

Public Opinion Poll # 26

The Palestinian Government

International Funding

Dates of fieldwork: 19/4/2006

Sample Size: 630 Palestinians in the West Bank & Gaza

Number of Sampling Localities: 43

Margin of error: $\pm 4\%$

3. Detailed Results

	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
1. If PLC elections took place today, which one of the following lists would you vote for?			
1) Change and Reform	44	42	47
2) Fateh Movement	34	33	35
3) Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa	4	4	4
4) The Alternative	2	2	2
5) Independent Palestine	1	1	1
6) The Third Way	1	2	0.5
7) Freedom and social Justice	0.3	0.5	0.0
8) Martyr Abu Al-Abbas	0.2	0.2	0.0
9) The Palestinian Justice	0.2	0.2	0.0
10) Others	14	16	10
2. In general, what is the degree of your satisfaction with the outcome of the latest PLC elections?			
1) Good	53	53	54

2) Fair	20	22	18
3) Weak	26	25	28
3. In general, do you believe that Hamas win will lead to enhancing Palestinian chances in achieving independence?			
1) Yes	42	43	42
2) Yes to some extent	22	23	21
3) No	32	32	32
4) Don't know	3	2	5
4. In general, do you believe that Hamas win will lead to enhancing Palestinian chances in improving internal conditions?			
1) Yes	41	40	43
2) Yes to some extent	23	24	22
3) No	32	33	30
4) Don't know	3	3	5
5. So far, what is your evaluation of the performance of Prime Minister Ismael Haniyyeh?			
1) Good	57	55	61
2) Fair	24	25	22
3) Weak	14	14	14
4) I don't know	5	6	3
6. What is your evaluation of the performance of President Mahmoud Abbas?			
1) Good	43	41	46
2) Fair	27	28	25
3) Weak	29	29	28
4) I don't know	1	2	1

	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
7. In dealing with the current crisis faced by the Palestinians, which one of these proposals do you support?			
1) Continuation of the current Hamas-led government	24	24	24
2) Forming a unity government with all political parties	63	63	64
3) Forming a technocratic government of independents	9	8	10
4) Don't know	5	6	3
8. As to funding the Palestinian National Authority which one of these two directions do you support?			
1) Hamas continuing to reject recognizing Israel, while reaching out to countries like Iran and the Arab world to get funding	63	63	64
2) Hamas recognizes Israel and continues to receive funding from the international community	29	28	32
3) Others	7	9	4
9. Do you believe that the current government is handling the issue of international funding ...?			
1) Appropriately	30	30	32
2) Somewhat appropriately	32	33	30
3) Not appropriately	29	28	32
4) Don't know	9	10	7
10. What is your evaluation of the performance of the current government so far?			
1) Good	32	32	32
2) Fair	36	37	33
3) Weak	27	27	28

4) Don't know	5	4	6
11. Which of these institutions do you trust the most?			
1) Government	38	38	39
2) NGOs	12	11	15
3) Private sector	5	7	3
4) Political parties	11	10	13
5) No one	33	35	31

	Total %	West Bank %	Gaza Strip %
14. Which of the following political groups do you support?			
1) Hamas	38	38	40
2) Fateh	30	29	32
3) Independent, with Fateh leaning	5	5	4
4) PFLP	4	5	4
5) Independent, with Islamic leaning	4	4	4
6) DFLP	1	1	1
7) PPP	1	1	1
8) Other Islamic Factions	1	1	0
9) Islamic Jihad	1	1	2
10) Independent Palestine	0.3	0.5	0
11) Third Way	0.2	0.2	0
12) Independent, with Leftist leaning	0.2	0.2	0
13) None	15	16	12

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.

Sample distribution

Region	%	Type of locality	%	Education	%
West Bank	64	City	57	Illiterate	11
Gaza Strip	36	Village- town	29	Preparatory	15
Governorate	%	Camp	14	Elementary	25
Jenin	7	Gender	%	Secondary	30
Tulkarm	5	Male	51	Diploma	8
Nablus	10	Female	49	B.A. or more	11
Qalqilya	2	Age	%	Income (NIS)*	%
Salfit	2	18-22	14	No Income	8
Ramallah	9	23-27	14	Less than 700	23
Jerusalem	10	28-32	14	700-1000	16
Bethlehem	5	33-37	12	1001-1700	16
Hebron	14	38-42	12	1701-2500	21
North Gaza	7	43-47	9	2501-3000	8
Gaza City	12	48-52	7	More than 3000	9
Deir al-Balah	5	> 52	17		
Khan Younis	7				
Rafah	5				
1 \$ = 4.6 NIS					