



Public Opinion Poll # 24

14 January 2006

Press Release

Legislative Council Election

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: \pm 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.**

Ramallah office: Tel.: (972) 2-2959250
Fax: (972) 2-2958117
PO Box: 1878 Ramallah, Palestine.

Gaza Office: Tel.&Fax: (972) 8-2838884

*E-mail: dsp@birzeit.edu
<http://home.birzeit.edu/dsp>*

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

Sample distribution

Region	%	Type of locality	%	Refugee Status	%
West Bank	62.6	City	44.0	Refugee	44.8
Gaza Strip	37.4	Village- town	36.0	Non-refugee	55.2
Governorate	%	Camp	20.	Education	%
Jenin	6.7	Gender	%	Illiterate	10.6
Tubas	1.3	Male	49.3	Preparatory	16.3
Tulkarm	4.0	Female	50.7	Elementary	25.2
Nablus	9.3	Marital status	%	Secondary	29.5
Qalqilya	2.7	Single	20.2	Diploma	6.7
Salfit	1.3	Married	75.7	B.A. or more	11.8
Jericho	1.3	Others	4.1	Place of Residence prior to 1994	%
Ramallah	9.3	Age	%		
Jerusalem	8.0	18-22	15.7	West Bank & Gaza	90.8
Bethlehem	4.0	23-27	14.2	Abroad	9.2
Hebron	14.7	28-32	13.8	Income (NIS)*	%
North Gaza	6.7	33-37	10.8	No Income	2.0
Gaza City	13.3	38-42	12.5	Less than 700	22.2
Deir al-Balah	5.3	43-47	10.5	700-1000	16.2
Khan Younis	8.0	48-52	7.4	1001-1700	19.6
Rafah	4.0	> 52	15.0	1701-2500	21.8
Reasons for unemployment	%	Status of work	%	2501-3000	7.9
Housewives	64.8	Working	36.9	More than 3000	10.2
Students	13.3	Not Working	63.1		
Retired	3.9				
Seeking work	13.1				
Others	5.0				
1 \$ = 4.6 NIS					