
Public Opinion Poll on:

***The Outputs of the Royal Committee to
Modernize the Political System***



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Center for Strategic Studies

The University of Jordan



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The opinions expressed in this poll represent only the opinion of the respondents, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Center, the University of Jordan, or their employees.

Introduction

As a continuation of the work of the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan in studying the opinions of Jordanian citizens about the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System in Jordan and its outputs, the Center carried out a study in all regions of the Kingdom on a representative national sample during the period from 15-21/11/2021. The study aimed to observe the following:

- Expectations of the committee's outputs and its impact on the political life in Jordan
- Knowledge of the proposed Parliamentary Elections Law
- Knowledge of the developed proposal for Local Administration
- Knowledge of the proposed Political Parties Law
- Recommendations of the Youth Committee
- Recommendations of the Women's Committee
- Trust in the committee, its statements and news

Main Findings

The Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System in Jordan

Proposed Election Law and Jordanians Participation:

- ❖ (29%) of Jordanians have heard/known/read about the proposed amendments to the parliamentary election law, and half of Jordanians (49%) who have heard about the outcomes of the Royal Committee for the Modernization of the Political System believe that the proposed electoral law drafted by the committee is fair and impartial. (20%) believe that this proposal will lead to a significant improvement in the performance of the upcoming parliaments, and (30%) believe that it will lead to a little improvement in performance, and 27% believe that it will not lead to any change in the performance of the upcoming parliaments. While (14%) believe that it will lead to a decline in the performance of the upcoming parliaments.
- ❖ (60%) of Jordanians are satisfied with the recommendation related to **“two-thirds of the House of Representatives have the right for a vote of confidence in the Speaker of the House,”** and (58%) are satisfied with the recommendation **“It is not acceptable to have membership of the House of Representatives and Senates and the ministry,”** and (44%) are satisfied with the recommendation **“a representative has the right to resign without the condition of the parliament’s approval on his/her resignation”** and (41%) are satisfied with the recommendation **“it is not required to resign from a public or governmental position to run for Parliamentary Elections.”**

The Two-Thirds mystery prevails

- ❖ (31%) of Jordanians will definitely participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections in light of the amendment of the election law, and (12%) reported that they will most likely participate, (12%) will most likely not participate, while (33%) stated that they will definitely not participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections, and (12%) have not yet decided whether or not to participate. Around (40%) of the youth age group (18-34 years) will definitely and most likely participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections, and (47%) of them certainly and most likely will not participate in the 2024 Parliamentary Elections.

- ❖ The main reasons behind Jordanians participation in the parliamentary elections are: the aspiration for change and reform (33%), the fact that voting is a constitutional right and a duty (31%), the competence of some candidates who deserve a vote for (19%), while **the main reasons for refusing from participating in the Parliamentary elections:** There is no benefit coming from the House of Representatives (29%), the absence of qualified people who deserve a vote (28%), and unwillingness to participate/not interested (14%).
- ❖ Only (29%) of young people age group (18-34) will definitely participate in the 2024 parliamentary elections in light of the amendment of the new electoral law, which is the least compared to the remaining age groups (35 years and over), and (11%) will most likely participate, and (12 %) will most likely not participate, whereas (35%) of the youth stated that they will not participate in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Knowledge of the developed proposal for the Local administration law

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (60%) **do not know** whether the recommendations made to the Local Administration Law (Municipalities) and submitted by the committee are fair, while (26%) believe that they are. And (14%) do not believe that these recommendations proposed to the law are just.
- ❖ (55%) of those who are aware of the proposed recommendations believe that it will lead to the development of the performance of the upcoming local councils, while (26%) believe that it will not lead to a change in the performance of the upcoming local councils, and (9%) believe that it will lead to a decline in the performance of the upcoming local councils.
- ❖ Only (28%) of Jordanians will definitely participate in the upcoming municipal elections in light of the new proposal on the law (which is less than the percentage that intends to participate in the parliamentary elections). (13%) said that they will most likely participate, and (39%) affirmed that they will not participate in the upcoming municipal elections, and (9%) say that they will most likely not participate in the upcoming municipal elections. One third of youth (18-34 years) (36%) will definitely and most likely participate in the upcoming municipal elections, and 52% will certainly and most likely will not participate in the upcoming municipal elections, and this is the lowest participation rate compared to the rest of the age groups.

Proposed Political Parties Law: challenges in the Socio-Political Engineering path

- ❖ Only (10%) of Jordanians have heard/known/read about the proposed Political Parties Law. **The majority of Jordanians (57%) do not wish to join any political party**, and 16% of Jordanians prefer joining a political party which **gives attention on solving daily problems and providing services to citizens**, while (11%) prefer joining a political party that focuses on protecting the national identity. (70%) do not know whether the proposed law on political parties is well-adjusted and reformative, and only (17%) of Jordanians who heard about the proposed law on political parties believe that the law drafted by the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System is a well-adjusted proposal which guarantees reform. While (13%) believe that it is unbalanced and un-reformative. Only (17%) of young people (18-34 years old) believe that the law is well-adjusted and reformative, and the vast majority (70%) do not know if the proposed law is well-adjusted and assures reform.
- ❖ **Only 13% of Jordanians would consider joining a political party if the next stage witnessed an active political party's life with strong programs.**
- ❖ **Only (13%) of Jordanians identify a number of existing political parties, and only (4%) know the names of current party leaders.**
- ❖ **Only (5%) of Jordanians had the desire to join a political party as a result of the outcomes of the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System, and only (1.5%) of Jordanians support a particular political party.**
- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (59%) who know about the proposed political parties law believe that this law will develop political parties work and participation in Jordan, while (24%) believe that it will lead to political parties work in Jordan.

Recommendations of the Royal Committee on Youth Empowerment: Swimming against the stream

- ❖ Two-thirds of Jordanians (67%) believe that the priority for youth today is to find job opportunities and combat unemployment, and youth age group (18-34 years) and females are the most reinforcing on this. While (10%) believe that the youth priority is to expand their political participation as to give them the opportunity to participate in decision-making process, and (7%) believe that building a national identity among young people is a priority.
- ❖ **Half of Jordanians (49%), are with the need to give priority today to the political participation of young people in political parties' life in Jordan.**
- ❖ **Elderly, educated, and male Jordanians are the most supportive of the need to give priority today to the youth participation in political parties' work, and the least supportive of this are youth (18-34 years).**
- ❖ A third of Jordanians (33%) believe that the recommendations of the Royal Committee related to youth will increase their participation in political life. Youth, and the educated most likely believe that the recommendations of the Royal Committee in regards to youth will increase the involvement of young people in political parties' work, as per the Committee's recommendation. While (20%) believe that these recommendations will not increase their participation in political life, and (47%) do not know whether these recommendations will increase the participation of young people in political life or not.
- ❖ **Only a quarter of Jordanians (24%) believe that there is a need today to remove obstacles for young people as to participate in political parties. While (29%) believe that it is not an urgent necessity at all, and (24%) believe that it is a necessity, but not a vital one.**
- ❖ (27%) of Jordanians believe that security concerns related to joining political parties are the main reason that stops young people from participating in political parties, youth and females are the most to believe in comparing to other groups. While (14%) believe that the lack of political awareness among young people is the main reason of the lack of participation, and (8%) believe that the weakness of political parties and their programs is what hold back the youth from joining them, while (32%) believe that the combination of the abovementioned reasons is the cause for the lack of involvement of young people in political parties' work.

- ❖ (42%) of Jordanians support the involvement of young people in political parties' work as per the Royal Committee recommendation, and males and youth (18-34 years) are the most supportive of this, while (29%) of Jordanians do not support this at all.
- ❖ Recommendations related to the need to find economic solutions for young people are the most important for (58%) of Jordanians, while (29%) believe that the recommendation related to the existence of a new text in the constitution that emphasizes empowering young people and benefiting from their potentials is the most important – only (27%) of Youth age group (18-34 years) are supportive of this recommendation,
- ❖ (29%) of Jordanians are optimistic about the ability of political parties to attract young people and increase the public presence. Young males and females are more optimistic about this compared to the rest of the groups. While (44%) (to a small degree, not optimistic at all) stated that they are not optimistic about the political parties' ability to engage young people.
- ❖ (51%) of Jordanians believe that political parties that focus on services and improving people's lives are the most capable of attracting young people and integrating them in their work, and young males and females believe in this more than other groups. While (40%) believe that parties that focus on economic programs have the best abilities to attract young people.

Recommendations of the Royal Committee on Women Empowerment

- ❖ The vast majority (97%) of Jordanians have not seen the outputs of the Royal Committee in regards to women in Jordan, and only (3%) of Jordanians have seen them.
- ❖ (45%) of Jordanians believe that increasing the number of women's seats in the parliament will not positively affect the work of the parliament, males, youth and educated people believe in this the most compared to other groups. While (41%) of Jordanians believe that this will reflect positively on the work of Parliament.

- ❖ (35%) of Jordanians believe that applying the outcomes of the Royal Committee in women's domain will improve her situation within the society. Females, youth and the most educated are more likely to believe in this than the rest of the groups. While (15%) believe that it will not improve their conditions in society. On the other hand, (24%) of Jordanians believe that the outcomes of the committee related to women will enhance their role in political parties, compared to (22%) believe that they will not enhance their role at all, and females more than males believe that the outcomes of the committee **will not enhance** their role in political parties.
- ❖ (13%) of Jordanians know the names of women in the House of Representatives, and (11%) of Jordanians know the names of remarkable women leaders in Jordan.

Recommendations relating to lowering candidate's age and amendments to the Electoral Districts

- ❖ The majority of Jordanians (68%) support the recommendations made to have a candidate aged between 25 and 30 years among the top five candidates in the general electoral district at a national level. (66%) supports the recommendation made to reduce the number of electoral districts at the level of the Kingdom to become (18) districts.
- ❖ (59%) of Jordanians support the recommendation to reduce the age of candidacy for membership of the House of Representatives from 30 years to 25 years. And (55%) support the recommendation that there should be at least one woman among the first three candidates in the party lists running for the general electoral district.
- ❖ Half of Jordanians (50%) support the recommendation in regards to increasing the proportion of young people, age group (18-35 years) in political parties to 20% as an essential requirement for establishing a political party, and (46%) of Jordanians support allocating 41 parliament seats to the list of national political parties, while (45%) support the recommendation to increase the percentage of women in membership of the political parties to 20. (43%) of Jordanians, support increasing the number of founding members of political parties to 1,000 instead of 500 (43%) of Jordanians.
- ❖ Only (29%) of Jordanians support the recommendation related to allowing university students to participate in the activities related to political parties inside university campuses, while (71%) of Jordanians do not support this.

Confidence and Optimism: The need for credibility and clarity

- ❖ About half of Jordanians (49%) trust the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System after handing over its outputs to His Majesty, where an increase of (17) points is noticed compared to the poll conducted on September 19th 2021, where it showed that (32%) of Jordanians trust the Royal Committee to modernize the political system. An increase of (11) points compared to the poll conducted on 7/26/2021. The results showed that (51%) of young people (18-34 years old) trust the Royal Committee.
- ❖ Half of Jordanians (49%) believe that the committee's outputs are optimistic, compared to (31%) who were optimistic about the committee's outputs in the poll conducted on 9/19/2021. And (57%) of young people in the age group (18-34 years) are optimistic about the results of the committee (the most optimistic).
- ❖ More than half of Jordanians (53%) are betting on the outcomes of the Royal Committee in order to achieve a shift in the desired political reform in Jordan.
- ❖ (29%) of Jordanians believe that the outcomes of the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System are different from the outcomes of the previous committees related to political reform, while (25%) of Jordanians do not believe that they differ from their predecessors. The majority (46%) do not know whether the outputs of this committee differ from the outputs of the previous committees or not.
- ❖ (29%) of Jordanians believe that the outcomes related to the Parliamentary Elections Law are the most important outcomes of the Royal Committee, specifically the proposed amendments related to empowering youth and reducing the age of candidacy, while (15%) believe that recommendations related to youth are the most important outcomes of the committee, and (11%) believe that the outputs related to the political parties' law are the most important ones.