

## **Monitoring Appeals on the Preliminary Voters Lists for Municipal Elections 17 / 06 / 2013**

Within the activities of the civil coalition for election monitoring "RASED" in the voters' records preparation stage that concerns the upcoming municipal elections in August 2013, and coinciding with the ending legal time period to present objections on the voters' preliminary lists published by the ministry of municipal affairs; RASED sees (based on the findings regarding the objection process observation presented lately) that it is crucial to take the following points into consideration in accordance to international measures for the transparency, integrity, fairness and justice of the electoral process:

1- The statistics presented by the ministry of municipal affairs (MOMA) regarding the results of the objection process showed that an estimate of 12,000 objections were presented, a modest number in comparison to the size of deformities exposed by the process of auditing the voters' lists carried out by RASED at an earlier which revealed errors in the information of (14.9%) of voters. Such indicates the scale and size of deformities that will remain in the voters' lists after the deadline for the objection period's arrival and the publication of the final voters' lists. Furthermore, it indicates the lack of awareness carried out by governmental bodies regarding the process of publishing the voters' lists and the importance of objecting to revise the lists and the formation of voters' lists that represent the true factual information on who is eligible to participate in the upcoming elections.

2- Through observing the process of the publishing the voters' preliminary lists and the receiving their objections which was carried out by RASED, it was evident that there are major signs of weakness in the mechanisms of these lists' display in most of the objections centers. For example, in the Qweismeh, Abu Alanda, Juwaideh and Raqem regions of Amman, the lists were displayed in a closed hall in such a manner that the only way to see them was by gaining the permission of the employee in charge, which jeopardized the transparency of the electoral process at an early stage and contributed to further weaken the information accessibility to the voters.

3- RASED observers noticed a deficiency in the voters' lists displayed in multiple areas, as some names were checked to be present on online tables

yet were absent from the published printed versions. In other cases, the lists were only partially displayed and weren't displayed in full due to the lack of space as observed in the regions of Northern Marka and Sahab for example.

4- There was a sever deficiency in the electoral awareness which was supposed to be done by different governmental bodies to raise electoral awareness to guarantee a reasonable degree of local participation in the upcoming municipal elections. A deeper analysis of the results gathered by RASED showed that (29.7%) of the respondents indicated that they knew that they are registered for the 2013 municipal elections, of which (52.9%) are intending to vote, while (33.8%) indicated that they are not intending to vote, and (13.3%) indicated that they are not sure yet whether to vote or not.

On the other hand (52.2%) of the respondents mistakenly thought that they are not registered for the upcoming municipal elections, (28.9%) of them indicated that they will vote, while (23.7%) of them indicated that they will not vote, and (47.4%) of them did not determine whether to vote or not.

And as for respondents who indicated that they do not know whether they are registered or not, they sum up to (18.1%) of the respondents, of which (22.6%) are willing to vote, while (24.3%) are not intending to vote, and (53.1%) did not determine whether to vote or not.

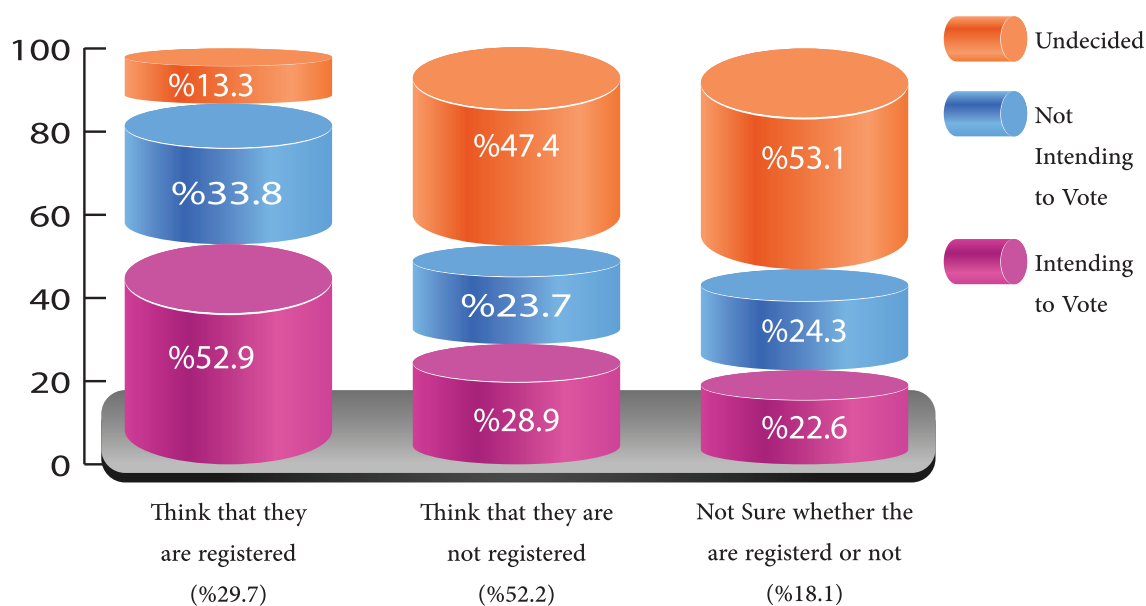


Figure: The extent of citizen's knowledge of the registration for the 2013 municipal elections and their intention to participate in the electoral process.

## Recommendations:

1. It is deduced from the previous results that there is a percentage of citizens that intend to participate in the electoral process even if they believed they weren't registered for the upcoming municipal elections. Furthermore, there is a percentage of citizens that remain undecided concerning their participation in the electoral process, which increases the importance of delivering the electoral information to citizens various media outlets as well as other means such as short text messaging (SMS) and field campaigns. Such would contribute to increasing the levels of local participation in municipal elections to be more representative of the local communities and their developmental needs. At this point RASED emphasizes the need for the government to politically invest in the process of awareness and the provision of required financial resources in enhance the course of democratic empowerment.
2. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs as well as other governmental bodies should provide clear guarantees for the integrity of the electoral process and publicize them in a denser manner to encourage the undecided citizens to establish a conviction that deems their participation important for the establishment of successful democratic development.
3. RASED notes the necessity of displaying the full detailed voters' lists in an electronic form that enables it to be analyzed and audited for the names of voters that had appeals submitted against them and the decisions made by CSPD (Civil Status and Passport Department) and the courts regarding these appeals to strengthen the transparency of the electoral process.
4. The Importance of updating the voters' lists that will be presented later on, where a special category should be added to list any special notes (like deceased or disqualified voters) benefiting from the experience of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) during the complementary elections for the second district of Amman and the re-election in sixth district of Karak.
5. The government must set an emergency plan and effective procedures to deal with the existing irregularities and the expected violations that will begin appearing clearly and increasingly approaching the Election Day, where the interest in the electoral process will peak.