



مركز العالم العربي للبحوث والتنمية
Arab World for Research & Development

Press Release

Results of an Exit Poll on Palestinian Local Elections

28 March 2022

Introduction

The Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD), in close coordination with the Central Elections Committee (CEC), conducted an exit poll for the second round of Local Council elections held on 26 March 2022. The purpose of the exit poll was to understand the profile and priorities of voters, and to assess opinions and attitudes towards the electoral process and performance of the CEC.

The poll sampled 1,773 voters across 120 voting stations in 32 voting centers in seven localities. These localities included cities such as Hebron, Nablus, Ramallah and Tulkarem, medium-sized towns, including Al Yamoun (Jenin Governorate), and smaller communities such as Beit Sahour (Bethlehem Governorate) and Qattanah (Jerusalem Governorate). The participants in the poll were selected at regular intervals upon their departure from the voting station by AWRAD's trained data collectors. All responses were recorded anonymously on tablets to ensure the security and confidentiality of participants.

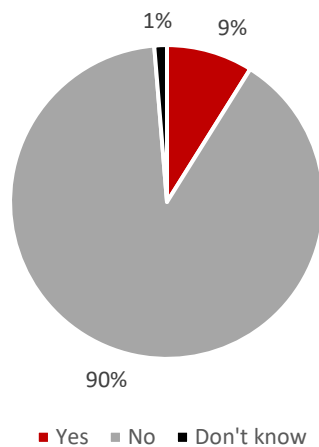
Profile of voters

Participants in the poll represented across-section of voters from different backgrounds, locations and professional sectors, reflecting the general diversity of Palestinian society. Consistent with turnout in previous elections, 54% of voters were male, and 46% women. The median age of those polled did 37 years old, with youth (18-35 years old) comprise 45% of the sample. Assessed by education, 37% of respondents held a university degree, 33% completed secondary school, 20% had less than 12 years of education, and 10% had a degree from a two-year college.

Performance of the CEC positively evaluated by overwhelming majority

The majority (95%) of voters positively assessed the performance of the CEC in administering the election. A similar number (93%) believed that the elections were impartial and transparent. Approximately 90% reported that they did not witness any undue pressure or intimidation during the voting process on Election Day.

Did you witness any pressure or intimidation during the voting process?



Criteria in selecting a list

Voters identified varying factors in their choice of a certain list, but the most common centered around the qualities and experience of a list's members.

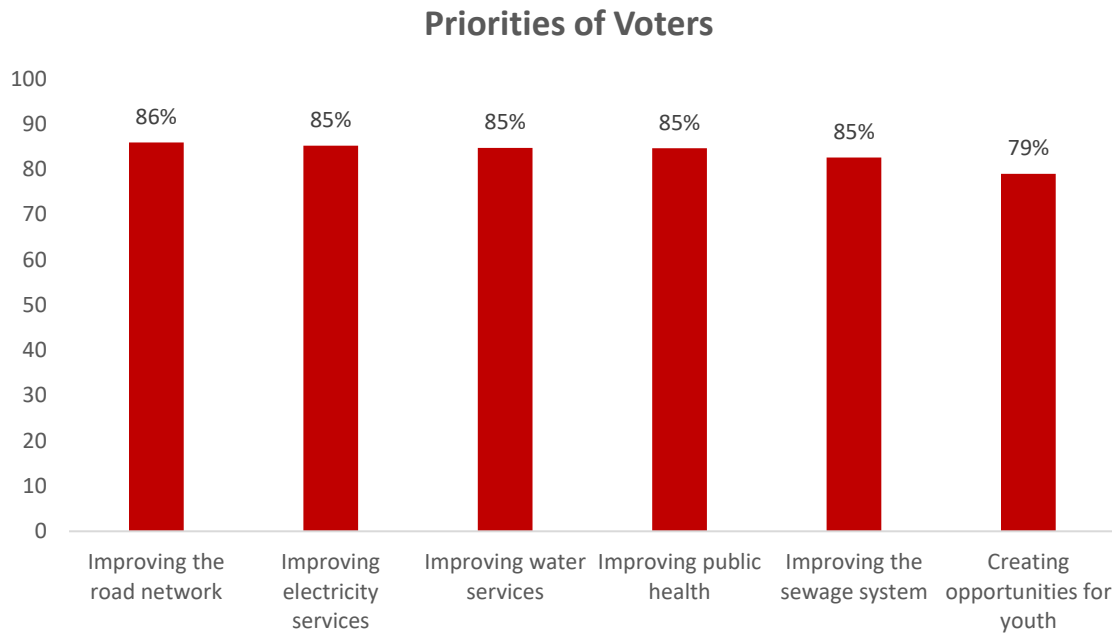
- The most important criterion in choosing a list was the reputation and morals of the list's members, with 76% of voters indicating that this was "very important" to them.
- The perceived attention given to issues of social justice and equality among citizens was the second most common factor, identified as "very important" by 73%.
- The professional experience of the list's members (69%) came next, followed by academic qualifications (68%), leadership qualities (67%), and the feasibility of their election platform (66%).
- The role of members in the national struggle was deemed "very important" by 58%, followed by the list's focus on women's issues (55%).
- Party membership of the candidates was "very important" to 50% of voters, though 51% also declared that they were independent and 45% said that independence of the candidates from the authority or political parties was "very important."
- Only one-third of voters said that the religiosity of a candidate was "very important" in their decision to vote for a list.
- The least important factors in selecting a list were family affiliation (46%) and friendship (43%). Overall, 24% of voters reported having a family member on an electoral list, while 11% reported having family members on multiple lists. Among these voters, 83% voted for the list containing a family member, meaning that, overall, 29% of respondents voted for a list containing a relative.
- Political affiliation also played in list selection, though supporters of various political parties were not unified in their voting behavior. For example, in Nablus and Tulkarem, the exit poll found that an absolute majority of Hamas supporters voted for lists containing Hamas-affiliated

members. Though this trend was observed among Fateh supporters, who voted for lists containing Fateh-affiliated members, the survey also found that Fateh supporters were more divided in their preferences. Specifically, in Ramallah and Hebron, over two-thirds reported voting for the officially-supported Fateh list, while the remainder of Fateh supporters voted for a second list that, although containing Fateh members, was not officially endorsed by the Fateh movement. By contrast, in Hebron, 80% of Hamas-supporters voted for the Hamas list.

- Overall, Fateh lists received higher levels of support from men, as compared to women, while the opposite was true for Hamas lists. That said, important variations were observed at local level. For example, though women voters in Nablus indicated support for the Hamas lists at greater rates than men, relative parity between men and women was observed in Hebron. Additionally, in Tulkarem, the opposite was observed, where female support for the Fateh-affiliated list exceeded male support by about 10%.

Priorities of voters

For voters, the issues considered most important (i.e. “very important”) were all related to the provision of public services: Improving the road network; Improving electricity services; Improving water services; Improving public health; Improving the sewage system; Creating opportunities for youth.



For more information or inquiries, please contact (AWRAD) at awrad@awrad.org or refer to our website: www.awrad.org