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Arab World for Research & Development

Public Opinion Poll on the November 2026 Legislative Elections

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Sample Size: 1,010 Palestinians, including 400 in the Gaza Strip and 610 in the West Bank.

Key Findings

- Most respondents (60%) are unaware that an election date has been announced.
- Most respondents (52%) believe the elections will not be held on schedule, with pessimism higher in Gaza.
- Majorities doubt the elections will be fair (54%) or free (60%).
- Two-thirds of respondents report that they are registered to vote.
- Voter registration is lower among youth, especially in Gaza.
- About 70% of youth in Gaza have never voted in national or local elections, and only 31% are registered for the upcoming elections.
- Livelihood and quality-of-life issues are among voters' top priorities.
- Voters prioritize competence, qualifications, and reputation over national struggle credentials or PLO/party affiliation.
- Fatah is the most popular political movement overall, with support varying by age, region, and electoral list composition.
- A Fatah list and a combined Hamas – Fatah Reform list will be competitive.
- Marwan Barghouti and Mohammed Dahlan rank among the most popular political figures, with notable West Bank–Gaza differences.

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Introduction

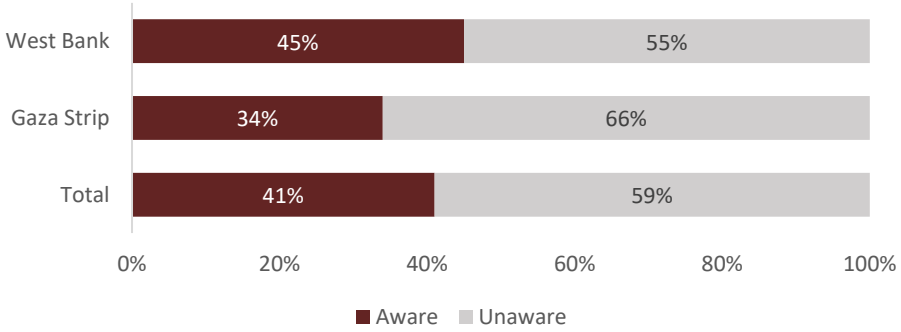
Ramallah/Gaza – Palestine: Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD) releases the findings of its latest Palestinian public opinion poll on the legislative elections scheduled for November 2026. The announcement of these elections comes at a critical political juncture, marked by growing debate over the future of the Palestinian cause and political system, democratic institutions, and political culture. This includes divergent views on holding elections, as well as citizens' priorities and the relative importance they attach to national, democratic, and livelihood-related concerns. The poll assesses the views and attitudes of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip toward the upcoming legislative elections, including their level of interest and readiness to participate, their assessment of the electoral process, and the issues and priorities that matter most to voters. It also examines views on different political options, political forces, and potential candidates. The poll further explores several potential scenarios. These scenarios are exploratory and do not represent final electoral lists or alliances contesting the elections.

The poll was conducted with a total sample of 1,010 Palestinians, including 400 respondents in the Gaza Strip and 610 in the West Bank. The sample has a margin of error of ±3% at a 95% confidence level. The poll used a systematic probability sampling methodology to ensure random selection and adequate representation of the target population, taking into account the geographic and demographic distribution of respondents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It also applied proportional representation by geographic area, gender, age, and educational attainment. The sample distribution is presented in Annex 1.

Section 1: Knowledge of the Elections, Registration, and Participation

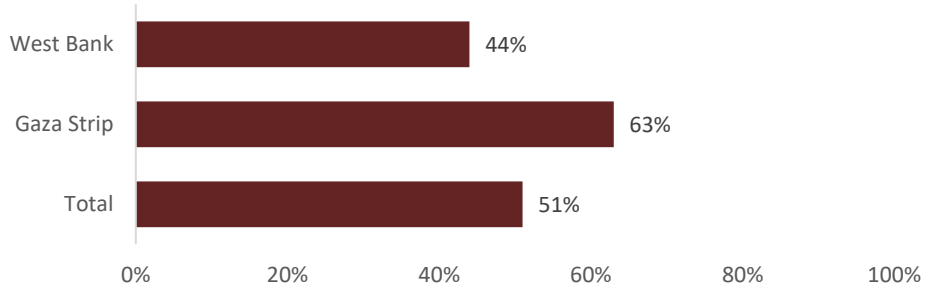
Limited knowledge: With 2-3 months until the announced election date (28 November 2026), the majority of respondents (59%) say that they are not aware that a specific date has been set for the legislative elections. In contrast, 41% say that they are aware of the scheduled date. At the time of the poll, 66% of Gaza respondents said that they have no knowledge, compared to 55% in the West Bank. Awareness of the election date was higher among male respondents than female (48% vs 41%)

Figure 1: Awareness of the legislative election date by region



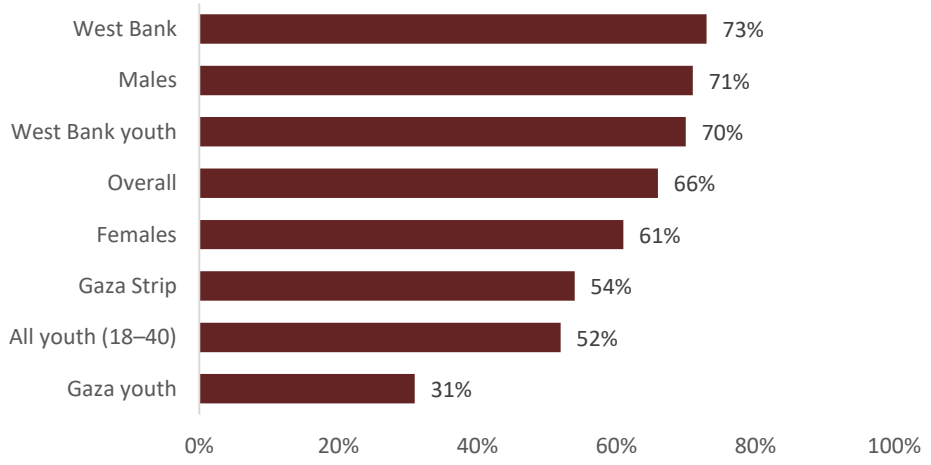
Pessimism is widespread: Limited awareness is accompanied by broad pessimism about whether the elections will be held. A majority of respondents (51%) believe the elections will not take place as scheduled, compared with 37% who expect them to be held on time; 12% either did not know or did not answer. Pessimism is higher in Gaza, where 63% doubt the elections will take place, compared with 44% in the West Bank.

Figure 2: Percentage of respondents who believe that the election will not take place on time by region



Registration is higher in the West Bank than Gaza: The poll found that 66% of respondents are registered with the Central Elections Commission (CEC), compared to 34% who are not registered. The rate reaches 73% in the West Bank, and 54% in Gaza due to the inability of the Election Commission to organize registration drives in Gaza during the past few years, while the latest registration drive in the West Bank was completed in August 2026. More males say that that they are registered (71%) than females (61%). Age is a key factor in registration, with only 52% of youth (18-40) saying they are registered compared to more than 80% of the older cohorts of respondents. This case is more striking in Gaza where 31% of the younger group are registered compared to 84% of older respondents in Gaza. Since the Presidential Decree issued on 6/8/2026 stipulates that the Election Commission may take any measures it deems appropriate to ensure that voters from Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip are able to exercise their right to vote, the issue of disparity in registration rates between regions is not significant in terms of the right to participate.[1]

Figure 3: Registration rates among poll respondents by region, gender and age



If given a chance, unregistered Gazans would register at a higher rate: Among those who are not registered, 44% said they intend to register to vote in the legislative elections if registration is opened, while 51% indicated that they do not intend to register, and 5% either did not know or did not provide an answer. The gap between the West Bank and Gaza is noteworthy, with 57% of unregistered Gaza respondents intending to register, while only 28% of unregistered

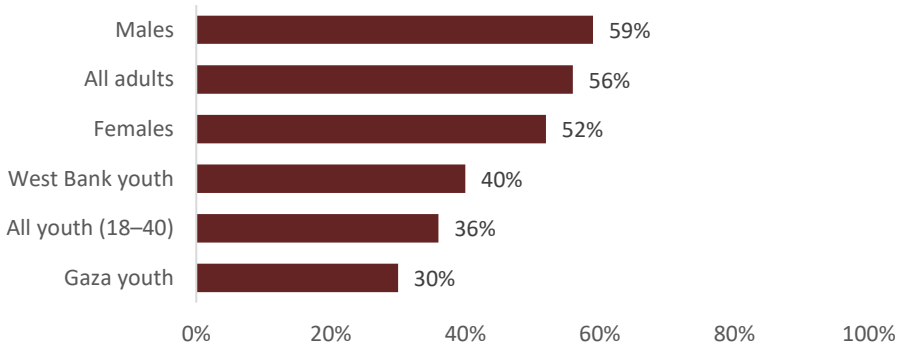
[1] https://www.elections.ps/Portals/0/ta3del%20172026.pdf

West Bank respondents intend to do the same. If these intentions become actual and based on these results, AWRAD estimates that the registration rate in both the West Bank and Gaza will reach 80%, assuming a new round of registration is opened. Most new registrants will be among young people with a higher number of young people in Gaza at 64% compared to 40% of young people in the West Bank intending to register.

Participation in previous elections highly limited among youth: Since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, twelve elections have been conducted (8 local, 2 legislative and 2 presidential), beginning with the first in 1996. The last legislative election took place in 2006, two decades ago. Nevertheless, 85% of registered Palestinians have had a chance to vote in at least one election during the last three decades (87% in the West Bank and 82% in Gaza). In the West Bank, 60% of currently registered voters say they voted during the past two local elections (2021/2022 and 2026). In contrast, in Gaza 82% of currently registered voters say that they last voted in the 2006 legislative election. This is also a reflection of limited registration among youth in Gaza as illustrated in the results.

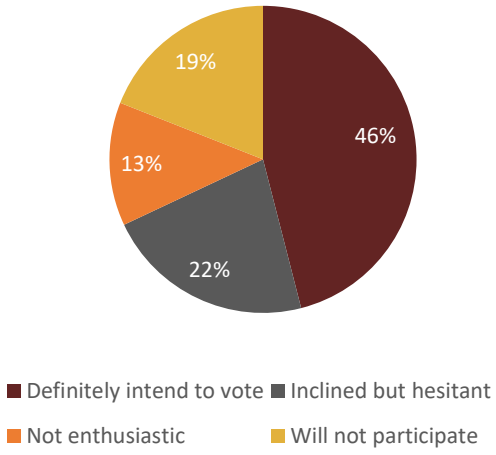
Of all young people (40 or younger) in West Bank and Gaza Strip, 64% say that they have never voted in an election. Among the 36% who say that they have voted, the vast majority voted in local elections in 2021 and 2026, while almost none voted in the last national elections in 2006, as most of them were under the voting age of 18. Overall, however, 30% of Gaza youth have participated in an election, compared to 40% of West Bank youth.

Figure 4: Adult Palestinians who report participation in voting at least once by region, gender and age



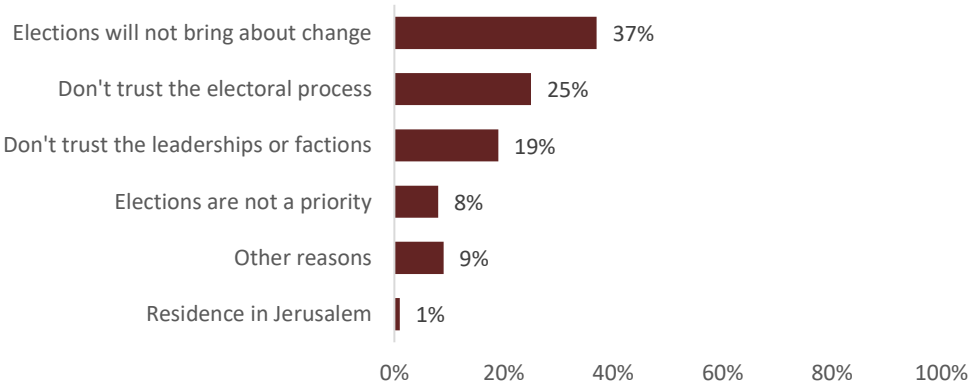
Division and uncertainty about participation in the November election: Only 46% of all respondents confirm that they intend to participate in the upcoming November election. In addition, 22% say that they are inclined to vote, but still hesitant. In contrast, one third of the respondents have limited or no intention of participating. West Bank respondents declare that they will not participate at a higher level (36%) than their Gaza counterparts (23%). Among youth (18-40), only 65% intend to vote, compared to 72% of respondents 41-60 years old and 67% of those who are older than 60. Of Gaza registered youth, 72% intend to vote, compared to 60% among West Bank youth.

Figure 5: Declared intention to participate in the November legislative election



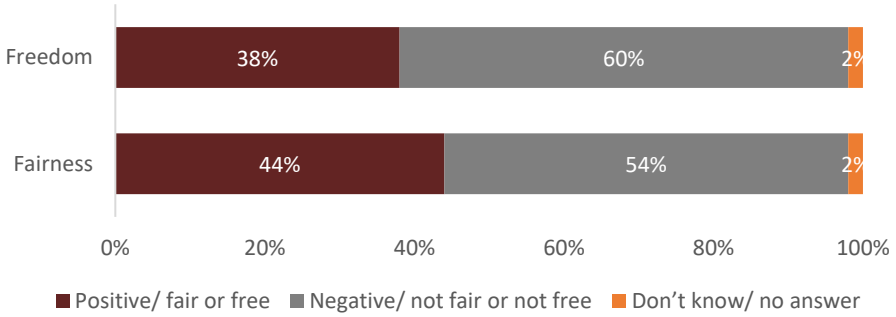
Majority are disillusioned about the value of election and doubt fairness and freedom: Disillusionment with the value of elections is the most listed reasons for refraining from voting, where 37% of those who will not participate say that elections will not bring any meaningful change to their situation. Other reasons are presented in the next Figure.

Figure 6: Main reasons cited for refraining from voting by respondents who will not vote



While 44% believe that the elections will be fair or somewhat fair, a majority (54%) believe that the elections will not be fair. With that, a majority of respondents (60%) believe that the election will not be free.

Figure 7: Perceptions of election fairness and freedom



Section 2: Electoral Preferences and Preferred List Attributes

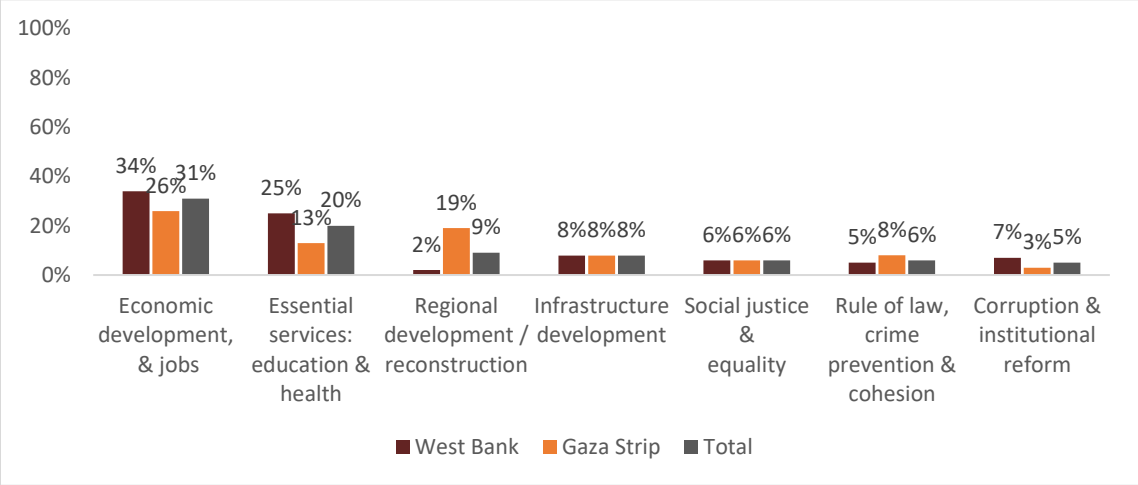
The Election Law requires that all lists be registered as early as 7 October 2026. With the lack of clarity on which parties and lists would be registered, the poll presented several broad questions and publicly discussed scenarios to gauge voter preferences. To allow for early exploration, the research team used open-ended questions to gauge issues such as voter priorities, criteria for making voting decisions, and trusted leaders.

Election Agenda: Occupation-related priorities are paramount to all Palestinian voters, with majorities listing ending the occupation, ending the war in Gaza, protection of Palestinians from army and settlers, and Refugee rights, prisoners and other affected populations as top priorities. With respect to electoral platforms of candidates and parties, livelihood and quality of life issues are prioritized by Palestinians. An open-ended question revealed the following results:

Economics and living conditions are the key priority:

- The most listed priority among voters (31%) is related to economic development, investment, prices and job creation, 34% in the West Bank and 26% in Gaza.
- Provision of essential services, mainly education and health, is the number two priority (20%), more in the West Bank (25%) than in Gaza (13%).
- Regional development, mainly provision of livelihood opportunities and reconstruction in Gaza Strip, is prioritized by 9%; 2% in the West bank and 19% in Gaza.
- Infrastructure development is the key priority for 8% in both regions; this includes basic infrastructure, support for local councils and care for the environment.
- Achieving social justice, equality, and protection for youth, women, children and people with disability is the key priority to 6% in both regions.
- Rule of law, crime prevention, and social cohesion are the key priority for 6% (8% in Gaza and 5% in the West Bank).
- Corruption and institutional reform are the number one priority for 5%, with more interest in this issue in the West Bank (7%) than Gaza (3%).

Figure 8: Leading priorities among voters by region

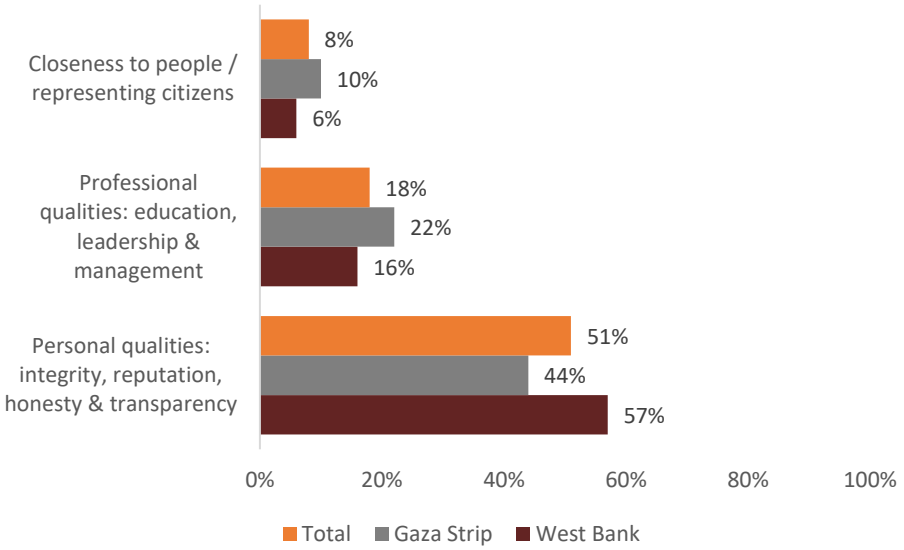


Qualities of candidates: Personal traits and professional competence lead all criteria, while traditional qualities are least mentioned.

Respondents were asked to identify the three most important qualities that candidates they would select as part of their preferred electoral list should possess. Respondents' open-ended answers reveal the following.

- Over the past three decades, criteria such as party affiliation, loyalty to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) or an Islamic party, participation in the struggle, and adherence to religious practices have declined in importance as priorities when selecting representatives. Each of these criteria was cited by less than 1% of respondents.
- First: Personal qualities that include personal morals, integrity, good reputation, clean record, honesty, and transparency rank as the most sought-after qualities. They were cited by 51% of the respondents (57% in the West Bank and 44% in Gaza). Closeness to people is considered an important criterion by 8% (6% in the West Bank and 10% in Gaza).
- Second: Professional qualities, including academic achievement, leadership, management skills, ability to deal with crisis, and diplomatic experience. These were selected as the key priority by 18% of the respondents, more so in Gaza (22%) than in the West Bank (16%).

Figure 9: Main qualities voters seek in candidates



Leaders Trusted by Respondents: In an open-ended question, respondents were asked to identify three public figures they would trust to lead the electoral list representing them. Respondents named hundreds of national and local figures. The results showed that Marwan Barghouti was the most frequently mentioned figure, cited by 16% of the total sample, followed by Mohammed Dahlan at 10%, and Mustafa Barghouti at 6%. Meanwhile, 13% of respondents stated that there was no public figure they trusted to lead the list representing them, while 5% reported that they did not know or did not provide an answer.

Table (1): Leaders listed by respondents in an open-ended question

#	Name	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Total
1	Marwan Barghouti	17%	15%	16%
2	Mohammed Dahlan	3%	22%	10%
3	Mustafa Barghouti	6%	5%	6%
4	Mahmoud Abbas	3%	7%	5%
5	Hussein al-Sheikh	3%	7%	4%
6	Jibril Rajoub	4%	1%	3%
7	Salam Fayyad	2%	3%	3%
8	Khalil al-Hayya	2%	3%	3%
9	Khaled Mashal	1%	2%	2%
10	Rami Hamdallah	2%	0%	1%
11	Ahmad Sa'adat	1%	1%	1%
12	Majed Faraj	1%	1%	1%
13	Samir al-Mashharawi	0%	2%	1%
14	Laila Ghannam	1%	0%	1%
15	Zakaria Zubeidi	1%	0%	1%
16	Hanan Ashrawi	1%	0%	1%
17	Mahmoud Aloul	1%	0%	1%
18	Riyad al-Amleh	1%	0%	1%
19	Mohammad Shtayyeh	1%	0%	1%
20	Yasser Abbas	1%	0%	1%

21	Bashar Masri	0%	1%	0%
22	Sameh Masri	1%	0%	0%
23	Majdi al-Adra	1%	0%	0%
24	Abbas Zaki	1%	0%	0%
25	Mohammad Mustafa	1%	0%	0%
26	Ghassan Daghlas	1%	0%	0%
27	Mousa Abu Marzouk	0%	1%	0%
28	Other / None	33%	18%	27%

Section 3: Scenarios for Competition in the Legislative Elections

Given the absence of official and finalized electoral lists, these scenarios assume electoral lists supported by the main established political forces, whose participation remains unresolved or whose electoral configurations have yet to be determined, alongside other lists and independent candidates. The survey measures levels of support among all respondents, whether registered or unregistered, and regardless of whether they intend to vote. This approach reflects the fact that the electoral process remains at an early stage, with voting rights ensured for both registered and unregistered voters in the Gaza Strip, while the registration of electoral lists has not yet been finalized. AWRAD will publish estimates of voting intentions as the electoral process progresses and the contours of the competing lists become clearer.

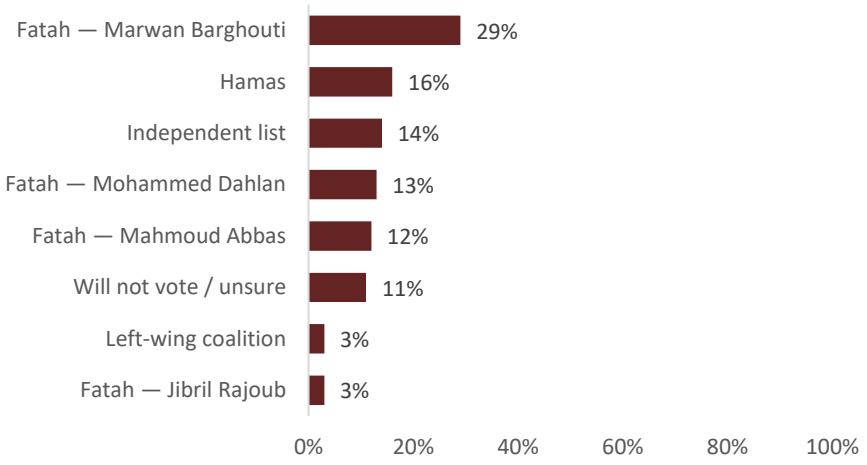
Scenario 1: Traditional lists with Fatah having a unified list

Fatah (including all possible factions including the Reform Current led by M. Dahlan) continues to be the most popular political party among Palestinians with 42% support. The gap in support between the West Bank and Gaza Strip is noteworthy (53% and 35% respectively). Hamas is supported by a fifth of the respondents, equally in the West Bank and Gaza. These levels of support among the public are the same as Hamas enjoyed prior to the 2006 election and the October 2023 war in Gaza. PFLP, DFLP, PPP (left wing coalition) and Islamic Jihad enjoy approximately 2% support in both regions. The National Initiative has slightly higher support at about 4%. Under this scenario, 26% of the population will not vote or are unsure.

Scenario 2: Fatah with a number of competing lists

If four Fatah blocs ran separately, the most popular bloc would be one led by Marwan Barghouthi, garnering 29% of popular support, with a significant gap between the West Bank, where such a list would gain 38%, compared with Gaza at 16% support. A Dahlan-led list would come second at 13% overall support. This list would be the most popular in Gaza at 32%, but more limited in the West Bank at just 3%. A list led by President Mahmoud Abbas would garner 12% support (11% in the West Bank and 14% in Gaza). A list led by Jibril Rojoub would receive a total of 3% support (4% in the West Bank and 2% in Gaza). Under this scenario, Hamas would receive 16% support, equally in the West Bank and Gaza. An independent list would gain 14%, while support for a coalition of leftist groups would decline significantly to about 3% overall. Under this scenario, only 11% would not vote or are unsure.

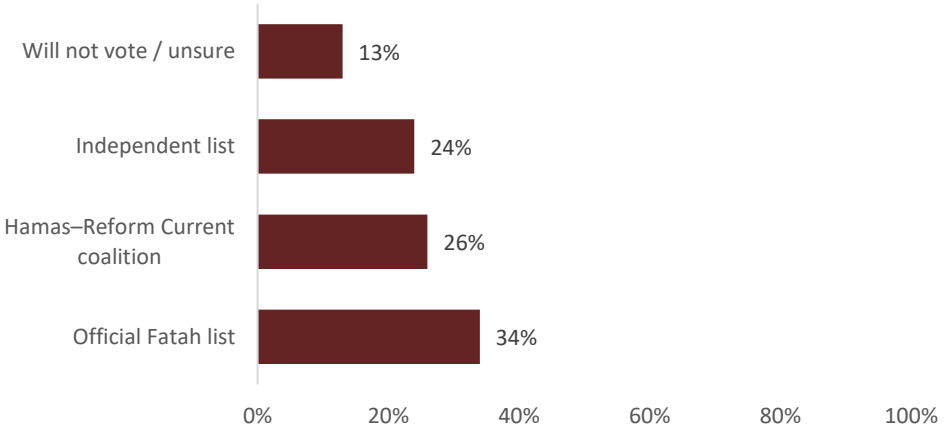
Figure 10: Political support under multiple Fatah lists



Scenario 3: A combined list of Hamas and Reform Current candidates led by M. Dahlan

This scenario provides a list of Fatah candidates supported by M. Abbas, Marwan Bargouthi and Jibril Rojoub competing against a coalition of Hamas and the Reform Current (from within Fatah). This takes the election into a more competitive status, where an official Fatah list would receive 34% of the support, followed by the Hamas/Reform coalition at 26% and an independent list at 24%. While the official Fath list would lead in the West Bank (36% compared to 20% for the assumed coalition), the Hamas/Reform coalition would lead in Gaza (35% compared to 32% for Fatah). An independent list is equally popular in both regions. Support for a coalition of the leftist groups would gain minor support in both regions. In this case, only 13% will not vote or are unsure.

Figure 10: Political support —Fatah list competing with a Hamas–Reform Coalition List



Among young people, the competition is relatively close between a Fatah-supported list, on the one hand, and a Hamas–Reformist Movement list, on the other. Thirty-seven percent of respondents in this age group support the Fatah list, compared with 30% who support the Hamas–Reformist Movement list. In the Gaza Strip, young respondents are divided between the Fatah list (33%) and the Hamas–Reformist Movement list (30%), while 28% support an independent list and 4% support left-wing forces. Support for Fatah exceeds 50% among older age groups, while support for the Hamas–Reformist Movement list declines with age, reaching 20% among respondents aged 41–60 and just 13% among those aged over 60.

Section 4: Scenarios for the Presidential Elections

The following scenarios were presented for the presidential elections as closed-ended questions. They reflect levels of public support and do not represent final or confirmed voting patterns.

Scenario 1: An Expanded List of Candidates from Fatah, Hamas, and Others

Among the fifteen candidates, the results show Marwan Barghouti of Fatah leading with 33% public support, followed by Mohammed Dahlan with 14%, and Mahmoud Abbas with 12%. The remaining candidates receive lower levels of support, with Mustafa Barghouti (3%), Salam Fayyad (3%), and Hanan Ashrawi (3%) receiving the highest shares among them.

The geographic distribution reveals clear differences in voter preferences between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Marwan Barghouti leads in the West Bank with 45%, compared with 25% in the Gaza Strip, while Mohammed Dahlan leads in Gaza with 36%, compared with only 3% in the West Bank. Support for Mahmoud Abbas is relatively similar across the two areas, at 12% in the West Bank and 13% in the Gaza Strip. Salam Fayyad receives slightly higher support in Gaza (4%) than in the West Bank (2%), while Hanan Ashrawi receives higher support in the West Bank (4%) than in Gaza (1%).

Table 2: Percentage support for potential candidates from various political inclinations

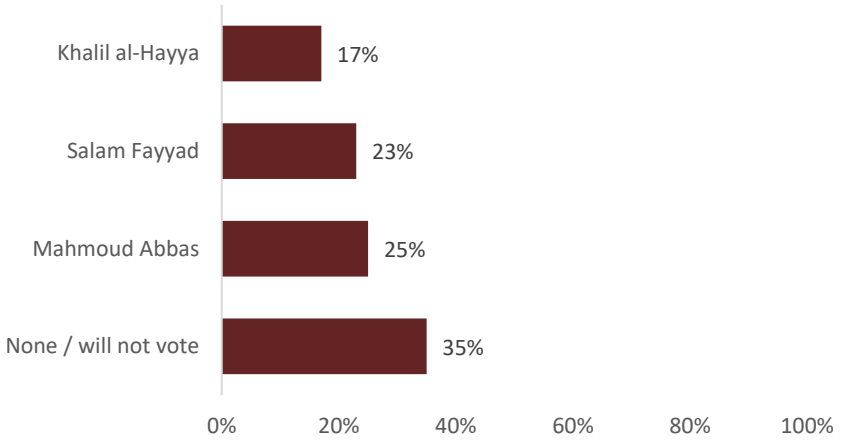
Candidate	West Bank	Gaza Strip	Overall
● Marwan Barghouti	45%	25%	33%
● Mohammed Dahlan	3%	36%	14%
● Mahmoud Abbas	12%	13%	12%
● Khalil al-Hayya	6%	5%	5%
● Mustafa Barghouti	4%	2%	3%
● Salam Fayyad	2%	4%	3%
● Hanan Ashrawi	4%	1%	3%
● Hussein al-Sheikh	1%	3%	2%
● Khaled Mashal	2%	2%	2%
● Jibril Rajoub	2%	1%	2%
● Ahmad Saadat	1%	2%	1%
● Rami Hamdallah	2%	0%	1%
● Zaher Jabarin	1%	0%	1%
● Ghazi Hamad	0%	1%	0%
● Moussa Abu Marzouk	0%	1%	0%
None	16%	5%	13%

● Fatah ● Hamas ● Independent / Leftist ● Other / Unaffiliated

Scenario 2: Abbas vs al-Hayya and Fayyad

Even under this scenario, 35% of respondents state that they do not intend to vote or would not choose any of the candidates. Abbas receives 25% support, Fayyad 23% and al-Hayya 17%. Abbas is more popular in Gaza (30%) than the West Bank (23%). Fayyad also receives more support in Gaza (27%) than in the West Bank (20%). The opposite is true in the case of al-Hayya who receives 19% in the West Bak and 14% in Gaza.

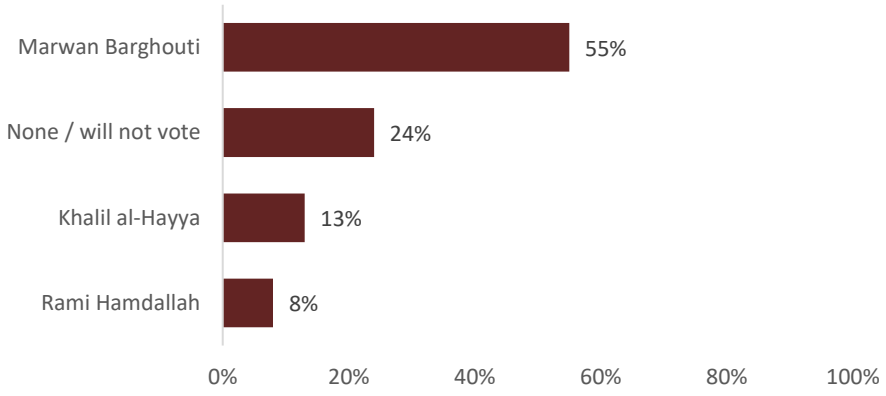
Figure 11: Voting for presidential candidates (Mahmoud Abbas, Khalil al-Hayya, and Salam Fayyad)



Scenario 2: Marwan Bargouthi vs al-Hayya and Hamdallah

Mawran Bargouthi receives 55%, Al-Hayya receives 13% and Rami Hamdallah receives 8% (almost equal for all of them in the West Bank and Gaza). Less than one quarter will refrain.

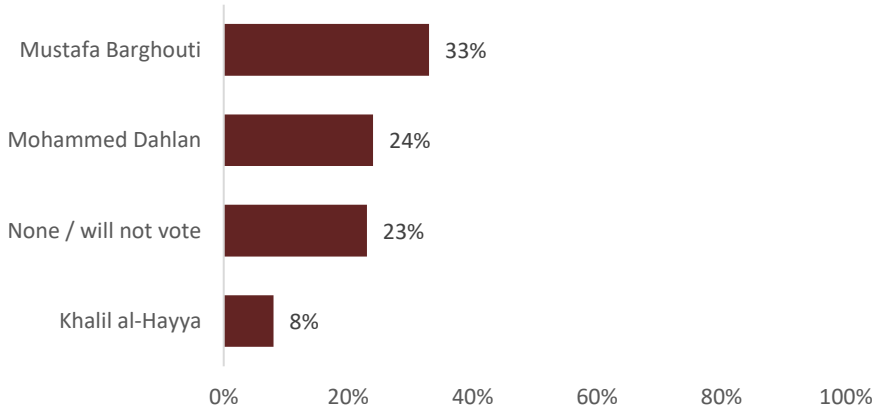
Figure 12: Voting for presidential candidates (Marwan Barghouti, Khalil al-Hayya, and Rami Hamdallah)



Scenario 4: Dahlan vs al_Hayya and Mustafa Bargouthi

Under this scenario as well, Mustafa Barghouti receives 33% support, compared with 29% for Mohammed Dahlan and 15% for Khalil al-Hayya, while 23% do not intend to vote. Mustafa Barghouti leads in the West Bank with 44%, compared with 16% in the Gaza Strip. In contrast, Mohammed Dahlan receives high support in the Gaza Strip (58%), compared with only 10% in the West Bank. Khalil al-Hayya receives higher support in the West Bank (16%) than in the Gaza Strip (12%).

Figure 13: Voting for presidential candidates (Mohammed Dahlan, Mustafa Barghouti and Khalil al-Hayya)



Annex 1: Survey Sample Distribution

Category/Group	Subcategory	Percentage
Gender	Female	51%
	Male	49%
Region	West Bank	60%
	Gaza Strip	40%
Place of residence (West Bank)	Urban (city)	66%
	Rural (village)	26%
	Camp	8%
Type of shelter (Gaza Strip)	Undamaged apartment or house	14%
	Damaged apartment or house	30%
	Tent in a tented or informal camp	52%
	Storage rooms/sheds	3%
	Makeshift shelter	1%
Educational level	9 years of education or less	25%
	10–12 years	35%
	One- to two-year diploma	10%
	Bachelor's degree	27%
	Master's degree or higher	3%
Age	18–40	52%
	41–60	36%
	61+	12%