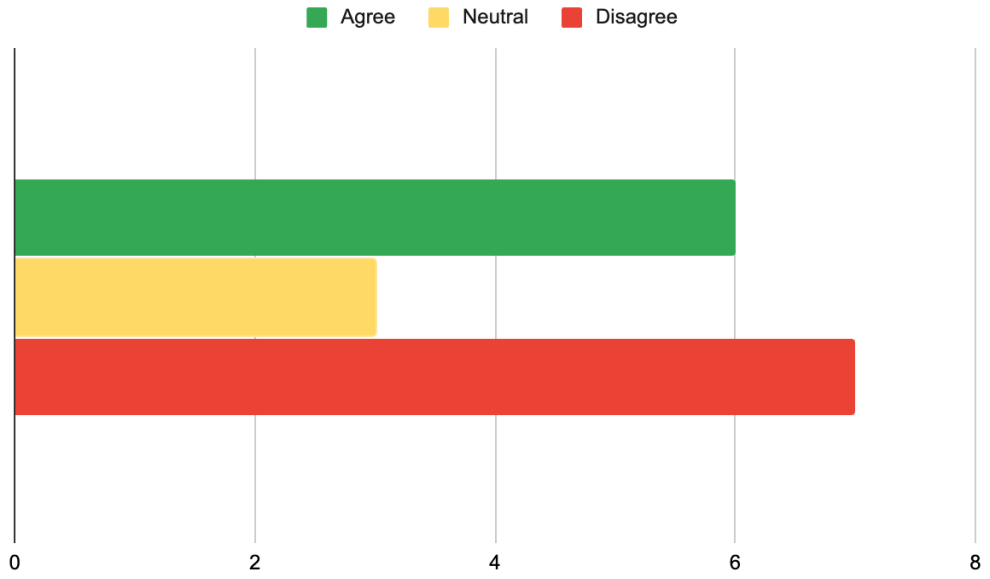


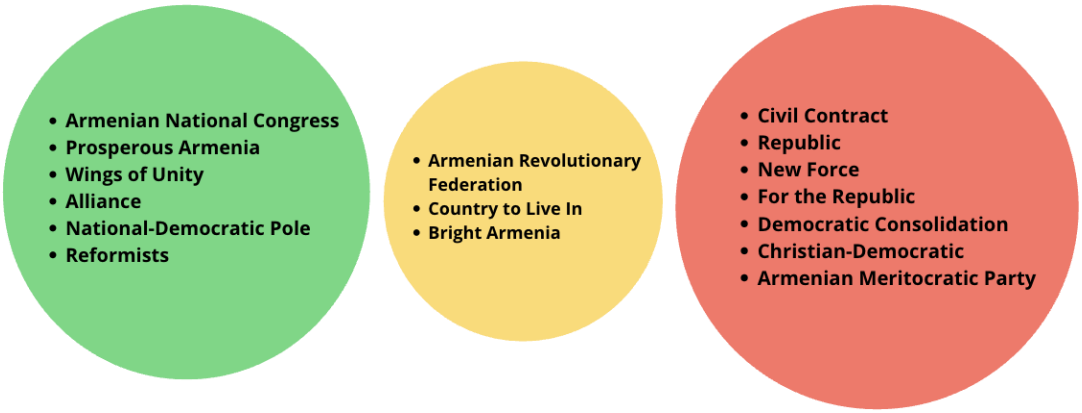
Question 4: The state should reduce the number of road surveillance cameras in urban areas.



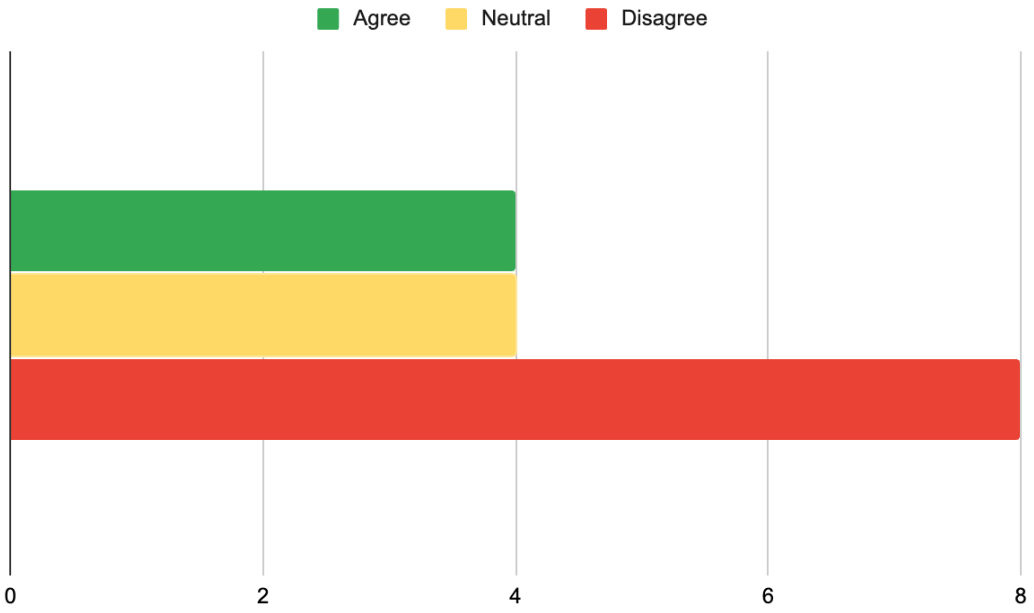


Question 5: Public health insurance should be made voluntary by the state.





Question 6: Support for vulnerable groups should be increased through higher income taxes.



- Armenian National Congress
- Republic
- New Force
- Reformists

- Armenian Revolutionary Federation
- Prosperous Armenia
- Democratic Consolidation
- Christian-Democratic

- Civil Contract
- Country to Live In
- Bright Armenia
- Wings of Unity
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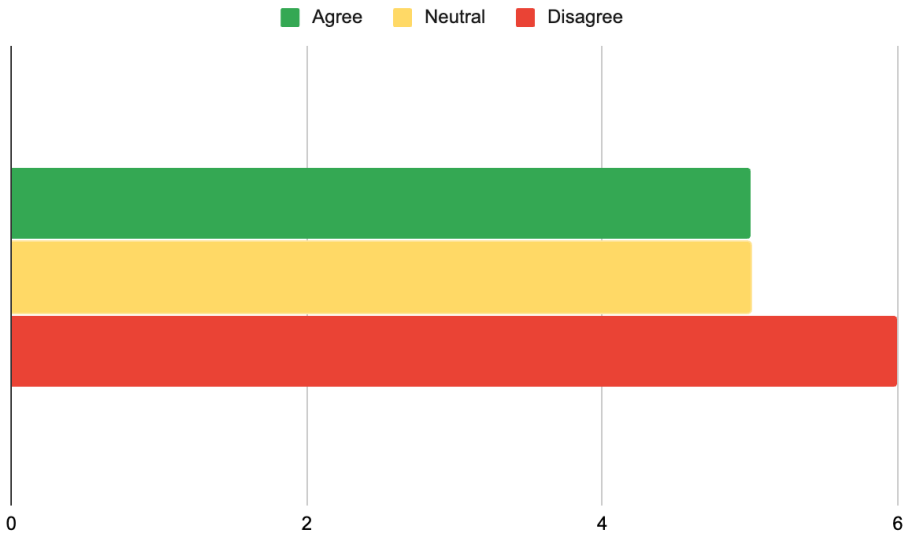
- For the Republic
- National-Democratic Pole
- Armenian Meritocratic Party

Question 7: Mining should be expanded throughout Armenia.



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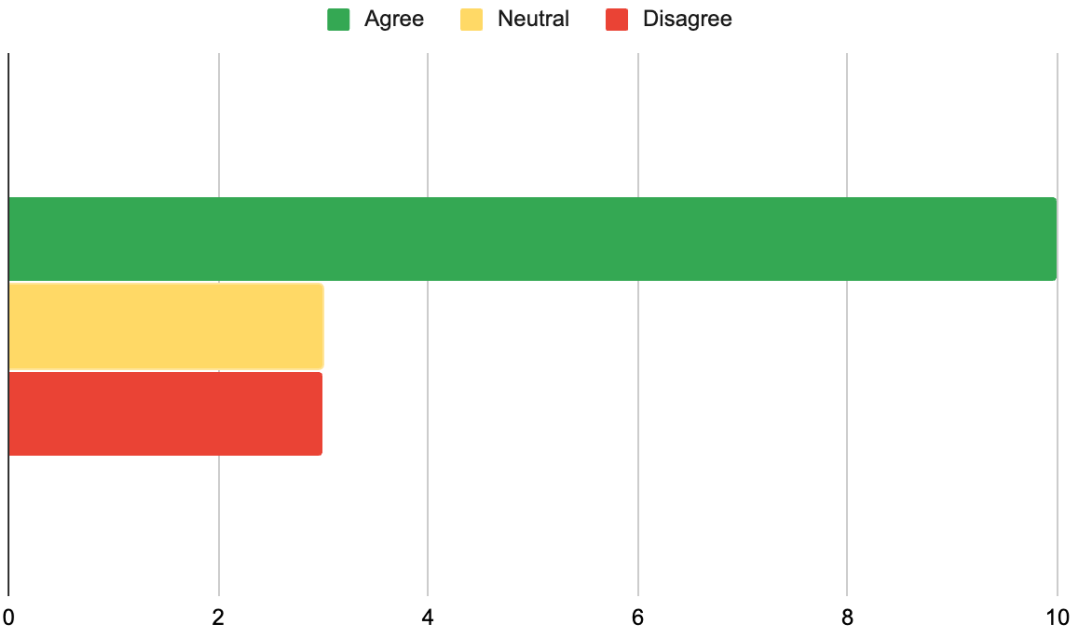
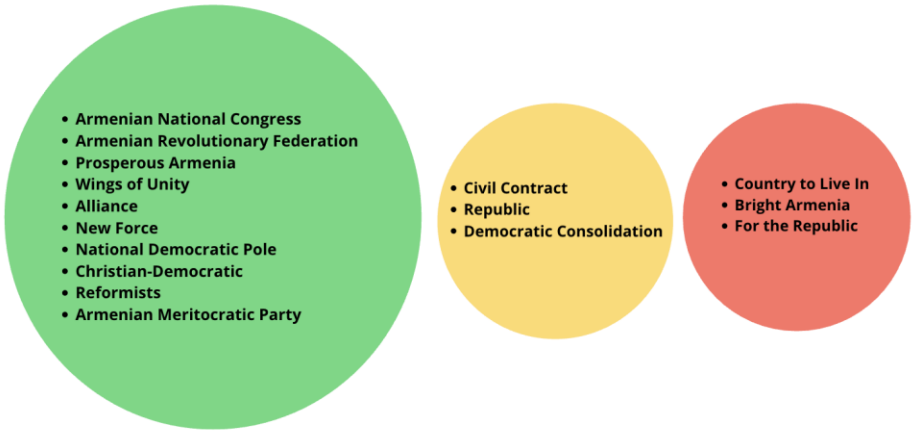
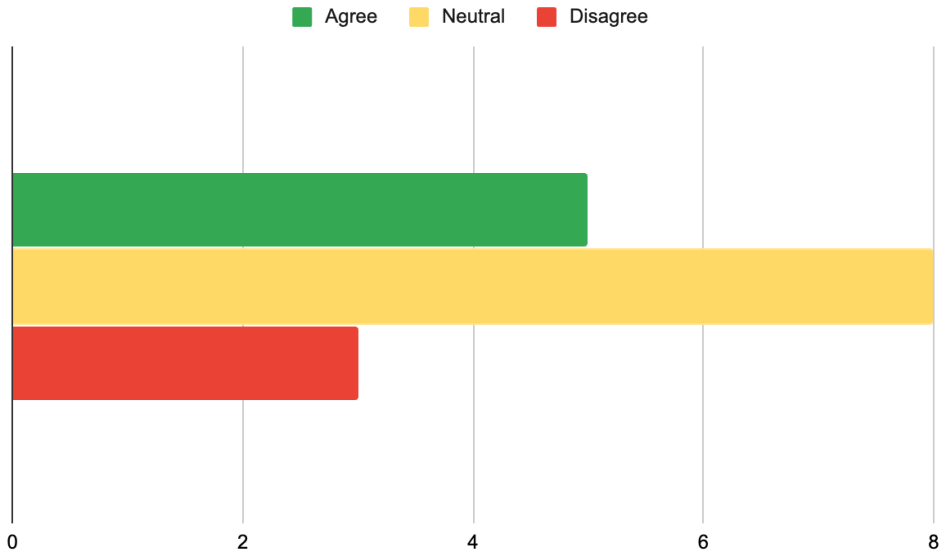
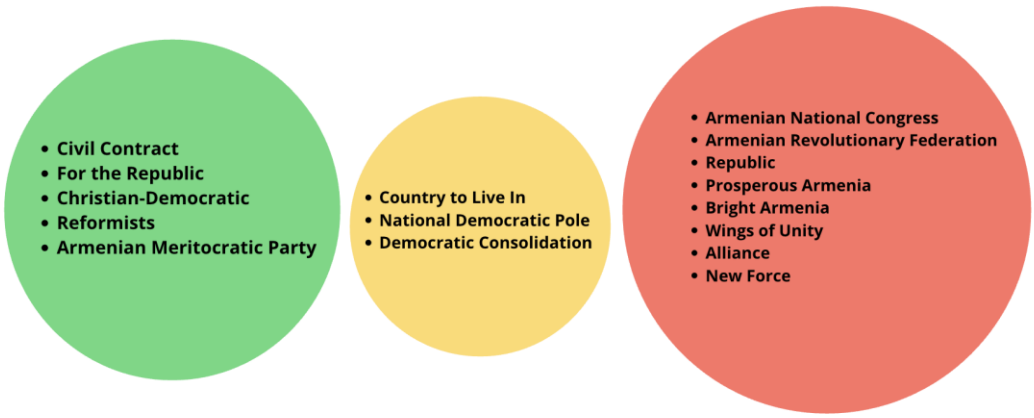
Question 8: The tax obligations of high-income citizens should be increased.



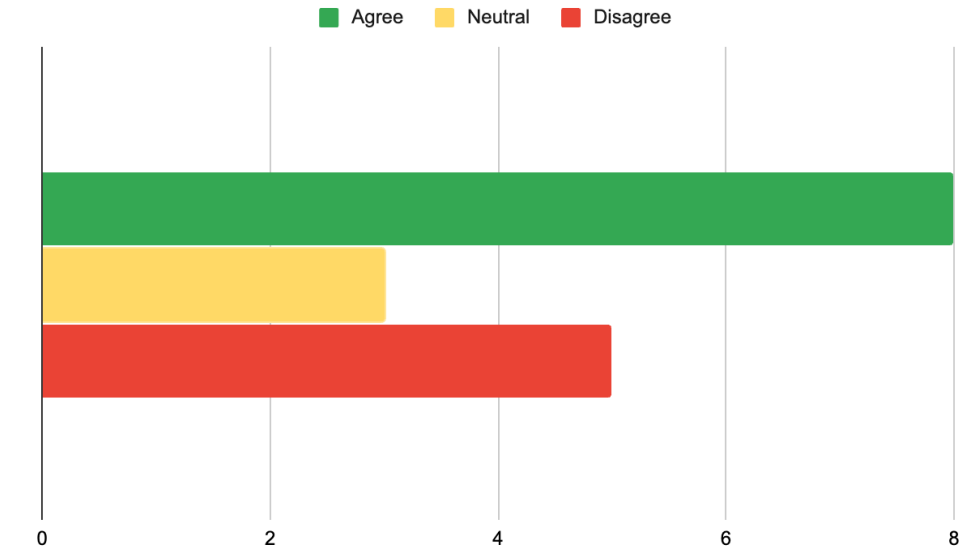


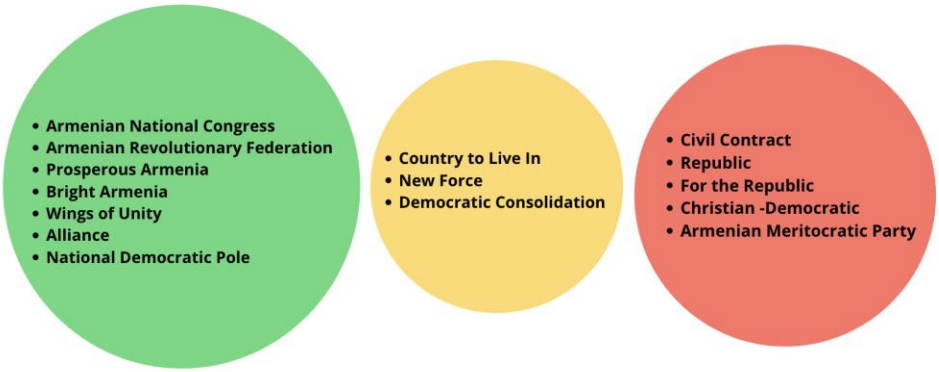
Question 9: State support for persons forcibly displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh should be gradually reduced.



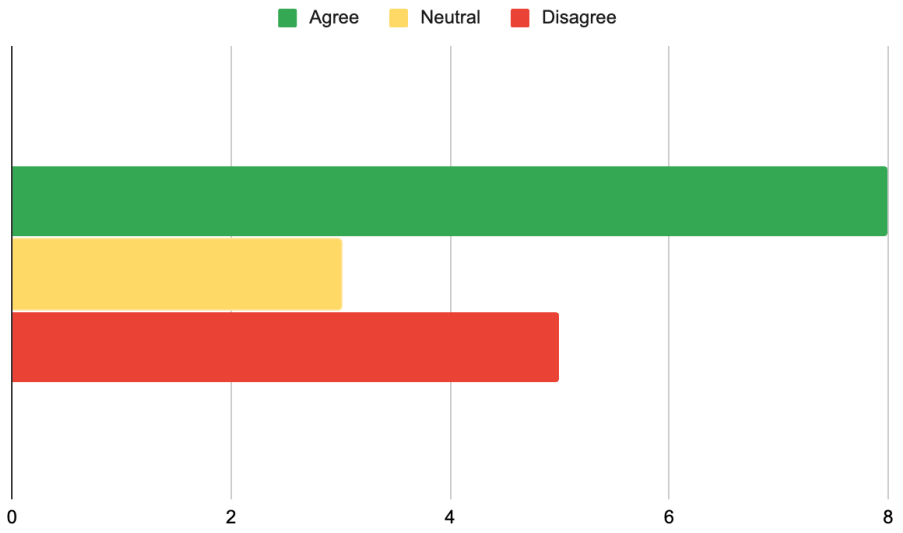


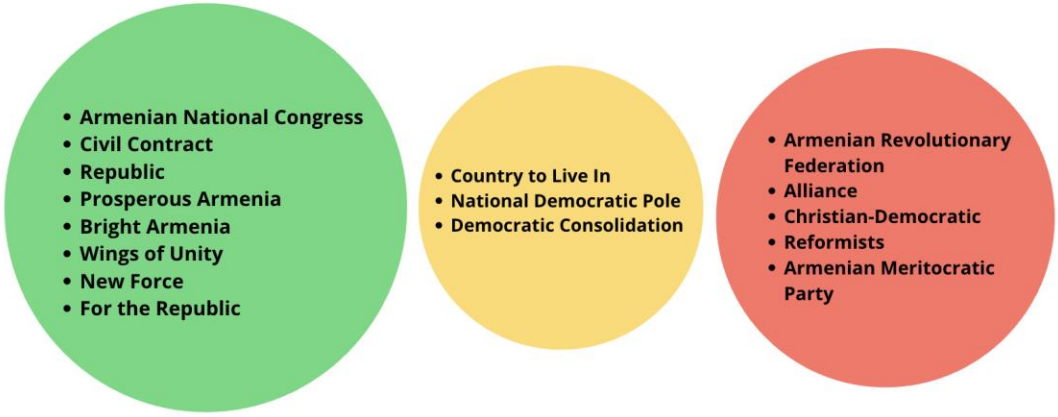
Question 10: Police access to private cameras should be restricted.



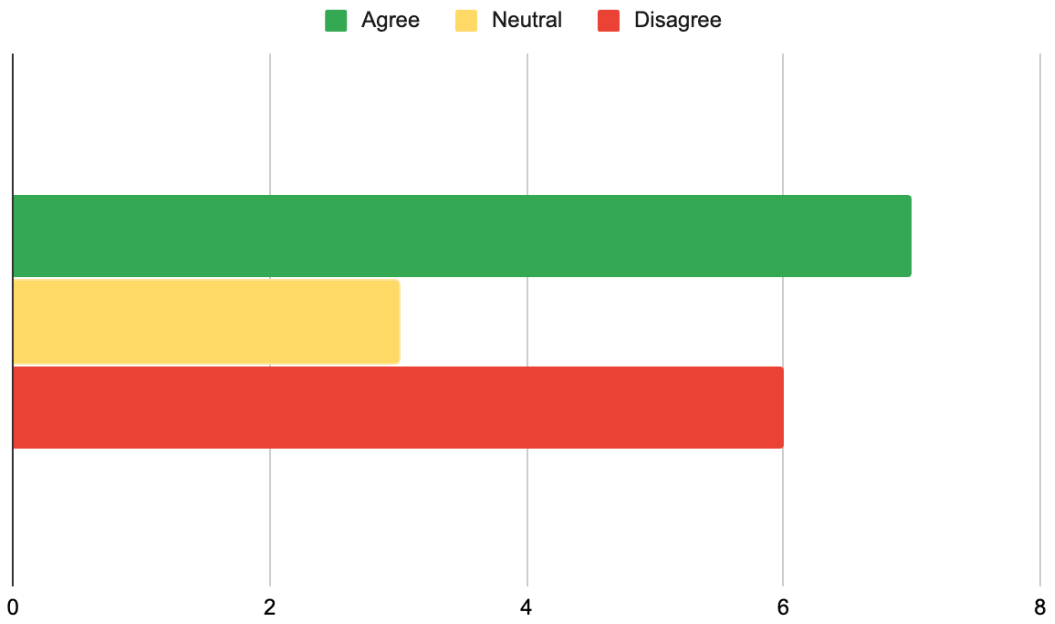


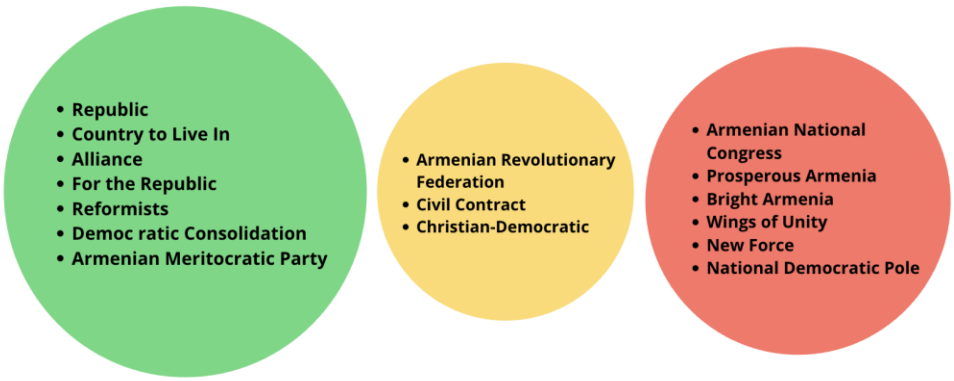
Question 11: The state should encourage the integration of foreign immigrants in Armenia.



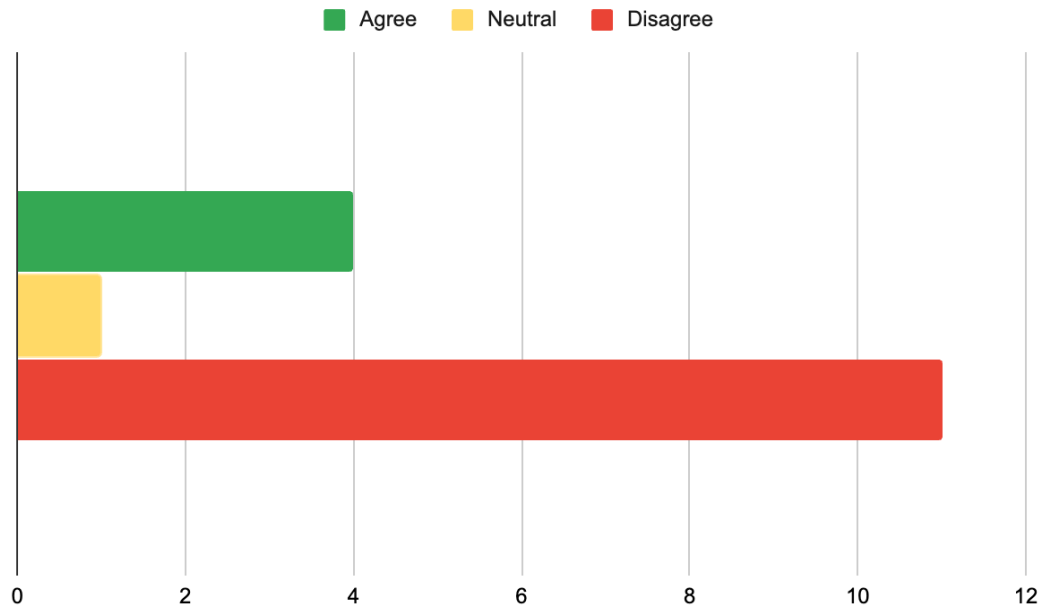


Question 12: Police officers should carry out specialized services in schools.



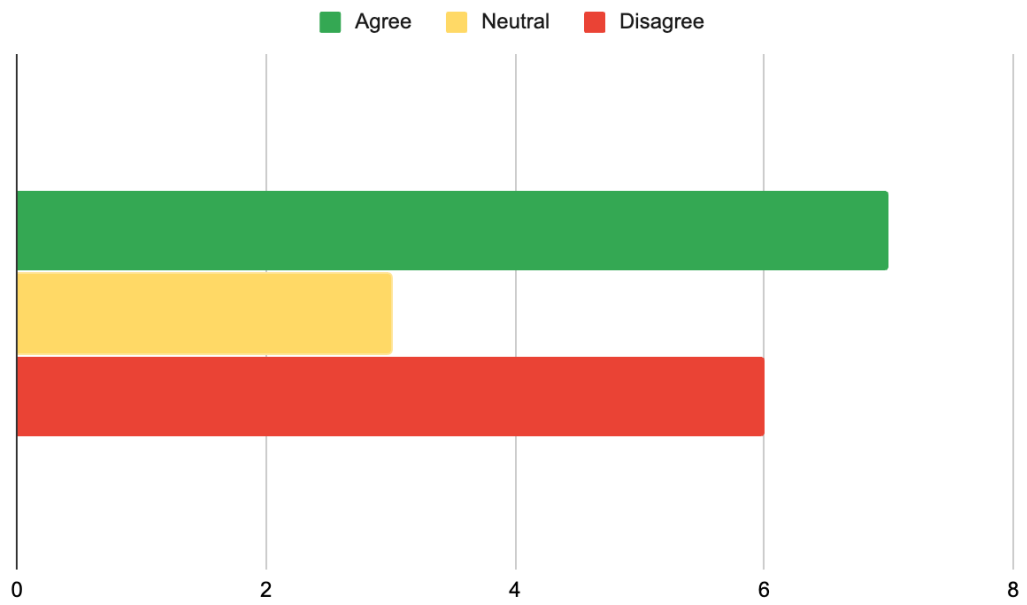


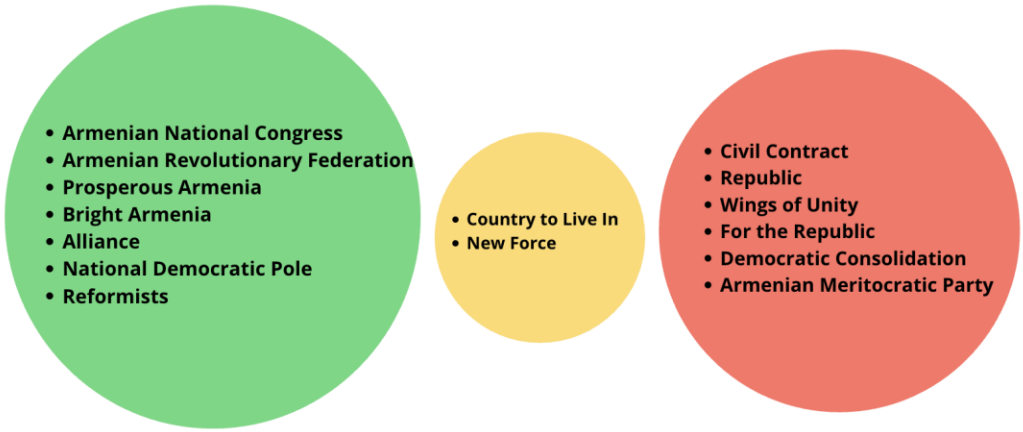
Question 13: The establishment of an Academic City should be a priority for advancing higher education and scientific research.



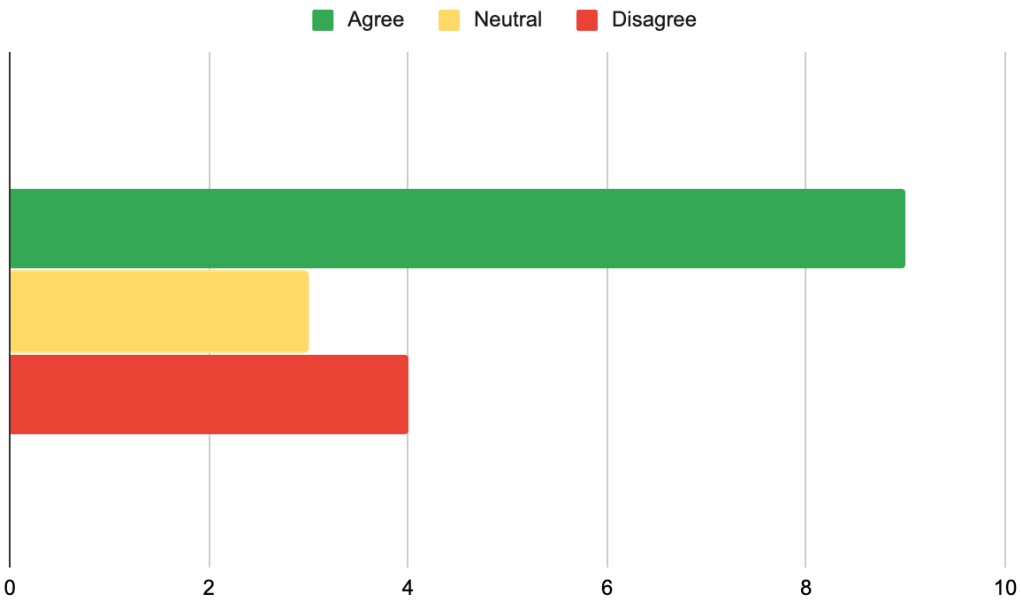
**Question with the Second Highest Level of Disagreement*

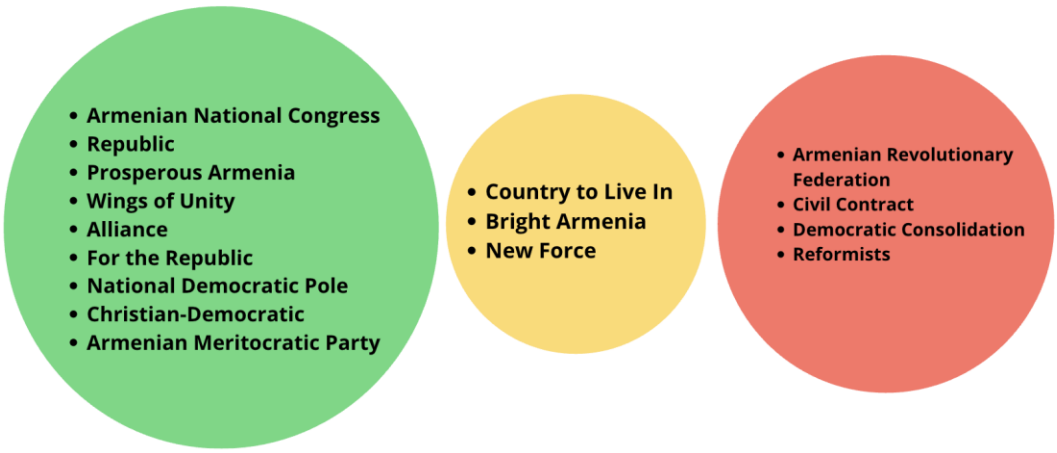
Question 14: Matters not reported during government sessions should be eliminated.



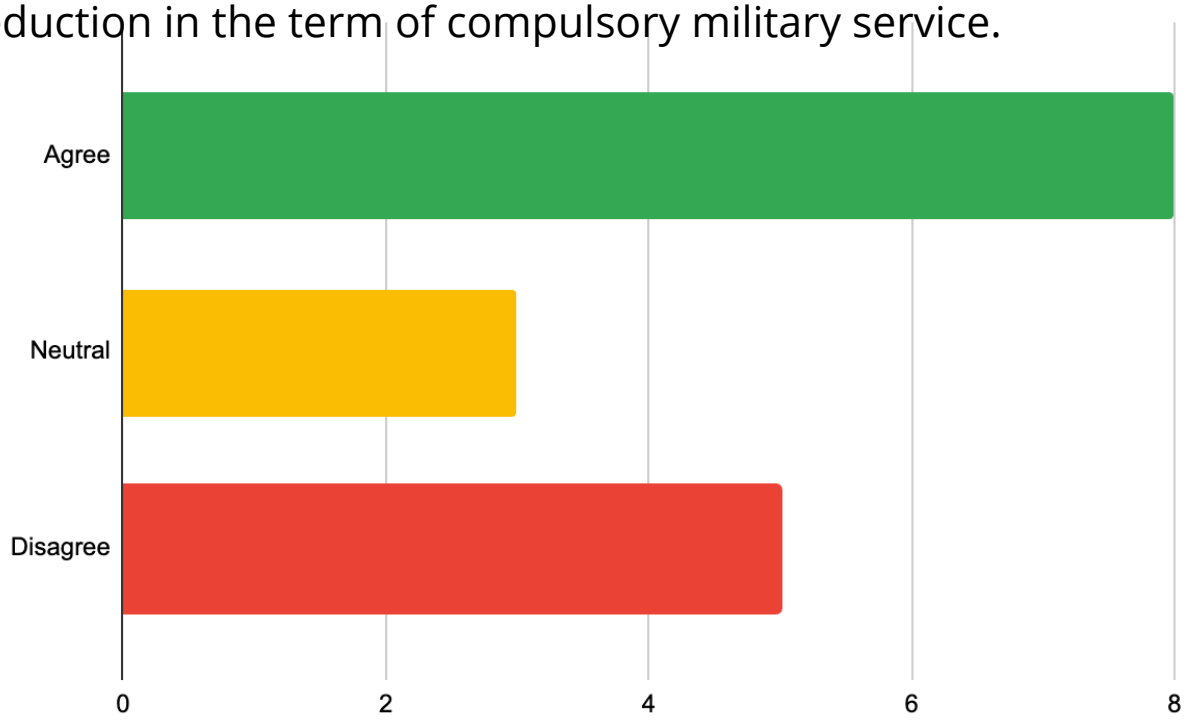


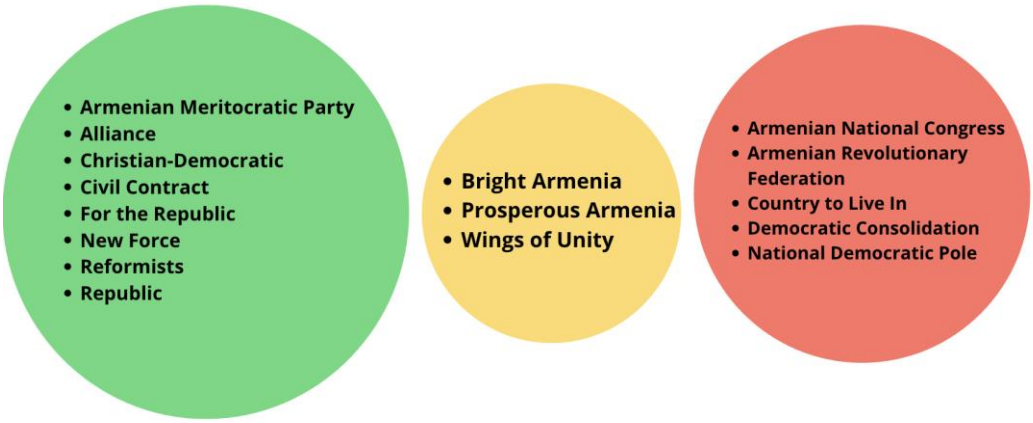
Question 15: The state should simplify the procedures for supervising foreign investments.



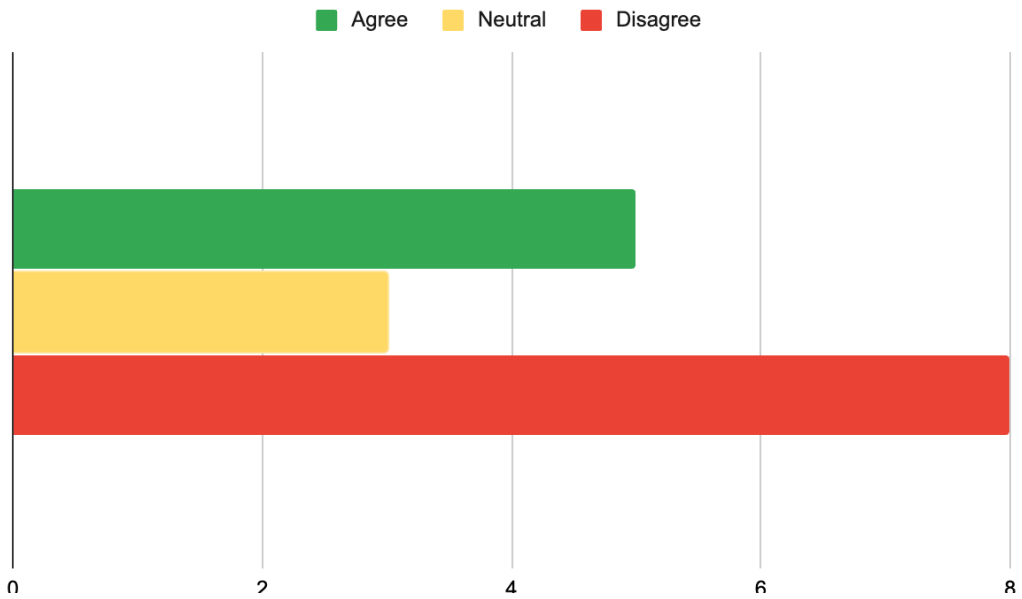


Question 16: Military reforms should be accompanied by a reduction in the term of compulsory military service.





Question 17: The parliamentary system of governance in Armenia should be replaced.



- Alliance
- Republic
- Wings of Unity
- Democratic Consolidation
- Armenian National Congress

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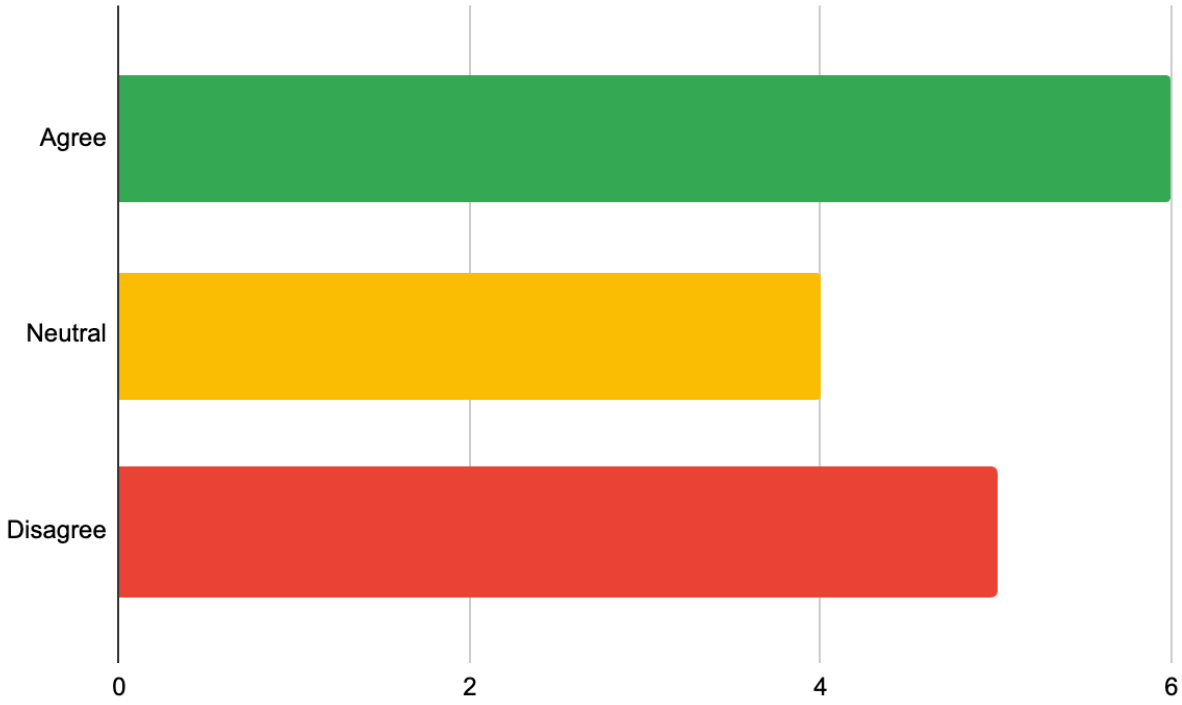
Question 18: Membership in the European Union should be a foreign policy priority for the Republic of Armenia.



- Armenian Meritocratic Party
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- For the Republic
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- Republic

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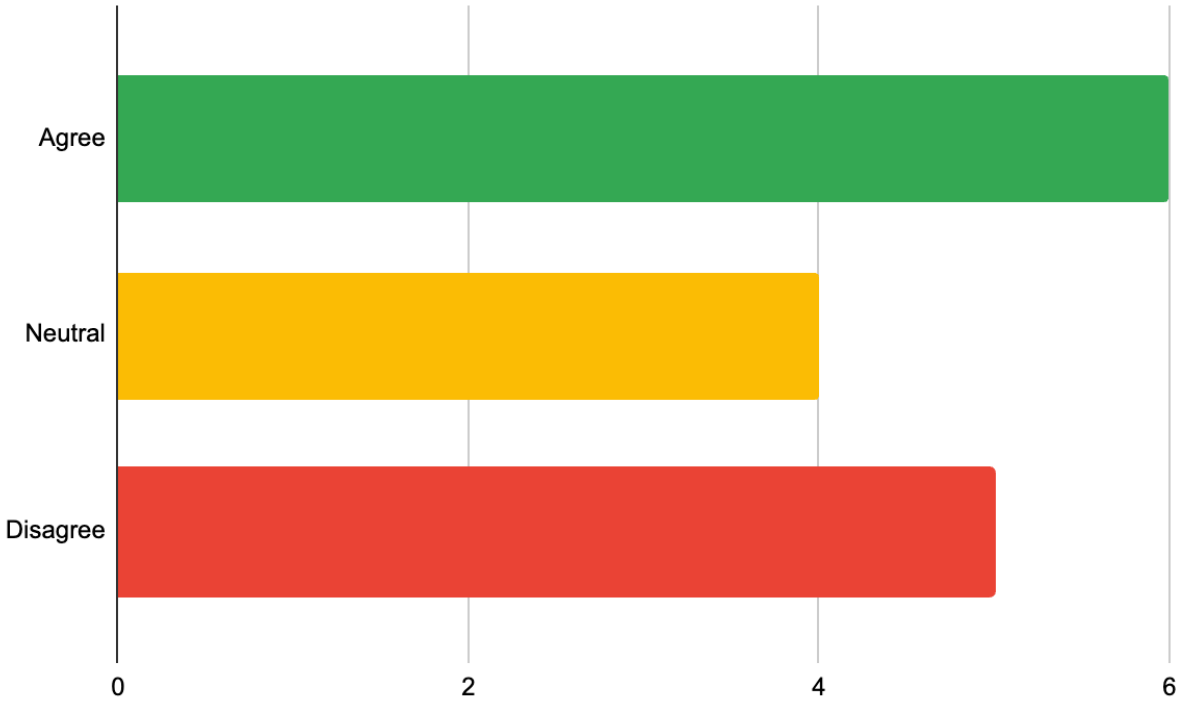
Question 19: Armenia should sign a peace treaty with Azerbaijan even without resolving the Artsakh issue.



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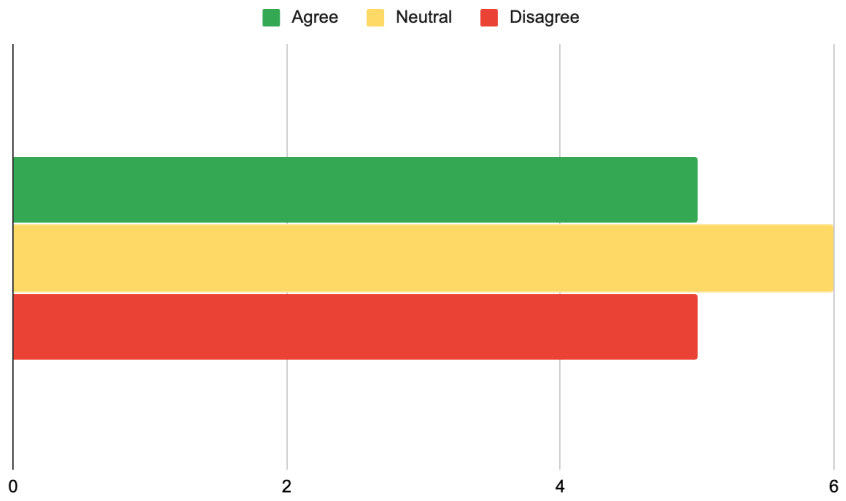
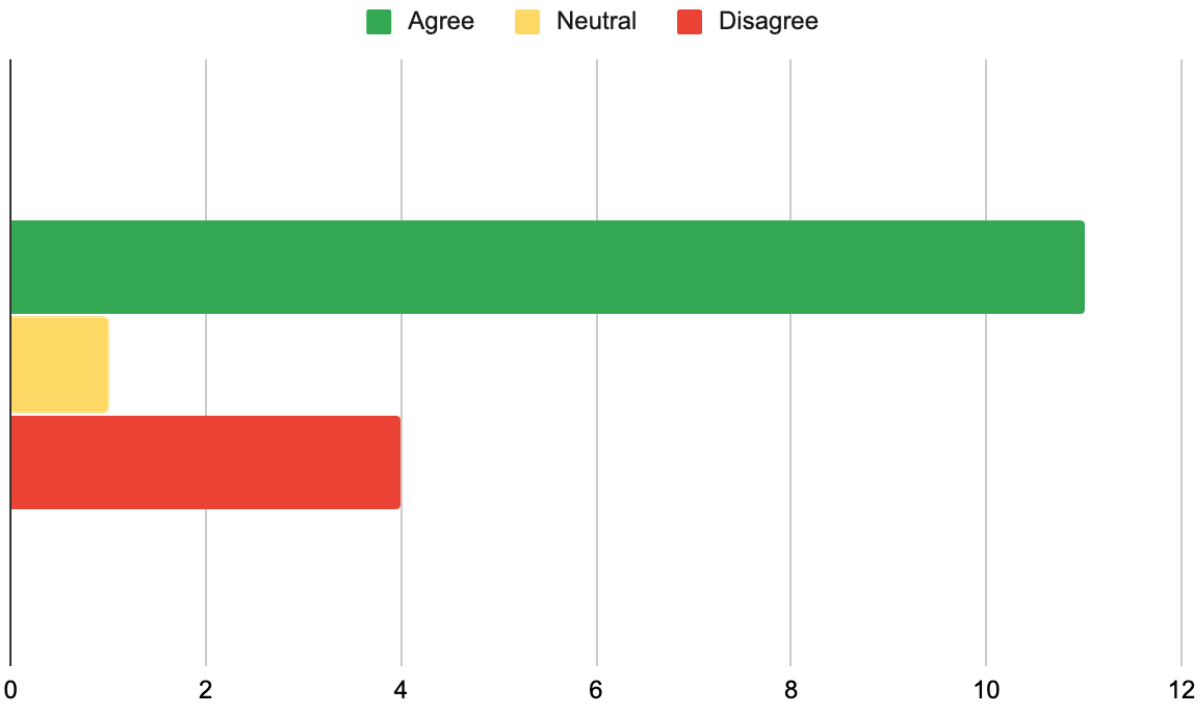
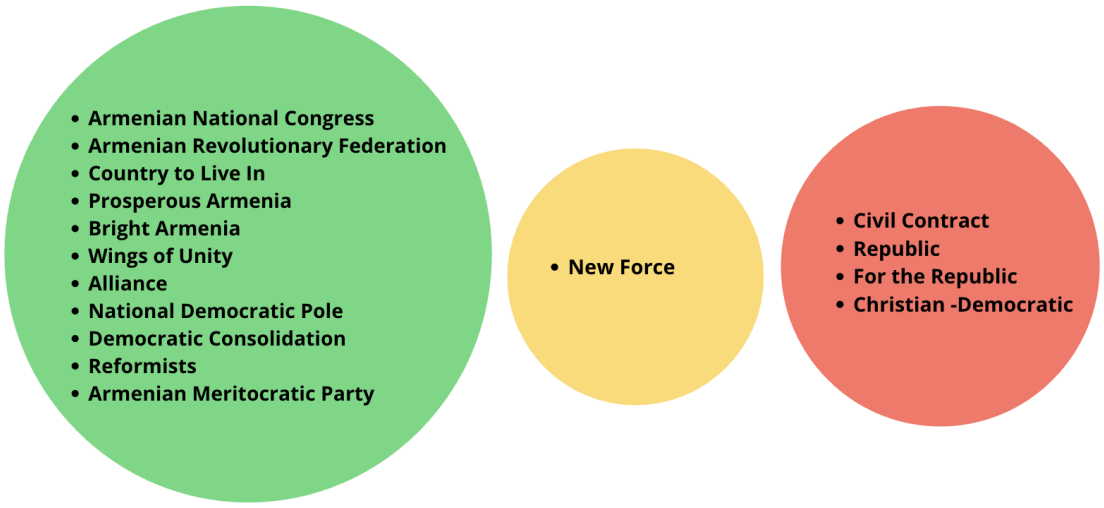
Question 20: Armenia should withdraw from the CSTO.



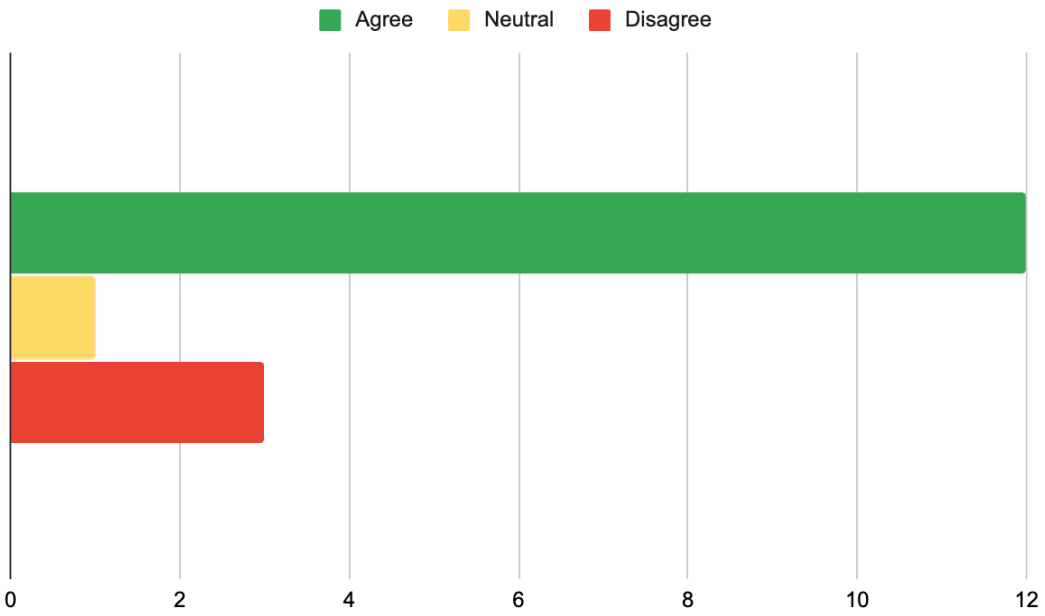
**Question with the Highest Neutral Response Rate*

Question 21: The return of prisoners should be a prerequisite for relations with Azerbaijan

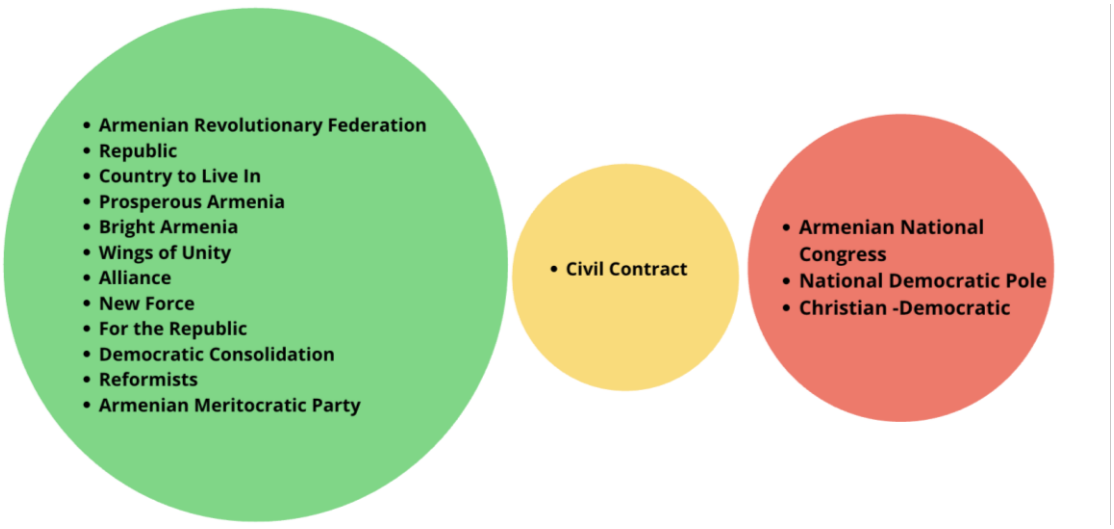




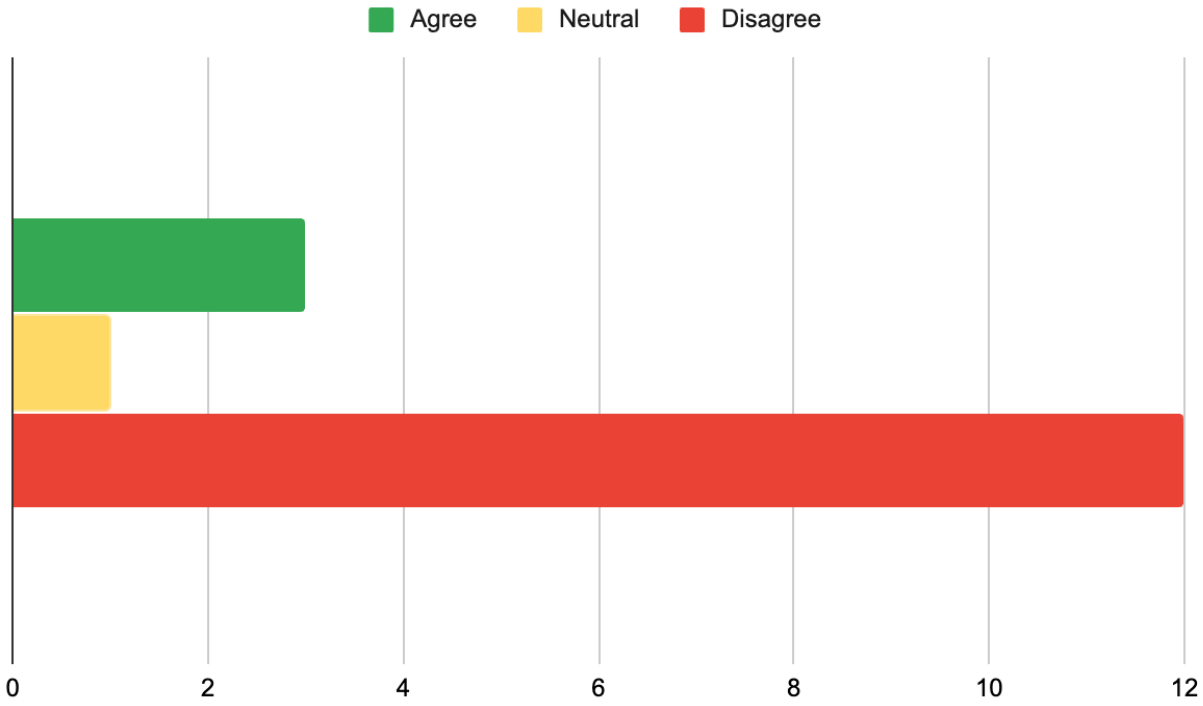
Question 22: The government should treat the Diaspora as an important stakeholder in foreign policy matters.



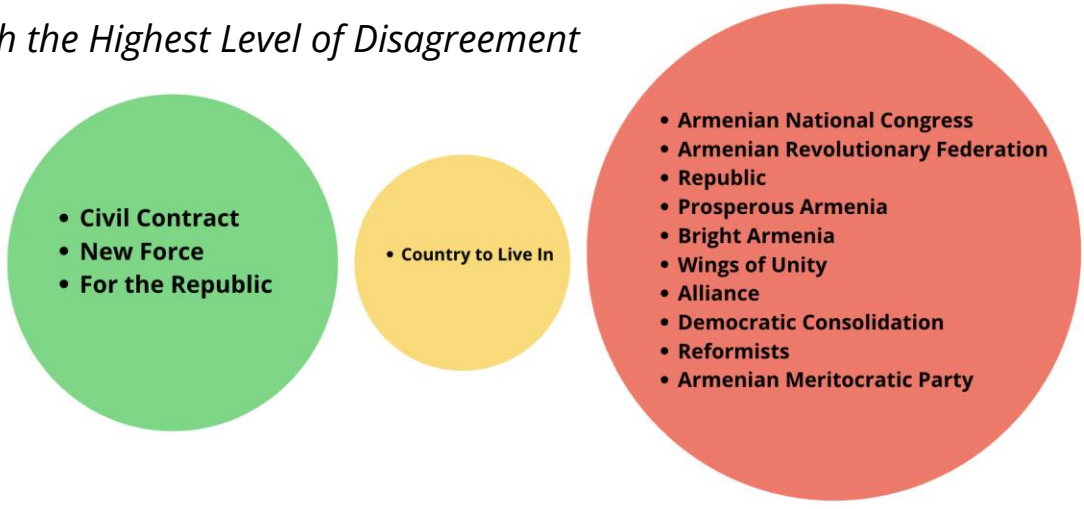
**Question with the Third Highest Level of Agreement*



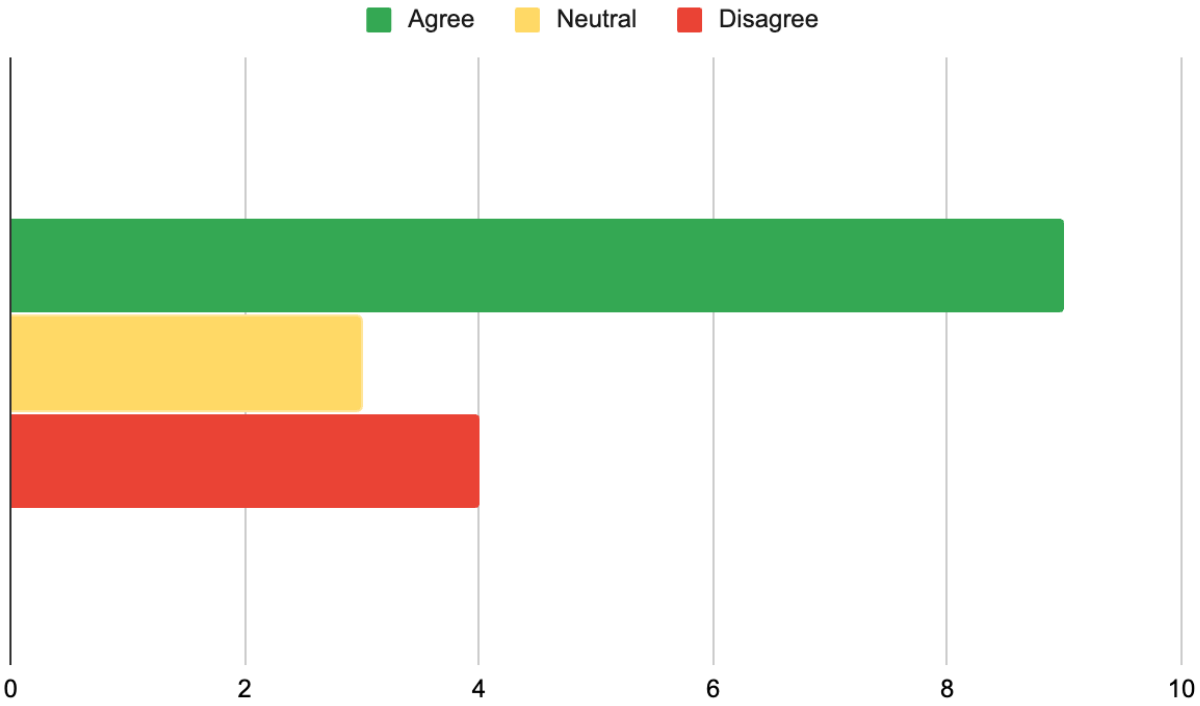
Question 23: The role of the Diaspora in Armenia's political sphere should be limited exclusively to cultural matters.

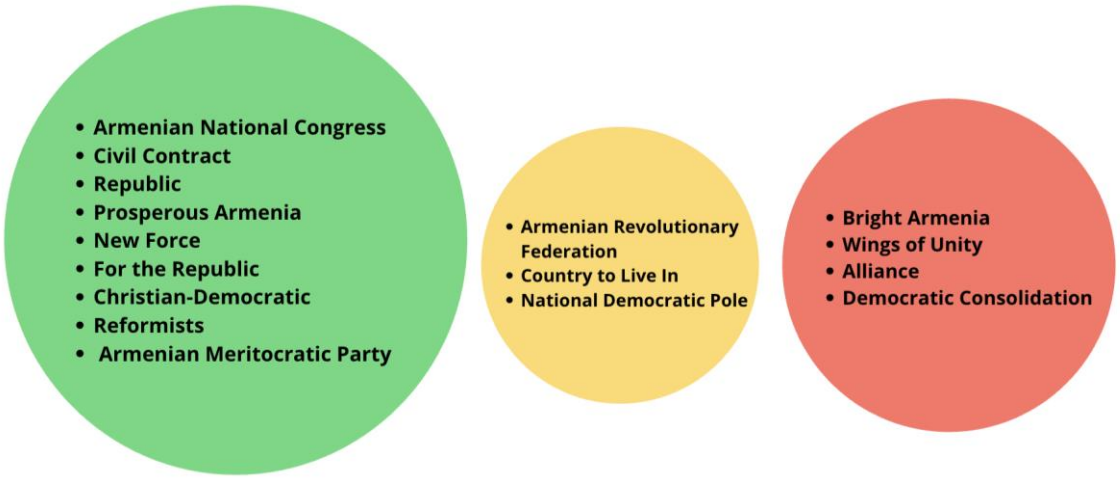


**Question with the Highest Level of Disagreement*

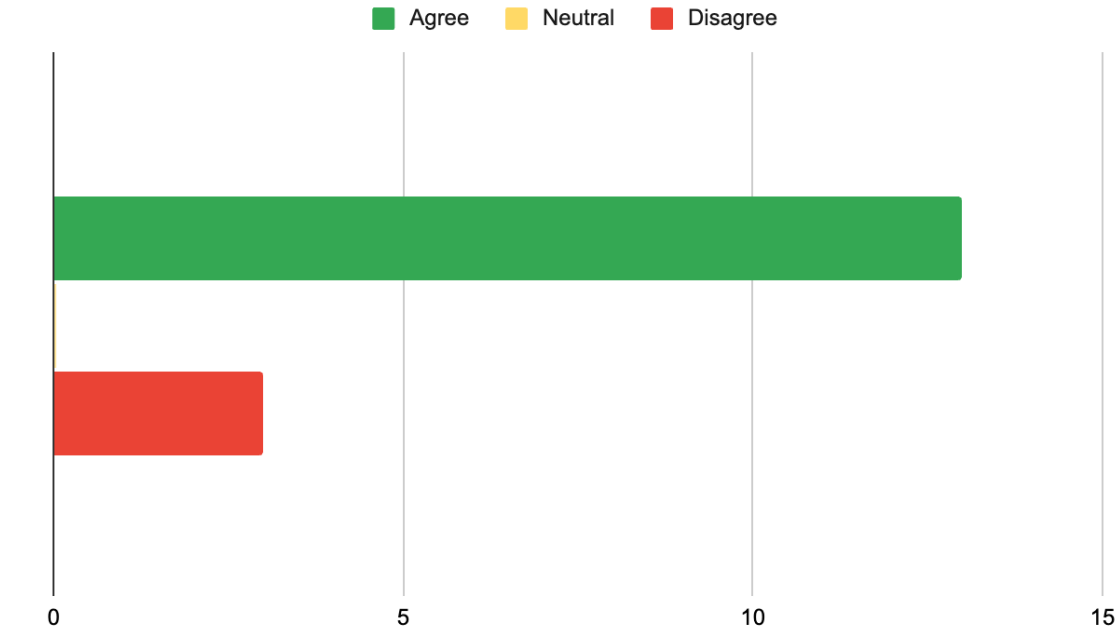


Question 24: Armenia should pursue the development of bilateral trade with Azerbaijan.

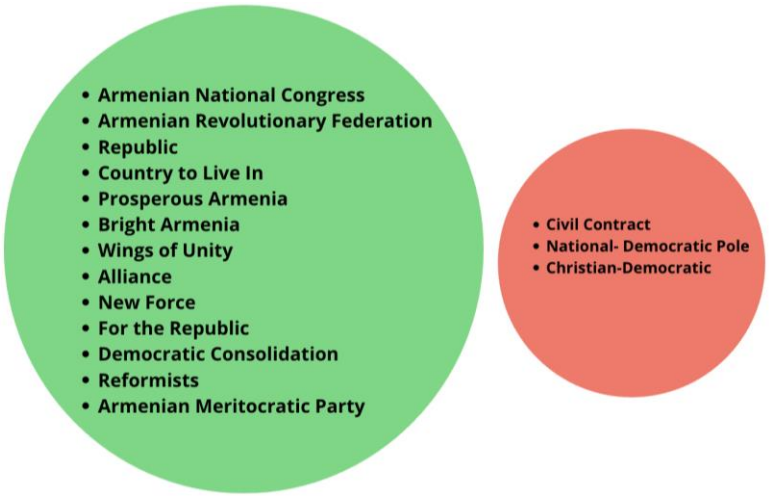




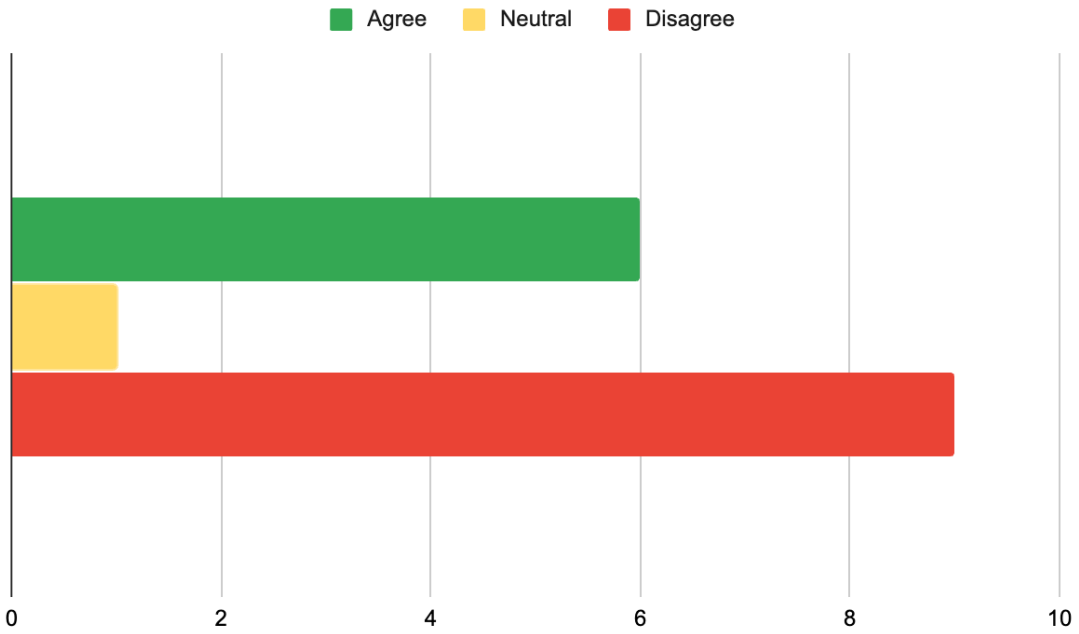
Question 25: As a religious organization, the Armenian Apostolic Church, should continue to have a special constitutional status within the state.



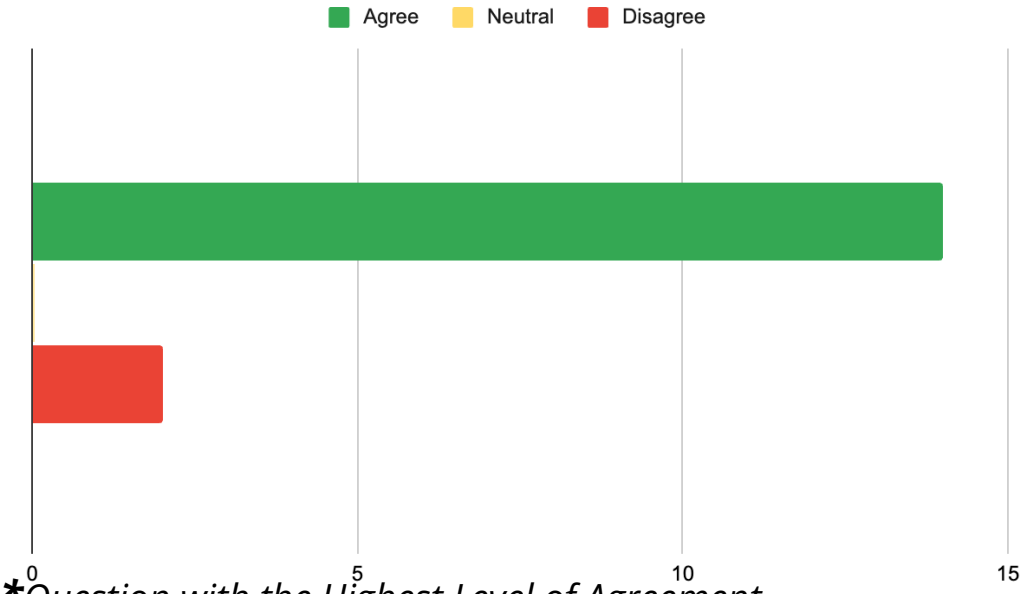
**Question with the Second Highest Level of Agreement*



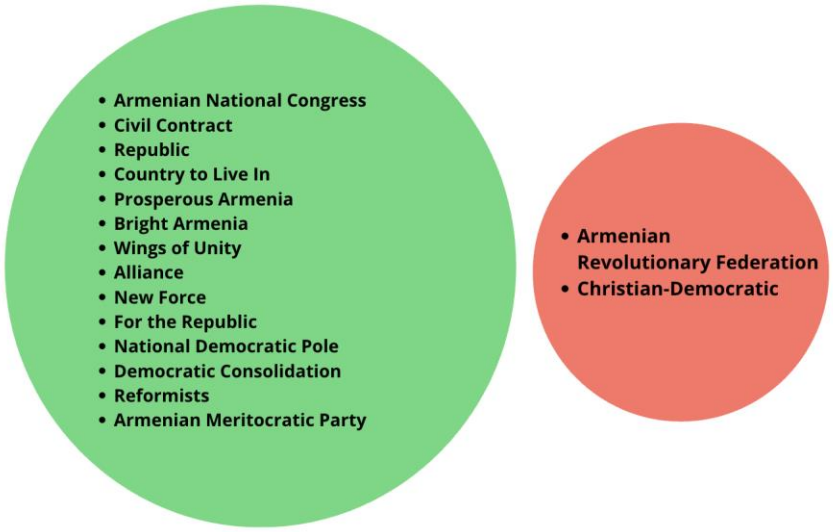
Question 26: Citizens of Armenia living abroad should have the right to vote in nationwide elections.



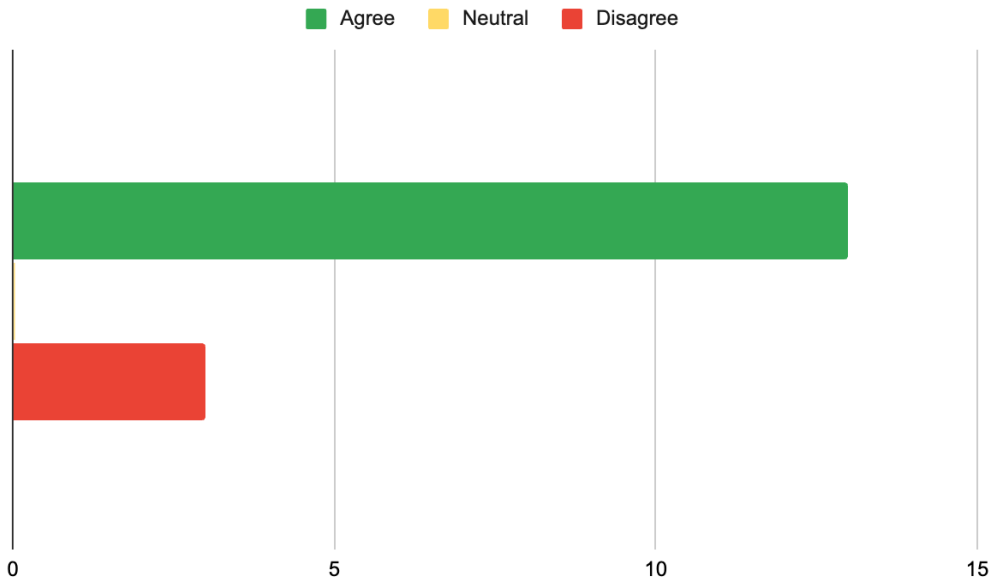
Question 27: State authorities and the Armenian Apostolic Church should mutually refrain from interference in each other's internal affairs.

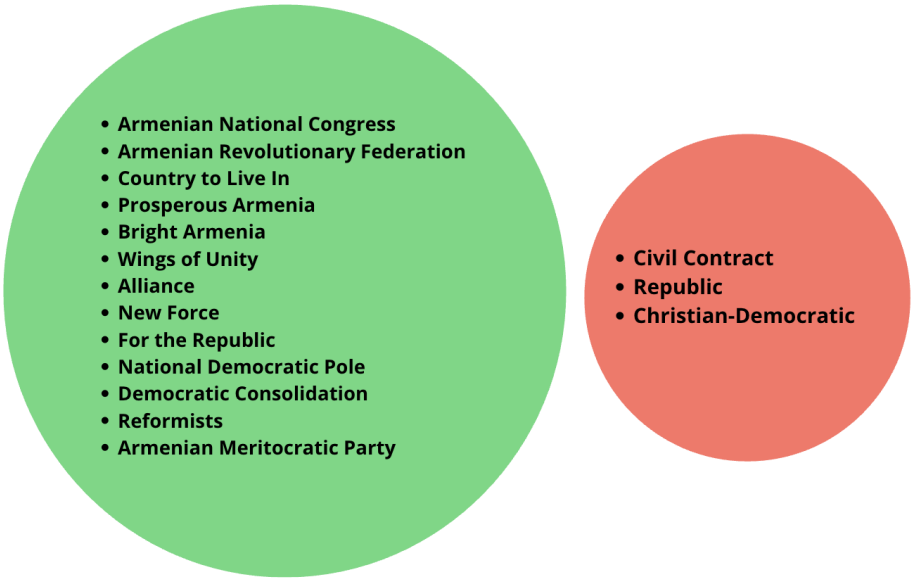


*****Question with the Highest Level of Agreement*

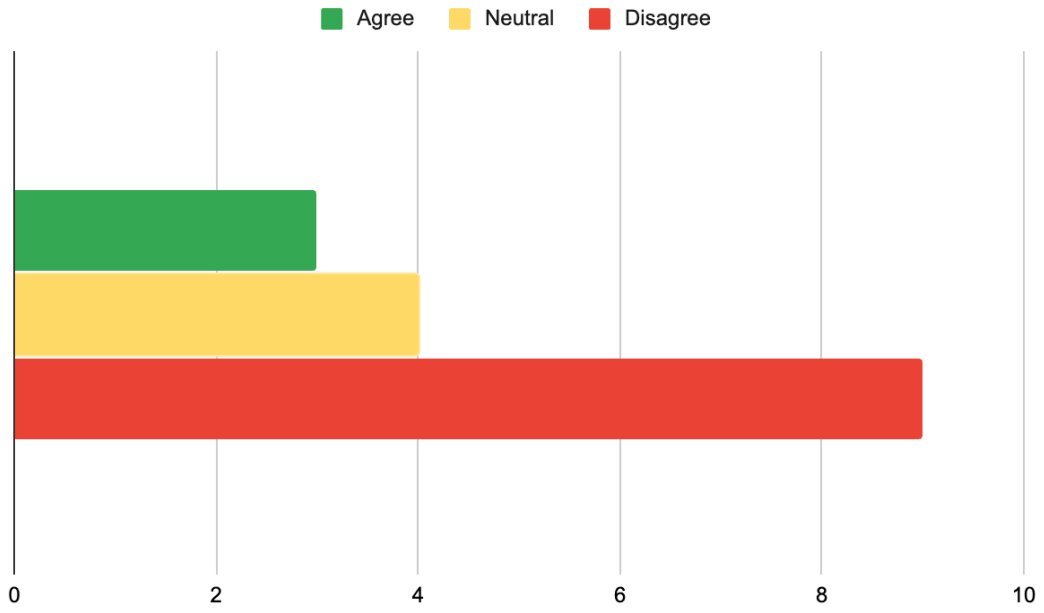


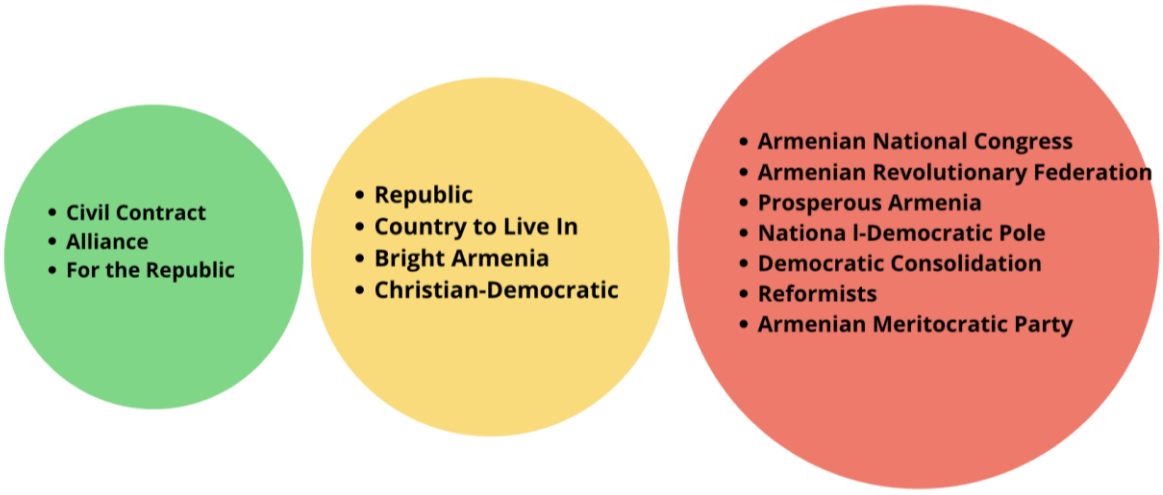
Question 28: History textbooks should be titled “History of the Armenians” rather than “History of Armenia”.



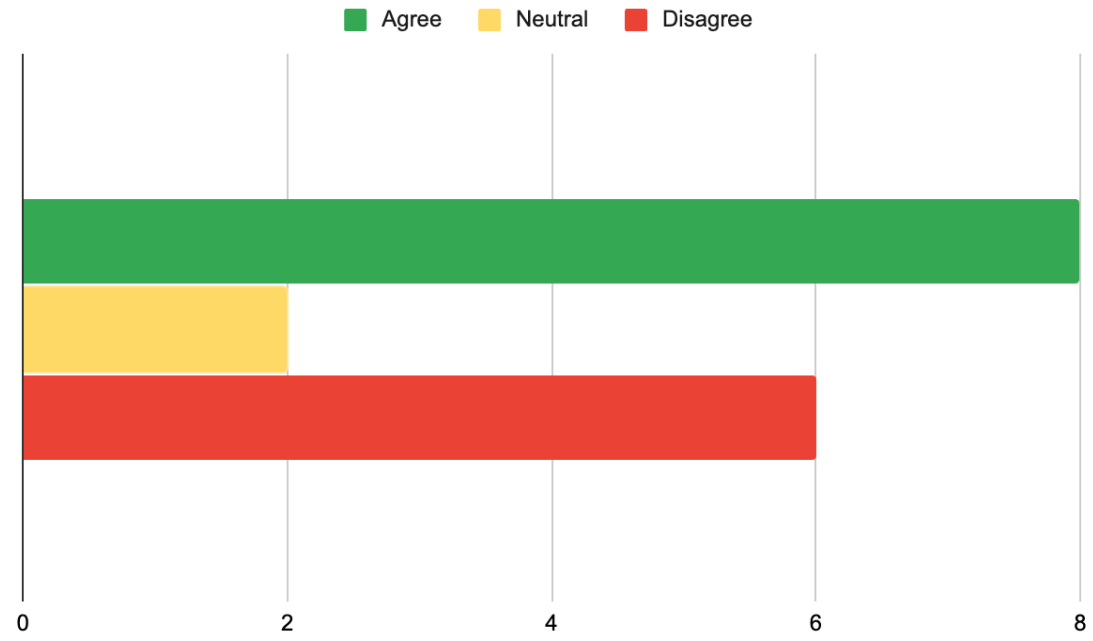


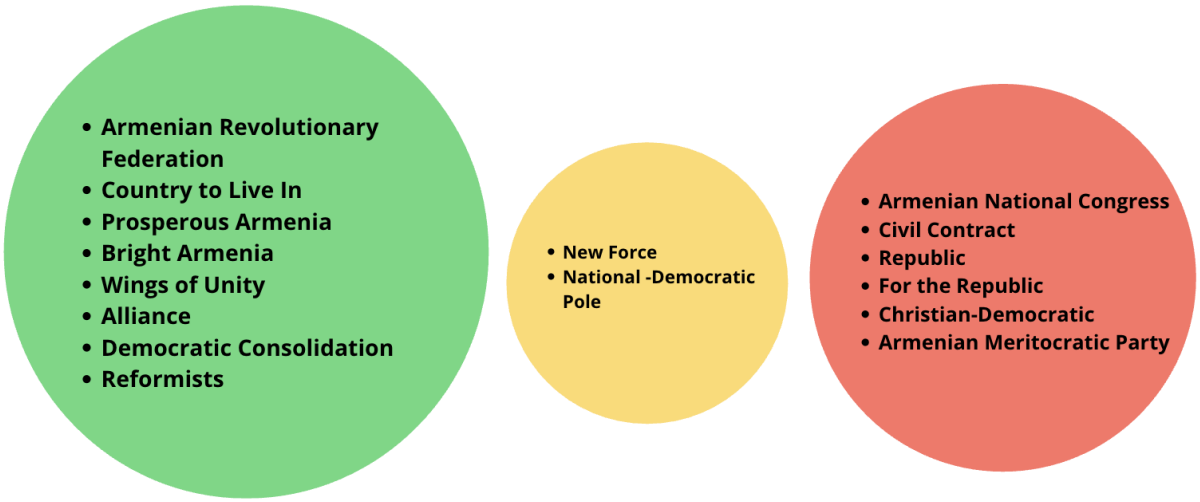
Question 29: The Republic of Armenia should refrain from leveraging the issue of Genocide recognition to facilitate peace with neighboring states.





Question 30: The universal income declaration system for individuals should be abolished.





KONRAD ADENAUER STIFTUNG

Section Two:
Numeric Findings

A) Where parties overlap and agree

- Question 27: **14 out of 17 agree**

State authorities and the Armenian Apostolic Church should mutually refrain from interference in each other's internal affairs.

(disagreed- Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Christian-Democratic Party)

- Questions 25 and 28: **13 out of 17 agree**

As a religious organization, the Armenian Apostolic Church should continue to have a special constitutional status within the state.

(disagreed-Civil Contract Party, The National Democratic Pole, Christian-Democratic Party)

History textbooks should be titled "History of the Armenians" rather than "History of Armenia".

(disagreed-*Civil Contract party, Republic Party, Christian-Democratic Party*)

- Question 22: **12 out of 17 agree**

The government should treat the Diaspora as an important stakeholder in foreign policy matters.

(disagreed- *Civil Contract Party, Christian-Democratic Party, Armenian National Congress*)

- Question 21: **11 out of 17 agree**

The return of prisoners should be a prerequisite for relations with Azerbaijan.

(disagreed-*Civil Contract Party, Republic Party, For the Republic" Party Alliance of Defenders of Democracy, Christian-Democratic Party*)

B) Where parties disagree

- Question 23: **12 out of 17 disagree**

The role of the Diaspora in Armenia's political sphere should be limited exclusively to cultural matters.

(Agreed-*Civil Contract Party, "New Power" Reformist Party, For the Republic" Party Alliance of Defenders of Democracy*)

- Question 13: **11 out of 17 disagree**

The establishment of an Academic City should be a priority for advancing higher education and scientific research.

(Agreed-*Civil Contract Party, Republic Party, For the Republic" Party Alliance of Defenders of Democracy, Christian-Democratic Party*)

C) Most polarizing questions

The most divisive questions are those where agreement and disagreement are both high and neutrals are low.

Examples:

- Q1: 9 agree, 5 disagree, 2 neutral

Job creation is primarily the responsibility of the state

- Q4: 4 agree, 8 disagree, 4 neutral

The state should reduce the number of road surveillance cameras in urban areas.

- Q15: 9 agree, 4 disagree, 3 neutral

The state should simplify the procedures for supervising foreign investments.

- Q16: 8 agree, 5 disagree, 3 neutral

Military reforms should be accompanied by a reduction in the term of compulsory military service

D) Highest degree of overlap between individual parties:

Party name	Party name	Matching Answers (out of 30)
Republic Party	For the Republic Democracy Defenders Alliance	23
"Wings of Unity" Party	The Alliance Progressive Centrist Party	21
Armenian National Congress	Prosperous Armenia Party	21
For the Republic Democracy Defenders Alliance	Meritocratic Party of Armenia	20
Prosperous Armenia Party	"Wings of Unity" Party	20
"Wings of Unity" Party	Reformists Party	19
Prosperous Armenia Party	Reformists Party	19

E) Level of alignment of parties with other parties

Rank	Party name	Average matches with other parties
1	"Wings of Unity" Party	14.7
2	Reformists Party	14.7
3	Meritocratic Party of Armenia	14.3
4	Prosperous Armenia Party	14.2
5	Armenian National Congress	13.9
6	Alliance Progressive Centrist Party	13.7
7	For the Republic Democracy Defenders Alliance Party	13.5
8	Republic Party	13.2
9	New Force Reformist Party	12.8
10	National Democratic Pole Pan-Armenian Party	12.6

11	Armenian Revolutionary Federation (Dashnaktsutyun)	12.4
12	Bright Armenia Party	12.0
13	Democratic Consolidation Party	11.7

Parties with the lowest level of alignment with other parties (most distinct)

14	Country to Live In Party	10.8
15	Christian Democratic Party	9.4
16	Civil Contract Party	8.8

Observations

Several noteworthy patterns emerge from the analysis. First, there are areas of remarkable consensus. Despite the intensity of political competition, many participating parties share common positions on a number of issues that touch upon Armenian identity and statehood. Questions concerning the constitutional status of the Armenian Apostolic Church, the relationship between church and state, and the role of the Armenian diaspora generated a high degree of agreement across the political spectrum. Most parties support maintaining the church's special constitutional role while preserving institutional separation between church and state. Likewise, the importance of the diaspora is broadly recognized, and only very few actors, despite important ones, support limiting diaspora engagement to cultural matters alone. A similarly strong degree of convergence can be observed regarding the return of Armenian prisoners held in Azerbaijan. Many parties consider this an important precondition for a broader normalization of relations between Yerevan and Baku.

Second, the data reveals areas where ambiguity is more striking than disagreement. Perhaps the most notable example concerns Armenia's future relationship with the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). The relatively highest number of parties opted for a neutral answer on this strategically and geopolitically sensitive matter.

Third, the analysis identifies a number of issues that generate significant polarization. Questions concerning the state's responsibility for job creation, the regulation and monitoring of foreign investment, the expansion of surveillance infrastructure, and aspects of military reform—including the possible reduction of mandatory military service—produced some of the widest divergences among participating parties. These are policy areas where competing visions for Armenia's future and ideological concepts of the role of the state become particularly visible.

The comparison of party positions also highlights an important characteristic of Armenia's political system: fragmentation does not necessarily imply incompatibility. Although the party landscape is highly diverse, a number of parties display substantial programmatic overlap. In several cases, parties share similar positions on roughly two-thirds of the questions included in this study. This suggests that potential avenues for cooperation and coalition-building exist, even where political competition may currently overshadow them.

At the same time, one particularly interesting observation concerns the governing Civil Contract party. Within the scope of the issues examined here, it demonstrates the lowest average level of agreement with other participating parties. In other words, it occupies the most distinctive position within the dataset. Whether this reflects the effects of incumbency or a deliberate governing strategy remains open to interpretation and merits further investigation. It could also be an effect of the specific selection of policy questions withing the study. The thirty questions finally included in the project represent only a selection of the many issues that shape political competition.

It would therefore be premature to jump from the observations made based on this dataset to more general conclusions or any definitive judgments. Also, the findings should not be understood as a surrogate reflection of public opinion. The distribution of positions among parties does not necessarily correspond to the distribution of preferences among voters. Electoral support remains uneven, and the prominence of a particular position within this dataset does not automatically indicate its popularity within Armenian society.

Taken together, the findings suggest that Armenia's political landscape in 2026 is simultaneously polarized and consensual: deeply divided on some policy questions, yet, within parts of the opposition spectrum, remarkably united on others. The results can provide valuable insights into patterns of consensus, disagreement, strategic ambiguity, and political proximity within Armenia's evolving party system. Beneath the intensity of electoral competition lies a more nuanced pattern of agreement, ambiguity, and potential cooperation than public debate alone might suggest.

Regardless of the outcome of the 2026 parliamentary elections, Armenia's political system will continue to evolve during the coming legislative term. New alliances may emerge, existing parties may redefine their priorities, develop their positions and new political actors may enter the arena.

An additional and unexpected finding emerged during the implementation of the project itself. Several participating parties reported that they had not previously developed detailed positions on some of the issues covered by the questionnaire. The process of responding prompted internal discussions and encouraged the formulation of policy positions where no clear line had previously existed. In this sense, the project appears to have contributed not only to voter information but also motivated some degree of policy development and programmatic reflection within Armenia's political parties.

The data presented in this publication therefore represents a snapshot of a political landscape in motion—and an invitation for further research, analysis, and discussion in the years ahead.

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