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|   | [Opinion Polls](http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp/opinionpolls/) **Public Opinion Poll # 26****The Palestinian Government****International Funding** **[** [**Highlights**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll26/highlights.html)**][** [**Analysis of Results**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll26/analysis.html) **][** [**Detailed Results**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll26/results.html) **][** [**Sample Distribution**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll26/sample.html) **]****[** [**In Arabic**](http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp/arabic/opinionpolls/poll26/) **][** [**Pdf Format**](http://home.birzeit.edu/cds/opinionpolls/poll26/poll26.pdf) **]**Dates of fieldwork: 19/4/2006 Sample Size: 630 Palestinians in the West Bank & GazaNumber of Sampling Localities: 43Margin of error: + 4%  **1. Highlights**        63% support a National Unity Government, while 24% support the continuation of a Hamas-led government.        There is a decline in the percentage of voters willing to vote for Hamas from 50% to 44%.  The Fateh vote continues at 34%.        53% say that they are satisfied with the outcome of the latest PLC elections, compared with 59% (20 days ago).         41% believe that the Hamas win will positively impact internal conditions, compared with 59% (20 days ago).        There is a drop in the evaluation of President Abbas from 54% to 43%; and for Prime Minister Haniyyeh from 64% to 57%.        32% evaluate the performance of the Hamas-led Government as “good.”         30% believe that the current government is handling the issue of international funding in an appropriate manner.        29% think that Hamas should recognize Israel and continue to receive funding from international sources as done previously, while 64% disagree.**2. Main Results****1.**      **Form of Government: 63% Support a National Unity Government*** In dealing with the crisis faced by Palestinians, 63% of respondents support the formation of a national unity government, while 24% support the continuation of a government led by Hamas. Only 9% support a technocratic government of independents.
* Support for a national unity government is much higher among Fateh supporters (81%) than Hamas supporters (46%), while support is at 57% among all others.
* Less than one quarter of Hamas supporters believe that a Hamas-led government is the best option. This is compared with 6% among Fateh supporters and 31% among others.
* Evaluation of Government: Respondents were divided when evaluating the performance of the newly-established Hamas government, where 32% evaluated its performance as “good”, and 36% evaluated it as “fair”, while 27% evaluated it as “weak.”

**2.**      **PLC Elections: Decline in the percentage of voters willing to vote for Hamas from 50% to 44%*** Palestinians were asked who they would vote for if election for PLC took place on the day of the poll; 44% said that they would vote for Hamas (a decline of 6 points from 50% about 20 days ago on March 29). Voting for Fateh continued to be at about 34%. All others might receive less than 10%. About 14% are undecided.
* Voting for Hamas is higher in Gaza (47%) than the West Bank (41%). It is also higher in refugee camps (57%) compared with 42% in cities and 39% in villages. Women are still more willing to vote for Hamas (47%) than men (40%). Support for Hamas declines with education as 53% of the illiterate and 38% of university graduates are willing to vote for the movement.
* About 53% of those declared “religious” are willing to vote for Hamas, compared with 36% among those who describe themselves as “somewhat religious” and 7% among the “not religious.”
* Political support for Hamas is at 38%, while support for Fateh is at 30%.

**3.**      **Expectations: Decline in Optimism by the Hamas win*** Fewer Palestinians (53%) say that they are satisfied with the outcome of the latest PLC elections compared with the last poll (59%) conducted 20 days ago on March 29.
* Fewer Palestinians believe that the election of Hamas will lead to enhancing Palestinian opportunities in achieving internal reform, a drop of 15 points from 56% to about 41%.
* The same applies to the issue of how the Hamas election will influence political aspirations of Palestinians; 42% feel that this will enhance Palestinians chances, down from 48% in the March 29 poll.
* Expectations that the election of Hamas will be positive for Palestinian political aspirations is correlated with education, as 61% of the illiterate feel that it is positive, compared with 30% among university graduates. The same applies to internal conditions, where 52% of illiterates and 36% of university graduates feel that the Hamas election will lead to improvement of internal conditions.

**4.**      **Evaluation of Leaders: A Drop in the Evaluation of President Abbas and Prime Minister Haniyyeh*** About 43% evaluated the performance of President Mahmoud Abbas as “good.” This is compared with 54% about 20 days ago (11 point drop). In addition, 27% evaluated his performance as “fair”, while 29% evaluated his performance as “weak.
* As to Prime Minister Ismael Haniyyeh, his positive evaluation dropped from 64% as “good” to 57% (7 point drop). The drop was higher in Gaza (i.e., 14 points from 75% to 61%) than in the West Bank where it stayed almost the same at 55%. In addition, 23 % evaluated his performance as “fair”, and 14% as “weak.”

**5.**      **International Funding: 30% believe that the current government is handling the issue of international funding in an appropriate manner*** Respondents were split in their views towards the handling by the current government of the issue of international funding. About 30% evaluated the handing of international funding as appropriate, and 32% evaluated it as “somewhat appropriate”, while 29% evaluated it as “not appropriate”.
* Views on how the government should proceed are more pronounced, as 29% think that Hamas should recognize Israel and continue to receive funding from international sources as done previously. In contrast, 63% think that the time is not appropriate for Hamas to recognize Israel and that it could go to other sources in the Arab and Islamic world (such as Iran).

**6.**      **Trust in Institutions: About 38% trust government institutions the most*** When questioned on what institutions respondents trust the most, about 38% said that they trust government institutions the most, while 12% said that they trust NGOs, 11% trust political groups, and 5% trust private sector institutions.

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