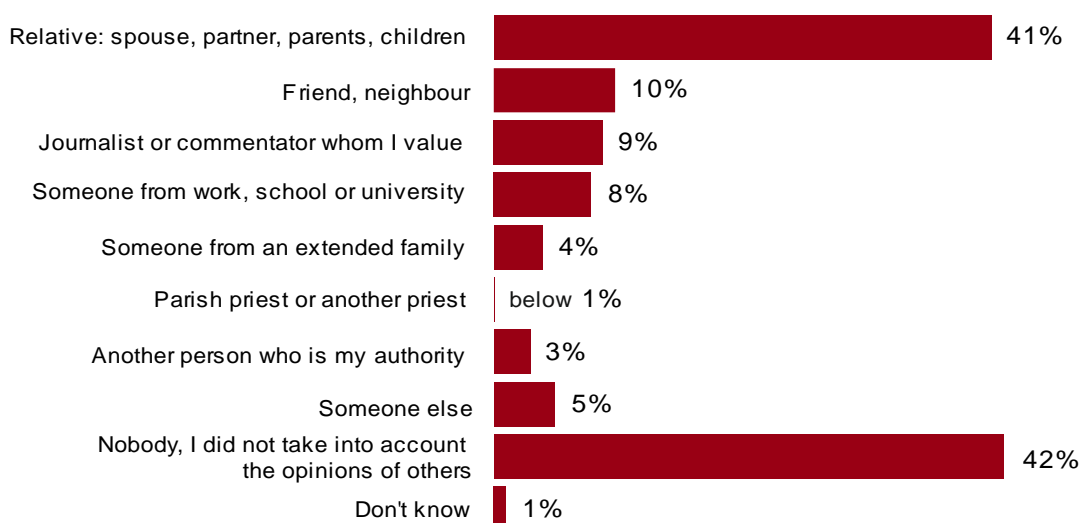


## Church and elections

More than two-fifths of people voting in the last elections declare that when deciding whom to vote for, they did not take into account the opinions of others (42%). The rest consulted their election decisions primarily with their immediate family (41%). A relatively large group took into account the opinions of friends or neighbours (10%), colleagues from work, school or university (8%) or a journalist they valued (9%). Only very few declared that when making election decisions, they were guided by the suggestions of a priest in their own parish or another priest. Even the most religious people (practicing several times a week), very sporadically declared that they took into account the opinions of priests (3%).

### Whose opinions were important to you and helped you to make an election decision?

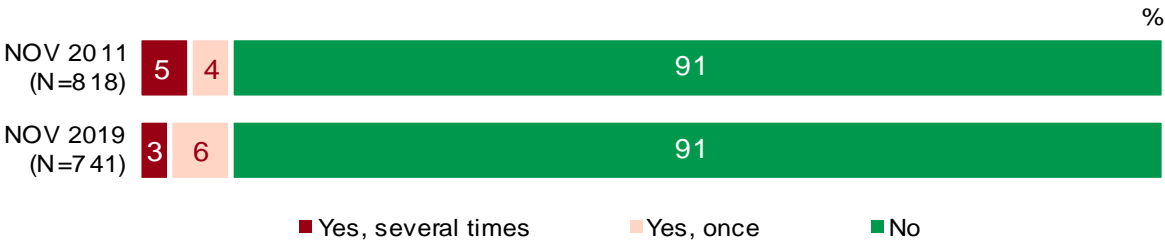


*Responses of people declaring participation in the last elections to the Sejm (N = 732)*

In total, 9% of respondents who participated in a religious service at least once in the pre-election period have declared that it happened that the priest suggested to the faithful how to vote in elections. The scale of the phenomenon, which can be called electoral campaign in churches, was similar to the level recorded before the parliamentary elections in 2011.

**Before the last parliamentary elections, did you ever participate in a religious service, the Holy Mass, during which the priest suggested to the faithful how to vote in the elections?**

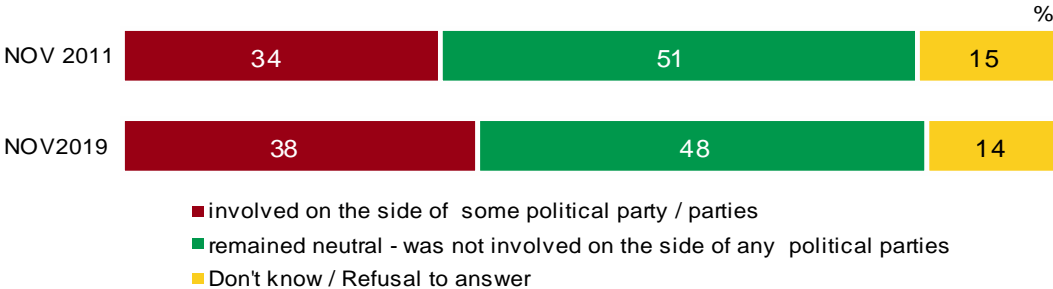
*Answers of respondents declaring participation in religious practices, who participated in the service at least once in the pre-election period.*



Almost a quarter of respondents (24%) declare that they have heard from someone in the family, friends, or neighbours about cases of electoral campaign in churches. The percentage of such declarations is similar to that recorded in 2011 (23%).

Almost two-fifths of all respondents (38%) believe that the Catholic Church in Poland was involved on the side of some political party or parties before the last elections. Almost half (48%) are of the opinion that it remained neutral and did not support any of the political forces. The conviction that the Church was involved in the campaign is now slightly more common than eight years ago. People who speak of the Church involvement in the pre-election campaign almost unanimously believe that it supported PiS.

**Before the last parliamentary elections, was the Catholic Church in Poland...**



The feeling that the Church in Poland before the last elections was involved in favour of one of the parties is strongly associated with political and, more broadly, ideological orientation. Moreover, political views and religiosity of respondents (frequency of participation in religious practices) are no less important for the perception of the attitude of the Church before the election than personal contact with electoral campaign in church. Political involvement of the Church before the election is noticed by the majority of respondents with leftist orientation (66%) and those not participating in religious practices (57%). It seems that people ideologically distant from the right are particularly sensitive to all signals coming from the Church and priests that may indicate their involvement in the pre-election campaign.

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More information about this topic can be found in CBOS report in Polish: "Church and elections", 2019. Fieldwork for national sample: November 2019, N=944. The random address sample is representative for adult population of Poland.