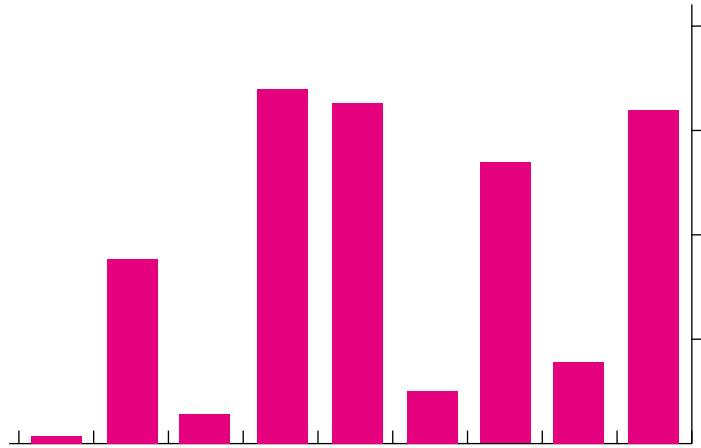


## A Study

# Pre to the 2013 Parliamentary Elections in Jordan Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge and Participation in the Elections



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December 2012

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Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development

**A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society  
Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge,  
and Participation in the Elections**

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**2012**



## Introduction

In cooperation with Global Partners and Associates, Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development conducted a study to investigate the trends within the Jordanian Society regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge and Participation in the Elections, which aims at gauging people's political knowledge, their relations with political parties and their stand regarding the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Moreover, it looks into citizens' views on the political, economic and social issues impacting their daily lives, as well as their expectations of the coming parliament, and their perception of effective communication tools between them and political parties. This study comes in line with Al-Hayat's work to enhance political participation and efforts in election monitoring.

## Methodology

A sample of (1,620) citizens was selected to represent different parts of the country using a Two Stages Cluster Random Sampling Technique, where 108 blocks have been chosen across the country based on demographic distribution and representation of urban and rural areas, according to the latest reports by the Jordanian Department of Statistics. Followed by the use of a Stratified Random Sampling Technique to select (15) households in each block, taking into account gender balance and the representation of all age groups (18) years and older. It should be noted that in case a household's residents were non-Jordanians the household was replaced with the one preceding it.

A survey was designed for the purpose of the study, which consisted of five sections; the first was concerned with the general information of the

respondent, the second with political knowledge and public participation, and the third with the expectations of the coming parliament. While the fourth focused on effective communications between political parties and citizens, and the fifth focused on people's views regarding political, social and economic issues.

The survey was administered between December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, by (75) field researchers and supervisors. All answers were collected and reviewed, where (1,546) surveys were considered «(74) were deemed not valid» and entered into a specially designed computer program, then analyzed using SPSS.

The analysis shows an error of ( $\pm 3\%$ ) at a confidence interval of (95%) for the national sample, where the degree of error increase at the regional and governorates levels.

## Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development

Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit entity that established on 31 May 2006, by a group of young Jordanians, active in civil society. The idea behind Al-Hayat Center is to contribute in enhancing the political life in Jordan within the frame of democracy, human rights and rule of law. In addition to, raising the awareness among the local community with regard to values of the civil society; justice, equality, freedom, democracy, accepting the other, and rule of law

The uniqueness of Al-Hayat Center's work is accounted for by its outreach to urban, rural, refugee camps and Badia areas outside of the capital Amman, allowing for a wider access to

programs and activities that aim at enhancing people's lives. Al-Hayat also emphasizes the issue of gender balance and equality whilst implementing its various activities.

Al-Hayat believes in the value of working on the regional and international level. Thus, Al-Hayat Center has joined number of international networks, and contributes to the establishment of two sister organizations under the title «Al-Hayat Center for Civil Society Development» in Nablus City in Palestine, and in Saná City in Yemen.

For more information, please visit:  
<http://www.hayatcenter.org>

## Global Partners & Associates (GPA)

Global Partners was established in 2005 to promote democratic politics, effective governance and human rights around the world by developing policy and practice, and shaping the approaches of donors and governments, civil society organisations and private sector partners. Established by Andrew Puddephatt and Greg

Power, GPA is built on the expertise of its staff and associates who provide innovative advice, research and analysis, and deliver projects and training.

For more information, please visit:  
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## First: Sample Identification Information

Figure (1): Geographical distribution by governorate

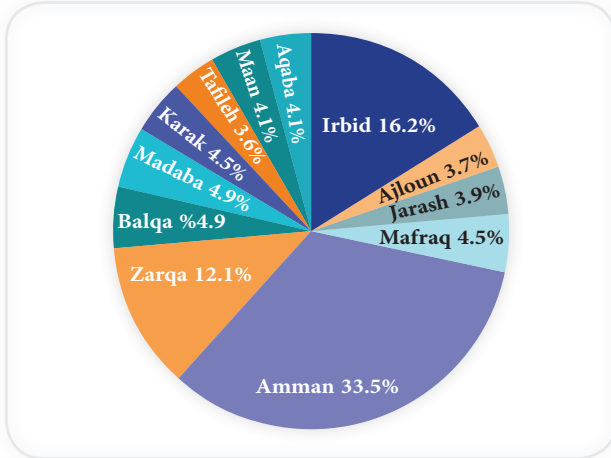


Figure (2): Demographic distribution by age group

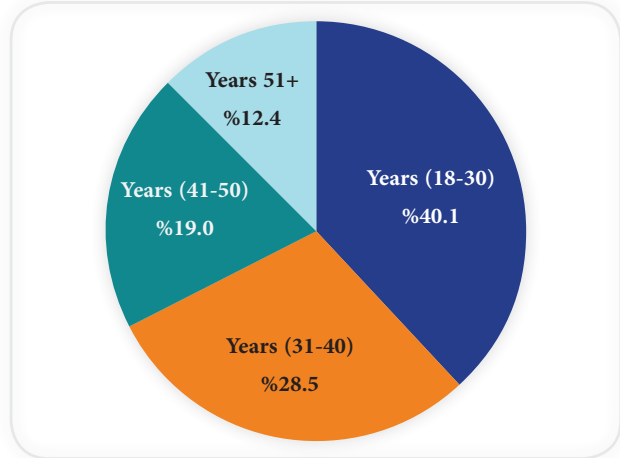


Figure (3): Distribution by educational level

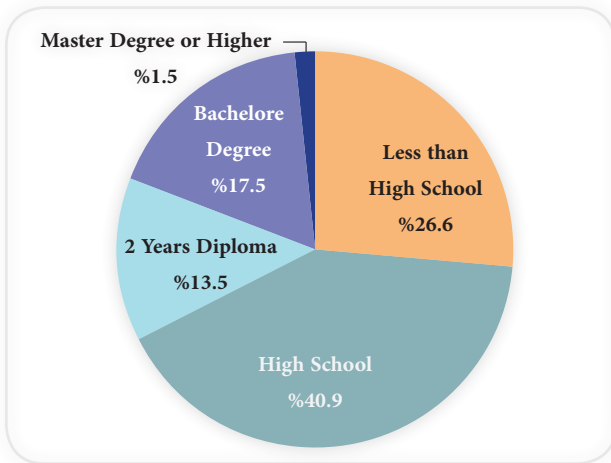
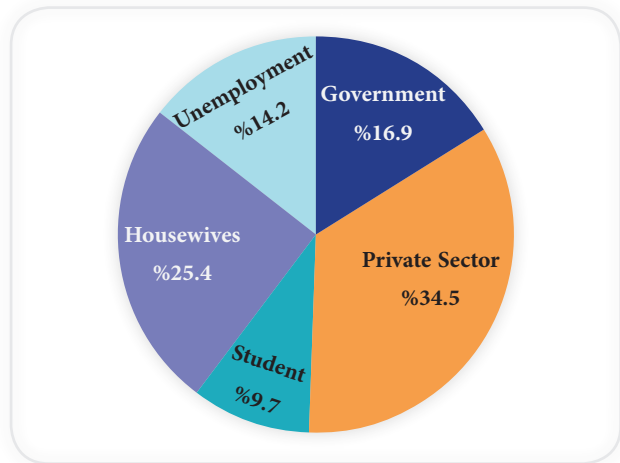


Figure (4): Employment sector distribution



## Demographic Distribution by Gender and Marital Status

As an outcome of the implemented gender-balance strategy, the sample's population was distributed with (%50.2) male respondents, and (%49.8) female respondents.

In regards to the respondents marital status; (%32.8) of the sample's population were found to be single, while (%64.7) of them were married and only (%2.5) of the respondents were widowed or divorced at the time of implementation.

## Second: Political Knowledge and Public Participation

### Percentage of Registered Voters for the Upcoming Parliamentary Elections

The results of the survey indicate the percentage of registered voters to stand at (%66.2) and not registered voters (%33.8), which differs from the (%70) figure announced by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), confirming the arguments regarding the IEC's method in calculating the percentage. The highest registration percentage was in Ma'an at (%98.4), and the lowest was in Amman at (%45.9), as shown in «Figure 5».

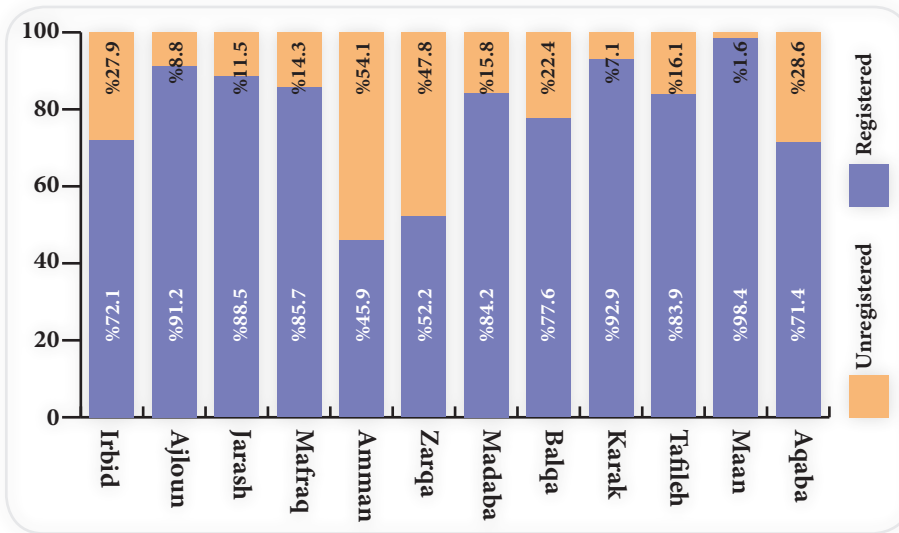


Figure (5): Registration percentages for the 2013 elections per governorate

### Trends for Participation in the Upcoming Elections

The results show that the expected voters' turnout will be around (%47.6) of the registered voters, where the highest turnout will be in Mafraq with (73.3%) and the lowest in Amman with (%25.6) as shown in «Figure 6». It was also found that (%21.2) of the registered voters have not yet decided on their participation in the elections and (%31.3) of the registered voters will not participate in the upcoming elections.

Those who decided not to vote in the upcoming elections and those who have not made up their minds yet have accounted this to several reasons, most important of which is their lack of trust in the integrity of the electoral process at (%27.7), as shown in «Figure 7».

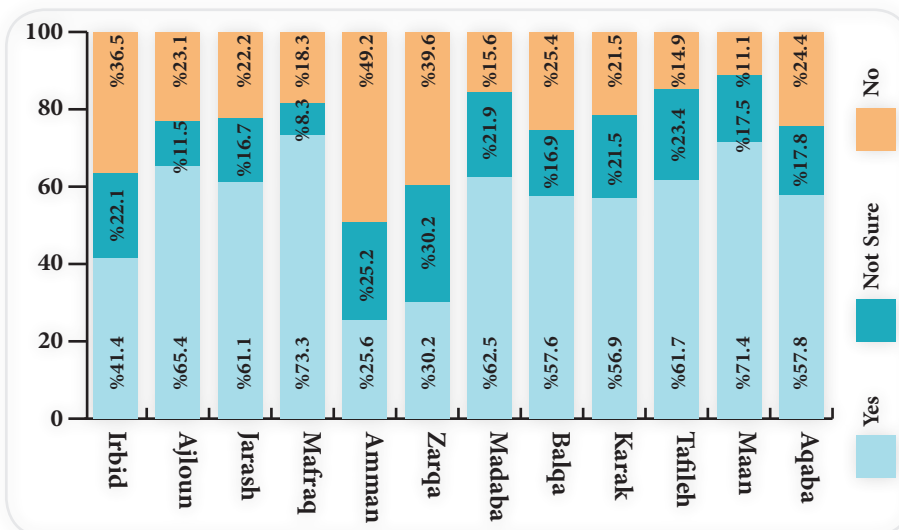


Figure (6): Expected voters turnout in the 2013 elections by governorate

## A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge, and Participation in the Elections

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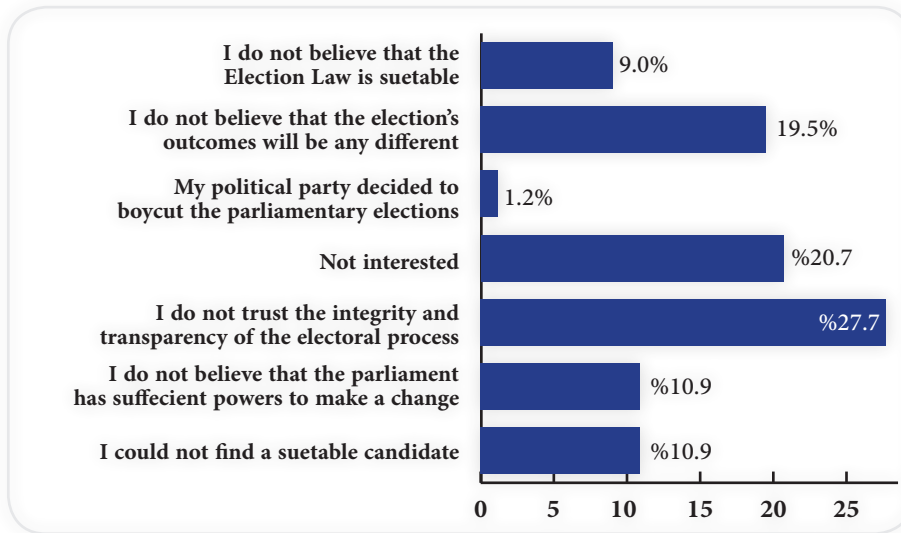


Figure (7): Reasons for not being sure about or deciding not to participate in the upcoming elections

### Percentage of People Affiliated to Political Parties

The results show that people's engagement in political parties remain at minimal levels with only (1.5%), which indicates the gap of trust between people and political parties, and the societal perceptions on their work and efficiency over the past years, the results also indicate that (97.9%) of Jordanians are not affiliated with any political party, while (0.6%) of the respondents preferred not to answer this question.

### Knowledge of the Differences Between Right-Wing, Left-Wing, and Centrist Political Parties

The results revealed that people's knowledge of the differences between political orientations is weak at (15.1%), where (81.7%) of the respondents indicated that they do not have any knowledge on these differences and (3.2%) were not sure about their knowledge.

And for those who indicated that they have knowledge on such differences, (51.2%) of them pointed out that it comes from media, news and articles in comparison to other sources such as political party activities or social media websites that scored (13.3%) «Figure 8». Moreover, «Figure 9» shows that (31.6%) of the respondents who answered as knowing the differences between the political orientations do not see themselves represented by any of them, while (26.4%) believe centrist parties speak for them the most.

## A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge, and Participation in the Elections

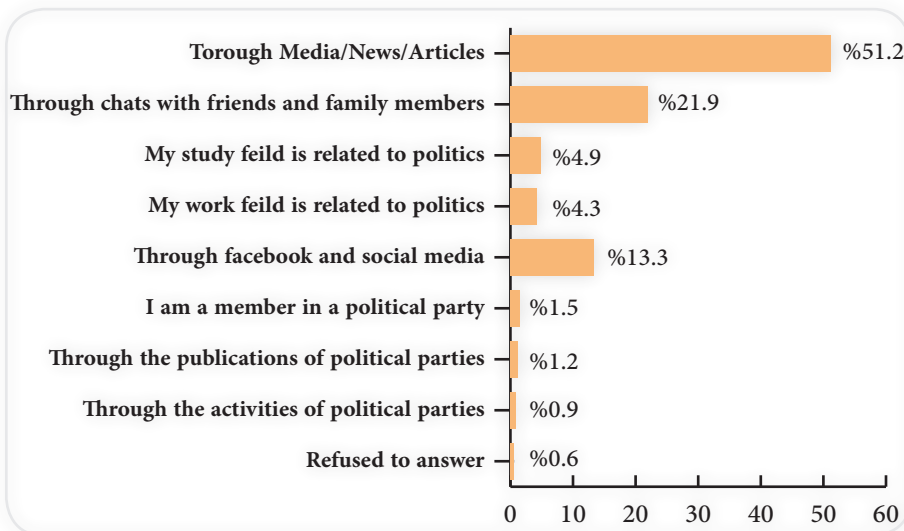


Figure (8): Sources of knowledge on the different political orientations, by respondents who answered yes on knowing the differences between the ideologies

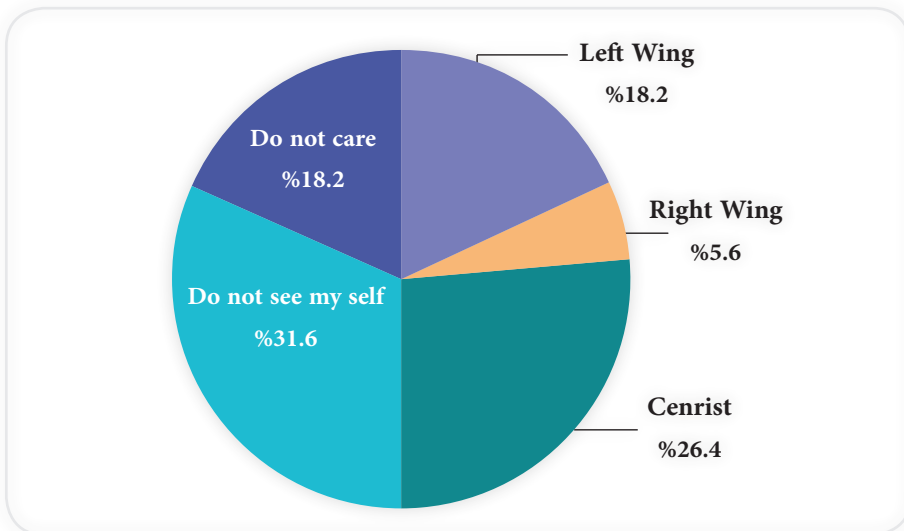


Figure (9): Closest political orientation speaking for the respondents who know the difference between the different political ideologies

### Citizens' Knowledge of the Political Parties in Jordan

The results show that only (29.4%) of the Jordanian citizens have knowledge about the political parties that exist in Jordan, while (70.6%) of them do not have any. The results also indicated that (59.4%) of this knowledge comes from media, news and articles «Figure 10», noting that (75.1%) of the respondents who indicate a lack of knowledge of the political parties in Jordan have pointed that political parties are not within their interests «Figure 11».



## A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge, and Participation in the Elections

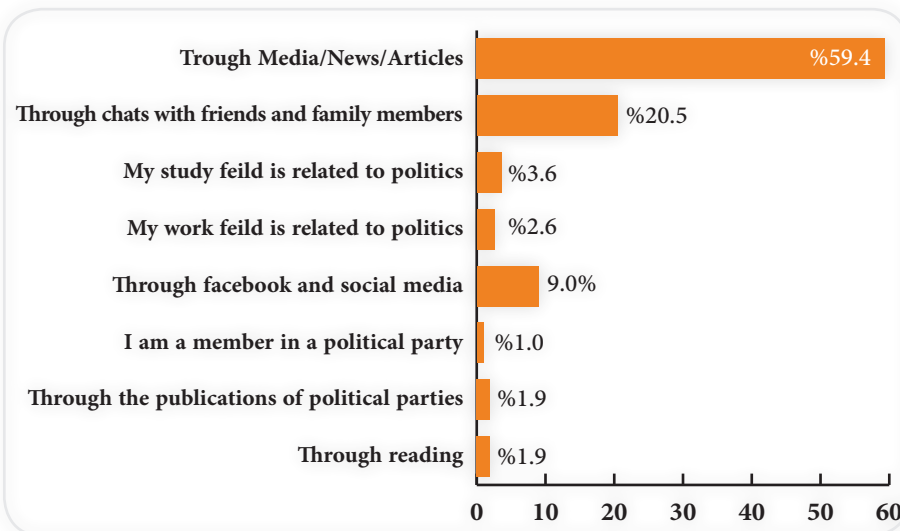


Figure (10): Sources of knowledge on the political parties in Jordan, by respondents who answered yes on having knowledge about the political parties in Jordan

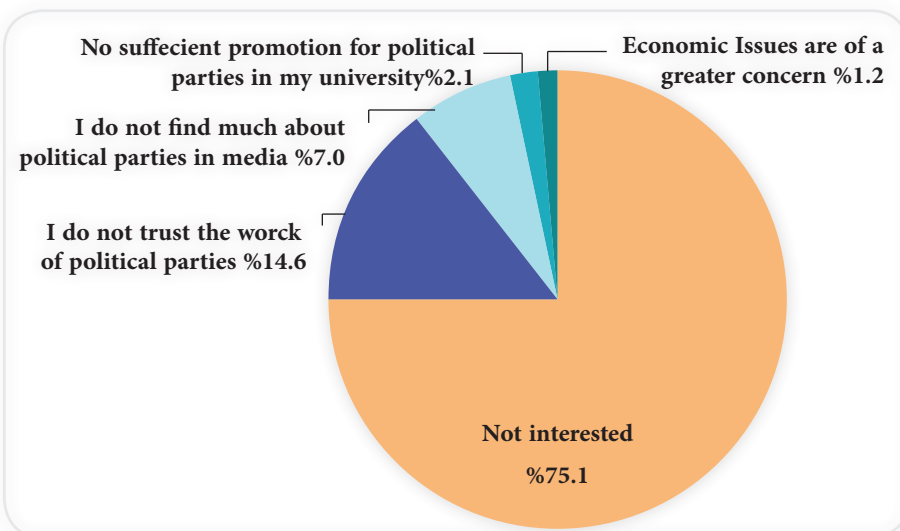


Figure (11): Reasons for lack of knowledge about political parties in Jordan, by respondents who answered no on having knowledge about the political parties in Jordan

The results also show that (%19.5) believe there was representation for some political parties in the 16<sup>th</sup> parliament, while (%41.5) believe otherwise. The results also indecat that (%39.0) of Jordanians do not have any knowledge on whether there was a representation of political parties or not in the 16<sup>th</sup> parliament.

### Citizens' Knowledge of the Introduction of Proportional Lists to the Elections Law

The analysis of the results shows that only (%22.0) of the Jordanian people know about the introduction of proportional lists to the Election Law, while (%78.0) of them do not. Of those who answered to know about the introduction of proportional lists, (%41.4) believe that the introduction of proportional lists will enhance political parties' work in the country, while (%38.1) do not and (%20.8) have no openion on the extent of partesan development to result from such introduction. Of these latter, (%28.3) believe introducing the proportional lists to the elections will enhance the aggrigation of political activists, and (%31.7) see it will reduce dependency on the tribe for electoral purposes «Figure 12».

**A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge, and Participation in the Elections**

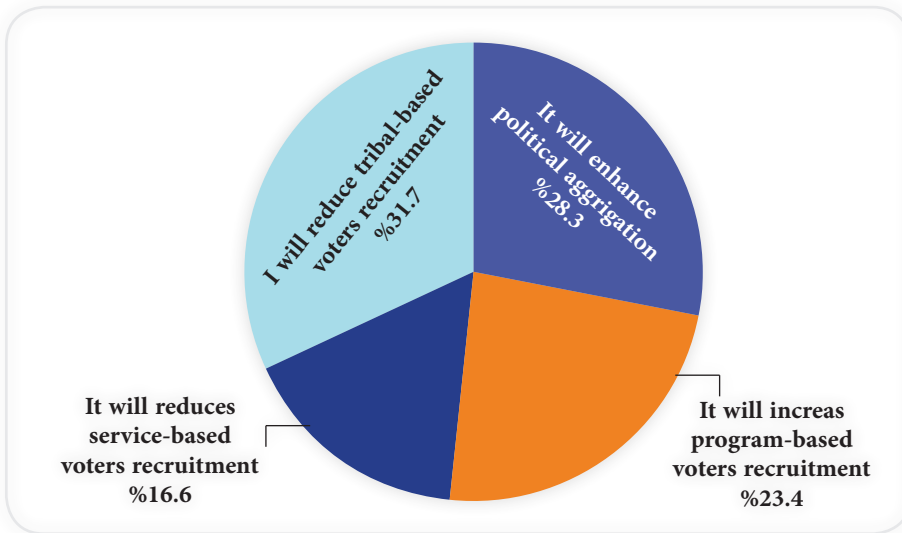


Figure (12): Impact of proportional lists on the electoral program of candidates, by respondents who believed proportional lists to have an impact on the outcomes of the elections

**Third: Perception on the Role of the Parliament**

**The Expected Role of the 17<sup>th</sup> Parliament as Seen by the Citizens**

The results indicate that the citizens expect almost equal efforts by the parliamentarians in the 17<sup>th</sup> Parliament with regards to combating corruption and provision of services, with (%25.1) and (%24.9) respectively «Figure 13». «Figure 14» shows that (%48.8) of those expecting services provision by parliament have indicated development projects as the most wanted service.

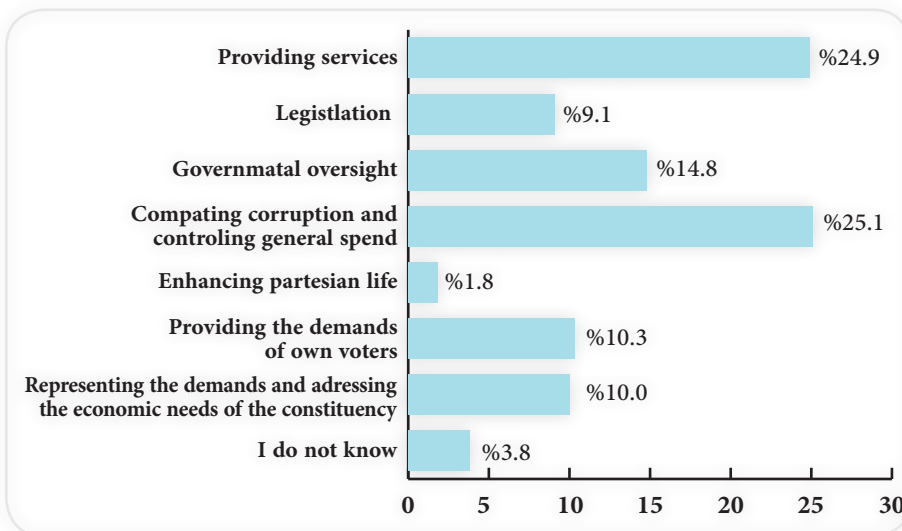


Figure (13): The expected role of the coming parliament

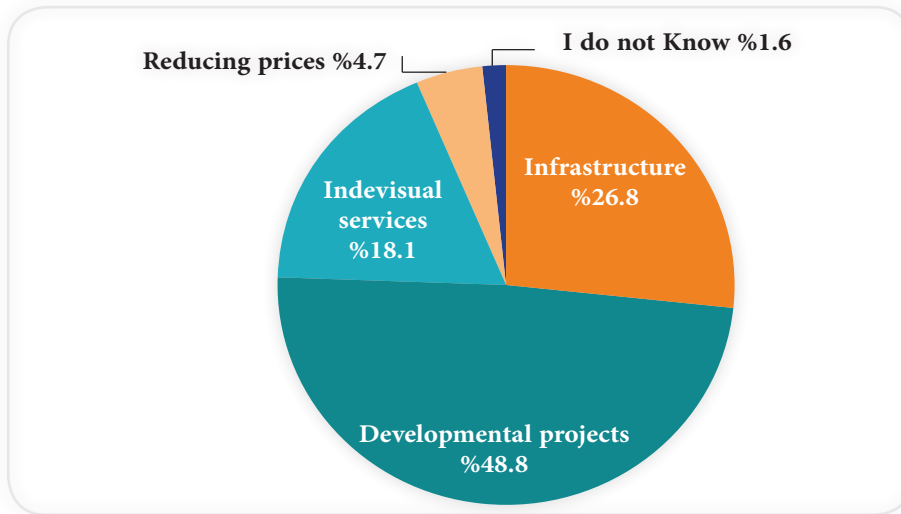


Figure (14): The expected services to be provided by the coming parliament

### Citizens' Level of Satisfaction of the Previous Parliament

The results show a low level of satisfaction by the citizens regarding the performance of the previous parliament, where (37.8%) of respondents indicated that they are highly unsatisfied, while (33.4%) were unsatisfied and only (19.1%) and (1.6%) were satisfied and highly satisfied respectively, and (8.2%) of respondents preferred not to answer.

## Fourth: Effective Communications Between the Political Parties and Local Communities

### The Role of Political Parties in the 2013 Elections

The results show that (33.6%) of the people believe that political parties will play an important role in the 2013 parliamentary elections, while (31.5%) believe otherwise, and (34.9%) were not sure.

### Means of Communication Between Political Parties and Constituents

The results show that the most effective means of communication political parties can use and would influence the opinions of citizens according to the respondents is the television with (24.8%) «Figure 15». On the other hand, (38.8%) of them have pointed that nothing would convince them to join a political party as shown in «Figure 16».

## A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge, and Participation in the Elections

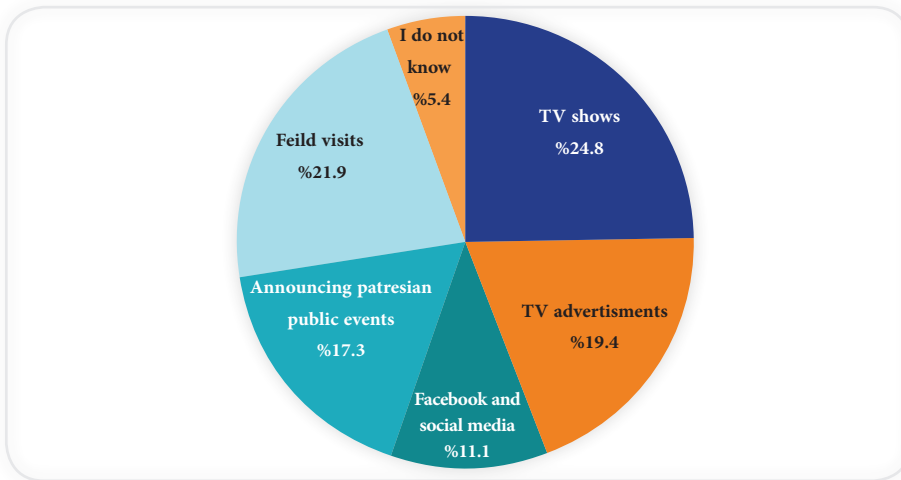


Figure (15): Effective means of communication between political parties and the constituents

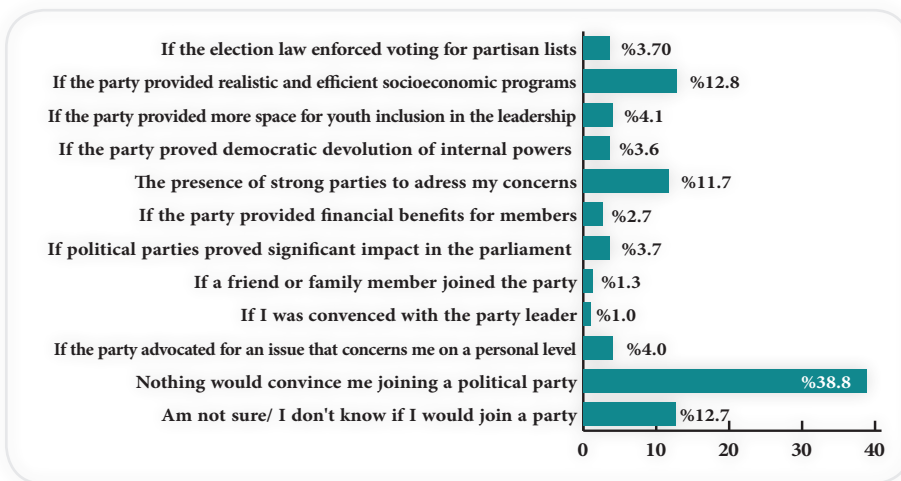


Figure (16): Actions/ events that would encourage citizens to join a political party

## Jordanian Citizens' Priorities

The results indicate the economic situation sits at the top of Jordanian citizens' concerns (31.5%) followed by combating corruption (17.2%) as shown in «Figure 17».

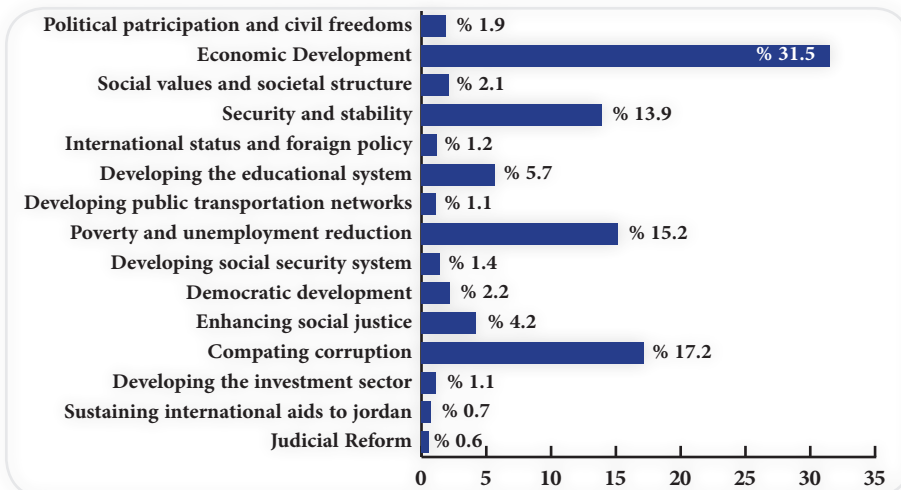


Figure (17): Jordanian citizens' priorities

## Fifth: Jordanian Citizens' Stand on Political, Economic, and Social Issues

### Perceptions on the Pace of Political Reform

The results show that (%33.9) of the people believe that political reforms in the country are very slow paced, while only (%18.4) believe it is moving at a normal pace «Figure 18».

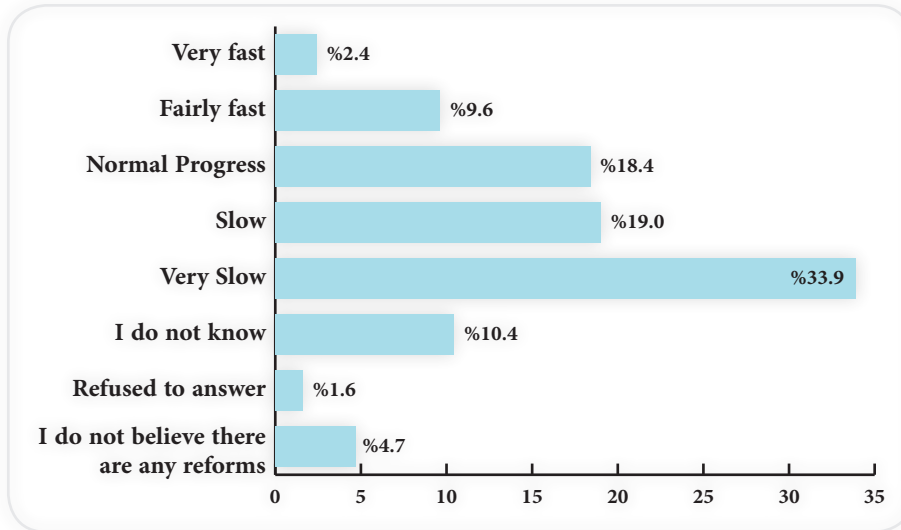


Figure (18): Perception on the pace of political reform

### Perceptions on Constitutional Reforms

The results show that (%25.6) of the citizens are satisfied to a certain extent with the constitutional reforms that were implemented during 2011, as shown in «Figure 19», while (%31.1) showed no interest in such or other constitutional reforms. Of those who are satisfied to a certain extent and those who are not satisfied, (%22.3) have indicated «enhancing liberties» as the most important reform they would like to see «Figure 20», and (%43.7) of them said further reforms should be introduced through the coming parliament «Figure 21».

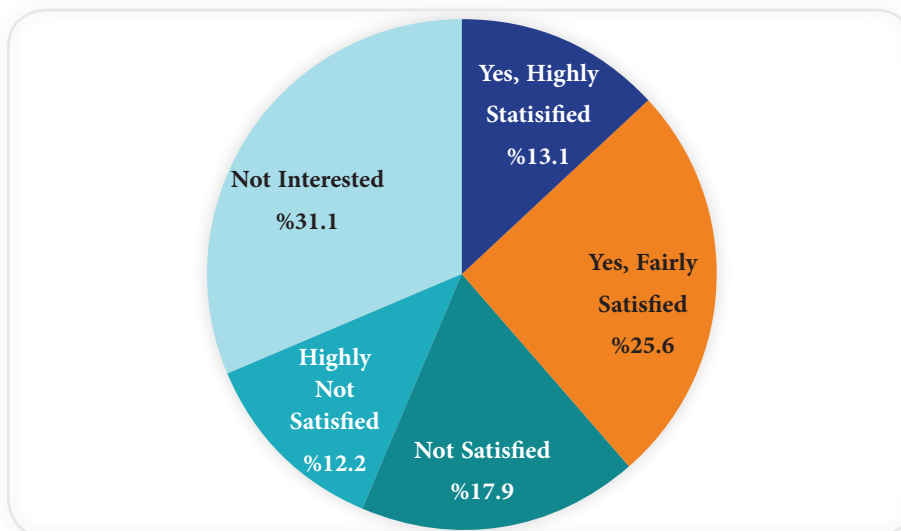


Figure (19): Citizens' satisfaction of constitutional reforms

## A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge, and Participation in the Elections

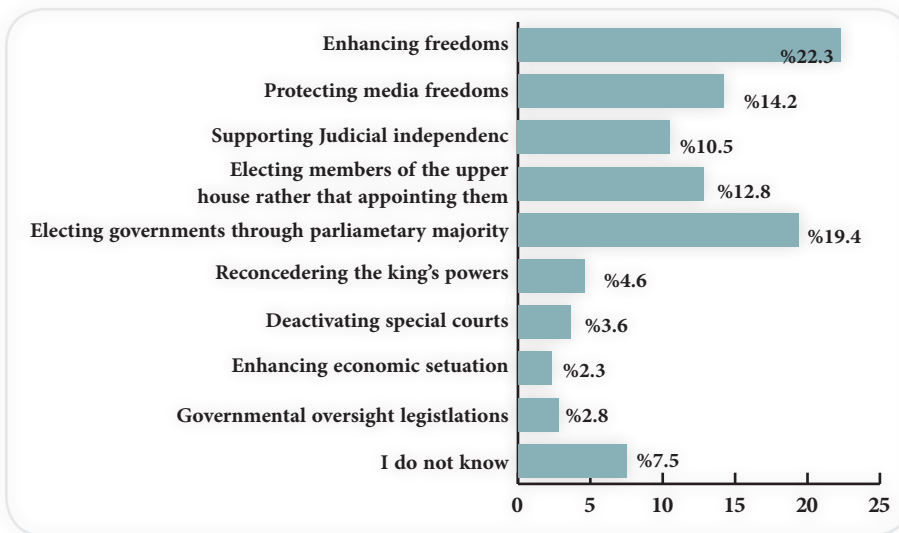


Figure (20): Most important additional constitutional reforms to be implemented, by respondents who have answered as either satisfied to a certain extent, not satisfied or absolutely not satisfied

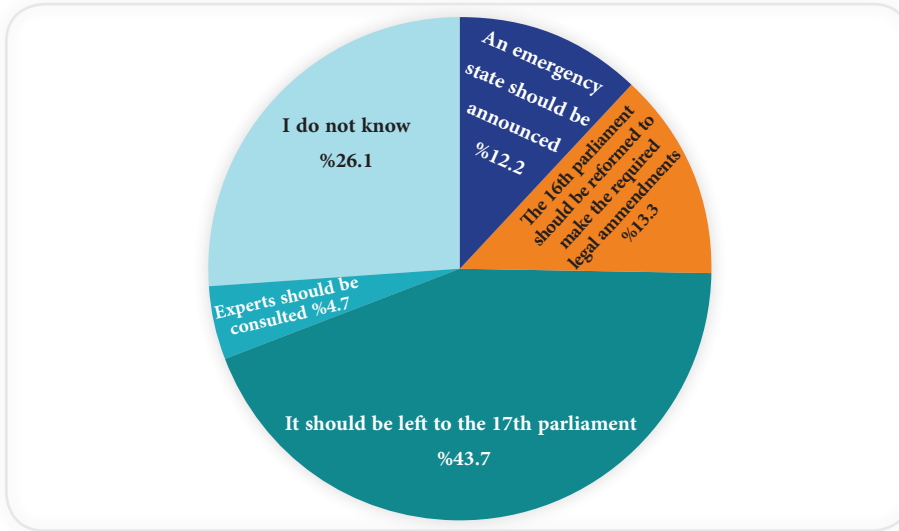


Figure (21): The most preferred way to introduce additional constitutional reforms, by respondents who have answered as either satisfied to a certain extent, not satisfied or absolutely not satisfied

### Perceptions on Amendments to the Elections Law

The results indicate that (39.1%) of the citizens have no interest in the amendments to the elections law, while (22.3%) are satisfied to a certain extent of the most recent amendments to the elections law «Figure 22». They also show that (24.8%) of those who are satisfied to a certain extent and those who are not satisfied are for changing the single non-transferable vote system (One-Man, One-Vote System) as illustrated in «Figure 23», and that (41.0%) of them believe such and further amendments should be implemented through the coming parliament, while (13.7%) believe that the amendments should be done through announcing a state of emergency and (12.0%) of them believe that the 16<sup>th</sup> Parliament should be reformed to amend the law, while (33.4%) do not know in what way the law should be amended.

## A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge, and Participation in the Elections

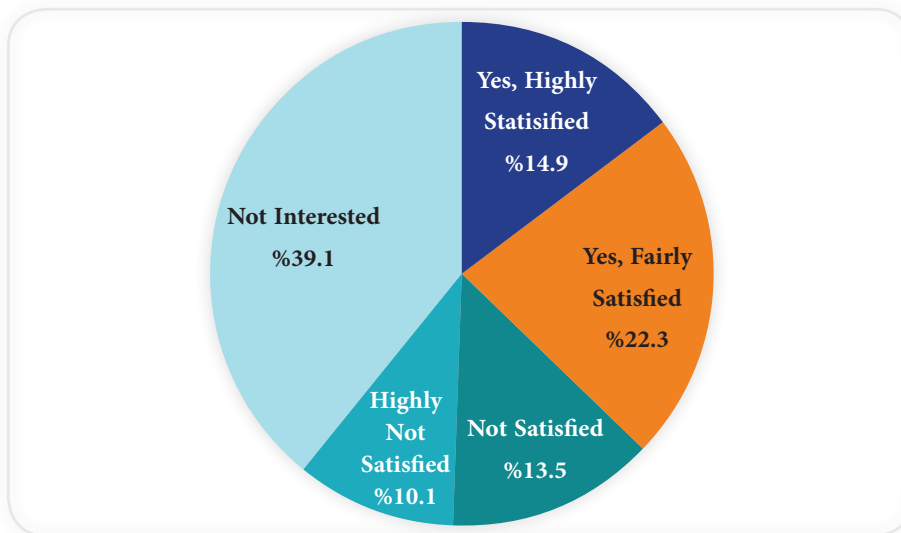


Figure (22): Citizens' satisfaction of the recent amendments to the elections law

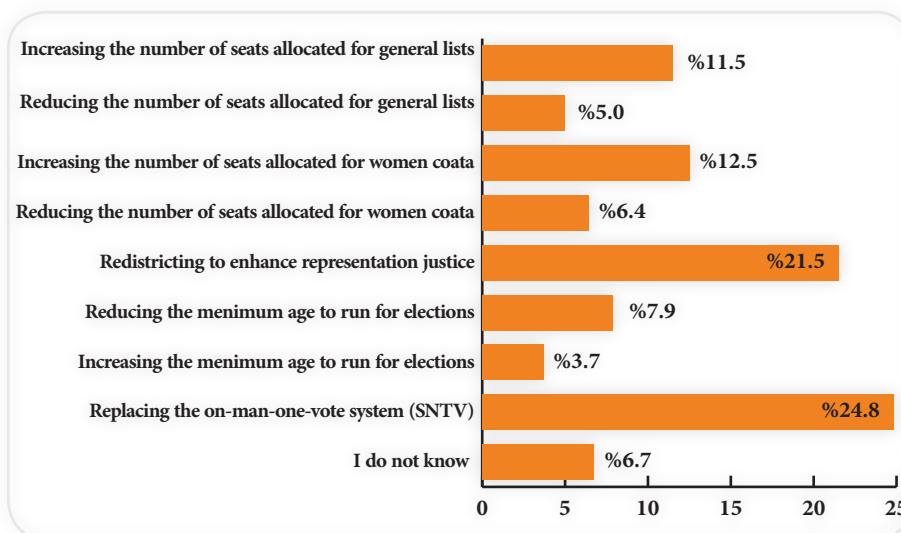


Figure (23): Most important additional amendments to the elections law to be implemented, by respondents who have answered as either satisfied to a certain extent, not satisfied or absolutely not satisfied

### Perceptions on Amendments to the Political Parties' Law

The results indicate that (%70.0) of the citizens have no interest in the amendments to the political parties' law, while (%10.3) are satisfied to a certain extent of the most recent amendments to the elections law «Figure 24». While they show that those who are satisfied to a certain extent and those who are not satisfied point transferring the supervision of political parties from the mandate of the Ministry of Interior to an independent commission for political parties' affairsas the most important amendment to be introduced to the law «Figure 25».

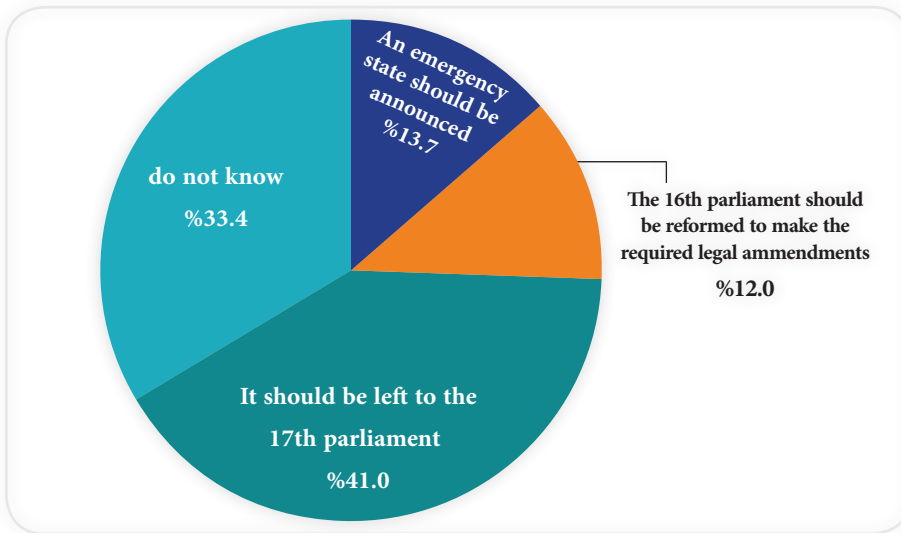


Figure (24): Citizens' satisfaction of the recent amendments to the political parties' law

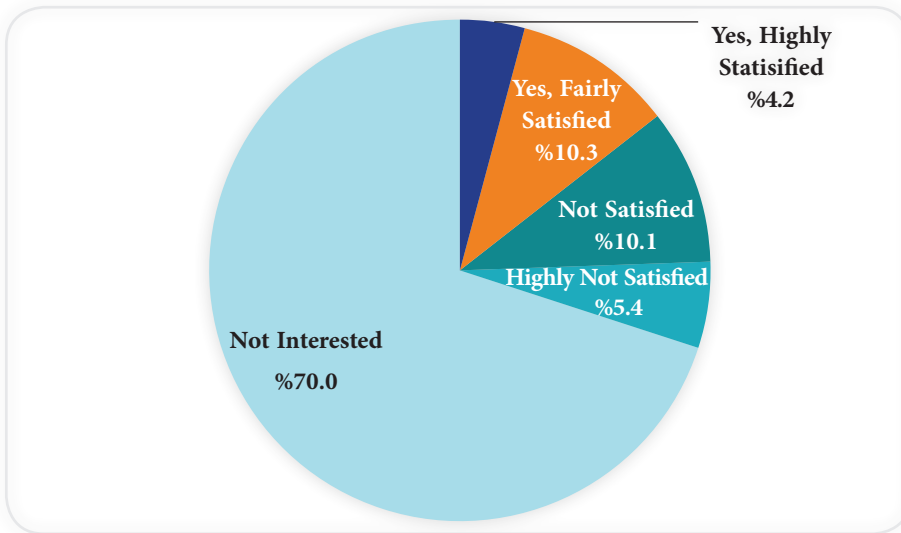


Figure (25): Most important additional amendments to the political parties' law to be implemented, by respondents who have answered as either satisfied to a certain extent, not satisfied or absolutely not satisfied

## Perceptions on Social Movements Taking the Streets

The results of the survey show that (29.5%) of the citizens support the social movements taking the street, however, do not take part in their activities «Figure 26», while (48.3%) do not support the movements at all. The most influencing factor in taking part in the activities of the social movements, for those who support them and those who have changing feelings about them, is the fear of losing the security situation in the country with (22.1%) «Figure 27».



A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge, and Participation in the Elections

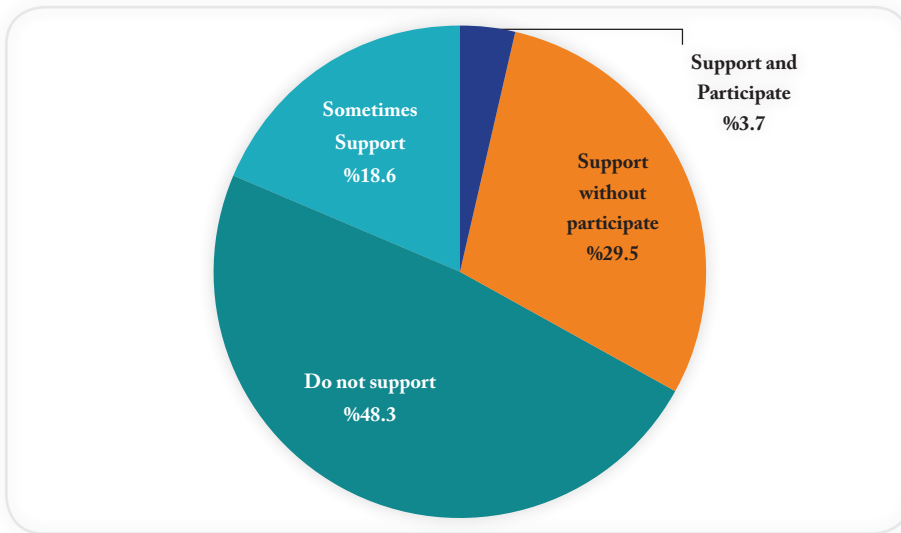


Figure (26): Citizens' perception of social movements

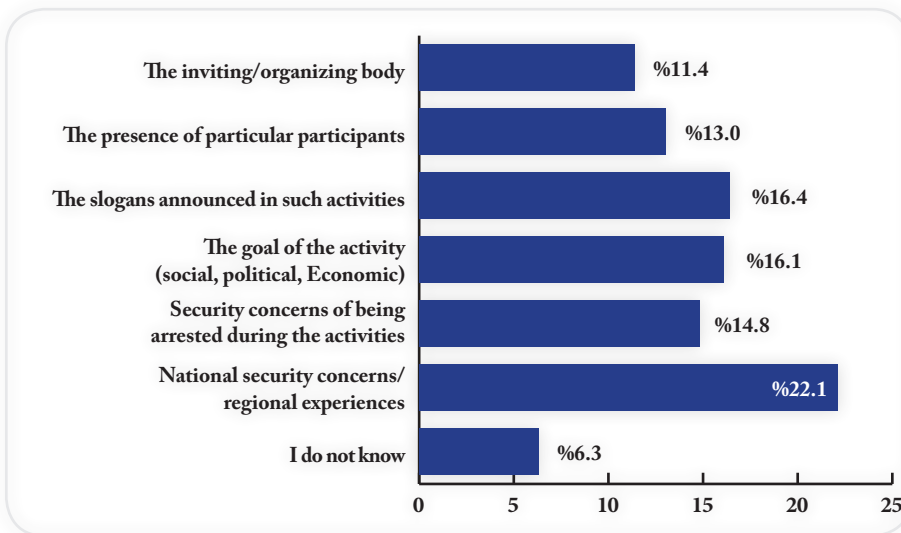


Figure (27): Factors affecting people's decisions to take part in the activities of the social movements, by respondents who support and who have changing feelings about the movements

Moreover, (%22.6) of the people see that the social movements speak for their needs more than political parties, while (%60.6) feel that neither the social movement nor the political parties represent their views, and (%7.0) of Jordanians believe that partesan movements represent their needs, while (%9.8) of them are not sure if there is any movement adressing their demands in the streets.

## Perceptions on the Economic Situation in Country

The results show that (%37.9) of the people believe the pace of economic reforms in the country is very slow and (%26.5) see it as slow to a certain extent «Figure 28». With regards to the left of subsidies of the fuel commodities prices, (%51.7) strongly oppose the decision and (%8.3) believe the timing of the decision was wrong «Figure 29». Moreover, «Figure 30» shows that (%13.1) think the government should increase the taxes on citizens with high income, (%12.5) say it should reduce the taxes on low income citizens, and (%18.2) have mentioned both options as a combination of their preferred taxation policy.

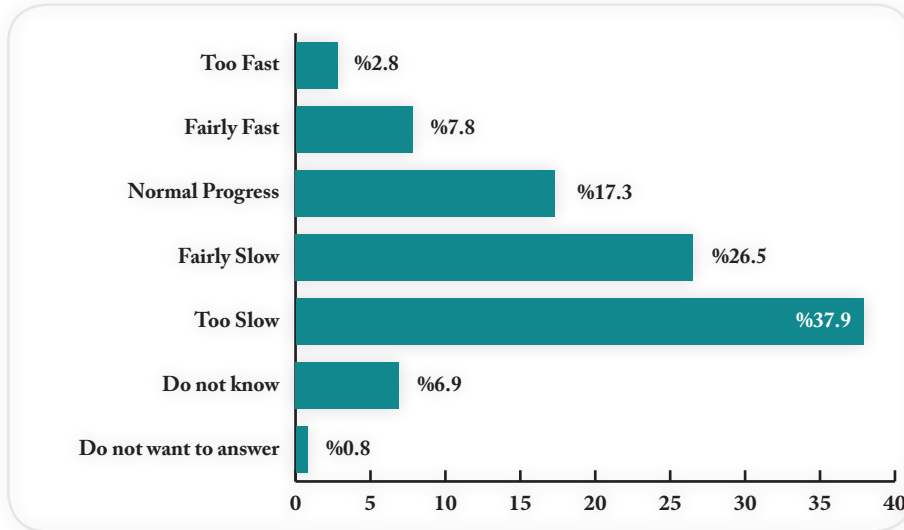


Figure (28): Perception of the pace of economic reform

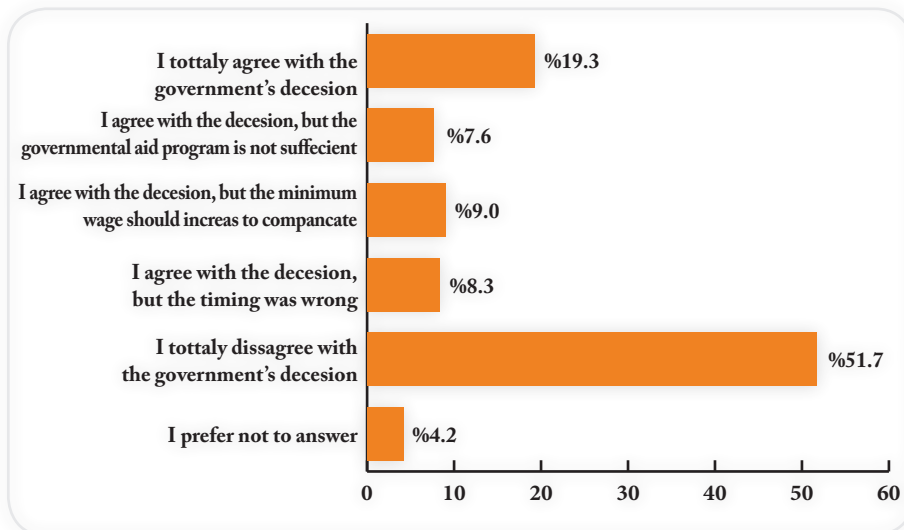


Figure (29): Stand regarding the left of fuel subsidies

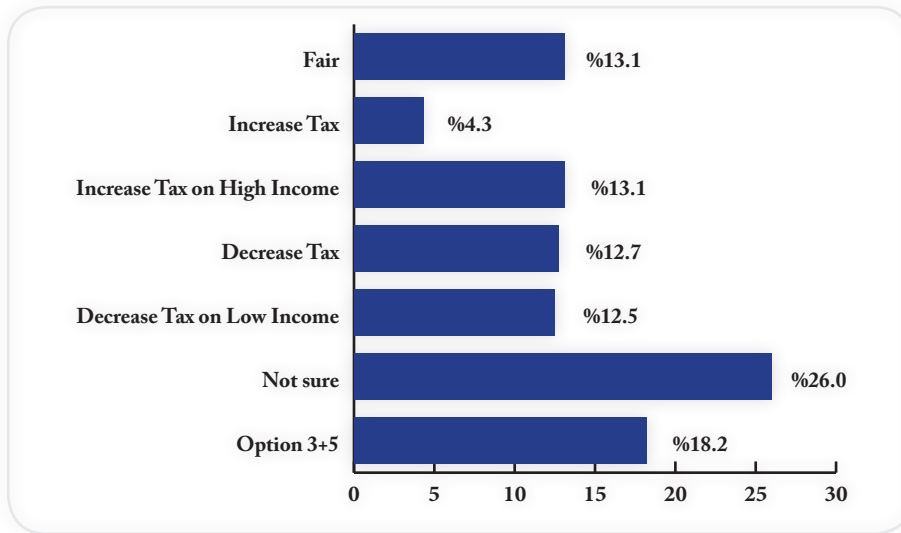


Figure (30): Stand regarding the income tax policy

### Perceptions on the Freedom of Expression and the Independence of the Media

The results indicate that (%31.7) of the people believe there exists a limitless space for expressing one’s opinions freely, and (%34.2) see a good level of freedom of expression with some limitations, while (%22.8) believe that there are many limitations on the freedom of expression, and (%11.3) preferred not to answer. On the other hand, (%29.2) of respondents indicated that they believe local media outlets are independent and enjoy freedom, while (%33.6) believe that all local media outlets are under serious control and are not independent, and (%37.2) believe that some of the outlets enjoy freedom and independence.

### Perceptions on Women Political Participation

The results show that (%39.3) of Jordanians believe women are appropriately represented in the political life, similarly, (%27.4) believe they are properly represented in political parties. On the other hand, (%18.7) of the respondents see that the representation of women in the leadership of political parties should be increased as shown by «Table 1», where (%36.6) of these believe that advocacy campaigns to enhance societal view of women is the way forward to enhance their representation in parties’ leaderships «Figure 31».

Table (1): Perception on women representation in political parties’ leaderships

	Political Life	Political Parties	Leaders of Political Parties
Increase women representation	%29.9	%24.0	%18.7
Women representation is appropriate	%39.3	%27.4	%24.5
Decrease women representation	%19.4	%27.0	%30.1
No opinion/I do not know	%11.4	%21.6	%26.7

## A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge, and Participation in the Elections

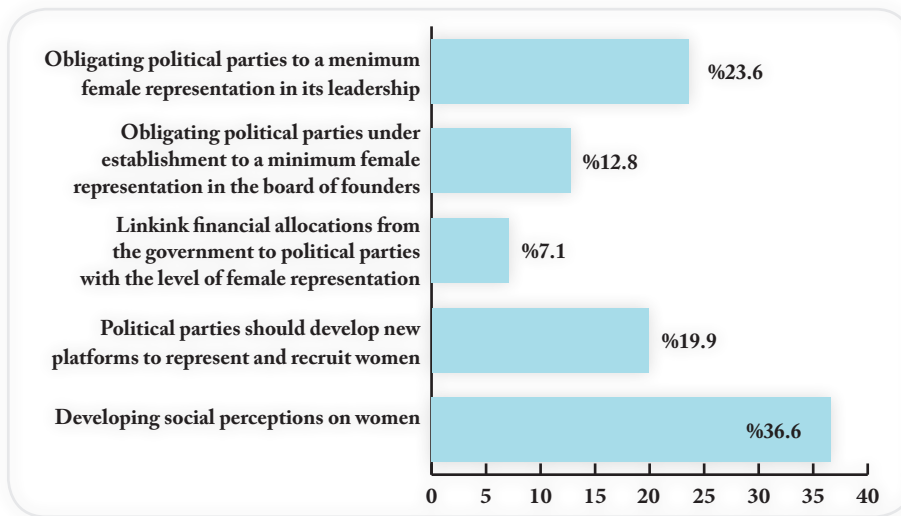


Figure (31): Actions to be taken to enhance women representation in political parties' and their leaderships

The results also indicate that (44.6%) of the people believe that women are appropriately represented in parliament «Table 2», while (65.6%) of those who believe otherwise think the most appropriate way to increase women representation in parliament is to increase their quota seats while (8.4%) believe that obligating general lists to have female candidates is more efficient, and (26.0%) believe that improving social perceptions on women political participation is the key. Moreover, it shows that (40.9%) of Jordanians believe women representation in governments is appropriate «Table 2».

Table (2) : Perception on women representation in parliament and government

	Parliament	Government
Increase women representation	28.6%	27.6%
Women representation is appropriate	44.6%	40.9%
Decrease women representation	18.4%	22.1%
No opinion/I do not know	8.4%	9.4%

### Perceptions on Youth Political Participation

The results show that (51.1%) of Jordanians believe youth representation in the political life should be increased, similarly, (37.8%) believe their representation in political parties should be increased «Table 3». Where (20.7%) of the latter believe that advocacy campaigns to enhance societal view of youth is the way forward to enhance their representation in parties' leaderships «Figure 32».

Table (3): Perception on youth representation in political parties and political life

	Political Life	Political Parties
Increase youth representation	51.1%	37.8%
Youth representation is appropriate	26.1%	26.5%
Decrease Youth representation	13.6%	17.3%
No opinion/I do not know	9.2%	18.4%

## A Study Investigating the Trends within the Jordanian Society Regarding Political Parties, Political Knowledge, and Participation in the Elections

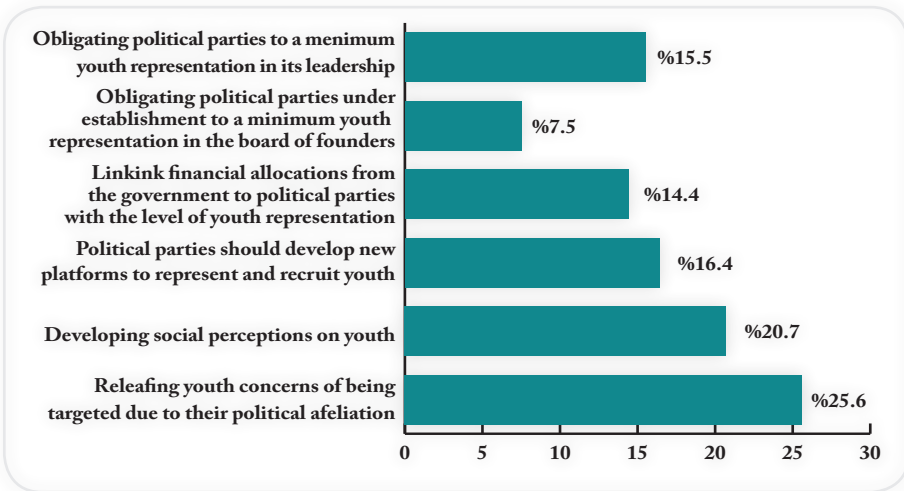


Figure (32): Actions to be taken to enhance youth representation in political parties' and their leaderships

### Perceptions on Political Parties' Work Inside the Universities

The majority of Jordanians (76.5%) oppose the notion of allowing political parties to work in the universities, while (23.5%) believe otherwise. And (55.4%) of opposers believe that university are for education and obtaining academic degrees and that political parties will abuse unaware youth. On the other hand, (32.0%) of those who think political parties should be allowed to in the universities believe it is important as the personality and beliefs of the youth are usually shaped during the period of higher education «Figure 33».

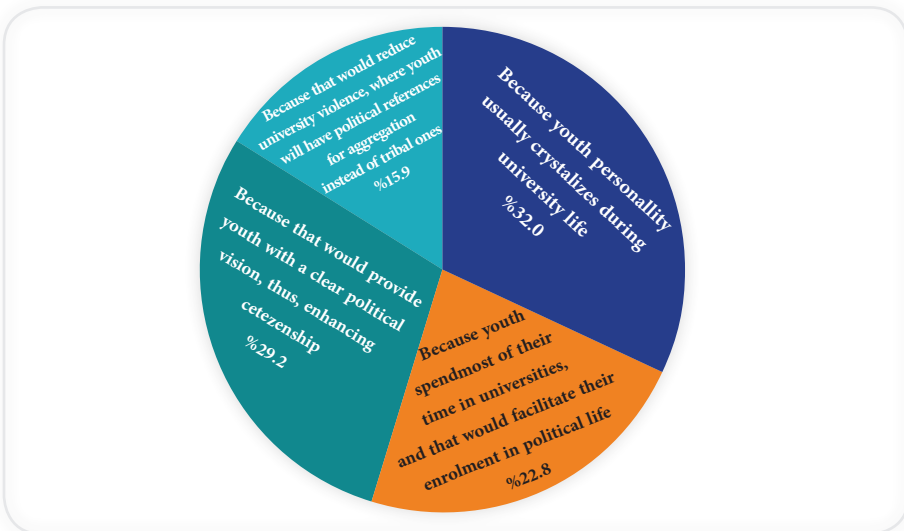


Figure (33): Reasons for allowing political parties to work in the universities, by respondent answering yes on allowing political parties to work in the universities and recruit students