Jordanian Street Pulse on:
Current Situation and Constitutional Amendments

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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.
Main findings

**Current Situation**

❖ Only a third of Jordanians believe that things in Jordan are heading in the right direction, whereas 62% think that things are heading in the wrong direction.

❖ The most challenging conundrums facing Jordanians today are the unemployment, poor economic circumstances, and increased poverty rates, followed by the market price inflation, high living costs, and the worsening of health circumstances as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

❖ Regional instability and external pressures on Jordan constitute the most important political problems facing Jordan.

❖ Jordanians believe the political challenges facing the nation to be weak government performance, obscurity in decision-making, and poor parliament performance in carrying out their duties.

**The Jordanian Constitution and Constitutional Amendments**

❖ Only one-fifth of Jordanians stated being familiar with the Jordanian constitution or some of its articles, whereas 80% had never seen it.

❖ Only one-fifth of Jordanians (22%) were aware of the constitutional amendments recommended by the Royal Committee to Modernize the Political System and approved by the House of Representatives, while 78% were not aware of such amendments.

❖ Half of those who were aware of constitutional amendments (51% of the 22%) have little knowledge of the constitutional articles that were subject to change, 31% have moderate knowledge and 15% have no knowledge at all but merely heard it.

❖ One third of those who were aware of constitutional amendments (36% of the 22%) are satisfied with them, (33%) believe that they will help achieve tangible progress in the Jordan’s political life, while (67%) believe that they will not have any positive impact on the progress of political life in Jordan.
Adding the female noun for ‘Jordanian citizen’ to the second chapter of the Jordanian constitution is the most prominent amendment that Jordanians have heard/knew about (37%), followed by lowering the candidacy age for parliament membership to 25 years old (14%), and amendments related to women empowerment (6%).

The most prominent amendments to the constitution according to Jordanians are related to youth empowerment (14% only), followed by women empowerment (13%), House of Representatives (6%), Council of Ministers (4%), and protection of elderly and persons with disabilities (4%).

One quarter of Jordanians (25%) believe that the main reason for adding the female noun of ‘Jordanian citizen’ to the second chapter of the constitution is to achieve gender equality, (12%) believe it is to attain a sense of gender equality in the Jordanian constitution, and (12%) think there is no clear reason for this amendment.

The majority of Jordanians support the constitutional amendments that have been approved by the House of Representatives. Amendments related to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities, and women and youth empowerment received the highest support rates. Whereas lowering the candidacy age for parliament membership to 25 years old (instead of 30), allowing the Prime Minister and ministers (or their vices) to address the House of Representatives and the Senate, and assigning the Independent Election Commission to consider requests for the establishment of political parties and follow up on their affairs in accordance with the provisions of the law received the lowest support rates.

Jordan’s National Security Council

Only (14%) of Jordanians knew about the formation of the Jordanian National Security Council, and 86% did not know about it, 56% of Jordanians who knew about it (of the 14%) supported its formation, while 30% of Jordanians who knew about it did not support its formation.

(47%) of Jordanians believe that the National Security Council will not negatively affect the general mandate and powers given to the government, while 37% believe that the National Security Council will seize the general mandate and constitutional powers of the government, and (16%) do not know if it will have any affect.

The Parliament and The Constitutional Amendments

Only (1%) of the Jordanians followed all the parliament’s discussions on constitutional amendments, while two-thirds of Jordanians (67%) did not follow the parliament’s discussions, and (32%) followed some of these discussions, and (28%) of the (33%) who followed the parliament’s discussions on the constitutional amendments are satisfied with the parliament’s performance in discussing the constitutional amendments.

(44%) of Jordanians believe that the constitutional amendments will not immunize political reforms, and (39%) of Jordanians believe that the constitutional amendments will immunize
political reforms from security interference and encourage citizens to engage in political participation, and (17%) do not know if it will have any effect.

❖ (41%) of Jordanians believe that the new political parties will lead the next stage in Jordanian political life, while (27%) believe that the next stage will be led by existing parties, and (32%) do not know.

The Government and its’ recent economic decisions

❖ Only (15%) of Jordanians have heard about government measures and decisions related to economic reform, which was announced in a press conference on January 9th 2022. 38% of those who heard about these decisions (out of the 15%) believe that such decisions will contribute to increasing growth and improving the living conditions of citizens, while (62%) of Jordanians do not believe that.

❖ (45%) of Jordanians believe that amending the customs tariff and modifying its customs categories from 11 to 4 categories will contribute to enhancing the purchasing power in the local market, while 51% believe that unifying the general control reference on the borders to be within the competence of the General Customs Department will only contribute to facilitate the flow of goods and regulate their entry into Jordan.

❖ 47% of Jordanians believe that the government's decision to set price ceilings for some goods will contribute to consumer protection and obtain justice among merchants.

❖ Half of Jordanians (48%) believe that allocating 80 million Jordanian Dinars from the 2022 budget to stimulate the private sector and employment will enable the private sector to grow and increase its competition.

❖ More than half of Jordanians (53%) believe that the government was able to expand the groups of beneficiaries and health insured persons and raise the capacity of the health system.

❖ (57%) of Jordanians believe that the "Hemaya" and "Estidama" programs which was launched by the Social Security Cooperation have contributed to protecting the labor market and supporting workers during the past year.

Public Sector Modernization Committee

❖ Only (7%) of Jordanians have heard about the Public Sector Modernization Committee which was formed on December 23rd 2021, and the vast majority of Jordanians (88%) have not heard about it. And about half of those who heard about it (out of the 7%) (52%) believe that this committee will succeed in modernizing the public sector.