



An-Najah National University
Center for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies
Tel: (972) (9) 2345113 Fax: (972)(9) 2345982
Nablus – Palestinian: P.O.Box 7, 707
Email: Polls@najah.edu husein596@yahoo.com

Results of Palestinian Public Opinion Polls
No 16
December 24-25, 2005

Background:

The imminent legislative council elections which are scheduled to be held on the 25th of January 06, occupy the attention of the Palestinian public. There is an ongoing debate concerning the number of persons, the running tickets and the possibility of out not conducting these elections on the appointed time due to internal and external reasons. These realities are added to the disagreement among Fateh on the form of the running ticket, the names and nominations of the running persons, the declarations that the US and the EU issued concerning the participation of Hamas in the Legislative Elections, and the possibility of reducing or concealing the financial help given to the Palestinian Authority of Hamas participates in the Palestinian Political system. Further, there is a serious concern among the Palestinian Public that Israel may not allow the Palestinian resident of East Jerusalem from participating in the Legislative Elections. Such procedure, if it took place, would mean postponing the elections or canceling altogether.

The Results:

Following are the results of the Sixteenth Palestinian Public Opinion Poll conducted by the Centre for Opinion Polls and Survey Studies at An-Najah National University during the period from December 24 to 25, 2005. **The University sponsors all polls conducted by its Centre.**

This poll undertakes several subjects centered on the coming Palestinian legislative elections, in addition to political sympathies.

The sample included 1361 persons whose age group is 18 and above and who have the right to vote. The sample forms one per thousand from among the total number of Palestinian people of this age group. The enclosed questionnaire was distributed on 861 persons from the West Bank and 500 persons from the Gaza Strip. The sample was drawn randomly and the margin of error is about $\pm 3\%$; still 2.7% of the members of the sample refused to answer the questionnaire.

* The Opinions represented in the results reflect those of the study; they do not represent by any means the opinion of An-Najah National University.



Major results:

- 62% from among respondents believe that the second legislative elections will be conducted on its specified date.
- 58.4% from among respondents assert that the legislative elections will be democratic and fair; 30.8% say the opposite.
- 56.9% from among respondents see that the internal security conditions permit conducting legislative elections; 36.3% see the contrary.
- 82.4% from among respondents say that they trust the central Elections Committee.
- 76.2% from among respondents say that they trust the local observers on elections.
- 72.3% from among respondents say that they trust the international observers on elections.
- 66.3% believe that the existence of international observers on elections is necessary.
- 82.8% say that they will participate in the elections.
- 18.7% from among respondent will not participate in the legislative elections because of religious reasons, 3% for political reasons, and 45.1% will not participate because in their view the elections will not change anything.
- When respondents who say that they will not participate in the elections are asked about the factors that may make them change their opinion and participate, 7.2% say that they may change their opinion if they see a convincing elections program that meets their personal ambitions, 0.9% say if they are given financial incentives, 3% say if any of their relatives or acquaintances run for the elections, 16.6% say if they see an elections program that would respond to their national ambitions, and 47.2% say they will not participate under all circumstances.
- The order of the running tickets according to the opinion of respondents came according to the following order:

Change and Reform led by Ismael Abu Hannieh	31.4%
Al-Mustaqbal (Future) led by Marwan Barghuthi	26.8%
Palestinian Liberation Organization (Fateh) led by Mohammed Abu Ali Mustafa.	17.7%
Independent Palestine and the Independents led by Mustafa Al Barghouti	9.8%
Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa led by Ahmad Sa'adat.	5.9%
The Third Road led by Salam Fayyad	4.7%
Al Badeel (The Alternative)led by Qais Abu Laila	1.2%
Martyr Abu Al Abbas led by Omar Shlabi	0.6%
Palestinian Justice led by Sameer Qadri	0.6%
Freedom and Social Justice led by Ahmad Majdalani	0.5%
Freedom and Independence led by Saleem Al Bardeeni	0.5%
The National Coalition for Justice and Democracy (Wa'id) led by Ghazi Jeyab	0.3%

- 30.9% from among respondents say that the basic principle which decides casting their votes in the coming legislative elections is the good reputation of the candidate, 23.3% say it is the patriotic history of the candidate and 11.3% say it is the candidate's elections program.
- As for elections on the basis of percentage electoral lists, 28.9% from among respondents say that the basic principle which makes them decide to whom they will give their vote in the coming legislative elections is the elections program of the candidate; 44.1% say it is the political orientations of the list.



- 19.1% from among respondents say that their priority on the local scale is alleviating poverty and unemployment, 19.7% say it is controlling the local security situation, 19.7% say it is freeing prisoners, 21% say it is fighting corruptions in public institutions, 8.8% say it is providing personal security for citizens, 3.1% say improving educational and health services, and 6.2% say it is putting an end to mediations (*wasta*) in appointments in public positions.
- 34.9% from among respondents say that they support the reopening of candidacy registration for the coming legislative elections.
- As for political affiliation respondents give the following results:

People's Party	0.6%
Democratic Front	0.7%
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	2.7%
<i>Fateh</i>	38.5%
<i>Hamas</i>	25.0%
<i>Fida</i>	0.1%
Popular Front	4.7%
Palestinian National Initiative	2.5%
I am an independent nationalist	7.4%
I am an independent Islamist	3.6%
None of the above	13.7%
Others	0.4%



The General Results

President Mahmoud Abbas ascertained that the legislative elections will be conducted on its appointed time in January of the next year (2006). Do you believe that the elections will be conducted on the appointed time?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	62.0	59.7	65.9
No	29.6	32.3	25.1
No opinion/I do not know	8.4	8.0	9.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you believe that the coming legislative elections will be democratic and fair?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	58.4	57.1	60.7
No	30.8	34.2	24.8
No opinion/I do not know	10.8	8.7	14.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There are people who see that the local security conditions allow for conducting democratic and fair legislative elections and there are those who see the opposite. What is your opinion?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Local security conditions allow for conducting elections	56.9	57.0	56.7
Local security conditions do not allow for conducting elections	36.3	38.7	32.1
No, opinion/I do not know	6.8	4.3	11.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

How do you assess your trust in the Central Elections Committee?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Good	44.8	43.4	47.3
Fair	37.6	38.1	36.9
Little	13.4	14.3	11.8
No opinion/I do not know	4.2	4.3	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



There will be some supervision conducted by independent local observers on the legislative elections on the day they are held. How do you assess your trust in these observers?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	23.2	18.2	31.9
Good	53.0	55.9	48.1
Weak	15.7	17.7	12.0
Bad	5.7	5.8	5.4
No opinion/I do not know	2.4	2.3	2.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

There will be some supervision conducted by international independent observers on the legislative council elections on the day it is held. How do you assess your trust in these observers?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Very good	25.1	18.8	36.1
Good	47.2	48.3	45.3
Weak	15.1	18.2	9.6
Bad	9.4	10.9	6.8
No opinion/I do not know	3.2	3.8	2.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you believe that there is a need for international observers to monitor the legislative elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	66.3	62.4	73.1
No	26.8	23.1	17.6
No opinion/I do not know	6.8	5.5	9.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Will you participate in the coming legislative elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	82.8	80.6	86.6
No	17.2	19.4	13.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Why don't you want to participate in the elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
For religious reasons(a religious taboo)	18.7	19.0	17.9
For religious reasons(they come under the umbrella of Oslo)	3.0	3.0	3.0
Elections will not change any thing	45.1	48.2	37.3
I am not convinced with the running blocks	17.0	17.3	16.4
The political stream that I support will not participate	6.0	1.2	7.9
Others	8.5	10.1	4.5
No opinion/I do not know	1.7	1.2	3.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What are the reasons that will compel you to change your opinion so that you will participate in the elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The availability of a convincing elections program that will satisfy my personal ambitions.	7.2	7.7	6.0
Receiving financial incentives from a candidate	0.9	0.6	1.5
The availability of competent candidates.	22.6	27.2	10.4
The running of one of my relatives or acquaintances in the elections..	3.0	2.4	4.5
The availability of an elections program that would meet my national aspirations.	16.6	17.9	13.9
Others	2.6	3.6	0.0
I will not participate at all.	47.2	40.5	64.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Twelve tickets compete to occupy the seats of the Legislative Council. To which of the following tickets will you give your vote?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
<i>Al Badeel</i> (The Alternative) led by Qais Abu Laila	1.2	0.9	1.6
Independent Palestine and The Independents led by Mustafa Al Barghuthi	9.8	10.5	8.7
Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa led by Ahmad Sa'adat.	5.9	4.0	8.7
Martyr Abu Al Abbas led by Omar Shlabi	0.6	0.6	0.7
Freedom and Social Justice led by Ahmad Majdalani	0.5	0.3	0.9
Change and Reform led by Ismael Abu Hannieh	31.4	32.6	29.4
The National Coalition for Justice and Democracy (<i>Wa'id</i>) led by Ghazi Jeyab	0.3	0.0	0.7
The Third Road led by Salam Fayyad	4.7	5.5	3.4
Freedom and Independence led by Saleem Al Bardeeni	0.5	0.0	1.4
Al-Mustaqbal (Future) led by Marwan Barghuthi	26.4	28.3	24.4
Palestinian Justice led by Sameer Qadri	0.6	0.3	1.1
Palestinian Liberation Organization (<i>Fateh</i>) led by Mohammed Abu Ali Mustafa.	17.7	17.0	18.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What is the major thing that will make you decide to whom you will give your vote in your elections circle in the coming legislative elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Belongness to the party of the candidate	29.1	22.7	39.3
Family belongness to the candidate	1.6	1.7	1.4
Personal acquaintance with the candidate	3.7	3.8	3.7
The good reputation of the candidate	30.9	36.9	21.4
Candidates Patriotic History	23.3	25.0	20.7
The candidates elections program	11.3	10.0	13.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



As for elections on the basis of proportional lists(on the national level), what is the major thing that will make you decide to which block you will give your vote in the coming legislative elections?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
The political orientation of the list	44.1	41.8	47.8
The elections program of the list	28.9	30.0	27.1
The names of candidate in the list	23.8	24.4	23.0
Other	0.9	1.0	0.7
No opinion/I do not know	2.3	2.9	1.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

What are your most important priorities on the local level at the current stage?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Reducing poverty and unemployment.	19.1	21.5	15.0
Controlling the local security	19.7	19.3	20.4
Releasing prisoners	19.7	21.3	16.8
Fighting corruption in public institutions	21.0	19.5	23.6
Security and personal security for citizens.	8.8	8.8	8.8
Improving educational and health conditions	3.1	3.4	2.6
Limiting mediation (<i>wasta</i>)in the appointments in public positions	6.2	5.6	7.4
Others	2.4	.07	5.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0

Do you support the reopening of the candidacy registration for the legislative elections another time?

	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
Yes	34.9	41.0	24.6
No	39.5	46.7	27.5
I do not know/ No opinion	25.6	12.4	47.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0



Which of the following political affiliations do you support?

PARTY	Total	West Bank	Gaza Strip
People's Party	0.6	0.8	0.2
Democratic Front	0.7	0.2	1.4
Islamic <i>Jihad</i>	2.7	2.4	3.2
<i>Fateh</i>	38.5	39.6	36.7
<i>Hamas</i>	25.0	25.1	24.8
<i>Fida</i>	0.1	0.1	0.2
Popular Front	4.7	3.8	6.2
Palestinian National Initiative	2.5	2.7	2.2
I am an independent nationalist	7.4	5.8	10.2
I am an independent Islamist	3.6	2.8	5.0
None of the above	13.7	16.0	9.8
Others	0.4	0.7	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0