

P!ensa

IDEA

Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability

Chile

Dialogue

Bringing politics closer to citizens

Report 2: Political System

Thought and IDEA Foundation (Ohio State University)

P!ensa IDEA

Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 16, 2023, Plensa together with IDEA (Institute for Democratic Engagement and Accountability, at Ohio State University) designed and executed a Deliberative Town Hall (DTH) in which two members of the Constitutional Council participated and 2672 randomly selected citizens.

The DTH is a deliberation mechanism (citizen participation) based on inclusion, focus, preparation and neutrality. The format used has wide academic recognition, having been successfully implemented in the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia.

In this particular event - the second held within the framework of the Chilean constitutional process¹ - the participants deliberated for an hour and a half on the future of the political system. All this, after having responded to an initial survey and having received a document with neutral information that sought to establish minimum bases for conversation.

After the meeting, 2,460 participants (of the 2,672 total) responded to an exit survey that considered the same dimensions already evaluated prior to the experiment. By comparing both measurements (entry and exit), it is possible to detect some changes in the results of different indicators, which could be attributed to the impact of DTH as an inclusive participation mechanism.

1 The report of the second event held on October 16, 2023 can be found in the following link. Some passages in this report, where it makes sense, are the same as those presented in the second.

In very general terms, the following results can be highlighted:

- The data confirm a persistent polarization in the debate. That is, there would be a distance in ideological terms between positions on specific issues.

Additionally, emotions and the feeling of lack of legitimacy towards the process are high.

- Despite the above, the *Deliberative Town Hall* (DTH) produced positive and relevant changes in areas such as the legitimacy associated with the constituent process, the trust it generates, the emotions it produces, in addition to differences in a series of political attitudes. In this case, unlike the first event, the perceived changes around the specific policies discussed after the DTH were minor or imperceptible.

- The impact of DTH on people went beyond what was strictly constitutional. A decrease in mistrust was observed in different democratic bodies (not only

the Constitutional Council) and an increase in the feeling that the system responds to the people.

- Unlike the first deliberative event held a month before, there are no relevant changes regarding the preferences for norms that could have been included in the constitutional text. However, the results show changes in the perception of emotions related to the constitutional process, increasing the positive ones and decreasing the negative ones.

- Finally, differences are seen in people's responses by socioeconomic group, geographic area, gender and ideology, suggesting that the event could have had a greater influence on those places that tend to be more distant from instances of participation.

“In a particular climate of polarization, this type of event shows that citizens and politicians can disagree even on elementary issues, but still with the will to reach agreements and a friendly spirit within the deliberative process.”

The results of the second DTH presented in detail in this report show that deliberation has the potential to generate a positive impact on the democratic system, both in the institution associated with the constitutional process and in the system in general. The effects go hand in hand with a design that contemplates a random selection of participants, a key element to minimize the selection risks present in all participatory mechanisms.

Furthermore, in a particular climate of polarization, this type of event shows that citizens and politicians can disagree even on elementary issues, but still with the will to reach agreements and a friendly spirit within the deliberative process. In short, when a citizen participation mechanism is inclusive and well designed, it has the potential to improve various indicators related to the state of health of our democratic system.

1. INTRODUCTION

Chilean democracy has been going through a crisis for some years. After a social outbreak, a pandemic and two failed constituent processes, the country's democratic institutions are facing increasing challenges. Among them, the question of how to respond to citizen demands and connect with residents has taken on great relevance.

This issue is not minor, the CEP survey of July 2023 shows that only 3% of respondents trust political parties and 8% trust Congress. Something similar shows the Plensa Political Opinion survey for the year 2023 focused on the Valparaíso region, where it can be seen that only 12% of respondents trust political parties. In other words, people feel distant from the democratic institutions that should represent them.

An attempt has been made to respond to this growing disinterest with different participatory bodies, such as popular standard initiatives - present in the two constituent processes -, town meetings and citizen dialogues. But do we really know how these influence citizens' perceptions? Even if we seek to promote new mechanisms, how can we know the effect they have on certain democratic values of individuals?

Under this context and as a result of broader research on the constituent process, Plensa and the Institute for Democratic Engagement & Accountability (IDEA) at Ohio State University, developed a Deliberative Town Hall, a method of deliberative participation that, for several years, it has been disseminated around the world by the North American organization. Specifically, the format has already been successfully applied with US congressional committees, in the UK parliament and the Australian parliament.

In simple terms, this democratic innovation consists of generating an online deliberative event in which politicians and their constituents discuss, which has four essential elements:



1. The discussion is about a single topic, which allows you to go deeper into it.

2. A large number of participants are recruited, maintaining a representative and random sample of the country.



3. Participants are provided with neutral information about the topic to be discussed, before the event.



4. The conversation is managed by a neutral facilitator independent of the participating politicians.

The flow of the event can be visualized in the following diagram:

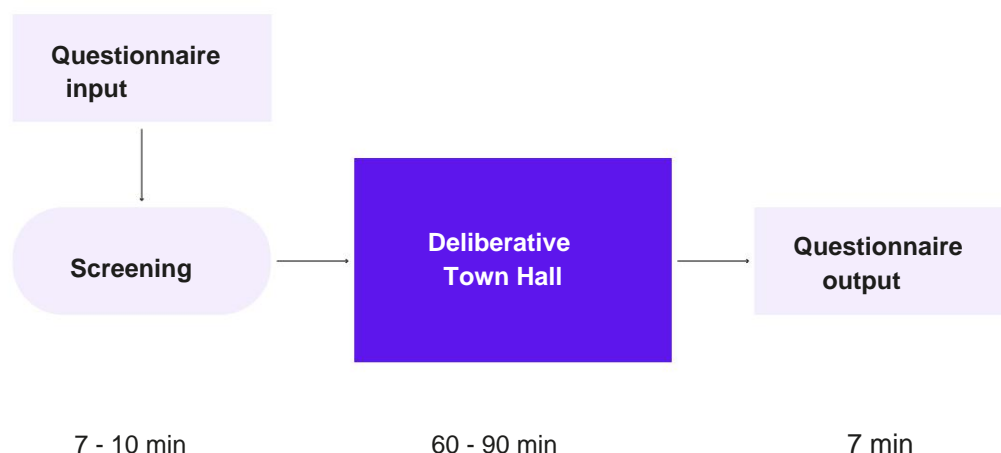


Figure 1: DTH diagram, own elaboration.

As part of this process, Plensa and IDEA worked together with the consulting firm Feedback Research to recruit a representative sample of citizens to answer a pre-survey about their perceptions of public affairs and the political system. . People who successfully completed the survey were randomly assigned to a control or treatment group in order to avoid self-selection bias.

Those selected in the treatment group (17,073 in total) were given neutral information about the political system, based on the information available in the Library of National Congress and the diagnosis made during the constituent process by the experts. In addition, this group was invited to participate in the deliberative event

online on October 16, 2023. The event had the participation of two constitutional advisors -Paloma Zúñiga of the Democratic Revolution and Arturo Phillips of the UDI - and 2,672 attendees, most of whom were in the session for more than an hour to talk about the political system.

Then, the study participants, both in the control and treatment groups, were sent an exit questionnaire (post survey) that remeasured several of the aspects consulted in the pre survey, which allowed the researchers to compare the results. changes in opinion caused by participation in DTH. The workflow of the various stages of the experiment, along with the division of the control and treatment groups and the expected survival rates² are found in [annex 1](#).

² In the Chilean case, unlike the experience in the USA and UK, 10% of the guests participated instead of the expected 30%

“The event had the participation of two constitutional advisors – Paloma Zúñiga from the Democratic Revolution and Arturo Phillips from the UDI – and 2,672 attendees, most of whom were in the session for more than an hour to talk about the political system.”

This report contains comprehensive information about the sample of Chilean citizens who responded to both surveys and, specifically, about those who participated in the event. The presentation follows the following order: (1) Description of the sample of the deliberative event. (2) Political attitudes. (3) Perceptions about the constitutional process. (4) Emotions about the constitutional process. (5) Pensions. (6) Qualitative information on DTH. (7) Conclusion.

As a statistical note, for the analysis of the items that report people's opinions, the average opinion differences between pre and post survey among attendees are shown. These data were weighted³ to match the population of Chile according to age, gender, socioeconomic group and region of the country. In addition, t-tests were performed on all questions to see if the changes were statistically significant and those that were significant at 95% confidence were marked.

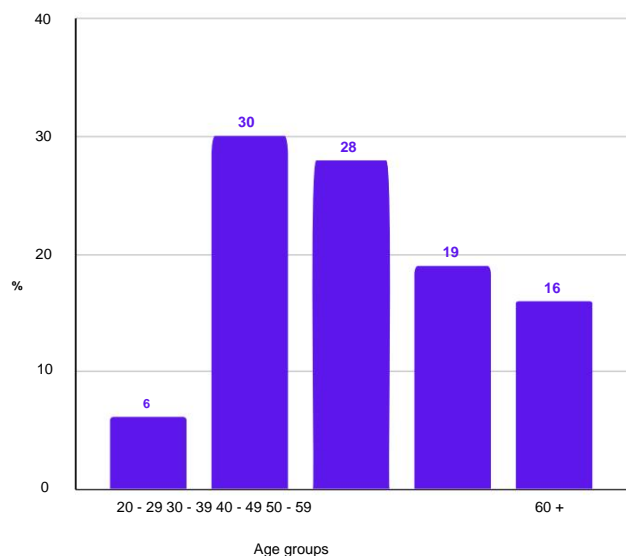
3 The estimation of the weights was made based on the last update of SERVEL data for the population by region. For the age groups, the information from SERVEL was crossed with the data from the 2017 CENSUS and to estimate the socioeconomic group, the CASEN data was used.

2. ABOUT THE EXPERIMENT SAMPLE

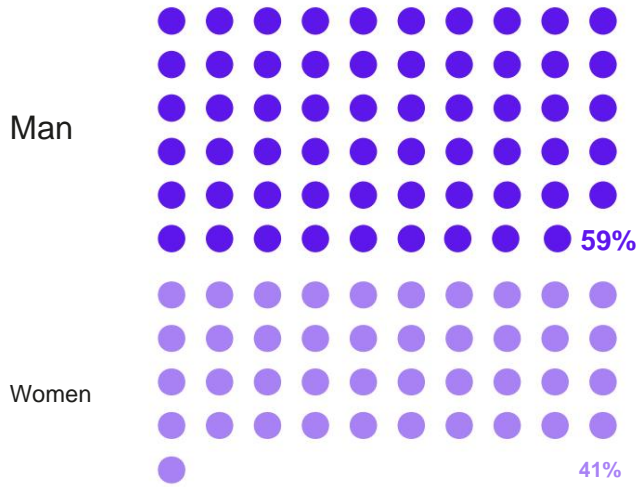
On October 16, 2023, a second Deliberative Town Hall (DTH) was held with two members of the Constitutional Council and 2,672 randomly selected citizens from across the country, who answered an entry questionnaire before the event.

The subsequent graphs show the demographic indices for age, gender, socioeconomic group (GSE), region of the country and ideology. The graphs present information about the country based on data from SERVEL, CENSO and CASEN; of the people invited to the event and those who finally attended.

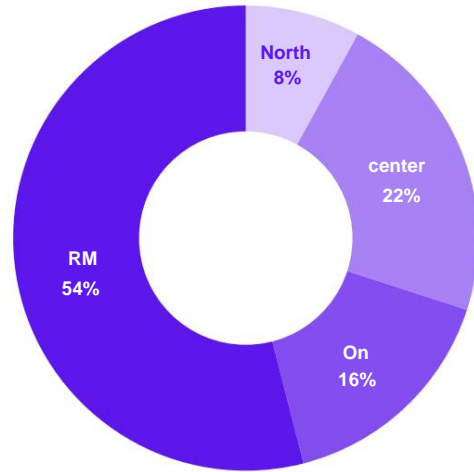
AGE



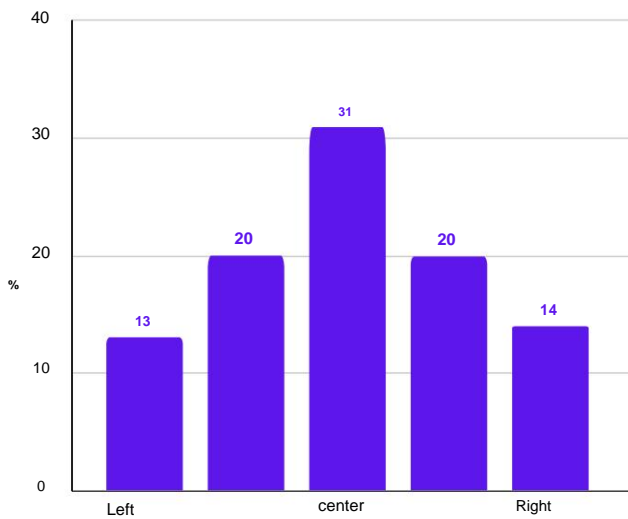
GENDER



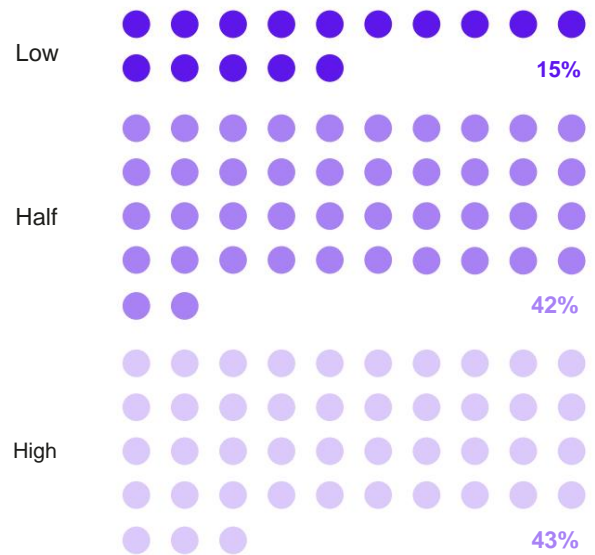
GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION



IDEOLOGY



SOCIOECONOMIC GROUP



3. POLITICAL ATTITUDES

The following section shows the changes in perception in trust in democratic institutions, as well as indicators related to internal and external political effectiveness.

3.1 TRUST IN POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

One of the aspects considered in the entry and exit questionnaires was the trust generated in citizens by different political institutions. As can be seen in Table 1, there were relevant differences in the results before and after the experiment, which are explained in the following sections.

Institution	Anything	Little	Quite A lot	
National Congress of Chile	-6	+5	1	0
Political parties	-4	+3	+1	0
Supreme Court of Chile	-1	+1	0	+1
Constitutional Council ^{*4}	-15	+11	+4	-1

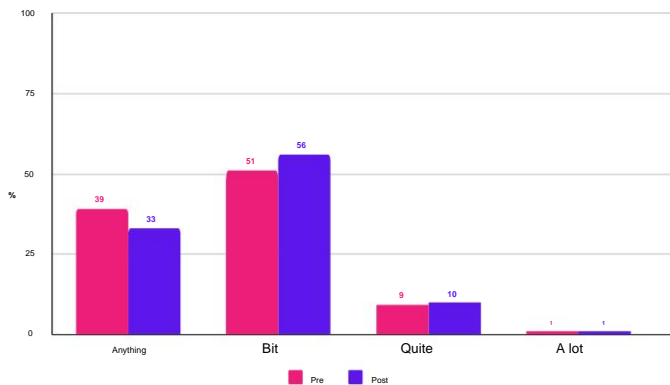
Table 1: Variation in Trust in institutions (pre and post DTH).

⁴ The asterisk represents that there was a statistically significant change with 90% confidence.



THE CONGRESS CHILE NATIONAL

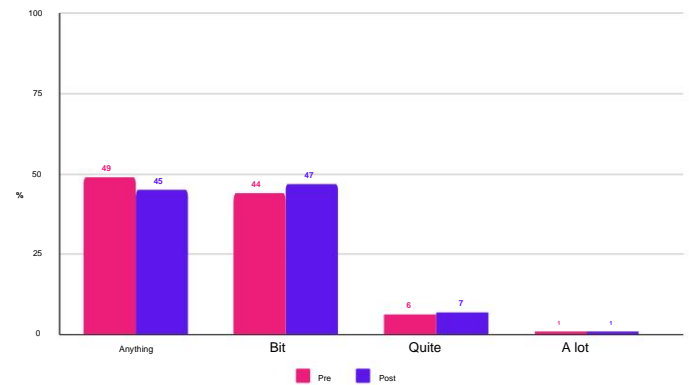
As in the first event, a large majority of participants (90%) distrust the National Congress. However, when participating in the DTH, a decrease of six points is observed in people who did not trust Congress at all. Although the event did not have to do with the work of the National Congress, nor did it include deputies or senators, an eventual positive effect of the DTH on the trust of representative institutions is perceived.



How much trust do you have in **Congress**?

POLITICAL PARTIES

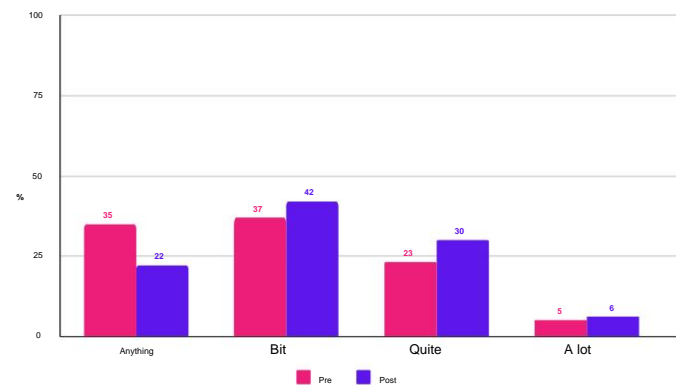
Political parties also benefit from this decrease, although to a lesser extent. All in all, it is important to highlight that the levels of mistrust remain worrying.



How much trust do you have in **political parties**?

HIS REPRESENTATIVE ON THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTIONAL*

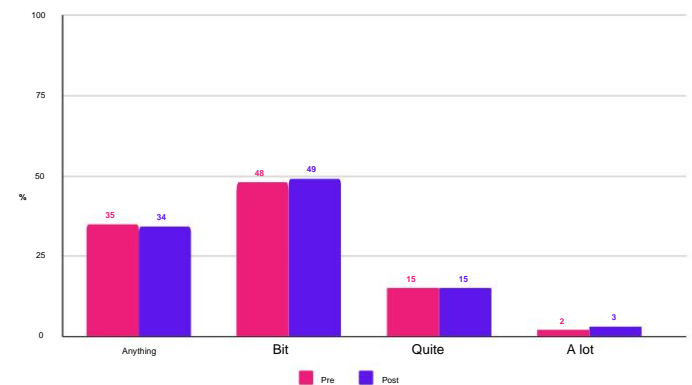
When asking about their constitutional advisor, a greater decrease in distrust is observed, going from 35 to 18 percent, which could give indications of a much deeper effect of the DTH on the perception of the representatives who are part of the institution with which citizens connect.



How much confidence do you have in your **conventional**?

SUPREME COURT OF CHILE

The perceptible change in each representative institution, as in the first report, is not replicated when consulting about trust in the Supreme Court⁵. The results could suggest that deliberation would positively affect the representative institutions of our democracy, and not those that fulfill different functions.



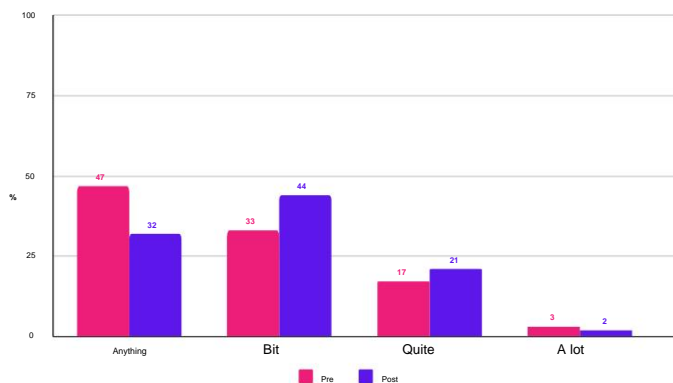
How much trust do you have in the **courts of law**?

⁵ Unlike the rest of the institutions studied, the Supreme Court is not directly elected. The ministers of the Supreme Court of Chile are appointed by the President of the Republic, selecting them from a list proposed by the Supreme Court itself, and must then be ratified by the Senate.

ADVICE CONSTITUTIONAL*

When the participants were asked about the Trust they have in the Constitutional Council, **the decrease in distrust was 15 percentage points.**

Furthermore, after the event, one in five participants stated that they had a fair amount of confidence in the Council, which is an increase of 4 percentage points compared to the entrance questionnaire.



How much confidence do you have in the **constitutional council?**

Additionally, if the results are analyzed by socioeconomic group, gender, area and ideology, variations in perceptions can be noted that are interesting to analyze:

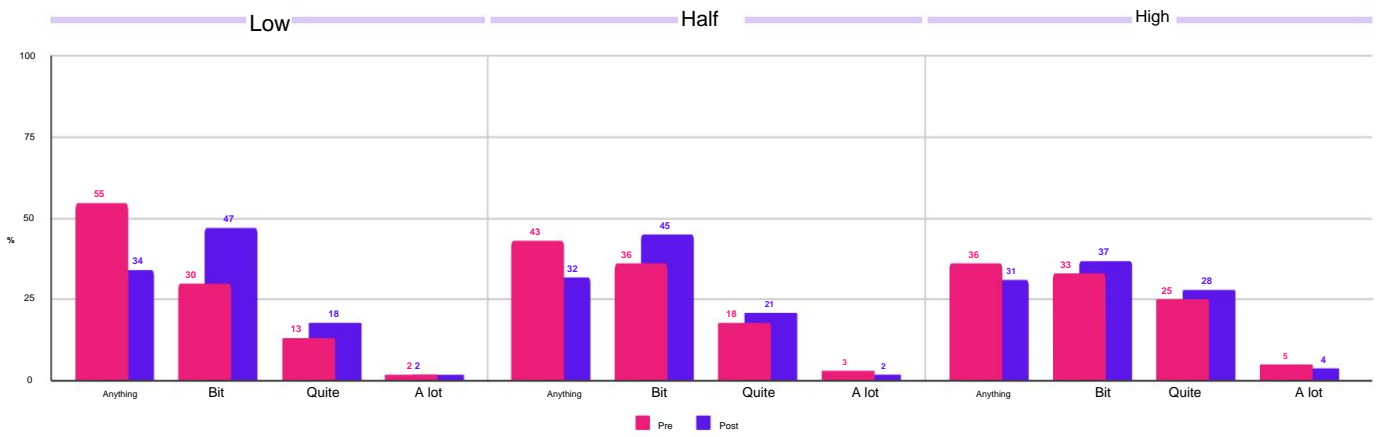
At the socioeconomic level: The greatest decrease in distrust occurs in the lowest income groups and in the middle groups. In any case, a small variation is perceptible in the high groups.

At the gender level: Unlike the first event, where the variation was mainly in women, here a variation can be observed in participants of both genders.

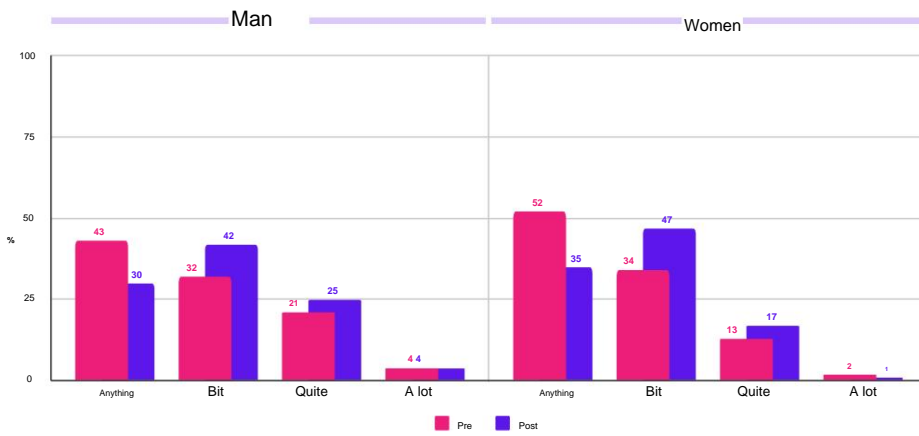
At the geographical territory level: The north of the country is the area that remains constant without presenting considerable variations. Meanwhile, among those who inhabit the southern and central macrozones there was an important variation. There is also a great variation in participants from the metropolitan region.

Ideology: The greatest decrease in distrust occurred in people who self-identify with the left and the political center, with 18 and 20 percentage points respectively.

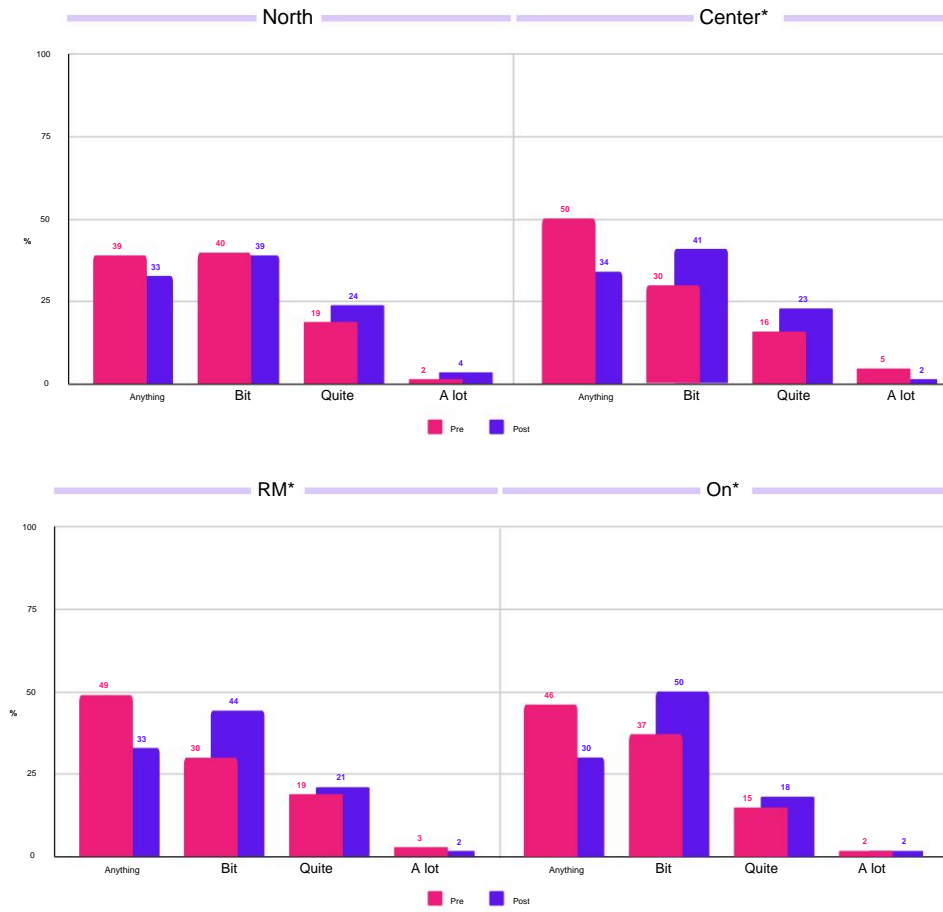
AT THE SOCIOECONOMIC LEVEL *



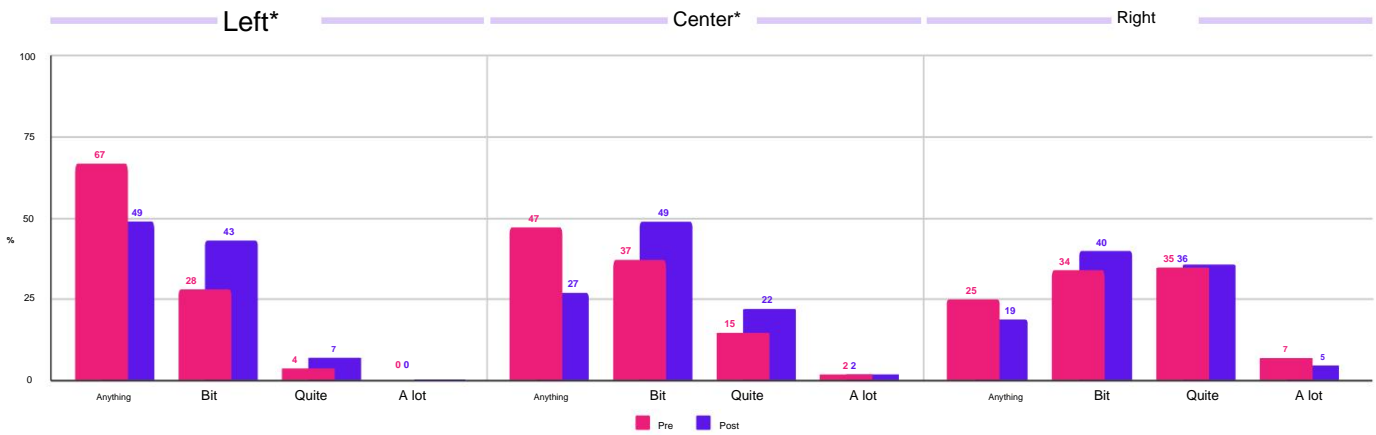
AT THE GENDER LEVEL *



AT GEOGRAPHIC TERRITORY LEVEL



BY IDEOLOGY



3.2. POLITICAL EFFECTIVENESS

Political efficacy is a term that measures the perception that citizens have about their influence and the sensitivity of the political system. This dimension was also included in the experiment questionnaires (input and output) and, in general, we can observe certain variations in the participants of the event.

Internal political efficacy is related to citizens' perception of their own ability to influence politics and government. It measures the extent to which people feel they can understand political issues, as well as whether they consider their participation desirable.

Meanwhile, external political efficacy evaluates the sensitivity that citizens attribute to their political system. In other words, it measures how receptive the system is to the needs and demands of the population, in the view of individuals. Unlike what happens with the internal component, the external component focuses on the response capacity of the institutions.

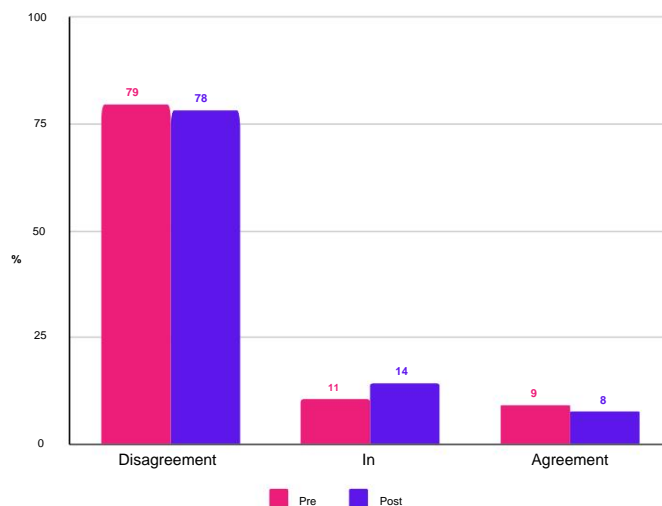
Each of these attitudes is measured using different questions.

Internal effectiveness:

How qualified do Chileans feel to participate in politics?

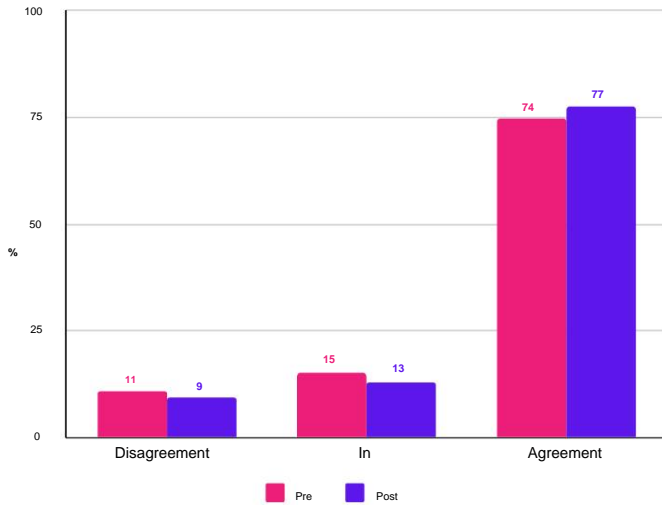
Regarding the self-perception of the participants to participate in politics, the greatest variation occurs in question 5, increasing by 4 percentage points the number of people who agree with the idea that “people like me have political opinions that are worth being heard.” After the event, 90% of the participants agreed with the statement, although it is important to note that the percentage of agreement was already high, at 86%.

Q1: INTERNAL EFFICIENCY



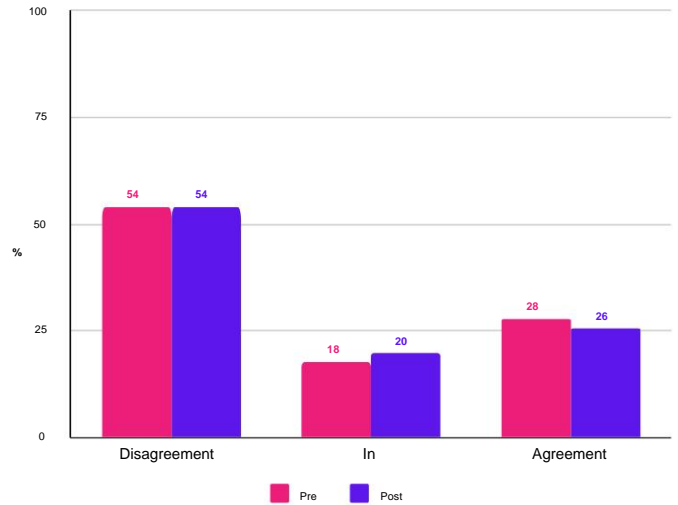
Politics is so complicated that a person like me can't really understand what's going on.

Q2: INTERNAL EFFICIENCY



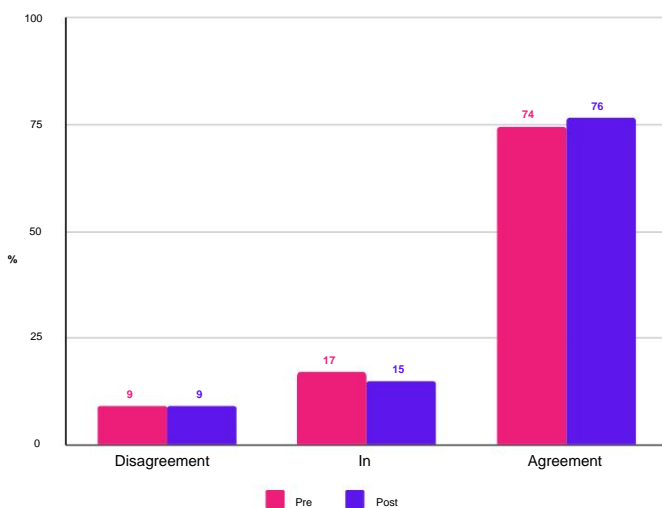
In general terms, I don't find it that difficult to take a position on political issues.

Q3: INTERNAL EFFICIENCY*6



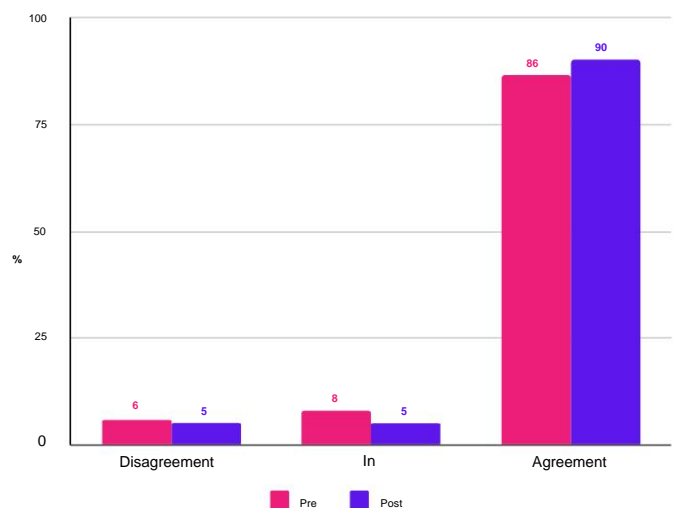
When politicians debate the economy, I only understand a small part of what they say.

Q4: INTERNAL EFFECTIVENESS*



People like me are qualified to participate in political discussions.

Q5: INTERNAL EFFICIENCY*



People like me have political opinions that are worth listening to.

6 The asterisk represents that there was a statistically significant change with 90% confidence.

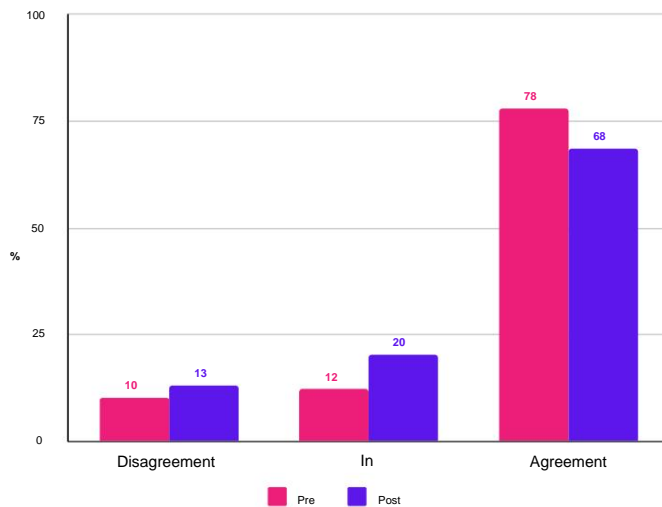
External Efficacy:

How much do people feel that the political system responds to their demands?

Regarding external effectiveness, much greater variations are observed. There is a decrease in the feeling that politicians do not care what the voter thinks (Q1). Also a decrease in people who believe that politicians are not doing what is best for the country (Q2). While both questions 3 and 4 did not present changes after the event.

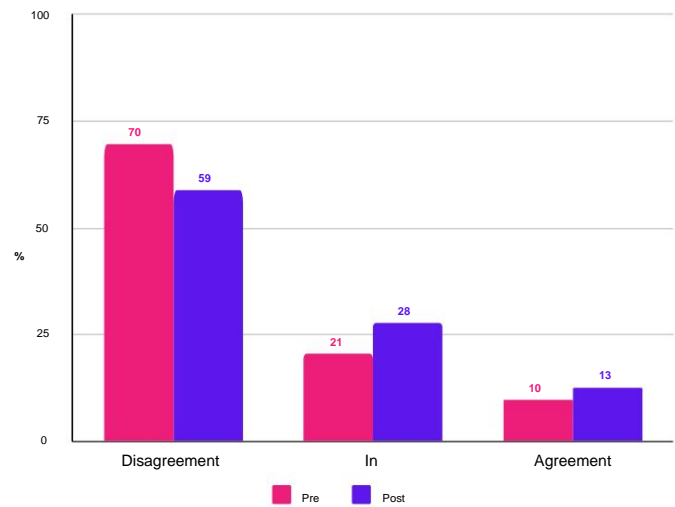
By taking both efficiencies into consideration, a visible improvement can be seen in political self-perception and the system in general. It is important to note that the variation is mainly from a negative to a neutral position, rather than from a negative to a positive one. In any case, it seems that DTH could have effects on the perception of the democratic system.

Q1: EXTERNAL EFFICACY*



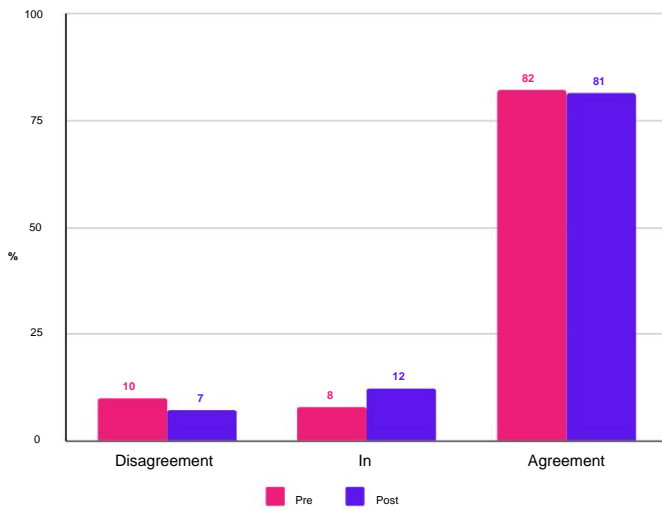
Politicians don't really care what the voter thinks.

Q2: EXTERNAL EFFICACY*



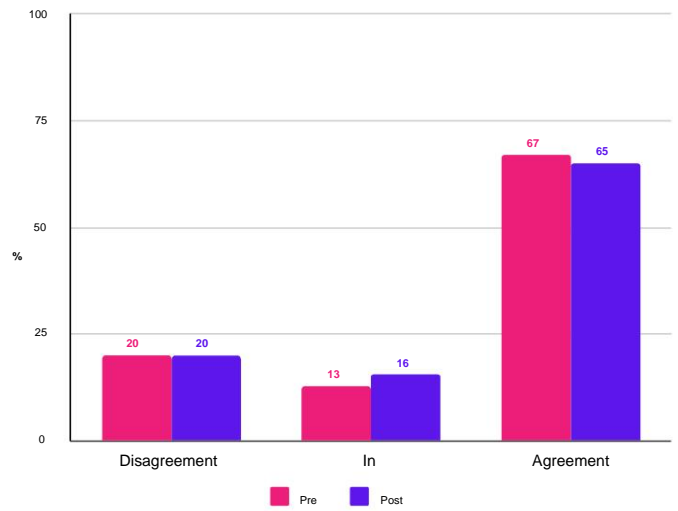
You can usually trust political leaders to do what's best for the country.

Q3: EXTERNAL EFFICACY



Politicians waste a lot of tax money.

Q4: EXTERNAL EFFECTIVENESS



People like me have no influence on what is decided in parliament or the government.

4. PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS

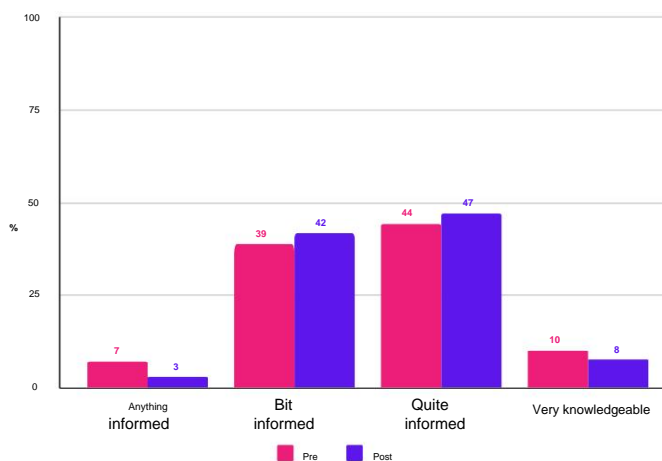
In addition to trust and effectiveness, perceptions about the constitutional process were also measured in this study. The following section shows results regarding the perception of legitimacy and importance of the process, as well as how informed people believe they are about it.

4.1. INFORMATION

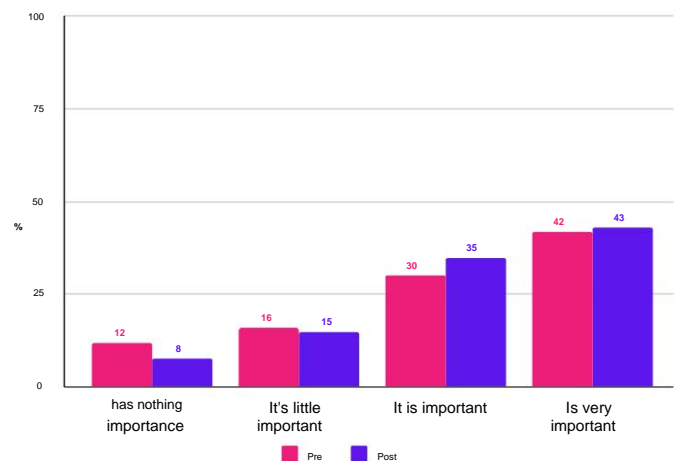
First, and unlike what happened with the first event in October, in this second activity there was no significant variation in how informed participants felt.

4.2. IMPORTANCE*

However, regarding the importance of the constitutional process, there was a 5 percentage point increase in the feeling that it is important after the DTH.



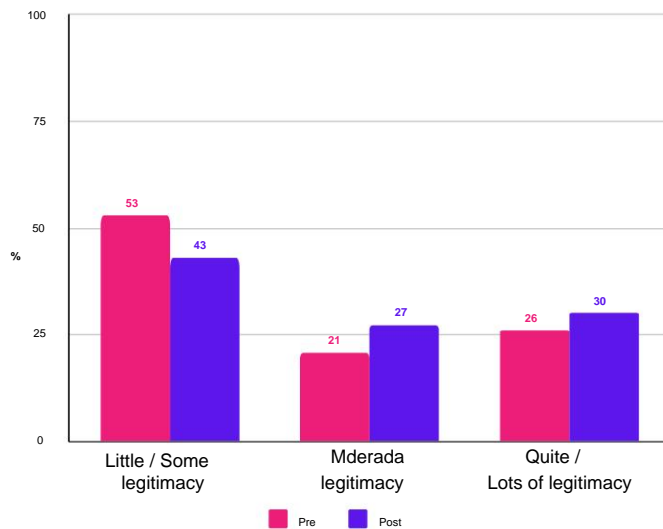
How informed are you about the current constituent process?



How important is it to you that a new constitution be drawn up?

4.3. LEGITIMACY*

Regarding the feeling of legitimacy, after the DTH there is a decrease of 10 percentage points in people who believed that the process had no legitimacy or that it had little.



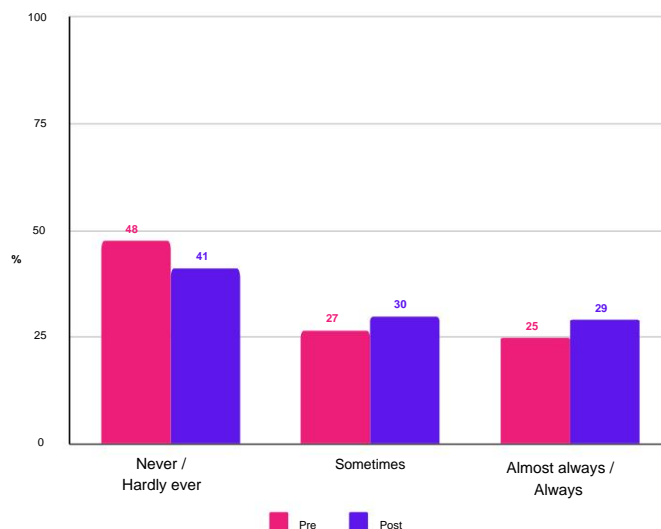
How much legitimacy does the new constitutional process have?



5. EMOTIONS ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS

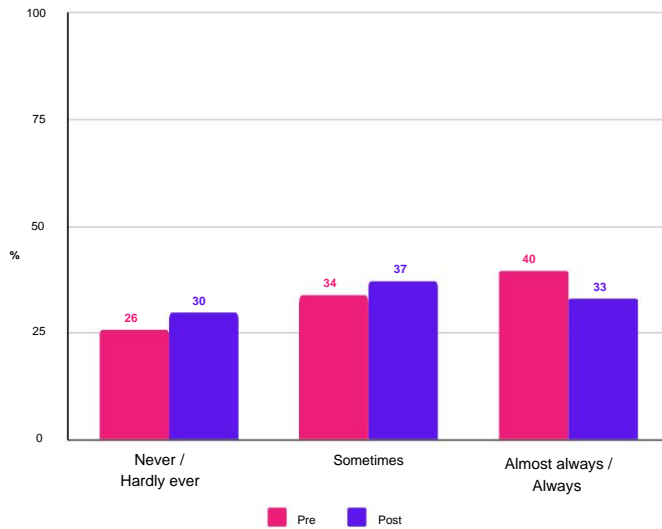
Regarding the questions about the emotions provoked by the constitutional process, four of the ten included are presented here. As can be seen, after the DTH there is an increase in people who feel hope in the constitutional process, while the negative sensations associated with the process - such as anger, bitterness and contempt - occur to a lesser extent after the event. On the other hand, the feeling of worry also showed a smaller decrease after DTH.

HOPE*



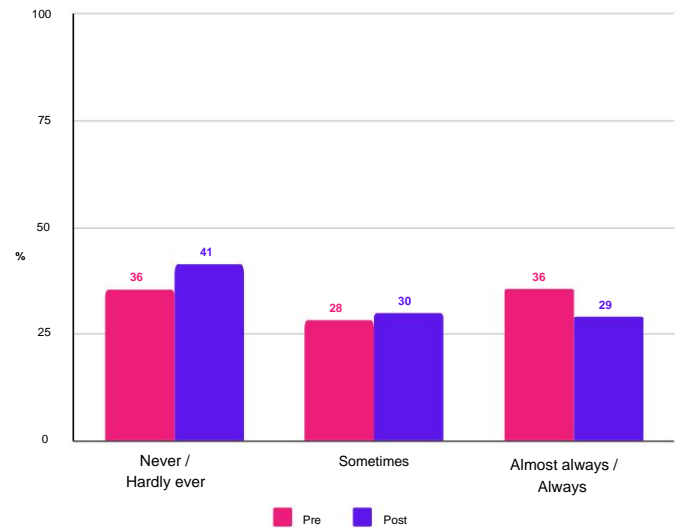
I feel **hope** towards the current constituent process.

ANGER*



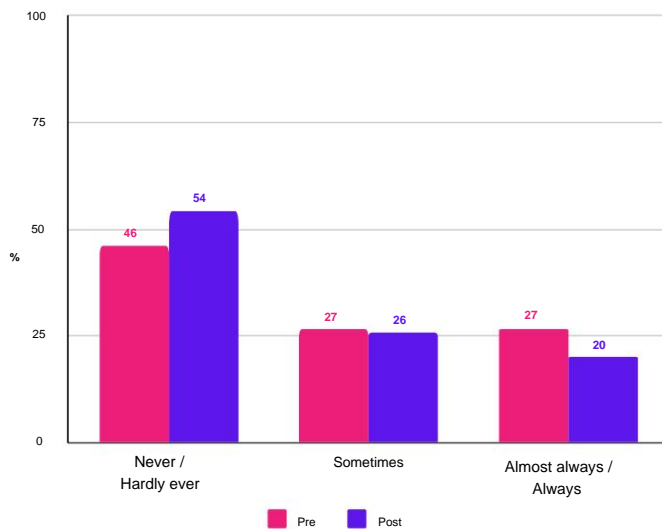
I feel **anger** towards the current constituent process.

BITTERNESS*



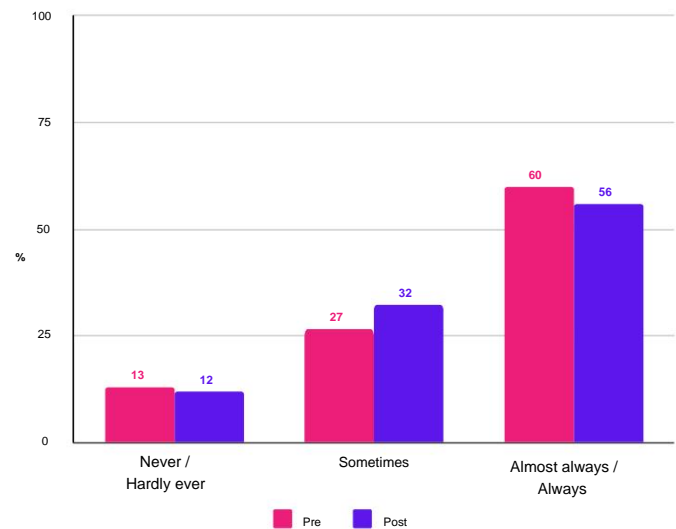
I feel **bitterness** towards the current constituent process.

DISPARAGEMENT*



I feel **contempt** for the current constituent process.

WORRY



I feel **concern** about the current constituent process .

6. PENSIONS: THE FOCUS OF THE EVENT

The structure of the DTH involves the treatment of a single topic of conversation that seeks to be addressed in depth during the deliberative process. To achieve this, each participant is sent in advance a document with neutral information that serves as preparation for the event. On this occasion, the topic chosen was the political system, which, due to its complexity, covers a series of subtopics, such as parity, electoral system and reforms of the powers of the State. In that sense, seeking to focus the meeting, the deliberation focused particularly on parity. Additionally, governance was covered, which was not directly asked in the questionnaire.

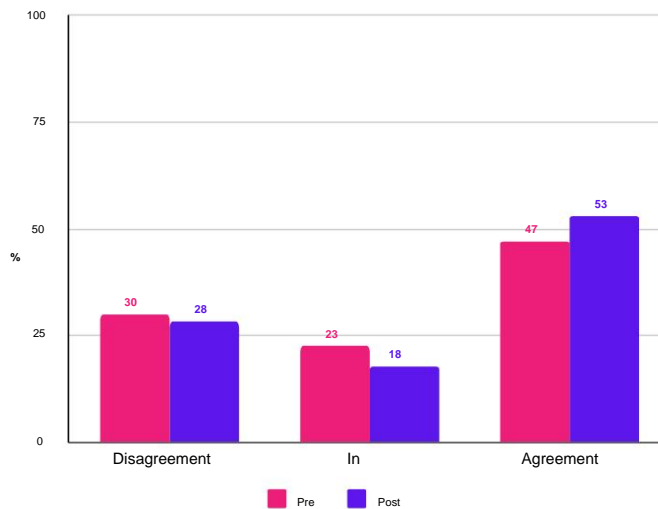
6.1. Policy 4: Parity

This section presents the variation considering both the entry and exit questionnaires, in addition to the differences by socioeconomic group, gender, geographic area and ideology.

As can be seen in the figures, after the DTH there is greater support among people for the idea of output parity⁷ and the “agreement” option by six percentage points.

⁷ The rule that was included in the questionnaire was that discussed in the second constitutional process.

Policy 4: parity rule



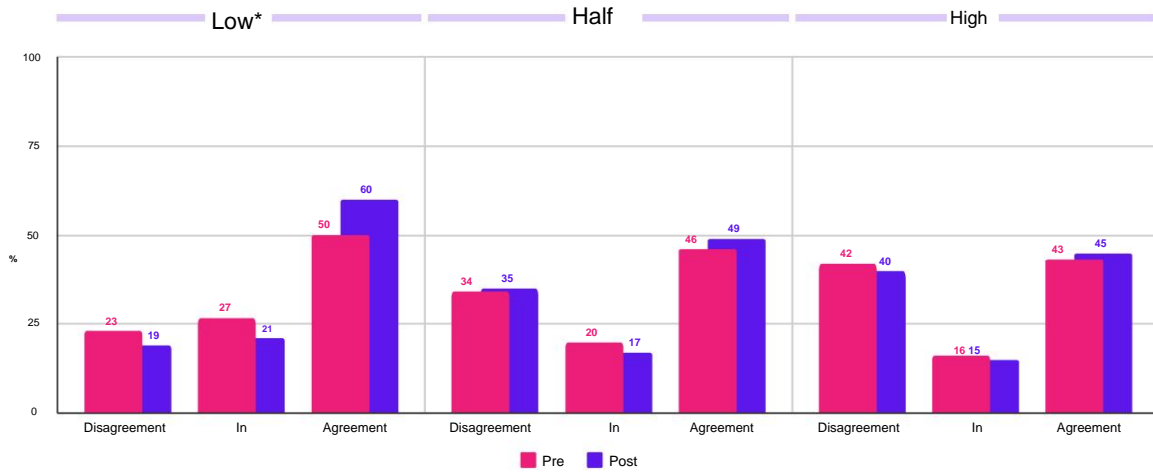
The distribution of seats in Congress will ensure 40% for both sexes (parity rule)

When observing this variation by groups, it can be noted that support increased mainly in lower income groups.

Regarding differences by gender, a variation in favor of the measure is also observed. In the case of men, there was an increase of seven points in the total number of participants who agreed with parity, while the percentage who disagreed showed a decrease of six points. For its part, among women there was an increase of six points in favor. **The difference between both groups is that, in the case of men, there is a percentage of people who went from being against to being in favor; In women, however, the increase is explained by a decrease in undecided women.**

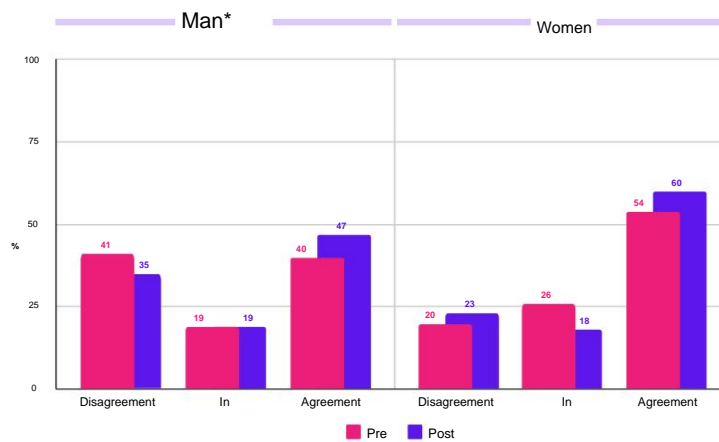
Regarding ideology, **the greatest changes occurred in those who identify with the political center**, with people in favor of parity increasing by 11 percentage points .

6.2. Policy 1: Parity by socioeconomic group



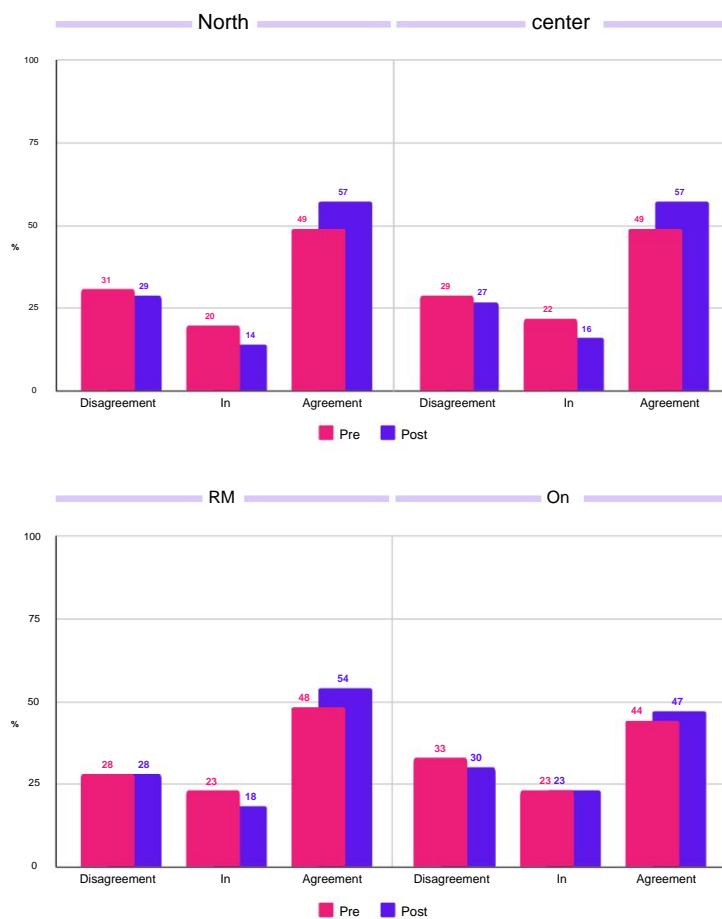
The distribution of seats in Congress will ensure 40% for both sexes (parity rule)

6.2. Policy 1: Gender parity



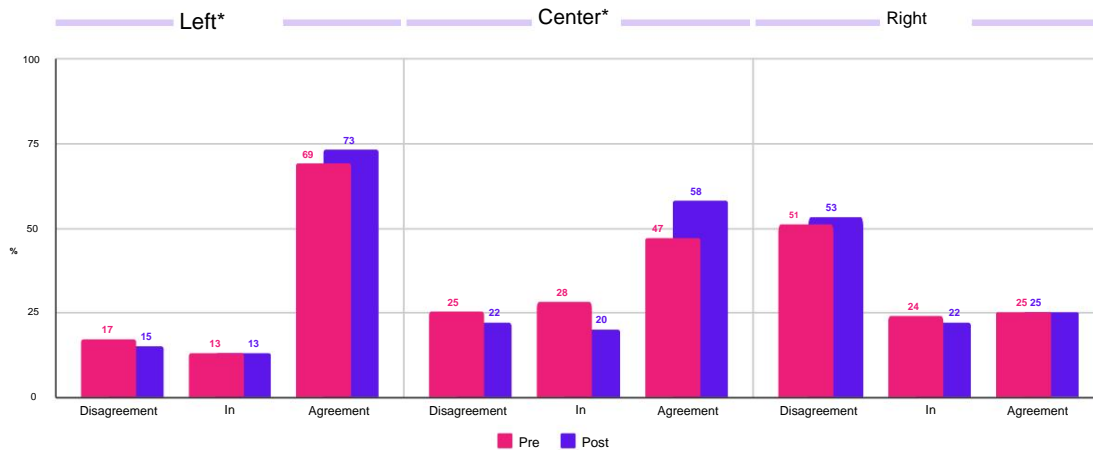
The distribution of seats in Congress will ensure 40% for both sexes (parity rule)

6.2. Policy 4: Parity by geography



The distribution of seats in Congress will ensure 40% for both sexes (parity rule)

6.2. Policy 4: Parity by ideology



The distribution of seats in Congress will ensure 40% for both sexes (parity rule)

7. QUALITATIVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENT

7.1. Questions from attendees

Participants submitted a total of 6,793 comments and questions during the DTH. In general, the questions were of a very high level, reflecting that participants were attentive to the discussion about the political system and/or prepared for the event, for example, by reading the supplementary material in advance. The following questions were asked during the event and were the trigger for most of the panelists' responses⁸:

“How a Political System should be designed that provides governability and avoids fragmentation” [Male, 61, Middle, South]

“How will it be guaranteed that the new Constitution is democratic and promotes citizen participation?” [Male, 49, Tall, South]

“How can the representation of women, indigenous peoples and minorities in general be ensured in this new constitution? What concrete and real proposals are they working on?” [Female, 51, Tall, South]

“Do you think parity distorts the popular will? What happens if other genders (other than female or male) also request their participation fee?” [Female, 42, Tall, RM]

⁸ The questions were transcribed verbatim, only spelling mistakes were corrected to facilitate reading.

“Can a party be declared unconstitutional in the proposal?

In what cases? How is the relationship between parties and terrorism regulated?”

[Anonymous]

“Will the number of deputies and/or senators be maintained? What is the interest in maintaining or modifying the number of its members?”

[Male, 37, Tall, RM]

“How will the challenges related to the financing of political campaigns and the control of electoral spending be addressed in the context of the new constitution?” [Female, 32, Middle, North]

“Is a minimum voting percentage established in the next elections?”

[Male, 53, Middle, Center]

“For real representativeness in Chilean politics, has this process considered ending the nepotism of the current political caste?”

[Male, 29, Short, Center]

“Why a Presidential system and not a Semi-presidential one? What would be the downside of that?” [Male, 43, Middle, Center]

“On the subject of regionalization, what measures does or does not propose this new Constitution in relation to generating greater power for the regions and reducing centralism. What role will the governors play in the new political structure if this proposal is approved?”

[Male, 58, Tall, Center]

7.2. Questions from the moderators team

During the DTH, the team of moderators also selected and shared with attendees the following live responses regarding two proposals:

Question 1: Reduction in the number of parliamentarians:

“I do not agree with the reduction in the number of parliamentarians. People lose their representatives. Now 1 deputy will be in charge of many more people. “More distant politicians .” [Female, 27, Tall, RM]

“Of course it is positive. Precisely because of what Arturo mentions, because more agreements are generated. and even more, it must be by setting the parliamentary diet at N times the minimum wage.” [Male, 39, Middle, South]

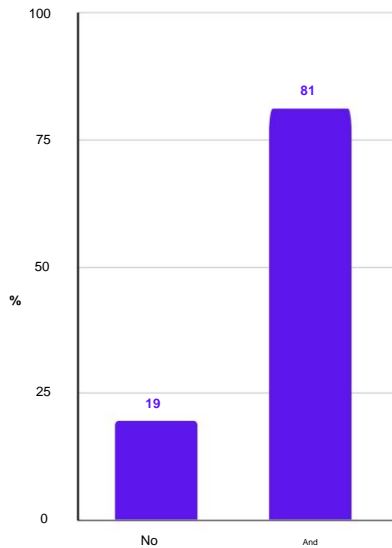
Question 2: About the decentralization of the State

“Why was this opportunity not taken advantage of to open a more participatory and authentic process to determine the political-administrative division? Let us remember that regionalization was imposed by the military government at the end of the '70s and to this day it is not fully representative of local identities in the country.” [Male, 47, Tall, North]

7.3. Live surveys

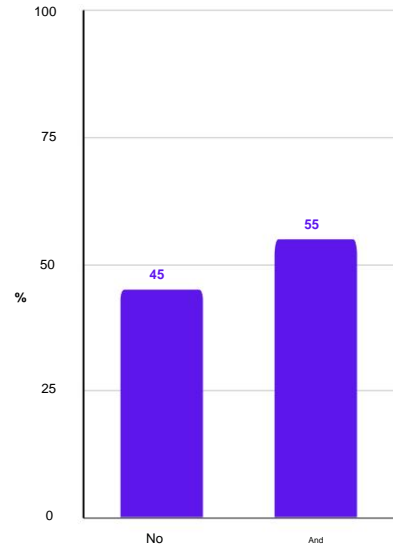
Additionally, three live surveys were conducted during the event, with the following results:

INTEREST IN THE PROCESS CONSTITUTIONAL



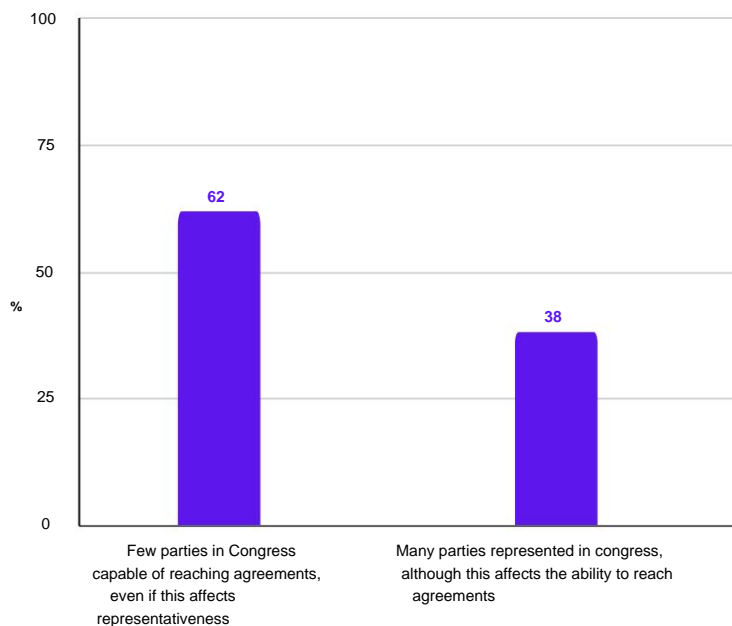
Have you been interested in the ongoing constituent process?

OUTPUT PARITY IN THE ELECTIONS



Should there be exit parity in parliamentary elections?

PARTY SYSTEM



7.4. Other questions

Below are the remaining 4821 questions that have been grouped thematically. There are three categories that are not reported that correspond to 29% of the total questions/comments, but that are anyway present in [Annex 2](#). These categories are specified below:

Non-noun: contains greetings or comments about the procedure (e.g. “the chat doesn’t work for me”);

Forum: consider comments about DTH (e.g. “thank you for this instance”, “what a bad event”)

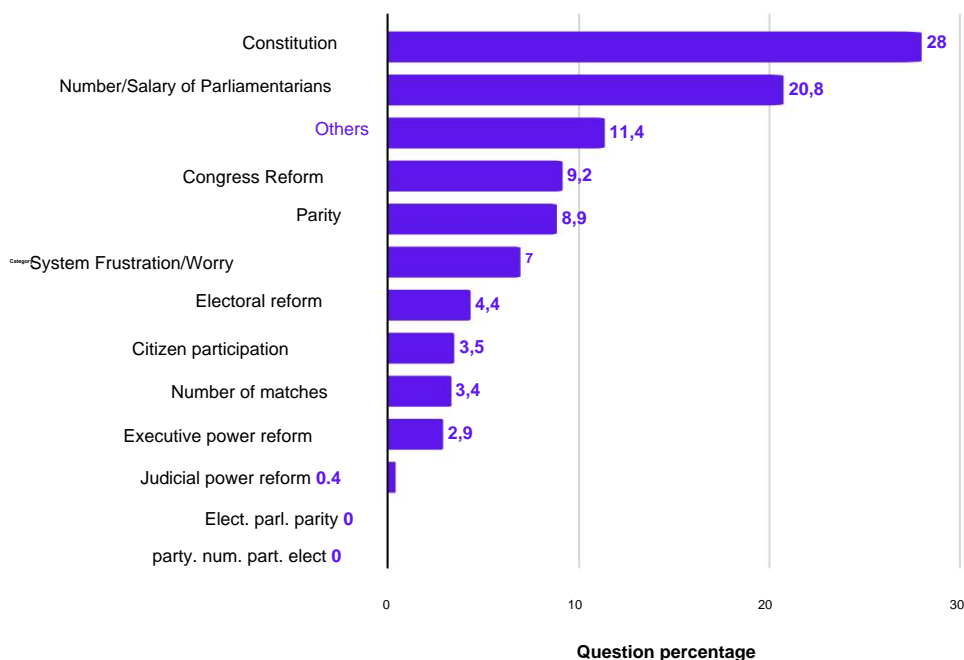
Repetitive: are those comments that were repeated more than once. Thus, only the first time the question and/or comment was asked was it incorporated into the rest of the groups, the following times it was marked in the “repetitive” category.



7.5. Analysis of intervention categories

Below are the remaining groups that were analyzed and that consider substantive comments, that is, those that are relevant to the deliberation (71% of the total). These capture quite well the list of priorities shared with the participants in the previous material, but they also touch, sometimes in great depth, on other concerns that the participants had about the constitutional process and the political system⁹.

Percentage of questions from each substantive group



⁹ Two questions were categorized into more than one category, which is why they appear in the graph with 0%.

The explanation of the groups, carried out by the research team, can be seen in the following table:

Category	Explanation	Example questions
"Constitution"	<p>Questions about the process constitutional, the plebiscite, as well as questions about which should be the focus of the new constitution (e.g., inclusion, identity, the role of the State, balances of power, among others).</p>	<p>"If you can do a comparative analysis of women's rights in the Constitution of the 80's and the current proposal" [Woman, 36, Tall, RM]</p> <p>"I am a Trans Activist and I represent a historically marginalized and excluded population, I would like to consult the Constituents if with this new proposal the rights achieved with Law 21,120 (Gender Identity) will suffer some setback or will be guaranteed your right to experience your identity without fear and exercise all your rights as anyone else" [Woman, 51, Low, Center]</p> <p>"There is an issue that seems crucial to me and that has not been mentioned in the media Communication. How are the rules of the game in the text to modify this Constitution? It will not be a unexpected lock like the ones we knew in the past to guarantee that it is unchangeable in the future?" [Male, 74, Medium, RM]</p>

Category	Explanation	Example questions
"Number/Salaries of Parliamentarians"	<p>Questions about the number of seats in Congress and also the budget and salary of congressmen.</p>	<p>"Why reduce the number of deputies if so many political parties belonging to different conglomerates are already recognized? In the case of senators was only to reduce two positions but for deputies it is much more." [Woman, 43, Alto, RM]</p> <p>"Why is the number of parliamentarians reduced, if in the first place the number of parliamentarians should supposedly ensure representativeness according to region?" [Male, 23, Middle, Center]</p> <p>"Why do you want to go down from 155 to 138 deputies? Why not go back to the old 120 or even a lower number.</p> <p>So many deputies are a very high permanent cost for our country.</p> <p>Thank you." [Female, 70, Tall, North]</p>
"Others"	<p>Topics not related to political system, but of great importance, such as health system, pensions, education, among others.</p>	<p>"What will be the real security measures to protect citizens?" [Female, 48, Short, RM]</p> <p>"How will homoparental families be recognized in the new Constitution?" [Male, 37, Middle, South]</p>

Category	Explanation	Example questions
"Congressional Reform"	<p>Questions regarding reforms of the legislative system, such as re-election, redistricting, political representation, party financing, among others. others.</p>	<p>"How do you plan to ensure that a quorum facilitates legislative work and is not a dead end?" [Female, 51, Tall, RM]</p> <p>"Why should wayward parliamentarians be left out of parliament when their opinion diverges from the party in which one is? It should be given opportunity to run as an independent while remaining in parliament." [Male, 73, Short, RM]</p> <p>"Why declare a "political party that incites violence" unconstitutional if this can occur deliberately by one of its members without necessarily representing the thoughts of that party? In that case the person should be prosecuted and expelled, but not attributed to a party as a whole" [Female, 43, Tall, RM]</p>
"Parity"	<p>Questions about the parity rule, both in favor and against against.</p>	<p>"Taking into account that women still have many obstacles to performing in the public space, how is the participation, parity and representation of women in the political system guaranteed?" [Female, 41, Tall, Center]</p>

Category	Explanation	Example questions
“System frustration/concern”	<p>Questions and comments that do not are directly related with the constitution, but who express concern and/or frustration about the system political and cases of nepotism, corruption, polarization, elitism and inequality.</p>	<p>“I believe that the political system is fundamental for the country to function well: For that, why not classify corruption or other problems as a crime and with high penalties?” [Male, 64, Tall, Center]</p> <p>“How do you plan to deal with the total disdain for political parties, in view of the constant cases of corruption, in parties across the (cross-cutting) political spectrum? Is a party system sustained or can we think of something else, given that are the institutions with the least confidence in all surveys?” [anonymous]</p>
“Electoral reform”	<p>Questions about reforms elections, mainly in around the voting age, vote mandatory, types of election system (representative, binominal, majority), digital vote, role of SERVEL, spending electoral, among others.</p>	<p>“What is the point of letting 16-year-olds vote without having a prior civic education plan?” [Male, 73, Short, RM]</p> <p>“Will the intervention by of TRICEL in the elections each political party considered a state interventionism in excess, taking away the autonomy of each party?” [Female, 36, Tall, RM]</p>

Category	Explanation	Example questions
"Citizen participation"	<p>Questions and comments focused on greater citizen participation.</p> <p>The questions are related with democratic methods direct, digital, civic education, participation of disabled people.</p>	<p>"How will you approach the new constitution the issue of political representation to ensure greater participation citizen in the making government decisions?" [Female, 32, Middle, North]</p> <p>"The basis of the political system is citizen participation, voting and other forms. The integrity of the vote must always be respected, which is why there should be no reserved seats and it is positive that the SERVEL establishes the districts and not Congress. In other forms of participation, the plebiscite should be contemplated in only certain matters (for example, causes of abortion or free abortion). and not just an initiative with prerequisites for citizenship. By the way, I am not affiliated with any political party." [Male, 59, Tall, RM]</p>

Category	Explanation	Example questions
"Number of matches"	<p>Questions and comments in about how to reduce the number of parties, especially with respect to fragmentation and incentives that allow reaching agreements. Also included are comments from those against the decrease of parliamentarians since it would reduce representativeness.</p>	<p>"How is the demand for a minimum of representativeness compatible with the need to renew politics? The lack of renewal in terms of people and parties kills democracy" [Male, 61, Tall, RM]</p> <p>"Why does the intention of constrain the diversity of political parties not attentive against democratic values of diversity or heterogeneity of ideas according to those who proposed this control from the constituted State? "Can a modern society be created by outlawing political groups?" [Male, 38, Middle, Center]</p>
"Executive power reform"	<p>Reforms around power Executive (e.g. how ministers are selected, years of the mandate)</p>	<p>"Was the issue of creating a six-year presidential regime discussed? I think that in four years you cannot develop a program" [Male, 61, Middle, Center]</p> <p>"Is it really considered a priority for a president to have the possibility of re-election? Frankly the alternation is necessary. "Would it do the country good to have the same president for eight years?" [Female, 43, Tall, RM]</p>

Category	Explanation	Example questions
“Judicial Power Reform”	Questions and comments linked to reforms to the judicial power.	<p>“Would it be possible for judges and prosecutors to be controlled, supervised and investigated regarding their decisions, presumptions and judgments, which many of them make due to the influence of ideologies?” [Female, 71, Medium, RM]</p> <p>“Will there be an effective separation of the judicial power? since they depend on the government for the designation of budget or personnel.” [Female, 43, Tall, RM]</p>

Table 2: Clusters of questions

8. CONCLUSIONS

This report, like the one carried out for the first event, provides very useful information. On the one hand, it shows that citizen participation can have positive effects on the general democratic system¹⁰, people improved their perception of this institution and its representative, which seems to indicate that the mechanism would bring politics closer to the people. These effects are also perceived in the emotions and perceptions of the participants about the political system, which leaves open the question: what would happen if this mechanism were incorporated into our democracy? Would a system be possible in which citizens get together to deliberate with their deputies and/or senators?

The results of both events seem to suggest the convenience of including these mechanisms. However, the challenges they reveal are clear; The percentage of people who participated, of the total number of guests, was approximately 10%, which seems to indicate difficulties in inviting more people to participate. We must also answer the question of how to increase the participation of lower-income citizens and isolated areas. Additionally, and assuming that this mechanism is applied in our political system, it is worth asking what institution would be in charge of managing it, given that it has to generate trust among citizens and also maintain the principle of neutrality, especially in complex issues such as be education, migration, among others.

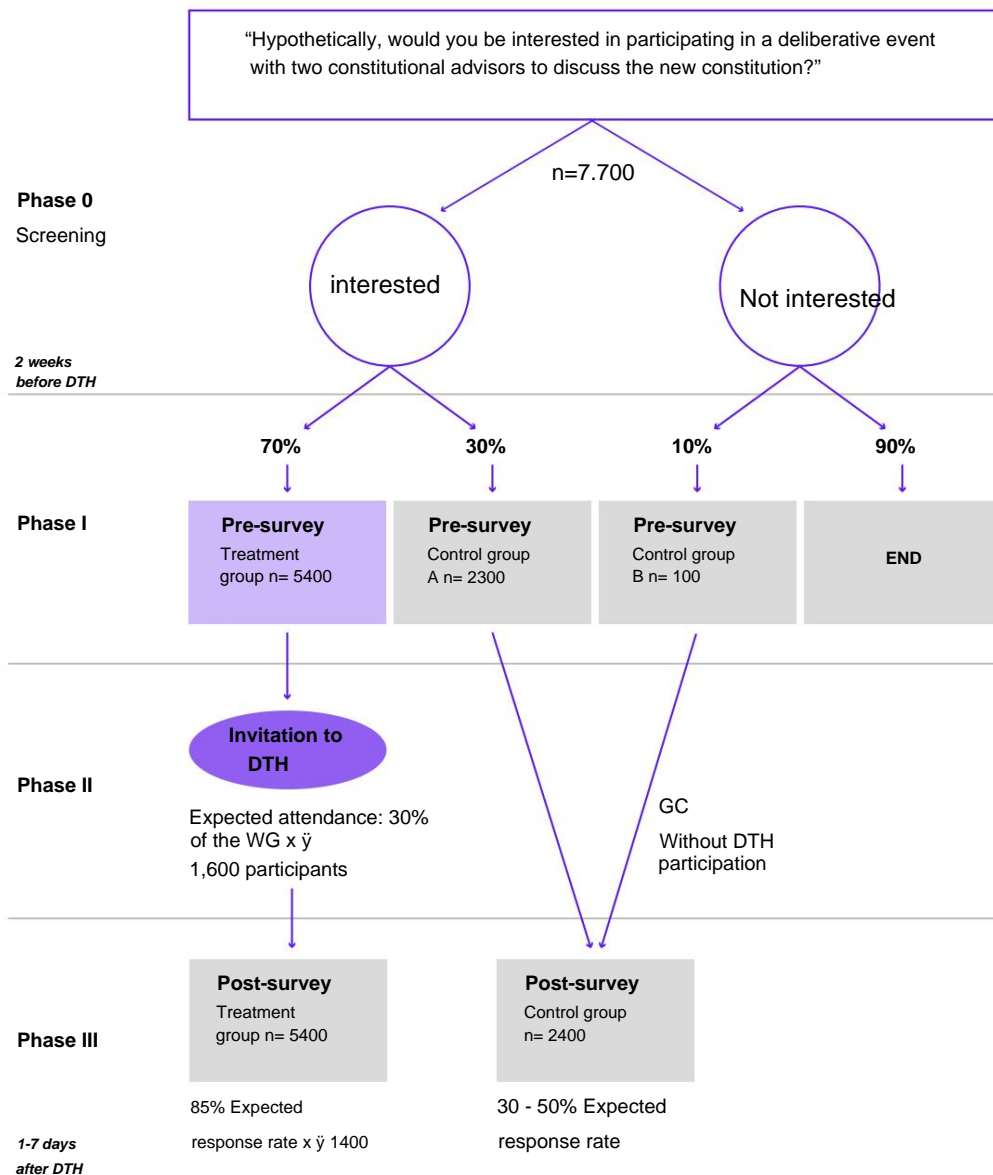
¹⁰ *These positive effects are perceived despite the delay of the event by more than an hour caused by the Council votes.*

At the same time, the participation of people must be highlighted. Despite the delays and difficulties associated with participating in a new and online mechanism, the level of the questions, the preparation of the citizens and the interaction they had for more than an hour and a half with the counselors was of a very high level. . This issue is not minor, the topic of discussion of this second event was the political system, a technical issue that is often thought to require the participation of technocrats more than the common citizen. However, this event shows that with good participatory design it is possible for people to contribute - often with great depth - on issues that affect our country.

The results of both events lead us to believe that when participatory mechanisms are well designed and executed, they can generate positive results for people, their representatives, and the health of the democratic system as a whole. These are probably not the solution to the political crisis suggested by some, but they can serve to address the distrust and distance that citizens feel from democracy.

ANNEX 1: Event flow

Control and treatment group diagram (based on previous experiences in the USA)



ANNEX 2: DTH Questions

To access the participants' questions click [here](#).

We thank:

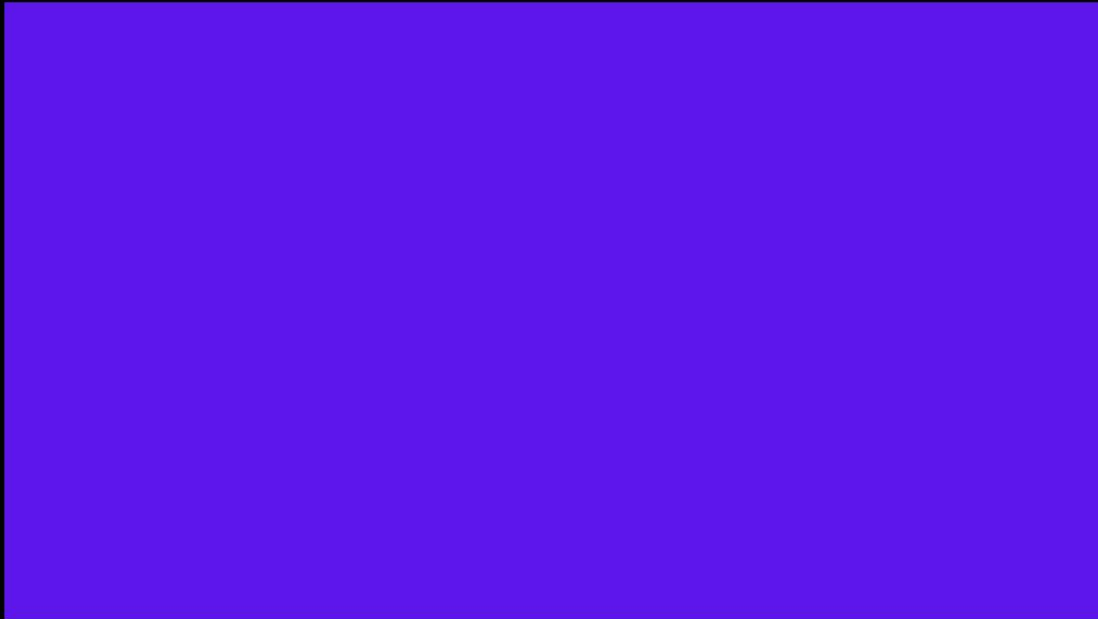


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