|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |     |  |     |  |
|   | [Opinion Polls](http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp/opinionpolls/) Poll No. 24**Press Release: 14 January 2006****Legislative Council Elections****[** [**Analysis of Results**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll24/analysis.html) **][** [**Sample Distribution**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll24/sample.html) **][** [**PDF Format**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll24/poll24.pdf) **][** [**In Arabic**](http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp/arabic/opinionpolls/poll24/) **]** **Dates of fieldwork: 5-7/1/2006** **Number of field researchers: 75****Sample size: 1500 Palestinians in (West Bank and Gaza Strip)****Margin of error: + 3%**          **For further information or queries, contact team coordinator Dr. Nader Said (059-9204517) or Polling coordinator Ayman Abdul Majeed at the listed address or through our website (http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp)**         **Supported by the International Republican Institute (IRI) for their support.**  **First: Headlines**         **90% support holding legislative elections on time;**         **Fateh and Hamas are in a tight race for PLC seats;**        **97% are against kidnapping of internationals.****Second: Main Results:*** **Two weeks before the elections: Fateh 35%, Hamas 30%, undecided 21%, and the list of Independent Palestine 6%.**
* **About 30% of the floating vote (undecided) favors Hamas; 24% bents towards Fateh, and 10% with inclinations towards the independent lists.**
* **Among the registered for the elections, 83% expressed their will to vote.**
* **Among the respondents, 65% believe that the elections will be fair.**
* **Among the respondents, 45% considered TV as the best means to acquire information on elections, whereas 26% considered public meetings and workshops and 13% of the respondents considered radio as the best means on acquiring information on elections.**
* **The poll reveals that 35% of potential voters have access to computers and 24% use the Internet.**
* **Among the respondents, 90% support holding legislative elections on time (January 25, 2006).**
* **Over 97% of Palestinians oppose kidnapping of internationals in Palestinian Territories.**
* **A high percentage of respondents (96%) opposes the protest means of erecting roadblocks by militants within cities**
* **Likewise, 92% of the respondents oppose armed parades organized by militant groups**
* **In general, 97% oppose the use of any form of violence to resolve disputes.**
* **In contrast, 95% support the use of peaceful, organized demonstrations and/or marches**
* **Finally, 98% feel that the current lawlessness harms the Palestinians and their cause.**

**Third: Analysis of Results**1.      **Legislative Elections**:* Among the respondents there is a high percentage of 90% in the West Bank and Gaza who supports the holding of the elections of the Palestinian Legislative Council- PLC on time (January 25 2006). The rates of support for holding the elections are equal in the West Bank and Gaza. Only 7% are against holding these elections on their predetermined time.

|  |
| --- |
| **Do you support holding the PLC elections on 25/1/2006?** |
|   | Total % | West Bank % | Gaza Strip % |
| 1) Yes  | 89.6 | 89.2 | 90.2 |
| 2) No | 7.1 | 6.5 | 8.2 |
| 3) Don’t know | 3.3 | 4.3 | 1.6 |

 * Among the respondents there is 65% who believes that the PLC elections will be fair, in contrast to 27% who believe the opposite. The rates are equal in the West Bank and Gaza.

|  |
| --- |
| **Will the PLC elections be fair?**  |
|   | Total % | West Bank % | Gaza Strip % |
| 1) Yes  | 65.4 | 64.9 | 66.1 |
| 2) No | 27.2 | 27.6 | 26.6 |
| 3) Don’t know | 7.4 | 7.5 | 7.3 |

* Among those who registered to vote, 83% expressed their will to vote, compared to 12% who expressed their decline, whereas 5% of the registered are still undecided. The percentage of those who will vote is higher in Gaza (89%) than that in the West Bank (80%).

|  |
| --- |
| **Do you plan to vote?** |
|   | Total % | West Bank % | Gaza Strip % |
| 1) Yes  | 83.2 | 80.1 | 88.4 |
| 2) No | 11.5 | 13.7 | 7.8 |
| 3) undecided  | 5.3 | 6.2 | 3.7 |

 2.      **Voting Patterns** (for the proportional-national lists which comprise 50% of the seats):* **Fateh leads with about 35%, followed immediately by Hamas at 30%.** Support for Fateh had drastically declined by 10 points since October 2005, while the support for Hamas had increased by 7 points since then.
* **Both Fateh and Hamas receive 38% of the vote in Gaza**. **Nevertheless, both receive lower support in the West Bank**. Fateh, however, is more popular in the West Bank (32%) than Hamas (27%). Not least significant, is **the floating vote in the West Bank which reaches (26%) and is as twice as that in Gaza (13%**). This implies that the race for winning the hearts and minds of the undecided voters will remain furious until the last minute i.e., the elections day.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Total % | West Bank % | Gaza Strip % |
| 1) Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fateh) | 35 | 32.0 | 38.0 |
| 2) Change and Reform (Hamas) | 31.3 | 26.8 | 38.2 |
| 3) Undecided | 21 | 25.7 | 13.4 |

 * Fateh and Hamas will be succeeded by **the list of Independent Palestine (**led by Mustafa Bargouthi), **which will win about 6% of the vote**. The three lists (Fateh, Hamas and the Independent Palestine) will be followed by three lists which each will win between 2-3% of the vote. These three lists include: The Third Way – led by Salam Fayyad and Hanan Ashrawi; PFLP supported list; and Badil (a coalition of leftist groups). The power of the last three lists will increase to (2-4%) each, if we take into account the undecided voters. None of the remaining six lists shows any statistical signs or indications that it might gain *the* 2% of the vote (the threshold that enables any list to take part in the distribution of the PLC seats).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | Total % | West Bank % | Gaza Strip % |
| 1) Independent Palestine (Mustafa Barghouthi and Independents) | 5.7 | 6.4 | 5.1 |
| 2) Badil (DFLP, PPP and Fida coalition) | 2.0 – 3.0 | 3.0 – 4.0 | 1.0 – 1.5 |
| 3) Third Way (Independents) | 2.0 – 3.0 | 2.0 – 3.0 | 2.0 – 3.0 |
| 4) Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa (PFLP) | 2.0 – 3.0 | 2.0 – 3.0 | 2.0 – 3.0 |

 * Taking into consideration the undecided, floating vote (21%), it is most likely that 30% of the undecided will vote for Hamas. If this voting trend will be materialized on the elections day then Hamas power will be increased by 7% only to bring it to a total of 37% of the votes. In contrast to that, Fateh might gain 5% of the floating vote which will increase its power to 40% of the total vote. The voting pattern and political behavior of the undecided voters on elections day will be a crucial factor in redrawing the Palestinian political map on January 26, 2006.

|  |
| --- |
| **Which one of these lists will you vote for? (considering how the undecided might vote)** |
| 1) Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fateh) | 40 % |
| 2) Change and Reform (Hamas) | 37 % |
| 3) Independent Palestine (Mustafa Barghouthi and Independents) | 7 % |
| 4) Undecided | 7 % |
| 5) Badil (DFLP, PPP and Fida coalition) | 2 – 4% |
| 6) Third Way (Independents) | 2 – 4% |
| 7) Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa (PFLP) | 2 – 4% |

 * It must also be noted that this poll does not provide indicators on how Palestinians will vote in the districts (the regional elections system which allocates 50% of the PLC seats for districts’ candidates).

**3.**      **Sources of Information on Elections:*** As it was expressed by 45% of the respondents TV, remains the best means to disseminate information on the elections
* Among the respondents 26% considered workshops and public meetings as the best means to disseminate information on the elections
* The third most important source of information on elections is Palestinian radios (13%), more in Gaza (18%) than in the West Bank (10%).
* About 6% feel that newspapers are the best source, more in the West Bank (8%) than Gaza (3%).
* Leaflets and other publications received also 6%, with more in the West Bank (7%) than Gaza (5%).

|  |
| --- |
| **Which of the following means is best to provide you with election information?** |
|   | Total % | West Bank % | Gaza Strip % |
| 1) TV Stations | 45.1 | 46.2 | 43.1 |
| 2) workshops / meetings | 26.3 | 26.1 | 26.6 |
| 3) Radio | 12.7 | 9.8 | 17.5 |
| 4) Pamphlets and leaflets  | 6.4 | 7.2 | 5.0 |
| 5) Newspapers | 6.2 | 8.4 | 2.5 |
| 6) others | 3.4 | 2.2 | 5.3 |

 * Closely related is the use of computers and Internet; when Palestinian adults were asked about their use of computers (at home or work), 35% said that they use them (always or sometimes), while 65% said that they do not. The percentages are equal in the West Bank and Gaza.
* As to the use of Internet, 24% said that they use it, while 76% said that they do not.

**4.**      **Attitudes towards Lawlessness and Use of Arms:**        When asked about the means to achieve reform and resolve disputes, a vast majority of Palestinians (97%) expressed their rejection to kidnapping of Internationals residing in Palestinian Territories.        Another 97% said that they are opposed to the use of arms in resolving disputes or in protest of controversial policies.        In addition, a vast majority (95%) opposes armed parades by militant groups.        About 96% opposes the erection of roadblocks by militants in cities.        In contrast, 97% support peaceful marches as a way of protest.

|  |
| --- |
| **In your opinion, are the following means of protest to achieve reform acceptable or unacceptable?**  |
|   | Total % | West Bank % | Gaza Strip % |
| **Organizing of  peaceful marches**  |
| 1) Acceptable  | 94.9 | 95.0 | 94.8 |
| 2) Unacceptable | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| ***Organizing of  armed parades***  |
| 1) Acceptable  | 7.1 | 9.1 | 3.7 |
| 2) Unacceptable | 91.5 | 89.4 | 95.0 |
| ***Occupation of public buildings (including central election commission)?*** |
| 1) Acceptable  | 5.3 | 6.3 | 3.7 |
| 2) Unacceptable | 93.1 | 91.7 | 95.4 |
| ***Placing of roadblocks between cities*** |
| 1) Acceptable  | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.4 |
| 2) Unacceptable | 95.9 | 96.2 | 95.5 |
| ***Use of arms in resolving disputes*** |
| 1) Acceptable  | 2.4 | 2.9 | 1.6 |
| 2) Unacceptable | 97.0 | 96.4 | 98.0 |
| ***Kidnapping of internationals***  |
| 1) Acceptable  | 2.2 | 2.9 | 1.1 |
| 2) Unacceptable | 97.1 | 96.5 | 98.2 |

                                                         [Top of this page](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll24/analysis.html#top)    |    [DSP Home](http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp/)  |   |
|   |     |  |     |  |