

**CUBA 2026**

# What the First AmericasBarometer Survey Reveals About Cuban Public Opinion

*Findings on Democracy, the Economy, and Views of the United States*

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*AmericasBarometer 2026: Cuba*

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# The AmericasBarometer: Two Decades of Democracy Research Across the Americas

*LAPOP Lab's flagship survey has tracked public opinion on democracy and governance in the Western Hemisphere since 2004.*

**34**

countries surveyed since 2004

**433K+**

interviews conducted since 2004

**11**

survey rounds across 22 years

**450+**

innovative survey items on democratic governance

**1,000+**

citations in media, government, and research

**200+**

academic articles and research reports

## The 2026 Round

21 countries covered • 24,000+ interviews • typically 1,000+ interviews per country • nationally representative samples stratified by region and urban/rural residence • mixed-mode design: face-to-face, CATI, and web surveys, including the first-ever web survey in Cuba.

# The First-Ever AmericasBarometer Survey Conducted in Cuba

*The Cuba Survey Methodology (1 of 3)*

|                  |                                                                                                              |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Implementation   | Fieldwork implemented by CUBADATA on behalf of LAPOP Lab                                                     |
| Timeline         | Cognitive pretesting: May 5–8, 2026 • Pilot interviews: June 14–15, 2026 • Fieldwork: June 19 – July 6, 2026 |
| Mode             | An online survey — part of an opt-in panel with a USD \$1 participation reward                               |
| Sample size      | 1,095 Cuban residents, age 18 and older                                                                      |
| Interview length | Median duration of 7.2 minutes                                                                               |

# A Non-Probability Online Panel — Findings Should Be Read With That Design in Mind

*The Cuba Survey Methodology (2 of 3)*

## How the sample was drawn

- Respondents were recruited from active users of Cubadata’s platforms who had voluntarily registered through the Apretaste application.
- No quotas, demographic stratification, or individual selection procedures were applied — this is a non-probability, self-selected online sample, not a random probability sample.
- Data are weighted (variable “wt”) to help align the sample with population benchmarks; weighting cannot fully substitute for probability sampling.

## Quality control

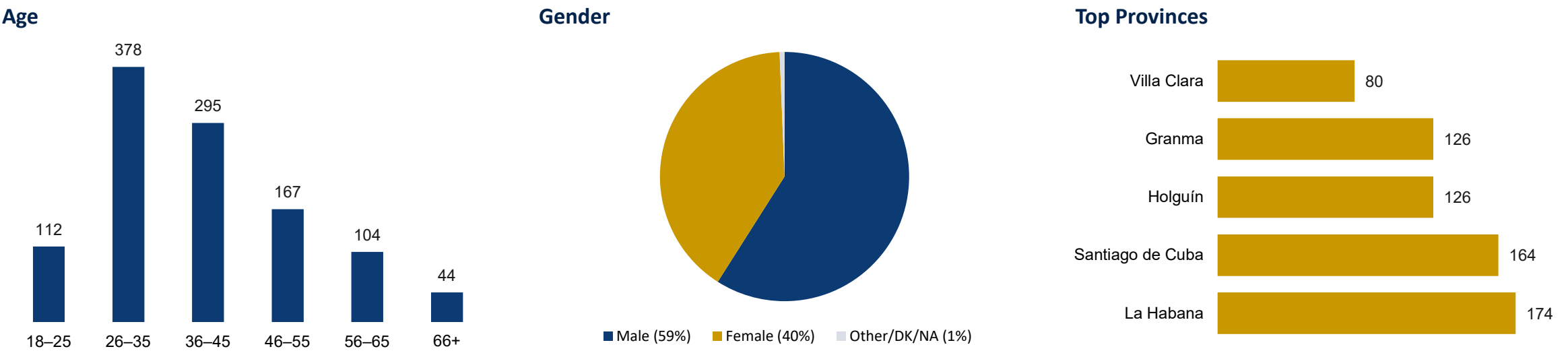
- Cubadata screened device “user-agent” data from 3,736 connected devices for signs of bot activity or repeated participation across devices.
- The effective participation rate was 34 percent.
- User-agent data were deleted after quality review, consistent with Cubadata’s data-handling practices.

## Why this matters

*Because Cuba has no history of survey-based public opinion research and traditional face-to-face or phone sampling is not feasible, this online panel offers a first, valuable window into Cuban public opinion — but it should be understood as illustrative of an internet-connected, self-selected population rather than as a strict probability sample of all Cuban adults.*

# Who Responded: Sample Composition

The Cuba Survey Methodology (3 of 3) — Unweighted counts, n = 1,095



*The sample skews toward adults ages 26–45 (61% of respondents) and toward men (59%), and is drawn from an internet-connected population able to access the Apretaste platform — a further reason to read findings as illustrative of engaged, connected Cubans rather than a strict cross-section of the national adult population.*

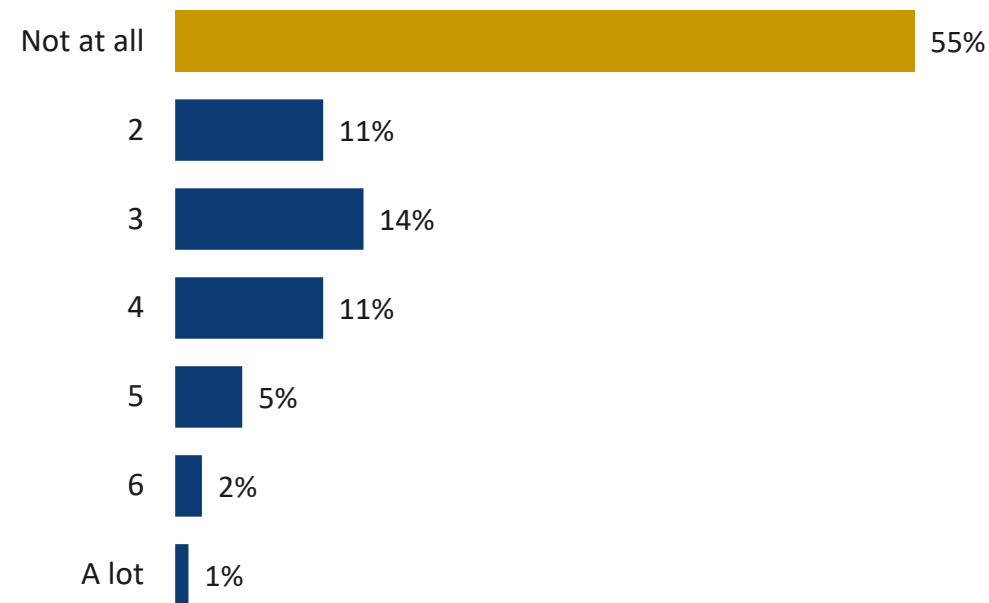
Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026 Technical Report, Cuba. Respondents were interviewed across all 16 Cuban provinces.

# 03

## Democracy, Institutions, and Civil Liberties

*How Cubans see rights, democracy, trust, and political engagement in their own country*

# Most Cubans Say Basic Citizen Rights Are Not Protected At All by the Political System



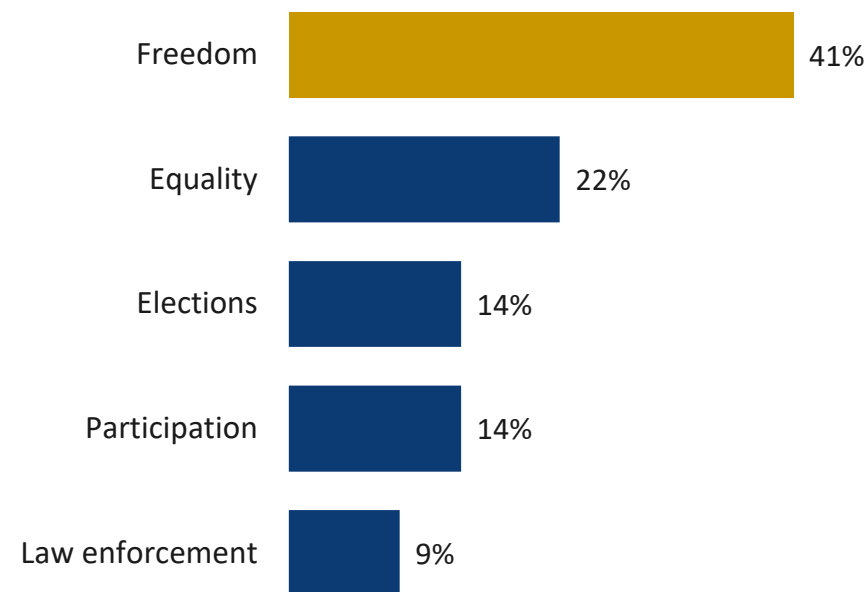
55%

of Cubans say basic citizen rights are protected “not at all” by the political system.

Question wording (B3): "¿Hasta qué punto cree usted que los derechos básicos del ciudadano están bien protegidos por el sistema político cubano?" 1 = Nada, 7 = Mucho.

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Freedom Is the Meaning of Democracy Most Often Chosen by Cubans



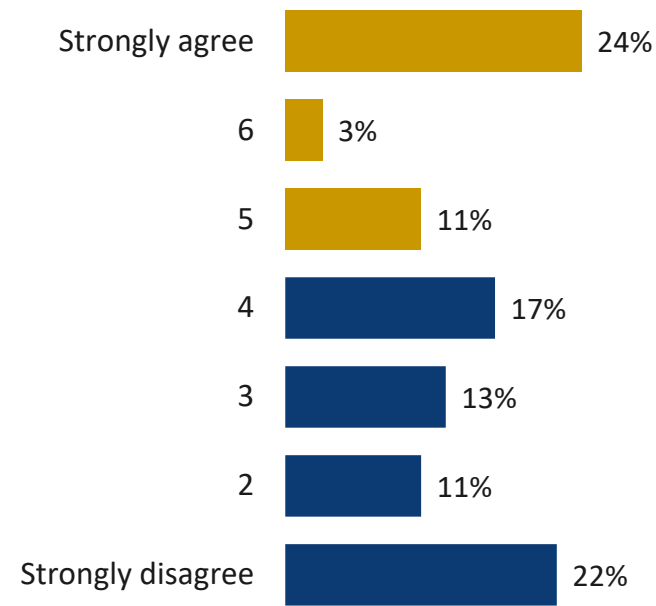
**41%**

of Cubans define democracy first and foremost as freedom — nearly double the next most common answer.

Question wording (DEM13Z25): "Si tuviera que elegir una expresión que represente mejor lo que significa la democracia para usted, ¿cuál de estas elegiría?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Just 38% of Cubans Say Democracy Is Preferable to Any Other Form of Government



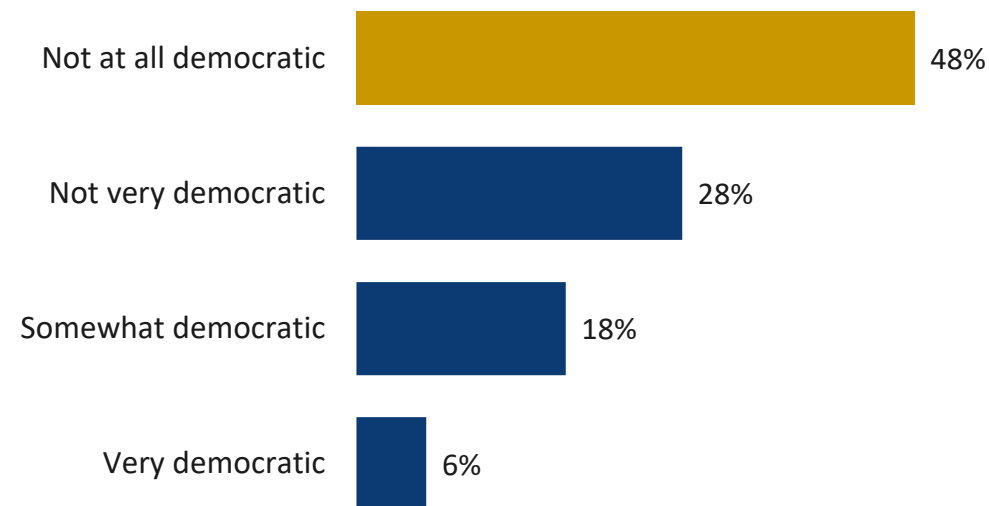
**38%**

of Cubans agree (5–7 on a 7-point scale) that democracy is preferable to any other form of government.

Question wording (ING4): "Puede que la democracia tenga problemas, pero es mejor que cualquier otra forma de gobierno. ¿Hasta qué punto está de acuerdo o en desacuerdo con esta frase?" Escala 1–7 (1 = Muy en desacuerdo, 7 = Muy de acuerdo); las barras muestran la distribución completa.

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Nearly Half of Cubans Say Their Country Is Not Democratic At All



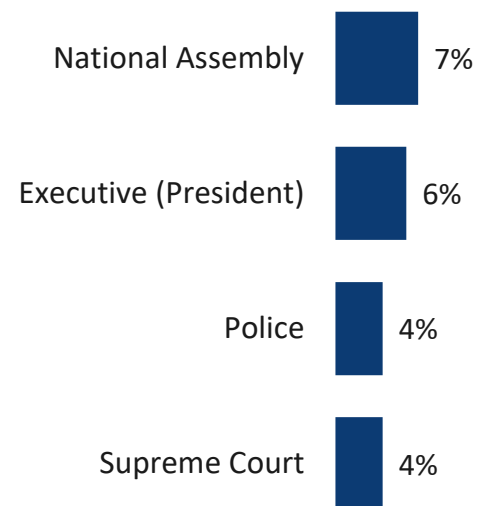
**48%**

of Cubans say their country is “not at all democratic” — the most common response by a wide margin.

Question wording (PN5): "En su opinión, ¿Cuba es un país muy democrático, algo democrático, poco democrático, o nada democrático?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Confidence in Cuba's National Institutions Is in the Single Digits



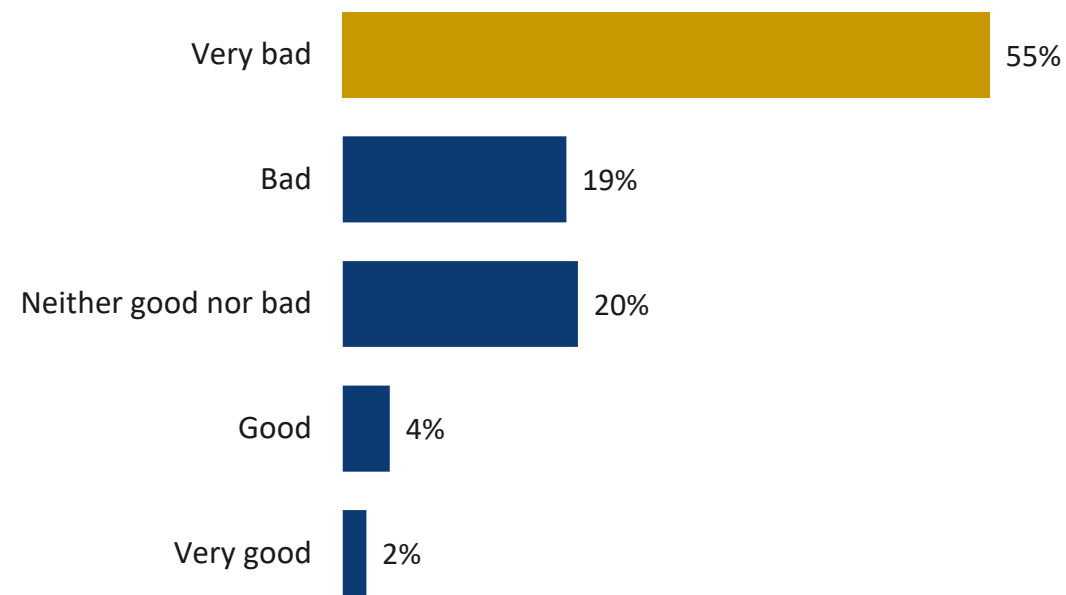
≤ 7%

of Cubans express high confidence in any of the four national institutions asked about — the presidency, the National Assembly, the police, and the Supreme Court.

Share expressing high confidence ("mucho," 7 on a 1–7 scale). Question wording (B21A/B13/B18/B31): "¿Hasta qué punto tiene usted confianza en [el presidente / la Asamblea Nacional / la Policía Nacional Revolucionaria (PNR) / el Tribunal Supremo Popular]?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# More Than Half of Cubans Rate Miguel Díaz-Canel's Job Performance as Very Bad



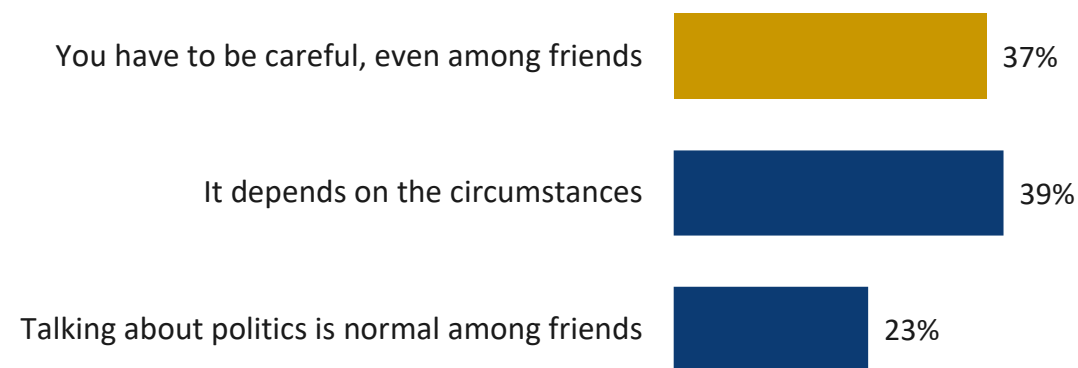
**55%**

of Cubans rate President Díaz-Canel’s job performance as “very bad.” Combined with “bad,” 74% disapprove.

Question wording (M1): "Hablando en general acerca del gobierno actual, ¿diría usted que el trabajo que está realizando el presidente Miguel Díaz-Canel es...?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Three in Four Cubans Say They Must Be Careful Discussing Politics, Even With Friends



**76%**

of Cubans say they must be careful discussing politics, or that it depends on the circumstances — combining the two cautious responses.

Question wording (NICFEAR): "¿Cuál perspectiva describe mejor a su actitud acerca de discusiones políticas?"

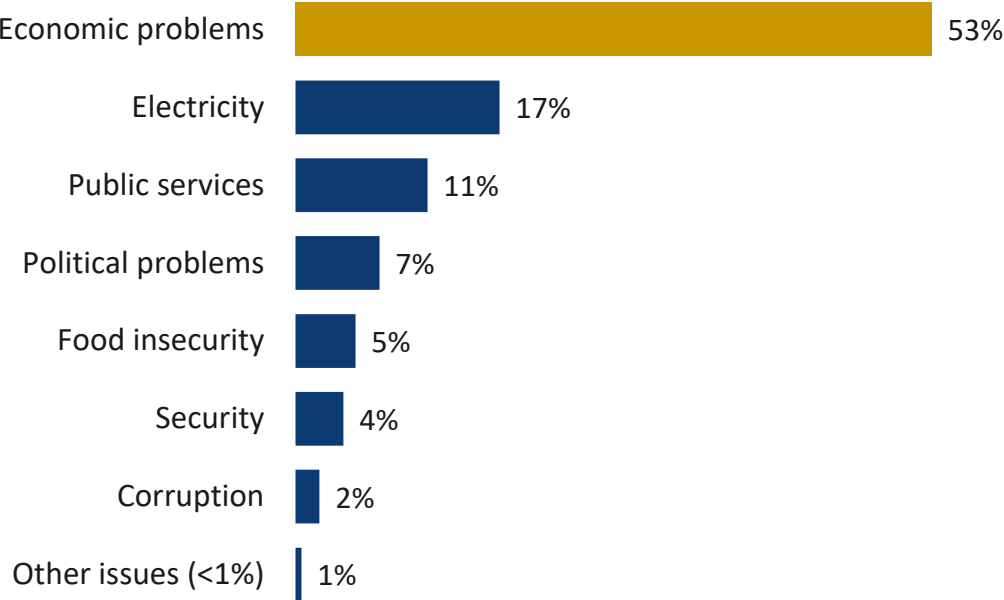
Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# 04

## The Economic Situation

*How Cubans experience, explain, and prioritize the country's economic crisis*

# Economic Problems Dominate as the Most Important Issue Facing Cuba



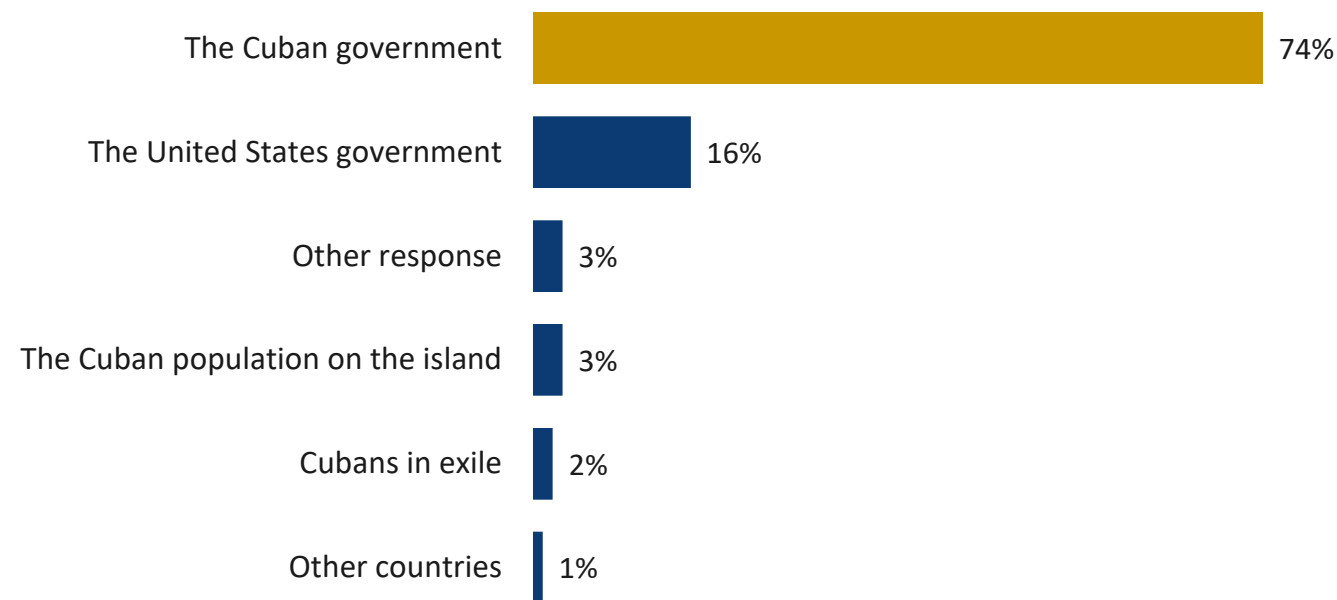
**53%**

of Cubans name economic problems as the country's most serious problem — more than three times the next-highest answer.

Question wording (A4N): "En su opinión ¿cuál es el problema más grave que está enfrentando el país?" (open-ended, coded into categories).

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Nearly Three-Quarters of Cubans Hold Their Own Government Primarily Responsible for the Current Crisis



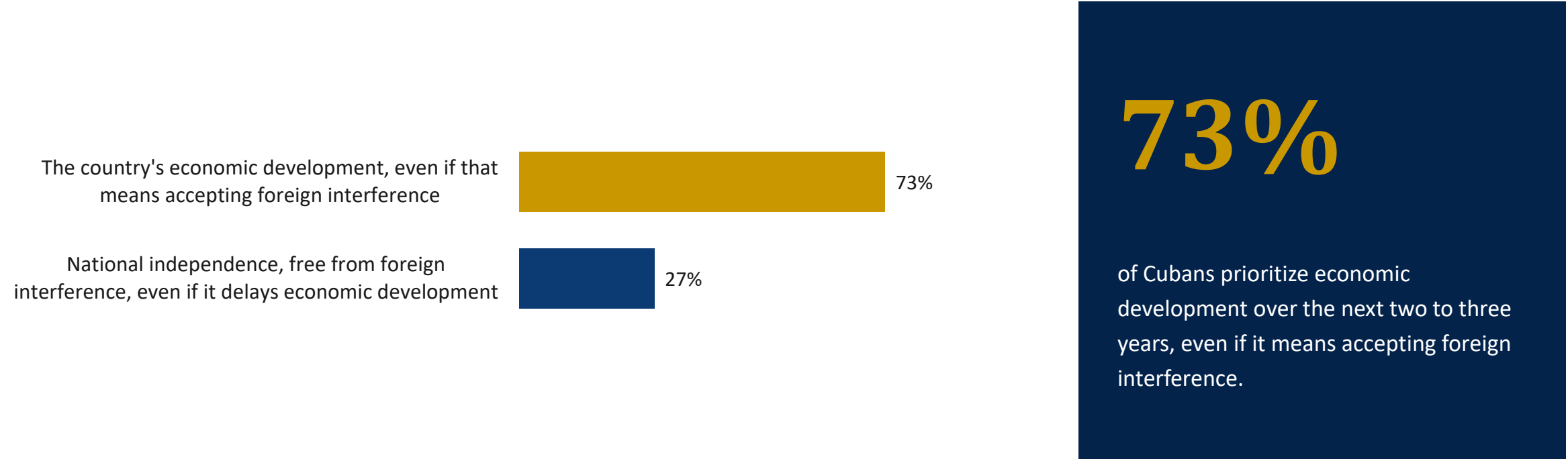
**74%**

of Cubans say their own government is primarily responsible for the current crisis, versus 16% who point to the United States.

Question wording (CUB2615): "De los siguientes, ¿quién es el principal responsable de la crisis actual que enfrenta Cuba?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

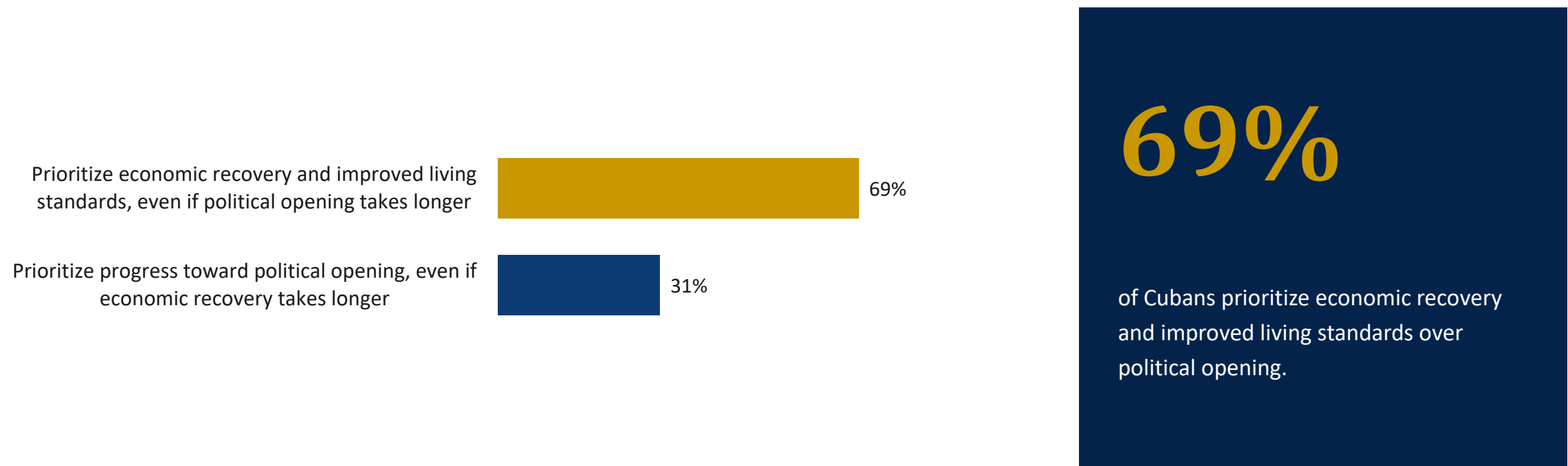
# Most Cubans Prioritize Economic Development Over Independence from Foreign Interference



Question wording (CUB2613): "Pensando en los próximos 2 o 3 años, si tuviera que escoger entre estas dos opciones, ¿cuál debería tener mayor prioridad?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

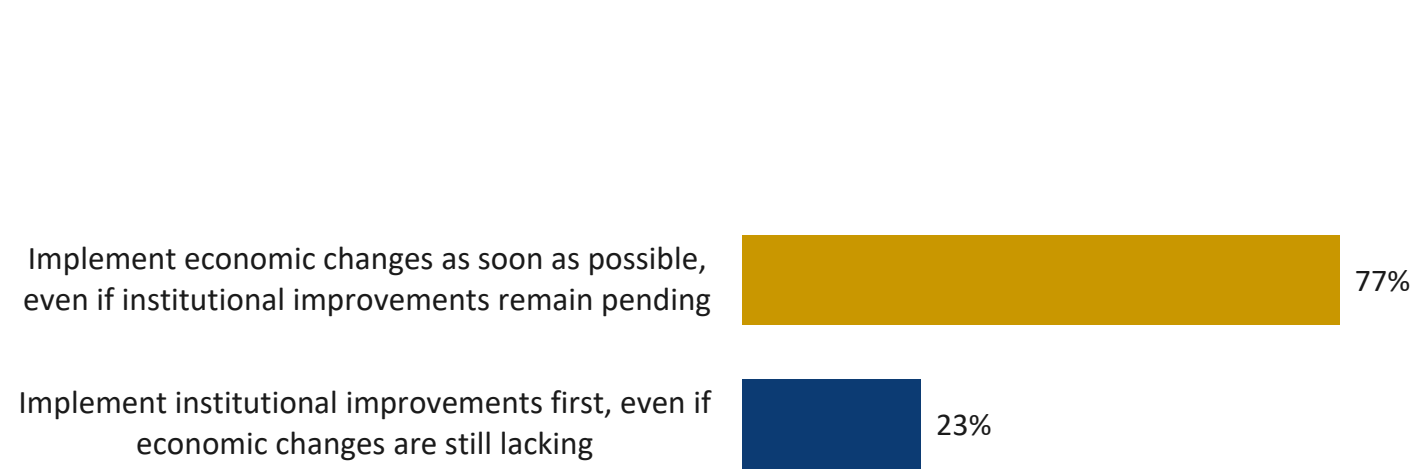
# Cubans Favor Economic Recovery Over Political Opening as the Top Priority



Question wording (CUB266): "Si tuviera que escoger, ¿qué considera más importante para el país en este momento?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Cubans Overwhelmingly Want Economic Changes Before Institutional Reforms



**77%**

of Cubans want economic changes implemented as soon as possible, even before institutional improvements are in place.

Question wording (CUB263): "Pensando en los próximos 2 o 3 años, si tuviera que escoger entre estas dos opciones, ¿cuál debería tener mayor prioridad?"

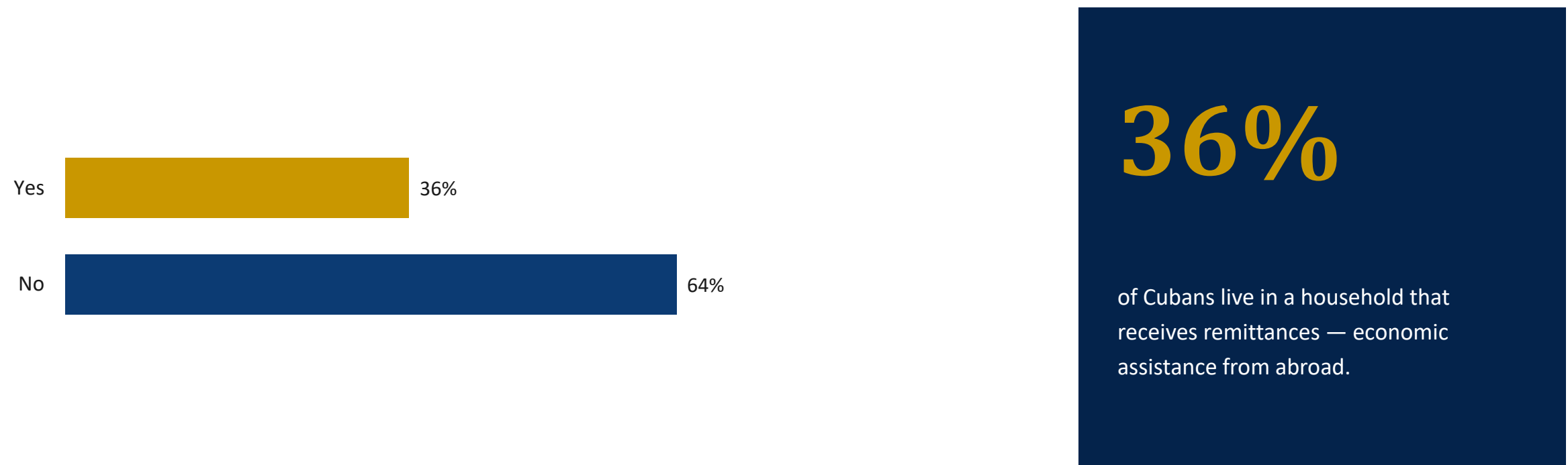
Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# 05

## Opinions About the United States

*Ties to the U.S., views of U.S. influence, and expectations for the U.S. role in Cuba's future*

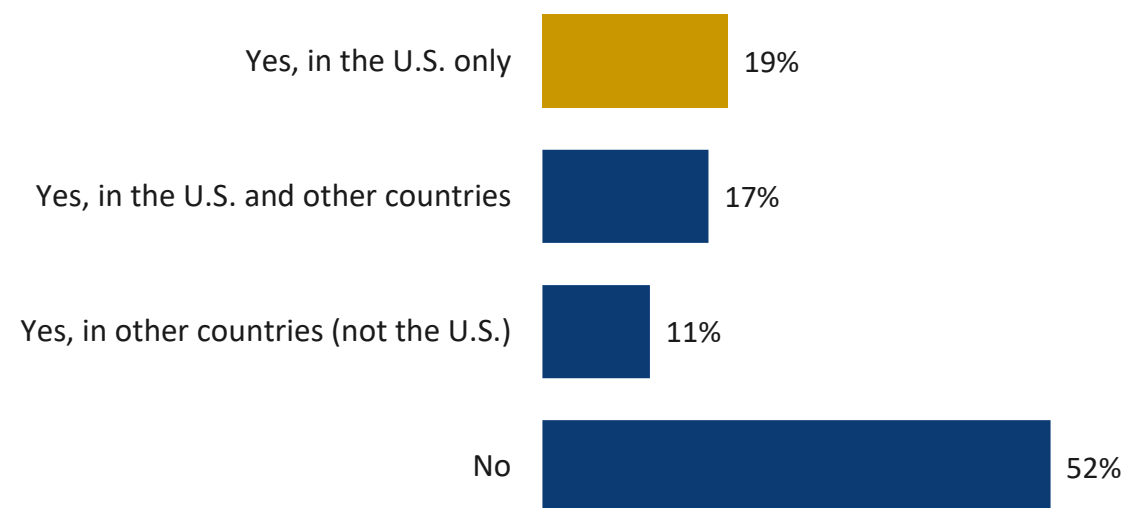
# About One in Three Cuban Households Receive Remittances from Abroad



Question wording (Q10A): "¿Usted o alguien que vive en su casa recibe remesas, es decir, ayuda económica del exterior?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Nearly Half of Cubans Have Close Relatives Living Abroad, Most With Ties to the United States



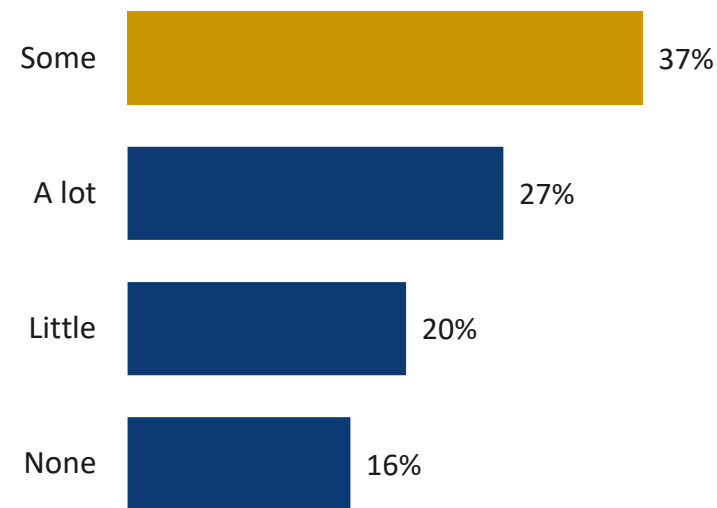
**47%**

of Cubans have close family members living abroad — and about three-quarters of them have ties to the United States.

Question wording (Q10C): "¿Tiene usted familiares cercanos que antes vivieron en su casa y que hoy estén residiendo en el exterior?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# A Majority of Cubans Say the U.S. Has Significant Political Influence in Cuba



**64%**

of Cubans say the United States has “some” or “a lot” of political influence in Cuba.

Question wording (CCUS4): "¿Qué tanta influencia diría que tiene Estados Unidos en la política de Cuba?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

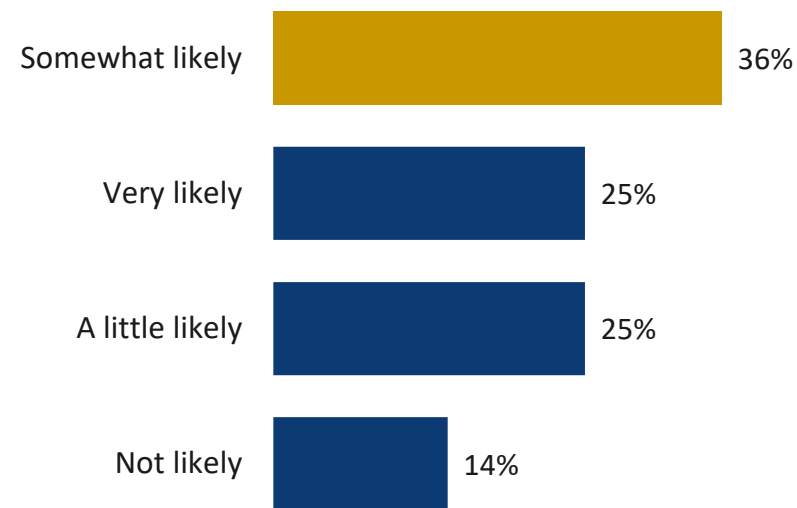
# Cubans Are More Likely to See U.S. Political Influence as Positive Than as Negative



38%

of Cubans who see the U.S. as influential in Cuba’s politics call that influence positive, nearly double the 20% who call it negative.

# Six in Ten Cubans Think U.S. Pressure Is Likely to Produce Political Change



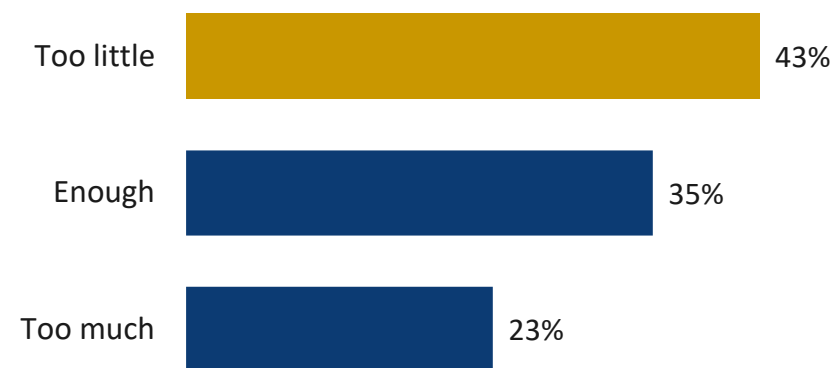
**61%**

of Cubans say it is “somewhat” or “very” likely that U.S. pressure will achieve significant political change in Cuba.

Question wording (CUB2611): "¿Qué tan probable cree usted que la presión ejercida por los Estados Unidos logre cambios políticos importantes en Cuba?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Most Cubans Say the U.S. Is Doing Too Little to Support a Democratic Transition



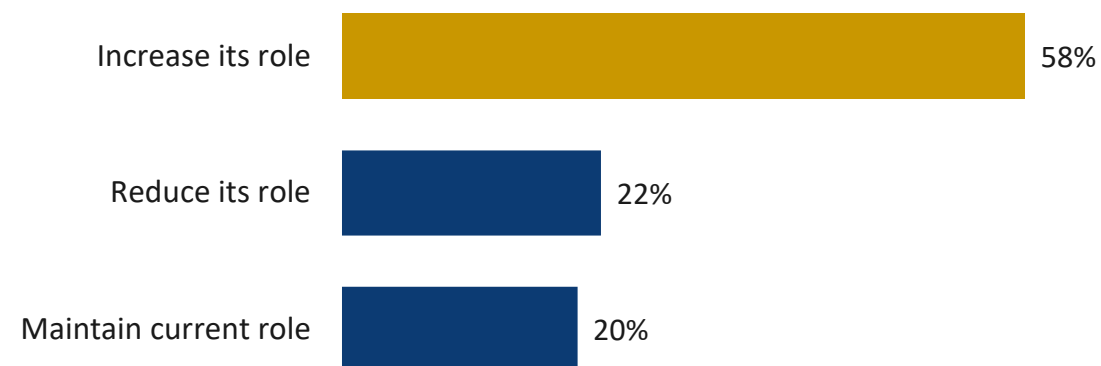
**43%**

of Cubans say the United States is currently doing too little to support a possible democratic transition in Cuba.

Question wording (VEN2611): "En su opinión, ¿en este momento Estados Unidos está involucrándose demasiado, lo suficiente o muy poco en apoyar una posible transición democrática en Cuba?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Nearly Six in Ten Cubans Want the United States to Increase Its Role in Supporting a Democratic Transition



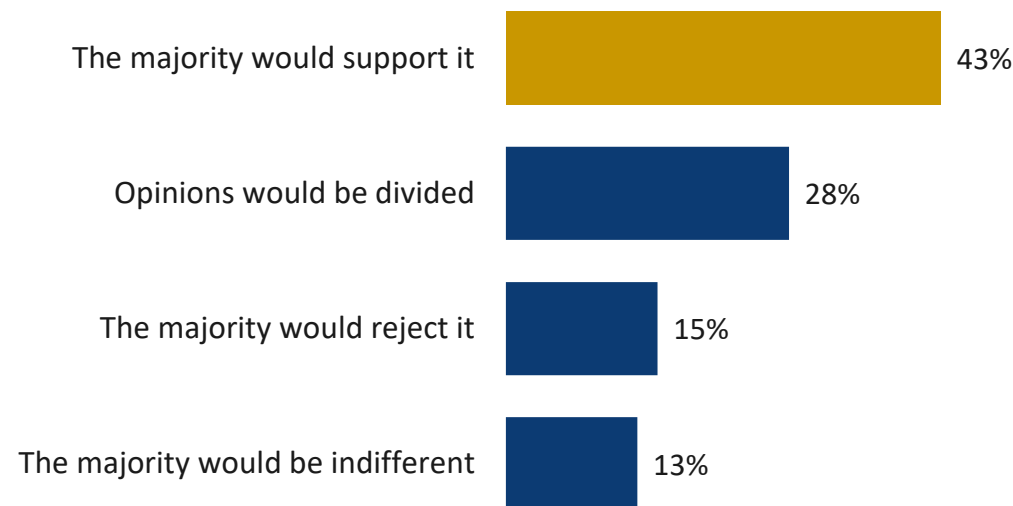
58%

of Cubans want the United States to increase its involvement in supporting a democratic transition over the next two to three years.

Question wording (VEN2612): "Pensando en los próximos 2 o 3 años, ¿Estados Unidos debería aumentar, mantener igual o reducir su participación para apoyar una posible transición democrática en Cuba?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Cubans Are More Likely to Say the Public Would Support Than Reject a U.S. Military Intervention



43%

of Cubans expect the majority of the population would support a U.S. military intervention; 28% expect a divided public, and 15% expect rejection.

Question wording (CUB2616): "Si los Estados Unidos intervienen militarmente en Cuba, ¿cuál cree usted que sería la reacción de la mayoría de la población del país?"

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# 06

## Summary and Policy-Relevant Considerations

*Pulling together what the 2026 AmericasBarometer reveals about Cuban public opinion*



# Three Findings Stand Out from Cuba's First AmericasBarometer Survey

1

## A deep economic and humanitarian crisis

94% say the economy has worsened in the past year; 53% ran out of food and 39% went without medical care in the past three months; 86% lose electricity and 56% lose water daily.

2

## Democratic disaffection, but caution about voicing it

48% say Cuba is not democratic at all and only 38% agree democracy is preferable to any other government, yet 76% say they must be careful discussing politics — even with friends.

3

## The government, not U.S. sanctions, is seen as primarily responsible

74% hold the Cuban government primarily responsible for the current crisis, and 89% cite government decisions (alone or with sanctions) as the main driver of the economic situation — even as 64% see the U.S. as a significant political actor and 58% want the U.S. more, not less, involved in supporting a democratic transition.

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba.

# Policy-Relevant Considerations

*These considerations follow cautiously from the survey findings; they are offered to inform — not to advocate for — specific policy choices.*

1

## **Public appetite exists for continued U.S. engagement.**

58% of Cubans want the United States to increase its role in supporting a democratic transition, versus 22% who want it reduced — a starting point for calibrating engagement strategies.

2

## **Attribution of the crisis matters for the sanctions debate.**

74% primarily blame the Cuban government for the current crisis, and 89% cite government decisions (alone or with U.S. policy) as the main driver of economic conditions — context relevant to debates over the effects of U.S. sanctions.

3

## **Humanitarian needs cut across politics.**

Food insecurity (53%), foregone medical care (39%), and daily power and water outages (86% and 56%) point to basic-needs gaps that assistance strategies could address regardless of political alignment.

4

## **Political caution shapes how engagement should be designed.**

With 76% saying they must be careful discussing politics, outreach, communications, and support channels may need to protect participants' privacy and safety to be effective and credible.

5

## **Views on a hypothetical U.S. intervention are divided, not decisive.**

43% expect the public would support a U.S. military intervention, but 28% expect divided opinion and 15% expect rejection — a reminder that this is a live, unsettled question rather than a clear mandate in either direction.

# Thank You

For questions about the survey design and data access, please contact the LAPOP Lab at Vanderbilt University

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